

# THE COMING HOSTESS of the WHITE HOUSE

## Which shall be the first Lady of the Land?



MRS. TAFT  
WIFE OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.



MRS. CHAS. E. HUGHES  
WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK.

UNLESS political situations shall have changed mightily before the next presidential nomination is made, Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt of New York stood last week for presumably the last time but one at the side of the president of the United States at a New Year's reception. Grouped about her on that day were many aspirants for her place. Still others were in the blue room or honored with a place "behind the line."

Who the next lady of the White House will be no one can tell today. After the votes are counted next November some of the aspirants will have to take on new cares and social burdens. There are at present a dozen candidates for the honor who are affiliated with the dominant parties, and it may truthfully be said that any one of these would fill the place with dignity and honor.

### Mrs. Charles E. Hughes

Simplicity is the keynote of the home life of Mrs. Charles E. Hughes, wife of the governor of New York. Her home is elegant but unpretentious, with a quiet, restful presence which makes the privilege of entrance one to be courted. Mrs. Hughes is not in any sense a club woman. She is devoted to her husband and children and has little time to give to clubs and societies. While not enamored with the social features of being the wife of the governor of the Empire state, Mrs. Hughes has proved fully able to handle with success all of the social situations in which her position has placed her. At Albany her receptions are marked with a homelike charm and cordial greeting which endear her to the membership of the old Knickerbocker families of the state capital. Quiet and rather retiring in her nature, she would make an ideal mistress of the White House and as the first lady of the land would prove a truly American woman of the best and highest type.

Mrs. Hughes is rather tall and slender with regular features, wavy brown hair and large eyes of the same soft color. Her manner is always dignified, but with a vivacious charm, and her welcome is of the kind which makes one feel at home.

She is a member of just three organizations. They are the Mary Washington chapter of Colonial Dames, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the New York Wellesley alumnae. The latter society is one formed to keep up the interest of the graduates of Wellesley college, at which Mrs. Hughes graduated.

She makes no secret of the fact that she was born in 1864. Her maiden name was Antoinette Carter, and she was the daughter of Walter S. Carter, senior member of the firm of Carter & Hughes. It was through this business association that Governor Hughes met his wife.

They are the parents of the first baby to be born in the executive mansion at Albany, and have in addition one young daughter and two sons, the younger at school and the other in college. Mr. and Mrs. Hughes attend the Fifth Avenue Baptist church when in New York.

Mrs. Hughes is the constant companion of her husband, who is of that class of men who work hard during business hours and look forward to an evening by the fireside surrounded by loved ones. They are very fond of each other, and the governor is appreciative of the good housekeeping and competence in all situations of his wife. While Mrs. Hughes might not entertain to as great an extent as some wives of presidents have done, the White House would with her for its mistress become a typical American home, observing the conventionalities of society, but first of all the home of the Hughes family.

### Mrs. J. B. Foraker

Mrs. Joseph Benson Foraker, wife of the senator from Ohio, is a shrewd politician of established reputation. It has been said that there is none better in Ohio, and this is a very strong statement. Friends of Senator Foraker say that he never takes an important political step until he has consulted his wife about it, and that if she disapproves of a proposed move it is not made. She is his close companion, and takes the keenest interest in his life and work. In Washington Mrs. Foraker presides over a beautiful home, famous for its pleasant hospitality. While her receptions and dinners are not as frequent as those of some of the ladies more fond of society, invitations to them are always welcome and accept-

ed. She has a gracious and perfectly easy manner, marked with just a touch of reserve. As mistress of the White House she would be a charming figure with whom its aristocratic traditions would be sustained to the letter of the law.

One of Mrs. Foraker's fads is antique furniture, with which her home is handsomely decorated. This is a taste which she has inherited from two grandfathers who fought at Lexington. Mrs. Foraker is very proud of this lineage.

The romance of Mr. and Mrs. Foraker began while they were students at Wesleyan university in Ohio, the scene of the love stories of President and Lucy Webb Hayes and of Vice President and Mrs. Fairbanks.

Mrs. Foraker belongs to the conservative element in Washington life. She enjoys Washington social features, and dispenses the finest character of hospitality from a handsome home, built a few years ago in the fashionable part of the city.

Mrs. Robert M. La Follette

Mrs. Robert M. La Follette probably cares as little individually whether she is ever mistress of the White House as any woman whose husband has a chance to get there. Her tastes do not run in the direction of society, and she is present at public functions of a strictly social nature as a duty rather than because of the pleasure which such attendance gives her. Should it come to be a part of Mrs. La Follette's duty to aid her husband in his campaign for president he would have at his command assistance not to be despised.

Her life at Washington is very simple. When her husband was elected to congress she spent her first winter taking a course in George Washington university law school. Pink teas and social functions had not the charm for her that they have for most ladies of the congressional set. Senator La Follette was first attracted to his wife by her intellectual gifts. Both were students at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. La Follette's great gift was that of oratory, she tried for all the prizes in sight, and had the air of a man who thought he could win. Miss Belle Case, who is now Mrs. La Follette, had some oratorical talents of her own, and began to cultivate them early and late. She won in the end, for the special prize for oratory at graduation came to her and not to her husband. But it availed her nothing, unless it brought the love of her husband. She found that he had won the winner of the prize. They were married a few months after, in 1873.

Mrs. La Follette is a pretty, graceful woman, and is always perfectly natural in her manner. As soon as congress adjourns the La Follettes hasten back to their country home in Wisconsin.

When Mrs. La Follette was mistress of the executive mansion at Madison her dinner parties and receptions were famous. She can if occasion require

superintend her own kitchen, and the White House would find in her a model house keeper.

Mrs. P. C. Knox

Of all the ladies whose husbands are candidates for the republican nomination for president probably the one who would care least for the social side of White House life is Mrs. P. C. Knox. Both Mrs. Knox and her husband have a pronounced dislike for social functions. They love the quiet of their own home, and as soon as the sessions of congress are over they hurry back to what they call their "farm" at Valley Forge. Both love this place dearly and take an active interest in the farm and its stock. Mrs. Knox is especially fond of the dairy, over which she exercises a kind of general supervision. She is a lover of horses, and a few years ago was the owner of a \$20,000 pair of road trotters which held the pony trotting record. They were purchased for her by her husband, but proved too spirited for Mrs. Knox. She refused to drive them herself and finally practically declined to ride as fast as they insisted upon going. This pair is now at Valley Forge. She owns a handsome riding mare, which she occasionally uses.

While in Washington Mr. and Mrs. Knox occupy the George W. Childs residence in K street, and this home is beautifully furnished. Mrs. Knox is rather small, and the two make a diminutive couple. She is a pretty and always well-gowned woman, having a partiality for browns.

Mrs. Knox is very fond of Mrs. Roosevelt, and the two are often together. Mrs. Roosevelt helped Mrs. Knox to lay out a system of procedure for the day which has been a great help to the latter.

### Mrs. George B. Cortelyou

Many persons believe that when Sir Mortimer Durand, then serving as British ambassador at Washington, said that American women possess common sense in a superlative degree, he had the wife of the present secretary of the treasury in mind. Whether this be true or not, Mrs. George B. Cortelyou is rather small, and the two make a diminutive couple. She is a pretty and always well-gowned woman, having a partiality for browns.

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Mrs. Charles W. Fairbanks

Mrs. Charles W. Fairbanks, wife of the vice president, is a representative American woman of the kind who believe that the wife has duties as clearly defined as those of the husband. She is a strong advocate of the rights of woman and a politician of no mean ability. As president general of the Daughters of the American Revolution she became a presiding officer skilled in parliamentary usages and known



MRS. GEO. B. CORTELYOU, WIFE OF SEC'Y OF THE TREASURY  
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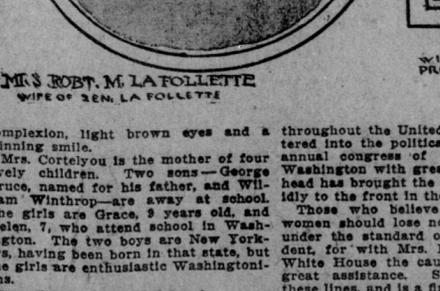
MISS CANNON, DAUGHTER OF THE SPEAKER  
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MRS. J. B. FORAKER, WIFE OF SEN. FORAKER OF OHIO  
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MRS. P. C. KNOX, WIFE OF SEN. KNOX OF PENN.  
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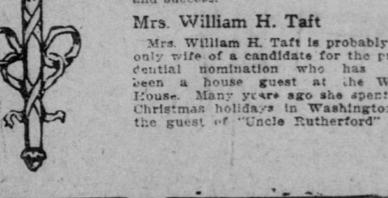
MRS. ROBT. M. LA FOLLETTE  
WIFE OF SEN. LA FOLLETTE



inments of the Daughters of the American Revolution have been elaborate and successful, and as the wife of the vice president she has maintained a somewhat peculiar position with tact and success.

Mrs. William H. Taft

Mrs. William H. Taft is probably the only wife of a candidate for the presidential nomination who has ever been a house guest at the White House. Many years ago she spent the Christmas holidays in Washington as the guest of "Uncle Rutherford" and



MRS. FAIRBANKS  
WIFE OF VICE PRES. FAIRBANKS.  
PHOTO BY CLINEHIST WASH. D. C.

well as a charming woman in every way. Much travel, in which she delights, has supplied her with a fund of anecdotes, which is never exhausted, and upon which she draws freely as a means of entertainment. She is also devoted to reading, and is altogether a very intellectual woman. Mrs. Taft is perhaps less interested in the actual domestic part of her home than some of the other ladies who are her rivals for the occupancy of the White House. In social graces she excels, and is always cordial and earnest in her manner, to a degree which makes her very popular.

Mrs. Taft is pretty and youthful looking, with gray eyes and brown hair. She is tall, slender and graceful. The attachment which resulted in her marriage began at school, but she did not become engaged to Mr. Taft until after graduation.

### Miss Helen Cannon

Of all the candidates for president Speaker Joseph G. Cannon is the only one who would, if elected, go there without a wife to preside over the White House. The place of mistress of the White House would in his case be ably filled by his daughter, Miss Helen Cannon, a young woman of wide education and talents, fully capable of discharging its somewhat onerous duties. Miss Cannon and her father are close companions and devoted to each other. Since the death of her mother, 12 years ago, Miss Cannon has been called upon to be her father's house keeper and confidante.

A graduate of Wellesley college, Miss Cannon has also studied music and art in the universities of Paris, Dresden and Stuttgart. She is fond of reading, a solid, literate and is a brilliant conversationalist. Like her father, she is fond of anecdote and tells a story almost as well as her father.

Miss Cannon is popular in Washington society and is kept exceedingly busy with the social duties which devolve upon the daughter of the speaker of the house of representatives. She finds time to walk regularly—sometimes as much as six miles a day, measured by a tiny pedometer.

She is not fond of house keeping, but accepts her home duties as inevitable. She is more impressed with the duties which come to her in a social way because of her father's position in official life than with the ordinary domestic arts.

She is called upon to preside over the White House she will take there an intimate knowledge of social usages and customs, which will be a guarantee that nothing will be so awkward as even the "cave dwellers" of the capital.

### Mrs. William J. Bryan

While there are several ladies with republican husbands who have a very even chance to occupy the White House, there seems at this time to be only one of the opposite party with a fair opportunity of becoming its mistress. This is Mrs. William J. Bryan, wife of the democratic candidate of two campaigns.

Mrs. Bryan is a woman of rare accomplishments but simple tastes. Educated in Monticello seminary and the Presbyterian seminary at Jacksonville, Ill., she was not satisfied with the knowledge thus acquired and took a postgraduate course. It was while taking this course at Jacksonville that she met her future husband. They became engaged, but were not married until four years later. During this interval she took up the study of law and was admitted to the bar of Illinois. This knowledge of law has proven of great assistance both to her and to Mr. Bryan. Mrs. Bryan was the daughter of John Baird and Laura Dexter Baird, the latter the daughter of Colonel Darius Dexter of Dexterville, N. Y. She was born in Perry, Ill. Mr. and Mrs. Bryan lived for three years at Jacksonville before moving to Lincoln, Nebr.

Mrs. Bryan is a student and recently took a special course in literature and languages at the University of Nebraska. She has also recently studied German.

Mrs. Bryan has been and is still the confidant and trusted adviser of her famous husband. In 1896, when Mr. Bryan went east after his nomination, it was Mrs. Bryan who warned him against the eastern democrats and kept him on his guard as to their plans for the campaign.

Essentially a home loving woman, Mrs. Bryan is a member of but two local clubs in Lincoln. She is fond of her flowers and one of her fads is the raising of chickens. She is also fond of sports, and plays an excellent game of tennis or golf, can ride or drive. An exercise of which she is very fond is swimming. Her saddle horse is a fine Arabian mare. The home life of the Bryans is simple and unassuming. During the construction of their new house at Fairview they lived for several months in a building constructed as a stable.