

**PAGES**

**MISSING**

# The Champion

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The Political Equality League (Victoria Branch)

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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,

Room 2, 647 Fort 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.

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## EDITORIALS

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The Premier in his speech at Goldstream last month made the following remarks:

"In British Columbia woman suffrage is by no means a live issue. The women of British Columbia are quite content to allow the men of the country to settle the various public policies that arise from time to time, and to busy themselves with the domestic duties which appertain to their sex. But I must admit, having said so much, that a great part has been played by the women of British Columbia in the useful works associated with the provincial charities—hospitals and various other channels of usefulness—and that today they are in a position which gives



them an excellent standing the empire over. And let me add that this is mainly due to the patience, application and self-sacrifice of the women of the country."

It should be pointed out that the Premier is labouring under a misapprehension in reference to two points, viz., (1) the political aspect of the Woman Suffrage question in this country, and (2) the attitude of mind of the women themselves in regard to this question.

The Premier probably bases his opinion on his knowledge of the attitude of a few women who have not yet been in a position to appreciate the facts regarding woman's position as a voteless citizen. In every community there will be found persons whose sheltered condition or whose mental make-up leads them to accept life as they find it, with placidity and without question, and this is especially true of any subject race, such as womanhood has been for centuries. But the views of these women are not to be taken as indicative of public opinion on any question, nor would it matter greatly if they even represented a majority. The force that counts lies in an activity, however small, rather than in an inert passivity, however great its bulk. It is merely a question of time as to when the mass has to give way. So it is with the women of this country, except that the activity represented by the Suffrage supporters is by no means small. We women are not so apathetic as regards the welfare of our country and the race as the Premier imagines. We are far from satisfied with the results of the well-meaning but inefficient efforts of men working alone, as we see them—and feel them—in legislation and in the moral and social atmosphere of today. We do not believe that it is desirable, in the interests of the race, that one half of the community should be excluded from the direct share in the control of the government of the country, and that the sole voice in public affairs, in national, in municipal, and in do-

mestic legislation, should be the voice of that other half, the half which contributes the largest percentage of inmates to our prisons, and which, while it asserts its innate superiority over us, yet naively pleads its own moral frailty and feebleness of character as a reason for declaring and providing that in certain cases where a crime is shared by a man and a woman, justice is satisfied if the latter is forced to bear punishment and public obloquy while the former goes scot free! We are not willing to shut our eyes and accept instead of justice and liberty the barren compliments with which our consciences have too long been lulled into lethargy.

In this country of all countries, where the magnificent work of the pioneers was shared always by the women equally with the men, where we face a glorious future with a sheet as yet comparatively free from stain, except as to certain laws due rather to ignorance than to selfishness, we have at this moment an opportunity of starting fair which other lands have lacked, and it is up to us to show the Government that the question of our freedom is an issue more "live" than any other which they are called upon to face, while we rely on them, as statesmen already distinguished for their breadth of outlook, their foresight, their judgment and their courage, to follow up the splendid step they have just taken in the path of justice, with the passing of the University Act, by introducing and carrying during the coming session a measure giving Votes to Women on the same terms as they are or may be given to men. ✓

**"Nervous Debility."**—"The Week" greeted the birth of its young contemporary with an editorial in its editor's most characteristic vein, headed "Suffragitis." We refrain with unexampled heroism from the obvious comment, and would only mention that the "Champion" is sorry the "Week" considers Tennyson "sententious," and



misquotes him; but really it isn't our fault! And our best thanks are due for an excellent advertisement—gratis! ✓

It is interesting to note that out of 70 replies received from different clergy to a letter addressed to them recently by the president of the Political Equality League, asking their views on Woman Suffrage, ONLY FIVE are in the negative; that is to say, only 7 per cent of the clergy who have so far answered at all are opposed to the granting of the Vote to Women. We very much hope that those who have not yet told us their opinion on the question are soon going to put on record their adherence to one of the first principles of the faith they profess; and that in the coming political campaign our League may have the valuable active co-operation of each one of them.

#### FIRST CONVOCATION OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA UNI- VERSITY.

(By our Special Correspondent.)

We take up newspapers each day in this Western country and cast our eyes over the headlines that tell of our material progress, of the progress in construction made by the great railways, of the great steamships to come to our ports, of new industrial plants to be established in our midst, and greater than all, our hope of what prosperity may come to us with the opening of the Panama Canal. We hope that through our ports may pour the golden harvest of the North-West. This is as it should be; but there took place in the South Park Street School on August 21st an event of far greater importance for the future welfare of B.C. than any of these, the meeting of the First Convocation of the University of British Columbia.

There met men and women holding degrees from Canada and from the Mother Country, all filled with the keenest enthusiasm at the thought of

the great occasion for which they were gathered together. I doubt if ever before in Canada did women with men convene for such a purpose. It is a matter for congratulation that the Government gave to the women graduates of British Columbia all the privileges granted to men, and this (I think I am right in saying) without any request of the kind being made by any women's organization. Other Universities have felt most generous when they reluctantly, in many cases, and after great pressure being brought to bear upon them, opened their doors to women; but the University Act of this province makes no distinction between the sexes, but even goes further and definitely states that "women may serve on the Board and Senate," and another section says, "The Senate shall make all provision for the education of women in the University in such manner as it shall deem most fitting, provided, however, that no woman by reason of her sex shall be deprived of any advantage or privilege accorded to the male students of the University," thus putting it quite beyond the power of the governing body of the University to thwart the good intentions of the government in regard to the women of the province. Also, the Minister of Education, in his address, made the definite statement that "women were not debarred from holding any position in the gift of the University;" so the very foundations of this great University are justice and equality.

Both the Premier and the Minister of Education stated that they hoped to make this university one of the greatest, if not the greatest, in Canada, so they did well to enlist the co-operation of the men and women of the province with this aim. In the family is it not always the parents working and planning together to give their children the best education consistent with their means? And if these means are small is it not always the mother who will deny herself and strain every



nerve that the boy or girl may have the much-coveted "college education"? The father is often so engrossed with the financial problem that it is left to the mother to inspire and stimulate the youthful mind to higher things in an age when it is a temptation, especially for the boys, to turn aside into the alluring path of material gain.

We congratulate Dr. Young on his address. It was the event of the Convocation, and was listened to with the keenest satisfaction. He told of the infinite pains taken by the Government to provide an adequate endowment, a suitable site, and all the multitude of details to be arranged before the machinery could be set in motion that would make the University a fact; but when the Minister went on to define just what his conception of our great University was, we began to realize how fortunate this province is in having a man with such high ideals at the head of the educational department. If the affairs of this Institution are carried out along the lines laid down in his first Convocation speech, Dr. Young will need no further monument, though we hope he may live to see his children and his children's children add their names to his in connection with this University. We congratulate Mrs. Watt and Mrs. Ferris on their election to the Senate, and Mrs. McNaughten and Mrs. Jenkins on their appointment by the Government to the Convocation. A great responsibility rests with these women, not only in regard to what they may do in the interests of the University, but that their light may so shine before men that the Government may feel encouraged to enlist the time and talents of other women of B. C. in affairs that have to do with our daily life.

This is an age when waste of all kinds is being studied and search made for ways and means to prevent it. Conservation is the cry, and yet we behold all over this Dominion the absolute waste to this great and growing na-

tion of the talents and counsel of its brilliant and capable women. Possibly the Government has realized this in enlisting their wisdom to help to arrange for the formation of this great new University, and we hope that before its opening takes place, they will have secured the co-operation of women in legislation itself, for the advancement and welfare of the Province in every department.

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#### W.S.P.U. DEPUTATION TO THE CANADIAN PREMIER.

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(From "Votes for Women.")

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A week ago Miss Barrett as reported in our last issue, wrote to Mr. Borden, the Canadian Prime Minister, asking him to receive a deputation on Woman Suffrage from the Women's Social and Political Union, and from those interested in the question in the Dominion. This request Mr. Borden refused on the ground of lack of time. In a second letter Miss Barrett, after reiterating her request, continued thus: "Our Society has been instrumental in raising the question in this country to the forefront of practical politics, and the reluctance of the Prime Minister to receive deputations or to deal with the question, has caused it to be a menace to the future existence of the Government and a source of some personal inconvenience to its individual members. We cannot but think that it would be of material advantage to the cause we represent and if I may venture to say so, to yourself as Prime Minister of a Colony which contains branches of our Society, if we were allowed personally to present our views to you in deputation and to receive your own in return. An interview in which a certain amount of discussion would take place is, in our opinion, much more fruitful of results than representations made in writing." A telegram was received from Mr. Borden in reply to this sec-



ond letter, appointng Wednesday morning August 28, for an interview.

#### The Deputation.

On Wednesday morning a deputaion consisting of the following members of the Women's Social and Political Union was according received by Mr. Borden in the Savoy Hotel:—Miss Rachael Barrett, Mrs. Tuckwell (matron to the British Women's Emigration Society), Miss Winifred Mayo, Miss Barbara Wylie (whose brother is a Canadian M.P.), and Miss Evelyn Sharp. Miss Barrett having introduced the members of the deputation, and thanked Mr. Borden for receiving them, stated the object for which the interview had been sought.

Miss Barrett: The object of our deputation is not to ascertain whether you are in favour of votes for women or not; we take it that you are in favour—

Mr. Borden: You must not take too much for granted.

Miss Barrett: We in our Society are practical politicians, and we want to talk to you as a practical politician, and the main object of this deputation is to ask you whether you will, on your return to Canada, announce that you are going to introduce and carry a measure giving votes to women on the same terms as to men. You are the Prime Minister of Canada, and the Women's Social and Political Union, which we represent here today, has an organization in Canada. We are not a national association, but an Imperial one, and these members in Canada have asked us to help them, and to instruct them as to what they are to do in Canada in order to bring about the enfranchisement of women on the same terms as men. We have members who have emigrated there, and we have members there also who have joined after hearing Mrs. Pankhurst. Mrs. Tuckwell, who is here this morning, is a member of the Women's Social and Political Union in Canada. I think every member of this deputation has

friends and relations in Canada, and for that reason, of course, we are deeply interested in the country, and we are convinced that the conditions there are not, and will not be, what they should be for women until women have an equal share in making the laws under which they have to live. We do not want to go into the reasons why women want the vote, I but I think it is a matter of plain common sense that if women had a proper share in making the laws and framing the conditions under which they live, those laws would be more likely to suit them, because women know better than anyone else can, what is good for them and for their sex.

#### Canadian Laws.

Then I have to add that Canada is a great Dominion largely in the process of building, and we feel convinced that it will be much better built if women have a share in it and if they are recognized definitely as citizens. In this country we can give you many examples of how the votelessness of women has given rise to laws which are very unjust to women, but I am not going to trouble you with these today. I am not expert at all in Canadian affairs, but we are in communication with our members in Canada, and they write to us about laws over there which are unjust to women.

Miss Barrett then gave some examples of such laws, and proceeded:—

I should like, however, to point out that the object of this deputation is not primarily to deal with these laws. Even if these laws were all that we consider they ought to be, we should still want the vote, because we consider that to be the key to the situation. We are not primarily concerned with these reforms but with the vote.

There is another side of the matter to which I wish to call your attention, and that is the condition of women in Australia and New Zealand. Now, we in our Society hold a great many meetings, several thousand a year, and at



these meetings we always talk of the good conditions women have made for themselves in Australia and New Zealand, and I think it is a side of the question which Canadian Statesmen have to consider. As the importance of women possessing the vote develops, it is reasonable to suppose that men who emigrate will consider that they are doing better to go to those colonies in which their wives and daughters are considered as human beings, and in which the vote gives them the opportunity to improve their conditions. We in our society have been definitely considering whether we shall not hold as part of our campaign a great propaganda, advising women not to emigrate to Canada, but to emigrate in preference to those colonies where women have the vote, and advising men not to emigrate to Canada, but to Australia and New Zealand, because there their wives and daughters will have a better chance. I think that for a Canadian statesman that is a very important side of the question. Then I want to turn to the movement in this country—

Mr. Borden interrupted here to say he did not wish to discuss a question which British people must settle for themselves.

#### **The Government's Mistake.**

Miss Barrett: I should like to point out that there is in this country a very great agitation for Woman Suffrage, which has become exceedingly acute and extremely inconvenient to this present Government. They are finding it a very great problem, and I think it is regarded as a very serious menace to their existence. The woman's agitation has reached its present stage in this country largely because the Government made the great mistake of ignoring it. They have made a very great mistake. I should like to impress you with this fact, too—the success of the movement is absolutely assured, and therefore we hope, for the sake of the Canadian Government, and for the sake of our women in Canada, that the

Canadian Government will not make the mistake that our Government here at home has made and on your reply to us will depend very much the kind of advice which we give to the women in Canada. We shall definitely consider whether we send out women to Canada to join in a deputation there, and the nature of the deputation will very largely depend on the answer you give us this morning.

I should like to add that there is no need to refer this question to the electors. The people concerned are not the present voters, and, therefore, there is no need to no need to refer the question to the electors of the country.

Miss Barrett concluded by saying: This present Government of ours is shirking its duty in the matter. It is refusing to adopt a definite attitude one way or the other. We do not think that you will adopt such an expedient. We think you will assume full responsibility.

#### **Others Speakers.**

Mrs. Tuckwell then spoke, drawing from her experiences in taking out parties of young girl emigrants to Canada, and referring to the evils and dangers of the white slave traffic, which the woman's vote would so largely help to combat.

Miss Evelyn Sharp spoke on the Imperial side of Votes for Women, and saying that Mr. Borden's views on the principle of the question did not greatly matter, added that what did matter was his recognition of the strength and seriousness of a movement that in this country alone was responsible for 1500 imprisonments of women. She presumed that even if his visit to England had no political object, he would, as a statesman at the head of a great Dominion, naturally make some enquiries into the labor unrest here, in case he were to be faced in the future by similar problems in Canada. Would he not make similar enquiries into the causes of the unrest among women, since this was universal, a thing which



had been rolling on through the centuries like a great wave that could not be stopped? She further pointed out that militancy was largely the result here of official unimaginativeness, and exhorted him to see to it that in Canada the women would not be driven to such terrible methods by similar mistakes on the part of politicians. Miss Sharp ended by repeating the question put by Miss Barrett—Would he on his return to Canada introduce a measure giving Votes to Women on the same terms as men?

**Mr. Borden's Reply.**

You have asked me whether I propose to announce on my return to Canada that I will introduce legislation on the question you mention. I can only say that at present I have no such intention, and for this reason: We have in Canada at the present time nine provinces, the legislatures of which absolutely control the franchise so far as the election of members and provincial legislation are concerned; therefore, so far as these provinces are concerned, and so far as the provincial franchise in each of these provinces is concerned, the Parliament of Canada has absolutely no power whatever. In addition to that the Parliament of Canada, for some fifteen years past, has adopted and maintained a law under which the provincial franchise is made valid for the purposes of election to the Parliament of Canada. If, therefore, I should go to Canada and announce what you suggest, I should be making a departure from the policy which has been in force in our country for more than fifteen years. It is needless to remind you that a departure of that character would require a little more consideration than I have been able to give during the few moments at my disposal this morning, I mean the question whether or not we shall enact a general franchise law. As a matter of fact, until it had been taken into consideration, and until we had definitely decided to revert to the old practice, it would be

manifestly impossible to make any such announcement as you suggest. The statement of affairs there briefly resolves itself into this: So far as the nine provinces are concerned, we have to be convinced that it is expedient to abolish the law that has been in force for fifteen years, and to establish a general franchise law for electoral affairs throughout Canada.

Miss Barrett: If you do establish that general franchise law will you establish it so that women—?

Mr. Borden: I am coming to that in a minute. So far as your affairs in the British Isles are concerned, with which I do not profess to be acquainted, that is a question entirely for the British Isles. I do not interfere with these matters for the same reason that I would not expect the Prime Minister of England to come to Canada and interfere with those matters so far as we are concerned. It is a matter in respect of which the people of the British Isles, both men and women, must work out their own salvation. I would like to be permitted, with all respect, just to make one observation, that I think the women of Canada are sufficiently intelligent to judge of these matters for themselves.

**Wiser Than Mr. Asquith.**

I should like to add to that that I should be most happy to receive any delegation from the women of Canada made by them for the purpose of laying before me their views and impressions, and I trust the time will never come when I shall decline to receive any deputation or delegation of that kind.

I am not aware that the laws in Canada at the present time, or in any of the provinces are unjust to women. Certainly, so far as the Dominion legislation is concerned, we should be most eager and ready to make any changes in the laws in that regard, if it can be demonstrated to our satisfaction that such injustice exists. Some reference has been made to the homestead laws. I can only say that so far as the home-



stead laws are concerned, if you have any representations which you would like us to consider, we should be very glad to receive them in writing.

Miss Barrett: I merely mentioned these laws as an illustration.

Mr. Borden: As you mentioned them I thought they were worthy of observation. You have made a contrast between the conditions in Canada and in Australia and New Zealand. I am not prepared to discuss that subject. We have endeavored to make our laws in Canada fair so far as it has been possible to do so, so far as our liberties have allowed, and we have no doubt that the people in Australia and New Zealand have done the same. An allusion has been made to emigration. I have a little to say with regard to that. If it seems good to your Society or to any other Society in Great Britain to give advice on that subject, that really is your own responsibility and your own matter. We shall endeavor to deal with our own affairs in Canada, according to what seems to us just and equitable, and the responsibility for any action which you may take in that regard will be your own and not ours.

#### A Statement of Fact.

As to the suggestion that you may employ in Canada, or may advise the women in Canada to employ what you deem "militancy," I do not know whether I am to consider that a threat or not.

Miss Barrett: A mere statement of fact.

Mr. Borden: My course in public life has been in the past, and I hope always will be in the future, to do what I deem to be right in the interests of the people as a whole, and any suggestion of that kind would not have the slightest effect upon me.

Miss Barrett: I think it should have.

Mr. Borden: I am perfectly willing to listen to reason and to arguments, and to weigh them with the greatest possible care.

Miss Barrett: We pointed out that

these things have happened in this country on account of the unstatesmanlike attitude of the Government of this country, and I venture to hope that after this deputation you will have seen that it is on their shoulders that the responsibility rests for them having taken place. Like causes produce like effects. That responsibility will rest upon you in Canada.

Miss Barrett then reminded Mr. Borden that he had not answered the question that the deputation had waited upon him to ask.

"If you do alter the general franchise law in Canada will you alter it so as to include women on equal terms with men?" she asked.

Mr. Borden: That is a matter to which we shall give our earnest consideration.

Miss Barrett then thanked Mr. Borden for receiving the deputation but said emphatically that his reply had not been satisfactory. The deputation then withdrew.

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### PRIZE COMPETITION.

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Through the generosity of two ladies belonging to Vancouver and Victoria branches of the Political Equality League, we are able to offer three prizes of five, ten, and twenty-five dollars to the three persons in the province securing the largest number of yearly subscribers to the "Champion" between September 15th and December 15th, the minimum number to secure any prize being one hundred subscribers. For information apply in writing to "Champion," Room 2, 647 Fort Street, Victoria.

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Suffragette—What is a party without women?"

Mere Man (flippantly)—A stag party.  
Suffragette—Exactly. And what would this nation be without women but stagnation?—Christian Register.



## BACHELOR GIRL'S BALLAD.

By Helen Rowland.

"Mrs. Tommy Atkins."

(Wit no apologies to Kipling.)

I went into a church last night as  
meek as meek could be;  
And lo the preacher rose and aimed his  
sermon straight at me!

And while he railed at womankind I  
smiled behind my fan;  
For, said I, "We may be dreadful, but  
we're good enough for man!"

Oh, it's woman this and woman that,  
and "woman is to blame!"

(Remember, back in Eden shifty  
Adam said the same!)

It's woman's clothes and woman's  
ways, her hats, her heels, her  
walk!

It's "woman, woman, woman!"—and  
I'm tired of the talk!

It's "the woman with the serpent's  
tongue" when poets wield the flail,  
Or "the female of the species far more  
deadly than the male!"

It's "the hobble-skirted horror," luring  
men to sin and debt,

It's the vain and wily "vampire" or  
the "strong-armed suffragette!"

Pshaw! It's woman this and woman  
that! "The woman tempted me!"

But it's "Oh, forgive me, angel!"  
when they're waking from a  
spree.

It's the "mannish modern woman,"  
or the "silly, frilly" one;

But it's "God bless home and moth-  
er!" when they want their cook-  
ing done!

It's the "sneaking peeking woman,"  
never known to work or think,

It's the "nagging, ragging woman,"  
driving patient men to drink.

It's the "rambling, gambling woman,"  
spending all her husband's cash.

It's the "ghoulish, clubbish woman,"  
letting hubby live on hash.

Oh, it's woman this and woman that,  
and "Lord, I didn't do it!"

"Behold, the woman lured me on!"  
or else, "She drove me to it!"

It's the woman here and woman  
there, man's burden all through  
life!

But when they get a toe-ache, it's  
"Oh where's my little wife."

Now, we aren't all plaster angels, and  
it's lucky that we're not,

As long as we must live with men (a  
rather earthly lot!)

We may have our faults and foibles,  
but if all your taunts were true,

Well, don't you think we still should  
be quite good enough for you?

Oh, it's woman this and woman that,  
and "Let's reform her quick!"

But it's "ministering angel!" when  
they're down and out and sick.

It's woman here and woman there,  
and "'Ware the siren's snare!"

But if man gets into heaven 'twill be  
woman got him there!

INTERVIEW WITH MRS.  
PETHICK LAWRENCE.

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, who with  
Mr. Pethick Lawrence, is staying for  
a fortnight's visit with her brother and  
sister, Mr. and Mrs. H. Pethick, at  
976 Heywood Avenue, very kindly gave  
our reporter a special interview before  
her departure for the Old Country.  
Mrs. Pethick Lawrence was looking  
extremely well after her rest in Vic-  
toria, and declared that she felt quite  
ready for strenuous work again. Her  
strong personality and great charm of  
face, voice and manner, are a combina-  
tion which would always give her great  
influence not only over her friends but  
over all those who have had the privi-  
lege of coming in contact with her, and  
it is easy to understand that she was  
born to be a leader in the great move-  
ment with which she has so complete-  
ly identified herself.



In reply to the question: "There seems to be a strong prejudice in Canada against militancy in the Old Country, and many people affirm that it has put back the Cause some years; do you consider this the case?" Mrs. Pethick Lawrence made the following statement:—

"There seems no need, at any rate at present, for Canadian women or men to trouble their minds about militant methods. Such methods would never be justifiable until all other methods had been tried and had failed, just as war is never justifiable until all the resources of negotiation and all the arts of diplomacy have been brought into play without result.

It would take too long to explain the extraordinary political situation in England which has absolutely forced women into the adoption of militant methods, if carried by the House of Commons, in newer lands. The State of Washington won the vote in 1910 by a thoroughly well organized constitutional campaign. Victory followed for California in 1911. The women of B. C. and of every part of Canada have only to follow the example set by Washington and California in order to win their political freedom."

"One of the most frequent objections brought forward here," she was told, "is this, that the conduct of the Militants in England proves the unfitness of Canadian women to vote. In other words, Canadian women are blamed for the militant methods."

"With regard to that," said Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, smiling, "I can only say that such a method of attack is so palpably foolish that it should be met with the ridicule it deserves. What would a Conservative or Liberal candidate in a Provincial election in Canada say if the electors were to criticise him because of the action of some Conservative or Liberal Government in Spain or Portugal, France or Germany? His critic would be simply stamped as a fool. In the same way, Canadian wo-

men are under no obligation to explain, apologize for, or defend the militant suffragettes of the Old Country."

"Could you explain why it is that the campaign of militancy is being carried on at present?"

"It would be a very long story to tell how the militant agitation arose, but the indignation of British women is specially aroused at the present time by the Government introduction of a Manhood Suffrage Bill, which, as framed and introduced by the Government, **expressly leaves out** women."

"But has not the Prime Minister promised that a Woman Suffrage Amendment, if carried by the House of Commons, shall be incorporated in the Bill?"

"Yes, he has promised that, but his promise deceives nobody who knows anything at all about practical politics and parliamentary procedure in the Old Country. He has taken very good care to render it impossible that any such amendment shall pass."

"What do you hope to achieve by the militant campaign?"

"Our immediate object is to fight the Manhood Suffrage Bill and to force the Government to withdraw it and to introduce in its stead a real Reform Bill, giving equal political rights to men and women."

"But if you know that the House of Commons is not going to carry a Woman Suffrage Amendment to the Government's Bill, would not the Government be defeated by the House if it introduced a Bill to give equal franchise to men and women?"

"No," said Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, very emphatically, "if the Government introduced the Clause, the whole of the Coalition forces in the House would vote for it, for the sake of keeping the present Government in power and also to secure the safety of their own seats and their own incomes. It must be remembered that the present Government is composed of a Coalition of the Liberal, Labour and Irish parties. The



Irish would vote for the Government Bill to a man, because if the Government were defeated they would lose Home Rule. The Labour party would also support the Bill for the sake of labor legislation promised by the Government. The Welsh members would support it because on its existence depends their hope of Welsh Disestablishment. Mr. Asquith knows perfectly well that a Government measure including Woman Suffrage would pass, and that is his reason for refusing to make Woman Suffrage a government measure."

"Why do you oppose Mr. Lloyd George? Is he not a great democrat and friend of your cause?"

"We are opposing Mr. Lloyd George because we consider him an even more dangerous enemy than Mr. Asquith. Mr. Asquith is an open foe. Mr. Lloyd George has again and again betrayed our movement under the guise of friendship."

"That is a very grave charge to bring against any man. Can you give me a definite example of his tactics?"

"Yes. I must explain that the demand of suffragists has always been that the Government should be responsible for introducing a measure. But in 1910 suffragists were approached by politicians who wished to see the question settled. A Parliamentary Conciliation Committee was formed in the House of Commons, drawn from the suffragists of every party in the House. These men were of the opinion that the Bill could be dealt with as a private member's bill, on a non-party basis, in view of the fact that there were so many supporters of political equality among the Conservative Party. I must explain that the male franchise is built upon a household qualification. Every man who pays rent for a house, however small, or even for a room, is a tax-and rate-payer and therefore a voter. There are between seven and eight million men on the parliamentary register at the present time. It was

found that to admit women on an equal footing, that is to enfranchise all women householders, would add a million women to the register. This was considered an extension of the franchise sufficiently moderate not to alarm Conservative support, while it was entirely democratic and carried out the principle of political equality, in a way that satisfied the Liberals and even the extreme wing of the Labour Party. All suffragists, including the Militant, were prepared to give this solution a fair trial, and a truce was proclaimed to militant tactics. This Bill was introduced in 1910, and secured an enormous majority, although Lloyd George spoke against it and used all his influence to defeat it. It was blocked by the Government of which Mr. Lloyd George is so influential a member. The following year it was brought in again, and secured the overwhelming majority of 167, a greater majority than any attained by the Government for any item of legislation. It was again blocked by the Government, but the position had become embarrassing to them, and facilities were promised for 1912. The Government saw that the non-party measure was going to succeed. As a desperate move they brought in a Manhood Suffrage Bill, for which there has been no demand whatever in the country. Mr. Lloyd George then said that he had "torpedoed" the non-party bill."

"Can you explain exactly how this works out?"

"To put it briefly, he has destroyed the possibility of the question being carried on a non-party basis and yet refuses to treat Woman Suffrage as a Government party question, so that between the two stools the movement may fall to the ground."

"But what becomes of that great majority of 167?"

"That majority was made up of Conservative suffragists as well as Coalition suffragists. A Woman Suffrage Amendment to the Manhood Suffrage



Bill would mean the admission to the electorate of 10 or 12 million women as well as 3 or 4 million additional men, that is to say it would increase the present register of 7 or 8 millions to a register of over 20 millions at one stroke of the pen. No previous Reform Bill has added more than about one million new electors, and such a sweeping reform is utterly out of keeping with British public opinion. It would be opposed by all Conservatives, which reduces the support in the House to about one half, and yet it leaves all the anti-suffragists in the Coalition, including the whole of the Irish party, free to vote against the measure without incurring any liability of defeating the Government. It is an absolute arithmetical certainty that the amendment cannot pass, as easy to prognosticate as that 2 and 2 make 4. This is the clever ruse of Mr. Lloyd George, who, posing as our friend, is in reality our most dangerous and most crafty enemy."

"Do you think you will succeed?"

"We know we shall succeed, though we cannot foresee how dearly that success may be bought; and even," added Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, "even if we knew that we could not succeed, instead of being certain of victory, as we are, we should still fight against the subjection of the whole of one sex to the whole of the other, because in such a position as ours the only way in which we can maintain our self-respect is to be ready to die rather than surrender. If Manhood Suffrage is to be introduced into Britain, prison is the only place for any self-respecting woman. And I may add that a race of free men can never be born of a race of abject women."

#### REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

The August monthly meeting held on the 14th in the League office was an unusually large one and remarkable for the enthusiasm of its members.

The chair was taken by the president, Mrs. Gordon Grant, and the principal business was the introduction of the new paper, which met with an extremely warm welcome.

A new feature of the meeting, and a most successful one, was the open questioning and discussion among the members of various points in connection with Woman Suffrage. This experiment infused an element of personal interest and responsibility into the proceedings which it is most important to cultivate. Members were also urged to recollect that no meeting is of any really definite value which has not some tangible result.

One important outcome of this meeting was the appointment of a committee to attend to the formation of a "Study Club," of which full details are given elsewhere.

#### A STUDY CLUB.

In connection with the work of the Equality League, a study class is being formed, for the discussion of subjects that must necessarily be of interest to every woman who sees the possibilities latent in the larger field that is slowly but surely opening up before her, and who recognizes that behind the woman's movement is the urgent demand for the expression of that larger woman self which has evolved out of past ages, and which can no longer be confined within the limits of outgrown restrictions.

As time-honored authorities and governments are slowly beginning to see that it is better to utilize the independent strength and ability developed in its woman kind rather than vainly endeavor to suppress them, and are transforming the futile "don't" into permission to "do," new channels of service to her country and her race must open up before the woman of today. As she recognizes the responsibility of the coming further demand, she feels the necessity of facing with new earnest-



ness and intelligence the problems of today. To this end a series of fortnightly papers, lectures and discussions have been arranged for during the coming months on the following topics to be dealt with by well known local authorities on the various subjects:

"Fundamental Reasons for the Enfranchisement of Women."

"Citizenship and What It Involves."

"Politics, a Science and an Art."

"Woman's Present Position in Public Work."

"Sanitation and Hygiene."

"City Fathers plus City Mothers."

"A Study of the Principles of Single Tax."

"Eugenics."

"The Development of Modern Educational Methods."

"Women and Socialism."

"The Food Problem."

"Child Culture."

"Social Problems of the Western World."

Anyone wishing to join this club is welcome, and will be notified of time and place of classes if they send in their name to chairman of this committee, Mrs. Baer, 417 Vancouver St.

#### Provincial Executive Meeting in Vancouver.

A very important meeting took place at the residence of Mrs. Gordon Grant's son in Vancouver on Friday, September 6th, the main result of which was the decision of the committee to put on foot immediately the organization of the province, this being considered the most urgent move in the coming political campaign. Miss Dorothy Davis was appointed Provincial Organizer, and is to set out on the 19th of this month on her mission.

Mrs. Hall was appointed to undertake the organization of the district between the Coast and Kamloops, as she had arranged to visit Kamloops in the near future, and would therefore be covering that part of the country.

Anyone interested in this work between Vancouver and Kamloops is asked to communicate with Mrs. Hall, 123 Eleventh Avenue West, Vancouver; and all those in the Okanagan Valley, the Arrow Lakes District, the Boundary District, the Windermere Valley, and the Kootenays, should write to Miss Dorothy Davis care of the C.P.R. Passenger Agent, at all the principal points on the route, or a copy of her itinerary may be obtained on application to the Corresponding Secretary, Political Equality League, Room 2, 647 Fort St., Victoria.

In connection with this work, it should be pointed out that the expense involved will be very great, and that hitherto nearly all the financial responsibility has fallen on the shoulders of two women, both of whom are working to support themselves. They pay the organizer's salary, the rent of the office, and various incidental expenses, which the funds at present contributed are quite inadequate to cover. Surely there must be among supporters of this Cause other women capable of self-sacrifice for its promotion? and some, perhaps, in a position to give generously if they once realized the need and the privilege of giving both time and money. A mere statement of the case will be enough to elicit a generous response, and thus enable the work to be carried to a speedy and successful conclusion. It should be borne in mind that the bulk of the huge sums raised in Britain are raised in sixpences and shillings, and the Canadian women are not behind their cousins in enthusiasm and unselfishness.

#### NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES.

A most interesting account reaches us of an open air meeting held at White Rock 1st July by the New Westminster Branch of the League, the first open air Suffrage meeting, by the bye, to be held in B. C. The president of the Central Park Branch, Mrs.



Bryan, gave an address, after which questions were asked and literature distributed. Following this, Mrs. Dr. Watson very kindly entertained the party at her summer cottage. A delightful photograph of the group was taken by one member, and we only wish that our financial position would permit us to publish it. This idea is one which other branches of the League would do well to adopt, before the summer closes, for no meetings are more successful than those conducted in the open air, with the inspiration of freedom all round.

We hope other branches will send us regularly all items of news and information as to their development in numbers and work.

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### GEN. BOOTH AND WOMAN'S EQUALITY.

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"First and foremost, I insist on Woman's equality," wrote General Booth in 1908. "Every officer and soldier should hold to it that woman is as important, as valuable, as capable, and as necessary to the progress and happiness of the world as man." He had good reason to think well of women's capacity, for of his own wife he said in one of his "messages":—

"For thirty-five years she was my trusted counsellor in difficulty, my unflinching encouragement in depression, my unspeakable comfort in sorrow, and my unflinching comrade in difficulty. She was the inspired teacher of our children, the watchful guardian of our home, and the true lover and chaplain of my soul."

This high tribute to her memory is borne out by one small incident that showed the fine militant spirit in the General's wife. It was at the conference of the Methodist New Connexion in 1861, the case of the General, who had already shown himself some-

thing of a rebel, was under discussion, and a weak compromise was suggested to him. His wife rose in the gallery, and shouted "Never!" She might have been a Suffragist in a Cabinet Minister's meeting! They went out together to face starvation with their young family, having stood by their principles and saved their honour, and the result was the foundation of the Salvation Army, which has depended so largely upon its women soldiers for success.

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### THE WOMEN'S VOTE.

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(From the Victoria Colonist.)

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The women of six states are entitled to vote at the coming presidential election. This adds a million to the electorate, quite enough, if they all voted the same way, to turn the elec- But there are no signs of any such unity. Women are just as much divided in their political opinions as are men. It is safe to say, however, that a great many women will exercise the privilege lately gained. Rightly or wrongly, there is an idea abroad that the government of the United States can, if it will, make life easier for the workers of the nation. Women are interested in the questions of social reform which are agitating many states and cities. Politicians will find that the opinion of women is a force to be reckoned with. Among leaders of public opinion in the United States women are prominent and they are foremost in philanthropic work. Thousands of ladies of education and culture are devoting their attention to such questions as in former years were left altogether to the consideration of men. It is this fitness for the work of taking part in legislation that makes their admission to the electorate important.