

VOTES FOR WOMEN

VOL. V. (New Series), No. 217.

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SET THE WHITE SLAVES FREE!



GAOLER ASQUITH: "We don't seem to have the right key."
GAOLER LLOYD GEORGE: "I've got another, but don't let's try it."
W.S.P.U. (pointing to the key in the hand of Gaoler Lloyd George): "THAT is the only key; will you give it to me?"
BOTH GAOLERS: "The answer is in the negative!"

CONTENTS.

Our Cartoon	431	Accounts Rendered. By W. Pelt	489
The Outlook	481	Ridge	489
For the Honour of the Church.	483	Announcements	489
By the Rev. F. M. Green	483	Besieged in Miss Pankhurst's	489
Contributions to the £250,000	484	Flat	489
Fund	485	"Imprisonments and Prosecu-	490
The White Slave Traffic	484	tions"	490
Postponement of the Conspiracy	485	The Police Protection Con- vention	491
Trial	485	Our Post Box	491
Mrs. Pankhurst's Application	485	At the London Pavilion	492
Retired	485	At the Steinway Hall	492
Views of a Princess, and other	486	New Readers Wanted	493
Reviews	486	Prisoners' Hampers	493
Health and the Woman's Vote.	487	Speakers' Class	493
By Mildred E. Mansel	487	Campaign Throughout the	493
Who killed the Conciliation	487	Country	493
Bill?	487	London Meetings for the Forth-	493
A Woman Hating Department.	487	coming week	493
Many Inventions	488		
The Women Nowhere	488		

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.

The trial of Mrs. Pankhurst and Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence has been postponed until Wednesday, May 15. This decision was reached by the Court on Wednesday last, when Mr. Tim Healy represented for the third time that Mrs. Pankhurst's health was not such as to enable her properly to prepare her defence. As we announced last week, the first application for

postponement was made on April 24, when a doctor's certificate as to Mrs. Pankhurst's condition was presented. The application was opposed by the Prosecution, who also called medical testimony, and it was rejected by Mr. Justice Coleridge. The application was repeated on Friday last, when the evidence of other medical men was produced. It was again opposed by the Prosecution and rejected. A final application was made on Wednesday last, with all the defendants present in Court; on this occasion the Attorney-General appeared in person, and said he would no longer offer opposition, but he wished to be assured that the defendants would be satisfied with a postponement of one fortnight. Mr. Healy signified that this would be so, and Mr. Justice Coleridge said under these circumstances he would order the trial to be put off.

A Tortuous Method.

Our readers will learn with satisfaction that this course—the only one compatible with elementary notions of humanity and bare justice—is at last to be adopted. But they will naturally wonder why the Government took such a tortuous method to this end. Having injured Mrs. Pankhurst's health in prison, why did not the Government do the straight thing and allow the adjournment when first applied for, instead of refusing it twice and then finally acceding to the request only when she was brought into Court? Such curious behaviour tempts us to suggest that perhaps their own convenience rather than reasons of humanity prompted their final decision. Our readers will be interested to learn that in the trial itself Mrs. Pethick Lawrence will be defended

by Mr. Tim Healy and Mr. Muir, while Mrs. Pankhurst and Mr. Pethick Lawrence will conduct their own case.

The Franchise Reform Bill.

Twice last week questions were put in the House of Commons with reference to the proposed Government Reform Bill, and on both occasions reply was evaded. After we go to press Mr. Philip Snowden will again ask the Prime Minister whether the Government intend to carry a Reform Bill through all its stages this Session; and the value of Mr. Asquith's reply will depend, from our point of view, solely upon whether a further question is put as to the nature of the proposed franchise measure. The introduction of a Manhood Suffrage Bill, in this or any other Session, will be taken by the Women's Social and Political Union to be an act of direct hostility to the suffrage movement, and will be regarded by them as an incitement to militant action. Nothing but a Government measure, giving women the vote on equal terms with men, will be accepted by the Union; and the proposal to enfranchise more men who have not demanded any such measure, while the immense agitation carried on by women all over the country is ignored, will be as profound an insult to women to-day as it was when the Prime Minister first made his pronouncement, last November, and will be ample justification for any action that the women of the country might think fit to take.

Irishwomen Insulted.

The National Convention at Dublin might have been the Imperial Parliament itself, judging by its

dread of women and the police precautions taken to prevent their approach. Let all Irishwomen who think their claim to enfranchisement will have quicker recognition from an Irish than from a British Parliament renounce that illusion for ever!

How Irishwomen are Treated.

The Irish Town Tenants' League is demanding an amendment to the Bill which shall give larger Parliamentary representation to urban districts than that at present proposed by the authors of the Bill.

We are not surprised that the townsmen should begin to think of their defence. We have no doubt that their appeal to the Irish Party to ensure them fair treatment in the scheme of representation under the Home Rule Bill will receive careful attention.

The fact is that the wire-pullers know that the Town Tenants will defend themselves and their interests in spite of every sentimental appeal to them not to jeopardise the Home Rule Bill.

Who Killed the Conciliation Bill?

In another column will be found a letter addressed to us by Mr. Crawshaw Williams, in which he attempts to absolve Mr. Lloyd George of our charge of conspiracy to kill the Conciliation Bill.

It is determined on the action I took entirely on my own initiative, and without consultation of any kind with my Chief. Strange as it may seem, occasionally even Parliamentary Private Secretaries are capable of using their own brains and of taking individual action on matters other than those connected with the Department to which they belong.

Mr. Lloyd George and Tactics.

Let us re-state the matter a little more clearly. Woman Suffrage is admittedly to-day a question of practical politics. It has been, and will be again, a source of very grave anxiety to the Cabinet; and a false move in tactics would endanger the life of the Government itself.

More Law Breaking.

It is perhaps not generally realised that the Labour Party, at its Birmingham Conference, decided to adopt a militant policy, in complete defiance of the law. Such is, however, the fact. The Conference carried a resolution calling for the reversal of the Osborne judgment, and ending with the following words: "And until it is reversed we advise all Trade Unions affiliated to our Party to defy the law, and in this way prove that we are determined to use our funds according to the decision of the majority of our members."

A Memorial to Mr. Stead.

It is being urged by Mrs. Fawcett and others that there can be no better memorial to Mr. W. T. Stead than a strengthening of the law for the protection of women and girls. With this view we heartily concur. The greatest achievement of Mr. Stead's life was the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1885, the passage of which he secured by shaming the House of Commons into action by means of his militant and lawless protest against the traffic in girl children.

We wonder whether even Mrs. Humphry Ward's belief in the innate superiority of man has stood the severe strain put upon it by the enquiry into the "Titanic" disaster. The facts already disclosed afford an admirable example of how not to do it. As one man-made contemporary tersely says, certain fundamental errors were supplemented by a plentiful variety of minor follies, and "It seems difficult to think of any sort of reasonable precaution that was not neglected."

Wanted—A Florence Nightingale.

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The Suffragists in Prison.

The further accounts we give on another page of the sufferings undergone by the brave women who endured both hunger strike and forcible feeding, a fortnight ago, paint a grim picture of the effects of Government inability to act with justice, courage,

and wisdom, when confronted with a great situation. It is not often in the history of a country's freedom that educated, law-abiding women elect to break the law and go to prison in order to win their enfranchisement, and with it the power to ameliorate the condition of those less fortunate than themselves. Yet the only place that a Liberal Government can find for such women is a criminal's cell, and the only ameliorations of prison treatment they can be prevailed upon to grant have to be forced from them by the terrible weapon of the hunger strike. Even now, the Suffragists in prison have been granted only the minimum of political recognition, a serious matter to them, because full recognition of their status would mean the recognition of their agitation as a political one. Since the Government, sooner than give them the treatment of first-class misdemeanants, drove them to risk their lives over the hunger strike, the least they can do now is to give them the full status of political offenders and so wipe out the stain that rests upon their administration of the past six years.

The Fourth Defendant.

In spite of the promptitude shown by Scotland Yard in following up the most subtle clue, the whereabouts of the fourth defendant in the Conspiracy case still remain a mystery. We give a special account in this issue of the siege of Miss Pankhurst's flat, and can only observe in passing that had Mr. McKenna's predecessor been at the Home Office, the Scots Guards, flanked by Maxim guns and cinematographs, would no doubt have assisted in the assault upon the premises. Another evidence of official alertness was given a few days ago, consequent upon the despatch of the following postcard:—

"I am afraid I shall have to get rid of Christabel Pankhurst, but temper has got so very bad. I suppose it is from being shut up so much."

The sender of the postcard informs us that she was visited by three detectives, who searched her house and found a diminutive girl who answered to the name of "Christabel Pankhurst." Perhaps, if these Russian methods, which are apparently becoming the normal methods of a British Home Office, are extended to the examination of all the correspondence of all the militant Suffragists in the kingdom, fanatical loyalty will not alone be sufficient to save a distinguished fugitive from being hunted down. Why not set a price upon her head at once?

"The Sunshine Girl" advertisement featuring a woman in a long dress and hat, with text describing the garment and the brand name Debenham & Freebody.

FOR THE HONOUR OF THE CHURCH.

By the Rev. F. M. Green, Vicar of St. Mark, Tollington Park.

(A Speech Delivered at the London Pavilion, April 22, 1912.)

After minding my own business for fifteen years as the curate and vicar of various parishes, I have recently, in the minds of many of my friends, departed from that virtuous course in connection with your movement. I do not mean that I have recently become a Suffragist. My Suffragist convictions were formed in University days, and have never wavered. But it was when I felt impelled to protest in the public Press against injustice to womanhood—and more especially against gross and palpable injustice to women prisoners—that I found that I had transgressed the supposed bounds of clerical propriety; and I greatly fear that in addressing a militant Society this afternoon, from the stage of a music-hall, I shall be accounted as adding sin to sin.

I stand here because I am concerned for the honour of the Church. It has been to me a bitter and humiliating thing to find the belief all too widely prevalent that the Church has always barred the path of progress, always reviled the banners of the dawn. In the written history of your movement my name can have no place, and I trust that it will be recorded in your hearts, and the hearts of all those who come after you, that in your hour of difficulty, in the hour when friendship was still worth having, some of your clergy, of whom I am but the unknown representative, were ready, nay, were proud and glad, to make your cause their own.

Then I stand here because I am concerned for the cause of Christ; because the cause to which you have given your hearts seems to me to be the one supreme issue in the world to-day. "Purely political," say my friends. "Absolutely religious," I reply. Think of what the triumph of your cause will mean, think of the blow which it will strike at that hateful maxim that might is right, that doctrine of devils to which the Anti-Suffragists would give a new lease of life! Might is never Right. Might often means merely hideous wrong. And before our eyes rises a glorious ideal when Right shall rule in all the relations of life.

Think again how the triumph of your cause will mean the sweeping aside of all those artificial restrictions which have hitherto prevented women from rising to their full development. "I ought, therefore I can," is the great categorical imperative of philosophy. "I can, therefore I ought," is an inference which, within obvious limitations, is no less clear. God's word to women is in the main positive, to be found in those faculties which He gave to her; "Thou shalt." Man's word to women has been for the most part a word of negation, a word of limitation: "Thou shalt not." You are out to change all that. Already you have swept many barriers aside. The stupid tyranny which has imprisoned your bodies has wrought deliverance for your souls. The complete emancipation of womanhood will be a glorious thing for men. It is no sex war in which we are engaged. Ours is a common cause, and, believe me, women, in those dark days upon which we at least have turned our backs for ever, yours has been the better part. Yours has been the suffering, ours the sin and shame. I pity the slave, but in my moments of deeper insight, I pity still more the master.

I must not speak now about those results which will certainly follow women's enfranchisement as surely as the darkness is followed by the dawn; of how the path of vice will be made more difficult, and the entanglements of vice less deadly; of how no longer shall children—for they are no more than children—be suffered to consent to their own shame; of how no longer shall the apathy of the Government, together with the appalling stupidity—or appalling wickedness, I know not which—of private members be allowed to maintain the White Slave Traffic as a lucrative and scarcely dangerous trade; of how the ravisher of little children shall be made to pay a penalty proportionate to his monstrous sin. Nor do I speak of those more difficult economic problems in the solution of which we have so much to hope for from woman's sympathy, woman's instinctive love of right. If I am told that I must stand aside because political issues are involved, I can only answer, humbly but firmly, "I have not so learned Christ."

I am here to plead for even-handed justice, to condemn with all the emphasis which I can muster the scandalous treatment of women prisoners. That treatment which has led to the hunger strike and forcible feeding. Now, I am the last man in the world who would suggest that plate glass windows can be broken with impunity. They cannot. But I say this, that when women of unquestionably high character damage property in connection with a political agitation, however wrong-headed, however politically immoral you may possibly judge their conduct to be, the policy of treating them as scarcely better than common criminals—more especially when

the results of such a policy must have been clearly foreseen—is a policy which is repugnant to every sentiment of humanity and justice. And I charge the Home Secretary with conduct which is a disgrace to himself, which is a disgrace to the whole Government of which he is a part, which is bringing disgrace upon this country in the eyes of the civilised world. I should feel the taint of the disgrace in my soul if my whole manhood did not rise up in utter and open condemnation of such methods of barbarism.

I come to the last motive which has brought me here; and the gravest motive of all. I stand upon your platform because I am afraid. I know it will be said that by my presence here I am inciting you to violence. That will be false. You have incited enough, I trust. You are incited by a Prime Minister, who gives facilities for a Bill with his left hand which he torpedoes with his right, taking good care to let his left hand know what his right hand doeth. You are incited by a Chancellor of the Exchequer, who voted for a great measure for your partial enfranchisement, the defeat of which was being engineered by his political tools. You are incited by a more honest, I had almost said a more stupid, Minister of the Crown—but really, when it comes to the question of stupidity, there is very little to choose between them!—a Minister who tells you that your past militancy has been only a policy of pin pricks, and indicates damage to property on a wide scale as the sort of argument which would convince the Government that there is a demand for the extension of the franchise. You are incited by honourable gentlemen, who pledge their support for your movement, and then are absent at the crucial moment. You are incited by a great physician, who surely, when weighed in the eternal balances, will be found to be a very little man. He has written more filth and falsehood to the Times in a single letter than I should have thought that great organ of public opinion would have thought fit to have published throughout the whole course of its history. You are incited by respectable citizens, who acknowledge that your claim is just, and will not stir one little finger to see that it is granted.

I am not here to incite you; I am here to dissuade—not by exhortations to patience and self-restraint! The time is past, or is passing, in which the Church, not words, I answer your demand. I give you deeds, poor ones, I know, but yet the best I can. I stand upon your platform; I pledge myself to prefer in the future, as I have preferred in the past, your cause to every cause. Dear to me as are the causes of imperial unity, of education in which the Church of Christ shall have a direct voice, of an Established Church as the organ of national religious life, I place your cause before them all. That is the kind of argument to which you are susceptible; along those lines you are open to conviction. You have no insane love for breaking glass; you are not enamoured of life within prison walls; of the torture of the punishment cell; of the unseemly torture of forcible feeding. Let every man who hates disorder in the State—as I frankly hate it—and who holds that your cause is just, pledge himself and exert himself to make his pledge effective; and I am ready to go so far as to say that the hammer has been used for the last time. But if no such argument is addressed to you, upon such a scale as can command attention, if the Government harden their heart, and refuse the lesson of the broken glass of Regent Street; if they persist in flouting your desires and frustrating your intelligence; if they seek to break your spirit by repression, or to win your confidence by promises which are meant to come to nothing; if, in a word, this régime of tyranny and trickery is to be continued, what will happen then? It is the fear of what will happen then which drives me here today, a fear which fills my heart as I go about my daily work, a fear which drives out selfish fear and makes the timid bold. Let me be clear. That fear is not inspired by any knowledge, direct or indirect, of what your Union either plans or contemplates; I have no such knowledge. I am in no sort privy to your council. It is inspired by a knowledge of what you have already done, of what you have already suffered.

My only hope really lies in the sanity of your Union, in the restraining influence of your leaders. I solemnly warn the Government that there are breakers ahead—it is the duty of the humblest passenger to give the warning—I warn them that they misjudge the situation. I understand that Mr. McKenna boasts that he will stamp out militancy. I do not think he will—not in the way he means. There is only one specific for disorder in the State when that disorder is provoked by injustice. That is to remedy the injustice from which the disorder springs. I fear the application of other treatment, treatment which has been known in history to aggravate the disease. Let the Government apply the sovereign specific, and all will be well. But, if not, if the Government persist in their grossly stupid and immoral policy, if your leaders are taken from you and put into prison, it may be for months, it may be for years—(cries of No! no!)—if your movement is repressed, the furnace of repression, if your gaiety is turned into bitterness, and your hope brought high to despair, then at the bar alike of human and eternal justice, the Government must answer for the consequences. I, at least, have delivered my soul.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £250,000 FUND. March 29 to April 1.

Table listing names and amounts contributed to the £250,000 fund, including Mrs. C. Yates, Mrs. C. Yates, Mrs. C. Yates, etc.

THE WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC.

Men and Women Protest Against This Evil.

The "Titanic" disaster has given Mr. Stead from us, but the spirit which animated his efforts on behalf of downtrodden womanhood seems to-day more alive than ever. On Friday, April 26, no less than three meetings were held in London on the subject of the Social evil; of which the private conference at Caxton Hall, under the auspices of the "Ladies National Association for the Abolition of the State Regulation of Vice," was, perhaps, the most notable.

Again and again men have tried to legislate with a view to the maximum amount of indulgence for themselves with the minimum amount of the penalty, the notorious C. D. Acts being a case in point. It is true that owing to the heroic efforts of Mrs. Butler and Mr. Stead they are repealed, but we are not yet by any means free of this odious tendency in our legislation. Listening to the speakers on Friday, one could not fail to be struck with the earnest reasoned common sense, wide knowledge of the subject in hand, the charitable outlook, and notably the practical unanimity of opinion that the double standard of morality lies at the root of the evil. There was a certain vitality in the air, which is so often absent from conferences whatever the subject, and any reference to the inevitable "Votes for Women" brought forth a storm of applause. One is tempted to wonder if the militancy of the past few years has not something to do with the keenness and vitality now displayed on all questions, in particular concerning women's welfare. Year by year a holocaust of women are sacrificed in what may be ironically termed "the cause of purity," but, at last, women are in open revolt, primarily against the idea that they exist before all things for the satisfaction and pleasures of man. Militancy has shown the nation that women are very alive to their political disabilities and consequent injustices, and that they are ready for the care and honour of womanhood; that they are ready to fight for it, to defend it, and, if need be, to go down to the mouth of Hell, if those who come after them can thereby gain something of Heaven.

The Conference.
Mr. Cecil Chapman, as Chairman of the morning sitting, was excellent, allowing considerable latitude in the discussion following the reading of the papers, because, as he put it, the subject was such a wide one and went down to the roots of our national life.

Mr. R. H. Bridgewater and Mr. Clark Hall, barristers, read most enlightening papers from the legal standpoint. It was significant to learn from the latter gentleman that when the Criminal Law Amendment Act was in question, the House of Lords recommended raising the age of consent to 18, but the House of Commons objected. We are often told that the House of Lords is, and would be, our greatest enemy; evidence seems to point to the manhood of Commons being the greater. Medical women gave their views from a doctor's outlook, and from that of practical experience, in the case of Dr. Jane Walker, of the reformatory powers of the Borstal Institutions. Workers of the various religious bodies gave personal accounts of their efforts and followed on the types of homes now available for girls and young women, and the sort of thing these might eventually become.

The dominant impression left in one's mind by the whole Conference was, that the best of men and women are more and more tending to draw together and unite in attacking this foul stream which poisons the well of human life; that women's enfranchisement will be the key to unlock the difficulty in raising the age of consent, and, finally, that the double standard of morality must go, before we can hope to have a purer national life.

Men's Society for Women's Rights.
The subject of the White Slave Traffic and its relation to Votes for Women was discussed in the evening at a meeting at the Criterion Restaurant, under the auspices of the Men's Society for Women's Rights.

An excellent report was published in the Standard (Woman's Platform), to which we are indebted for the following extracts:—
Mr. Joseph Clayton was in the chair, and, in opening the proceedings, said that this was not a new suffrage society, but one which would fight as strenuously as any other for the vote for women, but at the same time aim at the way would fight against individual cases of injustice. What they felt was that it was only by the co-operation of men and women that they could deal with the great evils in their midst. It was not a new philanthropic

society, but one which wanted to go to the very root of some of the evils which were eating the heart out of the nation. The good Samaritan had done a great thing in succouring the wounded man, but there was more to do than succour the wounded—there was the work of stopping the thieves at their nefarious practices, and that was one of the objects of this society. The chairman went on, "I refer to one particular Member of Parliament as often as possible because I want to drive the matter home. He may have some object beyond our calculation for blocking the White Slave Traffic Bill. I ask how is it possible that a colleague of Mr. Balfour can block a Bill of this kind? For all I know he may be an excellent father and a faithful husband, and yet his public capacity he is a man not fit to sit in the House of Commons. Because he and others like him know perfectly well means to the enfranchisement of women, indeed make it impossible for them to be returned to the House, they are the strongest opponents of woman suffrage."

Leverage of the Vote.
The Men's Society for Women's Rights was a body of men who recognised as indispensable the possession by women of the parliamentary vote on the same terms as they were granted to men. They were pledged to oppose the Government in power until legislation to secure the franchise was undertaken or a satisfactory guarantee given. The further aim of the society was to expose individual cases of injustice to women and to take action means to remedy the same, and to bring to the knowledge of the public the inefficiency of the law in dealing with the White Slave Traffic, illegitimacy, and kindred evils. By this means they yet hoped that the many men who up to the

present time had taken little or no interest in the suffrage movement might be made to see the great need for the woman's vote in the government of the country.

Dr. Saleeby, after paying a tribute to the work of Mr. W. T. Stead, said we must have the woman's help in the great business of purifying and strengthening our national life—by caring for first things first. From the points of view of heredity, the two sexes, he proceeded, were absolutely equal in their effect upon the future. The spirit against votes for women aroused such men as Sir Almonst Wright, a great authority on boils and pimples. This gentleman, in a letter to the Press the other day, said some things that he (Dr. Saleeby) was glad to have the chance of repudiating. He found that the writer said that "a medical woman is by the nature of the case never on the side of modesty!" (Crisis of "Shame!") That was simply a damnable lie! (Cheers.) He had worked side by side with women medical students, and at a later date had given lectures with them. In York Dispensary he had worked with male and female colleagues for three months, so that he knew what he was saying when he denounced Sir A. Wright's statement. He was amazed that the man who made such a statement was not knocked down by the first man he met after his letter appeared in print. (Cheers.)

A much-needed measure was the compulsory notification of contagious diseases in both sexes and all classes of society. (Applause.) A deputation of men and women doctors and other people recently waited upon Mr. Burns on this subject, and were favourably received. But a far greater weight of public opinion was wanted on the matter. Such a regulation would not only be to the benefit of the victims of the disease themselves, but of the country at large. When women get the vote they should attain justice in these things. Infant mortality in this country was a scandal. The greater part of it was easily preventable. And for every child killed many were damaged for life. Our continually falling birth-rate and our empty Colonies were a great Imperial question. We must look at it from the woman's point of view. It was a splendid record of New Zealand, which had woman's suffrage, that it had the lowest rate of infant mortality in the whole Empire. Everyone knew that women would get the vote, and when this object was attained the principles of

ogonies would be put into practice for the very general benefit of the human race. (Cheers.)
Miss Abadam, who next spoke, said that the White Slave traffic consisted in deceiving girls—drugging, tricking them by had advertisements to go here and there without protection. The girls so tricked were taken all over the world. There was a large organisation which did this for its own profit, making the women veritable slaves. Women living this life in Japan, when there had been a fire, had been chained together lest they should escape, and these women were kept in bazaars in India under the protection of the British flag. In San Francisco the first house to rise from the ruins of the destroyed city was a great establishment of the kind she was indicating, and the man who had directed the works was, she was sorry to say, a doctor who took 25 per cent. of the profits.

There was a great deal of talk about such matters, but nothing was done, and what they wanted was an international women's vote. (Cheers.) One of the chief reasons why there were so many unfortunate in London was that they were the victims of economic pressure, and it was stated that 80 per cent. of those on our streets were the victims of these conditions. The votes of women were wanted on this question, also on the drink problem, and also on the question of punishment for assaults on little children.

Mrs. Humphry Ward maintained that votes had nothing to do with wages, but urged that the Minimum Wage Bill to show that there was a most direct relation between votes and wages. She wondered personally how many of the women who had been asked to sign the petition for the Bill had realised how much their morality depended upon the

causes of the evil.
She thought there were two classes of causes for this evil. The first was the economic position of women (exclusive of bad women, who were found in every class). She thought poverty and ignorance and hard conditions the first class of causes. The second class of causes was the toleration of society of the dual standard of morality; the idea that a man might do anything and the whole of the suffering should fall upon the woman. That was why women wanted the vote. The vote marked the fact that women were human beings entitled to full consideration. It marked the fact that they were entitled to as much care and as much protection, and were just as valuable to the community as men. The idea was always a world for the men, and the women to follow on as best they could. They had been trying to get a Bill through the House of Commons dealing with this question. It had been before the House for four years, but none of the Members really thought it was important. In conclusion, Mrs. Chapman said it was not really that the world had got worse, but they knew about it now, and they did not know it before. They must no longer shut their eyes. Let there be light! These things did not prosper in the light. They wanted the vote to give them the power to push forward this thing. They wanted the vote to protect these poor women. Women said now—"We have got to protect the women who cannot protect themselves."

Where Women Have the Vote.
Lady Stout said that in Australia and New Zealand, where women had the vote, there was no organised White Slave Traffic. From the earliest times women in Australia and New Zealand had held a very different position from that of women in this country. In New Zealand the responsibility of illegitimate children was put upon the man. Provision was made for degenerates, and girls were put where they could not get into trouble and bring trouble on others. The same applied to men. When a man was guilty of assaults on children, after two convictions he was liable to an indeterminate sentence, which meant imprisonment for life. The punishment for this offence in New Zealand was from five years up to twenty years, and then imprisonment for life. The lowest sentence was five years. There were organised societies for the protection of women and children. The divorce laws in New Zealand were equal for men and women.

A MAN'S VIEW.
Mr. Frederic Hutchins has written to Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, whom he heard at one of the Hyde Park meetings recently. His letter concludes:—"I wonder if those persons who can think of nothing but broken glass cut from the broken hearts and the souls that are racked every day. Did they ever hear of the delights of box-making and the magnificent remuneration which is received in the paper bag industry? Every morning I most old ladies old enough to be my grandmother, very often in a pair of men's boots; they are on the way to the wash tub, their fingers are all pinkish from the constant use of the strong acids, through being constantly in contact with the hot water. These poor things work for twelve hours for 2s. 6d., and thank God they are able to do it. We hear enough from a hypocritical public about broken windows, and I wish you would break bodies? I wish you every success and trust that you may be spared to march boldly into the future, and that you may soon see the day when victory shall crown your splendid efforts."

Women Voters.
A meeting was held on the same evening at Globe Studios by the Australian and New Zealand Women Voters' Committee. The chair was taken by Mrs. Wingrove Cooke.
Mr. Cecil Chapman said he had been asked to speak on the White Slave Traffic that evening, and she was very anxious to do so, because she thought this question was really at the bottom of their demand for the vote, and it was the most important question of all. Years ago she did not know what it meant. She knew about the state of the streets, but she had a sort of idea that the women got there by themselves; she thought a woman went wrong and fell lower and lower and got upon the streets; years ago she did not realise that this was a problem which was kept in its present condition by a whole army of people, a whole ramification of interests, that there was money in it, and there were people who ran it who lived upon it, whose business it was; that there was, in fact, a

POSTPONEMENT OF THE CONSPIRACY TRIAL.

Case to be Heard on Wednesday, May 15.

Central Criminal Court, Wednesday.

A surprise awaited all those who thronged the Central Criminal Court last Wednesday morning, in expectation of the trial of the leaders of the Women's Social and Political Union. Although Mrs. Pankhurst's application for a postponement, on the ground that her health was not sufficiently restored to enable her adequately to conduct her defence, had already been twice refused (as reported in our columns), the Prosecution, represented by the Attorney-General, withdrew its opposition when the application was again made on Wednesday last, and the trial was accordingly postponed for a fortnight, and will commence on Wednesday, May 15. We hope very heartily, and we know our wish will be echoed by a wide circle of friends and admirers of Mrs. Pankhurst, that she will have completely recovered by that time from the injury to her health caused by the treatment she underwent in prison.

The Scene in Court.
In view of the great interest that was taken in the police-court proceedings, it was not surprising that public interest should be very much stimulated by the trial of the three leaders. Long before the gates of the Old Bailey were opened, people began to take up their positions outside in the hope of securing seats in Court. Some of these were probably attracted out of mere curiosity, but the large majority, who were evidently members of the various women's suffrage societies, came out of sympathy. By the time the doors were opened, shortly after ten o'clock, the crowd had assumed considerable proportions. The Sheriffs had supplied a list of the names of ladies who were to be admitted, and the officers on duty had a busy time in passing them in. Many were, of course, unrecognised in obtaining admission, but their disappointment was lessened when, a few minutes later, they learned that the trial had been postponed.

The scene inside the Court impressed one chiefly by reason of the predominance of women spectators. It is a comparatively rare occurrence for the seats allotted to the public to be almost exclusively occupied by women. Both the galleries and the seats at the sides and rear of the Court were crowded, while the unusual nature of the legal questions involved had attracted numbers of members of the legal profession. The front bench reserved for leaders engaged in the case was occupied by Sir Rufus Isaacs, K.C., M.P., the Attorney-General, Mr. Bodkin (who conducted the prosecution at the police-court proceedings), and Mr. Graham Campbell, who appeared for the Crown; and Mr. T. M. Healy, K.C., M.P., and Mr. Muir, who represented Mrs. Pankhurst and Lawrence.

Mr. A. E. W. Marshall, solicitor for the defence, occupied a seat at the table.
Before the proceedings opened, Mrs. Pankhurst and Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence occupied seats at the rear of the Court.
Several ladies were shown into seats on the bench just prior to the entrance of Mr. Justice Coleridge. When Mr. Healy rose to address the Court the three defendants left their seats in order to obtain a better opportunity of hearing the brief speeches of counsel, but throughout they were not, of course, called upon to enter the dock. Although for the purpose of to-day's application Mr. Healy spoke on behalf of the three defendants, two of them—Mrs. Pankhurst and Mr. Lawrence—will conduct their own defence when the case is proceeded with.

The Charge.
The indictment as set forth in the Calendar is in the following terms:—
All conspiring, combining, and agreeing together and with Christabel Pankhurst and with divers other persons to unlawfully and maliciously damage certain property, to wit, glass windows, the property of the liege subjects of our Lord the King, in each case to the extent of more than £5.

All unlawfully soliciting and inciting certain women whose names are unknown to the Women's Social and Political Union, and other women to unlawfully and maliciously damage certain property, to wit, glass windows, the property of the liege subjects of our Lord the King, in each case to the extent of more than £5.

All unlawfully aiding and abetting certain women, to wit, Sarah Bennett, Isabel Pothury, Olive Wharry, Georgina Helen Grace, Elsie Bladegarde Atheling, Evelyn Taylor, Violet Jones, Alice Conno-Smith, and Violet Hudson Harvey, to unlawfully and maliciously damage certain property, to wit, glass windows, the property of the liege subjects of our Lord the King, in each case to the extent of more than £5.

All unlawfully aiding and abetting certain women, to wit, Isabella Pothury, Olive Wharry, Violet Atheling, Clara Givern, Maggie Macfarlane, Ellen Casey, Olive Walton, Miss Wylie, Barbara Florence Ems, Haig, Emma Wylie, Barbara Wray, Alice Conno-Smith, and Edith Bowdler, the liege subjects of our Lord the King, in each case to the extent of more than £5.

All conspiring and agreeing together and with Christabel Pankhurst and with divers other persons to unlawfully and maliciously damage certain property, to wit, glass windows, the property of the liege subjects of our Lord the King, in each case to the extent of more than £5.

The Defendants.
The defendants were described as follows:—
Frederick Pethick Lawrence, 40, Barrister (on bail since March 28, 1912).
Emmeine Pethick Lawrence, 43, Editor (on bail since March 28, 1912).
Emmeine Pankhurst (bailed at Police Court, April 4, 1912).

and in each case the "degree of education" is given as "superior."
The Committing Magistrate at the Police Court was Mr. H. C. Bennett.

The Application.
When his lordship had taken his seat, and before the accused had been requested to enter the dock,
Mr. Healy said: I appear for Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, and I have an application to make to your lordship, not on her behalf, but on behalf of one of the other defendants, the substance of which I have communicated to counsel for the prosecution, as I thought it was my duty to do.

It concerns one of the other defendants, and I am asked to present it on her behalf. It is this, that in the time at her disposal, and having regard to the gravity of the case, and to the interests which she represents, she has not been able in the circumstances fully to prepare her defence. That is a serious situation, and so far I have not been able to gather what may be the attitude of my learned friend in these circumstances.

The Attorney-General: As my learned friend has said, he has made representations to me of the kind indicated, and at the same time has asked me of this, that Mrs. Pankhurst has not prepared her defence fully as she would have liked to have done. She has not been able to devote to it the time she would have wished.

I am very anxious she should not be put to any disadvantage on that account, as I understand she is defending herself at the trial, and therefore I should be very sorry to ask your lordship to press on the trial if she thinks she has not had full time to prepare any statement or defence she desires to make.

In these circumstances, I should assent to my learned friend's application, provided, as I think I am entitled to ask, that this should be done—that she should undertake to be ready for trial at a reasonable time from now. I am anxious to give her every opportunity, and I would suggest, subject to your lordship's assent and convenience, that she should be ready for trial on the 15th. That gives a fortnight to-day, and if she would be ready for the trial of the case then, and if she would not make any further application of this character, I should be quite ready to assent to and support my learned friend's application.

Mr. Healy: I have to acknowledge the courtesy of my learned friend, and this is a matter to which I entirely assent—that we go on with the case this day fortnight, and that no further application be made in the interval.
The Attorney-General: Then I hope your lordship will see your way to assent.
The Judge: I am quite willing to accede to the application, and if it is quite convenient to you, I will take the case on this day fortnight, that is the 15th.

Mr. Healy: May I acknowledge your lordship's courtesy in the matter?
This terminated the proceedings so far as the conspiracy case was concerned, and the court at once cleared, Mr. Justice Coleridge having come specially to conduct the trial.

MRS. PANKHURST'S FORMER APPLICATION REFUSED.
Last Friday, April 26, at the Central Criminal Court, before Mr. Justice Coleridge, the second application was made to postpone the forthcoming Conspiracy Trial (Re: V. Lawrence, Lawrence, and Pankhurst) on the ground that Mrs. Pankhurst's health was not sufficiently restored to enable her adequately to conduct her defence. The application was refused, and a similar application was made on Wednesday, April 24, and was refused. Mr. Graham-Campbell represented the Crown, and Mr. T. M. Healy, K.C., appeared on behalf of Mrs. Pankhurst.

Mr. Healy, having represented that Mrs. Pankhurst was extremely anxious to have her trial, proceeded as follows:—
My lord, the delay involved in this application is only a fortnight. The parties, as I understand, when they gave bail entered into some form of undertaking, the nature of which I do not quite know, but whatever it was it was duly kept, as I understand, and there has been no suggestion at all of any departure from anything which the defendants undertook to observe, which would give any ground of complaint by the Crown. That undertaking would be maintained in all its validity during the period over which I ask your lordship to postpone the trial. The lady was examined yesterday by Dr. Fenton, and I have a certificate here, but I should ask to be allowed to call him, so that your lordship may hear personally what he has to say. The lady—who intends to defend herself (I only represent her for the purpose of this application)—is most anxious to present her case before the Court, and to put before the Court and the country her vindication of her conduct, but, in the opinion of Dr. Fenton, she is at the present moment in a condition to make an adequate presentation of her case. She is suffering from some form of aphasia. That view is held, I understand, also by Dr. O'Brien, and I should like to place this case before the Court, and to put before the Court and the country her vindication of her conduct, but, in the opinion of Dr. Fenton, she is at the present moment in a condition to make an adequate presentation of her case. She is suffering from some form of aphasia. 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Women's Freedom League.

Discussion Meeting

WILL BE HELD AT ESSEX HALL, Essex Street, Strand. (One minute's walk from the Law Courts & Temple District Rly. Station).

Tuesday, May 7th, at 8 p.m.

SPEAKER: LAURENCE HOUSEMAN, Esq.

SUBJECT: "Sex War and Woman Suffrage."

TICKETS, Reserved Seats, 2/6, 1/- & 6d.

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London Society of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. 58, Victoria Street, S.W. Non-Party. **PUBLIC RECEPTION** Tuesday, May 7. EMPRESS ROOMS, KENSINGTON (High Street Station), from 3.30 to 6.15 p.m. Chair: Miss Helen Ward. Speakers:—THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR, MISS CICELY CORBETT, B.A., MISS MARGARET ROBERTSON, B.A. Discussion invited.

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VOTES FOR WOMEN

4, CLEMENT'S INN, STRAND.

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1912

THE WOMEN NOWHERE.

Last week we wrote of brave men who, putting women first, gave up their own life, and all that life meant to them, and stayed behind to die. This week we have another tale to tell, a tale of women's interests betrayed and sacrificed to the party purposes of men. Aboard the "Titanic" we saw what men can be at the highest, at Westminster we see what men can be at their lowest and at their most greedy. On the "Titanic" it was women first. Where the politicians are gathered together it is women last—it is women nowhere. It was a sordid mockery that the Prime Minister should rise in the House of Commons and speak praise of the men who counted women's lives more precious than their own, when he himself trades upon the political powerlessness of women, shuts them outside the pale of citizenship, and tries by sheer brute force to beat them into surrendering their human and civic rights.

The average man, his conscience pricked, and his self-esteem wounded by what he has seen of women's struggle for the Vote, has almost with tears pointed to the heroism of the men on the "Titanic," as a proof that he himself is not such a bad fellow after all. But we retort that this vicarious bravery and goodness does not relieve the men who are here and now alive of responsibility for the acts of the politicians whom they have elected to rule over us all—men and women alike.

In the affairs of daily life we ask for no privilege and no advantage over men. But we do demand that our disabilities and disadvantages be removed, and that we have mere and sheer equality. This demand of ours conveys and implies no reproach to men, and no attack upon them, except in so far as they refuse to concede it.

We will proceed now to show that those at present in charge of the nation's affairs act persistently and callously on the principle of "the women nowhere."

The most guilty are, of course, the Ministers of the Crown who compose the Government. But the present Government are in the peculiar position of being maintained in office by a majority which is not their own and consists entirely of the members of the Nationalist and Labour Parties. As a consequence, these two Parties have a special and direct responsibility for the action, with regard to Woman Suffrage

or any other question of the Government which, day by day, they keep in power. Let us see in what manner that responsibility is being fulfilled.

A reference to the Labour Party at once brings to mind the unique and constant service to the woman's cause rendered by certain Labour M.P.'s, and particularly by Mr. Keir Hardie, by Mr. George Lansbury, and by Mr. Philip Snowden. But these men act as individuals. The Parliamentary Labour Party, acting as a whole, has hitherto made no decided move in championship of the working-woman's claim to the Vote, by which alone she can defend her interests. Perhaps the crucial moment has, in the opinion of the Labour Party and its chairman, yet to arrive. But that moment is necessarily very near at hand, because we have Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's assurance that if a measure giving Votes to Women does not pass the House of Commons this Session, he and his forces will throw the Government out.

If the Labour Members, ceasing to support the Government, began steadily to vote against them, this would exercise an irresistible pressure upon the other Coalition groups—the Liberals and the Nationalists. For it may be safely said that without Labour support, inside and outside the House of Commons, the Government cannot live to carry Home Rule and Welsh Disestablishment. Truly, the power of the Labour Party being so great, the duty which they owe to the most needy and distressed is great also. Women are entitled to ask how much longer the present unholy alliance between the Labour Party and an Anti-Suffragist and Coercionist Government is going to last.

As to the Irish Party, their policy is already declared. They are out to wreck the Votes for Women cause, and only by force majeure can they be prevented from accomplishing that enterprise. With a perverted ingenuity, they have built up an argument designed to show that if women get votes, Irishmen will not get Home Rule, but that argument is a mere cloak for their Anti-Suffragist prejudices and their dog-in-the-manger policy of keeping the benefits of self-government entirely to themselves and their sex.

For a long time Mr. Redmond worked underground to prevent the passage of the Conciliation Bill, and it was the discovery of his manoeuvres that compelled the W.S.P.U. finally to abandon hope of the passage of any save a Government measure, which in his own interests he would be compelled to support. A few weeks ago Nationalist hostility to Woman Suffrage came into the full light of day, and procured the rejection of the Conciliation Bill. That hostility will also prevent the inclusion of women in the Reform Bill unless such inclusion is effected on the authority of the Government.

The Nationalist leaders and wirepullers oppose Woman Suffrage, not only for the Imperial Parliament, but for the proposed Irish Parliament as well. The stupid, selfish cry is being raised that because women demand fair play for their sex, they are injuring the Home Rule cause. It is the old, old story—men first, the women nowhere.

And now for the Government themselves, the chief culprits. Reform, not repression, is supposed to be the Liberal watchword, but from women they have obstinately withheld reform, and to women they have meted out ruthless coercion and repression. And withal there has been trickery and evasion and deception on an unparalleled scale. And the whole reason of it is that, unlike the Irish Nationalists, and unlike the Welsh Nonconformists, and unlike a host of other sections and interests that have been conciliated and legislated for during these last six years, women have not the power of the Vote.

If men who have that power had been more just—not to say chivalrous—they would long ago have compelled the Government to carry a Woman Suffrage measure. Instead of that, they have fought for their own interests, leaving women in the condition of political outlawry, which they, as men, found so intolerable and perilous. For this reason, militancy was resorted to, women being determined, men having failed them, to work out their own political salvation.

ACCOUNTS RENDERED.

By W. Pett Ridge.

Made me think I wasn't going to have any luck with my wives, and in saying this I am anxious not to be misunderstood. I didn't begrudge the money I had to fork out over the first one, although, as I said to the undertaker when I paid him, it was an expense I hoped wouldn't happen too often. And, of course, in regard to my second wedding, there was money going out; you can't do these affairs in a niggardly way, otherwise neighbours begin to talk, and hints that there was more fuss made over the first, and that leads to argument. Argument is a thing I never will permit in a house of mine. Once you allow that, and where's your authority? I always prided myself on the fact that I was master in my own house in the late Mrs. H.'s time. People next door, on both sides, will tell you the same.

"Richard!" said the present one. I give you my word that well, we had certainly left the registrar's office, but we were only just off the steps of the Town Hall, and I was trying to get rid of my sister, who had been keeping house for me, and her young man, that had come as witnesses. "Richard!" she says. (Something in the tone of her voice I didn't quite like; not so respectful as I'd been used to whilst we were courting together.) "Richard," she says, "I haven't liked to ask you before, but how much do you propose to allow me for the house-keeping?"

I told the other two that if they cared to look in during the course of the evening there might be refreshments about. They grumbled, and went away. "What are you making a row about?" I asked, turning. She repeated her remark, and I looked very straight at her before answering; you can often do a lot with the human eye. "Propose to allow you?" I said. "I don't know what you're driving at. If you're under the impression that I hand over to a wife of mine a princely income, sooner you get rid of that idea the better. I shall deal with your case in precisely the same way that I did with your predecessor. The first Mrs. H. brought me her books on a Saturday after I'd finished paying the men at the works, and I went through them, checked everything, asked questions; took the books, went round and settled them. Any small sum required for articles of what I may call personal adornment had to be applied for, previously, in a formal and a respectful way. "No money passes through my hands at all, then?"

"I don't brass farthing!" "I didn't know that was the arrangement," she said. "You know now," I remarked, "and you can spare yourself the trouble of putting further questions."

"Shall we take a tram?" she asked. I pointed out to her that she had been sitting down in the registrar's office for a full ten minutes; a walk would do her good. I also mentioned that the impression that I was made of money might be considered in the light of a popular fallacy. I spoke distinctly so as to make my attitude perfectly clear. It was a fortnight or so later that I came home about my usual time; to my surprise, and, I may say, annoyance, my kick at the front door was taken no notice of; this necessitated me taking the trouble of finding the latch-key. You can imagine I wasn't in the best of tempers as I went through the passage. When I saw her resting on the sofa in the front room—the front room, mind you, just as though it was Sunday—I spoke my mind. I'm not a man to mince my words, once I'm thoroughly annoyed, and I dare say I went on for a quarter of an hour. Might have been more, might have been less. At any rate, I stopped when I found myself getting husky.

"Now, what have you got to say?" I asked. "I think, Richard," she says, in a weak voice, "I think I've had a stroke. My poor arms—" "I took off my cap and threw it on the floor. "This means bills," I shouted. "I see what your notion is. You want me to take out every blessed penny I've got put away in the savings bank and then you'll feel happy. But I'm not going to do it. I shall pack you off straight to a hospital, and I shall have to go to the expense, I suppose, of bringing you a couple of oranges every other Sunday."

"They won't take me in at the Royal Free," she says. "Do you," I asked, "sit there and calmly tell me that this has happened to you before? Because, if so, you've done something which either is, or ought to be, against the law of the land. You've obtained a husband under false pretences."

"The use of my arms may return," she says, "at any moment. It comes and goes." "If you've got any influence over them," I remarked, "the sooner you exercise it the better for all parties concerned."

I suppose some would have made the mistake of rushing straight off for the doctor, in spite of what she said; instead, I sent along word ordering my sister to come and take up the household work. She sent back to say she was busy making her trousseau. I had to engage a woman at half a crown a day; two and six a day, and her meals. Two and six a day, and her meals and her beer. And she waited for the money every night. Every night I had to pay her. I am not exaggerating when I say I began

to see ruin staring me in the face. I got to hate the very sight of the woman. Apparently, she'd been in the habit of doing work for the mother of the second Mrs. H., and all day long at the works I could enjoy the pleasing thought that, likely enough, the two were wasting their time and my money by gossiping together. Of an evening when I went home, I asked the wife how she was (women are entitled to a certain amount of sympathy), and when she said, "Oh, a shade worse, if anything!" I got so mad that powers of speech left me. "What I'm worried about, Richard, is that you should be put to such expense on my account."

Don't you imagine for a single moment that I'm giving off my head with the worry of thinking about it. Wouldn't be so bad if I wasn't paying it to a mere outsider. For domestic work that ought to be done freely, and at no cost whatsoever, I'm having to plank down—

"Don't let's brood about it." "I must brood about it. It takes a good deal of brooding off." I started to walk up and down the room. "It's getting on my nerves. Why in the world you don't set to and get well is what I can't understand. Let's see how high you can lift your arms now."

She made an effort, but it wasn't of much use. The odd woman came in for her money, and I paid it out, sixpence at a time. "I begrudge it," I remarked, when she had gone. "I begrudge every penny of it, and there's no sense in pretending I don't. It isn't like handing it over to a member of my own family."

"Sooner be paying it to me, wouldn't you, Richard?" suggested my wife. "If you was well," I said, "I shouldn't begrudge paying you the money in the slightest degree. After all, you do the work."

Her uncle is a chemist in Gray's Inn Road, and he knows more than all the doctors put together; besides, he's cheaper, and he tells me there's no doubt whatever, to his mind, that it was the shock—if you can call it so—the shock of my announcement that restored the use of her arms. Anyway, she flung them round my neck and called me sensible; we talked the matter over, and I issued instructions to the effect that as she undoubtedly did manage, when she was working, to save what would otherwise be an expense, a fixed and adequate allowance would in future be made.

And she settles the tradesmen's books now. I made her do that. As I say—not to her, but to other people—there's no sense in keeping a horse and trotting about yourself.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Our Readers, especially members of the W.S.P.U., are again reminded that all communications intended for the W.S.P.U. should, in the absence of Mrs. Tuke, be addressed to Miss Kerr, Secretary (pro tem.), W.S.P.U. Offices, 4, Clement's Inn, W.C.

Prisoners' Secretary.

All enquiries with regard to prisoners should be sent to Miss Olive Smith, W.S.P.U., 4, Clement's Inn, W.C.

Albert Hall Meeting.

Events never stand still in the W.S.P.U.! And one of the most important in the near future is the meeting to be held in the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, June 15. The prices of tickets are as follows: Amphitheatre stalls, 2s. 6d.; arena, 1s.; balcony, first four rows, 1s. remainder 6d.; upper orchestra, 6d., all numbered and reserved. Boxes, to hold ten, 20s.; eight, 21s.; five, 12s. 6d. The 2s. arena and the lower orchestra seats are sold out. The regulations as to a "full let" of the hall prevent the issue of cheap tickets, except to or through W.S.P.U. members. Will members therefore make application to Miss Cooke, Ticket Secretary, 4, Clement's Inn, W.C., for themselves and friends.

London Meetings.

Suffragists have learned to know real friends from false. One of the staunch friends who never wavers in his loyalty is Mr. George Lansbury, M.P., and members of the W.S.P.U. will remember how he came forward in the critical days of early March to speak at the Opera House meeting. They will therefore be glad to know that next Monday he is speaking at the London Pavilion meeting, Piccadilly (3.15 p.m.), and they should bring their friends to hear him. At this meeting Miss Annie Kenney will be in the chair, and Miss Marie Naylor will also speak.

On Thursday, at the Steinway Hall, Lower Seymour Street, W. (8 p.m.), a medical woman, Dr. Helen Hanson, will speak, and Miss Evelyn Sharp will be in the chair.

The Woman's Press.

Mrs. Besant's fine speech at the Albert Hall meeting in March made those present feel proud that such a woman should have come forward to speak on our platform. The speech has now been issued as a leaflet, entitled "Crowned with Honour," and can therefore be widely circulated by members among those who may not be in the Suffrage movement, but who venerate the name of Mrs. Besant. The leaflets, 9d. a hundred, 6s. a thousand, can be had at the Woman's Press, 156, Charing Cross Road, W.C. The beautiful play, "The Woman with the Pack," by Miss Gertrude Vaughan, produced at the Fête and Fair last Christmas, is now out in book form, and can be procured from the Woman's Press at 1s. 6d. net.

BESIEGED IN MISS PANKHURST'S FLAT

One day last week a sensational account appeared in the daily papers of the experiences of a lady who had become the temporary tenant of Miss Christabel Pankhurst's flat. Described in one paper as "daughter of a well-known politician," and in another as "daughter of a titled gentleman living somewhere in the country" and by herself as Miss Mary Kingsley, who had borrowed the flat in order to come to town to finish some literary work, this lady was considerably astonished when, within an hour of her arrival, three gentlemen from Scotland Yard came demanding admission on the assumption that she was Miss Christabel Pankhurst. Naturally, if Miss Pankhurst wished to return unnotified to her flat, she would do so at eleven o'clock in the morning, dressed in a green hat and cloak; so Scotland Yard is to be congratulated on its perspicacity in seeing through this dark disguise and its promptitude in following up the clue. We are more surprised that Miss Mary Kingsley should have been unprepared for this display of official smartness, though she explains this to some extent by telling us that she had been warned against a possible incursion of newspaper reporters, and did not expect any other visitors. We are greatly indebted both to her and to the friend to whom she subsequently wrote an account of what happened, for permission to print the following interesting extracts from her letter:—

"Imagine my horror when, on arriving, I found there was not even a latch to my front door, and that anyone could walk in by turning the handle! Really, that Christabel Pankhurst must be a fearless person, or else she lived in her bedroom with her door locked, as I did. The first thing to do was, of course, to wedge the door. I should have done this for my own peace of mind, even if I hadn't promised father, who warned me against possible visits from reporters, to see to it. I had hardly been there an hour when I heard loud banging at the door. I asked again and again who was there, but no one answered. Then I got really frightened, and bolted into the bedroom and locked the door. Almost immediately the front door was burst open, and someone was hammering at the bedroom door and demanding to be let in. Breathlessly I asked who was there, and at last a deep voice answered 'Inspector — Miss Pankhurst.' It was too silly! 'I am not Miss Pankhurst, and I don't know you,' I said. To which he replied, 'Oh, yes, you do; open the door or I shall break it open.' This was too much! I determined not to open that door if they kept me there all night. Why didn't they have the sense to find out from the caretaker that I was not Miss Pankhurst before they indulged in such high-handed proceedings!

"Well, I told him I was not Miss Pankhurst, and didn't know where she was, and that I thought it disgraceful that one could not be left in peace in one's own flat. Of course, I meant the flat I had taken, but he seemed to think this a slip on my part. This annoyed me, and I decided to play up to them! So I began tearing up newspapers into tiny pieces. Can't you imagine how they felt at the idea of important documents being destroyed! Then they cajoled and pleaded and bullied in turn, but as they wouldn't believe me, I stopped answering and began to read. I read four chapters of Bjornsen's 'Happy Boy,' so you see I was quite calm.

"After some time they got out of one of the sitting-room windows on to the leads, and walked round the bedroom, which has three windows, two looking south and one east. They concentrated on the last, I suppose because it was furthest from their camp, the sitting-room. I pulled the curtains, so that they should not see me, and hoped they would not notice that the window nearest the sitting-room was open at the top, and wasn't the size of them. They didn't. They might have thought of it once, when, to give them a fright, I threw open the window and banged it down violently. You should have seen them fly on to the balcony! They thought their prey had escaped that time. Later on, when things got slow again, I remembered I wanted to make a cutting of the paper. Instead of cutting it the right size I tore the material twice. You know the noise it makes. All three men rushed out again, confident that Christabel was going to let herself down hand-over-hand into the street below. You know in books of adventure you always escape by a rope made of strips of your sheets torn up.

"Can you believe that this went on for an hour and a half, and that it was 2.30 before these bright people discovered that a window was open? Eventually, the largest of the three men climbed up, threw the curtain back, and the upper window down, and hung in from the waist forward. When he saw me he said, 'Ah! Now, Miss Pankhurst, the game's up. Open the door and come quietly.' I took no notice, so he had to push up the window and climb in. Full of elation, he stepped up to me. Poor man, he was so sure! Then it began to strike him he had made a mistake, and he bullied me for having wedged the door. I told him of my promise to father, and that I didn't know the difference between reporters and police inspectors; but that, strange to say, did not seem to please him any better.

"When the three detectives finally made a dejected exit I was frightened of being alone in that keyless flat, and went back home the same night."

In the House of Commons on April 25 Mr. McCallum Scott asked the Home Secretary whether he has any official information to the effect that Miss Christabel Pankhurst is in the United States, having been seen and recognised personally by one to whom she was personally known; and, if so, what action, if any, do the Government propose to take?

Mr. Ellis Griffith: It is a general rule, necessary for obvious reasons in the public interest, not to state what action the police have taken or propose to take for the execution of warrants of arrest against persons charged with criminal offences. The Secretary of State cannot and cannot except to this rule in the case of Miss Christabel Pankhurst.

AT THE PAVILION.

It was a pleasure, at the Pavilion meeting on Monday afternoon, to hear Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, and she was given a hearty welcome. As the Chairman (Miss Rachel Barrett, B.Sc.) said, the name of Pankhurst would always be heard with delight. It was the Pankhurst spirit that had made the W.S.P.U., and it was that spirit which would give us Votes for Women.

Miss Pankhurst made an eloquent and fighting speech. She pointed out that the arrest of the leaders was but another proof that this movement had reached the position of other franchise movements. All through the history of the movement, the methods used against the Suffragists had been harsher than those used against men, even men indicted for high treason, cattle-driving and other crimes.

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either the arms or some other attribute or quality of the owner. But hitherto it has not been possible to produce original, specially-designed book plates at other than a cost which is beyond the means of most who would like to possess one. To have a book-plate of one's very own, designed in accordance with one's own ideas, has seemed out of the question. It is no longer so. My present endeavour is to fill the need. I have a staff of artists who will design, each book-plate being treated separately and differently in order to incorporate some special feature as desired by the purchaser, and the prices vary from as low as 17s. 6d. for the design, block, and 100 plates, complete, to four or five guineas for the best copper-plate work; but in

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LORD MACAULAY ON URGENCY.

Is delay no evil? Is prolonged excitement no evil? Is it not evil that the heart of a great people should be made sick by its deferred hope? "What, then," it is said, "would you legislate in haste? Would you legislate in times of great excitement concerning matters of such deep concern? Yes, sir, I would; and if any had consented to follow from the haste and excitement, let those be held responsible who, when there was no need of haste, when there existed no excitement, refused to listen to any project of reform—nay, who made it an argument against Reform that the public mind was not excited. . . . Half the logic of misgovernment lies in this: the more sophisticated the man, the more people are turbulent they are unfit for liberty; if they are quiet they do not want liberty. Reformers are compelled to legislate fast because bigots will not legislate early. We are compelled to legislate fast because they would not legislate at all.

WHY HE WAS CONVERTED.

A deputation from the Women's Franchise League recently visited the three members for Port Elizabeth (S. Africa) for the purpose of getting their support for a Bill to be introduced this Session in favour of giving the franchise to women. Mr. Jas. Searle declared that although at one time opposed, he was now in favour of Woman Suffrage. During a recent visit to England he had been struck by the number of women workers and their great intelligence and industry, and he thought they were entitled to have the vote. Only one member was against the proposal.

WOMEN AS PROPERTY.

It was stated recently in the Star that a tinker named Harris, who was charged with drunkenness at East Ham, was fighting with a woman.

The Prisoner: It was my wife, and I was only trying to chastise her to keep her quiet. He was fined 2s. 6d. and costs.

WOMEN ATTORNEYS.

According to an Exchange telegram, the President of the Court at Maasdrout, Cape Town, on April 22 gave judgment establishing the right of women to practise as attorneys.

WOMEN AS FIREMEN.

The women of Idria, in the Austrian province of Krain, were so dissatisfied with the fire brigade, says the Daily Express, that they have formed one of their own, consisting of sixty "firewomen," with Frau Mario Straos as their commander.

Mr. Asquith when on holiday has a predilection for coloured shirts. The only stipulation he makes is that they must not be of purple, green and white. "Hatchett's Book List."

The May number of the English Review contains an article entitled "Woman—A Reply to Mr. W. P. Woodcock's article 'Woman'." which appeared in the April number.

WOMEN IN TURKEY.

To the Editors of Votes for Women.

Dear Madam.—An article quoted from the Daily Chronicle and recently published in your paper has been handed to me by a friend. This article gives a very serious account from Constantinople of the status of Turkish women. As I have lived here many years, and know many Turks intimately, I feel very much distressed to have so untrue a statement spread abroad as that which the Daily Chronicle correspondent has given. As far as we can tell, and this is not only my own opinion but that of everyone whom I have asked, there is a constantly growing freedom among Turkish women. We see them constantly walking with their husbands, we hear every day of things that, before the Constitution, would have been impossible. It is the better class of women are very careful to wear the tcharchaf (the covering), the veil distinctively not being absolutely necessary. At the same time, a large number of Turkish ladies stand around the municipality waiting for the news, and there was no riot, no disturbance whatever; they were equally interested and quite contented. I feel especially strongly in regard to what is said by the Daily Chronicle correspondent about Haldé Hanum, the graduate of our College, who made a public address here on Charter Day. She was not unveiled, as your correspondent said, but wore her tcharchaf, and there have been no ill consequences. As far as I have heard she has received only praise from Turks for her address. That an entirely untrue statement should have been circulated so widely as your paper has done, seems to me a very great wrong. I hope that you will contradict the statement in your paper. I send you a copy of the article made by Haldé Hanum, that you may see there was nothing inflammatory in it. I feel that such a letter anyway retards the cause of woman's freedom, because it arouses personal feeling among the Turks, the conservative ones especially.—Yours, &c.,

ISABEL F. DODD, American College for Girls, Constantinople, April 22, 1912.

We are glad to have Miss Dodd's account of conditions as she sees them. We are making further enquiry into the position of affairs in Turkey, having decided to do so as soon as the Daily Chronicle correspondent's statement came under our notice. We shall be rejoiced to find that the claim of Turkish women to increased freedom is meeting with no resistance from Turkish men. Such a condition of affairs would be almost a precedent in human history. Miss Dodd does not refer to the Daily Chronicle correspondent's report of repressive laws passed by the Ottoman Government in order to check the Turkish women's efforts towards freedom. Want of space prevents our printing the address referred to in your letter, but we hope to do so next week. Meanwhile, the extract in your issue from the Standard (Woman's Platform), of May 1, seems to show that some feeling does exist in Constantinople with regard to Haldé Hanum, who is stated to have been threatened with imprisonment for appearing in public without her veil.—Ed. Votes for Women.

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Single insertion, 24 words or less, 2s. 1d. per word for every additional word (four insertions for the price of three).

All advertisements must be prepaid. To ensure insertion in our next issue, all advertisements must be received not later than Tuesday afternoon. Address the Advertisement Manager, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4, Clement's Inn, W.C.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.
[Property found at W.S.P.U. meetings should be sent to Miss Kerr, 4, Clement's Inn, W.C.]

GIVEN FOR SELF-DENIAL FUND.
We are anxious to sell the following articles in order to add the amount realised to the total of the Self-Denial Fund:
Lace brooch (double heart of pearls set in 18ct. gold) with gold safety chain and pin attached 2 2 0
Lady's gold watch (38ct), half hunter, good condition £2 10 0
Gold necklace (18ct) 1 5 0
Large gold brooch, set red coral (artistic design) 1 1 0
Locket, gold and blue enamel, set pearl and diamond heart 1 1 0
Ring, set one ruby and two emeralds 0 10 6
Gold scarf pin, set turquoise, diamonds 2 2 0
Gold bracelet, set opals and garnets 0 10 6
Cuirass plate (diameter 2 1/2 in.), deep ground, with floral design 1 12 6
Fur, brown pointed fox 1 1 0
Oxidised silver pendant and chain, modern and artistic design 1 1 0
Two heavy Indian silver rings (copy of ancient Indian jewellery) Offers asked
Offers for any of the above would be considered.—Apply, Mrs. Sanders, W.S.P.U., 4, Clement's Inn, W.C.

LOST PROPERTY.—Umbrella, with silver crook handle, taken in mistake for similar one (silver engraved) from the Connaught Rooms Reception on Sat. April 20. Please return to Miss Kerr, who will effect the exchange.

BOARD RESIDENCE, Etc.

ABSOLUTE Privacy. Quietude, and refinement.—At the Strand Imperial Hotel, opposite Gaiety Theatre, ladies will find the freshest, cleanest, cosiest quarters. Sumptuous bedroom, bath, and c. water fitted, breakfast, bath, attendance, and lights, from 5s. 6d. En. pension, 9s. Finest English provisions. Terrace, garden, lounge.—Phone, Managers, 4788 Gerrard.

A BEAUTIFUL HOLIDAY HOME (altitude 600ft.)—Dean Forest, Seven and Wye Valleys. England's finest forest, and river scenery. Spacious house, 25 bedrooms, billiard room, bath-room. Extensive grounds. Tennis. Concessaries. Vegetarianism accommodated. Suffragist welcomed. Board residence, 31s. 6d. to 3s. Photos, prospectus, Chas. Hallam, Littledean House, Newbam, Glos.

BOARD - RESIDENCE for Students, Visitors to London, and others; comfortable, moderate; well recommended; central.—Miss Kilbey, 5, Galford Street, Russell Square, W.C.

BRIGHTON - TITCHFIELD HOUSE, 21, Upper Rock Gardens, off Marine Parade. Good table. Congenial society. Terms, 25s. to 35s.—Mrs. Gray, Member W.S.P.U.

FOLKESTONE.—Roycewood, Castle Hill Avenue. Board residence; best parl.; moderate terms. Special care for delicate people. Well recommended. Proprietress.

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