

"The Suffragette," October 17, 1913.

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The Suffragette

Edited by Christabel Pankhurst.

The Official Organ of the
Women's Social and Political Union.

No. 53—Vol. II.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1913.

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The Suffragette.

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A Review of the Week.

Eight Days' Torture.

Miss Annie Kenney was released from prison last Monday evening, after eight days' hunger and thirst strike. In view of the rapidly injurious effect of a thirst strike this detention of eight days meant very great danger, and the most acute anxiety was felt as time passed and no news came of Miss Kenney's release. The Government, actuated as always, by the meanest and most spiteful motives had evidently resolved to prevent Miss Kenney from fulfilling her intention of speaking at the Monday afternoon meeting of the W.S.P.U. To satisfy their inhuman malice they were ready to see her die in prison. On her release the doctor gave the following medical report:

"Miss Kenney's condition is causing much anxiety. She is suffering from acute abdominal symptoms, and her state of weakness and emaciation is very serious." Under these circumstances the statement made by certain newspapers, at the instigation of the Home Office, that Miss Kenney "on hearing that she was to be released ate a good meal," was offensive and cruel and calculated gravely to mislead the public as to the true state of affairs. Miss Kenney's Cat-and-Mouse licence is of five days' duration only and expires on Saturday next, October 18. The Government's intention again is to prevent her from appearing on the platform at next W.S.P.U. meeting to be held next Monday in the Knightsbridge Hall.

As we go to press we learn that Miss Kenney's condition is slightly improved.

"Medical" Agents of the Inquisition.

During this last term of imprisonment Miss Kenney suffered more than ever before, and her condition at and since her release has never been so grave. Readers of the SUFFRAGETTE must realise that the position is one of the greatest danger, and that the Government have, in view of her position in the Union, singled her out for special attack. While she lay desperately ill in prison she was visited by two Home Office "specialists." These agents of the modern Inquisition were responsible for advising that she be kept under torture for another three days. The medical profession is degraded by such conduct. Instead of intervening to protect the life and health, these

"doctors" and the Government are turning the screw of torture.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's Fight.

The Government were magnificently defeated in Bow last Monday night when they tried to arrest Miss Sylvia Pankhurst at the meeting which she addressed at Bow Baths. The police, as they had done at the London Pavilion on the previous Monday, invaded the platform and tried to seize their victim. They were, however, outwitted and overcome. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst was rescued by her staunch East End friends, who conveyed her to a place of safety, and at the same time did not forget to administer some highly educational treatment to the police as representing the Government.

On Tuesday night the prisoner was captured by the brute force of an army of fifty police constables and many detectives. How proud this woman-torturing Government must feel of their great "victory" over one woman. Their ignoble fury against Miss Sylvia Pankhurst is very obvious, and in the past they have treated her with great savagery. Now she is again in their power what is going to happen to her? To think that there are any anti-militant Suffragists in times like these.

Forcible Feeding Renewed.

The forcible feeding of two prisoners on remand is one of the gravest of the outrages yet committed by the Government. Miss Richardson and Miss Peace are accused, not convicted, of setting fire to "The Elms," Hampton-on-Thames, and have been committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court on November 4. Both prisoners, who have already been forcibly fed for several days, applied to the magistrate for bail. Their application was opposed by Mr. Muskett, solicitor for the prosecution, and refused by the magistrate. This means that these unconvicted prisoners are condemned to twenty-one days' torture by forcible feeding. Already the two prisoners are seriously ill. Miss Richardson is fed with the nasal tube and suffers great pain. She has very bad neuralgia, is suffering from indigestion, and there is an ulcer in her throat caused by the insertion of the tube. When being fed she is held by seven wardresses who are charged with the task of overcoming her resistance. Dr. Pearson, who on a previous occasion, when Miss Richardson was in prison for some mild offence, told her that the Government intended to reduce her to a nervous and physical wreck, presides over the operation of forcible feeding, and assures her with jeers and derision that this agonising torture to which she is being subjected can be continued indefinitely. But in spite of her extreme illness she announced before being taken from the police court back to Holloway that she will henceforward offer a resistance more desperate than ever to the torture inflicted upon her. Miss Rachel Peace is also very ill. After being forcibly fed for some days, she abandoned the hunger strike, believing that bail would be granted to her, but on the refusal of bail she decided to resume the hunger strike, and it is believed that she is again being fed by force.

A Cause Unconquerable.

The wonderful spirit which inspires the militant prisoners shines through every word spoken by Miss Richardson in court:

I should like to say that although the Home Office has succeeded in bringing me here this morning by turning a leaf back in the history of its infamy to women, neither it nor any other office in the Kingdom, however high, or however cruel, can compel me to serve my sentence, past, present, or future; and I say this in no manner of boasting, but to try and point out by this one fact alone, that the cause which animates me is unconquerable by the vacillating forces that are opposed to us. No power on earth can blot out the new ideal that has grown up in the minds of thousands of women, and until those in authority realise this, and are willing to meet the claims of women justly, I shall consider it my duty to oppose law and order in every way that it is possible for me to oppose it.

The glorious courage and the utter selfless-

ness of such women as these should stir every other woman to be at her best and do her greatest for the movement which these others serve at the risk of their lives with so much modesty and nobility.

Miss Lilian Lenton is also on hunger and thirst strike, and we learn with indignation that although she expressed a wish to see her legal adviser on his arrival at the prison, her solicitor was refused an interview. As Miss Lenton is a prisoner committed for trial and refused bail, this act of the authorities is a scandalous travesty of justice.

The Government's Lust for Torture.

The Government's announcement that the practice of forcible feeding was to be reverted to in certain cases called forth the following statement from the W.S.P.U.:

The Government's return to forcible feeding of militant Suffragists is fiercely condemned by the Women's Social and Political Union. The Government's savage action is prompted by anger at the indomitable courage of the Suffragists. In their lust for torture, the Government have not even waited until their two victims are convicted, but are beginning operations while they are still unconvicted, and, therefore, according to law, to be presumed innocent of the charge brought against them. The Government's torture of women is in glaring contrast to their cringing and compromising policy in face of Ulster's threats of civil war.

Hoping to blind the public to the truth, the Government have stated that forcible feeding will be applied only in the case of prisoners who for reason of the nature of their offence it is dangerous to allow to be at large. That this statement is a lie is proved by the fact that Miss Richardson and Miss Peace have never been convicted of any serious offence, but are accused merely—not yet convicted—of setting fire to a house.

Torture Condemned.

Protests against forcible feeding and against the treatment of Miss Annie Kenney have been many and effective. In a number of London theatres leaflets were thrown among the audience showing the agony and peril involved by forcible feeding and reminding those who read them that women are facing this agony and peril at the present time. As the King and Queen drove up to the Coliseum, where they were to see the "Good Samaritan" performance on Saturday, a number of Suffragettes drew their attention to the plight of their comrades in prison by rushing towards the royal carriage. Services at St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey were attended by Suffragettes, and prayers for those in prison were also uttered at the Liverpool Cathedral. At one of the Jewish synagogues on the Day of Atonement, women chanted the following words:

May God forgive Herbert Samuel and Sir Rufus Isaacs for denying freedom to women; may God forgive Herbert Samuel and Sir Rufus Isaacs for consenting to the torture of women.

It is high time that members of the Jewish community shall repudiate Sir Rufus Isaacs and Mr. Herbert Samuel, who by their policy of women torture and by other discreditable action have brought disgrace upon their co-religionists. Two organised protests were made at the royal wedding. As the King's carriage was moving slowly along a woman burst through the lines of police and soldiers and managed to get on to the step of the royal coach, eagerly holding out a petition to the King. She was immediately arrested. Later, as the bridal couple were passing along Upper Berkeley Street, a number of women shouted from one of the windows, "Annie Kenney is being done to death," and a shower of handbills was thrown down to the excited crowd beneath, who eagerly seized them and read their message. The thrashing by women of Dr. Forward, one of the medical officers who are torturing women in Holloway, is an outstanding event of the week. If men, in spite of all their advantages, are too feeble to stop torture, then it is not unnatural that

women shall take the law into their own hands.

Mrs. Pankhurst Leaves for America.

Mrs. Pankhurst left for America on Saturday last, sailing, as she had announced she would, from Havre, by the steamship Providence...

The Suffragette Leads the Way.

It is announced that Mr. John Burns, acting on behalf of the Government, has now invited various leading members of the medical profession to serve on the Royal Commission...

Protests at Political Meetings.

Two Cabinet Ministers and Mr. John Redmond have lately been holding forth at public meetings. Such activity on the part of the politicians provides Suffragists with welcome opportunities...

Protests against Mr. Redmond's opposition to votes for women and his support of torture were made at the Limerick meeting, and a woman sitting on the platform...

Mr. Philip Snowden has been challenged on three separate occasions during the last few days. At Blackburn, Deptford, and Surbiton he was almost prevented from speaking.

The £250,000 Fund.

Contributions Sept. 16 to Oct. 1.

Table listing contributions to the £250,000 fund from Sept 16 to Oct 1. Includes names like Mrs. Duggan, Mrs. Henry Bury, Miss Kathleen Corcoran, etc., with amounts in pounds, shillings, and pence.

NOTE.—Last week's total should have been £155,430 6s. 4d.

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We share the belief of the publishers of "The Suffragette" that their readers will respond to our announcement, and we would ask all those who visit our Galleries to kindly mention the name of this paper. Telephone: 4000 MAYFAIR.

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BECAUSE INIQUITY SHALL ABOUND.

The following comment upon a sermon preached in the constituency of Mr. Asquith was contributed by a Suffragette to the "East Fife Record."

"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."

Before giving out the above text and proceeding with his sermon our minister read the chapter in which it occurs. This chapter deals with Jesus's prophecy of the destruction of the Temple, and his warning against false prophets.

"Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted and shall kill you. And many false prophets shall arise and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound the love of many shall wax cold."

Such is the context of the verse that served this morning for a lecture on the ethics of obedience to custom, and the sin of disturbing the existing law and order. No criticism was offered of the law and order to be preserved, no suggestion that a race might outgrow custom, or that there might be any new way of doing anything that was justified in overthrowing the old. The attention of the congregation was directed to the sin of restlessness which was the besetting characteristic and sin of the age and foremost among the sinners, in this respect, were the children labourers, and a handful of women who seemed to think that their capacity for law breaking warranted their capacity for law making. Our minister is a bachelor, he has not taken a wife, or brought up children, or shared the labourer's lot, but from the height of the pulpit he judges and condemns the child who tries to express itself in spite of conventional restrictions, the man who tries to live in spite of starvation wages, and the woman who makes the home, in spite of her disabilities, social, legal, theological, and economic, which so undo Motherhood that the birth rate decreases alarmingly and the death rate is 130 per 1,000.

It is not possible to think that our Christian minister desires to oppress women, or to back up a system that abuses them so much that we have 350,000 Magdalenes in Great Britain, and 500,000 fresh cases yearly of diseases due to this abuse. It is not possible to imagine that a minister of the man who treated the Magdalenes with the utmost tenderness and whose chief friend and disciple was Mary Magdalene, it is not possible to think that the minister who is to instruct us in Christ's ethics should look down on women and oppose their struggle to rise to the same status as men. The only reason for a minister of Christ opposing Women's Suffrage can be that he thinks women too good for politics. If that is so, even the law-breaking women will admit that politics are too bad for anyone. As this must be our minister's view of women and politics, we look to him to speed the angels on their way when they come to the city to seek the ten good men for whose sake it shall be saved.

With regard to the destruction of the Temple we would like to know whether our minister considers that its fall was due to the restlessness of the age, and what Jesus implied when he said "there shall not be left here one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down."

Was the fall of the Temple a thing to be deplored, was it not greatly impelled and even directed by Christ, did he not give them this as a sign when they asked him for

a sign of his authority, "destroy this temple and in three days I will build it up," and did the Scribes and Pharisees not crucify him for his attack on the Temple, proclaiming him a blasphemer, a perverter of truth, and law breaker?

Our minister told us that we ought to uphold religious observances, for the Lord bade us to do this, but he did not give us the context of this command. It says in Matt. XXIII, "The Scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses' seat, all therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do, but not do ye after their works for they say and do not."

From the height of the pulpit it may look differently, but from our level in the congregation it seems as if all this unrest of the people was due to the "saying and doing" not of these in high places, and it is curious coincidence that the battle cry of the very women our minister condemns should be "Deeds, not words."

Down here among the congregation it seems to many of us that the letter of old ordinances kills the spirit, unless it is large enough to let the spirit flow through it. The letter of slavery is striving to strangle today the spirit of truth which is to make all free, and that it is the same as the unrest and rebellion of Jesus's time, "the old order changing giving place to the new" and not what our minister condemned as "self-will asserting itself against God's Will," that real love to God not only can exist in the spirit of rebellion, but is the inspiration and the hope of the present unrest as it was of the rebellion of Christ against "White sepulchres."

"Our little systems have their day, They have their day and cease to be, They are but broken lights of Thee, And thou, O! Lord are more than they"

writes Tennyson, and we think he was right, and that if we are to for ever abide by the old order no progress could be made. Does not man's law everywhere limit God's, and even sometimes oppose it? Is it God's law or man's that women should be prostituted, God's law or man's that those who are caught in the act of exploiting such prostitution should be sentenced to only two months' imprisonment, while the women who are giving their lives to put a stop to this are sentenced to twelve and eighteen months' imprisonment, and dragged back again and again to prison under the infamous "Cat-and-Mouse Act" for merely having broken glass or somehow destroyed property? It is because politically women are valued at so much less than property that the real state of the Mother-to-day is in such terrible contrast to the ideal.

In order to credit that our minister believes in this ideal we must attribute to him utter ignorance of the real, and pardon his misunderstanding and pulpit condemnation of actions that are as abhorrent to the militants as to him. Let us meekly turn the other cheek from the one he made burn to-day, when he hit women from the pulpit before the whole congregation, and let us hope to thereby bring a little light into the darkness of his misunderstanding in this matter.

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Programme of the Week.

LONDON.

Friday, October 17.

Table listing events for Friday, October 17 in London, including Battersea, Bow, Chelsea, and Fulham events.

Saturday, October 18.

Table listing events for Saturday, October 18 in London, including Battersea, Crouch End, and Ilford events.

Sunday, October 19.

Table listing events for Sunday, October 19 in London, including Clapham Common and Ealing Common events.

Monday, October 20.

Table listing events for Monday, October 20 in London, including Bow, Chelsea, and Knightsbridge events.

Tuesday, October 21.

Table listing events for Tuesday, October 21 in London, including Bow, Chelsea, and Stepney events.

Wednesday, October 22.

Table listing events for Wednesday, October 22 in London, including Hampstead, Ilford, and West Ham events.

Thursday, October 23.

Table listing events for Thursday, October 23 in London, including Bayswater, Bow, and Haringay events.

Friday, October 24.

Table listing events for Friday, October 24 in London, including Chelsea, Golder's Green, and Upper Holloway events.

COUNTRY.

Friday, October 17.

Table listing events for Friday, October 17 in the Country, including Birmingham, Cambridge, and Dundee events.

Saturday, October 18.

Table listing events for Saturday, October 18 in the Country, including Cambridge, Dundee, and Newcastle events.

Sunday, October 19.

Table listing events for Sunday, October 19 in the Country, including Cardiff, Leeds, and Nottingham events.

Monday, October 20.

Table listing events for Monday, October 20 in the Country, including Doncaster, Gateshead, and Hastings events.

Tuesday, October 21.

Table listing events for Tuesday, October 21 in the Country, including Aberdeen, Bexhill, and Leeds events.

Wednesday, October 22.

Table listing events for Wednesday, October 22 in the Country, including Birmingham, Cambridge, and Newcastle events.

Thursday, October 23.

Table listing events for Thursday, October 23 in the Country, including Edinburgh and Newcastle events.

Friday, October 24.

Table listing events for Friday, October 24 in the Country, including Cork, Dundee, and Newcastle events.

Ipswich and District.

Stall at Woman's Sphere Exhibition a great success, and it is hoped that a good profit will be cleared. Friends are all asked to collect goods for jumble sale to be held last Saturday in October. (Hon. Sec., Miss King, Tower Street.)

Norwich and District.

Members asked to be preparing for Autumn Session and endeavour to secure new readers for the SUFRAGETTE and new members. More paper sellers also needed. Those members and sympathisers wishing to contribute towards Miss Pratt's Defence Fund are asked kindly to send in their gifts at once in order that Fund may be closed as soon as possible. Donations may be sent to Miss Jewson at office of W.S.P.U., 52, London Street, Norwich, by whom they will be thankfully received. Will members please support M.P.U. meetings in Market Place every Sunday at noon. Paper sellers are needed here, and good sales may often be made.

NORTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

Barrow-in-Furness.

Returns are now all in for Laurence Housman meeting, and shows a balance of £2 8s. 5d., £1 6s. 7d. having been taken for collection. Profit on PRIMER for September, 11s. 3d. (Hon. Sec., Mrs. Pugh, 220, Lucerne Terrace.)

Liverpool and Cheshire District.

Miss Naylor's meetings, held twice daily an unqualified success. Several anti were converted, and SUFRAGETTE sold rapidly. Social held at Clarion Café last Thursday, at which Miss

Naylor spoke, several artists kindly contributing towards success of evening. Members glad to welcome Miss Turner (Miss Stephenson) again. Dr. Ker sold 72 papers at street-corners last week. Who will sell most next week? New seller welcomed, Mrs. Macfarlane. Members' meetings, Monday, 7 p.m. For open-air meetings held by organiser, notices to be had at office. Contributions wanted for autumn campaign. Office and now due. (Org., Miss H. Jollie; office, 5a, Lord Street.)

Manchester.

Jumble sale November 8, Eagle Street Schools. Parcels may be sent to office any evening, or Thursday and Friday afternoons. Offers of help wanted. Dec. 13, sale of work-Christmas presents, &c. Stalls arranged are: Home produce and dairy stall, Swedish industry stall, needlework stall, and Christmas present and toy stall. Entertainment, including recitals by Clarion Players, music and palmistry. Subscriptions urgently needed for Prisoners' Defence. Kindly send to Miss Nellie Allen and Miss Wallwork, treasurers. (Hon. Sec. pro tem.; office, 32, King Street West.)

NORTH-EASTERN COUNTIES.

Bradford.

Jumble sale realised over £25. Thanks to all who gave their help. Miss Cassey was not released from Armley gaol until Friday afternoon, although she had adopted hunger and thirst strike during whole time. Grateful thanks to Mrs. Bowers for having undertaken to nurse Miss Cassey. The fund for defraying debt on Mr. Lambury's meeting now closed. Mrs. Finlayson, Gaule, who is going to be in Bradford for a week, from Oct. 20, with Graham

Modfatt's "Scrape of the Pen" Co., has kindly offered to speak at afternoon meetings during that time. (Hon. Sec. Miss J. Millar Wilson, 68, Manningham Lane.)

Doncaster.

Mr. Laurence Housman's meeting, Oct. 8, great success. Weekly Monday At Home will be held at Trades Union Buildings. Excellent room taken. Hostesses wanted to provide and arrange for coffee, etc., after. Oct. 20, hostess Miss Davis, who will give private At Homes to friends or pay for one at Danum Hotel. Members met on Oct. 10 to discuss plans. Newcastle, Percy Main, Miss Balls, Miss Douglas, Newcastle, Quebec. Miss Eden, Miss Faulkner ... 6 p.m.

SCOTLAND.

Aberdeen.

Members will be glad that shop is open ready for autumn work to begin. The meeting will be held every Tuesday in shop at 8 p.m., and once a month it is being arranged to hold a hall meeting, when a speaker will come from London to address it. The SUFRAGETTE sale splendid. Public keenly interested. Excellent pitch for someone, Saturdays, near station, 1 to 1.30, for railway plant workers leaving. Who will volunteer? (Org., Miss Key Jones; office, 1, Halgate Chambers.)

Halifax.

Members meeting held at Mechanics' Institute. Resolved to ask every member to pay 5s. a year subscription. It is hoped to have two or three public meetings in course of winter. (Hon. Sec., Dr. H. E. Jones, 3, Rhodesia Avenue.)

Leeds.

Many thanks to Mrs. Hall for hospitality during summer and selling SUFRAGETTE every week. Will others send in their names who are willing to help her in this most important work? Sale of papers this week over fourteen dozen. Dance will take place in Collinson's Café, King Edward Street, on Nov. 12; fancy dress optional. Two prizes for women and two for men offered. Please apply Mrs. Cohen, 7, Warwick Place, for particulars. It is hoped to hold a jumble sale at end of November. Please keep all your jumble for same. Thanks to those who have promised monthly subscription to upkeep office.

Dundee.

Many thanks to member who met Mr. Churchill on his way to his first meeting; to those who met him on his return from it; to those who attended the women's meeting; and to those who made their presence known to him at Leeches. Hall meetings will begin next month, in addition to usual open-air meetings. Members urged to give time for canvassing for them. (Org., Miss Grant; office, 61, Nethergate, Dundee.)

Edinburgh.

The debate held on Thursday in office when Mr. Gordon took affirmative and Mr. Kitchen negative, went off splendidly. The subject was: "Is present militancy justifiable?" and though many strangers were present, there were only three dissentients when vote was taken. Open-air meetings most successful, good reports being given by speakers. Miss Balls held splendid meeting at Elswick Works during dinner hour. Members please note, organiser has arranged for special speakers for Wednesday night meetings. Mr. Park will speak Wednesday, Oct. 22, 8 p.m. Thanks to Mrs. Blanche for tea knives. Mrs. Kennaway will act as hostess on Oct. 18, and desires good attendance. Subscriptions for shop fund urgently needed, as rent will shortly be due. (Hon. Sec., Miss Emily Fussell; office, 77, Blackett Street.)

Glasgow.

Meeting at Charing Cross Halls last Saturday afternoon (first this autumn) an unqualified success. Speakers, Mrs. Gately and Mrs. Lawton, who are both made Royal organisers, as well as keen Suffragettes. Dr. Dorothea Chalmers Smith—whose trial will have taken place before this goes to press—presided over the meeting, and made a brave and eloquent appeal for active support. The sale of SUFRAGETTE is increasing, but there is still work for more sellers. (Org., Miss M. S. Allen; office, 27, Frederick Street.)

IRELAND.

Armagh.

A meeting has been arranged in City (Minor) Hall, Friday, Oct. 24, 8 speakers. Mrs. Baker and Miss Dorothy Evans. Members and friends in district are asked to give organiser all the help they can, and to make this meeting widely known. An open-air meeting will be held Wednesday, Oct. 22, 7.30. (Org., Miss Johnston, London's Imperial Hotel.)

Belfast.

Largest meeting so far held on Tuesday at Trevena, Knock. Mrs. Baker acted as hostess and took the chair. Miss Evans spoke, new members were enrolled, and much help with campaign was offered. Our poster parade this week set out from building which is shortly to be opened as Ulster headquarters. This is No. 5, College Square East, a four-storied house in central position in town. Tables and chairs and typewriter have been promised by members. Further offers of useful office furniture very welcome, particularly a cupboard. On Saturday, Oct. 11, in Donegall Square, Belfast, a joint protest meeting

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Chapter 8

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