

VOTES FOR WOMEN

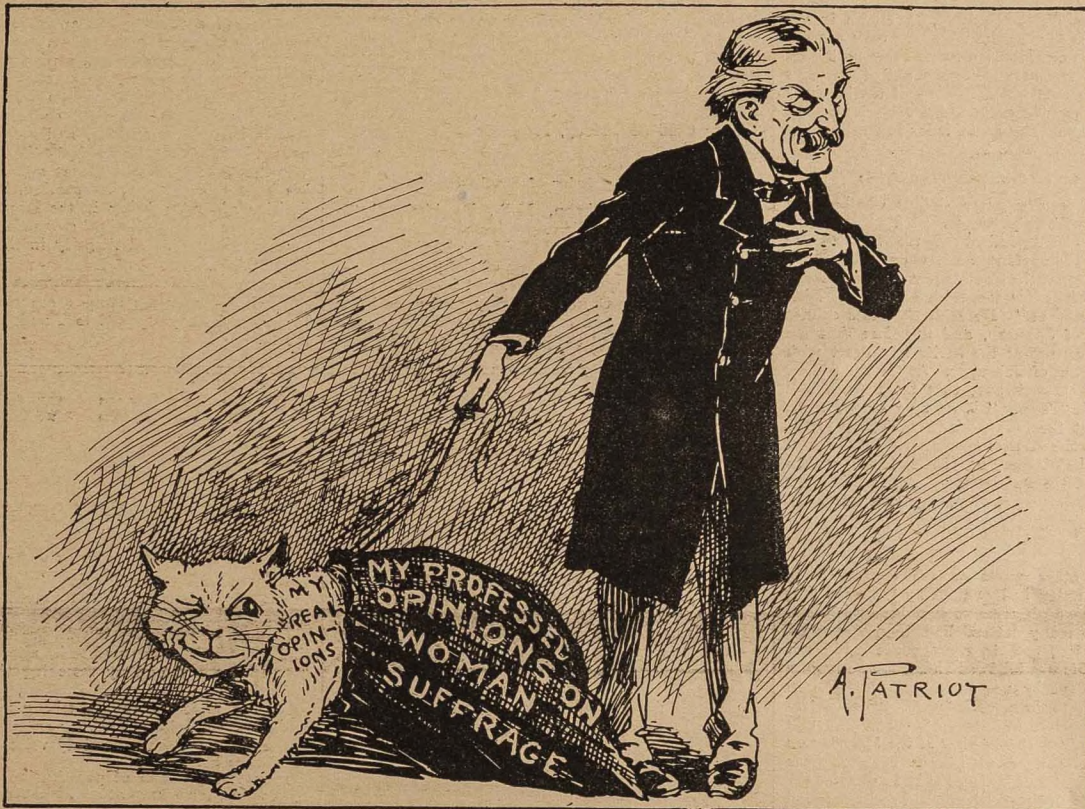
EDITED BY FREDERICK AND EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE

VOL. VI. (New Series), No. 248.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1912.

Price 1d. Weekly (Post Free, 1½d.)

LETTING THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG



Speaking at Kirkcaldy, on the Bow and Bromley election, Mr. Lloyd George said, "The Tory candidate [who is an anti-Suffragist] was my candidate, and he won."

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To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

THE OUTLOOK

The most important political event of the week for Woman Suffragists is the speech of Mr. Lloyd George on Tuesday last to a deputation of the Women's Liberal Federation of Wales on the prospects of securing Votes for Women under the Government's Franchise Bill.

The Gist of the Speech

Mr. Lloyd George made three points. Firstly, the position was not so good as he had anticipated it would be a year ago; that was due to the "wild,

mad work" of the militants, who had alienated their friends by their persecution of the Prime Minister and by their other misdeeds. Secondly, in spite of all provocations, he and his fellow Suffrage members of the Cabinet would vote for the inclusion of Woman Suffrage in the Franchise Bill. Thirdly, he urged upon his hearers the necessity of selecting one of the three principal Woman Suffrage amendments to the Bill and concentrating all their forces upon that; the one which he preferred himself was what is known as the Norwegian Amendment, and this was the only one which, in his opinion, had any chance of becoming law. The speech is given fully elsewhere (page 149).

Unpropitious Omens

We are not in the least surprised that Mr. Lloyd George is slowly coming to the conclusion that the "omens are not quite so propitious" as he professed to think them a year ago. We knew then, when Mr. Lloyd George "torpedoed the Conciliation Bill" by the promise of the introduction of the Manhood Suffrage Bill, that the "omens" were highly unpropitious; but it was not convenient to Mr. Lloyd George at that time to admit it. He professed then to think the prospects rosy; he now acknowledges them to be the reverse. What has happened in the meantime? Mr. Lloyd George says "militant methods"; but is it really militancy which has made the difference? Is it militancy which has converted the Irish Party into a solid hostile group? Is it

militancy which has split up the advocates of Woman Suffrage in the House into three parties, one of which supports adult suffrage, another the Norwegian Amendment, and the third the Conciliation Bill proposals?

What is the Cause?

Mr. Lloyd George and every politician who faces facts knows that it is nothing of the kind. He knows that the attitude of the Irish is dictated solely by party exigency, that they will vote when the time comes not on the merits of Woman Suffrage, not on the merits of militancy, but solely with the object of retaining the Liberal Party in power; and that if they think that any Woman Suffrage amendment is likely to be carried they will vote against it, lest haply they should cause the resignation of Mr. Asquith and the break up of the Coalition. As to the divergent views upon the number of women who ought to be enfranchised at one stroke, Mr. Lloyd George knows quite well that these existed before militant methods were commenced, and that if militant methods were to cease to-morrow they would still exist precisely as they do to-day.

Divide et Impera

The craft and cunning of Mr. Lloyd George are only equalled by the sublimity of his "cheek" and the gullibility of the public. In face of Mr. Lloyd George's pious utterances it is really difficult for people to remember what Mr. Lloyd George actually

MR. GEORGE LANSBURY

LANSBURY ELECTION FUND
A Further Sum Required
We have pleasure in announcing to our readers that the Votes for Women Fund for the election expenses of Mr. George Lansbury now amounts to a little over £300, and that the whole of this amount has been forwarded on to him.

Subscription List to Tuesday, Dec. 3
Already acknowledged 275 17 0
Mr. Boyd 10 0 0
Miss Vizard 0 10 0
Mrs. Major 3 0 0
Lady Constance Lytton 1 0 0
Miss Winfield 0 6 0
A Unionist Woman 0 2 0
Miss Joyce Dodgson 0 1 6
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Mrs. M. M. Hulme 0 2 6
'A. H. M.' 5 0 0
Dr. L. Garrett Anderson 5 5 0
Total £308 7 0

MR. LANSBURY AND THE LABOUR PARTY

The day after the poll was declared at Bow and Bromley the Executive of the Labour Party issued a statement commending Mr. Lansbury's action in resigning his seat and in expecting the Labour Party to vote relentlessly against the Government in the interests of Woman Suffrage.

To this attack Mr. Lansbury issued a vigorous reply, challenging Mr. MacDonald to furnish proofs of his having sought Liberal support, and saying: 'Of course, I was aware that Mr. MacDonald would not regret my being out of the House, but when he says that I invited Liberal M.P.'s or, in fact, any M.P.'s, to speak for me, he knows perfectly well that he is stating what is not true.'

With regard to Mr. MacDonald's further suggestion that Mr. Lansbury wished to pose as the martyr of a caucus, the latter proceeds to declare: 'Mr. MacDonald and his executive need not worry their heads about my being a martyr. There is nothing of the martyr about me. I have stood up to them, said my say, and taken my own line ever since I was a Member. I should have continued that line had it not been that we were told, in set terms, that those who would not hang together had to get out; as I preferred to hang separately I left the other crowd to hang together.'

Mr. Lansbury concludes by showing the impotence of the Labour Party to bring about reforms so long as it tamely follows the Government Whips into the Lobby.

In a statement issued later to the National Administrative Council of the I.L.P., Mr. Lansbury also recapitulates his reasons for seeking re-election at Bow and Bromley. 'I decline any longer to be a party to this fool business. I am out of Parliament by my own action. I shall remain out until Bow and Bromley or some other place cares to send me back unfettered and unbound to any party. I am quite certain that the party system in this country (which the Labour party is bent on imitating) is the greatest hindrance to democratic progress. My conception of Parliament is a place where every kind of opinion is fairly represented by men and women with freedom to speak and freedom to vote.'

Under the title of 'Intercepted Letters. From Mr. Ramsay MacDonald to Mr. George Lansbury,' a poem appeared re-

cently in the Morning Post, from which we quote the following verse:—
Then Farewell, Lansbury, a long farewell!
I cannot say we want you back again;
You're rather troublesome, the truth to tell,
Your independence cuts against the grain;
You know you never could your conscience quell
Nor ever could obey the party rein;
Yes, George, you're good and honest, not a doubt of it,
And for both reasons you're better out of it!

OUTE SIMPLE!—ADD WOMEN TO THE 'BODY OF THE ELECTORATE'
But if we are to see any effective resistance to the selective and repressive powers of the machines that stop the election of such men as Mr. Lansbury, we must look to the body of the electorate to furnish the House of Commons with at least a leaven of intricate and incorruptible men who 'go their own way irrespective of party wishes.' By so doing they will be serving the true interests of representative government.—The Nation.

A CHANCE ENCOUNTER
A correspondent sends us the following: A member of the Men's Political Union, accompanied by a lady, on entering South Kensington Station last Monday afternoon saw Mr. Lloyd George buying a newspaper at the bookstall. He went up to the Chancellor and said, 'I see you are going to disestablish the English Church. Won't you give women the vote first?' Mr. Lloyd George replied, 'When they behave themselves.'

Two companions who had been buying the tickets then came to the rescue, and supported the perturbed Cabinet Minister to the platform. The Suffragist followed to the top of the staircase, and in a loud voice denounced the Chancellor and other cruelties inflicted on women, adding that he ought to be thrashed. 'You couldn't thrash me,' replied Mr. Lloyd George, plucking up courage, and disappeared below.

A few minutes later the Suffragist again challenged the Chancellor across the metals, and invited the onlookers to 'look at the British Chancellor of the Exchequer who denies justice to the women, and proclaims himself from the house-tops as a great liberator and friend of the oppressed.' Mr. Lloyd George, pale with anger, came to the edge of the platform, but was unable to express his thoughts except by signifying with the pointing of a finger that he would like to see the Suffragist on the railway lines.

A wordy warfare between the Suffragist and Mr. Lloyd George's companions followed, and was only cut short by the arrival of the train.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER AT NOTTINGHAM
Miss C. A. L. Marsh writes to the Daily Herald to correct a misapprehension that may have arisen out of a statement made by Sir John Brunner, to the effect that holders of tickets of admission to the Liberal Federation meeting at Nottingham, from which she was ejected, were pledged not to interpose. Miss Marsh writes: 'This is incorrect. I obtained a spectator's ticket, and there was no pledge on it.'

A delegate to the N.L.F. meetings also writes to the Manchester Guardian to point out that the pledge referred only to the public meeting addressed by the Prime Minister. This was not the one at which Miss Marsh demanded justice for women.

THE WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC
At a general meeting of the London Graduates' Union for Woman Suffrage, the following resolution, moved by Dr. L. Garrett Anderson, was carried unanimously.—That this meeting welcomes the introduction of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, and urges its passage into law, at an early date, without weakening amendments. This meeting also records its conviction that deterrent legislation, though it may alleviate, cannot prevent the traffic and exploitation of women socially and economically, since those evils stand in close relation to their political subjection, and it believes that the legislation which would strike at the root of the social evil, of the sweating of women workers, and kindred ills is the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women.

THE LLANYSTUMDWY OUTRAGE
In the House of Commons on Monday, December 2, Lord Robert Cecil asked whether it is proposed to take any further proceedings in connection with the charge against Ben Evans of having torn the clothes and hair and otherwise beaten and ill-treated Mrs. Watson at Llanystumdwy? Mr. Ellis Griffith: The charge in question having been dismissed, my right hon. friend does not know of any proceedings which it is possible for him to take.

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Ladies' three pearl button Chevreton, made pique even, with silk trim. In black only. Per pair 2/11 1/2. Also stocked in grey, with two dome fasteners. 2/11 1/2 per pair.

WHY WRITERS WANT WOMAN SUFFRAGE

Fourteen writers, men and women, gave their reasons for being Suffragists in five-minute speeches at a reception of the Woman Writers' Suffrage League last Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. Flora Annie Steele, the new President of the League, considered the woman's point of view absolutely necessary to civilization. At present, man considered himself the hub of the universe, and if a woman succeeded in convincing him that he was not he got out of the difficulty by saying she was 'exceptional.'

Madame Sarah Grand said Great Britain and her Dependencies was the Englishwoman's home, and, as no man could manage a house, so men unaided by women seemed to be making a bad job of the management of this country. The Government was a 'feckless' body, and was clearly in need of a good wife to assist it in the task of managing its household.

Miss Beatrice Harraden said she had applied the imagination of the writer to the question and had been unable to convince herself that the vote would degrade her or unsex her, or that she had no brains, was incapable of defending her country, or that women's interests were safe in the hands of men.

Mrs. Belle Lowndes proudly claimed that her mother, over sixty years ago, was a signatory to a Woman Suffrage petition signed also by Florence Nightingale and Harriet Martineau; and Mrs. Zangwill simply said in twelve words: 'Every woman who gives the vote to men applies equally to women.'

MR. JOHN MASEFIELD
We are delighted to read that Mr. John Masefield, an occasional contributor to Votes for Women and a good Suffragist, has won the Edmond de Polignac Prize of £100, for his poem, 'The Everlasting Mercy.' A better choice could not have



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"THE GRAND OPPORTUNITY"

A meeting of the "Joint Committee for Securing the Enfranchisement of Women on Broad and Democratic Lines" was held in the London Opera House on Wednesday, December 4.

Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P. (Secretary to the Labour Party), presided at the morning session, and divided his speech between an apology for the Government and an appeal for support for an amendment to the "Reform" Bill.



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The Smithies-Taylor Case

In our issue of November 8 we gave an account of a case heard before Judge Smyly at Bow County Court on November 1, when Mr. Thomas Smithies-Taylor brought an action for assault against certain Liberal agents and officials.

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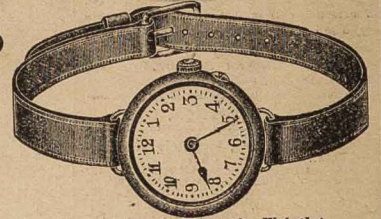
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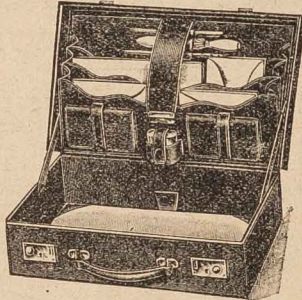
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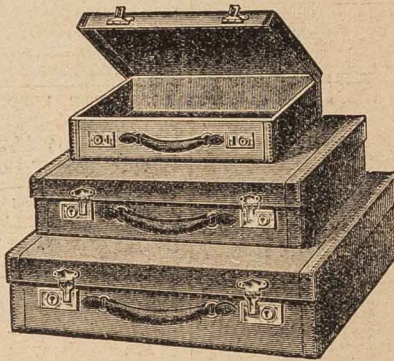
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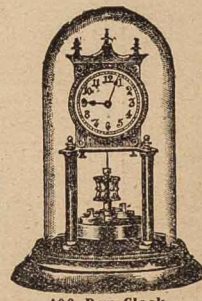


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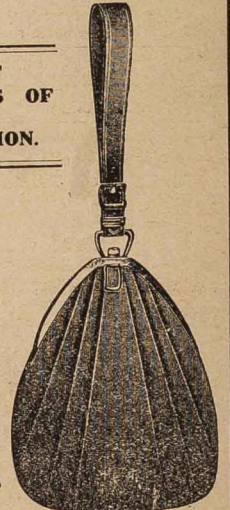


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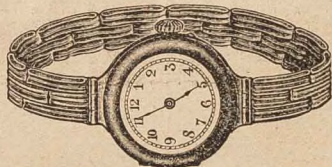


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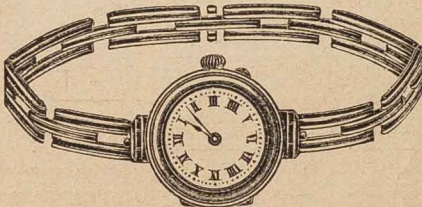
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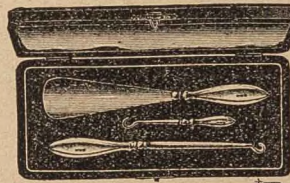


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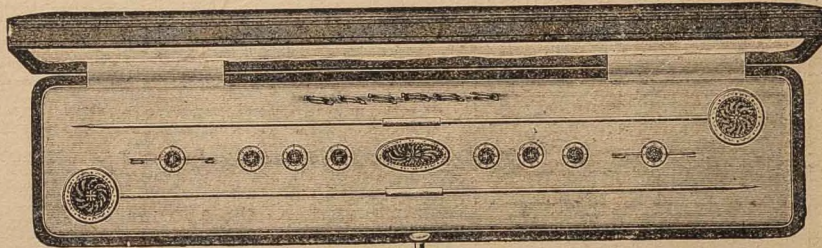
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