

# First District Federation Women Hold Convention

## PROMINENT CLUB WOMEN ATTENDING CONVENTION

**Distinguished Guests of Civic League of Keokuk Are Here for Meeting Today.**

**MRS. B. CLARK ATTENDS**

**President of Iowa Federation Honors First District Women With Her Presence—Mrs. Trout Here.**

Two hundred or more women attended the convention of the first district, Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs which was held in Keokuk today. The convention was held here at the invitation of the Civic League of Keokuk. A program and business meeting occupied the morning session. This noon there was a luncheon at the Country club and this afternoon Mrs. Grace Wilbur Trout spoke. Her talk was followed with a reception at the home of Mrs. J. J. Ayres.

The day was ideal for the convention. Keokuk women, hospitable as always, entertained their guests in lavish manner, and left nothing undone that could be done to make them feel at home, and to entertain them.

**Convention Called to Order.** The convention was called to order by Mrs. Joseph J. Ayres who expressed the deepest regret that the district chairman, Miss Grace Roberts of Mt. Pleasant, who had planned the convention program, was unable to be present. She then introduced Mrs. A. M. Atrobus of Burlington, a former district chairman, who presided during the convention. The opening number was a piano solo, Sonata del Petracca by Liszt, Miss Clara Gertrude Fry. Prayer was offered by Miss Tirza Dinsdale, secretary of the Young Woman's Christian Association. This was followed by a piano solo by Mrs. Arvilla Erdman Cooper, Polonaise Militaire by Chopin. Both piano numbers were by representatives of the Monday Music club and as these two artists always do, reflected much credit upon the club.

Mrs. Ayres, president of the Civic League, then gave the address of welcome and said in part: "The Civic League of Keokuk extends greeting and most hearty welcome to you today. We are more than pleased to have you with us. We trust that all the delegates and friends who are in attendance at the convention may be benefited and entertained by our program and that they may feel that the time spent in Keokuk has been profitably and happily spent."

The response was given in a very happy manner by Mrs. O. M. Cavin of Columbus Junction.

## SUFFRAGE AXIOMS

By GRACE WILBUR TROUT

- Axiom 1. Let people do work in their own way, even though you think you could do it better. Perhaps you couldn't.
- Axiom 2. Take everybody's advice. Advice is always harmless, and often helpful. Follow it if you deem it wise.
- Axiom 3. Never be afraid to give other people plenty of credit. It doesn't hurt you, and it braces them up.
- Axiom 4. Remember the cause is much bigger than any individual, even yourself. This is true, though at times it may seem painful.
- Axiom 5. Don't bristle up at the sight of newspaper reporters. They are our best and most valuable friends. They educate thousands, while we reach only a few.
- Axiom 6. Don't worry about other people's mistakes. It doesn't change the situation, and it's wearing on the nerves.
- Axiom 7. Watch yourself carefully. It will save unhappiness and indignation later on.
- Axiom 8. Never be afraid to use the words, "equal suffrage." People no longer fear them, but take to them kindly.
- Axiom 9. Don't weep on the world's shoulder. It makes a damp spot and does no good.
- Axiom 10. Remember that nearly everybody wants to do about right. Appearances to the contrary notwithstanding.
- Axiom 11. Active suffragists do not rest on a bed of roses, but who wants to? Roses have thorns.
- Axiom 12. Do the best you can and don't lie awake nights over results. Results will take care of themselves.

### CONVENTION GUEST



MRS. GRACE WILBUR TROUT Who spoke this afternoon.

by Mrs. Wells. The club was organized in 1889 and has a membership of six hundred. She spoke briefly of the course of the club this year, which includes the same course which appears in the Fine Arts theatre of Chicago. These programs are given on Sunday in Chicago and on Monday in Burlington.

The Alpha club of Burlington was reported by Mrs. Weinstein. The club was organized in 1888 and is one of the oldest in the city. The course of study is on art and travel. Last year they traveled in Germany and this year they will travel in South America.

The Shakespeare club report was given by Mrs. Barrett. The club studies Shakespeare and the drama. This ended the club reports for the morning, the remainder to be given at half past four this afternoon.

**State Committee Reports.** The state committee reports were made as follows:

The state music committee by Mrs. Cate Gilbert Wells of Burlington. The educational loan fund committee by Mrs. Davidson.

Plans and suggestions of the home economics committee was read by Mrs. Roger Galer of Mt. Pleasant as follows:

The nations of the world are now so bound together by ties of commerce, railroads, steamships, cables and wireless, that they are like one great family, and when two or more members of this great family disagree and quarrels ensue, the effect is felt around the world.

At the present time, with a devastating war raging in Europe, we, in the United States, are feeling a direct result in business conditions and the increased cost of living. The price of many every day articles is being forced up, an internal revenue tax is to be levied, banks will be taxed, all places of amusement and so-called luxuries will be taxed in the effort of the government to meet the deficit caused by the decrease of import duties from the warring countries. Now since ten billions of dollars are spent annually in the United States for food, clothing and shelter, and ninety per cent of this sum is spent by the women, it behooves us, the club women, who think of and study these problems, to show by our practical application of the knowledge we have, how efficient we are, how much we can buy with our money, how well we can cook the food products, how happily and effectively we can wear the American textiles and fashions.

**Burlington Compliments Keokuk.** The Burlington Civic federation was reported by Mrs. Cate Gilbert Wells. She spoke of her appreciation of the Keokuk Civic League and the Music club. The federation is working for the abolition of smoke in Burlington and to conserve the trees. A study of trees will also be a feature of the year's work. This federation has conducted garden contests among the school children. In the work of Burlington, Mrs. Wells said: "In our town the men collect the money for our work, we aren't so good at that business as you Keokuk women are. A zone of silence has been established in the block surrounding our local hospital."

The Musical club report was made

### Luncheon at Club

At half past twelve the convention adjourned and the delegates were taken in automobiles to the Country club for luncheon. The club house was beautifully decorated in baskets of autumn flowers—asters, salvia and red berries. The guests were received by Mrs. D. A. Collier, Mrs. Edgar Cochran and Miss Elsie Buck who had arranged this part of the day's entertainment. The tables were set in the reception room and in the dining room. In the center was placed a large round table, the president's table, at which were seated Mrs. Ayres, Mrs. B. B. Clark, Mrs. Trout, Mrs. Atrobus, Mrs. Cate Gilbert Wells and a number of local women. The other delegates and guests were seated at long tables.

The following menu was served: Smothered Chicken Potatoes au Gratin Succotash Preserves Hot Biscuits Stuffed Pepper Salad Cheese Sandwiches Individual Cakes Ice Cream Coffee

The guests inspected the club house and were enthusiastic in their praise of its beauty and of the beautiful view from the porches, of the wooded hills and the river beyond.

### Committees in Charge

The following committees of the Civic League planned the day's convention:

**Transportation committee**—Miss Anne B. Davis, Mrs. Leonard Matless, Mrs. Eugene S. Baker, Mrs. C. M. Rich, Mrs. B. B. Hobbs, Mrs. Harry Calkin, Mrs. Paul Dysart, Mrs. Lee A. Hamill, Mrs. Harry Phillips, Mrs. George Merriam, Miss Nettie Younker, Miss Caroline Baldwin, Miss Mary Irwin, Miss Agnes Trimble, Miss Elsie Buck.

**Entertainment and reception committee**—Mrs. J. J. Ayres, Mrs. D. A. Collier, Mrs. William Ballinger, Mrs. J. F. Elder, Mrs. Ralph Brownell, Mrs. James Cameron, Sr., Mrs. James B. Diver, Mrs. Harry J. Reeves, Mrs. D. B. Hamill, Mrs. E. S. Baker, Mrs. Wm. Logan, Mrs. Edgar Cochran, Miss Sallie Carver, Miss Elizabeth Collier, Miss Lida G. Howell.

**Credential and badge committee**—Mrs. C. S. Pond, Mrs. Geo. D. Rand, Mrs. W. J. Roberts, Mrs. H. O. Whitney, Mrs. H. S. Walker, Mrs. O. S. Stanbro, Mrs. J. W. Townsend, Mrs. W. G. Blood.

**Subscription committee** to receive the names of Keokuk men and women who wish reservations for the Grace Wilbur Trout lecture on the afternoon of October 1—Mrs. D. A. Collier, Miss Anne B. Davis, Mrs. J. B. Well, Mrs. I. A. Sawyer, Mrs. Leonard Matless, Mrs. John Rovane, Sr., Mrs. Harry J. Reeves, Miss Rachel Roberts, Miss Julia Conroy, Miss Lucretia Huskamp and Miss Laura Alton.

**Committee to plan social features**—Mrs. D. A. Collier, Mrs. Edgar Cochran, Miss Elsie Buck, Mrs. J. F. Elder, Mrs. John A. Dunlap, Miss Rachel Roberts.

to study home economics, to hold open meetings, secure the demonstrators and lecturers from Ames and Iowa City, and invite the women who have had less opportunity to be present.

The State Agricultural college at Ames and the State University at Iowa City are asking our help in spreading the extension work in home economics. Write to Ames and secure Professor E. C. Bishop, Miss Knowles, Miss Bentley or Mrs. Campbell for your club. If your club needs money (and your club is unique if it does not), sell tickets for these fine lectures and demonstrations, and you can add a tidy sum to your treasury.

**How You Can Help.** We stand appalled at the awful, unnecessary loss of life in Europe, but some of us forget that here in America, too, thousands upon thousands of American children die each year from causes just as preventable as bullets and bayonets. They die with suffering just as horrible as that of war. They die of tuberculosis, syphilis, bad food, poisoned air, all the result of ignorance and neglect. We are helpless to prevent the slaughter in Europe, but here in our own country, we can help. We can agitate, educate and spread the life-saving gospel of home economics; we can teach food nutrition, sanitation, hygiene and all the correlated things that so to make a healthful, happy home. The home makers of America have the making of the nation in their hands, for upon the home as a base, rests the structure of society and national life.

**Place home economics books in your public libraries, co-operate with your county fairs and short courses, or farmers' institutes.** If study outlines for your programs are not available, send to the state chairman or other members of this committee and outlines will be sent.

The home economics committee is made up of nine able-bodied women who want to work and serve you. You have their names and addresses in the year book. Do not hesitate to use them.

**Need Model Kitchen.** We had hoped to have a model kitchen to send out through the state this year, but this interesting demonstration is still for the future. However, to stimulate an interest in this, we are asking each club woman in the state to draw a plan of what she considers a model kitchen, and submit it to the state chairman. The best plans sent in will be exhibited at our state biennial next spring.

In a splendid effort to be of use to the people of our country, the bureau of agriculture is sending out bulletins and pamphlets, containing expert and valuable information on home economics in all its phases. Write to the department and these will be sent to you.

This bureau has a department of plant industry that teaches canning. Twenty or more canning outfits are at its constant command and they are sent out all over the country to county fairs, college lectures, church socials and women's clubs.

**Foster Tomato Club.** There are at the present time about 75,000 girls who are members of these clubs in the various states. The Tomato club is the one we have chosen to foster in Iowa. We ask you to write to Prof. E. C. Bishop of Ames and secure the outline of this

### WELCOMES DELEGATES



MRS. J. J. AYRES President of Civic League.

plan, which for lack of time, we will not give here, further than to state that the girl grows tomatoes on one-tenth of an acre of ground and cans the product. A demonstrator will be sent to any community to instruct the girls, not only in the best method of raising the vegetables, but the best methods of canning as well. Many girls in Iowa are earning money to take them to college with this garden and canning club work under the supervision of Professor Bishop.

Five or more members may organize a local club and each club should have an adult leader. It is in this that the club women can assist the girls. National and state prizes are given and the method of determining the successful candidate from each state is made on the basis of the work done, governed by the notes, reports and exhibits of each contestant. A state contest is held in which the county winners compete.

**Encourage This Enterprise.** The hope for the future lies in the rising generation. The club women of Iowa can do no greater altruistic work than to encourage the young girls in this home economics enterprise. And they can do this so easily, as the small sum of fifty cents, not per capita, but from each club, is all we are asking.

We don't want to lag behind our southern sister states in this work. In one state in the south everyone of the 125 counties is well organized with these clubs and the club women are lending every assistance there. A Virginia girl last year made the best record of all the states, obtaining 5,928 pounds of tomatoes from her plot of ground.

Let us encourage our Iowa girls by sending the prize winner to Washington. Send your fifty cents at once to the state chairman or the assistant chairman, as the time is short in which to raise the necessary sum. Don't wait to have us send to you for the money, ask your club to send it and save postage and effort for your committee.

Knowing the zeal of the Iowa club women for practical work, we feel sure of your hearty support in this home economics enterprise.

Faithfully yours, MAUDE T. SANFORD, State chairman Home Economics Committee, Cherokee, Iowa. MRS. CASPER SCHENK, Assistant State Chairman, Home Economics Committee, 4023 Cottage Grove, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Mrs. Matless on Playgrounds.** Mrs. Leonard Matless then spoke on the subject of supervised playgrounds. She said in part: "We can be proud of the work of women's clubs, when we consider what things they have accomplished

### Reception Ends Day

From half past five to seven o'clock a reception will be held at the home of Mrs. J. Ayres, No. 4 Park place. Many baskets of flowers are used in decorating the house. The floral decorations in the dining room being particularly artistic. The guests will be received by Mrs. Ayres, Mrs. Grace Wilbur Trout, Mrs. B. B. Clark, Mrs. A. M. Atrobus and Mrs. Harry J. Reeves. Those who will assist in the parlors and dining room are Mrs. J. F. Elder, Mrs. John A. Dunlap, Miss Rachel Roberts, Miss Nellie Rovane and Miss Fred Trawick.

In the dining room chicken sandwiches, lettuce sandwiches, olives, coffee, ice cream, cake and mints were served. Several hundred women will be in attendance, with a large representation from the local Civic League. The reception with all its beautiful appointments is a fitting close for a successful convention and of a day which will long be a pleasant memory.

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN



MRS. CHARLES S. POND Head of Credential Committee.

through organized effort. Every city has felt the result of this work in the prevention of tuberculosis, sanitary drinking fountains, pure food, conservation of trees, cleaner alleys and streets, sanitary disposal of garbage and many other civic improvements. We are to speak today of another question which is receiving great attention at present—the playground movement. This movement is one that is spreading around the world at a speed seldom displayed by a new movement.

"In the past ten years it has burst upon us and has brought with it an illumination as to the educational value of play. It's almost phenomenal growth can be explained by the fact that the public needed only to have its attention called to the condition of children in our cities during the summer vacations, and this need for wholesome places to play, to call into being these supervised playgrounds, Scotland, through the city of Glasgow led in this work, and was followed in turn by Germany, England, Japan and America.

Curtis is Secretary. "In 1906 the play ground association of America was organized with Theodore Roosevelt as honorary president and Dr. Henry Curtis, who is to speak for us here in Keokuk, on Friday evening as secretary. Prominent men and women from all parts of the United States were on the executive board giving evidence of the interest taken in American cities. One of the members of our own civic league worked with the women in California in the first efforts made there. The San Francisco Womens club opened the first playground in that state in 1898. Now the California state law provides that every city of 8,000 or over shall have public play grounds. And so the work has spread from state to state. In Keokuk we have made a modest beginning.

"Last year the Civic League through its committee on public playgrounds and garden committee, made a beginning of out of door work by a garden contest in which pupils from the kindergarten to the grammar grade were visited by the committee and the children encouraged to enter the contest. Hundreds of packages of seeds were distributed free to the children and 142 gardens were sufficiently excellent to be inspected through the season, although many more than that entered the contest. Ten books on nature study were given as prizes. This year the playground feature will be emphasized and tomorrow evening at the close of Dr. Curtis' lecture, we hope to organize a playground association.

**Our Interest Aroused.** "Our public interest in playgrounds was aroused when Superintendent Aldrich of our public schools brought to our realization the local need of wholesome play for the idle children in the long summer vacation." A committee of men and women was appointed to begin the work. We were enabled to begin the work at once, since one of the centrally located schools had some out of doors apparatus, swings, slides, turning poles, rings and basket ball equipment. All of this had been placed there by the efforts of E. S. Patterson, one of our school principals. Some of the work was done by the boys in the manual training department and some by the principal himself. We have since added a tennis court. Our supervisor was one of the young men who is a graduate of the high school, an athlete and a boy of fine character and a disciplinarian. One member of our committee very generously turned some vacant lots which he

owned into a baseball ground, which he and the musical director of our public schools personally supervised. These are but small beginnings, yet if the suggestions from the work we have done here shall inspire some other clubs with the value of playgrounds as social centers, and as a means to develop the boys and girls physically, a place where they shall learn to respect authority in their leader, the principles of fair play and the rights of others, we shall not have worked or spoken in vain."

Mrs. Clark Speaks. The chair then introduced Mrs. B. B. Clark, the state president, who was greeted with hearty applause. She said in part: "I am particularly pleased to come to Keokuk. One of the 'by products' of my work as state president is the pleasant meeting of the women of the various cities and of seeing the beautiful towns of Iowa and Keokuk is one of the finest. In this district you have eleven federated clubs. None of the four counties in Iowa having no federated club is in this district. Some things the federation has done which local clubs alone could not have done and one is to encourage the library work. This federation has always encouraged the local clubs to start libraries. Our federation has helped in good roads and no end of other things.

"I want to bring to you the answer to Kipling's question, 'What have you done?' She spoke of the many committees of the federation and other work, namely the press committee of which Mrs. Grundy of Des Moines is chairman. We have a committee on good roads. The federation has done much public health work and especially in the work of baby health conferences. Two Iowa women were sent to the American Medical association at Washington last year to tell the doctors of this national body. The committee of scholarships and loans, loans money to girls who without it could not secure a higher education. Miss Harriet Lake of Independence is chairman. A committee has been appointed to aid in the erection of a woman's reformatory of which Miss Bass of Des Moines is chairman. These are the tangible things which the federation has done. There are hundreds of intangible things which have been accomplished and yet which cannot be listed. Outside institutions have recognized the efficiency of this federation as for example the board of control, the Iowa college at Ames, the Iowa state university, etc. In Iowa we have 513 clubs, more than any other state in the United States.

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### PROMINENT LOCAL WOMAN



MRS. D. A. COLLIER Mrs. Collier is state Vice Regent D. A. R., and prominent in today's convention here, assisting at the social features.