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"Maine" (excerpt from the Proceedings of the National Woman Suffrage Association Convention) 1902

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18th, and we had the pleasure of listening to two addresses from Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt. She also spoke in Lexington to an enthusiastic audience. The attendance of members from our sister associations in Ohio, added greatly to the success of the Convention.

On November 29th Miss Laura Clay organized the Louisville Equal Rights Association, with twenty-one members. The Legislative Committee has introduced into the present General Assembly, bills which are still pending: 1. For presidential suffrage. 2. For co-guardianship by parents over minor children. 3. For women on the Board of Trustees of our State College.

Laura Clay, President.

Annie Miller, Corresponding Secretary.

LOUISIANA.

This State has but one suffrage club, the Era Club, of New Orleans. After the long summer following the Minneapolis Convention, the Club reassembled in October, and has held seven meetings, three of them open, the others business sessions. Six new members have been added. The principal work of the year, thus far, has consisted in the offer of a prize of \$25, for the best essay on: "Why should the franchise be extended to women?" The prize to be competed for by the pupils of the High schools of Louisiana. Folders bearing the announcement were sent out in January.

Everlyn W. Ordway, President of Era Club.

MAINE.

Active educational suffrage work has been the war cry since the last National Convention. We used the summer vacation to extend our work in many ways as well as through our mid-summer convention held at Ocean Park, in August. The day of this Convention was fine; the attendance very large, the interest absorbing, due largely to the presence of our National President.

During the summer our Superintendent of Literature, Mrs. Fannie J. Fernald, of Old Orchard, commenced, for the first time, a systematic canvass of the various agricultural societies, asking permission to put our literature in some conspicuous place, for free distribution, wherever they held their annual exhibit. The results exceeded our wildest expectations. Out of two State, sixteen county and a few large towns, we received

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a cordial consent from the State Fair at Lewiston. Ten county and two town fairs, and in all of these, where we could secure a suitable person to care for it, we placed a generous supply of literature.

We have also furnished each suffrage Club and many individual members of the State Association with suffrage matter, and several literary clubs have come to us for material to aid in preparing debates.

We have secured new subscribers for the "Woman's Journal" and "Progress."

Our Press work has been subjected to a weeding process, and while our figures may not be quite as large, we are assured that what we send is used, a fact we have not always known in the past.

Our twenty-first annual Convention was held at Old Orchard, October 2-4; and was marked by great enthusiasm and representative audiences. Mrs. Mary C. C. Bradford, of Denver, was our guest and speaker, and during her three weeks in Maine, spoke on nine different occasions, reaching, in many cases, a class of women whom we have never reached before. It was a very successful and helpful experience for us, and we were loth to have Mrs. Bradford leave the State.

Excellent work along organization lines has been accomplished by Miss Gail Laughlin during the first two weeks of December. This has incidentally enabled us to redeem nearly half of our financial pledge to the N. A. W. S. A. Miss Laughlin's iternary included Portland, Old Orchard, Lewiston, Skowhegan, Hartland, Bangor, Machias and Freeport. At Lewiston, Bangor and Machias, new clubs were formed, while Skowhegan promised to arouse its old club to new life, and Hartland has promised to organize. We have representative and able women as leaders of all three clubs and although they are in some of our oldest and most conservative cities and towns, where it has formerly been almost impossible to arouse any interest, we hope, with these as a nucleus, that the little leaven will eventually leaven the entire community. The older clubs are doing much good work and constantly adding to their membership.

This is not our Legislative year, but our Legislative Committee has its plan of attack for next year well in hand. We shall work for municipal suffrage for tax-paying women.

LUCY HOBART DAV, President.

ANNIE BURGESS, Corresponding Secretary.

MARYLAND.

During the past year our membership has more than doubled. Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends, numbering nearly 3,000 members, fully endorsed woman suffrage last October. Bills have been introduced into our Legislature to make women eligible as Notaries Public; to allow