

women are asking the right to exercise the franchise. Mr. James Findlay presided, and there was a large attendance. At the outset Mrs. Bryan expressed the regrets of Mrs. J. C. Kemp, the president of the Political Equality League of British Columbia, who was absent owing to family illness, and then proceeded to state the faith which is in her.

Mrs. Smith described the growth of the woman's movement, ascribing it largely to the introduction of machinery, which drove industry from the homes and compelled women to go out into the world to earn their livelihood, and made a great impression upon her hearers when she said:

"We are not fighting for ourselves. For ten years the women of British Columbia have agitated for fair play in legislation without success. We mothers are not the legal guardians of the children we bear. That is a crying injustice which strains every mother's heart when she thinks of it. We have asked for amendments to the property act, to the dower act and to the marriage laws, but all in vain.

"Fancy a father being given the power to consent to the marriage of his twelve-year-old daughter and the mother being refused any voice in the matter.

"You may say that is the law, and that it is not done; but the trouble is it was done in this Province less than a year ago. Can you wonder, therefore, if we have come to the conclusion that, if we want to get justice we have got to get the ballot to secure it? If the Provincial Government had listened to our representations, the agitation might not have reached the proportions which it has.

"Why should not mothers have a say as to who shall make the laws which shall govern their children? We are subject to the law, but we have no voice in the making of the laws. They send us to the gallows if we commit murder; they send us to jail if we violate the laws. When the law says that we shall suffer equally with men, we claim that we should have some say in the

laws which we have to obey.

"We do not need hatchets or bombs in this Province. We are opposed to militancy, and we have no need of it here, because we have not to overcome the prejudices of centuries as in other countries. We don't want to rule you; we want to co-operate with you. We want to put an end to child labor. You say there is nothing of this sort in this Province.

"I could take you to homes where children, from four years of age upwards, are working all day and long into the night to make button holes and sewing on buckles. Do you want to stand for that? We want to stop the slum. You say we have no slums in British Columbia. Alas, we have the slums right here in Vancouver, where four and five families are huddled together where there should be only one.

"It is the motherhood of the land which is speaking to you. That voice must be heard eventually. If you want to raise a monument to your mother's memory, honor yourself by honoring her and espousing the woman's cause. You need never be afraid that any mother's vote will be cast to the detriment of the country in which she lives, and in which she is bringing up her children."

A hearty vote of thanks to the ladies was unanimously carried by those present, who seemed to be very strongly impressed by the arguments put forward.

♦ ♦ ♦

Great Britain

The British Government continues to contribute its part to the picturesque of the woman suffrage campaign. During the past week much attention has been directed to the unique visit of a troupe of some thirty city councillors, chiefly from Edinburgh and Glasgow. It will be remembered that these cities, together with all of the chief cities of England, Scotland and Ireland, passed resolutions some time ago favoring the Parliamentary vote for women, and now these representatives of Scotch Councils came unofficially to ask why their petitions had