

"Votes for Women," April 9, 1909.

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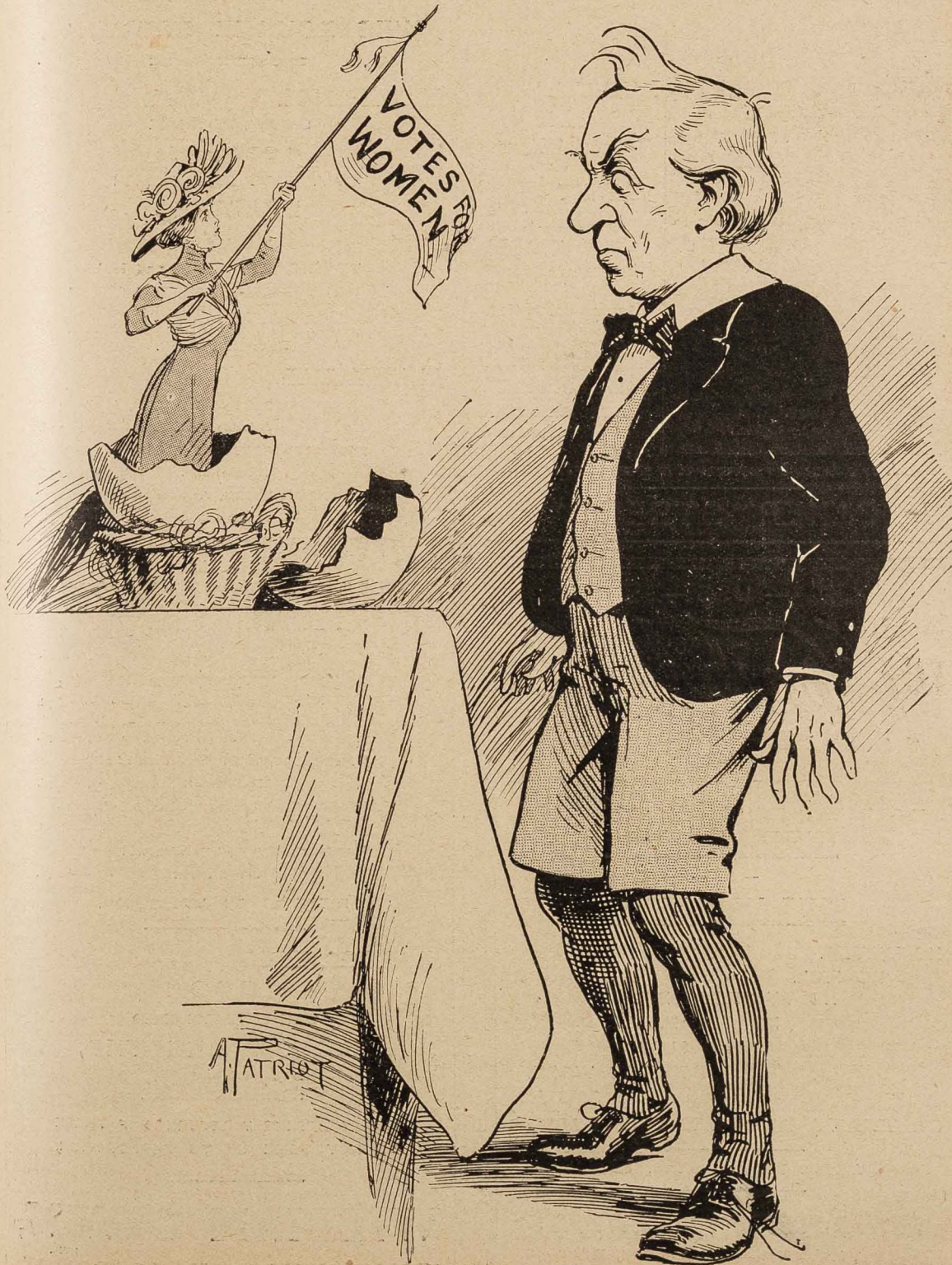
# VOTES FOR WOMEN.

EDITED BY FREDERICK & EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

VOL. II., No. 57.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1909.

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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.

In our issue last week we described the arrest and trial of the first portion of the deputation to Mr. Asquith. Similar scenes were enacted on the following day, Wednesday, March 31, when the remaining members again endeavoured to see Mr. Asquith face to face and explain the women's position to him. A struggle ensued outside the Houses of Parliament and a further nine women were taken into custody. Brought up before Mr. Marsham on Thursday, they exhibited the same quiet courage and dignity which their colleagues had exhibited on the previous day, and, refusing to consider the

question of being bound over, all accepted the alternative sentence of one month's imprisonment in the second division which was imposed upon them.

### The Futility of Imprisonment.

In spite of the somewhat bantering tone adopted by the magistrate, it was impossible not to realise that underneath, he felt the gravity of the situation—that, like Sir Albert De Rutzen, he could not help "admiring the courage of these women," and that, in common with one of the prisoners in the dock, he realised the futility of attempting to deal with this movement by sending those who took part in it to a common gaol.

### Preparing for a Further Deputation.

If anything was needed to show how completely this treatment has failed to deter, it will be proved by the article which we print in this issue from the pen of Christabel Pankhurst, who calls on the women of the country to go in a deputation to Mr. Asquith on June 29 next in larger numbers than ever before and to insist upon their right to see him. This call we know will obtain the splendid response from the members of the Union which other similar calls have met with in the past; and once more we place this question before the Government of the day: Are they going even now, at this twelfth hour, to do justice, or are they, by their continued coercion, prepared to go down to posterity branded with the shame of the imprisonment of many hundreds of women who refuse any longer to submit to be deprived of their citizen rights?

### The Release of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.

Members of the Union are looking forward with great eagerness to the release on Friday morning, April 16, of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Treasurer of the Union and Co-Editor of this paper. A great welcome is being prepared at the prison gates, and at the breakfast at the Criterion Restaurant. And the special procession on the following day from Hyde Park to the Aldwych Theatre will mark the importance of the occasion. Full particulars of these events, in which we hope every London member will take part, will be found on page 533.

### Women and the Law.

The prominence of the suffrage agitation brings to light many individual cases of hardship suffered by women under the law which would otherwise pass unnoticed. One of the recent cases is that of a married woman who is being forced by her husband to live in a workhouse in spite of her desire for her discharge and her undertaking to live with her own sister and earn her living. It appears that he is within his rights in taking this course, and the guardians have refused the application of the wife. There is in force an instruction issued some seventy years ago which provides that a husband may detain his wife in the workhouse against her wish, merely by exercising his marital authority. Yet there are people who say that married women are the spoilt children of the law!

### General Activity.

The week that has gone by has been a very busy one. Meetings have been held in all parts of the country, including the interesting At Home in the Queen's Hall, London, where a specially large gathering took place to listen to the account given by Lady Constance Lytton of her reasons for taking part in the demonstration of February 24. A hearty welcome was given to Miss Gye on Thursday at the prison gates and at the meeting in the evening in the St. James's Hall. Ministers have had to encounter the Suffragettes in various places. At the Boat Race a special launch went up and down the course crowded with women wearing the W.S.P.U. colours; this elicited hearty cheers from the crowds along the bank. For the future we are promised by-elections in Edinburgh and in Stratford-on-Avon. These, together with the great Albert Hall meeting on April 29 and the Exhibition from May 13 to 26, and all the other numerous activities of the Union, will keep members exceedingly busy directly after the Easter holidays.

## ELEMENTS OF THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE DEMAND.

By F. W. Pethick Lawrence.—Chapter VII.—Origin of the Militant Campaign.

In the fifth chapter of this series an account was given of the so-called "constitutional" methods which were employed in the agitation for the vote prior to the formation of the Women's Social and Political Union. It was shown how the demand for the suffrage on the part of women was expressed by great meetings and great petitions, and that the movement had grown to great dimensions when it was checked by the opposition of the Liberal leaders in 1884, and how from that date onwards it diminished in size and influence. If Woman Suffrage was again to become a question of political practice, a new departure had to be made and a new set of tactics adopted, and the apathy and trickery which prevailed in political circles had to be broken down.

In 1905, before the commencement of the militant tactics, the Press had almost entirely ceased to report any Woman Suffrage meetings or to print any letters upon this question. Private members of Parliament and candidates for Parliamentary honours found a very easy means of dealing with Woman Suffrage. At election time, and when confronted by women whose help was required, they paid a lip-homage to Woman Suffrage, even promising, when occasion presented itself, to vote in favour of the Woman Suffrage Bill. When the need for this lip-homage had gone by, in the presence of their men friends, they smiled at the gullibility of the women, and promised themselves that no serious results would ensue from the pledge which they had given. Even those of them who were seriously in favour of the reform and honestly wished to carry it into law found that once in the House of Commons they were quite powerless to achieve their object. The question being a non-party one was never taken up by the Government of the day, and they as private members had no means of forcing it into prominence, still less of actually carrying into law a Woman Suffrage measure. Members of the Government, on the other hand, found that it was easy to evade the issue. While it might be difficult or dangerous to give a direct negative and so alienate the women who were good workers for the party, it was easy to give vague expressions of sympathy and adherence which could never be construed into definite pledges of immediate action. This was the situation in the year 1905.

The women of the older generation had inured themselves to submission, and those who ardently desired victory for the cause, saw with sorrowful hearts the object of their desire fading further and further away. But another movement was being born, a new spirit was entering into the hearts of women, the new lesson that submission may be a breach of trust was beginning to be understood.

### A New Government.

The time was specially opportune. A new Government had come into being, pledging itself in all directions to reform, basing itself upon the tenets of democracy, and appealing to the country on the ground that it supported the people against the powers of privilege. Christabel Pankhurst saw at once that the first step in the new campaign must be to find out where the Government stood in the matter. An appeal must be made directly to it, as the fountain source of legislation; and just as it was no good asking for private support from the ordinary members of the House of Commons, so was it equally useless to elicit sympathy or approval from any Cabinet Minister in his individual capacity. The only thing that mattered was the intention of the Government as a whole, not the intention of support or good wishes, but the intention of action. Was the new Government going to do anything to bring about Woman Suffrage? This was the question to which Christabel Pankhurst determined that the new Government should give an answer.

Upon this issue the Government was equally determined to preserve silence. To give a favourable answer meant a pledge to action which they were not prepared to take; to give an unfavourable answer meant to disillusion that large body of Liberal women so useful in getting the Liberal Government returned to power, so conveniently put off by vague expressions of sympathy when once power had been obtained.

The first opportunity presented itself when Sir Edward Grey came to deliver a great speech at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, October 13, 1905, and proceeded to expound the

Liberal policy. At the close of his speech an opportunity was provided to those present of putting questions to the speaker. Many men asked questions and were answered, but when Annie Kenney rose to ask Sir Edward Grey whether, if the Liberal Government were returned to power, they would take steps to give votes to women, no answer was returned. Meanwhile she held up a small banner inscribed with the words "Votes for Women," in order that her question might be understood by all those in the hall. Sylvia Pankhurst, in her "History of the Suffrage Movement," thus describes the scene that followed:—

She stood up and again pressed for answer to her question, but the men sitting near her forced her down into her seat, and one of the stewards of the meeting held his hat over her face. Meanwhile the hall was filled with a babel of conflicting sound; shouts of "Sit down," "Be quiet," "What's the matter?" and "Let the lady speak," were heard on every hand.

As the noise subsided a little, a second woman sitting beside the first got up and asked again: "Will the Liberal Government give women the vote?" But Sir Edward Grey made no answer, and again rose the tumult of cries and counter-cries. Then the chief constable of Manchester, Mr. William Peacock, came down from the platform to where the women were sitting, and asked them to write out the question that they had put to the speakers, saying that he would himself take it to the chairman and make sure that it received an answer. The women agreed to this suggestion, and the first who had spoken now wrote, "Will the Liberal Government give votes to working women? Signed on behalf of the Women's Social and Political Union, Annie Kenney (member of the Oldham committee of the card and blowing room operatives)." To this she added that as one of the 96,000 organised women cotton workers, and for their sake, she earnestly desired that the question should be answered.

Mr. Peacock took the paper on which the question had been written back to the platform, and was seen to hand it to Sir Edward Grey, who, having read it, smiled and passed it to the chairman, from whom it went the round of every speaker in turn. Then it was laid aside, and no answer was returned to it.

After this a vote of thanks to Sir Edward Grey was moved by Lord Durham and Mr. Winston Churchill, and when it had been carried Sir Edward Grey rose to reply, but he made no reference to the enfranchisement of women.

### The Question Unanswered.

Then followed the moving of a vote of thanks to the chair, and by this time the meeting showed signs of breaking up. Some of the audience had left the hall, and some of those on the platform were preparing to go. The women's question still remained unanswered, and seemed in danger of being forgotten by everyone concerned. The two women, however, were anxiously awaiting their answer, and the one who had first spoken now rose again, and this time she stood upon her seat, and then called out as loudly as she could: "Will the Liberal Government give working women the vote?" At once the audience became a seething, infuriated mob. Thousands of angry men were on their feet shouting and gesticulating, and crying out upon the woman who had again dared to disturb their meeting.

She stood there above them all, a little, slender, fragile figure. She had taken off her hat, and her soft, loosely flowing hair gave her a childish look. Her cheeks were flushed, and her eyes blazing with earnestness. Annie Kenney, a mill girl, who had gone to work in a cotton factory as a little half-timer at ten years of age, a working woman, the child of a working woman, whose life had been passed amongst the workers, she stood there now, feeling herself to be the representative of thousands of struggling women, and in their name she asked for justice.

But the Liberal leaders who had spoken so glibly of their sympathy for the poor and needy were silent now when one stood there asking them for justice; and their followers, who had listened so eagerly and applauded with so much enthusiasm speeches filled with the praise of liberty and equality, thought now of nothing but Liberal victories.

They howled at her fiercely, and numbers of Liberal stewards came hurrying to drag her down. Then Christabel Pankhurst, her companion, started up, and put one arm round Annie Kenney's waist to guard her blows from the crowd, and with the other warded off their blows, while she still called, "The question, the question; answer the question!" So holding together, these two women fought for votes upon the site of Peterloo. At last six men—Liberal stewards and policemen in plain clothes—seized Christabel Pankhurst, and dragged her away down the central aisle and past the platform. Then others followed bringing Annie Kenney after her. As they were forced along the women still looked up and asked their question, but still the Liberal leaders on the platform looked on apparently unmoved and never said a word.

As they saw them go the Liberal ticket-holders shouted: "Throw them out!" but from the free seats at the back the people cried out "Shame!"

Thus dragged out of the hall and flung into the street, Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney started a meeting of

protest outside the building. This the police refused to allow, and arrested them on a fabricated charge of assault. Brought before the magistrate the next day, they were sentenced to fine or imprisonment—Christabel Pankhurst to one week and Annie Kenney to three days—and both elected to go to prison.

Thus did Sir Edward Grey prefer to see women flung out of his meeting and sent to prison rather than give an answer to one straightforward question.

The Liberal Government could not foresee in that day the Nemesis which was awaiting them in consequence of that dishonest course. But they had come to the parting of the ways; they had placed before them the alternative of doing justice and giving to women what they asked or of resisting their claim. Despising their foe, they adopted the second course, and the challenge to battle thus thrown down was accepted by the women. Now, too late, the Liberal Government are finding out that the despised antagonist is capable of humiliating and defeating them.

## PROGRESS OF WOMEN.

### Presence of Mind.

By remarkable presence of mind a woman of seventy, named Mary Hall, the owner of a pawnbroking business at Birmingham, frustrated the designs of two burglars who broke into the place during the small hours. When the men entered the room in which she was sleeping they threatened her with violence. She remained quiet while they ransacked the boxes, but after they had gone downstairs she walked on tip-toe to the front room, smashed the window with her hand, and called loudly for help. The burglars decamped, leaving the booty behind them, and a policeman came to the rescue of the plucky woman.

Another brave woman is Miss Kate Parsons, of a sub-post office in Maida Vale, who detected suspicious marks and erasures in a savings bank book. The man who presented it then attempted to escape, but Miss Parsons seized him by the arm while her colleague locked the door and sent for the police. This capture led to the arrest of three prisoners, who are suspected of numerous similar frauds.

### An International Link.

Suffragists of various nationalities in Paris have combined in organising a society under the title of *Congrès Permanent du Féminisme International*. The society, which will meet on the fourth Friday of every month, at 8.30, at the Cercle du Progrès Féminin, 49, Rue Lafitte, is intended to serve as a link between suffragists of different nationalities who may be passing through Paris, and to help in making the international aspect of the movement felt. Admission to the meetings can be obtained from the Committee of the Congrès Permanent at the offices of *La Française*, 49, Rue Lafitte, on Fridays, between four and six o'clock. The secretary is Madame T. Orka, 38, Rue de Penthièvre, Paris.

### Women's Wages in 1906.

From figures compiled in connection with a Board of Trade inquiry into wages during 1906, it appears that the average earnings of women and girls in the textile trades in the United Kingdom were 15s. 5d. and 8s. 11d. per week respectively, while those of men and lads were, respectively, 28s. 1d. and 10s. 5d. The following table is interesting also:—

	Men.		Women.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Cotton .....	29	6	18	8
Woollen .....	26	10	13	10
Lace .....	39	6	13	5
Hosiery .....	31	5	14	3
Linen .....	22	4	10	9
Jute .....	21	7	13	5

### Girls and First Aid.

Branches of the Church Red Cross Brigade, a first-aid corps with military organisation for girls, have now been established at Burslem, Etruria, Warrington (Suffolk), and Uxbridge. Tunbridge Wells, Sherborne, Leeds, and Birmingham are about to follow suit. Some of the papers have described this as a nursing corps; this is, of course, erroneous. The only nursing corps formed for service in case of invasion is, so far as we are aware, that of the Nurse Territorials, drawn from the ranks of fully-trained civilian nurses.

### Women Scientists.

An International Association of Medical Museums which should be of great value as a centre of scientific work has been formed in

America, and the secretary-treasurer, whose duties will naturally be responsible and important, is a woman, Dr. Maude E. Abbott, of McGill University.

An honour described as unparalleled has been deservedly conferred on Mme. Curie, who, with her late husband, was the discoverer of radium, and who, after his tragic death, was appointed to carry on his professional work at the University of Paris. The honour alluded to is her nomination as president of the electric section of the International Chemistry Congress, shortly to be held in London.

### The Woman at the Helm.

Mrs. John Buscall, who brought her husband's ship "Demaris" into Yarmouth after he had been drowned on the passage from Plymouth, is a slightly built woman. She had been sailing the seas for fourteen years with her husband, who had taught her to steer, and in fine weather she often took her turn at the wheel. "So there was nothing," she told a newspaper representative, "in my being at the tiller to bring the vessel into Yarmouth." She stated that she was lying ill in the cabin when she heard the cry "Captain's overboard!" Rushing on deck she cut a lifebelt away with a knife and had it flung at him. She caught just one glimpse of her husband before he sank.

### Dublin's First Woman Professor.

It is stated that the Board of Trinity College has elected Miss Constantia Elizabeth Maxwell as assistant to the Professor of Modern History. Miss Maxwell had a distinguished undergraduate course in Trinity College, and at the Moderatorship examination last year she obtained the first Senior Moderatorship and a gold medal in history and political science. She is the first woman to become a member of the teaching staff of Trinity College.

### Triumph of a Woman Voter.

In Germany, says the *Women's Journal* (Boston), for the first time, an election has been set aside as illegal because a woman was not allowed to vote. A baroness in Westphalia was entitled to cast a proxy vote at a municipal election. Finding that her name had been left off the register, she protested. Her protest was not heeded, and the election was held without her. She appealed to the courts, which quashed the election, and decided that it must be held over again.

### Votes for Women in California.

Mrs. Alice L. Park writes that she will have tables of reform literature during April at the annual convention of Santa Clara County Suffrage Association, and, in May, at the annual convention of the California Federation Women's Clubs. Mrs. Park adds: "I wonder we talked of 'political equality' and 'equal suffrage' so long, waiting for the Englishwomen to invent the plain English 'Votes for Women!'" The headquarters of the California Equal Suffrage Association are at 2,419, California Street, San Francisco.

### A Leader of Men.

The chief ruler of Swaziland, it is interesting to learn, is a woman who has ruled with great capacity and diplomacy for twenty-five years, and under whom the country is in a very peaceful and prosperous condition.

### A Woman Voter of Old Time.

An interesting discovery has been made concerning an ancestress of Mr. Taft, President of the United States of America. At her husband's death the town meeting granted her the right of suffrage during her son's minority. She exercised it creditably to her intelligence. On one occasion the Province of Massachusetts Bay made a special demand upon the town for money (possibly for some military emergency), and it was the widow Taft's vote in town meeting which carried the question, her patriotism being shown by her support of the measure.

### Women in Finland.

A correspondent sends a glowing account to a daily paper of the activities of Finnish women. They occupy nearly all the offices in the public services, banks, railways, etc.; they enter all the professions, and even hold the posts of street-sweepers, milk carriers, paper-hangers, and booking clerks. Evidently they hold these posts because they deserve them, for we are told they are methodical, courteous, clever, industrious, speak several languages, and, with all this, enter into physical sports with enthusiasm.

Dr. Marie Stopes has just returned from Japan, where she has been carrying out research work for the Royal Society. Dr. Stopes, who is writing a report on her work, discovered thirty new genera of early plant forms, the age of which she estimates at 2,000,000 years at least.

## BETWEEN TWO BOARDS.

By EVELYN SHARP.

Mere weather does not, of course, deter the militant Suffragist when it is her business to be on the war-path. Otherwise, a strong south-west wind, a sea of mud underfoot, and a real London, smutty drizzle overhead might well have discouraged us from sallying forth into the conventional streets of Kensington, girt about with sandwich-boards. Though our intentions were never more peaceable, I think we never felt more warlike. This may possibly have been, however, because there was something so very suggestive of a belted knight—whatever that curious melodramatic expression may mean—in being buckled into our armour, cardboard armour though it was, with a harmless device in purple and green on a field argent. Certainly, if some accident had caused us to bite the dust, we should have been as incapable of getting upon our feet again as any mediæval belted knight ever found it, after being unhorsed by the other mediæval knight.

Inside the VOTES FOR WOMEN shop, whence we started, I think we felt also a little like pantomime supers waiting in the wings for our call, as we strolled round in our unfamiliar accoutrements. We soon found that it requires both tact and skill, which we did not possess in any striking degree, to steer large sandwich-boards about a very small shop mainly furnished with a counter; and when, in these trial manœuvres, we had swept a goodly portion of our available stock on to the floor, our shopkeeper remarked very pointedly that she thought it was time we started. Another worker, who had just looked in to ask for volunteers for a similar procession in her own district, added a significant hint, as we filed past her, to the effect that intending helpers should make themselves look as smart as possible. This remark did not add to our self-possession, though I am sure it was not meant to suggest that a tramp along the gutter in mud, wind, and rain is the right occasion for sporting a new hat and a best frock.

I always like to think that one of the many compensating by-products of the militant agitation is the human experience it brings with it of all sorts and conditions of life. After a morning spent in selling VOTES FOR WOMEN in the street, for instance, one always registers a vow to refuse nothing in future from a street hawker, though it may mean stocking the home with quivering, iridescent beetles, collar-studs, and toasting-forks. Similarly, the first effect of carrying a sandwich-board is to arouse an immense feeling of sympathy for those unfortunate derelicts of the social system who have to do this sort of thing, not for a cause, but for a living. At the same time, I must admit that when, suffused with noble sentiment of this kind, I looked pityingly at the first real sandwich-man we passed, I was met, in return, by a still more eloquent expression of pity from his eye—the one that did not wink—and I found it a little disconcerting. The fact that one of my sandwich-boards was escaping its moorings at the moment may have had something to do with his professional contempt.

I cannot honestly say that our appearance was professional. The pace, though magnificent, never once suggested the easy saunter of the real sandwich-man. In time, no doubt, one could acquire his sublime indifference to the motor-omnibuses that crash past from behind along a wood pavement ready for skids. It was a distinct gain, I thought, that in our first trip we did learn not to look back timorously over one shoulder when these perils threatened. Besides, it is a Suffragette's business to look straight ahead and smile, even if at any moment she may be assisted several yards on her way by a chassis or a carriage-pole; and these trifles are not nearly so distracting to her as a red herring, in the shape of a fabulous Reform Bill, seems to be in the path of some people.

As usual, for every gibe from the street idler one could count a greeting from the right sort of citizen. An omnibus driver who waved his hat to us, the woman who dropped her skirts in the mud—a real sacrifice, as every woman knows—to take one of our bills, to say nothing of the enthusiastic cabman

who, giving us his views on the justice of enfranchising Mrs. Pankhurst as well as himself, added ingenuously, "I arst yer, ain't she got as much intelligence in her 'ead as what I 'ave?"—all these little incidents were wildly, disproportionately cheering. And even the postman, returning home with his empty bag, and therefore in a position, I suppose, to join issues with the unofficial man in the street, did not unduly depress us with his cheap little sneer: "Votes for a few rich women, ain't it?" Until that moment we had not thought of our rain-soaked, mud-bespattered garments as suggesting untold wealth and ease.

"It is the cause and not the death that makes the martyr," some people might have quoted at us from Napoleon, when we re-entered the purple, white, and green haven of our shop in Church Street. But, of course, we neither looked nor felt like martyrs. That is the best of going out to conquer the world with a sandwich-board. You feel a little tremulous, perhaps, at starting forth into the unknown, but you always end in finding that it is the same friendly old world as before, incapable of resisting a frontal attack. It is only the enemy who likes to call us martyrs for our pains. The real Suffragette rather quotes cheerfully to herself from George Herbert:—

"God gave thy soul brave wings; put not those feathers  
Into a bed to sleep out all ill weathers."

### THE PRISON.

And I saw a gaol lifting its grimy walls to heaven.  
And they that passed by looked at it askance, for they said "It is the abode of Sin."

And to them the broad sky and all the earth was fair to look upon,  
for they saw the early buds opening, and heard the birds that had come back from the south, and they felt the sun which was new warming the hearts of beast and plant.

But within the prison, and behind its cold, thick buttresses, and its small, round, triple-barred windows, that looked like tunnels, they heard faint groanings and sighings and much lamentation, and they said, "It is most just, for it is the abode of Sin."

And I heard a Voice saying, "Woe to the cause that hath not passed through a prison!"

And I looked again, and I saw in the gaol those deliverers who in each age have saved the world from itself, and set it free, and gyves were on their wrists and ankles.

And I saw Israel in the house of bondage before it came forth to preserve Duty for mankind.

Woe to the cause that hath not passed through a prison!

And I saw the Praetorian Hall and One that was bound therein, and the soldiers bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, and then led Him away to proclaim Love to the world.

Woe to the cause that hath not passed through a prison!

And I saw within the gaol them that gave liberty to the slave, and them that unbound the mind of man, and them that strove to free his conscience, and them that led onward to Freedom and Justice and Love.

Woe to the cause that hath not passed through a prison!

And I saw also those in our own time have counted themselves as nothing if they could but point out God's way unto their brethren; and there were many, too, of the prophets who are still to come, and these also were in bonds.

Woe to the cause that hath not passed through a prison!

And lo! the sky became clouded, and night fell, and there were no birds nor blossoms, but a chill came upon the earth, and they that passed by shivered and trembled; and I beheld, and saw that they were not men, but that they were really wolves, and apes, and swine.

And within the gaol was a great light, and a pleasant warmth came from the barred windows, and I heard a burst of triumphant song.

And the gyves fell from the limbs of the prisoners, and there was great joy.

And they that passed by would come in, but they could not; and now within was freedom, and without was captivity.

And the hosts within held up their arms, and the marks of their shackles were upon them.

But I hid my hands behind me, for there was no mark on my wrists.

Woe to the cause that hath not passed through a prison!

ERNEST CROSBY.

## OUR POST BOX.

### A TEACHERS' SECTION IN THE PROCESSION.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—I hear that a special demonstration has been arranged for April 17, the day following Mrs. Pethick Lawrence's release. May I appeal to all my fellow teachers who will be taking a holiday to return to London in time to take part in the demonstration? May I suggest that before going away (time will not permit after return) we use every endeavour to ensure that all our friends who believe in the enfranchisement of duly qualified women are also in this procession? I myself am returning on the 15th, in order to be among those who welcome our beloved Treasurer on the 16th. May I also suggest that every member of the local unions is not only represented, but that each one brings as many sympathisers as possible.—Yours, etc.,

FLORENCE M. RUSSELL.

25, Franconia Road, Clapham, S.W.

### A NURSES' SECTION.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—In connection with the release of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence from Holloway Gaol on the expiration of the iniquitous sentence passed upon her, I have been asked by Miss Christabel Pankhurst to assist in forming a contingent of nurses to take part in the procession which has been arranged to start from Marble Arch at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, April 17. I am extremely anxious that we shall have a large muster of our profession to show our appreciation of the noble work accomplished by Mrs. Pethick Lawrence in the fight for women's freedom. Remembering how splendidly nurses responded to the call on June 21 last I am extending a most cordial invitation to all members of the profession to give us their support in welcoming our Treasurer on this occasion. Those taking part in the procession and desirous of attending the meeting will be entitled to tickets of admission to the body of the theatre at a special price of 6d. each, which may be obtained from me or at the offices of the Union. I shall be At Home at 30, Buckridge Buildings, Portpool Lane, Gray's Inn Road, E.C., on Sunday, April 11, from 4 to 6.30 p.m., when all nurses intending to join us on the occasion, or those who wish for further information regarding it, will be welcome.

Will each nurse having the Cause at heart make herself responsible for informing and bringing a small party of at least three to six nurse friends, so helping to make the nursing contingent another conspicuous success?—Yours, etc.,

EDA BERLON.

### ANOTHER DISGUSTED LIBERAL.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Mrs. Pankhurst has received the following letter:—

DEAR MADAM,—As a plural voter, will you permit me to add my name to the already long list of those who, as a mark of their disgust at the action of the present Government with regard to the question of Female Suffrage, and in view of the pressing need for this reform, intend to vote as you direct until it is brought about?—I am, Madam, yours very truly,

A. J. BAXTER.

17, Addison Court Gardens, West Kensington, W.

P.S.—May I suggest that you keep a register of voters who are with you, sending a copy from time to time to those whose duty it is supposed to be to dispense justice?

### To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—Having the privilege of two votes, whilst women with the same qualifications are not even allowed one, I write to say that both will be used against the present Government, together with my influence upon other voters. The denial of this elementary right when so many members of Parliament are pledged to vote for it brands the Government as undemocratic, reactionary, and false to truth and justice. Hence the fight is to the death. Assuring you of my best wishes and all possible help towards a speedy victory.—Yours, etc.,

JOHN N. KAY, Men's League.

Briar House, Heywood.

### To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—We have read with great interest Mr. Charles W. Allen's letter in your issue of March 19, and my husband wishes me to tell you that he also has control of two votes, one for the North Wilts division and another for the West Somerset, and will be delighted to place them at your disposal for the next General Election.—Yours, etc.,

ELIZABETH T. OLIVER.

The Mansells, Minety, Malmesbury, Wilts.

### SUBSCRIPTION TO "VOTES FOR WOMEN" FIRST.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—On more than one occasion I have seen it suggested that the supporters of Women's Suffrage should either reduce or stop some of their regular subscriptions, and devote the money thus saved to the furtherance of that cause. What particular hen-roosts should be chosen from which toll could be taken would depend on the personal opinion of the subscriber, but to render the proposed action effective it will be necessary to spread the net pretty widely. There are a great number of persons who believe that the grant of the Suffrage to duly-qualified women will be a benefit to the country in general, while on the other hand there are many who declare that it will be an unmixed evil. But between these two groups there lies a vast majority who, having little or no interest in the subject, would much prefer not to be troubled about it, and these are the people whose attention the Suffragists should endeavour to attract. A conviction that one has to pay for an object will generally call attention to that object; and if associations of persons find their funds diminishing and are told the cause of this falling off, it is not unreasonable to expect that they will endeavour to remove that cause.

If only a few persons will at once adopt this plan of stopping subscriptions, others will probably soon follow their example; and if all those who declare themselves ardent supporters of Women's Suffrage will allow their conviction to conquer their sentiment, I believe they will greatly further the object they have in view.

When refusing a new or stopping an old subscription it will be necessary to carefully and fully explain the reason for so doing; and if at the same time the person so refusing could give a provisional promise that if within a reasonable time duly qualified women are granted the franchise, then the subscription, with, if possible, the arrears paid up, would be continued, only good could result.

I have pledged myself to do all in my power to promote Women's Suffrage, and so when, a few days ago, I was asked to send a further subscription for a cause of which I highly approve, I sent a refusal, explaining my reasons for so doing.—Yours, etc.

LINLEY BLATHWAYE, Lt.-Colonel.

Eagle House, Batheaston, Bath, April 3, 1909.

### IN CANADA.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—Without, at present, active measures, I am creating in my milieu considerable interest and some surprise. Like all the truly "great," the Suffragettes have been "misunderstood" here, as formerly elsewhere! Of course, there are "Antis," who are doing good spade work. Their confident platitudes make excellent leverage for us. I have lately had an easy last word in the Press with an enthusiastic "Anti," who considerably hammered up a row of pegs for me to hang undisputable facts on. It was delightful!

Sir James Whitney, Premier of Ontario (Conservative), will receive a deputation of women suffragists at the Parliament Buildings, Toronto, on Wednesday next, the 25th. This will be the second deputation to wait on him within a very short time. The women of Ontario will not be suffered to go to the lengths we have to in order to obtain their political freedom—which I feel is very close at hand.

I should like to suggest that it might be well to publish in the terms of subscription for VOTES FOR WOMEN the amount in dollars and cents. Shillings and pence are very puzzling to people out here. For instance, yearly abroad 6s. 8d. (\$2.06), quarterly 2s. 2d. (52 cents).

Praying that the Liberal Government of old England may take a lesson in liberality and courtesy from the Conservative Government of young Ontario—and speedily—Yours, etc.,

MARY KEEGAN.

Dundas, Ontario, Canada, March 22, 1909.

### THE DATE OF THE ALBERT HALL MEETING.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—I see in VOTES FOR WOMEN this week you give date of Albert Hall meeting for United Suffrage Societies as April 29. On our tickets it says Tuesday, April 27.

M. R.

[The date of the Albert Hall meeting of the Women's Social and Political Union is Thursday, April 29. Since this meeting was organised another meeting on April 27 has been arranged by the N.U.W.S.S.—Ed., VOTES FOR WOMEN.]

## EXTRACTS FROM THE PRESS.

## THE "MANCHESTER GUARDIAN."

In Mrs. Arthur Somervell the Women's Anti-Suffrage League has found an energetic and able champion for its Manchester campaign, yet the friends of Women's Suffrage here are still waiting for a reasoned statement of the opposition to their cause. Mrs. Somervell, though she attempts it, lays herself open to criticism and reply all along the line. . . . Mrs. Somervell asks, if women take on their shoulders all the burdens which the vote implies, who is to bear their burden, and she raises the oft-repeated question of what is to become of the duties of motherhood. All this implies a gross misconception of the position of the ordinary voter. Why does he support and vote for a political candidate? It is because he is under the necessity of delegating his share in the government of the country to someone who is able to give a larger part of his time to its consideration. The immense number of citizens in a country and the intricacies in which increasing civilisation has involved the carrying on of government make it impossible for each member of the community to do his duty directly. Besides, he has his work to do; and for that reason he specifically, by one vote given at intervals of a number of years, gives away his right, for a certain time, to have a voice in the direction of the nation, and he gives it to a delegate, as we have said, who will do all the work for him. It will be seen, therefore, that so far from adding to the burdens of life, the power of voting is intended to lighten them. A man usually has a living to make for his family, just as a woman has her children to rear; the possession of a vote would detract no more from her efficiency than from his, and it would give the delegates of the nation a wider basis of popular support and an added sense of responsibility.

## THE "NOTTINGHAM GUARDIAN."

We have given ungrudging support to the movement for obtaining votes for women householders, and have never been able to understand why there should be any opposition to such a necessary reform, because the opposition thus far has not been supported by a single reasonable argument. But it is much to be feared that the advocates of Women's Suffrage are just now carrying matters a little too far. They are within their rights in making themselves disagreeable to the party in power. In this country this is almost the only way to get political grievances redressed. The franchise was not extended to men on anything like a liberal basis until a disorderly crowd pulled up the railings at Hyde Park. The concession was then soon made. In fact, after the demonstration to which we have referred there was scarcely any hesitation in making it. And it may safely be said that the advocates of Women's Suffrage might have gone on holding quiet meetings and addressing letters to the newspapers to the crack of doom without making any real impression upon public opinion. It was not until the advocates of Women's Suffrage began to make themselves a nuisance that the subject came within the region of practical politics, and if these same women continue to make themselves a nuisance we shall not blame them.

## THE "CHRISTIAN COMMONWEALTH."

If the Government would only put into its legislative programme a Bill for the enfranchisement of women, these deplorable scenes would cease to be enacted. Until the Government does that it is very clear that the agitation will continue on its present lines, and may even assume worse forms. The women have evidently made up their mind about that, quite independently of what male sympathisers or non-sympathisers may think, say, or do. If Mr. Asquith and Mr. Gladstone are hoping that the supply of women willing to sacrifice themselves for what is to them a just and sacred cause is nearly exhausted, they are doomed to disappointment. So far no fewer than 450 women have suffered imprisonment for asserting in their own way their right to the vote, and there are many others throughout the country who are willing to make what the leaders of the movement consider to be the most effective form of protest. But ought there to be any need for them to do this, even if their policy be regarded as mistaken? When will men insist, as a matter of simple justice, that, without further delay, the vote shall be given to qualified women?

## THE "MANCHESTER COURIER."

The arrest in London of ten members of the Women's Social and Political Union again calls attention to the unstatesmanlike attitude of the Government towards an important question. While deputations from Tom, Dick, and Harry have been received on matters of

little or no interest, the Prime Minister refuses to receive a deputation on the subject of Women's Suffrage. Mr. Asquith may not be prompted by lack of courage, but it is surely lack of wisdom to refuse to ascertain the opinions of a representative body such as that which Mrs. Pankhurst presided over on March 30. Dissatisfaction was expressed with the Prime Minister's late pronouncement on the question, and a deputation was appointed to proceed to the House of Commons to interview him or one of his subordinates. The police forbade the representatives to march in professional order, but individually two dozen of them were allowed to approach St. Stephen's. Here their progress was barred, however, and in the struggle which accompanied an attempt to enter the House ten women, including two from Lancashire, were arrested. The fact that women from London, Manchester, Liverpool, Lancaster, and Birmingham were among the representatives of the Women's Social and Political Union indicates that the militant policy is approved by all its sections. Speaking in Manchester at a meeting of the local branch of the Union, Mr. Forbes-Robertson insisted that ignorance and prejudice were the chief obstacles in the way of the political enfranchisement of women. But stupid political tactics have much to do with the bitterness imported into the discussion, and for these the Government is undoubtedly responsible.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Questions intended for answer in this column should be addressed to the Editors "Votes for Women," and specially marked "Answers to Correspondents." They must be accompanied by name and address of the sender, and should be questions relating directly to Woman Suffrage or to the policy of the N.W.S.P.U.

65. When women get the vote, what proportion of those with property will there be? and of women who are workers, will those of the so-called lower classes be in the majority?

The number of working women who would be enfranchised on the terms claimed by the W.S.P.U. is estimated at about 80 per cent. of the whole.

66. The statement has been made that at least four of the present Cabinet Ministers broke their pledges to the women in 1884. Will you tell me who these were and what is the authority for the statement?

A reference to the Division List for Mr. Woodhall's Amendment (Hansard) shows that the following members of the present Cabinet voted against the amendment at the bidding of Mr. Gladstone—Lord Tweedmouth, Viscount Wolverhampton, Viscount Morley, and Mr. Herbert Gladstone.

67. Will you kindly explain the position which married women would have if the sex disability were removed and women were given votes on the same terms as men? Would they be enfranchised as joint owners if they themselves had not the property qualification?

See the answer to Question 57 in our issue of March 5.

68. It is stated in your last issue that since Mr. Asquith has been Prime Minister he has invariably refused to receive a deputation of women. Is this perfectly accurate, as it stands, or does it simply refer to Woman Suffrage deputations, or to N.W.S.P.U. deputations? Has he not received deputations of Liberal women, or was this before he became Prime Minister? How many deputations of women—or of our Union—has he refused to meet?

Yes, the statement is perfectly correct. Since becoming Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith has never received a deputation of women on any subject whatsoever. He has refused to meet five deputations from the N.W.S.P.U., and others from other societies—notably, the medical women who applied to see him last December. Whilst still Chancellor of the Exchequer he received two deputations of women, one representing the N.U.W.S.S. and the other one of women from his own constituency.

## "HOW THE VOTE WAS WON."

An interesting new little drama was written by Miss Cicely Hamilton and Christopher St. John, entitled "How the Vote Was Won," and a special performance will be given at the New Royalty Theatre, Dean Street, on Tuesday next, at 2.30. Readers of this paper are recommended to avail themselves of this opportunity of seeing it. Tickets can be obtained, price 1s., 6d., and 3d., from the Ticket Secretary, N.W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, or from the Box office of the theatre.

## THE WOMAN'S EXHIBITION.

Prince's Skating Rink, May 13-26, 1909.

Communications to be addressed: Exhibition Secretary, W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, W.C.

Time is flying fast. In five short weeks arrives the opening of the Woman's Exhibition, and there is much to be done. A great army has been at work to make the Exhibition the success it should be, and the battalions of this army, which have been manoeuvring under their own generals, doing their own work in their own way, must now attend the muster under the commander-in-chief.

The Exhibition Secretary is most anxious to receive as soon as possible full particulars as to the arrangement of the various stalls from the ladies who are managing them. She has already received a large number of interesting details and full descriptions; but the plans for the stalls are now being thought out, and the fuller the details given by the stall-holders the more satisfactory and complete these plans will be.

Tables are being provided 6 ft. by 3 ft., as it is thought this size will suit everyone. If any ladies want some special tables, etc., for their own particular stalls, will they kindly write this week without fail.

## Catalogues.

The catalogue of the Exhibition is now well in hand. No effort has been spared to make it as complete and interesting as possible. Hence all details concerning the stalls, entertainments, etc., should be sent in as speedily as possible, so that they may be incorporated with the rest.

## Entertainments.

Offers in this respect have come in with gratifying promptitude, but we are still in need of string bands. Will any ladies kindly promise to provide these? Ladies' string bands (quartets or quintets) are specially required, and offers to provide them will be very heartily appreciated.

## The Farm Produce and Flower Stall.

Mrs. Marshall sends us some very interesting details of this important stall, which is under the patronage of the following ladies:—

Lady Knvett, Lady Constance Lytton, the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield, the Hon. Lady Johnston, Miss Joachim, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Frank Corbett, the Misses Beck, Miss Le Lachern, Mrs. Diplock, Mrs. Wyatt, Mrs. Littlejohn, Miss Abbey, Mrs. Alison Paffard, Mrs. Murry, Miss Fergus, Miss Gray, Miss Peacock, Mrs. Trist, Mrs. Hart Davis, Miss Conran, Mrs. Lyie, the Misses McLeod, and others.

An attractive scheme of prizes has been arranged in connection with this stall—viz.:

On Thursday, May 13 (opening day of the Exhibition), and on Saturday, May 22, three prizes will be offered for competition in the following classes:—

First prize, £1; second prize, 12s.; third prize, 6s.:  
Class A.—For the best pair of fowls, drawn and trussed for table.  
Class B.—For the best couple of ducks, drawn and trussed for table.  
First prize, 15s.; second prize, 7s. 6d.; third prize, 3s. 6d.:  
Class C.—For the best pound of butter.  
First prize, 10s.; second prize, 5s.; third prize, 2s. 6d.  
Class D.—For the best dozen of white eggs.  
Class E.—For the best dozen of brown eggs.

On Tuesday, May 18, and Tuesday, May 25, the following prizes will be offered for competition in the following classes:—

First prize 10s.; second prize, 5s.; third prize, 2s. 6d.  
Class F.—For the best assortment of vegetables.  
First prize, 15s.; second prize, 7s. 6d.; third prize, 3s.:  
Class G.—For the best basket of flowers.  
First prize, 7s. 6d.; second prize, 5s.; third prize, 2s. 6d.:  
Class H.—For the best bouquet of flowers.  
Class I.—For the best flowering plant.  
First prize, 2s.; second prize, 2s. 6d.; third prize, 1s.:  
Class J.—For the best flower button-hole.

In addition to the prizes offered, four award cards will be given in each class—viz., Reserve, V.H.C., H.C., C. The judges' awards throughout will be final.

In order to qualify for competition, the exhibits—which must be the bona-fide property of the exhibitors—must be at the Prince's Skating Rink by 11 a.m. on the days named. Entries must be sent in by Saturday, May 8, so that exhibitors may receive labels (on which to write names and addresses), accompanied by numbered envelopes. These envelopes, containing the labels, will be sealed and not opened until after the awards have been made. There is no entrance fee. All exhibits will be sold for the benefit of the Exhibition, and must be sent carriage paid.

All communications should be addressed to the Hon. Secretaries, Mrs. E. K. Marshall and Miss Isabel Seymour, 4, Clements Inn, W.C.

Gifts for the Farm Produce and Flower Stall will be gratefully received, and it will be a great help if intending exhibitors will notify the Hon. Secretaries as soon as possible as to what they are prepared to send, and for which day they will send it, so that the necessary arrangements may be made.

## Doll Stall.

The following letter is from Mrs. Taylor, of Chipchase Castle, Wark-on-Tyne:—

May I beg for further help from those who are clever with the needle? Up to the present Miss New and I have received applications for only 156

dolls to dress, and the doll stall will need at least 400 or 500 dolls. Having had experience of only "three days' sale" bazaars, the prospect of a twelve days' sale fairly terrifies me! I know we shall run short of dolls. Dolls of all sizes, from three to eighteen inches, will be supplied gratis by myself (and to those applicants who live in Newcastle by Miss New, 38, Bye Hill). I suggest that a prison cell, with prisoner and wardress, and a procession of released prisoners, or at any rate the leading brake, would be very effective, and when sold we should ask the buyer to leave the group on the stall till the close of the Exhibition. A bridal procession has been promised. Any illustration of a nursery rhyme sells well—Jack and Jill, Little Jack Horner, Struvel Peter, the Three Bears.

## AT THE QUEEN'S HALL.

Miss Pankhurst, presiding on Monday afternoon at the Women's Social and Political Union At Home at the Queen's Hall, said that a seat in Parliament was not part of their movement; a vote was a hundred times better than a seat in the House of Commons, because a voter was independent, and a member of Parliament was not. The Anti-Suffragist women were breaking the ground and doing the spade work, and the Women's Social and Political Union and other bodies would reap the harvest in the shape of workers for the Suffrage cause. To those ladies who said that women did not want the vote she said: "Speak for yourselves, ladies; we do." (Laughter.) At the recent demonstration at the House of Commons there was a shocking display of bad manners on the part of members of Parliament, who laughed at the women; they would not have laughed at the women if they had read history. There was a lack of decent human feeling on the part of those members; the small-mindedness displayed was deplorable. Members were afraid to stand up for a cause which was not popular, and there was not as much moral courage in the whole House of Commons as there was in one of their women. (Cheers.) It required more courage for a woman to take part in these demonstrations than for a soldier to take part in a battle.

Lady Constance Lytton, explaining how she became a Suffragette, said she saw every day instances of what had been preached by the speakers at the meetings. Up to six months before she had known little or nothing of the Votes for Women movement, and had by accident come into touch with some of the leaders—Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Jessie Kenney—in private life, and had learned from them some of the motives underlying this great movement. She found they were different from ordinary women only in their wider knowledge and greater powers. She was greatly impressed when she found that their arguments, far from being based on sentiment, or even enthusiasm, proceeded from the most practical motives. She told the audience how three years ago, when Miss Christabel Pankhurst and Miss Annie Kenney first went to prison, she wondered what life inside the walls of prison meant to educated women, and, as she had always been deeply interested in the question of prison reform, wondered vaguely if she would ever find herself inside the walls of a prison for the sake of Votes for Women. Lady Constance then described the phases she went through before she became a militant Suffragette and joined the deputation which attempted to see the Prime Minister last February. She told how, on the afternoon of the 24th, she had been put in charge of Miss Gye, who told her she was not a speaker, but all she could say was that one of the most eloquent speeches she had ever listened to was made to her by Miss Gye that afternoon. Lady Constance read an extract from a letter she had received from a male sympathiser, in which the writer expressed his surprise that "noblesse oblige" had not prevented a woman of her social status from going to Holloway, and explained that it was "noblesse oblige" which made her go, since true nobility consists in nobility of action.

## BYE-ELECTIONS.

## EAST EDINBURGH.

Committee Rooms—64, Montrose Terrace, Edinburgh.

The figures at the last election were:—Sir George McCrae (Lib.), 6,606; Rankin Dawson (Con.), 2,432. Lib. maj., 4,174.

Our preparations for the fight are now almost complete. We are expecting reinforcements from the south in the persons of Mrs. Clarke, Miss Georgina Brackenbury, Miss Spong, and Miss Binnie, and we are hoping, too, to have the help of Miss Adela Pankhurst, Miss Conolan, and Miss Bidwell.

Florence E. M. Macaulay.

## STRATFORD-ON-AVON.

The figures at the last election were:—Captain Kincaid Smith (Lib.), 4,321; Mr. P. S. Foster (Con.), 4,173. Liberal majority, 148.

The W.S.P.U. are making preparations to be represented at Stratford-on-Avon if an official Liberal is placed in the field.

**QUESTIONING CABINET MINISTERS.**

During the week Cabinet Ministers have not been allowed to forget the Woman Suffrage Movement, and wherever they have been speaking in public they have found themselves confronted by women anxious for enfranchisement. The battle has been carried still further home in the case of Mr. Asquith, who is learning the lesson that he cannot continue to block the way of women to the vote without having to face the consequences of his action.

**Earl Crewe at Leicester.**

Earl Crewe was visiting Leicester on Tuesday in last week, and was questioned by several women on the intentions of the Government with regard to the enfranchisement of women. A pledge was exacted from all ticket-holders not to make any interruptions during the meeting, and the members of the W.S.P.U. accordingly did not attempt to enter the building. Lord Crewe hoped that in this way he would escape an encounter with the Suffragettes, but he was entirely mistaken. In spite of the fact that two detectives and an inspector and two constables were present at the station, and that all arrangements for his arrival had been kept secret, on alighting from his train he found himself being asked by a woman when the Government was going to put its Liberal principles into practice by giving the vote to women. He was quite unprepared for this question and seemed entirely upset. He was followed to his motor-car and questioned again. On his entering the Temperance Hall in the evening two women approached him and tackled him on the subject, but he gave no reply. They accordingly addressed the crowd, and explained to them the position that was being adopted. One of the men went into the hall and put a number of questions to Lord Crewe during the delivery of his speech. He was not interfered with until he put a question on Woman Suffrage, and then about twenty stewards surrounded him, and with the assistance of the police got him out of the building. As Lord Crewe left the hall he was further questioned, but did not give any reply.

**Mr. Ha'dane at Kensington.**

Mr. Haldane was speaking on Wednesday in last week at the Kensington Town Hall. On his entering the building a woman present called out to him: "Resign from a Government that persecutes women!" At the time that this was said he was standing talking to one of the men at the door. He then began to move on, and other women broke through the lines of men and spoke to him. "You have imprisoned our women who are political offenders," he was told, "for three months in the second division. How would you like it yourself? Mr. Asquith runs away from the deputation even with 6,000 police between him and them!" As Mr. Haldane reached the foot of the stairs: "Resign! resign! resign!" was ringing in his ears.

**Mr. Asquith.**

The Prime Minister came into contact with the Suffragettes on Friday morning in last week. He was on his way to give a sitting to Mr. Solomon at 18, Hyde Park Gate, where his portrait is being painted. On alighting from his motor-car he was met by two members of the W.S.P.U., one of whom addressed him, asking him to take a copy of VOTES FOR WOMEN. "You ladies are clever," escaped involuntarily from him. One of them then said to him, "Will you not let us have a few minutes' conversation?" "Not a word," said Mr. Asquith. The other woman then asked him, "When are you going to receive a woman's deputation?" "Not a word," he again replied, and proceeded to run up the steps. As he did so one of them shouted after him, "You know, Mr. Asquith, you are playing a losing game."

**Mr. Runciman.**

On Wednesday, the 31st ult., Mr. Runciman spoke at the Agricultural Hall, Wolverhampton, and, as usual, great precautions were taken to keep women wanting votes out. A few women's tickets were issued; these were afterwards cancelled, and a still smaller number issued. In spite of these precautions Miss Bertha Ryland succeeded in getting in, and made two protests in the course of Mr. Runciman's speech. Outside the crowd gathered to hear Miss Burkitt address a protest meeting. The police refused to allow Miss Burkitt to hold a meeting, and, on her insisting, she was arrested. She was bailed out, and appeared before the magistrate next morning at 11 o'clock. When she explained that her object was to protest against the Liberal Government the magistrate said, "Botheration! Be off with you back to Birmingham."

**Mr. Sydney Buxton.**

At Stoke-on-Trent, on Friday, Mr. Sydney Buxton opened a new post office. Several members of the W.S.P.U. were present, and effective protests were made during the ceremony of opening

the door with a silver key. When questions were put to him as to how long the Government intend to withhold justice from women while imprisoning them for asking for the vote, the band struck up, in an endeavour to drown the voices. Mr. Buxton sent off the first telegram as usual. It was addressed to Mrs. Sydney Buxton, and ran as follows: "Successfully declared new Stoke office open, amidst great applause and in spite of the Suffragettes." The women also made use of the new office to send a telegram to Mr. Buxton demanding the enfranchisement of women, and during the public lunch in the North-West Hotel succeeded in once more reminding Mr. Buxton of women's demand for freedom.

**WELCOME TO MISS GYE.**

On Thursday morning, April 1, Miss Elsa Gye was released from Holloway, after serving a term of six weeks' imprisonment, for forming one of the deputation which tried to see the Prime Minister on February 24. She was met at the gates by Miss Christabel Pankhurst and a large number of members of the N.W.S.P.U. A procession was formed and, headed by a band, marched through the streets to the Inns of Court Hotel, where the Committee entertained Miss Gye and those of her colleagues belonging to the deputation who had been released the previous week to a private breakfast.

**Deeds not Words.**

In the evening of the same day the usual Thursday evening At Home was transformed into a public welcome to Miss Gye. When Mrs. Pankhurst, who presided, came on the platform with Mrs. Tuke and Miss Gye the enthusiasm was intense, the whole audience rising and cheering for several minutes. When silence was at last procured Mrs. Pankhurst said that it was obvious the audience realised the significance of that gathering, which was to welcome their released prisoner, Miss Gye. Referring to the meeting addressed by Mr. Lloyd George in December of last year, Mrs. Pankhurst said that one of the most pertinent interjections was that which reminded the Cabinet Minister that "deeds not words" was what was wanted, and Miss Gye was one of those women who firmly believed in that dictum. Although an ardent worker for the cause for the last two years, she had not yet brought herself to speak upon a public platform, and had therefore asked her (Mrs. Pankhurst) to make a speech for her and explain the reason which led her to spend the last six weeks in Holloway. Mrs. Pankhurst then explained the militant policy of the W.S.P.U., and dwelt on the reasons which lead women to give up so willingly their liberty for the sake of the cause they believe to be just.

Later in the evening Mrs. Tuke presented Miss Gye with a fountain pen "from a few friends of the W.S.P.U." The audience then called upon Miss Gye to make a speech, and cheered her again and again as she rose and briefly thanked them for her welcome, and expressed her willingness to go to Holloway again if necessary.

**SUFFRAGETTES AT THE BOAT RACE.**

The Suffragette launch, with its flag of purple, white and green, was, next to the rival boats, the great centre of attraction at Saturday's boat race. The weather was perfect, the crowd a record one, and the interest and friendliness of the spectators towards the Suffrage movement was evident; while even the police, who last year boarded the launch to search for hidden bombs or other fel designs, smiled in a quite fraternal way, and left us unmolested. The headway we have made was patent in the understanding attitude of the crowd. No longer were we strange monsters who did extraordinary things; we were just determined women who had set out to right a grievous wrong, and would not be deterred. Cheers, waving of handkerchiefs, and cries of "Stick it!" and "You'll win!" greeted the launch as she steamed slowly down stream from Biffin's Wharf at 11 o'clock, displaying the big banners that announced the great procession of Saturday next and the Albert Hall meeting of the 29th.

On board were a dozen active members of the W.S.P.U. wearing the regalia and colours, and as they passed they informed the spectators, through the megaphone, of the forthcoming events in the campaign, while from time to time the battle-cry, "Votes for Women!" was shouted in unison.

Meantime, on shore a band of dauntless workers were early on the scene selling VOTES FOR WOMEN. They were well received, and did such a brisk trade they were soon "sold out."

In fact, everyone who came to see our great national boat race saw the Suffragettes too, and that is as it should be!

**THE ALBERT HALL MEETING.**

Great interest is being taken in the Albert Hall meeting of the Women's Social and Political Union on Thursday evening, April 29, and attempts are being made to surpass all that has been done before in this hall. As this will be the one opportunity which the delegates to the International Congress of Woman Suffrage will have of hearing the W.S.P.U. speakers, a special explanation will be given of the militant tactics of the Union. Accordingly, this will be a special occasion on which to bring doubting friends to hear the position expounded. The presence, too, of all the ex-prisoners on the platform will provide a special attraction. It has been decided to ask them to dress in white or in the colours of the Union instead of in prison dress, as was originally proposed. A presentation will be made to them in the course of the evening. It is Mrs. Pethick Lawrence's special wish that a large number of tickets should be taken by members and friends of the Union for disposal to their acquaintances. Tickets, price 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d., can be obtained from the Ticket Secretary, N.W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, W.C. Men are admitted to the 5s. and 2s. 6d. seats only.

**THE MOTOR-CAR.**

Readers of VOTES FOR WOMEN will be glad to know that over half the cost of the motor-car which is to be presented to Mrs. Pethick Lawrence has already been subscribed, and contributions to the remaining half will be gladly received by Mrs. Tuke, who is acting as treasurer of this fund. The total cost of the car is about £450, of which £200 still remains to be provided.

**CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST WOMEN'S FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION.**

The Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association (offices, 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly, W.) are making arrangements for extending their work in many directions. The first four months of their existence have been so successful that a rapid development of the work is anticipated.

The Kensington Committee held a most successful meeting on March 31 at 34, Elgin Crescent, W. (by kind permission of Mrs. Denibas). Miss Chadwick was in the chair. In spite of bad weather, the room was crowded, and the audience listened with deep attention to Miss Packer's lecture on "The History of Women's Franchise." The questions asked after the meeting showed how closely those present had followed her arguments. Much literature was sold, and several new members joined the Association. Besides an important meeting on the 23rd, the Kensington Committee is hoping to have a series of afternoon and evening Drawing-room gatherings during the summer, details of which will be announced later on.

**ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.**

The meeting held last Friday at the Criterion Restaurant was very well attended, and resulted in an addition of over £16 to the funds. Lady Strachey was in the chair, and the speakers were Lady Grove, Miss Frances Sterling, and Mr. Stanger, M.P. Enthusiasm for the Suffrage cause was unlimited, but a criticism of militant methods by the last speaker roused obvious disagreement in the audience. The League, which is still very young, already numbers 240 members. Two gentlemen have offered their services to the League—Mr. A. C. T. Veasey, Queen's House, Queen Street, Cheapside, as hon. solicitor, and Mr. M. Campbell Johnstone, of 2, Paper Buildings, Temple, E.C., as hon. barrister. The next meeting for members and friends of the League will be held on April 20, from 3 to 5 p.m., at 3, Bedford Street Studios, Strand, W.C.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence will be released on Friday at 8 o'clock. A special welcome is being arranged for her at the prison gates. From Holloway friends will drive or go by train (Caledonian Road to Piccadilly Circus) to the Criterion Restaurant, where breakfast will be served at 9 a.m. Tickets, price 2s. each, can be obtained of the Ticket Secretary, N.W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, W.C. The procession will be reserved for the following day. It will form up inside Hyde Park at 2.30, and start from the Marble Arch at 3 o'clock, and march to the Aldwych Theatre in Aldwych, where a meeting will be held at 4.30 p.m., at which Mrs. Pethick Lawrence will be the principal speaker. Tickets, stalls and dress circle, 2s. 6d.; dress circle and upper circle, 1s.; pit (for processionists only), 6d.; gallery, 6d., should be obtained at once of the Ticket Secretary, N.W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, W.C.

The next Monday afternoon At Home in London will be held on Monday, April 19, at the Queen's Hall, from 3 to 5, when Miss Christabel Pankhurst will be the principal speaker. The next At Home, at the St. James's Hall, will be held on Thursday evening, April 22.

**The Exhibition.**

As there are now only five weeks to the great Exhibition on May 13 to May 26, readers are invited to use every means available

for making it known to their friends. Posters and handbills are now ready, and will be sent free on application to the Exhibition Secretary, N.W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn.

**The Women's Press.**

Owing to the demand of our readers, the delightful comedietta by Beatrice Harraden of last week is being reproduced in pamphlet form, and will be ready shortly, price 1d. The article by Miss Elizabeth Robins, "The Signs of the Times," and the article by Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, "Why I Went to Prison," are being reproduced as leaflets, and will shortly be available.

Special narrow ribbon suitable for tying up parcels, etc., in the colours of the Union can now be obtained from the Woman's Press, price 1½d. a yard.

**PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.**

April					
Thu. 8	Birmingham, 14, Ethel Street Wood Green, Unity Hall Putney, Drawing-room Meeting, 3, Oxford Road Walham Green, nr. St. John's Church	Yorkes for Women Corps Bowes Park W.S.P.U. Mrs. Penn-Gaskell	11.30 a.m. 3 p.m. 12 a.m.		
Fri. 9	East Edinburgh, Broughton	Miss Brackenbury and others	8 p.m.		
Sat. 10	Southport	Mrs. Duncan, Miss Jessie Russell	3 p.m. 6 p.m.		
Sun. 11	Brixham, Open-air Meeting Hampstead Heath	Mrs. Mosen Miss Mary Gawthorpe	11.30 a.m. 3 p.m.		
Mon. 12	Morecambe	Miss Irene Dallas and others	6.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.		
Tue. 13	Dartmouth, Open-air Mtg. Morecambe Paddington, Open-air Mtg. Paddington, Open-air Mtg. Langham Street, W., Market end Kensington, Holland Walk Ladbroke Grove	Miss Mary Gawthorpe Miss Irene Dallas and others Miss Ainsworth and others Mrs. Myer, Miss Hewitt Miss Evelyn Sharp, Miss Hewitt	3 p.m. 6.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.		
Wed. 14	North Kensington Edinburgh, Freemasons' Hall	Miss Corson, Miss Morrison, Miss Hewitt Mr. Forbes Robertson, Chair: Mrs. Maxstone Graham, Miss Mary Gawthorpe	12 a.m. 3 p.m.		
	Morecambe Monmouth Road, Westbourne Grove Hyde Park, near Marble Arch, W. Marble Arch King's St., W., off High St.	Miss Evelyn Sharp, Miss Ayrton, Miss Irene Dallas Miss Sharp, Miss Dallas Miss Corson, Miss Coombs, Miss Ayrton	3 p.m. 5 p.m. 7 p.m.		
	Nevern Place, Earls Court, S.W. Paddington, Open-air Mtg. Nutford Place, W., outside Garrould's	Miss Canning, Miss Hewitt Miss Ayrton and others Miss Ainsworth and others	7.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.		
Thu. 15	North Kensington, Shopping Meeting, High Street North Kensington Putney, Open-air Meeting Monmouth Road, W. Putney, Drawing-room Meeting, 3, Oxford Road Marble Arch Hatherley Grove, W. Portland Place, Bolsover Street, W. Archer Street, W.	Miss Cameron Miss Corson, Miss Morrison Miss Mills, Miss Irene Dallas Miss Ayrton Miss Mills, Miss Irene Dallas Miss Ainsworth and others Miss Evelyn Sharp, Miss Hewitt Miss Corson, Mrs. Myer	11.30 a.m. 12 a.m. 3 p.m. 3.5 p.m. 5.30 p.m. 6.30 p.m. 7 p.m. 7.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.		
Fri. 16	Warwick Road, Richmond Road, S.W. Wood Green Unity Hall Morecambe Paddington Green Holloway Gaol	Bowes Park W.S.P.U. Miss Mary Gawthorpe Miss Ayrton Release of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence	7.30 p.m. 8 a.m.		
	London, Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly Pembroke Gardens, W. New King's Road, 20, Churchfield Mansions, S.W.	Public Breakfast to welcome Mrs. Pethick Lawrence Miss Mills, Miss Irene Dallas Miss Mills and others Committee Meeting	9 a.m. 3 p.m. 6.30 p.m. 7 p.m.		
Sat. 17	London, Procession to form up at Marble Arch Glasgow, At Home, 111, Bath Street London, Great Public Meeting, Aldwych Theatre	A welcome to Mrs. Pethick Lawrence Miss Conolan, Miss Underwood Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, Chair: Mrs. Pankhurst	2.30 p.m. 3.30 p.m. 4.30 p.m.		
Sun. 18	Hampstead Heath Brockwell Park Clapham Common Peckham Rye	Miss Seymour	11.30 a.m. 3 p.m. 3 p.m. 3 p.m.		
Mon. 19	Battersea Park London, At Home, Queen's Hall	Miss Mills Miss Christabel Pankhurst	6.30 p.m. 3.5 p.m.		
Tue. 20	Newport, Temperance Hall Glasgow, Athenaeum	Mrs. Pankhurst Mr. Forbes Robertson, Miss Adela Pankhurst	8 p.m. 3 p.m.		
	Birmingham, At Home, Midland Hotel Birmingham, At Home, Priory Rooms, Old Square Fulham, Whist Drive, Kelvedon Hall		3.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m. 7 p.m.		
Wed. 21	Wolverhampton, At Home, St. Peter's Institute Leeds, Arts Club		8 p.m. 8 p.m.		

**IMPORTANT FUTURE EVENTS.**

April			
22	Bath, Guild Hall	Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Lady Constance Lytton	3 p.m.
27	Leeds, Lecture, Literary and Philosophical Society's Hall	Miss Elizabeth Robins	
28	Bradford, Mechanics' Institute	Miss Elizabeth Robins	
29	London, Albert Hall	Mrs. Pethick Lawrence	
30	Bristol, Victoria Rooms	Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Lady Constance Lytton	
May			
5	Kensington, Town Hall	Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Lady Constance Lytton	
7	Birmingham, Town Hall	Mrs. Pethick Lawrence	
13-26	Prince's Skating Rink	Exhibition and Sale of Work	

## The National Women's Social & Political Union.

OFFICE:

4, CLEMENTS INN, STRAND, W.C.

Telegrams:—"WOSPOLU, LONDON." Telephone: Holborn 2724 (three lines)

Bankers: Messrs. BARCLAY &amp; CO., Fleet Street.

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Mrs. PANKHURST,

Founder and Hon. Sec.

Mrs. TUKE,

Joint Hon. Sec.

Mrs. PETHICK LAWRENCE,

Hon. Treasurer.

Miss CHRISTABEL PANKHURST,

Organising Sec.

The Women's Social and Political Union are NOT asking for a vote for every woman, but simply that sex shall cease to be a disqualification for the franchise.

At present men who pay rates and taxes, who are owners occupiers, lodgers, or have the service or university franchise possess the Parliamentary vote. The Women's Social and Political Union claim that women who fulfil the same conditions shall also enjoy the franchise.

It is estimated that when this claim has been conceded, about a million and a quarter women will possess the vote, in addition to the seven and a half million men who are at present enfranchised.

The Women's Social and Political Union claim that a simple measure, giving the vote to women on these terms, shall be passed immediately.

### THE SUMMER CAMPAIGN.

The moment has come to view the campaign of the spring and summer as a whole. The work of the coming months falls into two divisions—militant and non-militant—for in this, as in other armies, there are duties to be performed by combatants and non-combatants both.

In London and all parts of the country we shall hold innumerable open-air meetings in parks, at street-corners, and at factory gates; for this is the best of all means of popularising a movement. At an open-air meeting one gets the ear of the general public, and all danger of speaking solely to a partisan audience is removed. It is generally admitted that women speakers are specially well qualified to grapple with the difficulties of open-air speaking, and the success of our outdoor meetings is acknowledged both by friend and foe.

The great need at the present time is a larger number of speakers. The interest of the people has been aroused, and from all over the country comes the demand for meetings. This demand must be supplied. The organisers of this movement are very glad to give advice and provide the necessary opportunities to those who are prepared to train as speakers.

In addition to the open-air campaign there are to be indoor meetings; in particular the series of weekly gatherings in the Queen's Hall and St. James's Hall, London, and in the various provincial centres will be continued until the end of July.

This campaign of education presents three outstanding features:—

First comes the welcome to Mrs. Pethick Lawrence on her release from Holloway. The breakfast at the Criterion Restaurant on the morning of the 16th, the great procession from Marble Arch, and the meeting in the Aldwych Theatre on Saturday, April 17, will be attended not only by London members, but by the organisers and other representatives of the movement throughout the country. Second, in order of time, comes the great demonstration in the Albert Hall on Thursday, April 29. Here will be gathered together the women who have suffered imprisonment during the whole course of the militant movement. With us, as our guests, will be the representatives of the International Woman Suffrage Movement who have chosen this country as their place of meeting because of the interest they feel in our militant campaign.

Then follows the Exhibition in the Princes' Skating Rink, which opens on May 13 and closes on May 26. The objects to be achieved by the holding of this Exhibition are several. It will be a means of popularising the colours of the Union. Since their adoption last June we have learnt the value of the appeal to the eye which they enable us to make. The raising of funds is another main purpose of the Exhibition. Quite apart from its value in enabling practical work to be done, a big campaign fund is an argument which, to some minds, carries more conviction than any other. Since the appearance of the annual report we have had evidence of the impression which our success in raising £20,000 during the past year has made upon the political world. The Exhibition, if it did no more than provide the large addition to the war chest for which we hope, would be well worth the time and energy which the Union is expending upon it. But we believe it will have the further and no less valuable result of increasing our active membership. During these twelve days the Exhibition will be visited by large numbers of women who are as yet strangers to the movement. We shall give them the opportunity of learning more of the movement, of becoming subscribers to the paper, of joining the Union.

But this campaign of education, if it is to bring us even one step nearer to our goal, must have some outcome in action. We rouse and educate the people in vain unless, having so roused and educated them, we are able to tell them what it is we want them to do. By converting the public to woman suffrage we generate a great political force, but we must know how to apply that force, or our work is in vain. In a word, a definite policy is essential to the success of the Woman Suffrage movement. Such a policy the Women's Social and Political Union has, and it consists in bringing pressure to bear upon the Government by acting in opposition to them. In the case of men that opposition can be rendered effective by means of their Parliamentary vote, but those who are voteless cannot show their discontent with the Government, except by the use of unconstitutional methods, which may be more or less moderate according to the temperament of those who use them and the political conditions of the time. The methods in use by the Women's Social and Political Union are, as we know, more moderate than those adopted by other political outlaws, though they are yet, we hope, vigorous enough to gain the end in view. These methods are to be pursued unceasingly throughout the year. Many opportunities of bringing our claim before the members of the Government will certainly present themselves, and we shall avail ourselves of every one.

The determination to gain an interview with the Prime Minister and obtain from him a definite undertaking to remove forthwith the political disability of sex is quite unshaken by the treatment meted out to the deputation which went to Westminster some days ago. Members of the Union are not to be driven back by the physical force tactics to which the Government have recourse. The vindictive sentence of three months' imprisonment inflicted on Patricia Woodlock has made those who have not yet taken part in these deputations feel that they ought now to volunteer for such service in the place of women who have suffered imprisonment before. The course of political affairs may render it necessary for another deputation to go to Westminster in the very near future. Our action in this matter must necessarily depend upon events. But it has been definitely decided that a great deputation of women shall approach the Prime Minister on Tuesday, June 29. Members of the Union are deeply grateful to the women who on their behalf lately went to Westminster and are now suffering imprisonment in Holloway Gaol; but the feeling is strong in our ranks that the burden ought not to be allowed to fall only on the few, and that a large and representative deputation of women ought before long to proceed to Westminster to demand an interview with the Prime Minister. Such a deputation is now being formed, and the appointed day for action is June 29. From this moment our attention will be fixed upon that day; all our work, militant and non-militant, will be a preparation for it. Day by day, volunteers for the deputation will be enrolled. Constantly we shall think of June 29, we shall speak of it, we shall work towards it, in order that the deputation may by its size and representative character give the strongest possible proof that women are determined to make good their claim to political liberty.

Christabel Pankhurst.

## WELCOME TO MRS. PETHICK LAWRENCE.

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE W.S.P.U.,—

The Easter holidays of 1909 will always be memorable to me because they come immediately before the release of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence from prison.

Those of us who know and love her most did our best to persuade her not to take the risk which for women who work for votes means loss of liberty. "You have done and are doing enough in other ways," we said. "Let others who can bear imprisonment better do that part of the work." We know how she loves the open air, the sight of the sky and fields and flowers, and we could not bear the thought of her bright spirit being dulled in the grey monotony of prison.

We dreaded the loss of her from the work of the Union. No one could fill her place as Treasurer. No one could do her special work as Editor, writer, and speaker!

But all our objections had to yield before her determination to make her giving of herself to the women's movement full and complete, and so she went to prison.

In her own beautiful and eloquent way she has told us how she came into the movement and why she is now in prison. I shall never forget the evening when first I met her. It was in the early days of the Union's work in London. The struggle seemed almost hopeless, but at once she threw herself wholeheartedly into the work to which she now devotes her life.

On the 16th inst. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence returns to us and to active service.

How eagerly she is looking forward to that coming out!

As she sits sewing in her bare and narrow cell she is making mind-pictures of what her friends and comrades are doing outside. She is wondering how the members are working, how the movement is spreading and growing in strength and power. She thinks of the paper and its usefulness, and makes plans for increasing its circulation. She says to herself, "What progress is being made with the May Exhibition? Are the stalls all taken up, and is work and money coming in?" When she comes through the prison gates on the 16th her greeting to us who meet her will be: "Is it well with the cause, dear friends?" Just as to-day she longs to put that question, so we are waiting to reply, "It is well."

We want her to feel how much we have missed her bright presence and how rejoiced we are to have her back again, but most of all we want to convince her that her sacrifice has been worth the making.

Let us all, then, be at the prison gate on Friday, the morning of the 16th, to welcome her as our dear sister and personal friend. Let that welcome be for her very self. She must feel that not only is she a leader of a great women's movement, she is the friend and comrade of every woman in the Union, and we are there each and all of us as members of our great and united family of women. It may mean for some the shortening of a holiday, for others a very early rising, but those who have themselves been in prison know what it means to see that gathering of women outside the gates of Holloway.

Then on Saturday, the 17th, comes the official and public welcome. On that day we show the politicians and the public how women honour those who suffer in the woman's cause. Our procession must be the most effective we have yet held. Let us all take part in it and do all in our power to make it a great success. It must be large in numbers, dignified and impressive. Every one of us if possible must wear the colours. Our dear Treasurer with her keen artistic sense knows how the human mind is affected by colour. Let us then wear the purple, white and green, and with bands playing and banners waving march through London, a brave army of women engaged in a war against a Government which refuses us power to help to build up a truly Imperial race.

Our procession ends at the Aldwych Theatre where Mrs. Pethick Lawrence will speak once more to us all.

The theatre must be filled to overflowing.

This, then, is how we shall show our appreciation of all that Mrs. Lawrence has done and is doing for our cause. Let each one of us do our part and the demonstration will be a magnificent success.

I know what Mrs. Pethick Lawrence will think as she drives in the procession through the streets of London with all the promise of spring in the air. It will be this. That in spite of hardships of prison it is good to be alive and able to play a noble part in the fight for the freedom of women and the upliftment of the human race.

Yours in the cause,

Emmeline Pankhurst.

### PROGRAMME.

The arrangements for the welcome to be accorded to the Honorary Treasurer of the N.W.S.P.U. on her release from Holloway are as follows:—

#### Friday, April 16.

8 a.m.—Welcome at the gates of Holloway.

9 a.m.—Breakfast, Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly Circus.

There will be no procession from the prison to the restaurant. Members and friends will make their own arrangements either to drive or to go by train from the Caledonian Road Station to Piccadilly Circus.

#### Saturday, April 17.

PROCESSION FROM HYDE PARK, MARBLE ARCH, TO THE ALDWYCH THEATRE.

2.30 p.m.—Form up inside Hyde Park as follows:—

Colour bearer.

Special band of thirty performers.

Great silk banner.

Committee and Organisers.

A symbolic figure representing Joan of Arc.

Local W.S.P.U.'s.—Barnes, Bowes Park, Brixton, Camberwell,

Croydon, Chelsea, Forest Gate, Fulham and Putney.

Second band.

Local W.S.P.U.'s.—Kensington, Hammersmith, Hendon, Hornsey,

Ilford, Lewisham, Richmond, Streatham, Wimbledon.

Horsemwomen.

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.

Ex-prisoners of the deputation of February 24.

Girls in white carrying flowers.

Third band.

Great silk banner.

Esperance Girls' Club.

Y.H.B.'s.

N.W.S.P.U. members.

Fourth band.

Teachers and Nurses.

Women's Clubs and Professional Women.

General public.

Fifth band.

Carriages.

3 p.m.—March via Oxford Street, Regent Street, Piccadilly Circus, Cockspur

Street, Charing Cross, Strand, to the Aldwych Theatre.

4.30 p.m.—GREAT PUBLIC MEETING ALDWYCH THEATRE.

Speaker, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence. Chair, Mrs. Pankhurst.

All seats reserved, 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d., from Ticket Secretary,

4, Clements Inn.







LOCAL NOTES.

**Birmingham W.S.P.U.**—In Birmingham and the Midlands the members and friends continue to pour in their gifts for the Exhibition stall, and the earnest workers continue to work for it with enthusiasm. Mrs. Calway reports the following promises of contributions, which she has received this week, viz.:—Miss Benson, inlaid woodwork; Mrs. Brewster, 12s. worth of scent sachets; Mrs. Watson (per Dr. Helena Jones), 15s. worth of lavender sachets; and Mrs. M. Barnard, £1 worth of goods. Will workers kindly note that the next stall meeting will be held at No. 14, Ethel Street, Birmingham, on Monday, April 12, at 7.30 p.m. All communications relating to the Exhibition should be addressed to Mrs. E. Kerwood, Watling House, Barnet Green, near Birmingham, and Mrs. Lucy Calway, 125, Alester Road, Moseley, Birmingham, the joint secretaries for the Exhibition.

ELIZABETH REDFERN, Hon. Sec.

**Bowes W.S.P.U.**—Miss Tolson (now in Holloway) and Miss Hewitt, of Manchester, made good use of their time last week. Unable to hold an open-air meeting on account of severe weather, they attended an indoor lecture, and during the discussion proved splendidly the reason and logic of the Union's position.

**Brighton and Hove W.S.P.U.**—Our weekly meeting in our offices on Friday last was well attended. Miss Denly and Miss Andrews gave their bye-election experiences at Croydon. On Saturday, 3rd, our open-air meeting on the Front attracted a large number of people. We took up a collection and sold a good many VOTES FOR WOMEN. Miss Decima Moore, Actress's Franchise League, was one of the audience, and was most kind coming and helping us to sell VOTES FOR WOMEN amongst the crowd. There will be no meeting on Friday evening, 9th (Good Friday). Open-air meetings will go on as usual—Wednesday and Saturday. We hope in Easter Week, with the exception of Monday, to hold open-air meetings nearly every afternoon on the Front, 2.45 p.m.; also outdoor evening meetings. Time and place of these latter to be seen at office, 8, North Street, Quadrant. J. G. MCKEOWN.

**Camberwell and Peckham W.S.P.U.**—A meeting of the above newly formed Union was held at the Samuel Bowley Coffee Tavern, 74, Peckham Rye, on Wednesday, March 31. A keenly interested audience listened to Miss Annie Ainsworth, who gave us her impressions of Holloway. New members were enrolled. The next gathering will be held at the same place, at 8 o'clock, on Wednesday, April 14, when all members and friends are invited. It is suggested that on this evening members should bring Exhibition work. C. DAWSON.

**Chiswick W.S.P.U.**—We were busy on Saturday last amongst the Boat-race crowds, selling VOTES FOR WOMEN and giving out handbills. Our corps was received with many encouraging remarks from numberless people. One or two told us good humouredly they were "antis," but we found our bills taken very readily. On Monday last Miss Dugdale spoke at a suffrage tea that Mrs. Bergin kindly gave. This brought us more recruits. The newsagents report that the sale of VOTES FOR WOMEN is steadily increasing every week. M. COOMBS.

**Hendon W.S.P.U.**—All sympathisers in the Hendon district are invited to join in the processions on Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17, behind the Hendon banner. Will they, if possible, communicate with Mrs. Wyatt, Derby House, who will give full particulars of our local arrangements. There will be a brake at the release in the early morning. We hope to have a large contingent. FRANCES V. CREATION.

**Hornsey W.S.P.U.**—Our whist drive on Saturday, April 3, on behalf of our Exhibition fund left us with a net profit of £3 16s. 3d. Some of our members presented the prizes, and Mrs. Law gave us 15s. towards the expenses and 5s. for general local expenses. Miss Irene Spong and Miss Margaret Bonwick sang solos and a duet during the interval, when I also took the opportunity of saying a few words. Our next meeting-place will be under the Hornsey banner in the procession at 2.30 from Marble Arch on Saturday, April 17. Will all members kindly keep that day free, and bring as many friends to walk with them as possible? All Hornsey members are asked to make a special effort to keep the evening of Friday, April 23, free for an important members' meeting at "Ye China Cup," Park Road, when we hope to discuss and arrange for our spring and summer campaign. THEODORA BONWICK.

**Hull W.S.P.U.**—VOTES FOR WOMEN was again brought before the footballers on Saturday afternoon, Miss Little and I being the saleswomen. We are urgently in need of recruits for this work. Any members willing to help should communicate with me at 14, Welbeck Street, Hull. We hope to send an account of Mrs. Clarke's visit to Hull next week. M. HARRISON.

**Kensington W.S.P.U.**—Arrangements are already being made to celebrate the release of our brave hon. secretary, Mrs. Eates. The weekly At Home, on Wednesday, May 5, will be held in the Kensington Town Hall, instead of at Albert Lodge, at 3.30 p.m., when a presentation will be made to Mrs. Eates. For this purpose I should be glad to receive any contributions, however small, which should be sent to me at the VOTES FOR WOMEN Shop, 143, Church Street, Kensington. No At Home will be held on Wednesday, April 14 or 21, the date of the next will be April 28. The shop will be closed for the Easter holiday from 6 p.m. on Thursday, 8th, till 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 13th. Preparations are being made for working up the district for the procession on April 17, and for the Albert Hall meeting on April 29. Will all who can help with open-air meetings, canvassing, chalking, etc., please come or write to the shop? The best tribute that we can pay to Mrs. Eates during her absence is to work our hardest. EVELYN MORRISON, Hon. Sec. (pro tem).

**Lewisham W.S.P.U.**—On Sunday Mrs. McKenzie and Miss C. Townsend addressed a large meeting on Blackheath. A social will be held on April 22 at Avenue House, Lewisham. Members and friends are urged to do their utmost to make it a success. A charge of sixpence will be made for admission. (Mrs.) LIZZIE MCKENZIE.

**Nottingham W.S.P.U.**—A well-attended members' meeting was held at Morley's Café on the evening of Tuesday, March 30, when the following sewing meetings (for our Exhibition stall) were arranged:—April 20—Mrs. Johnson, 10, Patrick Road, West Bridgford; April 22—Mrs. Shepherd, Cyprus Road; and April 29—Mrs. Langford, The Chestnuts, Mapperley Hill; time, 3 to 7. Help of all kinds is urgently needed, and friends are asked to note that work will be provided for them, and that all attending are asked to pay sixpence each for tea, thus helping with our Exhibition work expenses. The next speakers' class will be held at Mrs. Simons, 26, Zulla Road, on Thursday, April 16, at 7.30. On the conclusion of these arrangements Mrs. Archer (in the chair) spoke, being followed by Miss Watts, who described some of her Holloway experiences. The financial statement of Mrs. Tankhurst's meeting on March 26 is held over. We are hoping to arrange for a lantern lecture on April 26, when Miss Watts will speak on her prison life to a wider audience. H. K. W., pro C. M. BURGESS, Hon. Sec.

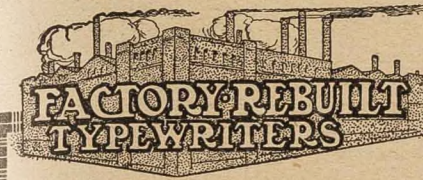
**Putney and Fulham W.S.P.U.**—Our advertising secretary, Mrs. Cullene, is making known the procession on April 17, the Albert Hall meeting, and the Exhibition, and already over 1,200 handbills have been distributed. Open-air meetings will be held on Thursdays, April 8 and 15, at 12 o'clock, in Walham Green and Putney. Mrs. Everett, of 3, Oxford Road, Putney, has again kindly promised the use of her drawing-room for meetings on the same dates, from 3 to 5 p.m. Mrs. Penn-Gaskell will be the speaker at both meetings this week. At the meeting held last Thursday the room was packed, and many strangers were present. At the evening meeting next day our treasurer raised the necessary sum for a large banner in less time than she could write down the amounts. Mrs. Gilliat has promised a purse in the colours as one of the whist-drive prizes, and we shall be glad to hear from anyone who will give a prize or help with the refreshments. Please return all unsold tickets before April 16, as the whist-drive takes place on April 20. The Exhibition secretary will be glad to receive all completed articles at the next drawing-room meeting. If unable to be present, please send care of Mrs. Everett, 3, Oxford Road, Putney. Will all Putney and Fulham sympathisers, both men and women, kindly rally round our banner on Saturday, April 17, as we want as strong a contingent as possible? L. CUTTEN, Hon. Sec.

**Stoke-on-Trent W.S.P.U.**—On Thursday, April 1, an important meeting was held under the auspices of the British Women's Temperance Society. The president, Mrs. Beardmore, who occupied the chair, is a keen sympathiser with our movement. Mrs. Lawton, of Hanley, and myself had been billed as speakers. In the course of the meeting Mrs. Massey, an influential lady, referred to her long years of work done for the Liberals and for temperance reform, but she asked, "Where are we to-day with all our hard work? It is, as the speakers have just said, only by the power of the vote that our work can be of any lasting good, and now I am going to withdraw from any other public work and fix my attention on getting the vote." I have to acknowledge with thanks a contribution from Miss Sylvester, at Leek, towards the Exhibition. All inquiries for information and literature should be addressed to me at No. 19, Grosvenor Avenue, Oak Hill, Stoke-on-Trent. ADELINE REDFERN-WILDE, Hon. Sec.

**Streatham W.S.P.U.**—On Friday last there was a large attendance of members and friends at the reception at the Streatham Public Hall in honour of Mrs. and Miss Tyson, who were released from Holloway on March 24. The guests were received by the hon. secretary, and Miss Leonora Tyson presided over the meeting. Songs were sung by Miss Gilderoy Scott and Miss Inglis, and Miss Dorothy Tagg recited. After an address by Miss Joachim, and interesting accounts of their prison experiences from Mrs. and Miss Tyson, a pleasant surprise awaited them and Mrs. Petre—sister to Mrs. Tyson—who had also suffered a month's imprisonment. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Horn, on behalf of the New Union for Women's Suffrage, presented Mrs. Tyson and Mrs. Petre with a silver badge bearing the same letters and numbers worn by them in Holloway. They and Miss Tyson were also presented with a flat gold bar, to be used for pinning on our colours, and on which was inscribed "February 24—March 24, 1909." JULIE E. SMITH, Hon. Sec.

**Wimbledon W.S.P.U.**—On Monday evening, April 5, the third informal gathering of members and friends took place at Fabo, Marrayat Road, Wimbledon Common. A quantity of useful articles completed for the Exhibition were on view, as we wished to stimulate to fresh effort those who were not already fully occupied in preparing for the Wimbledon stall. The responsibility of furnishing the stall rests mainly with Dr. and Mrs. Frank Bather. Valued contributions in the form of money, material, or workmanship have been made by many Wimbledon friends. During February and March members and friends have had the opportunity of meeting on Mondays at Fabo, 3-6, to work for the Exhibition, and on Wednesdays at 6, Broadway, for a brief address and discussion. After Easter these meetings will be resumed, the Wednesday gathering probably taking place out of doors, as well as Sunday afternoon meetings on Wimbledon Common. The existing VOTES corps for Friday duty is this week receiving another volunteer in Miss Beatty, who has undertaken the care of the literature. At Croydon the Wimbledon Union was represented, and on Tuesday some of our women supported the deputation to Mr. Asquith. M. GRANT.

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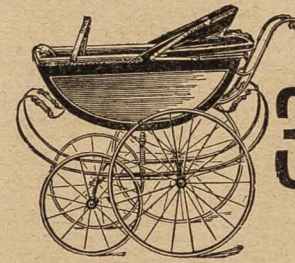
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**THE TREASURER'S NOTE.**

I have received many letters from members eagerly looking forward to the release of the Treasurer. I feel that we shall be able to tell her when she comes out of prison that we have kept the flag flying during her absence. The contributions this week show a further £250 added to the fund. Among them is one from a woman who writes to say that she is transferring her subscriptions from other causes; she feels that Woman Suffrage stands first. The same note is struck in a letter from Colonel Blathway, which will be found printed in the correspondence columns.

F. W. P. L.

**Contributions to the £50,000 Fund.**


March 31 to April 6.		£ s. d.	
Already acknowledged	32,937 9 7	"Three times in prison"	0 10 0
Lowy, Ernest, Esq.	10 0 0	Tolson, Miss	1 0 0
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Bourchier, Dr. Helen	0 5 0	Irving, J. W., Esq.	0 10 0
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Waller, Miss O.	0 5 0	Sharp, Miss Nancy	0 3 0
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Auld, Mrs.	2 2 0	Darbyshire, Miss	0 1 6
Herbert, Mrs.	0 5 0	Crocker, Miss (sale of hat pins)	0 1 6
Clayton, Mrs.	0 5 0	Old Boys' Association,	
Gandell, Mrs. M. (collected at Drawing-room meeting)	0 18 0	Stoney Middleton (donation)	0 5 0
Waleen, Mrs. M.	1 1 0	Parsons, Miss A. E.	1 1 0
MacCallum, Miss M.	0 2 6	Crocker, Miss (travelling expenses)	0 2 0
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MacArthur, Miss B. (collected)	0 7 6	Ford, Miss Edith	0 3 0
Case, Miss A. J.	0 10 0	For Exhibition Fund—	
Clarke, Miss A. E.	1 0 0	A Modernist Roman Priest	0 5 0
Park, Mrs. Alice E.	0 4 2	Gayton, Miss (collected)	0 1 0
Peacock, Miss Margaret	0 10 0	For Organiser Fund—	
Kain, Miss Ida	0 12 0	Smith, Miss A. Jessie	0 5 0
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Kerr, Miss H. R., per London City W.S.P.U.	1 0 0	Bell, Mrs. Mary E.	0 13 0
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			£33,281 4 0

The item, "Miss Louisa Vincent, 13s.," in last week's list was included in error, and is deducted from above total.

One of the firms advertising in VOTES FOR WOMEN, we are interested to hear, has decided to deal only with those wholesale firms who support the movement, and another is sending all her dyeing, cleaning, etc., to one of the advertisers in VOTES FOR WOMEN. A regular subscriber writes that she is transferring a considerable portion of her custom to firms who advertise in VOTES FOR WOMEN, informing them of her reason for doing so; she strongly urges upon others to do the same. In this way they will be both forwarding the W.S.P.U. and helping the sale of the W.S.P.U.'s newspaper in a most effective way.

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The right is on your side!

Ye mothers who have dared to claim a share  
In the enactment of those mighty laws  
Which guide the destinies and sons ye bear,  
Justice upholds your cause!

Is it so strange that women should have thought  
Their wisdom well might help the men who rule  
In what way little children must be taught  
And cared for in the school?

Is it unreasonable or wrong that they  
Who bore in pain and sorrow noble sons,  
Claim to be heard, ere these are sent their way  
To fall 'neath foreign guns?

Hark! how the whirring wheels throughout the land  
Are winning England's wealth, and fame, and ease.  
On this machine and that a girl's slim hand;  
Shall only men rule these?

And shall a woman not speak what she feels?  
And must she be compelled by devious arts  
To use her influence like a thief who steals  
From men's minds, through their hearts?

Not thus! for fearlessly behold them fight,  
The delicate, the timid, the refined;  
Bravely unselfish, striving for the right—  
Or prison bars behind,

Or cruel wrong before—all steadfastly  
In majesty that will not be denied!  
Hail! English women, Hail! for Equity  
And God are on your side!

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