

# VOTES FOR WOMEN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

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## VOTES FOR ALIENS!



**VOTELESS BRITISH WOMAN: "The War has brought him a vote. It has brought me only unemployment."**

(Numbers of foreign residents have become naturalised British citizens sooner than return to their own country to fight. They have thus acquired the right to vote on our Imperial affairs while British born women, mothers and wives of British soldiers and sailors who are dying for the Empire, continue voteless.)

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### DEDICATION

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

Parliament reassembled last Monday, and several emergency Bills, rendered necessary by the extraordinary situation created through the war, were at once introduced into the House of Commons, and will doubtless be rushed into law without delay or obstruction. A suggestion has also been made, which will probably be carried into effect, to bring in a measure to prevent the disfranchisement of those who may be forced, through distress caused by the war, to apply for poor relief.

#### Emergency Electoral Reform

Thus it appears that the Government can always

find time, if they have the will, to introduce and carry measures affecting the electoral laws of the country. Last week we commented on the Act which was passed to enable soldiers, who had left to join the colours, to register as electors by proxy. Women will naturally want to know why, if it is possible to pass emergency Acts in war time, merely to safeguard the interests of those who already have votes, it should not be equally possible to carry into law an emergency measure to give votes to women, who are also bearing their full share of the burden and tragedy of the war, and who are intimately affected by some of the Bills now being passed into law, especially those concerning finance, temperance, and the feeding of children. We deal further with this matter in our leading article.

#### The Naturalised Voter

While women remain unrecognised as citizens, though their efforts on behalf of their country at this time of crisis are untiring, many men, whose patriotism certainly cannot be placed on a higher level than theirs, are now being added to the electorate. We refer to those foreigners resident among us who, as "A Patriot" cleverly depicts in our cartoon this week, have become naturalised Britons rather than return to their own country at this juncture. These strangers of alien birth will therefore have a voice in controlling the affairs of the nation and the Empire, while British women are passed over

as unfit to exercise the vote. Surely, this consideration alone, rendered infinitely more acute through the exigencies of war, should be sufficient to justify the Government in passing a measure of woman suffrage without delay!

#### W.S.P.U. Prisoners in Ireland

We learn from the *Irish Citizen* that the amnesty granted to political prisoners in England and Scotland was not held to apply in Ireland, and that unspeakable indignities and most unnecessary suffering have been in consequence imposed upon the four militant suffragists, Mrs. Metge, Miss Evans, Miss Wickham and Miss Carson, who were hunger-striking in Belfast Gaol at the time when their colleagues over here were released unconditionally. We understand that they are now free and are not being molested further by the authorities; and we conclude that all proceedings will be dropped against them. But it is a scandal that the amnesty should not have been applied to them in the first instance. The released English and Scottish prisoners, we are informed, are making a very slow road to recovery, and it will be long before they get over the effects of the terrible torture of forcible feeding inflicted upon them.

#### The War and Unemployment

So much unemployment through the war is being caused among women—who have not, like men, the alternative of enlistment—that we welcome every







# VOTES FOR WOMEN

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS.

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, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C.**

### NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICES

**HIGHER THOUGHT CENTRE, 40, Courtfield Gardens, Cromwell Road, S.W. 11.50, Miss Harriett Dix, 7, Mrs. Mary Chapin.**

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