

was brought before the delegate conference of the Labour Party. It was attacked by opponents demanding Adult Suffrage only, and was carried only by 446,000 votes to 429,000, a narrow margin indeed to arm Keir Hardie in a stubborn fight.

There was many an acrid and painful discussion in his rooms in the old Elizabethan house at 14 Nevill's Court, off Fleet Street, wherein he sat, dark-browed and silent, and Mrs. Pankhurst wept and stormed. He was doing all he knew for the cause she loved, but it was not in him to argue or protest. She believed that to force through Votes for Women would buttress his power and that of the Labour movement. She was convinced he could do it if he were determined, and had the strong personal desire that he should do it out of his friendship for her. This strain made the contest more sharply poignant. She was torn between her affection for Hardie and the Socialist movement, her passionate zeal for the women's cause, and the growing influence of Christabel, who desired to cut the W.S.P.U. entirely clear of the Labour Movement; already she believed Votes for Women would be given by the Tories, because, to "dish" the Liberals, they had given Household Suffrage to men in 1867.

The Labour Party decided that any places for Bills drawn by its members should be put at the disposal of the Party, to be allocated by majority vote. Keir Hardie nevertheless promised us that if he should draw a place himself, it would go to our Bill, whatever the majority might have to say. He was unsuccessful, but five places were drawn by other members of the Party. All foresaw that four of them must go to the

repeal of the Taff Vale decision, the right of the unemployed to work, the feeding of destitute school children, and Old Age Pensions, for these were measures foremost in the Party programme. One place remained in doubt. Mrs. Pankhurst demanded it should be given to Votes for Women, but the Party decided for a checkweighing Bill to protect the earnings of workmen. She could not forgive the blow. That the Labour Party won triumphant success¹ in this first session only embittered her disappointment.

Despite all jars, when controversy could be thrust aside, Mrs. Pankhurst was never so happy as in the hours spent with Keir Hardie during his very brief spells of relaxation, walking in St. James's Park or on the Embankment, taking tea of his own making at Nevill's Court. Unswerving in friendship, he raised £300 to give the W.S.P.U. a start in London. Infinitely more important, he introduced her to one whom his discerning eye selected as the ideal honorary treasurer for the W.S.P.U.: Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence, a devoted social worker. She and her husband, Frederick Pethick-Lawrence, threw themselves unreservedly into the Suffragette movement; she ardent, eloquent and magnetic, he a great organizer, with tremendous drive and resource. They brought to the Union money and a considerable social circle, and

¹ The Labour Party Bills for the feeding of necessitous school children and to repeal the Taff Vale decision both passed Second Reading; the first was taken over by the Government, and the policy of the second embodied in a Government Bill. The Party secured a grant for unemployment, carried a resolution for Old Age Pensions, and compelled a Government promise to introduce them in a subsequent session.