

The War Paper for Women

VOTES FOR WOMEN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

VOL. VIII. (Third Series), No. 355.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1914.

Price 1d. Weekly (Post Free) ^{1d.}

"PEACE ON EARTH"



A. PATRIOT.

FATHER CHRISTMAS: "Poor little dears! This is the best present I can offer them this year."

UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

3, Adam Street, Strand, London, W.C. Telephone, Regent 5150
Colours: Purple, White and Orange

THE U.S. AT CARDIFF The Public Meeting

A very good meeting was held at the Cory Hall, Cardiff, last Wednesday evening, when the following resolution was proposed by Mr. George Lansbury, seconded by Miss Evelyn Sharp, and carried unanimously:—

That this meeting demands that the laws relating to drink and morals be administered impartially and without discrimination as between the sexes, and also demands that full and adequate pay and pensions be allotted to the wives and dependants of soldiers and sailors, and is further of opinion that no satisfactory solution of these important questions can be guaranteed without the immediate enfranchisement of women.

Other speeches were made by the Rev. Herbert Davis (Minor Canon of Hereford Cathedral), Mrs. Davis, and Mr. Edmunds (Secretary of the Cardiff Trades Council). The Chair was taken by Mr. Samuel Fisher, J.P. A very large number of men were in the audience, which showed the greatest sympathy with the speeches, all of which were expressive of the woman's point of view with regard to the recent court-martialling of a certain section of women in the town.

THE DEPUTATION

Mrs. Ayrton Gould and Mrs. Elaine Whelen had spent the previous days of the week in Cardiff, ascertaining the state of public opinion as to the application which had been made there of the Defence of the Realm Act; and on Thursday morning Colonel East, D.S.O., Commanding Officer of the Severn Defences, very courteously received at his headquarters a deputation of United Suffragists, in response to a letter from Mrs. Gould, in which she pointed out that this Society had made it their business since the outbreak of war to champion the interests of women affected in any way by war conditions, and for this reason they would like to lay before him their point of view with regard to the situation of women in Cardiff.

The deputation consisted of Lady Mackworth, Mrs. Woolf (Proprietress of the Royal Hotel, Cardiff, and head of a nursing unit about to start for the front), Mr. George Lansbury, the Rev. Herbert Davis, Miss Evelyn Sharp, and Mrs. Ayrton Gould.

The Suffragists' Standpoint

Lady Mackworth introduced the deputation, thanking Colonel East for granting them this interview to discuss the matter, to which he replied that he was very glad to have the opportunity of hearing their views. Miss Sharp then put before him the Suffragists' point of view, urging that in differentiating between men and women, and again in differentiating between different classes of women, neither justice nor expediency was served. She fully recognised the difficulties of his task and position, but felt that the human problem with which he was faced could be dealt with only by considering the interests of women as well as men. These women were our sisters, and to penalise them while leaving the men unpunished, besides being unfair, did not meet the difficulty or solve the problem. In protecting men against immoral women, he was leaving all women unprotected against immoral men. She pointed out that under the Defence of the Realm Act he had it in his power to keep all the inhabitants of any area within doors at night, or to keep his troops within bounds. She further alluded to Mr. Asquith's assurance given to Suffragists that no steps were to be taken that could in any way revive in letter or in spirit the C.D. Acts. But here in Cardiff power was being placed in the hands of the police to specify certain women as prostitutes—a distinct form of State regulation of vice which had been the main purpose of those Acts. If every policeman were an Archbishop, this was a power which should not be given to him or to any human being over another human being. She therefore urged

Colonel East to take measures to safeguard his troops which would not be at the expense of the most defenceless portion of the community.

The Church's Point of View

The Rev. Herbert Davis then spoke from the point of view of the Church. He recognised the complexity of the problem but endorsed what had been already said, and added that his experience as a Churchman told him that anything which branded a girl or a woman as a prostitute was ineffectual in quelling the evil, and rendered her besides far less accessible to friendly help and far more difficult of reclamation. He, too, urged that measures might be taken which should apply equally to men and women, and should not help to thrust further down those women who were already known as "fallen" women; and further pointed out that State regulation of vice had originated with Napoleon at the time of the French wars, and had proved a failure then.

Mrs. Woolf, in a few forceful sentences, identified herself wholly with the two speeches that had already been made, and said that as a nurse, as a Poor Law Guardian and as a Cardiff resident, she felt that nothing effectual would result from the measures that were being taken by the military authorities.

The Labour Point of View

Mr. George Lansbury spoke as a representative of Labour, showing how this question affected the working-classes more than any other, as it was from them that the ranks of prostitution were recruited. He did not know if military exigencies made it impossible, but he had a suggestion to make which had, he thought, been possibly made before, but might be worth considering. This was that the recruits should as far as possible be quartered near their own homes, where they could spend their evenings instead of being driven to the street and the public-house. He lived in the East End, which had sent up a lot of recruits, and he knew how much a provision of this sort would mean to them.

Mrs. Ayrton Gould spoke entirely on the ineffectiveness of the military order as judged from her own experiences in Cardiff. She had been in the police court the day before, when a prostitute had been charged with theft, who was evidently known to the police but was not one of those on whom the notice was served; this proved that only some of these women were selected for this particular form of penalisation. Also, while the streets might be improved to some extent for the troops by the new order, they were not improved for women, and she had herself twice experienced considerable annoyance from soldiers in Cardiff. She suggested that the same course might be pursued as had been adopted in another town where troops were quartered, and where the drink and immorality at night were excessive until an officers' picket was established, which at once effected an enormous improvement in both directions.

Colonel East's Reply

Colonel East thanked the speakers briefly for giving him their views, pointed out the difficulties with which he was faced, and added: "You understand, of course, that what I have to put down is not immorality, but disease."
The deputation then shook hands and withdrew.

THE U.S. WOMEN'S CLUB

Last Tuesday's Suffrage meeting was a great success. Miss Somers and Miss Ennis spoke, and an interesting discussion followed, in the course of which it came to light that several of those women who were now members of the Club used to attend the U.S. open-air meetings in Southwark. One newcomer said emphatically at the end of the speeches, "Well, I never knew Suffrage was like this!" Mr. Gray would be glad to hear at 3, Adam Street from speakers

who will kindly attend some of these meetings, which take place every Tuesday evening.

Miss Hilda Saxe's Thursday evening concerts, at which she either plays herself or provides other excellent performers, are eagerly looked forward to and keenly enjoyed.

Thanks are due to "A Well-wisher" for a parcel of biscuits, tea and sugar; to Miss Wilmot for tea; to Mrs. Watson for jam, and to many friends for papers and magazines. Gifts that are most useful are: Tea, butter, jam, cake, and flowers.

FINAL RESULT OF CHRISTMAS SALE

The good friends who so kindly visited the sale in our offices last week and bought the goods left over from our Christmas sale have enabled us to add another £13 12s. to the sum already realised. This brings up the total to £119 3s. 7d.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

The offices of the United Suffragists at 3, Adam Street, will be closed on Wednesday in this week at 1 o'clock, and will reopen Monday, January 4, at 10 a.m. Correspondence will be dealt with during this period, but it is hoped that all members will take a real holiday in preparation for the active work of the coming year.



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THE OUTLOOK

"Peace on Earth, Goodwill towards Men." As a Suffrage paper we can without hypocrisy offer the Christian wish to all our readers, even on this tragic Christmas Day in 1914. For we who are Suffragists recognise no distinction of race or creed or nationality, and express no political opinion about a war in which voteless women have no controlling voice. But, as soldiers in a greater war than could ever be fought with shell or shrapnel, we can, and do, send a greeting of peace and goodwill to our fellow Suffragists all the world over to-day.

Babies in the Fighting Line

Our last week's cartoon, intended to refer to child casualties on the Continent, proved strangely prophetic. Just after we went to press news came of the German raid on the East Coast, resulting in over a hundred deaths and many hundreds of casualties among civilians, the great majority of whom, in both cases, are women and children. In one house father, mother, and six children were killed; in another, fifteen out of sixteen schoolboys fell victims to the same shell; a woman was blown to pieces in bed, so was a housemaid cleaning a doorstep; babies under a year old were killed in their mothers' arms. We are told that the Germans broke the rules of "civilised" warfare in thus bombarding unfortified places, and fortified ones without notice. Suffragists will only see that war has again been shown to deal death and misery to women and children as well as men, and that it is arrant humbug to deny women the vote on the plea that they do not share the risks of war.

"Masterman Ready"—But Not His Electors

As we suggested last week, the Swansea vacancy was likely to be seized as an opportunity for the re-entry into public life of Mr. Masterman, who has been twice defeated at contested elections in 1914. All Suffragists would deplore such an event, for Mr. Masterman, by his defence of forcible feeding as "hospital treatment," when it was first practised on militant prisoners, and by his support of Mr. Lloyd George in his wrecking tactics when the Conciliation Bill would otherwise have settled the Suffrage question in this country, has forfeited the respect of all honourable men and women. Apparently many Swansea Liberals think so too, in spite of a persuasive letter from his grateful master, Mr. Lloyd George; and last Saturday the Liberal electors there cast 64 votes in favour of another candidate, Mr. T. J. Williams, as against the 80 votes which secured Mr. Masterman's candidature.

Suffragists the Cause of the Split

It was further asserted that the adoption of Mr. Masterman would cause a split in the Liberal ranks and the possible nomination of Mr. Williams as an Independent candidate, and of a Unionist candidate as well. Thus, even at a period of political truce the Government are unable to lay the Suffrage ghost by which they are haunted through their dishonourable treatment of women. For it is evident from comments on the stormy scene of Saturday that Mr. Masterman's two defeats on his Ministerial record disqualify him in the eyes of many Swansea electors; and he owed these two defeats, at Bethnal Green and Ipswich, to the opposition of the Suffragists.

Further, since the present tendency of the Government is to take away from women the few rights they possess, we protest most emphatically against their reinforcement by a colleague bearing Mr. Masterman's political record with regard to women.

What is Happening at Cardiff

Not a hundred miles from Swansea, a glaring instance of the Government's protection of enfranchised men at the expense of voteless women is to be found. On the opposite page we give an account of what the United Suffragists did last week at Cardiff, where they held a public meeting, and went in deputation to the Commanding Officer of the district to protest against the recent application of the Defence of the Realm Act, whereby certain women, alleged to be prostitutes by the police, have been served with notices ordering them to be within doors from 7 p.m. till 8 a.m., and ten women have been sentenced to detention for disobeying this order. There appears now to be some doubt as to the legality of the order and the court-martial; for at Cardiff Police Court, on Wednesday in last week, the civil and military authorities failed to agree on this point, and two other women, brought up on the same charge, were remanded until Christmas Eve, to enable expert evidence to be obtained.

Mr. Asquith Again False to Women

We are not greatly concerned with the legal complications of the Government's Act, or with the question whether it gives the military authorities power to order some or all of the inhabitants out of the streets of Cardiff; for experience teaches us that legal quibbles are never allowed to stand in the way, if the penalisation of women is desired. But we are concerned with the serious attack that has actually been made upon these women at Cardiff—and for all we know in other towns also where military law prevails—we are concerned with this revival of the C.D. Acts, which has taken place in spite of the assurance of the Prime Minister conveyed in a letter to the Freedom League dated October 20, 1914, that none of the Emergency Acts recently passed

confer any powers which would have the effect of reviving the provisions of the C.D. Acts, either in letter or in spirit.

Evidence of State Regulation

For out of the interview granted to the U.S. by Colonel East, last week, there emerges the incontestable fact that the authorities are bent only on keeping away from the troops those women who are afflicted with venereal disease. These notices have been served only on prostitutes, and only on a selected number of these, who are supposed to be in this condition. Therefore, either the police act on hearsay evidence, which is shamefully insufficient in such a grave charge and could easily lead to false apprehensions, or there has been a medical examination. The latter, we have been assured, has not occurred at Cardiff. But, in either case, the State regulation of vice has been revived, and is being applied to women while immoral men go unpunished. The principle of the C.D. Acts is therefore now in force.

Suffragists the Only Hope

It is incumbent on all women to rise in protest against this intolerable insult to all women. The sympathy shown, both by men and women, to the United Suffragists at Cardiff proves that the public are strongly opposed to this new persecution of women. Yet, with the exception of the *Herald* and the *Statesman*, we do not believe a single protest has been raised by any paper except the suffrage organs. It is the old conspiracy of silence about vice which has always made women the chief victims of

vice. Our only hope is in the Suffragists, and it is good news that on January 23, a demonstration of protest will be held in Trafalgar Square under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League, in which the United Suffragists will take part. Meanwhile, all men and women who feel that a wrong done to the meekest among women is a wrong done to their own mothers, should write their protest to Members of the Cabinet and of the House of Commons.

The Sins of the Fathers

The recommendation of the L.C.C. Elementary Education Committee, that in future children of alien enemies should be refused admission to the central schools, although modified after a hot debate by the words, "if British children, properly qualified, are available," is an indication of the evil effects of war upon people who, under ordinary circumstances, would probably shrink from hurting a child by visiting upon it the nationality of the father. The Rev. Stuart Headlam and the Rev. Dr. Scott Lidgett strongly opposed the motion, the former saying it was absurd to carry the war against children, and the latter, that it was doing an injustice to their own children to leave them these bitter memories.

Items of Interest

An agreement has been entered into between the employers and the men in the engineering industry, that in view of the present press of work and scarcity of men, women shall be employed only in the unskilled (that is, the badly paid) portions of the work.

The Shop Assistants' Union, according to a Press interview with its Secretary, has no objection to the employment of women to take the place of men in the grocery trade, as long as they are paid at the same rates. Women have "no objection" to this, either.

The public are being asked to post their Christmas parcels early as the postal staff has been much depleted owing to the war. If women had political power they would have succeeded by this time in effecting the substitution of women clerks, hundreds of whom are out of work from the same cause.

An admirable New Year's gift, besides the card that appears below, is Volume VII. of *VOTES FOR WOMEN*—price 10s. 6d., post free 11s. 6d. Send your order at once to the Publisher, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

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THE YEAR'S HISTORY OF



1.—VOTES FOR WOMEN IN 1914
Old Year (hobbling off): "I've left you a few cobwebs to clean up, I'm afraid."
New Year: "I'll soon get rid of them with my new Government measure electric cleaner!" (January 2, 1914.)



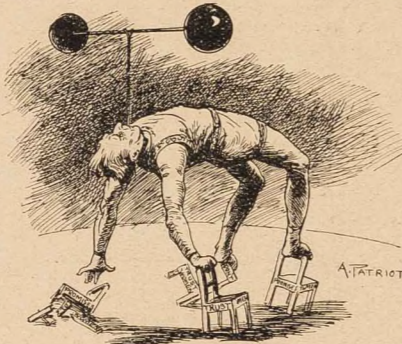
2.—"HOW HAPPY COULD I BE WITH EITHER!"
(The Liberal Party were said to be torn with indecision as to whether to throw over the Anti-Suffragists or the Suffragists in their ranks.) (January 23, 1914.)



3.—THE NEW CHIVALRY
It was stated in the Daily Press that "an amicable settlement" had been arrived at between the colliery owners and the miners' officials, by which the pit-brow girls had been discharged from the Sharlston mine and youths taken on instead. (February 6, 1914.)



7.—TIM HEALY'S ZOO
The Men: "Would you rather a lion ate you or a tiger?"
Irish Woman Suffragist: "Take them away! I demand my own freedom."
(Mr. Tim Healy, M.P., said in the House of Commons that the amended Home Rule Bill would divide Ireland into two dens of lions and tigers.) (March 13, 1914.)



8.—HOW MUCH LONGER WILL HE HOLD UP?
Our cartoonist here reminded Mr. Asquith that he could not for ever maintain a Liberal Government while breaking his promises to women. (April 3, 1914.)



9.—FRESH AIR WANTED!
A suggestion for the ventilation of the House of Commons, which was under repair in the Easter Recess. (April 10, 1914.)



13.—THE REJECTED ONE
All the Woman Suffrage Societies united in opposing Mr. Masterman at Ipswich. He was defeated. (May 23, 1914.)



14.—THE TWO REBELS
Mr. Redmond: "You'll not be letting this rebel creature go free?"
Chorus of Cabinet Ministers: "We never have contemplated using violent methods to coerce Ulster—and never shall!" (June 5, 1914.)



15.—GHOULS OF FLEET STREET
Chorus of the Press: Let the women die!
(The leading daily papers called upon the Government to stop the arson campaign by letting the women die in prison.) (June 12, 1914.)



19.—"WOMAN'S PLACE IS THE HOME"
For nothing lovelier can be found in woman, than to study household good. (October 2, 1914.)

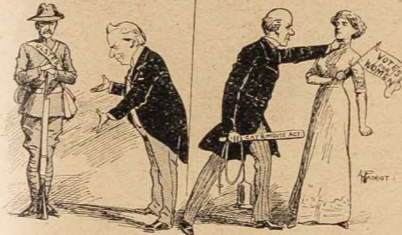


20.—HIS INFLUENCE
Recruiting Sergeant: "Now, then, my man, come and fight for your country."
Idle Husband: "Not me! Mustn't remove my influensh from my wife, or she might waste her time drinking."
(The Chairman of the Central Unemployment Body for London was reported to have said of the alleged increase of drunkenness among soldiers' wives that they "were suddenly getting money, and had lost the influence of their husbands.") (October 15, 1914.)



21.—THE TWO WARS
The Woman (reading the Prime Minister's recruiting message to East Fife Liberals): "You want more of my sons to die for their country and for liberty? Free their sisters, by giving them the protection of the vote, and the country will be really worth dying for in the cause of liberty!" (October 30, 1914.)

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN CARTOON



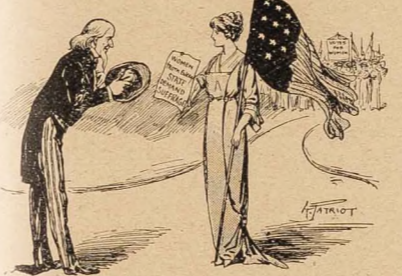
4.—THE TWO REBELS
Mr. Asquith (to Ulster): "Come, let us reason together."
Mr. McKenna (to Suffragists): "I'll soon put an end to your agitation." (February 13, 1914.)



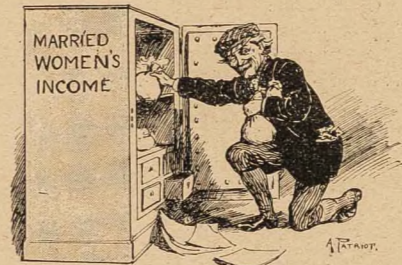
5.—"YE MAUNA TRAMPLE ON THE SCOTS THISTLE"
Mr. Asquith having refused to receive the Northern Men's Deputation of Scottish Belligerents and other important citizens, an Exchange Telegraph message from Glasgow said that "strong indignation is felt at Mr. Asquith's action." (February 20, 1914.)



6.—DEPORTED!
By order of the Woman Suffragists, who successfully opposed Mr. Masterman's candidature in Bethnal Green. (February 27, 1914.)



10.—THE WINNING CAUSE
This is a forecast of the two great demonstrations held by American Woman Suffragists—on May 2 in every State in the Union, and on May 9 on the steps of the Capitol at Washington. (May 1, 1914.)



11.—ROBBING MARRIED WOMEN
Mr. Lloyd George, instead of removing the admitted grievance of married women in respect to income tax, made it very much more serious by his new Budget. (May 8, 1914.)



12.—SCOTLAND SHAMES IRELAND
Guard Redmond: "You there, stand aside!"
Woman: "I have paid for my ticket and I demand the same right to travel as I have on the Scottish train."
(The new Scottish Home Rule Bill provided for Woman Suffrage in electing the Scottish Parliament.) (May 15, 1914.)



16.—A MODERN IPHIGENIA
Mr. Asquith refused time for the Bishop of London's Bill to raise the Age of Consent, and it was withdrawn. (July 31, 1914.)



17.—WOMIN TO THE RESCUE!
Oh, it's woman this and woman that, and "Woman cannot fight!"
But it's "Ministering Angel!" when the wounded come in sight.—Lawrence Housman.
(The Daily Press, which scorned women's abilities during the years in which they agitated for the vote, on the outbreak of the European war made a strong appeal to them, speaking in the highest terms of the value of their services as nurses.) (August 14, 1914.)



18.—WHEN IS AN ALIEN NOT AN ALIEN?
Frau Kirschenwasser (née Marjoribanks): "I a Pumpernickel!"
Mrs. John Smith (née Pumpernickel): "If I to German! I to register among my country's enemies!"
Lieber Gott! Am I not me?"
(According to the Nationality Law, opposed by the Suffragists of all countries, a woman has to take the nationality of her husband.) (September 4, 1914.)



22.—THE ONLY WAY
Drink Interests: "Give women the vote? Certainly not. Women with votes always get temperance legislation passed. Why, it would stop drinking, and then, where should I be?"
Anti-Suffrage Temperance Reformer: "Quite so!—I mean, ahem—Let us rather, in the interests of temperance, shut all women out of the public-house and stop their allowances." (November 6, 1914.)



23.—INSULTING THE HERO'S WIFE
Soldier's Wife (to Police Inspector): "I, too, am serving my country. I, too, have a right to my pay. If women had votes, you would not dare to come prying here!"
(According to a War Office order issued through the Home Office, soldiers' wives were to be submitted to police surveillance and their separation allowances stopped if "unworthiness" could be proved.) (November 13, 1914.)



24.—WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST
The "Nut" of Yesteryear: "War is a man's show, old dear. That's why we give him the vote. Woman's show is minding 'the baby—what?'"
(Recent War Correspondence related how the only victims in two bombardments abroad had been women and children.) (December 18, 1914.)

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS.

Single insertion, 24 words or less. 1s. 6d., 1d. per word for every additional word (four insertions for the price of three).

All advertisements must be prepaid. To ensure insertion in our next issue, all advertisements must be received not later than Tuesday morning. Address, the Advertisement Manager, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICES

REV. JOHN HUNTER, D.D. (late Trinity Church, Glasgow). Eolian Hall, New Bond Street, Dec. 27. Subject: "The Eternal Life." Worship at 11 o'clock.

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MEMBER W.S.P.U. requires post as chauffeur in or near London; 2 years' experience.—Box 650, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street.

SITUATIONS VACANT.

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