

THE BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE, NEW YORK, THURSDAY

Too Many Comfortable Suffragists Announces Sponsor of Pickets

Miss Ida Craft, Prominent in Suffrage Circles for Twenty-five Years, Calls Methods of National Woman's Party "Progressive."

"Lizzie, thee will make thyself ridiculous," said Mistress Susan B. Anthony to Mistress Elizabeth Cady Stanton when at the Woman's Convention at Seneca Falls in 1848, the latter demanded that a resolution be adopted for what was then known as woman's rights.

"And it is this fear of being ridiculous that has retarded the suffrage movement and it is the same fear that is setting the women of this country against the pickets at the White House," said Miss Ida Craft.

Miss Ida Craft, who has been known as "Colonel" Craft ever since she hiked to Albany, has lived in Brooklyn all her life. She was prominent in the suffrage movement when stumping was unknown and the most a suffragist dared do was to have a parlor meeting and marched in suffrage parades when the majority of the women were too frightened to do anything but stand on the edge of the sidewalk or drop timidly to the rear.

She was the first president the Kings County Woman Suffrage party



COL. IDA CRAFT

ever had and the first borough chairman of the Brooklyn Woman Suffrage party; she has also been treasurer of the New York State Woman Suffrage Association.

And now what do you suppose she has gone and done.

Gone over to the National Woman's party and joined the pickets.

Miss Craft has been in Washington since Congress opened on April 2 and has picketed all along the line. She is now in Brooklyn for a short while and described the doings at Cameron House, the headquarters of the National Woman's party, most enthusiastically to The Eagle reporter. She is going back to Washington at the end of this month to stay for the winter, for next to Brooklyn, she thinks the capital the ideal place in which to live, or perhaps it's vice versa.

Commenting on the resolution adopted by the New York State Woman's Suffrage party against the pickets of the National Woman's party, Miss Craft says it is the same old conflict—that which arises between the methods of the old and the young in any movement.

"The National Woman's Suffrage party has too many comfortable suffragists, that's what's the matter with it," summed up Miss Craft.

"They are the older party and do

not realize that the thing to do is to reach as many people as possible and that you can never reach all people by the same method. At any rate, it seems to me that no one group should persecute another for its methods.

"I have always done the unusual thing, and have found it, of course, the most uncomfortable. I have been in suffrage work for twenty-five years and was always considered the insurgent at conventions, just because I had the courage to differ with the chair. But women who argued with me in those days have since come around and told me that I was right.

"I tell you the pickets are striking at the core of the thing."

"But don't you think that they ought to suspend picketing in war time?"

"Why should they? The women of England, France and Russia have made their enfranchisement a war-measure. And the States Rights issue on the question is dead during war-time. For now everything goes out from the fountain head, Washington. If people were only broad enough to see that the National Woman's Party is choosing the only direct and progressive way, putting it up to the legislators, instead of spending all their time and money canvassing every Tom, Dick and Harry, I know that we have got to have both radicals and conservatives among the suffragists, but there are too many conservatives. They are holding back the movement. They do not realize that just as methods of carrying on warfare have changed so have methods of gaining suffrage.

"As for the pickets themselves, I have been with them all winter and I know how they feel. They are patriotic and feel that they can serve their country better through enfranchisement. Some of those arrested have sons in the Army and Navy."

"But so many people feel that they are heckling the President!"

"The President never said so. He always tips his hat and bows as he passes them. It's the other people who are doing the objecting."

"Yes, but it's the 'other people' who are the voters."

"Any man who won't vote for Suffrage in New York on November 6 because of the pickets, simply wants a new excuse. That man never believed in Suffrage. The average man knows so little about the struggle the men themselves had for political freedom that you can't expect him to be interested in woman's struggle of getting the franchise. Moreover, the United States Constitution gives people the right to petition their Government for the redress of any grievance.

"People should bear in mind that picketing is legal, it is covered by the Clayton Act. Labor unions have found it the most effectual way of bringing unjust labor conditions to the attention of the public. They picket the firm at fault.

"Another thing that should be made clear is that we are not picketing the White House, as the President's home, but as the seat of the Chief Executive of the Government."

"This Government is a government of party; at present the Democrats are in power, with the President as the leader of his party, and what he says goes. Do you know that two-thirds of the Republicans are for Suffrage and but one-third of the Democrats are in

FUR TRIMMED WRAP OF VELVET



Enchanting are the little fur-trimmed capes which may be slipped on over tailored frocks or suits on extra cool autumn days, and made to do duty also as wraps for between-dances in the evenings. This dainty model of brocaded velvet in shades of gray is trimmed with gray squirrel. The wrap looks well with a white mohair and a new autumn sailor of pale gray felt trimmed with darker gray and white velvet and a bow of deep blue ribbon.

its favor? They say the President doesn't want it; that's their excuse."

Life with the National Woman's Party is described as "most interesting," by Miss Craft. "We have open air meetings and I have often spoken near the Franklin Statue, at Pennsylvania avenue. Then, again, some of our members are always present at the sessions of Congress; they keep track of the way the different men vote, and if they find one who is an anti, they get in touch with his constituents, and pretty soon he is receiving letters from the suffragists in his own State."

Going back to the campaign in New York, Miss Craft thinks it is a case of now or never with the voters in this State.

"If they do not give it to the women this time they will be compelled to do it through Federal action. Some of the men in Congress, too, are keeping it off as long as possible—I think it's the old Adam jealous of Eve—broad-minded men welcome woman's rights to citizenship."

"If the men of New York State do not give women the vote I am going to take up my legal residence somewhere else, probably go to Montana and buy a ranch.

"And I advise every woman living in a State where she is denied the vote to move west of the Mississippi, for she can do most effectual work for the Federal Amendment as a voter."

The conversation came round to the

actual results accomplished by picketing.

"It has advertised Suffrage—kept the issue before the people. It has made the voter who would not listen to the appeal of 'Please give us the vote' sit up and take notice of the statement 'We demand the vote.'

"All we are asking is that this country practice democracy as well as preach it. As for waiting, we've done that for sixty-nine years," concluded Miss Craft.

Because of the friendship that has existed for the last ten years between herself and Jeannette Rankin, Miss Ida Craft has spent a great part of her time while in Washington the past winter supervising Miss Rankin's clipping bureau. She will give her impressions of the first Congresswoman in Sunday's Eagle.

The fruit committee of the State Food Supply Commission urges that fruit be used as near the point of production as possible, citing the case of peaches being shipped from Michigan to New York and New York peaches to Michigan as an example of the unnecessary use of cars, a great addition to the cost to the consumer and a detriment to the fruit itself.

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