

A FEW SUFFRAGETTES



Mrs. Emeline Pankhurst



Lady Francis Cook



Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont

SUFFRAGETTING has long since passed that stage where it can be designated a fad. It is now a reality, and a stern one at that. With the advent of women high in the social scale within its ranks an impetus has been given to the cause of suffrage which is sending it forward with such a steadily increasing power that legislators in all parts of the world have begun to realize that woman's fight for rights is no longer the hysterical shriek of that class once sardoniously referred to as "The New Woman," but a well-organized and carefully mapped out campaign of women thoroughly capable of fighting their own battles.

The arrival of Mrs. Emeline Pankhurst, England's most militant suffragette, on these shores, coupled with that of Lady Francis Cook, another English woman, whose fight for suffrage has taken her to every corner of the world where civilization has penetrated, has brought about an ominous activity among their American sisters. The civic federation and affiliated bodies outdid themselves in arranging receptions and mass meetings for the distinguished visitors, and wherever their voices were uplifted in the great common cause there was an outpouring of women that taxed the police to their utmost to hold the crowds in check and prevent harm from befalling them in their mad crush to see, hear and be seen.

In applying the term militant to Mrs. Pankhurst I do so advisedly. For it must be remembered Mrs. Pankhurst had the tenacity to hear the British lion in his very den, inasmuch as she invaded the confines of the houses of parliament, leading her hordes of suffragettes, and from the hallowed parliament terrace she harranged until she harranged herself into jail. This was not all. Running counter to the orders of London sties—the police, or "bobbies," as all well-regulated Brits call them—she held mass meetings in all parts of London, and again and again landed in jail. The last time she served her prison term, and when she emerged from her incarceration she was proclaimed and heralded as the suffragette of suffragettes. And why shouldn't she be? Didn't she tilt the lion's tail?

Of her experiences in London, and especially while in prison, Mrs. Pankhurst recounted to her American sis-

ters with rare feeling and eloquence. She is proclaimed the one woman who suffered for her cause, and today this suffering suffragette can have about anything within the gift of her American sisters she cares to ask for.

Mrs. Pankhurst's appearance at Carnegie hall in New York a few weeks ago clearly demonstrated the wonderful growth and interest in the question of suffrage in America's foremost city. Carnegie hall was designated to seat an audience of 3,000. According to Police Captain Post, who was in charge of the police arrangements, nearer 5,000 panting, perspiring and struggling women forced their way into the hall on this occasion. It was an orderly crowd, too, for Captain Post said so, adding: "The ladies are behaving as well as possible, and those gentlemen on the inside are conducting themselves as perfect lads."

It was only necessary to take a casual glance at the tier of boxes fringing the gallery to be convinced that America's foremost women have for the once set aside the more arduous and exacting routine of society to plunge with heart and soul into the fight for women's rights. Among those occupying boxes that night were Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, one of the wealthiest and most prominent women in New York and Newport's most exclusive sets; Miss Helen Gould, who inherited many of the millions left by her late father, Jay Gould, and who, since his death, has spent money lavishly upon her pet charities in an effort, it is said, to make some reparation for the uncharitableness of her grasping and money-accumulating sire; Mrs. Russell Sage, whose late husband's millions came to her long after she had passed her 60th milestone in life's journey, and, like Miss Gould, is devoting the remainder of her years and her multimillions to the alleviation of suffering; Mrs. J. G. Phelps Stokes, who, as humble Rose Parson, devoted the years prior to her marriage to her millionaire husband, to the betterment of conditions on the east side, and Mrs. Clarence Mackay, wife of the president of the Postal Telegraph and Cable company, and the foremost suffragist in America. There were hundreds of others, equally prominent, and among them might be mentioned

Mrs. Borden Harriman, Mrs. John Mulholland, Mrs. Henry Phipps, Mrs. Elbert H. Gary and Mrs. William M. Ivins, whose husband once had aspirations to be New York's mayor. These are names to conjure with, for each and every one of them have plunged into the suffrage movement with all the earnestness of cultured women, who have at their command countless thousands to back them in the battle for the ballot.

Of course, the winning over of Mrs. Belmont to the suffrage movement is looked upon by those who have fought so long and against such crushing odds, as the most signal victory of their career. Mrs. Harriet Stanton Blatch had more to do with Mrs. Belmont's conversion, perhaps, than anyone else, as she was the one who first announced the conversion of the mistress of Newport's marble palace. Mrs. Belmont, however, declares that the conversion of Mrs. Ivins was even more remarkable than her own, for to Mrs. Belmont, Mrs. Ivins recently said: "I had rather kick a policeman's hat off than listen to an English suffragette."

When Mrs. Pankhurst was introduced to her audience by Mrs. Ella Hawley Crossett, president of the State Federation of Women's clubs, several hundred women occupied seats on the stage. A partial roll of these women showed that 79 were teachers, 57 doctors, 6 dentists, 49 social workers, 38 trained nurses, 120 trade-unionists, 16 musicians, 1 explorer and mountain climber (Miss Anna Peck), 4 civil engineers, 22 architects, 146 business women, 16 authoresses, 2 sculptors, 14 journalists, 69 civil service women and 25 lawyers. It can readily be seen that the wave of suffrage has invaded every field of endeavor adopted by women. Among the most interested spectators were hundreds of boxmakers, bookbinders, cigarmakers, decorators, gold-leaf workers, hat trimmers, illuminators, librarians, potters, printers, stenographers, clerks, textile workers, tele-

graphers and waitresses. Here they met in a common cause, the most exalted and petted women of society rubbing elbow with the "horney-handed daughters of toil." For enthusiasm this gathering of women made an ordinary political mass meeting look like a Quaker meeting. Their enthusiasm passed all bounds, and had Mrs. Pankhurst seized her opportunity and suggested the starting of a subscription list, it is safe to assert that the funds would have mounted into the hundreds of thousands.

New York and the country at large has thousands upon thousands of suffragists. There are few women nowadays allied with clubs, such as the Civic Federation, who are not pronouncedly suffrage sympathizers. There are thousands of suffragettes, also, but the latter is a militant in every particular, and goes to greater lengths toward carrying her point than her most modest and retiring sister, the suffragist. But the women are born fighters, and realizing that nearly every step forward that the cause of suffrage has made has been accomplished by dint of grit and indomitable courage, they are more prone to overlook what they once called "the vulgar forwardness" of the suffragette. The militant suffragette is in the ascendency. In her onward march she has thousands of women in her train who, less than a year ago, openly avowed that they had no sympathy with the movement. In many of the states throughout the Union women dominate the school and educational boards. This was the open wedge, and as time wears on it will be found that not only will they win their fight for suffrage, but that they will occupy seats in legislative halls, state and national. The first to take a step in this direction is Mrs. Ruth Bryan Leavitt, daughter of the many-times candidate for the presidency, who seeks a seat in congress.

To return to Mrs. Pankhurst, it might be well to tell what she accomplished in England. As the mother of the militant movement in that country this intrepid leader succeeded in having a woman nominated for and elected mayor of one of its cities. This woman, she declares, has given the city the best government in its history, and she predicts that within the next decade there will be a hundred mayoresses in America. Mrs. Pankhurst referred to that fashionable colony in the suburbs of Richmond, Va., where women have been given a voice in its government. She asserts that the enfranchisement of women must of necessity follow, and this done, it will be but an easy step to procure offices for the candidates of their choice and sex. While deeply gratified at the great headway the suffrage movement is making here, Mrs. Pankhurst declared that the belated state of America as regards woman's questions is glaringly apparent. America, she says, is behind the times, and has been slow to grasp the true meaning of a great movement even when it was explained to her.

Lady Francis Cook is of a different type. She is a woman of rare delicacy and refinement, and whereas she takes just as prominent a part in the fight for ballots for women, she has never been imprisoned for the cause. Logical and forceful arguments, coupled with peculiarly winning, persuasive powers, are her weapons, and she never fails to charm her audience.

America's suffragettes so far have not given voice to any such violent utterances, but nevertheless they are working with a quiet and grim determination that augurs ill for the men who cross their path or block their progress in their fight for equal rights and enfranchisement. It is exciting, and, like all coming events, it casts its shadow before it. In this case Mrs. Pankhurst and Lady Cook furnished the shadows, for their coming plunged the American suffragette into a ferment of enthusiasm.

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Now Listen

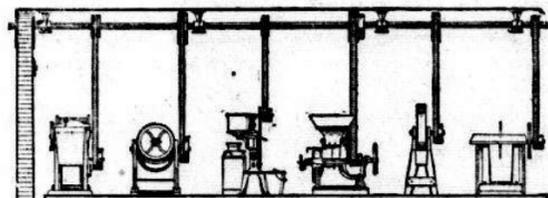
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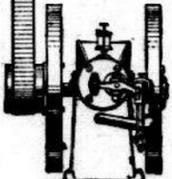
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