

# VOTES FOR WOMEN

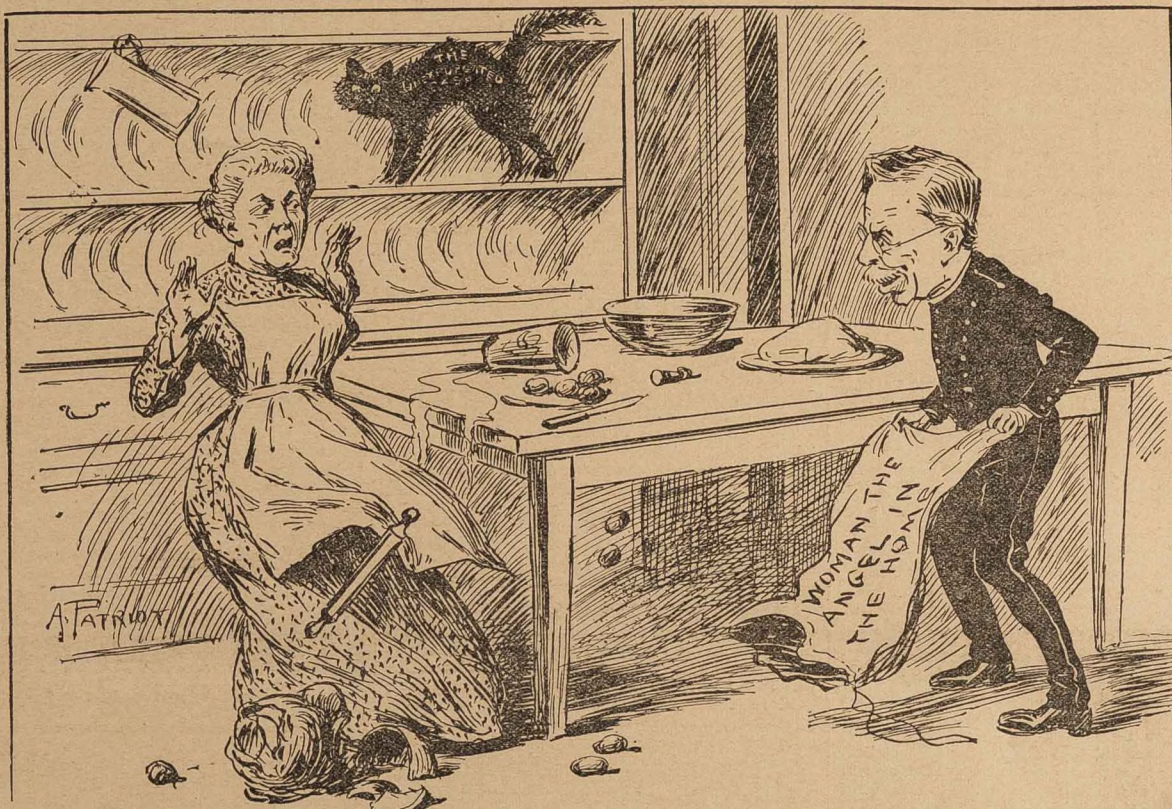
EDITED BY FREDERICK AND EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE

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## LETTING THE CAT OUT



**THE COOK (Mrs. Humphry Ward):** "O horror! I had disguised the cat so carefully in that pretty bag."  
**PAGE BOY (Sir Almroth Wright):** "Garn! You're only a woman."

In his book, "The Unexpurgated Case against Woman Suffrage," Sir Almroth Wright says: "One would not be very far from the truth if one alleged that there are no good women, but only women who have lived under the influence of good men."

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### 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

During the past few days the Government have provided several object lessons in the practical working of the Cat and Mouse Act. It would be difficult, in the modern annals of this country, to find a more degrading or more pitiable spectacle.

#### Mrs. Sanders and Miss Kerr

Consider first the case of Mrs. Sanders and Miss Kerr. Here are two women against whom no valid proof of connection with the violent actions of the W.S.P.U. has been given. One of them (Miss Kerr)

has specifically denied any intention of such connection. Yet in May last the Government, by throwing over them the wide net of a conspiracy charge, secured their conviction and sentence. Both women in prison adopted the hunger strike, and were released "under license" in a condition of great weakness. Mrs. Sanders was shortly afterwards re-arrested, and after another hunger strike again released.

#### On License

Then followed several months during which the Government took no further step, in spite of the fact that the whereabouts of both women were known to the police. An influentially signed petition on behalf of Miss Kerr drew from Mr. McKenna the statement that he would grant her full release only on the condition of her signing an undertaking which he must well know suffragists invariably refuse on principle to give. Last week they returned to take up their routine duties at the headquarters of the Union when they were promptly rearrested. Both again adopted the hunger strike, and both have been now again released on license.

#### Political Intimidation

In appraising the meaning of these facts, it has to be remembered that the Government have never even alleged that the W.S.P.U. as a whole was illegal; in fact, the exact contrary was stated specifically by one of the judges (Mr. Justice Darling) in a recent case; and further, we know that after the raid last

May the police vacated the W.S.P.U. offices and permitted the routine work to go on as before. Yet the return of Miss Kerr and Mrs. Sanders to their routine work at the W.S.P.U. is made the occasion of their arrest. It is, therefore, perfectly clear that the Government regard the optional powers conferred on them through the Cat and Mouse Act as a means of bringing pressure to bear on ex-prisoners to prevent them carrying on perfectly legal occupations if those occupations are politically displeasing to the Government.

#### Mr. Robson Paige

We next have to draw attention to the case of Mr. Robson Paige, who was arrested on the charge of obstructing the police, and who, in spite of his denial of the alleged offence, was sent to prison for one month last July. Owing to his allegiance to principle, he also carried out the hunger strike, and was subsequently released "on license," but was re-arrested and again released after a second hunger strike on August 6. In spite of the fact that he suffered at the time of his hunger strikes, and afterwards through consequent ill-health, a far severer and a far longer sentence than that inflicted on him by the court, his second re-arrest took place recently while he was crossing Tooting Common.

#### Other Prisoners

Consider thirdly the case of Mr. George Lansbury and the large number of other Cat and Mouse









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All advertisements must be prepaid. To ensure insertion in our next issue, all advertisements must be received not later than Tuesday afternoon. Address, the Advertisement Manager, Votes for Women, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE MEETINGS.

THE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—At Home to meet the Speakers of the Southampton Campaign (Church Congress) Tuesday, October 14, at 3 p.m., Caxton Hall, Westminster. Tea, 6d. Collection.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.—Holds Public Meetings at CAXTON HALL every Wednesday afternoon. Speakers, October 15, Mrs. Nott Bower on "Heroines of the French Revolution" and Mrs. Marion Holmes. The chair will be taken by Mrs. E. M. N. Clark at 3.30. Admission free.

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MISS A. PRESTON teaches motor-driving, running repairs; country pupils—4, St. Mary Abbott's Place, Kensington.

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