

# For and Against Woman Suffrage

## Some Humors of the Nebraska Campaign



Mrs. L. F. CROFOOT



Mrs. John C. Cowin



Mrs. Henry W. Yates



Mrs. S. W. Crumpacker



Mrs. Helen Arion Lewis



Mrs. T. J. Mackay

strongly upheld the anti in the councils of the society while Mrs. Frank Crawford one of the most active members of the organization, Miss Caroline Congdon and others are suffragists. To maintain the equilibrium of the club the majority members led by Mrs. Warren Blackwell, stand on neutral ground.

An amusing story is told by the librarians at the public library. A sheet of paper divided into two columns, one of the suffrage and the other opposed to it, was left on one of the desks. The first librarian who spied it, put her name down on the suffrage side, the next one followed suit, until all had registered their opinion. Then it was found that the suffragists numbered one more than the anti. Not to be outdone in this fashion, the anti called upon the page of the library and he in many fashion signed his name as opposed to suffrage thus striking an equal balance.

### Once Were For, Now Against

Mr. William Wallace and his family were pioneers in the suffrage ranks over twenty years ago. The Wallaces have always been identified with the forward movement for women, a great aunt of the late Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Bannister, together with Miss Mary Lyon, having been the founders of Mount Holyoke school for women about 100 years ago. As a result of their experiences in this early work for suffrage, the Wallaces changed their mind and now Miss Janet Monroe Wallace, who is instructor in economics and civics at the Omaha High school, is one of the executive committee of the anti-suffrage society.

Mrs. Helen Arion Lewis is another active worker in the cause who changed her mind as a result of her experiences in suffrage campaigns and her observations in states where suffrage has been granted to women, in several of which states she has resided.

Miss Ophelia Hayden and Miss Claire Helene Woodward, who were formerly interested in the suffrage cause together with Mrs. Adolph Storz, an anti, were in Washington at the inauguration of President Wilson and witnessed the famous suffrage parade. The developed appearance of the marchers who were routed in disorder from the parade, did not make a hit with the Omaha young women and now they favor the anti-suffragists.

### Treatment for an Ak-Sar-Ben Governor

Mrs. Charles D. Beaton is keen for suffrage and Mr. Beaton, who is an Ak-Sar-Ben governor, was rather inclined to favor suffrage until he was placed next to Miss Minnie Bronson at the Commercial club luncheon given in her honor. Miss Bronson informed him that suffrage would lead to socialism which statement led him to doubt the wisdom of his original stand. Mrs. Beaton suggests that arrangements be made to seat him next to Dr. Katherine Bement Davis at the next luncheon.

Mrs. L. F. Crofoot's sympathies were enlisted on the side of suffrage by Miss Gertrude O'Reilly's recital of the conditions in Ireland, but as the result of her observations on a trip to Boston during the recent Massachusetts campaign, Mrs. Crofoot joined the anti-suffrage society here and is one of its most active members. She is a member of the executive committee and accompanied Mrs. J. M. Crumpacker to Fremont to assist in the organization of a branch society there.

Mr. Edgar Scott, who is associated with Mr. Crofoot in the law firm of Crofoot & Scott is strong for suffrage and was in charge of the suffrage meeting which Prof. F. M. Fling of the University of Nebraska addressed at the American theater. Mrs. Scott and her sister, Miss Carrie Dodge, who are prominent members of the Fine Arts society, are also ardent suffragists but Mrs. N. P. Dodge, Jr., is a member of the anti-suffrage society having become interested in the movement through her mother, who is a leader in anti-suffrage activities in Boston. Her sister Mrs. Lyman, who visited her recently, is a member of the executive



Mrs. S. W. Griffith

Mrs. W. A. Smith

committee of the Massachusetts anti-suffrage society.

### His Wife's Example

One of the best known merchant princes in Omaha is quoted as having said that he opposed woman's voting because his wife is home so seldom, as it is. "Half of her time is taken up with her social duties and the rest of the time she is in Chicago, so I don't see when she will have time to vote," he said. His wife, when questioned, said she was neutral.

Mr. Howard Baldrige former candidate for congressman is one who feels that if the majority of women wish to vote and can do good with the ballot, they should be permitted to do so, while Mrs. Baldrige's name was mentioned quite prominently at the inception of the local anti-suffrage society as one who was interested in it.

Dean James A. Tancock of Trinity cathedral is strongly opposed to votes for women, but Mrs. Tancock, although not allied with any suffrage society, is just as strongly a sympathizer of the cause.

Mrs. John N. Baldwin, was president of the Equal Franchise society for a term, but her daughter, Mrs. Arthur Gulou, believes that the right to vote should be restricted for both men and women and that only those who are fitted to wield the ballot should be permitted to do so.

Mr. Lloyd Osborne, whose wife is a suffragist and a prominent member of the Fine Arts society, denied very emphatically a rumor to the effect that he was an anti. "I believe in giving the women a chance every time," he said, but concluded with the statement, "There are too many irresponsible voters now."

### Sisters Are Divided

Mrs. Frank J. Hoel is a member of the executive committee of the anti-suffrage society, while her sister, Miss Katherine Morse, of the Omaha High school, and her daughter, Miss Faith Lee Hoel, are suffragists.

Miss Caroline Congdon, member of the Vassar club, is an enthusiastic suffragist, but her sister, Mrs. Arthur Rogers, is on the opposite side of the fence.

Mr. David Cole is one who believes that if women want to vote they ought to have it, but not so Mrs. Cole. She is just as strongly opposed to it.

Mr. Harley Moorhead, election commissioner, will not commit himself for fear of being misconstrued, but his wife is a firm believer in suffrage. "It is part of the evolution of woman," she said.

Mrs. Willard Hosford, formerly Miss Mary Lee McShane, and Mrs. Glenn Wharton, formerly Miss Ada Kirkendall, have been life-long friends and schoolmates, but the question of enfranchising women is one in which they do not agree. Mrs. Wharton is an anti, while Mrs. Hosford and Mrs. John A. McShane are most active in the Equal Franchise society. Mr. McShane, however, does not share the views of his wife and daughter.

### One Family United

Dr. and Mrs. H. Gifford are numbered among the sympathizers with the cause, as is their



Mrs. Frank J. Hoel

daughter, Miss Ann. Indeed Miss Ann has been known to use her influence among her school friends and is said to have attempted to convert several anti to her way of thinking.

Mrs. John C. French thinks she has all the rights now that she can manage. "If I am anything, I am an anti," she said, yet Mrs. French has a sister in New York, Miss Ealand, who has been identified with the suffrage movement in the east.

Mrs. Frederick H. Davis is a member of the Equal Franchise society, but her daughters, Elizabeth and Mente and Mrs. Walter Roberts, are not interested and indeed are said to be anti. Mr. Davis is opposed to the movement.

Miss Daisy Doane is a state suffrage officer and her mother Mrs. George A. Doane is a suffragist but Mrs. Charles B. Keller, Miss Doane's sister has taken no part in the movement.

The husband of a woman very prominent in the Fine Arts society was said to oppose the onward march of the feminists. When questioned about it, his wife said, "My husband is out of the city, but though I am very much a suffragist, even so, I do not reserve the right to speak for him."

Gerrit Fort was persistently quoted as being in favor of suffrage, but his name recently appeared on the manifesto of the men opposed. Mrs. Fort is on the anti-suffragists' executive board.

### When the Antis Started

Campaigning for suffrage has been going on in Nebraska for over twenty years, but anti-suffrage activity as an organized movement is very recent. It dates back to February of this year with the advent of the two anti-suffrage leaders Mrs. Arthur Dodge, president of the National Society Opposed to Woman Suffrage, and Miss Minnie Bronson, national secretary. Mrs. Arthur Crittenden Smith was the first one to sponsor their work. Mrs. Smith met Mrs. Dodge last year when she was traveling in the east and at that time became interested in the question. Through their initial efforts, a number of Omaha women prominent in social, educational, art and philanthropic circles of the community were enlisted in the opposition movement. Many of them too are Daughters of the American Revolution and other patriotic societies, who feel that the granting of suffrage to women would be a menace to the country.

Business of the local anti-suffrage society is transacted by an executive committee of fifteen



Mrs. Gerrit Fort

members, but an official list of membership has never been divulged because of the business and political interests of their husbands. Mrs. Edward Porter Peck is chairman of the board, other representatives of the society being Mesdames Henry W. Yates, T. J. Mackay, John C. Cowin, John L. Webster, F. N. Conner, L. F. Crofoot, Gerrit Fort, W. H. Koenig, Frank J. Hoel, Helen Arion Lewis, William Archibald Smith, Arthur Crittenden Smith, John W. Griffith and Miss Janet Monroe Wallace.

### German Women Indifferent to Cause

At a recent meeting of this committee, Mrs. Helen Arion Lewis, who favors a more active campaign than the mere distribution of literature, was authorized to begin the work of organizing other anti-suffrage societies, so that all circles of women might be reached. To this end, a preliminary meeting was held at the German Home, the anti having surmised that the "Deutsche Damen" were more interested in their kaffeeklatches, Kuchen and pretzels than they were in votes for women. As yet, no organization has been effected.

Mrs. J. W. Crumpacker is the representative of the national society here and has been working throughout the state in an endeavor to affiliate other organizations with the one in Omaha. She has made a number of trips to Lincoln, Fremont, Hastings, Grand Island and Kearney and other points and with the assistance of the parent society, the Omaha branch, thinks that permanent organizations will be effected in these places.

The anti-suffragists maintain that their campaign will only be an educational one. Literature is being placed in the hands of all those that they think are interested. An attempt will also be made to enlist the services of clergymen all over the state for the women feel that much good may be accomplished through these channels. Among the well known speakers that the organizations hope to bring to Omaha in the near future are Miss Minnie Bronson, Miss Marjory Dorman and Miss Markson of the Wage Earners' league of New York City.

BY ELLA FLEISHMAN.

**T** O be for suffrage or not to be? That is the question which relegated Ed P. Smith to the Ananias club so far as local suffragists are concerned, even though his wife is a member of the Equal Franchise society. No longer do fond mammas point out the president of the United States for their youthful offspring to emulate, but instead, John L. Kennedy, John A. Rine, Halleck Rose and Edgar Scott have been placed upon pedestals as the bright and shining example of what all men should be. Much printer's ink also has been wasted by this lively topic for discussion, which is carried on over the breakfast table, during business hours, over tea cups and between numbers on dance programs.

Small mention will be made of the "No-vote, no-kiss" pact which suffragist leaders in the east are striving to introduce between sweethearts, so it is said, but that the mere mention of the word "suffrage" causes the office boy to giggle all over, makes "mere men" reporters hoot, gives S. Arion Lewis the tantrums and starts Mrs. George Covell to spouting oratory at the rate of sixty miles an hour, this I do know.

### Division in High Circles

Announcement was made recently that whereas Mrs. William H. Taft, wife of the ex-president, had declared herself an anti-suffragist, her daughter, Helen, had joined the suffrage society at Bryn Mawr where she has been attending school. On the heels of this announcement the statement was made that President Wilson's daughters hold opposing views on the question of suffrage. While Margaret Wilson and Jessie Wilson Sayre are in favor of woman suffrage, it is said that Eleanor Wilson McAdoo is just as much opposed to it.

Omaha has many families wherein the same condition exists—each member of the family demonstrating the great American characteristic of having his or her own opinion—and expressing it. Many interesting features are noted, such as ardent suffragists, who were once just as strong anti, anti who were once strong for "Votes for Women," some who believe in limited suffrage for both men and women husbands in favor of granting the franchise while their wives oppose it and vice versa.

### Organizations Are Split

Organizations also share in the division of opinion. The General Federation of Women's clubs was divided on the question for twenty years, until this year, when the suffrage movement was endorsed. Locally the Vassar club, which recently joined the suffrage societies in a luncheon for Dr. Katherine Bement Davis furnishes a striking example. The president, Mrs. W. C. Shannon, Miss May Copeland and several more members have