

PAGES

MISSING

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"The Woman's Cause is Man's."

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POLITICAL EQUALITY LEAGUE

Victoria Branch.

President, Mrs. Gordon Grant.

Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Baer.

Organizing Secretary,

Miss Dorothy Davis.

Recording Secretary,

Miss McDonald.

Office,

421 Vancouver Street, Victoria.

1. This Society adopts as the fundamental principle of its Constitution the establishment of the Political, Social and Industrial Rights of Women and Men.

It recognizes as indispensable the possession by Women of the Parliamentary Vote on the same terms as it is or as it may be granted to men.

It demands from the Government immediate legislation to secure this.

The further aim of the Society is to take active means to remedy existing evils and to bring to the knowledge of the public the inefficiency of some of the laws of British Columbia especially as they affect women and children.

2. The objects and aims of the Society as set forward above, need very little explanation. We intend to expose in every way possible to us, the dual standard existing for men and women, to demonstrate the evil resulting therefrom, and to force public recognition to the direct connection be-

tween this dual standard and the political disability of women.

We stand to emphasize the fact that causes of individual cases of injustice can only be satisfactorily and finally dealt with by legislation in which women have a direct share.

3. Regarding the enfranchisement of women as essential to the attainment of equality between the sexes, we are necessarily working primarily for Woman Suffrage, and the principal item on our programme is therefore the demand for a Government Measure giving the Parliamentary Vote to women on the same terms as it is or may be given to men.

OUR GREAT QUESTION, UP-COUNTRY.

It was stated in more than one newspaper, early in October, soon after the first step in my Organization Tour had been taken, that "Miss Dorothy Davis had started through the Province to convert it to Women's Franchise," and one Editor enquired petulantly why she wanted "to introduce these new ideas" into so peaceful a community as his!

"CONVERT"! There was very little to be done in the way of "conversion." The men and women of British Columbia are just as intelligent, just as progressive, quite as just, as our cousins across the Boundary; and, moreover, the men know that

their own womenkind are in no way inferior to the keen, competent and charming women of the enfranchised States, who now work in harmonious comradeship with their brothers and husbands and friends for the political and social welfare of their country. Even among the handful of "moss-backs" to be found still in British Columbia murmuring nervously that they hope women will never vote in this country, there is only a solitary one who does not admit that his particular female relatives might, in the awful contingency of our success, be relied upon to vote with discretion and wisdom. I am not going to give the name and address of that one—for the sake of his wife; it is not fair to point out the skeleton in any woman's cupboard!

Nonsense about "converting" the country, and "introducing new ideas." This country is awake. All over the part where I was privileged to travel, the subject of Women's Franchise was already a very live issue among many hundreds of individuals and all that was needed was that some one should take up these threads and weave them into strong cords, a network of branches of the B. C. Political Equality League.

This weaving process has now been partially accomplished, and the total number of branches throughout the Province, including those established some time since, and those organized by others during the autumn, is now thirty or more. Very many important points have, however, still to be visited, and were only omitted from the tour for geographical or for pecuniary reasons. Among these places, Wilmer ought to receive special notice, and it was a matter of much regret that on my arrival at Invermere, where a meeting had already been arranged, I found it too far to walk to Wilmer, and too expensive to drive, so I had to postpone a visit there and could only leave a message of apology with Mrs. B.

Hamilton the spokesman of the Wilmer women.

Other places, too, are ready to organize. Salmon Arm, Keremos, Nakusp, Lardo, Michel—these are only a few of the towns which have had to wait a little, till our funds permit another tour. One naturally went first to those where one had invitations.

Now as to the new Branches, either organized or in swift process of organization, which it has been an honor to found. They should, perhaps, be mentioned in the order in which (from motives of economy) they were approached; and when it is remembered that the whole work has had to be arranged in a rush of fleeting visits, and the suffragists in each locality called together at a few hours' notice, from a perfect turmoil of other engagements (there was never a day in any place without already "something on" at almost every available hall and room!). I think it will be realized that the enthusiasm and the response of the women and the voters everywhere is magnificently genuine and worthy of the great Cause which has aroused them.

VERNON was the first point in the tour, and Vernon has more than justified its claim to prominence in the Province, for its women have shown themselves alive to the urgency of the Suffrage movement and the desirability of tackling the question in a business-like way. They have faced greater difficulties than I think are to be found in almost any other town in the Province, yet a little handful of them, backed by a few public-spirited and progressive men, has brought the matter prominently before the public and on the very soundest lines.

The Vernon Branch arranged for regular meetings, issued a personal appeal to outsiders, secured the generous help of Mr. R. H. Rogers, an eminent local barrister, to give them a lecture on Parliamentary procedure, sent away for propaganist literature,

and organize an important debate on the Suffrage question, in which the sides were taken by leading lawyers and the Cause won a victory. This branch has also evolved excellent ideas for advertisement, and gets notices of meetings, and striking Suffragist "points" shown on the screen at Moving Picture Shows—a most splendid form of propaganda. It has also held a large public meeting, which was well attended and which would have meant a packed hall if unfortunately the date had not had to be postponed (owing to my tour arrangements) till too near Christmas, thus keeping away several who said they would otherwise have come. The energy of the president and the secretary, Miss Alys Evans and Miss Parkhurst, is an example to every one of us. Every bit of time they give to the work is a matter of self-denial, for, like most of us, they work hard to support themselves and can only give their scanty leisure hours.

ENDERBY—Here it only took an hour or two to call together four enthusiastic women, and after a very brief talk together I had to move on, promising to return in December. When December 14th came, Mrs. Lawes and Mrs. Walker, with some other women and a few men, had a triumphant success, and I the pleasure of one of the very best meetings in the whole tour. The theatre was almost full, and the "feel" in the audience was inspiring. A Branch is by this time formed in Enderby, but when I left, though the names had been given in, the officials were still not elected. So near Christmas it was difficult to get an organization meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Polson are enthusiastic supporters, and Mrs. Mackintyre and Miss Cobb, among the many other suffragists who will set the Enderby Branch in the forefront of the campaign. Mrs. Grossman, an

English Suffragist, will also be a strength to the Branch.

ARMSTRONG has been, I fear, rather badly treated, though quite unavoidably so. Two keen suffragists there, to whom I had introductions, were prevented by pressure of home duties from taking up the matter as a practical move, and the persons whose names they gave me as likely to be keen and ready for work were either away, or ill, or out when I called at their houses, or ungettable on the telephone! It was quite absurd how impossible it was to find any one at all, though I have heard since that several in Armstrong are enthusiastic. I did get a short interview with Mr. Mohr, who said he intended to make Women's Franchise the subject of a debate at the Overseas Club in the near future; and I read in the paper later that this took place and aroused great local interest, resulting (of course!) in a victory for the Cause again. We hope to organize at Armstrong before very long, and meanwhile if all Armstrong Suffragists will send me their names, it will be the first step in the matter, and when I can go there I shall have friends ready to help.

KELOWNA had not waited for a Coast Organizer to call its Suffragists together. Mrs. D. R. Kerr and Mr. Kerr, enthusiasts of many years' standing, had arranged an excellent meeting, at the close of which over thirty names were given in for a Branch nucleus. Among these were the names of Mr. and Mrs. Macready, whom I was specially delighted to meet, as they had been in the "fighting line" in the Old Country, and bore the banner of triumphant happiness which is the hall-mark of the British suffragette. This Branch is flourishing and gave me a very kind welcome when I passed down the Okanagan Valley again last month. It is also

doing splendidly with regard to the petitions.

SUMMERLAND has all the materials for one of the best Branches possible, but has not yet quite organized. The difficulties are rather local, and will soon be overcome. The Duke of Connaught most inconsiderately interfered with my first visit here—with the result that a public meeting was put off of the question, and instead I spoke by invitation to two Societies—the W. C. T. U. in the afternoon, and the Socialist Party in the evening. Both meetings were eminently satisfactory, but inevitably small and somewhat “exclusive.” Summerland has, in the very short time at our disposal, collected nearly 500 names to the petition, and will collect many more if we can spare the time, which is sufficient proof of the sympathy there, though it has been a disappointment to me to have no Branch yet. However, we have a delightful circle of un-organized friends to appeal to and to work with, and the formation of a real Branch is merely a question of adjustment and time. I have the names of those eager to join, but no one is prepared to accept office! !

PEACHLAND, owing to my stupid mistake, had not arranged a public meeting for me, as its enthusiastic suffragists would otherwise have done; but we had two, nevertheless—one consisting of the members of the W. C. T. U. held by the kind invitation of Mrs. McCall at her house, the other a small public meeting which I very hastily organized in order to waste no opportunity, and which was thoroughly successful from every point of view but that of numbers. We had, however, more than I had expected. Here, again, the time at my disposal was insufficient to allow of organization, but several interested women are taking the matter up, and we shall have a Branch in Peachland before long.

PENTICTON is one of the earliest and best Branches, and this is chiefly due to the unselfish and splendid work of those who organized a large meeting—two large meetings—ready for my first visit, and for the loyal support they have received since in all their work, from persons too numerous to mention by name. The Misses Duncan and Mrs. I. M. Stevens had drawn about 80 women to the afternoon meeting, and we had well over 100, men and women, at the evening meeting. Here flourishes a quite excellent Branch, which has already had other public meetings, and is well ahead with petition work. This was the first Branch to send for an extra supply of Forms.

REVELSTOKE is in glorious earnest. Three meetings—the last a record one for provincial work in the Suffrage campaign—form only the outward and visible sign of the unflagging spirit which possesses it. Women of leisure and women with no leisure, women with position and women without, have all massed together in Revelstoke and have sunk all prejudices, all personal difficulties, all differences of opinion in one “long, strong pull” for Woman’s Freedom. At the last meeting, on December 10th, when the theatre was practically filled, the President of this Branch, Mrs. Sturdy, as Chairman, said one of the best things that has been said in this country on the subject. She said: “We women of Revelstoke have not taken up this work lightly or thoughtlessly or without facing the possibilities it involves. We have thought it all out; we know what we are doing; and we shall not lay it down again. **We are going to see this thing through.**” This is the spirit which animates all the suffragists of B. C. men and women, as it has animated men and women fighting for this Cause all the world over; and the Executive Committee of the Revelstoke Branch, who supported the Chair

and the Speakers on the platform, applauded with quiet, convincing sincerity, amid thunder of applause from the audience. Mrs. Sibbald, Mrs. Lawson, Mrs. Coursier, Miss Christie, and others whose names have for the moment slipped an overcrowded memory (and my papers are in my lost luggage!) and last, but by no means least, the untiring and generous secretary, Miss Hardie, have all worked magnificently to make their very large and representative Branch (the largest outside the three Coast cities), one of the most zealous and efficient.

GOLDEN—One of the smallest places organized but one of the most alive and energetic. Its brilliant young secretary, Miss Ruth Armstrong (Will she be offended if I mention that she is the Baby among all our officers of this League?), does not wait for suggestion as to methods of propaganda, but forges ahead with a zeal and a wisdom that is most infectious. This Branch sent a scout to Field to collect signatures to a Petition Form, and will organize in the smaller places surrounding it directly the weather allows. I have not yet received the names of the Branch officers—probably because the letter has, like so many others, been lost in our very inadequate and irregular postal system. Golden has certainly given a mandate to its Parliamentary representative on the subject of a Women's Franchise Bill.

INVERMERE is a small centre at present, in a very scattered district, and winter had already taken possession of the Windermere Valley when I reached it. Yet Mrs. B. H. Hamilton was not to be daunted by any untoward circumstances. With unselfish energy, she beat up an excellent meeting, to which several drove many miles, and which was honored in a very special way by having as its Chairman the member for the Divis-

ion. Mrs. Poett and her daughters lived too far out to undertake any actual organization work, and Mrs. B. H. Hamilton seemed already to be President of everything from Golden to Cranbrook, and begged off the really hard work of organizing; but this task was left in the efficient hands of Mrs. Dunn, who will, if necessary, get women from Wilmer and Windermere to co-operate in the formation of the Valley Branch. This district is so unworkable in winter that its progress must of necessity be a little slow until the spring comes; but in enthusiasm and zeal and public spirit it is ready to lead the Province if any other locality will only give it a chance.

The Editor of the Athalmer paper, "The Columbia Valley Times," is like most Editors throughout the country, a convinced supporter of the Movement, and has most generously offered his help at any time in our work. In fact, all through the Province, except in one place, the courtesy, sympathy and kindly assistance of the Press has been most encouraging to us all.

WILMER is one of the keenest places up-country, and I hope as soon as funds permit to make it first of all in the course of another tour. If I had only heard from Wilmer before reaching Golden I could have arranged to fit in a visit, but I did not hear (probably the mail again) and it was too late to alter plans.

CRANBROOK—Judge Wilson took the Chair at a meeting which had really not been organized at all, but which called out about 60 persons, and he spoke most strongly on behalf of the Reform we are advocating. He especially urged that we should have our own supply of literature, for wide distribution, and this is a point on which several of us have felt very strongly. It has been solely a lack of funds which has so far stood in the way! So many women and men at this meeting ex-

pressed keen interest and a real desire to learn more, that I am very sure Granbrook will prove one of our strongholds as soon as we can find an opportunity for another visit and more detailed instruction as regards our work.

FERNIE gave me the warmest welcome I had in the whole tour, and four crowded meetings were the immediate result. But since then Fernie has had bad luck, owing to the absence of one able woman, the illness of the woman who promised to act as secretary or convener of the Branch, but who has been relieved of that office, and the extraordinary backwardness of several most capable and "bright" women, who assert they don't know how to work up a Branch or what to do to form one! However, with a list of nearly thirty names all ready, I hope that Miss Gordon may find time to take this in hand, for she is exactly the right person to do it, only she is one of the busiest in the town. Anyhow, a place with such an exceptional number of clever and enthusiastic girls, backed by so many local "lights," ought not to remain outside our chain of Branches.

CRESTON is an example of the pluck women are ready to show when a vital question is at stake, and Mrs. George Young is to be congratulated on so unselfishly coming forward to fill a somewhat difficult position as President in a very scattered and consequently "slow" district. Creston people have possibly difficulties in the way of getting to meetings, and they are mostly more or less newcomers, and, therefore, have hardly yet become a co-ordinate society. While the meetings were well attended, and the Resolution carried unanimously, the individual response has been hesitating and doubtful, as compared with other localities, and consequently it is all the more to the credit of the energetic secretary

Mrs. Crompton, that the Branch is so large as it is. It will probably develop more rapidly when the winter is over, with the development of the neighborhood and the influx of settlers who have learned elsewhere the need for this Movement. Meanwhile, regular meetings for study and co-operation are having a very definite and sure effect on the public mind there, and will probably be rewarded by a sudden access of new and vigorous membership.

NELSON is surely a most unlucky city. "Wars and rumors of wars" seem to be its unenviable lot, with the result that almost every citizen is too distraught with the effects of the last upheaval or the prospect of the next to find time to consider our great question, the solution of which would go far towards solving many of the very problems now engrossing its anxious attention. No Branch here, and no chance of one at present. The one or two women not involved in one or other of the crises of the moment are unable for other reasons to take any active part. I did have a most splendid meeting at Nelson, one of the most successful, and if the Branch had been a matter for men to organize, it would have been one of our triumphant centres today; but the women of Nelson cannot be got hold of to any practical purpose. Those whose help would be most ready and most valuable had just pledged it to the special reform of the city; others were quite lethargic as regards the wrongs of their sisters; others were forbidden by their husbands to venture forth into our extremely peaceful and unopposed crusade; so finally I had to leave Nelson and the women who were really ready to work, but had not the opportunity nor the qualifications for organizing (or thought they had not)—a gap in the chain. But this link will, I hope, be forged before long, and meanwhile, Mrfs. Beach, Mrs. Logie, Miss Pettit,

Mrs. Crease and others are getting petition-forms and filled, and I hope sowing the seed for a harvest when the next tour is planned.

ROSSLAND—What other place could have called two meetings and organized a Branch at a few hours' notice? That is what Mrs. Moffatt did, with the help of other members of the Ladies' Club, who very kindly lent their Club premises for the first meeting. This Branch is another triumphant success, and its joint secretaries, Miss Cecil Moffatt and Mrs. Cornish, are arousing the whole neighborhood and will see that a Branch is also formed at Trail. It is a well-known fact that the Scotch predominate in most of the important departments of work in B. C., and nearly all Scots are Mc—something, and wherever I went I received the most generous support from every sort of Mac—, from McAlister to McWilliams, and the result is (I am bitterly ashamed) that I have got them hopelessly muddled up in my mind as to name, though clear as possible as to personality, and my papers, with lists of names are temporarily lost luggage. All this is a preamble to the apology for omitting the name of Mrs. Mac—? at the Dominion Express Office, who, like Mrs. Moffatt, was a most keen and unselfish helper at Rossland. Other meetings have been held, and we hope every mail to get reports from Rossland as to its ideas, work, and general news.

GREENWOOD—There is not one town in B. C. that has lovelier people than Greenwood, nor more genuinely enthusiastic suffragists. I think after the definition lately published as to "Suffragist" and suffragette," that we ought all in this country to call ourselves suffragettes, in spite of the title's militant origin; for certainly out here we all have "a backbone," not merely a "wishbone." Greenwood not only organized at once, but in five days

got up a Suffrage play, "How the Vote Was Won," and a most successful public meeting, and it is sending in one of the longest lists of signatures to the petition. One of the most delightful things in Greenwood is the complete absence of any sort of warfare among its population, and a town whose people can work together so gloriously in every kind of parochial and social scheme, without any suggestion of squabble or unfriendliness is the finest kind of soil for our great Cause to grow in. This Boundary country will "go solid" for "Votes for Women" as soon as Grand Forks has awakened up. Mrs. Cummins, Mrs. McLaine, Miss McLean (I have remembered these names), Mrs. Shaw, Miss Shaw and her sister, and the splendid President (another Mac), Mrs. Fair, and the delightful men who back them enthusiastically (one even to the point of crying: "Give the long-haired darlings a chance!")—they are all invincible. The Premier won't dare to venture near Greenwood again till the vote is won—even if there were time for him to get as far!

PHOENIX—Thanks to Mrs. and Miss Ingram the meeting at Phoenix was a real success, and that in spite of the cruel fact that an irresistible troupe of darkies went into Phoenix by the same train that I did, engaged a hall under mine, with a door at the foot of my stairs, and (naturally) drew away from me the bulk of my audience. I had desperate thoughts of blacking my face and borrowing a mandolin and a striped costume for the occasion and standing outside on the pavement, pointing to the show upstairs, but the consideration that they might retaliate by advertising themselves as the Real Genuine English Militants led me to renounce the idea, and we each proceeded on our own lines; though one must admit that their line proved the

more popular draw! Mrs. Ingram is undertaking to collect the names of all sympathizers, and will then proceed to form a Branch, and I am hoping that the very first-rate Greenwood Amateur Dramatic Society will go over to Phoenix and help her to "rope in" numbers, by giving a performance of the play they put on at home.

GRAND FORKS is still to be aroused. There are a few women who realize acutely the intolerable indignity of Woman's present political position, and Mrs. Ernest Miller, wife of the local M. P. P., took the Chair at a tiny meeting, hastily convened, after I had begun to feel rather hopeless about this town. It was specially good of her, for she was in the throes of a severe cold and ought really to have been in bed. The Hall was very kindly lent by the Methodist Church, and a few interested women who, however, do not yet wish to be called suffragists nor to have their names quoted, gathered for an informal talk. The men present took a prominent part, moving and seconding the Resolution, and after the meeting several other persons appeared and were much disappointed at having missed it. They will call a really good public meeting next time we can send a speaker.

KASLO was paid the shortest visit in my whole tour, but they are such delightful people there that instead of resenting the fact, they put all the more energy into the few hours we had. The result was first an informal chat with the ladies of the Hospital Board, and in the evening a quite excellent meeting of the City Hall, which Mr. John Keen proved one of the most delightful Chairmen it has been my lot to work with—though I must own that never yet have I known a Chairman who was not delightful, whether woman or man. The Branch in Kaslo was at once formed and is developing fast. Mrs. Chandler, the energetic sec-

retary, is going to show the Province that Kaslo's women are as intelligent and as determined citizens as she possesses (Is the Province a she?).

Well, there is the list so far. And it represents the happiest three months (and the most strenuous three months)! of the Organizer's life. This Province needs no agitation to show its women where their duty lies, or its men where, hitherto, they in their duty have failed. The women refuse to be treated any longer as mere insignificant pieces of household furniture, by an antiquated and infamous system of Law; and the men are even more decided that conditions which are a disgrace to themselves as civilized human beings, and an insult to those nearest and dearest to them, must be changed without further shameful delay.

Space this month forbids further comment on the Tour, but I should like in February to give a complete list of meetings, with Chairman, date, etc., and also publish a complete list of the Branches with their officers, as well as all information and news of every sort, which they will send to Headquarters. We have all got to keep as closely in touch with one another as possible, and I should like to feel that before long many members of the various Branches may share my great privilege of personal friendship with the splendid set of workers this Cause has called together, men and women with whom I am simply proud to be associated. We have one Ideal, one immediate Aim, one certainty of Victory which will carry us through whatever struggle lies before us, and I am convinced that this mighty Movement will bring to our Country what is naturally at present lacking—solidity of purpose, a cohesion, a very definite and lofty Public Opinion, and that spirit of Nationality without which no young and cosmopolitan community can ever

live in peace or develop into a great race. DOROTHY M. DAVIS.

RECEPTION TO MISS DOROTHY DAVIS.

A very large audience gathered to welcome Miss Dorothy Davis at the Ritz Hotel on the evening of January 3rd at the reception given in her honor by the Political Equality League. The chair was taken by Mrs. Gordon Grant, who spoke of the arduous undertaking of organizing the suffrage work through so large a district as the interior of this Province. Yet this had been successfully done by Miss Davis, and we had gathered to welcome her home after her trying, her happy and her humorous experiences.

Miss Davis described the tour from which she had just returned. The men, she said, had come forward better than the women. The work of organizing meetings had been no small one, as with only a few hours in most cases at her disposal, she had had to get a hall, find a chairman, then distribute bills and secure her audience at each place she visited. In nearly all the larger towns she found something like one hundred people who were quite keen about the subject.

She told of meetings held at Vernon, Kelowna, Armstrong, Penticton, Revelstoke, Nelson, Nelson, Rossland, Phoenix, Cranbrook, Fernie and Crescent.

At Golden Miss Davis experienced a repetition of her Kaslo difficulty in obtaining a chairman, and finally had to preside at her own meeting. At each meeting the same resolution had been passed with enthusiasm, that the meeting recognized the injustice which was being directed against women in not giving them the vote.

There were three things that women were out for: (1) That women might obtain recognition as human beings. On the statute books she was treated

generally as a piece of personal property, a chattel, which was a thing which any woman or man worth anything found intolerable. (2) That woman's point of view, which had so long been ignored, might be represented in the councils of the nation. The whole world at the present time was organized on a man thought-out scale. (3) That the interests of women and children might be safeguarded. Women at present were legislated for to their disadvantage.

This, said the speaker, is a vast country; the people are cosmopolitan; cohesion in this work was lacking, and in cohesion and co-operation rested the whole success of the cause. The government should be shown by the rallying of the supporters of the movement that they were in deadly earnest, and determined to gain their end.

At the close of Miss Davis' address, which was greeted with a prolonged outburst of applause, Mrs. H. G. Hanington, who was invited to speak, referred to the unfairness of the laws existing with regard to women and children. Anyone who had touched the underworld could easily see how unfair all the laws were with regard to women. One of the great things which she thought would come about with the granting of the vote to women would be that they would insist on their sons being trained to bear arms in their country's defence.

Mrs. Baer, the treasurer, also spoke, referring to the need of the society for larger funds to carry on the work, and saying how welcome contributions for the purpose would prove.

Miss Gillespie sang in her most charming manner at the close of the proceedings and Mrs. Hallward gave a very artistic and spirited recitation. The gathering spent the remainder of the evening in a pleasant informal social, during which refreshments were served.

A large number of names were sign-

ed to the petition and a number of new members were added to the society.

ORGANIZING WORK.

The First Organizer of the Provincial Political Equality League, Mrs. L. Hall, of Vancouver, has just returned from an organizing trip to Kamloops, which has proved most successful in the interests of woman suffrage. Much interest and enthusiasm have been awakened amongst women who have hitherto been indifferent with regard to their legal status. It is worthy of note that the organizer met with no opposition nor antagonism from the stronger sex but courtesy, sympathy, approbation, many of them expressing themselves strongly in favor of the cause, and admitting the justice of the claims expressed in every variety of phraseology, even "Good luck to ye." One brother partially intoxicated was keenly disappointed at the unmilitary appearance of the organizer. He was standing outside the door of the hall waiting for opening of doors, when he remarked to the chairman of the evening, "Now, if that big live suffragette would only come along now, we would have lots of fun." The fragile organizer was, unknown to him, right by his side. "Yes," she replied, "that is the only attraction necessary to fill this place to overflowing; if only that live Suffragette would come. Then the men flocked into the room, and as the chairman introduced the speaker of the evening, the countenance of the inebriated man greatly fell, for he had come prepared for the fray, but there was 'nothing doing' by all appearance. New Political Equality Leagues have been formed at Kamloops—a very promising nucleus with an energetic leader; at Ashcroft, where the president has been a former voter in New Zealand, but divested of such privilege in B.C. At Agassiz and Mission City

also new societies have been formed with intelligent, practical up-to-date women as officials and members. It is very gratifying to know that a peaceable, orderly revolution is taking place throughout the Province, which will culminate in the triumph of justice and righteousness

Florence S Hall.

PETITIONS.

Large packages of petitions are daily being received from different parts of the Province although the time for securing signatures has been extended to January 20th. It is very important that all who are undertaking this work will mail all petitions containing signatures to Mrs. Keeup, 23 Broadway West Vancouver, by January 21st, so that there will be no delay in presenting them to the Legislature early in the session.

A WIFE'S APPEAL.

To the Editor,—I wish to make an appeal to the wives of British Columbia to agitate for a new law prohibiting a husband to sell his property without his wife's consent. I beg of you women to appeal for a reform of this law before the legislature meets in its next session.

As for my case, it is beyond remedy, and my story is this: At the age of 54 I was compelled to leave my unhappy home or die. I left my only refuge with exactly one dollar, and when I reached civilization I thought my heart would break, when I realized how shabby I was and homeless and penniless.

After many years of hard work I was broken down, and could not work, therefore I had to go to an hospital. It was there my friends advised me to sue my husband for a maintenance, but on hearing this he sold his property and sailed for his native land.

This may be your fate, so once more

I urge you all to agitate for a reform of this unfair law.

I consider that the province owes me a living for the balance of my days.

New Westminster Columbian.

PLAY THE WOMEN FAIR.

In another paper there is a little account of an uprising among the women teachers of Calgary's schools, who very naturally want equal pay with men when their work is equally hard, equally well done. One of them, in an open letter, says that the equal wage for teaching profession is not the only one where salaries are paid according to sex and not according to merit. With very occasional exceptions the wage scale for women is appreciably lower than that for men in every calling, the reason for the difference never being made quite clear. Women, very often, through this very discrepancy, are forced to do equal work with man plus anxiety caused by financial straits and energy and time in contriving to make both ends meet. The law of supply and demand is said by some to be responsible for this. Others will tell you that the woman is an effervescent quality—here today and gone into matrimony tomorrow, and that it would be no use offering her a better salary with a view to retaining her permanently. The excuses for the unequal wage are none of them on a sounder ethical basis than those I have named.

The facts seem to be that men, realizing that a woman is less inclined to pull up stakes and move than a man, that she is averse to fighting for her dues, and that she is less likely to scamp her work because of poor pay than many men, keep her salary down while they demand that she keep her work up.

More power to the elbow of the Calgary school teachers. May they go in and win, and help to square the unequal wage scale for other callings as well.—Con.

MISS WYLLY COMING TO B. C.

Miss Wyll^{ly}, the noted militant suffragette, sent out from England to visit Canada, is turning her eyes westward and purposes visiting Vancouver, New Westminster, and Victoria in the near future. She is not coming under the auspices of the Political Equality League or any other organization of which we are aware. Neither does she, we understand, intend to recommend militant methods in Canada. There is, however, centred around her a great deal of interest, expectancy and curiosity, for everyone is wondering just just what she will say and what be left unsaid.

IN SASKATCHEWAN.

In the Legislature in Saskatchewan Mr. J. E. Bradshaw, Conservative member for Prince Albert, made a vigorous speech in favor of votes for women. He said the Government of that Province had never lagged behind in initiating legislation, which, even although it might be new in principle, was calculated to be in the interest of the people, and consequently that woman's suffrage was a matter which the House might well take into serious consideration. He believed that the franchise for women would go far toward correcting the election scandals, of which so much has been heard of late. Canadians, he said, must not be too hasty in condemning the methods forwarded by the English suffragettes.

THE MONTH OF INTEREST.

January is a month full of interest to the Citizen. The annual Civic elections take place, and the yearly session if the local Legislative Assembly is opened.

With the approach of the municipal elections, we have to wonder how long the women householders of Victoria

are content to be ignored as citizens—while their sisters in Vancouver and New Westminsters are permitted to play their part. Although the Municipal Commission has been approached on this matter, the request of the women of Victoria has again received no recognition.

This annual municipal contest with its usual storm of opposing recriminations and approbations also makes us wonder if it is not possible to reduce Civic Government to a science, in which school all prospective candidates for mayoralty or aldermanic honors must take their degree before aspiring to election, thus guaranteeing us a modicum of efficiency in our civic servants.

In regard to the coming session of our Legislative Assembly we shall probably find out in what estimation the women of B. C. are held by our Provincial Government. In this connection it is perhaps a fair question to ask "What do the Women of B. C. think of themselves?" Are we content to be voteless citizens and political nonentities or are we that live other half of the people asking for recognition and representation in the government of our country.

The Annual Banquet of the Henry George Association was held in the Ritz Hotel on Wednesday the 8th instant. There was an excellent gathering, nearly seventy people being present, to do honor to the man who promulgated the principle of Single Tax, and to listen to reports of progress made, and work yet to be done. In introducing the speakers, Mr. Belbeck dwelt on the great development of the idea in British Columbia during the last year, and expressed the hope that next year would find them still farther advanced.

Ex-Mayor Taylor, of Vancouver, another speaker of the evening, held

out the hope that the time would come when all the revenue of the Province would be derived from direct taxation on natural resources, and that every man and woman who wanted to get on the land would have an opportunity to do so. He urged the Government to assist settlers to get on the land, and to assist them in procuring necessary implements. He thought that the Government would be forced to take over the operation of natural resources, such as coal mines, and in that way to reduce the cost of living.

Miss O'Meara, of Seattle, spoke on "The Exile's Return," and spoke of the way, since early Greek and Roman days that man has been exiled from his own land. "If the land problem was solved," said Miss O'Meara, all the other problems would be solved."

Mr. C. H. Lugin, Reeve of Esquimalt, spoke on the subject of "The Land, and the People," and laid special stress on the work done in Victoria and Esquimalt Districts. "We have organized a new municipality in Esquimalt," said Mr. Lugin, "and I can tell you we are not going to tax improvements, and I don't think our successors, if we are to have them, will dare to tax improvements.

The great problem is to keep this country as one where every man can have his own home on his own land and call no man his master."

Mr. Lee Cow entertained the gathering with two songs, excellently rendered.

ARE YOU GOING TO HELP.

Those interested in the present struggle for the enfranchisement of women, have to face the fact that the majority of people are content to take a very superficial view in their estimate of any movement for moral, political or social reform, they fail to study the undercurrents, they see an

agitated surface, but what lies beneath is a mystery to them. And yet, we live in strangely stirring times. Any one looking out on the world today must be conscious of a tremendous upheaval from beneath the surface and the resultant rapid movement, change and transformation going on under our very eyes—and perhaps one of the most marked changes is expressed in the expanding growing consciousness of the woman of today.

This so-called woman's movement is an interesting study and most surely foreshadows vitally important changes in the welfare of our wonderful world. As a preliminary we already begin to see that our nations need the ideas and individuality of their womanhood expressed in the government of a country, just as much as they need to be expressed in the government of a home. Manhood does not and never can express womanhood in politics or anything else and a true democracy demands that both be expressed.

For some time women have been coming to the forefront in the various fields of social, economic and moral reform, and in science, literature, Art and modern religious movements women are demonstrating an individuality and ideality to say nothing of a usefulness without which we should be at an inestimable loss. Then why keep them out of politics? Their work in the world today shows that they have a social interest and public spirit (despite the bugbear of their sex) which cannot be suppressed, and an energy which, if not used, must surely be misapplied. It is significant that in recent labor strikes and agitations women are playing an ever increasing part. Look at the actions of the women of Cornwall and Cumberland, in our own Island, and it is unnecessary to mention the English militant suffragettes. In all parts of the world, everywhere we turn, we may see the bursting forth of a long pent-up flood

of woman power ever striving to find a larger channel of expression. Let us not hold up our hands in holy horror at militancy but thank God for the woman who strikes. It is better to strike today than remain a social, political and patriotic nonentity. Surely better even to throw stones than remain inert while great wrongs remain unrighted. These are but signs that women are beginning to realize that they are called upon to play their part in a larger world. To remain unmoved is to betray ignorance, apathy or indifference—with awakening must come thought expressed in action.

Where do you stand on this question of woman's suffrage? Are you one of the many amiable sympathizers—whose name is legion—who give their blessing to the cause and nothing more? At this juncture we need the help of all our friends. We don't ask you to throw stones, but we do ask your co-operation in making Woman's Suffrage a real live issue in British Columbia. If you cannot give yourself to active campaign work, you can help those who are striving to carry on this forward movement on constitutional lines, by contributing to the funds of the Political Equality League. Our Provincial organizing expenses amount to about \$500. And the work of our League in Victoria alone will demand \$150 per month to be effectively carried on.

There is surely no more glorious work nor one of more vital importance to our race to which we can contribute than to the emancipation and awakening of women to their heritage of responsibility and privilege in the larger world of today.

MALE AND FEMALE MILITANCY.

It is reported from England that certain suffragettes, at a concerted time, dropped envelopes containing acids or

other destructive materials into the pillar letter boxes throughout part of London, and also in Nottingham and Birmingham. The addresses on many envelopes were rendered illegible. No one was caught but there is little doubt that this proceeding was part of the war against the present government carried on by Mrs. Pankhurst and her society.

With all respect for their motives and their courage, almost every suffragist in America will regret that they have undertaken this particular form of militancy. It is wrong in principle, and we believe that it will prove to be a mistake in tactics. Unless human nature in Great Britain is radically different from human nature in America, such acts will lessen public sympathy for the suffrage cause rather than increase it.

At the same time, opponents of equal rights who raise a howl against woman suffrage on this account have absolutely no logical ground on which to stand. The destruction of property committed by these women does not compare with the destruction of property committed by Englishmen agitating for a vote in our grandfathers' time, when Nottingham Castle and a considerable part of Bristol were burned to the ground.

It does not compare with the rioting, burning and looting committed within the past few weeks in connection with the agitation for universal (male) suffrage in Hungary, nor with recent similar outbreaks in several other countries.

It does not hold a candle to the manifold violences lately committed in Ireland by Ulster men as a protest against the Home Rule Bill, under the lead and encouragement of Sir Edward Carson, a strong opponent of votes for women.

It does not compare with the ruffianism committed by anti-suffragists in England against suffragists in the present struggle. As Israel Zanwill says, the suffragettes, even the most extreme section of them, injure only inanimate objects, and they pay the price in sen-

sitive flesh and blood. The extreme anti-suffragists, on the other hand, have done serious bodily injury to hundreds of suffragists, breaking the bones of some, knocking down, kicking, beating and terribly bruising others, actually causing the death of one or two, and maiming many for life. Above all, they have repeatedly been guilty of indecent assaults. When women began to ask questions about suffrage at public meetings addressed by cabinet ministers who were blocking their bill, they did only what English custom fully sanctions. But, while questions on all other subjects got a civil answer, women asking about suffrage were thrown out of the meetings with extreme violence. Finding that they were not to be terrified by ordinary maltreatment, such as beating and kicking, the "stewards" (i.e., ushers) at Liberal meetings who ejected them hit on the plan of taking improper personal liberties with them while putting them out. In Wales the other day, and at scores of other meetings, women of irreproachable character have been subjected to most disgraceful treatment. To repel these indignities some of the women provided themselves with dogwhips. The other day one woman who had been the victim of an indecent assault, tried afterwards to punish her assailant. He had her arrested on a charge of assaulting him, and the magistrate sentenced her to prison, after having refused to let her tell the provocation—though every drunkard who beats and half kills his wife is allowed to plead provocation, if any, and often gets off if he can show that she did something to anger him. The violence done by the suffragettes is exploited and magnified in the press despatches; the provocation is passed over in silence. The worst of the suffrage methods in England do not begin to be as bad as the worst of the anti-methods. American antis who seek to discredit the American suffrage women is one of the day's burning questions. he is entirely right. The

movement because of things done in England are either ignorant or hypocritical, or both.

Especially should our antis be silent and blush to mention methods in the presence of what their disreputable allies have done in Michigan. The English women destroyed a few hundred letters; it was entirely wrong; but the Michigan anti-suffragists by fraud have nullified and practically destroyed the ballots of nearly 200,000 men. Let the members of the Anti-Suffrage Associations cover their faces, or, better still, let them repent, and come out of the company of ballot box stuffers and all the vicious interests.—A. S. B., in Woman's Journal.

Paderewski says he is emphatically in favor of votes for women. Madame Paderewski holds the same opinion.

\$30,000 WILLED TO SUFFRAGE CAUSE.

Mrs. Buckley, of Kansas, Leaves Large Part of Estate to National Association.

The cause of suffrage in the United States is richer through the will of the late Lila . Buckley, of Concordia, Kan., who died this month.

The will was offered to probate on Dec. 9. After giving two farms, valued at \$20,000, to a son, it leaves the remainder of her estate to the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The entire estate is valued at more than \$50,000. An attorney gets \$2,000 for services rendered.

During the latter part of September Mrs. Buckley was tried in the Probate Court to determine her sanity. The

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YEAR	PROFITS EARNED	Profits Earned in Per Cent. of Premiums Received
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1908	\$428,682	22.36 per cent.
1909	\$501,922	24.49 per cent.
1910	\$615,083	27.39 per cent.
1911	\$731,064	29.79 per cent.

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chief charge was that she was insane in her zeal for the suffrage cause. The court found her of sound mind.

The will provides the son shall pay the expenses of the sanity inquiry, which she terms in the instrument, "inexcusable and unrighteous persecution"

VOTES FOR WOMEN IN DENMARK.

It is with the greatest pleasure that we learn of the successful passage through the Danish Folkthing, last Friday, of the Bill for amending the Danish Constitution and granting the suffrage to women on equal terms to men. This amendment to the Constitution was carried by a majority of 95 to 12, there being besides three members who were absent and three who did not vote; and the effect of it, if it becomes law, will to give the vote to all men and women over twenty-five years of age, with certain qualifications as to character and property.

Since the Bill includes a further constitutional change with regard to the election of Peers, it is possible that difficulties may arise in the course of its passage through the Upper House; also, by the Act of 1849, when the present Constitution was passed, no constitutional change can become law in Denmark until it has been approved in two successive Parliaments. There must, therefore, under the most favourable circumstances, be a general election before women can be placed on the Parliamentary register.

A Decided Victory.

But a victory has undoubtedly been gained by the Danish women, for their Government has at least been sufficiently enlightened to make Woman Suffrage a Cabinet question, and that will give it every chance of becoming law. In Denmark, as we pointed out in a special article called "The Country Where Queen Means Woman,"

which appeared in *Votes for Women* on February 4, 1909, women hold a far more respected position than in most European countries. They won full municipal rights without much trouble in 1908, and we believe we are correct in stating that if the new Bill becomes law, Danish women will be eligible for election to Parliament as well as for the exercise of the ballot. As in other countries, the Suffrage movement in Denmark was suffering greatly from stagnation when the rise of the militant movement in England gave it a fresh impetus and new life, the result of which was a vigorous agitation which bore fruit in the Folkthing last week.

SPOILT LETTERS.

Notwithstanding all that has been published to the contrary the Postmaster General of Great Britain has officially announced the surprising information that not one letter has been destroyed by the militant suffragettes through the brown liquid being spilt in the post boxes. No cheques have been destroyed, no Christmas letters or parcels have been spoilt, yet the militants have been given the reward of their efforts, namely, a world-wide advertisement of the need and of their determination that Parliament shall give Votes to Women!

MANX ADULT SUFFRAE BILL.

Mr. Crennell, a prominent member of the Manx House of Keys, has announced to his Ramsey constituents that he will introduce an Adult Suffrage Bill.

Willie Brigg's ma, who is a well-to-do widow, told me that the polls couldn't be any worse place to go to than riding home in the street car every night at five o'clock getting jostled most dreadful and standing all worn out and dead tired.

LIPTON PREDICTS SUFFRAGE SOON.

Says Women are Far More Capable Than Man Who Haunts Barroom.

Sir Thomas Lipton was interviewed on woman suffrage during his recent visit to St. Louis.

"Why should not women vote?" he asked. The majority of intelligent women are far more capable of deciding political questions than the man who haunts a barroom day by day." The militant suffragettes are making a great mistake, he thinks; "But when a woman makes a mistake," he added with a smile, "she usually makes it on the right side at any rate. You may quote me as saying positively that a very large number of the members of Parliament are in favor of woman suffrage, and that the privilege of votes for women is but a matter of time."

PEACE GOES WITH WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Baroness Von Suttner Says Housewife Wont' Spend 70 Per Cent. of Income for Watchdog.

Baroness von Suttner spoke in Brooklyn last week on "Women and World Politics." She said that peace and equal suffrage have the same friends and the same enemies. "The two movements always work together, because they go in the direction of liberty and justice," said the Baroness. A league against the emancipation of women has been formed in the German capital. Among the arguments it urges is that women are not capable of understanding that a nation must be built on

a foundation of iron and blood. The Baroness agreed with this. The iron she would accept, as that is a good and useful material. But for the blood, she said, the women would substitute love. Women, the good housewives and home-makers, would seek to bring into the government of the State the same thrift, order and good management that goes into the making of a home—a house being a home only if love is there. The thrifty housewife will refuse to spend 66 or 70 per cent of the family (national) income "simply for the food of a watch dog."

POSTER PRIZE AWARDED.

The prize offered by the St. Louis Equal Suffrage League for the best poster has been won by Paul Berdanier, who is on the art staff of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The design shows a woman in classic draperies, standing beside an open ballot box. Through its transparent sides the ballot that she has just cast is seen fluttering to the bottom of the box. She holds in one hand a vessel containing the flame of liberty; in the other an axe of classic shape bound about with a bundle of rods—the Roman fasces—ending in a spear whose point has pierced the head of a serpent.

This serpent is distinguished by several dollar marks as the emblem of political corruption, and the instrument of his death is labeled "Votes for Women." The serpent's tail, coiled about the pedestal of the ballot box, is shown releasing its hold as the creature expires. On the steps beneath the woman's feet are the words, "Intelligence" and "Honesty."

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Campbells'

"The Fashion Centre."

The words "Suffrage for Missouri, 1914," are drawn in large characters beside the figure of the victorious woman.

Lots of men that won't let their selves be decorated with a button is goin' to vote for equal snuffrage.

If it was as fashionable to throw hatchets and things over here as it is in England, I wouldn't mind seein' folks hit who say, "Equal suffrage is bound to come," yet won't do nothin' for the cause but laugh at it.

THE MODEST HEN.

It's the rooster does the crowin',
Wears the plumes and yaller legs,
Wants to boss the whole creation;
But the hen, she lays the eggs.

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