

latures the enactment of a law prohibiting the employment of children under 16 years of age in mines, stores, and factories. That we favor the adoption of State constitutional amendments establishing direct legislation through the initiative and referendum. That we rejoice in the advance of the cause of peace and arbitration, indicated by the proposed calling of a second Hague conference. That we extend our sympathies to the members of the Woman's Social and Political Union of England in their heroic struggle for liberty; and we glory in the fact that there are women today who are so imbued with the love of liberty that with sublime courage they are willing to suffer stripes and imprisonment that women may be free.

The resolutions also embody a protest against the proposed plans for the Jamestown exposition, and request the management to subordinate the representations of military and naval spectacles to those representing the triumphs of the arts of peace, education and industry, and the educational, industrial, and philanthropic development of the nation.

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English Woman Suffragists Mob Parliament.

Woman suffragists of England on the 13th made a more determined and better organized demonstration at the doors of Parliament than ever before (pp. 801, 854, 856). The Chicago Inter Ocean's special dispatch states that from an early hour on that afternoon "until 10 o'clock at night a large force of police had their hands full in defending the precincts of Parliament from suffragists' raids. Every entrance to the House of Commons was guarded by detachments of policemen, while other officers of the law were engaged in clearing adjacent streets, and a body of fifty constables was kept in reserve for emergency. Some of the police were mounted and at one time during the demonstration they drove their horses on the gallop into the crowd of women, knocking down and injuring several of them. As the House was about to adjourn Claude George Hay, a member of the House, called attention to the disturbances, and protested against using the houses of Parliament as a fortress to be filled with police to protect the members against women. Home Secretary Gladstone replied to Mr. Hay, saying that he had little knowledge of what was going on outside, but that the measures employed were for the general convenience of the members, and he was sure no unnecessary violence had been used." In all about eighty women were arrested. On the next day fifty-six of these were arraigned in the police courts, charged with disorderly conduct and resisting the police. All were sentenced to pay fines or go to prison for 21 days or two weeks. All elected to go to prison.

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A private bill was introduced in Parliament on the 14th by Mr. Dickinson, for conferring the suffrage upon women. Its introduction will at least force the Government to take a position on the question.

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The London County Council.*

Nominations for the London County Council (p. 395) are to be made on the 22nd, and the polling comes on March 2. The campaign is earnest and

even bitter. The issue, according to the London Tribune, is the universal monopoly issue—that "between the schemes of private financiers and the civic good sense" of the people. The Interests are represented by the Moderates, who have raised the cry of criminal extravagance on the part of the Progressives. This charge the latter violently repudiate, claiming that it is based upon "faked figures." The Tribune gives the following statistics in reply to the charges of the Moderates:

The County Council is only responsible for a comparatively small proportion of the debt of London and of the rates that Londoners have to pay, and the County Council's rate has not increased with the same rapidity as that of other public bodies. This is how London's total debt of £105,578,030 is made up:

Water Board	£23,575,517
London County Council (excluding Education)	33,542,430
Borough Councils and City Corporation	13,639,809
Education (formerly School Board)	11,691,768
Poor Law	4,393,351
Asylums Board	3,464,669
Police	263,436

It must be remembered that not all of the debt of £33,542,430 was created by the County Council. Of this sum £17,500,000 was inherited from the Board of Works, the Council's predecessors. Then, from the remainder, there must also be deducted the remunerative or "revenue producing" debt of about £7,500,000.

This leaves, approximately, £8,500,000 as the net unremunerative (but essential) debt for which the County Council is responsible.

Here are the facts expressed in another way, by means of the respective rates:

	s.	d.
London County Council	1	5
Education	1	6
Borough Councils, etc.	2	0.54
Poor Law	1	6.46
Asylums Board	0	5.12
Police	0	5
Unemployed		0.14

These figures show that of the rates paid by Londoners the portion demanded by the County Council is considerably less than one-fifth.

There is just another table that is worth giving. It proves that in ten years, while the average total rate in London has increased by more than 1s 3d in the pound—that is to say, by about 17 per cent., the County Council rate has only gone up 2d—or a little under 12 per cent.:

	L. C. C. rate.		Average London rate.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
1896	1	3	6	2.42
1897	1	3	6	2.29
1898	1	2	6	1.21
1899	1	2	6	0.22
1900	1	1.50	6	6.36
1901	1	2.50	6	6.63
1902	1	3	6	3.23
1903	1	3.50	7	2.39
1904	1	4.75	7	2.39
1905	1	5.75	7	2.77
1906	1	5	7	6

Increase

The Tribune also asserts that the debt of London is in comparably less in relation to its taxable property than that of the larger provincial cities, and that the County Council's stock stands at a higher figure on the stock exchange than that of the German gov-

*See page 1120 of this Public.