

Story of Woman Suffrage in Colorado

[John Brisben Walker in New York American]

I have had an opportunity to see the workings of woman suffrage at close range in Colorado. I can say that if ever a commonwealth had

reason to rejoice, it is Colorado that she has woman suffrage.

Here is the situation: Man suffrage had enslaved Colorado through the operations of certain powerful interests combined for private gain. They had obtained such complete control

of the offices and of the election machinery that the situation seemed hopeless.

Woman suffrage was allowed by this combination to slip through, because they believed the fool story that only the women of the red light districts would cast their votes, and the red light vote and its repeaters were part of their political machinery.

But from the hour that women's votes began to be cast conditions changed for the better. Public utility corporations could threaten and scare their employes into voting for their evil purposes, but they could not intimidate the wives and daughters.

One law after another bettering conditions was put upon the statute books. Finally came the initiative, referendum and recall, which took government out of the hands of as absolute a set of bosses as ever controlled a state, and restored power to the people's votes.

Corrupt judges awoke to the menace of their situation. The combination of selfish interests against the people had been extraordinarily strong.

Every corporation bribing the state and city governments for unjust privileges had combined with all that was vicious within the commonwealth.

The gamblers, the red light voters, and the repeaters were all part of their machinery. They kept a mayor in office for long years by the most high-handed violations of law.

But finally, one stormy day, ten thousand women assembled in the state capitol grounds and under the falling snow vowed to oust the corrupt city administration and establish a commission form of government.

And they did it. It is the women who have brought to Mr. Rockefeller the knowledge that the power of his extensive interests in Colorado was being used to cover the evil deeds of as ruthless a gang as ever attempted to ruin a state.

Today Colorado embraces as a whole more well-governed little cities and towns than are to be found in any other state. Its public schools are of the highest type. Its people are intelligent and anxious for what is right.

And by the aid of woman suffrage the powerful combinations of unjust privileges, with all their evil dangers-on, are being slowly but steadily pushed into the background.

No wonder that every combination of wrong is today opposing woman suffrage for New York. They have been taught to fear woman suffrage by the results in Colorado, and in those of the western states where a higher civilization is steadily making its way under the benign influence of women's votes.

One more word: Suffrage in Colorado has exercised an elevating and ennobling effect upon womanhood. The women of today study governmental problems. They are better informed and have better ideals of government than any like number of men to be found in New York state.

Woman suffrage, which after all is but the granting of a just right, has blessed alike those upon whom it was bestowed and the communities by which it was bestowed.

Stupidity, prejudice, ignorance and the combination of all the vicious elements may possibly defeat it in New York and New Jersey, but it is so eminently just and right that it will only be a little while until it shall prevail in all the states of the union.

Indeed, it will only be a little while until our children will be wondering, as they read the history of this movement, that any man of intelligence or real manhood could

have been found who could have dreamed of withholding this right from his mother, wife, sister or daughter.

THE MAINE ELECTION

Following is an Associated Press dispatch:

Portland, Me., Sept. 12. — The largest vote in the history of Maine was cast at the state election yesterday. The total vote will approximate 150,000. In the last presidential year and two years ago, it fell below 142,000.

The receipts today of the vote from the border and a few isolated towns increased the plurality of Carl E. Milliken over Governor Oakley C. Curtis, democrat, from the indicated figures of 13,000 last night to 13,800. Indicated pluralities for the other republican candidates were confirmed by a revision of the vote. The republicans have solid delegations in both branches of congress and will easily control both houses of the legislature. Vote of Maine national guardsmen in Texas was proportionate.

The revised vote for governor, United States senators and congressmen follows:

Governor: Milliken, republican, 79,902; Curtis, democrat, 66,547.

United States senators: Hale, republican, 78,044; Fernald, republican, 79,368; Johnson, democrat, 68,273; Sill, democrat, 66,832.

Congressmen: Goodall, republican, 19,732; Stevens, democrat, 16,103; White, republican, 19,157; McGillicuddy, democrat, 18,770; Peters, republican, 21,800; Bunker, democrat, 18,277; Hersey, republican, 15,066; Pierce, democrat, 11,013.

AN EARLY RISER

Farmer Brown and Farmer Jones were near neighbors, and many a dispute took place as to who was the earlier riser. One day Farmer Brown determined to put the subject to a test. Rising very early one morning he proceeded to visit his friend about four o'clock. Great was his astonishment when he saw Mrs. Jones hanging out the clothes.

"Farmer Jones about?" he asked. "Well," replied the lady, "he was the first part of the mornin', but I dunno where he is now." — Sunday School Advocate.

SOMEWHERE IN INDIANA

There's some place they call Somewhere in each battle-shadowed land;

In far-off France or desert waste beyond the Rio Grande.

But in my own glad vision lies a Somewhere fair and free—

Somewhere in Indiana. Ah, that's where enough for me!

The shrapnel I've no fear of is the orchard's dripping dew,

Our trenches are the valleys with glad rivers rippling through.

The gases are fragrant, sweet with essence of the rose,

And Verdun here is any hill where wild Sweet William grows.

Our men-of-war are fleecy clouds that sail an azure sea

As fair as old Muscatatuck and calm as Kankakee.

That fiery curtain over there is not for foes oppressed,

But Indiana's golden sun parading down the west.

We march along the open road, our tents are stately trees;

Our airships are the bobolinks, the thrushes and the bees.

Each heart's a wireless station, though but one dispatch is sent

"Peace holds all Indiana with its Army of Content!"

—W. M. Herschell, in Indianapolis News.

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