

VOTES FOR WOMEN

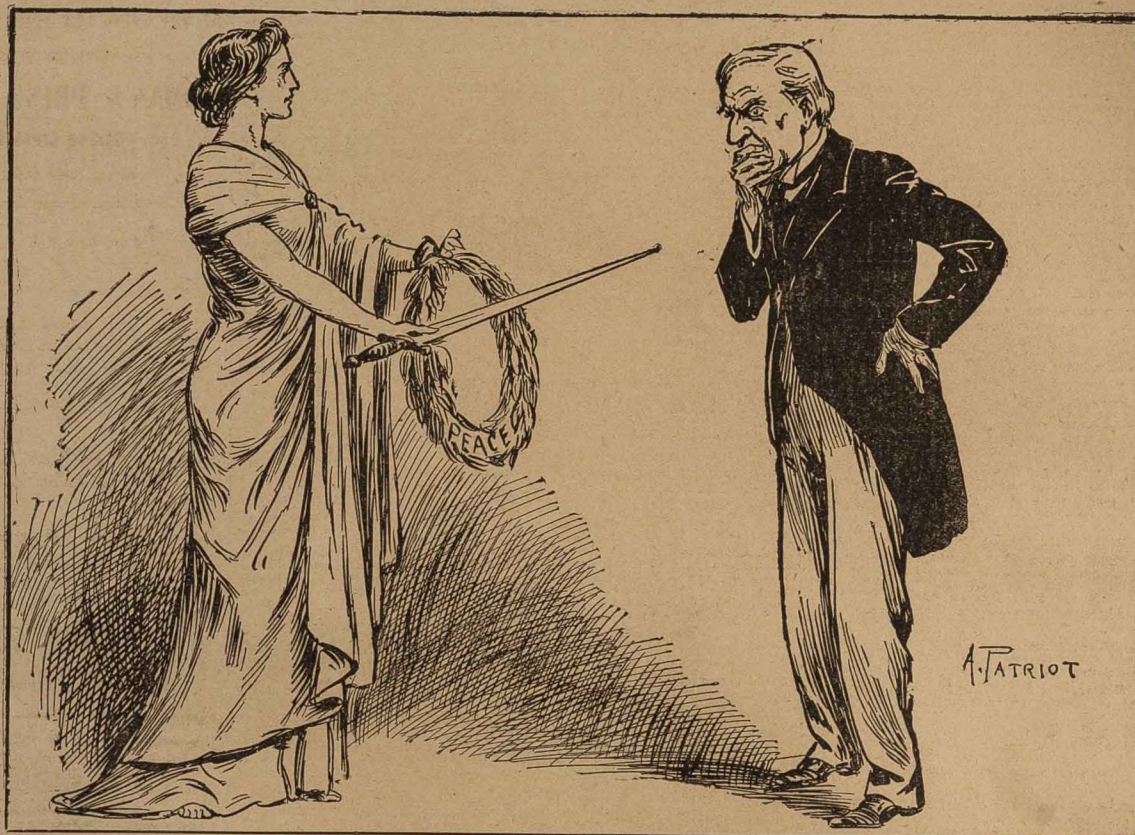
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PEACE OR WAR?



CONTENTS.

PAGE	PAGE
Our Cartoon..... 749	The World We Live In: A Great Woman Teacher..... 753
The Outlook..... 749	Two Lane Excuses. By F. W. Pethick Lawrence..... 754
Contributions to the £100,000 Fund..... 750	Mr. Partridge's Mop. By Elizabeth Robins..... 755
Why I believe in Woman Suffrage..... 751	The Conciliation Committee's Bill..... 756
Facts for New Readers..... 751	Reports from Organisers..... 757
Woman's Share in Primitive Culture..... 752	General News..... 759
W.S.P.U. Announcements..... 752	

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

THE OUTLOOK.

We wish all our members who are taking their holiday a delightful time. May they return to work when it is over full of renewed vigour, and with the unflinching determination to see the Suffrage Bill carried into law before the end of the year.

Holiday Work.

Many members of the W.S.P.U. are now staying in country places and seaside towns, and are using the opportunity to organise holiday campaigns on their own account. They find the work most delightful and the response immediate. From one coast town a worker writes us this week that copies of the paper were eagerly bought and that the changed attitude of the people who listen to the Suffragettes was most remarkable. Such work adds to the pleasure of a holiday, and it satisfies the desire of every Suffragette that wherever she may be she must never stop

bringing recruits to the cause. A few details of holiday work will be found on pages 757 and 758, and we shall be glad to receive from other members an account of their experiences.

Mrs. Pankhurst to visit Scotland.

An example which members will not need any persuasion to make them follow is being set by Mrs. Pankhurst, who will utilise her holiday in Scotland next month for the purpose of an extensive Scottish campaign. Mrs. Pankhurst is visiting all the chief centres, and several meetings have already been arranged. Particulars will be found on page 756.

A Trial of Strength.

This summer there is a special form of holiday work before all the members. In order that everyone may understand and support the women's demand, and that the whole country may thus call upon the Prime Minister on the re-opening of Parliament to grant facilities for the Bill, it is absolutely necessary that our paper *VOTES FOR WOMEN* should be spread among people all over the country. This is being done splendidly, but in order to stimulate the efforts of our workers a special competition has been arranged in which prizes and mementoes are to be given to those who bring in the largest number of new subscribers, as well as to individual sellers and to local unions, and captains of pitches, etc. Full details of the competition will be found on p. 754, and we would point out to those who have not yet entered that there is still plenty of chance to be a prize winner, as all the W.S.P.U. workers were busy in July with the arrangements for the great Demonstration, and cannot therefore have a very long start.

"A Great and Popular Demand."

It will be remembered that in his speech during the Suffrage debate Mr. Winston Churchill said: "I do not believe that the great mass of women want the vote." It

is therefore curious that speaking more than two years ago when the demand for the vote was less strong and universal than at present, Mr. Churchill, in the course of his by-election campaign at North-West Manchester, said:—

I will try my best, as and when occasion offers, because I do sincerely think that the women always had a logical case, and that they have now got behind them a great and popular demand among women. It is no longer a movement of a few extravagant and excitable people, but a movement which is gradually spreading to all classes of women, and that being so, it assumes the same character as franchise movements have previously assumed.

A great deal may be learnt by referring to the past speeches of politicians!

Legislative Injustice.

In the meantime, owing to the absence of woman's voice in legislation, new laws are being made and old laws sustained which press hardly not only upon her, but upon the whole community, and particularly upon the young generation, who ought to be the first care of the legislator. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence commented in an article last week on the disadvantages of so well-meant a piece of legislation as the Midwives' Act of 1902. The result of this Act is that in numbers of rural parishes women in child-birth are left without any proper care. The Midwives Act is now being amended by a second Act, which has just passed through the House of Lords. We need not enter into its many defects, but as a flagrant instance of the difference of legislation for men and for women we may quote Clause 7, which obliges a midwife to send up her name and address each year to the Central Midwives Board with a fee of 1s. If this is not done, the midwife's certificate will be cancelled, and it will only be returned to her on a further payment of 5s., or if she should persist in practising without the certificate she is liable to a penalty of £10. This appears a small matter to our male legislators, who possibly do not know that many midwives in poorer quarters are unable to make a living, and would not be able to spare even 1s. without deprivation. The main point, however, is that doctors, lawyers, and other

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