

The Militant Suffragettes.

The action of the militant suffragette who lost her life in trying to stop the horses racing in the Derby has had a strange effect on the public mind. People are now beginning to wonder what would happen if a responsible life were really sacrificed to the "cause." Of course it is Mrs. Pankhurst of whom everybody is thinking. Mrs. Pankhurst's health is weak, and her friends dread the effect upon her of another hunger-strike should she again be brought to jail for the third time to complete her sentence. The militant leader is not the only woman in the movement who earnestly believes that an act of martyrdom is the surest way to gain the end sought, namely, political equality with men. It is becoming increasingly clear that the great majority of the outrages which have been committed against the peace and good order of the community have been authorized from the headquarters of the Woman's Social and Political Union; though it is a pretty problem to decide how far those who set the example are responsible for them. The embarrassment of the Government is extreme. So many occurrences have conspired against them that it is useless to deny that any tragic event in the Suffragette ranks might too readily be used by the Opposition to deepen the distrust that has been so assiduously cultivated already.

TEA.

It is not clear as yet what the new tea season will develop in the buying markets. So far there is nothing to warrant a belief that there is to be any weakening from the quotations to which the general market advanced upwards of a year ago. It is quite true that there is an overhanging surplus of Ceylons from the last crop, but this is largely of somewhat inferior quality, having much red stalk in it, which will have to go to countries where there is no limit placed upon the quality of importations, since it will never do for blending just as it is. Whatever parcels are fairly good,—there are degrees of inferiority in the supplies—find buyers among those who attend the sales in London in order to pick up odd lots to supply those whose caution caused them to send in over small orders at the usual time, and who require certain quantities to tide them over until new stock is offered. On the whole the Indian Market has been well cleaned out; China's has evidently not lost the Russian trade as yet despite last years rumours, and most of what she has of merchantable goods will be needed by the Muscovites.

The circular of Messrs. W. J. & H. Thompson, leading London tea-brokers informed us at the beginning of the month that "the tone of the market continues active, and all tea has been sold freely without any fluctuations, worthy of note. Beyond a little irregularity in Ceylon the week has been featureless. A few new season's teas from Northern India have arrived, and three invoices from Darjeeling will be offered on Monday next. This is an exceptionally early date for "first flush" to appear in the London sales. Advices from the producing districts in Northern India are not altogether satisfactory; hail storms have done again much damage; in one large agency about 5,500 maunds of this years crop in Cachar are estimated to have been lost early in the month. Duty payments and exports are satisfactory, the combined figures for the month so far showing an increase of about half a million pounds. Deliveries for the month to date: Home Consumption, 1913, 20,813,237lb; re-exports, 1913, 4,108,677lb; home consumption, 1912, 20,630,565lb; re-exports, 1912, 3,710,896lb.

Report has it that the damage done to the Indian crop was serious and likely to result in higher quotations. We are not inclined to place much credence in the rumour, which it will be noted Messrs. Thompson lay no very great stress upon. Unless the blight should spread more rapidly than usual, an average yield may be anticipated in India, and it is not improbable that at most local centres stocks of Ceylons are still large at anyrate. Japan's are coming in fair supply, and China's will begin to arrive this year in more uncoloured grades than ever before.

COFFEE.

It need not be understood that the unsettled condition of the coffee quotations is at all due to anything attempted by the managers of the valorization plan. There has been some disposition to discredit that plan, since the action taken against it under the Sherman anti-merger law in the United States succeeded at the tribunals of that country. The disposal of stocks of berries in the States was affected according to law. Large dealers took the whole of the storage in the States into their hands as independent individuals, and there was an end of that matter. That action at law could not, nor was intended to affect the plan was adopted by the Brazilian Government. It deprived the managers of the advantage of storing certain quantities of coffee in the States to act both as security for the U. funds embarked in the plan of valorization, and also as controlling the selling markets. Larger supplies had to be transported across the Atlantic, or held in San Paulo, but the