

VOTES FOR WOMEN

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PIECEMEAL



MR. ASQUITH: "We pledged our honour not to erect the whole statue without giving the women a chance to come in; so we won't do it; we'll just put it up a piece at a time instead!"

MR. RAMSAY MACDONALD: "I call that real clever, and I'll tell my boys to lead a haad."

(The Plural Voting Bill has passed the House of Commons; other franchise proposals are foreshadowed, but Mr. Asquith's promise of a bill so drafted as to allow of a woman suffrage amendment has gone by the board. In spite of the Labour Party's pledge to oppose any measure of enfranchisement not including women, only three of the Labour Party voted against the Plural Voting Bill.)

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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

From the commencement of the modern Suffrage agitation, Mr. Asquith has shown his obstinacy not merely in refusing to redress the grievance of women, but in refusing even to discuss with representative persons the grounds on which the removal of their

grievance is demanded. It is this arbitrary attitude which, following along the lines of other political upheavals in history and of many labour disputes of recent years, has led to nearly all the present trouble.

Scottish Deputation Insists on Seeing Mr. Asquith

Had Mr. Asquith consented to see the deputations sent to him by the W.S.P.U. in the early days, instead of ordering out the police to drive them back with violence, the later forms of demonstration organised by that body would never have taken place. But Mr. Asquith, like all little men, learns nothing from experience. Twice during the past week he has repeated his mistake. He has rejected requests for an interview both from the Federated Council of Suffrage Societies and from a group of influential men from Scotland. In spite of this refusal, the Scotsmen have decided to come to London, and they will this (Friday) morning, at 11 a.m., present themselves at Downing Street to claim, under the Bill of Rights, the right to present a petition in person to the representative of the Sovereign. What does Mr. Asquith intend to do?

Attempted Arrest of Mrs. Pankhurst and Miss Kenney

If it was the deliberate intention of the Government to provoke disorder and to make the infamous Cat and Mouse Act more odious than ever, they

could not have adopted a more effective method than the attempted arrest of Mrs. Pankhurst and Miss Annie Kenney as they were leaving the London Pavilion last Monday afternoon. We have held from the first inception of this Act that it was only the sluggish imagination of the British people which permitted it to become law or to remain on the Statute Book a day after it had first been put in operation. It has been our task, and that of numerous societies who have been holding meetings of protest all over the country, to awaken this imagination.

What Underlies the Act

For what is the fundamental principle underlying the Act? It is that a prisoner is to be kept in prison till death is in sight. Then she is released. The doctor and the nurse bring to bear upon her the latest medical skill and attention only that she may be well enough to endure it all over again. That principle is so revolting to modern feelings that, when rightly understood, it could not be tolerated. But it has not been understood. We are, therefore, indebted to the Government for helping us by giving a public demonstration of the working of the measure. They showed to the public two women, frail and suffering but resolute, and the police

