

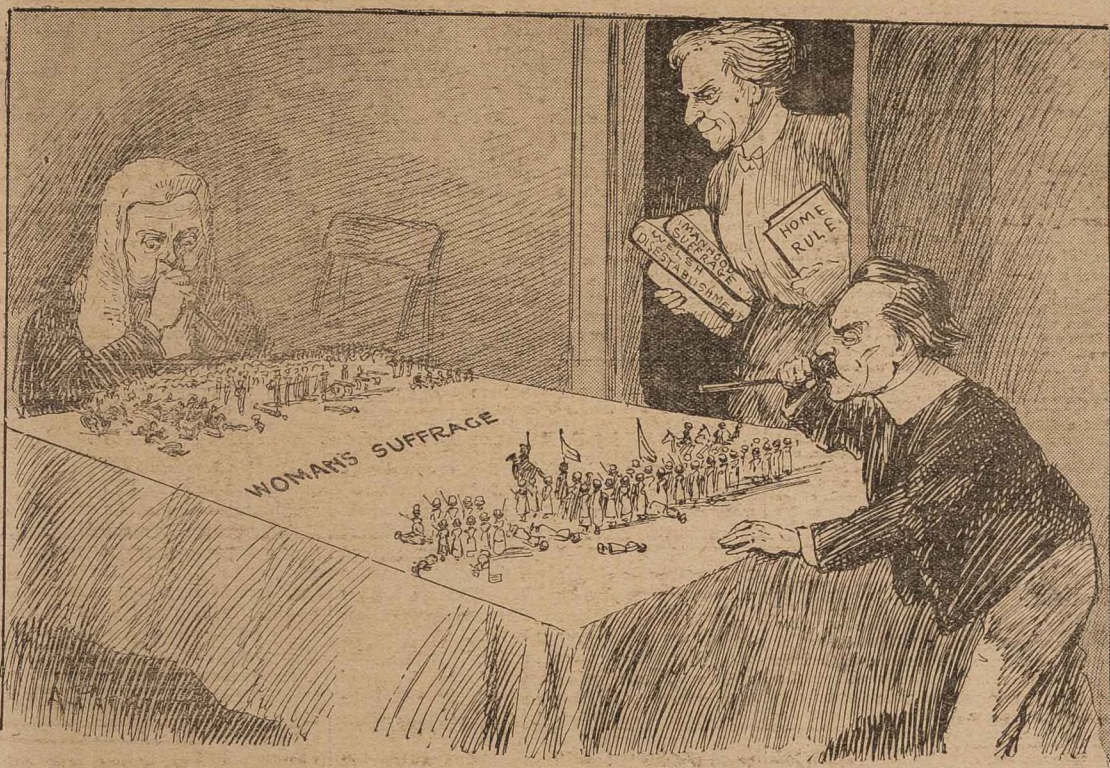
VOTES FOR WOMEN

EDITED BY FREDERICK AND EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

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PLAYING AT SOLDIERS.

[Mr. Lloyd George is to advocate Woman Suffrage in the Albert Hall on February 23, and Lord Loreburn (the Lord Chancellor) and Mr. Harcourt are announced to speak against Woman Suffrage in the same Hall on February 28.]

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Cabinet on Woman Suffrage is to be manifested to the people at large, and it cannot be doubted that the strong feelings which will be aroused in political circles in consequence will place a severe strain on general party loyalty and discipline."

A Political Phenomenon!

The fact that the public advocacy of Woman Suffrage by Mr. Lloyd George is to receive a counterblast of public denunciation of his policy on the part of some of his Ministerial colleagues seems to have created something like a political sensation in the journalistic world. The Lobby Correspondent of the *Standard* alludes to this exploitation on a public platform of a far-reaching division of opinion among members of a Cabinet which continues to be responsible for the government of the country as "a political phenomenon which is utterly unfamiliar to the people of the United Kingdom." Yet this immediate result of a preposterous political situation was categorically foretold in *Votes for Women* at the very moment when the absurd offer of an "open" amendment to the Reform Bill in lieu of Government responsibility was rejected by the Women's Social and Political Union.

Government "Split."

During the past week startling headlines have appeared on the posters of Unionist papers. "Government split over Votes for Women" has flamed in red letters, even in out-of-the-way villages and hamlets, from the boardings. The *Daily Mail*, the *Standard*, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, the *Evening News*, amongst other journals have published leading articles upon the exceedingly anomalous position in which the Prime Minister of this country finds himself. However

various are the points of view expressed, one and all seem to agree with the *Spectator*, that "the situation thus created in which some members of the same Cabinet engage in open conflict is unprecedented. It is an absolute negation of Cabinet solidarity." A significant leading article in the *Pall Mall Gazette* points out that—

The moral responsibility of Government in this and every other country has hitherto depended upon the maintenance of at least one principle. When Ministers have reached a point of complete inability to agree on any vital question of the day, they have recognised the necessity of resigning office. Mr. Gladstone and his principal lieutenants parted because they were unable to agree on Home Rule. The Unionist Ministry of 1903 broke up because Tariff Reformers and Free Traders refused to sit in the same Ministry. . . . The deliberate attempt of Ministers to remain in office by facing both ways would reduce politics once for all to a cynical game finally stripped of every vestige of decency.

Ministerial Responsibility.

With this exposition of Cabinet responsibility Mr. Asquith was at one time in complete accord. In the debate on the Corn Duty on June 10, 1903, Mr. Asquith spoke on the differences of opinion among the Ministers then holding office—Mr. Ritchie on the one hand and Mr. Chamberlain on the other—and also criticised the non-committal attitude of Mr. Balfour as Prime Minister. He further said:

It is an entire departure from the traditions and rules of our public life that in a matter of this kind and of this importance responsible Ministers, the Ministers immediately and directly responsible, should be allowed not merely to emit on public platforms discordant opinions but to pose as propagandists—for that is what they are doing—of two wholly irreconcilable views of a public policy which one of them, at any rate, declares he intends to make a cardinal issue at the next general election. That, to my mind, is the real significance of the situation in which we are placed; and I have risen for the purpose, in these

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.

Sir Edward Grey and Mr. Lloyd George are to open the Ministerial campaign in favour of Votes for Women at the Albert Hall on February 23, under the auspices of the non-militant Suffragists. In the following week, on February 28, Lord Loreburn (the Lord Chancellor) and Mr. Lewis Harcourt will be the principal speakers at a mass meeting to be held at the same place under the auspices of the National Society for Opposing Women's Suffrage. "These meetings," says the *Standard*, "will afford the first occasion on which the split in the

few words of uttering a protest, not only on behalf of the Opposition, but I believe on behalf of the vast majority of members on both sides of the House, against a practice which it once allowed would put an end to Ministerial responsibility and Cabinet Government.

What will be the Outcome?

What is the meaning of this attempt on the part of the Government to play fast and loose with a great political question like Woman Suffrage, and to do so in defiance of all the accepted theories of Cabinet solidarity and Cabinet responsibility? And what will be the outcome? A section of the Unionist Press sees in the Cabinet split on Woman Suffrage a portent of disaster to the Government, and thinks that the Coalition will break up and that the Liberal Administration will go to pieces in the very near future. "The Suffrage question," according to the Weekly Dispatch, "may represent the Waterloo of Mr. Asquith's Ministerial career." The Daily Telegraph declares that "there is deep misgiving as to the probable effects of this momentous question upon Ministerial fortunes," and again: "There is reason to believe that danger, if not defeat, awaits the Government in general and the Prime Minister in particular during the coming session, on the question of Women's Suffrage." The Evening Times considers that the division in the Cabinet may "lead to the break-up of the Radical Party."

Mr. Asquith's Dexterity.

Other sections of the Press share the view that although "the question seems certain to have a more disturbing, and perhaps catastrophic, effect upon political prospects than up to a few weeks ago was anticipated by anyone," the "supple dexterity" of Mr. Asquith, who has transformed the question: "Shall women get the vote?" into the question, "Shall the Government remain a Government?" will provide a way of escape. The Evening Telegraph and Post (Dundee) says:—

The situation is, therefore, one full of uncertainties. It is pregnant with possibilities, but the most probable outcome will be that the women, who consider themselves entitled to equal electoral privileges with men, will be called upon to wait a little longer before attaining their object. The chances are all in favour of the Cabinet as a whole following the line of least resistance.

According to the Sheffield Daily Telegraph—

Radicals find a difficulty in keeping their tempers when Women's Suffrage is mentioned nowadays, and sometimes fall to open reviling of Mr. Asquith for promising Adult Suffrage, and so forcing a crisis in Cabinet and party. Some old Parliamentarians, however, think that their leader knows what he is about, and that having killed the moderate proposals of the Conciliation Bill, which might have succeeded, he will see that the universal scheme never gets a chance to go far that his colleagues need quarrel over it.

Our Own View.

Our own view of the situation is that if the division in the Cabinet were a real one, the result would inevitably lead to the resignation of the Suffragist or of the Anti-Suffragist group, and possibly to the break up of the Government. But it must be remembered that the present situation was not in any sense forced upon the Government either by any political party, or by any combination of circumstances. The situation was deliberately made by Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George, with the consent of the Cabinet as a whole. The announcement of the Government's Manhood Suffrage Bill was universally described as "A Bolt from the Blue." There was no agitation in the country in support of it, there was no popular demand, nor was the question before the country in any shape or form. So far as we know, one justification of it, and only one, has been attempted by its promoters, and that was proclaimed by Mr. Lloyd George, at Bath, when he said that it had successfully "torpedoed" the Conciliation Bill. We have had occasion before now to speak of Mr. Lloyd George as a "wrecker." But we do not believe that he would go out of his way to encompass the destruction of his own ship, nor do we conceive it as a possibility that the Prime Minister, who is characterised by supple dexterity, and the clever and astute Chancellor of the Exchequer would put their heads together with a deliberate plan of guiding their craft upon the rocks of Cabinet division. In our opinion their purpose was and is to lure the Votes for Women crew upon those rocks and encompass their political destruction.

Come and Play Soldiers!

To change the metaphor and put the case in other words. The ostensible conflict now being openly waged between the two sections of the Cabinet is nothing but a sham fight. It is a holiday diversion. It is not real business except in the sense that it is intended to entrap Suffragists into the delusion that they may put their cause into the hands of those professing champions and leave it there, patiently awaiting the issue of the combat. "Come and play soldiers," says Mr. Lloyd George to his colleagues, and Mr. Harcourt and others respond to the invitation with alacrity, while Mr. Asquith smilingly backs the winner. But when play-time is over, the game of soldiers will come to an end. And these same gentlemen will remember that they are ostensibly paid their five thousand a year, as the Standard points out, not to perform on platforms, but to carry on the King's Government jointly and in unison. And on the day when they get back to business Suffragist and Anti-Suffragist Ministers will

call to remembrance the words of Sir Edward Grey, addressed to the Women Liberals, that, however divided they may be in their opinions on the Suffrage question, they are all absolutely united in loyalty to the (Anti-Suffragist) Prime Minister.

No Manhood Suffrage Bill for Us.

But though we refuse to place any reliance upon good intentions or vague promises, we are by no means pessimistic with regard to the success of our vigorous agitation during the coming session. The real forces of the Suffragist Movement are consolidated for a great campaign throughout the country, directed against the Government and their Manhood Suffrage Bill. It is nothing but the hope of stopping our agitation that has arrayed the Members of the Cabinet against one another in a platform battle over Votes for Women. That result in itself is a signal achievement and a veritable triumph. It is an encouragement to go on, until the sham fight is turned into a real fight, and is pressed to a decisive victory for the Woman's Cause. Our agitation will cease when the Manhood Suffrage Bill is withdrawn and in its place substituted a Bill to give equal franchise rights to men and women. The pressure of public feeling and the organisation of militancy on a large scale will force the Government to realise that they must deal with the question of women's enfranchisement, and not merely play with it, if they wish to avoid disaster and continue in office. Neither a split in the Cabinet nor a fall of the present Ministry has any terrors for Women Suffragists. It simply means that the peril of Manhood-Suffrage and its frightful tyranny will be averted, while the way will be left open to press for equal franchise rights for men and women from any Government that may succeed to power.

The Referendum.

We note that the London Correspondent of the Manchester Guardian says he hears that "before the visit of the Suffragist deputations to the Prime Minister, the question of a Referendum on the matter

was discussed in the Cabinet and negatived." He adds: "Mr. Asquith, therefore, on that occasion expressed the views of the Cabinet as a whole."

"Prison Privileges."

On page 240 of this issue will be found an extract from a letter to the Nation by Miss Evelyn Sharp. It is quite evident that present prison regulations are not dictated by any considerations of justice or equity. The two men, Mr. Macdougall and Mr. Ball, who are in prison for the Suffrage cause have been refused "privileges." One of these men was convicted on precisely the same kind of evidence as the women now in Holloway. The differentiation is apparently determined merely by the respective strength of the two organisations—the W.S.P.U. and the M.P.U.—which these prisoners represent. The absurdity of the Home Secretary's attitude consists in this, that while on the one hand he relieves the women from prison tasks, on the other he refuses them the usual remission of sentence because they avail themselves of his "privileges." Suffragists have learnt long before now that to fight all along the line is the only way to win. Fresh evidence of this truth is provided by the news of a recent very effective strike, including the hunger protest, adopted by the Suffragettes in Holloway on behalf of Mrs. Roy Rothwell, who was denied the attendance of a much-needed dentist.

Indian Women Doctors.

We draw our readers' special attention to a letter which appeared in the Times last week, part of which we give on page 239. The letter shows how absolutely necessary it is for women to have a voice in Imperial politics. The grievous state of Indian women during sickness makes a special appeal to all women, and strengthens them in their conviction of the need of political enfranchisement, so that they may take their share in these urgent matters of Imperial importance. Where there is a large population of women, practically ignored, as in India, by the State, the need for the women's point of view becomes all the more insistent.

A REVOLT OF LABOURERS' WIVES.

By F. E. Green, Author of "A Few Acres and a Cottage."

That the wives of English labourers, compared with the women of France, have not always shown that meekness which is supposed to be their special heritage is brought vividly home to us in a remarkable page of English history recorded by J. L. Hammond, and Barbara Hammond. We know the courageous part the women of France played in 1789. We know how the English labourers of this period of revolutionary ardour barely struck a single blow against the lords of the soil who had succeeded in crushing their lives to a point which made of our "bold peasantry" a ragged army of lean paupers. The Enclosure Acts had robbed the village labourers of their land. The housewife could no longer get milk for her children because there was no land on which to keep the cow. "The produce," as Cobbett said in his blunt way, "was carried away to be devoured by the idlers, the thieves, the prostitutes, who are all tax-eaters in the wens of Bath and London." During this time, when wages were reduced and prices were rising, and rising rapidly, both farmers and landlords were reaping a harvest out of the misery of the poor. The Law of Settlement barred the labourer from seeking better conditions; the Combination Law erected an ugly fence against collective bargaining for higher wages; and the brutal Game Laws, aided by legalised man-traps, killed or transported for life the starving peasant, or his wife, or his child, for seeking food or fuel in the wood or the hedgerow. To the parish cart, that worst infamy of all in this age of chivalry, were harnessed men and women who were made to play the part of beasts of burden.

But in 1795, when exceptional scarcity sharpened the edge of misery it was the women and not the men who broke out into open revolt. A series of food riots occurred spontaneously all over England. Men later on burnt ricks and broke up machines; but the women did something far more sensible. They did not lose their heads. They did not rob. They firmly and quietly commandeered all the food within reach of their organised bands. At Aylesbury, for instance, a large number of women "seized on all the wheat that came to market and compelled the farmers to whom it belonged to accept of such prices as they thought proper to name" (Reading Mercury). At Carlisle, a band of women entered houses and shops seizing all the grain they could, deposited it in the public hall, and formed a committee to regulate the prices, handing back to the owners the sums realised. At Fordingbridge a certain spirited Sarah Rogers started, by seizure, a cheap butter campaign, for which she was afterwards

* The Village Labourer, 1789-1832: a study in the Government of England before the Reform Bill. (Lancashire, Greenwood Co.), 8s. net.

sentenced to three months' imprisonment at Winchester assizes. She was evidently quite a girl, or the court would have passed a much more severe sentence. At Bath, women boarded a vessel laden with wheat and flour and prevented the exportation of food they needed so badly. As the Riot Act was read, they sang "God save the King," and although the soldiers were called out, the corn was relanded and warehoused.

The rich became alarmed. Fear and pity drove them to start a diet campaign. Like the rich of to-day, some averred that the housewives of the poor were thriftless and did not know how to make the most of bones and offal!

Fox was one of the few in the House of Commons who saw the bitter irony of it all, and when it was proposed that the poor should adopt a diet of rye bread and oatmeal, remarked that it was all very well for gentlemen of the House to protest against the extravagance of the poor in demanding wheat bread, for bread of any kind played so small a part in the daily diet of his fellow-members. Later on, in the labourers' revolt of 1830, it was the women who made themselves responsible for dragging the overseer of the parish in the hated parish cart and taking him to a safe distance, where he was appropriately deposited on to a manure heap. And when the riots of 1830 were quelled by the ruthless barbarity of the magistracy, backed up by Melbourne, who was Home Secretary, when men and even boys were hung or transported for life for trivial offences (for not a life was taken in the riots save that of an occasional peasant who of course did not count), it was the women, when their husbands, sons and brothers, were torn from them to be sent across the sea or to dangle at the end of a hangman's rope, who had to endure alone the dark days and the darker nights that followed. These women verily felt the keen, heroic edge of life.

And to-day, after nearly a century of civilisation and a quickened sense of chivalry, what have we? Well, the life of the labourer's wife is simply a life of servitude.

How many times does one inquire in a country village what has become of some spirited girl, now rarely seen in the village street, to learn that she has married a labourer, "and so, of course, cannot leave her home." We have known of a healthy woman of seventy years who had lived every day of them, within the confines of a small common. Muddy roads, the lack of public conveniences, indifferent shoe leather, eternal washing, and the duties of maternity kept the young wife incarcerated. She may have led the village dances before she entered in the bloom of womanhood the cottage door that closes behind her as securely as the door of a Moorish harem. She is now a labourer's wife.

A MESSAGE FROM MRS. ELMY.

The veteran suffragist, Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy, writes:—

"I rejoice to see the attitude taken by the W.S.P.U. with regard to Mr. Asquith's Manhood Suffrage Bill. Equal Franchise rights for men and women, must be our demand now, as it has been from the very first, as I very well remember. If manhood is to be the qualification for men, womanhood must be the qualification for women, and full Adult Suffrage must take the place of any limited franchise. The position is now quite clear, we have pleaded long enough, we now demand our most just, and long overdue, rights."

TWO TYPES OF WOMEN.

Those who know the work of the Elizabethan Stage Society were prepared as a matter of course for an intellectual treat when it was announced that the Society, under the direction of Mr. William Poel, would give performances of "Jacob and Esau" and "Alcestis" at the Little Theatre. And they were not disappointed. The extreme simplicity of setting and lighting of both plays, the archaic atmosphere of the first, and the exquisite pictures of the second, are things that will linger long in the memory. To us, it need hardly be said, the chief interest lay in the types of womanhood. First there was Rebecca, in the quaint play first printed in 1668. As the still young-looking wife of old blind Isaac, Rebecca, played by Miss Ernita Lascelles, is the type of woman who in all ages excels in what is politely called diplomacy. She knows just what she wants, and she attains her object, by some means—foul ones if necessary. Jacob is a weak tool in her hands—a tool, by the way, of a quite deliciously hypocritical type, as played by Mr. Campbell Cargill. Rebecca's methods (first entreaties, tears, and self-abasement, then trickery) are familiar to us all; we feel that in these days she would be on the side of those who profess to believe that all ends can be attained by "indirect influence." In Alcestis we have a different type; unkind critics call her the "doormat woman." At any rate, she is the type that makes selfish men. One does not feel that Admetus, beautifully played by Mr. Frederick Sargent, deserves the good turn done by Herakles in bringing back Alcestis from the tomb! And one feels quite chivalrously disposed towards the poor old father, so unmercifully rated by Admetus because he, with his scanty white locks and his spent years, still clings to life and the light of the sun. Someone must die that Admetus may live, and it is his wife, Alcestis (Miss Lucy Wilson), who makes the supreme sacrifice. And Admetus accepts it without protest, as his due. Fain would he have kept both, life and wife, but as Death says lightly to Apollo in the opening lines, "You can't have all you want, you know." So Admetus lives, and Alcestis enters the Valley of the Shades. Was Euripides laughing at the "mere man"? G. V.

DR. SOPHIA JEX-BLAKE.

The world is the poorer by the death of Dr. Sophia Jex-Blake, after a long and distinguished career. Dr. Jex-Blake, whose fame is world-wide as the founder of two great medical schools for women—the London School of Medicine for Women and the Edinburgh School of Medicine for Women—retired from practice in 1899. Her longest and bitterest fight was with the University of Edinburgh; and, later, when Parliament had recognised the right of women to be doctors, it was in that city that she practised for twenty-one years. Since the death of Florence Nightingale, the Pall Mall Gazette says in a sympathetic note on Dr. Jex-Blake as a "Happy Warrior," no woman has died of whom more truly may it be written, Bene acta vita recordatio jucundissima est.

THE NATIONAL W.S.P.U. BECOMES IMPERIAL.

Mrs. Pankhurst writes to Mrs. Pethick Lawrence:—"You will be interested to learn that the National Executive Committee of the W.S.P.U. has now the right to call itself the Committee of the National and Imperial W.S.P.U. Before I left Victoria the first local Union in Canada was formed by a number of English girls and women, including your sister-in-law, Mrs. Pethick. The secretary and moving spirit is Miss Dodwell, who has come here from her home in Watford to be secretary of the Women's Club. They wish to be placed on the footing of all other local unions, and to report periodically to VOTES FOR WOMEN, just like any other local committee. They mean to raise funds to employ an organiser, who will become a missionary in other towns in British Columbia, and they hope to form a nucleus of a vigorous movement here on W.S.P.U. lines."

DEBENHAM & FREEBODY'S SALE IS NOW PROCEEDING.

The Undermentioned are Typical Examples.



Seal Musquash Coats, made from white bright and lustrous skins, 52 and 54 inches long. Original Price 25 gns. Sale Price 19½ gns. Original Fur Model Wrap by Bernard, made in finest Seal Cooney, with handsome silver cord tassels, and trimmed skunk racoon. Original Price 45 gns. Sale Price 15 gns. Original Model Gown by Chertoff, of fine Shadow lace over Champagne Crepe de Chine, veiled with blue chiffon, the sleeves and band round skirt of plain blue chiffon. Original Price 40 gns. Sale Price 17 gns. Rest Gown, in rich quality Crepe de Chine, bodice lined silk, with old world draped fichu of fine Shadow lace and finished with small satin ribbon roses. Original Price 75/6 Sale Price 75/6



Evening Gown, in good quality Satin, with tulle of Ninon both back and front, veiled with large trimming, bodice draped with wide tulle, Ninon. Sale Price 63/- Net Tunic (as sketch), embroidered with finely cut beads, in all-black, black and steel, black and gold, white and silver, mauve, grey and rare blue. Sale Price 49/6 Scarf (as sketch), in Silk Net, for evening wear, finely embroidered with sequins and beads. In black, white, grey, mauve, sky, pink, natter blue, champagne, etc. Original Price 25/- Sale Price 17/6 Pure Cashmere Sports Coat (as sketch), made from the softest and best quality yarn. A delightful garment for winter sports, in white and over 100 colours. Original Price 42/- Sale Price 32/6



Woven Knickers (as sketch), in fine Wool, finished with knessbands. In black, white, and a large range of colours. Sale Price 3/11 Child's Woolen Coat (as sketch), in fine Shelton Wool, hand knitted. In all white, white lined pink, or white lined sky. 13 inches long. 13/9 Fashionable Corset (as sketch), low at bust, finished with band of elastic, long over hips. Made in Cotton Broche. Sale Price 18/6 Child's Frock (as sketch), in fine mainboole, hand embroidered, and finished Valenciennes lace. Sale Price 12/9 Milanoe Silk Vest (as sketch), fine quality, beautifully embroidered. Sale Price 10/6

Wigmore Street and Welbeck Street, London, W.

Views on the Political Situation.

MR. G. A. TOUCHE. Writing in the Standard (Woman's Platform) on January 4...

(1) It is unjust to treat woman as something less than a citizen because of her sex. A citizen has a right to a vote in the Government under which he lives...

(2) It is injurious to the nation, as well as a wrong to woman, to exclude her from the rights of citizenship. This is not a man's world only. He is not the sole heir to it.

(3) It is unconstitutional to exclude women from the rights of citizenship. They help to support the nation. They are entitled to a voice in its affairs...

Lord Robert Cecil. Lord Robert Cecil, M.P., has written to Miss Theinmann of Hull, a letter, in which he says: "I am very sorry indeed that I should have been prevented from attending the meeting to-morrow on many grounds, and particularly because I think that the cause of Woman Suffrage has reached a very critical position..."

FOR THE NEW YEAR. Calendars in great variety, printed in the Colours and with appropriate quotations. Keat's Calendar, 1s. Daily Tear-off Elock Calendar, 1s. Folding Almanac, 2d.

gress with the remaining stages of the Bill as would make its passage through the House of Commons certain. Whether the House of Lords would have immediately accepted the Bill I know not. But I cannot believe that that Chamber would have in any case long resisted so thoroughly moderate and reasonable a reform as that proposed by the Bill.

What is the alternative? A Government Bill is to be introduced for which the whole Cabinet, including the Prime Minister, Mr. Harcourt, and other resolute anti-Suffragists, are to be responsible. Into this Bill the House of Commons are to be invited to insert an amendment extending the franchise to women in some shape or other.

What an extraordinary commentary is even the bare possibility of such a position upon the levity in which the Cabinet chooses to undertake the responsibilities of government. Evening Standard (Special).

What an extraordinary commentary is even the bare possibility of such a position upon the levity in which the Cabinet chooses to undertake the responsibilities of government. Evening Standard (Special).

MR. PHILIP SNOWDEN, M.P. Speaking at a meeting at Croydon on Monday, Mr. Philip Snowden, M.P., said he would never be a party to the extension of the male franchise to indifferent men while they ignored the alternative plan.

DIMOLINE PIANO CO. Special Sale of Pianos. Cheap. All Makers. SILENCING STOP PIANOS FROM 20 GUINEAS CASH.

MISS DAVISON'S CASE. No Women Admitted to the Court. Miss Emily Wilding Davison, B.A., who was charged at Bow Street Police Court on December 15 with putting a lighted paper into a pillar-box, and committed for trial at the Old Bailey, surrendered to her bail on Tuesday last.

Labour and Woman Suffrage. We understand that preparations are being pushed forward for the great Albert Hall demonstration on February 13, to demand Adult Suffrage, and that tickets should be immediately obtained from one or other of the societies convening the meeting.

SOME PRESS VIEWS. THE LABOUR LEADER. Writing on the suggestion of a Referendum on Woman Suffrage, the Labour Leader for January 5, says: "The Westminster Gazette is supposed to be the inspired organ of official Liberal opinion."

Evening Telegraph and Post (DUNDEE). The question of Woman Suffrage at the moment occupies a position in the forefront of political problems.

TWO "PUNCH" CARTOONS. In Punch last week a cartoon appeared as one of a series, "Winter Sports for Politicians," representing Mr. Lloyd George, Lord Haldane, and Sir Edward Grey trying a little run with the "Shes—who must be obeyed," while Mr. Asquith munches "anti" sandwiches on the bank.

Clear your Complexion. BRAGG'S CHARCOAL. PURIFYING YOUR BLOOD. PURIFY YOUR BLOOD BY TAKING BRAGG'S CHARCOAL.

THE LABOUR PARTY, INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY AND THE FABIAN SOCIETY.

DEMONSTRATION TO DEMAND ADULT SUFFRAGE

WILL BE HELD AT ROYAL ALBERT HALL, LONDON (MANAGER—HILTON CARTER), Under the auspices of the Three Organisations, ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1912.

- SPEAKERS: WILL CROOKS, M.P. J. KEIR HARDIE, M.P. ARTHUR HENDERSON, M.P. PHILIP SNOWDEN, M.P. Miss MARGARET BONDFIELD, Miss MARY R. MACARTHUR, Miss MILLICENT MURBY, WM. C. ANDERSON, Chairman of the Independent Labour Party.

Doors open at 7 p.m. Chair to be taken at 8 p.m. prompt by J. RAMSAY MACDONALD, M.P. (Chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party).

TICKETS: Reserved and Numbered Seats in Boxes, 5/-, 2/6, 2/-; Arena, 2/- and 1/-; Stalls, 1/-. Reserved Seats, Balcony, 6d. Tickets Free to Gallery (Promenade) on application.

THE WORLD WE LIVE IN.

The Italian Parliament, which is shortly to discuss the question of Universal Franchise, has decided not to add to it the question of Woman Suffrage, but to discuss that later. This decision has aroused the Suffragists, and it is probable the movement in that country will receive a great impetus.

In an article on Wendell Phillips, the New York Evening Post says: "We would recall that the great orator who was born one hundred years ago never let any disturbance of peace deter him from thus addressing the enfranchisement of women: 'It is, therefore, on the ground of natural justice, and on the ground again of highest expediency, and yet again it is because woman, as an immortal and intellectual being, has a right to all the means of education—it is on these grounds that we claim for her the civil rights and privileges which man enjoys.'"

An interesting article in the Leeds Mercury gives some information as to the strength of the Woman Suffrage movement in India. Prominent among its supporters are the Grand Duchess Elizabeth and Sister Veronika, abbess of a convent with 600 nuns.

An interesting question has been raised in New Jersey, U.S.A., by Miss Philbrook, the first woman lawyer in the State. In the course of her studies she found that women had the right to vote under the original constitution of 1776, and she prevailed upon a woman property owner to try a test case.

The Western Daily News recently arranged a competition on the question of Adult Suffrage, and announces that—This competition showed a considerable majority in favour of Adult Suffrage, and local followers of Mrs. Pankhurst will be gratified to know that quite two-thirds of this majority stipulated that "Votes for Women" should form an integral part of Mr. Asquith's promised Bill.

The question of homes for women engaged in various professions has long been a problem, but one excellent attempt at a solution has been made by Miss Lena Ashwell in the foundation of the "Three Arts Club," a residential home in the Marylebone Road for women engaged in music, painting and writing.

The Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Review for the current quarter has just been issued. Lord Lytton contributes an interesting article on Votes for Women in 1912, and the political outlook for women in other countries is dealt with under "Suffrage in Foreign Lands" and "Under the Flag."

The women of New Hampshire, after many years of hard work, have at last succeeded in getting a bill passed making mothers equal guardians of their minor children with the fathers.

The women of Washington State, having gained their own rights, are now, we are glad to see, organising to help the women of other States in their battle for the suffrage.

The Municipal Council of Belise, capital of Honduras, has granted the municipal vote to women. Two policewomen are to be appointed in Indianapolis. A well-known suffragist, Miss Sarah Decker, is standing as candidate for the Senate in Colorado.

BOOKS RECEIVED. "The Breath of the Desert." By H. Clayton East. London: Duckworth and Co. Price 6s. net. "Life, Love and Light." London: Macmillan and Co. Price 3s. 6d. net. "Women's Employment." London Central Bureau for Women's Employment. Price 1d. "Eighteen Hundred and Eleven." By Anna Leishah Barbold. Warrington Sunrise Publishing Co. Price 6d.

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LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, 58, Victoria St. S.W. How will Women get the Vote in 1912? SPEECHES ON THE NATIONAL UNION POLICY, by Miss K. D. Courtney and Miss Edith Palliser, Hon. Secretaries, N.U.W.S.P., Miss Clementina Black, and others. SMALL QUEEN'S HALL, LANGHAM PLACE, (Old Leazes, near Chiffell and Co.) Tuesday, January 16, 8.30 p.m. Admission Free. Discussion Invited.

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VOTES FOR WOMEN 4, CLEMENTS INN, STRAND. FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1912.

WOMEN AND WAR. The very significant leading article in the Pall Mall Gazette last Friday, dealing with the present position of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet with regard to Woman Suffrage, marks an entire change in the tone and attitude of that paper towards the agitation for women's political enfranchisement. Partisanship, founded upon blind ignorance and prejudice, has hitherto dictated the editorial comments of the Pall Mall Gazette upon this subject. The spirit of unreasoning hostility has yielded to the spirit of discrimination and balanced judgment. None welcome more cordially than do Suffragists themselves the application to the aims and methods and the meaning of the woman's movement of the searchlight of moral, historical and political criticism.

In the mind of the writer of that article there seems to remain one grave objection to giving women the vote. We are living to-day in a world, he says, that is "liable at any moment to be convulsed by wars that can only be waged and won by men." That is perhaps the oldest of all reasons urged against the claims of women to full recognition as citizens, and even to-day is the chief weapon in the armoury of the Anti-Suffragists.

Four centuries before the birth of Christ the Greek dramatist Euripides put this primitive argument into the mouth of a woman, together with the woman's age-old rejoinder. Says Medea to the women of Corinth:—

And then, forsooth, 'tis they that face the call Of war, while we sit sheltered, hid from all Peril. 'False mocking! Sooner would I stand Three times to face those battles, shield in hand, Than bear one child.

We say emphatically that there is no toll of hardship, suffering, pain, and death paid by men to the State upon the Nation's battlefields, the full equivalent of which is not paid in the same kind by women on the battlefield where human lives are won and added to the wealth and resources of the Empire. Service for service, sacrifice for sacrifice, the manhood and the

womanhood of the nation stand quits, and both deserve equally of their country the status of actual or potential citizenship.

Moreover, women bear their full share of the weight of war. As tax-payers, as wage-earners, as wives, that is as unwaged domestic labourers and producers they pay as much in taxes, in material loss and in additional labour as the male section of the community.

Again, it must be remembered that it is the spirit of heroic self-sacrifice and of resolution, it is the passion for endurance in its women that has in all ages again and again largely influenced the fortunes and the fate of a race that goes to war. And nowhere has this spirit been better exemplified than in the women of the British nation. "What soldiers these Englishwomen make," said the Sultan of Morocco's Minister of War during the troubles in Morocco.

During the recent Boer war, it was mainly the spirit of determination and endurance displayed by the Boer women that kept the forces of the enemy in the field during year after year of desperate and protracted fighting. The toll of privation, disease and death they paid even more heavily than the men in the concentration camps and even in many cases in the trenches, and they reaped nothing of the price if by its means the independence of their nation could have been secured.

To say that women cannot fight is to betray an ignorance of history. From the legends of the Trojan war, the traditions of Egypt and Persia, the history of Caesar's campaigns in Gaul and Britain, the Punic and other Roman wars in Europe, Asia, and Africa, from the incessant wars that ravaged the European Continent through the Middle Ages, from the French and American Revolutions and the North-American Civil War down to modern times, there is abundant evidence of the martial deeds of women, inspired by patriotism, hatred of tyranny, or from need to protect city or home or friends from danger and destruction.

The military genius of Joan of Arc has become a world-story, but it is too often forgotten that it was the Consort of our English King Henry VI. who again and again repaired losses occasioned by the King's imbecility. She it was who recalled victory to his standard, fighting twelve battles in person with great genius and courage. The wife of King Henry II. spent half her life in battle, and at eighty years of age defended the possessions of King John in Normandy against the French King, and conducted in person the defence of the besieged towns, clad in man's armour. The history of these islands abounds in records of the martial achievements of women; and it ill becomes the sons and daughters of Britain to forget them.

But whereas it is not true to say that women cannot fight, it remains true that women in modern times do not occupy a place in the nation's fighting line. And why? The reason is not that they cannot fight, or that they do not want to fight. The reason is that the community which is governed by a very complex system of civilisation does not want them to fight. The community in its own interest debars women from the fighting line just as it now debars kings and statesmen and other members and classes of the human commonwealth, and for the same reason. The collective sense of the community has decided that these persons and these classes can serve it better elsewhere.

Nevertheless, even in modern days, the service of women is indispensable in the time of war. We are told that Florence Nightingale did more for the well-being of the British Army than any one man that could be named, and that was because she realised better even than the War Office of her own day that the conditions of warfare have undergone a profound change during modern times. She discovered that the efficiency and strength of an army depends enormously to-day upon its rear. As with our fire-arms (as Mr. Laurence Housman has pointed out) so with our armies—the leading point has been put farther and farther back. And women as well as men are the leaders of our modern Army machine, and women even more than men are the cleaners of it when it becomes fouled through fighting.

The military organisation developed by modern conditions demands an ever increasing proportion of non-combatants to combatants, for at the back of every combatant we have a whole line of workers, through whose exertions alone he is able to take the field. "Our military organisation, in fact, has developed just as our civil organisation has done, and depends not on mere physical force, but on an economic combination which draws upon the whole community for its supplies."

The co-operation of women in a thousand ways is necessary to the efficiency of any modern army on the physical, the material, the moral and the spiritual plane, and for that reason alone, if for no other, they might base their claim to the right to be represented in the Councils of the State.

Emmeline Pethick Lawrence. * "Physical Force." By Laurence Housman. On sale at the Woman's Press, 94, per 100, 6s. per 1,000, post free.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN NEW ZEALAND. By Lady Stout (wife of the Chief Justice of the Country).

The following statements have been made by "Anti-Suffragists" without evidence or proof of their accuracy. I shall try to prove that they are false by quoting reliable statistics and admissions made by men who are opposed to the suffrage for reasons which it is unnecessary to summarise.

1.—Women do not want the vote. The same statement was made in New Zealand and disproved at the first election in which women took part as electors. There were five petitions presented to Parliament at various times, containing in all 31,872 signatures, but 109,461, or 78.48 per cent., of adult women registered and 85.18 per cent. of these voted. There were three electorates in which there was no contest.

2.—Women do not use the vote. Several writers have stated that, "contrary to expectation," women do use the vote in the ratio of 78 to 80 of the men's vote. A writer in the Standard quoted the reduced percentage of 78.26 at the last election without stating that the men's vote had also decreased 2 per cent. The most convincing proof that women are more willing to vote than formerly is that 99.76 of the adult women registered in 1908 compared with 78.48 in 1903. The percentage of men who registered was only 99.54. Many women were unable to record their votes, but if it was understood that women have often to drive or ride for long distances over rough country roads, and have to take their children to the poll with them, the British voter would be more than astonished at their zeal. All women, married and single, have a vote, yet we find that the Englishman, who does not have to take his family to the poll or undergo any discomforts in recording his vote, shows less willingness to vote than the women of New Zealand.

3.—The Government is purely parochial, and has no real similarity to an Imperial Government. We find the British House of Commons dealing with very domestic matters such as drainage, water supply, meals for children, education of infants, boot factories, shops, flannellette nightdresses for babies, overlaying of infants, maternity allowances, and a hundred and one small parochial matters. In New Zealand we have made greater strides than Britain in Imperialism. We have adopted Compulsory Military Training. Proposals for Imperial Federation, representation of the Dominions at Imperial Councils, and an Imperial Appeal Court were brought before the Imperial Conference by men representing women voters. Our representatives were consulted in Defence and International Politics. In the name of their constituents (men and women), they demanded the right to be consulted on all Imperial questions. Their proposals were rejected by the "Imperial Government" which fails to realise, as Australia and New Zealand women do, the need of a United Empire. The Dominions have been before instead of behind Britain in the realisation of Empire. It seems as if women had by their influence developed an Imperial conscience as well as a moral and altruistic standard in domestic legislation.

4.—Home life has been ruined by the vote. Home life and all the conditions for happiness have been improved by giving men and women an additional mutual interest and equal power in determining the future of their children. 5.—Women would neglect their homes. This cry was very loud before we got the vote, but now we have the testimony of "antis," that no such calamity has befallen the homes. There are instances of women who spend their days playing golf and bridge (they do not take the trouble to vote), but there is no case on record in which the vote has been blamed for neglect of home.

6.—The vote would cause dissension in homes. An "anti" visitor from New Zealand, in a letter to the Morning Post of August 4, 1910, wrote:—"It has brought about no family quarrels to speak of," and so he did not speak of one, much as he would have enjoyed the opportunity! No one has ever mentioned one such case during the eighteen years since the Franchise became law. There have been family quarrels caused by bad cooking, hats and frocks, education of children, religion, late hours at clubs, over-indulgence in champagne, and other matters of less significance, but no case in which either husband or wife has blamed the vote for unhappiness in their married life.

7.—Drunkenness has increased as a result of the temperance regulations secured by the women's vote. The statement is one of the half-truths so dear to the "womanly anti-mind." The number of cases has increased, but the percentage has decreased. With an increase of 22,284 in population the number of cases is bound to increase. New arrivals, numbering 12,000 from the country that refuses to enfranchise its women, may account for the increase.

8.—There is more alcohol drunk in the no-licence districts than formerly, and secret drinking has become the rule. Compared with other parts of the Dominion there was only a twelfth part of beer and a hundredth part of wine and spirits consumed in the no-licence area. There has been a reduction of 90 per cent in drunkenness in no-licence districts and crime has almost disappeared. The testimony of judges, magistrates, doctors, clergy, mayors, and other leading citizens verifies this statement and court records prove it.

9.—Women believe in Prohibition. There is no Prohibition in New Zealand. We submit the regulation of the liquor traffic to the people at a Local Option Poll. In December we are to have a National Option Poll and the result will show the strength of the woman's vote for temperance. 10.—New Zealand women are "Anti-Gambling." (What a blessing they are "anti" something!! It ought to make an Imperial bond with the Anti-Suffragists.) They are not all "anti-gambling." Even if they were does it denote a low standard of womanhood or constitute a danger to the State?

(Lady Stout's concluding article will be published next week.) ALBERT HALL MEETING. Thursday, March 28. The Women's Social and Political Union are holding a meeting in the Royal Albert Hall, London, on Thursday evening, March 28, at 8 p.m. The chair will be taken by Mrs. Pankhurst. In view of the critical events with regard to Woman Suffrage which are expected to take place after the opening of Parliament on February 14, this meeting will be of special importance, and members of the W.S.P.U. are invited to make early application for tickets for themselves and their friends.

It will be remembered that, as on former occasions, the rules of the Albert Hall prevent the public sale of tickets, and therefore it rests with the members of the W.S.P.U. to fill the Hall by the purchase of tickets from Miss Cooke, the Ticket Secretary, W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, W.C. The prices are as follows: Amphitheatre Stalls, 2s. 6d.; Arena, 2s. and 1s.; Lower Orchestra, 2s. and 1s.; Balcony, 1s. and 6d.; Upper Orchestra, 6d.; all numbered and reserved. Boxes, £1 10s., £1 1s., and 12s. 6d. Tickets will be ready on Monday next.

THE NEXT PROTEST. Day by day the names come in! Some of those who are offering themselves for the next protest have already done yeoman service in the last fight; others are new recruits. The following extracts from letters speak for themselves:—

Will you again accept my name for the next deputation, or protest, against the Government? My admiration for our leader of November 21, and the other brave women who have suffered, and of those who are still suffering imprisonment as a consequence of their actions, makes me more determined to continue in active service until the fight is won. Having marvelously escaped arrest myself on the 21st, I now offer you my freedom for any urgent protest which may be necessary. Meanwhile, I will sell Votes for Women every Friday at Oxford Circus.

Do me the honour to put my name down for the next deputation. I have duties to husband, home, children, and rescue work; but I feel the lesser are contained in the greater duty of securing the vote. Besides, I cannot face the brave women who have already given this service. I cannot feel that I am worthy to be in the same organisation as they until I, too, have done my little part. The day I went to prison I told you I intended to take part in the next deputation or protest, and I now wish to confirm what I said then as a good beginning of a New Year.

I cannot start the New Year without having my name down for the next fight. I am ready for anything. A week's imprisonment only made me determined to do more damage next time, and so I am ready. Will you kindly put down my name for the next militant protest? I fully realise that the only way to get the vote is to fight for it and to fight hard. Names of volunteers should be sent to Miss Christabel Pankhurst, 4, Clements Inn, W.C.

WOMEN DOCTORS IN INDIA.

An interesting and important letter from a "Retired Administrator" appeared in the Times of January 2, in which the following details were given:—

"Roughly, a hundred millions of women either refuse medical treatment by men or are so averse to it that they put it off until it is too late to be of use. The result is a mass of unrelieved agony and premature death which cannot be put into figures or words. I say this after 35 years of close intercourse with the people, and no one can gainsay it without convicting himself of ignorance of a great underlying problem of the country. What I think the British public ought to know is that the Government of India, as such while it has kept up for generations a splendidly organised and expensive medical service for men, has done almost nothing for the mothers and wives on whom the vitality of the people depends—the women whose only crime is conformity with the Oriental code of self-respect. An instance only too obvious to the close observer of our skin-deep methods of rule. I well remember my first glimpse of a prosperous village when I heard groaning inside a house of which the door stood ajar. Pushing it open I found a woman lying alone on a damp floor with a heavy stone on her body and evidently in great pain. She had lately been confined under the gentle attentions of the village sage-femme. Two or three days afterwards I was told the poor soul was dead, and the only wonder was that so many others escaped the same fate. Later on I was specially connected officially with the country squire class, whose ladies never appeared in public. When one of them fell ill, as frequently happened, she was left to get well, or live on as an invalid, or die, as the chance might be, without skilled advice or help of any kind whatever—a wholly unnecessary sacrifice of woman-life going on to this day. One case I remember in which the husband was rich and spared no expense. A male practitioner was called in who was allowed to feel the patient's pulse through a hole in the curtain, and who prescribed a solution of pearls, to be prepared of course by himself in his own house on receipt of the pearls! One more recent reminiscence may seem quaint to English ears but is none the less significant as showing a standpoint of the Eastern husband. I was encamped near a town of some size when a deputation of the leading traders and others came with a request for the establishment of a local women's hospital. The chief point on which they laid stress was the mortality of young wives among them. This, they said, had lately imposed on so many of them the heavy cost of a second marriage as to cause them serious financial trouble, in consideration of which they were prepared to contribute to the building fund and also agree to a portion of the current expenditure being made a charge on the local rates! Not would I urge the claims of a woman doctorate only on the grounds of ordinary humanity. The greatest difficulty that besets an alien Government is that of getting an intelligent knowledge of what is felt and done below the surface, and the Government of India by its apathy in this matter cuts it self off from the recesses of native life. A very experienced woman doctor once told me as magistrate of the district that the number of girls physically ruined as the result of child-marriage was surprising to her though she was herself a Hindu. I do not press any inference from this particular statement, but I do assert that it indicates a large class of facts of grave social import on which no Government of India can be accurately informed without the assistance of women doctors practising in every locality and among every section of the community.

"Now the Government service of men has done fine work within its prescribed limits. . . . Formerly the doctor of the village for the men was the barber, as his wife still is for the women. . . . But all the three two-thirds of the women have been practically ignored by the State and left to three non-official agencies—the missionaries, Lady Dufferin's Fund, and here and there hospitals started by local philanthropy. The missionaries are necessarily few in number, but as a rule their work is excellent and they show their knowledge of the problem by excluding all male access to their hospitals. The Lady Dufferin Fund has done work worthy of the honoured name it bears, but is not equal to meeting a great Imperial demand. The pay, pension, and official position of its doctors are not such as to tempt many highly-qualified women to give the best years of their lives to India. The selection of the doctors and the management of the hospital is in the hands of a local committee, who often do not recognise the necessity of high efficiency, and who in more than one instance known to me so far failed to understand the facts as to make their building an addition to the general institution under the personal supervision of the civil surgeon. "I have no authority to speak for the medical women of India, but believe it is not for money they chiefly ask. A small fraction of the sum newly granted for education would content them. They do not wish for the present to increase the number of central hospitals. Outlying dispensaries in charge of solitary women they would rather reduce as being in some respects in advance of native feeling. Instead of the present system of casual recruits they propose a graded service manned on a fixed principle, retaining competent practitioners by regular promotion and reasonable pay, and ensuring their appointment to the responsible posts. They ask to be given the advantage of State recognition and guidance, which has done so much for the men, and more particularly they desire suitable inspection and control by a woman deputy-surgeon-general in every province to act under the orders of the surgeon-general. Above all they ask for the ungrudging support and sympathy of Government, which counts for so much in India in the early stages of a reform, and which a great national work has a right to expect."

ON PRISON TREATMENT.

The following extract from a letter to the Nation, by Miss Evelyn Sharp, will be remembered, was sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment for breaking windows at the Work Office on Nov. 21. After speaking of the improvement in prison conditions, Miss Sharp says: "Certain undoubted privileges they were granted—I should call them rights if they formed part of a first division treatment and were not merely granted as a kind of apology for imprisonment in the second division—owing to the action of the women who went through the hunger strike in 1903 as a protest against being treated as criminal offenders. These sent to prison in connection with the recent suffrage disturbances have been allowed to wear their own clothes, to walk and talk together in the prison yard during exercise, to read their own books and do their own needlework, to have their cells cleaned out, and to have food sent in if desired. They are still forbidden to have writing materials, or to receive letters and newspapers, or to hold any communication with the outside world, except by the ordinary prison allowance of one letter and one visitor a fortnight. Their position is that of a second-class prisoner enjoying special treatment for some reason that remains to be defined. It would be fair to say that the ordinary moral discipline, as was supposed when the new rules were framed; for I could find no instance of similar treatment being accorded to other second-class prisoners of whom this would be equally true, and who were in gaol because of their poverty, because they could not pay their rates, for instance, or the fine for keeping their children from school.

"Nor can it be because suffragists are frankly recognized as political offenders; in that case they would be placed in the first division, as was Mr. Gimbel, to quote only one case, who saw his friends and was allowed to carry on his Parliamentary business, when imprisoned, by inciting to cattle-driving with a political motive. When one of the imprisoned suffragists, by profession a writer, petitioned last month for the right to carry on his work in prison, to see her secretary, to have the ordinary moral discipline, as was supposed when the new rules were framed; for I could find no instance of similar treatment being accorded to other second-class prisoners of whom this would be equally true, and who were in gaol because of their poverty, because they could not pay their rates, for instance, or the fine for keeping their children from school.

At Tacoma, Washington, Judge Easterday, during the hearing of a recent divorce case, called upon three women to share the bench and give their advice. After thinking over the case, he had come to the conclusion that it was which women were better able to judge than men.

"THE MIRACLE." The much discussed wordless play at Olympia is daily attracting thousands of spectators. In the opening scenes one has the curious sensation of being within the nave of a vast cathedral of the middle-ages, where hundreds of worshippers do homage to the magnificent statue of the wonder-working Madonna, while the organ peals and the girls sing about the mystic altar. The world is held by a mysterious power, and we follow her through many scenes, most of them depicting the degradation of beautiful womanhood to its lowest depths, and at one time, even in this "Babe's Progress," should not have been necessary on any stage. Meanwhile, the Madonna comes down from her pedestal and takes the place of the Nun, and when a bedraggled camp-follower with a child at her breast, the runaway returns, she is received back and reinstated, while showers of roses fall from the roof. The play, which is on so immense a scale as to fall rather under the category of pageants, leaves one with an impression of magnificent grouping, colours, and sounds, but beyond and above all is the beautiful figure of the living Madonna, majestic and meekly, but withal sweetly human in her pity and forgiveness of the penitent. One may read many things into a wordless play, and "The Miracle" should make even the thoughtless spectator meditate upon relationships between some men and some women.

A NEW "MEDEA." The part of "Medea," at the New Players' matinee of "Medea," at the Kingsway Theatre, on February 5th, will be played by Miss Adelaide Bourne, an actress of unusual power and temperament, as her renderings of Salomé and Monna Yana have proved. Mr. Philip Merivale, who made such a success in "Atalanta in Calydon," is the Jason. Miss Evelyn Walsh Hall is the Leader of the Chorus. Mr. Guy Rathbone the Messenger, and Mrs. Sabie Raleigh the Nurse.

Up to date the women of Canada have remained apathetic. Their blood has not been stirred by the clarion call to battle. They are willing to go on trusting their husbands in the matter of representation. This is a silent tribute to the Canadian husband. But there is no telling what the future may have in store for the men of Canada. The present successful tone of Mrs. Pankhurst may sow the seeds of rebellion, and the University Women's Club and other women's organizations may put on the war paint and throw their present neutrality to the winds, joining in the English and American agitation of "Votes for Women."

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

MRS. PANKHURST.

A Canadian paper, which has been sent to England by a Canadian M.P. who was present at Mrs. Pankhurst's Winnipeg meeting and expressed himself as being quite converted to the cause of Woman Suffrage and much impressed by Mrs. Pankhurst's able speech, says:— "Five years ago it is questionable whether Mrs. Pankhurst could have drawn two hundred people to a hall in Winnipeg to hear her defend her cause. The fact that 500 of our most intelligent citizens crowded to pay their money to hear her on Saturday evening is significant of the increased prestige of the movement which she so ably represents. Up to date the women of Canada have remained apathetic. Their blood has not been stirred by the clarion call to battle. They are willing to go on trusting their husbands in the matter of representation. This is a silent tribute to the Canadian husband. But there is no telling what the future may have in store for the men of Canada. The present successful tone of Mrs. Pankhurst may sow the seeds of rebellion, and the University Women's Club and other women's organizations may put on the war paint and throw their present neutrality to the winds, joining in the English and American agitation of "Votes for Women."

PRISONERS' HAMPERS.

Mrs. Marshall gratefully acknowledges 10s. 6d. from Miss Pola. This brings up the sum to £19 13s. Mrs. Marshall would like friends to understand that if they wish to send anything further to the prisoners she would be glad to pack it for them. She is sending a further supply to-day, Friday, and will be glad of any contribution in the form of mince pies, fruit of any kind, jam, cakes, books, or anything else suitable. They can be sent to Room 34, 4 Clements Inn, W.C.

SPEAKERS' CLASS.

Hon. Election Writings—Miss Rosa Lee, 44, Ashworth Mansions, Edin Avenue, W. Hon. Secretary—Miss Halo, 4, Clements Inn, W.C.

CLERKS' W.S.P.U.

Hon. Secs.—Miss Phyllis Ayrton, 63, Edin Road, West Kensington. Miss Cynthia Hagel, 15, Carlton Vale, Madia Vale, N.W.

THE ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

2, Robert Street, Strand, W.C. Telephone: City 121. President—Mrs. F. M. Condon. Organising Secretary—Miss G. M. Condon.

MEN'S POLITICAL UNION

For Women's Enfranchisement. Offices—13, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C. Telephone—City 673. Hon. Organising Sec.—Victor D. Daval.

We are still without definite information as to whether our two members in Pentonville Prison are being forcibly fed or not, but we have been told officially that Mr. Macdonald is "carrying resistance," but that Mr. Hall is not. The view of the most critical situation and the probability of concerted militant action becoming a necessity in the near future, all men in connection with a Men's Franchise are requested to send in their names, as soon as possible, to Mr. Frank Brier 67, Gloucester Lane, W.C. Sacrifice even personal liberty during the present year. Bill is passed without giving sex equality to women. The Hon. Treasurer must gratefully acknowledge the following contributions, and calls upon those of men whose sympathy has not yet stirred them into action to help in this way.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Total £1,279 10 0.

New subscribers obtained by— Mrs. Basil Green 1, Miss S. Jones 1, Mrs. Mrs. Hythe 2, Mrs. M. C. Billing 1, Mrs. B. Bannerman 1, Miss M. A. Brice 2, Miss F. M. Byrne 1, Mrs. Court 1, Miss D. D. 1, Miss E. Edwards 1, Miss K. Evans 1, Mrs. G. 1, Mrs. Gover 1.

Previously Acknowledged 212. The Hon. Mrs. Hythe 2. Mrs. M. C. Billing 1. Mrs. B. Bannerman 1. Miss M. A. Brice 2. Miss F. M. Byrne 1. Mrs. Court 1. Miss D. D. 1. Miss E. Edwards 1. Miss K. Evans 1. Mrs. G. 1. Mrs. Gover 1.

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OUR POST BOX.

THE RECURRING THOUGHT. Dear Editors.—In this week's VOTES FOR WOMEN, under the column entitled "The World We Live In," there is a reprint from the "Sketch," in which we are told that, according to an eminent anthropologist, the date of the abolition of Matrimony was when man first enclosed spaces to till the land, and that the reason of the introduction of Patriarchy was the wish of the father to recognise his own offspring, in order to leave them the property he had acquired. I should like to point out that Professor Jenks, in his "Short History of Politics," gives us a different reason—not quite so pious—for the introduction of Patriarchy, and that the man who first enclosed spaces to till the land, and who first introduced Patriarchy, because he found their power to labour for him so very useful. The reason points out another husband to be sent to Miss Walls in Holloway, who is the wife's children, though not always so particular who really was the father. It seems that women resented the new method, and that was necessary to use a good deal of physical force, the man often taking a friend or relative to help him to capture the bride. There are many survivals of those old days in our present day marriage customs. The pretence of unwillingness, which many women still affect, is a relic of the old days. The "Best Man" is a relic of the friend who went to help, while the marriage portion is a survival of the old-time custom of paying the girl's father for the loss of her labour, though now this is settled on the bride herself. Good Luck to our paper, VOTES FOR WOMEN, and Votes for Women this year!—Yours, etc., ETHEL LEWIS.

AN INTERESTING SIDE LIGHT.

Dear Editors.—In this week's VOTES FOR WOMEN, under the column entitled "The World We Live In," there is a reprint from the "Sketch," in which we are told that, according to an eminent anthropologist, the date of the abolition of Matrimony was when man first enclosed spaces to till the land, and that the reason of the introduction of Patriarchy was the wish of the father to recognise his own offspring, in order to leave them the property he had acquired. I should like to point out that Professor Jenks, in his "Short History of Politics," gives us a different reason—not quite so pious—for the introduction of Patriarchy, and that the man who first enclosed spaces to till the land, and who first introduced Patriarchy, because he found their power to labour for him so very useful. The reason points out another husband to be sent to Miss Walls in Holloway, who is the wife's children, though not always so particular who really was the father. It seems that women resented the new method, and that was necessary to use a good deal of physical force, the man often taking a friend or relative to help him to capture the bride. There are many survivals of those old days in our present day marriage customs. The pretence of unwillingness, which many women still affect, is a relic of the old days. The "Best Man" is a relic of the friend who went to help, while the marriage portion is a survival of the old-time custom of paying the girl's father for the loss of her labour, though now this is settled on the bride herself. Good Luck to our paper, VOTES FOR WOMEN, and Votes for Women this year!—Yours, etc., ETHEL LEWIS.

AN APOLOGY.

Dear Editors.—I feel I owe you an apology for I have with my sorrow occasionally spoken against your cause. But this week, a few nights ago, I attended a meeting on the subject of Women's Rights at our "Lodge," and I, although I went a determined Anti-Suffragist, came back with my friends thoroughly convinced of the case, owing to the powerful speech of one of your advocates. I would find some other means of service to you if I offer my humble efforts on your behalf.—Yours, ALGERNON ASTON.

W.S.P.U. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

We are sorry to announce that, owing to the delay in crossing, Mrs. Pankhurst will be unable to be present at the Monday afternoon meeting at the London Pavilion, Piccadilly Circus, W., on Monday next, January 15. She will arrive on the "Minnesota" on Tuesday. Mrs. Pankhurst will therefore be the speakers on Monday, at 3.15. The evening meetings will be resumed at the Steinway Hall on Thursday evening, January 18, at 8 p.m., when Miss Christabel Pankhurst and Mrs. Parnwell will speak. All these meetings are free, and are held weekly. Similar meetings are held weekly in all centres where the W.S.P.U. is represented, see pp. 24-2.

RELEASE OF PRISONERS.

Owing to the refusal of the Home Secretary to grant the remission of sentences usual in the case of ordinary prisoners, the Suffragettes now in Holloway are due to be released as follows:— Mrs. Helen Bayly, Tuesday, January 16; Mrs. Leigh, Tuesday, January 23. The following, sentenced on December 12, will be released on Saturday, February 10:— Mrs. Evelyn Taylor, Miss Lezardine Atheling, Miss Clara Wilson, Miss Vera Westworth, Miss A. Hunkon Smith, Miss Olive Wharry, Mrs. Frances West, Mrs. Mary Violet Jones, Miss Pothery.

The following will be released on Monday, February 12:— Miss Grace Stuart, Miss Ethel Sides, Miss Georgina Helen Grant.

1,000 NEW READERS WANTED!

Those of our members who are unable to offer their personal freedom during these coming strenuous months are reminded that there is always one great work which all can do—i.e., getting new readers! So many of the outside public are anxious to know why we are militant. Give them VOTES FOR WOMEN, and then they will understand.

Writing from New York to renew her subscription, Mrs. J. B. Patten says: "I do not read a paper so much when it does not arrive, though I am glad to say many of my American friends have it." Miss May Havers (Baltimore) sends us the following extract: "The writer of the letter, who lives in South Africa, is over 70 years of age, has never come in contact with a single Suffragette, and knew nothing whatever of the movement until VOTES FOR WOMEN was sent to her twelve months ago, since which time she has read it regularly."

"I don't admire women breaking windows, but I expect they are so aggravated that they don't think of the consequences. It seems a great shame that they should be humbugged, time after time. What splendid work some of the women have done! The fact is, the men are afraid of the women who put some of them in the shade. I do hope the women will soon carry the day. They deserve to, when they give so much time, energy, and money to benefit other women."

"I think," says Miss Gayer, "this is another proof of the far-reaching influence of the paper, and the value of getting new subscribers."

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CAMPAIGN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

W.S.P.U. General Offices: 4, Clements Inn, Strand, W.C. BARNET. Hon. Sec.—Miss Rose West, 19, Stratford Road. Members are asked to concentrate during the next three weeks on working up the Barnet meeting on Saturday, 8, at 8 p.m. Speakers, Mr. Albury Jones, K.O. M.P., Miss Isabel Seymour, and others. Meetings will be held at 8 p.m. at which the Rev. J. H. Houslow will be one of the speakers; and it is hoped that members will invite friends—if possible—and Suffragettes to come to this district. Invitations can be obtained at the Shop. An excellent stock of books, directly and indirectly dealing with the movement, are now to be seen at the Shop. Other meetings will be held at 8 p.m. at which the Rev. J. H. Houslow will be one of the speakers; and it is hoped that members will invite friends—if possible—and Suffragettes to come to this district. Invitations can be obtained at the Shop. 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