

In reply to the question: "There seems to be a strong prejudice in Canada against militancy in the Old Country, and many people affirm that it has put back the Cause some years; do you consider this the case?" Mrs. Pethick Lawrence made the following statement:—

"There seems no need, at any rate at present, for Canadian women or men to trouble their minds about militant methods. Such methods would never be justifiable until all other methods had been tried and had failed, just as war is never justifiable until all the resources of negotiation and all the arts of diplomacy have been brought into play without result.

It would take too long to explain the extraordinary political situation in England which has absolutely forced women into the adoption of militant method, if carried by the House of Commons, exists in newer lands. The State of Washington won the vote in 1910 by a thoroughly well organized constitutional campaign. Victory followed for California in 1911. The women of B. C. and of every part of Canada have only to follow the example set by Washington and California in order to win their political freedom."

"One of the most frequent objections brought forward here," she was told, "is this, that the conduct of the Militants in England proves the unfitness of Canadian women to vote. In other words, Canadian women are blamed for the militant methods."

"With regard to that," said Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, smiling, "I can only say that such a method of attack is so palpably foolish that it should be met with the ridicule it deserves. What would a Conservative or Liberal candidate in a Provincial election in Canada say if the electors were to criticise him because of the action of some Conservative or Liberal Government in Spain or Portugal, France or Germany? His critic would be simply stamped as a fool. In the same way, Canadian wo-

men are under no obligation to explain, apologize for, or defend the militant suffragettes of the Old Country."

"Could you explain why it is that the campaign of militancy is being carried on at present?"

"It would be a very long story to tell how the militant agitation arose, but the indignation of British women is specially aroused at the present time by the Government introduction of a Manhood Suffrage Bill, which, as framed and introduced by the Government, **expressly leaves out** women."

"But has not the Prime Minister promised that a Woman Suffrage Amendment, if carried by the House of Commons, shall be incorporated in the Bill?"

"Yes, he has promised that, but his promise deceives nobody who knows anything at all about practical politics and parliamentary procedure in the Old Country. He has taken very good care to render it impossible that any such amendment shall pass."

"What do you hope to achieve by the militant campaign?"

"Our immediate object is to fight the Manhood Suffrage Bill and to force the Government to withdraw it and to introduce in its stead a real Reform Bill, giving equal political rights to men and women."

"But if you know that the House of Commons is not going to carry a Woman Suffrage Amendment to the Government's Bill, would not the Government be defeated by the House if it introduced a Bill to give equal franchise to men and women?"

"No," said Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, very emphatically, "if the Government introduced the Clause, the whole of the Coalition forces in the House would vote for it, for the sake of keeping the present Government in power and also to secure the safety of their own seats and their own incomes. It must be remembered that the present Government is composed of a Coalition of the Liberal, Labour and Irish parties. The