



LILLIAN RUSSELL.

### Light Opera Star Says Women Are Qualified to Exercise Voting Privilege

Lillian Russell, famous both as a beauty and operatic prima donna, declared in favor of equal suffrage. Miss Russell is essentially a woman's woman and her tremendous popularity on the stage has its foundation not alone in her physical attractions and vocal talents but also in the fact that women know her to be a real woman.

She's a suffragette—not a militant one, but a staunch believer in the equality of woman and the right of her sex to a voice in the affairs of state.

Her mother, Mrs. Cynthia Leonard, once a candidate for mayor of New York, was

a well-known woman's right advocate in Clinton, Ia., when Susan B. Anthony and other pioneers in the movement for equal suffrage were active.

After Manager Harry Davis induced Miss Russell to sign a contract for an engagement of one week in the vaudeville show at the Grand, beginning Monday afternoon, he also persuaded her to discuss suffrage, and this is what she said:

**A BALLOT OF INTELLIGENCE.**

"If it is true, as we Americans try to make ourselves believe, that 'the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world,' why not let that be one of the hands which places the ballot of intelligence in the voting repository?"

"Women pay taxes. They contribute not alone of their material wealth to the up-keep of the state, but by their advice, help, encouragement and wisdom, men are often led to perform much-neglected duties of citizenship. In this country we allow a boy of 21 with no property, and

The History Center has in its collection this black velvet floor-length evening gown possibly owned by our cover subject, actress Lillian Russell, c. 1900. The donor's grandmother, Maria Harrington, traveled on the *Lusitania* and befriended the famed singer/actress who gave her the gown after dinner one evening.

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