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Isabel Greenwood

Maine Woman Suffrage Association

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The West---A New Factor

In the 1916 Presidential election one fact was definitely established—the States where women vote have been the decisive factors. For the first time in the history of the country the political power of the States west of the Missouri River has successfully rivalled that of the industrial States of the East. In nearly all of these Western States women voted Tuesday, November 7th on equal terms with men. Until the year 1916 any candidate who carried New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Michigan and Illinois has been sure of election. This year California, Oregon, Nevada, Wyoming, Kansas, Idaho, New Mexico, North Dakota and Minnesota have held the whip hand. The fact that women do not yet vote in the last three States does not effect the new principle: the spirit of the West has proved the dominant factor in national politics. And none can look upon a suffrage map without realizing that the spirit of the West includes votes for women.

Men of Maine!

Are you going to allow the West to control the politics in Maine?

Published by The Suffrage Referendum League of Maine.

**Have
You
Heard
the News?**

HAVE YOU HEARD That woman suffrage is coming all the world around? In England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Russia, France, Canada, and that it is already established in many other countries? Why not make the women of Maine the political equals of the women of our own great West, of Canada to the North and of those of many a land beyond the sea? *Read on.*

HAVE YOU HEARD That the British Cabinet has pledged woman suffrage; that the bill has passed the House of Commons by a vote of 7 to 1 and is now pending in the House of Lords? Even though the Lords should reject it, the House of Commons may and will pass it twice over their veto and then it will become a law. Full suffrage for women is an assured fact in Great Britain.

HAVE YOU HEARD That the women of Great Britain and Ireland have had equal suffrage for many years on equal terms with men in all elections except for members of Parliament, and that the bill now pending deals only with that one vote?

HAVE YOU HEARD That in the British Colony of Australia, covering a territory nearly as large as that of the United States, and in the British Colony of New Zealand, women have long voted on equal

terms with men? That in South Africa, another British Colony, women have an extensive partial suffrage? That in certain British cities in India, Burmah and Honduras, women vote on equal terms with men? Shall the descendants of the followers of George Washington be outdone by those of the followers of George the Third in the establishment of American principles? Let Maine's answer be the vote for Maine's women.

HAVE YOU HEARD That women have voted on equal terms with men at all elections in Russia under the new government and that the Cabinet and political leaders pledge equal suffrage for men and women in the new constitution? Curious how much easier it seems to start a new Republic, with all the latest improvements in republican machinery, than to modernize an old one; men of Maine, modernize Maine by enfranchising women.

HAVE YOU HEARD That France has promised woman suffrage in the near future, and that leaders of political parties have proposed votes for women in the parliaments of Italy, Roumania and even Prussia?

HAVE YOU HEARD That Finland, Norway, Denmark and Iceland have universal and equal suffrage

for men and women; that the women of Sweden have equal suffrage with men, except for members of Parliament, and that the King has recommended the grant of that vote?

HAVE YOU HEARD That the map of North America is fast becoming white? Note that Mexico, the "solid south," Maine and the uninhabited North are black.



HAVE YOU HEARD That five of the nine provinces of Canada—British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario, within a year have given the vote to their women, and that the Dominion Pre-

mier, Sir Robert Borden, has predicted that the women of all Canada will have the vote for the National Parliament before the next election? Fair play is fair play on both sides of the border. Men of Maine, make Maine women the political equals of Canadian women.

HAVE YOU HEARD That the women of nineteen States will vote for the next President of the United States? These States are Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Illinois, Indiana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Michigan, Ohio, Rhode Island and Arkansas. In the first eleven women have every suffrage right that men have. In the next four they have presidential and municipal suffrage. In the next three they can vote only for presidential electors. In the last, Arkansas, women have full suffrage at all the primaries. In these nineteen States are 8,557,303 women over 21 who can have a voice in determining 172 electoral votes for President. What is the matter with Maine women? Are they not as well qualified to help choose the next President as the women of these other States? What is the matter with Maine men? Are they less just than the men of these States and Canada?

HAVE YOU HEARD That all the suffrage gains in the United States have been made in spite of unscrupulous and well-equipped opposition, engineered and supported mainly by the liquor interests?

HAVE YOU HEARD That in the summer of 1917 the "antis" of Nebraska, North Dakota and Ohio tried to wrest the right to vote for President from the women by means of referendum petitions, whose circulators in many localities were almost exclusively brewers, saloon-keepers and their employees?

HAVE YOU HEARD That in Ohio the chief leaders of the "wets" in county after county signed as attestant or notary many of the petitions circulated, and that several such well-known liquor men signed themselves under oath as "on the regular payroll of the women's Ohio Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage?" The liquor interests have bought votes and subsidized men and newspapers for years to oppose woman suffrage. They have delayed the inevitable coming of woman suffrage by befuddling the public mind through the deliberately planned circulation of lies, innuendos and misrepresentations. On the other hand—

HAVE YOU HEARD That in each equal suffrage State, every Governor,

Chief Justice and important official, clergymen, educators and other prominent citizens, have declared that woman suffrage is so strongly entrenched in the approval of the people that no power can ever remove it? And that no trustworthy man or woman from an equal suffrage State or country has ever said that woman suffrage has been harmful in any way? On the contrary, the people of those States unite in pronouncing it an education for women, a protection to the home and a benefit to the State?

HAVE YOU HEARD That in all suffrage campaigns the liquor interests send agents to labor unions and to men in all employments to urge them to vote against woman suffrage because it will mean "dry laws," while at the same time the women "antis" send out agents to say that women's votes do not help prohibition? The facts are these:—Eight (72.7%) of the eleven full suffrage States have prohibition, and all except Kansas adopted it after the vote was given to women. These States are—Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington. Two, Wyoming and Nevada, will vote on the subject in 1918, but Wyoming is already largely a "dry" State. In California, the

eleventh State, a prohibition amendment was defeated in 1916 by the vote of San Francisco **alone**. Women formed 75 per cent of the petitioners for its submission. In 1896 woman suffrage was defeated by the vote of San Francisco and Oakland alone, and in 1911, when woman suffrage won, San Francisco gave a majority against it. In 1911 there were 200 "dry" places in the State. In 1914 there were 690. The women of Alaska were enfranchised in 1913, and in 1917 prohibition was adopted. In Illinois, where women do not have full suffrage but have voted in municipal elections since 1913, there were 54 dry counties out of 102 in 1916, and many "dry" townships in the "wet" counties. In 1914 the press reported that the votes of women had closed 1,000 saloons. From that moment the opposition to woman suffrage became more bitter and determined. Yet—

HAVE YOU HEARD That in States where women vote, Legislatures year after year pass resolutions recommending woman suffrage to other States? For instance, the California Legislature of 1917:

WHEREAS, the women of the United States are being called upon to share the burdens and sacrifices of the present national crisis and are

patriotically responding to that call,

RESOLVED by the Senate of California with the Assembly concurring, that the denial of the right of women to vote on equal terms with men is an injustice, and

RESOLVED that we do urge upon Congress the submission to the Legislatures of the States for their ratification, an amendment to the United States Constitution granting women the right to vote."

Legislatures of other equal suffrage States have adopted similar resolutions.

HAVE YOU HEARD That Anti-suffragists have particularly attacked Colorado and have circulated reports that business was affected adversely by woman suffrage, and that in consequence, the Denver Chamber of Commerce in 1916 passed a strong resolution of denial; that seventy of the most representative men of Denver, including twelve bank presidents, issued the following:

"Because irresponsible persons, in no way representing the real spirit of Colorado, have circulated statements defamatory to the credit of the State and its womanhood, we believe the time has come when such silly and slanderous stories should be repudiated by the intelligent and public-spirited men of Colorado.

"The demand for Colorado bonds is far greater than the supply. In per capita wealth, in expenditures for education, in the percentage of homes without incumbrance, in public movements, in all matters affecting social welfare and the altruistic side of legislation, Colorado stands well to the front, as may be easily verified by the reports of the United States Government.

"In all efforts that have served to forward the health and prosperity of the State, the women of Colorado have had their share. The enfranchisement of women is no longer a question here. Equal suffrage was granted by popular vote in 1893, and incorporated in the constitution ten years later by a majority three times the size of that given the original referendum."

Similar testimony comes from the other equal suffrage States.

HAVE YOU HEARD That when men migrate to the United States from England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, they gain with naturalization all the political rights they left in their native land, while women immigrants from those countries lose the political rights they possessed in their

native land because such rights are denied to women in a large part of this Republic? Do you want your country to stand for such injustice?

HAVE YOU HEARD That wherever women are enfranchised they vote in about the same proportion as men, and often in a larger proportion when questions affecting the home and family are an issue? That in not one State where the suffrage has been granted to women has there ever been even a proposal to take it away? That the opponents make statements about suffrage in the Equal Suffrage States which cannot be proven by the facts. That every State in which a majority of the men have voted to give the ballot to women adjoins one where they are already showing how women will use it?

HAVE YOU HEARD That not a complaint about the woman's vote increasing election expenses has ever come from the equal suffrage States, but that it is only the "antis" in other States who are so concerned about it? That the Governor or other officials in every one of the suffrage States have testified that the increased cost was not worth considering? That twice as much election equipment is not necessary because men and women in general do not vote at the same hours? That

women's taxes help pay the expense of elections and they have a right to share in what they pay for? That this objection never has been made in the case of any other class of voters?

HAVE YOU HEARD That the war has started the movement for democracy all the world around? That Mr. Wilson said in his address to Congress: "We shall fight for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own government." That the leader of the Liberal Party in Ontario said in its Legislature: "How can we deny the vote to women? Are we not fighting the world's battle of democracy?" Speaker Champ Clark said that he had believed in woman suffrage ever since he "got the hang of the Declaration of Independence." Many a State and nation have caught the spirit of that immortal document. Why should Maine lag behind the procession? The opportunity to catch up will be given on September 10th, when the question of whether or not the women of Maine shall be entrusted with the ballot will be voted upon by the men of the State.

HAVE YOU HEARD That these Maine men have declared themselves in favor of woman suffrage? Governor Carl E. Milliken, former Governor William T. Haines; former At-

torney-General William R. Pattangall, former Chief Justice William Penn Whitehouse, former U. S. Senator Charles F. Johnson, Congressman John A. Peters, former Congressman Frank E. Guernsey, U. S. Senator Bert M. Fernald, Congressman Ira G. Hersey, Congressman Wallace H. White, former Congressman Obadiah Gardner, Hon. Hiram W. Ricker, Hon. Frank L. Dingley, Hon. Charles S. Stetson, Robert J. Aley, Ph.D., LL.D., President University of Maine; George C. Chase, LL.D., President Bates College; Rt. Rev. Benjamin Brewster, Bishop Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Maine; Rev. Henry Blanchard, D.D.

HAVE YOU HEARD That many other distinguished men are going to vote **YES** on September 10th, 1917, for the Woman Suffrage Amendment? They will vote on the side of right and progress. Many thousands of Maine women urge you to vote with them.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Exchange Building, Bangor, Maine

August, 1917

Printed by N. W. S. Pub. Co.



This is the booklet
to go with your
petitions. Try putting
this and the sample of
petition I sent you in the
smaller envelope and see
if its all right. We
can't get any more of
the 1 ct stamped envelopes
here, of the size that we
sent you. If you can
buy a larger envelope
in Framington it would
be better than a smaller
one.

In haste
Alice Curtis