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How Maine Won

By Elizabeth Curtis Holman



MRS. ARTHUR T. BALENTINE

THE Maine Woman Suffrage Association is rejoicing in the fact that its state, which has so long been conspicuously black in the northeast corner of the suffrage map, has now come into the Presidential group and can be represented as white with black spots.

Notwithstanding the defeat of the State Constitutional Amendment in 1917, the Maine Woman Suffrage Association voted at its convention in October, 1918, to put in a bill for partial suffrage, as for many years it has been the policy of the association to introduce some suffrage measure at every session of the legislature. The Legislative Committee consisted of Mrs. Katherine Reed Balentine, of Portland, Chairman; Miss Mable Connor, of Augusta, President of the Maine Woman Suffrage Association; Miss Helen N. Bates, of Portland; Mrs. Wm. R. Pattangall, Mrs. Henry W. Cobb, and Mrs. Guy P. Gannett, of Augusta. By the advise of our political friends a bill was introduced for Presidential Suffrage, as they expressed the belief that it would meet with less opposition than any other form of suffrage bill. It was drawn up by Hon. George H. Allen, one of the best friends of suffrage Maine has ever had.

At first the legislators expressed great surprise at the attempt to bring up the suffrage question at all this year as they considered that the question was settled by the defeat of the referendum in 1917.

The hearing before the Judiciary Committee was pronounced one of the best suffrage hearings ever held at the State House. The principal speakers were Hon. Louis A. Burleigh, who made a remarkably strong appeal along political lines, and Prof. Frank Woodworth, of Bowdoin College, who dwelt on the rapid spread of equal suffrage and its justice. Telegrams were read from four of our congressional delegation urging the legislature to take favorable action on the measure. The rebuttal was most ably handled by Mrs. Nancy H. Schoomaker, of New York. The bill was reported "Ought to pass," by a vote of 8 to 2.

The measure was introduced into the Senate by Hon. Guy P. Gannett, of Augusta. An effort was made to attach a referendum amendment to the bill, but the Legislative Committee took a strong stand against such action and secured the passage of the original bill by a vote of 22 to 5. The principal speech in opposition to the referendum amendment was made in the Senate by the Hon. Leroy R. Folsom, of Norridgewock. In the House a yet stronger effort was made to attach the referendum amendment but it was again thwarted by the firm stand of the Legislative Committee and the bill went through un-amended by a vote of 85-54.

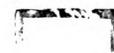


MRS. GUY P. GANNETT



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