

The BIG STICK A FAILURE FOR SUFFRAGISTS

Christobel Pankhurst, Former Savage Warrior for the Ballot, Admits American Women Have Gained More Without Militant Methods Than English Advocates



After all it is not the big stick, which wins things. Miss Christobel Pankhurst, the equal suffrage worker of England, who has fought for suffrage in the ranks alongside her mother, using fire, water and explosives, is ready to admit it.

The other day Miss Pankhurst arrived in New York. She was not here to introduce militant methods. She was indeed far from it. It was a meek little Miss Pankhurst this time. Formerly she has come here to tell of the wrongs done her by Englishmen. The other day she told of the bravery of the Englishmen. The war has had quite a tempering effect on the English militant.

They threw her in prison, forced her to eat, drove her from home, broke up her meetings and she hated them and fought back all the more. Suddenly the English men crossed the channel, where they were shot and hit by the German bullets and Miss Pankhurst proved she was only a woman after all and she and her mother and her sister, Miss Sylvia, calmed down. Coming to America to assist in the move here, Miss Pankhurst admitted little progress had been made as far as the granting of suffrage was concerned in England.

"We have only made the men over there think," she said, "I am sorry we could not get the vote because I believe the women ought to have been consulted before going to war. I believe we ought to have had a voice in the war because women suffer most."

"I am glad suffrage has taken such a great hold in America. It is spreading from the West eastward."

"But the American women did not fight the men to gain suffrage," Miss Pankhurst was told.

"That is right," she replied. "Woman suffrage had its start in the State of Wyoming. It was essentially a Western idea, for it grew up with the new countries where women suffered hardships with men and where men learned to respect women as an equal first. Way back in 1869 before Wyoming was a State women were given the right to vote in all territorial elections."

It was long after that when Colorado finally adopted the movement with Utah and Idaho. The movement spread through the West, and now Washington, Oregon, California, Kansas, Arizona and the four States already named have universal suffrage. Illinois has something akin to universal suffrage. Women there can vote for presidential electors, but there are certain other restrictions. In these ten States where suffrage is universal or where women have nearly all the voting rights of men, the ballot was won without any militancy. The men voted the women

into the voting booth. There were women who wanted to vote and women who did not want to vote, but all of them were given the same rights.

Since that time they have exercised their rights with zeal in some places and indifference in others. The point that stands out is the quiet which attended the granting of the ballot.

In addition to those States a large part of the Union has limited suffrage. In a majority of States women can vote for city and school



UPPER LEFT—Inez Millholland Boissevain. Lower left—Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont. Center—Dr. Anna Howard Shaw. Upper right—Miss Cristobel Pankhurst.

New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Delaware and Maryland. In addition, elections are being held in Ohio, Nebraska, North and South Dakota and Montana, extending the right to universal suffrage. Ohio is the first State so far East to vote on a question of absolute equality at the polling place. Nevada is the only State so far West not to grant some form of voting rights to women heretofore. This year the women there are fighting to get universal suffrage. Missouri, which allows no ballot rights, also is voting on the question.

A peculiarity of the woman suffrage growth is that it never recedes. When a woman gets the right to vote she never gives it up. When a State once gives its women the right to vote it cannot take it away from them, unless the women themselves will do so.

A State can vote for prohibition and then vote the saloons back in,

but when the step for suffrage once is taken it is too late to turn back to women are: Montana, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire. It is an easy matter to offend the suffragists, when they can't vote, but a public official who would recommend the passage of an act taking away the right of franchise from women in a State where they can vote would arrange for his own burial as far as public life is concerned.

In England the suffragists are trying to show they are equals of men in war.

Founded by suffragists, a women's volunteer police force is drilling daily for duty. They call themselves the Women Police Volunteers and are an offshoot of the Women's Freedom League, of which Mrs. Despard, a sister of Sir John French, is the head. When they are ready for active service they will get a fetching uniform to give them a semi-official status. A navy blue serge costume of a smart military cut, with a hard felt hat like a bowler with a flat grim and a belt will make up the outfit. First aid appliances, including smelling salts (for cases, not for the police-women), police whistles, district map, and pocket knives will com-

plete the equipment. The new police-women are already hard at work learning jiu-jitsu for self-defense, police drill, signaling, police court procedure and first aid. Every woman so far enrolled has had to pass a medical examination as to physical fitness. Care has been taken only to accept those otherwise qualified to undertake this new responsibility.

The ages range from 30 to 45. The force is ruled by a chief (Miss Damer Dawson; deputy chief, Miss Nina Hoyle; inspector-in-chief, Mrs. Meeson Coates, and an investigator-in-chief, Mrs. Edith Watson, who is a sort of chief detective, and a charge officer, Mrs. N. K. Strange. The minimum duty will be two hours a day and the maximum eight.

The women will work in the streets, parks, railroad depots and police courts, but at present will do no patrolling on regular beats. Their chief work will be to look after the interests of children, and they will co-operate with the policemen.

MANY WOMEN DO NOT CARE FOR VOTE.

Many prominent women do not care for the ballot. Among these is Miss Helen M. Winslow, the authoress.

"Evolution will solve all the problems of modern woman. It has been solving them for the past half century. Only grandma and grandpa are fretting over her emancipation and fearing an abnormal creature when the process is complete."

"That is how Miss Helen M. Winslow looks upon life. "It is a divine ordinance that woman should bear children," she said. "One would have to be an unbeliever to take any stock in the fallacy that a 'career' means more to the world than the raising of children."

"Modern woman can develop her life according to her own ideas in the marriage state just as well as she can in the single state," she continued. "Woman's evolution during the past half century has made this possible since man has been in a corresponding process of evolution. His idea of a wife has changed substantially. "Your average man of intelligence today no longer looks askance at his wife if she has ideas of her own. Once upon a time it was scandalous if she belonged to a club. Now she cannot only belong to a club, but can go out on the stump, if she is capable, and deliver speeches—which would have socially ostracized her only as far back as Civil War times. "But what we have to give the

most consideration is the unmarried woman of today. It is she, not the married woman, who is the big question mark."

Mrs. Bacon has presented the question of at what age should the unmarried daughter be considered free to develop her life according to her own ideas. This question was suggested to Miss Winslow.

"That is a question that no one can, speaking for maidens in general, answer authoritatively," replied the authoress. "It's absurd to attempt it, for it all depends upon the daughter herself."

"The average college girl in her teens only considers the development of her life in a vague sort of way. She has a hazy conception of 'ideals' and 'standards,' but the part that she intends to play in their support and uplifting is extremely indefinite. She will tell you that she aspires to a 'career.'"

"Exceptions, and many to be sure, are they who are capable of developing their life according to their own ideas while in college. But the average college girl is not. "When you consider the great number of young unmarried women of means, who, after graduating from college, are groping blindly around in the dark, keenly interested in maintaining their 'independence,' one realizes that it is impossible to definitely state the age of development."

"It is this type who pick up suffragism as a hobby, and, bear in mind, I do not mean all, for there are many, many women of means who are absolutely sincere in their espousal of the cause. They grasp at the opportunity and their natural instinct for acting enables them to carry off their roles successfully."

"These are the women who preach that it is impossible to be independent, if married."

"Reduced down to its last decimal, however, you will find that mercenary motives are at the bottom of many of our present day woman problems."

"Families of ample means and the unmarried prospectives of both sexes can settle their problems without difficulty. It's when the shoe pinches on a selfish foot of small income families that questions of rights and of division of income and so forth ad infinitum come up for discussion."

"The pendulum of woman's progress is soon due to complete its swing, it seems to me, and that means she will have reached the height of her development. Soon, however, does not mean 10, 20 or 30 years. It's indefinite but within the century."

HOW THE RIDERS OF SIBERIA SPREAD THE NEWS OF WAR AND BROUGHT IN SCATTERED RESERVISTS

How the people of Siberia took the news that war had been declared, and their action in preparing for it, is told in a dispatch from Omsk, Siberia, to the Daily Telegraph. The dispatch follows: "Here in the heart of Siberia the most striking feature to a foreigner of the early stages of the war was the remarkably business-like fashion in which the country tackled the grim realities of war. "We were in Semipalatinsk, 600 miles from the railway, when the war was declared. The news was carried all over Siberia by galloping—Cossacks, who, like a multitude

of Paul Revere, spread across the country notifying the farmers and peasants of the little villages and ordering the mobilization."

"Omsk, three days' journey from Semipalatinsk, we found humming with well-regulated activity. There were nearly 200,000 reservists already gathered there and being sent westward for drilling in the encampments in Southern Russia."

"The outstanding feature was the rapidity, precision and smoothness with which the vast masses of troops were handled. This was an object lesson in the awakening of the Russian Empire, and a reminder that

Siberia is adopting the aggressive American methods of grappling with its vast problems."

The attitude of the Jews, who everywhere displayed an enthusiastic sympathy with the Russian attitude in the war, was also interesting. It is a remarkable sign of the times, this Jewish movement. If the occasion is grasped, as there is reason to suppose it will be, it means an opportunity for the solution of the much mixed Jewish problem."

"The attitude of the Siberians toward this war is very different from their attitude during the Japanese

war. Japan meant little or nothing to the Siberian moujik, but he knows the Germans. This is no struggle against an unknown foe over an obscure international disagreement, but a war in which the personal equation largely figures. Every man feels that he is going to help his brother Slavs in Serbia, and, at the same time, free Russia from Teuton tutelage."

"At Semipalatinsk the breweries and vodka shops were closed as soon as war was declared. As soon as the reservists began to pour in with the regularity of a well-oiled machine, they were sent in one door

of the low building which housed military headquarters, and sent out promptly with instructions where to report for service, with warrants for steamship and railway travel, and with an allowance of twenty-five kopecks a day for spending money."

"It was a thrilling scene as the reservists took the boat for the mobilization point. Great crowds thronged the pier where the Governor, in full uniform, harangued his people in stirring words. "This is no war of aggression," he said. "You are fighting to crush a cruel oppression, and Almighty

God is with you. As for your women folks, who are left, perhaps, to mourn, let them be of good cheer, and by their courage and self-control emblazon the Russian flag with one more instance of the devotion of its womanhood."

"As he finished, the band played the national hymn and the priests, robed in green and gold, advanced toward the ship, giving it and the passengers their blessing."

"The Russians have a great advantage in the good feeling between the officers and the men. Their treatment is paternal, almost to the

extent of that exhibited in the schoolroom."

Criticism. Theodore Dreiser, the novelist, was talking of criticism.

"I like pointed criticism," he said, "criticism such as I heard in the lobby of a theater the other night at the end of the play."

"The critic was an old gentleman. His criticism, which was for his wife's ears alone, consisted of these words: "Well, you would come!"