

# VOTES FOR WOMEN

EDITED BY FREDERICK AND EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

VOL. III. (New Series), No. 82.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1909.

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## ON BOARD H.M.S. "GOVERNMENT."



COMMANDER ASQ-TH: "Our enemy, 'House of Lords,' is in sight; are you ready to fire?"  
 GUNNER H-LD-NE: "No, Sir. Our best guns have been silenced by the 'Suffragette.'"

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### THE OUTLOOK.

Our hearts are filled with burning anger as we record the horrible assault perpetrated by the Government on women in Winson Green Gaol, Birmingham; but mingled with the feeling of disgust and anger at the wicked action of the Government is a feeling of intense admiration of the noble women who are enduring this torture.

#### The Facts of the Case.

On Saturday, September 18, two women, Miss Barnwell and Miss Burkitt, were sentenced to a month's confinement in Winson Green Gaol; on Wednesday, the 22nd, seven other women were sent to join them by the magistrates. All these women immediately determined to defy the prison regulations and carry out the hunger strike. On Friday morning in the columns of the public Press there appeared a rumour that the authorities, in order to break

down the resistance of the women, had determined to adopt the process of forcible feeding, and in answer to questions in the House on Monday and Tuesday, Mr. Masterman, speaking for Mr. Herbert Gladstone, acknowledged that this had been the case.

#### Legal Proceedings.

The Women's Social and Political Union acted immediately, and on Friday when the information was first published Mrs. Pankhurst and Miss Christabel Pankhurst proceeded to Birmingham and addressed a protest meeting. They also went to the prison, but all information was refused. Simultaneously the prisoners' solicitor applied for permission to see them to take their detailed instructions. For a considerable time no reply was given. Then this permission was definitely refused. It was accordingly decided on Wednesday to take legal proceedings against the Home Secretary, the Governor, and the doctor of Winson Green Gaol, on the ground that an assault had been committed. And as a first step, in order to comply with the law, a formal letter was sent demanding redress. The correspondence is given on page 4. Meanwhile we print on the following page an article describing the horrible nature of the operation from the medical point of view, adding opinions specially given by Dr. Forbes Winslow and other doctors.

#### Heroes.

Several of the women who are going through this fiery ordeal were already on the roll of honour of the Women's Social and Political Union. Mary Leigh, now for the sixth time in prison for her protest against the exclusion of women from the vote and for the third time enduring in defence of the cause the hunger strike; Patricia Woodlock, serving her fifth sentence, who in her several imprisonments has already served an aggregate of nearly six months; Charlotte Marsh, who has been twice in

prison before, and who has many a time filled the hearts of her hearers with devotion and loyalty to the cause of women; Mary Edwards, Leslie Hall, Mabel Capper (her third imprisonment), Laura Ainsworth, Ellen Barnwell, Hilda Evelyn Burkitt; these women deserve well of womanhood and of the country of their birth; they are setting up a standard of heroism which will be remembered and honoured so long as the annals of human society are preserved.

#### Blind Obstinacy.

But for the Government. Do they think that by these abominable means they are going to crush down the woman's movement? If they think that, they prove once more how utterly they fail to understand the nature and the determination of women. Let them take to heart this letter, received by Mrs. Pankhurst the morning after the statement had been made by the Government.—"I am ready," writes a devoted member of the Union, "to take any act the Union may consider necessary. This forcing of food will not deter us in the least." Another woman writes:—"I beg leave to take my share." These are examples of the attitude which the women are taking up. It is the answer which the women of the Women's Social and Political Union make to the Government. Those who are likely to be deterred by brutality and violence are not within its ranks. Step by step women will go forward with the Government until the cup of its iniquity is full, until the tide of indignation in the country rises to its flood, when this Government which has thought fit to carry out these atrocities will be overwhelmed.

#### "Laughter."

In the Press reports of the questions in the House of Commons on this subject it is stated that Mr. Masterman's answers were punctuated by "laughter" from members of the House. This "laughter" of M.P.'s will









PROTESTS AT CABINET MINISTERS' MEETINGS.

On several occasions during the last few days Cabinet Ministers have been questioned on the subject of Votes for Women.

At Cinderford on Friday Mr. Herbert Gladstone, although encompassed about with innumerable precautions, was obliged to hear the accusing voice of Miss Pitman, who met his motor-car at Bristol.

At Hampton Court on Saturday, on the occasion of a luncheon to the members of the International Press Conference, a male sympathiser met Mr. Lewis Harcourt as he was leaving the marquee, and approached him, saying, "Will you buy a copy of our paper?"

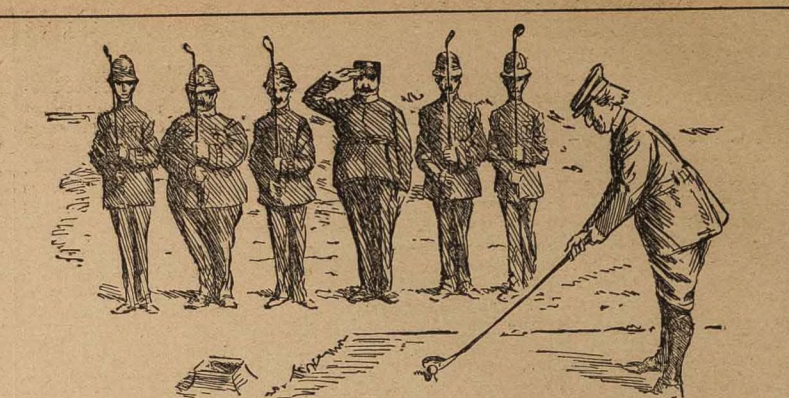
On Monday morning Miss Jessie Kenney, finding herself in the same tramcar with Mr. John Burns, attempted to discuss with him the treatment of the Hunger-Strikers at Birmingham.

A magnificent protest meeting was held at Peterborough on Monday outside a hall in which Mr. Sydney Buxton was speaking. To this hall only twelve women, well known to the Liberal party, were admitted.

As he has acted as the mouthpiece of the Government in regard to the forcible feeding of the Suffragist prisoners at Birmingham, Mr. Masterman was severely questioned by both men and women at a meeting in Fulham Town Hall on Tuesday night.

When the Car of Russia recently visited England—or rather an island off the English coast—people read, with feelings commingled of contempt, pity, and amusement, about the preparations made to secure the potentate's safety.

Mr. Masterman replied that both he and Mr. Gladstone had spoken in favour of Votes for Women, and that with regard to the "medical treatment" of the women something had to be done to prevent the women from committing suicide by starvation.



By permission of the Proprietors of "Punch." If Cabinet Ministers must have six policemen in attendance when they go off on Saturday afternoons, then each policeman must surely carry a club. This would serve a double purpose:—(1) Clubs could be dispensed with; (2) The clubs would serve as weapons of offence and defence in case of a Suffragette Raid.

POST BOX.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN. DEAR SIR,—I would like to tell you how delighted I am with my Suffrage bicycle. Decorated very delicately in the W.S.P.U. colours, it is really the most beautiful bicycle I have ever seen.

When the Car of Russia recently visited England—or rather an island off the English coast—people read, with feelings commingled of contempt, pity, and amusement, about the preparations made to secure the potentate's safety.

Mr. R. H. Pott writes that the leading newsagent in Woking has voluntarily offered to display fourteen posters for twenty-four hours this week, practically devoting every board outside his shop for this purpose.

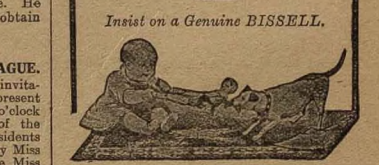
The above League extends a cordial invitation to members of the W.S.P.U. to be present in the Grand Hall of the Criterion at 3 o'clock to-day (Friday), when the President of the League (Mrs. Kendal) and the vice-presidents are at Home.

Mme. Garrud will give a demonstration in the Japanese art of self-defence, i.e., Ju-Jitsu, at her school, 31, Golden Square, Piccadilly, on Saturday, October 9, at 3.30 p.m.

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PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

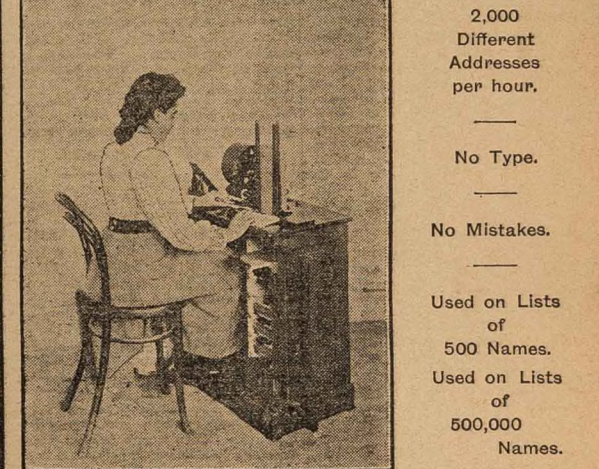
Table listing various events and meetings across different cities and dates, including Birmingham, Liverpool, London, and Manchester.

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THE CAMPAIGN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

London.—Mrs. Flora Drummond, 4, Clements Inn, W.C. West of England.—Miss Annie Kenney, 37, Queen's Road, opposite St. Andrew's Church, Bristol.

other women, a summons has been served for damages to prison property in connection with the recent imprisonments at Liverpool. There will be no At Home on Thursday evening on account of the Albert Hall meeting.

The vindictive action of the Government in causing the compulsory feeding of the women imprisoned in Birmingham as a result of the protest at Mr. Asquith's meeting has given fresh impetus to propaganda work throughout the whole of the country.

Owing to the enlargement of VOTES FOR WOMEN and the extra work entailed, Miss Barbara Ayton has joined forces with Miss Ainsworth, with a view to working up the circulation of the paper in its new form.

West of England. In Bristol various schemes are on hand for furthering the movement during the coming winter season, chief among these being a mass meeting in Colston Hall in November, and a bazaar early in the New Year.

London and Home Counties. The action of the Government alluded to above has imparted new zest to the work of the autumn campaign, and those responsible for preparing the ground for the Albert Hall meeting next Thursday evening are devoting themselves to canvassing, ticket-selling, etc., with redoubled energy.

In the four London districts in which the special Albert Hall campaign is being held, every possible means of advertising this great event is being utilised, and the organisers will be glad of every kind of help from those members who can spare any time, however short.

Miss Corson reports that similar good work is being carried on in Kensington and Knightsbridge, while in the Paddington district "shopping meetings" are being held twice a week, and large audiences are being addressed at the Marble Arch on Mondays and Thursdays.

Lancashire and North Wales. The winter campaign was opened last Friday in magnificent style. Although the largest hall in the Onward Buildings had been taken for this special At Home, it was inadequate for the audience anxious to hear Miss Beatrice Harraden.

Apart from the Albert Hall meeting, the great event of next week is the first Queen's Hall At Home after the summer holidays; this will take place on Monday afternoon from 3 to 5 p.m., and the speakers will be Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, and Miss Rona Robinson, upon whom, with

those members who are unable to give any time to selling could help very efficiently by buying a dozen or more copies every week to dispose of among their friends.

Manchester workers are now devoting the whole of their time to the welcome to "Hunger Strikers," to be held in the White City tomorrow. Both indoor and outdoor meetings will be held afternoon and evening.

Dundee. Miss Paul, Miss New, and Miss Burns were welcomed at a dinner at Dundee last Wednesday evening, at which the Provost took the chair.

the list of contributions from country organisers is headed this week by the Midlands, which sends a substantial amount of over £25. This includes the interesting item of £1 4s. collected in threepenny pieces.

thrown in their lot with the militant Suffragettes. She reminded those of her listeners to whom the militant tactics did not appeal that in a great movement the details slip into insignificance as time goes on, and that in a few years history will deal only with the bravery and self-sacrifice of those women who shirked nothing, feared nothing, and fought on in the face of every tradition, scorn, hindrance, and injustice until they gained their citizenship and the power to insist on equal rights for men and women on the common battlefield of life.

Great indignation has been aroused among Liverpool members by the fact that those women who took part in the recent demonstration outside the Sun Hall, and who on being sentenced in the second division protested by breaking the windows, have been summoned to appear at the police court on October 8 to answer to the charge of window-breaking, although they have already been punished by being placed in punishment cells.

Newcastle. Dinner-hour and evening meetings have been held every day during the past week at the ship yard and steel works' gates, and every evening in the Bigg Market and Haymarket alternately, by Miss Williams, Miss E. Davison, and Mrs. Atkinson.

Glasgow and West of Scotland. A meeting will be held on Saturday, October 2, in the Charing Cross Hall at three o'clock, at which the final arrangements for the Glasgow section of the demonstration will, as far as possible, be made known.

Edinburgh. The first At Homes of the season, on the afternoon and the evening of September 23, were a great success. Mrs. Drummond and Miss Joachim spoke on both occasions, and in response to an appeal for Demonstration Funds over £15 was given or promised.

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