

WHO SHALL BE HOSTESS AT THE WHITE HOUSE?

BE IT EITHER HOME-LOVING MRS. TAFT, BRILLIANT MRS. BRYAN, TACTFUL MRS. FAIRBANKS, QUIET MRS. HUGHES, or ADMIRABLE MRS. KNOX, THE COUNTRY WILL BE SAFE



MRS WILLIAM J. BRYAN



MRS WILLIAM H. TAFT

AMERICAN freemen are probably going to have a hard time to decide on the right man for presidency, for in the cluster of candidates, Taft, Fairbanks, Hughes, Knox, Bryan, Gray, Cannon and Daniel, there is so much good material that it is hard to know which to discard.

But if it is hard to discriminate between the men how much more difficult it is to decide which of their wives is best suited to preside over the White House and be the first lady of the land.

Mrs. Taft, Mrs. Fairbanks, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Knox, Mrs. Bryan, Mrs. Gray, they are all magnificent women, fine specimens of the American wife, who is the most powerful helpmeet any man could have.

It is significant of the part that woman plays in a man's progress that excepting Cannon, who is a bachelor, every one of the prominently mentioned candidates is noted for the possession of a wife whose intelligence and devotion have helped his advance.

Even if the ballot is denied to her, woman thus has the satisfaction of knowing that she does much to equip the various incumbents for the highest place in the nation's councils.

Mrs. Taft Is Domestic

Mrs. William H. Taft, wife of the big secretary of war, who stands for the Roosevelt policies, and is conceded to have something of a lead on the other candidates, is very domestic in her tastes, and does not warm up much to the new woman idea. Her stand on this vital question is best expressed in a recent remark she made while detailing plans to have her daughter enter Bryn Mawr.

"My idea about the higher education of woman," she said, "is to make them great in soul, as well as in intellect. It never seemed to me that should make them poor imitations of men. I am old fashioned enough to think that woman is most attractive the more feminine she is."

Mrs. Taft is girlish in appearance, frank and vivacious, but possessing all the needed dignity and poise for a statesman's wife. She has a noted memory and is mistress of the social arts.

The Tafts have three children, Robert Alphonse Taft, aged 13; Miss Helene Herrod Taft, aged 16, and Charles Taft,

aged 10. The latter is a chum of the president's son Quentin, at the Force public school.

Mrs. Taft's most marked taste is for music. She was for seven years president of the Cincinnati symphony society.

Since his indorsement by the Pennsylvania state convention, Philander C. Knox has come prominently to the fore as perhaps Mr. Taft's most important rival for the republican nomination. Mr. Knox has the reputation of conservatism, and not being out of favor with the nation's big financial interests despite the part he took in the trust prosecutions of the Roosevelt administration, will get strong support from those who oppose Mr. Roosevelt's radical policies, and it is not out of question that some day Mrs. Philander C. Knox may be the lady of the White House.

Should this ever come about she will bring unusual qualifications to the task. Senator and Mrs. Knox know how to enjoy the good things of life, and they have had them to repletion. The senator is credited with possessing the finest library in Washington; he has a pair of \$20,000 trotters. The Valley



MRS PHILANDER C. KNOX



MRS CHARLES HUGHES



MRS CHARLES WARREN FAIRBANKS

Forge home and Washington residence of the former attorney general are palatial.

Senator and Mrs. Knox are one of the youngest looking couples in public life, and jokes about their juvenile appearance are plenty. Mrs. Knox is short in stature, but as her distinguished husband is only five feet seven inches tall, they make an excellently matched couple.

There are four Knox children, Mrs. James Tindle, Reed Knox, Hugh Knox and Philander C. Knox Jr.

Mrs. Knox is the daughter of Andrew C. Smith of Allegheny, and spent the greater part of her life before going to Washington in the environs of Pittsburg. She will make an admirable successor to Mrs. Roosevelt should the chance of fate put Knox in the strenuous Teddy's chair.

The wife of Vice President Fairbanks of Indiana is a very well known woman from her prominent connection with the Daughters of the American Revolution, whose president general she has been for several terms.

It is said that Mrs. Fairbanks animated the vice president's ambition to go into the White House, for she is very fond of society and would find a congenial field in the activities of the White House.

But while Mrs. Fairbanks has been identified with advanced movements of her sex, it must not be thought that she has lost any of the gentler traits. She is loyally devoted to her husband, and has ever been his aid. It is said that his confidence in her judgment is so great that before delivering a speech to the senate he first makes it a point to read it to her. If the verdict is satisfactory he always delivers the speech with the confidence that it is sure to be well received.

Mrs. Fairbanks has a fine gift of dignified affability, and she succeeds equally with all kinds of people, high and low. She, as a public character, has perhaps made more of a study of entertaining than any of her rivals for the White House, and none would enter into social duties with greater pleasure. Mrs. Fairbanks is the mother of five children, Mrs. John W. Timmons, Warren C. Frederick C., Richard M. and Robert Fairbanks. All the many claims upon her time have never been per-

mitted by this ideal wife to interfere with her all important duties of motherhood, and the family is a credit to herself and the senior senator from Indiana.

The high intellectual forehead of Mrs. William Jennings Bryan, who has twice had to console her husband through the disappointment of defeat, does not belie the magnificent brain power of the wife of the Nebraskan, who before the age of 40 had twice been the candidate of the second largest political party in the country.

Mrs. Bryan is loved in Lincoln, the charm of her personality acting as a magnet. She is tall, dignified, and her carriage combines dignity with sweetest femininity.

Mrs. Bryan has the gift of being sociable, yet she can hardly be called a society woman, for she has never figured largely in the artificial life of set forms. She is a home maker first, and next to that the consuming interest of her life is devotion to the career of her husband.

Her breadth of mind and calm philosophical nature make her an admirable balance wheel for one of the foremost of Americans.

Of the candidates lately mentioned, Governor Hughes of New York is admittedly gaining strength. His fine honesty, complete independence from gang domination, the ability he displayed in the insurance scandals, and the fact that he has shown that he can carry New York, one of the pivotal states of the union, all make Mr. Hughes a very redoubtable candidate, and it may yet be that he will make the running.

Mrs. Hughes Is Retiring

The woman with whom his interests are identified never talks politics, and while her ability and intelligence are admitted, has never figured in the limelight as her husband's adviser. She is tall and slender, with regular features, wavy brown hair and expressive brown eyes. Her manner, though dignified, is vivacious and full of a gracious charm.

The Hugheses have three children, Charles E. Jr., Catherine and Helen. Mrs. Hughes is a daughter of Walter S. Carter, the senior member of the law firm of which her husband is a partner. While a member of two patriotic organizations and a college society, Mrs. Hughes is not what could be called a club woman. During her married life she has preferred to remain in the background and let the limelight of glory fall on her husband.

Mrs. Judge Gray, wife of the Wilmington, Del., jurist, who, if he hailed from any other state, would be a formidable candidate, measures well to the standard of her rivals just described. Surely, no matter who wins the race, the country cannot but be safe with any of these fine American women as advisers to the chief executive.