

# VOTE! VOTE!! VOTE!!!

THIS is an Election leaflet; but it is not a Party leaflet. It applies to you, no matter what your politics are. It does not ask you to vote for any particular candidate, but only to be sure that you use your vote *somehow*. The right to vote was won for you, not by the great statesmen whose names are connected with the Reform Bills of 1832, 1867 and 1884, but by the persistent agitation of generations of poor political workers who gave up all their spare time and faced loss of employment, imprisonment, and sometimes worse, in order to get you a share in the government of the country. Now is your chance to use what cost so much to win. A political battle is about to begin. Choose your side according to your conscience; and strike the one blow that the law allows you. There is no excuse for not voting. Even when there is no candidate worth voting for, there is always some candidate worth voting against. It is impossible that the candidates should be so exactly alike that one does not represent your opinions better than the other. If you do not vote for that one, you will help his opponent to get in. Even if you think that both candidates are fools, make the best of it by voting for the opponent of the bigger fool of the two. There is always a better and a worse; and the only way to keep the worse out is to vote for the better. Whatever you do, don't stay at home and waste your vote. Even if you vote wrong, it is far better to make an honest mistake than to shirk your duty and renounce your right as a citizen.

All the trouble of the election has been taken for you by others. You have been put on the register: you have been sent full particulars of where and when you are to vote. All that is asked of you is to spend half an hour in going (the earlier the better) to the polling station.

Remember that in public affairs the interests of those who do not vote are always sacrificed to the interests of those who do. If you want to be heavily taxed, neglect your vote. If you want to be protected from unjust legislation, use your vote. You owe it to your fellow-citizens and to yourself not to lose your opportunity. It is the selfish, the indifferent, the shortsighted, the lazy man who cannot see why he should trouble himself to vote. No sensible man throws away a weapon which has won so much for those who have learned how to use it.

**For all you know, the election may be decided by your vote alone. How will you feel if you neglect to vote, and find, the day after the poll, that the candidate who best represents your interests is beaten by one vote?**

If you are already convinced of the importance of voting, please hand this leaflet on to anyone you think needs it. Copies can be obtained from the FABIAN SOCIETY, 276 Strand, London, W.

