

# THE ACTIVE PART WOMEN PLAY IN BRITISH POLITICS



Countess of Warwick. She Speaks from a Wagon

Lady Battersea. One of England's Best Women Speakers

The Countess Spencer

Mrs. Almeric Paget. Political Spellbinder for her Husband

Mrs. George Cornwallis West. Who Campaigns for her Son

Mrs. Herbert Gladstone. Whose Husband is in the New Cabinet

**M**ORE than one member of the new British Parliament must acknowledge, in truth, that much of the credit for his success at the polls is due to the energetic campaigning of women adherents. In no country in the world do prominent women—women of proud titles and aristocratic position—take such a pronounced part in political campaigns, so energetically engage in the active work of vote getting, as in England.

Since the days of George III, when the beautiful Duchess of Devonshire won hundreds of labor votes for Charles James Fox by kissing a butcher, English women have maintained a decided interest in public affairs and have exerted their utmost influence in behalf of favored candidates; but this winter's campaign has witnessed greater exertions on their part than ever before.

In rain or shine, they have toured political divisions in motor cars; have addressed meetings; sought out and pleaded with voters in shop, factory and counting room; have directed organized movements, raised campaign funds and in other ways made themselves not only interesting, but exceedingly important and influential factors in the contest.

**"A**LL SATURDAY," stated a press dispatch during the height of the heated conflict, "it rained cats and dogs in Manchester, but Mrs. Cornwallis-West never faltered in her activity. She was here, there and everywhere, speaking, persuading and carrying voters to the polls in her auto. When it was all over, her son, Winston Churchill, had carried the day with a majority of 120 votes." This is a specimen of the work done all over England by enthusiastic women.

lementary honors, not only did Mrs. Paget constitute herself his political press agent and general boomer, but she promptly entered the ranks of female spellbinders. From carriage and motor car, on the streets, in public halls and in the drawing rooms of her friends, she vigorously pushed her husband's canvass. Those who have heard her speak say she has developed quite a noteworthy eloquence.

Another who surprised her friends by her political energy and enthusiasm is Mrs. Frederick Guest, formerly Miss Amy Phipps, of New York. It is said that it was Mrs. Guest who induced her husband to stand for a seat from a Westminster district. She at once began canvassing the voters, coddling their children and making friends with their wives.

One day she surprised herself as well as her associates by making quite a clever little speech to the voters themselves. After that, she was in the thick of the fray, and employed several automobiles in her canvass. She introduced some American methods in the work of winning votes, and it is said, made a number of converts to her cause.

Best known of all the women political workers of Great Britain is beautiful Lady Warwick, "the Socialist Countess." Heart and soul, she threw herself into the contest in behalf of the labor cause, but especially to aid "Will" Thorne, the dock laborers' candidate, of East Ham.

**A** COUNTESS MAKING LABOR SPEECHES  
At her palatial London home a few months ago, Lady Warwick gathered the labor leaders of England for a conference and entertained them at dinner. When the Parliamentary campaign opened, she began active work in behalf of her labor friends. Only a week or so ago, the London papers told of a meeting addressed by the Countess. Attired in a dainty Parisian costume, she braved a bleak wind, while, from a tradesman's wagon, she urged the laboring men to work and vote for an independent labor party in the House of Commons. "You workers," she told them, "are the empire. Remember your responsibility and sow the seeds of freedom for your children." During the campaign it was no uncommon thing to see the Countess, in her giant automobile, dashing from place to place at the dinner hour, addressing first a gathering of dock laborers and shortly afterward an assemblage of factory workers. Day after day, men went without their dinners to listen to the beautiful and eloquent aristocrat who had made their cause her own. At night she spoke in halls that were crowded to the doors. The Liberals, having recently returned to power, after

a long sojourn in the minority desert of the "opposition," and battling for maintenance of their newly acquired supremacy, brought out the greater number of women workers.

Chief among them, and next, perhaps, to Mrs. Cornwallis-West in public interest, were Mrs. Asquith and her sister, Lady Ribblesdale, a noted beauty; the Countess Spencer, Lady Battersea and Mrs. Herbert Gladstone.

Any one of these enterprising and public-spirited women can make a capital political speech when necessary, although they are not heard as frequently as Mrs. Cornwallis-West and Lady Warwick.

Women with Conservative sympathies have not been idle. A great deal of active work has been done by Miss Balfour, sister of the former Conservative Prime Minister; the Countess Grosvenor, wife of George Wyndham, who was Chief Secretary for Ireland in the Balfour Cabinet; the Marchioness of Londonderry and Lady Doreen Long, wife of the former President of the Local Government Board.

Most of the leading women workers for the Conservative cause were disappointed by the returns.

### MISS BALFOUR'S BRAVE BATTLE

Particularly deep was the steel of defeat plunged into the soul of Miss Balfour. Her brother, the former Premier, sought re-election at the hands of his Manchester constituency, but was badly defeated, although Manchester has always been a Conservative stronghold.

Early and late, Miss Balfour labored in her brother's behalf. She conducted his press bureau; made personal visits to voters; organized clubs and carried on a remarkably vigorous campaign, only to meet defeat and disappointment at the end.

Still told of in English political circles is the campaign in which the Duchess of Devonshire kissed the butcher. It was in 1783, and the brilliant Fox, champion of the Americans in their struggle for independence, was seeking re-election in the borough of Westminster.

His opponent was Sir Charles Wray, who, shortly before the polling began, was clearly a hundred votes ahead of Fox.

Into the contest plunged two great ladies of London, both young, beautiful and accomplished. Lady Salisbury worked in behalf of the Tory candidate, while the Duchess of Devonshire espoused the cause of Fox.

This contest became the talk of London. Even the candidates were forgotten in the rivalry of the two beauties. Wagers upon one or the other became the sporting mania of the day.

Finally, upon the very verge of the election, appeared the butcher, who swore he would not support Fox unless the Duchess kissed him. This she promptly did. News of the affair spread rapidly throughout the district, and scores of working men flocked to Fox, who was triumphantly elected.

The present Duchess of Devonshire, while deeply interested in the Conservative fortunes, devotes her attention more to statecraft than to active politics. Her entertainments are attended by royalty, by Cabinet Ministers and by the leading men of the kingdom.

### BEEN AT IT SINCE 1881

Conception of women's power in the field of politics can probably be traced to the achievements of the Ladies' Land League, organized by Michael Davitt in 1881, as an auxiliary to the Irish Land League.

When, later that year, the parent organization was suppressed, the women promptly took over its entire work. In eight months 250,000 passed through their hands, and, until Charles S. Parnell's release from jail, these women were directing what amounted, practically, to an insurrection against England.

Having the success of that organization in mind, no doubt, English Conservative leaders, several years later, formed the Primrose League, which became an immediate success, being joined by over a million men and women. In 1888 the Women's Liberal Federation was formed by Mrs. Gladstone as a rival to the Primrose League, and this organization developed some notable orators among the fair politicians of Great Britain.

A well-known authority asserts that these organizations opened the door to the plea for woman's suffrage in England.

She advances the argument that, as the great political parties of that country have accepted the organized and individual aid of women in elections, they cannot longer deny the admission of women as members of Parliament.

### 250,000 GIRLS MARRIED AT 5 YEARS

**W**HEN the latest census was taken in India it was found that over a quarter of a million girls, of 5 years old and under, were married. Between the ages of 5 and 10 years over 2,000,000 married girls were found, and the number of wedded maidens between 10 and 15 years was nearly 7,000,000.

Marriage of children as common in India, is nothing but a contract entered into for them by their parents or guardians. Its most pathetic feature is the number of young widows left in that land of inexorable customs.

Most of the widows of such tender years become so before they know what widowhood means. It is only as they grow out of infancy that they learn the sad life to which they are condemned.

Though the English law in India would recognize the legality of a remarriage of these youthful widows, Indian custom forbids it, and its occurrence is rare. There were in India, in 1901 nearly 428,000 widows under 15 years of age, of whom nearly 30,000 were less than 5 years old.

### HELD COURT IN A TRAIN

**S**IR HORATIO LLOYD, Judge of the county courts, Chester, England, once held court while traveling on a railroad train. He had been hearing an unimportant case in a Welsh town; the evidence was all in, and the lawyers were preparing to begin argument, when Sir Horatio remarked that he wished to catch the next train for Chester. Accordingly counsel for both sides went to the train with the Judge. They secured a compartment to themselves, the Judge settled back judiciously and arguments began. One lawyer had the interval between two stations allotted to him, while the other talked as the train sped between the next two stations. Just before Chester was reached the Judge rendered his decision.



**B**ARONESS BERTHA VON SUTTNER, who, through the authorship of her novel, "Lay Down Your Arms," won last year's Nobel Peace Prize of \$40,000, is not a stranger to Americans.

In the latter part of 1904 she attended, as a delegate from Austria, the International Peace Conference at Boston, and during her stay in this country visited a number of other cities.

**P**ASSING strange it seems that the man who perfected nitro-glycerine and invented dynamite should have left his vast fortune to reward persons proving of greatest benefit to mankind.

Alfred Bernhard Nobel, a Swede who accumulated enormous wealth through the manufacture of explosives, willed that each year five prizes, of \$60,000 each, should be awarded to those who "in the course of the preceding year shall have rendered greatest service to humanity."

These prizes are awarded to the persons making the most important discovery in physical science, in chemistry, in physiology or medicine; to the author producing the most notable literary work, in the sense of idealism, and to the person having done most or best in promoting the brotherhood of nations, for the suppression or reduction of standing armies, as well as for the propagation of peace and the formation of peace conferences.

It was the last-named prize—the "Peace Prize," as it is called—that Baroness von Suttner won through the authorship of her book.

Now in her sixty-third year, the life of this talented woman has been full of romance and strange paradoxes. Though, in her younger life, she was rich, courted and, altogether, one of the most brilliant members of the Austrian court circle, she gave up all for love and endured hardship with her husband for years, until the turn of fortune's wheel again brought her to wealth and favor.

An intimate friend of one of Europe's greatest monarchs, she has written strongly against monarchical institutions. An aristocrat by birth and breeding, she is a warm advocate of democracy.

Daughter of a famous soldier and reared amid an atmosphere of military supremacy, she has come to be known as "the Peace Angel of Europe."

The father of the Baroness was Field Marshal Graf Kinsky, a member of the proud old aristocracy of Austria.

### A FRIEND OF EMPEROR WILLIAM

When she was old enough to be presented at the Vienna court, she at once took foremost place in those high circles. It was while a member of the court that she met and fascinated by her charms of manner and intellect Emperor William of Germany. The warm friendship between the two, which began then, has always continued.

The love romance of her life began in 1876, when she met and married young Arthur Gundakkar, Freiherr von Suttner. He was seven years her junior, and the match was violently opposed by her relatives, but without avail.

Continued happiness was the lot of the couple, although they roamed in poverty from province to province, the woman having been disinherited.

Wherever he could find employment, the husband worked as an engineer, while the high-born wife acted as housekeeper and cook.

During these years both began literary work, winning considerable fame and a livelihood. In course of time, the Baroness regained the enjoyment of her family fortune. She returned to court a changed woman, with radical

An ardent advocate of world peace and of arbitration as a means of settling international disputes, Baroness von Suttner has long proclaimed her views, with directness and vigor, in the armed camps of Europe.

Her book created a profound impression, and is said to have been largely instrumental in arousing the Czar of Russia to call The Hague Peace Conference.

Under such circumstances her popularity in court circles was brief.

When in this country, Americans saw a woman of medium height, with a strong, sweet face, framed in ringlets of black hair, turning gray. The expressiveness of her large brown eyes and an engaging smile gave her an attractiveness that was generally commented upon.

"Lay Down Your Arms"—a Free Translation of the title of Baroness von Suttner's book—tells the story of the marriage of a general's daughter to an Austrian officer.

### THE TRIUMPH OF PEACE

As a young mother, the heroine is plunged into the agonies of war. With the golden thread of love throughout the story are woven the contradictory philosophies of war and peace, the arguments for peace finally triumphing.

Into nearly every language this book has been translated, and, it is said, may be found in the library of every European ruler.

Here are some of the sentiments found in the volume which found much favor with the Czar of Russia.

"He who rules is bound to avoid war, as the captain of a ship is bound to avoid shipwreck."

"We cannot build up in a hundred years what these warmakers have torn down in a day."

"One does not use charcoal to paint a thing white, nor war to make peace."

"Of what use to summons warmakers before the judgment seat of history? History, as hitherto written, gives judgment to the victor."

"The general always had a few favorite arguments for war which were unquenchable. As the ruins of one fell around him, he would retreat to the intrenchments of another. The military mind reasons in a circle."

These arguments of the general were:

"War was the decree of God. They have always existed, and, therefore, will always exist. Without them the population would become too dense. Perpetual peace would enervate the race; demoralization would ensue. Mankind will always differ; to expect perpetual peace is an absurdity."

"Such unreasoning conviction," continues the book, "is like the fable of the Hydra. Scarce have we cut off one head and turned to the second, before the first is grown again and as active as ever."

"The vital question, What every battle costs in sacrifice of blood and tears? was never for a moment considered."

"False history is responsible for the training of youth to the idea of glory of war."

"Possibly," concludes the Baroness, "the prince is now alive who will figure in all future history as the most famous, the most enlightened, because he will have brought about the general laying down of arms."

"Even now the insane idea is dying out that the destruction of one civilized man is the security of another."

### In the Beginning of Things

**T**HE oldest lighthouse in existence is at Coruna, Spain. It was erected in the reign of Trajan, and was rebuilt in 1684.

The drum was the first musical instrument used by mankind.

Although the name of the first ropemaker and that of the land in which he practiced his art have both been lost to history, Egyptian sculptures prove that the art was practiced at least 2500 years before the time of Christ.

What was probably one of the earliest theatres built was the Theatre of Dionysus, which was begun five centuries before Christ. The seating capacity of this remarkable building is said to have been 20,000. The Theatre of Dionysus was erected when Greek art and literature were in their prime. Here were presented to appreciative spectators the wonderful works of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides.

Locomotives seventy-five years ago had no whistles. The engineer kept by his side a tin horn, which he blew before curves and dangerous crossings. But the noise was feeble. In 1833 an English farmer's cart was run down on the way to market, and 100 eggs, 100 pounds of butter, two horses and a man were toppled in one great comet on the rails. The railway had to pay the damages. This led to the invention of the steam whistle.

The distinction of being the oldest living thing undoubtedly belongs to one of the giant trees, just before attempts to locate it and determine its age have been made.

A century ago Dr. Candolle found two yew-trees at Forth, in Perthshire, and one at Hedor, in Bucks, England—that were estimated to be, respectively, 3500 and 3500 years old. Both are still flourishing, and the older tree has a trunk 27 feet in circumference. A gigantic haw-bab of Central America, with a trunk 25 feet through, was thought by Humboldt to be not less than 500 years old.

Mexican botanists believe they have now discovered a life span even greater than this, and from the annual rings a cypress of Cheputepco, whose trunk is 11 feet in circumference, is assigned an age of about 6500 years.

Tea was cultivated in China 2700 years before the Christian era.

It is thought that the game of whist was first played in the time of King Henry VIII of England.

There has been discovered at Greenock, England, an old-fashioned umbrella with whalebone ribs, which must be quite 12 years old. When opened it affords shelter for a whole family.

The oldest university in the world is at Peking. It is called the "School for the Sons of the Empire." Its antiquity is very great, and a grand register, consisting of stone columns, 20 in number, contains the names of 60,000 graduates.

The oldest architectural ruins in the world are believed to be the rock-cut temples at Ipsamboul, on the left bank of the Nile, in Nubia. The largest of these ancient temples contains fourteen apartments, hewn out of solid stone. The ruins are supposed to be 4000 years old.