



# THE VOTE



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

OBJECTS.—To secure for Women the Parliamentary Vote as it is, or may be, granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

VOL. I.—NO. 1.

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 30, 1909.

ONE PENNY.

## NOTICE.

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

Offices: 148, HOLBORN BARS, E.C.

The Editors are responsible for unsigned articles only. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editors cannot be responsible in case of loss.

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"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Bookstalls of Mr. W. H. Smith & Sons, and Wyman & Co., Ltd.

## What We Think.

It is not for us to break the hoary and honoured traditions of editorship, therefore we desire to say straight away that we are convinced THE VOTE will fill a long-felt want.

The decks being now cleared for action, we can proceed to justify our temerity in launching another paper dealing, primarily, with women's suffrage. To begin with, there is no subject of greater national importance, and it is bound to increase in urgency until it is settled to the satisfaction of those most concerned. That being so, news dealing with this subject must be of welcome interest to a large and ever-increasing number of people. That news we hope to supply, fresh from the mint, so to speak, for THE VOTE is the official organ of the Women's Freedom League.

This League does not need any formal introduction to the public. Most people have heard of it, though it was not in existence, under its present name, two years ago. During that time it has won for itself a reputation as a political force of no mean value. A militant body, its methods differ in some points from those of its sister militant society, and the police know it best as being the one that springs the most disconcerting surprises upon them. In THE VOTE will always be found a full and true report of the doings of the League, which we trust will serve as an antidote to the hysteria that invariably breaks out in the ordinary Press when it has been more than commonly active.

We do not intend to confine ourselves solely to news of suffrage activities. The feminist movement has a wider scope than that, and we hope in time, as the paper grows in size and circulation, to deal with different phases of it. Many well-known writers have already generously promised contributions on special subjects.

Perhaps one of the most striking protests organised by our League has been the picketing of the House of Commons. This "epical siege," as the *Daily News* called it, has continued since July 5th. At eight o'clock on that night a deputation of delegates from public meetings went to the House of Commons with a petition which they desired to present to Mr. Asquith. They have been waiting there ever since making an aggregate of 14,000 hours, in all weathers, asking that a public servant shall give half an hour of public time to consider a matter of public importance. It is the most monumental example of patience and endurance on record, and when it comes to an end, and other methods put into force who will be blamed? Any one rather than the man who has set such a deplorable example to the hooligan element of the country by his insufferable insolence to the women who approach him with a reasonable and constitutional demand.

The usual Parliamentary treatment accorded to the Women's Suffrage question has been once more illustrated by the passing of the London Elections Bill. Let it be marked that the grievance of 50,000 men, who lose their votes under our present anomalous franchise laws, is so great that time is found to deal with it during a session which is so overcrowded that it has already lasted three months longer than usual. Further, it was not supported by a vigorous agitation. Yet the demand that a Women's Suffrage Bill shall be passed is contemptuously ignored, in spite of the fact that the demand is backed by an agitation unparalleled in history.

Lord Robert Cecil made an attempt to bring forward the claims of women by moving an amendment that the London Elections Bill should only come into force when a Women's Suffrage Bill had been passed. Our thanks are gratefully given to Lord Robert Cecil for facing, on our behalf, the jeering and laughter, amid which the Speaker declared the amendment out of order by saying "That it contemplated too remote a contingency."

How are women to arrive at the real state of affairs? Mr. Asquith has promised a Reform Bill, and that the Government will not oppose a clause enfranchising women. With that promise the Liberal politicians have bidden us rest satisfied. But we have been made cautious by the memory of many broken promises, continued our militant agitation without pause. And suddenly Mr. Speaker impugns the honour of the Prime Minister by showing that he and the M.P.'s generally have shared the views of the militant suffragists as to the worthless-political consciences of our legislators.

M. H.

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### BERMONDSEY BYE-ELECTION.

The Budget in itself has for the moment taken a back place in public interest while the eyes of the whole of England are turned towards the struggle that is taking place in Bermondsey. Anxiously politicians are awaiting the verdict of the polls on Thursday, for this election is one of more than usual significance. On all hands it is regarded as a forecast of the General Election, a straw which will show how the wind of popular opinion will be blowing a few months hence. The Government, after four years of blundering, after four years of betrayal of the democratic principles it professes, is seeking to throw dust in the electors' eyes; to obliterate the memory of its shortcomings in the excitement of a controversial and revolutionary measure. But, unfortunately for the Government, the women are there, opening sleepy eyes.

Party feeling is running high, and every day excitement rises in the constituency. The different organisations at work can be counted almost by the score. But above the wrangling, the babel and confusion of issues, one clear message is ringing through Bermondsey from end to end, the message of the Women's Freedom League to "keep the Liberal out."

Every moment of the women's fight for freedom emphasises more strongly the importance of our anti-Government by-election policy. For sixty years Government after Government has shown the contempt with which it regards those who cannot resent the non-fulfilment of a pledge. But, oblivious to arguments founded upon reason and elementary justice, no Government, not even the most "democratic," can afford to ignore the opinion of voters recorded at the poll. Every vote registered against the Government candidate at the instance of the women brings one step nearer the day of women's enfranchisement, for the power of doing harm ensures attention and respect in modern politics.

The Bermondsey election is proving without a doubt that the suffragists possess this power to-day. The advent of the women has completely destroyed the equilibrium of the three political parties. At the commencement of the fight the chances of the candidates seemed pretty even to the unbiased onlooker. To balance the personal prestige of the Unionist and Socialist, Mr. Spencer Leigh Hughes had to back him up an extremely popular Budget.

But day by day, through the efforts of the women, Mr. Hughes' following is declining. Bermondsey has taken the suffragists to its heart. Our crowds are the largest, the most attentive, the most orderly. Promises to vote against the Government reach us every day. We are confident of success. Next Thursday is going to give Mr. Asquith a strong reminder that it is no longer safe to treat the women's movement with insolence and contempt.

### THE YULETIDE FESTIVAL.

The event to which all members and friends of the Women's Freedom League are looking forward is the Yuletide Festival on December 11th. All the year the League has been growing, enlarging its activities and increasing its membership, and now before the year goes out we are to meet and compare notes, get to know each other, and make plans for the future.

There are six crowded weeks ahead of us, and we appeal to every one to help. There is much to be done, a thousand little things and ten thousand big things if the event is to be worthy of the Freedom

League, and every member who sincerely loves the cause will do her little or her much. Many are doing it now to the limit of their strength, and every day one feels how splendid the women are. Where is there a cause which has so caught the imagination, so welded us all together to help? The great artists of the day are co-operating, and have promised to contribute to the pleasures of the festival—Marie Brema, Mrs. Langtry, Mrs. Brown Potter, Pauline Chase, Margaret Halstan. These are names to conjure with, for any one of them would fill the hall.

We shall meet at a time of critical importance, for in front of us looms the General Election, with which the struggle for women's enfranchisement enters a fresh and probably its final stage.

We have to meet new problems, new dangers; there will be fresh calls on the courage, the devotion and the self-sacrifice of our members. Many of us will have to face imprisonment, some, perhaps, death itself, before victory is won; and it is well that we should come together, for we need all the strength and inspiration that is to be found in closer comradeship.

Let there be no mistake. The Yuletide meeting is to be more than a festival, it is to be a new dedication of the Women's Freedom League to the greatest and most splendid cause of modern times—that cause of democracy and justice—which is bringing new honour into the lives of women and new hope into the lives of men.

### AT HOMES—PORTMAN ROOMS.

This weekly fixture, for Wednesday afternoons, is to enable members to hear at first hand about the special activities and plans of the League. It is therefore of importance that every member should make an effort to attend as often as she can, bringing with her any others, men and women, she can persuade to come. Many people have only to hear our case plainly stated to enrol themselves as members and become enthusiastic missionaries in their turn, and the Wednesday afternoon At Homes afford excellent opportunities for gaining these new members and their help. An attractive programme has been arranged, giving the names of speakers, chairmen, and hostesses for October, November and December. Copies of these can be had for distribution. Speakers during November include Mr. Laurence Housman, Rev. Hugh Chapman, Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, Mrs. H. W. Nevinson, and Mrs. Amy Sanderson, all of whom are well-known authorities on different aspects of the movement.

### TWO DATES TO BE NOTED.

Extraordinary interest was shown a year ago in the debate between Mrs. Billington Greig and Mr. St. Loe Strachey, and its success has encouraged us to arrange a debate between Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett and Mr. Maconachie, of the Men's League for Opposing Women's Suffrage. It will take place on November 4th at the small Queen's Hall. The result of the evening will be that all suffragists who go will come away strengthened in their faith, for though some of the arguments of the "anti.s" sound very well, we have never heard any that will bear investigation.

At the matinee (given by the Actresses' and Women Writers' League) at the Scala Theatre, on November 12th, three new plays will be produced:—"The Pot and the Kettle," by Cicely Hamilton and C. St. John; "Master," by Mrs. Mouillot; and one by Beatrice Haraden and Bessie Hatton.

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### HISTORY OF THE VOTES FOR WOMEN MOVEMENT.

By CICELY HAMILTON.

#### Concluding Chapters.\*

It had become evident that only by strategy would it be possible to gain access to the Prime Minister—surrounded night and day by a body of lynx-eyed detectives who had made a life-long study of suffragist methods of attack. It was, therefore, to strategy that the women resorted; and their success is a matter of history.

Carefully concealed as were the Premier's movement, it leaked out, on one occasion, that he intended to spend a week end at a quiet resort on the South Coast—there to indulge in his favourite pursuit of golf. Without an instant's hesitation the suffragist leaders seized the opportunity for the execution of their daring, but long-prepared plan. On the Friday night fifty of their followers—all young, all slim, all resolute and agile—were secretly drafted into the neighbourhood; each furnished with complicated instructions in cipher and a bag containing the complete outfit of a boy scout.

The result is well-known. Late on the following afternoon, and just as the unfortunate statesman was nearing the last hole a body of boy scouts was seen winding its way along the road beside the links. So far was its appearance from arousing suspicion that one of the attendant detectives exchanged a chaffing greeting with the leader of the band, while the Premier actually paused in the critical operation of putting to smile at the youthful warriors. It was a smile that changed rapidly into a gasp of horrified amazement as, with a yell of "Votes for Women," the "boy scouts" charged upon their prey.

The succeeding conflict was brief. The detectives fought gallantly in defence of their charge, but were borne down by sheer weight of numbers, bound and left lying on the links; while the struggling Premier himself was hustled into a waiting motor-car, which thereupon dashed off with a reckless disregard of the speed limit—the disguised scouts scattering in all directions.

The search that followed was hot—but it was fruitless. So well had the plans of the kidnapers been laid that it seemed as if their captive had vanished from the face of the earth, leaving nothing behind him but a broken golf-club. The leaders of the suffragist movement, in the words of the newspapers, "declined to say anything"; and though several of the "scouts" were arrested each and all of them maintained an obstinate silence as to the fate of the prisoner. The motor-car in which he had been carried off was identified and stopped in Leicestershire, thirty-six hours after the Premier's disappearance; but it contained no one but its chauffeur, who was as stubbornly uncommunicative as her comrades in crime. For three days the mystery remained unsolved; for three days Britain seethed with rumour; for three days an impatient public showered the usual torrent of abuse upon the head of a long-suffering police force—and then a haggard and white faced man tottered into a wayside station on the South-Eastern line asking incoherently for restoratives and a ticket to Charing Cross. Four hours later London was ringing with the yells of newsboys announcing the Premier's return; and the next day a Cabinet Council was held, at which the famous statesman announced in broken accents that his former objection to the enfranchisement of women had been overcome, and that he intended forthwith to introduce a Bill for the removal of the sex disability.

I am well aware that the finger of scorn has been pointed at this sudden conversion; that the Prime

(\*The previous chapters are fortunately lost.—Ed.)

Minister has been not only blamed for acting against his convictions, but sneered at as a poltroon. But when one considers the horror of the ordeal to which he had been subjected, I, for one, have no heart to censure him; it was an ordeal under which the bravest might have flinched. Picture the scene to yourselves—the wretched man crouching in a corner while successive wild-eyed suffragists recited suffragist odes, sang suffragist ballads and cracked suffragist jokes at him. Only those who have studied the copious and excruciating poetry of the movement can realise the appalling nature of the penalty. It is, I think, to the credit of the luckless minister that he held out against it as long as he did, only yielding when a fresh, and still more hideous, form of torture was applied. On the third day, as he still proved contumacious, it was decided to subject him to an unceasing torrent of eloquence from the worst suffragist speakers. Then, and then only, the miserable man broke down. The limit of human endurance had been reached, and, grovelling on the floor, he swore to do all that was demanded of him.

It is, I think, also to his credit that a promise extracted under stress of mental agony was never repudiated, and that in the face of considerable opposition from his colleagues in the Cabinet the Premier introduced his Bill. From the first it was evident that the measure was unpopular in the Commons, and it was only with the utmost reluctance that the majority of professed suffragists in the House were induced to vote for it. Abstentions were many, opposition bitter; and, though the customary ministerial majority was one of three figures, the Bill only scraped through with eleven votes to the good. But through it was—and one wild shout of rejoicing arose from suffragists all over the kingdom; rejoicing which was speedily turned to wailing and wrath when the House of Lords threw out the Bill on the ground that a constitutional change of such importance could not take place without a direct mandate from the electors.

(To be continued.)

### MARCHING BACKWARDS!

According to Mr. Winston Churchill's opinion the cause has marched backwards during the last four years.

These retrograde steps consist of:—(1) The foundation of a large number of important suffrage societies during that time; (2) the production of four weekly papers devoted mainly to the subject; (3) the subscription of more public money in the time mentioned than in the whole of the forty years hitherto devoted to it; (4) the few sparsely-attended gatherings of former years being replaced by thousands of public meetings and open-air demonstrations in favour of this reform; (5) the fact that at all by-elections it influences the views of the candidate and the votes of the electorate; (6) the devotion of its adherents as shown by the willingness of many of them to suffer imprisonment; (7) and finally, the overwhelming fact that Mr. Winston Churchill himself deems it politic to receive a deputation on the matter.

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### Mrs. DESPARD.

#### An Impression.

By ETHEL HILL.

The first time I ever saw Mrs. Despard was shortly after she had been struck in the face by some missile thrown by a youth in a hooligan crowd. I can never forget how impressed I was with the erect, tensely-knit figure, the noble head with its white hair half hidden beneath the dignified mantilla, and the eloquent voice passionately pleading for justice and the Cause she loves. And as I listened to her I felt ashamed to think that any hand could ever have been raised against her, and, O! the pity of it! that youths were allowed to grow up brutally like that in our great towns and villages by the thousands. Yet, if there were more public-spirited women like Mrs. Despard it would be impossible in our much-vaunted twentieth century civilisation for such brutality and contempt of women to exist amongst the youths—the coming manhood—of the nation. But then the powers-that-be will not publicly recognise the work of its great women to the State. What latent powers in our sex only wait to be awakened by the clear call of citizenship!

No living woman takes a more vital interest in the political situation, and in social reform, than Mrs. Despard? She knows that the hope of the future is the child of to-day, and never fails to break a lance in their defence. How she longs for them to be freed from the crushing disabilities under which so many of them exist—free to live, free to develop, free to express themselves in all sorts of noble and beautiful ways. And Mrs. Despard turns away from politicians and looks hopefully to the women of the future. "Perhaps," she thinks, "by and by, when the

present toil is over, when woman has conquered her citizen rights, politics will take on a more serious and sacred aspect."

Mrs. Despard is a very noble and very beautiful figure in the Women's Suffrage Movement. With what unquenchable fire she pleads! With what eternal youth she presents herself in the very thick of the fighting lines! With what an indomitable and stern will she fronts the general public! Shelley's fine lines, "Can man be free and woman be a slave?" were her trumpet call to battle, and she cares not if she dies in the struggle. "For in death one is sometimes more eloquent than in life," she said recently, voicing her unconquerable determination to go on, never doubting right will triumph.

Her whole life seems spent in well-doing, in striking a blow for truth in the daily fight with lies, in doing what she feels to be right in the face of contumely. The poor in South Lambeth know, and love and revere the Lady Bountiful who lives amongst them, simple and good as Tolstoy, trying to bring the star of hope into the firmament of despairing lives. Here, at least, is an open door for sorrow's knock; someone to whom one can go in trouble, however small, knowing that her sympathy will never fail.

I pause for a moment in conclusion to wonder what simple closing term can adequately sum up this woman, her sterling worth, her high ideals, her lofty nobility, her splendid character, and I find none better than—Humanity's friend—stern, strong, and tender.



Photo: THE MERCHANTS PORTRAIT CO., Kentish Town Road, N.W.

Next Week's Issue of THE VOTE will contain:

- RIGHT OF WAY by Lawrence Housman.
- POLITICAL LEADER by Teresa Billington-Greig.
- HISTORY OF THE VOTES FOR WOMEN MOVEMENT by Cicely Hamilton.

### HOW TO HELP THE PAPER.

Our advertisers are supporting THE VOTE in the expectation that YOU will support them. Modern business men and women, while appreciating the need of publicity, not unnaturally demand evidence of the value of such expense. We are relying upon our readers to supply that evidence in tangible form. We hope to continue to present from time to time a good collection of "buying information," and if our readers will, before making any purchases, consult THE VOTE, giving the preference to the firms there represented, then our advertising accounts will grow with the paper, and our commercial success will be assured. Below we give brief particulars respecting some of the firms advertising in this week's number:—

Those who visited the recent "Women of all Nations" Exhibition will recollect that Farrow's was the only banking firm represented there, the business being entirely conducted by women. This well-known house contemplates opening similarly conducted branches throughout the country, thus inaugurating a new field for women workers.

In any business difficulty application should be made to Mrs. Ayres Purdie, Certified Accountant, Craven House, Kingsway, who will give expert advice and assistance.

When contemplating the purchase or hire of a piano, favourable consideration should be given to the instruments of Boyds, Ltd., 19, Holborn, E.C.

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Time and money can be saved by shopping at Spiers and Pond's Stores, Queen Victoria Street, where every requisite for personal and household use can be obtained.

Attention is also directed to the products of Messrs. George Savage and Sons, 53, Aldersgate Street, and to the Pitman Health Food Company, Aston Brook Street, Birmingham, both of which firms cater for the needs of food reformers.

Special mention must be made of the costume department at Messrs. James Spence, Ltd., St. Paul's Churchyard; long coats, noteworthy for cut and quality, are obtainable in the green of the Freedom League.

Mrs. Oliver, of 115, New Bond Street, has recently introduced a charming model in felt, trimmed with suede. Another seasonable hat has a trimming of soft leather, and is quite the *demier cri* for winter wear.

M. Finberg, Ladies' Tailor, of 27, Goodge Street, is well recommended. His testimonials, printed on page 8, speak for themselves.

Mr. J. S. Gregg, 91, New Bond Street, is a specialist in dainty dress accessories—his veils, gloves, and hosiery are particularly worthy of mention.

Messrs. Chambers and Sons have a deservedly high reputation for dyeing and cleaning, and will renovate your wardrobe quickly and well.

Admittedly the best medium for a good cup of tea is a pot of earthenware; Wright's Patent Teapot, the invention of a woman, provides this, beautified by a charming filigree silver case, combining efficiency with elegance.

Advertisements of two Tearooms will be found in our columns—Alan's (263, Oxford Street), in the West End, and Home Restaurant (Friday St. in the heart of the City).

When requiring a good complexion cream, do not forget that "Oatine" should stand first with all readers of THE VOTE. For particulars of special offer, see page 9.

Our readers are urged to forward the annexed coupon duly filled up to the office of this paper.

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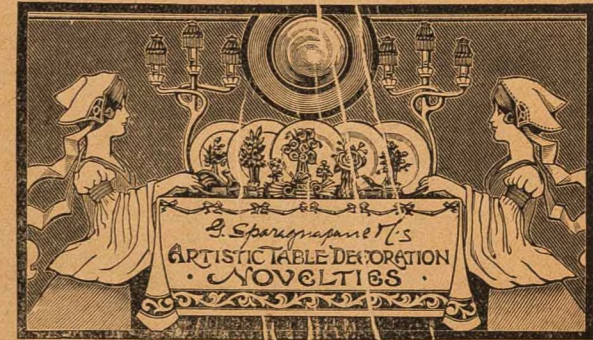
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WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 30, 1909.

### THE PRICE OF FREEDOM.

We are out to win freedom for women—political freedom in the first place, and in the second the many other freedoms that make up the great whole. We are out to win; and we are prepared to pay. There is a price exacted for the good things of life. Without price there is nothing given, and above all things else there is a price exacted for that personal inviolability and security which has been named liberty. For liberty the price is always high.

The Women's Freedom League knew this when it set out upon its great task. It knew it when its founders broke with the old easy policy of persuasion and adopted the policy of protest. It knew it when the old ties of party were cut and the old shackles of convention cast aside. It knew it when it paid the price of a cleavage in the fighting forces rather than endorse the sacrifice of principle. It knew it when in poverty and robbed of the fruits of its labours it passed again through the strain of rebuilding. It has recognised ever that the price of liberty is high, and it has set out to pay it.

Along the way force and cunning and trickery have been employed against it. Forces obviously corrupt, and the professed forces of progress and light have combined to bar the women's way. Boycott, cruelty, and misrepresentation have been ever ready weapons in the hands of the enemy. But the Freedom League has moved on with steady front. It has been always prepared. It has known always that against all weapons it would finally triumph.

Women of every party united in the Women's Freedom League have turned their whole strength against the governing forces of the country. The protests, the demonstrations, the by-election campaigns, are all focussed upon the Government in power. The Government in power—in that phrase lies the full defence of our political policy and the complete condemnation of the Government. The Government is the one body that has the power to set us free. The Government is the one body responsible for carrying out the laws which are the bonds of our slavery. The Government is the one body that can remove these bonds, that can give us our rightful liberty, that can make us citizens.

It is the Government, not the women of the country, that has chosen war. We have merely done our duty; we have merely vindicated our right; we have merely refused to share the national responsibility for the wrong that is done to women by the denial of sex-equality. But war has been chosen. Force and corruption have been employed. Powers and rights unquestioned and undenied and undoubted for centuries have been denied us. New punishments and new crimes have been invented. Repression and brutal indifference have accompanied deliberate infliction of disability. The policy of stupid weakness and revengeful cruelty can spell nothing but war.

Not merely in the dictation of police policy, in the subversion of justice, in the denial of just treatment in prison, is the determination of the Government to escape its responsibilities to women at all costs to be seen. This determination is one of the strongest factors in the moulding of their public policy. The General Election draws nearer, and it is a time of reckoning. Such a prostitution of principle, such a misuse of the machinery of justice, as this present Government has been guilty of towards women, can-

not fail to produce a verdict of utter condemnation upon its members. They know this as well as we do. And they trim their sails to escape it. With every one of the numerous strong forces at their disposal they beat up a new breeze . . . a breeze that has to do with the pockets and the stomachs of the people, upon specious promises of filling which they hope to ride again to power.

On every side we see the attempt being made to make this a bread-and-butter election when it comes. The Government will go out either upon the Budget or upon some similar measure with which the masses can be easily gulled. The Unionists will seize upon the weaknesses of the Government position in order to emphasise and develop the cry for Tariff Reform. The Labour Party will discover in both propagandas new and powerful arguments for Socialism. And the woman, unless she be alert and more than indefatigable, will be rushed aside and forgotten while men fight and clamour about the eternal questions of *meum et tuum*.

In comparison with the great forces which will strive in the arena—trained and wealthy forces that are centuries old—we are as a new birth, weak and poor. Yet we are so to mould things as to make this time of warring interests the stepping-stone to our triumph, as to make the nation and the politician realise that they dare no longer deny us our right. This is our task. This is the work before us. This is what must be done.

A new call is to be made upon us—and for this call we must be ready. We have the power of service and of sacrifice—the power of deeds and words—and out of these we must fashion victory. The woman's cause must triumph at the General Election. Though it be espoused but by the new-born forces of woman's protest and rebellion it must do battle with the great material forces of the world. It must do battle—and it must win. And it will win. For though it be weak in age and wealth in comparison with its foes, it has within it a momentum they forever lack. It is the expression of the greatest spiritual force of the age. It is strong with the courage of the rebel and the sacrifice of the martyr. It is wealthy with the enthusiasm of its members. And with these forces it will beat down disgraced and degraded the Government that by cowardice and cruelty has violated its own principles and exposed its own rottenness.

TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

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## THE BREAK-UP OF THE POOR LAW.

By Mrs. SIDNEY WEBB, D.Litt.

The condition of affairs revealed by the investigations of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws, together with the far-reaching reforms which the knowledge obtained by these investigations has made possible, should be matters of absorbing interest to every member of the community, and especially to women. Women are perhaps more keenly aware than men of the amount of waste—waste of energy and waste of life—that goes on at present. It is now, we believe, possible to check this waste. Vague lamentations about the difficulties of the "social problem" are out of date; the Minority Report opens up a vista of reform, definite enough to be embodied in Acts of Parliament, yet vast enough to do away with poverty in its worst and most degrading form. Here, then, is a movement which ought to enlist the support of every woman who takes any interest in the affairs of the community.

There is a tendency among those who have read neither report to assume that the Minority proposals are more drastic than those of the Majority, that the latter advocates "reform," the former "revolution." In point of fact, however, the two reports, though differing in their constructive proposals, agree in condemning the present system. The Majority, no less decidedly than the Minority, declare that the Boards of Guardians and the General Mixed Workhouse must be abolished. Further, both agree that the treatment of the destitute must be, no longer, as at present, palliative, but curative and restorative; that, to quote the Majority, "our investigations prove the existence in our midst of a class whose condition and environment are a discredit and a peril to the whole community," and "that it is the business of society by united and untiring effort to convert useless and costly inefficients into self-sustaining and respectable members of the community."

In face of such a striking unanimity the urgent need for reform cannot be overlooked. Something must be done to put a stop to the present costly inefficiency, so much is clear. But the Minority go further; they claim that it is possible to drain the morass of destitution. Their proposal is, briefly, to do away with the Destitution Authority altogether, and to transfer its various functions to the different authorities which are already performing, for the community at large, the services rendered by the Poor Law to the destitute. The Health Committee of the County or County Borough Council would take charge of the destitute sick (and of the children under school age), the Education Committee of the school children, the Asylums Committee of the feeble-minded, and the Pensions Committee of the aged. This leaves only the able-bodied unprovided for; and for them it is proposed to set up a new national authority, which would deal with unemployment; minimising it by a system of Labour Exchanges and by regularising, as far as possible, casual and seasonal labour, and providing maintenance with training for those who were still unemployed, with detention colonies for the work-shy.

There are three main arguments in favour of thus breaking up the Poor Law. (1.) The variety of services which must be undertaken by a Destitution Authority is so great, and the value of these services so utterly heterogeneous as to preclude all possibility of efficiency. How can it be expected that a single Authority should provide maternity hospitals, nurseries for infants, schools for children, hospitals for the sick, and homes for the aged, and also deal with the genuine unemployed and the sturdy vagabond? Yet this is what the present Poor Law is supposed to do, and what any Authority for the relief of destitution, whatever its name, must always be expected to do.

(2.) But even supposing that a Destitution Authority could be devised which would efficiently undertake all these duties, there would still be an enormous amount of overlapping to be dealt with. At the time of the

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Poor Law Report of 1834, practically all public assistance was administered through the Poor Law. But since then the steady raising of the standard of health and education, together with the growth of the population and of large towns, and the consequently increasing danger of leaving these matters to be dealt with or neglected by private enterprise, have led to the formation of a number of public services, trenching more or less on what used to be regarded as the sphere of the Poor Law.

Thus the Public Health Authority overlaps at various points with the Poor Law Medical Service; the Education Authority provides, not only education, but medical attendance and even food for a number of children, and when to these services are added the assistance given to the able-bodied through Distress Committees and to the old through the Pensions Committees, the overlapping and confusion become complete. Under such conditions is it impossible to treat a destitute family as a unit, or to ensure that, while some families are obtaining more relief than they need, others do not slip through the meshes of these various disconnected agencies, and fail to receive enough to maintain a decent existence.

There are two possible ways of putting an end to this overlapping; the newer authorities might be deprived of their powers, and the Poor Law restored to its old pre-eminence; but this, involving as it does a complete reversal of the tendencies of the past twenty years, the repeal of a mass of Public Health Legislation, the destruction of Children's Care Committees, and the annulling of a multitude of other reforms, is unthinkable. There remains the alternative of breaking up the Poor Law, of continuing, instead of reversing, the line along which public services are at present evolving, and placing each section of the work in the hands of those best fitted to do it.

(3.) But the chief cause of the failure of the Poor Law, and the main argument for its destruction, is the very fact that it is a Poor Law—an Authority whose sole function is the relief of destitution. By the time actual destitution has set in, the disease of poverty has, as a rule, reached an incurable stage; the physical and moral vigour of the victims is sapped, and it is scarcely possible that they should ever again be self-supporting. A Destitution Authority, unable to deal with any cases not actually destitute, is thus in the position of a doctor who should be forbidden to treat a disease until it has become incurable.

In this brief summary of the proposals of the Minority Report, I have scarcely been able to touch on its treatment of Unemployment, nor could I deal with other parts of the scheme which specially affect women. But information on these, and other points, can be obtained from the Report itself, or from the literature published by the National Committee to promote the Break-up of the Poor Law (which is being joined by, literally, scores of women every week), and obtainable at its offices, 5 and 6, Clement's Inn, Strand.

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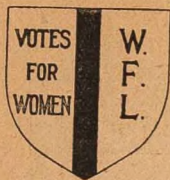
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**WELCOME.**

TO-DAY we launch our little ship of goodwill, hope, and brave adventure, on the troubled waters of social and political life.

It is the bearer of the message which we desire to reach the world from the Women's Freedom League. We welcome cordially our friends of to-day: we hold out hands of greeting to our friends of to-morrow—friends of the League, friends of the cause of women's freedom, heralds of that new and glorious womanhood whose dawn it is our privilege to behold.

We call our organ THE VOTE because we hope and believe that through its pages the public (those millions whom Mr. Winston Churchill, desiring to evade his responsibility in the matter, says we have yet to convert) will come to understand what the Parliamentary Franchise means to us women. Now it will be both a symbol of citizenship and the key to a door opening out on such service to the community as we have never yet been allowed to render, and therefore it is our earnest hope that our paper will keep its place in the hearts of men and women long after the first victory has been won. For men, as well as women, require education in citizenship. They do not all value as they should the constitutional right for which their fathers fought.

We of the Women's Freedom League never fail to impress upon those who give us their confidence that there is something behind and beyond the present struggle. We are out for freedom, to prepare and herald the beautiful, well-ordered society of the future, in which each individual unit shall have fair play and opportunity for full development. To us the vote is not a mere shibboleth, a party cry. It is a thing of deep significance. In every issue of our paper different sides of this will be brought forward.

We wish to make it attractive, partly because beauty as well as order and harmony forms a part of our creed, and partly because we may by this means arouse the interest of those who are not now sufficiently alive to the urgent needs of women, to subscribe to a paper given over only to the suffrage, and I am glad to be able to assure our readers that ready and generous help has been given and promised by men and women well known in the worlds of literature and art.

Our late experiences of the inner working of party politics have made us feel the urgent necessity of true political education for those to whom candidates for place and power in the State will have to appeal in the future. And we know how valuable such an organ as our paper will be in bringing the various aspects of women's life in society before the larger electorate in weighing, impartially, the credentials, the character, the antecedents, the record of service, of those who offer themselves as candidates for election, and in voicing the wishes of social reformers.

Our organ will be independent of party. For freedom, for progress, for righteousness, for the building up of a society in which the humanity of women equally with men shall be fully respected—for this we stand, and I earnestly hope that we shall receive such support as may enable us to go forward bravely, joyfully, usefully. This to the public! Now, to our own members. My beloved colleagues and friends all over the British Isles! You have been asking for an organ. You have it. Not without much work and anxiety, given freely by devoted women, has our VOTE come to the birth. Hail its entry into our League heartily. Every member work for it! Take shares in it! Scatter it broadcast. Talk of it! Sell it everywhere. Send to our W.F.L. Editor news of your Branch activities, with other news items of general interest. Do all this with enthusiasm, and the little one born to-day will become before long a great power in our land.

C. DESPARD.

**OUR WORK—Past, Present and Future.**

**EVENING "AT HOME."**

The first evening "At Home" at the Portman Rooms was an unqualified success in spite of the excitement to be found at Bermondsey and the calls still being made upon our workers for picket duty. Mrs. Amy Sanderson spoke in a way which went straight to the hearts of her listeners. She said it did her good to be among the enthusiasts in London, and she went back to her hard pioneering work in Yorkshire with renewed hope and courage. She related how she had been speaking in towns and villages where previously nothing had been heard of women's Suffrage. We all felt that it had done us good to hear Mrs. Sanderson, and many of us took her words to heart when she spoke of the absolute necessity of women standing together and not being tempted by the wiles of politicians who would willingly side-track us in order to avoid dealing with the question.

Miss Bennett reminded us of the necessity for money, more money being needed for protests, for organizers, for the new paper, and for the general work of the League. Promises of help, and several new members, greatly encouraged Mrs. Hicks who is the chairman of our Social Committee.

**SCOTTISH NOTES.**

Head Offices: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. JULIA WOOD.  
 Office Secretary: Miss KIRBY.

Organisers: Miss ANNA MUNRO, Miss OLIVE ROBERTSON.  
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**Glasgow.**

While London is talking of a Suffrage shop, Glasgow has got one. The opportunity came, and it was grasped. A splendid shop in Sauchiehall Street is now in our possession, in which we shall be able to house a literature centre, an artistic goods department, the Scottish Council, and the Hon. Organizing Secretary's offices, the "At Homes," and the Central Branch.

A body of guarantors is taking the financial responsibility, so that all these departments of our work may benefit in Glasgow, and they believe that their venture will be more than justified. We expect to remove to new premises about November 28th.

A name suggested for the place is Freedom League Hall; but other suggestions will be welcomed. An expenditure of about £40 will be entailed for painting and altering the shop. Our present expenditure on halls and offices is £120 per year. The estimated expenditure for Freedom League Hall is £245 per year. Additional rent office from the National Executive Committee and Scottish Council, and profits on sales are estimated to raise another £45 in the new premises, leaving £80 per annum to be guaranteed by yearly subscriptions. The initial expenditure mentioned above is required now, so that immediate advantage may be taken of the opportunity. The yearly subscriptions would have to be paid in time for the November and May terms of later years. Promises and cheques are requested at once.

**THE £1,000 FUND.**

The Hon. Treasurer of the Scottish Council of the Women's Freedom League appeals to readers—especially Scottish readers—of THE VOTE for contributions to the "£1,000 Fund," which has been started with the object of developing and extending the work of the League in Scotland.

The Scottish Council of the Women's Freedom League is anxious to be self-supporting, and so relieve the Central Organisation in London of burdens which it has, up till now, had to bear on behalf of Scotland at all times of more than usual activity, such as by-elections.

Also, the demands upon the resources of the Scottish Council are steadily increasing with the marked and rapid development of the League in Scotland within recent months.

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Miss J. Dickson.....	1	14	6
Miss Steven.....	0	10	0
Miss McLay (Western Branch, Glasgow)...	0	4	0
Mrs. Julia Wood.....	5	0	0
Miss Jack (Central Branch, Edinburgh).....	0	4	0
Miss Lawrence.....	0	4	6
Mr. Geo. W. Campbell.....	0	3	0
Miss Julia Glass (Edinburgh).....	0	4	7
Miss G. H. Jacob, B.Sc. (Edinburgh).....	0	10	0
Miss Marshall (Edinburgh).....	0	10	5
The Misses Scott (E. Edinburgh Branch)...	0	12	0
Central Branch (Glasgow).....	3	10	0
Tea money in Office.....	0	5	3
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>

Further subscriptions will be gratefully received and duly acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Julia Wood, W.F.L., 30, Gordon Street, Glasgow.

Meanwhile our Paisley shop is still the centre of much interest, and the sale of badges continues, while the more serious-minded are now buying pamphlets and books.

Huge posters in green, white and gold are well displayed on the hoardings, announcing that Mrs. Despard is to speak in the Town Hall on the 29th, also Mrs. Arnelife Sennett, Miss Eunice Murray, and Miss Anna Munro; by the kindness of Mr. J. H. Hinton, of Glasgow, we are to have an organ recital from 7 till 8 o'clock. This "bill of fare" will, we trust, attract the citizens of the ancient burgh, and we promise to give them something that will satisfy their varying tastes.

Our Glasgow members are also to have the pleasure of hearing Mrs. Despard for she is speaking at the weekly "At Home," and also at many public meetings in Glasgow.

The Govan Branch held a most successful social evening on Tuesday, 19th, thanks to the kindness of Miss Eunice Murray, Mrs. Wood was in the chair, and Miss Anna Munro was the speaker. Fifteen new members were made in the course of the evening, bringing the total up to 58, which, in such a short time is most encouraging, and augurs well for its ultimate success.

**LONDON ACTIVITIES.**

Hon. Organiser: MRS. BORRMAN WELLS.

**Bermondsey Bye-Election.**

Committee Rooms: 97, Southwark Park Road.

Organiser: MISS MARGUERITE SIDLEY.

Meetings have been held in most of the streets of Bermondsey, as well as in several schools, during this week, and our reception has invariably been most enthusiastic. On Thursday afternoon Mrs. How Martyn, Mrs. Nevinson and Mrs. Clark addressed a large and intensely interested and enthusiastic meeting of women in the Ronel Road Congregational Church. Two of the school keepers have told us our meetings in their schools have been the largest and quietest and most successful ever held there, which shows the sympathy towards our work of the people of Bermondsey. The small amount of Liberal opposition augurs well for us, though not for the Liberal candidate.

On Saturday there was a Budget League procession in the constituency, which was conspicuous by the smallness of its numbers (there being very few processionists besides banner-bearers) and the lack of enthusiasm. They had not even zeal enough to "boo" as they passed our gaily decorated wagonette, for which friends subscribed at last week's "At Home."

In the evening our shop is constantly filled with customers coming to purchase badges and to make inquiries about our work. In this way we are getting into touch with the working girls and women of the neighbourhood and learning something of their conditions of labour and pay, learning things that make our blood boil with indignation and that increase our zeal and capacity for work. It is brought home to us every hour we are in Bermondsey how great is the woman worker's need, for here we are in the very heart of the workers, surrounded by factories on every side. Every day we are hearing of men being thrown out of work because the women are cheaper, of women's wages being cut even lower and lower, till we wonder how it is our people do not rise in a mighty rebellion against the tyranny that beats them down to the lowest depths of poverty and misery, and till we wonder with ever-increasing wonder that these men and women can remain so good, so gentle, and so honest.

M. S.

**PORTMAN ROOMS "AT HOME."**

Despite the weather, the weekly "At Home" held at Portman Rooms on October 20th was well attended. Mrs. de Vismes and Mrs. Bexfield acted as hostesses. Lady Harberton, in the chair, in a short but convincing speech, introduced the speakers Mrs. Cobden Sanderson and Mr. Joseph Clayton. Mrs. Cobden Sanderson impressed upon her hearers that this is not merely a political but a moral movement. Mr. Joseph Clayton in a witty and earnest speech said that it had never been considered unwomanly for women to minister to the comforts and pleasures of men. He also pointed out that men may riot and create disgraceful scenes at political meetings, but, being voters, they are never punished, and no one had suggested that they should be deprived of votes on account of their behaviour. Mr. Winston Churchill came in for some scathing remarks. Many of the great thinkers of the present time were not interested in politics as they thought that it was through literature and science that the betterment of social conditions would be attained.

The tea-rooms were tastefully decorated in the colours of the League, and capably presided over by Mrs. Fisher and a bevy of assistants who would dispel any fears of the most anxious "anti" on the score of politics making women unwomanly. This made an excellent rendezvous for busy Suffragists. Mrs. Richmond marshalled a band of energetic stewards. At the next "At Home," on October 27th, Mr. McCabe will be the principal speaker.

D. S.

**South Wales.**

Organisers:

MISS MURIEL MATTERS and MISS VIOLET TILLARD.

We have formed a branch in Carmarthen. With a sympathetic Press and sympathetic public we were bound to be successful. Llewelyn Williams, the Borough M.P., said he would have taken the chair for us, if he had been staying in Carmarthen, last Friday night, when we held our meeting in the Assembly Room. Our outdoor meeting, in the Guildhall Square, where over 1,300 people had assembled on Tuesday night, had to be abandoned owing to the bad behaviour of boy students. But fortunately the first impression are lasting, on both sides, and our first meeting, for women only, was most successful on the Monday night, and many people were converted.

Also at Llandilo, on Wednesday night, a sympathetic audience listened through pouring rain, and at the end a vote of thanks was proposed and seconded by two members of the audience.

If in the future we get the same result for our efforts, then a Welsh Council of the various branches is assured. We go to Cardiff on Monday.

M. M.

**Work in Manchester.**

Organiser's Address:

Harper Hill, Sals, Cheshire.

Hon. Organiser:

MISS M. E. MANNING, B.A.

Our women's meetings, held in Swinton on October 11th and 19th, have resulted in the arrangement of an "At Home" on November 4th in St. Stephen's Schools, when Mrs. Manning and the Rev. B. O. F. Heywood, M.A., Vicar of Swinton, will be the speakers. The members of the newly-formed Swinton Branch, which now numbers twenty-three, are working splendidly to make this meeting a success. Still, many workers are needed in this big district, and offers of help and gifts of cake, etc., for the refreshments will be gratefully received by Miss Heyes, "Newholme," Hazelhurst, Worsley.

On October 20th the second joint "At Home" of the Manchester branches was held in the Memorial Hall. A most inspiring address was given by Mr. Sidney Ransom (president of the Manchester Theosophical Society), and Mrs. Nidd dealt effectively with the tactics of the League and the humours of the Press. A most attractive feature of the evening was the music provided by Miss Dearlove, Miss Redfern, and Mr. Frank Risigari. We hope during this winter to make our musical programmes particularly attractive and interesting, and Miss Dearlove has already secured the services of well-known Manchester musicians for future "At Homes."

Other meetings addressed have been the Oldham Unitarian Church P.S.A. and the Swinton Women's Co-operative Guild, where I spoke of Prison Reform in its relation to Votes for Women.

The weather has not been favourable to open-air propaganda, but one successful meeting was held Monday, October 18th, which was arranged and advertised by Mrs. Bull, of Chorlton-cum-Hardy.

Chester and Liverpool (Waterloo Branch) have also been visited at the request of the local secretaries, and at both places pleasant social gatherings were held; at Chester, in Miss Woodall's old-world cottage, and at Waterloo by the kind invitation of the Misses Knight.

The Manchester Press is being enlivened by a discussion on Mr. Churchill and the Women's Freedom League.

Miss Vernon has been canvassing for The Vote, and has met with much sympathy and support. The following amounts have been received during the fortnight: Mrs. Rose Hyland, £25; collectors, etc., £18s. We wish to thank Mrs. Rose Hyland for the encouragement which her donation has given to Manchester workers.

All Manchester members will be delighted to hear that Miss Cicely Hamilton is to visit us on November 3rd. This is the first time Miss Hamilton has spoken in Manchester, and we look forward to a crowded and enthusiastic meeting. We have 15,000 handbills to distribute for this meeting, and volunteers for chalking and sandwiching are also needed.

Miss Hamilton's visit is particularly opportune, as on November 6th the Sale and South Manchester branches hold their Café Chantant, at which "How the Vote was Won" will be performed.

Manchester members! your help is needed to help forward all these activities. Come to the "At Home" on November 3rd, and bring your friends. Everyone is welcome.

M. E. M.

**South Yorkshire,**

Headquarters:

Mizpah House, Station Road, Assistant Organiser:

Castleford.

MISS IRENE TILLARD

We have had meetings in Garforth, Wakefield, and Pontefract last week, and were very pleased with the results of the two former. We had a great deal of help in Wakefield from Miss Marguerite Boileau. A number of calls were made upon friends of hers who were sympathetic to the cause. The general opinion was that a much larger meeting could be successfully held in the place in November, and we are therefore hoping to arrange one. Mrs. Amy Sanderson has been the speaker at all the meetings, and was as delightful as she was convincing. She is addressing a meeting in the Public Rooms in Selby on the 28th.

The Pontefract meeting was the least peaceful of any, but we had feared worse than we got, as a rumour was current that it was going to be broken up. But in spite of a distinctly flippant element at the back of the hall, Mrs. Sanderson held the attention of the intelligent portion of the audience all through.

We are holding a huge meeting in the St. George's Hall, Bradford, about the 20th of November. The hall holds about 4,000 or 5,000 people, so there is an immense amount of work to be done in connection with it.

We find it difficult to realise that Woman's Suffrage is a quite new subject to these mining towns, and we cannot be surprised if progress is somewhat slower than we are accustomed to. The people, however, all show a great interest, and on the whole are singularly unbiassed in their opinions of the militant Suffragists. This week I have changed quarters to 12, Athol Road, Manningham, Bradford, in order to get the arrangements in hand for the big meeting. We are thinking of holding a meeting in Halifax or Huddersfield.

L. I. T.

### Middlesburgh and the North-East.

#### Organiser's Address:

Northgate, Roman Road,

#### Organiser:

Miss A. SCHOFIELD.

After rather depressing experiences it is more than good to discover real enthusiasts longing to do something that will count in the struggle for Women's Freedom. Such has been our experience in Sunderland. Individuals predicted failure would be the result of our efforts—militant suffragettes would not be tolerated. The predictions, however, proved false, for, on Thursday afternoon, we had a capital little meeting as a preliminary to further work, with the result that quite half the people in the room gave in their names as members or sympathisers, and Miss Clark, 3, Havelock Terrace, undertook the duties of hon. sec. pro tem.

Preparations are already being made to hold a large public meeting in the Alexandra Hall, and a smaller preliminary meeting is to take place in the first week in November. All members and friends in and around Sunderland are asked to communicate at once with Miss Clark, so that they can join forces and become really effective in that district. Permission was obtained to address a meeting of the Trades' Council at Sunderland on Thursday evening.

West Hartlepool is preparing for a big meeting, and would be glad to receive subscriptions for that purpose. Owing to Miss Cook's absence from the district, Mrs. Ross, 95, Chester Road, has undertaken the duties of hon. secretary, and will be glad to communicate with anyone who is prepared to help in any way.

The "At Home" held on Friday at the Corporation Hotel, Middlesbrough, was the means of bringing new members into the movement. It is intended to continue these "At Homes" during the winter months, and to have well-known speakers. Miss Cicely Hamilton has promised to come in December.

Next week (25th—30th) York will be the centre, but the Middlesbrough address will be the one for communications.

A.S.

### BRANCH NOTICES.

**Herne Hill and Norwood Branch.**—Our chief activities lately have been the open-air meetings on Sunday afternoons in Brockwell Park. The speakers at these meetings were: Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Toyne, Mrs. Manson, Mr. Joseph McCabe, Miss Lawson, Miss Irene Miller, Miss Neilans, Miss D. Spencer, Miss Doyne, and Miss Bremner. The chair was taken by Dr. A. Vickery, Mrs. McLaren, Mrs. Hyde, and Mrs. Walters.

These meetings were attended by large and interested audiences; they were well-reported and commented upon in the local press, and the "Norwood Observer" referred to them as "splendid missionary work." A great number of bills and pamphlets were distributed, and some literature sold. The collections were moderate, and just enabled us to pay the expenses of the meetings.

BARBARA SPENCER, Hon. Sec.

**Ipswich Branch.**—We have rented a house which, though not of immense proportions, will afford a good ground from which to direct our energies. Two kind friends, Mrs. Lane and Dr. Elizabeth Knight, are paying for the necessary alterations, and many willing hands are ready to make our club-house a place in which we shall delight to meet. There are convenient rooms for branch meetings, committee meetings, and working parties. Our literature secretary will be able to display her pamphlets, and best of all, we can advertise "The Vote" to our heart's content. We intend to make the opening of our club-house the occasion of a good introduction to the work we mean to do in Ipswich and the neighbourhood.

C. E. ANDREWS, Hon. Sec.

**Highbury Branch.**—We have held fifteen open-air meetings this season at one of the most popular speaking pitches in North London, Highbury Corner. Huge, earnest, attentive crowds have listened to our speakers, and it was gratifying to find that so many women became interested. The sale of literature and collections were quite satisfactory, and most important of all, three members of the branch, Miss John, Miss Fleisig, and Mrs. Arklay, have become speakers.

We have arranged a series of fortnightly local public meetings, the first of which was held on October 14th, and was well-attended. The next will be held on October 28th.

**Eastbourne Branch.**—A meeting was held in the Town Hall, Eastbourne, on Wednesday evening, October 20th. Mrs. How Martyn presided, and Mr. Lawrence Housman was the speaker. A resolution in favour of Votes for Women was carried with only six dissentients. A good collection was taken. Some new members joined the League. The following members acted as stewards and literature sellers:—Mrs. Downs, Miss Andrews, Miss Bailey, Miss M. Dilks, Mr. Reid, and Miss Warren.

**Finchley Branch.**—Every Saturday evening since August the branch has held a meeting at the corner of Beresford Road, East Finchley, and the audience has been a large and very interested one.

Messrs. J. Y. Kennedy and J. M. Mitchell, of the Men's League for Woman's Suffrage, kindly spoke for us, and we are also indebted to Miss Hicks, M.A., Miss John, Mrs. Merivale Mayer, Miss Neilans, Miss Sidley, and Mrs. Toyne (twice) for speaking.

On the 23rd we are expecting Mrs. Sproson, and on the 30th we are hoping Miss Irene Miller will consent to speak for us.

These open-air meetings are to be followed by two free meetings at the Congregational Hall, High Road, N. Finchley, on November 5th and 26th, at 8 p.m. We shall have good speakers, and everyone will be welcomed. The branch would be glad if local members of the Men's League would come and steward, also if local women sympathisers would give us help. The local hon. secretary is:—

MRS. EILEEN MITCHELL,

Saltburn, Mountfield Road,

Church End, Finchley.

**Sheffield Branch.**—On Monday, October 18th, Miss Dorothy Molony, of London, and Mrs. Whetton, of Sheffield, Mrs. Wallace, also of Sheffield, in the chair, addressed a public meeting in the Temperance Hall, Sheffield. A resolution in favour of Women Suffrage was carried unanimously.

**Swansea Branch.**—Our Social, held on Thursday, October 21st, was a great success, and 15 new members joined. The chair was taken by Mrs. Knight, and the following took part in the programme:—Miss Caroline Abrahams, L.R.A.M.; Mrs. MacGillivray, Mrs. Ross, Mr. Clewes, Miss Cissie Trafford, Mr. MacGillivray, Miss Phipps, B.A., and Mr. Seyler, late on "Our Caravan." Mrs. Seyler, Miss Kirkland, and Mrs. Clewes undertook the catering.

M. McLEOD CLEEVES.

**Cheltenham Branch.**—A very good public meeting was held at the Town Hall on October 14th, Mrs. Borrmann Wells and Mr. McCabe being the speakers, with Mr. Charles Fox, the Labour candidate for the Parliamentary Division of Tewkesbury, in the chair. Mr. McCabe's excellently clear method of sweeping away the cobwebs from the question seemed to impress itself on the mind of the audience, coming, as it did, from one of their own sex, who told them that men had no just claim to the vote if women had not.

A good sale of literature was effected, a collection taken, and several new members joined.

#### Albert Hall Yuletide Festival.

The branch is holding weekly meetings at the houses of members and sympathisers, to prepare for the festival. It has been suggested, in addition, that a cake and sweet sale shall be held a little later to raise the necessary funds to enable the branch to participate; for this purpose, also, we are making a special appeal for donations of money or goods for the Festival.

F. H. E., Hon. Sec.

**Govan Branch.**—through the kindness of Miss Eunice Murray—held its first social evening in the Cressy Hall on Tuesday, October 19th.

Notwithstanding a very wet night, there was a large attendance. Mrs. Wood, treasurer Scottish Council, presided, and Miss Anna Munro gave an interesting account of her caravan work, which was much appreciated. Miss Bunten, Miss May, and Miss Forsyth kindly assisted with recitations and music. Fifteen new members were added, and a good collection was taken.

J. BARBOUR, Secretary.

### PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Thurs., Oct. 28th Denniston; 8. Mrs. Despard.  
Allen's Tea Rooms, Oxford Circus; 8. Miss M. Atkinson, M.A.; Chair, Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett.  
Northampton House, Highbury; 8. Mr. Kennedy.  
Glasgow (Pollokshields Branch). Public Meeting Burgh Hall: 8. Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, Miss Bessie Semple. Chair, Rev. David Graham.
- Friday, 29th ... Paisley: Town Hall (Organ Recital, 7-8). Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, Miss Eunice Murray.  
Liverpool Freedom League: "At Home." The Ethical Church, 46, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W.; 8.30. Mrs. Nevinson.
- Mon., Nov. 1st ... Birk's Cafe, West Hartlepool; 7.30. Miss A. Schofield.  
Mossbury Road, Lavender Hill; 7.30. Mrs. Duval.
- Tues., 2nd ... Bedwas; 8. Miss Muriel Matters.  
Tues., 2nd ... "At Home" Café Vegetaria, Edingburgh; 7.30-10. Miss Olive Robertson.
- Wed., 3rd ... Manchester (Memorial Hall, Albert Square), "At Home"; 7.30. Miss Cecily Hamilton; Chair, Richard Robinson, Esq.  
Swansea (Albert Hall), Mass Meeting; 8. Miss Muriel Matters, Miss Phipps.  
Glasgow: "At Home"; 3.30-6.  
Ewing Galleries, Charing Cross.  
Sale, Social Guild; 7.30. Miss Janet Hayes  
Portman Rooms, Baker Street: "At Home," 3-6. Countess Russell, Mrs. How Martyn; Chair, Miss Isabel Logan; Hostesses, Mrs. Beith, Mrs. Fagan.
- Thurs., 4th ... Small Queen's Hall: Debate; 8. Tickets 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d. Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett (representing W.F.L.), Mr. A. Maconachie, barrister-at-law (representing Men's League for Opposing Women's Suffrage).  
St. Stephen's Schools, Swinton: "At Home," 7.30. Mrs. Manning, Rev. B. Heywood, M.A.; Chair, Miss Manning, B.A.