

VOTES FOR WOMEN

EDITED BY FREDERICK AND EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

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CHRISTMAS SPORTS!

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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 readers a very happy and delightful Christmas. In whatever part of the world they find themselves may they be conscious of the spiritual bond of fellowship by which we are all united; may the holiday season add to the fulness and richness of life, and may it give renewed strength for the great work which awaits us in the coming year.

The Woman's Burden.

We publish as a Christmas Supplement this week a photograph of the beautiful figure that dominates the Sculpture Section of the Russian Art Exhibition. Mr. C. Isenberg, the Russian sculptor, is very keenly interested in the fight for emancipation now being waged by women in this country against the Government, and he has dedicated this work to our Movement.

His figure is the expression of Woman doubly handicapped. Humanity carries the Cross, Woman carries the Cross and the Child. Her cause is therefore twice sacred. That is the message that the artist has for us and for the world. The Committee of the Russian Art Exhibition freely offered special permission to the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN to reproduce this photograph, and on behalf of the Union we express our thanks to them and to Mr. Isenberg.

The End of the Election.

The General Election is now over. Unless the Wick election, the result of which was not to hand as we went to press, gives another gain to the Unionist Party, the coalition of Liberals, Labour, and Irish, by which Mr. Asquith's Government is supported, will have a majority of 128 in the new House of Commons; just two more than what they had in the last House. Dissected into parties the Liberals return with 272, or three less than they had before; the Labour Party with 42, or two more than in January; Mr. Redmond with 76, or four more; Mr. O'Brien with eight, or two less; and the Unionists with 272, or one less than at the last General Election. For practical purposes, therefore, the situation remains unchanged.

W.S.P.U. Victories.

Of the contests during the last week there were four to which the Women's Social and Political Union devoted special attention, and in two out of these four—the High Peak division of Derbyshire and St. Andrews Burghs—a seat has been wrested from the Liberal party, the loss in the High Peak involving the

defeat of a Minister, Mr. Partington. This brings the number of wins in constituencies especially worked by the Women's Social and Political Union in this election up to a total of ten (counting 20 on a division). But taking the country as a whole, there are probably no less than a score of additional seats with narrow Unionist majorities in which the Liberal candidate has encountered defeat owing to the loss of prestige which his party has suffered from its attitude to Woman Suffrage. Thus, altogether, Mr. Asquith has a majority sixty or seventy less than he otherwise would have had if he had not brought into opposition against him the women of the country.

The Proposed Plural Voting Bill.

Liberal politicians are already busy preparing their programme. The Veto Bill, Home Rule, Payment of Members, Invalidity Insurance have been promised for some time past; to these has now been added authoritatively a Bill to abolish plural voting. The Master of Elibank, speaking at Midlothian on Friday, said:—

I now have the authority of the Prime Minister to state that if the Liberal party is returned to office—and there is every prospect that it will be returned with an extremely comfortable majority—the Government proposes to proceed at as early a date as possible, having regard to the other business which will be before the House of Commons, with a Plural Voting Bill, in which they will set up "one man one vote," and abolish plural voting, which is of such extreme advantage to their Conservative friends.

"P.W.W." in the *Daily News* puts this forward as one of the proposals for next session. Women certainly have no intention of allowing any other measure affect-

Articles and News contributed for insertion in VOTES FOR WOMEN should be sent to The Editors, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4, Clements Inn, Strand, W.C., at the earliest possible date, and in no case later than first post Monday morning prior to the publication of the paper.

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The Women's Social and Political Union. OFFICE 4, CLEMENTS INN, STRAND, W.C. Telegrams "WOSPOLU, LONDON." Telephone: Holborn 2724 (3 lines).

VOTES FOR WOMEN 4, CLEMENTS INN, STRAND. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1910.

THE MOTHER. In a small room, dimly lighted, sat a woman making collars. Above the humming of her sewing machine the clock of a neighbouring church struck ten.

waken to life, a child. "Pray God it is a boy," she moaned. "If not, pray God it may die! It is too terrible to be a woman."

She thought of the girl on the second floor who had been taken that day to the workhouse infirmary; she knew her story. The girl had been a waitress in a tea shop. She earned her food and 1.3 shillings a week.

Suddenly her room seemed full of light. Afar off she heard a burst of song. It came nearer. Never had she listened to such music.

So that was what they were singing! Where had she heard it before? The words seemed so familiar to her that, though she wondered, she was not overwhelmed with surprise.

She wanted to hear more, and listened breathlessly now. Nearer and nearer to her came the voices, and she heard a new refrain that seemed to fill both heaven and earth with ringing joy.

And it seemed to the woman that the wall had been built up and the room was dark again, save for the light of one small lamp. But in her heart she heard still an echo of the song: "They that dwell in the land of the shadow of death"

is born—a saviour, which—" Then she understood. It was her own child—the child that moved under her heart. What was it came next? Ah! it came back to her now: she seemed to hear again that burst of joy that filled the sky with song: "To set at liberty them that are bruised."

Who were the bruised? Someone had told her a story a few hours ago. It was about the poor creature who kept the fish shop at the corner of the street: her husband had come back last Saturday and demanded money; had knocked her down and kicked her; the magistrate had made a joke about it in court and everybody had laughed except the woman.

When the Commonwealth of Australia was inaugurated in 1900, universal adult suffrage was conferred upon her citizens. The separate States passed the Women's Suffrage Bill at different times.

In spite of the prophecies of evil of its opponents in New Zealand the women have not deteriorated in appearance, health or morals, nor have the men suffered in consequence of the absence of their wives during the one hour in three years that has been devoted to voting.

We have the highest marriage rate (no anti-women or anti-men there), the lowest death rate and the lowest infant mortality in the world. We have the only increasing birth rate in the civilised world.

There is no sweating in New Zealand. Employers in factories and shops are by law obliged to pay young girls a minimum wage of 6s. per week, which is increased by 3s. per week each year until it reaches £1 per week at 21 years of age.

And when the veil was removed, it seemed as though the little room was full of those shining presences who had drawn near to her from the singing hosts of heaven.

A peal of bells rang out from the church. One of the boys stirred, sat up and cried out, "Mother!" She lifted her head. "Hush!" she said, "Hush! The angels are singing."

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Emmeline Pethick Lawrence.

WOMEN'S VOTES IN NEW ZEALAND. By LADY STOUT, Wife of The Hon. Sir Robert Stout, formerly Premier and now Chief Justice of the Dominion of New Zealand.

In New Zealand we have had the vote for 18 years. There never has been and never will be any antagonism between men and women. We have the interests of our children and country in common, and the comradeship which unites us has made our reforms possible.

"Dear Madam,— "In reply to your request for information regarding the operation of the Women's Vote in New Zealand, nothing gives me greater pleasure than to avail myself of the opportunity of expressing my opinion.

"In all my experience of elections I never was able to see that the women's vote was exercised with one whit less intelligence than any section of the men's vote, and, having taken part in the last contest here, I can say with certainty that our contests do not suffer in any comparison which may be instituted.

Woman! Sad woman, who are you, say— Are you of Now, or of Yesterday? Why do you tread that thorny road? Why do you bear that double load?

Know you the women who have been shamed— Used for men's pleasure and cast away? Women of Now and of Yesterday? Mother-of-Sorrows I have been named.

Know you the outcasts of every clime? To whom is said, "Go," but never "Come"? These are the women who have no home: I am those women—I know not mine.

Know you the women who have been shamed— Used for men's pleasure and cast away? Women of Now and of Yesterday? Mother-of-Sorrows I have been named.

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compelled to go out, wet or dry, ill or well, or even if their mistresses or the children were dying. The Bill never reappeared. The following is a letter from the Hon. R. McNab, who testifies to the value of Women's Suffrage in the Home:—

"Dear Madam,— "In reply to your request for information regarding the operation of the Women's Vote in New Zealand, nothing gives me greater pleasure than to avail myself of the opportunity of expressing my opinion.

Mr. McNab is a handsome and wealthy bachelor, who was rejected at last election. He has always been an ardent supporter of Women's Suffrage and all the social reforms that appeal to women.

When I was in New Zealand, I was wholeheartedly for Temperance and Social Reform. Since coming over here and seeing all that you have to overcome, and the terrible suffering that is daily and hourly before my eyes, I am for Woman's Suffrage first, and everything else a long way behind.

MOTHER DOLOROSA. (Lines suggested by Mr. Constantin Isenberg's bronze figure of "The Heavy Cross," a reproduction of which is given with this number as a Christmas Supplement.)

THE TREASURER'S NOTE. During the week ending Dec. 17th nearly £500 was sent in to the Treasury.

During the week ending Dec. 17th nearly £500 was sent in to the Treasury. Many of the members of the Union have asked their personal friends to give them money instead of the usual Christmas gift, in order that they may be able to devote it to the Campaign Fund, and these "Christmas boxes" are reaching the Treasurer by every post.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £100,000 FUND. December 12 to December 17.

Table listing contributions to the £100,000 fund from December 12 to December 17. Columns include names of contributors and amounts in pounds and shillings.

the women's tickets being most carefully distributed among a few safe members of the Association...

ISLINGTON. Hon. Sec.—Miss E. M. Casserley, 37, Church Crescent, Muswell Hill, N.

LAMBETH. Organising Sec.—Miss Leonora Tyson, 37, Drewstead Road, Streatham.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Bartels, 23, Acadia Grove, Dulwich. As already announced, arrangements are being made to have Votes for Women held in the following ladies' West Norwood Public Library...

LEWISHAM. Shop and Office.—107, High Street, Lewisham. Shop hours, 2.15 p.m. to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

NORTH ISLINGTON. Hon. Sec.—Miss Casserley, 37, Church Crescent, Muswell Hill, N.

RAYLEIGH. Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Warren, B.A., The White Cottage Shop, High Street.

SYDENHAM AND FOREST HILL. Hon. Sec.—Miss A. Pollard, Marshwood, 6, Burg Hill Road, Sydenham.

WIMBLEDON. Hon. Sec.—Mrs. P. W. Wimbledon. Hon. Organising Sec.—Mrs. Lametina Yates, Dorset Hill, Mersey, Surrey.

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Home Counties.

BARNET. Hon. Sec.—Miss Susan Watt, 13, Stratford Road, Barnet.

A very successful A. Home was held at Highbury Hall, on Wednesday afternoon, December 14.

BRIGHTON, HOVE AND DISTRICT. Office.—3, North Street, Quadrant, Tel. 4833 Nat.

Hon. Sec.—Miss E. M. Casserley, 37, Church Crescent, Muswell Hill, N.

CANTERBURY AND EAST KENT. Office.—2, York Terrace, Ramsgate.

OXFORD. Hon. Sec.—Mrs. E. F. Richards, 20, Woodstock Road.

RAYLEIGH. Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Warren, B.A., The White Cottage Shop, High Street.

LEICESTERSHIRE. Office.—11, Bowling Green Street, Leicester.

SYDENHAM AND FOREST HILL. Hon. Sec.—Miss A. Pollard, Marshwood, 6, Burg Hill Road, Sydenham.

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BRISTOL AND DISTRICT. Office.—27, Queen's Road, Clifton, Tel. 1345.

The General Election Campaign in the Torquay Division was held on Friday, December 17.

FALMOUTH. Hon. Sec.—Miss Ross. The election excitement having now died down, workers here are contenting themselves with quiet propaganda work.

North-Eastern Counties. NEWCASTLE AND DISTRICT. Office.—17, Blackett Street.

SCARBOROUGH. Hon. Sec.—Miss Adela Pankhurst. The Cape and Apron Sale on Friday was a great success.

North-Western Counties. LIVERPOOL AND CHESHIRE. Office.—25, Berry Street, Tel. 3761 Royal.

MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT. Organiser.—Miss Georgina Brackenbury and Miss Rosa Robinson.

West of England. Organiser.—Mrs. Hannah, Bayford Lodge, Wincanton.

In London, when British women go on a peaceful deputation to Britain's Prime Minister, made a valuable impression on the unconvinced.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND. Shop and Office.—52, Cannehall Street.

ELECTION RESULTS. CAMBRIDGESHIRE (Wisbech). Hon. Nell Primrose (L.) ... 4,501

DERBY (High Peak). RESULT. S Hill-Wood (C) ... 5,813

ST. ANDREWS BURGHS. RESULT. Major W. Anstruther-Craig (C) ... 1,675

YORKS (Buckrose). RESULT. Sir Luke White (L.) ... 4,867

Scotland. DUNDEE. Organiser.—Miss Fraser Smith, M.A.

"WAIT AND SEE!" "In another ten years you ladies will be sweeping into the polling booth with the men," observed a friendly elderly who had just driven up in his motor-car.

HEROINES OF THE ELECTION. The Daily Chronicle tells of a plucky action by two young women in the Epping Division during the General Election.

At Battersea Suffragettes invaded the constituency early, and remained outside the polling-booths all day, making ceaseless appeals to the voters.

Mr. Victor Duval attended a successful meeting at Newcastle on Monday last. Several men had then, and this reasonable standpoint is all that reasonable women demand.

W.S.P.U. Organiser.—Miss Grace Roe. The result in this constituency was not unexpected, but in spite of numerous attacks it has been very encouraging.

Another triumph for the Women's Cause. Mrs. Baines, with several helpers, worked hard, distributing leaflets, holding the chair, and working in various ways.

Major W. Anstruther-Craig (C) ... 1,675. F. D. Millar ... 1,620.

At the election in East Fife, Mrs. Asquith's car was followed by another containing an escort of six policemen.—Times.

THE POINT. But the opinion has been expressed that the Liberal Government does not impart to women during the impending General Election.

MISS MARY GAWTHORPE. Miss Gawthorpe's medical officer reports slow but gradual progress towards recovery; it will be essential for Miss Gawthorpe to continue under treatment for some time to come.

THE ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE. The Annual Birthday Party arranged by the Committee at the Criterion on Friday, December 16, was a great success.

CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE. President.—The Bishop of Lincoln.

A CORRECTION. In the report of a meeting at Falmouth in last week's issue of Votes for Women, it was incorrectly stated that this was a meeting of the local Women's Liberal Association.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS OF DISTINCTIVE DESIGNS. The gem jeweller, gold and silver plate of the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths' Company, Ltd., of 12, Regent Street, London, W., are distinguished by the finest workmanship.

WOMEN'S TAX RESISTANCE LEAGUE. By the kindness of Miss Gertrude Eaton, a very successful drawing-room meeting was held to discuss the legal aspects of tax resistance.

IRISH WOMEN'S FRANCHISE LEAGUE. Mrs. Palmer, hon. sec., presided at the meeting held on Tuesday, December 13.

ALFRED DAY. Ladies' Tailor. Coat & Skirt £2:2:0. BEAUCONSFIELD LAUNDRY. 19, Beethoven St., Kilburn. E. DAY & CO., 280 P. No. 1520. FRENCH CLEANING & DYEING WORKS. 5, Brecknock Road, and 275 High Street, Camden Town, N.W.

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