

## GREAT SUNDAY DEMONSTRATION

An open-air demonstration was held at Shipley Glen yesterday in connection with the Women's Social and Political Union. Viewed from the standpoint of numbers, the undertaking was a great success. The weather was delightfully fine, and all sorts and conditions of people trooped to the famous rendezvous in thousands from every part of the surrounding district. The tramcars on the Saltaire section were packed at Foster Square, Bradford as rapidly as they could be brought up. Indeed the tramway officials were altogether unable to cope with the demands made upon them. The opportunity was accordingly a very good one for The Midland Railway officials to reap a harvest for their company, too and they set about doing it. Special trains were promptly put on, and between two o'clock and 3:40 there were 3700 passengers booked for Saltaire, or at a rate of 37 per minute. During a good deal of the time, of course, the rate of booking must have been much faster even than that. The crowd which eventually gathered on the Glen plateau was variously estimated at fifty, sixty and seventy thousand, and must have been somewhere between the two extremes.

The scene was most impressive. Nearly every person in the vast concourse was well dressed and the varied hues of the summer costumes of the ladies made up the wealth of colour that was very striking and pleasing. On the whole it was a well ordered crowd. Stories had been circulated about the probability of organized opposition of a determined, if not violent character. These stories, however, proved to be unfounded. If any definite scheme had been devised by any band of mischievous persons it failed to be put into successful operation. Some small bands of noisy youths paraded about sing snatches of tunes, but little attention was paid to them.

Six wagons were used to separate platforms, and two speakers were allotted to each. Around each of these improvised platforms there was a big ring of sympathizers, and the noisy, pushing youths did not find it easy to make even any effective disturbance. By their singing, so called, and the occasional tinkling of a bell they interrupted the thread of some of the speakers arguments at intervals, but the selected speakers stood their ground with great determination and succeeded in every case in making themselves well heard by a large proportion of the people gathered round them. The stale joke of releasing sulphuretted hydrogen was tried, but the open air does not lend itself to that kind of offence like a closed room, and the attempt fell almost as flat as a damp squib.

It would be useless to attempt to give a report of the speeches. The arguments seemed to be very much alike, and were such as have been reported over and over again. It may be said, however, that the ladies were very much in earnest, some of them speaking with vigour for an hour or more. The chief speakers were Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Adela Pankhurst, Mrs. Baines, Miss Mary Gawthorpe, and Mrs. Nell Kenney. They were supported by Mrs. Massey, Mrs. Batchelor, Miss Hartland, Miss Newton, Miss Davis, Miss Foster, and Miss Hartop. They all made special reference to Mr. Stringer's bill, which, having passed the second Reading, only required facilities from the Government to secure its being passed into law. At the conclusion of the arguments and the answering of questions, a whistle was sounded with the object of a simultaneous vote being taken on the resolution calling upon the Government to enfranchise the women of the country by granting facilities for the passing of Mr. Stranger's bill. The intended grand effect of a simultaneous vote rather missed fire but the resolution was carried by each group round the different platforms.

Gradually the great gathering dispersed, and for a considerable time there was a very great one on the stores of the refreshment-houses on the Glen and in the neighbourhood. Once in a way the itinerant vendors missed a fine opportunity. Apparently they were taking their Sunday rest and did not realize that great friends they may have found in the militant suffragists and their followers. The visitors who remained for the evening found the conditions very pleasant and had reason to be thankful for having induced to take an airing in so healthful a region.

*This report of a rally of the Suffragettes and Mary Pankhurst appeared in the Yorkshire Observer in 1908.*