

MRS. PANKHURST AND HER SOCIETY OF SUFFRAGETTES.

Mrs. Fiske Writes Entertainingly of the Suffragette Movement in England---Society Started in 1903 With Only Few Shillings in the Treasury---This Year There are Nearly \$250,000.

By EMMA S. FISKE.

(By Emma S. Fiske.)
The last number of the Boston Woman's Journal gives a full account of the suffragette movement in the interest of which Mrs. Pankhurst is engaged. This phase of the movement to take the parliamentary vote for women dates back to 1903, when the Women's Social and Political Union was formed under the leadership of Mrs. Pankhurst. This association, together with the Women's Freedom League, adopted the tactics which have "almost turned England upside down." These societies are now known as the militant suffragists or factious suffragettes.

WHY MRS. PANKHURST BECAME A MILITANT.

The immediate grievance of the suffragettes is the action of the present cabinet in smothering the Woman Suffrage bill and keeping it from coming up for the third reading and the final vote. This bill has passed its second reading in the present House of Commons by a vote of three to one; and if Mr. Asquith and his cabinet had not prevented the third reading, as they seem, strangely enough, to have the power to do, there would have been no such thing as the suffragette movement.

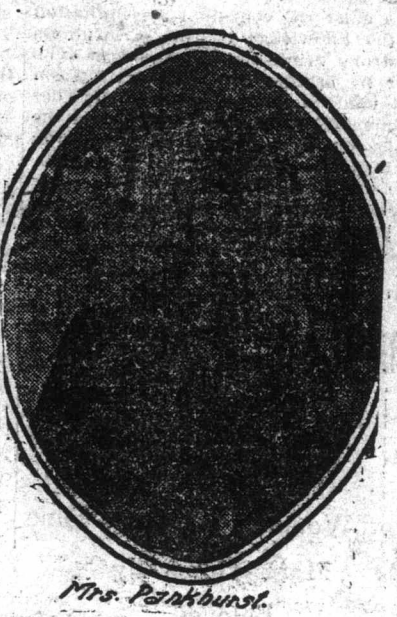
But the grievance did not begin with this present parliament. Bills to grant the parliamentary suffrage for women have been before the House of Commons for the last sixteen years, with a majority of the commons in favor of the measure, but during all these sixteen years these bills have been treated the same as the present

one and it has been impossible to get a final vote upon them. During this time Mrs. Pankhurst and her co-workers have used the ordinary peaceful methods to secure these ends. At the beginning of the present agitation they urged Mr. Asquith and the cabinet to take the necessary steps to let the bill come to a vote. They were met with refusal on the ground that "all the time of parliament was pre-empted for more important matters, and that women suffrage though undeniably just, was not yet a question of practical politics." This set the women thinking and devising means and ways of making suffrage a question of practical politics. In their dilemma they consulted ex-Premier Balfour, who is a suffragist. The substance of his advice was: "Kiss up a row." Try first one way and then another. As soon as the public gets used to one method, invent another. Needless to say they have very literally followed his advice, with the intent to "make the lives of the cabinet ministers a burden to them until they let the suffrage bill come to a vote." The justice of their demand must be admitted by all, but the means which they have used to obtain it, the fact that they are making his name and are proving not only to the British public, but to the world at large, that they are most seriously in earnest and are sure to win in the end.

THE CAMPAIGN.

The militant movement began in the ladies' gallery in the House of Commons when it became evident that during a debate on suffrage the bill was not to be allowed to come to a

vote. At this moment a woman thrust a small suffrage banner through the bars of the grille which divides the ladies' gallery from the House, and cried, "Divide, divide." The women were ejected from the gallery. Then a regular siege of parliament began; the women came in procession with pet-



Mrs. Pankhurst.

itions asking parliament to put their bill to the vote. The men who were in sympathy came to help the women push their way in with their petitions. So many came, men and women, that parliament had to be guarded by 4,000

police. Mrs. Pankhurst was sent to prison, where she remained for nearly three months. She has already served two terms in prison and is now under sentence for a third time pending the decision of the magistrate upon a legal point which has been brought up by the counsel for the women. This third arrest of Mrs. Pankhurst took place on June 29 of this year, on the occasion of her leading a deputation of eight women to the House of Commons in order to interview the Prime Minister. These women were charged with "obstructing the police in the execution of their duties." The magistrate before whom they were brought was informed by their legal adviser that "under an ancient statute, deputations of less than ten in number, possessed of absolute right to go in person and lay their claims before the King or his representative." The magistrate is now considering this point and should his decision be adverse to the suffragettes, Mrs. Pankhurst will have to serve a further term in prison upon her return to England.

IMPRISONMENT AND THE HUNGER STRIKE.

To many the hunger strike is simply a ludicrous feature of the proceeding. A ludicrous it may be, but it is nevertheless a fact and we have to treat it as such. Some say, "We do not know it is simply the way the women have adopted to protest against their treatment as prisoners." Against would have submitted quietly to being treated as political offenders, but the government from the first has put them in the division of the prison

set apart for such culprits. Now, political prisoners are permitted to supply their own food, wear their own clothes, receive letters and papers and are visited by their friends, whereas common criminals must use prison fare, put on prison dress, and are held out of the 24 in solitary confinement and unless imprisoned for more than one month, they can receive neither letters nor visitors. As a protest against treatment as common criminals the hunger strike has been adopted; the women have refused to eat meals unless they could be transferred to the division of the prison assigned to political offenders. They did not, however, invent the hunger strike, it has been practised by political prisoners in Russia as a means of showing dissatisfaction with their treatment.

At first the English "hunger strikers" were allowed to fast until their lives were in serious danger—sometimes for more than six days—and then they were set free. In Birmingham, however, after consultation with Mr. Gladstone, the prison authorities began to feed the women by force, using a stomach pump, one against the subject of this forced feeding, Miss Laura Alsworth, one of the prisoners subjected to this forced feeding, was obliged to go to the hospital for treatment in consequence of the effects of this operation. There is a record of the death of a male prisoner who died within 24 hours of the operation. Owing to the condition of Miss Alsworth the suffragettes have brought suit against the authorities.

Mr. Keir Hardie has expressed his opinion of this treatment in parliament recently.

"There is difference of opinion," he said, "concerning the tactics of the militant suffragettes, but surely there can be no two opinions concerning the horrible brutality of this proceeding (the forced feeding). Women, worn and weak by hunger, are seized upon, held down by brute force, a tube inserted down the throat and food pumped into the stomach. Let British men think over the spectacle." When Mrs. Pankhurst's society started in 1908 there were only a few shillings in the treasury. This year there are nearly \$250,000. The society's first office consisted of one room only. Mrs. Pankhurst's London headquarters now occupies thirteen rooms, each with a stenographer and typewriter who work without pay. There are branch offices all over the kingdom.

THEY WILL WIN.

A. D. Howells in an interview with the Boston Herald expresses the belief that the suffragettes will win. "They will have the ballot," he says. "It cannot be otherwise. That is my judgment. It has got to come. I have never heard any reason why they should not, I have heard pleas why they should not, but no reasons." "Last year," he continues, "I saw the great suffragette procession in London. It was one of the most impressive things I ever saw. There were about 10,000 women in it, marching down Piccadilly, and the most respectable looking women, old and young, and occasionally a venerable one."

That same morning the wife of one of the miners who was to have one of the day shift, stole her husband's clothes while he slept, and fled to her home in Ireland, and was prevented from joining the strike by the separatist sentiment professed by some of its members. He went down into the pit to bid farewell to his old comrades. He never came back, and away off in Sweden a Swedish woman, who had been engaged to her for many years.

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WHITE RIBBONERS FROM ALL PARTS OF CANADA

(Continued from Page Three.)

President N. S. Union and Superintendent of Salaries Work.
Mrs. (Dr.) Todd, St. Stephen, N. B.; Mrs. (Rev.) Pollard, Victoria, B. C. corresponding secretary, Mrs. Tilton, Ottawa, recording secretary, Miss Renaud, Montreal, treasurer, Mrs. Steadman, Fredericton, N. B.
In the twenty-six years since the organization of the Dominion W. C. T. U. it has elected seven presidents: Mrs. Letitia Youmans, Platon, Ont.; Mrs. Judge Foster, Knowlton, Que.; Mrs. (Rev.) Fawcett, Toronto, Ont.; Mrs. Steadman, Fredericton, N. B.; Mrs. Ella P. M. Williams, Montreal, Que.; and Mrs. F. O. Rutherford, Toronto, who has filled the position of recording secretary from 1885 to 1886, when she was elected president, which office she held for ten years. Mrs. S. R. Wright of London has been president for four years. While there were only four provincial organizations at the inception of the Dominion union, today there are seven. Manitoba soon fell into line, and in 1905 the maritime union dissolved, to form three distinct provincial unions. A territorial union for the Northwest Territories was organized October 6, 1904, at Calgary, Alberta, and at Red Deer, 1905, the Provincial Union of Alberta and Saskatchewan was organized.

Our citizens will have the pleasure of hearing Mrs. Whitman on Concordance Sunday. She writes in the following interesting manner concerning her work.
The department of sailors, seafarers and light-house keepers we consider a most important one among the many of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union—far-reaching in its bearing upon the world at large. How much we have to do for them! We have to be constantly providing our tables with such a varied menu in the fish-bowl line. How little we estimate the toll necessary to qualify our tables, or calculate the immense loss of life of "those who go down to the sea in ships and do business in great waters!" How many a husband and father and son leave our shores every year and are seen no more; they go out into the fog and wind and storm and come not to us again.

"In the hush of the autumn night I hear the sound of the sea, In the hush of the autumn night it seems to say to me: Mine are the winds above, Mine are the waves below, Mine are the dead of yesterday, And the dead of long ago."

And we ask what should be done for sailors, outlaw the liquor traffic, build sailors' rests, provide reading rooms and safe recreations for those who do so much for us. To a sailors' rest in Nova Scotia came a man this summer under the influence of strong drink. He staggered as he came in and was an object lesson of the work done by alcohol. He said he "came to hear the music," it made him think of his mother. He sat quietly for some time, and then asked for a certain air his mother used to sing. He would never forget her. There was a large family of brothers and sisters, and only he was an outcast. He sat and talked for some time, and then rose and went out into the night, a sad picture in its degradation and misery; but yet within the memory of his mother still in his heart, and he gave up their lives so bravely in their effort to gain a livelihood and bring to us the harvest of the sea?

What, indeed, but make the land a safe place for them when they come to us from the great deep. Banish the heart's mother who had sang the song to him in his anguish. Who shall say that this revived memory may not be the leadings of the leading and good spirit to lead him back from sin?

Frequently comes to us young men, who have signed temperance pledges in sailor's rest, and who have been five years ago and we have never broken it. And then comes the shadow of the picture. Young men, bright and promising, who are drawn away by the alcohol dens and lost to honor and virtue and ambition, find their peace no more this side of eternity. In view of the large numbers who follow the sea as a profession, the Christian part of every community should make the well-being of this class a subject for much thought and effort. In addition to their work for the home sailor and seafarer the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of the Maritime Provinces send many barrels of clothing and literature every year to the mission for deep-sea sailors under the care of Dr. Grenfell at Labrador, Nova Scotia. In addition, supports two cots, the W. C. T. U. cot and the Eleanor Y. cot at Battle Harbor Hospital, Labrador. Contributions are yearly given to the Grenfell Institute at St. John's, Newfoundland, by many of the unions.

The light-house keeper also receives our attention. This is a lonely life, sometimes, and much literature is sent to such to beguile the tedium of stormy days. We would give an instance of isolation of the light-house keeper in that of Robbins Reef light kept far out in New York bay by Mrs. Jennie Walker, or, probably, the only instance of a woman in charge of an official light in the world. Her home, we are told, is built upon a ledge of rocks that is centrally submerged at high water, but her isolation is compensated for in the fact that she has all of New York bay for a dooryard, and there is no danger of her being lost, as by crying neighbors.

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PREDICTED MINING DISASTERS

The effect of recent sermons on the coal strike in Cape Breton, which called forth the action of the Papal representative in Canada, has been likened to that of Mr. Coo's attempts to frighten the miners of Pictou County. This recalls a strange story of bygone years, which perhaps may never be heard.

The Mrs. Coo predictions referred to were a series of strange prophecies of disaster in the coal mines of Pictou County, N. S., made by a local "seer" at New Glasgow, nearly thirty years ago. Mrs. Coo was a widow, living in what was then the outskirts of New Glasgow. She was a large and almost masculine-looking person, who told her fortunes of late years, and was known for her prophecies and omens.

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