

# CLUBS.

ANNIE L. MILLER, EDITOR.

## Officers of the State Federation of Woman's Clubs.

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### THE BIENNIAL.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs met in Denver from June 21 to June 27 inclusive. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Henrotin on Wednesday morning, June 22. After a few graceful remarks she introduced the governor of Colorado, Alva Adams, who made one of the best speeches ever delivered by a man to nearly 2,000 women. It was neither patronizing, stilted nor pedantic. It was friendly and altogether without the patronizing jocoseness most politicians consider the correct key for a speech to women. He was elected, so he said, by the women, and he spoke to them, not with the exaggerated courtesy of a southerner, nor with the patronizing toleration of an eastern man whose ideas of the mind and inalienable rights of women have not progressed beyond the Miltonic conception, but he spoke like a western man to comrades whom he cherishes and respects. He told us many things all women like to hear from a man and especially a governor. He is very clever indeed, and if he can be as happy always in fitting speech to an occasion and the composition of an audience, he can get the woman's vote in Colorado or anywhere else that they have it to give. The mayor of Denver then presented the freedom of the city to the visitors. Mrs. M. D. Thatcher, president of the state federation of Colorado, welcomed the general federation by proxy. Then Mrs. S. S. Platt, president of the Denver women's club, came forward to make the address of welcome from the city. She was greeted by hearty applause. Mrs. Platt has a radiant, vital personality. Her manner of speech is direct and characterized by simplicity and unconsciousness. Most of the delegates had never seen her before but by her charming manner and the evident sincerity of her greeting she won them at once.

The business which followed consisted of reports from the chairmen of various committees and as they were long and uninteresting the audience, during the reading, dwindled away. It was decided later that the report of the credentials committee should not be read at future meetings of the federation but printed and distributed to the delegates. The programs which followed were devoted to civic clubs and village improvement associations, to the press in which Miss Winslow of the Club Woman was first introduced to an audience which had met her before only in club literature, to phases of economic work in clubs, to home economics, to an informal conference on club methods, to the industrial problem as it affects women and children, to music and art, to pure literature and finally on Sunday to preaching without any disguise.

If one of the dumb, inglorious occupants of the sticky plush chairs is competent to criticize I should say there were too many speakers at one session and that they had been selected (with some notable exceptions) rather for the purpose of giving this state or that representation on the program than because

they were able to edify an audience. Many of the silent sufferers during the eight days of continuous oratory offered inaudible remonstrance to the program committee. It is hoped that the new one will apply some other basis of selection. Position and wealth are enviable possessions and it is interesting to see those who have been presented at birth with these gifts. But a very short time is sufficient to satisfy curiosity. If the program committee would limit those who possess no other requisites to a public appearance to five minutes the criticism of the week's performance would be very much lessened. The sessions of real value to club women were those devoted to the methods of club work, study, and organization and to industrial subjects and the possibilities of the clubs stimulating legislation in regard to child labor and the regulation of factories. The literary evening provided by Miss Repplier and Miss Stuart was a needed recreation and a return to literature per se. But the clubs do not exist for literature or art, or even for sociability between states and sections. The organization exists to make the influence of women felt politically. They have been working single-handed long enough and have accomplished little in comparison to the expenditure of energy. The efforts of those speakers who directed the attention of the convention to the real purpose of the assembly will be rewarded.

The concert given by Miss Villa Whitney White assisted by Miss Muldoon and Miss Dillingham was a lecture on the folk songs of America illustrated by songs. Miss White sang the melodies of the North American Indians and made them intelligible. Miss Muldoon has a collection of negro songs which she has made herself by taking down the music as they sang it. She sings them with minute exactness. Miss White's treatment of the music of America was scholarly. She has so sweet and sympathetic a voice that Ba Ba Black Sheep under her treatment would become artistic. The concert was in strange harmony with the work of unifying the efforts of a widely separated people.

The result of the election for the officers of the general federation was as follows:

Mrs. W. B. Lowe, Georgia..... 429  
 Alice Ives Breed, Massachusetts..... 234  
 Mrs. C. P. Burns, Kentucky..... 10  
 Mrs. Wm. Todd Helmuth, Illinois... 2

The other officers elected were as follows:

Vice-president—Mrs. S. S. Platt of Denver.

Recording Secretary—Mrs. Charles E. Fox of Michigan.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. C. W. Kendrick, jr., of Pennsylvania.

Treasurer—Mrs. Philip N. Moore of St. Louis.

Auditor—Mrs. C. P. Barnes of Louisville, Ky.

The Nebraska delegation was a unit for Mrs. Lowe, except the Omaha delegates, who were as usual non-con-

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formists.

Among the delegates from Nebraska were: From Plattsmouth, Mrs. Stoutenborough, Mrs. Atwood and Mrs. Clarke; Beatrice, Mrs. Nichols; Omaha, Mesdames Harford, Towne, Draper, Smith, Heller; Lincoln, Mesdames Field, Richardson, Gere, Bryan, Wilson, Richards, Miss Harris; Stromsburg, Mesdames Frawley and Clarke; Seward Mrs. McKillip; Fairbury, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Letton. Visitors: Fairbury, Mesdames Steel and Jenkins; Plattsmouth, Mesdames Kempster, Guild, Miss Twitchell; Lincoln, Mesdames Castor, McLean, Bushnell, Maule, Winger, Struve, Misses Stoddard, Maule, Maule (2), Pheobe Eliot; Omaha, Mes-

dames Andrews, Hoobler, Peters, McHugh, Gault, Artell, Dumont, Misses Wilson, Towne, Harford.

Mrs. Lindsay, the chairman of the delegation, was absent and had not communicated her intent so that her place might have been filled. There was no one to call the delegation together. Finally the president added this duty to her others and the delegates met and appointed Mrs. Letton of Fairbury, as member of the nominating committee. Mrs. Stoutenborough was elected in Mrs. Lindsay's place and Mrs. A. C. Ricketts of Lincoln, was appointed state chairman of correspondence. It was the sense of the meeting that Mrs. Ford of Omaha, be re-appointed on the board of directors. Later Mrs. Towne of Omaha, was appointed chairman of the delegation.