

# VOTES FOR WOMEN.

EDITED BY FREDERICK & EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

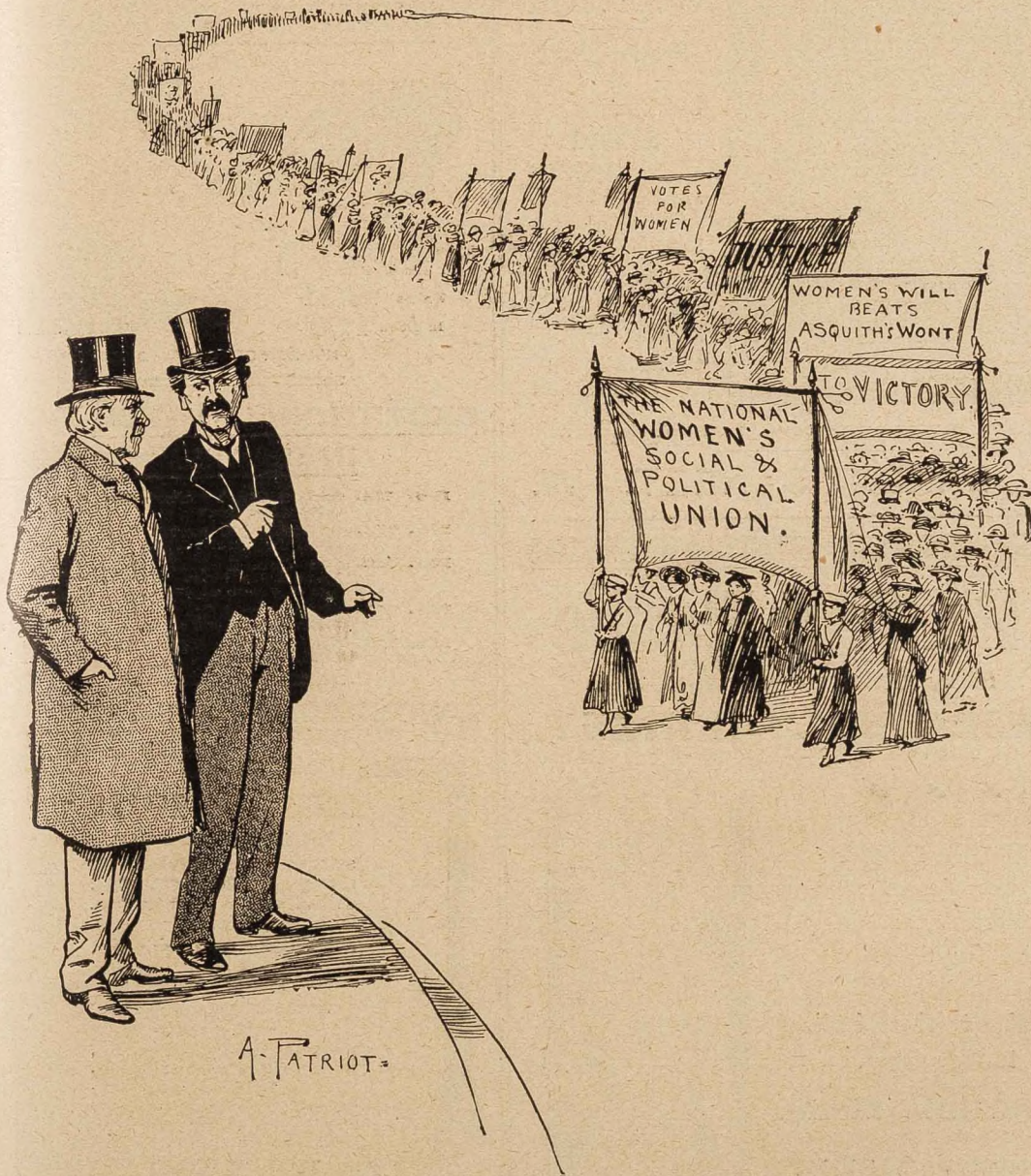
VOL. II., No. 58.

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1909.

Price 1d. Weekly. (Post Free. 1d.)

## RELEASE OF MRS. PETHICK LAWRENCE.

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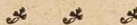
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Articles and news contributed for insertion in "Votes for Women" should be sent to the Editors at the earliest possible date, and in no case later than first post Monday morning prior to the publication of the paper.

Subscriptions to the paper should be sent to The Publisher "Votes for Women," 4, Clements Inn, Strand, W.C.

The terms are 6s. 6d. annual subscription, 1s. 8d. for one quarter, inside the United Kingdom, 8/8 and 2/2 abroad, post free, payable in advance.

The paper can be obtained from all newsagents and bookstalls.

For quotations for advertisements, apply to the Advertisement Manager, "Votes for Women," 4, Clements Inn, Strand, W.C.

### 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.

This morning at eight o'clock Mrs. Pethick Lawrence will be released from Holloway Gaol, after serving the term of two months' imprisonment to which she was sentenced at the Bow Street Police Court on February 25. She will be greeted at the prison gates by a great gathering of friends, eager to give her a welcome and to show her their love and devotion. At nine o'clock they will join in a complimentary breakfast, which will be served at the Criterion Restaurant in Piccadilly Circus. On the following day a great procession starts from inside Hyde Park, forming up in the North Ride, near the Marble Arch, at 2 p.m., and marches via Oxford Street, Regent Street, and the Strand to the Aldwych Theatre. Here, at 4.30 p.m., a meeting will be held, which will be addressed by Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and by Mrs. Pankhurst. Full particulars of the arrangements appear on page 551.

### The Events of Two Months.

Much progress has been made since Mrs. Pethick Lawrence went to Holloway. The Union which she will find on her release is the same Union, but grown far larger during the time that she has been in prison, for many brains have been thinking and many hands have been working to express in deeds the

feeling of their hearts for the Treasurer. Many have been the women who have devoted these two months to the cause because of her action, and the result of their service has been such as will gladden her heart.

### The Croydon Victory.

Among the outstanding features of these two months has been the great victory in Croydon, where the Union brought about the overwhelming defeat of the Liberal candidate, owing to his support of the Government which opposes women. Testimony is borne to the importance of the work of the Union by one of *Punch's* inimitable cartoons, entitled "After Raphael," in which the Liberal candidate was shown being chased out of the constituency by a member of the W.S.P.U.

### Steady Progress.

Over £4,000 has been paid into the funds during the past two months, and a further £4,000 promised during the great Self-denial Week which followed on Mrs. Pethick Lawrence's arrest is still to come; while week by week contributions are flowing steadily into our treasury. Every day many names have been added to the membership roll of the Union. The circulation of this paper has risen from 15,000 to over 20,000 a week. The number of advertisements has increased in a remarkable way, and, apart from the welcome increase in revenue which this represents, it is a sign that in the business world the popularity and influence of the Union and the cause for which it stands are a recognised fact.

Several great meetings have been held, notable amongst them being the annual meeting in London at the Queen's Hall, and meetings in Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, and Bradford.

Since the arrest of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and her colleagues another deputation has proved the power of women to withstand the measures of coercion which the Government use against them. On March 30 this deputation sought an interview with the Prime Minister and persisted in the attempt to see him until overcome by force.

### Ready for the Future.

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence will find on her release that there are excellent prospects for the future, and that members of the Union are thoroughly prepared for the work of the coming months. Those whom she leaves behind her in prison are to have a great welcome when they are set free on Friday, April 30. They will be met at Holloway gates, and will be escorted by a big procession to the City, where they will breakfast quietly with members of the Committee. In the evening they will attend a public reception in the rooms of the Society of British Artists, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall. These arrangements are described on page 549.

The Edinburgh campaign comes to an end to-day, and the Stratford campaign has begun. Miss Gladice Keevil, Miss Ainsworth, and others will not be among those who await the Treasurer at Holloway gates, because this all-important duty has called them away to Stratford-on-Avon. They will be speedily reinforced by Mrs. Pankhurst, and possibly by Mrs. Pethick Lawrence herself.

Everything points to the great success of the Albert Hall meeting on Thursday, April 29. The arrangements for this important gathering are more fully dealt with in a special article on page 554.

Mrs. Lawrence will find also that the arrangements for the great Exhibition in May are well advanced. More complete information on this subject will be found in the article on page 550. It is enough to say here that it is now the advertisement of the Exhibition in which help is chiefly wanted. All London must know of the Exhibition, and to this end we invite the co-operation of every reader of the paper.

We shall be able further to tell Mrs. Pethick Lawrence that members of the Union are volunteering to take part in the great deputation which will wait upon the Prime Minister on June 29, and she will learn that her action in going to prison for her principles has made many other women feel that they also must be ready to face this risk in the performance of their political duty.

Among the special features of this week's issue are the article by Mr. J. T. Grein, the well-known journalist, who occupies, among other positions, that of dramatic critic to the *Sunday Times*; Miss Christabel Pankhurst's article on the release of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence; and the eighth chapter of Mr. Pethick Lawrence's series of articles on The Elements of the Woman Suffrage Demand.

## ELEMENTS OF THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE DEMAND.

By F. W. Pethick Lawrence.

### Chapter VIII.—The Opposition of the Liberal Government.

It is essential to success in a political fight to discern who are the actual enemies to be fought. In the battle for Woman Suffrage both the teaching of history and of political common sense point to the same conclusion—there is only one enemy, and that is the Government of the day.

Some people suppose that the enemy of Woman Suffrage is the men of the country; that is entirely a mistake. Woman Suffrage is not in any sense an anti-man movement, and as such it should not, and does not, rouse the hostility of the men of the country. On the contrary, in the old days, when petitions were being got up in favour of this reform, large numbers of men signed in favour of it. The Women's Social and Political Union find that at great meetings all over the country, and in particular at the bye-elections, the majority of men give a hearty support to the cause whenever it is properly explained, and carry this to the extent of their vote at the polls.

Another set of people regard as the principal opponents those members of the House of Commons who are unfavourable to Woman Suffrage. In this they show themselves ignorant of the manner in which the political machine is worked. At the present time there are quite sufficient favourable Members in the House of Commons to carry a Bill if opportunity were provided, as was shown in the division on the second reading of Mr. Stanger's measure, when 271 voted in favour and only ninety-two against; but in these days no number of private Members can succeed in carrying any measure except with the deliberate support of the Government. It is not necessary to argue this point further here, as it will be dealt with at length in the next chapter of the series, in which the bye-election policy of the Women's Social and Political Union will be explained.

#### Neutrality in the Matter of Action Impossible.

The real enemy to Woman Suffrage is the Government, who, in spite of the just demand of the women and the overwhelming support of the country, and in spite of a favourable majority in the House of Commons, refuse to act. It matters nothing to women whether this refusal springs from unanimous opposition of the individual members who form the Cabinet or from disunited counsels. The effect is precisely the same. For where action is demanded there are only two alternatives—action and inaction. A parallel case will make this clear. Suppose that a number of starving men come to a house and ask for food. There are only two courses which the inmates of the house can take: either they can give or they can refuse. It makes no difference to the starving men outside whether the refusal is due to a unanimous opposition to giving them food or to divided counsels upon the matter.

In Chapter VII. of this series an account was given of the attitude taken up by a member of the present Government before the General Election of 1906 when questioned on the subject. The same course was followed on all other occasions by the other Liberal leaders, and this policy of refusing to answer questions on Woman Suffrage bore, to all those who understood anything of politics, only one interpretation—namely, that the Government were not prepared to act in the matter when they came into power. This negative inference has been reinforced since the General Election by positive statements. When on May 19, 1906, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman yielded to the pressure brought to bear upon him, and consented to receive a deputation of women, he told them that he had no hope to offer them with regard to Woman Suffrage during the present Parliament, and his only counsel to women was patience.

Mr. Asquith, since he became Prime Minister, has gone further than this. In the first place, he has invariably refused to receive any deputation of women at all. In the second place, he stated to a deputation of Members of Parliament on May 20, 1907, that it was definitely not the intention of the Government to bring in a Woman Suffrage measure of their own. He made, however, a special proposal of a very unsatis-

factory kind, and as this proposal has been wrongly called an "offer" on his part, it is necessary to deal with it in detail. Mr. Asquith's "offer" was to the effect that the Government intended, unless prevented by special circumstances, to bring in a Bill of franchise reform. This measure, as drafted by the Government, would apply to men only, and Woman Suffrage would not be part of its provisions. To this Bill it would be open to a private Member to move a Woman Suffrage amendment, but the attitude of the Government to this proposal would be one of hostility unless two conditions were fulfilled, namely:—(1) That the amendment was on democratic lines; and (2) that there was evidence that the proposal was supported by a vast majority of the women of the country, as well as by a majority of the men. Even assuming these two conditions satisfied, Mr. Asquith stated that the Government as a whole would not support the proposal, but that individual members of the party would be left free to vote as they pleased, or, as expressed in the usual formula, "the matter would be left to the judgment of the House."

It will be seen that, so far from being an offer, this statement of Mr. Asquith was a fresh sign of opposition on the part of the Government. In the first place, he renewed the declaration that the Government were not going to introduce a measure of Woman Suffrage, but that, on the contrary, it was their intention to press forward a measure extending the vote to men, and definitely leaving women out. With regard to the possibility of a private Member moving an amendment, this does not depend upon Mr. Asquith's consent, but is in accordance with the usual procedure of the House. Further, Mr. Asquith's two conditions are framed so as to be capable of very dubious interpretation. The word "democratic" has a pleasing sound, but used in this connection it seems to suggest that Mr. Asquith intends that the Government shall oppose an amendment along the sound lines of the simple removal of the sex barrier, and would only remove his veto in the case of some amendment framed on fancy lines by which the supporters of Woman Suffrage would be divided. His second condition is equally precarious. In the first place, it is entirely new. In the case of previous franchise extensions it has never been held to be necessary to prove the support of the majority of those to be enfranchised; the fact of the existence of a real demand has been held to be enough. In the second place, Mr. Asquith supplies no criterion by which the support of women can be estimated, and, as a matter of fact, he knows full well that there is no criterion other than that of successful great meetings, which are actually being held at the present day. As to the support of men, that is being shown at the bye-elections, when, as Liberals now admit, the voters, in response to the call of the Women's Social and Political Union, oppose the nominees of a Government which denies votes to women.

#### The Attitude of the Government.

But, apart from the two conditions, there is nothing in the nature of an offer about Mr. Asquith's statement. Individual members of the party may vote as they please upon this question, as they have been allowed to do before by previous Governments, and yet the Woman Suffrage clause may not become law. Even assuming the clause including women in the Bill carried by this House of Commons, the Government are not prepared to make themselves responsible for it, or to regard it as an essential part of the Bill. This was recently brought out by Mr. Lewis Harcourt. His attention was called to a speech by Mr. Herbert Gladstone, who was reported to have said that if the amendment were carried by the House of Commons the Government would support the new clause. Mr. Harcourt then stated publicly that, as the Government were divided on the subject, at no stage would they undertake to support the clause. This position Mr. Asquith further emphasised in his speech on Mr. Geoffrey Howard's Bill, in the course of which he pointed out that the Cabinet were prepared to support an extension of the franchise to men, but were of two opinions on the subject of votes for

women. It is therefore evident that the Government are reserving to themselves the power to carry into law a franchise Bill from which woman suffrage shall be excluded.

#### The Chance of the Bill becoming Law.

But apart from this juggling, everyone knows that there is no likelihood of the Reform Bill as a whole being carried. Even if it be ever introduced, it has enormous dangers to face inside the House of Commons and when it comes before the House of Lords. It is generally understood that it is being forged as a weapon with which to fight the Upper Chamber, and women who have waited long for their enfranchisement are not likely to be bamboozled into accepting this suggested "offer" as a serious one in furtherance of their cause. On the contrary, they see that the Government have only one honest course to pursue if they wish to earn women's friendship. They must recognise that women have a right to vote at the next General Election, and accordingly they must themselves introduce a definite Woman Suffrage measure and be responsible for carrying it into law. Until they adopt this course women will know that it is the Government of the day who stand between them and their enfranchisement, and they will accordingly waste no powder upon any other section of the community who may appear to be unfriendly, but will strike directly at the Government of the day, conscious that in so doing they are fighting the battle against their real enemy.

#### PRESENTATION TO THE TREASURER.

DEAR FRIENDS,—

My suggestion that the members and friends of the W.S.P.U. should celebrate Mrs. Pethick Lawrence's release from prison by presenting her with a motor-car for the work of the Union has been taken up with the enthusiasm which characterises the movement, and already more than half the money needed has been subscribed.

The car, which is being specially built and decorated in the colours of the Union, will very soon be ready for use, and I am most anxious that when we hand it over to our Treasurer it shall be entirely paid for.

Will all our members who desire to take part in the presentation, but who have not yet sent in their contributions to Mrs. Tuke at 4, Clements Inn, do so as quickly as possible!

Emmeline Pankhurst.

#### THE AT HOMES.

The holidays are over, and the At Homes are being resumed. Next Monday afternoon the At Home will be held as usual at Queen's Hall from 3 to 5 p.m. The speakers will be Miss Annie Kenney and Miss Mary Gawthorpe, who will tell how the cause is progressing in the towns and villages of the West of England and in the great industrial centres of Lancashire. Miss Christabel Pankhurst will be in the chair. We shall hope to see a large number of members and friends, and should recommend each convert one to bring as many unconverted friends as possible. On Thursday the evening At Home will be held at St. James's Hall, Great Portland Street, at 8 p.m., when we again expect a large attendance.

#### THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS.

Arrangements have now been made for welcoming the prisoners arrested for their share in the deputation to the House of Commons on March 30 on their release from Holloway. They will be released on the morning of April 30, and on the evening of the same day a reception will be held in their honour at the Society of British Artists, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, from 8.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. Tickets of admission, price 1s. each, can be obtained from the Ticket Secretary, N.W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn; these include refreshments. Further particulars will be given in next week's issue.

#### THE ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

Members of our League who take in VOTES FOR WOMEN are asked if they will order one or two extra copies weekly and send to their friends so as to extend the sale. Also will any members who wish to take part in the procession on Saturday afternoon send their names to the Hon. Secretary, 19, Overstrand Mansions, Battersea Park, S.W.? The Actresses' contingent will walk at the head of the professional women.

A meeting for members and their friends will be held on Tuesday, 20th inst., at three o'clock, at 3, Bedford Street Studio, Strand, W.C. Miss Muriel Matters will be the speaker, and Miss Sime Seruya the hostess.

Adeline Bourne, Hon. Secretary.

## PROGRESS OF WOMEN.

#### The Mayor of Aldeburgh.

A procession led by local Territorials in uniform, and consisting of coastguards, lifeboatmen, post office officials, and firemen, conducted Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D., England's first woman mayor, from the old Elizabethan Moot Hall at Aldeburgh to the parish church on Easter Sunday. Mrs. Anderson wore a scarlet robe and black bonnet and her chain of office, and carried an antique silver mace.

#### The Beatification of "The Maid."

It is estimated that the beatification in Rome of Joan of Arc, which has been fixed for April 18, will be attended by 30,000 French pilgrims, who will travel in twenty-seven special trains.

#### Recognition of Woman's Work.

The *Dublin Gazette* announces a new departure of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in appointing a practical nurse to a seat on the Board of Superintendence of Dublin Hospitals. Miss A. M. MacDonnell, who has been appointed in place of the Right Hon. T. A. Dickson (resigned), has been for twenty-one years lady superintendent of a group of the largest hospitals in Dublin. During the Boer War she acted as matron in the Irish Hospital, South Africa, and received the medal for service and the Royal Red Cross.

#### Heroic Nurses.

The Treasury has approved the Army Council's proposal to grant a special pension of £35 per annum to Miss Body, late Sister, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, on account of the act of "special devotion" which incapacitated her from further service with the Army.

A case recalled by the foregoing, the *Daily Mail* points out, in which a nurse was similarly obliged to retire because of a breakdown in health due to over-exertion, is that of Nurse Murray, of the South-Eastern Fever Hospital, New Cross. Nurse Murray, however, received no pension from the Metropolitan Asylums Board, under which she had worked for twelve years, but a grant of £50. With this as her sole capital, she has taken a sunny little house at Worthing, where she lets lodgings, and where a member of the VOTES FOR WOMEN staff has just spent an Easter holiday in great comfort and enjoyment.

#### A Girl's Heroism.

Beatrice Dunton, a girl of 19, acted with remarkable promptitude and courage at a fire last week in South Lambeth Road. The girl, with four young children, was sleeping in the upper rooms of the house. The ground floor was well alight when the alarm was given. Seizing the two younger children she got them out through a window on to the roof, and then went back for the others. She was about to push them through the window in the same manner when some persons in the street shouted that the roof was not safe. Protecting the children as far as possible, she rushed downstairs through the blazing passage to the street. She was badly burned herself, but so well had she shielded her charges that they escaped with comparatively little injury.

#### Rome and Votes for Women.

The commission appointed by the Premier, Signor Giolitti, to inquire into the question of granting votes to women at the elections of administrative bodies has concluded its labours, and will shortly present a report. This will, we understand, be favourable to the claims of the women suffragists.

#### Cowgirls in London.

A party of cowgirls, the first to come to England, have arrived with a number of cowboys to take part in an exhibition at Earl's Court. They accompany the Sioux, Apache, and Navajo Indians from the Band Lands of South Dakota, who are to take part in the "Red Man" spectacle.

#### "The Most Peaceful Village in France."

The little village of Froissy, according to several Press correspondents, is attracting considerable attention because of the important part women play in its official life. Travellers who alight at the station are met by a tall, powerfully built woman, who, with her knitting clutched in one hand, rapidly collects tickets with the other. She is the station-master. A barber's shop bears the notice that "Mlle. Jeanne will henceforth shave her customers only on Tuesdays and Fridays, as she has undertaken other work." At the post office the local telegraph messenger and postman, Mme. Lesobre, walks on an average twenty miles a day. The municipal drummer is a woman in her ninetieth year. Nearly all the important posts, save that of mayor, are, the correspondents add, filled by women, and the inhabitants proudly declare that it is the most peaceful village in France.



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Mrs. PETHICK LAWRENCE,

Hon. Treasurer.

Miss CHRISTABEL PANKHURST,

Organising Sec.

### Constitution.

**OBJECTS.**—To secure for women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

**METHODS.**—The objects of the Union shall be promoted by—

1. Action entirely independent of all political parties.
2. Opposition to whatever Government is in power until such time as the franchise is granted.
3. Participation in Parliamentary Elections in opposition to the Government candidate, and independently of all other candidates.
4. Vigorous agitation upon lines justified by the position of outlawry to which women are at present condemned.
5. The organising of women all over the country to enable them to give adequate expression to their desire for political freedom.
6. Education of public opinion by all the usual methods, such as public meetings, demonstrations, debates, distribution of literature, newspaper correspondence, and deputations to public representatives.

**MEMBERSHIP.**—Women of all shades of political opinion who approve the objects and methods of the Union, and who are prepared to act independently of party, are eligible for membership. It must be clearly understood that no member of the Union shall support the candidate of any political party in Parliamentary elections until women have obtained the parliamentary vote. The entrance fee is 1s.

### OUR TREASURER.

There has been no happier day for the Women's Social and Political Union than that which sees the release from Holloway Prison of our beloved treasurer, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.

Her release means so much to us. It gives us back a dear friend, whose love and companionship lighten our burdens and give us joy in the big political fight we have undertaken.

We rejoice, also, because by passing proudly and unflinchingly through the ordeal of imprisonment she has gained on behalf of the Union one more victory over the forces of reaction as represented by the present Government. Our hope of winning the vote is based on the belief that spiritual must prevail over material power, and the

welcome to our treasurer is a great festival at which we shall celebrate with joy and reverence the triumph of the human soul over all that is ignoble and base.

There is special gladness and rejoicing at Mrs. Pethick Lawrence's release because it brings back into our midst a great woman upon whose services to this movement its success so largely depends. We know that in our treasurer we have one of those outstanding personalities who, because of their strength and nobility, are able to make great gifts to the human race. What, by her creative power, her wisdom, her splendid faith, she has done for the Union we know, and we shall try by the warmth of our greeting to tell her how greatly we thank her.

We shall hold especially in remembrance the manner of her coming into this movement. She joined it when it was a mere stirring of life, a flickering flame; she joined it at the moment of greatest unpopularity, when there was not any outward sign of the success which was to come later. Others were willing to help and encourage from outside, but Mrs. Pethick Lawrence made herself one with the movement, became a part of it. By accepting an official position in the Union she proclaimed to the world her decision to share in the new political revolt amongst women, and from that moment she has lived for this movement, cherished it, tended it, consecrated to it all she has to give.

Her comrades love to dwell on Mrs. Lawrence's record, because it shows perfect courage and perfect faith. Hers is the courage which prefers to fail gloriously rather than submit to injustice or make that half-hearted resistance which is hardly to be distinguished from submission. And hers is the faith which tells her that failure in the effort to gain the emancipation of women is impossible. This faith is founded upon the belief that the right must triumph, and upon the certain knowledge that human beings have power to convert their visions of truth and justice into reality. Already the faith which is hers and ours has been justified. We can point to the great and growing financial and numerical strength of the Union, to the awakening in women of a new spirit of self-respect and dignity, to the changed state of opinion amongst men as shown by our acknowledged power to secure the defeat of the Government at bye-elections. In short the cause which the political world thought dead now lives. Clearly, the days of miracles are not over, and now, as always, they are wrought by faith, which is, in other words, a great understanding of the spiritual forces which dominate human affairs. Let us all be as strong in faith as she whom we welcome to-day, and nothing can rob us of victory.

**Christabel Pankhurst.**

## THE ALBERT HALL MEETING.

### Its Significance to Our Members.

Every member of our Union must look upon it as a special duty—and every duty is a pleasure in this cause—to attend the Albert Hall meeting on Thursday evening, April 29, and to bring with her any friends who do not yet understand the movement. The meeting has a very special significance—it is to be a great, triumphant exposition of the militant methods, explained by the speakers and personified on the platform by all the members of the W.S.P.U. who have been to prison, and who will be presented with the Victoria Cross of the Union, the Holloway brooch, and with the illuminated address that commemorates their bravery and self-sacrifice.

It is also more than this—it is an occasion for all who have not been able to take part in militant action to do honour to the courageous women who suffered gladly in this way, and it is to be a great show of the strength of our movement in order that the international delegates from foreign suffrage societies, who have received a special invitation to be present, may carry back with them a true idea of what the militant movement is and what it has done; and—a point which will give this meeting a very special interest—it will be the second public appearance after her release of our brave and beloved treasurer, who has suffered—for all the women in the hall and for all the women of the world—a sentence of two months in shame and ignominy, made happy and glorious by the motives that impelled her.

### The Militant Methods.

The cause which the great meeting is to celebrate will need, we may well think, no explanation and no argument on such an occasion, but the militant methods, which have been at one and the same time the secret of our success and the reason of all the criticism from those who could not, or perhaps would not, understand, will form a fitting subject for this great popular and international gathering. The methods, it will be explained, are such as must be adopted by those members of a community who are not lawfully represented in the government of their own state. All through the world's history justice and freedom have had to be fought for and wrested from those who govern. In every country—in history, ancient and modern—citizenship has been gained by fighting; in our own history all the great struggles teach the same lesson—the fight with the King over the granting of Magna Charta, the refusal of John Hampden to pay taxes levied without the consent of Parliament, the imprisonment of John Wilkes for criticising the King's Speech, and—to come to times nearer and more real to us—the riots which preceded the Reform Bill of 1832. Riot, arson, even murder, accompanied that great agitation and forced reform from an unwilling Parliament. Within our own memory we have John Bright, Gladstone, Chamberlain, John Burns, Mr. Haldane, and Mr. Herbert Gladstone either actually inciting to riot or publicly admitting that liberties could never be gained by peaceful methods.

But our "militant" policy, which is the cause of so much discussion, does not, after all, consist, as it well might, of fighting, and riot, and destruction; it consists of sending deputations of representative women to the Prime Minister, of questioning Ministers publicly, and of working at bye-elections against the Government candidate. The struggles, the imprisonments, are due to the action of the Government in not receiving peaceful deputations.

### The Lesson Learnt.

History wrote this lesson in letters of fire, but the women of England, though they had been awake for decades to the injustice of their position, did not learn it until three years ago, when the founders of this Union taught it to them, and Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney were sent to prison for asking for justice.

But if they were late, the women of England were not slow in learning. First in dozens, then hundreds, then thousands, women came to understand, and, in spite of abuse and misrepresentation, joined the Union to support the methods which have led to its phenomenal success, which have made the question of women's suffrage the most vital one of the day, and even forced the Government to recognise and to fear it.

If proof is wanted of the success of a strong, progressive, consistent, and militant policy, let the doubter take a broad view of the women's suffrage question, and see where it stands to-day and where it stood three years ago.

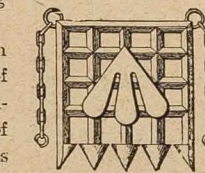
### The Women Who Suffered.

Still, let no one in this Union forget that, though the methods were right, they could not have been successful without the instruments—the brave women who volunteered to carry to the Prime Minister, the head of a so-called liberty-loving and just Government, the message deputed by great gatherings of women; these women, who endured first jeers and insults, then abuse and violence, and finally imprisonment in a common gaol, in order to advance the cause. Can those of us who applaud them ever realise entirely what it means to do this? The honest working woman, who is proud of her respectability; the hard-worked teacher, clerk, secretary; the professional worker; the gentlewoman of quiet and retired life, the home-loving wife and mother—all these have been in our deputations; all these, who had hitherto walked in quiet ways, and perhaps been guarded and sheltered, have come forward and suffered disgrace and degradation, violence, and the conditions of an institution usually reserved for the lowest criminals, solely in order that one day—and soon—the women of this country, and eventually women all over the world, may gain not privilege, not favour, but the simple elementary rights of human beings.

No one who has not suffered imprisonment can realise what it means, but that we love and honour our prisoners for their nobility and unselfishness—this let us show at the great meeting on April 29.

There on the platform they will sit, these women, the leaders as well as the rank and file, who have endured for our sake, and with them in spirit will be the twenty brave women who are still in Holloway Gaol, and will not be released until the next morning. In connection with our Union 451 sentences have been served, bringing the total aggregate to over nineteen years. Let us show them, by our numbers and our enthusiasm, that we are not poor-spirited under the weight of our debt to them. Let us bring others, that they may realise the wonderful beauty and strength of our movement; and let us show the international delegates what our militant methods mean, in order that they may carry our message aright to the ends of the earth.

The accompanying illustration is of the Holloway brooch, which has been specially designed by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst. The gate and chains are in silver, and the broad arrow is in purple, white and green enamel.



Miss Isabel Seymour, 4, Clements Inn, will be glad to have the names of any members of the W.S.P.U. who have been to prison for the cause, in order that arrangements may be made for the presentations. It has been decided to ask them to dress in white, purple, or green, the colours of the Union, instead of in prison dress, as was originally proposed.

There are still vacancies for stewards, and the names of those wishing to help the organisers of the meeting in this way should be sent at once to Miss Hambling, 4, Clements Inn, W.C.

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence will be in the chair, and the speakers will include Mrs. Pankhurst and Miss Christabel Pankhurst. Among those on the platform will be Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy, one of the pioneers of the movement and a member of the Committee of the W.S.P.U. 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. stalls and boxes only. Application should be made at once, as the tickets are in great demand.



LOCAL NOTES.

Birmingham W.S.P.U.—Dr. Helena Jones, the Exhibition Treasurer, on behalf of the Birmingham W.S.P.U., specially requests the members of the committee and the joint secretaries to meet together at No. 14, Ethel Street, on Monday, the 19th inst., at 7.45 p.m., when it is hoped Miss Keevil will be able to be with us.

Brixton W.S.P.U.—Our Committee met on April 5, and decided to hold our annual general meeting on the 26th inst., at 32, Wynne Road. We begin our open-air meetings in Brockwell Park on Sunday next, at 3 p.m., when we shall want help in selling literature, etc.

Chiswick W.S.P.U.—Our At Home on Wednesday last was well attended, and the newcomers were much impressed by Miss Bonwick's address. A collection was taken towards the motor-car for the purpose of sending a small recognition from Chiswick of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence's work for the Union.

Croydon W.S.P.U.—We held our first meeting on April 6 at the Mecca Tea Rooms, West Croydon, at 3 p.m., to elect a committee and officers. Our first public meeting is to be held at the Lecture Room, Small Public Hall, Croydon, on April 22, at 3 p.m.

Hammersmith W.S.P.U.—Will those members who were unavoidably absent from our annual meeting please note that a special rally is required to make our outdoor meetings a success. We shall hold these throughout the spring and summer at Down Place, King Street, on Friday evenings, at 7 p.m., and at West Kensington Station on Saturday evenings, also at 7 p.m.

Hendon W.S.P.U.—A very successful At Home was held in the Council Offices last week by two members of our local union, Mrs. Wyatt and Mrs. Bonsfield. After an able and interesting speech by Miss Una Dugdale, Mrs. Bonsfield, on behalf of the Committee, presented to our "prisoner," Mrs. Fahy, a silk banner in the Union colours.

Hull W.S.P.U.—An At Home in Foresters' Hall on Tuesday, April 6, given by Hull working members to welcome Mrs. Clarke (sister to Mrs. Pankhurst) was well attended. Mrs. Clarke delivered a most interesting address, making an appeal to women to join the Yorkshire deputation to Mr. Asquith.

Kensington W.S.P.U.—At our At Home last week an enamel "Votes for Women" brooch was presented to Miss Letham, who has recently served a term of one month in Holloway Gaol. Will those competent to help in organising an active canvass of the district apply to Miss Boyd at the "Votes for Women" Shop, 143, Church Street.

Lewisham W.S.P.U.—On Saturday last a party of us went over Blackheath to Blackheath village, carrying posters announcing the procession of the 17th inst., and selling VOTES FOR WOMEN. Will members bear in mind our "social," which will be held at Avenue House, Avenue Road, on Thursday, April 22, 8-10 p.m.

Nottingham W.S.P.U.—The next meeting will be held at Clarendon Street School Hall on April 26, at 8 p.m., when Miss Helen Watts will give a lantern lecture on Holloway. Tickets, 6d. and 3d., to be obtained from Miss Wallis, The Castle. Will all those who are making sweets to sell for the Exhibition funds bring them to the meeting.

Putney and Fulham W.S.P.U.—The open-air meeting at Walham Green last Thursday was a great success. Mrs. Everett, 3, Oxford Road, Putney, is again lending her drawing-room for a meeting on Friday, April 23, at 8 p.m.

Willesden and Kilburn W.S.P.U.—In honour of our comrade Mrs. Eates, who is a resident in this district, it is proposed to organise a meeting to celebrate her release. The meeting will be held early in May. Will all those members living in the neighbourhood who would be able to join in making this welcome a success call on or write to Mrs. Cullen, 143, Kilburn Lane, N.W., or Mrs. Penn Gaskell, 12, Nicoll Road, Harlesden, N.W.

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Contributions to the £50,000 Fund.

Table listing contributions to the £50,000 fund for April 7 to April 14. Includes names like Mrs. Keevil, Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Everett, etc., with amounts in £ s. d.

An arrest was made on Wednesday, the 31st ult., in Wolverhampton. Miss Bertha Ryland, of Birmingham, having been ejected from Mr. Runciman's meeting at the Agricultural Hall, attempted to address the crowd gathered outside.

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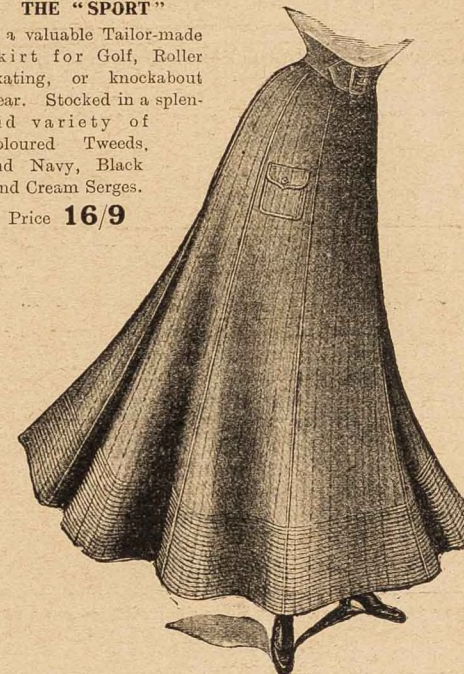
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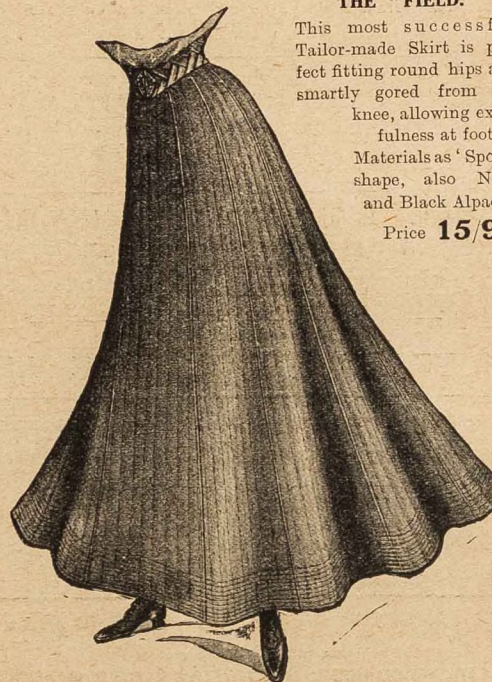
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