

Western Equal Suffrage Movement.

A two-days' session of woman suffrage representatives from thirteen Mississippi Valley States met at Chicago on the 21st. Mrs. Alice T. Hall, State president of Minnesota, was chairman. The conference was devoted to methods for securing equal suffrage laws. Incidentally the case of Mrs. Pankhurst, just convicted of conspiracy in connection with the violence policy in England, was considered under a resolution which, as presented by Miss Editha Phelps, was as follows:

Resolved, that the Mississippi Valley Suffrage Conference, although realizing our political spirit and organization are so greatly different from those prevailing in the British Isles, and that it is difficult to judge needs and requirements for the women's cause there, hereby join the great labor leaders in the House of Commons in protesting against the treatment of Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst and her associates, who were today sentenced as criminal malefactors, when they should have the rights and privileges from immemorial times granted to political prisoners in the British kingdom.

With an amendment declaring against "militant methods in this country," moved by Mrs. Catharine Waugh McCulloch, the resolution was adopted by a vote of 45 to 17. An annual convention of the woman suffragists of the Mississippi Valley was decided upon by this initial conference, and the chairman was empowered to appoint a committee of three to make arrangements to that end. [See current volume, page 491.]

**Conviction of Mrs. Pankhurst.**

Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, principal leader of the physical force wing of woman suffragists in great Britain, was brought to trial at the Old Bailey sessions, London, on the 21st, upon an indictment charging her with conspiracy to cause malicious damage to property. The charge related to the recent crusade of window-breaking in London. Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence were tried on the same indictment at the same time. All the defendants were found guilty by the jury on the 22d, in a verdict recommending leniency in the punishment. Each was thereupon sentenced by Justice Coleridge to nine months' imprisonment (without hard labor) and the costs of prosecution. The Justice is reported as saying, when passing sentence:

If the prisoners had shown contrition I should have acted on the jury's recommendation, but as they have openly declared that they mean to continue to break the law I cannot make them first-class misdemeanants. They are guilty of an offense which they are liable to two years' penal servitude. [See current volume, page 324.]

**The "Friars' Lands" in the Philippines.**

The lower house of Congress passed on the 22d

an amendment to the Philippines civil government act with reference to the "Friars' lands." Under the act thus amended, should this amendment pass the Senate and be signed by the President, all these lands are to constitute—

a part and portion of the public domain of the government of the Philippine Islands and shall be held, sold and conveyed, or leased temporarily, under the same limitations and restrictions as are provided in this act for the holding, sale, conveyance, or lease of the public lands in said islands, unless the Philippine government shall hereafter provide otherwise by appropriate legislation; but such legislation shall not go into effect or have the force of law until it has received the approval of the President, and when approved by the President it shall be submitted by him to Congress at the beginning of the next ensuing session thereof, and unless disapproved or amended by Congress at said session it shall, at the close of such period, have the force and effect of law in the Philippine Islands. Provided, that all deferred payments and the interest thereon shall be payable in money prescribed for the payment of principal and interest of the bonds authorized to be issued in payment for said lands by the preceding section, and said deferred payments shall bear interest at the rate borne by the bonds. All moneys realized or received from sales or other disposition of said lands, or by reason thereof, shall constitute a trust fund for the payment of principal and interest of said bonds, and also constitute a sinking fund for the payment of said bonds at their maturity. Actual settlers and occupants at the time said lands are acquired by the government shall have the preference over all others to lease, purchase, or acquire their actual holdings within such reasonable time as may be determined by said government without regard to the extent of their said holdings. But nothing herein contained shall be construed to increase the amount of friar land which any corporation may hold.

[See vol. xiv, pp. 226, 251, 418, 604, 656, 882; current volume, page 347.]

**Negro Insurrection in Cuba.**

The trouble of last winter in Cuba over the question of displacing the Spanish element among the officeholders in favor of the "veterans," a large proportion of whom are Negroes who participated in the war for independence, has broken out into a revolt which has taken on the character of a Negro uprising. In addition to insisting upon their claims to official positions, the Negroes are demanding the abrogation of the Morua law, which forbids the organization of the Negroes into a political party. The peace of the island has seemed to be threatened, and the United States has taken steps which have appeared to augur intervention. A regiment of marines has been sent to the United States station at Guantanamo, and battleships have been sent to Key West. President Gomez on the 26th telegraphed President Taft, protesting against any intervention, with assurances that it is not needed. President Taft re-