

# VOTES FOR WOMEN

EDITED BY FREDERICK AND EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

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With apologies to a well known advertisement.

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## THE OUTLOOK.

The General Election is now right on us. Only a fortnight remains for making preliminary preparations, and then directly after Christmas there will be four sharp weeks of contest, and all will be over. We print in this issue a manifesto setting out the General Election policy of the Union, and also some account of how the battle will be fought. We also give a reproduction of a poster which will be used in the fight all over the country.

### Mrs. Pankhurst and the Right to Petition.

Following upon the decision last week in the Divisional Court, application was made by the authorities for the fines due from Mrs. Pankhurst and Mrs. Haverfield, with an intimation that, in default, steps would be taken to arrest and imprison them. Their solicitor, acting upon instructions received from both ladies, stated, in reply, that they both refused to pay their fines. On Monday, however, an official receipt was sent from Bow Street for £5, the amount of Mrs. Pankhurst's fine. Mrs. Pankhurst's desire to stand firm in this matter is so well known to members of the Union that none of them can have taken this course; we can, therefore, only assume that some supporter of the Government, realising how unpopular the imprisonment of Mrs. Pankhurst would be at this juncture, decided to pay her fine.

### Demonstrations in Lancashire.

The campaign of Mr. Winston Churchill in Lancashire has been met by a counter campaign by the Women's

Social and Political Union on a far greater scale than has ever been attempted before. Wherever he has gone the most rigorous police precautions have been taken, involving the outlay of large sums of money, and the erection of elaborate barricades, and yet, in spite of this, in every case he has been confronted with members of the Union.

### At Preston.

The first blow was struck on Thursday night by Mrs. Massy at Preston, who pasted upon the walls of the barricaded public hall the poster representation of forcible feeding. For this she was arrested, but released shortly after. As a further protest she threw a stone through the window of the General Post Office, and was rearrested and sentenced to a month's imprisonment. Mrs. Rigby was also arrested for obstruction and given the option of a fine or imprisonment, and Miss Hesmondhalgh and Mrs. Worthington were also sentenced for a similar offence. All the women went to prison, with the exception of Mrs. Rigby, whose fine was paid against her wish by her father. Mrs. Rigby immediately went to Liverpool, where she broke a window of the police-station, and was rearrested and sentenced to fourteen days. After three days' imprisonment Mrs. Massy's fine was paid, without her knowledge, by her husband, and she was released.

### On the Roof at Southport.

At Southport preparations on a gigantic scale were undertaken. The police reported that £750 additional expenditure would be required to protect Mr. Churchill, but the Watch Committee decided to spend only £250. Meanwhile special constables were enrolled and the proprietors of property in the neighbourhood of the hall were warned against harbouring Suffragettes. In spite of all this police and detective vigilance Miss Marsden, Miss Winslow Etherley, and Miss Helen Tolson clambered on to the roof of the hall on Friday night, and spent the whole of that night and Saturday morning, in drenching weather, in hiding there. When Mr. Churchill was in the middle of his speech they interpolated a pertinent remark. At once the meeting was a howling mob, and, in spite of Mr. Churchill's suggestion that the remark was

not an unfair one, stewards scrambled up on to the roof, and after a long time succeeded in getting the women away.

### Press Comments.

The Times, in a special article on Mr. Churchill's Lancashire campaign, described the whole scene as follows:—

A stranger to our British ways who heard so much talk as there now is among us of revolution, and saw the stout barricades which stood in the streets of Southport to-day might imagine the two things to be related one to the other. We at home, however, know better. The revolution is new, but the barricades are old and familiar. It is with these that we celebrate the visits of Cabinet Ministers—with these and with prancing horses carrying vigilant constables, a double guard against the crude attentions of a few emancipated women. After explaining further how the Cabinet Minister has got into the hall by "stealth and strategy," an account is given of the women's interruption, and the correspondent adds:—

The stewards, being very young, became as excited as any person in the audience, and they ran to and fro until it looked as if they would be throwing one another out.

He then gives an account of the ejection, and follows with a description of the effect upon the meeting:—

This was the only disturbing incident in the course of an ingenious and lively speech. But it served of itself, though indirectly, to make havoc of the immediate effect of the oration, if the American term may be used without offence. The women—and the stewards—had taken up a good deal of time, and when he was little more than midway in his task Mr. Churchill happened to look at his watch; thereforth to the end he read his speech word by word at a rate which was calculated to save more time than had been lost, and from ecstasies of enthusiasm his audience fell away to a mere dead attention.

Other papers comment upon the more chastened attitude of Mr. Churchill towards Suffragette interrupters.

### At the Police Court.

Brought up on Monday at the police court, Miss Marsden was defended by Mr. Lord, who brought out many telling points against the prosecution and forced them into an admission of respect for the astounding courage of the Suffragettes. In the end the Bench disagreed, and by a majority vote decided to acquit the women. Mean-







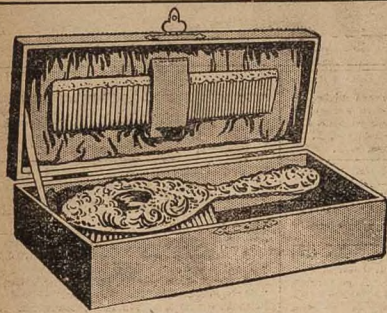






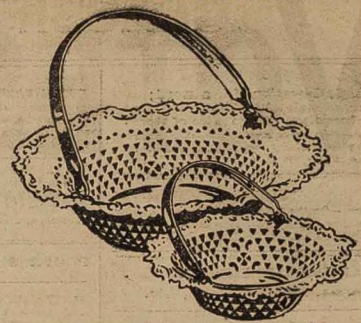






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