

APRIL 2, 1914

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

661

woman suffrage really began as long ago as 1866, when John Stuart Mill brought it up in the British Parliament, according to strictly constitutional methods. Dr. Pankhurst was one of his strong supporters on the question, and when he married, his wife, then a girl of twenty-one, who had received a liberal education in Paris, was not slow in being won over to recognize the reasonableness of the agitation.

For forty years the campaign was carried on in this way. The earlier advocates bombarded Parliament with petitions, and between 1867 and 1884 more than 3,000,000 signatures were presented. But opportunity does not always bring the coveted reward. In 1884 Gladstone, good old man though he was, pronounced so emphatically against it that for the time Women's Suffrage seemed to become a dead issue. It had, in short, become a joke, rumpling along in the same category with the "tramp" and "mother-in-law" witticisms of the newspapers and the streets, and any woman who dared to speak in favor of it was looked upon as a freak and an ugly excrescence upon the conservatism and propriety of the "precious isle set in a silver sea."

But—there were the Pankhursts. In 1889, depending upon the numbers of sympathizers of which they were assured, they formed the Women's Franchise



Mrs. Pankhurst and Her Daughter in Prison Garb.

League, whose first address was delivered by Dr. Pankhurst, but for some years the milestones of their progression were stamped chiefly by political changes. First they joined the Liberal party, then not finding the sympathy they had expected there, they went over in 1894 to the Independent Labor party which professed to draw no sex distinctions.

In the meantime Mrs. Pankhurst had been studying social conditions, and doing social work. She had come into close contact with poverty among women because of starvation wages, and though in comfortable circumstances herself her heart was big enough to throb with sympathy for her less fortunate sisters. Concrete cases of distress were continually appealing to her. — A mother who lost her reason because of the impossibility of making a living for her family; a little waitress who, one day, quietly took her own life, leaving a pathetic note in explanation, "I am so tired;" — there were many instances such as this, and each put another nail into her platform: the conditions governing women must be raised; securing the franchise was the one means by which they could be so raised.

The sudden death of Dr. Pankhurst removed from Mrs. Pankhurst the dearest sympathizer and supporter she had known, but Mrs. Pankhurst never once thought of withdrawing into the hermitage of self-obliviation and uselessness into which so many widows, and particularly those of the old school, seem to feel called upon to betake themselves. Ever a worker, she now took the position of registrar of births and deaths in

her home city, assuming the duties there involved in addition to her self-assumed social work.

Indeed, the Pankhursts could not be parasites. The daughters, too, as soon as they were old enough, undertook strenuous work. Christabel studying law and Sylvia art. So it was that they learned the world and its problems as women in comfortable homes who never venture past their own piazzas can never learn them.

Christabel graduated from Victoria University, Manchester, in 1905, taking her degree as Bachelor of Laws with honors, and it was really the official refusal to admit her to the Bar, because she was a "woman," that made her determine to devote her time to the women's rights question.

When the Women's Political Union was founded in 1903, shortly after the death of Dr. Pankhurst, Mrs. Pankhurst became, naturally, one of its foremost supporters.

For some time yet the demand for votes for women was conducted in an orderly way; then came the dramatic incident of October, 1905.

Upon that occasion Miss Christabel Pankhurst and Miss Annie Kenney, a mill girl, arose in a political meeting at Manchester and asked Sir Edward Grey what position the Liberal Government purposed taking in the matter of giving votes to women. The newly-formed Woman's Social and Political Union wished to know. Sir Edward refused to reply to the question, whereupon Miss Kenney unfurled a pennon bearing the words, "Votes for women." At once an uproar broke loose, the women were hustled to the door and there arrested. They were the first arrests in England for heckling. The "woman's war" was on.

Speedily the scene was transferred to London, and the meeting held at Caxton Hall, referred to by Miss Sharp, put the movement in order. One of the first members there was Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, who had been doing social work among the outcasts driven on the streets by poverty. She and Miss Mary Neal had taken rooms in a workman's house, and these now became a centre for sympathetic meetings and the drafting of plans. In the meantime, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, who was carrying on her art studies at Chelsea—that spot hallowed by associations of Carlyle and Rossetti, Burne-Jones and Morris and Whistler,—was making little suffragette banners of white linen, painted with the green and purple of the suffragettes, to be used in demonstrations.

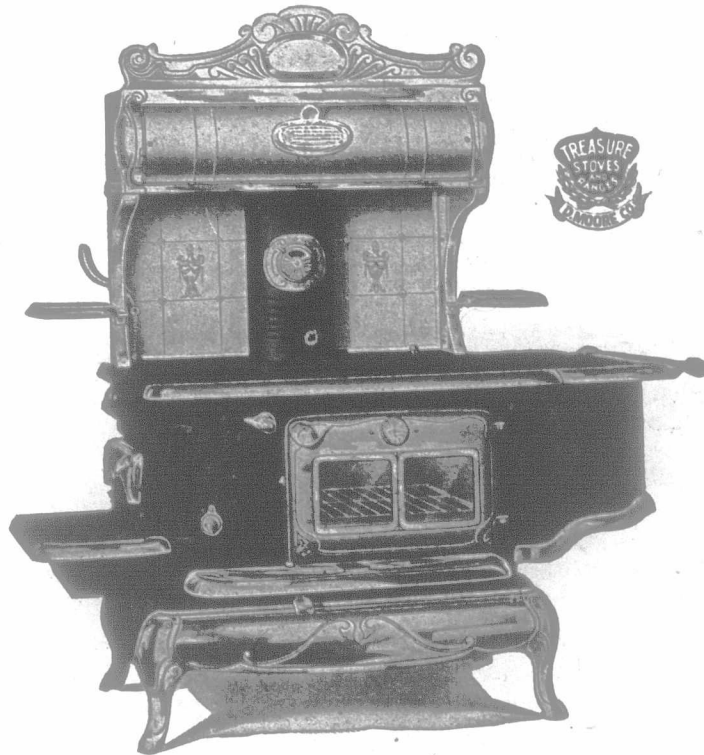
From that time the warfare became more strenuous. In February, 1908, Mrs. Pankhurst made her own first appearance as a militant by leading a "raid" on the House of Commons. She was arrested, sentenced to six months in the workhouse, and served every day of her time. In October of the same year she was sentenced to another three months for inciting to riot, but the possibility of a "hunger-strike" had occurred to her. She tried it and was promptly released, whereupon she came on a lecturing tour to America.

On her return she was again arrested for leading 400 militants in an attempt to interview the Prime Minister. Next came the window-smashing escapade of 1913, when hundreds of fine plate-glass windows of fashionable West End stores were broken by apparently innocent-looking ladies armed with hatchets conveyed under their ulsters. As a result Mrs. Pankhurst and Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence were convicted and given nine months in penitentiary as punishment. After a hunger-strike of nearly five weeks Mrs. Pankhurst was released, in a very weakened physical state.

Bad quickly became worse, so far as suffragette outrages were concerned. Buildings were burned, golf-links destroyed, acid and pitch were poured into mail-boxes, ministers were cuffed, political meetings upset by heckling. "Men have even taken human life in their fight for liberty," declared the women in extenuation of their methods; "we do not take human life; we only destroy property." Nevertheless residence in the English cities was becoming unbearable, and women were arrested by the score. . . . In fairness it must be

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