

Woman Suffrage in Illinois

Even the opponents of the woman suffrage bill that has passed the Illinois legislature, to say nothing of the benevolent doubters, may join in the congratulations offered by the jubilant supporters of equal suffrage to the devoted, earnest, intelligent and efficient group of workers who achieved so remarkable and unexpected a victory at Springfield. That the victory is great needs no demonstrating or emphasizing. The capture of so "pivotal" and important a state as Illinois by the ballot-seeking women is a historic event that will overshadow the defeats in Michigan and Wisconsin last year. That it was unexpected to many of the best observers of legislative ups and downs, and even to some of the women who took an active part in the campaign at the capital, is a fact that no candid person will care to dispute. This legislature is—what it is; that a measure conferring full statutory suffrage on women would come out of it at the eleventh hour, and that the grant would be complete and unqualified—not even a referendum string being attached—few had ventured to predict or dream of. All the greater, therefore, is the victory of those whose eloquence, persistence, enthusiasm and faith brought about this astonishing result.

The news will, of course, encourage and cheer the women enlisted in the suffrage movement in every part of the world. It should and may contribute to the abandonment of futile and fatal militancy in Great Britain. What the women of Illinois have accomplished they have accomplished in a way that is as creditable to them as it is to the newest legislative converts.

What woman suffrage will do for politics, public morals and government is a question upon which no victory or defeat throws any light. Men and women will continue to differ thereon, and differ honestly and tolerantly, until time and experience end the controversy. But it takes no preternatural acuteness to perceive that the women who demand the ballot for the better protection of their interest and the larger opportunity for service are surely and by no means slowly carrying stronghold after stronghold. A social revolution is occurring before our eyes, a revolution that can not fall profoundly to affect modern society. The leaders of the movement fully recognize that every fresh victory increases their solemn responsibility and the duty of making woman suffrage a potent factor for righteousness and efficiency in government.

—Chicago Record-Herald.

MRS. HARRISON CONGRATULATES

Mrs. Carter Harrison, wife of the mayor of Chicago, issued the follow-

ing statement: It is fine that women have been given the vote in Illinois—very fine. If women want to vote they should be able to. I am for anything that means progression and I want to get ahead. Now that a few women have worked so hard and secured the ballot we must stand by them and appear at the polls. I have not definitely decided whether I shall cast a vote or not, but I think it is quite likely that I shall—in fact I am sure I shall—when the time comes. Women are going to have their hands full, but they certainly have been educated up to intelligent citizenship. Of course, I have been very comfortable during the twenty-five years that I have been married and at home, but, nevertheless, I am very glad to think that women have been given a chance to show what they can do and now we can wait and watch results."

MRS. McCORMICK'S STATEMENT

Following is a special dispatch to the St. Louis Times: Springfield, Ill., June 12.—Limited suffrage for the women of Illinois was virtually assured today, following the announcement of Governor Dunne that he would sign the suffrage bill, which passed the lower house of the assembly yesterday afternoon. It previously had passed the senate.

"I will sign the bill with great pleasure," said Governor Dunne, "unless there should be a well-grounded objection as to its constitutionality. This I do not expect. I have favored woman suffrage for many years, although it was not part of our platform last fall."

The vote of the measure in the house was 83 to 58. It gives women the right to vote for president and all municipal officers, but denies them the ballot for governor, members of the assembly and all state offices which are provided in the state constitution.

The victory of "votes for women" was hailed today as epoch-making by Mrs. Medill McCormick, one of the active lobbyists for the bill. Today she was busy with plans for the "love feast" for the assembly members and the press Friday night. Mrs. McCormick, daughter of Mark Hanna, was the founder of the home for working girls in Washington, and was associated with Mrs. William Howard Taft and Miss Anne Morgan in founding the women's branch of the national civic federation.

"The action of the Illinois legislature in granting woman suffrage is epoch-making, for it is the first state east of the Mississippi to take that action," said Mrs. McCormick. "It gives women the vote for presidential electors as well as for all municipal officers. The women of Illinois now feel the tremendous responsibility put upon them. Our success

is of vital importance to the suffrage cause.

"In order to meet this responsibility the Illinois women already have made detailed plans that will be put into immediate operation. The plan is to educate women not only along political questions of the day, but along the lines of all sorts of civic betterment. It is in this field that the women are now ready to do the most effective work, for municipal regulation is housekeeping on a large scale.

"For almost 50 years the women have been lobbying for a suffrage bill before the legislature. The practice has been to meet all arguments with laughter and shrugs of the shoulders, intimating that the subject was too ludicrous even to discuss. This year, however, the woman's lobby, consisting of Mrs. Grace Wilber Trout, Mrs. Sherman Booth and Mrs. Antonette Funk, has met with nothing but serious consideration and courtesy."

"I am quoting the lobby accurately when I say that they have not had a single pledge broken by any member of the senate or house.

"In answer to the statement made here that the better class of women will not vote, I shall go into a few of the details of our plan.

"A special committee on organization, representing all the suffrage associations in the state, is to be appointed within the next 10 days. Its purpose will be to organize a non-political educational league in every precinct and ward of the cities, making a unit of the congressional district. Speakers will be supplied by a speaker's bureau to address meetings held at stated intervals throughout the state.

"Through this organization we feel confident that the result of the first municipal election will demonstrate conclusively that the so-called 'minority' was justified in its fight for suffrage."

SWING LASH ON BREWER

Associated Press dispatch: Kansas City, Mo., May 5.—P. H. Nolan of New York, chairman of the congressional committee of the National Liquor Dealers' association, was unsparing in his criticism of the brewers in an address yesterday before a meeting of 300 Kansas City saloon men.

"The average brewer, in a mad desire for wealth, is careless of public sentiment," he said. "He has no respect for law, regulation or public decency. He buys a church window for \$100 and then assumes a sanctimonious attitude. His business is to corrupt public officials that he may thrive. Get your own leases on property. Don't let the brewer own you body and soul.

"I'll give \$5,000 to charity if I can not prove that 95 per cent of the saloons in Kansas City are owned by the breweries. The brewers of the United States are the advance agents of prohibition. By shipping liquor into dry territory they offend public conscience. I hope Kansas City some day will rid itself of the influence of the parasites. They are a menace to society."

I. J. Bauer of St. Louis said he believed that 600 "lid clubs" existed in St. Louis, and an equal number of drug stores in Kansas City sold liquor unlawfully.

UNFIT

She—"Why do you work so hard?"

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—Cornell Widow.

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