

ABERDEEN WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS.

THEIR ELECTION POLICY.

Under the auspices of the Women's Social and Political Union, a largely-attended meeting was held in the hall of the Y.M.C.A., Aberdeen, last night, at which the principal speakers were Mrs Pankhurst and Miss Helen Fraser. Mrs Fyvie Mayo presided, and as the ladies took their seats on the platform they were greeted somewhat boisterously by a band of young men in the gallery, which led Mrs Fyvie Mayo, in introducing the first speaker, to appeal to the youths to "behave like gentlemen."

Mrs Robertson moved—"This meeting demands that the Government shall enfranchise the women of the country in the coming session of Parliament."

Miss Phillips, in a word, seconded.

When Mrs Pankhurst rose to speak in support of the resolution, she was greeted by the young men in the gallery with cheers, cries of "She's all right," and laughter. In the course of a vigorous speech, which was frequently and good-humouredly interrupted by running comments from the gallery, she said the suffragists had come to Aberdeen, and were going to stay until the bye-election was over. (Applause. "She's all right," and laughter.) There had been a good deal of misunderstanding about their bye-election policy. What they went into a bye-election for was to oppose the Government nominee—"Shame" and applause)—not because they had anything against him as an individual, but because he represented a Government that refused to put its principles into practice, and give the women of the country their political emancipation. (Applause.) They were practical politicians. They knew that Governments would not do anything unless they were instructed by the country in unmistakable terms; and they believed that if at the bye-elections they got the electors to tell the Government they were not satisfied with them, by not returning a Government nominee, that was the best way of getting the Government to do what the women wanted them to do. The electors of Aberdeen and the women of Aberdeen, who were sensible, reasonable people—and they all knew that the Scottish people were very logical—(hear, hear, and laughter)—must see that the suffragists were very wise in taking up that attitude. It was the only thing for them to do.

Miss Helen Fraser also spoke in support of the resolution. She used to look forward to the Liberals carrying out their principles—(hear, hear)—but found they never did so. (Hear, hear, and loud applause.) The Liberal party had always distinguished itself by refusing to carry out its own reforms—even by dissolving and leaving the Conservatives to carry them into effect. (Applause and laughter.)

Rev. R. C. Fillingham, vicar of Hexton, asked if the appeal to vote for women was not a Tory dodge.

Mrs Pankhurst—I assume from the gentleman's question that he is a Liberal.

Mr Fillingham—I am. (Laughter and applause.)

Mrs Pankhurst replied that she did not care which party gave her a vote, so long as she got it. (Hear, hear, and applause.) She only hoped the Tories might think it was to their advantage to enfranchise the women, because then the women would settle the question very conclusively. She was quite willing to assist the Tories in harassing the Liberals if the latter objected to giving her a vote.

A large number of questions were afterwards answered by Mrs Pankhurst, and the resolution was declared carried, the young men in the gallery singing "They are jolly good fellows" as the meeting broke up.