

3 SUFFRAGETTES, Part 2 of 3

July 2021

Secondly Frances Parker – Kiwi Suffragette

Frances Mary Parker OBE (1875-1924) #5776 was in the news in 2016 because her suffragette medal came up for sale. Born in Waimate, New Zealand, Frances left home at the age of 22 to study at **Newnham College, Cambridge**, paid for by her uncle the future **Lord Kitchener (1850-1916) #733**

By 1908 she had become involved in the women's suffrage movement eventually becoming a prominent leader of the **Women's Social and Political Union** in Scotland. In June that year she was one of the speakers on **Adela Pankhurst's** platform at the WSPU demonstration in **Hyde Park** on 'Women's Sunday'. Imprisoned several times for her role in violent protests and attempts to burn down prominent buildings, including the cottage of **Robert Burns** - Scotland's national poet - she went on hunger strike in 1912 and in 1914, and was subjected to force-feeding which involved acts of physical abuse and indecent assault. She sometimes used the alias of **Janet Arthur** and her antics caused her uncle great outrage.

Frances was awarded the medal which came on the market in February 2016. Still in its original case the medal is inscribed 'Presented to Frances Parker by the Women's Social and Political Union in Recognition of a Gallant Action whereby through Endurance to the last Extremity of Hunger and Hardship, a Great Principle of Political Justice was Vindicated.' Following her death in 1924 Frances left the medal to her friend and co-suffragette **Ethel Moorhead** in whose family it remained until auctioned.

The purchaser was the **Te Papa Museum**, Wellington, the national museum of New Zealand.

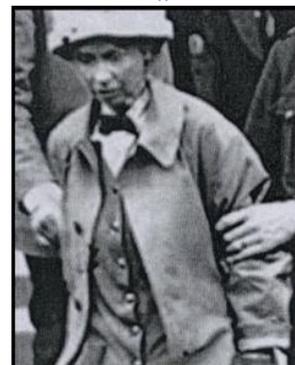
Te Papa buys Kurow suffragette's medal in Britain

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Frances Parker The Kiwi suffragette who outraged Lord Kitchener. Photo: Supplied

Frances Parker under arrest.



The medals of Frances Parker, the Kiwi suffragette who outraged her uncle, Lord Kitchener. Photo: Supplied

Frances Parker's Suffragette Medal