

# WOMEN CAMPAIGNERS.

## They Are In the Midst of Their First Great Fight Five States Will Vote On Woman Suffrage in November

Visit to National Suffragist Headquarters Is Described—Non-Partisan Fight for Principle, Not Personalities—Typical Suffragette Leader a Great Surprise—She Is Now a Ravishing Beauty, Fashionable and Often Rich—Long List of Society Leaders.



Mrs. Clarence Flockey, Suffragist Leader, Society Woman and Author.



Mrs. Ernest Thompson Seton, Suffragist Leader, Book Designer and Journalist.



Anna Howard Shaw, Commander-in-Chief of the Amazon Forces.



Mrs. O.H.P. Belmont, Suffragist and Society Leader.



Mrs. Ibez Milholland, Heiress and Suffragist Oregon.

BY JOHN ELFRITH WATKINS.

New York October 8. (Special Correspondent.)

WOMAN, lovely woman, is making a tremendous splash in this campaign.

In none other has she had so much influence, done so much work, had so much at stake.

I have just enjoyed an interesting morning at the headquarters of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. This central office of all American suffragists and suffragettes occupies a suite of rooms 17 floors above Fifth avenue, and nearly opposite the new and magnificent public library. As I stepped from the elevator into the hall I faced a long space of wall upon which were posted numerous cartoons, newspaper clippings, posters and placards bearing upon the "cause." To the right and left opened doorways lettered with the titles of the various officers of the association.

Many Suffragette Beauties. Your mind's eye plays you false if it still pictures the American suffragist leader as a prim and precise "prunes and prisms" personage with spectacles on nose, with shifty, bilious visage, with hair plastered down, wiaoked back and coiffured in the fearsome "hickory nut"—a formidable, charmless creature of mannish attire who might be either coming or going, you couldn't tell which, if her head were turned hard to port or starboard.

The accompanying portraits of suffragist leaders in the present campaign give the lie to any mind's eye so far behind the times as to conjure up such a vision of unloveliness.

Were I to flash before your unsuspecting gaze the entire collection of portraits of suffragette officers and leaders which they kept there at headquarters you would, I warrant, call them exhibits in a beauty contest, or the woman editor's "layout" for her Sunday fashion page. More of these personalities later. Let me give you an idea of what these fair politicians are working for in this three-cornered campaign of ours.

First let me make it emphatic and clear—just as it was made to me—that this National Woman Suffrage organization is a non-partisan body. Its officers, as officers of its organization, would not talk politics with me in favor of or against any candidate, be he Republican, Democrat or Bull Moose.

More states will vote on woman suffrage in November than on any previous election day in our history. Five commonwealths, by the ballots of their men, will decide this issue. They are Michigan, Wisconsin, Kansas, Arizona and Oregon. This will be the first vote on the question by all these states except Oregon, which has already defeated the proposition six times, including last November. Again it is submitted to the people on an initiative petition, as it is also in Arizona. In the other states the legislatures have, by act, submitted the question to the voters.

At suffrage headquarters the leaders are undaunted by their defeat in Ohio, September 3, when two votes against their cause were cast against each vote for it. They point to the fact that more men voted for woman suffrage in Ohio than in any of the six states which had previously adopted the equal franchise, and they find cheer in the fact that

of the initiative and referendum methods, which were adopted by the election which just defeated woman suffrage, they can resubmit their cause to the people at an early date.

Women from all over the country are, I am told, offering their services to help win the five states that will vote on equal suffrage next month. And headquarters is being deluged with inquiries from all countries of the world, even India, concerning the coming fight. Each of the big New York papers has assigned to the fight a reporter who calls at National suffrage headquarters daily, and 1500 newspapers are

regularly receiving bulletins from the press chairman, Miss Caroline L. Rellly. Remarkable is the number of actresses leading or participating in this battle of our amazons. One of the most indefatigable of these is Flora La Follette, who a few months ago married George Middleton, the dramatist. Having worked hard for the cause on the hustings throughout Ohio, she is now with her father (the Senator) and mother, stumping her native Wisconsin.

Another young actress now on the stump in the same cause is Beatrice Forbes-Robertson. She is a granddaughter of Joseph Knight, F. S. A., the best known art and dramatic critic of his day, who was also celebrated as the editor of "Notes and Queries," London. She is the daughter of the well-known English actor, Ian Forbes-Robertson, who is more celebrated in this country, and with whom she has played Ophelia and Desdemona, besides appearing with Sir Henry Irving, Sir Charles Wyndham and Sir John Hare. She came to America with Ellen Terry four years ago, and while speaking for woman's suffrage a couple of seasons back met Swinburne Hale, a New York lawyer, whom she lately married. She

such weakness, which, she said, overtook her when she ventured beyond her well-studied lines.

Among the great beauties now to be found at the head and front of this amazon horde, fighting for equal rights with men, is Miss Ibez Milholland, of New York and London. She is the daughter of John E. Milholland, the wealthy pneumatic tube magnate, reformer and journalist of New York and London. After having been partly educated in London, Paris and Berlin, she graduated at Vassar, where she organized a woman suffrage club. When this organization was refused a meeting place by the president of the college she rallied her supporters in a neighboring cemetery. Since her graduation she has resigned as a queen of fashion and social leader on both sides of the Atlantic, and has devoted considerable time to athletics. Although the daughter of a millionaire, she is now studying law at the New York University. During the famous strike of the shirtwaist girls she did picket duty in their interest, and was arrested, but when brought into court acted as her own attorney. Last May, gowned all in white, and bearing a banner, this spirited girl headed the celebrated woman suffrage parade in New York. Recently, when asked why she was working so strenuously for suffrage, she stated, with other reasons:

"One doesn't want to be out of any game that promises so much spirited fighting, fun, good fellowship and success."

She is now on the stump in Wisconsin, where she is working shoulder to shoulder with another young New York beauty of much the same type, Mrs. Crystal Eastman Benedict, who also comes from a family of reformers, her father, Rev. Samuel E. Eastman, and mother, Rev. Annis F. Eastman, both having been ministers of the gospel, while her brother, Max Eastman, is a lecturer on reform themes. Some time ago Mrs. Benedict was appointed as the only woman member of the New York Liability Commission.

Rank High in Society. Other society women whom Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, commander-in-chief of this amazon force, counts among her field marshals and generals are Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, of New York, mother of the Duchess of Marlborough; Mrs. Stanley McCormick, of Chicago and Boston, a daughter-in-law of the harvester magnate; Mrs. James Lees Laidlaw, a New York beauty, whose husband is secretary of the New York Men's League for Woman Suffrage; Mrs. Clarence H. Mackay, wife of the cable magnate, and Mrs. Ernest Thompson Seton, daughter of Albert Gallatin and wife of the illustrator.

of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the vice-president being the wife of Governor Stubbs, and the treasurer the wife of the editor, William Allen White. Another woman suffragist now pounding away hammer and tongs at bleeding Kansas, is Miss Laura Clay, of Kentucky, a daughter of the celebrated Cassius M. Clay.

In Michigan—one of the five states to vote on this Fall—the equal suffragists have the Governor on their side, while the state grants the most powerful organization in the commonwealth, has in the field a committee of women who are questioning each candidate and canvassing every county.

Men Organize to Help. In addition to the woman suffragists themselves, two interesting factions are at work in their campaign of this Autumn. One is a new, nation-wide and friendly organization of men, known as the National Men's League for Women's Suffrage, which has not yet chosen a president, but whose secretary is Omar E. Garwood, assistant district attorney of Denver who is now helping the suffragettes of Kansas. This league is affiliated with an international organization of the same name, whose president is Sir John Cotton, of England. The other faction in question is the likewise new National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage, whose president is Mrs. Arthur M. Dodge, of New York, and under whose motherly wing are seven or more state organizations, offered by such women as Mrs. Elihu Root, wife of the New York senator, and Mrs. Richard Watson Glider, widow of the editor of the Century Magazine.

When I asked at woman suffrage headquarters whether militant methods would be resorted to in any of the five states now in the balance, I got this reply: prompt and emphatic.

"The only militant methods used in equal suffrage campaigns in this country are resorted to by the opponents of our cause."

Women at Party Headquarters. As I said, this great campaign as waged by the national body of equal suffragists is purely non-partisan. But here in New York I find a corps of suffragettes co-operating with each of the big parties, national committees. Concerning these Dr. Anna Shaw and her general vouchsafe no information. Republican Chairman Hiller's chief woman campaign general, who has an office with him in the Times building, is Miss Helen Varick Rowell, who ranks as "chairman of the woman's committee." She is a New York woman, noted for skill as an organizer, and a suffragist, who already during the campaign for equal franchise has stumped the Middle West with her chief assistant, Miss Mary Wood, secretary of her bureau.

This woman's department of the Taff committee is also assisted by an advisory board presided over by Mrs. Nelson Herrick Henry, who, during the present year, organized the woman's industrial exhibition at the Grand Central Palace and acted as chairman of the Woman's Titanic relief committee.

The Bull Moose party has three women national committeemen, Miss Frances A. Kellor, of New York, Miss Jane Adams, of Illinois, and Mrs. Isabel W. Hinesy, who was a California delegate to the National Progressive Convention. Miss Kellor, who has charge of the women's bureau at national campaign headquarters, is a native of Columbus, Ohio, and a graduate of the Cornell Law School. After finishing her law course she studied sociology at the University of Chicago. Seven years ago she came to Brooklyn, where she has engaged in settlement work and kindred activities among women and girls, particularly unfortunate immigrants. In charge of her publicity department is Miss Eleanor Garrison, granddaughter of William Lloyd Garrison. Then there is at national Democratic headquarters a woman campaign general, Mrs. J. Borden Harriman, whose title is "president of the Woman's National Willson and Marshall League." She is a wealthy society woman, who at one time was president of the exclusive Colony Club. During recent weeks she has several times left her Summer home at Iplands, at Mount Kisco, New York, to make a number of speeches, one of which was delivered from the pavilion in Union Square. Her first lieutenant, Miss Alberta Hill, would now be enjoying the right to vote had she remained in her native Australia, where women enjoy full state suffrage. (Copyright, 1912, by John Elfrith Watkins.)

Flo La Follette, Actress and Suffragist Stumper

Beatrice Forbes-Robertson, Actress New Stumper for Suffrage.