

Vol. II.—No. 38.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1909.

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Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

Weekly Numbers, 1½d. a week post free. Quarterly Subscriptions, 1s. 8d.; half-yearly, 3s. 3d.; yearly, 6s. 6d. All Subscriptions must be paid in advance. Back Numbers can still be obtained at the Office.

Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions.

The General Editor gives the widest possible latitude to each of the Societies represented in this Paper, and is only responsible for unsigned matter occurring in the pages devoted to general items.

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Notes.

In response to an appeal to men in *The Christian Commonwealth* of March 7th, to protest against the treatment of Mrs. Despard and the other ladies for a purely technical offence, an indignation meeting is being arranged by a number of gentlemen. Speakers and other details will be shortly announced. Contributions may be sent to Mr. Dabs, 129, Clapton Common, N.E.

DURING the exhibition organized by the Women's Social and Political Union, which is to be held at Princes' Skating Rink, from May 13th to 26th, the bookstall will be undertaken by the Women Writers' Suffrage League. It is confidently expected that all writers of both sexes who sympathize with Women's Suffrage will contribute books, or money with which to purchase books, to the stall. In the case of well-known literary men and women, the books will naturally be of more value if autographed. Signed photographs of celebrated authors and authoresses will also be exceedingly welcome. Miss Bessie Hatton, the Hon. Secretary of the W.W.S.L., appeals for offers of help in the direction mentioned above. She also wishes especially to point out that no books or photographs must be sent at present; but she will be grateful to receive promises of contributions as soon as possible. All communications to be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, 15, Sandringham Court, Maida Vale, W.

THE Kensington Branch of the N.W.S.P.U. has launched—upon a most successful enterprise—that of shopkeeping. One window displays literature, "food for the mind," another adornment for the person—scarves, hat-pins, belts, and many other dainty things—all made in the colours of the Union.

THE N.W.S.P.U. are laying plans for a special summer holiday campaign which will cover all the holiday resorts.

Royal Concert Hall, on March 13th. Dr. Flora Murray, the principal speaker, and Mrs. Strickland, who occupied the chair, be entirely managed and worked by women. both met with a most hearty reception. A petition to Parliament, proposed by Dr. Murray and seconded by Miss Lettice MacMunn, was carried with only three dissentients. The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to Dr. Murray for her able and stimulating address, and a warm appeal by Mrs. Burnier to every one present to come forward as workers. The response was all that could be desired. Most significant, perhaps, was a declaration by Mr. Charles Davidson that he would write at once to the Home Secretary urging the immediate release of two personal friends of his own at present in Holloway, and would place his vote, as a Liberal, entirely at the disposal of the Suffragists; and an offer from Lieut.-Col. A. R. Savile to help in any way desired. Many new members joined the Society, which is now for the first time, strong enough in numbers, energy, and enthusiasm to embark upon an active

MR. GULLAND is responsible for a Bill entitled the 'Law Agents (Scotland) Act Amendment Bill,' the object of which is to enable women to practice as law agents in Scotland. The Bill is backed by members who are opposed to Woman Suffrage as well as by some who are in favour of it. In Scotland a number of women have already taken the law degree.

EXTRACT from the Parliamentary news in the daily

"Mr. Pickersgill (L., Bethnal Green, S.W.), raised several points as to the administration of the Act in London. As to the women's workrooms, he did not think Mr. Burns had dealt fairly with the women as compared with the men. It was said that the women's workrooms did not pay their way, but nobody ever supposed that they would. If they did not pay their way in cash they did in other ways. (Labour cheers.) He had visited these rooms, and he was satisfied that they were doing a very good work. If the President of the Local Government Board looked only at the financial results, he would remind the right hon. gentleman that the men's colony at Hollesley Bay did not pay its way; indeed, the loss on the women's workrooms was considerably less than the loss on the men's colony. He was afraid this was another instance of the disadvantages which women suffered through non-enfranchisement."

ON Thursday, last week, the Lord Chancellor received a deputation whose object was to ask that the appointment of a woman as a Lunacy Commissioner should immediately be considered. The Secretary of the Local Government Society considers that the Lord Chanceller's reply was sympathetic, and the deputation retired satisfied that, though they had received no pledge, their demands would be considered.

MAY we make a suggestion as to a practical way of helping towards the expenses of the paper, and of assuring its

We are grateful for the subscriptions sent by friends, but even these are not numerous enough to put Women's Franchise on a sound financial basis, nor to enable us to print additional pages, for much matter is each week held over for want of space. We are gradually enlarging the scope of the advertisement pages, and friends could greatly help in this by getting others to use our columns as a medium for advertising as well as for purchasing. A scale of charges and all particulars may be had on application from the advertisement manager.

OUR readers will find an advertisement of Farrow's Bank on our last page this week. This banking system should be of interest to all women, as the cheque book should

THE HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARDS SUFFRAGE surely presage in some degree their coming economic emancipa-SOCIETY held a crowded meeting in the Small Ball Room, tion. At the "Women of all Nations'" Exhibition in September next a branch of Farrow's Bank is to be opened which will

> OWING to the generosity of Mrs. Fels we are this week enabled to extend the number of our pages to sixteen.

Meeting at Windsor.

On Wednesday, March 10th, Miss Abadam addressed two invitation meetings at Windsor. Great interest in the question of the enfranchisement of women had been aroused in the neighbourhood by workers who had called the meeting, and the response to the invitations was most satisfactory. Miss Abadam's address was followed with deep interest and enthusiasm. The Vicar of Windsor was expected to take the chair at the men's meeting, but being unavoidably absent through illness, his place was filled by the Head Master of Eton, who is a member of the local society and a vice-president of the London Society. The subject was 'The Vote as a Moral Lever.' Miss Abadam dealt with two great national evils which make for the decadence of the race, and which must be stopped at all costs. This, she said, could only be done by striking at the root of the matter. These two great scourges were the Social Evil and Infant Mortality. There were many reasons why these terrible menaces to society were growing greater in the midst of our so-called "civilization." One of the most potent causes was economic pressure, brought about greatly by sweated industries. Industrial changes had driven women out of the home, but had not given them the full benefit of trade-unions or political protection. Women were working at skilled trades side by side with men, and yet it was difficult to find any trade at which they earned more than half, or even one-third of the pay given to men. These conditions were likely to continue and increase, unless the whole legal and political status of woman was raised. The demands of women to their representatives in Parliament seemed always to give place to those of the electorate. Oftentimes terrible stories of sweated labour came to light in the papers-shirts made at 10d. a dozen, tarpaulins, &c., sewn at 1d. an hour. Miss Abadam told how she once saw a young and pretty girl dead at her sewing-machine-dead from starvation and privation. The alternative to that life of starvation labour would have been a life of shame. It was the duty of every woman to realize the terrible price many of her sisters paid for their virtue. The proprieties resulted in a "conspiracy of silence," which might condensed into one word, "Grundyism." There are 80,000 women on the streets of London, and considering that the market value of one of these lasted on an average seven years, it was appalling to think of the new life which must be constantly inflowing to keep up these numbers. It had been said that Acts of Parliament could not make virtue, but they could at least make it more possible. These disagreeable facts must not be shirked, and it was the duty of all women to tear aside the veil of convention. Suffragists realized that equality in political affairs would make for morality, and that in a dual electorate moral questions could not be shirked. Infant mortality was one of the disastrous results of this social evil, a fact well-known to medical men and women. Fire-screens and orange-boxes would prevent 5 and 4 per cent of deaths, but what of the 45 per cent certified in medical terms as due to a "wasting disease." It was impossible for doctors to certify what they know to be the real cause, owing to the law of libel. Man-made legislation had not cured this state of things, and women, the mothers of the race, must see to it themselves. What had their "sweet influence" done as yet to solve these questions? If their life of "sheltered protection was to balance the cost of those lives in want of protection, would it not be more truly womanly to throw aside the veneer of "ladylikeness" and come forward as women strong with the desire and determination to right these wrongs? Woman was awaking to a sense of responsibility, and if she sacrificed privileges plus conventions, and bravely took her share in the regeneration of this England of ours, then, and then only, would she be truly

Woman's Sphere.

MARCH 18, 1909

THOSE of us who ask for the extension of the Franchise to women base our demand for it upon the principle that taxation and representation go hand in hand. It is always conceded that the plea is logical and reasonable in itself, but our opponents add that where women are in question the plea becomes invalid because women are naturally different from men. Those who oppose us are so anxious to press this very obvious fact that women are different from men—a fact which we have no desire to deny that they appear to forget that after all, as human beings, men and women have also some important points of resemblance. For instance, if men can lav claim to have a voice in the affairs of the nation because they are constituent parts of that nation's life, are not women constituent parts of it also, and does not the same reason apply to them? If men have the right to a voice in shaping the laws of the land because their lives are affected by those laws, are not women's lives deeply affected by them too? If by the decisions of the State the lives of men are conditioned so that they have a right to approve or to condemn them, equally by those decisions are the lives of women daily and hourly conditioned for good or ill, and if to men life brings that experience which enables them to judge, does not life bring also to women an experience which teaches them what they must require of the State? For what I desire to press is this, that the ground of all legislative action is opinion based upon experience. If, then, experience is the basis of all legislation, by what logic is it that the experience of one-half the nation is ruled out? Can that legislation be all round and complete—can it make for the prosperity of the nation as a whole-when it ignores so large and distinctive a field of experience? Must it not rather be detrimental to progress and national well-being that the experience of women should not be organized and made effective the same way as is that of men, and as it so easily might be? But let us turn to that other point that women are different from men, for is not this our strongest reason for insisting that they should have opportunity given them of expressing the distinct needs and views that that difference creates? If women were the same as men we might concede that men could speak for them; but, as it is, can we be sure that men, with the best will in the world, really know what women need? Do not men frequently say, especially when they are annoyed with some paricular member of our sex, that it is impossible for any man to understand a woman? And in their more worshipful moods. do they not say, that "woman is a beautiful mystery"?-which, of course, is very pretty, but, we may ask, Is it possible to egislate quite satisfactorily for "a beautiful mystery"? or for a being whom, they acknowledge, no man can possibly understand? With regard to men themselves, it has not been thought that one class of men can speak for all other men, and it has been felt necessary to enfranchise different classes, in order that different interests may be represented. And this not merely for the sake of justice to the particular class, but because the prosperity of the country is felt to depend on the well-being of each class, which can only be attained by allowing each to express its particular needs. If this is true in the case of different classes of nen, must it not still more be true when it applies not to a class, out to one-half of the nation, and that half one which is generally cknowledged by both to be different from the other. Must not he nation go lamely as long as the needs of one-half of it are not ully understood by the legislature—so long as the knowledge and perience of one distinctive part of the nation is shut out from councils of the people? But our opponents would have us nderstand that the sphere of women is outside politics. Well. would ask, What department in life is there that is not dependent on legislative action? Some people seem to think that women want to have the vote simply because men have it, just in order say that they have got it. If these persons would only open heir eyes and see that it is not the vote, but what the vote means, what the vote can bring. I overheard some persons disussing this subject the other day in a desultory manner. One ady was expressing her opinion that all classes of women needed

I say is, let them be taught to cook and to look after their houses. and to take care of their babies." I felt inclined to remark to her: "My dear lady, what does it matter what you say? The State does not care in the least for what you say, or what you think. What you say is very true in so far as it is very desirable that women should know how to do these things, and that they should have opportunity of so learning is a crying need; but don't you know that every facility for such a training of girls and women owes its origin to the legislative action of Parliament. and that every educational authority which has power to deal with this holds the power it possesses directly by reason of Parliamentary Acts? It is possible that men might think that women were born with an instinctive scientific knowledge of how to do these things just because they are women. Your experience teaches you better; but Parliament heeds you no more when you say, "Let them be taught how to cook and to manage their houses, and to take care of their babies," than if you were to say "Let them be drilled into an Amazon corps.'

But, again, we are told that the woman has nothing to do with the affairs of the State, for the woman's sphere is the home. Let us grant at the outset how much the home is to the woman. and how much the woman is to the home; but can there be any possible antagonism between the home and the possession of the vote? I do not wish to dwell now upon the number of women who have to leave their homes to earn their living, nor upon that sad number who are forced to work through long hours, and at starvation wages, and who have dwelling-places and families and yet nothing that can be called a home. For the home-making instinct is in every woman's heart, and we shall not away with it, and the influence of women in the affairs of the nation would surely tend to bring about those conditions in which there should be more homes worthy of the name, homes which should be healthy and enlightened and happy, as it is the business of women to make them. But if the woman's sphere is the home, can that possibly mean that her interests are to be circumscribed by her own four walls? Except when this is brought forward as an argument against the Franchise no one for a moment supposes that the woman most devoted to her home has her interests so limited, any more than they would expect the busiest doctor to have no opinions on anything outside his profession. The whole trend of civilization has been to enlarge the field of women's interests. To-day she moves freely in the world books inform her mind on every subject, the papers come daily to her hand; men converse with her upon political affairs, social, economic, and of European interest. Moreover, it is becoming constantly more recognized that those women best fulfil and enter into the manifold interests of the home whose intelligences have been most widely trained and developed, and who know and understand the life around them as a whole

But what is meant by saying "The woman's sphere is the home, she has therefore no concern with the affairs of the State" With what is the State concerned but with those affairs which make for the happiness and well-being of homes in the aggregate? and ought not the woman's view to be represented? we talk about woman's place in the world, and woman's duties. let us be sure we appreciate the full meaning of the terms we use, and do not let sentiment degenerate into sentimentality.

Truly it is the woman's place to mind the babies, to care for the children, to train the young, to lay out the husband's or the father's earnings, and to supply the needs of the house, to nurse the sick, to see that the home is healthy, to visit the poor, to know their needs and to help them. But these are surface phrases, the fulfilment of which goes down to the very roots of life, and covers a vast and most important field of experience. The woman, too, must be interested in the world without, into which the boys and girls have to go forth and to live their lives, in which she, too, has to find her place. But has the State nothing to do with all these things? Has legislative action no part in forwarding or injuring them? And yet when such an important question as the prevention of infant mortality comes before the country, and the woman says; "Can I not have an authoritative voice in this? I know," she is told, "Certainly the vote. Another lady laughed this aside, saying, "What good not, your place is-to mind the baby!" When the question of would the vote do to these women when they had it? What education of the young, and of religious education is brought

of the shoulders; but when once we recognize that the good of others depends on our coming forward, and that to claim a right has become a duty, then standing aside is over for ever. up to know right from wrong." If it is the taxing of goods, has she any voice in that which so much concerns her? Certainly not, she is told, "You go home and do the marketing." Or if it is imperial affairs, then she is asked, "What can a woman know about questions of war and peace? her place is to bring up the

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

DENMARK.—The first municipal elections since women obtained the Franchise were held last Friday, and Fru Münter has kindly sent us an account of the results.

National Danish Woman Suffrage Association. Yesterday for the first time women took part in the municipal elections. In Copenhagen 42 members were to be elected on the Citizens' Representatives Board; and of the 126,461 electors of the city, 95,319 recorded their votes: 7 women were elected. Of these 2 are Socialists; 2 (Mrs. Thora Knudsen and Mrs. Vibeke Salicath), both very capable women, were on the joint Conservative and Liberal list; 2 on the Radical list (Mrs. Harbon Hoff, a medical doctor, and Mrs. Arenholt, an engineer); while I was elected from a list which, in the last few days, had branched out from the Conservative and Liberal list. This circumstance was unfortunate, for it deprived two capable women on that list of seats. We have done well, though we have not quite taken a fourth part of the seats on the Council, as was done at Rejkjavik in Iceland. The women were eager electors and often in the majority. It was a pleasant sight in the early morning hours to see the procession of husbands and wives go side by side to the poll. All seemed so happy to have the women taking their part in the elections.

As usual the Socialists had a majority of votes, and won 20 of the 42 seats. Their supremacy was in no way affected by the women's votes. In the neighbouring town, Frederiksberg, the Conservative and Liberal party defeated the Socialists, and the same thing has happened in other town and parish councils. On many of them no woman has gained a seat, on some there are one or two. The political question is considered the essential thing, no matter whether it is men or women who are elected. That, at any rate, shows a unity of standpoint JOHANNE MÜNTER.

Bredgade 34, Copenhagen, March 13th.

ITALY.—During the recent elections to the Italian Parliament women have for the first time helped in the canvass. The National Suffrage Committee, which under its energetic president, Donna Giacinta Martini, has made such rapid strides during the last two years, formed a special election sub-committee to question candidates as to their views on Women's Suffrage, and give active support to those who were favourable. Of the Deputies elected 19 have declared themselves in favour. The Committee is also trying to induce women to take a more intelligent interest in politics, especially in matters that affect the home, such as the enormous increase in the price of food, &c.

FRANCE.—The newly-formed French Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is now engaged in appointing its officers. Madame Schmahl, to whose initiation the Union is due, will be the President, and Madame Jane Misme, editress of the Française, Secretary. Among the committee are Madame Vincent, to whose energetic campaign the admission of women to the councils of Prudhommes is due; Madame Blanche Schweig, who has done so much for the organization of women's trade unions; Madame Blanche Cremnitz, Secretary of the Union fraternelle des Femmes; Madame Hammer, Vice-President of the Lique des droits des Femmes; Madame Pichon-Landry. Secretary of the Legislative Section of the National Council of Frenchwomen; Madame Marya Cheliga; and Madame L. Compain.

The meetings will be held at the office of the Française, 49, Rue Lafitte, Paris. The next general meeting will be on March 20th, when the participation of the Union in the London Congress is on the Agenda. The subscription to the society is 10 francs. Men as well as women can become members. Branches in the departments will be organized as soon as possible English Suffragists will all join in wishing success to the newest ALICE ZIMMERN.

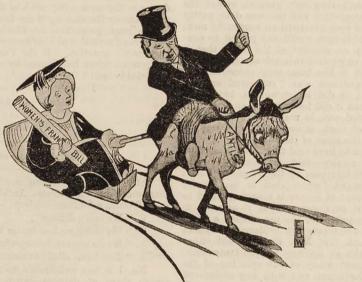
Then-and Now.

When Noah's Ark swam on the Flood, And gently bobbed the waves between, The women-folk were never heard, And only very rarely seen. They shared the space with sheep and kine, To steer the Ark they never sought, But said, with meekly downcast eyes, Ye men approve it not.

When Mrs. Shakespeare saw the works Her world-renowned husband wrote, She did not straight forget her place, And start to clamour for a vote. She starched his ruffs, she poured his sack, To read the plays she never thought; But, truly womanly, she said,

Ye men approve it not.

Stoop down your heads and drink!



Ah wherefore seek to poke with parasols The foaming crest of these advancing waves? Before we were, that river took its course, And shall roll o'er our graves.

Then cease, oh Antis, with your futile plaint

Strength, freedom, life is in yon silver wave-

To wake the echoes by the river's brink.

By the River's Brink.

Oh, foolish Antis, kneeling by the brink,

To watch the mighty river there below,

To check that current's flow!

Your little handkerchiefs were never made

A. L. LITTLE

"THE OPPORTUNIST."

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Reproductions of this Cartoon can be obtained from the Office of this paper.

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When Florence Nightingale defied The instincts of the Saxon race, And, with divine audacity, Flew straight in Mrs. Grundy's face. They watched this forward female go To nurse the sick 'mid shell and shot. And murmured, through their pursed-up lips, Ye men approve it not.

And all throughout Victoria's reign One often heard the same remark; The women then wore crinolines. And kept their bouses after dark. When some bold hussies studied Greek, Or, shameless, little cycles bought, They lisped, with sweet Victoria grace, Ye men approve it not.

And now? Well, things are somewhat changed, Society is more complex, Less primitive, we do not own Our deference for the other sex. Our lips are silent—but, alas! Doomed are we to our present lot, As long as in our hearts we say, Ye men approve it not.

A. L. LITTLE.

Correspondence.

[The Proprietors of 'Women's Franchise' do not necessarily identify themselves in any way with the opinions expressed by their

SIR,—With reference to the matter of a badge which may conveniently be worn by all supporters of the Women's Suffrage Movement, may I advocate the adoption of a sprig of oak leaves and acorn? I suppose that few can doubt that one of the main reasons for the rapid spread of the Primrose League at its commencement was the attractiveness of its emblem, together with the memories and associations thereby evoked. What can be prettier than the green leaves and brown seed of the oak,? What more suitable than the suggestion conveyed of self-reliant strength and of useful vigour, as well as of vast results from small beginnings? Already the Portsmouth Society has adopted this badge, and I commend it to the favourable consideration of other organizations.

I may add that we have been supplied with some quite beautiful sprigs of artificial leaves, with acorns, by the Cripple Girls' Guild, Sekford Street, E.C. Faithfully yours, Faithfully yours, JULIA M. A. HAWKSLEY.

Church Lodge, Portsmouth.

[We have had some specimen brooches made consisting of the words "Women's Franchise," fashioned by the "Wire King" of Brighton. These cost one shilling each, and have greatly delighted those who have obtained specimens.

self-glorification at the expense of others; but it is impossible for her to decide upon such matters." If it is the housing problem, then she is told, "We can dispense with your views on this subject, what you have to do is to find suitable accommodation." tion for your family, that all may be brought up decently and well —and thus learn if this is difficult or easy." And so it is the same all through. Whether it be questions of health, social problems, or care of the young, she is told, "It is your sphere to know all or care of the young, she is told, "It is your sphere to know all about these things, but we do not want your help in deciding upon them." Would it be possible for the State to call a conference on health, and then to say to the doctors, "You mustn't come, your practice is your sphere. Go back and look after your patients; we will settle this without you"? Or, if legal matters were to be considered, would it say to the lawyers, "You need not come; you must keep in your offices; your sphere is to look after your clients' interests"? Or, if it were a council to discuss questions of war and defence would it say to the men who know questions of war and defence, would it say to the men who know most about them, "We don't want you; you have enough to do to drill and train your soldiers; we can consider these things

forward, then she is told, "We don't want your opinion, your

place is to see that the children are trained properly, and brought

young to be brave and yet forbearing, to be ready to defend their country, and, if need be, to die for the right, and yet to avoid

without you"? But I need not press the point further, for it is only where women are in question that the experts are ruled out. And yet, at the bottom of every woman's heart, there is the sense that there are things crying out for her thought and her experience to help to set them right. Surely the woman who cares most for her own home cares most deeply for the homes of others. She whose sphere it is to care for the children feels most bitterly for the little lives that are daily being sacrificed.

She looks around and she sees sweated industries, the struggles of the poor to keep a roof above their heads, children forced out into life under conditions that ensure that later they will be swelling the ranks of the unemployed. She sees a world in which temptations are thick, in which good is waging a battle to the death with evil; and, she asks, with a sense of the power and the knowledge that is in her, to be allowed just to co-operate

with men in helping things along. Yet at a recent Anti-Suffrage meeting the lady who presided said they were met there to protest against women having the burden of the vote thrust upon them. Now you cannot thrust the vote upon any one. No man, though allowed to vote, is obliged to do so-many men never do; but if at any time the man feels strongly on any question, then the power is there, and it is regarded as a privilege and not as a burden. But can you by asking people to spare you really set a responsibility aside? Because some one in your home

is willing to exempt you from fulfilling your share of some duties, do you feel that your conscience is cleared thereby? I have quoted what one woman publicly said; let me quote what another said to me privately. She was one of those women who, with a charm of character and person, and great gifts of

mind, possessed naturally that influence which is said sometimes to be all that a woman needs. She was one of those who was inclined to shrink from the responsibility of the vote, and had been at one time opposed to it; but she was also one who felt the deepest interest in the questions of life, and a great sense

of her duties in regard to the needs of others. She said to me: "I have become a Suffragist at last, but not from any argument that I have heard used; you know how strongly I feel our responsibilities in helping forward the good of others, and as to

fulfilling as citizens our duties to the community—well, I found that I needed the vote." And then she added: "It is because I am a good Christian that I am a good citizen, and because I am a good citizen I find that I need the vote; it is my Christianity that has made me a Suffragist." I have said that we

base our claim to the Franchise upon a constitutional right, but I think that we women have never been very eager to press our rights simply as such. I think we have been, perhaps, too ready sometimes to let them pass us by with a smile and a shrug

"National Union."

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"THE OPPORTUNIST.

Reproductions of this

Cartoon can be obtained

from the Office of this

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MARCH 18, 1909

Mrs. Fawcett and Mrs. Humphry Ward Debate.

SIR-I have read with mingled feelings of amusement and amazement the report, in your issue of the 4th, of Mrs. Humphry Ward's speeches in the debate with Mrs. Fawcett on Women's Suffrage. Many of Mrs. Ward's allegations are not new, and those which are new are not true. The whole of Mrs. Ward's statements are devoted to prove that the granting of the Parliamentary Franchise to women is not necessary, and that if granted, the exercise of it would be dangerous to the community. I have looked carefully for any facts or arguments in support of either or both of those points, but without success. There are plenty of assertions, but no arguments and no statements of facts, and Mrs. Ward appears to be one of those possessed of the "Sic volo, sic jubeo, stet pro ratione, voluntas" view and to think that the expression of her opinion ought to be regarded as conclusive. That there have been improvements in the laws relating to women cannot be denied: notably the Married Women's Property Act, of which, it has been recently stated, that men by a stroke of the pen gave up to women many millions. This statement is not true as a fact, for men did not give up to women a single farthing; they only gave to women the right of retaining their own property; and this was done partly because of the frauds that had been practised on women by men, and which the more respectable men would not permit to continue any longer, but largely on account of the effect that it would have of enabling men to protect themselves against their creditors, an object in which it has been very successful. It is not true that factory legislation was "conceived entirely in the interests of women"; it did affect women, but it did a great deal more for men than it did for women; and now the Factory Acts are being carried out, in many cases, in such a way as to turn women out of work, in order that men may be employed at men's wages in the place of the women at women's wages. Mrs. Ward is reported to have said that "the falsehoods on that subject-economic rivalry-told to factory workers at street corner meetings by members of the Women's Social and Political Union represented 'errors clad in lies.' common consent a large amount of license is always granted to poets, writers of fiction, and auctioneers; but it appears to me that a special license is required for the use of such a term, especially as Mrs. Ward does not supply any evidence in support of her statement, and I think that Mrs. Ward should either supply such evidence, or make an apology for the statement; for though I have read a great many of the speeches of the members of that Union, I have not met with any statement that is not in accordance with fact. Mrs. Ward speaks with contempt of Australia, and finds it convenient to forget-or probably she had never heard—that the Ballot Act now in force in this country was taken from the South Australian Act, which had been in operation in South Australia for some fifteen years before the Ballot was introduced into this country; and as this country has followed the Australian law in respect to elections, so will this country, before long, follow Australia in giving the Parliamentary Franchise to women. Mrs. Ward owes a deep debt of gratitude to the movement for Votes to Women, for it has afforded a splendid advertisement of her last work of fiction. Mrs. Ward sums up her case by saying that "the admission of women to the Suffrage would mean...the wholesale degradation of English public life," and concludes by saying that 'Women's Suffrage would weaken the national vote by a political inexperience, a natural ignorance," &c. Mrs. Ward takes no objection to the illiterate voter, or to the fact that any drunken loafer who can make himself out to be a lodger or a latchkeyvoter can exercise the Parliamentary Franchise; but the most highly-educated and intelligent women in this land are placed in the same category as idiots, lunatics, and felons, the last of whom can regain the Franchise after a moderate period of probation. It appears to me, therefore, that Mrs. Ward's prophetic vision has led her a good deal astray of all reasonable probabilities. I have seen the working of Women's Franchise in municipal matters both in this country and in Australia; and I hear from Australians that since the women have had the Parliamentary Franchise, several men, who had been regularly for want of space.]

returned to the local Parliaments, have found it necessary to remain in private life. I know that Australians have said that they would not allow their women to be treated as women have been treated in this country. In my opinion much of that treatment has been unlawful. If the statements made to me are correct, and I have good reason to believe that they are correct, many of the women have been-in Holloway-treated in a most unlawful manner; so unlawful, that if any of the persons aggrieved had brought an action against the Governor of the gaol, she would have recovered swinging damages. Again, the omen have at several of the meetings been subjected to treatment by the "stewards" or persons acting as stewards that the lowest type of public-house "chucker out" would have been ashamed to resort to, and this was the case at the Albert Hall meeting. There is a well-known legal maxim, "Qui facit per alium, facit per se," and if some of the women who were so brutally treated at the Albert Hall had issued writs against Mr. Lloyd George or Lady MacLaren, the actions would have succeeded, and probably have taught a useful lesson. I am in favour of granting the Parliamentary Franchise to women because of the great changes that have taken place in nearly every line of life. Women have now to discharge important uties in the work-a-day work of the world, and they are entitled to a voice in the making of the laws by which they are governed, and a large proportion of which they have to carry out. I have asked myself, and I invite every male creature to ask himself, this simple question, "If the Parliamentary Franchise is given to women, what harm can, by any possibility, result to any

I am. Sir. Your obedient Servant, (Hon.) H. B. T. STRANGWAYS, Formerly Premier of South Australia.

Confessions of an Anti.

SIR.—Since confessions are always interesting, I append four, made by Cheltenham Anti-Suffragists to members of the local Women's Suffrage Society. :-

1. "We can't debate."

"We think we had better keep quiet."

3. "We have very few speakers at present."

4. "You have all the brains!"

they must know themselves best.

No. 1 is too well-known to need mentioning. We always smash them at debates—when they appear—and, to judge by their recent meeting here, indeed, they "can't debate." One seldom agrees so completely with an opponent.

No. 2 is also granted. Much better! Not keeping quiet is apt to expose ignorance. Let them also destroy their leaflets, is protein a second them.

or nothing converts to the cause of Suffrage like Anti-Suffrage A holocaust of it would do more for "Antis" than all Mrs. Humphry Ward's speeches.

No. 3. They know more about this than we do; but we villingly take their word for it, especially on the evidence of

the quality of speakers on their platforms. No. 4. A Suffragist would hardly have gone so far as to make this statement. It would have seemed rather vain and rude: but as the "Antis" of their own accord pay us such a compliment, we must accept it cheerfully. Besides, as in No. 3,

Thanks, "Antis"; I wish I could make you some pretty speeches in return; but never mind, a gift is better than a compliment any day, and we are going to make you a beautiful present soon, a present you have told us you will be glad to use when we have won it for you—the Parliamentary vote.

THEODORA MILLS, Hon. Sec. W.S.S., Cheltenham.

[We trust some friend will make it possible for us to enlarge our next issue, as we still have many articles held over

National Union of Momen's Suffrage Societies.

MARCH 18, 1909

MRS. FAWCETT, in a letter published in The Times, gives the following among other reasons for supporting Mr. Stanger's rather than Mr. Howard's Bill :-

'We know approximately the number of voters which this Bill would add to the existing register. A Parliamentary return recently published gives the exact number of women entitled to vote in England and Wales in county and borough council elections, viz., 1,009,092. If allowance is made for lodgers, freeholders in counties, and other minor electoral qualifications, and also for a proportionate addition from Scotland and Ireland (for which the existing register of male voters gives sufficient guidance), the total number of women added to the electorate of the United Kingdom by Mr. Stanger's Bill would be something between 13 and 2 millions. That is to say, the present electorate of 71 millions would become an electorate of from 9 to 91 millions. It would give what all the Suffrage Societies unite in asking for, and it would relieve half the population from the ban of perpetual exclusion from a place in the Constitution without entailng the disadvantage of an overwhelming addition to the electorate. It would, moreover, give a fair proportion of representation to all classes; for to describe Mr. Stanger's Bill as one to enfranchise propertied women only is a serious misrepresentation. The vast majority, four-fifths at the lowest computation-some statisticians say nine-tenths-would belong to the working

"A parallel to the untoward action of the promoters of Mr. Howard's Bill might have been found if, in a former generation, those who desired the removal of Jewish disabilities had shown their zeal by introducing a Bill to sweep away every then existing restriction upon the exercise of the Franchise.

"It is tolerably plain that there is no active demand for universal Adult Suffrage. Any steady man, however poor, can get a vote now if he wishes for one, and no man, therefore, is condemned to perpetual disfranchisement. There is a real and active demand for Women's Suffrage for duly qualified The keen interest in the subject is manifested in a thousand ways. Mr. Howard's Bill is not what we want, and the Suffrage Societies disclaim any part or lot in it.

Mrs. Fawcett concludes by hoping that "all Parliamentary friends of Woman Suffrage, of whatever party, will support the amendment, of which Mr. E. A. Goulding, M.P., has given 'That the extension of the Franchise to women now disqualified on the ground of sex should precede the consideration of the further changes proposed in this Bill.' '

On March 10th, by invitation of Mrs. Mansel and the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield, a most successful meeting to advance the cause of Women's Suffrage was held in the Digby Assembly Rooms, Sherborne. The speakers were Lady Frances Balfour (who came from Bournemouth, where she had held a very successful meeting on the previous day), Mrs. Corbett, Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., and the Hon. A. J. Thynne, formerly Minister of Agriculture for Queensland, and Mrs. Mansel kindly took the chair. The room was quite full, the audience numbering about 360. This was the first meeting on Women's Suffrage ever held at Sherborne, and the interest and sympathy shown were very gratifying. Questions, especially from "Antis," were invited at the close of the meeting, but unfortunately, two of the speakers having to catch a train, this interesting and useful method of instruction was brought to a premature end. Miss Lonsdale a member of the Anti-Suffrage League, and a Poor Law Guardian, assured the audience—in a trembling voice—she felt sure she would never be re-elected on account of the actions of the Suffragettes; but what this had to do with the non-party and constituional Women's Suffrage meeting was not quite clear to speakers or audience. As a result of this meeting a branch of the National Union is being formed, with Mrs. Mansel as President, the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield as Hon. Secretary, and Miss H. Parry Okeden as Treasurer. The speeches were lucid, and held the interest of the audience, especially that of Miss Margaret Robertson. The chief feature of Lady Frances Balfour's address was her fine defence of the militant tactics. At the close of the meeting a vote of thanks to the speakers was proposed by the Hon.

Mrs. Haverfield, seconded by the Rev. Canon Goodden, which was carried unanimously.

On the previous evening Miss Robertson addressed a village meeting at Bishop-Caundle, and though quite a small village, from 40 to 50 people turned up, in spite of the cold and damp, and it was satisfactory to note most of them were men.

A DEBATE on Women's Suffrage will take place in the People's Hall, Goodson Road, near Church Road, Willesden, on Thursday, March 25th, at 8 P.M., under the auspices of the Willesden Branch of the London Society for Women's Suffrage. The opener will be Mr. H. McKay; the opposer, Mr. Alex. Maconochie, barrister-at-law, a member of the Men's League to oppose Female Suffrage. The chair will be taken by Mr. James Gibb, M.P., and the admission is free.

Debate.

UNDER the auspices of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies a debate was held at St. Peter's Institute, Wolverhampton. There was a large and interested audience. Mr. T. F. Crickmay, M.A., was in the chair, and after introducing the speakers, read the resolution which was to be discussed 'It is desirable in the interests of the State to remove the political disabilities of women by granting to them the Parliamentary Franchise on the same terms on which it had been or might be granted to men'

Lady Isabel Margesson supported the resolution, and Mr.

H. W. L. Rumsey opposed it.

Lady Isabel Margesson, speaking in support of the resolution, said that the great difficulty which met all advocates of Women's Suffrage was that they had to fight not simply against argument, but against instinct, sentiment, and feeling. fear that there might be danger to the home if the Suffrage were granted touched the deepest instincts of men; but it was really in the interests of the home that women claimed the vote.

The home is the woman's stronghold: her part is to bring up the boys and girls to be good citizens. Scientifically it is true that good mothers are essential if the nation is to have good 'The home is the mint of the nation." Women's work in the home proves her right to have the vote for a Parliament three-fourths of whose laws have to do with homes and house-

It is not so much the woman's as a national demand. Women have wits enough to use the vote without neglecting the home, and it is to the nation's interest that they should do so.

Then we want the vote for the sake of the women out in the world—the labouring women. If a Bill were introduced into Parliament on the lines of the resolution, 82 per cent of the women affected would be working women.

The question is asked, "Cannot men take care of the women and legislate for them?" One class cannot legislate for another. We want to help in legislating for ourselves. All that is now said against Women's Suffrage has been said against each additional extension of the Suffrage in other days.

As to the physical force argument that women cannot fight—well, if they are not in the fighting line they are behind succouring the wounded. But in civilized countries authority does not rest on force alone. There is no hard and fast line to mark the division between men and women, their work and their natures are interlocked.

We want the vote because there is no greatness without responsibility. It is a great responsibility to have the vote, but also a great educating force.

Mr. H. W. L. Rumsey opposed the resolution on the grounds that the Franchise was already too largely extended, and though the admission of women would not add to the proportion of incompetence, yet it would not alter it; so the increased numbers would be a disadvantage; that even in the present terms it would benefit more married women with property than working women, but it would not stop there, but would go on to Adult 464

That countries where it was already established furnished no safe precedent for our own; that men and women were originally physically, biologically different; that for ages man had looked on woman as a being higher than himself; that she had set him a model of conduct, and had appealed to his chivalry. If she had the vote she would become merely his equal.

That she had only used the municipal vote very little, which showed that she did not really want the Parliamentary vote, and would not use it if she had it.

That government indisputably rested on physical force, therefore, since women were necessarily excluded from sharing the responsibility of action, it would be dangerous to surrender government into their hands.

Miss Gough, M.A., of Stafford, supported the resolution. She dealt with some of Mr. Rumsey's arguments, and as to the physical force argument she said there were many men who could not fight—cripples and blind men, for instance—yet they had the vote.

Mr. A. G. Coombs, B.A., supported Mr. Rumsey. Several members of the audience took part in the debate, among them Mr. H. Y. Stanger, K.C., M.P., who said that there could be no logical reason against women having the vote, except their incompetence to use it; until that were provedas it certainly had not been on this occasion-in practice they

The resolution was carried triumphantly by 113 votes to 37.

L. Highfield Jones.

ALTRINCHAM (N.U.W.S.S.).—On Tuesday Miss Roper spoke on 'The Industrial Position of Women and their Need for the Franchise' to an extremely appreciative audience. She made it absolutely clear that the vote is needed to guard the interests of women in the labour market. The usual resolution was unanimously carried.

HORLEY (N.U.W.S.S.).—On March 11th a successful public meeting was held at the Victoria Hall, Horley. Miss Cecily Corbett delivered an interesting address on 'Why Women want the Vote,' and dealt

with the objections which were made against giving it to them.

Mr. Baillie-Weaver followed, and in an eloquent speech disposed of the anti-suffrage arguments. The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the speakers.

Annie S. Swan, Hon. Sec., Horley Branch.

IRISH WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIA-TION.—A drawing-room meeting, the third of a series, was held on March 10th at 40, Harcourt Street, through the kindness of Mrs.

Thompson. Miss Tremain, B.A., presided.

Mr. T. J. Haslam read a paper, in which he met the objections usually offered to the extension of the Franchise to women. The incapacity of a woman, or a man, failing to grasp the complexities of legislative measures was no reason for preventing them choosing a candidate who would be likely to represent their views on public questions. Women might wear their fingers to the bone in sweated industries, but they must not soil them once in five years at a pollingstation. He could not understand the attitude of those who wanted to debar all women from the Franchise because they themselves did not feel the necessity for it. If his neighbour took no interest in politics that should hardly debar him. The possibility of women entering Parliament was a remote contingency, and they could not get in unless the men voters—who would be seven to one under the limited Franchise—wished them to be there. He, personally, considered that the dangers supposed to attend on Adult Suffrage were imaginary, but thought such a measure too far in advance of public opinion, whereas a Bill to give the vote to women on the

of public opinion, whereas a Bill to give the vote to women on the same terms as men was a practical measure for to-day.

The paper was spoken to by Miss Bagley, Miss Badham, B.A., Mr. J. Pery-Hutchesson, Mrs. Cousins, Mus.Bac., Mr. J. Thompson, M.A., Mr. J. H. Cousins, and Mr. and Mrs. Haslam in reply.

UXBRIDGE (N.U.W.S.S.).—If the progress of the Women's Suffrage Movement is to be gauged by the success of its successive meetings in Uxbridge, then the evidence seems to show that good progress is being made, and that the well-attended meeting at the Town Hall on Thursday evening shows that the demand of the women in this district has passed the quibbling stage. The hall was well filled, with an audience, too, that was quite sympathetic and quickly responsive to the points and arguments of the speaker. Mrs. Davidson and the other organizers of the meeting had made most complete arrangements. Miss Edith Palliser presided, and she was supported by Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Philip Snowden, the

Rev. R. S. Swann-Mason (of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage), the Rev. F. L. and Mrs. Riches Lowe, Rev. Father Brady, R.D., Mrs. Davidson, Miss Watson, Miss Harriss, and Miss Raleigh. The speakers were heard with great attention, and a resolution in favour of the removal of the Political Disabilities of Women was voted for with only four contrary.

WARWICK AND LEAMINGTON (N.U.W.S.S.).-A successful WARWICK AND LEAMINGTON (N.U.W.S.S.).—A successful drawing-room meeting was held in connexion with this society on March 11th, when Mrs. Read of Birmingham was the principal speaker. Mrs. Read quoted the late Lord Coleridge's estimate of the laws affecting the women of England. They were, he said, more worthy of a barbarous than a civilized people. She also expressed the opinion that the "Antis" were being forced unconsciously to belittle their own sex. Mrs. A. Hill, another speaker, held that "Artis" were read weaker, held that "Antis" were undeveloped women, and that the weakness of their case brought converts to the Suffrage cause. New members joined at the close of the meeting and a satisfactory collection was

WINDSOR (N.U.W.S.S.).—A very successful drawing-room meeting was held at East Mead, Bolton Crescent, on Thursday last week, through the kindness of Mrs. R. Wood. Mrs. B. C. Everett read an interesting paper on 'Women's Suffrage in the Colonies, and the Advantages of the Vote Generally,' which was followed by a discussion. A resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage was carried by a large majority.

Meetings of the N.U.W.S.S.

MARCH Pontypridd, Women only Leicester, Debate in St. Miss Abadam Opener, Mrs. Donaldson George's School Nottingham, "At Home" To meet Mr. and Mrs. 3.30 Circus Street Hall Forbes Robertson

London, Ealing, Oak Room, Haslemere, Meeting for Men

Bournemouth, Debate, Charminster Road Lecture Hall, Congregational Church Wilmslow, Public Meeting North-Eastern, Drawing-

23. Sheffield, Public Meeting

Wolverhampton, St. Peter's Institute, Annual Meeting
Altrincham, Bowden Parish

Prestwich. Salford, New Forest, Burley, Drawing-Room Meeting
Bollington,
New Forest, Ringwood, Stratford-on-Avon.

Leicester, St. Mark's Group of Suffrage Circles

Reigate and Redhill, Hostess, Mrs. Shaen Make- 3

Altrincham, Lymm,

Bournemouth, Boscombe Bournemouth, Prince's

Hall, "At Home Beckenham, Public Meeting. Anerley Town Hall

Warwick and Leaming- Speaker, Lady Frances ton, Public Meeting
29. Bournemouth, Prince's Speaker, Miss C. Hamil- 4 Hall ton (Diana of Dobson's)

From March 8th for a month. Miss Gill and Mrs. Cooper will organize a

Series of Meetings in Leicester and District.

P.M

MARCH 18, 1909

To meet Mr. and Mrs. 3.30 Forbes Robertson Chair, Lady Grove Speaker, Mr. Forbes Robertson Debate, Mr. Raphael, Mr. 8.15 Head, Anti-Suffragist Chair, Mr. F. White 8
Speaker, Mr. Malcolm Mitchell
Speaker, Miss Howes

Miss Abadam 8
Debate, Mrs. Harrison Bell, 2.30 Miss Measham, Anti-Suffragist Chair, Mrs. Garrett

Anderson, M.D. Speaker, Miss Abadam Speaker, Mrs. Arnold Shaw 3.30 Speaker, Mrs. Philip Snowden Chair, Mr. William Reed 8 Speaker, Councillor Margaret Ashton on 'Education and Women's Suffrage.' Miss Abadam 3 Miss Abadam Hostess, Mrs. Lyon Speaker, Miss D. Edwards Miss Abadam 8 Speaker, Miss D. Edwards 3

Speakers, Mrs. Pember Reeves, Lady Isabel Margesson Mrs. Donaldson

peace Speaker, Dr. Flora Murray Chair, A. Watkin, Esq., J.P. 8 Speaker, Miss Abadam Chairman, Councillor Wilson Speaker, Miss Abadam Chair Miss Ahadam

WE have to "keep the Liberal out" in Croydon now; so will all members in the vicinity—which includes London, be it Speakers, Mrs. Philip Snowden, Sir John Cockburn, remembered—please send in to the office their names, with dates and other particulars affixed, of the time that they can give to help the Croydon branch? Speakers in large numbers are wanted, for the constituency is a very extensive one. Chalkers, bill distributors, literature sellers, will all be given work to do if they will come and offer their services at the Committee Rooms,

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League.

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL. NATIONAL OFFICES: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

The Limit—and Liberty.

Home Secretary dare not do. Mrs. Despard's release was, of

AFTER all we have found that there are some things the

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc., A.R.C.S. Hon. Treasurer: Miss Benett. Hon. Organising Secretary: Mrs. Billington-Greig.

President : MRS. DESPARD. Telegrams: "Tactics, London."

Mr. Howard's Red Herring.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO. Hon, Treasurer: MRS. WOOD.

AGAIN we find that those who should have been our best friends have been turned from the direct path leading to Women's Franchise to the—to us—alarming introduction of Adult Suffrage. That this Bill is brought in with the idea of giving women the vote, is not to be thought for a moment. Women, as a whole, as well as men, see that the country is not ripe for Adult Suffrage. At present 7 million men are enfranchised. Mr. Howard would enfranchise about 14 million men and women more, trebling the existing electorate—a measure that no statesman would entertain for a moment. In all former additions to the Franchise 2 millions has been the number which has been considered a suitable increase; and 1½ to 2 millions is the estimate of the new electorate under the Women's Bill, the one advocated by all Women's Suffrage Societies, and which asks for the enfranchisement of all women now disfranchised solely on account of sex.

We must not allow this herring of "Adult Suffrage" to be trailed across our path. It it is successful, it will only result in Manhood Suffrage, a measure under which we women would be infinitely worse off than ever. The cry of "Adult Suffrage" is engineered by men, for themselves, who say, "Why should women of property get the vote, and leave their poorer sisters to work out their own salvation?" We say, "Why should women wait for all men to be enfranchised before they—any of them—taste the sweets of freedom?" No, my friends, this is a case in which by enfranchising only some women, we give freedom to all.

But let us analyze this cry of "only propertied women." Under the Women's Bill the new electorate would belong in the main to the great lower middle class. All householders, boarding-house keepers, shopkeepers, working women living alone, such as teachers, nurses, clerks of all kinds, doctors, sanitary inspectors, health and district visitors, dressmakers, milliners, and other traders, widows. It will not, at first, touch the vast army of girls and women who are earning the bare subsistence wage, which grinds them down to such abject poverty; but when conditions of life get altered, and wages get raised, it will touch these and the factory worker as well.

But without the latter, Mr. Keir Hardie has computed that of the new electorate of the Women's Bill, 80 per cent to 86 per cent would be taken from the classes above named.

We believe that Mr. Howard's Bill is a device of the Government for bringing disrepute on the women's request for enfranchisement, by confusing it with Adult Suffrage.

Let all Women's Suffrage Societies denounce this trick as it deserves, and support in every way Mr. Goulding's amendment, "That the extension of the Franchise to women now disqualified solely on account of their sex should precede the consideration of the further changes proposed in this Bill."

EDITOR.

Croydon By-Election.

40, London Road, Croydon, near West Croydon Railway Station.

course, a tacit admission that her arrest ought never to have taken place; but, having taken place, Mr. Gladstone would have held obstinately to the consequences of it had the prisoner been any one else but Mrs. Despard. Indeed, he has done so. Miss FitzHerbert and Miss Sidley were equally guilty, or not guilty, with Mrs. Despard: their crime was identical with hers, yet they have had to pay the full penalty for creating a panic amongst the police by going out at the same time on a perfectly constitutional mission. The police, of course, have got into the habit now of imagining that any women who are known Suffragists are contemplating a dangerous raid on the House of Commons if they come out of a tea-shop in that sacred vicinity in a larger number than two, or at most three, and they consequently immediately whistle up reinforcements and arrest them before any damage is done. It is gratifying, however, to find that the irony of placing Mrs. Despard on the criminal lists of the country can pierce the abnormal thickheadedness of the Home Secretary, and that there is a limit to tyranny that even this Government dare not pass, in spite of its panic. On Thursday, the 18th inst., we hope to welcome back from durance vile Mrs. Manson, Mrs. Meredith, Miss Schofield, Miss Johnson, Miss Vernon, and Miss Povey, who have had to suffer a month's imprisonment in the Second Division for audaciously endeavouring-in accordance with their instructions from the public meetings which elected them as delegates—to seek an interview with the Prime Minister at the official residence for which, doubtless, some of them help to pay. The punishment does not seem to fit the crime, somehow; but of course we must never

to contribute towards his salary. The prisoners will be released at about a quarter past eight. and will come to the Cottage Tea-Rooms, Strand, for breakfast, where we hope a goodly number of friends and sympathizers will be gathered to give them a hearty welcome. Tickets for the breakfast, 1s. 3d. each, can be obtained from the office. Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson has kindly consented to preside in the place of Mrs. Despard, who may not be able to be present.

forget that the voteless members of the community should be com-

pelled to recognize that the Prime Minister is in no sense a servant

of theirs, except in so far that they may be graciously permitted

Mrs. Manson, Miss Schofield, and other ex-prisoners will speak at Caxton Hall on Thursday afternoon.

On Thursday, the 25th, we shall again be at the prison gates at 8 A.M. to welcome Miss FitzHerbert and Miss Sidley, and escort them to Eustace Miles' Restaurant, Charing Cross. Tickets 1s. 3d. each, are now ready.

On the day following Mrs. Duval and Miss Seruya-the two onlookers who were wrongfully arrested simply because they are Suffragists-will be released, as well as one of the delegates, Miss Ibbotson. There will be only a limited number of tickets (2s. each) for this breakfast, which Miss Edith Craig has kindly arranged to have at her flat, 3, Adelphi Terrace House.

THE HACKNEY BRANCH were able by their jumble sale last autumn to raise 35l. for the League. Encouraged by their success, they propose to hold another in May, hoping this time to raise 50l. It will be announced next week to what address goods should be Given by

Green, White, and Gold Fair.

Goods for the Fair.—It is earnestly hoped that, by the time this notice appears, each of the branches and all our individual members and friends will have filled up and returned the special form issued for offers of help. In case any have failed to do so, they are asked to rectify the omission by first post. As stated in last week's issue, goods can be sent to the offices (carriage paid) on and after March 31st, but nothing can be received at the Caxton Hall prior to April 14th. Friends are again reminded that all goods and cases for the Fair should be marked on the outside "G/W/G/F," together with the name of the section to which they belong. Parcels for any of the competitions should be packed separately, and forwarded according to the instructions given in the special handbills.

DECORATIONS.—More helpers are needed in carrying out the decorations. Any member or sympathizer with time to spare is requested to call at the office and place her services at the disposal of Miss Edith Craig. The work is easy and pleasant, but unless Miss Craig has more voluntary helpers paid labour will have to be employed.

Costumes.—All those who will act as assistants at the Fair would do well to avail themselves of Miss Craig's special offer re costumes. Inquiries should be addressed to Miss Edith Craig, care of the W.F.L., and should be accompanied by measurements and all particulars. For those not in costume a specially designed pinafore (in the colours) will be provided free, to be worn over white dresses. In order that adequate arrangements may be made, helpers must send in their names in advance.

SCARVES.—A good supply of scarves (in the colours) will be required, and a prize of One Guinea will be given for the best hand-painted one sent in by April 7th. The conditions will be the same as for the other competitions, and further particulars can be had on application.

Refreshments. — All communications respecting this department (and promises of gifts) should be addressed to Mrs. Hicks, care of the W.F.L. As the large hall (downstairs) is to be given up entirely to refreshments, food stuffs of all kinds, farm produce, &c., a very large amount of stock will be required for the three days. And, as all women are supposed to be experts in these matters, it is hoped that a very large response will be forthcoming. Contributions from Scotland should be sent to Mrs. Bell, 39, Comely Bank Place, Edinburgh.

ENTERTAINMENTS.—I have received from Miss Adeline Bourne, Hon. Secretary of the Actresses' Franchise League, preliminary particulars relating to the various attractions of the Booth. The names of the artists will be duly announced, and although popular prices will be adhered to throughout, they are such as would amply justify charges for admission up to half-a-guinea. Our best thanks are due to the actresses for the splendid help they are giving us.

Miss Pocock, who is in charge of the fancy needlework stall, will be glad to hear from all ladies who are sending contributions towards this particular stall. She is most anxious to have a large amount of first-class work to show that the Freedom Leaguers are not behind in the art of stitchery and cunning needlework.

M. L.

Mrs. H. W. Nevinson, 4, Downside Crescent, Hampstead, will be glad to receive any contributions towards the Table and Household Linen Stall of the "Green, White, and Gold Fair"—sheets, pillow-slips, bedspreads, sideboard and afternoon tea-cloths, chair-backs, linen bags either embroidered or in drawn threadwork, will be very welcome. The colours of the League, green, white, and gold, to be used only, in fast dyes, otherwise white only will be preferable. Ladies are asked kindly to ticket and price their goods.

Mrs. Meeson Coates will be glad of artistic contributions to her Bric-a-brac Shop in the shape of antique or modern jewellery, Japanese and other Oriental goods, metal work, wood-carving, remnants of choice stuffs, antique furniture, odd bits of good pottery or china, &c.

Would the givers kindly write stating value of objects and the lowest prices they should obtain, when forwarding them (marked "Bric-a-brae") to the office?

Competitions.

Best Hand-Painted Scarf		
in Colours	1 guinea	
Eight Prizes for Cookery		Dr. Knight and Mrs. Hicks.
Two best Water-Colour	1 guinea	Mrs. Herrmon.
Sketches (landscapes	each	
or fancy portraits)		
Best Trimmed Blouse	I guinea	Central Branch.
Best Shirt Blouse	1 guinea	Central Branch.
Best American Tailor - Mad		
Blouse	I guinea	Miss Ellen Terry.
Best Baby's Frock for In-		
fant between 3 months		
and 3 years	I guinea	Mrs. Tudor.
Best hand-embroidered	- 0	
Liberty Bonnet for		
Child from 4 to 6 years		
old	1 guinea	Mrs. Homer Veysey
Best Cushion Cover, Em-	- 8	
broidered in the Cols.	1 onines	Miss Pocock
Best Table Centre	1 guinea	Miss Pocock
Rost White Afternoon Tea-	2 Sumou	1

BANNERS.—Secretaries are earnestly asked to send their branch flags (in the colours) to No. 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., without delay. These should be labelled on the reverse side, with the name and address of the person to whom they are to be returned.

London Council.

A PUBLIC "AT HOME," to welcome the W.F.L. prisoners, will be held under the auspices of the London Council at the small Queen's Hall on Sunday, April 4th, from 3 to 6 P.M. Mrs. Israel Zangwill has kindly consented to speak, and it is earnestly hoped that the London members will feel individually responsibly for the success of this event, and will make every effort to ensure for their comrades now suffering imprisonment in Holloway Gaol a truly enthusiastic reception.

JUMBLE SALES.—Will members and friends bear in mind, particularly during the spring cleaning period, the series of Jumble Sales which, with the assistance of the London Council, are being held by the various London branches? Contributions of all descriptions will be gladly received by Dr. Octavia Lewin, 25, Wimpole Street, W.

Business Meeting.—The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday, March 24th, at 32, Southampton Street, Strand, W.C., at 8 P.M. Federated branches are particularly asked to send a representative, since matters of importance will be discussed.

M. E. Ridler, Hon. Sec.

Mrs. Cobden Sanderson was the principal speaker at the Sunday "At Home" at Steinway Hall on March 7th, Miss Marie Lawson occupied the chair, and after a short address by Miss Annie Bawden, Dr. Octavia Lewin appealed earnestly for funds. Much regret was expressed at the absence, through illness, of Miss Mocatta (who had kindly promised to act as hostess), and Dr. Thornett, not to mention those of our members then in Holloway.

Mr. Joseph McCabe in Glasgow.

MARCH 18, 1909

DESPITE the many meetings that lately have been held throughout the district to further the object of "keeping out the Liberal," the interest is evidently not lessening. On Saturday, the 6th, an enthusiastic audience met in the Academy Rooms, Partick, to give evidence of their sympathy in the cause. Miss Florence McNeil took the chair. Miss Milne Farquharson, M.A., whose sojourn in Holloway is quite recent, after an able and humorous speech, read as follows:—

"That this meeting calls upon the Government to remove the disability which debars women from the exercise of the Franchise, and thus put an end to the sacrifice that at present is entailed upon all women who love liberty and justice. Further, this meeting calls upon the Government to recognize the Suffragist prisoners at present in Holloway as political offenders, and to remove them to the First Division."

Mr. Jos. McCabe, upon rising, received a hearty welcome, and stated that he had pleasure in supporting the resolution. Continuing, he gave several convincing and logical reasons. His speech was listened to with keen pleasure, and the audience unanimously agreed that the resolution be sent to Mr. Asquith. Copies have also been forwarded to Mr. Gladstone, Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, Mr. Henderson, and Mr. Balfour, M.P. for Partick.

A Suffragette's Trials.

"The by-election is upon us, all members of the W.F.L. are invited to the office, where suitable work will be given them."

Having read this notice I duly presented myself at the office, hoping nothing too dreadful would be required of me.

No sooner was I seen than a piece of chalk was thrust into my hand. I was told to go and chalk the pavements clearly and distinctly with "Votes for Women," and where and when the meeting was to be. Feeling too shy to refuse I sallied forth chalk in hand. At the first busy crossing I stooped to do the deed, but as chalking is an unusual occupation for an, apparently, innocent-looking woman to indulge in in Glasgow, I soon found an interested and curious crowd surrounding me.

"Move on," said the policeman, "you are obstructing the traffic here." Having hastily finished my notice, I moved on, only too glad to get away; but I found the crowd moved with me, and from spot to spot they followed me.

Now I ask, Why in each crowd is it there is some one who hurries you? and although you never raise your eyes from your task, you cannot help hearing scraps of conversation. "No, is it really?" or "Well, I never, of course I knew she was a Suffragette, but I didn't think she'd be so far left to herself as to chalk pavements," &c. The last place that I came to, no sooner had I finished than an irate shopman appeared with pail and brush, and proceeded to wash out my work. I waited until he had finished, and then repeated my notice, which met with the same treatment. "Go it, Suffragette, don't give in," shouted the crowd, while a few muttered, "serve her right away home."

"We are not accustomed to defeat," I rejoined, as I made my third attempt on the flagstone just beyond his shop. Just as the angry man was raising his pail a policeman seized his arm, remarking, "You leave her alone, that's not your ground." "Yes, leave her alone, she deserves to succeed," reiterated my supporters; so when I left I had the satisfaction of knowing that my handiwork remained. "Well done, Suffragette," were the last words I heard as I boarded the car, my task completed. "I thoct she win, they aw do these Suffragettes." Yes, we win, and we mean to win all along the line I thought as I leaned back tired out in my corner, and it's the knowledge that we are fighting a winning battle that makes even chalking appear a very small thing to do.

Yes, chalking and distributing bills, taking a collection or addressing the meeting, what does it matter what you do, as long as you do something to help the cause, and do not stand idly by allowing others to do the work.

A GLASGOW SUFFRAGETTE.

Sydenham.—The first public meeting held by the Women's Freedom League in Sydenham took place on March 8th at the All Saints Hall. It was a very successful meeting, the hall being quite full. Sydenham has been spoken of as an Anti-Suffrage stronghold, and is said to be noted for unruly behaviour at political meetings; but the speakers were listened to with great interest and the resolution carried, in spite of some opposition.

The speakers were Miss Lawson, Earl Russell, and Mrs. Holmes. The Rev. A. E. Green was in the chair. His opening, remarks were in warm support of the movement, and he spoke very earnestly against the treatment our prisoners are receiving.

The resolution was proposed by Miss Lawson in an easy and effective speech, She referred to the success of Women's Suffrage in some of the American States, and dealt with some Anti-Suffrage arguments entirely successfully.

Anti-Suffrage arguments entirely successfully.

Earl Russell, in seconding, said he had been that evening reminded of the Anti-Suffragists by losing his way in coming there. He thought the "Antis" had rather lost their way among their various arguments, but had not arrived yet at a conclusive argument against Women's Suffrage. He also dealt with the power of the vote to enable enfranchised classes to gain needed reforms, and silenced several objectors in the audience very wittily.

Mrs. Holmes, in supporting the resolution, said that as there were evidently some present who did not yet understand the seriousness of the question, she would try to bring some important aspects of it conclusively. She spoke very convincingly on the economic and social conditions which forced women to realize their need of political power, and pointed out the absolute need for militant methods. Her speech made a great impression, and was very well received.

Any information as to the Sydenham branch of the W.F.L. now forming can be had on application to Miss D. A. Barrington, 96A, Kirkdale, Sydenham. We hope any one interested will call for particulars.

D. A. B.

Woman's Suffrage in America.

MRS. ETHEL SNOWDEN, fresh from five months' travelling in the United States, received a warm welcome at the Holborn Town Hall on the evening of Wednesday, March 10th, when she described to a large and interested audience some of the impressions which she had gained during her visit. First-hand information on the subject of Women's Suffrage in America is especially desirable at this moment, when Anti-Suffragists are asserting, with what looks like deliberate misrepresentation, that the women's movement there is dead or dying. Mrs. Snowden had ample opportunity of judging of its vitality. In the course of her travels she spoke at a great number of meetings, addressed no fewer than eighteen women's colleges, and studied current public opinion on the question. She recorded her conviction that the Women's Suffrage movement in America was very far from being in a condition approaching extinction. This conviction was fully shared by her audience, when they had been put in possession of the facts on which it was based; while the Anti-Suffrage figment was shattered by the simple expedient of a quotation from the very writer with whom it originated, published—this is significant—in an American journal. Mrs. Snowden found in the four States in which women have the full Franchise a general consensus of opinion that the admission of women to the vote had had the effect of purifying elections, and she traced the influence of women in a long list of laws passed by those States in the interests of women and children. The eager reception given by American women to Mrs. Snowden—a well-known advocate of Women's Suffrage in this country—is in itself sufficient indication of the trend of opinion on the subject in America, and Wednesday's audience no doubt regarded this as not the least convincing part of the evidence; while their appreciation of the lecture was obvious from the number and quality of the questions asked at its con468

Branch Notes.

MANCHESTER BRANCH.—At a weekly meeting held at 47, Mosley Street on March 10th, Mrs. Rhys Davids, M.A., gave a splendid address on 'Women in Ancient India.' Miss Farquhatson, M.A., of Glasgow, who was present at the meeting, appealed for help and goods of every description for the "Green, White, and Gold Fair." She also appealed for the loan of drawing-room in which to hold meetings. Members please to remember the "Cake and Candy Fair" on Monday, March 22nd, which will include a little Anti-Suffrage play by the Misses Manning.

THE WEST SUSSEX BRANCH on Match 10th welcomed Miss

Turner to Midhurst on her return from Holloway, when the members organized a torchlight procession in her honour. This was headed by the banner of our branch, borne by Mrs. Cobden Sanderson and Miss Cummin, and accompanied by the town band. Five of our members drew Miss Turner in a carriage, kindly lent for the occasion, from the station to the Assembly Room, where a crowded proteins was held. The Honour Assembly Room, where a crowded and the Honour Room is the Honour Room in the Honour Room in the Honour Room in the Honour Room is the Honour Room in the Honour Room meeting was held. The Hon. Secretary proposed, and the Hon. Treasurer seconded, a vote of thanks to their delegate for the services she had rendered. In responding, Miss Turner gave an interesting account of her recent experiences in London, and was then decorated by Mrs. Cobden Sanderson with the Prison Badge, after which the latter moved the usual resolution, which was carried by a large majority. Seldom has so much excitement been aroused in the neighbourhood, and it is hoped there will be a greatly increased interest in Votes for Women in consequence

SALE BRANCH.—At Chorlton-cum-Hardy on March 8th a drawing-room meeting was held, which proved, both in point of numbers and enthusiasm, an unqualified success. Our hostess, Mrs. Hiller, made an admirable chairman, and Mrs. Nidd, as speaker. was at her best, which means that an hour passed like ten minutes. Eight new members were enrolled, and we were nearly sold out of literature. Mrs. Nidd was asked to address another meeting at the house of Mrs. Nicholson—Mayfield—on the 26th inst. A branch is in course of formation.

Acknowledgment is hereby made to the "Antis" who had so roused the ladies in this district as to make them most anxious

WOLDINGHAM BRANCH.—The work of education as to the true meaning and necessity for Women's Suffrage is proceeding briskly among the inhabitants of Woldingham. On March 6th was held the second meeting since Christmas, organized by members of the Women's Freedom League, and they were fortunate in securing as Chairman Mr. Herbert Jacobs, Barrister, who is Chairman of the Chairman Mr. Herbert Jacobs, Barrister, who is Chairman of the Committee of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage. The meeting was held in the Village Hall, under the very able management of Mrs. W. R. Snow and Mrs. Fisher, who had provided an excellent tea, and tastefully decorated the hall in the colours of the League, green, white, and gold. The weather was exceptionally atrocious, making it impossible for many intending visitors to get to the hall. but those who were present, and they were a goodly number, all showed how delighted they were and how deeply interested in the

The speakers were Mrs. Arncliffe Sennet and Mrs. Marian Holmes, both of whom delivered most excellent speeches—the one impressing her audience by the brilliancy, the other by the strength and earnestness of her address. Mrs. Arneliff-Sennett gave a most witty and entertaining description of her experiences in the police court, and both speakers dealt at large with the ethical as well as

the political side of the movement.

At the close of the speeches, and after a few questions had been asked and answered, the following resolution was put by the

Chairman, viz.,

"That the exclusion of women from the Parliamentary

Mon. 29. Birmingham, the Temperance
Hall

Franchise is neither just nor expedient."

This resolution was carried with only one dissentient. An

The results of the meeting are decidedly satisfactory, several members of the audience declaring their wish to join the Women's Freedom League, and some of the men present also expressing their intention of joining the Men's League.

Mrs. Holmes Mrs. Holmes Memorial Hall Wolverhampton, Victoria Hotel Wolverhampton, Agricultural Wolverhampton, Agricultural Mrs. Sanderson

DESPARD PRISONERS' FUND.

Amounts previously acknow- ledged	34 15 0 Livingstone, M 0 10 0 Wright, Miss A 1 0 0 Stansfield, Mr	Ada	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
Hadden, R. W. Esq	$\frac{1}{27} \frac{1}{6} \frac{0}{0}$	Total	£42 9 6

This fund will be open until March 31st. All those who have friends now imprisoned for the vote should use this opportunity of helping the League, and so thanking the prisoners. All sums to the Hon. Treasurer.

Cash Received March 7th to 13th.

			-	
			£ s. d.	£ 8. d.
	Amount previously a	cknow-		Brought forward 1,085 9 2
	ledged	1,0	55 2 11	Holmes, per Mrs. M. (Lecture
	Anderson, Miss M		1 1 0	Fees 1 6 0
	Anonymous		20 0 0	Northern Heights (balance of) 0 5 0
	Arklay, Mrs		2 0 0	Mallett, Miss E 0 2 6
	Arklay, Miss		1 0 0	Murray, Miss Eunice 3 0 0
	Bath, Miss R. M		0 1 0	Patch, Dr. Winifred 1 0 0 Pell Miss A. M 0 2 0
5	Bodmer, Miss D		0 10 0	
,	Bradfield, per Miss .	·	0 13 3	Dada Diona, Later I
	Central Telegraph	Office		Stuart-Black, Mrs 0 1 0
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	Clayton, Mrs. M		0 10 0	Wyse, Mrs. H 0 2 6
			0 1 0	Collections 22 7 8
			0 10 0	Sale of Tickets 5 15 0
	2 000001, 200001	: ::	0 12 0	Cash Received this week on
1			0 1 0	account of "Despard Prisoners"
			0 5 0	Fund" (see list below) 15 14 6
L			0 17 6	
9	Hadden, It. 11. Esq.			Total £1,140 8 10
1	Carried forwa	ard 1,0	085 9 2	

OF FORTHOOMING EVENTS

PI	ROGRAMME OF FORTHO March 18th to Ap	oming EVENTS.
MARCH.		Release of Prisoners 8
Thurs, 18.	Holloway Gaol, Camden Rd. Breakfast, Cottage Tea Rooms,	Mrs. Cobden Sanderson 9
	Strand (opposite Adam Street)	P.M.
	Caxton Hall, Westminster	Mrs. Manson, 3.30
		Miss Alice Schofield and other Prisoners
		Mrs. Despard
		Chair, Mrs. How Martyn, B. Sc.
	Tottenham, 91, Mount Pleasant Road	8
	Market Hall, Gillingham, Dorset	Miss Matters 8
	Stamford Hill, Northfield School	Mrs. Sadd Brown 3.0 Mrs. Fagan, Dr. Thornett
	Drill Hall Manchester, 157, Chorlton Rd.,	Speaker, Miss Manning, 3.30
	Drawing-Room Meeting	B.A.
Fri. 19.	Tintern, Parish Rooms	Miss Abadam 7.30
	to the year of the little by the case	Rev. A. Washington Palmer
0.4	Cheltenham, 41, Winchcombe St. Cheltenham, Sirsa House	American Tea Party 4
Sat. 20. Mon. 22.	Manchester, 47, Mosley	"Cake and Candy 7.30
1011. 22.	Street,	Fair."
	Willesden, 48, Chevening Rd.	Miss Alice Schofield 8 Miss Matters 3.30
	1, Grove End Rd., St. John's Wood	Miss Matters 3.30 Miss Neilans 8.15
	Y.M.C.A., High Street, Hornsey Croydon	Mrs. Holmes, Miss Matters 8
Tues 23	Tottenham, Earlsmead Council	Earl Russell, Miss Matters 8
1 405. 20.	School	Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett
	to to odi Lond. I dod if the	Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc.
	Actresses' Franchise League 3, Bedford Street	Dispara
Wed. 24.	Glasgow Masonic Halls	Mrs. Murray of Cardross 8 Release of Prisoners 8 A.M
Thurs. 25.	Holloway Gaol, Camden Rd. Breakfast, Eustace Miles' Restaur.	
	Caxton Hall, Westminster	Miss FitzHerbert 3.30 P.M
		Miss Sidley
		Mrs. Despard
	Stamford Hill, Northfield School	Mr. Malcolm Mitchell Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett 3
	Stamford Hill. Northheld School	mis. minomic benness

Drill Hall
Cheltenham, Sandford Lawn
26. Holloway Gaol, Camden Rd. Release of Mrs. Duval 8 A.M.

Miss Seruya, Miss Ibbotson
Breakfast, 3, Adelphi Terrace House Miss Edith Craig 9 A.3

Green, White, and Gold Fair, April 15, 16, and 17. Suffrage Day, Albert Hall, Sat., June 19.

Miss Gertrude Mallet 8 P.M.

Mrs. Francis, Miss Matters 8

3 7.30

Miss Farquharson, M.A. Mrs. Billington-Greig Mrs. Holmes

Countess Russell

Mrs. Sanderson Miss A. Schofield

Mrs. Sanderson

Mrs. Sproson Countess Russell

Rev. C. Peach Rev. Dr. Cobb

Miss Matters Miss Manning, B.A.

Mr. Brandon Thomas

(Tickets limited)
Hampstead Library, Prince

Arthur Road

Eastbourne

Wed. 31. Cheltenham Swansea, Albert Hall

Thurs. 1. Caxton Hall

APRIL. Manchester, 47, Mosley Street

Forthcoming Events.

On May 6th a debate between Mr. Alexander W. Norris and a representative of the Men's League will taken place at the Holborn Restaurant at 8 o'clock. This debate is the outcome of a challenge thrown down by Mr. Norris in The Evening Standard of February 18th, and taken up by the Hon. Secretary some days later in the same journal.

Mr. Norris has stipulated that he shall not be called upon to discuss the question of justice, being prepared to admit that we have a strongish argument on that score. This stipulation has been willingly accepted, and the debate will therefore be confined to the question of utility, all references to justice being

Full arrangements will be announced later on. It is, however, specially requested that members will make a note

Men's League for Momen's Suffrage.

Telephone: 9953 CENTRAL.

OFFICE: 40, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Chairman of Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS. Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL

March 18, 1909

Hon. Treasurers GOLDFINCH BATE, H. G. CHANCELLOR.

of the date, in order that we may have a good audience. Smoking

will be allowed, and various refreshments will be obtainable. Friends are therefore asked to bring as many male friends as

they can, especially opponents. We gather that our opponent will direct part of his speech to proving that women are shown to be unfit as a body for political power by the way in which they strive to obtain it. We are not afraid of him on this point!

RECEPTION.—On Saturday evening, May 1st, the Men's League will give a reception in honour of the delegates to the

March 21st (chair, Mrs. Nevinson) and 28th, 3 p.m.

An account of last Sunday's meeting appears below.

OPEN-AIR CAMPAIGN.—Meetings in Hyde Park on Sunday,

Branch News.

BIRMINGHAM.—We are glad to announce that a preliminary meeting with a view to the formation of a branch in Birmingham

was held on March 11th. Details were held over for the time in order that a small committee might first take the opportunity

of meeting Mr. Jacobs, who is speaking in the city on the 22nd inst. Mr. A. W. Evans was appointed honorary secretary to carry

out the necessary arrangements. His address is 19, Temple

Street, Birmingham. Any of our readers who know of men in the

neighbourhood likely to join are requested to send names and

There is a very large number of prominent citizens in Birmingham who are known to be in favour of Women's Suffrage.

coming International Conference.

addresses without delay.

Tickets, 1s. and 6d., will be on sale as soon as all arrangements

Notes and Comments.

We would draw special attention to the announcements of coming events in connexion with the League. Every member who can possibly arrange it should be present to give hospitality to the International Delegates on May 1st, and there ought to be a good number at the debate with Mr. Norris on May 6th.

Great interest is being taken in the Open-Air Campaign, report of which appears below. We desire to thank Miss are made. As April will be a particularly busy month, owing to various causes, friends are specially urged to book their seats Dalby for her gift of £1 towards the funds. A few more similar donations will enable the sub-committee to draw up a full plan for active work during the summer months. We shall want a large number of speakers: names should be sent at once to Mr. A. W. Holland at the League offices.

A number of our members were present at Mr. Asquith's Free Trade meeting in the Queen's Hall, and endeavoured to ask questions in the way of ordinary political heckling. One member, Mr. Baxter, attempted to ask Lord Avebury whether he might put an amendment. The only answer obtained by any one was given in the form of physical coercion by the

Mr. H. Baillie-Weaver made a brilliant speech at the Victoria Hall, Horley, on the 11th inst. We greatly wish his time were less occupied, so that he could help us more often on the platform.

Mr. J. Y. Kennedy will speak at the Stephen's Memorial Hall, Finchley, for the Women's Freedom League on March 30th.

Mr. Forbes-Robertson addressed a meeting of City men at the Cannon Street Hotel on the 10th inst. Other members who have spoken during the week are Mr. John Russel and the Rev. Canon Talbot. Mr. J. M. Mitchell is debating to-night at the Lyric Restaurant, Ealing, when Mr. J. Y. Kennedy will take the chair. Mr. Mitchell is at Haslemere to-morrow.

Mr. Victor Duval addressed a meeting of the North-West Ham Branch and the League of Young Liberals last Tuesday week. He insisted that no true Liberal could be opposed to Women's Suffrage, and pointed out how the economic position of women suffered by their exclusion from the Franchise. He also explained the arguments for the anti-Government policy, and showed how great had been its effect in helping to make the subject a living political issue.

have already expressed their opinion in our favour. Hyde Park in a Blizzard.

Among the professors at the University, the Principal (Sir

Oliver Lodge), Prof. J. H. Muirhead, and Prof. E. de Selincourt

As we stood by the railing in Hyde Park last Sunday at 2.30 the driving snow was so thick that we were scarcely able to see the one policeman who was the solitary occupant of the oratorical arena. It needed a great effort of faith to give orders. for the production of the platform.

However, shortly afterwards the speakers arrived, and at 3 o'clock, when Mr. Manson mounted the platform, there was an audience of about thirty, which rapidly increased till at one time there were probably four hundred people listening. After Mr. Manson had opened the meeting, Mrs. Nevinson braved the elements, and made a brilliant speech, full of that spirited argument and humorous illustration which are so characteristic of her utterances. Several persons in the crowd vainly endeavoured to interrupt, apparently from the Adult Suffrage point of view, but the audience strongly resented their methods, and the chairman had little difficulty in maintaining order.

The other speakers were Mr. E. Duval, who was as forcible

as always with an enthusiasm which no weather can damp, and Mr. Th. Gugenheim, who made his maiden speech very suc-

According to a promise made at the beginning of the meet-

the use of the platform for five minutes or so. Answers to the speech and the questions were given by Mrs. Nevinson and the

470

It is an interesting fact that, whereas on the previous Sunday we were only one among about eight meetings, on this occasion we were only one among about eight meetings, on this occasion we were practically alone. Only one other very small attempt had been made up till 4 o'clock. The weather was simply horrible, and we are very grateful to Mrs. Nevinson and our own members for facing the vile conditions.

Next Sunday, at 3 o'clock, the chief speaker will be Miss Isabella Ford, who has done yeoman service to the Cause among the working women of the Northern cities.

The Old Chelmsfordians' Association.

Under the auspices of this society, a meeting was held at King Edward VI. Grammar School on March 10th, when the President, Mr. Herbert F. Pash (M.L.W.S.), gave an address entitled 'Fair Play for Women.' He based his argument both on the justice and on the economic and social necessity for the proposed reform, and pointed out the absurdity of trying to tell women they were too uneducated to vote. The position has greatly changed from the days when "a lady did not drive in a hansom cab till she was thirty-three, and then she made the driver promise not to look at her through the roof." Nowadays no fewer than 533 women hold medical degrees, while other women, e.g., Miss Ogston and Miss Christabel Pankhurst, hold similarly important diplomas.

An excellent report appeared in The Essex County Chronicle, winding up with the statement that the discussion which followed was "generally favourable to votes for women."

Correspondence.

[The Men's League is essentially a non-party organization, in which all shades of political opinion are represented. For this reason we feel bound to state that the League is not responsible for the opinions of correspondents.]

DEAR SIR,-In a paragraph in Women's Franchise of March 11th, in referring to the debate in the Muswell Hill Parliament on the Bill for the Enfranchisement of Women, you stated that the Labour representatives present opposed it as being too narrow in its scope. As this statement is likely to give rise to misapprehension, may I point out that every member of the Socialist party present at the division voted in favour of the measure, including our leader, Mr. Bibby, although, in a speech supporting the Bill, he certainly said that the property qualification was not an ideal basis for the Suffrage?

Yours truly, P. W. Bell.

58. Alexandra Park Road, Muswell Hill, N., March 13th.

Votes for Women.

To me it seems obvious that men and women alike should be free to take part in the national life, as citizens, if they wish to. Some men and some women don't wish to; to them a vote is nothing. But by what possible argument can one half of the people be justified in saying that the other half shall exert no political influence, whether they wish to or not? It is at least possible to argue for an education test or a property test or a colour line in politics; but the distinction of sex cuts across all others. To make it the boundary of the Franchise is arbitrary and absurd. It involves the interesting theory that an earnest and intellectual woman is less fit to be a citizen than a male illiterate or a profligate purposeless waster or a money-maniac.

What needs to be emphasized is that woman is not naturally a mere domestic animal, but a human being with interests outside her daily work, and just as much right as any other human being to choose or follow what interests she prefers. The denial of

ing, questions were then allowed, and one opponent was given this is tyranny. What right have men to make themselves an exclusive governing class? A great deal of nonsense is talked about woman's place being the home; of course it is, in the majority of cases, just as man's place is the office. But the office is not man's only place, and I have never met any reason why woman should be limited to her daily work. Very many women refuse to be limited in this way, and about a million others have no homes to look after. Hence this revolt. The methods of the agitators are unfortunate—unfortunately necessary. Half a century of peaceful argument produced exactly no effect at all. At the end of it, the Woman's Bill was still annually discussed in an almost empty House of Commons by a few stupid old men, who could still find some savour in yet another repetition of the stupid old jokes which had pleased their infant minds half a century before. Now women have followed the excellent precedent so often set by men, and are rebelling. The great Reform Bill passed because men were collecting arms and drilling for a revolution. By an actual rebellion, of a different type, this vet greater reform is being secured. Now that the Tory leaders are known to be quietly considering the adoption of Women's Suffrage, it is clear that the rebellion is going to succeed, under one Government or another, within quite a few years. One of its justifications is success.

Of course, it is difficult to make rebellion genteel. That a detail. This matter of the Franchise is vitally important. It is an expression of woman's just claim to exercise the freedom of a human being, and to develope her individuality to the fullest extent. The franchise is only part of what is at stake. Man is no longer acknowledged as head of the household.' Exactly: but I thought that had become a commonplace, like the obsolescence of the phrase "to honour and obey." A wife is not a servant. A marriage worthy of the name is an equal union of two friends. To some men a wife means a housekeeper and a mistress. Some women are content with that definition; fortunately, others are not. To let the will or the vote of one partner represent both is a profanation of marriage.

In so far as women are at present less fit to vote than men, that is merely the result of their narrower education, and the crippling convention which discourages them from forming wide interests. The Suffrage will change all that. That many women are abundantly fit for public life is proved by the admittedly remarkable eloquence and organizing ability of the magnificent women who are directing the rebellion. One hopes in time to hear the end of the contempt which superior non-entities feel themselves called upon to pour upon these brilliant and self-sacrificing leaders.

At present their abilities are compelled to work in abnormal ways. Their methods are not dignified; they are not in themselves desirable; and to many of the women who practise them they are utterly distasteful and require a most painful effort. But it was wholly necessary to do something more than talk. Constitutional methods had failed; the injustice was gross and unjustifiable; unconstitutional methods had to be used. The methods adopted are at least preferable to those of previous rebellions. No lives have been lost, though several of the agitators have suffered injuries from which they will never recover. It is the rebels who are suffering. They have been treated with brutal violence and indecency again and again, especially at the Albert Hall meeting.

Incidentally, they have to put up with cheap sarcasms about cheap martyrdom. The martyrdom is real, and imprisonment is almost the least part of it. It is said that the majority of women have no wish for votes, and how many of them do so no one knows. But it is certain that all over the country there are multitudes who feel very keenly and continuously the ignominy of their semi-servile position. And a woman does not become a machine when she marries: she remains a human being, and a member of the State, with the same claim as before to share in the control of it. And she is still paying taxes, since her husband's income is usually her only support, and every diminuiton of it affects her equally. Similarly, before marriage, she shared in the loss of taxes paid by her father out of the family income, if she was not taxed directly. J. O'MAY.

(To be continued next week.)

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