

CLUBS.

ANNIE L. MILLER, EDITOR.

Officers of the State Federation of Woman's Clubs.

President, Mrs. B. M. Stoutenborough, Plattsmouth.
 Vice-president, Mrs. E. M. Cobb, York.
 Secretary, Mrs. Henrietta Smith, Omaha.
 Treasurer, Mrs. M. V. Nichols, Beatrice.
 Auditor, Mrs. Ella S. Larsh, Nebraska City.
 Librarian, Mrs. G. M. Lambertson, Lincoln.

As we approach the fourth Biennial of the N. F. W. C. there is one question which should interest all club members of Nebraska—what representation can be secured in the National Federation and how should it be apportioned throughout the state? There are three things that Nebraska is entitled to ask for outside of the general officers: first, representation on nominating committee; second, a member on the board of directors; third, a state chairman of correspondence. At present the two officers, viz.: director and state chairman of correspondence, are held by members of the Omaha Women's club. Those honors should be divided among the state. Lincoln in point of number of club and number of members, is the club centre of the state. Yet so skillfully were things manipulated at the last State Federation that not one delegate to the Biennial was elected from Lincoln. Omaha today has three federated clubs (counting the Durdee club, a suburb) with a total membership of 683. Lincoln has (counting University Place, also a suburb) eleven federated clubs with a membership of 871. Lincoln pays in support of the State Federation seventy-two dollars per annum, Omaha only six. Four of the Lincoln clubs are affiliated with the National Federation, while Omaha has one. I am advised she could have only three.

Now, upon whatever basis you put it, whether upon number of clubs, whether upon number of members, whether upon representation in State Federation or representation in National Federation, it would seem that Lincoln is entitled to some representation. Past results show that there has not been good management, but club women are apt learners, and while we deplore that sectionalism should enter into state work, yet, when one section will take to itself everything in sight, it is time for other parts of the state to waken up. At least, Omaha is not so much to be criticised for looking out for Omaha, as other parts of the state are for not looking out for themselves.

In a little leaflet issued by the Denver ladies, they request that all delegates to the Biennial arrive by noon of the day preceding the first meeting and report during the afternoon to the credential committee which they will find located at the Brown Palace Hotel, Broadway, between Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets. This committee will be in session Monday afternoon, June 20th, from 2 to 5 o'clock; Monday evening, June 20th, from 8 to 10 o'clock; Tuesday morning, June 21st, from 9 to 12 o'clock; Tuesday afternoon, June 21st, from 2 to 5 o'clock; Tuesday evening, June 21st from 8 to 10 o'clock; Wednesday morning, June 22nd, from 8:30 to 10:30 o'clock.

The board will meet on Monday evening. The council will meet on Tuesday morning, and there will be a joint meeting of these Tuesday afternoon and a social meeting Tuesday evening. The fourth Biennial (which will be the

first meeting of delegates) will convene at the Broadway theatre between Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets on Broadway, Wednesday morning, June 22nd, at 10 o'clock.

The visiting card of each delegate must be attached to her credential blank.

Club receipts for Biennial dues for 1898 must be presented with credentials.

All club women are requested to wear upon arrival a knot of light blue ribbon upon the shoulder, by which the reception committee will identify them.

Members of the reception committee will wear the colors yellow and white. If possible, it is desirable for delegates to be in Denver by Tuesday noon. Still, delegates arriving Wednesday morning will be in time for the opening of the convention.

Many important questions are to come before this Biennial; some of which will take the form of amendment to the constitution, and if delegates know of these proposed changes they can be considering them at home and come prepared to vote intelligently and give their reasons.

One important question will be "How are we to meet the expenses of the General Federation. So far the income accruing from club dues has only partially met the expenses. They have been supplemented by private donations. No officer receives a salary or any compensation for her services, and the income has not even been sufficient to meet the necessary traveling expenses of the president. This question will give rise to one of the most important amendments to the constitution which proposes to tax the clubs annually ten per cent per capita except the clubs having a membership of less than fifty, such clubs to pay five dollars annual dues. Another proposition is to have the dues paid annually instead of biennially.

Either of these changes would only double the dues of the smaller clubs, but it would make a great increase in the receipts from the large clubs of several hundred members, who are now only paying ten dollars biennially. Take a club of six hundred members and their annual dues would be sixty dollars instead of five dollars as at present. At first thought this seems too large a tax, but when figured out it is less in proportion than the small club pays. For instance, the club of sixteen would (under the proposed amendment) be taxed more than three times as much per capita as the large club.

There is another proposition that each State Federation shall be taxed twenty-five cents per club and thus assist the General Federation. At first thought this would not seem unreasonable. Still, most of our State Federations are not meeting the expenses of their local officers and Divine writ commands that we care for those of our own household first.

Another question which will undoubtedly be raised is whether individual clubs shall still continue to be represented in the General Federation or whether the representation shall be confined to

We are now ready for the summer season
with our new line of

CARRIAGES, BUGGIES,
SURREYS,
PHAETONS, SPIDERS,
TRAPS

and Novelties. Also a fine line of Harness,
Whips and Robes in the city. Largest and
best line of Bicycles.

Billmeyer & Sadler.

the State Federations. There are some very strong arguments for and against this proposed change and its settlement will depend largely upon how the question of finance is settled. In fact, it is part of the finance question.

Still, we must remember that the General Federation is the natural evolution of the state organization and seems to demand that it be placed on a self-supporting basis. Ten per cent per capita does not seem too much. Yet when it would take fifty to one hundred dollars from a club per annum it is a debatable question where the expenditure of that much money can do the most good for that club. In looking over this much vexed question we must not ignore the benefit that came from union and organization. Still, if only State Federations are to be represented in the General Federation it is doubtful if the individual clubs will receive the same benefits from the Biennial that they now do. It is a many sided question and each phase is more or less dependent upon the decisions preceding it. For instance, if the dues are paid biennially, as now, the proposed tax would be lessened by half, or if they are paid annually they would double the present income without the per capita tax, etc.

There will be plenty of chance for discussion.

The by-laws provide that "no officer shall be eligible to the same general office for more than two terms consecutively." Hence, the election of a new president becomes a necessity. Mrs. Sarah S. Platt, of Denver, has been prominently mentioned for this place, and there is no question as to her ability as a leader. She will make a strong, forceful executive. Here is to Mrs. Platt as our next president!

The president of the Nebraska Federation of Women's clubs, Mrs. B. M. Stoutenborough, has very courteously sent the COURIER the year book. It is arranged in exceptionally neat and concise form. One feature to be especially commended is the definiteness

of the information of each club in the Federation. In four or five lines you find the location of the club, its name, the names of its officers, number of members, the subjects studied during the years of 1897-98 and a summary on the last page tells that Nebraska has seventy-three clubs, with a total membership of thirty-five hundred, there are forty-seven towns and cities represented. The concise form of this little book merits more than passing notice. Club women can proudly assume to themselves that it is indicative of the ability of club women in that line. Every page is full of desirable information, and as a whole it is an encyclopedia of Nebraska club work. The report from the Librarian is very complete and Nebraska has reason to be proud of her traveling library, not yet three years old; with a catalogue of thirty-three historical works, twenty-three books of biography, twenty-eight of essays and critical studies, eleven of poetry and ten of fiction. The report from the educational committee is encouraging and full of promise. This can be made a very wide and helpful field. In connection with the traveling library the Art department of the Omaha Woman's club has tendered on reasonable terms a series of fifteen art portfolios, with twenty photographs of the old masters in each. These will be greatly appreciated by those studying art. The work recommended to local clubs is now in practical operation here and there throughout the state. But the desire of the president, Mrs. Belle M. Stoutenborough, is, that work on these lines shall become more general if, indeed, not universal. These are the lines suggested: "Art in the Public Schools," "City Improvement" and reciprocity work between town and country clubs. There is a very practical and efficient committee in charge of the first two in Lincoln, Neb. Information in regard to either can be obtained by writing to Mrs. I. M. Raymond, chairman of "Art in the Public Schools", or Mrs. W. G. L. Taylor, chairman of Civics department of Women's clubs. The Woman's club of