

VOTES FOR WOMEN

EDITED BY FREDERICK AND EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

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Price 1d. Weekly (Post Free.)

"A CITIZEN WITHOUT A VOTE IS LIKE A WORKMAN WITHOUT TOOLS."



Chorus of Anti-Suffragist would-be Councillors: "How shall we break down this obstruction?"

[“A Woman’s Local Government Sub-Committee was formed by our League . . . for the purpose of giving effect to the second object of our whole crusade—namely, the substitution for interference in the Parliamentary and Imperial work of men of a just insistence upon those powers in the domestic administration of the nation which are rightly shared by women. Our Committee was at once brought up against the present state of the law. . . .”—MRS. HUMPHRY WARD at a meeting of the Anti-Suffrage League.]

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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.

Our Cartoon this week illustrates the legal obstacles which even Anti-Suffragists acknowledge still militate against the entrance of women into municipal politics. Our Anti-Suffrage friends, who are fond of asserting that there is no bias against women in the laws of the country, directly they started upon a piece of constructive work, found, in the words of Mrs. Humphry Ward, that they were "brought up against the present state of the law." They accordingly drafted two Bills to remedy the law, and these Bills they are trying to

get through Parliament. We wish them every success, and can assure them that when women get the Parliamentary vote these Bills will go through without difficulty. In the meantime we watch with sly amusement the pathetic appeals of the Anti-Suffrage vanguard to the Anti-Suffrage rearguard not to block these Bills in the House of Commons.

By-Election at Kilmarnock.

The Union is carrying on an active by-election campaign in Kilmarnock Burghs, where a three-cornered contest is in progress. All the candidates have been questioned regarding their attitude towards the Conciliation Bill, which gives votes to women householders. The replies of both Liberal and Conservative were unfavourable, but the Labour candidate's reply was entirely satisfactory, and therefore the Social and Political Union is urging electors to vote for him and secure his return. Both Liberal and Unionist candidates being anti-suffragists, their election to the House of Commons would create a new obstacle to the passage of the Bill, and as the fate of the Bill is to be decided next Session this is a very serious matter.

An Il-Liberal Attitude.

It is especially deplorable that Mr. Gladstone should be anti-suffragist, for it was to be expected that the bearer of that historic name would show himself in harmony with the spirit of the twentieth century by actively helping the women who are fighting with courage, persistence, and enthusiasm for the right to vote. Unhappily, this young man, himself placed by mere accident of birth in an exception-

ally favourable political position, has no sympathy with his countrywomen in their demand that the accident of birth should not in their case condemn them to political inferiority. Mr. Gladstone's attitude is the very negation of Liberalism, for Liberalism involves that even if freedom be not granted before it is demanded it shall be immediately given when a passionate and widespread demand comes into existence.

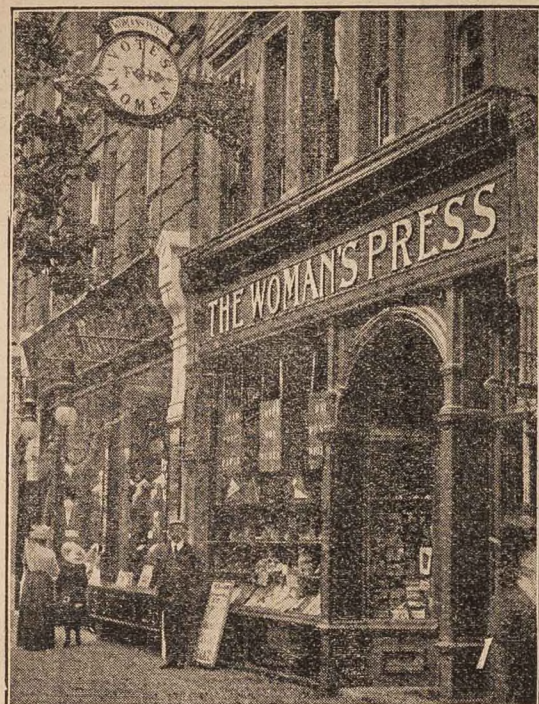
Whole-Hearted Support.

In brilliant contrast to the reactionary policy of Mr. Gladstone and Sir John Rees is the attitude of Mr. McKerrill, who promises not only to vote for the Conciliation Bill, but also to vote against wrecking amendments. Mr. McKerrill by championing Votes for Women has justified his claim to represent a progressive freedom-loving constituency. Though he carries the flag of Labour, he also stands as the Liberal candidate does not, for the best and highest in Liberalism itself. He stands for the right of the people without distinction of sex to elect the House of Commons, which levies taxes upon them and makes laws which they have to obey. Consequently the Social and Political Union urges all who put principle before party to support the Labour Candidate.

Mrs. Pankhurst's Tour.

In Scotland Mrs. Pankhurst has been making a special tour. The interest awakened has been enormous, and should bear a rich harvest. Everywhere that she has explained the Conciliation Bill and why and how it must be supported, she has been understood immediately by her audiences, and it is probable that

THE WOMAN'S PRESS, 156, CHARING CROSS ROAD, W.C.



1. VIEW FROM THE STREET. (Note the Clock.)
2. INSIDE THE SHOP.



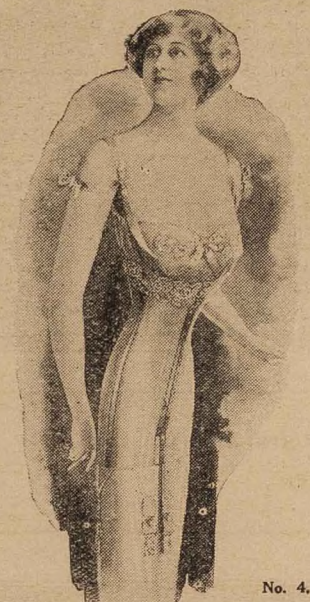
3. A CORNER OF MRS. KNIGHT'S OFFICE.
4. THE PACKING DEPARTMENT FOR TEA & COLOURS.

5. DESPATCHING "VOTES FOR WOMEN."
6. LITERATURE PACKING ROOM.

Photographs specially taken for the W.S.P.U. by F. Kehrhan & Co.

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THE ROMANCE OF THE WOMAN'S PRESS.

No one has any idea how big the United Kingdom is until they have attempted to cover it with a network of organisation. It is easy to speak of tens of thousands of square miles of territory and of so many millions of population; but when you try to secure that they all come within reach of your propaganda you find what a great task you have set before yourself.

When the W.S.P.U. was young it could not count upon more than a dozen speakers who could hold a crowd; to-day it reckons them by the hundred, perhaps by the thousand. Yet even to-day it cannot hope to reach more than a fraction of the population by public meetings alone. The written word has, therefore, to supplement the spoken word.

So important do many political associations reckon the literature side of their propaganda that they spend large sums out of their general fund for the production and distribution of free literature. The W.S.P.U. has adopted the much healthier plan of selling its publications, and has thus enabled a vast propaganda work to be carried out without a drain upon the finances.

In the early days, money taken in literature sales was not separated from the money taken for tickets or in collections, which were all handed together to the treasurer of the Union. So long as the number of available helpers was few no other method was possible, but as the Union grew in size my wife and I came to the conclusion that a better method could be adopted. I accordingly made an offer to the Committee that from the beginning of 1907 I should take charge of the literature of the Union and organise it on a trade basis. My offer was accepted, and I set to work at once to form a literature department with a wholesale and retail side which should be entirely separate from the main accounts of the Union. The change imposed upon local organisations additional officials as literature secretaries, but the members of the W.S.P.U. readily undertook the extra work, then as ever thinking nothing of personal trouble.

At first the whole work of the new central department was done at a single desk in the general office at Clements Inn and only occupied my spare time. We dealt in pamphlets and leaflets, buttons and postcards. The buttons went very rapidly at by-elections; the postcards provided a conclusive answer to the wonderful fables which were being circulated about the masculine appearance of the principal suffragettes. I remember the exciting triumph when we sold in the street several pounds worth of literature on the occasion of the "mud march"—the procession in the rain of constitutional suffragists from Hyde Park to Exeter Hall. It was interesting, too, to note the different capacities of the sellers; one returned bringing a single penny saying there was no sale to be effected; another brought in triumphantly no less than 18s. 10d.!

It was soon found that the department was sufficiently large to occupy the whole time of a book-keeper and packer, and when an enlargement of the office was made in February, 1907, a part of one of the new rooms was set aside for the work. In April, Mrs. Knight was appointed. The summer of 1907 saw a succession of important by-elections, and a brisk trade took place in consequence. Meanwhile the work of the Union was extending on every side, and when the year closed it was found that a ten-fold increase had been effected in sales of literature, from £60 in 1906 to £800 in 1907.

In January, 1908, the department again moved to larger quarters in Clements Inn, and an assistant to Mrs. Knight was appointed. A little later it changed its name to the Woman's Press, thereby laying the foundation of its present position as a recognised publishing house. In April the now famous tricolour—purple, white, and green—was invented, and the sale of ribbons, badges, and many other articles in the colours was added to the trade of the department. To cope with the extra work, an additional room was taken and additional staff employed. The total trade in 1908 amounted to £2,000—a threefold increase on the previous year.

In 1909 my wife and I handed over to the W.S.P.U. the paper VOTES FOR WOMEN, which has accordingly since been recognized as one of the publications of the Woman's Press. In that year the total trade of the department amounted to £7,000.

In April, 1910, the present premises at 156, Charing Cross Road—"the modern Booksellers' Row"—were taken and duly opened by Miss Fanny Brough and Miss Evelyn Sharp, and since that time the novel "Votes for Women" clock has drawn many an interested passer-by into the attractive shop. The trade for the year mounted up to between £9,000 and £10,000; but the increase on the previous twelve months was even greater than is shown by these figures, for a large part of the

trade was done through the new local W.S.P.U. shops, to whom a discount is allowed, and the wholesale and not the retail prices were shown in the aggregate.

During the past few months a large number of new books have been stocked at the shop, and arrangements have been made to obtain for customers any book on any subject (not merely on Woman Suffrage) which they desire to purchase. A number of members of the W.S.P.U. have already decided to place all their orders for books with the Woman's Press, and it is hoped that in future many others will follow their example, so that the shop in Charing Cross Road may become a recognised centre for women book-buyers and do a large and increasing book trade. F. W. P. L.

When the boy returns to School, there are so many little all-important matters needing attention.

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To readers of VOTES FOR WOMEN we will submit two samples, post paid, for inspection. When writing ask for a free book of pictures, "The Art of Shoeing Children."

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