

# SUFFRAGE ACTIVITIES IN IRELAND.

## IRISH SUFFRAGE DIRECTORY.

Irish Woman's Suffrage and Local Government Association.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Anna M. Haslam, 125 Leinster Road, Rathmines.

Irish Women's Franchise League.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Cousins, Mus.Bac., Antient Concert Buildings, Great Brunswick St., Dublin.

Irish Women's Suffrage Society.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Blanche Bennett, 27 Donegal Place, Belfast.

Conservative and Unionist Women's Suffrage Association (Irish Branch).—Hon. Sec., Miss Perry, North British and Mercantile Buildings, Nassau Street, Dublin.

Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation.—Hon. Sec., Miss Louie Bennett, 29 South Anne St., Dublin.

Societies Affiliated to Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation—

Irishwomen's Reform League.—Hon. Sec., Miss Ella Inglis, 29 South Anne Street, Dublin.

Belfast Women's Suffrage Society.—Hon. Sec., Miss L. Walkington, L.L.D., Edenvale, Strandtown, Belfast.

Munster Women's Franchise League.—Hon. Sec., Miss S. R. Day, P.L.G., Myrtle Hill House, Cork.

Newry Suffrage Society.—Hon. Secs., Mrs. Coade and Miss Mellone, Newry.

Lisburn Suffrage Society.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. R. H. Metge, Lisburn.

Birr Suffrage Society.—

Armagh Suffrage Society.

N.B.—This Directory is imperfect. Will Hon. Secretaries help us to make it complete and to keep it accurate?

## IRISH WOMEN'S FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

Antient Concert Buildings, Dublin.

The usual Friday night meeting was held at Beresford Place last week. The audience was very large and attentive. Mrs. Richards, who was the second speaker, delivered an interesting address from the point of view of one who had been engaged from her girlhood in working for the betterment of the lives of the poor. The women of to-day, she said, had realised that the long years of labour given to the service of charity were useless to alter conditions which could only be ameliorated by the more potent weapon of direct political pressure. Politicians were, it must regretfully be said, self-seekers first and reformers only in the second place. The women who were to-day sacrificing leisure, comfort, and liberty to go down and work for the vote in the face of persecution were the truest friends of the poor, and the best patriots. These women were misrepresented, were even called mad—well, so they were mad, with a divine madness that saw to the bottom of civilisation and faced its worst evils with the determination to heal them. Mrs. Richards dwelt on the need for better education—education for life-training—and showed the importance of woman's co-operation in securing a better adaptation of means to ends. Miss Bloxham followed with a powerful speech. She referred to the undercutting of men by women in the labour market, and explained it in telling phrases as the inevitable result of women's lack of the weapons by which men had been able to fortify their trade combinations and compel attention to their grievances from vote-hunting M.P.'s. She concluded with an exposure of the terrible crimes against girl-life which met with punishments paltry in comparison with the sentences inflicted upon political glass-breakers. "If the burning of every public building in Dublin," she said, "would cast a glaring light upon these horrible iniquities, I for one would give my vote for that conflagration." The words evoked a loud round of applause, as the speaker descended. Many *Irish Citizens* were sold.

On Saturday in the Phoenix Park a very successful meeting was held. Mrs. Richards presided, and was followed by Miss Bloxham. The meeting was remarkable for the complete absence of the offensive blackguardism which had for several weeks made it difficult for the speakers to obtain a hearing. The change was so phenomenal and unexpected as inevitably to confirm what was already a matter of certainty, viz., that the constant interruption had been deliberately organised, and

to suggest that the gang had received a hint to discontinue a campaign which was bringing odium upon the party which they professed to represent. Whether, as Mr. Sheehy Skeffington opined at the close of his speech, the fine of 40s imposed upon a rowdy interruptor had produced so wonderful an effect, or whether the editorial manifesto issued by the "Evening Telegraph," like Neptune's trident, was potent to lay as swiftly to rest the storm which it had evoked—whatever the cause, the result was unmistakable.

Mr. Sheehy Skeffington was the third speaker, and dealt with the course of action by which the Irish Party had brought it upon themselves that the woman suffrage question was now an embarrassment to them in their effort to get the present Home Rule scheme passed into law. Great interest was manifested in his arguments, and numerous intelligent questions were asked.

The "Freeman's Journal," in a sneering report of the Park meeting, stated that only three copies of "the journal of the association," by which it presumably meant the *Irish Citizen*, were sold. As a matter of fact, the entire stock on the spot was sold out, and many more could have been sold had they been available.

The following is a list of the contributions received to date for the Special Legal Defence Fund: The I.W.F.L. desires to express its gratitude to those who so promptly and generously responded to the appeal for funds to defray the expenses involved in the defence of the Irish Militants. This fund will shortly be closed. As the total sum received still falls short of the expenses incurred, those who intend to contribute are requested to do so without delay:

CONTRIBUTIONS TO LEGAL DEFENCE FUND.			
Dr. Elizabeth Bell	...	...	0 5 0
Mrs. Bladen	...	...	1 0 0
A Friend	...	...	0 2 0
Mrs. Oldham	...	...	0 10 0
Miss M. Hoey	...	...	0 5 0
Miss Bridget Macinerney	...	...	1 1 0
Mrs. Petersen	...	...	0 10 0
Miss Marion Holmes	...	...	0 5 0
Miss Hawker	...	...	0 3 0
Miss Fogarty	...	...	0 2 0
Mrs. Standish O'Grady	...	...	1 0 0
Mrs. Purser	...	...	0 10 0
Mr. Leslie Pielou	...	...	1 1 0
Mrs. Power	...	...	0 2 0
Misses Blake	...	...	0 10 0
Mr. J. K. Bridgeman, B.L.	...	...	0 5 0
Miss S. Carpenter	...	...	0 5 0
Miss Deborah Webb	...	...	5 0 0
Miss Mary Doyle	...	...	0 5 0
Miss M. Coyle	...	...	0 2 0
Miss G. Swanton	...	...	0 5 0
Miss L. Gait	...	...	0 5 0
Miss Josephine Webb	...	...	1 0 0
Mrs. Geoghegan	...	...	0 10 0
Miss O'Keeffe	...	...	0 5 0
Mrs. Cahill	...	...	0 2 0
Miss I. Skeffington	...	...	0 5 0
Miss Magennis	...	...	0 10 0
Mr. H. Cadogan	...	...	0 5 0
Miss Hill	...	...	0 10 0
Miss A. Maxwell	...	...	0 2 0
Mrs. Richards	...	...	7 0 0
Miss Swanton	...	...	0 2 0
Miss Hilda Sponcer	...	...	0 2 0
Mrs. Garvey Kelly	...	...	0 5 0
Miss Finegan	...	...	0 2 0
Miss B. Swanton	...	...	0 5 0
Professor Houston	...	...	1 0 0
Miss Walsh	...	...	0 2 0
Miss Rathhaus	...	...	0 2 0
Miss A. E. Walsh	...	...	0 10 0
Miss Carson, P.L.G.	...	...	5 0 0
Miss S. D. Harris	...	...	0 3 0
Anonymous	...	...	0 2 0
"	...	...	0 1 0
Miss D. Bottle	...	...	0 2 0
Mrs Baker	...	...	0 2 0
Mrs. Rowlette	...	...	1 0 0
Miss McGrane	...	...	0 2 0

£27 10 0

Carried forward, £27 10 0			
Miss B. Walsh	...	...	0 6 0
Miss D. Reddy	...	...	0 10 0
Miss Cahalan	...	...	0 2 0
Miss McNestary	...	...	0 2 0
Miss Keevey	...	...	0 2 0
Mrs. Quinn	...	...	0 10 0
Miss Barry	...	...	0 5 0
Miss A. Browne	...	...	0 2 0
Mrs. Hoskin	...	...	0 10 0
Anonymous	...	...	0 1 0
"	...	...	0 1 0
Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington	...	...	0 10 0

Total, £30 12 0

## IRISH WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY. 27 Donegal Place, Belfast.

On Saturday, the 17th inst., two open-air meetings were held in Bangor. In the afternoon a large crowd gathered on the Pickie and we had a most successful meeting. At present we find that "Militancy" is the favourite topic at question time, and this affords a splendid opportunity of reminding men and women of the way in which extensions of the franchise were wrested from "the powers that be" in the past. At 7.30 we had a second meeting at Queen's Parade. The crowd was enormous, and there was just sufficient opposition to put our speakers on their mettle and make them excel their previous efforts. A great deal of sympathy with our movement was exhibited at the evening meeting. Some very intelligent questions were put forward and, at the close, favourable comments were heard on all sides. Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. McCoubrey, Miss Yeates, and Miss Connor, who carried through those meetings, left Bangor feeling that it had been a well spent afternoon.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Monday evening, 19th inst., at corner of Cavehill Road and Antrim Road. Our crowds grow larger every week, which in some degree compensates for the noisy element we have now-a-days to encounter from irresponsible youths. Miss Gibson presided, and Mrs. Baker was the chief speaker. She dealt with the recent events in Dublin, and ably defended Militant Tactics. Mrs. McCoubrey followed, referring to the economic aspect of the women's movement, and several interesting questions were asked and satisfactorily replied to.

Next Monday's open-air meeting will be held at Methodist College Gates.

On Friday, 23rd August, a meeting will be held in the Temperance Institute, Islandmagee.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

- August 23rd—Friday, 7.0 p.m. Custom House, Dublin. Open-air meeting. Irish Women's Franchise League.
- " 23rd—Friday. Temperance Institute, Islandmagee. Irish Women's Suffrage Society.
- " 24th—Saturday, 4.30 p.m. Nine Acres, Phoenix Park, Dublin. Open-air meeting. I.W.F.L.
- " 26th—Monday, 8.15 p.m. Methodist College Gates, Belfast. Open-air meeting. I.W.S.S.
- " 30th—Friday, 7.0 p.m. Custom House, Dublin. Open-air meeting. I.W.F.L.

While travelling from Holyhead to Euston a lady was recounting to a gentleman on the opposite seat an account of her efforts to secure seats for some women and children, though she hastened to add: "I'm not a suffragette." "Oh, indeed," said the gentleman. "And why shouldn't you be a suffragette?" "Well," she said, after a pause (evidently she had some searching in her mind for a reason), "I don't like their methods—window-breaking, etc., etc." "Methods!" he said. "Well, if you don't like their methods, you certainly must admire their courage."