

VOTES FOR WOMEN

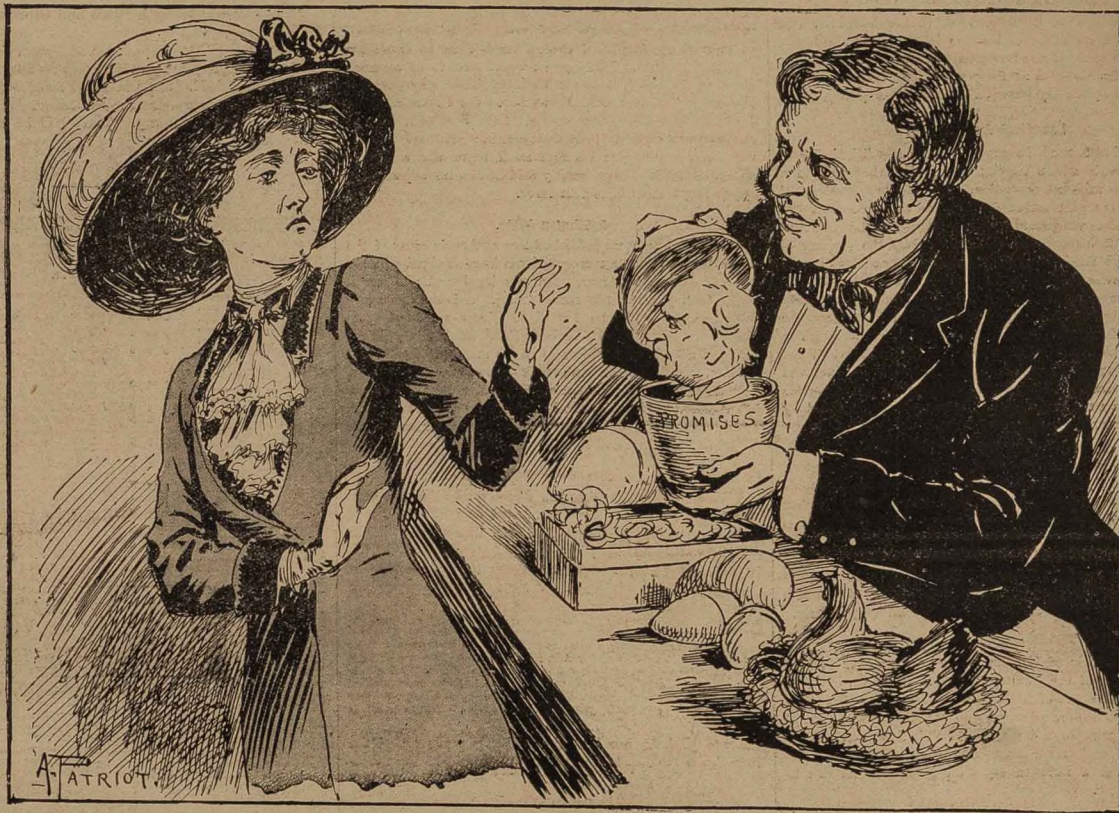
EDITED BY FREDERICK AND EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

VOL. III. (New Series), No. 107.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1910.

Price 1d. Weekly. (Post Free, 14d.)

EASTER EGGS.



SHE: A bad egg, in my opinion.

HE: Yes, madam, it isn't at all popular just now; we're thinking of trying a change.

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To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all through 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.

The situation in Parliament has not materially changed during the last week, though opinion seems to be gaining ground that a General Election may take place even earlier than the month of June, in which it was originally expected. This depends on whether the Irish Party are sufficiently satisfied with the Government to support them

over the Budget, and on this point nothing certain can be predicted. A conference took place on Monday last between Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Redmond, but the result is not yet known.

The Veto Resolutions.

Mr. Asquith has tabled the constitutional resolutions which are to be moved directly after the Easter recess. They propose to abolish the interference of the Lords in financial matters, to limit their veto in matters of legislation, and to establish quinquennial Parliaments. The idea underlying the first of these resolutions is that of the adage "he who pays the piper has a right to call the tune," and a necessary step in Mr. Asquith's reasoning is that the taxpayers are represented in the House of Commons and not in the House of Lords; but so long as women taxpayers are excluded from voting for Members of Parliament so long will this reasoning be seriously defective. In precisely the same way the claim for predominance of the House of Commons in matters of legislation rests on the assumption that that House represents the views of the people, and this also is untrue while women are without votes. In a word, the whole basis of Mr. Asquith's argument is destroyed by his refusal to give women their enfranchisement.

The Albert Hall Meeting.

The Albert Hall meeting of Friday last, the first that has been held during the time of truce, was noticeable for the feeling of victory and triumph both in the speeches and among the audience. With the Union stronger than ever before and the Liberal Government weak unto death, it is small wonder that the speeches of Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs.

Pethick Lawrence, and Miss Christabel Pankhurst were all inspired by a sense of speedy victory. Once again at this meeting members came forward, as they have always done, and contributed so generously to the war chest that a sum of over £1,650 was collected. A touching moment in the meeting was when the medals were presented to those who have been through the hunger strike and forcible feeding during the past few months.

Our Norwegian Visitor.

Noticeable also in this meeting was the presence of Mr. Castberg, Minister of Justice in the late Liberal Cabinet of Norway, who traced the history of the woman suffrage movement in that country, showing how the women by their patriotism had so won the respect of all parties, that Conservative, Liberal, and Labour members laid aside their differences and united in abolishing the sex disqualification and giving votes to women, although on a slightly more limited basis than to men. Mr. Castberg, who is Leader of the Democratic Labour Party, is one of the most prominent statesmen in Norway. He has been in Parliament for twelve years, and he formed one of the Special Committee which, in 1905, arranged the dissolution of the union with Sweden. Among the work which he has done in Norway is the passing of the Small Holdings Act, also of a Bill for the State control of mines and waterfalls, and a Divorce Bill that gives equal rights to men and women. He also introduced a Bill to improve the condition of illegitimate children and their mothers. His enthusiasm, his energy, and his determination of character, have made him one of the leaders of democracy in Norway. He is only forty-seven years old.



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