

THE VOTE

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

VOL. I.—No. 13.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1910.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

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

Offices: 148, HOLBORN BARS, E.C.

EDITORIAL.

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

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WHAT WE THINK.

The Vicious Circle.

The decision of the Justices of the King's Bench to dismiss our Appeal cannot come as a surprise to any of us. The law is the inmost stronghold of masculine privilege, and must uphold the head and front of the dominant sex authority. Those who are debarred from making and unmaking law cannot expect legal decisions in their favour. An appeal to man-made law against man makes him the judge and jury who is also the offender. If we have established this fact clearly our Appeal has done its work. Only the Vote can remove this disability.

Passive Resistance.

Like the Judges, the defendants, with Mrs. Despard at their head, have also come to a decision. They have decided to emphasise their belief in the Right of Petition by ignoring the decision of the Lord Chief Justice and peaceably pursuing the even tenour of their ways until the authorities take action. If the Government likes to intervene and issue warrants for the arrest of the defendants they will submit; they will yield to force, but not otherwise. We declare that our right of petitioning the Chief Minister of the Crown, of being heard by him, is inalienable, and we shall not by any action of ours admit that in exercising this right we have been guilty of any breach of the law of the land.

Our Men Friends.

During this week's election activity we have been given proof of the earnest sincerity of many of our men friends. Even at this moment the offer of a bodyguard of men to stand between Mrs. Despard and the forces of the law has reached us. We are glad to have these proofs of support and sacrifice from the men who are with us in the great fight, and it is well that the Government coming into power should receive such a message from men.

Electors' Messages.

Everywhere in the country the elector who is with us is doing service: he is refusing to vote for the enemy of Cabinet rank of either party; and he is by letter and question forcing our immediate need of enfranchisement upon the attention of all candidates and electors. Every Suffragist elector should definitely inform the man for whom he votes that his vote is given on the distinct understanding that Women's Suffrage is to be the law of the land before the next General Election; if there is no

candidate worthy of support "Votes for Women" should be written across the ballot paper. Every post brings proof that these lines of action are being widely followed by the men who are with us. It is sad, among such numerous evidences of earnest support, to find one man who had publicly stated his determination to give no more support to a particular Liberal Cabinet Minister, now excusing his defection by the mean excuse that "no extension of the Franchise has ever been won by those who were already voters voting against the Government that refused it." But because the middle-class man was too selfish to help the working-man to get liberty, it surely does not follow that the man of to-day must follow the same selfish course with regard to Votes for Women.

"Liberal" Things.

Mr. Winston Churchill has continued his flippant insolence to women during the past week, and to his personal sallies his followers have added trickery and brutality. Miss Husband and Miss Clunas were turned out of one meeting by the dishonourable trickery of a Liberal steward, and Miss Bunten and Miss Clunas were brutally assaulted at another. On this latter occasion Miss Clunas was threatened, before witnesses, with dismissal from her school by the chairman, a prominent local Liberal, and a member of the Dundee Town Council. This is the sort of thing we are coming to expect from the supporters of the Woman-Beating Ministry. "A liberal man deviseth liberal things"—and the liberal things of the late Government are too notorious to need mention.

The New Peer's Title—to a Title.

It is whispered that the newly-appointed Governor of British South Africa will carry away with him from Great Britain something more than the execration of all decent men and women. Mr. Gladstone's cowardly brutality towards women is to be rewarded with a title. It is suggested by one of our members that there is only one title that can fit the case—Viscount Holloway. Mr. Gladstone has dragged a great name in the dirt and fitly earned such infamy as the title suggested spells now, and will perpetuate, for posterity. His recent contradiction of the statements of the Liverpool prisoners who were so brutally assaulted when on remand in that city is the last public proof of his unfitness to bear any other name.

The Dear Dead Days!

The three political parties have shown a united front in only one particular—they have all appealed to women for service during the General Election struggle. Many of our questioners have been buttonholed as they were leaving the meetings of candidates who had answered our questions with more or less satisfaction, and requested to come to the committee rooms for canvassing books. Some candidates have asked for women workers from their platforms. The Press—Liberal, Conservative, and Labour—has issued articles of appeal to the women who sympathise with the party aims. But the appeals have not been so successful as usual. "The women," one journalist wailed last week, "seem to have got Suffrage on the brain." Of course they have. Until they are free and independent electors they will give no more help to any of the men's political parties, and only then if their programmes are satisfactory. The old servile days are gone beyond recall!

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MASKS OFF!

SECOND READING OF WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

MR. STANGER'S BILL

CARRIED BY THE RECORD MAJORITY OF 179.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—We have been continually asked for the complete list of those who voted for and against Mr. Stanger's Bill last year. We now give it in full. It marks out friend and enemy in uncompromising fashion and makes instructive reading.

AYES.

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Abraham, William | Clynes, J. R. | Greenwood, Hamar | Lamb, Edmund G. | O'Brien, Kendal | Stewart-Smith, Dud- |
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| Atherley-Jones, L. | Corbett, T. L. | Gwynn, Stephen L. | Lloyd-George, Rt. | Pearce, R. | Taylor, Austin |
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| Balfour, R. | Craig, Capt. James | Harvey, W. E. | Macdonald, J. Ram- | Price, Charles E. | Thomas, Abel, K.C. |
| Baring, Godfrey | Cross, Alexander | Haslam, Lewis | say | Radford, G. H. | Thomas, D. A. |
| Barker, John | Curran, P. | Hay, Hon. Claude | MacKarness, Frederic | Ratcliff, Major R. F. | Thompson, J. W. H. |
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| Barnes, George N. | Davies, Timothy | Hedges, A. P. | McVeigh, Charles | Redmond, William | Toulmin, G. |
| Beale, W. Phipson, | Davies, W. H. well | Helme, N. W. | McArthur, C. | H. K. | Verney, F. W. |
| K.C. | Devlin, J. | Henderson, J. M. | McCallum, J. | Remnant, James F. | Villiers, E. A. |
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| Hubert | Dickinson, W. H. | Hobart, Sir R. | McKean, John | Richardson, Arthur | Wadsworth, J. |
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| Bennett, E. N. | Sir C., Bt. | Holden, E. H. | Charles, Bt., K.C. | Roberts, C. | Walters, J. Tudor |
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| Channing, Sir F. A. | Bt. | Goulding, Edw. | Norman, Sir Henry | Spicer, Sir Albert, Bt. | George |
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| K.C. | K.C. | Grayson, A. Victor | Tellers for the Ayes: Mr. Stanger and Mr. Acland. | Stewart, Halley | |
| Clough, W. A. H. | Greenwood, George | | | | |

NOES.

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
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| Asquith, Right Hon. | Burke, E. Haviland- | Dewar, Sir J. A. | Herbert, T. Arnold | Lyell, Charles Henry | Robson, Sir William |
| Herbert Henry | Butcher, S. H. | Dickson-Poynder, Sir | Hill, Sir Clement | MacVeagh, Jeremiah | Snowdon |
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| Baring, Capt. Hon. G. | Hon. Victor C. W. | Edwards, Clement | Hunt, Rowland | Mallet, Charles E. | Samuel, S. M. |
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| Barry, E. | Cobbold, F. T. | Ferguson, R. C. | Sir John H. | Morpeth, Viscount | Tennant, Sir Edward |
| Beauchamp, E. | Craig, Charles Curtis | Munro | Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. | Murphy, N. J. | Valentia, Viscount |
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| Belloc, H. J. P. R. | Craik, Sir Henry | Fuller, J. M. F. | King, Sir H. Seymour | O'Donnell, C. J. | Warde, Col. C. E. |
| Bertram, Julius | Cream, Eugene | Gardner, Ernest | Lamb, Ernest H. | O'Neill, Hon. Robert | Warner, T. C. T. |
| Boyle, Sir Edward | Cremer, Sir William | Gurdon, Right Hon. | Lehmann, R. C. | Torrens | Whitbread, Howard |
| Brunner, J. F. L. | Randal | Sir W. Brampton | Levy, Sir Maurice | O'Shaughnessy, P. J. | Whitehead, Rowland |
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THE RIGHT TO PICKET DOWNING STREET.

The appeal in what we have come to call "Mrs. Despard's case" was heard in the Divisional Court on Friday afternoon before the Lord Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Bucknill and Mr. Justice Bray. The result was unfavourable to us, the appeal being dismissed with costs. The case, which was tried by Mr. Curtis Bennett at Bow Street, on Friday, August 27th, is still fresh in the mind of every member of the W.F.L. On Thursday, August 19th, eight members of the W.F.L., Mrs. Despard (president), Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Miss Irene Tillard, Mrs. Edith Cranstoun, Mrs. Hicks, Miss Lily Boileau, Miss Janet Bunten, and Mrs. Clarendon Hyde were arrested at different times in Downing Street, where they had gone to present a petition to Mr. Asquith, and charged with "obstructing the police in the execution of their duty." The magnificent speech of Mr. T. M. Healy for the defence on that occasion was one of the finest and most stirring pieces of oratory which the cause has yet evoked. He defended the right of the subject to petition, and the duty of the representative of the Crown to receive that petition—a duty which could not be evaded merely because that representative of the Government found the petitioners "inconvenient." From the Constitution and from the Common Law Mr. Healy drew materials for the defence, but Mr. Curtis Bennett decided against him that the right to petition had not been reasonably exercised, and that inasmuch as the women did not go away at the "lawful request" of Superintendent Wells, the police had been obstructed. He fined each of the defendants 40s., or in default seven days, but said that if a case were stated he would consider it. The eight ladies, pending the hearing of the appeal, were allowed out on their own recognisances.

It is definitely stated that the fines will not be paid. The appellants, with the exception of Mrs. Hicks (who is organising the campaign in Battersea against John Burns), were not present; they were carrying on the campaign for the League in the provinces. Mrs. How-Martyn and several members of the Men's League were in Court at the time the appeal was heard, and Mrs. Hicks remarked as she left the building, "We can hope no more in anyone but ourselves."

Access to the Highway.

The case lasted a very short time and seemed to have been heard on a different issue to that which arose at Bow Street. The point raised by the counsel (Mr. McCardie) on Friday was the purely technical one of obstruction, as to whether any legal obstruction had actually taken place, and as to whether the police were exceeding their duty in limiting the right of the subject to access to the highway. Mr. McCardie went on to say that the case was somewhat similar to one recently heard (in which Mrs. Pankhurst, the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield, and ninety others were concerned). On being asked how he was going to distinguish that case from the one which the Court had already decided, counsel replied that in the previous case the ladies were taken into custody for attempting to force an entry into the House of Commons.

Counsel then proceeded to read his case describing the various incidents causing the alleged obstruction. It set out that on the day in question Mr. Asquith drove up in a cab to 10, Downing Street, when Miss Boileau and Miss Bunten were standing on the pavement. On Mr. Asquith getting out of the cab Miss Boileau stepped forward and said, "Mr. Asquith, we have been waiting six weeks with this; will you take it?" apparently referring to a cardboard tube which she carried in her hand. Mr. Asquith replied, "No; don't be silly." Upon this Miss Boileau raised her hand, holding out the petition to the Prime Minister, when a constable seized her wrist, and the tube dropped and rolled into the gutter.

He related that Miss Boileau when told to go away by the police replied, "If it was legal to stand here yesterday it is legal to stand here to-day" (on which the Lord Chief Justice interrupted with the comment that "it

seemed a good argument"). Counsel went on to describe the arrest of the ladies and the subsequent arrival of Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Cobden Sanderson. He mentioned the fact that cardboard tubes, containing petitions, were carried by most of the women. The Lord Chief Justice inquired in a fashion which caused some laughter in Court, "How many of these petitions is it necessary to present?" but counsel's answer was quick and to the point, "Enough to effect the purpose, my lord!"

Power of the Police.

Mr. McCardie proceeded to base his arguments on the fact that Downing Street and Whitehall were highways, that the appellants had, therefore, a *prima facie* right to use them. Pointing out that there had been no excessive use of the highway, he mentioned the fact that Mrs. Cranstoun and Miss Tillard had been only a few minutes in Downing Street when they were arrested, and that Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Cobden Sanderson had not entered Downing Street at all. Even if there had been concerted action on the part of these ladies, it would not affect the question of excessive user. In common law the police had no right to remove these ladies, and he questioned how far the police could destroy the right to use the public highway. That Downing Street was largely used by Members of Parliament did not alter the fact that it was a public highway, and if the action of the police were upheld the right of public passage from Birdcage Walk to the House of Commons would be destroyed. There was no suggestion of any violence; all that had happened was that they claimed the right to go to No. 10, Downing Street and to stand there for the purpose of presenting a petition to the Prime Minister. He submitted there had been no offence.

Lord Chief Justice's Decision.

Without calling upon Mr. Avory, K.C., who appeared for the other side, the Lord Chief Justice dismissed the appeal with costs. In announcing his decision he observed that these ladies were strenuously exerting what they believed to be their rights. There were other ways of presenting a petition. There was the medium of the letter-box. It was not necessary for ladies to go one after another to Downing Street and refuse to go away. What would be the consequences of such conduct? Idle passers-by, hoping to see a disturbance and these unfortunate ladies taken to prison, gathered in the street to watch the proceedings. He was satisfied that the police had acted with great consideration. The appellants were acting in concert, and each knew that the Prime Minister declined to see them, and knew that what she was doing was unreasonable. The only way to keep Downing Street free was to arrest persons refusing to go away from Downing Street. These ladies had been guilty of conduct leading to obstruction, and were using the highway in an unreasonable and improper manner. The police had acted in the execution of their duty.

Posters of the Ex-Prime Minister as Little Jack Horner finding a Votes for Women plum in the Election pie, can be had for 6d. each at 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, and would be suitable for display in the windows of private dwellings while the elections are in progress.



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ESTIMATES, ETC., ON APPLICATION.

TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

By MARION HOLMES.

"Rebel" is written in capital letters all over her. The first time I saw Teresa Billington I felt sure of two things—one was that she had run away from home as a girl, like many other leaders of rebellious factions!—the other, that whatever purpose she had in so doing had been speedily accomplished. "The redoubtable Miss Billington" the Press was calling her at that time, and redoubtable is the word that best describes her.

"Yes; I did run away from home," she confessed to me months afterwards, when we had become tried and trusted comrades in arms. "I wanted more and a better education than my people were able to give me; so at seventeen I left home, and walked eleven miles to Manchester. Within a month I had obtained a post as teacher in an elementary school. Then, within three months, I had taken the Queen's scholarship and was fully launched."

It is not, however, for her qualities of determination and fearlessness alone that the members of the Women's Freedom League have accorded her ungrudgingly leader's rank. "T. B.-G." possesses a political acumen that is practically untouched by any other woman in public life. She is a born strategist, with a natural gift for finding out the vulnerable places in the enemy's ranks; her blows are planted always with unerring skill. We know that the generalship of our campaign could be in no better hands.

She plunged—a veritable stormy petrel—into politics when other girls are still "standing with reluctant feet where the brook and river meet." Several years of teaching were followed by the offer of a post in the Independent Labour Party, and she became the first national woman organiser for that body.

She led a great campaign in the Potteries, won name and fame for herself as an orator, and instilled a well-grounded fear into her opponents by her unmatched skill as a debater.

But the majority of the Labour men with whom she worked, for all their talk of "liberty, equality, and fraternity," were still content that women should be kept in a condition of sex subservience; their efforts were invariably directed towards the knocking off of their own shackles. Teresa Billington, jealous always for the honour and status of her sex, was seized with divine discontent.

The W.S.P.U. was founded.

"There were only about a dozen or so of us at first, all Lancashire women, all members of the I.L.P., and for nearly two years we worked like slaves trying to rouse that body to put the removal of the sex disability as the chief plank in its platform. We went to meetings all over Lancashire and the Midlands, and fought the adult Suffrage resistance with all our might, and incidentally served a fierce apprenticeship to hostility and sex prejudice. Then we decided, after long discussion, to adopt militant tactics, and Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney went to Sir Edward Grey's meeting—with what result everyone knows."

But what is perhaps not quite so well known is the fact that while they were serving their sentence in Strangeways Gaol Teresa Billington, armed only with a piece of chalk for advertising purposes and an empty purse, that was more than balanced by her indomitable purpose and untiring energy, organised ten big public meetings in eleven days. And when the prisoners came out, all Lancashire was agog to see them.

During the next few months she and her colleagues sped up and down the country on the track of Cabinet Ministers, and one read daily in the papers of uproarious meetings, savage ejections, and Liberal stewards plunged into a state of wild hysteria at the sound of a woman's voice.

Then she came to London.

"It takes two years at least to rouse London on any question," said the wiseacres; "and it's impossible to get any enthusiasm there on the subject of 'Votes for Women.'" But "T. B.-G." does not give the word "impossible" a place in her vocabulary. Her oratory and organising ability, helped by Annie Kenney's zeal and burning purpose, in six weeks achieved the impossible. Press and public, friends and foes of the movement were all alike soon discussing the two indomitable girls who harangued crowds in Hyde Park, who led insistent deputations to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer (as Mr. Asquith was then), who feared neither public opinion nor burly policemen, who defied the majesty of the law, and finally intruded their graceless persons into the sacred Chamber of Westminster itself.

In May, 1906, occurred the historic scene in the Ladies' Gallery. The country gasped with horror over



TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG. (Photo by Brinkley, Glasgow.)

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NEXT WEEK

We shall have an Exclusive Interview with **MRS. ANNIE BESANT**, by Marion Holmes.

its breakfast-table when it read how flags bearing the words "Votes for Women" had been thrust through the grille, how feminine voices had been raised in cries of "Shame!" "Divide!" "Divide!" during the annual farce of talking out the women's Bill.

But some women's hearts kindled at the reading, and hastening to Clement's Inn they cast in their lot with the unsexed rebels, and the W.S.P.U. grew in numbers and strength daily.

"It was at Northampton, I think, though, that we first succeeded in putting the fear of the Suffragette into the heart of Asquith. He was billed to address a big meeting there, and Annie Kenney and I went to prepare the way for him. We held open-air meetings all day long; we quoted his speeches and his record, and when he arrived the whole constabulary force of Northampton had to be mobilised to protect him. He was taken away from the hall inside a ring of thirty policemen—there being no underground passages handy," said Mrs. Billington-Greig, grimly.

It was after this that the Government began pressing the prosecutions of the women home. In May "C. B." had received a deputation of over three hundred women delegates, and given them the famous advice to "be patient." Another deputation was led to Downing-street by Teresa Billington on June 21st, and she was arrested for refusing to go away and struggling with the constable who laid violent hands on her throat. Charged with assault, she was tried by Mr. Paul Taylor within half an hour of the offence and given the maximum penalty of two months' hard labour, in spite of the fact that no mark of assault could be found upon the constable, though searched for diligently and with care. And so on that day the great doors of Holloway swung wide to admit the first of the long line of women prisoners who are making history in such marvellous fashion.

On her release she went to Scotland, and conducted a campaign in East Fife with such success that Mr. Asquith was compelled by his constituents to receive a deputation of women at Ladybank. Since when—like the tramp of advertisement fame—he has "received no other"; but he has run away from a good many.

In October, 1906, came the famous Lobby incident, and "that dangerous creature Billington" (for the growth of the movement at that time was marked by the increasing virulence of the epithets applied to the leaders by a Press that had lost all sense of decency and truth in dealing with the question) was once more safely stowed away. She sent a message to us from the prison van—a message on which she founded a speech on her release that brought a packed audience in Caxton Hall to its feet with deafening cheers. "Outlaws must be rebels until their outlawry is removed."

Readers of THE VOTE are well acquainted with the history of her—and our—severance from the N.W.S.P.U., or, rather, the forming of a practically new society out of the original body. It was an action that was founded on devotion to principle—the principle of democratic government, to which Teresa Billington-Greig is pledged by every instinct of her liberty-loving nature. And after that severance she, Mrs. Despard, Mrs. How Martyn, and others set themselves with hope and energy to build up another militant society that should become a power in the land. How well they have succeeded every member of the Women's Freedom League is ready gratefully to acknowledge.

"I always wanted to lead a revolution," she confessed to me. "I want to travel, I want to write books—lots of books—I want to read, but first and foremost, and strongest, I want to rouse women to active rebellion against the lower standard of need and liberty that has been assigned to them by men." No one who knows her doubts that she will succeed in her aim, for she does not know the meaning of the words discouragement or defeat. And while Teresa Billington-Greig lives she will never lack friends who will be glad and proud to fight in open comradeship with her, for she raises always the standard of Liberty and Justice.

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The COUNTESS RUSSELL, Mrs. J. E. SNOW, Mrs. L. THOMSON-PRICE.
Managing Director—Miss MARIE LAWSON.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1910.

SEX-BIASED JUDGMENTS.

Often average women and men are surprised by the prejudiced and partial decisions of our courts of law. Some special case of an obvious miscarriage of justice is forced upon their notice, and they are roused to keen resentment and deep unrest. This is more especially so when they have lived their lives afar off from the general administration of law, and their first acquaintance with it reveals at one stroke flagrant injustice, the possibility or practice of corruption, and a constant violation of the most elementary of our citizen's rights.

Most Suffragettes have learned to look upon the ordinary machinery of legal administration with the knowledge bred of such experiences. When decisions obviously unjust are given, when witnesses are refused and discredited through prejudice, when verdicts of a malicious and vindictive nature are returned, when right is cast down and wrong uplifted triumphant, there is much reason for the growth of more than personal dissatisfaction. There is ground for examination and for drastic reform. There is ground for revolution.

The decisions of the courts of law upon our actions have been subject from the beginning of the militant agitation to grave question. It has been the same in London and in the provinces, in the police courts, in the Criminal Court, and in the Court of King's Bench. The decisions given against us have been marked by every type of unfairness and oppression. There have been decisions so obviously unjust that they have had to be altered by the higher authorities. There have been decisions which the Home Secretary dare not allow his subordinates to carry out. There have been decisions that have been hissed and condemned in Court, not by Suffragettes, but by the general public. Such has been the type of decision that we are driven to ask whether the determining factor of the verdicts given has been our deeds or the power of our opponents. This is the point at issue between us and the administrators of the law. Have the verdicts given against Suffragette protestors been a real measure of the nature of their actions, or have they been a measure of the retaliatory power of a vindictive and offended authority?

Any fair critic must admit that we have had ample cause for asking this question. Any fair enquirer, who has examined the facts, must answer with us that we are not the criminals and brawlers which the Government would paint us through the agency of its legal representatives. The committals and imprisonments of Suffragettes have been dictated by the prejudice and power of the authorities. They have not been merited by the deeds of the sufferers.

The last example of this flagrant misuse of the machinery of law is the adverse decision of the Lord Chief Justice and his colleagues in the Court of King's Bench last Friday. The appeal of Mrs. Despard and seven other members against the verdict of the magistrate was dismissed, and by this dismissal the citizen's right of petition is denied. In spite of the Bill of Rights, in spite of the thirteenth statute of King Charles the Second, in spite of the recent legalising of picketing—a measure carried through by the agency of Mr. Asquith himself—the premier judge of the country has decided against us. The right of the citizen to make his or her grievance known to the responsible Minister of the Crown is denied by the modern legal expert. The peaceful picketing of Westminster or of the official residence of the Prime Minister—both national buildings—with intent to exercise a statutory right is made a penal offence.

The Judge's decision professes to leave the right of petition untouched. But it does nothing of the kind. The Lord Chief Justice made some cheap and immaterial comments upon the possibilities of the postal system and the convenience of a letter-box. But these undoubted modern advantages do not secure us the right of petition. Great national statutes and charters of right are not required to bestow upon anyone the right to send a letter through the post or to act as their own postman. A petitioner has the right to be heard. The statutes distinctly set forth the conditions under which all citizens may claim a hearing. Ten is the limit in number. It does not take ten people to carry a letter! The evasion of the real issue by the Lord Chief Justice shows, too plainly to be mistaken, through the very terms he employs to hide it. The law is on the side, not of justice, not of right, not of the constitution—the law is on the side of power. By quibble and evasion, as well as by force and brutality, the machinery of sex domination is defending itself.

The Lord Chief Justice, by his decision, forbids subjects who have a grievance to attempt to petition the Government for redress. By his decision he upholds Mr. Asquith in his refusal to carry out his public duties. By his decision he commits Mrs. Despard, our venerable president, and seven other of our members to Holloway, to suffer restraint and possible outrage because they dared to exercise a right bestowed by the constitution. Once more the rights that have been enjoyed unquestioned for centuries are abolished by a tyrannical Minister and a willing Bench of Judges. Judge-made law—the opinion of a few men who are probably biased by the heat of the struggle—is again to supersede the constitution and abolish old citizen rights.

It is a pity that a test case brought by men cannot be arranged to expose the sex-bias of our present legal administrators. Such a measure, coming close upon the heels of the dismissal of our own Appeal, and the Appeal of the sister society, might bring even the agents of the Government to realise the sham and the shame of their attitude to the unfranchised woman. Even if it failed of this purpose it could not but succeed in providing a further object lesson for women of the unjust administration of law to those who are not law-makers.

For our part, we cannot be parties to any admission that in exercising our right of petition we have broken the law of the land. That right is one established by Statute, it is greater and more fundamental than any temporary police regulations, than any Judges—even than any Lord Chief Justices. It is greater than any prejudiced Prime Minister, or than any considerations of political expediency. We shall stick to our guns. We shall continue to claim our right of access to the King's chief Minister.

Our members are agreed that any further action must come from the authorities. We shall ignore the decision of the Court. Our members, who were defendants in this case, will go calmly on with their usual work for the Cause. If the authorities issue warrants for their arrest they will yield to the forces of the law. But they will not by any act admit that we have exceeded the limits of our statutory rights. Let the onus of abolishing the Right of Petition rest upon the shoulders of those who are wishful to escape its obligations.

TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

CONFERENCE.

Members are reminded that the Conference for 1910 will be held on Saturday, January 29th, at Caxton Hall. The officials and committee members will be appointed for the year, and the delegates from the various branches will discuss proposed alterations in the constitution and resolutions of general interest. The democratic constitution of our League provides us with an opportunity of practising the self-government which we intend to establish in the State, and it is therefore of the utmost importance that members should take an active interest in this side of our work. The committee hopes that members will keep the day free to attend the Conference.

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AT HOMES.

On Thursday, the 20th, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, we are to have addresses from Miss Margaret McMillan and Mr. G. E. O'Dell. Miss McMillan has chosen as the title of her remarks "Those Who are Outside," and the views of a public woman who is a recognised authority on child legislation and who yet at this critical period of the country's history finds herself and her sex outside the ranks of intelligent beings allowed a direct influence in the Government can scarcely fail to interest.

Mr. G. E. O'Dell will speak to us on "Women and the Problem of Crime," and his delightful power of exposition devoted to this most important subject should prove a very attractive feature of our meeting.

Every member who cares to hear more of the broader aspects of the great question of women's enfranchisement is cordially urged to attend these Thursday afternoon "At Homes" of the Women's Freedom League, which promise to become an important feature in the Suffrage world. It must not be thought that the social side is neglected. To the contrary, we are devoting particular attention to this, and on Thursday our hostesses are Mrs. Snow and Mrs. Spiller.

Tea will be provided, and a special attraction will be recitations by Miss Gwaldys Morris and Mr. Thursby.

On Thursday, the 27th, the speakers will be Mrs. Amy Sanderson on "What Yorkshire Thinks To-day" and Mr. Jos. McCabe on "Women's Fitness for Politics."

B. BORRMANN WELLS.

At Caxton Hall.

Mrs. How Martyn presided at the "At Home" at Caxton Hall last Thursday, when Dr. Saleeby gave a fine address on "Motherhood and the Vote," and Miss A. M. Thorne, M.D., spoke on "Women," dealing more particularly with women and the temperance question. Mrs. Close Shipman and Miss Tucker were hostesses. The poster "Women Not Voting—Elections Invalid" was well displayed, and aroused much pleased comment. There was a good attendance, many new members being initiated into our policy and tactics.

Miss Rose Lightman, whose "Lavender" advertisement appears in our columns, gives 10 per cent. on all orders received to the funds of our League. This offer ought to encourage our members to purchase her fragrant preparations.

101 POINTS IN FAVOUR OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

These points will cover the legal, social, and economic grounds on which women demand the vote, and will call attention to the glaring inconsistencies which demand a change in the present condition of the franchise.

3.—THE VOTE IS A NECESSITY TO WORKING WOMEN, AS A PROTECTION AGAINST SWEATING AND SIMILAR EVILS.

If women's wages are to be raised in those trades where sweating is open and unashamed, it is necessary that women shall have a vote. The male worker has a representative in Parliament who tells the shocked country how badly he is treated, and the employer, fearing publicity, is forced to treat him better; but the woman worker has no one to plead her case. To the local member she is an uninteresting figure, inasmuch as she is not an elector, and if he hears that she has wrongs he puts off the remedying of them for an indefinite time—more particularly if they clash with the rights of his clients and masters, the electors. The Government as employer, too, takes advantage of her helplessness, and pays her for the same services proportionately less than it pays the male employe. No less a person than Mr. John Burns has been endeavouring to prevent married women from working, disregarding the fact that owing to drunken and dissolute husbands they frequently have to support themselves and their children. Because they have no votes, and cannot retaliate in any effective manner, the Trade Unions have done their best to keep women out of the more skilled and better paid trades, so that they may not compete with men. The only relief from their industrial burdens can come to them from enfranchisement. Women's suffrage is a labour question.

Not a single woman sat upon the Commission which inquired into the question of homework, and the Report of that Commission omitted the most vital point—that there was a large class of women who worked because their husbands were insufficiently paid. There was a proposal in the air to debar the entrance of married women into the labour market. One step had been made in that direction in regard to married teachers. The married woman, with her knowledge of children and her generally wider experience, would certainly make a better teacher in some respects than her unmarried sister; but, looked at from whatever standpoint, the whole question of marriage and wage-earning should be one in which the woman herself should have a voice.

Clementina Black.

It is to be remembered that there is no sex question involved in the demand for a fair day's wage for a fair day's work. The necessities of life are a human need. Therefore women will do well to ask themselves whether the means by which men have bettered themselves industrially may not be those which they too can use for their improvement. Men found out that industrial emancipation can only come through political enfranchisement. As early as 1838 the Chartists were saying, "Without it (i.e., a vote) you are veritable slaves."

Esther Röper, B.A.

THE TREASURY.

Much more money is still needed for the election work. The full response to Miss Manning's offer which appeared in No. 11 has not yet been received. Miss Manning, who already gives all her time to the work as an hon. organiser for the League, generously offered to give £5 if eleven others did the same. Our readers must have overlooked this, as we are still waiting for eight of the promises.

Remember, this is the first General Election we have had to face, and we have more than twenty special campaigns to pay for. S.B.

The following is from a series of questions suggested as suitable for "Antis" to put to possible members of Parliament:—"Will you help us to discover some means of proving that the act of depositing a vote in the ballot-box once in six years will involve: (a) A reckless waste of the time that women should devote to the sacred duties of wife and motherhood; (b) irreparable injury to her modesty; and (c) the total loss of man's respect and deference."—*The Common Cause.*

SUFFRAGE SHEARINGS.

Throughout the Country.

From the Press in every constituency—save, perhaps, the great London papers—comes the same tale of the success of the Suffragists, whether of our society or of others, in gaining the sympathy of the electors. We hear of audiences in North Monmouth deserting the candidate to listen to the women, of unexpected kindly help from male electors, of scoffing crowds turned into eager listeners, and of resolutions in favour of women's franchise passed at great meetings. The repeated questioning of candidates at every one of their meetings in hundreds of constituencies has succeeded in making the greater number of them take a definite stand for or against us—and give reasons for that stand.

Forcible Feeding.

The correspondence on forcible feeding continues in the columns of the *British Medical Journal*. This week the N.W.S.P.U. election pamphlet in connection with the treatment of prisoners on remand, and Mr. Herbert Gladstone's reply to it, occupied first attention. Mr. Gladstone says: "Every fair-minded man must, I think, condemn electioneering tactics which lead to prison officials, especially female officials, . . . being made the subject of such outrageous and unfounded charges." Why Mr. Gladstone should find it necessary to say "especially" in the case of the women wardresses it is impossible to say. The comment of the editors of the *British Medical Journal* is as follows:—

At present we are only concerned with the matter as it affects the prison doctors. It is satisfactory that Mr. Gladstone implicitly admits his ultimate responsibility for the manner in which food was administered to the prisoners by the doctors, as he says "there was no alternative but to feed them compulsorily."—*British Medical Journal*.

Women in the Elections.

From an article dealing with the women's organisations which are at work during the present crisis, the following extracts are taken:—

Women have never before entered a political contest with anything like the numbers and energy they are contributing to this General Election.

One man's intelligent guess at the total number of women engaged in the contest is as good as another's. The organised societies themselves offer only the roughest estimates. Several of these are:—

- Primrose League, about 200,000.
- Women's Unionist and Tariff Reform Association, 1,150 branches, very many with two or three thousand members.
- Women's Social and Political Union, with an average of two or three hundred members in each of the branches all over the Kingdom, apart from the huge number on the headquarters' roll.
- Women's Freedom League, sixty-five branches, with a total of many thousand members, and nine different campaigns against powerful opponents.
- National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 40,000 workers.

The vigorous Women's Freedom League is concentrating its attention on damaging the prospects of Cabinet Ministers and Mr. F. E. Smith, who has plainly refused to advocate woman-suffrage, and the League is opposing him as a "prospective Cabinet Minister" when his party is returned.—*Evening News*.

Gallant Bachelors.

The Bachelors' Club at Selby has decided to champion the cause of "Votes for Women," and with that object in view have submitted questions to the rival candidates in Barkston Ash in respect to the alleged ill-treatment of Suffragettes while in prison. The answers to these questions are to be considered before the bachelors decide for whom they will vote.—*Yorkshire Post*.

In Devon.

Contrary to expectations, supporters of the "Votes for Women" cause did not become objectionable at Lord Crewe's meeting at Exeter. The Suffragists held their meeting at the bottom of Fore Street, some three or four hundred yards from the Radical meeting. Open-air meetings are also being organised. Their cause is slowly but surely coming into public favour in Devon's capital.—*The Western Morning News*.

Concerning Muriel Matters.

Miss Muriel Matters, the suffragette who created such an impression upon Cardiff audiences recently, is leading the campaign against Mr. Lloyd George in the Carnarvon Boroughs. She says she has a great admiration for the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and all she asks him to do is to convert the other members of the Cabinet to her way of thinking, or turn them out!—*South Wales Daily News*.

A Safe Refuge.

"Dealing with the question of women's suffrage, Mr. Samuel said that he had never voted against a women's suffrage bill, and denied that he was an enemy of votes for women. He was not an enemy of women's suffrage, but he was not prepared to advocate it actively until he had reason to believe that the main body of the quiet, good, thoughtful women of England desired to have it." When the good, quiet, thoughtful women come into the open for the sake of their principles and show Mr. Samuel that they do desire it, Mr. Samuel and his kind deny that they are the quiet and the thoughtful.

Mr. Birrell's Unselfishness.

At Bristol, addressing the local Women's Liberal Association, Mr. Birrell, who was accompanied by his wife, spoke as follows:—He wished to make it clear that, in availing himself of the service of women in the campaign he was fighting, and

yet standing aloof from the demand made on their behalf for the exercise of the franchise, he was not acting selfishly. From the moment he began to think about politics he never felt that sex was any disqualification in the matter of the franchise. He had always been fortunate, from his earliest hours, to live amongst women—his mother, his sisters, and his wife—whose intellects were on an equality with his own. Women had for some years exercised the municipal franchise, and they had proved that they were not susceptible to corruption; on the contrary they were economically inclined, and cast their votes in favour of those who did their best to secure the proper spending of the rates. He could see no reason why women should not exercise the franchise at least as wisely as men. The time was not ripe for universal Women's Suffrage, but the question of the enfranchisement of women, in the same sort of way as they now exercised the municipal franchise, might well be considered at an early date. A man would discover that if a woman went to the poll in the morning she would still be able to cook his dinner in the middle of the day. He hoped when the time came for women to exercise the franchise they would do so fairly and with a considerable measure of political independence.—*Bristol Times and Mirror*.



TYPES OF ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS.

(Dedicated to the A.S.S.)

No. 8.—THE GENTLEMAN WHO THINKS THAT WOMEN OUGHT NOT TO WORK, AND THEREFORE UNDERPAYS HIS TYPIST.

SCOTTISH NOTES.

Head Offices: 302, SAUCHIEHALL STREET, GLASGOW.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. JULIA WOOD.
Office Secretary: MISS KIRBY.
Organisers: MISS ANNA MUNRO, MISS OLIVE ROBERTSON.
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GLASGOW.—The heckling of Glasgow candidates still goes on, and our persistence is being rewarded, as some of those who at the beginning would scarcely even reply to a question, and then most unsatisfactorily, are now beginning to think about the matter and to say that if they could be convinced that women really did want the vote they would be willing to give it them. The position of the Glasgow candidates is as follows:—The following have put it in their election address: Sir Robert Laidlaw (East Renfrew), Mr. D. M. Mason (Tradeston), Mr. Cameron Corbett (Tradeston), Mr. Chamberlayne (St. Rollox), Mr. McKinnon Wood (St. Rollox), Mr. O'Connor Kessock (Camlachie), Mr. Robert Balfour (Partick), Mr. Brownlie (Govan), and Col. Greig (West Renfrew). The following are in favour of giving the franchise to woman on the same terms as it is at present held by men, but not as it may be: Mr. A. W. Maconochie (West Renfrew) and Mr. Scott Dickson (Central). Mr. Barnes (Blackfriars) and Mr. Browlie (Govan) are in favour of Adult Suffrage.

DUNDEE.—We are keeping the flag flying in Dundee in spite of the snow. We braved the elements on Tuesday and went out in force, Mrs. Sloan very kindly taking the chair. On Wednesday Miss Bunten addressed a meeting of the factory girls and men during the dinner-hour outside Baxter's Works. They appeared very interested, and when the bell rang moved away with manifest reluctance. During the evening we held three meetings in different parts of the town. The crowds were very big, and appeared very interested, listening to the speakers attentively and asking questions. Mrs. Sloan was very successful in selling THE VOTE, and by judicious distribution of free literature we are doing excellent work. In spite of numerous other meetings on Thursday night Foresters' Hall was full, when Mrs. Billington-Greig and Miss Eunice Murray came over from Glasgow to speak for us. Mrs. Billington-Greig aroused great enthusiasm when she said that the House of Lords and the House of Commons were two bodies of autocrats fighting each other and neither considering the interests of the country. On Friday afternoon an "At Home" was given to Mrs. Billington-Greig and Miss Murray at Mathers' Hotel, Mr. Percy Sturrock, a prominent supporter of the Women's Cause, taking the chair. In the evening we had another meeting at Scott Street Hall, Mrs. Billington-Greig and Miss Murray again speaking. The audience followed Mrs. Billington-Greig with the keenest interest throughout, and showed their appreciation at the close by tumultuous applause. A good collection was taken and our stock of THE VOTE completely sold out. Mr. Churchill addressed three meetings on Friday evening, to one of which members of the Dundee Branch and Miss Bunten managed to gain access. But when question-time arrived and they rose in a quiet and orderly manner to ask their questions they were set upon by the stewards in a most vindictive and brutal fashion and forcibly ejected, one of them, a young girl of seventeen, being so badly injured that she fainted, while the great exponent of "Liberty for the People" remained smilingly quiescent. Truly the need for the reformation of the House of Commons is great. ETHEL LEYSON.

POLLOKSHIELDS.—Our Secretary sent the resolution regarding Mrs. Chapin and Miss Neilans to Sir Robert Laidlaw, the last member and one of the candidates for East Renfrewshire at this election. He replied asking for further details, which were given him, and the cases of Dr. Jameson, Mr. Ginnell, and the cattle drivers in Ireland were instanced as political offenders who had been put in the first division. In his second letter he promised to write to the Home Secretary. This was followed by a letter from the Home Secretary, which said that the decision was in the hands of the judge that tried the case.

BRANCH NOTES.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—A meeting of the Middlesbrough Branch was held on Wednesday, January 12th. It was decided to send a deputation to interview the three Middlesbrough candidates with regard to their views on Women's Suffrage, Miss Jones gave an account of the meetings which had been held in the previous week in the Cleveland constituency. At Guisborough, where she was to have opened the meeting for Miss Schofield and Miss Leyson, no meeting could be held owing to the hostility of the crowd, but in Redcar, Middlesbrough, Marske, and other places very successful meetings had been held. L. MAHONY, Hon. Sec.

WILLESDEN AND MAIDA VALE BRANCH.—Our first meeting of the year was held at 14, Great Western Road on Thursday, January 13th, at 7.30 p.m. In future fortnightly meetings will be held at the same address, and we trust that all members of the Women's Freedom League residing in the Maida Vale and Paddington districts will endeavour to attend. The room is situated over Bernard's confectionery shop, and is easily reached by omnibus, tram, and train. Our next meeting will be held on January 27th at 7.30 p.m. Please come and bring your friends. L. BENNETT Hon. Sec.

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Will you help us during the elections by selling copies of THE VOTE outside the members' meetings and polling-booths? Even if you have only a short time to spare we can make use of you. Those who can help the cause in no other way will find this a good means of assisting in the struggle for women's enfranchisement. All applications should be made to Mrs. Snow, Offices of THE VOTE, 148, Holborn Bars, W.C.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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THE GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

Members who can give time should write at once to Mrs. Billington-Greig, Suffrage Centre, Glasgow, stating time when free. There is also plenty of work at the offices for all volunteers.

Two hundred workers needed. Volunteer at once. £5,000 needed. Give your subscriptions now!

In Montgomery Boroughs.

Mr. J. D. Rees must be regretting by this time that he ever talked out the Woman's Bill in Parliament, for the cry of "Votes for Women" has become the most popular slogan in the Montgomery election. Colonel Pryce-Jones has twice declared on public platforms his intention to ballot for a place for a Woman's Suffrage measure; consequently all his followers have taken up the war-cry.

On Tuesday Miss Hicks addressed a few pertinent questions to Mr. Rees at his meeting in Welshpool, where she had a great reception from the audience. His evasive, trivial replies brought forth angry cries of "Why don't you answer?" After the meeting the crowd cheered the Suffragists heartily, while Mr. Rees retired through the emergency exit at the back.

We have had two magnificent meetings in Welshpool and Newtown. Miss Muriel Matters, our principal speaker, magnetised her audiences until, of the crowd of Liberals present at the latter place, not one could even ask a question, and our resolution was unanimously carried. The local Press continues to devote considerable space to our doings, the *County Times* remarking that "the Suffragettes in the boroughs are gaining popular favour and interest at a rapid rate." Our meetings this week with Mrs. Sanderson are being eagerly anticipated.

MURIEL NELSON.

In East Fife.

In spite of snow and rain-storms the campaign goes on apace. We have been reinforced by Miss Bennett, who remains until polling-day, Miss Thomson of Dunfermline, Miss Waddell of Kilmarnock, and Miss Stirton of Edinburgh. Unfortunately, through illness, Mrs. Billington-Greig and Miss Murray were not able to be with us, but messages from the men and women of Ladybank and Leven were to the effect to come when they could, and the people would turn out.

At Ladybank, where at a large indoor meeting I was the sole representative, an attentive hearing was accorded me. One of the keenest questioners arose and took the collection amid the applause of the audience.

Thursday found us back again in Auchtermuchty. A full hall assembled, and then followed one of the most delightful meetings we have held in the course of the whole campaign. Friday we visited Newburgh, one of the ancient burghs of Scotland, on the banks of the Tay. Miss Thomson joined us, and again the weather made a hall necessary. The youth and small boy became so ardent in their espousal of Mr. Asquith's cause during our announcement of the meeting that the police interfered. Here, as elsewhere, the hall was crowded. A local lady came to the platform with us, and moved a vote of thanks at the close.

On Saturday we had again to hire halls—Miss Bennett and Miss Stirton at Lunding Links, and Misses Thomson, Waddell, and self at Springfield.

ANNA MUNRO.

In North Monmouthshire.

As polling-day approaches party feeling grows keener, and the effect of our work is proved by the close attention we are receiving from the professional Liberal. On Thursday Mr. McKenna addressed a meeting at Abersychan. I had applied to him for permission to attend his meeting, in order to ask him questions at question time. I received his reply on Friday morning, it having been posted too late for delivery before seven o'clock on Thursday evening. He expressed his readiness to answer me, but said that my admission would lie with the local authorities. I obtained this answer verbally at six on Thursday. It is hardly necessary to add that I was not admitted. I have therefore invited Mr. McKenna to face my question on Tuesday next—the only evening I can spare. We held a protest meeting outside the hall on Thursday.

We had engaged the same hall for Friday, and it was crowded with about 150 more people than its seating accommodation. An hour had been allowed for questions, but proved to be insufficient, and almost half an hour longer was occupied. Good work has also been done here, in Blaenavon, Pontnewynydd, Griffiths-town, and Pontnewydd.

EDITH A. BREMNER.

In Manchester.

The election campaign in Manchester came to an end on Saturday, January 15th, and we cannot but feel that the fact

that Mr. Belloc's majority was reduced by 516 votes, whilst the polling in comparison to the number of the electorate was heavier than at the last General Election, has been largely due to the work of the Women's Freedom League in his constituency. Many voters have come to our Committee rooms to tell us that, although Liberals, they were using their votes for the women, and the kindness and sympathy received on all hands has been most encouraging. During the week over forty meetings have been held, and the Cause has been moving rapidly both in South Salford and other districts. The week opened with a meeting in the Manchester Coal Exchange, when Mrs. Despard was the speaker. Both meetings were crowded and enthusiastic. Meanwhile Miss Hayes was waging the fight in South Salford, which has grown faster and more furious all the week. On Friday, the eve of the poll, we held a big rally in St. Stephen's Schools, where an enthusiastic audience passed a vote of censure on Mr. Belloc's attitude. Afterwards we drove on to the Tramway Depot in Frederick Road to hold a midnight meeting, at the special request of the drivers, thus making a total of eleven meetings on Friday. On polling day each of the twelve booths was manned by a Freedom League worker distributing our leaflets, and in spite of torrents of rain our carriages, brave in green, white, and gold, paid a flying visit to the various stations in order to hold protest meetings against any Government being elected without the consent of women.

We are deeply indebted to members of the Men's League for their splendid help, both in speaking and in the questioning campaign, and to the band of indefatigable workers who have given their nights and days to electioneering. M. E. MANNING.

In Swansea.

This is a three-cornered fight, and now, on the eve of the poll, we have to report what appears almost a triumph. At the beginning of the campaign both Liberal and Tory candidate left Woman Suffrage out of his election address, but now, as a result purely of the work done by the W.F.L. and the questions asked at both meetings by Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Olson, Miss Downey, &c., and much correspondence, we have Colonel Wright, the Conservative candidate, writing to both local papers regretting having left out the subject in his election address. Two days before the poll Mr. Mond, the Liberal candidate, issues a new address with this important paragraph:

"A Word for Women. It is you who are the Chancellors of the Household Exchequer, you who will first feel the pinch when Protection raises the price of all you buy. If women had the Suffrage, for which I voted in the House of Commons, you could resist this peril to your homes. I pledge myself to support the removal of the sex disability in the Suffrage from duly-qualified women, as well as to vote in every further extension of the present franchise for the inclusion of women."

Mr. Ben Tillet, the Labour candidate, stands for electoral rights for both men and women.

M. MCLEOD CLEEVES.

Mid-Glamorgan.

On Monday, January 10, Mrs. Kineton Parkes arrived from the North and Miss Kent from Colchester to help. We realised at once that it was an uphill fight, because Freedom League women had only been heard of in Mid-Glamorganshire, but never been seen, and therefore there prevailed the prejudice of ignorance.

The ice broke up in a wonderful way at our very first open-air meeting, when Mrs. Kineton Parkes addressed a big crowd in the market-place at Maesteg, and told the men why we wanted the vote and why we were opposing Sir Samuel Evans. The Welsh people are quick to see and understand points, and they asked innumerable questions, and became so enthusiastic as to almost cheer when reply after reply was given.

We have driven many miles around this large district, visiting Tondy, Ogmere Vale, Caeran, &c., distributing literature, and inviting to meetings. Crowded meetings have been held each day at our committee-room, and on Saturday, when Miss Neal came over from Swansea to speak. On Thursday we went to the Town Hall to question Mr. Godfrey Williams, and the crowd of men assembled there loudly applauded when Miss Kent rose to ask hers—the first question. On leaving the hall the men pleaded for us to hold a meeting outside, and ran to fetch boxes and chairs. Even the Liberal hecklers who had made the Town Hall meeting so stormy a one seemed to be reluctantly satisfied with our point of view and our answers to their very straight questioning. Several men are already our sworn allies and voluntary workers, and attend every meeting wearing our badges.

Much ground still remains to be covered, but we hope to go strong right to the day of the poll.

M. MCLEOD CLEEVES.

In Liverpool (Walton).

We are making great headway here. Our midnight meetings are patronised by the tramway men, who greatly appreciate them, and we feel sure that in consequence of them many votes have been lost to Mr. F. E. Smith.

The war-cry of Mr. F. E. Smith is the same as that of Lord Cromer, "Men are men, and women are women." In spite of being rushed up side streets and knocked about by Mr. Smith's supporters two of our workers managed to buttonhole him on two occasions. Miss Urquhart boarded his motor-car, and in spite of opposition managed to hold a conversation with him, which elicited the above cry. On Monday last we had Miss Muriel Matters to speak for us. Mrs. Despard's speech in the Lecture Hall on Saturday was much appreciated, and many people expressed a hope of hearing her again soon.

NELLIE M. SMITH.

In Sheffield.

On Saturday evening, January 8th, we held a meeting at the Vestry Hall, Cemetery Road, when the usual resolution was carried with only one dissident. On Wednesday night Mrs. Despard came to the Temperance Hall. We had made great efforts in different ways to advertise the meeting well (one member walking the most populous parts of the town the whole day with sandwich-boards), and the result was most gratifying. A large audience assembled, who sat entranced while Mrs. Despard, in spite of obvious ill-health, spoke to them for three-quarters of an hour in her inimitable way. There were many men there, in spite of counter attractions in the shape of candidates' meetings, and both they and the women were immensely impressed by Mrs. Despard's pluck as well as her eloquence. The resolution in favour of granting women the franchise was passed unanimously and enthusiastically. Mrs. Whetton, who took the chair at this meeting, gave a most lucid explanation of our election policy, about which there has been some misapprehension.

During the week various of our members have attended the different candidates' meetings to ask questions and generally bring the subject before the electors.

S. G. BARNET.

In East Worcestershire.

The fight is as to how the country shall be taxed to find the revenue. The foe is Mr. Austen Chamberlain, the man who took the opportunity, on March 26th, 1909, at the Queen's Hall Anti-Suffrage meeting, of "frankly and plainly associating himself with the men and women ranged against this monstrous innovation." The constituency reaches from Moseley, in Birmingham, to Redditch, which is our headquarters.

Amid uproar I questioned Mr. Hilton Young (Liberal) at Redditch on January 6, accompanied by Miss How. His replies were frigidly favourable. Amid greater uproar on January 14, accompanied by Miss Boulton and Mr. Waldwyn (Men's League for Women's Suffrage), I questioned Mr. Austen Chamberlain, at Sparkhill, seeing that Mr. Balfour is in favour of Women's Suffrage, would he pledge himself to support any measure giving votes for women?

I was invited by Mr. Chamberlain to put the question verbally from the platform, and informed that, while he "welcomed the ever-increasing interest upon them responsibilities which the majority of them did not desire, and that he was still opposed to Women's Suffrage."

Polling is on January 24. Motor-cars and helpers are urgently needed.

KATHARINE MANSON.

In Cleveland Division.

The campaign here is being carried on with energy. The country is large and difficult to cover, but effective organisation has put Women's Suffrage and the principles of the Women's Freedom League prominently before the electors. Party feeling is more evident in the district than any appreciation of political principles, but many things give us encouragement: the friendly welcome from some and the brutal hostility from others are equally a testimonial to our progress. Mr. Samuel declares himself "in theory" to be in favour of Women's Suffrage, and a section of his most devoted adherents show their agreement with his views by organised violence, cowardly threats, and the strongest efforts to prevent our arguments and reasoning from being heard. "They're angry because they're afraid of you," a friendly shopman said.

Mrs. Sanderson paid us a visit, and at Guisborough forced our most violent opponents to listen to a brilliant speech and destructive criticism of Mr. Samuel. Mrs. Despard addressed three meetings, producing a deep impression and converting some people, evidently against their will. Mr. Samuel himself has spoken at considerable length about Women's Suffrage. He evidently finds that he cannot ignore it, but he endeavours to confuse it with adult suffrage, prefers to dwell upon the tactics, and affects an ignorance of the evidence for its demand inconsistent with the anxiety it appears to give him.

ALICE SCHOFIELD.

In Dulwich.

During the past week we have held daily open-air meetings and distributed leaflets. Our shop at 33, Lordship Lane has been open to enquirers and for the sale of literature. On the evening of January 11th Miss Jennings and Miss Hillsworth held a meeting at Childwick Hall, Penge, and were well satisfied with results—the questions showing generally keen interest and much sympathy. Of course, there was the usual element of "irresponsible youth" present, but these were admirably held in check during the meeting by Mr. Kennedy, of the Men's League, who took the chair.

Mr. Moore, Miss Hillsworth, Mr. Stephens, and myself have also communicated with the Liberal Agent and candidate in reference to the unprovoked and cowardly assault made upon us on the occasion of Mr. John Burns's visit to the Dulwich Baths on the 7th inst. The replies to our letters are characteristic of the writer or writers—evasive.

A. S.

In Battersea.

We have been working at high pressure during the past week. Mrs. Sproson has drawn crowds to listen to her explanation of what the Freedom League is working for, and why we must keep the Liberal out. Mrs. How Martyn and Mrs. Holmes have been speaking with no uncertain voice to the electors who gathered to hear them, both indoors and outside.

The women's work in Battersea will leave lasting results. No ephemeral impression has been made by their eloquence and

logical statement of facts. We are all looking forward to today's polling with confidence, knowing that the electors of Battersea will "quit them like men," and not forget the women.

The committee rooms in Queen's Road have been a quiet resting-place for weary workers. The shop in Battersea Park Road has been gay with splendid cartoons. "Little Jack Horner," in the colours of the League, attracts most attention. Miss Gill does good business here, and all enquiries are quickly answered and information given.

Among nomination events in the *Evening News* of Saturday the following is given a good place:—"Soon after Mr. Burns had left the building, Mrs. L. M. Hicks, of the Women's Freedom League, sought an interview with the returning officer, and asked to be supplied with a nomination paper, to be filled up entirely by women. Mr. Wilkins, the returning officer, however, pointed out that it was impossible to comply with the request, and Mrs. Hicks thereupon withdrew. There was no demonstration."

LILLIAN M. HICKS.

In Poplar.

Another week of large, enthusiastic meetings. Miss Henderson and I put in an appearance at the nominations of candidates, and asked to be allowed to nominate a candidate ourselves. We were told, however, that only voters could do this. After registering our protest against the arbitrary regulations which exclude women from any choice of a candidate. We expressed our intention of waiting to see Mr. Buxton and Captain Wilson. The latter declared that he could not possibly move an amendment to the King's Speech to include Women's Suffrage, and he could not possibly vote against the King's Speech unless his party told him to do so; but he would vote for a Woman's Suffrage Bill, whether brought in by Conservatives or Liberals. Mr. Buxton was even less satisfactory, for he refused to answer any question at all because I was "not a constituent." After a considerable amount of "hedging," he did promise that if a "bona-fide woman resident in Poplar" asked him a question "properly," in writing, at his Town Hall meeting on Monday night, he will answer it. A new member has undertaken this duty. I am also taking steps to provide for the possibility of Mr. Buxton declaring a woman to be "not a constituent," and am endeavouring to get a man voter in Poplar to go also to ask questions.

MARGUERITE A. SIDLEY.

In the Strand.

The Right Hon. Walter Long was opposed, as if the Conservative Party were returned to power he would have an official position in the Government. Some good open-air meetings were held, at which the speakers received a very attentive hearing. The election leaflets have been distributed, and on polling-day voters were urged by voice and by leaflet to keep Mr. Long out.

In the City.

The authorities do not allow open-air meetings to be held in the City, and so we have had to be content with distributing our election manifesto, the appeal to voters, and other leaflets.

The First Elections.

Twenty of the members of the new Parliament who were returned on Saturday have replied to the letters sent out by the League, and have expressed themselves in writing as supporters of Women's Suffrage. Fourteen are Liberals, four are Labour members, and two are Unionists. The following twelve members put Women's Suffrage in their election addresses:—Mr. Stephen Collins, Mr. Clynes, Mr. Gill, Mr. Parker, Mr. Lincoln, Rt. Hon. T. Lough, Mr. Sutton, Mr. Radford, Mr. Scott, Mr. Thorne, Mr. Wiles, and Mr. Waterlow.

As we go to press, the news of unexpected Government defeats are being cried by the newsboys outside our office—of Government "safe" seats with lamentably diminished majorities, and everywhere of even-handed justice fighting the women's battle.

OPPOSITION CAMPAIGNS.

| | Organiser in Charge. |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Carnarvon | Mr. D. Lloyd George |
| Dundee | Mr. Winston Churchill |
| East Fife | Mr. H. H. Asquith |
| Glamorgan (Mid.) | Sir S. Evans |
| Monmouth (North) | Mr. R. McKenna |
| Montgomery Boroughs | Mr. J. D. Rees |
| Worcestershire, East | Mr. Austen Chamberlain |
| | Miss Matters |
| | Miss Schofield |
| | Miss Munro |
| | Mrs. Cleeves |
| | Miss Bremner |
| | Miss Hicks, M. A. |
| | Mrs. Manson (at Redditch) |

CARNARVON.—Committee Rooms, 21, High Street.

DUNDEE.—52, King Street.

EAST FIFE.—W.F.L. Shop, Ladybank.

EAST WORCESTERSHIRE.—Wyer's Works, Alcester Street, Redditch.

MONMOUTH (Pontypool).—The Arcade, Osborne Road.

OTHER SPECIAL CENTRES.

GLASGOW.—302, Sauchiehall Street. Miss Edith Kirby.

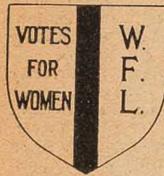
HACKNEY.—4, Clarence Road, Lower Clapton Road.

LONDON.—Head Office, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi. Mrs. Borrmann Wells.

PARTICK.—Partick Cross, Dumbarton Road. Miss White.

EVERY MEMBER NEEDED. VOLUNTEER AT ONCE. Every penny needed. Collect or subscribe your share to the funds.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS,
LONDON.DARE TO BE
FREE.

- Thurs., Jan. 20th **Caxton Hall:** Miss Margaret McMillan and Mr. G. O'Dell.
- Thurs., Jan. 27th **Caxton Hall:** Mrs. Amy Sanderson and Mr. Joseph McCabe.
- Thurs., Jan. 27th **Willesden and Maida Vale Branch:** Meeting at 14, Great Western Road, Paddington, 7.30 p.m.
- Sat., Jan. 29th **Caxton Hall:** Annual Conference.
- Sun., Jan. 30th **Small Queen's Hall,** 3 p.m.
- Mon., Jan. 31st **National Executive Committee,** 1, Robert Street, Adelphi.
- Tues., Feb. 1st **Release of Miss Neilans,** Holloway Prison, 8 a.m.
- Tues., Feb. 1st **Caxton Hall:** Reception to Miss Neilans, Tickets 1s. Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Billington-Greig.
- Thurs., Feb. 24th **Release of Mrs. Chapin,** Holloway Prison, 8 a.m.
- Reception to Miss Neilans on Tuesday, Feb. 1st,** at Caxton Hall, at 7 p.m. Speakers, Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Billington-Greig, and Miss Neilans. Come and do honour to our fellow-worker, who has undergone—for a political offence—the torture of forcible feeding and the indignity of treatment as an ordinary criminal.
- THE PROVINCES.**
- Jan. 20th.—Bromsgrove, Mrs. Fagan, Mrs. Beith, Mr. Yaldwyn, Miss Law (Assembly Rooms), at 7 p.m.
- Jan. 22nd.—Moseley (Birmingham), Mrs. Monson, Mr. Kennedy, at 8 p.m.
- Jan. 27th.—Sunderland Branch, Grand Debate on Votes for Women in St. Peter's Hall, at 7.30 p.m.
- Meetings Daily at Redditch and Bromsgrove Works 1 to 2, and Redditch and Bromsgrove Markets at 7 p.m. Indoor meetings at Redditch for women only, Committee Rooms, at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- General Election Meetings Daily at all the Special Centres.
- SCOTLAND.**
- Jan. 25th.—Café Vegetaria, 8 p.m. Miss Irwin, Champion of the Sweated Workers.
- Wed., Jan. 26th.—Glasgow Central Branch, Meeting at 8 p.m., 302, Sauchiehall Street. Speaker, Miss Isabel Hamilton, L.L.A.
- General Election Meetings Daily at all the Special Centres.
- WALES.**
- General Election Meetings Daily in Carnarvon, Montgomery, Mid-Glamorgan, and North Monmouth.

OUR ADVERTISERS.

Wallaceite Nomination Day.

Two persons were sitting in a small chamber used as a council-room. Thirty candidates were presented to them for nomination. All the candidates were pledged to promote the health and strength of the public. They were all Reformers. But they were not Tariff Reformers; they were Food Reformers—in other words, Brain and Body Reformers. They were samples of Wallace's P.R. Biscuits.

There are thirty varieties of these biscuits, prominent amongst them being the Wallaceite (reg.) Barley Malt Biscuit. For brain-workers, for over-tired Suffragettes, these form substantial and nourishing food; while for invalids just recovering from a heavy illness they are particularly beneficial, being free from salt, soda, chemicals, and animal fat, which to them, in their weak state, would prove injurious. There are countless other occasions when the human system, revolting from heavy foods, requires something light yet nourishing. These are the times when Wallaceite pure whole-meal biscuits and foods are indispensable, while those who aim at attaining the highest physical and mental efficiency use these biscuits as a daily food. We advise our readers to write to the Wallace P.R. Foods Co., 465, Battersea Park Road, S.W., for full particulars of the P.R. Biscuits and other specialities.

Messrs. T. R. Roberts.

An important sale is at present proceeding at Messrs. T. R. Roberts' great store at Upper Street, Islington. Every requisite, both in the matter of feminine dress and of house furnishings, has been marked down, and there

30 Samples

of body-building biscuits post paid for 1/3

It is a great mistake to suppose that ordinary biscuits are wholesome food. For one thing white flour is a one-sided constipating food; for another, harmful chemicals and raising powders are almost universally employed. The

Wallaceite Biscuits

(Reg.)

are not only perfectly free from chemicals, yeast, raising powder, etc., but they are **real body-building foods**. Only a finely-ground entire wholemeal is used, and every other ingredient is of the very choicest quality. There are no other biscuits to equal these. Ask your Health Food Store or Grocer for **Wallaceite (Reg.) Biscuits** (30 kinds), and insist on seeing the trade mark.

New Booklet, "PHYSICAL REGENERATION," post free. Mention "The Vote."

THE WALLACE P.R. FOODS CO.,

465, BATTERSEA PARK RD., LONDON, S.W.

are splendid opportunities for securing bargains. In the costume department there are many French models and smart gowns priced at tempting figures, and sweeping reductions have also been made in the millinery department. Islington has become so accessible that our readers would find it well worth their while to make the brief journey to this great northern shopping centre.

OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

N.W.S.P.U.

There is not a constituency in which members of the N.W.S.P.U. have not been working at this critical moment. The Union has also been engaged during the week in two legal cases. At Bow Street a warrant was issued against the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield, while the charges against the other ninety women were dropped. The day afterwards Mrs. Haverfield's fine was paid—she does not know by whom. On Monday last at Manchester Miss Davison brought her action against the Visiting Justices for the assault upon her with a hosepipe. The judge reserved his decision until January 19th. At Wallsend Miss Willcox was sent to prison for three days in lieu of a fine for throwing two copies of *Votes for Women* into Mr. Samuel's motor-car. Two meetings, free to the public, are held weekly by the Union, on Monday at the Queen's Hall at 3 and on Thursday at St. James's Hall at 8 p.m.

The Actresses' Franchise League.

The Actresses' Franchise League have moved into their office, Room 17, Ground Floor, Adelphi Terrace House, Strand, W.C. The office hours are 10 to 1 every morning, when the Honorary Secretary will be very pleased to see all members of the League and all friends of the Movement. Badges and literature are on sale, and voluntary workers are badly needed. The first of the "At Homes" of the New Year will be held on Friday, February 4th, in the Grand Hall of the Criterion, from 3 to 5. The small members' meeting, too, will recommence.—Adeline Bourne, Hon. Sec.

The New Union for Men and Women.

During ten days of the polling at Battersea the New Union addressed many large outdoor meetings in Mr. Burns's constituency. Among the speakers were Mr. and Mrs. Duval, Mr. Victor Duval, Mrs. Maitland, Miss Underwood, Miss Fennings, and Mr. Matheson, who urged the electors to be true to Liberal principles by keeping out Mr. Burns as a member of the Government which denies justice to women.—W. Wilson Horn, 52, Maddox Street, Hanover Square, W.