

The Muriel Matters Society Inc.

Assn of Public Service Superannuants

29 April 2024

Presentation by

Frances Bedford

Emerita State MP for Florey 1997-2022

Who was Muriel Matters ?



How Australia led the way:

Dora Meeson Coates and British Suffrage

This research monograph was written by Myra Scott
for the Commonwealth Office of the Status of Women



How Australia led the way: Dora Meeson Coates and British Suffrage

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Muriel Matters was born in Adelaide and, at the age of 14, had been influenced by reading Ibsen's *Doll's House*. After arrival to study music in England in 1905, she met social reformers who convinced her to campaign with the WSPU and she then became a committed adherent of Charlotte Despard. In October 1908, she put a burglar proof chain around her waist and the key down her back and padlocked herself to 'that vile grille' separating the Women's Gallery from the politicians in Parliament, which Vida Goldstein, later considered 'signified the harem idea of women, and ... it is on that that all legislation affecting women is based'.⁴³ The removal of the grille, which was necessary to free her from it, she saw as a 'symbol of the breaking down of one of the barriers that are between us and liberty'.⁴⁴

4. Australians rally to help women in Britain

The earliest Australian woman to be influential, indirectly, was Louisa Lawson, mother of Henry Lawson and known as the 'mother of women's suffrage in New South Wales'.⁴⁵ Her journal *The Dawn*, published from 1888 to 1905, was known throughout Australia and internationally by those who read the polemics and watched developments in the young colony. Lawson corresponded with English and American feminists and disseminated discussion of women's issues, particularly legal, economic, and social problems.⁴⁶ Similarly, some years later, Vida Goldstein, an influential campaigner in Victoria from the late nineteenth century, formed an association in 1899 between Australian societies and the NUWSS in London. Goldstein's monthly *Woman's Sphere*, from 1900 to 1905, and the *Woman Voter* from 1909, had a British readership which absorbed information from the Australian press. In 1903 she became one of the first four women candidates in the British Empire to stand for Parliament.⁴⁷ Goldstein, Nellie Martel, and Mary Ann Moore Bentley stood for election to the Australian Senate and Selina Anderson stood for the House of Representatives. None was successful. That these women, however, were legally able to be candidates for Parliament highlighted the fact that English women had much to work for - both the right to vote, and to stand for Parliament.

After their experiences in Australian suffrage organisations, three women, who included an Australian and two British-born women, travelled independently to Britain, joining the dispirited but just-stirring English organisations as seasoned campaigners. They moved actively into the vanguard to galvanise action. They were Dora Montefiore (1851-1934), who arrived in 1893, Mrs. Nellie Martel (1855-1940) in 1904, and Muriel Matters (1877-1969) in 1905. Spectacular exploits were seen by these three to be necessary to highlight women's demands. The financially independent Dora Montefiore, born in Surrey and widowed in Australia in 1889, became a committed activist for women's rights on discovering that, as a mother, she had no legal guardianship rights over her two children either in Australia or Britain. She founded the Womanhood Suffrage League of New South Wales in 1891, but returned to Britain in 1893 before the British campaign had gained momentum. She joined the Central Committee for Women's Suffrage and in 1896 the Central National Society for Women's Suffrage which led to the formation of the NUWSS in 1897. Montefiore published in a literary magazine a prologue to coming events, 'Why We Need Woman Suffrage and why we need it now'.⁴⁸ She was an experienced activist who, on arrival, promoted attendance at political meetings to question and disrupt speakers to elicit their policies towards women's franchise. Her trail-blazing involvement and ongoing activities were considerable by the time of the establishment of the WSPU in London in March 1906, but she fell out with the Pankhursts, and her substantial involvement was edited to some degree from historical records. Together with Mrs Martel in a group of twenty women, she visited the Lobby in the House of Commons, and after arrest, was imprisoned for two

How Australia led the way: Dora Meeson Coates and British Suffrage

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How it all started

Matters, Muriel Lilah (1877 - 1969) Biographical Entry - Australian Dictionary of Biography Online Page 1 of 2

AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY - ONLINE EDITION

Matters, Muriel Lilah (1877 - 1969)

MATTERS, MURIEL LILAH (1877-1969), suffragist, was born on 12 November 1877 at Bowden, Adelaide, third of ten children of John Leonard Matters, cabinetmaker and later stockbroker, and his wife Emma Alma, née Warburton. She studied music and elocution, reciting Whitman and Ibsen, then lived for a time in Sydney and Melbourne, acting with the Robert Brough Comedy Company. In 1901 she settled again in Adelaide, where she performed at the Cowandilla Salon, Mrs R. Quesnel's music rooms and elsewhere. In 1902 she directed Pinero's play *Sweet Lavender* for the Apprendreena Dramatic Club. She later moved with her family to Perth.

Both in Adelaide and Perth Muriel Matters was influenced by European friends who imbued her with socialist ideals. In 1905 she left for London where Peter, Prince Kropotkin, Russian revolutionary anarchist, and the journalist W. T. Stead encouraged her to further radical activity. She soon abandoned acting and in 1907 joined the Women's Freedom League.

Miss Matters lectured in Hyde Park and in 1908 took the first 'Votes for Women' caravan on a tour of villages in the south of England where she met Henry James, a supporter, at Rye. On 28 October she gained notoriety by chaining herself to an iron grille in the ladies' gallery of the House of Commons and declaiming women's suffrage aims. She was removed, still attached to the grille, and sent to Holloway Prison for a month; she adopted the cause of prison reform. Matters spent a year in Wales advocating votes for women and held meetings in Dublin. In 1909 she flew over London in an airship inscribed 'Votes for Women', scattering handbills over parliament. But she objected when more violent militants took over the movement.

In Australia next year Matters lectured in several States on feminism and socialism: her manner was earnest but humorous and she excelled at repartee. She denounced sweating and advocated women's unions, equal divorce laws, equal pay for equal work, endowment of motherhood, and support for unmarried mothers. With Vida Goldstein she secured a resolution from the Senate to the British prime minister detailing the good results from the enfranchisement of Australian women. In London in 1911 she helped to form a women's settlement to further educational opportunities in the Lambeth slums. In 1916 she attended a training course by educationalist Maria Montessori at Barcelona, Spain, and later addressed the British Montessori Society. Muriel was a Christian.

The book *Australasians Who Count ...* (London, 1913), edited by her sister-in-law Mrs L. W. Matters, included a chapter, 'My impressions as an agitator for social reform', by Muriel. On 15 October 1914 in the London Registry Office she married Dr William Arnold Porter (d.1949), a divorced Bostonian dentist; they had no children. She organized a national conference of women in London on 14 April to discuss peace and disarmament.

In 1922 she lectured in Australia and in 1924 stood, unsuccessfully, as Muriel Matters-Porter, as a Labour candidate for the House of Commons for Hastings. Her brother Leonard (1881-1951), a journalist, was Labour member of parliament for Lambeth, Kennington, in 1929-31.

Mrs Porter was a slight, attractive and vivacious woman with a mass of golden hair. She lived on at Hastings, enjoying sea bathing and remaining lucid to a great age. She died there on 17 November 1969.

Select Bibliography

Quiz and the Lantern (Adelaide), 4 Apr, 30 May, 7 Aug 1901, 12 Dec 1902, 12 Feb 1904; *Critic* (Adelaide), 9 Aug 1905, p 7; *Women's Freedom League*, 4, 11 June, 10, 30 July 1908; *Southern Sphere*, 1 July 1910, p 12; *British-Australasian*, 9 Feb 1911, p 9, 22 June 1916, p 16; 'Suffragists at Mrs. McKenna's Reception', *Times* (London), 17 Feb 1909, p 10; *Weekly Times* (Melbourne), 7 Nov 1908; *Table Talk* (Melbourne), 23 June 1910; *Socialist* (Melbourne), 22, 29 July, 5 Aug 1910; 'Letter from Miss Matters', *Woman Voter*, 1 July 1915, pp 2-3; *Australasian* (Melbourne), 17 Jan 1925, p 1606. More on the resources

Author: Fayette Gosse

Print Publication Details: Fayette Gosse, 'Matters, Muriel Lilah (1877 - 1969)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 10, Melbourne University Press, 1986, pp 445-446.

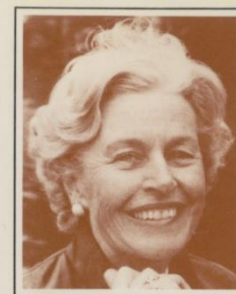


Muriel Lilah Matters (1877 - 1969), by unknown photographer, 1902-12, courtesy of La Trobe Picture Collection, State Library of Victoria. H89.224/37. . Image Details

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

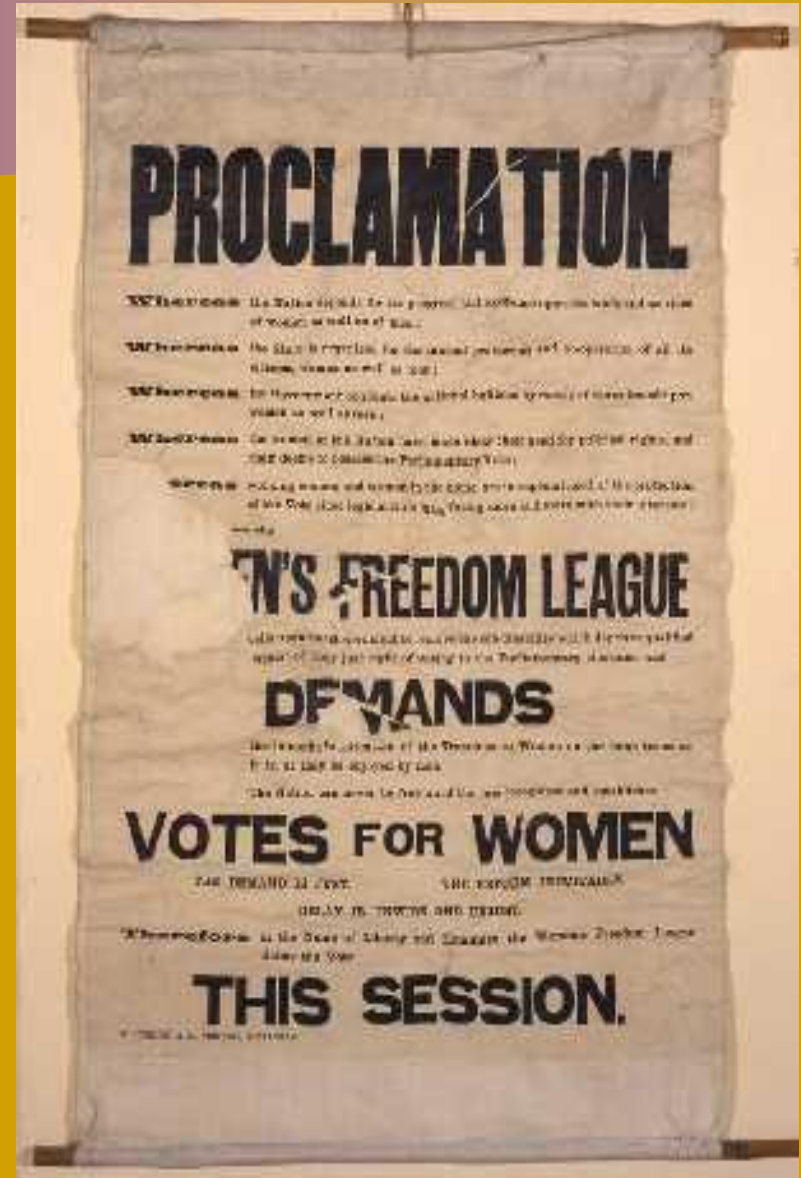
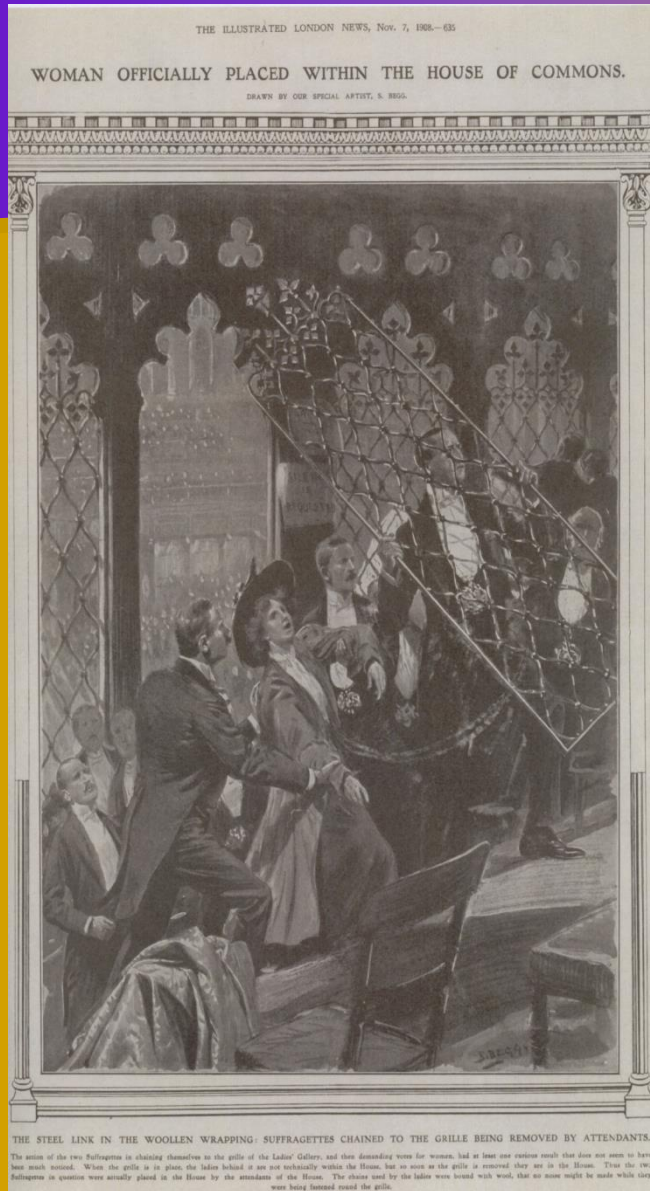


MISS MURIEL MATTERS.
WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE,
1 ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, LONDON, W.O.



Fayette Gosse, a journalist and short story writer, married into the Gosse family in 1940. After bearing three sons she studied Honours English at Adelaide University. When Dr Philip Gosse, then aged eighty, visited in 1959, he urged her to find out how the Australian Gosses were related to the English Gosses, and that first inquiry at the South Australian Archives led to twenty-one years of fascinating research. This book records it.

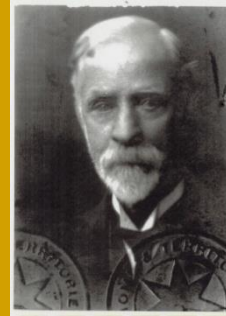
Grille Incident – 28 October 1908



Muriel Lilah Matters-Porter 1877 -1969



Thomas Matters - Mary (nee Adams)
1820 - 1857 1812 - 1888



John Leonard - Emma Alma (nee Warburton)
1853 - 1943 1855 - 1944

Richard Adams
1857 - 1942

Charles
Henry
1847 - 1893

Thomas
James
1850 - 1933

Mary
1875-6

Elsie
1876-1946

Muriel = Dr W Porter
1877 - 1969 1870 - 1949

Harold
1879

Leonard
1881-1951

Jack (John)
1882 -1938

Charles
1885-1915

Mary
1887-1907

Isabel
1893-1972

Keith
1895 -1972



Muriel's Birth Place - Bowden



1877.		District of Adelaide						276	
When Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Residence of Father.	Name and Residence of Mother.	Rank or profession of Father.	Signature, Day, Month, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Assistant Registrar.	Name of child & date of Registration of Birth.
12th Nov. 1877	Muriel Lillah	Female	John Leonard Mather	Emma Mather		J. A. Mather	27th Dec. 1877	W. Smith	

Entered at the General Registry Office, this 27th day of December 1877.

W. Smith
Deputy Registrar.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION OFFICE
ADELAIDE.
I hereby certify that the above particulars are contained in an Entry in the Register kept in this Office in the State of South Australia. Given under my hand and seal this 18th day of SEPTEMBER, 2008

J. B. B. B.
Registrar



Childhood Homes



B 14171
No publication of this image in any form without permission; contact the State Library of South Australia.



251 South Terrace

School Days



Miss Newman's School
(Unley Museum Photo)
c.1903

Still Standing today (MMS Photo)



Elocution & Music



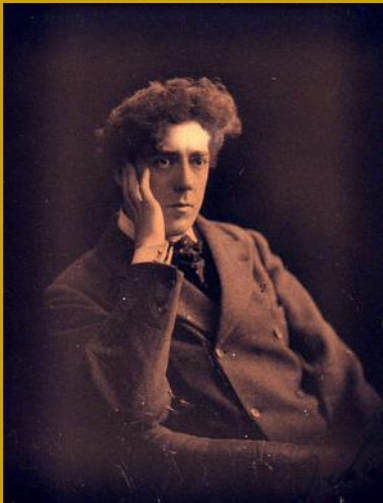
Edward Reeves



YMCA – Reeves' Rooms



Lionel Logue
1880 - 1953

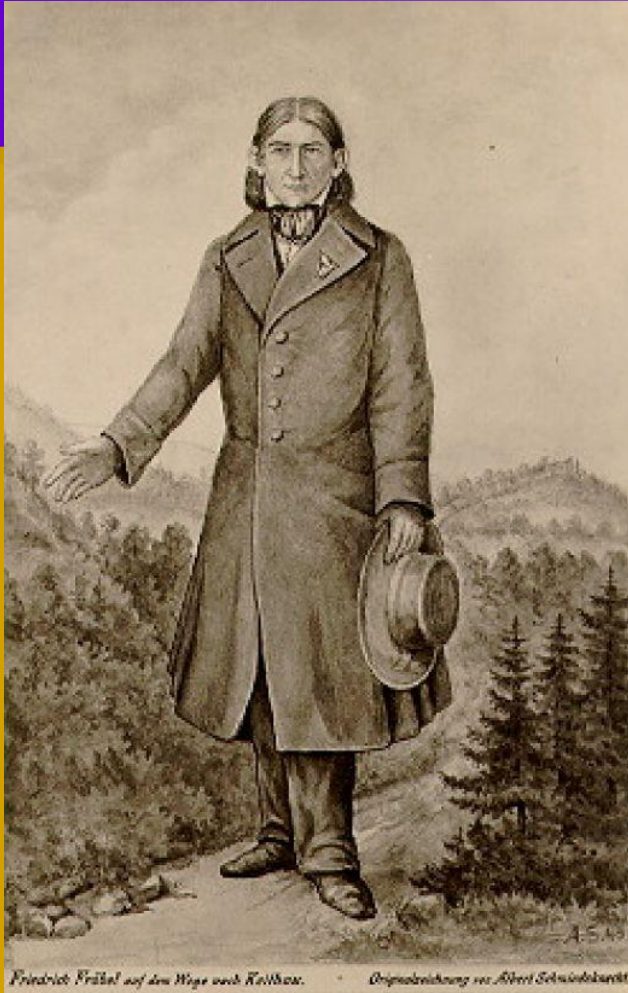


Bryceson Treharne



Lyric Club (Bank SA Building)

Interest in Early Education



Friedrich Froebel
1782 - 1872



Kindy Demonstration Class

The Delsarte Method

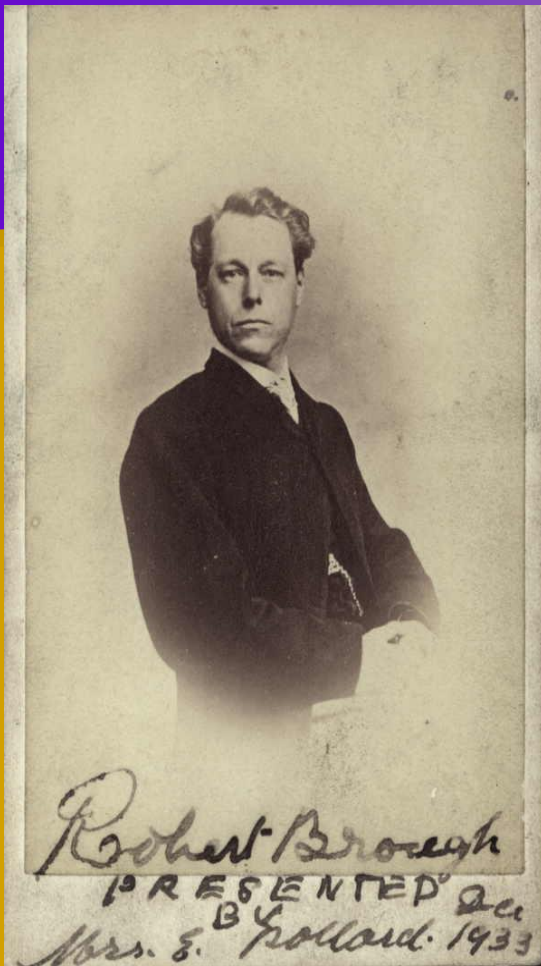


François Delsarte
1811 – 1871



Isadora Duncan
1877-1927

Robert Brough Theatre



1872 - 1905

THEATRE ROYAL.
Under the Direction **MR. ROBERT BROUGH.**

LAST FOUR NIGHTS
OF THE
BROUGH
COMEDY CO.

FAREWELL TO HOBART
OF
MR. & MRS. BROUGH

SATURDAY, MARCH 22,
TYRANNY OF TEARS

MONDAY, MARCH 24,
SWEET AND TWENTY

TUESDAY MARCH 25,
MRS. DANE'S DEFENCE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26,
LAST NIGHT OF THE SEASON.
NIOBE

PRICES: Dress Circle and Orchestra 5s. 1st Stalls, 5s. 6d.; Family Circle and P. 5s. 6d. SHILLING.

THEATRE ROYAL,
HOBART. NO. 1000, 10000.

COMMENCING MONDAY, FEB. 12
SPECIAL ATTRACTION FOR
RACE WEEK.

PLIMMER-CAREY
DRAMATIC COMPANY,
MR. ROBERT BROUGH

THE VILLAGE PRIEST

NIOBE

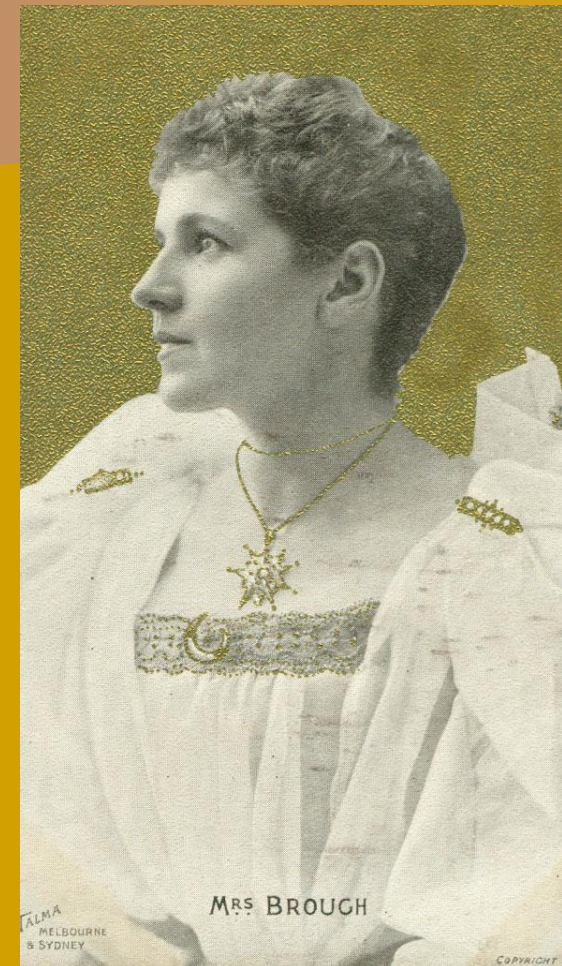
SECOND MRS. TANQUERAY

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT OF
MISS FLORENCE SEYMOUR
MRS. WALTER HILL
MR. HARRY PLIMMER
MR. GEORGE P. CAREY

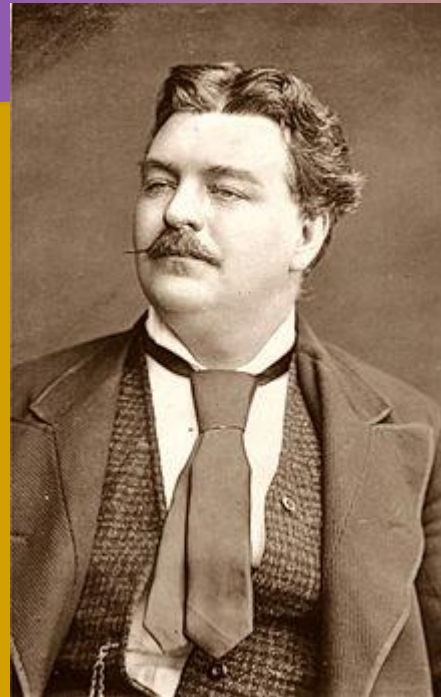
MISS JOSEPHINE THYNNE
MISS THERESA LINDAHL
MR. GODFREY CASS
MR. E. A. WARSAW
MISS EVA DELAINE

MISS MAY HILL
MR. J. ASHTON KING
MR. D. ALEXANDER
MISS WYNNIE REEVE
MR. HUGH NEVILLE

PRICES . . . 4s., 2s. 6d., & 1s.



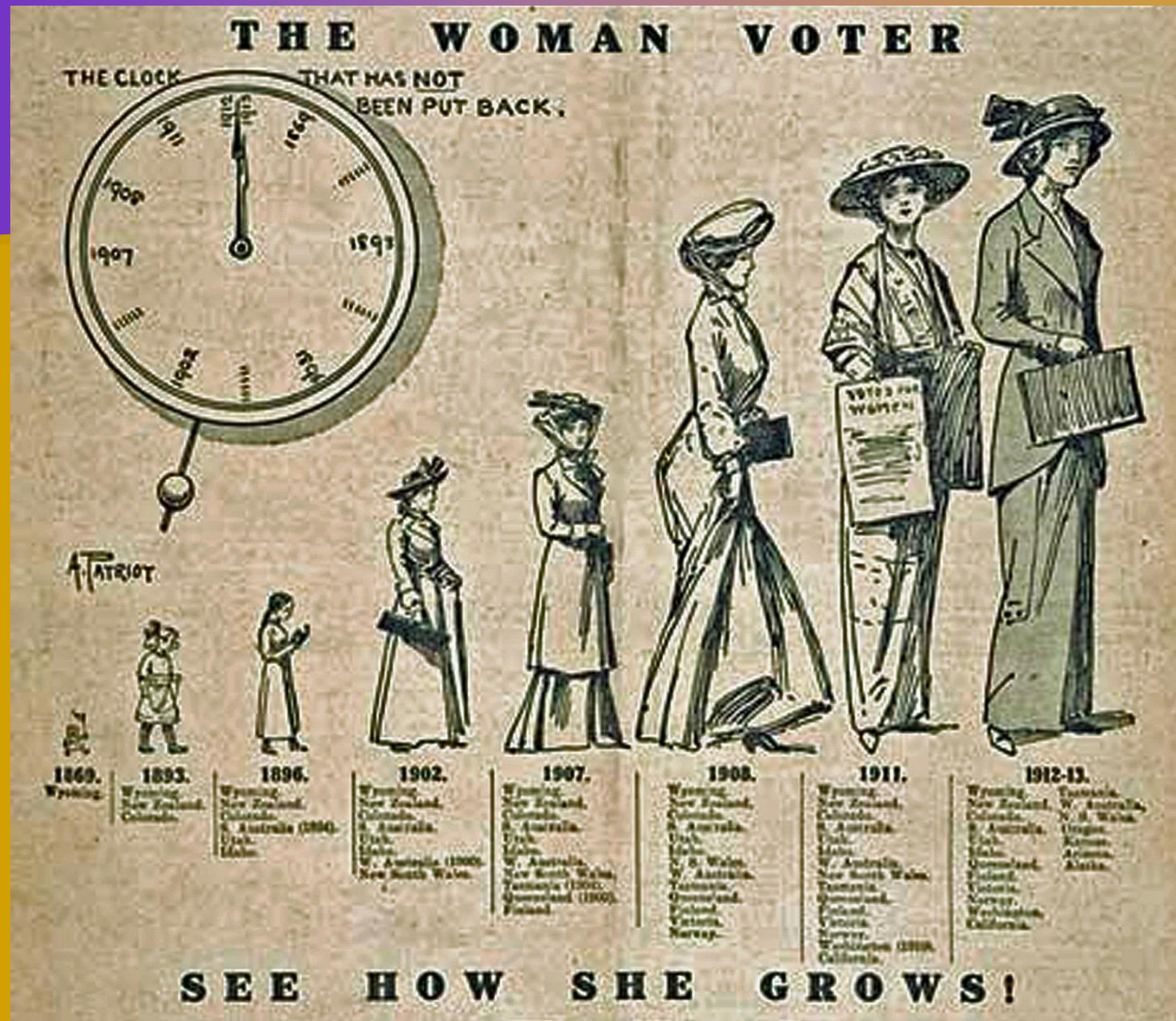
William Rignold



1836 - 1904



Catching-up for Women Worldwide



Votes for Women 13 June 1913

1894 – Dual Suffrage for SA Women



Mary Colton
(1822-1898)



Rosetta Jane Birks
Suffragist & philanthropist
(1856-1911)



Augusta Zadow
(1846 –1896)



Catherine Helen Spence
(1825 – 1910)
Vice-President SA
Women's Suffrage League

Mary Lee
(1821 – 1909)
Secretary SA
Women's Suffrage League

Elizabeth Webb Nicholls
(1850 – 1943)
Woman's Christian
Temperance Union

*26. J. Matters
7. B. Matters
1. J. Matters*

*Fisher Street, Malvern.
Cambridge Terrace, Malvern
Cambridge Terrace, Malvern*

1905 - Departure from Australia

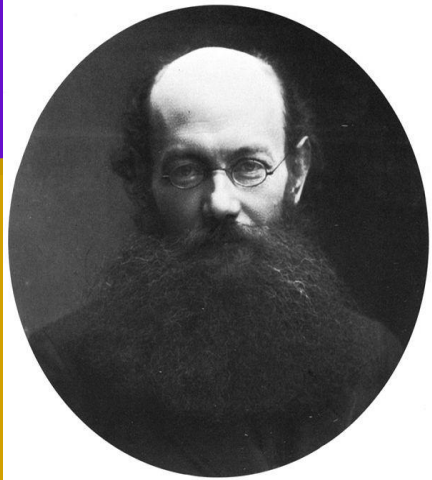


Hammer]

MISS MURIEL MATTERS,
A Gifted Adelaide Elocutionist.

[Photo.

1905 - Arrival in London



Prince Peter Kropotkin



NUWSS



Josephine Butler

1828 - 1906

Contagious Diseases Acts



Lydia Becker

1827 - 1890



Lady Frances Balfour

1858-1931



Millicent Garrett Fawcett

1847-1929

1905 - The Pankhursts



Richard
1836-1898



Emmeline
1858-1928



Christabel
1880-1958



Sylvia
1882 - 1960



Adela
1885-1961



Harry
1889 - 1910

WSPU - Suffragette Movement



Barbara Ayrtton on the bottom stair of the Votes for Women bus, October 1909. Barbara Ayrtton is wearing the suffragette uniform. Publicity stunts such as this were used from the beginning of the campaign and were intended to make the public stop, look, listen and support the suffragettes' demands.



A suffragette addressing a crowd, c. 1908. It took a certain amount of courage to address large gatherings like this, which could turn hostile. Women often had to put up with being pelted with rotting fruit and vegetables and sometimes even dead cats or dogs.



'Press Carts' delivering Votes for Women to various pitches in central London, July 1911. Women undertaking such 'unwomanly' and 'unsexing' activities such as this made a strong and often unfavourable impression on passers-by. All the women in this photograph would have been dressed in and carrying accessories of purple, white and green to maximize their impact. The poster advertising this issue refers to a Mrs Napolitano. Members of the public enquired about the woman, and drove off to Clement's Inn to sign a petition for her pardon.

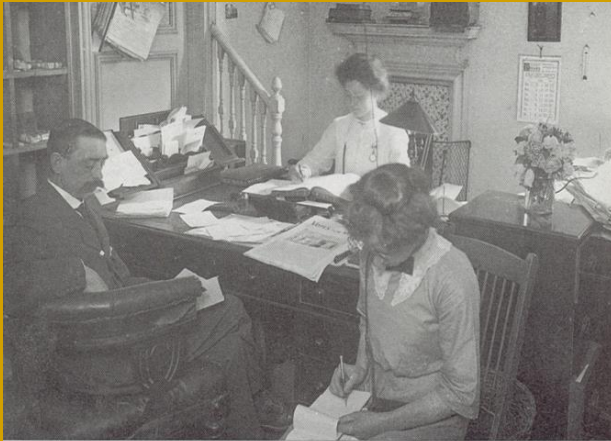
WSPU - Suffragettes at Work



The information bureau and record office, Clement's Inn, September 1911. Also filed and kept in this office were copies of every newspaper report concerning the union's activities. These young women are evidence of the 'white blouse revolution', the feminization of clerical work which started in the 1880s. This was at its height during the Edwardian period, the numbers of women employees in commercial offices increasing from 7,444 in 1881 to 146,133 in 1911, and in the Civil Service from 4,657 to 27,129.



The editorial department, Clement's Inn, September 1911. That week's edition of *Votes for Women* is being cut and pasted by the young woman volunteer at the 'making-up table'. By the summer of 1911 the labour required to produce a weekly issue of the paper had increased sixtyfold from the earliest monthly editions in 1907.

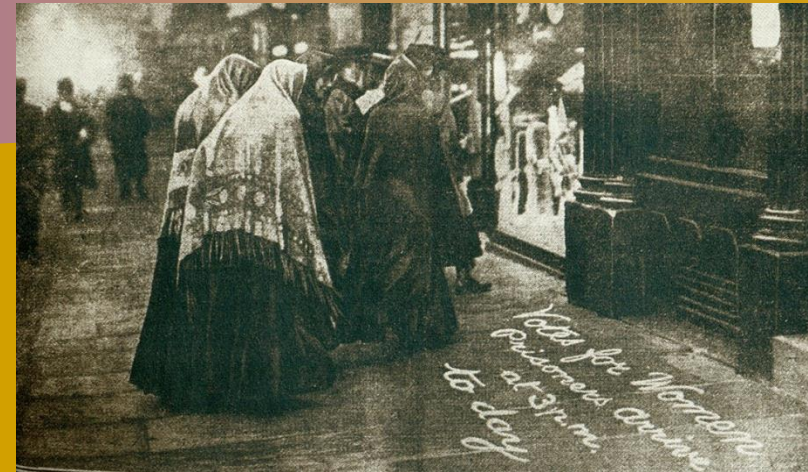
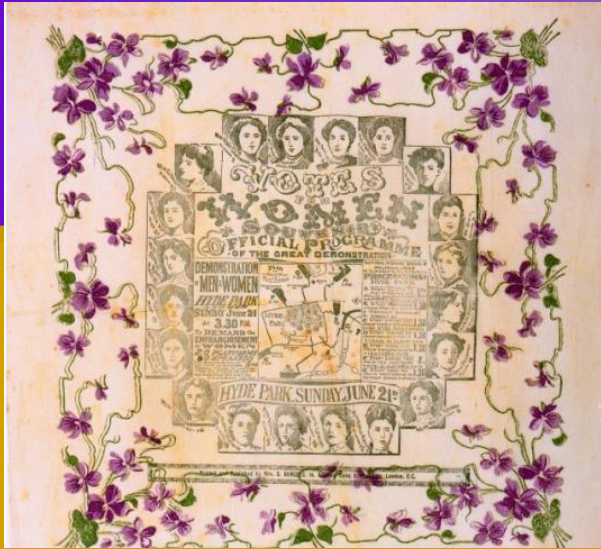


The advertising and book-keeping staff at work in the advertising department, Clement's Inn, September 1911. Editorials in *Votes for Women* urged readers to patronize those firms or individuals who took advertising space in the newspaper. It was anticipated that if advertisers gained business from the suffragettes it would encourage them to take yet more space and thus yield higher revenue for the WSPU, all of which would be vital to 'The War Chest'.

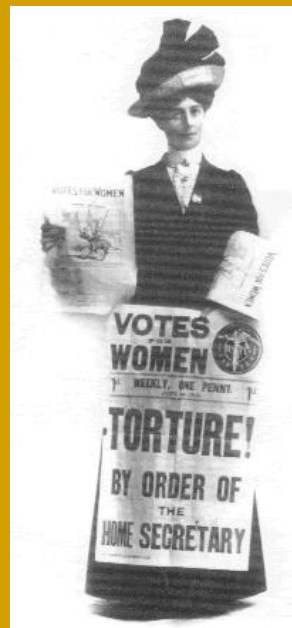


The duplicating office, Clement's Inn, September 1911. Thousands of consciousness-raising propaganda handbills were duplicated in this room and sold cheaply to WSPU members, who then gave them away on the street, outside railway stations, and after football and cricket matches. By the end of 1910, the salaried staff of the WSPU numbered only 110 nationwide, an indication of how the backbone of the army of workers who took part in the campaign were volunteers, like the young women featured in this photograph.

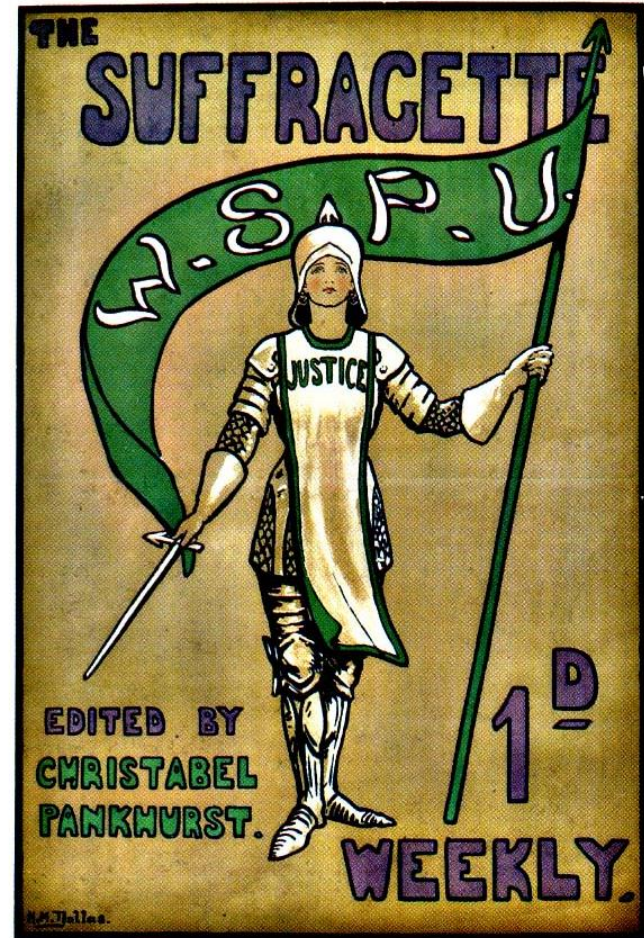
Suffrage Communication



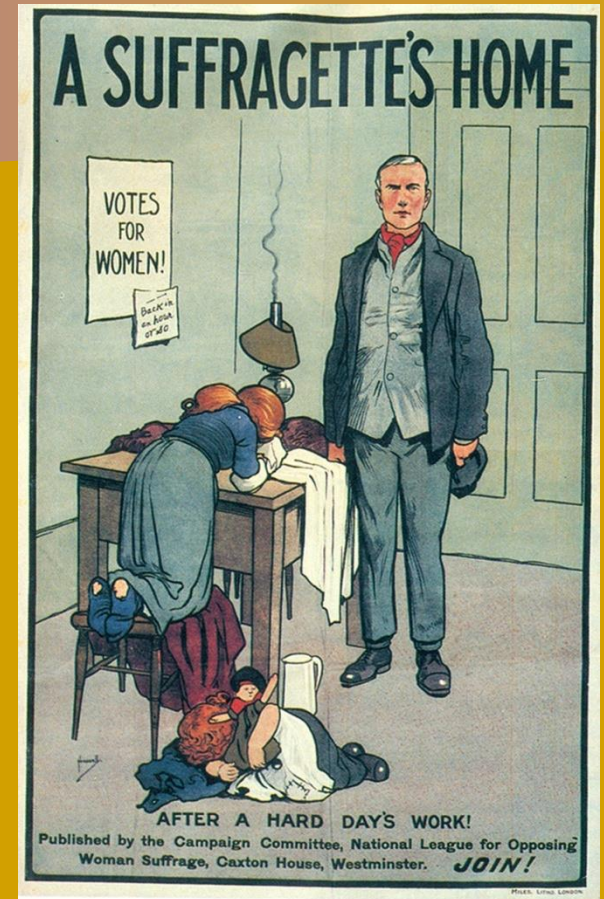
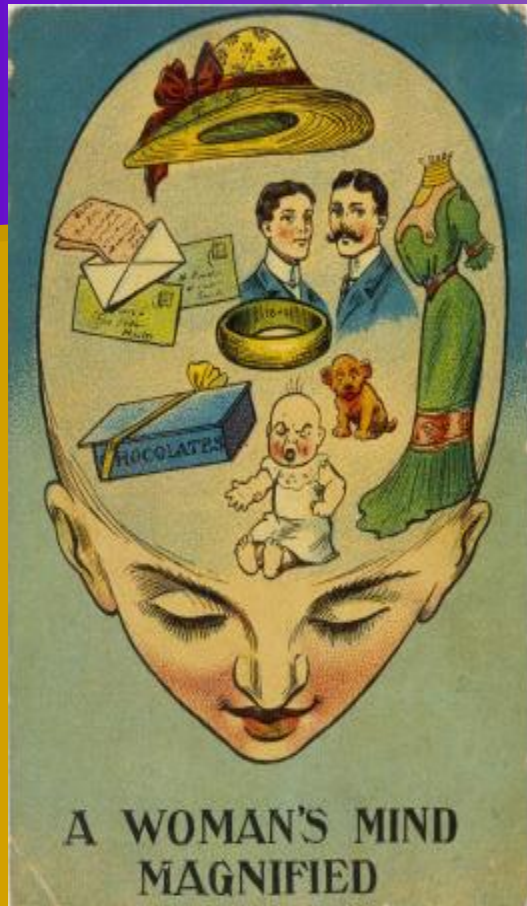
- Postcard & Hankies
- Hand Bills and Billboards
- At Homes
- Public Meetings & Rallies
- Chalking
- Newsletters & Banners



Pro Suffrage Posters & Cards



Anti-Suffrage Posters & Cards



WSPU Members



Nellie Alma Martel, organizer and member of the London and National Committees of the WSPU, c. 1908. Nellie Alma Martel's experience of the Australian women's suffrage campaign, and of being a voter, were fully exploited by the suffragette leadership and in 1906, their imprint, *The Woman's Press*, published her pamphlet, *The Women's Vote in Australia*, which went into several editions before the outbreak of the First World War. Nellie was one of the first suffragette organizers in London and as such travelled widely and was particularly busy during by-election campaigns. In 1906 she and twenty other suffragettes took part in a 'raid' on the House of Commons, determined to see the Liberal Prime Minister Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. He refused to see them and, in protest, they stood on chairs and refused to leave the building. Nellie and nine others were arrested and charged with using 'violent and abusive language'. In court the next day she 'shouted and gesticulated' and claimed that as an enfranchised woman in Australia she had the right to enter the lobby of the House of Commons. She was sentenced to two months in Holloway Gaol. Refusing to move, she and the others had to be forced out of the dock. Two years later, in 1908, she was badly assaulted during a by-election campaign.

Nellie Martel
(1855-1940)



Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence (1867–1954), co-editor of *Votes for Women*, and business manager and Treasurer of the WSPU, c. 1909. Before her involvement with the movement Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence had spent five years as a social reformer. In 1905 she founded the Esperance Girls' Club and Social Settlement, and two years later the *Maison Esperance*, a cooperative dressmaking business which, unusually for the time, paid the workers a minimum wage of fifteen shillings a week for an eight-hour day, and gave them an annual holiday. She proved to be a remarkable fund-raiser and treasurer for the suffragettes, raising the equivalent of £3 million in five years. Arrested four times and serving over four months in prison, her last conviction (like her husband) was in 1912 for conspiracy to incite violence. She served only five weeks of her nine-month sentence and was released early, severely debilitated after her hunger strike and force-feeding. On their expulsion from the WSPU she and her husband continued to edit *Votes for Women* (thereafter the official newspaper of the WSPU would be the *Suffragette*). They also founded the *Votes for Women Fellowship*, a new moderate militant organization. Emmeline's many publications include: *The Need for Women MPs*; *Women as Persons or Property?*; and *The Meaning of the Woman's Movement*.

Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence
(1867 – 1954)



Frederick Pethick-Lawrence (1871–1961), co-editor of *Votes for Women*, business manager of the WSPU and founder of their publishing imprint *The Woman's Press*, c. 1909. Pethick-Lawrence was a barrister who had been involved in social reform and had been the editor of the London evening newspaper the *Star*. Like many other couples of the day with feminist principles, he and his wife Emmeline took each other's surname (he Lawrence, she Pethick). His professional expertise was invaluable to the WSPU in their legal battles with the Government, the police and the prison authorities. In May 1912 Pethick-Lawrence and his wife (and Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst) were charged with conspiracy to incite violence and he was sentenced to nine months in Holloway Gaol. He went on hunger strike, was force-fed and was released early when prison doctors decided that he was too weak to complete his sentence without endangering his life. In the autumn of 1912 the couple were expelled from the WSPU for daring to criticize the escalating campaign of militancy. This did not deter them from continuing to fight for the vote.

Frederick Pethick-Lawrence
(1871 – 1961)

1907 Formation of WFL - Women's Freedom League



Charlotte Despard
(1844-1939)



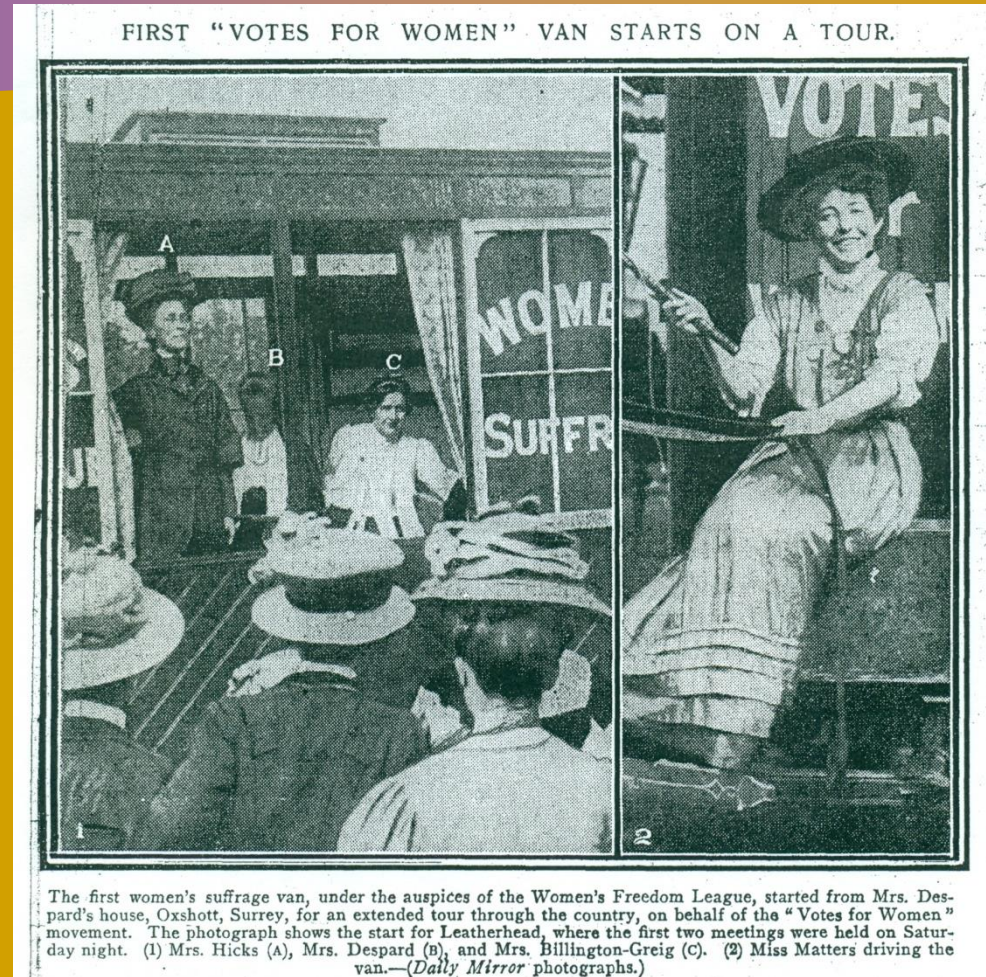
Teresa Billington-Greig
(1877-1964)



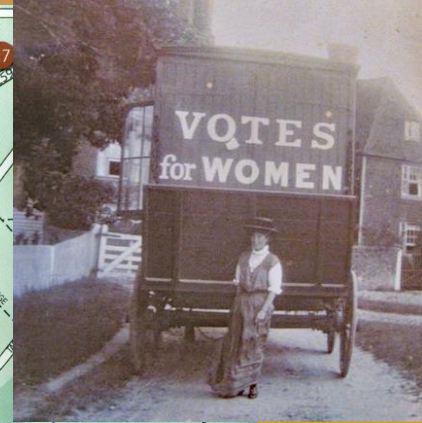
Edith How-Martyn
(1875-1954)

Votes for Women – The Caravan Tour

Early May – Mid October 1908



Hastings – Sussex Caravan Campaign



London

1908 – Wellington Sq



Muriel's Hastings



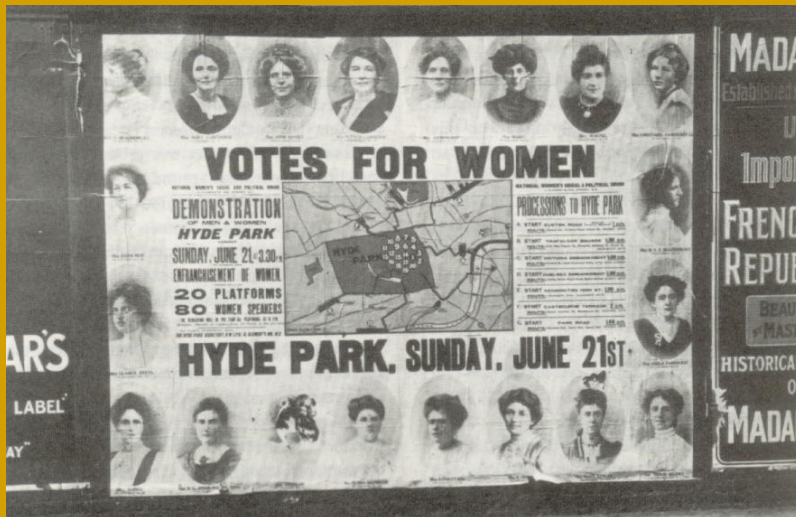
Public Meetings - Muriel in North Wales



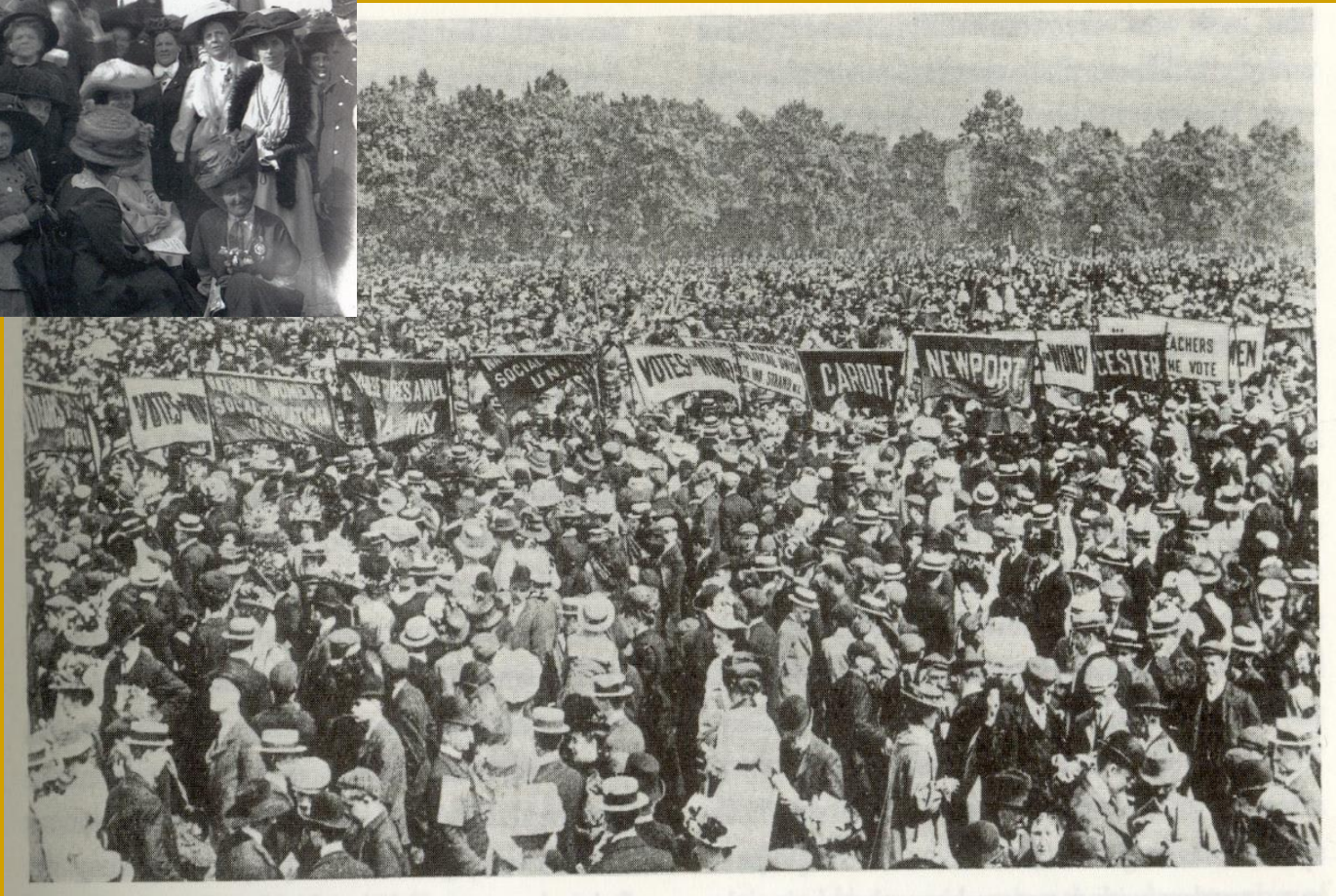
1908 - Monster Rally, 21 June



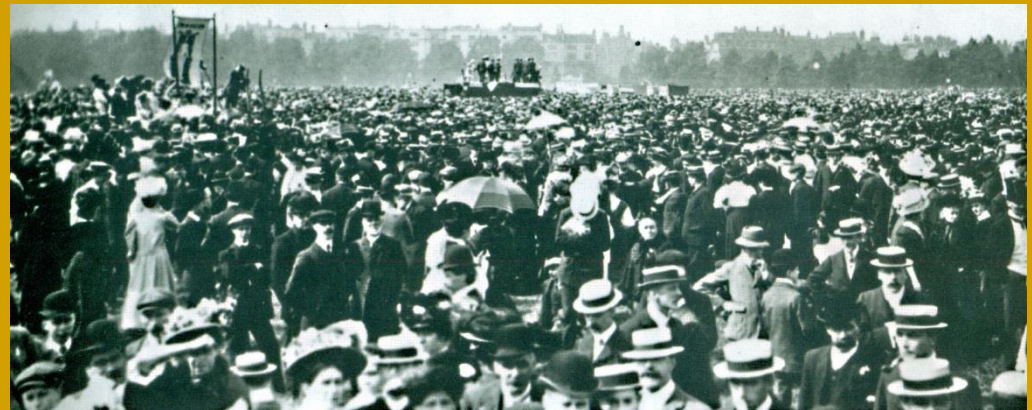
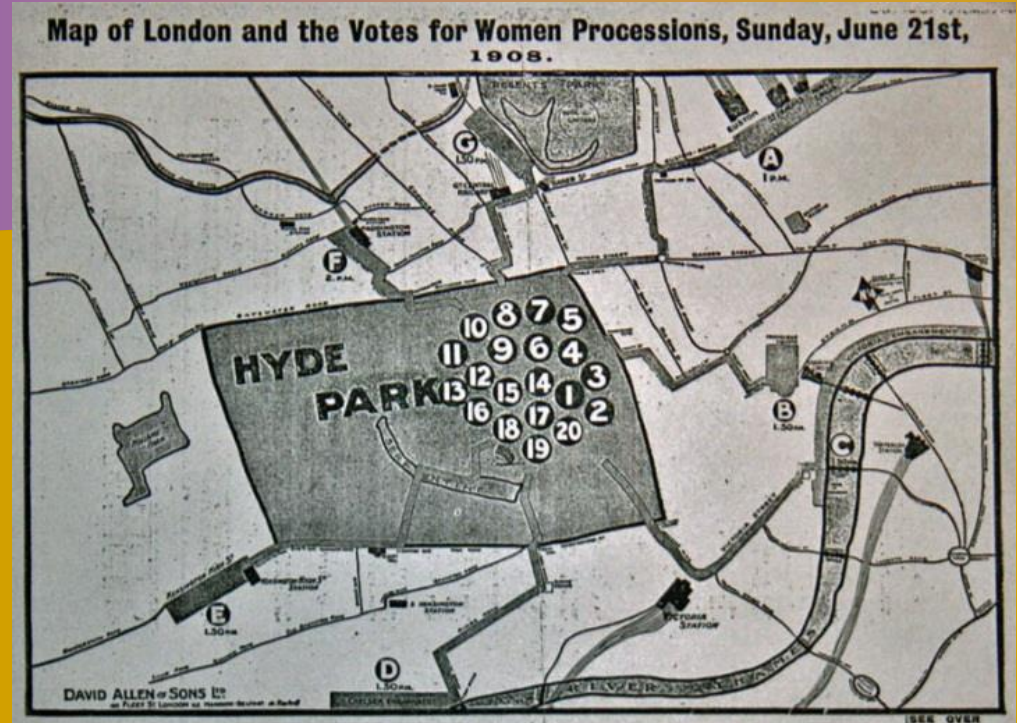
MRS. DRUMMOND OPPOSITE THE TERRACE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ADDRESSING M.P.'S.



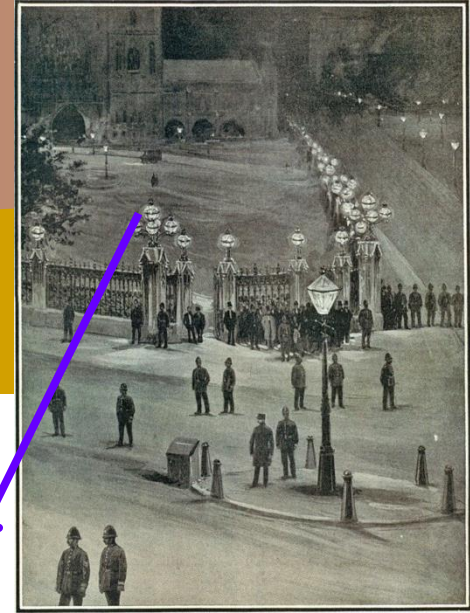
1908 – Hyde Park Crowd, Sunday 21 June



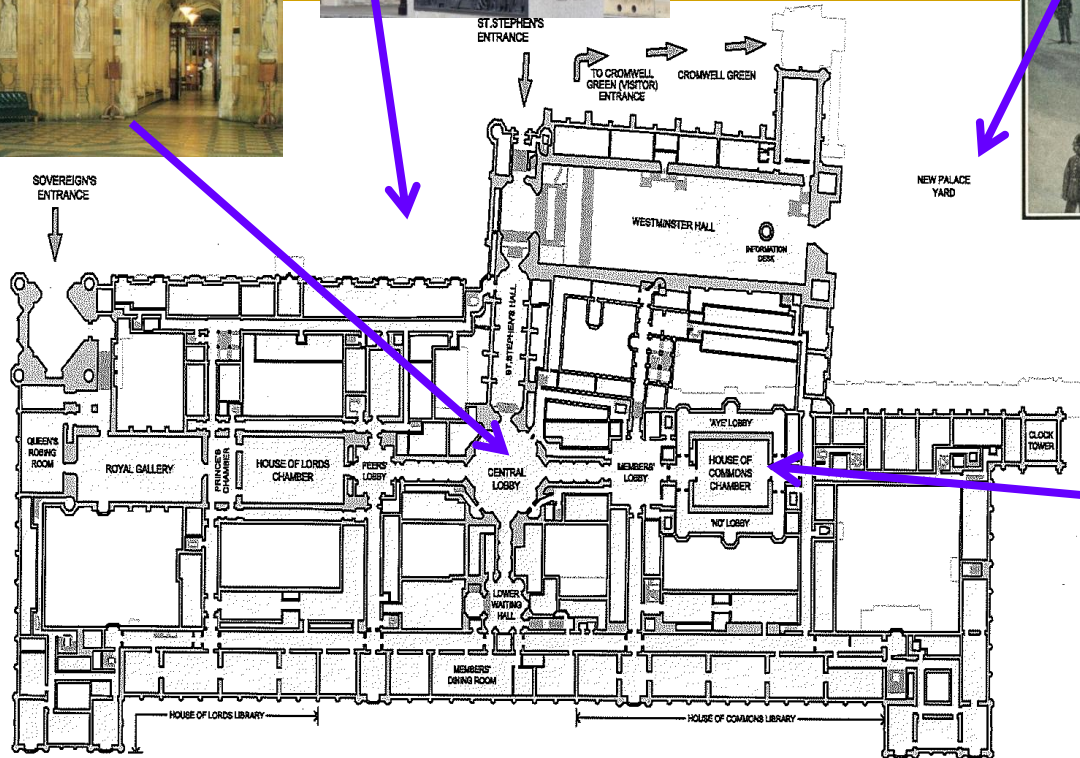
1908 – Hyde Park Crowd, Sunday 21 June



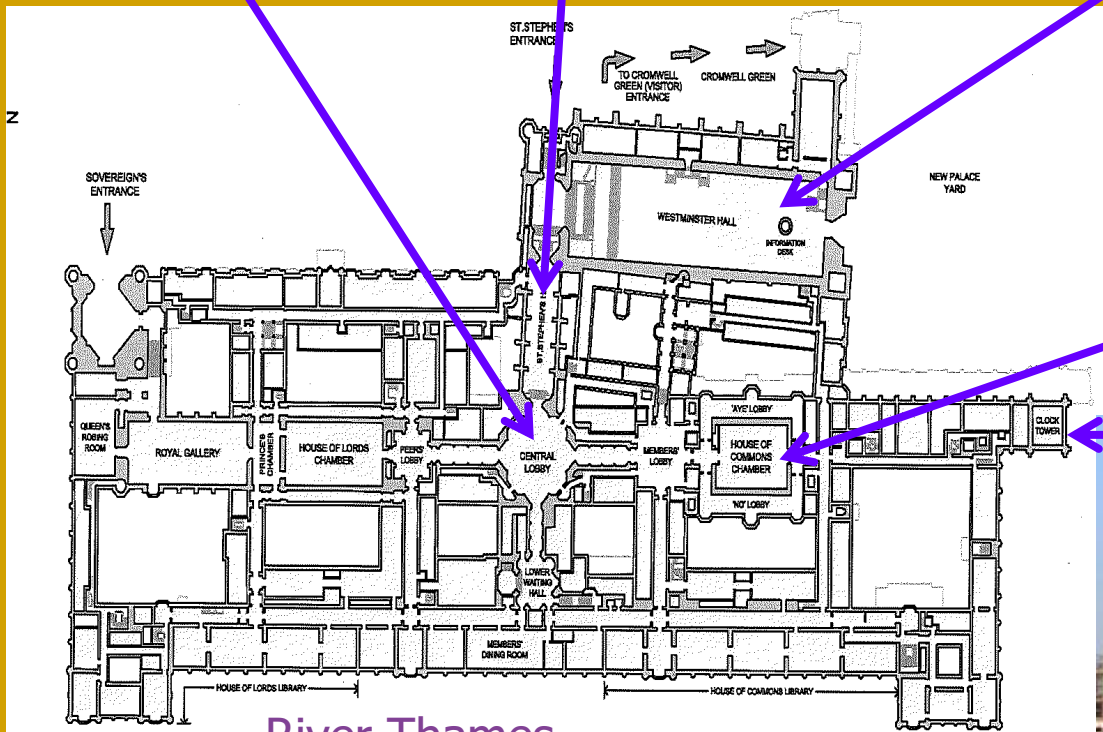
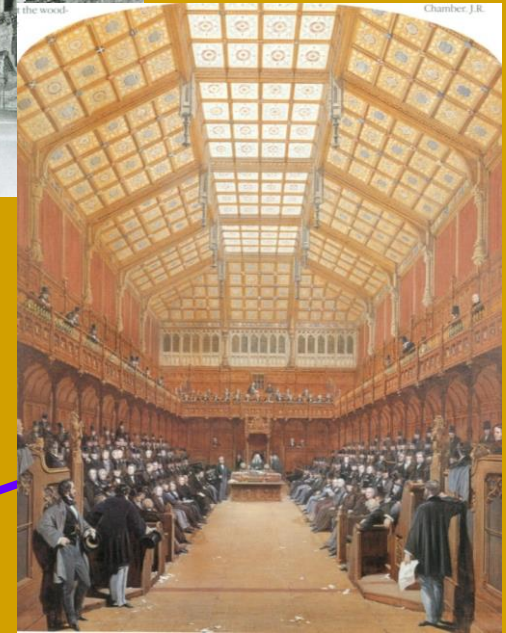
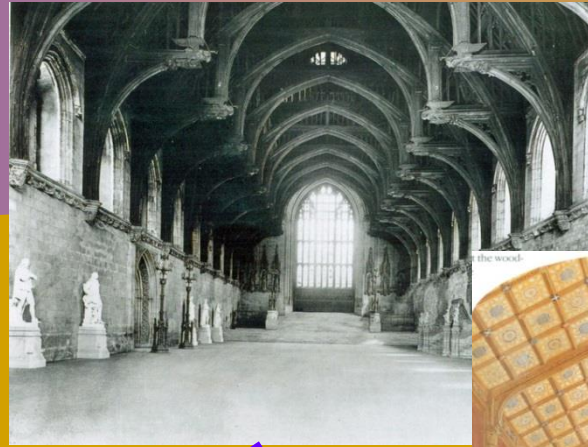
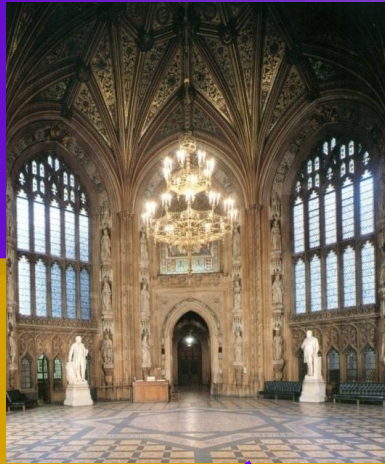
1908 – Grille Incident



ILN 17 Oct 1908



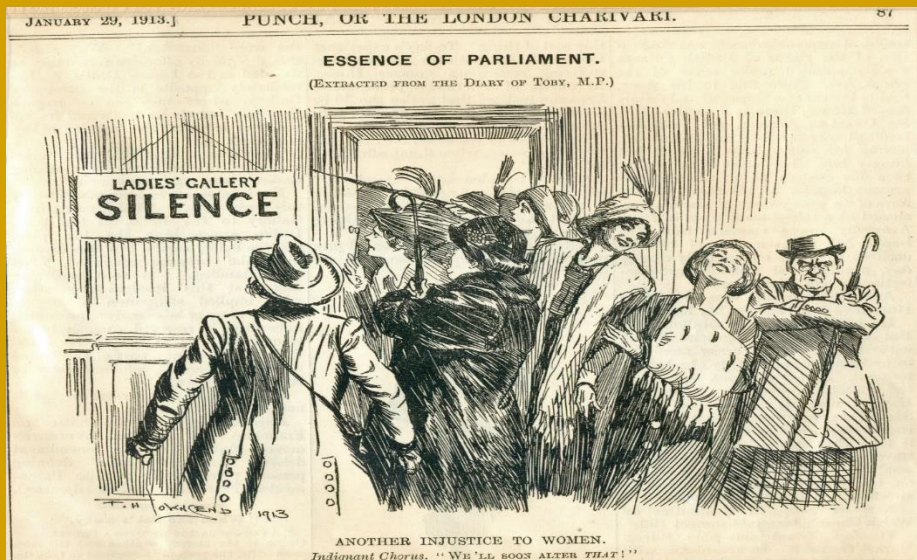
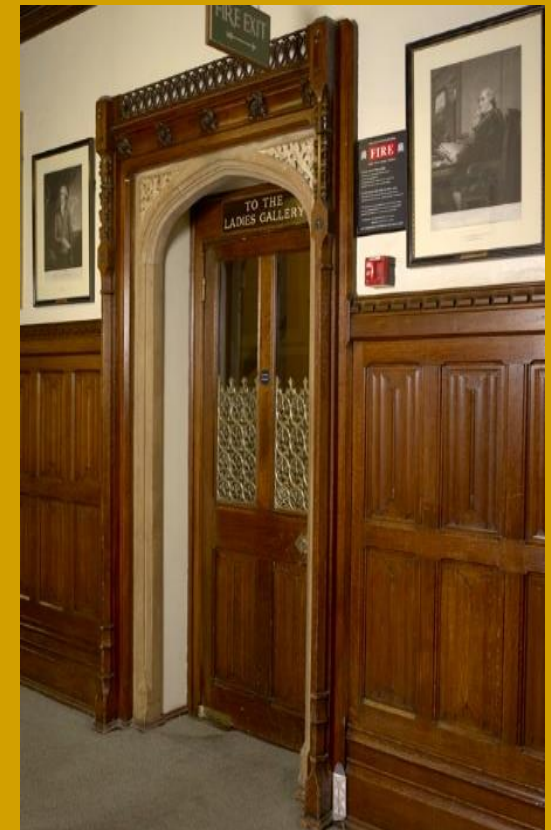
1908 – Grille Incident



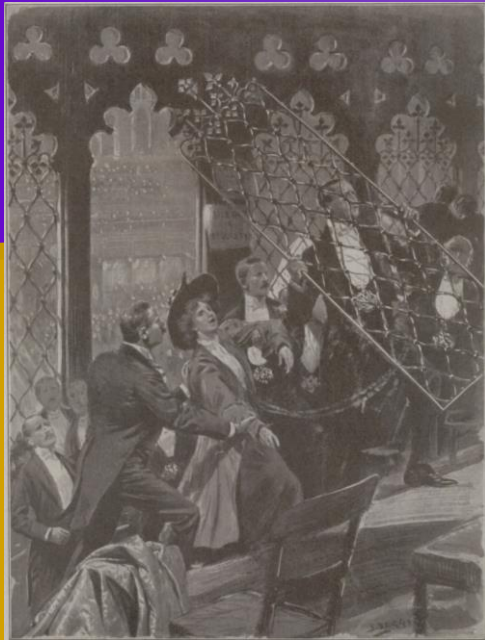
River Thames



Ladies Gallery House of Commons



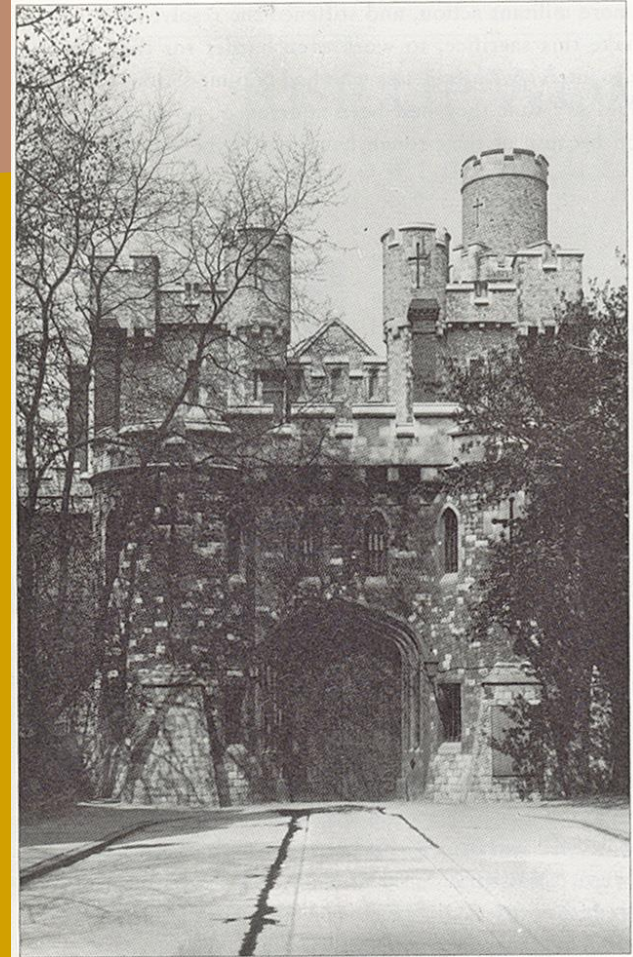
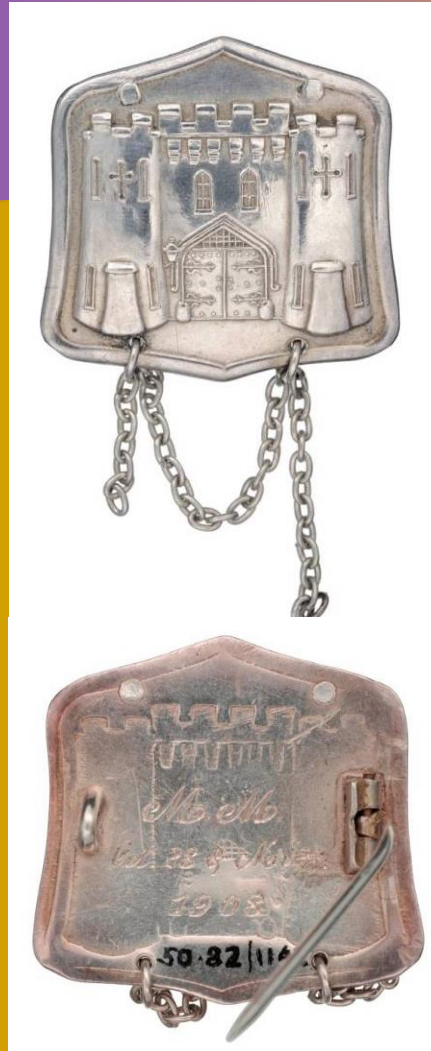
1908 - Grille Incident



MISS HELEN FOX,

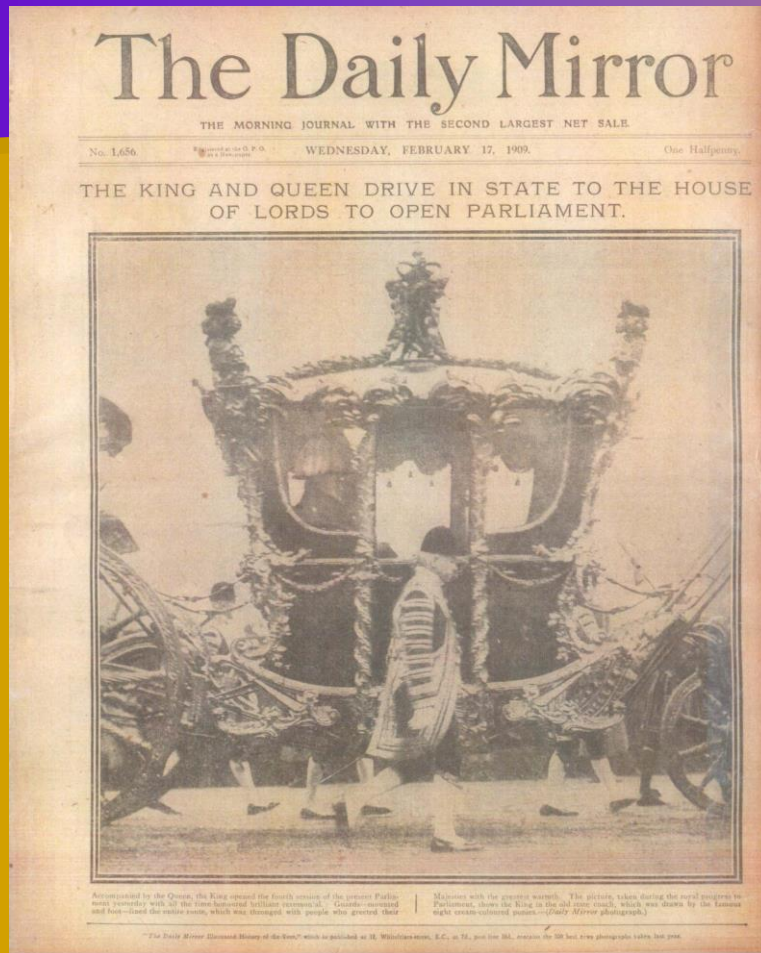


1908 – Prison, Holloway Gaol



Holloway Gaol in 1910, the place of imprisonment where hundreds of suffragettes were incarcerated between 1906 and 1914. It was built in 1852 as the City House of Correction for men and women sentenced to short terms of imprisonment. From 1902 it was used exclusively for women. In 1970 it was demolished and a new prison was built on the site.

1909 – King at Parliament, 16 February



The King and Queen drove to Westminster on 16 February 1909 to open the 4th Session of the current Parliament in the Old State Coach. (Daily Mirror, 17/2/1909)

1909 - Balloon Flight, 16 February

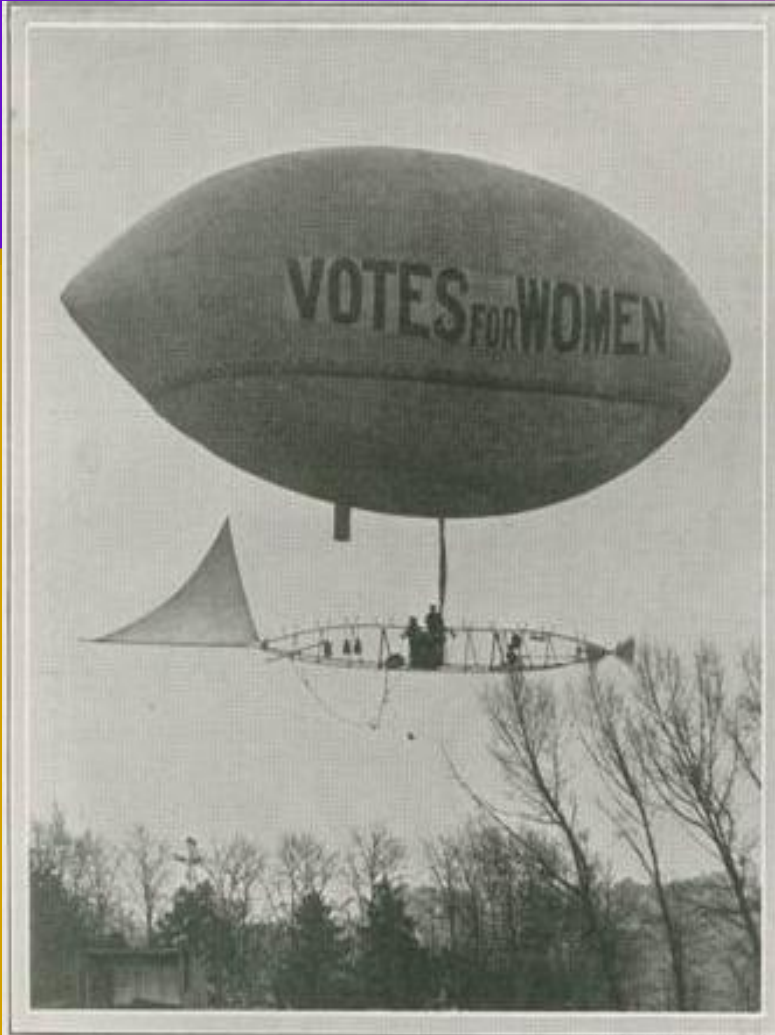


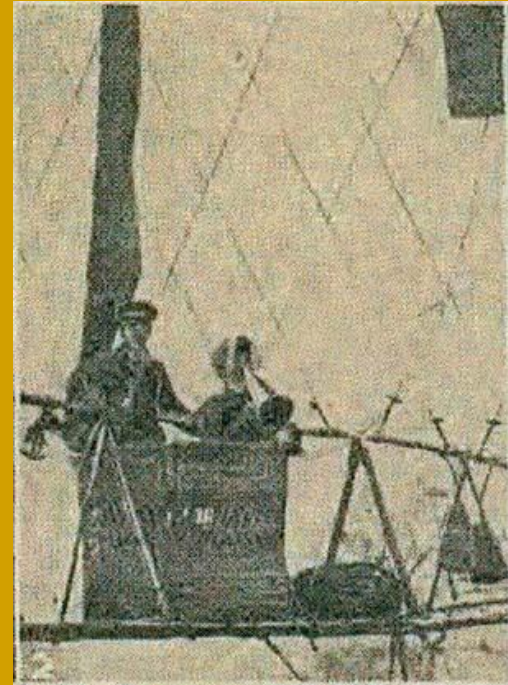
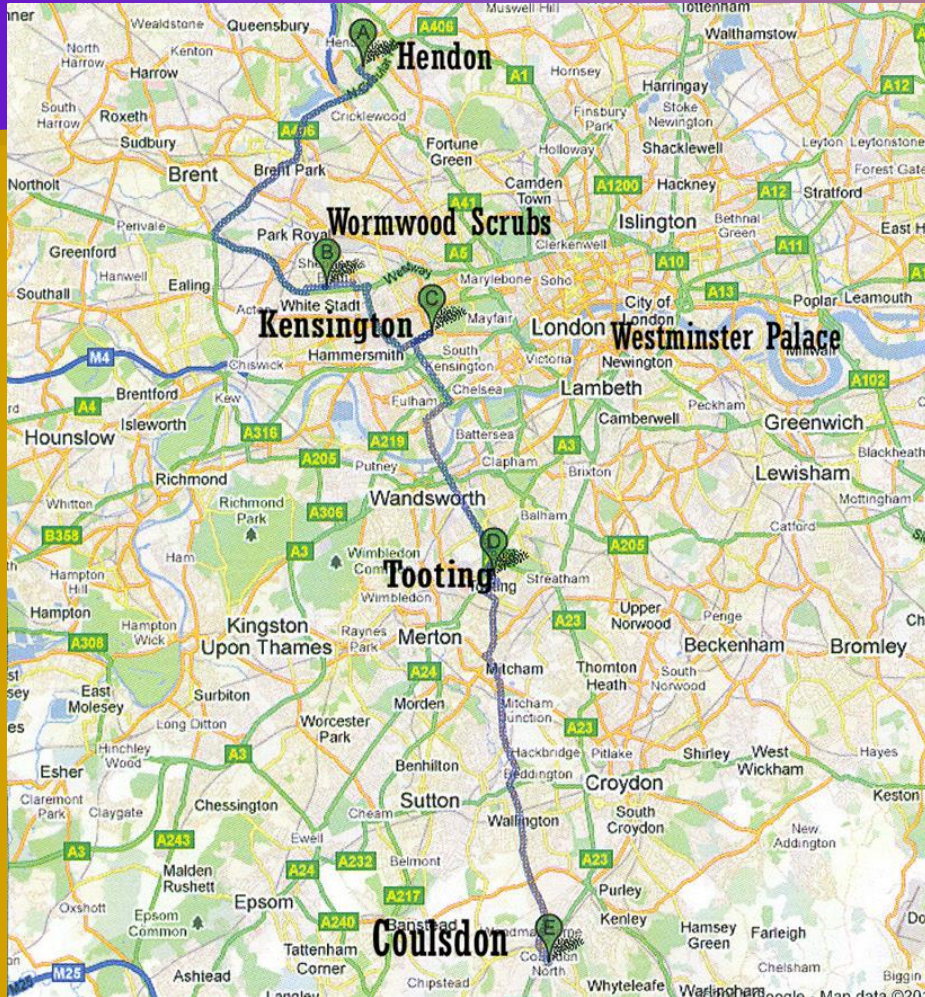
Photo Illustration Bureau

"VOTES FOR WOMEN" MORE IN THE AIR THAN EVER; THE SUFFRAGETTES DIRIGIBLE FOR THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The Suffragettes were in evidence in a new manner at the opening of Parliament. One of them, armed with a megaphone and handbills, ascended in a dirigible balloon, with the object of travelling above the route of the Royal Procession. Unfortunately for the lady's plans, it was necessary to keep the balloon so high above Westminster that it was almost invisible.



1909 - Balloon Flight, 16 February



In flight with Captain
Spencer
(Daily Mirror, 17/2/1909)

1909 – Balloon Flight International Press Coverage

SUFFRAGETTE TRIES BALLOON CAMPAIGN

London Expected to See Pam-
phlets Showered on Parlia-
ment, but Didn't.

The New York Times

CAMPAIGNING BY AIRSHIPS

Adverse Wind Prevents Suffragette's Trip
Over Parliament Buildings.

The New York Tribune 17 February 1909

SUFFRAGETTES PLAN TO BUY A DIRIGIBLE

Undaunted by Yesterday's Fiasco
When Attempting to Reach
Parliament Building.

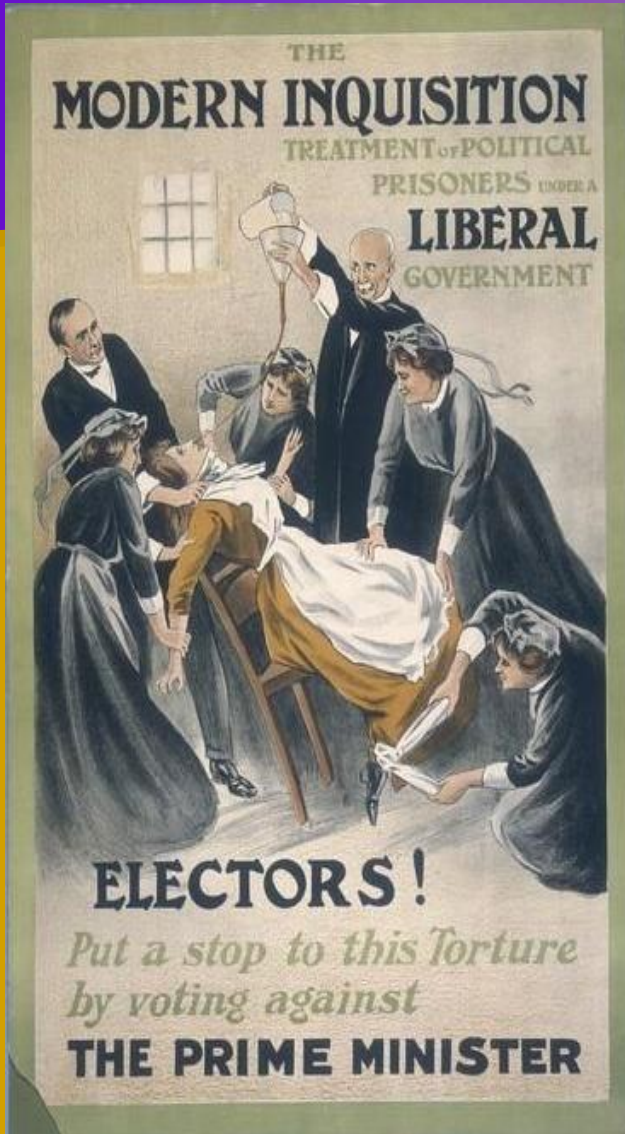
The Washington Times 17 February 1909

BALLOON BALKS IN CAMPAIGN OF SUFFRAGETTES

Woman Leader Goes Up in
Airship to Startle London,
but Has to Stop Short.

The Evening World 16 February 1909

1909 – Force Feeding



Began Sept 1909,
this Election Poster c1910



Charlotte Marsh
(1842-1909)



Laura Ainsworth
(1885 - 1958)



Emmeline Pankhurst
(1858-1928)



Mary Leigh
(1885 - 1978?)



(Evelyn) Hilda Burkitt
(1876— 1955)



Mabel Capper
(1886 - 1966)



Eileen Casey
(1881 - 1972)

1910 - Return to Australia & Tour

MISS
**MURIEL
MATTERS**

The Notable
Australian
Suffragette
to appear at the

Town Hall

in a series of
Illustrated lectures
on

June 11

June 13

and the
Afternoon of

June 14



1910 - Return to Australia & Tour

THEATRE ROYAL.
EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT.
SELECT KINEMATOGRAPH ENTERTAINMENT.
TOWN HALL.
 DIRECTION BEAUMONT SMITH.
TO-NIGHT (SATURDAY), TO-NIGHT.
 First of the only three appearances in Adelaide during her brief Australian tour of
 THE RENOWNED SUFFRAGETTE,
MURIEL MATTERS,
 Whose remarkable and thrilling career as a worker in one of the most intensely
 interesting periods in modern history have made her
FAMOUS IN TWO HEMISPHERES.
 To-night, Miss Matters will introduce her Fascinating Lecture,
"THE WOMEN'S WAR."
 Brimful of Incident and Anecdote of the Great Non-Party Political Movement.
VIVIDLY ILLUSTRATED WITH PICTURES,
 Including "Bernard Shaw Listening to Suffragist Speeches," "Suffragist Prisoners in Gaol
 Dress," "Downing street, showing the Cordon of Police."
THE AIRSHIP ASCENT—RISING TO 3,000 FEET.
 Illustrating Miss Matters' Sensational Attempt to Present a Petition to King Edward from
 the Women of England, and many other interesting Episodes of this Picturesque Period.
FASCINATING AND RICH IN HUMOUR.
 Brimful of Anecdote and Interesting Stories of the Great Personalities with whom Miss Matters
 has come in contact.
**BERNARD SHAW—LORD CHIEF JUSTICE OF IRELAND—FORBES ROBERTSON—MR. AS-
 QUITH—MR. LLOYD-GEORGE—MARIE CORELLI—MRS AND MISS PANKHURST—BEATRICE
 HARRIDEN—WINSTON CHURCHILL—LORD CREWE—LORD MORLEY—ELLEN TERRY.**
 Miss Matters' Remarkable Speech to the House of Commons earned for her the title, given by
 The Daily Mail, of
THAT DARING AUSTRALIAN GIRL.
 She is regarded as the Foremost Woman Orator in Britain.
PRICES,
 3/, 2/, 1/. BOXPLAN—HOWELLS, YOUNG, till
 1 o'clock; afterwards at Dubet and
 Biven's.
 Book Seats Early.
 Doors open 7 o'clock. Commence 8 o'clock.
MONDAY NIGHT, JUNE 13,
"INSIDE HOLLOWAY PRISON."
 Miss Matters will Lecture in Prison Dress, telling of her Experiences as a Prisoner on behalf
 of the Cause.
TUESDAY—"THE TORCH OF FEMINISM," in which Miss Matters will reply to local criticism.
 A. E. MARTIN, Representative.

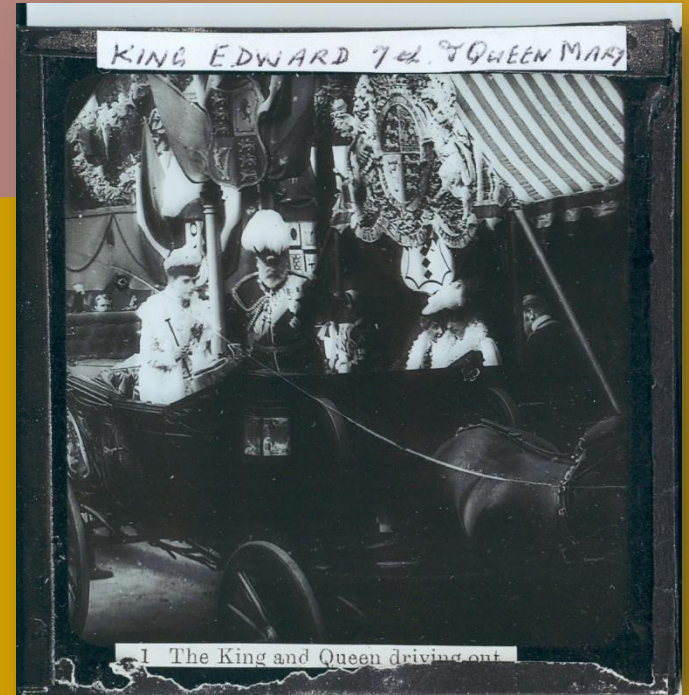
TOWN HALL, JUNE 11th and 13th.
SPECIAL MATINEE, TUESDAY, JUNE 14th.



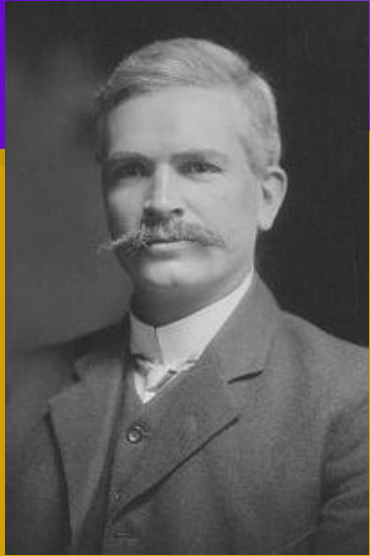
Inside the Walls of Holloway Gaol
 Depicted and illustrated by that notable Australian, MISS
MURIEL MATTERS.
 whose ascent in the Spencer ship, imprisonment in Holloway,
 travels in a caravan and association with all the great personalities
 in Britain have made her famous.
 Positively her Only Appearances in Adelaide before returning to England.

RATIONAL CONCERT, SUNDAY EVENING, AT 8.30.
TOWN HALL
 Director, BEAUMONT SMITH.
 THE MOST NOTABLE ENGAGEMENT OF THE YEAR
TO-NIGHT (SATURDAY), TO-NIGHT.
 First of the Only Three Appearances in Adelaide during her brief Australian Tour of
 THE RENOWNED SUFFRAGETTE,
MURIEL MATTERS,
 Whose remarkable and thrilling career as a worker in one of the most intensely inter-
 esting periods in modern history have made her
FAMOUS IN TWO HEMISPHERES.
 This Evening Miss Matters will introduce her Fascinating and Thrilling Lecture,
"THE WOMEN'S WAR."
 GRAPHICALLY ILLUSTRATED WITH THE FOLLOWING PICTURES.
 Specially Prepared for this Tour by the London "Daily Mirror."
THE AIRSHIP ASCENT.
 RISING TO 3,000 FEET.
 DOWNING STREET, SHOWING THE CORDON OF POLICE ENGAGED IN REPELLING THE
 SUFFRAGETTES.
 The Famous Bernard Shaw listening to Suffragist Speeches—Ellen Terry, Forbes Robertson,
 and outside personalities of the great movement.—Great Suffragist Demonstrations.—Holloway
 Gaol, where Miss Matters was imprisoned for loyalty to the cause.—Suffragists in Prison Dress.—
 The Great Picket in Politics, and many other exciting episodes.
MURIEL MATTERS,
 THE ONLY WOMAN IN THE WORLD WHO HAS ADDRESSED THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.
TO-NIGHT. TO-NIGHT.
 POSITIVELY ONLY NIGHT OF "THE WOMEN'S WAR."
 In Perth Miss Matters' Lecture caused the greatest curiosity and excitement, and the season
 had to be extended. It
 WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO EXTEND THE ADELAIDE SEASON.
 BOXPLAN, HOWELLS, YOUNG, till 1 o'clock, afterwards at Dubet & Biven's.
 Prices.
 3/, 2/, 1/. 3/, 2/, 1/.
 It is advisable to secure seats early.
 Doors open at 7 o'clock. Commence, 8 o'clock.
TOWN HALL—MONDAY NEXT.
INSIDE THE WALLS OF HOLLOWAY GAOL.
 In which Miss Matters will narrate her experiences as a prisoner in this famous gaol through-
 out to her cause. Miss Matters will Lecture
 IN PRISON DRESS.
TUESDAY NIGHT, JUNE 14, LAST APPEARANCE HERE.
 "The Torch of Feminism," in which Miss Matters will reply to public criticism.
 Boxplan seats at Howells, Young. Prices, 3/, 2/, 1/. A. E. MARTIN, Representative.
GOLDEN GATE HALL, GROTE STREET.
 EVERY EVENING AT 8. MATINEES EVERY SATURDAY AT 2.30.
BRUCES PICTURES.
 Prices—1/6, 1/3, and 6d. Children Half-price 1/6 and 1/3 seats only.
 ALL PATRONS paying for admission will receive a Coupon (value 1/6) Seats, Coupon value
 6d. 1/3 Seats, Coupon value 6d. 6d. Seats, Coupon value 3d. These Coupons are worth their face
 value at any of Mr. Bruce's Shows, and can be exchanged at any time for goods of their value,
 or used as part-payment for goods of greater value. FILMS FOR SALE OR HIRE.
CHANGE OF PROGRAMME AT
RATIONAL CONCERT SUNDAY NIGHT.
 RIFT MATINEE TO-DAY AT 2.30

1910 - Magic Lantern Show on Tour



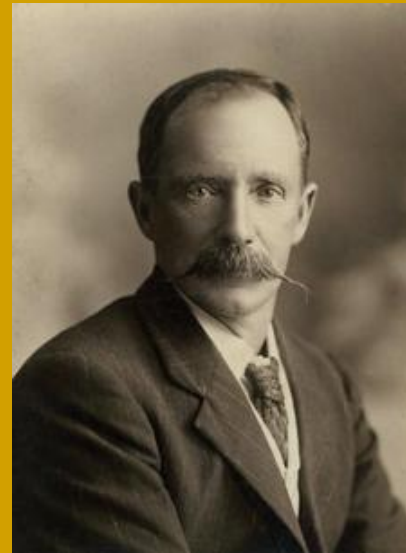
1910 – The Resolution & Garden Party



Hon. Andrew Fisher
(1862 – 1928)



Dr William Maloney
(1854 – 1940)



Senator Arthur Rae
(1860 – 1943)



Josiah Thomas
(1863 – 1933)

1911 – Vida in the UK

Reuben's Song – "Put me on an island where the girls are few,
(The Pied Piper of "The Ark".) Put me with the fiercest lion in the Zoo,
Put me in the monkey cage & I'll not fret,
But for goodness sake don't put me near a
Suffragette"

Swirel Satters. Aug 4th 1911.

Reuben defending the Cat as a poacher –
"I saw the Cā wi' a big rā' o'her day –
And a rābbi' brige 'an 'ersell'."

Holloway Prison Oct. 29th – Nov. 28th 1908.

A most valuable experience, proving to us the utter
futility of our prison system, in which everything
appears designed to effectively obscure, & holding
to develop the divine in man.

Violet Tilland.

"The Ark."

August 7th 1911.



1913 - Rising Militancy in UK



Lady White's house, burnt down by suffragettes on 20 March 1913. No one was hurt in the blaze. Like all buildings fired by the WSPU the house would have been reconnoitred to ensure that no humans or pets were killed in these attacks.



The house of Mr Arthur du Cros MP at St Leonards, Hastings, burnt down by suffragettes on 14 April 1913. The Liberal MP was a pioneer of the pneumatic tyre and the founder of the Dunlop Rubber Company.

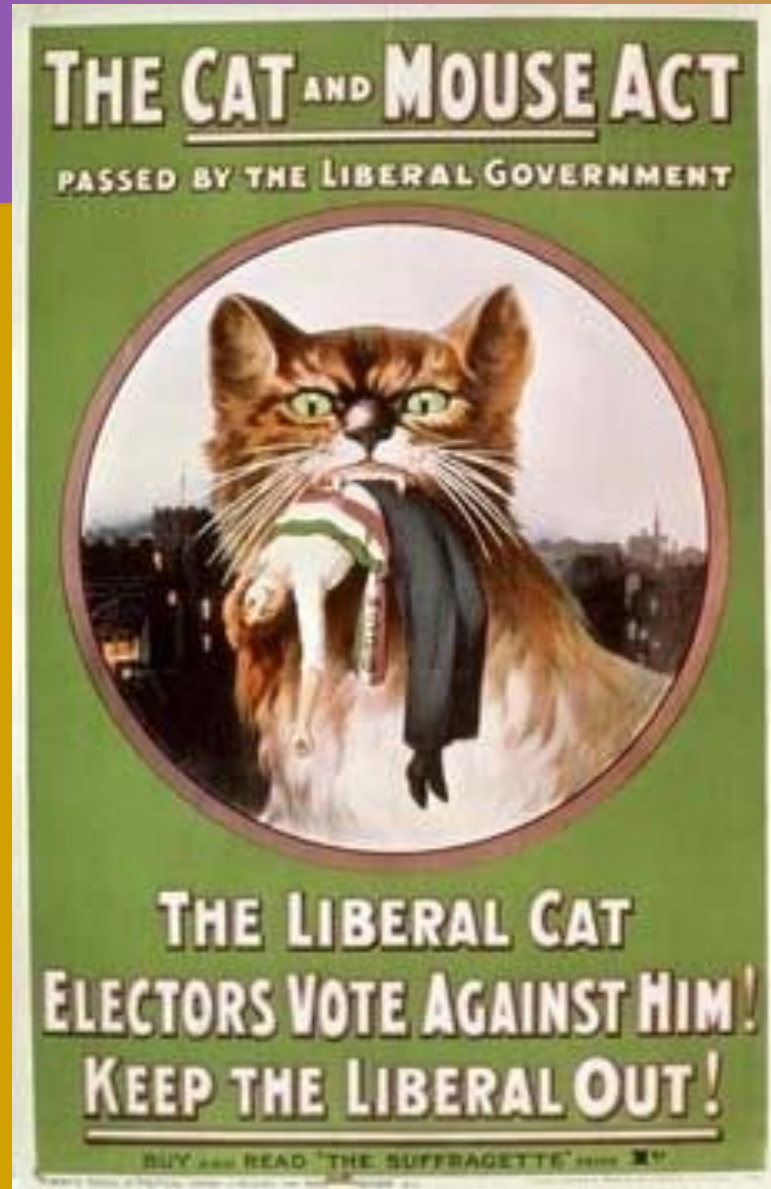
1913 – UK Cat & Mouse Act



Lady Constance Lytton
1869 - 1923



Jane Warton



Royal Assent
25 April, 1913

1914 - Peace Conference and Marriage (19 South End)



CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 1140882/3

1914 Marriage solemnized at the Register Office in the District of KENSINGTON in the County of LONDON

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Race or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Race or Profession of Father.
29	Fifteenth October	William Arnold Porter	43 years	Married before being married	General Postman	19 South End	William Arnold Porter (deceased)	Painter (deceased)
	1914	Muriel Ethel Matters	34 years	Spinster		19 South End	John Bernard Matters	Book Broker

Married in the Register Office according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { William A. Porter } in the Presence of us, { J. L. ... } by J. L. ...
 { Muriel Ethel Matters } { Henry ... }
 J. L. ...
 J. L. ...
 J. L. ...

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a register of Marriages in the Registration District of Kensington

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the

7th day of April 2009

MXE 299432

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10

1915 – 6th International Congress of Women (The Hague) 28 April – 1 May



SPEAKERS' TABLE, INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF WOMEN. THE HAGUE (APRIL 28th TO MAY 1st, 1915)



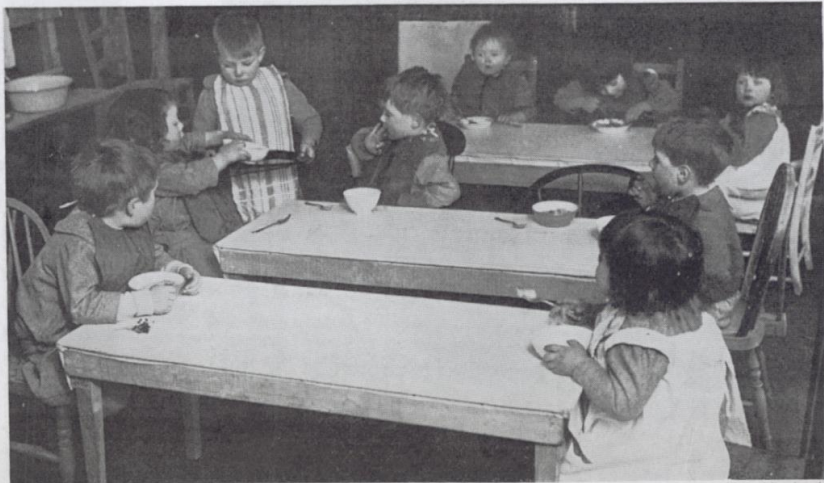
BUSINESS SESSION IN THE GREAT HALL OF THE DIERENTIUM—THE HAGUE

1916 – Montessori Training & Teaching



"MOTHERS' ARMS" TODDLERS TAUGHT BY THE MONTESSORI METHOD

Alfred



THE "MOTHERS' ARMS" MONTESSORI CLASS AT LUNCH

Wichers' Deadweight



1918 – Women's Franchise



Representation of the People Act 1918 was passed, enfranchising women over the age of 30 who met minimum property qualifications



Constance Georgine Markievicz, Countess Markievicz
1868 – 1927

Viscountess Astor was the first woman to take a seat in Parliament. Born in Virginia, she moved to England following her divorce from her first husband and subsequently married Waldorf Astor in 1906. In 1919 her husband, who was MP for Plymouth Sutton, succeeded to the peerage. She was elected in his stead for the Conservative party and held the seat until she retired in June 1945.



Nancy Astor, Viscountess Astor
1879 — 1964

The first woman to be elected to Parliament was the **Countess de Markievicz**. Of Anglo-Irish origin, she was married to a Polish Count. A member of Sinn Féin, she had played a part in the Easter Rising of 1916. Stood for election for a seat in Dublin whilst in Holloway prison in London in December 1918. She was successfully elected and became the first woman to be returned to the House of Commons, but she did not take her seat.

1922 – 2nd Australian Tour Education Lectures

The West Australian, Tuesday 4 July 1922



THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1922.

MISS MATTERS. — MONTESSORI IDEALS.

Miss Muriel Matters (Mrs. Porter), who is at present visiting Sydney, in company with her sister, Mrs. Cross (W.A.) and Mrs. Rischbieth (W.A.), is another Australian who has studied abroad and brought back with her much of the benefits which other lands bestow on those who delve in their lore. The Montessori methods of education is the subject which Miss Matters is most versed in, and on which she intends to give a series of addresses upon during her short visit to Sydney. Miss Matters (Dottoressa Montessori's International Course, Barcelona) is more interested in the psychology of the Montessori method than in the method itself. The synopsis of her lectures includes "History of the Method," "The Scientific Approach," "The Pedagogical Concept of Liberty," "The Problem of the Will," "Sensorial Education," and "The Presentation of the Intellectual Mind." Miss Matters had the benefit of Montessori's personal tuition in Barcelona, where she gained her diploma, and has a great admiration for this famous woman, who is now at a large foundling home in Spain, where she is studying the nerve responses of new-born infants.

Miss Matters (who is the wife of Mr. Porter, a well-known scientist) was born in Adelaide, but has been in England for some years. She has lectured extensively in England, and

CHILD PSYCHOLOGY.

Modern Educational Theory

The modern theory regarding child psychology and education was expounded to a large audience in the Town Hall last night, by Miss Muriel Matters (Mrs. Porter), under the auspices of the Child Welfare Bureau. The Director of Education (Mr. Cecil Andrews) was in the chair and on the platform with him were Mr. A. Carson and Mrs. Rischbieth.

Miss Matters who possesses a fund of information regarding the Montessori method of child development, explained clearly and forcefully the principles on which that system was founded. The child, she said, from the moment of its birth should be regarded as an individual and studied carefully. Parental influences should also be inquired into so that the teacher might recognise and deal with hereditary tendencies. The new trend in education was towards liberation and under this new spirit of freedom in education the child not only grew mentally but found opportunity for the expansion of his emotional nature. Instruction in mere facts was not going to throw light on the child's individual nature. Under the old system the child passed from school into a complicated society with little knowledge of his real nature and was asked to take up his duties as a citizen. Unless a child were studied from a physiological and psychological point of view his real nature would not be understood. The sociological conditions

1924 – Runs for Seat of Hastings



photo from:
Hastings Observer 6sep1924 p4



HASTINGS AND ST			
HASTINGS TRUE TO THE FLAG			
Sweeping Victory for Lord Eustace. — Conservatives' 9,000 Majority.—Declaration in the Rain.—Scenes in the Streets and in the Counting Room.			
1924.			
PERCY PORTER	15,217	6,082	The figures show that 21,358 voters went to the poll, representing a fraction over seventy per cent. There were 59 spoilt papers. The number of persons who did not vote was 8,896. In the previous elections which Lord Eustace had
Majority	9,135		

Hastings Observer 1 November 1924

Penn, Buckinghamshire

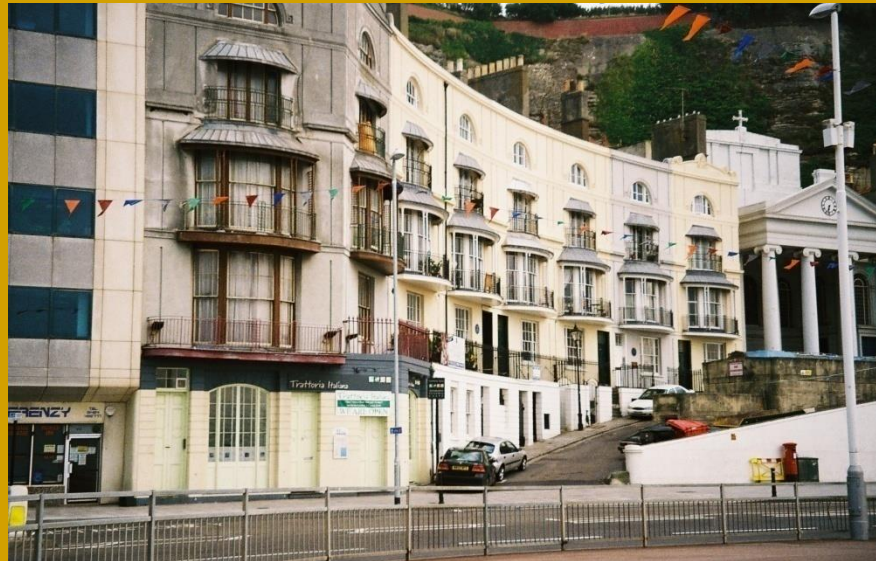


Living in Penn, Buckinghamshire



1949 – Death of William Porter

Return to Hastings – Pelham Cres



1957 – WFL Golden Anniversary



Hastings - Twilight Years in Hastings



BOROUGH OF HASTINGS - POLLING DISTRICT F(3) - ST. LEONARDS WARD

1969

WEST HILL ROAD - contd.

3155	Thompson, Douglas R. -J	70
3156	Thompson, Mary I.	70
3157	Cottam, Hannah H.	72
3158	Hines, Ruth F.	72
3159	Jennings, Kitty J. -J	74
3160	Voller, Ruth E.	76
3161	Martin, Vivienne M.R.	76
3162	Drake, Alfred G.	78
3163	Quick, Emmeline M.	80
3164	Quick, Daisy E.	80
3165	Pike, Albert E.	82
3166	Pike, Mavis -J	82
3167	Davis, Anthony E. -J	84
3168	Davis, Ellen	84
3169	Turnock, Anne L.	
	(Room 1)	84
3170	Kirby, Jane (Room 3)	84
3171	Porter, Muriel L.M. (Room 4)	84
3172	Morris, Derek G. -J	86
3173	Morris, Audrey	86
3174	Brown, Audrey G.	86
3175	Backett, Emily M.	86

WEST HILL ROAD - contd.

3176	Wratten, Ernest O.	110
3177	Wratten, Alice E.	110
3178	Comben, William H.	112
3179	Comben, Jane E.	112
3180	Lusted, Edith	114
3181	Strudwick, Ethel	114
3182	Yorath, Christopher P.	116
3183	Yorath, Florence M.	116
3184	Yorath, Alan E.	116
3185	Fleischer, Margaret E.	116
3186	Betts, Sidney F.G. -J	118
3187	Betts, Anne J.	118
3188	Davies, Victor -J	120
3189	Davies, Joyce	120
3190	Wenham, Roy N. -J	122
3191	Wenham, Doreen E.	122
3192	Hart, Horace B. -J	124
3193	Hart, Frieda	124
3194	George, Alan G.V.	126
3195	George, Ivy	126
3196	Lockwood, Lindsey E.	128
3197	Ellis, Lewis G.	130
3198	Ellis, Mary C.	130
3199	Smith, William R.	130

3200	Maples
3201	Maples
3202	Collins
3203	Smith,
3204	Smith,
3205	Knight,
3206	Knight,
3207	Wren,
3208	Wren,
3209	Harvey
3210	Harvey
3211	Dudene
3212	Dudene
3213	Robinson
3214	Duly, I
3215	Duly, F
3216	Shewry
3217	Puddick
3218	Puddick
3219	Boyce,
	1/2 So
3220	Boyce,

November 1969 – Funeral Service

Application Number 1222086/1



QBDY 102529

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY

DEATH		Entry No. 15
Registration district	HASTINGS	Administrative area
Sub-district	HASTINGS	County Borough of Hastings
1. Date and place of death Seventeenth November, 1969 St. Anthony's, West Hill Road, St. Leonards		
2. Name and surname	Muriel Lilah MATTERS-PORTER	3. Sex Female
		4. Maiden surname of woman who has married MATTERS
5. Date and place of birth 12th November, 1877 Australia		
6. Occupation and usual address Widow of William Arnold PORTER. 7, Pelham Crescent, Hastings		
7 (a) Name and surname of informant	Ellen DAVIS	(b) Qualification Occupier
(c) Usual address 82-84, West Hill Road, St. Leonards		
8. Cause of death 1a. Broncho pneumonia 1l. Cerebral thrombosis Certified by H.V. Parry, B.M.		
9. I certify that the particulars given by me above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.		Signature of informant
Ellen Davis		
10. Date of registration Nineteenth November, 1969	11. Signature of registrar A.M. Bishop, Deputy Registrar	

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of* a register of Births, Still-births or Deaths in the District above mentioned. Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office on 5th May 2009

*If the Certificate is given from the original Register, the words "the certified copy of" are struck out.

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1010233 14186 04408 3MSPSL 019696



WPR



The Muriel Matters Society Inc. - 2010



MMS Vice Regal Visit – 2010



Muriel's Legacy

MMS Research Team

Steven Anderson
Marie Maddocks
Wendy Herbert
Eileen Luscombe
and
Frances Bedford

