

HOW WOMEN
CAN HELP
IN POLITICAL WORK

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PREFACE

THE number of women who wish to take an active part in politics—apart from recording their votes—has greatly increased since this little book was first written. Many of them are in total ignorance how to begin, and are puzzled by the changes made in election law under the Representation of the People Act. If there had been any simply written elementary work, telling women how they might make a start, many would undoubtedly have turned to it for guidance. There exists, however, so far as I am aware, no work of the kind. To meet this lack I have brought the following pages up to date, and trust they will be found to serve their purpose.

Preface

I have endeavoured to make my remarks "non-party"—that is to say, of equal use to the adherents of ALL political parties.

That I have strong political views of my own, and that I have been engaged, for years past, in active service on behalf of the party which has my allegiance, will be obvious; had it not been so, I should not have been competent to undertake this task. But I have endeavoured to suppress my own party views; and if my readers rise from a perusal of my pages still in doubt as to the political party to which I belong, one at least of my objects will have been attained.

C. W.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY

SINCE the passing of the Representation of the People Act in 1918, women are in the political arena whether they will it or not. Responsibilities have been placed upon them which they cannot, and should not wish to, evade, for it is now admitted by all that questions which affect a community must be dealt with by that community as a whole. It is incumbent upon every woman to study political questions sufficiently to be able to exercise intelligently her

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privilege of voting, even though she may not wish to take any active part in the work of electioneering.

The idea that because a woman takes an interest in the government of her country she becomes unsexed and unwomanly is quite old-fashioned, and only those of a past generation believe that an intelligent interest in Reconstruction, Housing, or Licensing Reform takes the curl out of your hair or dims your delight in a new Paris hat.

It is not necessary for every woman to take an absorbing interest in politics, any more than it is necessary for every man to stand for Parliament; all, however, should know what is going on, and how and by whom the country is being governed.

A good politician (whether male or female) is, like a good poet, born, not made; but there are one or two hints which may be useful to those who wish actively to help one side or the other, and it is the object of the present little

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work to give these as briefly and simply as possible.

The qualities most needed are common sense, tact, some knowledge of men, women, and politics, and endless patience and perseverance. Much physical endurance is also necessary when it comes to electioneering, and the worker should be able to do a good deal of walking and standing about in the day. In country districts, a bicycle is invaluable, and I have sometimes found a knowledge of driving useful.

To the woman who wishes to make herself useful to her party, a capacity to adapt herself to different circumstances and different classes of people is also useful. For instance, a worker may find herself the guest of some county magnate, who will place carriages at her disposal for her work, will expect her to dress every night for dinner, and will welcome bright, lively talk to help through an otherwise dull evening. On the other hand, she may

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find herself welcomed kindly and heartily by the leading grocer of some country town, in which case Mrs. Grocer will place the best bedroom at her disposal, and meals will be taken in the room behind the shop. The lady worker who possesses sufficient tact will contrive to make herself equally agreeable as a guest in either case. During an election people interested in the same cause and working for the same end soon become friendly and intimate, however different their stations in life, and I have made many friendships while working in various parts of the country.

CHAPTER II

HOW TO FORM A LOCAL BRANCH

PREPARATORY WORK.—A great deal of valuable political work can be done in the quiet times between elections. It is indeed essential to be prepared and to have some organization in readiness for the fight when it comes. Many an election has been won by careful organization and steady work months before the writ for it was issued.

It is of very little use to try to establish a women's league or a political organization of any kind—whether it be a branch of the Primrose League or the Women's Liberal Federation—a few days, or even a few weeks, before

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an expected election. All the machinery should be in working order many months before, and every member of the organization should be ready to take up the work of electioneering at a moment's notice.

HOW TO FORM A LOCAL BRANCH.— You may be living in the town or village in which you desire to form a local branch, or you may have been sent down from the headquarters of some political organization to form such a branch in that particular place.

Anyone finding herself in the latter position will want no suggestions from me; for she will no doubt have been selected for the duty on account of her special knowledge and experience of such matters.

If, on the other hand, you are living on the spot, your work will be comparatively easy, provided you know how to set about it.

The chief of the various women's political associations are the Primrose

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League (Ladies' Grand Council), the Women's Conservative and Unionist Association, the Women's Liberal Federation, and the Scottish Women's Liberal Federation.

Most of these have affiliated branches (each with its president, secretary, and executive committee) in all the chief centres of population, whilst others have a large number of branches in various towns throughout the kingdom. The names of the secretaries and the addresses of the central offices in London will be found in an appendix at the end of this book. The secretary of any of them will always be pleased to send you, on application, a list of branches, with their local officers. It may be, that when you have obtained such a list, you will find that there exists in your own town, quite unknown to yourself, a branch of one or other of these associations—perhaps in a comatose condition, through lack of energy on the part of the secretary

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or other officers. In that case you will, of course, join the branch and do what you can to revive it. If, however, you find that no such association exists in your town or village, and if you wish to start one, your best plan of procedure will be as follows :

In the first place, you will probably know already a good many of the leading politicians in the neighbourhood, either personally or by repute ; and it will be well, at the outset, to call upon the wives of a few of them, and to point out the importance to the particular party to which you happen to belong, of forming a women's political organization. If the Member of Parliament for the town or division, or the candidate selected to oppose him (according to the side which you take in politics), lives near, of course as a matter of etiquette, his wife should be asked first for her co-operation. I have found it the better plan to call and explain the matter personally ; but, if

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writing is preferred, it is well to send as simple a letter as possible, intimating that it has been suggested that a women's association or branch of a league should be formed in the constituency, and that the co-operation of the leading women in it is essential to its success. It is important to enlist the co-operation of the men's associations; they have more knowledge and experience, and I have always received the greatest kindness and help from them. At present they are only too glad to hand over the charge of the women electors to those of their own sex.

PRELIMINARY MEETING.—Having received a certain number of favourable replies, you should then ask some lady well known in the locality to lend her drawing-room for a preliminary meeting. If, among those willing to help, there is someone in a high social position, try and get her to help in this way. There is enough human nature in all political parties to

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appreciate an invitation to tea and talk from such a quarter.

Suppose that, in your locality, it is found more convenient to have your preliminary meeting in the afternoon, then, having fixed upon the day and hour, you should have cards printed in the form of an invitation :

The Hon. Mrs. SO-AND-SO or [Lady BLANK]

Requests the pleasure of

Mrs. [or Miss].....'s Company

*at an AFTERNOON MEETING, to hear an
address from.....and to*

form a Branch of the Women's.....

.....League.

The proceedings will begin at 4 p.m.

Tea and coffee at 5.30.

R.S.V.P.

Send the cards out widely, and ask for a reply to the hostess, in order that she

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and you may know how many to expect.

If you or the hostess can secure the presence of some well-known politician (man or woman) who would give a twenty minutes' speech, so much the better. This, however, is a matter which must be arranged privately, as a formal request made by a stranger to a leading politician, not supported by any personal influence, would often meet with a polite refusal.

There are many really good women speakers, and you should try and secure one for your preliminary meeting by writing to one of the head organizations. You will find that names count in these matters almost more than good sound speaking; and in order to attract the indifferent, you will have to appeal to their curiosity to see someone bearing a well-known name, as much as to their interest in politics.

In this matter, as in that of the hour of meeting, you will have to be guided

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by the needs of the locality. In some of the mining villages where I have worked (and, in fact, in most purely working-class constituencies), the *evening* is the only time when the women are free to come out.

I have, too, sometimes found it better to call the preliminary meeting in a schoolroom or hall, rather than in a drawing-room. One of the keenest women politicians I know is the Lancashire cotton-mill lass. Clattering along in her clogs, with a shawl over her head and a couple of children clinging to her skirt, no amount of persuasion would get her into My Lady's drawing-room, even if it were offered; but she will come to a hall or schoolroom, and (what is more) she often takes a keener and more intelligent interest in politics than her more leisured sister of the middle class.

To secure a good meeting of women of this kind, it is best to call personally on as many as possible and *ask* them to

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attend. They then tell each other ; discuss the matter amongst themselves ; and most of them will come the first time, out of curiosity if nothing more. It is for you to make the proceedings so interesting that they come again, become members of the association, and do good work.

In any case, whoever comes, try and arrange as well for the presence of either the sitting member or the selected candidate for the division. If he or she thinks the work you suggest would help in the constituency, you will find no reluctance to look in and give the meeting a blessing.

Each visitor, as she comes into the meeting, should be handed a card inscribed :

Please enrol me a Member of the.....
Branch of the Women's
Association.
<i>Name</i>
<i>Address</i>
.....
<i>Date</i>

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Some trustworthy person should be asked to collect these cards at the door after the meeting. This is an important matter, for people often go away from such a gathering full of ardour, which is apt, however, soon to evaporate.

Do not be discouraged if only ten or a dozen people come to your first meeting. Some of the most successful associations have started from such small beginnings.

Have a rough agenda ready for the meeting; and if it is held in a private house, suggest that the hostess take the chair. She or you should make a few opening remarks as to the desirability of the formation of a local branch of the political organization you wish to support. Make your remarks short, practical, and to the point.

In the next place, ask your woman speaker (if you have one) to urge specially how necessary it is that women should study political questions

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so that they can exercise the franchise in the best possible way.

Supposing you have secured the presence of the local member or candidate, ask him or her, towards the close of the meeting, to move a short resolution, to the effect that "It is desirable that a branch of the [Primrose League, Women's Liberal Federation, or any particular political society] be formed."

Assuming that such a resolution is carried, it will then be necessary to nominate a president, an honorary secretary, and an executive committee. Of course, local conditions will be the main guide in this matter. Your hostess will probably be willing to act as president; and if you live in the neighbourhood, someone will suggest, no doubt, that you undertake the work of honorary secretary.

At the preliminary meeting also, you should arrange the amount of the annual subscription. This varies according to the locality. The subscrip-

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tion for the rank and file of the Primrose League is 1s. per annum. Some associations say "a minimum subscription of 1s."; others, in better-class neighbourhoods, are able to have a minimum subscription of 2s. 6d. Of course, *donations* of larger amounts can be asked for to assist in defraying the preliminary and other expenses of the organization.

As soon as these preliminaries have been completed, it is well to try and arrange for a public meeting in a local hall, to be addressed by some well-known politician, either man or woman. This will attract waverers. Your president or the local member or candidate will probably help you in arranging the meeting. Be sure to have plenty of the cards of membership, one of which should be handed to each member of the audience. You may add, if you like, a short leaflet explaining the aims and objects of the association, and giving the names of the officers.

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When the association is finally launched, you should see that every member of it has something to do, or at all events that every member of the committee has. It will be most useful if you can divide the constituency so that each member of the association has charge—so to speak—of a street or locality. It may be done something on the lines on which the district visitor arranges her work. Papers should be left at the houses—say once a week or a fortnight. People are asked to join the association, and “removals” are notified to the men’s association.

You should also urge upon your members the advisability of their standing as candidates for boards of guardians, parish councils, and district councils. I do not suggest that every member of an association should offer herself for election, but that you should urge the most suitable women who have time and knowledge to undertake public work of this kind.

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It educates them, and broadens their minds.

County Council elections are run, more often than not, on political lines; and a County Council election is in many cases a good preparation for a parliamentary contest. Any member of a women's association who has a vote or is entitled to one, should be urged to exercise her privilege or to claim her right to be put on the register. Nothing is so disheartening as to find that there are a number of women on the register, but they will not take the trouble to go and vote. Yet I know, on the other hand, a women's association which was able to boast that every member of the executive, except one, possessed a vote. Every vote was recorded; the one individual without a vote worked hard at canvassing; and a victory was gained, though by a very narrow majority.

I found in a remote village where I was working that the women were very

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timid about going to the polling booth for the first time. "Mrs. Brown would go if Mrs. Jones would," and so on—and I saw that many votes were in danger of being lost. We arranged a meeting in a schoolroom at a convenient hour in the afternoon, and then marched fifty strong, with a Union Jack at the head, to the schoolroom where every vote was recorded.

Some people have great faith in petitions to be signed and sent up to Parliament. Personally, I do not think they are of much use. Suppose, however, that your association decides to promote some such movement—say a petition in favour of, or against, local option, or nationalization, or on any other subject. Many members who perhaps might be shy of doing definite political work (with a big "P") may be persuaded to take round sheets and get them signed. They thus make acquaintances in the locality and are gradually drawn into doing other work,

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when they find, as they do very soon, that there is nothing very formidable in it.

Of course, in all your work, you must be guided by the special needs of the locality in which you are working.

It is sometimes wise to have some social element in your propaganda, but I am not in favour of a great many tea-parties and entertainments. It is certainly, however, a good thing to have at least one such gathering during each year, in order that people may get to know one another.

The *kind* of entertainment that is most suitable depends largely on the locality. In some county constituencies, a summer garden-party, with light refreshments, a band, and perhaps some games for the children, is most appreciated; whilst, in many urban constituencies (and always in winter), a party in a large hall is more suitable. In the latter case, substantial refresh-

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ments, such as ham and beef sandwiches and tea and coffee, are required to make the thing complete, whilst a good brass band arouses enthusiasm.

You should arrange that at these parties there shall be plenty of workers to go about among the people to talk to them ; to introduce them to each other and to the member or the candidate ; and, generally, to "make things go." It is not an uncommon thing to see, both at Liberal parties and at Primrose League functions, melancholy little groups of poor people left stranded, not quite sure what to do or where to go. The worker who is known to them is greeted with a genuine smile of welcome, and can do much to make the party pleasant and profitable. Of course, a brief political speech or two should be judiciously interspersed among the other items on the programme.

It is, as a rule, wise to make some small charge for entrance or refreshments, to cover the cost, as this makes

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it impossible for the other side to accuse you of bribery.

Some associations are in such a flourishing condition that they can afford to invite their members to, say, a garden-party (supposing the garden is lent) and give them light refreshments free. If this can be done, so much the better; but, on the other hand, if you send out your invitations widely to members and non-members, it is better to make a small charge for admission, or they are apt to degenerate into "treats," and a lot of people who are quite indifferent to the matter in hand will come for what they can get. Besides, people value much more highly an entertainment for which they have paid than one to which there is no charge for admission. In a poor district the charge should be very small; but however trifling it may be, it will help to meet the expenses of the association.

In any case, it is never wise to let the

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entertaining get into the hands of one rich person in a locality, or your poorer members may feel "out of it"; nor is it fair to expect your member or candidate to pay for everything, as is, unfortunately, often done.

There are various other ways in which the interest can be maintained in the intervals between elections.

In some cases I have found it useful to have fortnightly or monthly debates on some topic of the day: knowledge is thus gained which will be found of great value in canvassing.

These debates, however, sometimes have a drawback, for the members of a debating club or society may get the impression that they are qualified to speak in public, and that this, and this alone, is the work they are called upon to do. As a rule, every man who takes an interest in the affairs of his country thinks he could make a more effective political speech than other people. At all events, there are always

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more than enough volunteers to fulfil all requirements in this respect.

In order that a woman may do good political work and take her proper share in the government of her country, it is not necessary that she should be able to speak in public; but if she can on occasion, when asked, address a meeting, it is of course important that she should do it well. Therefore, if you intend to make public speaking part of your work, you should not fail to have a few good lessons in voice production. I know of few more painful exhibitions than that of a woman gasping and gesticulating on a platform to an audience who cannot hear five out of six words.

Some women are born orators; their voices carry; their arguments convince; they take their audiences with them. But these are rare exceptions. As a rule, more useful work can be done by women off the platform than on it. I have often heard election agents say

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(speaking of men): "Don't send us speakers. We have more than enough."

When a public political meeting is arranged in the borough or locality in which your work lies, you should see that everyone in your particular district receives a notice of it and is urged to come. Very often the working-class women are keenly interested. If a handbill is left at the house a day or two before the meeting, waverers are persuaded to come to hear the speeches, and perhaps new recruits are made.

I know of an association in a Lancashire town which has a useful library of simple political books. They are kept at the house of one of the members, who is "At Home" once a week to all members, to change the books and have a chat with them. She always has the day's papers on the table, and animated discussions often take place on the news. Many men

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also use the books, and they often accompany their wives when they come to change them. The idea is worthy of imitation.

Music is always appreciated, and, if you find any musical talent among your flock, you may be able to start a political glee party. This is often very successful in keeping the people interested. Their services are most useful at political meetings, in leading the singing of political songs.

By these and other means touch should be kept with the people between elections, so that, when the time for the fight comes, good workers and accurate information are at the disposal of the party at a moment's notice. I have observed at elections that one woman with local knowledge is worth five or six imported workers—useful as these are.

Remember, however, that all this must be done in the times *between elections*. The moment an election is

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in prospect, any entertainments at which food and drink are given away would be very likely to come within the "Corrupt Practices Act," and should be carefully avoided.

CHAPTER III

REGISTRATION

IN past days it seemed to be the desire of those who drafted the Registration Laws to prevent as many people from voting as possible; the difficulties which had to be surmounted and the formalities to be gone through by those who were entitled to vote, and wished to do so, were very numerous. Party agents expended much energy and ingenuity in "keeping off" their opponents and "putting on" their friends. The Liberal agent boasted that he had "knocked off ten Tories," while the Conservative agent was proud of having made good fifteen "objections" to Liberals!

Thanks to the Representation of the

Registration

People Act, 1918, the duty of placing qualified voters upon the register is no longer left to the wire-pullers of different parties.

The franchise has been very much simplified by the Act. A man is entitled to be placed upon the register and vote as soon as he is twenty-one, if he has lived in the constituency for the necessary six months.

A woman is entitled to be placed on the register and vote (provided she has "attained the age of thirty") :

- (a) If she is the wife of a man entitled to vote ;
- (b) has occupied land, premises, or a house for the necessary six months.

Two women living together in a house or flat (or two men), or a man and his sister, can be on the register as "joint occupiers," but not more than two persons in respect of one house or flat.

An unmarried daughter living at

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home, if she desires to vote on attaining the age of thirty, must be able to prove that the room she occupies is let to her *unfurnished*.

Caretakers—men and women—who live on premises, such as schools, banks, etc., where the person who employs them does not live, may vote.

It is the duty of the registration officer—a paid official—to see that the name of every person entitled to vote is on the register. If he neglects this duty he is liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds. Two registers of voters must be made every year, and a six months' residence in the constituency gives the right to vote.

The first six months, or "qualifying period," ends on 15th January, and the other on 15th July.

The woman worker should bear these dates in mind. You will often be asked, "Have I a vote?" It is necessary for you to ascertain two things before replying to the question.

Registration

First, has he or she a right to vote? Secondly, having that right, is the name on the register? There may be an incontestable right to the franchise, but if for any reason the name is *not on the register*, no vote can be recorded. Someone has been remiss, and the proper steps have not been taken to secure the right.

Lists of voters will be hung up in the post offices, and in the office of registration officer, early in February and August, and a notice will be added saying by what date claims and corrections must be sent in. The energetic worker will consult these lists carefully—particularly in a country district—and will make a point of urging those who support the party in which she is interested, whose names are not on, to make their claims. She may have to obtain forms of claim from the registration officer herself. Remember the claim must be signed by the man or woman in person. It is no use for

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a man's wife to say: "It's all right; I know John wants the vote;" or for the daughter of the postmistress to say: "I'm sure mother wants her vote, but she's out just at the moment." Get the claim signed by the person concerned, and then see that the registration officer has it. This is exceedingly useful work, for a great many people lose the forms of claim left at their houses, or they do not take the trouble to sign them.

Suppose you have taken charge of a street or district, you should make a point of finding out whether all the men and women who support your political party in that street are on the register.

In making calls, it is wise to take a supply of literature, which can be obtained from either the men's or the women's headquarters in London. Those who have not already joined the local association should be urged to do so; many recruits are thus obtained,

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and the women are often eager for information and enlightenment.

Owing to the shorter residential qualification, the looking up and tracing of removals is not so urgent as it was in the past; in poor districts, however, where the tenancies are weekly, this work is still important. If an election comes suddenly in a constituency, and the voting is likely to be at all close, there is usually a good deal of rushing round and looking up removals at the last minute. A man may only have moved to the next street, but if he is not traced and looked up his vote may be lost.

You will probably be able to obtain from the men's association slips which you can fill in when you find that anyone has removed into, or has left, your particular district.

The slips will be something in this form :

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.....POLLING DISTRICT.	
Name of outgoing tenants
Removed from.....	to.....
Date of Removal.....	Politics.....
Name of incoming tenants
Removed from.....	to.....
Date of Removal.....	Politics.....

On this slip you will note where the man or woman who is on the register for that house has gone. You will also obtain particulars as to the new tenants, and will urge on them the importance of filling in their papers when left by the registration officer or his deputy.

You only want to find out who has come to the house and where the former occupiers have gone. Later, they can be canvassed. If they are not on your side, they can be left for the opposition canvasser to deal with. It would obviously be absurd for a Conservative worker to urge a Liberal to claim his or her vote, and *vice versa*.

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One advantage is, that these removal inquiries can be made at any time in the day.

In purely country districts there is not so much of this sort of canvassing to be done, but there is always some.

The more people of your own way of thinking you can get on the register, the better will it be at election-time for the party you favour.

The registration officer generally does his work thoroughly; but in very poor districts and in remote parts of the country, the careful woman worker can materially help her party by paying especial attention to this matter of registration.

CHAPTER IV

GETTING READY FOR WORK

LET us suppose now, that every-thing recommended in the foregoing chapters has been duly done—that a local branch has been formed and has been kept going, that meetings have been held, and that the registration has been carefully attended to. Suppose, further, that this has been going on for, say, a year or two, and that an election—the great contest for which all the foregoing has been merely preparatory—is at last at hand in the borough or division.

At this stage, work of the kind described above must be dropped for a time and work of another kind—that of active electioneering—must be under-

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taken. In this also, a woman who knows how to go to work may render most valuable help.

THE WOMAN ELECTIONEERER.—The old-fashioned politician, or “lady canvasser,” as she was called a few years ago, is as extinct as the unfortunate dodo. She generally rushed into politics—of which, as a rule, she knew nothing—at election times, in order to further the prospects of her husband, brother, or father, and, incidentally, to “have a good time” driving round the country, decked in party colours, and patronizing astonished yokels and shopkeepers. Some of her kind considered they had fulfilled their mission and influenced the fate of nations when they had sat smiling on a platform beside their husbands or other relations while speeches were being made, or when they had so far sacrificed themselves as to kiss a promiscuous baby or two in a tour round the village.

The time for that kind of thing is

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past. Women now take an active part in the government of their country; besides recording their votes, they work hard at organizing and at election times. And men who still do the chief organizing of the fight no longer regard a woman as an unmitigated nuisance, who, though her vote is welcome, must be kept quiet and sent home to her "proper sphere" at the earliest possible moment. The intelligent, capable woman worker is valued alike by agent and candidate; she takes her place unostentatiously in the great army of workers fighting for the cause which they believe to be right; and, when the burden and heat of the day are over, she receives a generous meed of praise and thanks from those for and with whom she has worked.

A woman helping at any election may be either working on ground with which she is intimately familiar, or she may have come from a distance to help. The following remarks are intended chiefly for the guidance of anyone in the posi-

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tion of the latter, but many of them will be of equal use to one who is working in the constituency in which she lives.

THE WORKER'S ARRIVAL.—On arriving at the town or village where you are going to work, you should leave your luggage (which should be reduced to a minimum) at the station, unless you have previously arranged for rooms or entertainment. Your next duty will be to inquire the whereabouts of the committee-room occupied by the party you have come to assist.

THE COMMITTEE-ROOM is generally a room in an empty house, or perhaps, in a country district, the front room of a cottage, cleared for the purpose. It is usually bare of all furniture except a table and a few chairs.

When you first enter, all will appear to be chaos. There will be several men—all smoking—talking to one who apparently listens and takes notes. Boys with large rosettes of the party

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colour will be standing about, or, if it is winter, sitting round the fire waiting, like Mr. Micawber, "for something to turn up." Telegraph boys will be running in and out, and the paid "messenger," who is allowed by law to every committee-room, will, if it is winter, be sitting by the fire smoking, and if summer, leaning against the doorpost—smoking. He is generally a nondescript person with an astonishing knowledge of the locality, and an obliging desire to help everybody in a vague kind of way. Over all, however, is the directing and controlling eye of the "agent." The apparent chaos is really order. The talking men all have something to say which matters, though they often say it at too great length.

When you report yourself at the committee-room, you will be wise if you subside into a corner and wait a favourable opportunity to make yourself known. There will be no cessation in the smoking. You may not even be offered a

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chair. This is not want of politeness ; it is merely the result of absorption in the work of the moment.

You have, perhaps, come down at short notice to a country town, whose name and staple industry you know from the geography books of your youth, but where you have no acquaintances and do not even know the names of the hotels. While waiting in the committee-room, a local lady who has been canvassing may come in, or you can consult the " messenger " about hotels or lodgings. If economy is necessary, it would be best to inquire as to rooms, and you will often find that some local supporter is willing to let a couple of rooms on moderate terms. Of course, if expense is no object, it is pleasanter to stay at an hotel, though in a village this may mean " roughing it " somewhat.

If, however, before coming, you have received an invitation to stay with friends, or with some member of the

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party who is glad to offer hospitality to workers, matters are simple. I have found, however, that it is more satisfactory to take rooms on your own account, if this can be done without giving offence. Sometimes, while making inquiries in the committee-rooms, I have been invited, in the most pressing manner, to stay at the house of some supporter of the party. Unless the hostess is there to second the invitation, it is well gracefully to decline, if possible. I was once carried home in triumph by a hospitable fox-hunting squire, to find that his wife hated politics, was in the midst of preparations for her daughter's wedding, and did not want thrust into her family circle a strange woman whose work, in the nature of it, must make for irregularity at meal-times and a general uncertainty of movements.

By the time these matters are arranged, the agent will be able to see you and tell you the kind of work required, and the name of the sub-agent in charge

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of the ward or district where he wishes you to locate yourself.

THE AGENT is the most important factor in an election, not even excepting the candidate himself. Under him are the sub-agents, each in charge of a particular locality, and it is with one of these that the woman worker is most likely to come in personal contact.

Agents vary a good deal, but they all agree in thinking that their particular method of organization is the best possible.

Some of them are more cordial to women helpers than others. Most are glad, however, of the help of a capable woman or two, who will undertake some of the difficult and not always pleasant work of canvassing, which many of the men of the locality shirk.

Every agent has his own particular way of arranging his work, and it is folly for a worker, however experienced, to tell him how So-and-so worked such and such an election, or to argue

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with him about his methods. It is wise to fall in with his ways and work as he wishes, even if you are convinced that you could do the whole thing better yourself. I have known a thoroughly capable and most useful worker shunned and avoided by men who would have been glad of her help if they could have had it unaccompanied by long arguments on any and every subject. On the other hand, when an agent finds you are able to do your work in a capable and business-like way, he makes a mental note; and, on future occasions, he wires at once, as soon as he gets his appointment, to know if you are free to come and help.

The lazy sub-agent in a small village is often quite pleased to hand over his work to a volunteer worker, and I have more than once known a woman take practical charge of affairs while the agent received the pay and looked in now and then to see how things were going on.

Agents vary to a surprising degree in

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personal characteristics and methods of work.

There is the hearty, bluff agent, never without a cigar between his lips, who always keeps cool, does not allow himself to be flurried, and is accessible to everyone. He gets through an astonishing amount of work, seems able to dictate telegrams, draft posters, arrange meetings, and discuss details of canvassing, all at the same time. Though he is everywhere and accessible to all, he has a happy knack of finding out your business and telling you what you want to know in the shortest possible time. His faculty for getting rid of bores is phenomenal. The bore is never offended: he departs satisfied, and almost convinced that the fate of the election depends on his work, and that the carriage he has announced at great length he is willing to lend for an hour on polling day will turn the tide in favour of the candidate whom he supports.

There is the haughty type of agent,

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who shuts himself in his private room and only sees people when they are properly announced by the boy. His manner is languid, and when you are received in audience you will probably find him at a very tidy table, with his pens and papers beautifully arranged, attending to his nails, with an expression of extreme boredom on his features. "Yes, there is some canvassing to be done. Mr. Jones (the sub-agent) may be able to find something for you to do," and you are bowed out, wondering at his condescension in permitting you to work at all. This type of agent always goes to the extreme limit of expenditure permitted by law for election expenses.

There is the fussy, excitable, voluble agent, who gets through an immense amount of work—a great deal of which he might delegate to others. He is always hurrying to meet someone or see about something, and in summer he gets painfully hot. As the polling day ap-

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proaches, his temper becomes a trifle warm, and the loitering boys have a wholesome fear of him; but on the whole, he gets through an amount of work which sets an example to all who come in contact with him. He gets agitated and depressed if things go a little wrong, but soon recovers and sends off a sheaf of telegrams. It is wonderful what a soothing effect the sending of telegrams seems to have!

You will probably recognize among the agents you meet some of these types.

All agents have one weakness in common: they spend a great deal of time counting "promises," "doubtfuls," etc., and calculating that "our man" must win by a thousand. This is sometimes tiresome, but the wise woman will help in the counting and humour the harmless weakness.

I have always found the agents with whom I have worked kindly and considerate, and most generous in acknowledging any help given.

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There is no reason why a woman possessing the necessary knowledge of election law should not be appointed agent—and doubtless such appointments will be made in the future. For some years past it has been quite usual for a woman to act as the paid sub-agent in charge of a polling district. I have on several occasions occupied such a position, and have also worked under a woman sub-agent.

THE CONSTITUENCY.—Constituencies vary as much as agents, and they require as much tact and common sense in their treatment. A manufacturing borough, full of keen-witted Radical working men, wants different treatment from that which is necessary for a cathedral town containing deans, canons, and retired military men, mostly of a Conservative turn of mind. Again, special work is wanted in a large rural constituency, where the villages are small and scattered, and the villagers slow-witted and difficult to

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interest in anything outside their immediate surroundings. In all, however, those before-mentioned virtues—tact, common sense, and patience—are wanted more than anything else.

You are now on the spot and practically ready to begin work ; but, before actually doing so, you should have considered one or two practical questions which have a strong bearing upon your personal comfort and, indirectly, upon your efficiency. These questions concern chiefly food, clothes, and rest.

FOOD.—Whilst working hard, you should see that you have suitable food and plenty of it. It is ridiculous to think that, while giving out mental and physical energy, you can sustain life and keep your looks and temper on buns and tea. Women are gradually improving—their war-work taught them much in this respect—but they have still much to learn from men. Though the heavens fall, a man will have his dinner. Why not a woman

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hers? How often have I heard a woman say, "I really don't care for food. Tea and bread and butter are all I want!"

Good work cannot be done in this way. You should start the day with a good substantial English breakfast; not a cup of tea and a piece of toast. I find that a light luncheon of bread and cheese or cold meat and fruit, with a cup of coffee or a glass of hot milk, is most satisfactory. Afternoon tea is generally to be obtained somehow, even in the remotest village. At the end of the day have a good substantial dinner.

Of course no rules can be laid down on these matters, except the general one: Do not miss your meals, whatever else you may have to leave undone. You may be staying in a house where the chief meal of the day is at midday. I was once entertained by kindly people in Yorkshire, where we had a substantial meal at 12.30; Yorkshire tea,

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with all kinds of cakes and jam, at 5; and then, on return from meetings or canvassing, a nondescript "supper" of fried fish, sausages, or cold tongue, combined with tea, coffee, or cocoa, at any hour between 9 and 11 p.m. It was at first a little trying, but one can get used to almost anything.

CLOTHES.—Suitable clothes are as important in electioneering as in any other work undertaken by women.

It is foolish to think that any old frock is good enough for canvassing. It is also foolish to trail about dirty streets and dusty country lanes in silks, laces, ribbons, and "picture" hats. Some happy medium between dowdy frumpishness and garden-party magnificence is needed.

A trim tailor-made costume of some dark material is the best to wear. The skirt should be well off the ground—happily, present fashions favour this—and the sleeves of the coat should not have any hanging laces or frills in them.

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Your hands are wanted for holding and writing on the cards. Lightness can be given by a bright-coloured blouse.

It is well to bear in mind that you may have to sit down to do some writing at the committee-room table. Political ink-pots and gum-bottles have an inveterate habit of spilling, and, in the rush of an election, tables and chairs are rarely dusted. A fluffy chiffon blouse, after such an experience, would not look very presentable.

You must be prepared, also, to find yourself working under varying conditions.

While out canvassing in the country, a hospitable miller, knowing on what work you are bent, and wishing to help the cause, may offer you a lift in his wagon. The county magnate, meeting you canvassing his labourers, may invite you in to luncheon at the Hall. As the supercilious footman brushes the flour from your coat, you will doubtless sigh momentarily for

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that crêpe de chine and the smart little Paris hat! But if you have managed to hit the "happy medium" in dress, you will pass with credit in both cases.

Your hat should be light—you will often have to wear it for hours—and such as will stay on even in a high wind. You do not want to be clutching wildly at it, while your pencil falls in the mud or your cards are blown over the hedge.

Boots should in winter, be thick and serviceable, not necessarily ugly. Of course high heels should be avoided, being very tiring.

REST, too, is absolutely necessary if you are to do your work well. Many eager and energetic canvassers think it necessary to be on their feet, running hither and thither—*making* work, in fact—from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. As a rule, the morning is a slack time; the men are away at business or work, and the women do not want to be inter-

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rupted in their household duties. Do not, therefore, walk miles for the sake of doing something. I have found one of the best canvassers I know dozing on a haycock, with a novel and a box of chocolates, at eleven in the morning, two days before an election !

On the other hand, there may be a rush of work, and you can give some help in the committee-room by marking up the registers ; but if this is not the case, take a novel to a shady corner of a garden, if it is summer and you can find one ; or, if winter, toast your toes at the fire, *resting* till it is time to turn out. The time for your heaviest work is in the late afternoon and evening ; you should be fresh and alert for this. You may have to walk miles ; you will certainly be standing and talking for several hours ; therefore, a couple of hours during the day, lying flat on your back on your bed, or mentally resting with a novel, is time well spent.

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MAPS.—A good map of the town or district in which you are to work is almost a necessity. For the country, nothing is better than the one-inch-to-the-mile ordnance map. The so-called cycling maps are not to be relied on to the same extent. You can obtain one of the ordnance maps by sending 2s. to Messrs. Stanford, 12 Long Acre, London, W.C., and stating the place where you are. They will then send you the nearest map which takes in the surrounding country. In towns, the local stationer can usually supply a fairly satisfactory street map.

CHAPTER V

CANVASSING

GENERAL HINTS.—A worker who has arrived at her destination and has reported herself to the agent at the committee-room will probably be asked first to undertake some canvassing—the work which women can do best, and for which they are most welcome. It is not, on the whole, pleasant, but it is important—until a concordat is arrived at, and both parties agree to abstain from it—and on it depends, in a great measure, the result of the election.

Many qualities go to the making of a good canvasser, and, when met, she cannot be mistaken. It is difficult to lay down hard-and-fast rules, but

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there are one or two things which must be observed if the work is to be of any use.

When you report yourself to the agent or sub-agent as ready for work, he will certainly give you a handful of cards, with a request that you "Canvass these." The old-fashioned canvass books have been superseded by separate cards, each containing the name and address of one elector, with spaces in which to note whether he is "for," "against," "doubtful," "dead," or "moved."

It is sometimes easier for a perfect stranger to call on people and solicit their votes than for a local person to do so. In quite rural places, the people almost resent it if they are not called on. I have heard them say, in offended tones, "If my vote is not worth asking for, it is not worth having."

In calling at a house to solicit a vote, it is well to take some leaflets or a portrait of the candidate, or a notice of a

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meeting, as a kind of introduction. Of course, the mode of approach must be varied according to the person called on. It is never, however, wise to begin bluntly: "Will you promise to vote for Mr. So-and-so?" In these days of advanced education the poorest labourer resents the suggestion that he cannot make up his own mind, and I have a shrewd suspicion that his wife might want to know the "why and wherefore" of the matter before she gave her vote. The thoughtful business man, who reads his *Times* or his *Daily Chronicle*, does not like a brusque request for a promise from a perfect stranger who, he may think, knows less about affairs of State than he does himself. The two maiden ladies—joint occupiers of a flat or house—would resent a bald demand for their votes unless backed by some sort of argument or introduction. In these matters a woman's tact is of unquestionable service. She will not use the same

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arguments to the labourer in his shirt sleeves smoking his pipe in his garden as she will to the bald-headed worthy into whose presence she is ushered by an imposing footman, or to the majestic widow of a justice of the peace who might tell her: "I was sitting on committees before you were born." From all, however, she will probably receive courtesy and consideration, provided she goes to work in the right way. Do not mark your cards till you have seen the voters personally, even if this means several calls before you find them in. Nothing is more tiresome for an agent than a note: "Husband says they'll both be all right." "Daughter thinks both her parents are 'for.'" "Miss Jones told me she would come to your meeting to-night."

It is, however, quite safe to be guided by window-cards. That is to say, if there is a portrait of the candidate or a card in the window, "Vote for Jones,"

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you can mark your card accordingly. Obviously it would be waste of time to call and ask a man to vote for Brown, when he so plainly tells you he means to do the reverse. When working in the 1918 election, I found in one case that husband and wife had put portraits of both candidates in their window!

It is also very little use to mark on a card, "House empty"—at any rate till you have made every inquiry from the neighbours as to where the former occupier has gone. The name is on the register, and the person, if he or she can be found, has the right to vote. Even if a woman has married and her maiden name is there, she can come and vote. Every effort should be made to find where people have gone. If a man has gone "to South Africa" or "to America," careful note should be made. His name will then be placed on the personation agent's lists so that no one votes in his stead.

The same remark applies to persons

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reported "Dead." I have heard an agent boast after an election that "several 'deads' voted." This would not have been possible if the canvassing had been done properly. Of course, anyone personating another in this way would, if discovered, be liable to very severe penalties. For anyone convicted of personating another at an election, or suggesting to or advising anyone to personate another and vote in his stead, is guilty of felony, and is liable to a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years, with hard labour.

If a voter seems doubtful and is interested in any particular subject, a note should be made of it. I found that many women I canvassed had strong and definite views on Temperance, Housing, etc., while Nationalization roused the men in another district. Later, someone specially versed in that subject may call and discuss the matter.

Note also if a carriage is required on the day of the poll. Perhaps the

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voter is ill and cannot walk to the poll. Another may just have time to vote if fetched from work at a certain hour. Another may be returning from business, and can manage to get to the poll in time if a carriage is at the station to meet a certain train. Don't forget that *every vote counts!*

Some of the women voters are a little nervous of going to the poll alone; if several can go together, they will come out, or if the canvasser will fetch them and take them (though she must not enter the polling booth), their votes may be secured.

Remember that *any* information is useful. You may find that a man "works at Jones's, starts at eight in the morning, returning late at night." This information will enable someone who also works at Jones's to be asked to look him up and canvass him at the works. Another elector "works on a barge on the canal, stops at a certain point at ten-thirty on Friday morning

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to change horses." An energetic canvasser is waiting on the canal bank at the appointed hour, and has a chat on politics, urging him to come and vote for the "right" man, and leaving some literature for his perusal.

Then there are men who have an invincible dislike to saying "No" to a woman, and promise any and every thing in a glib fashion. "Doubtful" is their safest designation. If they vote "for," it is so much gain.

It is useful in a country district to study the local newspaper in order to know what are the political matters most interesting to the electors. I have sometimes found a whole village could be roused to excitement about the Education Question, while reference to Nationalization, or the Alien Question was received with almost blank indifference.

A good deal of canvassing has to be done in the evening, especially in the poorer districts. In many towns the

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streets are miserably lighted, and it is often impossible to see the numbers on the house doors without a large expenditure of matches and temper. If there is any wind, the supply of both soon runs short. It is, too, very difficult to write on the card if you are trying to keep a match alight with one hand. I have found one of the small electric lamps, which can be procured for 2s. or 2s. 6d., invaluable. In winter these lamps are absolutely necessary.

Some electors state at once that the ballot is secret, and they do not mean to tell anyone how they vote. They are quite within their rights, and it is foolish to press for a definite answer. It is better to enter such people as "Doubtful," even if they seem smiling and friendly, and to leave a supply of suitable literature for their perusal.

The Ballot Act now makes it impossible to tell *how* anyone votes. Voting used to be by show of hands and declaration. I have a printed account of

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the first parliamentary election in Stockton-on-Tees, giving a graphic account of the doings in the market-place when the vote was taken. As an appendix to the little book, there is a complete list of all the voters and *how they voted*. It may well be imagined that bribery and undue influence were almost universal in those days. Votes were openly bought and sold, and employers brought their men in droves to the polling booth, ordering them to vote as they wished, and standing over them till they had done so.

Even after the passing of the Ballot Act bribery and threats were of frequent occurrence on both sides, and in 1883 it was found necessary to pass the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act. It is clumsy and intricate, and in some cases difficult to understand; but there are several points which are quite plain, and which every political worker should know.

SOME DONT'S.—On no account must

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you give any reward or remuneration for voting, as you would render yourself and the persons who accepted the reward liable to severe penalties.

Nor must you *promise* any kind of reward in the event of your candidate being returned.

You must not give refreshments—either food or drink—to a voter, and you must not threaten him in any way with penalties for not voting as you wish. Some foolish and too zealous canvassers have caused much trouble by threatening loss of custom to tradesmen, or dismissal of workmen from their posts. These are “corrupt practices” according to the Act, and, if convicted of any of them, you would be liable to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for not more than one year, or to be fined any sum not exceeding two hundred pounds. Remember you are not there to bully or threaten anyone into voting against his conscience. An elector has a perfect right to his (or

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her) opinion, and all you can do is to seek by argument to convince him that the return of the candidate in whose support you come would be best for the country.

If you meet a rival canvasser on your rounds, it is not wise to glare at him (or her) as if he were a deadly enemy. If it is a man, he is generally quite prepared to be pleasant; and, comparing notes, I have sometimes been able to correct or confirm the remarks on my cards, all of which is to the good.

When the cards have been marked, they should be returned *at once* to the agent in the committee-room, where the results will be entered in their proper places. Those "against," after being marked on the register, are torn up. The "fors," when entered, are arranged in street order, and placed in the box ready to be looked up on the day of the poll. The "doubtfuls" are sent out again, to see if a different canvasser can make any impression.

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PARTY COLOURS.—Some workers seem to think it is necessary, in all circumstances, to wear the party colours. This is a matter for individual taste. I do not myself think it is important. Work is no better done because a person is decked in blue, red, or yellow ribbons. Party colours are almost always crude and ugly, and, unless anything really vital is to be gained, it is a pity to wear something which is unbecoming and unsuitable to the rest of one's costume.

CHAPTER VI

WORK IN THE COMMITTEE- ROOM

POSSIBLY, in the intervals of canvassing, you may be asked to take a turn at committee-room work. There may be returns to post up from the cards into the register, or the "Removals" are not entered up to date. It is well to be prepared, and willing to undertake anything which may turn up.

REMOVALS.—In a working-class constituency there are usually a good many of these, though the short "qualifying period" of residence under the new Act has reduced them. It will be necessary to find and write on the cards the names of those who have

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removed from one polling district into another—say into the one where you are working. These people must be looked up and told where they are to poll. It may be that a voter has come to live next door to the school where the polling takes place. He has, however, removed from another ward, so must walk two miles to record his vote. All this should be carefully explained, as many votes are lost by men going to vote at the nearest station (not having taken the trouble to look at their poll-card), and becoming discouraged on being told, “You don’t vote here, but at So-and-so.”

On the other hand, the names of people who have left the ward where you are and gone to another should be sent to the sub-agent in that ward, in order that he may look them up and tell them where to vote.

WHO CAN VOTE.—If you have the opportunity, you should make yourself acquainted with the register, as in

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this way you can often render invaluable help in the committee-room.

In boroughs the register is almost always made in street order; in country districts it is generally in alphabetical order of names. As the polling day approaches, there is a continual stream of people wishing to know whether they are on the register and can vote.

"Have I got a vote, miss?" will be the inquiry from a shock-headed labourer. "No. 2 Sun Street."

"Yes. Brown is the name, isn't it? You vote at So-and-so."

"Can I vote?" asks another; "Jones, 4 Moon Street."

"No; there's no Jones there. Have you moved?"

"Yes, last week from George Street."

"Yes, here you are—No. 2 George Street. You vote at the schools there. No, I'm afraid you can't vote here, as your name is on for the other place." And Mr. Jones goes off grumbling and scratching his head in a vain endeavour

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to understand why he can't vote in the street where he now lives.

TAKING CHARGE.—In a little country committee-room you may very likely be left in charge while the agent goes out. All kinds of people will come in, and all kinds of messages will be left. Somebody wants some literature for distribution; another can lend a horse and trap on polling day; another has just seen the blind cobbler at the corner, who will "vote straight" if caught early—late in the day he is apt to be a little "mixed" in his ideas, which are then anything but straight. Everything, however trivial it may appear, should be carefully noted.

COMMITTEE-ROOM FREAKS.—You will have to deal with all kinds of people, both men and women. There is the local magnate, who, in his own estimation, knows more about working an election than anyone else. He lays down the law to any and every one, and it is as well to let him talk. There

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is the lady canvasser from London, who "never was in such a badly managed election"; the young Oxford man who, after sitting chatting for an hour on every imaginable subject, thinks he "will go and have a cup of tea and look round"; the beautiful lady—sometimes the wife of a local magnate—who rustles in, holding her skirts well out of the dust, and wants to know "how you good people are getting on in this stuffy little room"; and, lastly, there is the man who proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman at last night's meeting, and insists on repeating all his remarks for your benefit. It is well to bear with all, suggesting judiciously that there is work to be done and very little time to do it in.

CHAPTER VII

POLLING DAY

ON polling day, it is important that you should "keep your head." There is a general air of rush and excitement, and if the agent is at all short-tempered he will probably be irritable.

Presumably, every elector has been canvassed, and all the "promise" cards are neatly put away in a box in their streets or localities; the names of the people to be brought in carriages or motors are in a box arranged in order according to the hour at which they must be fetched. As the time goes on, the returns are brought in from the polling booth, showing who has voted. These are quickly crossed off the

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register—a marked copy of which is securely pinned up on the wall or flat on the table—and their cards are torn up.

Your work will probably be to look up the “promises” and see if they have voted. Taking the cards for one street, you should, if you can manage it, look and see on the register who has and who has not voted; and then go and call and ask if Mr. So-and-so has voted, or is he sure to come.

You have probably made various notes during your canvass of people to be seen on polling day. Perhaps there is a bedridden old man, reluctant to come out, but who, by persuasion and with the help of a comfortable carriage, can be brought to the poll. There may be another who must have a final call, whose vote, through indifference, might be lost; or perhaps a woman will go if “a lady will fetch her.” It is in this slack time that you should see after these cases.

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If you have learned the geography of the district, you may give help in piloting some strange chauffeur, who has been sent down with a motor, but who has not the remotest idea where the places are or the shortest way to them. Here, also, your knowledge of driving may be useful. People can sometimes lend a horse and trap, but cannot very well spare a man. I have generally found, however, that if there is any driving about in carriages or motors to be done, there are energetic gentlemen in the committee-room ready and willing to help in this way.

Remember that you must on no account bring a voter to the poll in a vehicle which is *usually let for hire*—even supposing the proprietor is willing to lend it free of charge, and if the horse which draws it is lent by someone else and is never let out. A voter may hire a carriage to take himself to the poll, but he must not take another voter with him unless they have previously

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agreed to share the cost. You may hire a carriage to drive about in yourself, but you must not give a voter a "lift," nor must you pay, or promise to pay, the rail, tram, or bus fare of any voter. You would be guilty of "illegal practices"; and, on conviction, would be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds.

It is surprising to see the number of people who flock to the scene of action on polling day, "just for the fun of the thing," as they say. Sometimes they are very much in the way; but, on the other hand, they often give valuable help, and they are generally willing to deck themselves with party colours and make a brave show.

At a general election the polling is now all on one day, so there is much less outside help available than of old, for everyone is occupied in his own constituency.

There is usually a rush of working and business men when the poll opens at seven or eight in the morning, and you

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will be kept busy picking out the cards, so that no one should call and look up a man who voted an hour ago.

During the morning there will probably be a pretty brisk stream of voters of the better class, and this time and early afternoon is when the women mostly vote. This, however, varies with the constituency. I have been in a committee-room where the returns were only four votes between 9.30 a.m. and midday.

At midday there is a rush of working men during their dinner-hour.

You will be wise to take a rest during the slack hours of the afternoon; but constituencies vary so much that while, in some cases, the afternoon is practically an "off" time, in others there may be plenty to do. It is always useful to be checking the cards with the register, so that you do not go to people who have already voted. Often the agent prefers to do this himself; but he is, as a rule, glad of intelligent help

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as the day wears on and things become more lively.

A worker who is conversant with the locality can often give useful help in the committee-room by guiding and advising those who have come from elsewhere to help for the day, and know nothing of the district. Towards the end of the day it is often necessary to send to distant points to look up voters who have not yet voted. If a carriage is being sent to (let us say) Sun Street, the worker who has local knowledge may remember that, in Moon Street (which is on the way), there is another laggard who has not yet voted. The driver can thus make two calls in one journey. Again, if a carriage is being sent for Mr. Brown, the driver can be instructed to call at the same time for Mr. Jones, who lives in the next street. Only someone who has been working and—vulgarly speaking—“knows all the ropes” can give this kind of help.

All these little things may seem

How Women can help in Political Work

trivial; but, unless they are carefully noted, workers from a distance may be discouraged, the election may be lost, and there will remain, after all is over, a dissatisfied feeling that all has not been done that might have been.

About six o'clock there is again a rush of working and business men—and the returns from the polling booth come in so fast that they can hardly be posted on to the register quickly enough. Bear in mind that the great thing is to persuade all the “promises” to come and vote. If you find a good many men in a particular street have not voted, try and obtain a motor or carriage, and go down that street picking up all who will come, and urging those who are not ready to hasten.

When the closing hour strikes, you can consider your work over, and can leave to the agent and the other men the task of counting up and guessing or prophesying the result.

Even if your side loses the day, you

Polling Day

have no reason to despond. You have done your best, and no one can do more than that. You have, moreover, the knowledge that good work well done often bears fruit long after, and that what you have done, even though it has not sufficed to win the election, may help to win the next.

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