

THE VOTE

(THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.)

VOL. I.—No. 18.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1910.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and MANAGING DIRECTOR respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

Offices: 148, HOLBORN BARS, E.C.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

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WHAT WE THINK.

150,000 Women Voters.

Municipal responsibilities have been forgotten in the great struggle which has just terminated, yet on Saturday, March 5th, the electors in the London County area will be called upon to choose whether Municipal Reformers or Progressives shall represent them in the new Council at Spring Gardens. From thinking Imperially Londoners must for a moment think locally, and at a time like the present it is of the utmost importance that every woman entitled to vote shall do so. When we are demanding our share in greater responsibilities, it is of the utmost importance that we shall not shirk the lesser ones. Out of the 814,420 persons entitled to vote at the next London County Council election nearly 150,000 are women. Women who pay rates have the power to see that they are spent wisely. They have also the power to choose women to represent their interests on these Councils, and wherever a woman is standing it is only right that she should be supported.

Women and the Rates.

Those women who pay rates and abstain from voting forget that such important questions of administration as housing, drainage, the feeding of necessitous school-children, medical inspection of school-children, the tramways, education, and other matters of vital importance are to be settled by their representatives. In the ordinary way women ought to be much more interested in the affairs of their borough than the male electors, for they spend more time in it. The morning sees the men going to their work and the evening sees them returning. But the woman—the married woman more especially—spends her day in the borough. If the roads are badly kept, it is she who feels it most; if the tram service is inadequate, it is the woman who feels the inconvenience first; if the drainage of the borough is badly managed, it is she who is exposed most constantly to its unpleasantness. Again, in certain boroughs where there are no women on the Council—in spite of the fact that women have the municipal vote—it is not infrequently found that the facilities of the public baths, where women's swimming clubs or girls' schools are desirous of arranging for hours for fixtures, are reserved for men, and that the arrangements for women are extremely unsatisfactory.

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The Feeding of Necessitous School-Children.

The feeding of necessitous children is a matter that appeals to women as well as men, and for this reason those of them who pay rates should choose representatives whom they know will deal with this matter in a way that will be neither too harsh to the children nor too lenient to the parents. In one centre we have heard that a certain male official made the meals of the children who were receiving this relief a misery to them. He continually frightened them by telling them that they had no right to what they were eating, and that their parents could well afford to pay for their food. When women remember that their money pays for these aids to poor mothers whose lives lie in less pleasant places, and relieves them of much anxiety, it is their duty to see that these rates are spent by the party which administers them with most humanity, and also that the officials employed do not make the children feel pauperised. The official we have alluded to caused the children who were fed under his care to be weighed—declaring he would eliminate those whose weight was normal for their age—and he found that not one of them was up to the normal standard of weight for healthy children. It is for the women ratepayers to see that starving children are not terrorised.

Medical Inspection.

The question of medical inspection of school-children is one which is also administered locally, and consequently the methods are decided by the ratepayers, and can be modified according to local preference, as long as they do not conflict with Section 13 of the Education (Administrative) Provisions Act and the Code of Regulations for Public Elementary Schools. In deciding the action of the borough authorities in supplying simple remedies and spectacles free of charge to those children whose parents are too poor to pay for them, and also in the matter of the school clinics, it is essential that the woman ratepayer makes her voice heard. She knows the necessity for personal cleanliness amongst the very poor and the fact that even the simplest remedies cost too much for a poor woman who sleeps with a sack for covering. The conditions revealed in the homes of many of the elementary school-children in some boroughs when the school nurse called to see if the doctor's directions were attended to, were saddening in the extreme. Life is very hard on women, whether wage-earners or wives of working men, and the presence of a woman on the Education Committee or on the Council often makes it easier for complaints which could not be made through a man to be voiced by her. The necessity of using the municipal vote whenever the opportunity arises cannot be too often impressed upon the women who have it. And in the present County of London election we hope those who are rateable in this borough will vote early—if they do not vote often.

Women Law Students.

The many Suffragette women graduates of Glasgow University will rejoice that their Alma Mater has now taken its stand along with the best of modern universities by throwing open the law classes to women. At a meeting of the Senate last week it was decided without opposition to admit women students to the Faculty of Law. This is another step forward.

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WHY PAY TAXES?

"AT HOME" AT CAXTON HALL.

Refusal to pay Imperial taxes, which has been described as the best of all protests, was the subject of an interesting address given by Mrs. Kineton Parkes at the Caxton Hall on Thursday last, when Mrs. How Martyn presided and Mr. Bart Kennedy was also amongst the speakers. Mrs. Parkes introduced her subject by explaining that as one of the planks of the Suffrage platform was "Taxation without representation is tyranny" it was inconsistent for any Suffragist to pay Imperial taxes. They should not refuse to pay rates, for they had the municipal vote, but they should, if they wanted to be consistent to their principle, decline to pay Imperial taxes, such as inhabited house duty, taxes on armorial bearings, income-tax, &c. The society she represented, which was organising this refusal to pay Imperial taxes, had been in existence since November, and included Suffragists from every camp, Conservative, Liberal, Socialist, as well as non-party, and was making every effort to get a large number of influential women to refuse to pay taxes, and thus cause a block at Somerset House. The isolated refusal to pay was ineffective and only caused trouble to the refuser; but a large and unexpected number would cause considerable trouble to the Government and would bring the question at issue home to them. Even now it had been found that the Government rather than go to the trouble of selling up the recalcitrant "debtor," and attracting attention to the principle involved, had quietly dropped the matter in several instances. Mrs. Despard had had no application for taxes since she had been sold up last year.

This principle of taxation and representation she had found appealed to women who had not given the subject any previous consideration, and it always had an immediate influence on a male audience. A working woman was not asked to pay less taxes because she was a woman, though she was usually asked to receive less by her employer.

To married women with incomes she suggested that they should ask their husbands not to fill in the amount in the space left on the income-tax paper for details of wife's income. Then, if they sent her a separate paper, she could refuse to pay. In the past they had not given the Government half enough work, and they should make it as difficult as possible for them to recover money from women. She asked anyone present who knew women who paid taxes to send in their names, that they might be approached by her society. The Women's Freedom League had been the pioneers in this method of Government resistance.

Miss Matters, who spoke subsequently, observed that, while the Government gave the male taxpayer a vote as receipt for his money, they said to the woman, "Pay up and shut up." Mrs. Montefiore gave a brief account of how to make it difficult for the Government to recover taxes from women.

Mr. Bart Kennedy, in the course of his speech, observed that there was not the great difference between women and men that was commonly supposed; the same laws fitted both. Speaking of the physical force argument, he said that there was nothing impossible in women going to

battle. Fighting was a healthy amusement, but it was not everything. Men were killing each other in times of peace, and the sweater forgot his employees' right to live. He asked how could giving women the vote make things worse than they were at present.

Miss Brinetta Browne gave an interesting recitation, and Mrs. Fisher acted as hostess. There was a very large attendance of members and friends.

SUFFRAGE RALLY.

The leaflet announcing that Parliament was re-assembling for business on Tuesday, 15th, and "so were we," attracted a good deal of attention in the Press, and though our "rally" had to be modified in some particulars, owing to the rising of the House early in the afternoon, yet the *Times* and the *Daily Telegraph* gave it considerable prominence. The original intention was that a peaceable gathering should take place at Parliament Square at 7 o'clock, and that Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Hicks, and Miss Benett would present themselves at the door of the House at 7.30, with the object of handing to Mr. Asquith the "open letter" which was included in our leader of last week. As soon as it became known that the House would rise early, Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Hicks, and Miss Benett hurried to Westminster, but Mr. Asquith had already left. Miss Benett then undertook to deliver the letter at 10, Downing Street, where it was given to a servant for Mr. Asquith. Our street sellers were busy all day selling *THE VOTE* in the vicinity of Westminster, a good many members purchasing it, among them being, as we said last week, the new Home Secretary, Mr. Winston Churchill.

A large number of our members came in answer to our circular in the evening, and having paraded Westminster distributing bills and selling *THE VOTE*, they repaired to Caxton Hall at 8 o'clock, where Mrs. Borrmann Wells took the chair, and the principal speakers were Mrs. Despard and Miss Muriel Matters. Miss Matters introduced the resolution of the evening, protesting against the continuation of the unjust exclusion of women from the full political rights and privileges of citizenship, and demanding from Mr. Asquith "a definite pledge on behalf of the Liberal Government in the first session of Parliament for the introduction of a Bill enfranchising women on the same terms as men." Mrs. Despard seconded it, explaining the meaning of the "truce" and the suspension of militant action until the Government should make its attitude towards the women clear.

There were a number of police on duty during the day, but at no time did our members come in conflict with them.

Mrs. Billington-Greig.

It is with much regret that we have to announce that Mrs. Billington-Greig, who was travelling up from Dublin, met with injuries in the accident to the Belfast express. Though not seriously hurt, she was badly bruised and shaken, and under the doctor's orders was taken to Whitehead instead of continuing her journey. The latest news as we go to press says that she is going on well.

Mass Meeting.

It had been intended to hold a mass meeting at Trafalgar Square on Sunday afternoon, the 20th, but the storm and rain were so great that it had to be abandoned. As a large number of those engaged in work for special effort week had come, and also a good many members of the Men's League, it was decided to adjourn to the offices of the Freedom League, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, and there hold a meeting. A good many interesting suggestions for self-denial and for special effort were sent in, announcements of entertainments in private houses were

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made, and offers to sell *THE VOTE* in various districts were received.

The mass meeting was postponed to next Sunday, Feb. 27th, when the speakers will be as announced for the 20th.

"WHY I WANT THE VOTE."

* * * Under this heading we shall have from time to time the personal opinions of our best-known supporters, giving the reasons why they want the vote. We all know the broad reasons why we want it; but the intimate reasoning which has led others of us into the ardent fighting front ranks has a special interest. This week one of our most eloquent speakers gives her reasons—and with no uncertain voice.



MAUDE ARNCLIFFE-SENNETT.

I want the Vote because Lord Curzon says "it is the imperishable heritage of the human race," and therefore it belongs to me.

I want it because the young workmen over the age of twenty-one whom I employ are going to the polls to proudly register their Imperial views on the Budget and Tariff Reform, while I, a middle-aged woman, sit in my office and construct the means by which they earn their living, yet am shut out myself.

I want it because I do not see why the women I employ—skilled workers, the chief or sole supporters of their humble homes—should not, the same as men, protect their labour and their other interests at the polls. I want the vote because I pay to educate the children of my older workmen, yet they, who pay no rates or taxes, are marching to the ballot-box, and the Government, which impudently robs me of my hard-earned money, would send me to prison as a third-class criminal were I to walk to St. Stephen's and importune for a hearing to redress my grievances.

I want the Vote because Mr. Lloyd George received a deputation of footballers who, in order to protect their playgrounds, claimed exemption from the land taxes in the proposed Budget; yet deputations of women desperately claiming protection for their livelihood and lives are derided and declined a hearing!

I want it because of the ever-increasing numbers of poor women who are annually murdered in this country, and because of the horrible apathy with which Parliament and Society meet the wholesale destruction of these girls and the hideous system revealed in such cases as the late Brixton one.

I want it because Daisy Lord is being detained for the term of her natural life, while the author of her agony, who abandoned her to her fate, is still at large—a voter.

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or potential one. I want the authority, which my responsibility as an experienced, thinking, intelligent member of the community demands, to reconstruct the false and cruel standard of morality by which forlorn maternity is so often plunged in the mire, and in its fear and frenzy driven to kill the thing it loves and longs for, namely, its young.

I want it for woman's work—to educate children, house the poor, protect the mother spirit, to vote away the bad divorce law which the "Englishman's sense of fair play" has thought good enough for English wives! Lady McLaren's Charter would, at one fell stroke, uproot the many wrongs from which our women suffer; but how to force that Charter home without the weapon of the Vote? Impossible!—and that is why I want it!

MAUDE ARNCLIFFE-SENNETT.

W.F.L. EVENTS.

We want all our members to keep themselves free for the following events:—The meeting at St. Ethelburga's on February 28th, for which Dr. Cobb has lent his church; the reception to Mrs. Chapin on March 1st; and Mrs. Cope's concert at Kensington Town Hall on March 4th, particulars of which will be found elsewhere in *THE VOTE*.

There will be meetings of the National Executive at Sunderland on March 5th, and on the 11th Miss Matters and Mr. Joseph McCabe will speak at Liverpool.

On April 28th our afternoon "At Home" will be held in the Queen's Hall and the Actresses' Franchise League will be our guests. On May 5th we will hold our "At Home" in the evening at 7, so that the Men's League and our other men friends may all be able to come. On May 26th the Suffrage Atelier will be our chief guests.

Miss Edith Craig, who organised the wonderful Women's Pageant for our Yuletide Festival, intends bringing it to Eastbourne and Glasgow in the month of May.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1910.

THE KING'S SPEECH.

Mr. Asquith, through the lips of the King, has spoken. Once more Parliament has met with all its pomp and pageantry to inaugurate the reign of a new Government. Mr. Asquith has taken office, and his peculiar belief that men and men only are concerned in proposals of taxation and legislation is again manifested. It is abundantly proved that Mr. Asquith will not spontaneously take any action to satisfy the demands of women, though these demands have been backed up by an agitation which for the last four years has swept the country from end to end. The Government recalls with much unctious the grant of self-government to South Africa and "our ardent prayers for the welfare and future progress of her people." Yet the franchise was deliberately restricted to "male Europeans," and, worse still, in allotting representatives to different districts the only "people" who were counted were "males of European descent."

The Press, particularly the Liberal Press, would have had us believe that an issue of greater importance has never existed than the one the present Government has met to decide. It is pretended that Representative Government is at stake, and all democrats are summoned to the rescue. We ask what kind of representative government is that in which no woman finds a place? Have not women given abundant proofs that they are willing to pay a big price for Freedom? Yet the bitter record of the women's agitation proves that just as long as women remain without the one weapon that politicians recognise, just so long will their interests and demands be put on one side.

The much-talked-of Reform Bill finds no place in the King's Speech. The militant suffragists were never deceived by Mr. Asquith's pseudo-promise in connection with that Bill. Our estimate of Mr. Asquith's utterances proved to be more correct than the estimate the electorate placed on his utterance at the Albert Hall with regard to "guarantees" which is causing so much confusion and heartburning.

The League has only received from Mr. Asquith the usual official acknowledgment to the letter sent to him last week. The real reply was given in the House of Commons on Monday afternoon, when the Prime Minister announced "that we have omitted from the Gracious Speech reference to any other legislative matter, and are going deliberately to ask the House to devote to this topic alone (the veto of the House of Lords) its opening session and its still fresh and unwearied energies." Mr. Asquith has therefore rejected the peaceful solution and has deliberately chosen to take the responsibility of forcing on women a still more active and determined opposition to the new Government than was offered to the old. In response to our demand for immediate legislation all the old excuses will be brought forward: that the Government must settle this great constitutional question, that it has no mandate, that women must wait for a Reform Bill—to all of which we reply that as no legislative measures ought to be placed on the Statute Book without the consent of women, we repeat our demand that a measure to enfranchise women on the same terms as men shall be passed without delay.

What is the message of the Speech to women? It can be no other than a call to more strenuous and more concentrated effort. We must show more unmistakably than ever before that this one-sided farce must stop, that legislation which represents solely the masculine point of view is doomed, that in all questions of public importance women must be consulted as well as men. It was never more necessary than now for women to put aside other

interests, and to concentrate on showing that it is imperative their claims should receive attention if the government of the country is to be allowed to go on. It appears not improbable that there may be another General Election this year; if so, we must be ready. Large sums of money must be collected and given so that the Women's Freedom League may be to the forefront of the fight.

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

EXCLUSION OF IRISH WOMEN.

Just as we have gradually realised that Irish women must be aroused for the sake of our common womanhood, so Irish women have begun to read the lesson of their own indifference. The exclusion of Irish women from the measure which empowered British women to sit on Town and County Councils was undoubtedly due to the apathy or antagonism of certain Irish members themselves, and this in its turn was directly traceable to the previous inaction of the mass of Irish women. It will not be the fault of the Irish Women's Franchise League, nor of our forces in Ireland, if any similar injustice is attempted when the Women's Suffrage Bill is introduced. Meanwhile, Mr. Hugh Law is to introduce for the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Society a Bill to remedy the local elective injustice.

FROM THE "PALL MALL GAZETTE" OF 1888.

"I am speaking for myself only; do not imagine I am speaking for anybody else; but, speaking for myself only, I earnestly hope that the day is not far distant when women also will bear their share in the voting for members in the political world, and in determining the policy of the country. I can conceive no argument by which they are excluded. It is obvious that they are abundantly as fit as many who now possess the suffrage—by knowledge, by training, and by character; and their influence is likely to weigh in a direction which, in an age so material as ours is exceedingly valuable—namely, in the direction of morality and religion, as not only representing a fact in the past, but as enshrining a policy for which we may hope in the future."—*The late LORD SALISBURY at Edinburgh, Nov. 30, 1888.*

Commenting on the above, the *Pall Mall Gazette* of December 1 wrote:—"We shall, it seems, have to reckon, as usual, upon the opposition of the *Times*, which, in its maladroit fashion tells us 'that the woman who is nothing if not political is not the most fascinating product of modern civilisation; and that there is something peculiarly unfortunate in the descent of woman into the political arena at the precise epoch when politics are suffering a degradation that repels a large proportion even of the sterner sex.' 'That the woman who is nothing if not political is not a lovely object,' we admit, but she is at least more fascinating than that odious creature the professional politician. Men who are nothing if not political have, according to the *Times's* own showing, made such a mess of their monopoly that politics are becoming too degraded even for men. If so, that is surely a strong argument in favour of purifying political life by a large infusion of the sex whose influence Lord Salisbury rightly tells us will be exerted in support of morality and of religion. It is from them alone that we have much to hope. We have enfranchised all the other categories; woman alone remains, and we rejoice to think that even before the present Parliament ends she may be admitted with acclamation within the pale of the Constitution."

With respect now to the equal rights of woman we had been very long in finding that out, but we were finding it out; and twenty years hence, when some other Archbishop should have the great pleasure of addressing them, he would have working men and working women all together before him, and he ventured to think there would be no privilege which the intelligent women should not have that men enjoyed now. He would say there was nothing that stood between them and the happiness and progress which God would give them except the evil will of man.—*From report of Address by ARCHBISHOP THOMSON at the Church Congress at Manchester, October 2nd, 1888.*



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Glasgow.

Last week a meeting was held at "The Centre" of those who are interested in the sale of THE VOTE. Various suggestions were put forward, and arrangements were made for selling at theatre queues, at the stations, and outside "The Centre." It was also agreed to place copies in the principal tea-rooms of the city. Some of those members who do not like to sell in the streets are going to canvass from house to house. Volunteers are still wanted for street selling, as there are some good pitches still waiting for workers. Who will send in their names?

Two voluntary workers have been addressing meetings of co-operative women, and find great interest shown in the cause; in one case a collection of 7s. 6d. was given and in another 4s. Another voluntary worker was given 6s. as cab-money for taking part in a debate.

If we had only more speakers we should be able to get much more work done and much more money in this way for our expenses, which are heavy. Our first duty is to heartily and enthusiastically believe in the movement ourselves, and then act as propagandists for the Cause. There is no better way than by speaking or lecturing; many have the gift if they would but use it.

In spite of a very wet night, we had a large and enthusiastic meeting at our Suffrage Centre here on the 16th inst. to hear Mrs. Billington-Greig and Mrs. Nevinson. Miss Murray presided. Mrs. Nevinson, in the course of her speech, remarked that now we had a Liberal Government with practically no majority of its own they felt that their only hope was in Ireland and the Labour Party. She thought they might rely on the Labour Party. Personally, she thought they could also rely on old Ireland. There was a lot of chivalry in Ireland, and Irishmen knew what it was to be governed by a Government they did not like. Mrs. Billington-Greig said there was more hope for them under the present conditions than there was under the last conditions. The Government would rule not by power but by permission. The people who would give permission were to be found in the Irish Party and the Labour Party.

The following resolution was put from the chair and passed unanimously: "That this meeting of the Glasgow Women's

Freedom League calls upon the Labour and Irish Nationalist parties to bring pressure to bear upon the Government in order to secure that the Government shall take such immediate action as will result in the establishment of woman suffrage by this Parliament."

ELECTION FUND.—Miss Kirby regrets that she has not yet received enough money to cover the election expenses. Will those who intend contributing please send in at once, as we do not want it to be a charge on the General Fund?

OUR OFFICE WANTS.—So far we have not appealed for special gifts for the office, as there were so many ways in which money was required; but there are one or two things which are badly needed—first, a clock, to let us see how quickly time passes, and, secondly, a revolving chair, which would be a great comfort and convenience to our Secretary. A nice one to match the desk can be got for £1; who will make us a present of it?

Edinburgh.

On Tuesday, February 15th, there was a large attendance of members and friends at the afternoon "At Home" in the Café Vegetaria. Mrs. Bell, President, who occupied the chair, expressed our great pleasure in welcoming back to Edinburgh Mrs. Billington-Greig. The latter then delivered one of those masterly addresses on the political situation as it affects our demand, which show so wonderful a grasp of every principle of the science of politics. A good collection was taken. In the absence of Mrs. Wilson, owing to illness, the duties of hostess were performed by her daughters, Mrs. Andrew and Miss Wilson.

At night there was a good audience in the Oddfellows' Hall, though bad weather kept many away. Mrs. Billington-Greig, in the chair, explained the attitude of the League in the present situation. Her statement that "whatever it cost, we must go on now" was received with loud applause. Mrs. Wynne Nevinson at once captivated her audience, and her "pawky" humour was by no means lost upon her Scottish hearers. Mr. Laurence Hcusman followed with an able and interesting exposition of the principles of the women's movement. The audience was a remarkably sympathetic one, so much so that no questions were asked. A vote of thanks to the three speakers was moved by Dr. Taylor, Secretary of the Men's League. Good reports appeared in the local papers.

We are still working hard to raise money for a shop and organiser, and our next venture is to be rather a unique one—a "Hard-Up Social." Details will be announced soon; meanwhile, members are requested to keep Friday, March 18th, free for this function.—HELEN MCLACHLAN, Assistant Secretary.

SPECIAL EFFORT WEEK.

To all our friends we make a strong appeal not to let this week pass without contributing something which will mean a sacrifice. Sacrifices are being made, but the burden generally falls upon the few. We want you to contribute your quota for your own good and for the welfare of the cause. Service and money must be forthcoming. Nurses and their friends are invited to Dr. Octavia Lewin's on Friday, the 25th inst., at 3 o'clock, to hear addresses by the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield, Dr. Marian Thorne, and Miss Muriel Matters. The Rev. Dr. Cobb has generously placed St. Ethelburga's Room (Bishopsgate Within) at our disposal for a midday meeting (one o'clock) on Monday, February 28th. Dr. Cobb will take the chair, and this fact should appeal to the business men in the City, for whom this meeting has been specially arranged. That same afternoon Lady Thrift is giving a drawing-room meeting at Streatham, the speakers being Mrs. Haverfield and Miss Muriel Matters. A three days' mission is the task undertaken by the Woking Branch, commencing on Monday, February 28th, at 8 p.m., when some of our best speakers will take part. Mrs. Denibas, of 34, Elgin Crescent, Ladbroke Grove, has lent us her drawing-room for Wednesday, March 2nd, at 3 p.m., when the Rev. Maurice Bell, M.A., of the Church League, has consented to take the chair.

Kensington is to be favoured by a Women's Freedom League concert on March 4th, at 8 p.m., in the Town Hall. Mrs. Cope has undertaken this, and will be glad of support for her interesting programme. Please do not forget to send your contributions for the Hampstead Branch Jumble Sale on March 5th, to Miss Hicks, 33, Downside Crescent, Hampstead.—MURIEL MATTERS.

"There is a good practical joke that can be worked on newspaper proprietors," says the *Newspaper Owner*, "in this way. Take a sheet of ordinary writing paper, fold carefully, and enclose money sufficient to pay a subscription to the paper one year in advance." Try it on the Managing Director of THE VOTE, and if a smile adorns her face the joke has been successful.

OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

Now that the General Election is well over, the Church League is making arrangements for various meetings and the formation of local branches. The Misses Fennings are organising a meeting to be held at Anerley Town Hall on Monday, March 7th. The Rev. Hugh Chapman will be in the chair, and among the speakers are Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Nevinson, and the Rev. Dr. Cobb. On Thursday, March 10th, Mrs. Hylton Dale is giving a private "At Home" at 60, Onslow Gardens in the interests of the League, when Mrs. Mansell-Moullin, Mr. Cecil Chapman, J.P., and Mr. Laurence Housman will speak. On Thursday, March 17th, Mrs. Bousfield is giving an "At Home" at St. Swithin's, Hendon, to arouse interest in the C.L.W.S. The Rev. C. Hinscliff will speak on "The Church and Politics." Regent's Park is to lead off with the first branch. More than twenty members will meet at the Vicarage, Regent's Park Road, on Thursday, March 3rd, at 8.30 p.m., by the kind invitation of Mrs. Maurice Bell, for a business meeting. The hon. organiser will be glad to hear from Church-people who would interest themselves in Suffrage propaganda among children and young people.—Hon. Organiser, Rev. C. HINSLIFF, 11, St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

Actresses' Franchise League.

Invitations are being issued for the next "At Home" of the Actresses' Franchise League, which will be held in the Grand Hall of the Criterion on Friday, March 4th, from 3 to 5 p.m. The guests will be received by Mme. ALICE ESTY and the chair will be taken by Mrs. George Bernard Shaw. The speeches, which will be exceptionally interesting, will be given by Miss GEORGINA BRACKENBURY, Miss MAUD HOFFMAN, Mr. FREDERICK WHELEN, and Sir JOHN COCKBURN, K.C.M.G. Miss DECIMA MOORE will recite.

Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

The first of a series of "At Homes" was held at St. George's Hall, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, on Wednesday afternoon, February 16th. Lady Knightley, of Fawsley (president of the Association), acted as hostess, and amongst the guests were Viscountess Gort, Lady Falmouth, Lady Mary Cooke, Lady Scott Moncrieff, the Hon. Lady Shelley, Lady Jane Taylor, Mrs. Percy Boulnois, Mrs. Gilbert Samuel, and Miss Edmonds. Speeches were delivered by Lady Knightley, Mrs. Tims, Mrs. Mylne, Miss Ruth Young, Miss Theilmann, Miss Power, and others. There was a very large attendance. The second of these "At Homes" will take place on March 2nd. Particulars can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly.

N.W.S.P.U.

Until the political situation develops so as to call for a definite course of action the members of the Union are devoting themselves chiefly to educative work. Missions to women are in full swing in London, and will be carried out next month in the provinces. Everywhere the movement is spreading, and new organisers have been appointed in seven districts in addition to the great number already at work all over the country. Last week a case was brought at Southport by three members against men who had assaulted them during the election. Although the evidence was absolutely clear the cases were dismissed.

At the "At Home" in the Queen's Hall last week Mr. John Masfield, the well-known author, gave a most beautiful address. Miss Charlotte Marsh received a hearty welcome at her first public appearance in London after her long imprisonment in Birmingham. Mr. Gladstone has denied some of the statements made by Lady Constance Lytton, and has at the same time refused to allow a full inquiry into the matter. Lady Constance is still ill as a consequence of what she went through in Liverpool Gaol. The next great meeting in London (apart from the two weekly "At Homes") will be held at the Albert Hall on March 18th, while Scotland is very busy working up for the great Exhibition which is to be held there on the closing days of April.

New Constitutional Society.

A successful meeting was held by the New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage on February 17th at the Criterion Restaurant. Mrs. Cecil Chapman presided, and Mr. Cecil Chapman spoke strongly in favour of the anti-Government bye-election policy. Further speeches were made by Mrs. Bull and Mrs. Fagan, and an effective appeal for funds by Mrs. Carl Hentschel, the hon. treasurer. Many new members joined, and a good collection was taken.

- Fri., Feb. 25th Meeting at Dr. Octavia Lewin's (25, Wimpole Street, W.), 2.30 to 4: Speakers, Hon. Mrs. Haverfield and Miss Muriel Matters; chair, Dr. Marian Thornett. For invitations apply W.F.L., 1 Robert Street, Adelphi.
- Fri., Feb. 25th Hampstead Branch, at 4 p.m. Miss Evans', 17, Willow Road, Hampstead. Speakers, Mrs. Despard, Miss Hicks, M.A., and Mrs. H. W. Nevinson.
- Sun., Feb. 27th Mass Meeting at Trafalgar Square, 3 o'clock. Mrs. Despard and others.
- Mon., Feb. 28th St. Ethelburga's Parish Room (Bishopsgate Within, E.C.), 1 p.m. Chair, Rev. Dr. Cobb. Miss Muriel Matters.
- Mon., Feb. 28th Drawing Room (68, Leigham Court Road, Streatham), 3.30 p.m. Hostess, Lady Thrift; Chair, Hon. Mrs. Haverfield. Miss Muriel Matters.
- Mon., Feb. 28th Woking, at 8 p.m. Miss Muriel Matters.
- Tues., March 1st Caxton Hall, at 7 p.m.: Public Reception to Mrs. Chapin.
- Wed., March 2nd Mrs. Denibas "At Home," 34, Elgin Crescent, Ladbroke Grove, W., at 3 p.m. Chair, Rev. Maurice Bell, M.A. Miss Muriel Matters.
- Wed., March 2nd 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, at 7.30: Central Branch Meeting and Lecture. Dr. Marion Thornett.
- Wed., March 2nd 23, Albert Road, Peckham: Musical At Home, 8 p.m. (admission 6d.)
- Thurs., March 3rd Caxton Hall, 3 to 6 p.m.: Mrs. Despard and Mr. Laurence Housman.
- Thurs., March 3rd Willesden and Maida Vale Branch, at 7.30: Congregational Hall, Harrow Road, N.W. "Adult Suffrage Versus Votes for Women." Speakers, Miss Hicks, M.A., Rev. C. Hinscliff, Mrs. Montefiore, and Mrs. Terry.
- Sat., March 5th Tottenham, 8 p.m. 91, Mount Pleasant Road, Whist Drive.
- Wed., March 16th 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, at 7.30. Central Branch Meeting. Mr. Geo. Lansbury.

THE PROVINCES.

- Sheffield Co-operative Hall, at 4 o'clock: Jumble Sale.
- Fri., March 4th South Shields, at 3.30 p.m.: Drawing-room Meeting.
- Fri., March 4th Wakefield, at 8 p.m.: Meeting.
- Sat., March 5th Sunderland, National Executive Committee, at 11 a.m.
- Sat., March 5th Sunderland, evening: Reception to National Executive Committee.
- Mon., March 7th Halifax, at 8 p.m.
- Mon., March 7th South Shields, at 8.15.
- Tues., March 8th Sunderland, at 8 p.m.: Public Meeting.
- Tues., March 8th Huddersfield, at 8 p.m.
- Fri., March 11th Liverpool, Hope Hall, at 8 p.m.: Miss Matters and Mr. Joseph McCabe.
- Mon., March 14th Sheffield: Miss Muriel Matters.

SCOTLAND.

- Sat., Feb. 26th Glasgow Suffrage Centre, 302, Sauchiehall Street: "At Home," 7 p.m.
- Tues., March 1st Edinburgh—Café Vegetaria: "At Home," 4-6 and 7-30 p.m.
- Sat., March 5th Glasgow Suffrage Centre, 302, Sauchiehall Street, at 3 p.m.: Central Branch Cake and Candy Sale.
- Tues., March 8th Glasgow Suffrage Centre, 302, Sauchiehall Street, at 7.30: Whist Drive. Tickets 3s.

WALES.

- Mon., Feb. 28th Pontardawe, at 7.30 p.m.: Meeting. Speakers, Miss Manning, B.A., and Mr. J. L. Jones. Miss Phipps, B.A., in the chair.
- Thurs., March 3rd Swansea, at Walter's Road Schoolroom, at 7 p.m.: Annual Meeting and Social. Speaker, Miss Manning, B.A.; Chair, Miss Phipps, B.A.

(See also Branch Notices on Cover.)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON.

- Thurs., Feb. 24th Caxton Hall, 3 to 6: Miss Matters and Mrs. H. W. Nevinson.
- Thurs., Feb. 24th Willesden and Maida Vale Branch: Annual Meeting, at 14, Great Western Road, at 8 p.m. Re-election of Officers, Social Evening.



DARE TO BE FREE.

NOTICE.

- | DEPARTMENTS. | HON. ORGANISERS. |
|---|--|
| Organisers | MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG,
Suffrage Centre, Glasgow |
| Militant Protests | |
| Shares and Donations for THE VOTE | MISS LAWSON, 148, Holborn Bars |
| Street Sales of THE VOTE | |
| Press | MRS. SNOW, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi |
| Speakers for Meetings | MRS. NEVINSON, ditto |
| Literature | MRS. HICKS, ditto |
| London Meetings | MISS HICKS, ditto |
| | MRS. BORRMANN WELLS, ditto |