Christabel Pankhurst

9 rue Roy
Paris

24th Nov 1912

200

Dear Mr Lansbury

Best wishes from an absent friend to Mrs Lansbury and yourself for success on polling day.

Whatever the result the fight has been gloriously worth while and has done untold good.

We want Mrs Lansbury & yourself to be at a great public meeting after the Election, but you will be hearing from the office about that

Yours very sincerely
Christabel Pankhurst

(201)

My Dear Lansbury.

No Liberal-minded Elector of Bow & Bromley should fail to record his Vote for you on Tuesday 26th.

1. Because you stand for a great and noble cause, "that of the toiling and sweated female workers" of Bow & Bromley; although the course of resigning your seat to test the feeling of your constituency may not be practicable for M.P's generally, yet all great causes have needed Pioneers and Prophets to secure their triumph.

2. The success of the cause by Constitutional means (which is your aim in Parliament) would render any further militant methods unnecessary.

3. Should any elector boggle at militant threats of "destruction of Property" let them remember that your resolute opposition to "Tariff Reform" and your recent attitude of "Don't Shoot" show that you have a great regard for human life and well-being, and that you ought therefore (without a moment's hesitation) to be preferred before your opponent whose policy would be disastrous both at home and abroad. Wishing you success

Yours faithfully

A Poplar Free Church Councillor

25. 11. 02

"infinitely more important than "property"; –

P.T.O

(202)

Private

30, Surrey Avenue
Manor Park Essex.
24. 11. 12

Rev. Henry White

Dear Mr Lansbury

I wish I could come & work for you but cannot find time just now.

As an Elder of the Presbyn Ch: of Bow & East India Rd & a Frch: Councillor, I feel constrained to write you as overleaf, you are at liberty to make any use of it you may think fit.

Kind regards & best wishes

Yrs faithfully

Hy. White

Geo. Lansbury Esq.

P.T.O

C. of E., Member of the

203

25. Nov. 1912.

Dear Sir

Although I do not know you personally may I take the liberty to write & tell you that my whole sympathies are with you in your contest tomorrow. Not so much as a supporter of the women's cause, as because I feel that England as a whole needs you as one of her rulers, I hope & pray that you may be returned to Parliament. I do not know

what your religious opinions are definately, but I heard your grand speech in the Albert Hall Last month & felt that such ideals & aims could only come from a really sincere & christian man.
With you I am a great admirer of St. Francis of Assisi. As you said then we want the spirit of christ ruling our social relations, making us "do unto others what we would they should do unto us". Therefore as a christian & a Socialist I hope & pray for your success.
God Bless you.

Yours very sincerely
a Member of the Church of England

P.S. Make any use of this you like, – either to light your pipe or publish, or anything else.

Harold Cox
(1859 – 1936)

Tel. 3662 City.

6, Raymond Buildings,
Gray's Inn, W.C.

205

Nov 25/12

My dear Lemstrey

Just a line to wish
you good luck
to-morrow.

Yours very truly
Harold Cox

STATION: BEACONSFIELD.
TELEGRAMS: PENN.

JESSAMINE COTTAGE,
TYLERS GREEN, BUCKS.

206

25. 11. 12.

Mary Gawthorpe of WSPU
(see Pankhurst 1931)

Dear Mr. and Mrs Lansbury,

There is only one thing my mother and I wish to say to you about tomorrow's decision in Bow: May it be a triumphant victory!

Admiringly,

Mary Gawthorpe.

(207)

W. J. Murray Arrowthwaite,
Whitehaven,
25. 11. 12.

Dear Comrade.

Allow me at this juncture to trespass on your valuable time just to express to you my heartiest wishes for your success on Tuesday next. Ever since I was introduced to you by my esteemed friend and comrade, Tom. Richardson, I have always had a kindly feeling towards you. Your kind and sympathetic nature, & your honest desire to do your duty for the workers makes one appreciate & admire you for your courageous & outspoken frankness. That Sunday afternoon in July last in Victoria Park in London - I believe that is the name of the place, when the S.L.P. was having a Field Day. I will never forget your appeal on behalf of the little kiddies of the Dock Strikers, & the way in which the large concourse of people assembled came to your aid, & the troop of little children who rallied around about you made me feel that in you, at least, the little ones had a dear & true friend.

Up to lately I was not much in accord with the Suffragette movement, & only as late as August last I was contesting the point with my friend Richardson when he was spending a

(208) W. J. Murray 25 Nov 1912

A day or so at my home. While on a visit to his people. I am pleased to say that, after reading the "Suffragette" & "Votes for Women" which some good friend sends me, & going more into the subject, I am convinced that the women should have the vote, & have a right to be included in the new Franchise Bill. I may not quite agree with the way some of them are going about to get it, but, nevertheless, I am in hearty accord that they should have the vote. If they would go more in for organizing meetings & demonstrations in every city, town, & hamlet, they would soon, I believe, create such a feeling & a desire that would win for them the respect & esteem of all classes, & ultimately their desired object. Force, as you well know, will never do, but patience, persuasion, & kindness will eventually overcome all obstacles.

I sincerely hope & trust — & I have every confidence that they will — for the sake of the Labour Movement & the cause of the women you have honestly at heart, that the workers of all who believe in equal opportunities for all in Bow & Bromley will rise to the occasion to-morrow (Tuesday) & send you back to the House of Commons with one of the biggest majorities ever recorded by any MP for that place or anywhere else.

Accept kind regards to yourself & your wife & family.

Yours sincere comrade,

W. J. Murray

P.S. I am President of the Haven Branch I.L.P., & I know among our members the women & yourself have some hearty supporters

See vol. 28.a, fo. 85 for a letter from
J. H. Banks, dated 26 November 1912

(209)

9 Stainforth Rd
Walthamstow

Charles E. Buck 26/11/12

Dear Comrade

Bow & Bromley's disgrace! a working class constituency to return a thing like Blare! They'ddeserve all they get. if it wasn't for their damned ignorance, poor beggars. I am not thinking of your losing the M.P. ship. Its a gain to you in some respects But what about us? What about all the weak-kneed beggars in the House whom your return would have strengthened. Thank God there's 3200 stalwarts in Bow. They are the saving grace. A lot of us felt a big bump in the throat at your result; in spite of the many, many losses we have had in the past, there's not many of them I think will affect Socialists like this one. But still, we'll win out

Yours

Chas E Buck

(210)

The National
Arts Club
New York

Gramercy Park
Manhattan

Mrs. Joseph Fels

Nov. 26, 1912.

Dear Both-of-you:—

I was very glad to get Bessie's letter but not glad to read that George was over-tiring himself. I hope that sentence recorded only a temporary fatigue. Still, I wish you were here or we were there, so we could have a holiday together. I wonder whether you miss me as much as I miss you? Meeting countless people, and many of them rare, rich personalities, does not

after the case; one still longs constantly and increasingly for those nearest and dearest to one. Thus I miss you all the time.

In standing for Woman Suffrage George stands for by-far the greatest reform of our time. Nothing can exceed the need of just economic conditions; yet woman suffrage must go before. Joe's efforts subserve the question of material subsistence; and nothing avails until after this is provided. Woman suffrage, however, will help in this also, - will help to bring it about.

Have I told you of our evening with Dolly and her husband? We liked the latter very much. He is a clean, fine young man. They seem well suited. Dolly has indeedy had some bad attacks of home-sickness. This showed, not so much in what was said on the subject as in what one saw in Dolly's face at mention of it. It is well they have left Brooklyn to come to New York. The very atmosphere of Brooklyn is depressing; the mental atmosphere, I mean. We were finding Philadelphia

2

so; it was good to come away. We have, however, been back there the past five days: I, to attend the National Woman Suffrage Convention, and Joe on business and to be led by his wife into taking part in the Suffrage Convention. It is plain that woman suffrage is coming fast in this country. What a difference the very on-coming makes!

We are hoping Dolly and he will join us this evening. We go away again 36 hrs. hence: to Boston for five days of Single Tax convention.

Perhaps you have read of how your stand was brought before the meeting of the Men's League for Woman Suffrage?

I must stop.

So lovingly yours Mary.

Rev. H. J. Kitcat

(213)

The Rectory.
Bow
Nov. 26. 1912

My dear Lansbury

We are so sorry. Such time, you have gone straight & played the game. That's both of us

Yours affectly:
H. J. Kitcat

F.W. Pethick-Lawrence
(1st Baron Pethick-Lawrence)

214

ENTRANCE, 3 & 4, CLEMENT'S INN.

87, CLEMENTS INN,
W.C.

Nov 26. 12

My dear Lansbury

I have just heard the news.

You have made a great fight; it has been well worth it; you have hitched your waggon to a star & others will follow where you have lead. I wish I were with you to shake

215

you by the hand dear Comrade.

Do you remember the lines:-

"Great is the facile conqueror
But he who unhorsed & covered
with blood & sweat yet fights all
evermore
Is greater yet."

I am not sure that I have got them right, but that is the sense.

God speed to you

Yours Publius Lauverne.

(216

13, WELL ROAD,
HAMPSTEAD HEATH, N.W.

Mabel Lawrence 26.XI.12.

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

I am just writing to congratulate you on the splendid fight you made. Every Suffragist in the kingdom will be thinking that

tonight. We have
lost our best friend
in Parliament, but
we are proud to
have such a man
for our champion.
Your work will
go on just as much
outside Parliament is
in, like Sidney Webb
& others your power
may be greater
because you are tied
to no one party.

217

It is not my condolence I want to express – for a man who ~~the~~ hazards his career for his principles is not the man to be pitied, but my heartfelt thanks for all you are doing for us.

Believe me

Yours sincerely

Mabel Lawrence

Telephones { 1960 VICTORIA.
4384 VICTORIA.
Telegrams: "VOICELESS, LONDON."

(218

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Catherine E. Marshall
of N.U.W.S.S.

Nov. 26. 1912

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

I am sorry. I have just returned from hearing the result at Bow. Never mind. We must educate the constituency a bit more before the next election, & make some that you shall go back again then. Your absence from the House meanwhile will be a grievous loss to the cause of all the wronged & the oppressed. I think I am most sorry for your friends who will miss you there. Yours very truly

Catherine E. Marshall.

(219)

William Stephen Sanders
(1876–1941)

Mrs. W. S. Sanders
(D. Martin; d. 1932)

18 Bryanmaer Road
Battersea
S.W.

Nov. 26. 1912

Dear Lansbury

Accept our congratulations ~~to~~ on your plucky fight for a cause which only brave men support and our assurances that we condole with Bow and Bromley on the loss of a real man as its representative

Yours
William Stephen Sanders
Beatrice Sanders

We shall win yet.

(220)

John Scurr, M.P.
(1876 – 1932)

13, WOODSTOCK ROAD,
POPLAR, E.

Nov 26 1912

Dear George.

Never mind old man.

You have fought a true fight and have really gained a victory. 3291 people have been found in Bow & Bromley to vote for "clean" politics.

"Beaten back in many a fray
"Newer strength we'll borrow
"Where the Vanguard fights to-day
"The rear guard camps to-morrow."

Yours ever in the cause
John Scurr

Frank Smith

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION, 1912,

221

BOW AND BROMLEY DIVISION.

GEORGE LANSBURY, Labour Candidate.

J. H. BANKS,
Election Agent,
6 CAMPBELL ROAD,
BOW, E.

150 - Bow Road
Nov 26 1912

Dear Old Pal

We admire & love & believe in you more than ever - This is not a defeat - Bow & Bromley is lost - politically - but the cause you fought for **LIVES** - It is really only just born - up to the present it has been talked about - you have raised the standard

and you may be sure that this fight has rallied to it many thousands - a new spirit is abroad, you have called it into being Hallelujah! It will grow and triumph -

Henceforth we are with you, without party ties - Labour or Liberal - Till the women's cause is ~~[illegible]~~ WON -

Ever Yours
Frank

Mrs Macpherson
J Marshall

P. Palmer
A Chapman

J. Banks
Elizabeth Smith
Wm H Begg
Wm R Palmer
A McLennan
Mrs S Jones
H.G. Cheshire
A E Banks
D. C. Fox
Tom Williams Junr
A Cass
A. Bailey
E Edge
J Shing
J Mann
J Paller
H Paffey
C Jenkins
P Olsen
A. D. Macpherson

Josiah Clement Wedgwood
(1st Baron Wedgwood; 1872–1943)

26.11.1912.

Dear George

Just a line to cheer you up — if you want it. You have at any rate the satisfaction of having done the right thing, & possessing a clean conscience.

It is we who are

to be printed.

Yours very sincerely

Josiah C. Wedgwood

PS. Don't reply, but do come & see us at 18 W.M.

PPS The good boys have all told me it was Outhwaite & I that did it!

Henry J. Watkinson MP

N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, Ltd., Lond.

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Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Kings Cross

Charges to pay } s. d.

Handed in at } 5.43 a .M., Received here at } 8

TO { Lansbury / Sr Stephens Ha

God save the people an
give you victory. Watkinso

N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

(224)

EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, Ltd., Lond.

Aitken, Barnes, Yarrow

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Office Stamp

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Hotel Cecil

Charges to pay } s. d.

Handed in at } HO P.M. Received here at } 149 P.M.

TO { Mrs Andrews Lansbury St Stephens Ka Bow

We shall never forget what you have done for us we shall have you in our house of commons again soon it sorely needs you may Gods Blessing rest on you and yours

Eleanor Barnes Aitken and Yarrow

William Boulding
[noted Hampstead doctor]

(225)

Nov. 27. 1912.

Dear Mr Lansbury,

As one who, with my daughter, worked hard during the recent few days at Bow, it is needless for me to tell you how we found strong love and devotion for you among your supporters. But we should like to tell you of how we watched a new spirit animating the colourless lives of the women and a new hope coming to them. My daughter saw their faces kindle day by day; and I wish you could have heard what the women said when I was looking up tardy voters and at other times. In acting on principle you have started a force, not merely in Bow, but in England, which can but gather momentum. No one can know as well as you

do. how temporary is defeat and even disaster; for to act on principle is also to act expediently. For it is often very difficult to calculate even immediate consequences; to foresee ultimate results is impossible. All we can be sure of is that Right will become Might in time. I hope that you and all your friends will live to see the first-fruits of the fine stand you have made.

I purposely withhold my address for I should grieve if you thought it necessary to reply. I feel impelled, however, to utter what all your friends who have worked and many others must have in their minds.

Believe me

Yours very faithfully

William Boulting

G. L. Bruce

(227)

27. xi. 1912

London County Council,
Education Offices,
Victoria Embankment, W. C.

Dear Lansbury

I think a little about yesterday's vote & the future. Of course as a Liberal I am glad you were beaten. You appealed against the Government & lost.

But personally I am very sorry, & more sorry if it leads you to give up the general issue that you have represented so far, & to narrow yourself to the one issue of women's votes.

In time, even those who most disagree with your policy, feel that you represent a large ideal. At the next general election I hope we shall have a good Liberal candidate, & in that case I should of course work as hard as I could

against you. But it is quite possible that we shall not get a candidate; if so many who obtained or even voted against you this time would probably help you as they did before.

I should very much wish you to think things over carefully — and after a rest — rather than devote yourself to the cause of women's franchise which has made devotees now — I know you won't think of yourself. I do urge that the work you have been doing & can do is far more urgent — not merely in itself, but also because the labourers are so few —

Meanwhile please believe that many — friends & foes — are very sorry that you are no longer to represent Dundee.

Sincerely yrs.
G. R. Strachey.

Herbert Burrows

(229)

Private

99 Sotheby Road
Highbury Park N.
27th. Nov. 1912.

My dear George,

It was a great fight and it is bound to have its ultimate effect. The immediate question is as to what should be done now and soon to help that effect on. Cannot a few of us meet and have a quiet talk and help to hammer out something?

The one outstanding fact is the present absolute chaos of the Labour and Socialist Parties – all of them. None of them have any fixed principle – they don't know what they want nor where they wish to go – if anywhere. The B.S.P. is rapidly being honeycombed with Syndicalism, whatever that may mean. There are two sections on its Executive, one fighting against the other. The same with the I.L.P. which has its forwards (I am afraid in the minority) supporting you – the other, the timid ones, hanging on to the tail of the Labour Party. The Labour Party is dominated by the Trade Unionists, who, if ever there is a forward Liberal semi-movement engineered by Lloyd George (and that is on the cards) will join such a movement. Everything is mixed and chaotic in the extreme. What is the way out? That question is not to be settled off hand nor in 5 minutes, but

Burning the fight you set a great moral note which must be maintained right along. Are you going to answer the Labour Party's attack? What is Hardie going to do?

it is worth while talking over and we ought to do that.

Frankly I did not agree with you in making the woman suffrage the one supreme question. I don't believe it is. To me the questions of the children the unemployed and housing are more important still. Of course I know full well your idea that given woman's suffrage and these things will immediately be tackled. I don't believe that either. The women's vote means a reactionary government for ten years at least. That is my deliberate (and sorrowful) opinion. Yet of course they must have the vote. But side by side with the agitation for it there must be a definite social and socialist programme. The Minority Report and the War against Poverty work fine that. The suffering children must be maintained by the community and the unemployed must be set to work on definite socialist lines – while the housing must be tackled municipally and nationally. These things, with ~~the~~ woman suffrage, would draw an immense body of support and will be well worth all our energy and agitation.

Then as to militancy – I am a militant in the sense that all slaves have a right to choose their own method of rebellion and it is not for me to say them nay. But I may question the wisdom of their methods. Thus I believe the Dublin theatre business, the setting fire to letter boxes, the breaking of some of the windows to be unwise. I do honestly think that again as to adult suffrage in which I so strongly believe. I am utterly opposed to every form of limited suffrage and would oppose it tooth and nail. It is as much a betrayal of those women who will be outside it as the present situation with regard to all women is.

There is more than enough to talk over if there is to be any approach to a new era. Don't trouble to answer this but when you can let us have the talk with a few trusty men and women. Every kind wish. Fraternally yrs Herbert Burrows.

A. Cox

22, Wooler St.
Walworth
S.E.

[say 27 Nov 1912]

230

Dear George,

It is with regret that I hear the result, of the Bow + Bromley Election. My wife + myself had the pleasure of hearing your great speech at Bow-Baths last Sunday, and we got a surprise, we found that you were not, this terrible Gasbury the press would have us believe, but I

think you will get over
this little defeat, for men
with your principles are
rare in this World of
selfishness, I believe my
wife would have gone without
her weeks-wages rather than
heard of your defeat, but
never mind cheer up.

Labor omnia vincit

Yours Sincere

A. Cox

Gordon Crosse (232)

CHRIST CHURCH (OXFORD) MISSION,
FOLLETT STREET,
POPLAR, E.

TELEPHONE:
No. 1102 EAST.

Nov 27/12

My dear Lansbury, just a line more for my own satisfaction than anything else –
It is a great achievement to have taken a step towards forcing a clear issue between the two real parties (not the sham ones) those for the workers and those against them – When once this is

made clear the result can only be matter of time –

Now you must have a good rest and be ready for the General Election –

always affectionately

Jordan Crosse

No answer expected –

Crowsley

[say 27 Nov. 1912]

57. Ricardo St
Fareyreen
Hanley
Staffs

233

Dear Mr Lansbury

I am sorry to see that you did not succeed at the election. Not that I have any faith in Parliament. But it has shown that wrong is more acceptable than Right. I know that in your heart you are more happy despite your refusal than the other is with his acceptance

Truly we suffer for our sins
Is it do you think our ignorance
or our greed. I believe it is our
selfishness. We never consider
if a thing will be good for <u>us</u>
<u>all</u> but if it will benefit
<u>me</u>. I admire you for your stand
And so will all lovers of Justice
I would remind you of those
words which say. Go on living
while ye may, striving with
whatsoever pain and labour
needs must be, to build up little
by little the new day of Fellow-
ship and rest and happiness.
Fellowship is ~~Life~~ Life lack of
Fellowship is ~~Hell~~ death

I know that your heart is
full of love for the down trod
en and oppressed and the fact
that those whom you would
save have rejected you must
cause you pain But it has all
ways been so. And the same
reason that caused Christ to
weep I know will cause you tears
Heart felt tears for those who
refuse salvation. As he said
O Jerusalem How oft would
I have gathered you under my
wings but ye would not. Behold
your desolation. Even now we
will not and behold our desolation

Fellowship is Heaven lack of Fellowship is Hell. He who doeth well in Fellowship and because of Fellowship, shall not fail though he seems to fail today but in years to come shall he and his work still live and men be holpen by them again and yet again. With all best wishes I am yours sincerely. F. Crowsley

234

Private;

From The Rev. GILBERT DAVIES, ~~M.A.~~
late of St Jude's, Southwark
~~100, BROOK STREET,~~
~~KENNINGTON ROAD,~~
LONDON, S.E.

28, Hopedale Road,
Charlton S.E.
November 27th. 12;

Dear Mr Lansbury,

I have had the pleasure of meeting you at many gatherings of all kinds in the past in the Progressive interest, & feel that you will take all I am about to say in the kindly & sincere spirit in which I intend it. In this critical stage of the political situation, when Tories are threatening us with Protection & a reversal of all Trade Union legislation, it seems no less criminal to the general Progressive position than to the Women's Suffrage question for you to resign your seat, & hand it over as you have done to one who is opposed to every problem that Progressives & Liberals have to solve; If all Progressive men & friends acted as you have done no one Reform w.d ever have been placed on the statute book, We must sink our

2/ individual views sometimes sacrificed in the general good: The Govt. programme of Home Rule, Welsh Disestablt.n and Franchise Reform is an arrear, caused by the House of Lords in the past frustrating all Liberal measures getting onto the Statute Book, must be got out of the way; Women's Suffrage has been made much more difficult to pass in any event by your action in throwing away a seat. You must remember by your action in Jany. 1910 you threw out a well-tried Liberal Member at Bow & Bromley in Mr. Stepford Brooke, as good a progressive as yourself, & in the following December, notwithstanding this, the Liberals of the Boro' forgave you, accepted you as their nominee, & Mr. Lloyd-George gave you his bruisers. You were returned, which you hardly deserved. Then your action in insulting the Prime Minister some time back, for which you have never been expressed regret or apologized for, has not been forgotten. Mr. Asquith please remember, has led the Liberal party through 4 or 5 most momentous years with marked success, & has won the entire confidence of the whole party. Furthermore the question of Women's Suffrage has not yet got into the programme of the Liberal (or any other) Party.

Yours very sincerely. Gilbert Davies.

We must remember ... more slowly, will have orderly, practical, well-ordered government.

... we may feel, that the Irish people

Joseph Fels
Mrs. Joseph Fels
Lincoln Steffens
Mr. Upton Sinclair

(236)

National Arts Club
Gramercy Park
New York, Nov. 27, 1912

Dear George, —

We are about to celebrate your defeat. Dolly and her husband will be here soon and we shall talk about you during dinner and all through the evening. We, who know you best and love you most, believe your good angels determined this defeat, which will prove a means to greater victory.

Our thought turns at once to your now being free, perhaps, to come to America, you and Bessie. You need a holiday and we need

See vol. 28.a, fo. 86, for a letter from
Mrs. Henry Fawcett, dated 27 November 1912

Joseph Fells
Mrs. Joseph Fels
Lincoln Steffens
Mr. & Mrs. E. Thurtle

Cable

(237)

27 Nov. 1912

you. Do make up your minds and plan at once to come over here. Let us know as soon as possible and say whether you will accept some choice engagements to speak. It would mean speaking for woman suffrage, or against social evils of various kind.

It may happen that I shall go back to England with you. Joe goes to Paraguay in Feb. or March; I shall not go with him, but remain in New York for the most part until I am ready to return to the English home.

I am deeply in earnest about your coming over, as are the others. I have a

27 Nov. 1912
Fels

238

place where we can live, you and Bessie and I, and it is close to Dolly's present place. You see how outer fortune favors the good scheme. Do you lend yourselves to the heartfelt wish of

Yours so lovingly
Mary.

Lincoln Steffens
Dolly.
Ernest Thurtle
Joe — Fels

There are some good paying engagements for you to operate on here — as much as 20 to per speak for pretty price — Say the word and we'll begin to work —

Fels

239

PLEIDLAIS I DDYNES.

THE FORWARD CYMRIC SUFFRAGE UNION

FOR MEN AND WOMEN.

WE DEMAND THE VOTE FOR WOMEN ON THE SAME TERMS AS IT IS OR MAY BE GRANTED TO MEN.

Badge :—The Red Dragon. **Motto :—"O Jesu n'âd gamwaith."**

Founder and Hon. Organiser—
MRS. MANSELL-MOULLIN, 69, Wimpole Street, London, W. (Headquarters of the F.C.S. Union).
Hon. Treasurer—
MISS NORBURY, 33, Morpeth Mansions, Westminster. S.W.
Hon. Secretary—
MRS. M. E. DAVIES, 53, Wandsworth Bridge Road, Fulham, S.W.

Nov. 27. 12.

Dear Mr. Lansbury

Your magnificent fight & protest has done untold good, and I feel sure it will not be long before you win. What my husband & I feel about you it is impossible to put into words. Your noble deed will prevent thousands of women losing their respect for the manhood of this Country.

I was taking the Chair at a big meeting at Hastings last night for Mrs. Pankhurst & a tremendous shout went up from a thousand throats every time she & I mentioned your name.

With admiration & best wishes

Yours sincerely

Edith K. Mansell-Moullin.

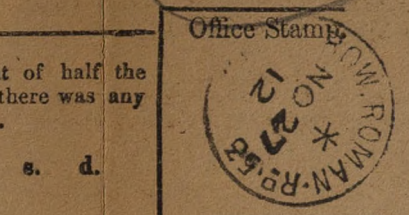
N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, Ltd., Lond.

240

Office Stamp



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Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Rev C.H. Grinling

Woolwich

Charges to pay } s. d.

Handed in at } 4 20 P.M. Received here at } 4 30 P.M.

TO { George Lansbury Bow

A great fight is none the less a good fight because of defeat love

Grinling

Leonard Hall

[See Coll. E.: A.XLII, 64.]

(241)

Edgbaston
2nd/11/12

My dear George —

You have done a very fine thing bravely, and though the poor stiff down Bow & Bromley way have proved themselves just as witless as the rest of this doomed country, & deliberately deprived themselves of the services of their best friend in Parliament, your action will be remembered & felt and some day better understood & appreciated.

Meanwhile you have a following in England comprising the best intelligence & spirit now left in it. And you are FREE.

We here all send you our love and thanks. Faithfully. Leonard Hall.

If you wd like a rest, and sunlight, make our house your home whenever the fit takes you, please.

Mrs. Frederick Hansen
(n. Marion Coates)

(242)

Red Cottage,
Nunthorpe, S.O.
Yorkshire.

Nov. 27th 1912

Dear George Lansbury

I am not going to condole with you or offer you any sympathy. You acted with wide open eyes and must have realised fully what was more than likely to have happened.

You risked the weapon the Lord granted to you to hold for a spell, and you've lost it. There is not anything much to be said.

I ask you not to resign from the N.A.C if you are contemplating that, but to face the next conference as a member of it.

A more unhappy time I have never lived through as far as any political situation is concerned, than during the last week or two.

(243)

Yesterday was almost unendurable – and the news which only reached us this morning, at least kills suspense.

After all, the wilderness for women is not greater than before your advent in Parliament. It merely means some ~~steps~~ steps will have to be retraced – because a key has been lost and the door can't be opened without it. So much for the women's side. From the Socialist side you know I think you all wrong – and I do hope and trust you will do nothing rash – nothing to cut yourself adrift from a movement which needs men and women of the

Laundry type to keep it sane and strong. I am not attempting to flatter you. You've had enough flattery by biassed newspaper writers during the last few days to last you all your life.

I am a keen suffragist but I am a keener socialist, (that is why I am a keen suffragist). I do try not to let the woman's wrongs blind my judgment with reference to humanity's wrongs - so I beg you to stick by our movement, in your elected position until the Conference deals with you. Take whatever physic they offer you, so to speak - or rather don't run away from the doctor until you've heard his advice.

A hand across to you and your wife - a friend's hand clasp though that friend laments your point of view.

With affectionate greetings

Ever most sincerely Yours

Marion Coates Hansen

Mrs. Henry Holiday (n. Catherine Raven)

Nov 27. 1912.

OAK-TREE HOUSE
BRANCH HILL
HAMPSTEAD N.W.

To Mr Great Heart
(George Lansbury).

Lift up your hearts, ye mourners!
for the night,
Of the working world's good wishes
with him goes;
Blessings & prayers in nobler
retinue
Than sceptered King or laurelled
Conqueror knows,
Follow your wonderful Great
Heart.

With warmest & heartfelt
gratitude from.
Catherine & —
Winifred Holiday.

(245)

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
"RELEASE, LONDON."
TELEPHONE No 36 STRATFORD.

G.R. BROWNE, JACOBS & Co.
SOLICITORS.
G. SAUNDERS JACOBS.

195, ROMFORD ROAD,
FOREST GATE. E.

LONDON 27th Nov. 19 12

Dear Lansbury,

I am sorry. You, of course, must attribute the result to (1) Removals, (2) Women's suffrage, (3) The bewilderment caused by your hostility to the Labour Party.

The question between you and the Labour Party is the most important one. You are in the right but it will require all your time up to the General Election to educate your old friends in the constituency up to your position on the general question of socialism and its independent representation.

I feel sure that you will get back at the General Election and hold the place for ~~ever~~ life, provided you stick it well in the meantime.

You cannot rely on all the workers of the Women's organisations. Their cause is righteous, but it does not help when some of their canvassers go round saying that they do not agree with your socialism, but are supporting you on the suffrage question--in fact, frankly, that they are using you as a tool. My wife and I and my son found a lot of that when we were canvassing for you.

Pray keep your own general socialist organisation and propaganda apart as your own work. Let the women's organisations carry on theirs: have your support of course

With best wishes and kind regards,
Yours very truly,

G. Saunders Jacobs

Selma B. Kahan

(246)

21 Eastbourne Road.
Stamford Hill
London N.

27. XI. 1912.

Dear Mr Lansbury,

In an instance such as this, silence would be considered more golden than ever. I have been struggling with the desire to write to you the whole morning, & now can resist it no longer. I must say a few words to you, telling you how I admire you; and strange as it may seem to you — I envy you too.

I envy you, because in England the time has passed, or is not yet at hand, when people suffered, or must suffer for their principles. You are one of the very rare & chosen few, at this particular period in English history, who can claim that noble privilege to have suffered for a cause & its principles.

It is easy, & very pleasing to make silvery speeches, that even do not come from the heart, — as well as from the brain, & to write brilliant phrases in newspapers & magazines, but what is difficult is to show what stuff we are made of — & what was necessary & urgent was to show what our principles mean to us in the form of the direct action you have taken.

And although there was many a sleepless head lying restlessly on its pillow last night — when they

thought of you, of your whole life's struggle for the benefit of this congealed poverty stricken mass — they must have smiled consoledly knowing that your enthusiasm will not slacken by any pseudo defeat, + that you will go on, knowing that victory must be yours, no matter how late it may come.

You are the hero of the oppressed — whether they be the starving poor of England, or the vote-less women. You have given us all a noble lesson, by demonstrating to us what it means to stick to one's principles.

I can say no more — except that I wish you health + strength, to go on struggling for this poor uneducated heap of humanity — Lead them to the light of day.

Yours very sincerely

Selina E. Kahan.

Do Buck up mr Lanburys God Bless you I cant write any make. I am heart sick of the voters. from mrs Coleman

(247)

Kelly, Agnes A.

[see also her letter, Vol. 5, fols. 246-7]

35 Bizzborough Street
S.W.

Nov 27th 1912

Dear Mrs Lansbury

Although I have not the pleasure of knowing you, I venture to write and congratulate you on your husband's victory. For, his is the victory! If he had been returned at the head of the poll last night, one could only have said that the voters

had had the privilege of publicly celebrating his triumph – not of giving him the victory. He had won that for himself long before polling day – and it does not lie in the hands of any human beings to add to, or to take from, the nobility of such action as Mr. Lansbury's. Which would one rather be – the daughter of Mr. Lansbury, or that of his former colleagues in the Labour party who have chosen this, of all, moments to slander him in the press this morning? – Let me finish as I began, with sincere congratulations on the magnificent victory which your husband has gained in Bow and Bromley.

Believe me
Yours very truly
Agnes A. Kelly.

Henry Lockwood 2449

27/11/92

9, CHESTER PLACE,
REGENT'S PARK.

Dear Mr Lankester

Some years ago there was an amusing play in which one of the characters had to say with regards to most things "Oh I say what rot," and he would thus very possibly have characterised

my writing to you regarding
yesterday's election for Burn
& Burnley; & so I do not
expect you to find time
to reply to this, which will
be one of one among hundreds
that you will receive on
the subject.

You & I have differing
views on more than one
political question, and it
would be affectation on my
part to pretend regret at
the return of a Conservative.
Nevertheless, I can, thank God,
admire and appreciate
courage, single heartedness,
& sincerity, in politics
or

250

any thing else, and so, as, if I may say so, a friend of times past, I write to express my sympathy with you in the failure of your characteristically plucky single handed fight

Ever

H Lechmere

251

Ruth E. Long

34 Cheyne Walk
Chelsea Embankment
S. W.

Nov. 27. 1912

Dear Mr. Ransbury

May I thank you for your brave courage. It was so great of you to risk your seat + we can

hardly believe that this has fallen to Mr. Blair especially as all the poor people of Bow & Bromley seemed so sure of your being returned - It is a great disappointment to us all who have worked in the constituency - It seems impertinent of me to offer you my heartfelt sympathy under the circumstances but I do because I know how you will feel it & we are all feeling the

(252)

same deep sense of gratitude & admiration for you & we shall never forget the debt we owe you for your undaunted courage & championship of our Cause

Yours very sincerely

Ruth. E. Long

a humble member of the W.S.P.U

253

N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, Ltd., Lond.

Ridley Makepeace / Ridley

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Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Threadneedle St

Charges to pay } s. d.

Handed in at } 3 0 M., Received here at } 1 59 M.

TO { George Lansbury Bow

One who never turned his
back but marched breast forward
never doubted clouds would break
never dreamed though right were
worsted wrong would triumph we
fall to rise are baffled
to fight better Ridley Makepeace

Merrales

76 High St
Bromley By Bow

(254)

[Say 29 Nov. 1912]

Dear Friend

I trust you Will forgive me for takeing the Liberty of Writeing to you But I feel I must let you know how deeply sorry I am that you did not get in I am only a Working mans Wife But I do know that you have been a good Friend to our poor here in Bow and Bromley I feel sure had it been the children had the vote you would have gone in flying for they know you are their true Friend and I also feel sure it is

not the poor Man that has
voted against you if you
was to hear What the
poor Women are saying
if they could only have
got hold of Mr Blair
last night she would
have been taken home
in pieces But we are
saying theis we are never
going to say die till
were dead

Believe me Sir
I remain your
very Simpethising Friend

Mrs Merralls

256

Woodd

FROM HENRY W. NEVINSON,
(1856–1941)
4, DOWNSIDE CRESCENT,
HAMPSTEAD, N.W.

Nov 27/12

Dear Lansbury.

I am glad to say I just got back from the war in time to march in the Bow procession last Monday.

But the moment when I arrived in Bow on Tuesday night and heard of your defeat was one of the worst I have ever lived through.

Now that you are gone there is hardly a man in the Commons I would trust with half a crown! much less half a vote.

It is a terrible blow to us who believe in honesty and personal character. Believe me we all feel it, perhaps more than you do generally.

But forward! Of your ultimate victory and ours I never have a doubt.

Yours most truly
Henry W. Nevinson

Mrs. Henry Woodd Nevinson
(n. Evelyn Sharp)

257

TELEPHONE.
1783 WESTERN.

15, MOUNT CARMEL CHAMBERS,
DUKE'S LANE, KENSINGTON, W.

27: November: 1912:

Dear Mr Lansbury,

You did the big thing, and nothing else matters. I think some failures are the biggest successes in the world, and this is one of that sort.

I know I would sooner fail as you have done than succeed with people like your opponent! Why, the crowd was stunned with disappointment when the result came out! That was the best comment on the whole affair.

I know you must be feeling pretty bad; you wouldn't be human otherwise. But I don't think you know what we women think of you, and the poor people down there, and those children — or, perhaps you do. Anyhow, it was

258

a perfectly splendid thing to have done, and it will be remembered long after the other people are all buried and forgotten -

You will have thousands of letters: please don't dream of answering mine -

Yours very sincerely
Evelyn Sharp

Mrs. Henry Woodd Nevinson
(n. Evelyn Sharp)
to
Mrs. G.L.

259

TELEPHONE,
1783 WESTERN.

15, MOUNT CARMEL CHAMBERS,
DUKE'S LANE, KENSINGTON, W.

27: November: 1912:

Dear Mrs Lansbury,

I feel I must-
just- send you a line to
say how magnificent- I
think it- of your husband to
have fought- such a mag-
-nificent- fight- You will
be feeling very bad about-

it, I know, and it always feels so much worse when all the excitement is over, doesn't it? But you've both been perfectly splendid, and of course he will get in next time, and nothing matters but having done the right thing. Don't please think of answering this. I just felt I must write to you because I knew how you would be feeling.

Yours very sincerely

Evelyn Sharp