

COMING



SUFFRAGE AUTO PARTY

Under the Direction of the
ILLINOIS EQUAL SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION



MRS. ELLA SEASS STEWART
President Illinois Equal Suffrage Association

Hear the Suffrage Speakers



MRS. CATHARINE WAUGH McCULLOCH
Justice of the Peace
Vice-President National Suffrage Association

IF FAVORABLE
to Equal Suffrage, come
to this meeting



IF OPPOSED, come also
and hear the message of
the Suffragists



MISS S. GRACE NICHOLAS
Secretary Illinois Equal Suffrage Association



Time _____

Place _____

(PLEASE READ THIS BEFORE VOTING.)

MUNICIPAL SUFFRAGE FOR WOMEN TAXPAYERS.

A hearing was given at the Massachusetts State House on Jan. 27, by the Committee on Election Laws, to Mrs. Julia Ward Howe and other petitioners that municipal suffrage may be granted to women who pay taxes in the city or town where they reside. No. 240, the large room generally assigned to suffrage hearings, was occupied that day by a hearing on the burning local question of the inquiry into the alleged coal combine. No. 431, where the suffrage hearing was held, was altogether too small to hold the crowd, and a compact mass of standing humanity filled the back of the room throughout the two hours and a half of the hearing. When so many women are willing to stand up for so long a time, it certainly shows that they take an interest in the subject.

Miss Alice Stone Blackwell conducted the case for the petitioners. Mr. Aaron H. Latham appeared as attorney for the remonstrants.

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe was the first speaker for the petitioners. She was introduced as not a taxpayer only, but a woman who had contributed to the commonwealth much that was of more value than money. When Mrs. Howe rose to speak, the chairman of the committee, Senator Nye of the Cape, courteously told her that she might remain seated if she preferred. "Thank you, I can stand," answered Mrs. Howe, with a sparkle of indomitable youth in her eyes that called out quick applause.

MRS. HOWE'S ADDRESS.

We are here to-day to present to this respected body the claims of the tax-paying women of Massachusetts to take part in municipal elections. This is not the first time that we have come here on this errand. Thirty years ago we stood in this place with some who will stand here no more, to ask for the same boon. We then had leave to withdraw, and, though we have been here every year between that and this one, to ask for equal suffrage for the men and women of the community, we have not, until within the last few years, resumed our petition for a suffrage limited by participation in the payment of taxes.

In Boston, 18,500 women pay taxes every year on over one hundred and fifty million dollars' worth of property. They therefore bear an important part of the public expenses. They possess every characteristic which is deemed, in theory at least, essential in the male voter. They have reasonable education, reputable standing, adequate intelligence, and taxable property. What hidden incompetence is it which unfits them for a share in the elections which decide the uses to which the public funds shall be applied? Women graduate with honor from our colleges. They adorn the professions, law, medicine, divinity. They occupy positions of trust and responsibility in the public service. Why should they be "like dumb, driven cattle," without a voice, assenting or dissenting, in matters which concern them as nearly and deeply as they concern the men of the community? This question has often been asked within these walls. It has never been answered.

With what new plea can I to-day enforce our demand? To what point in our common nature can I make appeal, in order that the time passed here, yours as well as ours, gentlemen, may not be allowed to elapse without result? I appeal, first of all, to that desire for progress which so marks the distinction between man and the lower animals.

Although principles of right and wrong are old enough to antedate all human experience, the application of these principles to the business of life is bound to grow with the growth of society. Ordinances which make evident the ignorance

of earlier times are not appropriate to our age of general enlightenment. Man's ethical consciousness develops itself like the sunlight, from dawn to noon. In the full glory of the meridian, human relations take on new aspects. Society to-day chronicles a wonderful advance in arts and crafts, in industries and commerce. In this great onward sweep of civilization, shall our ideas of obligation remain such as they were in barbarous times? Shall the man who exults in his freedom be content to claim descent from a being whose will and intelligence can have no efficient representation in the action of the body politic? I appeal, then, to the human instinct of progress, enlightened by decades of liberal education, to see to it that our statute books are not disgraced by laws suitable only to the very dawn of civilization.

I appeal in the second place to that love of justice which is deeply rooted in man's nature, and which the progress of civilization does much to extend and develop. Here, too, we must recognize the principle of growth. The world has now had nearly two thousand years of Christian culture. It is everywhere growing more polite, more considerate of the mutual claims and rights upon which the polity of nations founds itself. In its general economy, order evolves itself from chaos, harmony from discord. The great wrongs of society present themselves forcibly in the new light which is thrown upon human actions, and their amendment is seen to be imperative. This is surely a crying injustice, that those who bear the financial burthens of the community should have no voice in the administration of its interests.

Those who are to speak after me will more fully develop the facts to which I have only alluded. I ask your serious attention to the statements which they will present. And I ask that you will consider these statements in the light of this new century.

It becomes us of America, us of Massachusetts, to be zealous for justice, earnest to set right what times less enlightened than our own have set wrong, or, finding wrong, have left uncorrected. I find this zeal in the Greeks of three thousand years ago, when Socrates took issue with archaic ideas of sex, asserting that a woman might have the soul of a physician, and a man the soul of a cook or confectioner. "If," he says, "we find a man or woman of this sort, were it not a shame that the woman should be held to serve as the confectioner, while the man should assume the duties of a physician?"

We who stand here have been persuaded for more than thirty years that our demand is a just one. We hope that you, gentlemen, will be of our mind. If the thing we ask for is just, without regard as to who wants it or who does not, give it to us in the name of justice, Christian justice, in which the great apostle tells us there is "neither bond nor free, neither male nor female," but one even-handed ideal rule, patterned on the eternal decrees of God.

C. F. DOLE'S ADDRESS.

Rev. Charles F. Dole of Jamaica Plain, president of the 20th Century Club, said:

When I consider the character of these petitioners, I feel a little shame that it should be necessary for us to re-enforce their request. These women represent intelligence, education, often large civic interests,—all the humanities. They would add to the electorate something of real value. Many years ago, before the question of woman suffrage had been generally raised, I heard the remark made in a country town, in a household of noble women who paid taxes and had no male representative, that it hardly seemed fair that they should not be allowed to vote

on the expenditure of their taxes, when every young stripling of a boy could vote as soon as he reached 21.

People sometimes feel hesitation about introducing to suffrage a "great horde" of women, many of them ignorant and ill prepared; but this measure would introduce only a rather small body of those women who are already prepared for it. I can understand the objection made by some women to general suffrage on the ground that if all women were to come in, they might feel themselves forced to vote to offset the votes of unfit women; but that objection does not apply here. This bill admits only those who are reasonably qualified, and who would add something to the electorate.

An objection may be raised—it used to appeal to me—that we do not now recognize taxation as a basis of representation; but I remembered that this was the way men began as voters, and that they got the suffrage by degrees. We Anglo-Saxons have never cared much about the logic of books, but more for what is fair—the logic of life.

I can understand the opposition to general woman suffrage, but I am rather surprised that there should be any remonstrants against this particular measure. The petition asks only that those women taxpayers who wish it may have an expression. Imagine some of the girls in a coeducational college asking that the use of the university playground should be given to those girls who wanted to practise athletics. It is likely that some of the young women might not wish to practise athletics, but it is hardly conceivable that any of them should object to opening the grounds to those who did. Such an objection would be somewhat ungracious, and would indicate at least a misapprehension.

It is sometimes urged that women should not have any form of suffrage because they do not fight—as if the principal business of any civilized community was fighting. In all sorts of legislative bodies, from the town meeting up, the work done is not of the fighting kind, but of the thoughtful kind; and there the counsel of women may be valuable, as that of the old men who can no longer fight is worth quite as much as that of the boy of 21, eager for a fight. This right is now given to women in Great Britain and many Anglo-Saxon colonies. I should think it would give the Committee pleasure to recommend a measure so self-evidently just.

MRS. FIFIELD'S ADDRESS.

Mrs. Emily A. Fifield, who has served for more than twenty years on the Boston School Board, said:

I represent a somewhat peculiar section of the city. There are ten widows who live within a few steps of my home. On my own short street there are eight houses owned by widows, and four or five by single women. Of the widows, some have lost their sons, some have only daughters, others have only small children. We have no male representatives, and we do not feel that we are justly represented by the man who cares for our furnace. When it is proposed to put a big factory at one end of our street and a garbage-plant at the other, we have found that the only potent means of protest is a vote. I ask it as a matter of justice to the tax-paying widows of Dorchester.

MR. BLACKWELL'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Henry B. Blackwell said:

This bill is not an ordinary woman suffrage measure. The Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association is not behind it. It is a petition of women taxpayers in their own behalf. They ask a vote in municipal elections for themselves and other taxpayers. They want to vote on the expenditure of the taxes they pay, and

to help select the men who are to spend them. Is not that right and reasonable? These women taxpayers want a reform in our municipal governments, which are tainted with fraud and incompetency. To-day it costs the city of Boston on an average about twice as much to buy a lot, to build a sewer, to put up a building, as it would cost you or me to do it. That means that half the taxes are wasted or misapplied. We are loaded down with useless officials, with an enormous debt which has been incurred largely to keep unprincipled politicians in office, and to give jobs and contracts at fancy prices. These women ask for votes in order to help effect municipal reform.

In making this demand they do not ask you to establish a new principle. To-day no man votes in Massachusetts who is not legally a taxpayer. Ever since the Province charter was granted, no man has ever voted in Massachusetts except as a taxpayer. True, some years ago the Constitution was so changed that the actual payment of a tax is no longer a prerequisite for voting. That change was made to relieve political committees and candidates for office from the burden of paying the poll-taxes of their delinquent constituents in order to get their votes. But the tax itself has not been abolished. Every man of 20 is made a taxpayer, and a year later a voter. Every man is actually taxed every year. The only taxpayers who are not allowed to vote are the women taxpayers. All these women ask is that they may be placed on an equality with other taxpayers. They ask it on our old Revolutionary principle that "taxation without representation is tyranny." They ask it also in the interest of good government.

It is the Republican theory that every citizen and every property interest should be represented. So far as men go, the theory is applied. But women and the property belonging to women are not represented. One-sixth of the taxable property of the commonwealth is owned by women. These property-owners number about one-sixth of the voting population. In Boston alone 18,500 women pay taxes on one hundred and fifty million dollars, as shown by a list drawn from the assessors' books. This property is almost wholly real estate, which cannot escape taxation. These 18,500 women are responsible, intelligent, and honest. If voters, they would be a power for good government. They are numerous enough to turn the scale, allied with the male taxpayers, in electing aldermen and a city council who will cooperate with our present honest Mayor in checking ruinous extravagance and corruption.

Gentlemen, we come before your committee this year with hope of a favorable report, because you are trying to reform the primaries. We bid you God speed! But there can be no thorough reform in municipal government without a reform in the voting constituencies. To-day, in the city of Boston, 65 per cent. of the voters pay no tax whatever. Not only so, but they refuse to pay the poll-taxes for which they are legally liable. We are governed literally by tax defaulters. Two years ago, when the Legislature raised the tax limit of Boston, it was stated without contradiction by Boston dailies that several of the Boston representatives in the Legislature, who voted to raise the tax limit, were themselves poll-tax defaulters. Not only so. Every year hundreds of men in Boston apply to become voters. They are assessed a poll-tax (which they do not pay) and give their places of abode, and are certified by two voters. Next year the assessors cannot trace them. Nobody knows them at the places where they said they lived. There is here a strong presumption of fraud. Is it any wonder that a city government elected by so irresponsible a constituency is, as I was told within a week by an ex-alderman, "as rotten as Tammany"? Here is what William A. Lincoln, the president of the Boston Chamber of Commerce, said of it last week in his annual address:

I cannot refrain from alluding to a subject of paramount importance to our well-being and prosperity, and this is the government of our city. . . . The neglect of duty on the part of many of our citizens enables the self-seeking and the unworthy to obtain control. Men who would not be appointed to any responsible office in any financial or business organization, are elected by our citizens to positions of influence and responsibility where they can vote away millions of the money of our people. Recent events have

revealed to us the character and disposition of our present city government. Politicians bankrupt in morals as well as in pocket obtain control, and by dishonorable and corrupt methods are enabled to carry out their schemes for their personal benefit at the expense of the taxpayers. The warnings and protests of our worthy mayor are entirely disregarded, and the first meeting of our common council this year surprised every one by loan orders amounting to \$670,000. Fraudulent purchases of land, padded payrolls, bills for carriage hire and entertainments, reckless appropriations, and the enormous loan bills are matters that deserve the earnest consideration of every patriotic citizen. In some more efficient and protected way than now exists, the financial interests of the city should be safeguarded, and, above all, we should seek to create higher standards of public duty and integrity, a deeper feeling of civic pride and devotion.

These are not the words of a platform orator, but the deliberate, well-considered statement of a conservative business man addressed to the merchants of Boston and approved by their great representative body.

We represent petitions of women taxpayers from all parts of our city—the Back Bay, South Boston, East Boston, Dorchester, Roxbury, Allston, West Roxbury and Charlestown, also from Brookline, Newton, Waltham, Sharon, Wellesley Hills, Attleboro', Natick, Northbridge, Northampton, etc.—and all collected within a week. We could multiply them by a hundred. As a result of a partial canvass made by Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, she has received written replies from 2,000 women taxpayers of Boston, taken without knowledge of their views. Eighteen hundred are in favor of this bill: only 200 opposed to it.

When this government was formed, we were a nation of freeholders. Almost every family owned its own home and called no landlord master. To day immigration and industrial evolution have changed all that. The entire growth of our State population is in our cities and manufacturing towns, where a majority of our population are living almost from hand to mouth, in hired houses, dependent on their daily labor. Politics has become a trade. Public spirit is smothered by party prejudice. There is a growing popular discontent—Tennyson's couplet describes our condition this winter with coal at \$12 a ton:

"Slowly comes a hungry people, as a lion, creeping higher,
Glances at one who nods and winks beside a slowly dying fire"

It is in your power, gentlemen, by enacting this bill, to initiate a genuine political reform. Restore to property-owners their rightful voice in municipal government, and you will thereby check municipal mismanagement and corruption.

This is not a movement of rich against poor. Property and labor are not enemies. Women have a common interest, rich and poor alike, in the safety and comfort of their homes and in the well-being of their State. As wives, mothers, and widows, they all have common interests that need to be represented.

In extending municipal suffrage to women taxpayers, you only do what is already done in Great Britain and Ireland and in all the English self-governing colonies. In Great Britain every woman taxpayer now votes for all elected officers except members of Parliament on precisely the same terms as male ratepayers. It is a widely extended suffrage. Hundreds of thousands of women vote annually in their municipal elections, and, as Mr. Gladstone testified in Parliament, "they vote without detriment, and to great advantage." In our own country women vote on questions of taxation in New York, in Iowa, in Montana, and in Louisiana, with satisfactory results. President Roosevelt, when Governor of New York, recommended extending woman suffrage from his observation of its benefits in Oyster Bay, where he resides. In New Orleans for many years efforts had been unsuccessfully made to secure improved drainage and a pure water supply. Three years ago, under such a law as we ask, a campaign organized by women property owners carried this measure, and the New Orleans daily papers ascribe its success to the women voters.

Gentlemen, this reform is imperatively needed. There is no other hope but in a judicious extension of the suffrage, such as will place more power in honest, responsible hands. Voting is not simply putting a piece of paper in a box. The essence of suffrage is rational choice. Ignorant voting is not that. It is only brute force in a refined form, marshalled by demagogues. Our only salvation is an honest, intelligent majority, and this measure will help us to attain it.

MISS ACTON'S ADDRESS.

Miss Amy Acton of Waltham, who was introduced as a taxpayer and a lawyer, said:

I represent a city typical of many others—a manufacturing city of about 25,000 inhabitants. The Waltham Watch Factory alone employs more than 3,000 women. Most of them are saving women, who earn good wages and put them in the savings-bank. Women are largely represented in business and industry. Waltham has four women doctors; the chief caterer is a woman; so is the chief undertaker. Many of the stores are managed and financed by women. Waltham has thus a large proportion of tax-paying women, besides the usual number of women real estate owners, widows, etc.

I have taken much interest in asking these women how they stood on the suffrage question. Those who were opposed used to answer plumply "No," without giving their reasons. But now, and especially during the last year, if the answer is not "Yes," it is, "I do not know enough about it to be sure; if I did, perhaps I should agree with you." It is a great thing to get these admissions from so many women formerly opposed. Many women who are indifferent to full suffrage are actively in favor of this measure. A woman is apt to be an idealist, but women are becoming practical as well. The female pocket-book is becoming as sensitive a spot as the male pocket-book. When you ask one of these tax-paying women suddenly if she thinks women taxpayers ought to be excluded from a vote as to how their money shall be spent, she gasps, and says, "Of course not."

The enrolment cards of the Suffrage Association have been circulated throughout the Waltham Watch Factory. Of the hundreds asked, not one woman refused to sign; and the men wanted to sign too. There is a growing sentiment in favor. Gentlemen of the Committee, I hope you will see both the ideal and the practical side of this question.

MRS. JONES'S ADDRESS.

Mrs. Lavinia S. Jones of South Boston, a mother and taxpayer, said in part:

Is there any earthly reason why, if I pay tax money into the city treasury, I should not have something to say in regard to the use of the money? Let me give an example. I live in a town, and will say; I own a large property, I pay a large tax; I have no husband, or, if I have, he is a man much engrossed in his business. I have leisure, and am deeply interested in the development of the town. I have looked closely into the needs of the schools, made a study of the lighting of the town, the water and sewerage questions. Gentlemen, can you tell me why I cannot vote to put into office those men or women who will best use this public money? Why I have not a voice in the advancement and development of these public needs? Until you grant us what we ask, we must continue to come here, and to beg for this privilege of the ballot, so long as our convictions are so strong that we ought to have it.

MRS. GUSTIN'S ADDRESS.

Rev. Ellen G. Gustin of Attleboro' said in part:

I speak as a wife and mother of more than fifty years' standing, and as a taxpayer on property which I have personally earned—not one dollar of it was inherited. When a woman brings up sons to manhood, and they refuse their mother the right to vote, it is a most pitiable and humiliating position for a woman to occupy. I know a multitude of women, more than half of whom have earned their own living—not merely by keeping house, rocking the cradle, and going down into the valley of the shadow of death to give these voters to the world, but by actual wage-earning labor. I ask the young men on this committee to investigate carefully and earnestly, and, if you pray, prayerfully, this great subject of democracy, and see if it is not much like the gospel, in which there is "neither male nor female."

MRS. FALL'S ADDRESS.

Mrs. Anna Christy Fall of Malden was introduced as a taxpayer, a lawyer, and a mother. She said in part:

I have been interested in equal suffrage ever since I was a girl of 18, when a copy of the WOMAN'S JOURNAL came into my hands. I believe that the ballot ought to be given to all women who possess the qualifications required of men, but when I am hungry I am willing to take half a loaf if I can not at once get a whole one. About twenty years ago a happy com-

pany of students were assembled in Boston University. They included Mr. Bates, who is now Governor, Mr. Newton and Mr. Jones, who are now in the Legislature; Miss Blackwell, myself, a young lady who is now dean of women at the Ohio Wesleyan University, and another who taught for years in the Malden high school, and of whom it was said, when she resigned to marry a prominent man, that no teacher in Malden had ever had so much influence for good over the young men and women in the schools. It humiliates me when I think that these women, who have done so much to form the minds of voters, in coeducational high schools and elsewhere, are not considered worthy to be voted for, or even to cast a vote.

In England and her colonies, women have for years voted on municipal questions. When I was in New Hampshire lately, an Englishwoman reminded me of the fact. I felt cheap to think that the country against which years ago we flung the charge "Taxation without representation is tyranny" should now be ahead of us in recognizing the application of the principle to women, and that a woman of that country should be able to twit me with the fact, even in a pleasant way.

A letter from Edwin D. Mead was read:

20 BEACON ST., BOSTON, MASS. JAN. 27.
My Dear Mr. Blackwell:—I wish to express my hearty sympathy with the petition presented to the Legislature by Mrs. Howe and her friends. When I think of the women with whom I constantly work in Boston, who are serving with such broad intelligence and rare devotion every public interest, when I think of my own wife, and consider that such women are denied the suffrage given to the man just intelligent enough to run their furnace and clean their sidewalks,—when I think of absurdities like this, I do not need to be told, and the Legislature of Massachusetts ought not to need, that, whatever conditions may rightfully be imposed upon the suffrage, a condition which draws lines like this clearly is not one of them.

The taxing of one's property for public purposes without giving the taxed person any voice is in opposition to fundamental English principles. England herself already clearly sees this, and women here have now the municipal rights to which you ask. Surely New England ought not to be behind Old England in this matter. Yours truly

EDWIN D. MEAD.

Objections were made by Mr. Aaron H. Latham, Miss Dyer, Mrs. George, and Mrs. Martha Moore Avery.

MRS. HOWE'S REJOINER.

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe said:

When a petition for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia was presented in Congress, no one was insincere enough to arraign the petitioners on the ground that they wanted to keep all the rest of the negroes in slavery; yet that is the line which most of the speakers in opposition took to-day. How absurd to assume that we ask the ballot for tax-paying women in order to distinguish ourselves from non-taxpayers, when for almost fifty years we have been on our knees before the Legislature asking for the ballot for all women! Whatever may be said of meanness, our record is clear, our record is known. You who are always talking about the ignorant women, and the dangers from their vote, with what consistency can you object to this measure as class legislation, and protest in the name of democracy?

MISS BLACKWELL'S ADDRESS.

Miss Blackwell said in part:

Every speaker on the other side has argued against this bill for two directly contradictory reasons—first, that it is objectionable "class legislation" to give the ballot only to a part of the women; and second, that it will be an entering wedge and lead to giving it to all the women. Whether it will prove an entering wedge will depend entirely on whether it works well. If the women taxpayers show themselves conspicuously more stupid and more unprincipled in their exercise of the ballot than the average male voter, then, far from helping to bring about full suffrage, it will effectually block our getting anything more. We are willing to risk it. Our opponents seemingly are not.

It has been said that on the so-called referendum only 22,000 women voted for suffrage. But less than 800 voted against it. At that time, 22,204 women were found in one day who cared enough about suffrage to go to the polls and cast a ballot for it.

In eight years the "Antis" have succeeded in finding less than half that number who care enough about opposing it to sign their names to a return postal card.

It has been said that the number of women opposed is growing. It is lessening, and the number in favor is growing. The first suffrage petition in England, in 1867, was signed by only 1,499 women. That of 1873 was signed by 11,000 women, and the petition presented to the members of the recent Parliament was signed by 257,000 women. The growth of opinion has been equally rapid here.

It is said that this is class legislation. At present all women are the objects of class legislation, being classed politically with infants, idiots and insane persons. To take part of them out of that category is to break down class legislation to that extent.

Miss Dyer says that the ballot lessens women's influence, and that they have a better chance to get what they want without it; yet complains that by this bill non-taxpaying women would be "debarred from influence," and placed at a disadvantage as compared with taxpayers. In consistency, she ought to say that the women taxpayers would be placed at a disadvantage as compared with the non-taxpayers, who would still remain unhampered by the ballot, and therefore would be better able to get what they want.

It has been said that the political unit is the family. The childless widow, the bachelor of 90, and the unmarried boy of 21, all have votes; the widow with minor children has none. Under our laws the political unit is not the family, but the male individual.

It is said that we ought not to shift representation from "the solid basis of the forefathers." But their basis would to-day be regarded as intolerable. They limited suffrage not only to taxpayers, but to members of the Orthodox Congregational Church.

Miss Dyer says equal suffrage is contrary to "the basal convictions of the best men." What better men has America had than Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt—

Mrs. Howe: Phillips Brooks—
Voices in the audience: Senator Hoar—
Governor Bates—

Miss Blackwell: Hon. John D. Long, Sumner, Whittier, Longfellow, Emerson, and many more.

It has been claimed that this bill would increase the power of monopoly. But it would enfranchise twenty women of moderate or small property where it would enfranchise one of great wealth.

I have as much faith in the justice of men as the remonstrants, and more, for I have faith that they will ultimately give us the ballot. I wish that this committee may have the historic credit of recommending it.

THE FORTNIGHTLY.

The Fortnightly of the Massachusetts W. S. A. was held at 3 Park Street, on Jan. 27. The parlors were crowded to their utmost capacity, as they always are when Mrs. Livermore is announced to speak.

The following resolution was adopted:

Whereas, the Supreme Court of Louisiana has pronounced unconstitutional the attempt to deprive the women voters of New Orleans of the fruits of their victory in behalf of improved sewerage and drainage and a pure water supply; therefore

Resolved, That we congratulate our sisters in Louisiana upon this decision, and we rejoice with them.

MAINE LEGISLATURE DECLARES FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

On Jan. 28, the Maine Legislature declared

"That the entire public and private career of Thomas B. Reed is a source of the greatest satisfaction and pride to all our citizens, and that his high character, lofty aspirations, commanding ability, and valuable services rendered our State and nation will ever be held in affectionate and grateful remembrance by all the people of his native State."

As Mr. Reed was a life-long advocate of woman suffrage, in Congress and out of it, this unqualified expression of approval is equivalent to an endorsement of his woman suffrage views. Suffragists owe to Speaker Reed the admission of Wyoming as the first equal suffrage State.

H. B. B.

Florida Women Want the Ballot!

Their Reasons Will Be Given In a Special Suffrage Edition of The State
 NATIONAL ORGANIZATION WILL ASSIST

Why Do Women Want the Ballot?

In Florida there are banded together hundreds of good women in an organization known as the Florida Equal Franchise League, who are working to give to the women of this state the right to vote. The question is not a fad with them—they have reasons for making this request, but they have never had an opportunity of adequately presenting their reasons to the public.

In view of this fact, Mrs. Roselle Cooley, president of the Florida Equal Franchise League, one of Florida's brightest literary women, and a leader in woman's work in its every phase, has arranged with the National Suffrage organization to send representatives to Florida to cooperate with the Florida Equal Franchise League in getting out a

SUFFRAGE EDITION OF THE STATE.

This edition will be turned over to these women who will work under the direction of Mrs. Cooley and the Washington agents, and every line of reading matter and every cartoon will be exactly what these women want to present their reasons for asking for the ballot.

It will not be a Jacksonville affair by any means. Every county will have a part in this unique edition, and some of the twenty thousand copies will go into every precinct that the people may learn of the cause of equal suffrage. The State Suffrage Association will co-operate in this work, and also the local suffrage associations throughout the state will give hearty support.

The State feels especially honored that it has been selected by the good women of Florida to carry their message to the voters of this state. For several weeks Mrs. Cooley and her co-workers in Jacksonville have been arranging with the national organization to get out the Suffrage Edition of The



MRS. ROSELLE C. COOLEY
 President Florida Equal Suffrage League

State, but no announcement was made until final arrangements had been completed.

During the last month in Boston and Richmond, Suffrage Editions of the best papers in those cities have been gotten out by the workers there in cooperation with the national organization, and now that those campaigns are over, Florida has been selected as the next one and The State has been chosen as the medium.

We wish to announce that the major portion of the proceeds of this edition, including subscriptions secured, will go into the treasury of the Florida Equal Franchise League. Headquarters will be established in the St. James building Monday morning and at the same time a representative of these ladies will begin a tour of the state, perfecting an organization of women in every town to solicit subscriptions and prepare articles for the Suffrage Edition. This agent will have full power to act for The State and all subscriptions thus obtained will be credited to the Suffrage Women.

EDITORIAL AND EXECUTIVE STAFF.

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 Mrs. Frederick C. Locke.....25 East Ashley Street
 Mrs. E. M. Sanderson.....Liberty and Monroe Streets

These ladies are officers of the Florida Equal Franchise League, and they will be assisted by every member of the league. To this executive and editorial staff will be added at least one lady from each county in Florida, to be announced just as soon as they may be decided upon.

This number will be the most widely circulated paper ever published in Florida and will show what the women can do when they undertake something big.

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PIERCE, Grace Adele, Santa Monica, Cal. Author; b. Randolph, N.Y.; dau. John Crowley and Marion A. (Pensrey) Pierce; ed. Chamberlain Inst., Randolph, N.Y., and under private instructors. Engaged on the Chautauqua publications, 1901, and with various publications in Los Angeles, Cal., 1894-06. Contributor of stories, prose articles and verses to leading magazines, lecturer on literature and the art of writing and versification. Favors woman suffrage. Author; Child Study of the Classics, 1898; The Silver Chord and the Golden Bowl (verses), 1901; also various leaflets on social questions, etc.

PIERCE, Helen Frances, 6 North St., Plymouth, Mass. Physician; b. Plymouth, Mass., Mar. 1, 1861; dau. Melzar and Abby (Morse) Pierce; grad. Plymouth (Mass.) High School, '78; Boston Univ. School of Medicine, M.D., '87. General practitioner of medicine at Plymouth, Mass., since 1888, also lectures occasionally to girls' clubs and to the nurses of Jordan Hospital. Interested in church and temperance work. Mem. Am. Inst. of Homoeopathy, Mass. Homoeopathic Med. Soc., Mass. Surgical and Gynecological Soc. Mem. Methodist Episcopal Church, Class; Plymouth Woman's Twentieth Century Medical (Boston).

PIERCE, Imogene S., 3912 Vincennes Av., Chicago, Ill. Teacher; lecturer; b. Chicago, Ill.; grad. Rockford (Ill.) Sem. (now college), 1877. Since graduation has divided time between teaching and decorative art in Chicago, New York and Philadelphia. Established a large private school in Chicago and became its principal. Has been actively identified with N.Y. Soc. for Political Study, Kindergarten Ass'n of Washington (D.C.), Woman's Sanitary League of Philadelphia; ex-pres. of Ass'n for Higher Education of Women. Has delivered courses of lectures on Shakespeare before Chautauqua assemblies and in New York and Philadelphia. Mem. Chicago Woman's Club, Shakespeare Club.

PIERCE, Lucy France, 4847 Grand Blvd., Chicago, Ill. Journalist, playwright; b. Chicago, May 2, 1877; dau. George Webster and Bertha (von Bluhert) Pierce; ed. Vassar Coll.; Univ. of Chicago. Ph.B. Favors woman suffrage. Episcopalian Republican. Mem. Alumnae Ass'n of Univ. of Chicago.

PIERCE, Mary Rosetta Fitch (Mrs. Charles C. Pierce), 216 W. Twenty-third St., Los Angeles, Cal. Born Walton, N.Y.; grad. Vassar Coll., A.B. '87; m. Sept. 2, 1891, Charles C. Pierce; two daughters. Teacher Randolph, Mass., 1888-90; Dedham, Mass., 1890-91; Los Angeles, Cal., 1891-1900. Compiler: Child Classics in Poetry; Child Classics in Prose.

PIERCE, Ulicia Dahlgrén (Mrs. Josiah Pierce), 125 Massachusetts Av., Washington, D. C. Born Washington, D.C.; dau. John A. Dahlgrén, Rear-Admiral of the U.S. Navy, and Madeleine (Vinton) Dahlgrén; ed. at home by tutors and governesses and at Sacred Heart Convent (Enfant de Marie); in country place, "Dahlen," Md., Sept. 15, 1891, Josiah Pierce; children: Josiah, b. 1892; Vinton Ulicia, b. 1896. Identified with various religious, social and philanthropic activities. Catholic. Favors limited suffrage for both men and women. Republican.

PIERS, Constance Fairbanks (Mrs. Harry Piers), 34 Shirley St., Halifax, Nova Scotia. Born Dartmouth, N.S., May 10, 1866; dau. Lewis Piers Fairbanks and Ella (De Wolfe) Fairbanks (granddaughter of Hon. C. R. Fairbanks, master of the Rolls and judge of Court of Vice Admiralty of N.S.); ed. Dartmouth, N.S.; m. Halifax, Jan. 7, 1901, Harry Piers (curator of Provincial Museum of N.S. and librarian of Provincial Science Library); one son; Edward Stanyan F. At first was secretary to Dr. C. F. Fraser, principal of School for the Blind, and editor of the Critic. Took editorial charge of the Critic (Halifax), as assistant editor, 1890-92; assoc. editor

St. Johnsbury (Vt.) Caledonian, 1893-94. Interested in music, literature, art. Favors woman suffrage, but not militant methods. Writer of numerous articles in the Critic, the Caledonian, etc., and many poems, which have appeared in the Week (Toronto), Canadian Magazine (Toronto), and other journals, and some of which are contained in Dr. Rand's Treasury of Canadian Verse. Contributed papers to the Halifax Ladies' Musical Club and various literary societies. Selected and edited, jointly with husband, the poems of the late Mrs. William Lawson, published under the title of Frankincense and Myrrh (Halifax), 1893. Mem. Church of England. Mem. Halifax Ladies' Musical Club (a society organized for the study of music and of the lives of composers and their works).

PIERSOL, Florence Lukens (Mrs. George A. Piersol), 474 Chester Av., Philadelphia, Pa. Born Philadelphia, Nov. 6, 1885; dau. Linford and Anna Mary (Reeder) Lukens; ed. Friends School; grad. Friends Central School, Philadelphia, '02; m. (1st) Philadelphia, April 29, 1899, William Reeder; (2d) June 22, 1898, George A. Piersol; children: Ruth, David K., William M., Anna M. Reeder, Jr., Marshall Piersol. Mem. West Philadelphia Com. for Philadelphia Orchestra; vice-pres. Drama League; director and mem. Reconstructed Fourth Ass'n Com.; Mem. County Woman Suffrage Soc., Equal Franchise Soc.; leader Twenty-first Legislative Dist. of the Pa. Woman Suffrage Party in Philadelphia. Mem. Philadelphia Ethical Soc. Recreation: Music. Clubs: New Century (director), Philomusian (director and ex-pres.); vice-pres. State Fed. of Pa. Women; mem. Matinee Musical Club.

PIERSON, Emily, Cromwell, Conn. Woman suffrage organizer; b. Cromwell, Conn., June 28, 1881; dau. Andrew N. and Margaret S. (Allison) Pierson; ed. Middletown High School; Nancy, France, Pensionnat Dure; Vassar Coll., A.B.; Columbia Univ., A.M. In charge of English dept. of Bristol (Conn.) High School two years before entering active suffrage work. Interested in child welfare, education, social hygiene, work of Nat. Vigilance Ass'n, conditions of working women and labor problems. State organizer, Conn. Woman Suffrage Ass'n. Congregationalist. Mem. Women's Political Union of New York, Nat. Coll. Equal Suffrage League, Nat. Woman Suffrage Ass'n, Am. Automobile Ass'n, Conn. Automobile Ass'n, Colo. Mountain Club, Phi Beta Kappa. Recreations: Swimming, skating, tennis, automobiling, dancing, fishing.

PIERSON, Fanny Eaton (Mrs. Henry R. Pierson), The Touraine, 23 Clinton St., Brooklyn, N.Y. Born Hamilton, N.Y.; dau. George W. and Eliza H. (Hondriman) Eaton; grad. Troy Female Sem.; m. (1st) Charles A. Mott; (2d) Henry R. Pierson; three children, two sons and one daughter. Anti-suffragist. Baptist. Mem. New England Soc., Sorosis Club.

PIERSON, Grace Rappleye, care of Mrs. A. H. Pierson, Trumansburg, N.Y. Teacher; b. Trumansburg, N.Y., Mar. 14, 1879; dau. Albert Henry and Harriet M. (Rappleye) Pierson; ed. Trumansburg High School, Cornell Normal and Cornell Univ., A.B. '04, with honor (mem. Delta Gamma). Was principal of high school, Burlington, N.J.; teacher of German and French in high school, Calumet, Mich. Baptist. Spending year 1912-13 in France in post-graduate study of French language.

PIERSON, Margaret, 18 Hillier St., Orange, N.J. Born Orange, N.J., Oct. 5, 1858; dau. William and Isabel Fiske (Adams) Pierson; ed. Vassar Coll., B.A. '78. Interested in club activities and social home duties. Governor Orange Memorial Hospital; mem. Anti-Tuberculosis League; pres. Visiting Nurses' Settlement. Mem. N.Y. Soc. Opposed to Woman Suffrage. Protestant Episcopal communicant. Independent in politics. Mem. Alumnae Ass'n of Vassar Coll. Recreation: Outdoor life. Clubs: Meriden, Monday Music, Woman's University (N.Y. City), Peterborough Golf.

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