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THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT.

(From our London Correspondent.)

London, May 23.
In spite of the suffragettes the Suffrage Movement is becoming a first-class political question. Perhaps that statement is not altogether fair to the suffragettes. They have become, in a sense, reformed characters. The militant policy, which Miss Christabel Pankhurst directs with such endless resource from Clement's Inn, has taken on a shape more courteous to the intelligence of the elector and certainly more effectual in stimulating the movement. The almost isolated case of interruption at a meeting during the recent by-elections came from a member of the less influential Women's Freedom League, and was implicitly disapproved of, in strong terms, by the Women's National and Political Union, which represents, as it were, the "official" section of the agitation. To oppose the existing Administration until it relents in its procrastination, without, however, disturbing the public peace, is a form of political resource to which we are accustomed, and which is established, orthodox, acceptable. The suffragettes have learned this lesson, that only by reasonableness or a plausible show of reason will the obduracy of man be overcome. Glowing accounts have reached me from the fountain-source of the movement. In Shropshire, during the first few days of the election, nobody, still less the women, would have anything to do with them. By the time the election was over they had been raised to the level of national heroines. So, at all events, writes my fair correspondent. "The end: they had no idea suffragettes were ladies. Why, they were perfectly lady-like right through, and so charming, and why shouldn't they have a vote?" Earlier in the letter this enthusiastic politician describes her experiences as follows. "Our last day in Shropshire was the jolliest of all: wherever we went we had a perfect ovation. Having written down this last word I wonder whether it conveys the right meaning; Latin, *ovo (sic) = egg*. I assure you we had none thrown at us. I can truthfully say that we *did* turn a considerable number of votes. In our tour of the constituency we were everywhere received with immense good-will; in Drayton, our centre, we created the wildest enthusiasm. . . . Our reception in Drayton for the first day or two was very curious. Although not more than two of us were seen together, we were "spotted" at once. We had hidden away our button-badges, too, five minutes after leaving the station, knowing well it would be difficult to find lodgings. Even then, several turned us away, apparently having quite made up their minds that we were suffragettes. People gathered in little groups to discuss us, craned their necks to peep at us from behind doors and windows; one or two disgusted ladies tucked up their skirts and moved away quite pointedly. It was all curiosity, ridicule, or abuse; one or two men couldn't resist hurling insulting remarks at us. This was the beginning. The end I have already imparted above." Such is fame seen from within. I think I am justified in quoting this extract in proof of the contention that with a modification of their tactics the suffragettes have brought about a singular reversal in the attitude assumed towards them by a large section of voters. The really important step was taken on Wednesday, when a large deputation of members of the House of Commons waited on the Premier with a request for further facilities for Mr. Stanger's Bill, which has already passed its second reading. Mr. Asquith's answer did not commit him to anything beyond the offer that on

the introduction of his promised Bill for electoral reform the question of woman suffrage might, by amendment and other means, be implicated with it. The answer did not please the suffragettes, as an unfortunate demonstration on the following morning on the very door-step of his official residence amply testified: they demand a definite pledge to be carried into effect this Session. As Miss Pankhurst put it in her letter to the *Times*, this answer seems "of too negative and vague a character to be of any value." Nevertheless, the supporters of woman suffrage have no reason to be actually dissatisfied. Mr. Asquith declared that, although he personally was not yet convinced of the desirability of woman suffrage, two-thirds of his Cabinet favoured the reform, while the deputation itself was of course a strong argument in its favour. On one point Mr. Asquith is likely to remain most firm. He insists that only on the strength of an overwhelming declaration from the women of England will the measure receive the support of the Government.

Meanwhile, the suffragettes will persist in their fight. On June 21 their great march to Hyde Park will take place, and there at a given signal some thirty speakers (I am not quite sure of the number) are to begin speaking from various platforms. Very soon posters of a prodigious size advertising the event will appear on our walls. That great meeting ought to be a case of kill or cure—one means, of course, not the ladies, but the Government's heretical minority.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

KING EDWARD AND CZAR NICHOLAS.

From an authoritative source, writes a St. Petersburg private correspondent, I learn that the Czar on his journey to Reval to meet King Edward will be accompanied by the Empress, the Dowager-Empress, and probably by the little Crown Prince.

PRESIDENT FALLIÈRES' VISIT.

President Armand Fallières, accompanied by M. Pichon, Minister for Foreign Affairs, left Paris yesterday morning for Brest, where he will embark on the cruiser "Léon Gambetta" for England.

GERMAN MAYORS RECEIVED BY THE KING.

The municipal visitors from South Germany drove in open carriages to Buckingham Palace on Saturday to be received by King Edward.

Count Metternich, the German Ambassador, formally presented the visitors in a short speech to His Majesty delivered in German, and King Edward replied in German, heartily welcoming the Burgomasters, and expressing the earnest hope that they had enjoyed their trip in London.

The Burgomaster of Munich was deputed to acknowledge the compliment, and he expressed the thanks of the visitors for the great hospitality they had received in every quarter since they arrived in England. They had enjoyed their visit, and had derived much pleasure in seeing the various institutions which had been thrown open to them. They had not come for the purpose of studying British institutions, but for the purpose of sealing the friendship between England and Germany.

The members of the party were then separately presented to His Majesty, who shook hands with each in turn. His Majesty gave directions for the visitors to be shown over the State apartments.

This was done, and the Burgomasters, after a stay of upwards of an hour, then left for Hampton Court.

THE ZAKKA KHEL CAMPAIGN.

Dispatches from Gen. Sir James Willcocks, describing the Zakka Khel campaign, were published in last Saturday's *Gazette*. Lord Kitchener, in transmitting the dispatches to the Viceroy, specially commends the "excellent services" of Gen. Willcocks, and considers "that the work done reflects the greatest credit on all concerned." The dispatches show that the Zakka Khel were taken completely by surprise, with their best positions unfortified. Their villages were destroyed, and heavy loss inflicted on them. Immediately after the submission of the chiefs the British force on February 29 vanished as suddenly as it had come. The troops had the least possible transport, and in one column each man carried his ammunition and three days' rations on his back. Gen. Willcocks pays special tribute to the cheerfulness and admirable spirit with which the men bore all discomforts.

Constant peace training had brought the troops to the highest pitch of efficiency, and "so far as hill fighting is concerned," Gen. Willcocks observes, "our troops had little to learn from the Afridis."

ANARCHY IN INDIA.

A Calcutta despatch states that in a train standing at the platform of Howrah Station, from which the passengers had just alighted, two bombs filled with picric acid were found.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE TRIUMPH OF THE "LUSITANIA."

After beating all her rivals, the "Lusitania" has achieved what is the last distinction open to her—to lower her own best previous record. Commenting upon the giant Cunarder's latest performance, a London contemporary says that on her arrival at New York in the early hours of Friday morning, she had not only made the fastest time ever known over the longer Atlantic course, followed at this time of year for greater security against icebergs, but had substantially beaten the record for a single day's run which she herself set up two months ago. It is small wonder that her reception in New York harbour was triumphal. The ship's officers deserve the heartiest congratulations on their splendid, and, in fact, unprecedented feat, while the Cunard Company has the proud distinction of further clinching the supremacy which the great British liners of have regained from their foreign rivals. On the trip just completed the "Lusitania" was considerably hampered by fog; and we have probably by no means yet seen the best results which can be got, at a pinch, out of the engines. In the reported utterance of the Chief Engineer, "We drove the vessel, but she can stand a lot more driving." In March the "Lusitania" set up the new record of 627 knots in a day. In the day's run completed at midday on Wednesday, she raised her record to 632. It will not be surprising if before the summer is out that record is still further improved. It is both striking and satisfactory to note that the vibration of the vessel is least when she is running at her fastest pace, for this holds out the promise that, with the still increased speeds which may be expected in the liners of the near future, all inconvenience from this cause may be removed. The commercial advantage of speed on the Atlantic route may be judged from the deep satisfaction

(Continued on page 2.)