

The British Suffragettes Attack Golf Courses

**"We are not fighting you because you play golf.
We are not fighting you at all, but trying to stir you up."
Emmeline Pankhurst**

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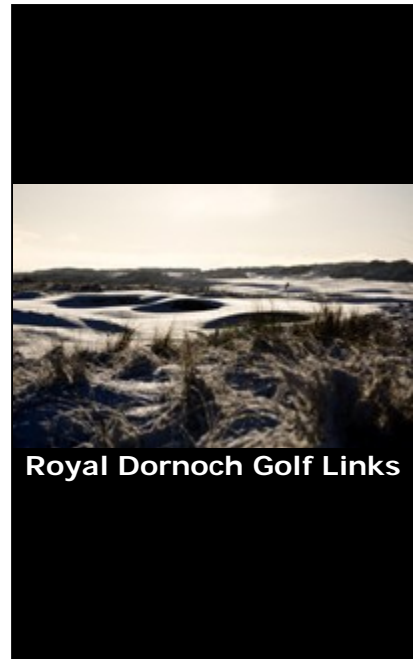
All the world has heard by this time of the strange proceedings of the British suffragettes in what they conceive to be the furtherance of their cause. Just lately their enterprises have been set in a new direction, and the peace of golf has been disturbed in consequence.

To all the many and exasperating difficulties of the game we are now threatened with a new one in the form of suffragette raids on our golf courses while the players are busy upon them. In a sense they have begun at the top for the first course to receive their unwelcome attentions has been the private one of King George at Balmoral in Scotland, the King himself being in residence at his Highland castle at the time. One morning it was found that during the night the red and white flags in the holes had been removed and in their place were stuck new flags of suffragette colors, chiefly purple and to them were pinned small pieces of paper with such inscriptions as "Cabinet ministers stop forcibly feeding women," and "Votes for women means peace for Cabinet ministers." A Cabinet minister happened to be staying at Balmoral at the time and this was evidently the cause of the mild sort of demonstration that was made.

This, however, was very far from being the worst. About three weeks ago two of the women, Miss Mitchell and Miss Howey, who were believed to have been associated with the Balmoral demonstration, at all events they subjected Mr. Winston Churchill to their attentions at Aberdeen nearby about the same time. Second, up at Dornoch, when the Prime Minister. Mr. Asquith, and the Home Secretary, Mr. McKenna, were playing on the fine links, there, a terrible scene ensued.

The ministerial golfers were half way through a pleasant game and were putting on the tenth green when the advocates of votes for women appeared, Miss Mitchell at once shouting out: "Mr. Asquith, you are responsible for forcibly feeding and torturing our women!" It ought to be explained for those who do not take any interest in the antics of these women and have little or no knowledge of what is going on, that very frequently when they are sent to prison for doing damage to property they go on the "hunger strike" as it is called, refusing to take any food whatsoever while their liberty is denied them.

When this happens an effort is sometimes made by the prison authorities to feed them by force, but this often fails and when at last they become positively ill through lack of nourishment, if they can carry their determination so far, they are generally released.




When Miss Mitchell began her attack on the tenth green on this occasion, the Home Secretary tried to push her away. Miss Howie then exclaimed, "You will be answerable for what happens to Mrs. Leigh," referring to a suffragette who was imprisoned at Dublin and who had gone on the "hunger strike." Mr. McKenna then tried to seize her also, and a struggle ensued, Miss Mitchell in the meantime haranguing with Mr. Asquith. At this crisis a detective ran breathlessly to the rescue of the golfers and tried to chase Miss Mitchell away.



"You ought to be ashamed of yourself," she shouted out to Mr. McKenna, who retorted, "How dare you annoy the Prime Minister?" This amazing episode continued for some time. Miss Howey freed herself from the grip of the detective and ran again towards the Prime Minister, but the Home Secretary intercepted her and handed her over again to the officer of the law, who, however, found that the task of holding these two struggling women was too much for him, Miss Howie again escaping.

The Home Secretary then appealed to the caddies to give them assistance, but they were evidently finding some enjoyment in this departure from the ordinary routine of their work and failed to make any response. "If anything happens to Miss Leigh you shall answer for it," screamed Miss Howey. "Don't think your safety lies in her being in prison. You would be safer if she were at liberty." Then Miss Mitchell yelled at the Prime Minister, "How dare you accept the freedom of the town and refuse it to women?" referring to the proposal of the Dornoch town council to present him with the freedom of the borough. The Prime Minister now appealed to the detective to do his best to get Miss Howey away, declaring that she was the worst woman of the two. "Why do you forget you are a lady?" Mr. McKenna asked Miss Mitchell. The two ministers then moved away, but



Miss Mitchell followed them until at last an inspector of police arrived and the two women were led off the course. Was ever a stranger scene enacted during the progress of a game of golf?