

Gov. Baldwin Urges Votes for Women but Doubts Their Deep Interest

Idea of Connecticut's Executive Is to Enfranchise Women by Degrees to Teach Them How to Use Civic Power and Lead Their Real Desires.

Equal Suffrage Bound to Come Eventually, but Fundamental Differences Will Bar Women From Practical Politics.

By Ethel Lloyd Peterson.

Simeon E. Baldwin, Governor of Connecticut, has raised his voice in favor of equal suffrage. He has recommended that a limited franchise—a sort of suffrage in household duties—be given to the women of the Nutmeg State. He believes women should and will be fully enfranchised. So far so good. We are grateful to His Excellency, glad to hear his voice coming out of the wilderness. Moreover, Gov. Baldwin has been so successful in raising other things beside his voice—notably, a fine crop of Democratic votes in a Republican field—that the equal suffrage cause gains many things in him.

"I believe women eventually will obtain the vote," said Gov. Baldwin, "but I do not believe they will ever take as much interest in using it as do men."

"Why not?" I asked. "Because, although the brains of a man and a woman may be equally fine, and their education be similar, the raw material upon which you work is different."

Gov. Baldwin looks as though Thackeray had drawn him. Nor is that in any sense a reference to the words of a certain colonel who once dubbed him "retrogressive," thereby starting many things which are not as yet ended.

Courtesy and Dignity. But if to have found the fine truths of life, which are as old as life itself, is to be degraded, then the Governor of Connecticut must need guilty to that same colonel's charge. For, if ever I saw real courtesy and dignity, I saw it when Gov. Baldwin rose to meet me in the great, wide-windowed room which is his office in the capital at Hartford.

"How is it that you believe in equal suffrage, when the Governor of Connecticut is in a higher education for women?" I began hurriedly.

"Ah, my dear young lady," protested Gov. Baldwin. "Now you are questioning a belief of mine which refers to the great masses of women. Not—I assure you—not to the few."

With a courtly inclination which implied an apology, derogatory comment upon any woman.

"You see, it is this way," explained the Governor. "With conditions as they are now in America the great majority of women receive a better education than do the great majority of men. The boy of middle class parents has to be out hunting for a position by the time he is fourteen or at the most sixteen years of age. The girls belonging to our families of comparatively humble means are able to stay in school until they are sixteen at least, and more often eighteen or twenty."

"And I counted these extra four or six years of school are, in the girl's case, unnecessary. Possibly probably they would not be if the girl during that time was learning things which would be of use in her after life. But she is not. She is learning botany and higher mathematics and all sorts of things that could not possibly be of use to a young woman who will spend the rest of her days in housekeeping. The botany and the rest of it do not help the girl, and they do, through her superior education, help her to feel better than her husband. And no woman should feel superior to her husband."

Would Give Her a Vote. The Governor placed a good, firm period at the end of his last sentence. But then that is his way with all his sentences. They do not trail away. He hits them off.

Gov. Baldwin has, at first glance, an amazing amount of forehead. His features all seem in the middle of his face. Above the rounded dome, ungrooved, despite the Governor's seventy years; below, the long salt-and-pepper beard, slashed by lines too full to be altogether hidden. His eyes are very keen and apparently humorous, peering at you through, now ever, the heavy-lashed lanes of his spectacles. His nose is of the kind that feels moist at home in a book. Probably it has on various occasions been quite busy—particularly during the time that Gov. Baldwin held a chair at Yale.

"But, despite our over-education, you are willing to trust us with the vote?" I suggested.

"Not so fast," laughed the Governor. "Not all at once, you know. My idea would be to enfranchise women by degrees. Let them learn to use some civic power before giving them full power."

I have now recommended that the women property owners of Connecticut be permitted to vote upon their proper taxation. If this much were to be given them, we would be better able to judge how anxious women are for the full franchise. In many parts of the country women are permitted to vote on school boards and purely local political questions, and it must be admitted they do not exercise their rights to any great extent.

"Of course it seems a certainty that equal suffrage will eventually come, but I do not believe we shall ever see the day in which men



SIMEON E. BALDWIN
GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT

and women are equally interested in politics.

Politics a Rough Game. "Why do you think so?" I asked. "Women are fundamentally, physically and mentally different from men," answered the Governor slowly. "They are as high an order of being—higher if you like—but different."

"Unquestionably the tendencies of women are toward the arts—the finer things. Men are less imaginative, more solid. When, too, at the best the political game is a rough one. I do not think the ladies would like it."

"How would women take their politics?" I queried, "assuming that they did go in for them in earnest?" "Most conservatively," was the reply. "Conservatively?" I echoed.

"Women are by nature much more conservative than men. Ah, I see you do not agree with me. But I believe you will find I am right. I have, at least, an authority like Goethe on my side."

"But if you are so sure women are conservative, what harm could it do to give them the full franchise at once?" I asked.

"It is not within my power to give it," said more seriously. "As I have said, I believe the better way is to enfranchise women by degrees. The women of America need a little more sense of civic responsibility before the vote is placed in their hands."

"And what of the laws of governing aviation you have suggested?" I asked, taking a flying leap from a subject that has been brought to earth to one that is still up in the air.

"Oh," replied Gov. Baldwin, "the subject is, as a matter of fact, rather technical. I am merely in favor of forming laws to meet possible aviation accidents. As, for example, a case in France where a dirigible balloon in falling removed a portion of a man's roof and the man is using the balloon. But, your see, for me to go into least details of contingencies such as this one would be impossible in an interview."

"Yes, I understand," I agreed. "I thought the laws and rules you wanted made dealt with the right of way for aviators."

"No," denied His Excellency. "The science of aviation is not sufficiently advanced to need such rules as yet. The best rule for aviators just now is to use reasonable common sense. For the present all aviation laws will have to be elastic. American laws usually are not elastic, and in that they are deficient. English laws are more elastic than ours, and in that are better. The laws of England consider each case separately. There is more of what we would call the unwritten law."

"Don't you think when women have the vote there will be more unwritten law in America?" I asked.

"No, I do not," denied His Excellency. "For a reason I have already given. I believe women are basically conservative. Conservative persons do not approve of unwritten laws."

CROKER TO FIGHT WIFE'S SUIT TO CLEAR HIMSELF

Fire Chief Wants Separation Case Heard in Open Court, Too, He Declares.

OBJECTS TO SECRECY. Is Charged With Abandonment and Insufficient Support in Papers.

Fire Chief Edward F. Croker, whose wife has sued him for a separation, announced through his lawyer to-day that he would fight the case and hoped to have it tried in open court, so the public could learn all the facts.

Papers were served on the Chief last Monday, and efforts had been made to keep the news of the proceeding a secret. Mrs. Croker alleges abandonment, insufficient support and incompatibility.

The first intimation that Croker's friends had of a misunderstanding was in 1908, when Chief Croker advertised that he would not be responsible for any debts contracted by his wife. It was said that he objected to her expenditures in this city and at Good Ground, L. I., where they had their summer home.

Next Croker sued his wife to recover possession of the Good Ground property, which he said he had made over to her temporarily under an agreement that it would be returned to him as soon as a divorce suit pending against him had been settled or dismissed. Croker says that when he tried to have the property reconveyed to him his wife opposed him. The suit was dropped for reasons that never became public.

Chief Croker declined to talk about the separation suit except to say that he had turned over all the Good Ground property to Mrs. Croker in the hope such action would settle their differences. His

lawyer, David M. Neuberger, of No. 303 Broadway, said: "We have been trying to keep this matter from the public, but I see some one of Chief Croker's enemies has managed to let it become known."

"Mrs. Croker has cost the Chief a great deal. To-day he is without a dollar except his monthly salary. He has been paying her \$100 a month, but in her complaint she demands \$500 a month."

"Chief Croker has paid her bills, though he notified her creditors that he would not. He has relinquished all claims on the Good Ground property, which cost him \$15,000. He has had to take charge of an orphan nephew who formerly lived with his wife at their Long Island home, because Mrs. Croker would not permit the child to remain there."

"Mrs. Croker now enjoys the fruits of her husband's labors and every one knows that he earns his living in a manner which exposes him to danger of death almost every day in the year. All these facts will be included in his answer, which will be put in within thirty days."

"Mrs. Croker is trying to have the suit tried before a referee, but I shall oppose that vigorously. Mr. Croker wants the case tried in open court so that the public may know the truth."

JUNE START BY SEA QUEEN.

That sea giant the steamship Olympic will leave Southampton and Cherbourg on her maiden trip on June 14 next and will depart from New York June 23. The White Star line so announced last night.

A hearing on the plan to lengthen two piers in the Chelsea section will be held before the Harbor Line Board in the Army Building on Jan. 25. Many organizations have passed resolutions favoring adequate docking facilities on the Manhattan shore for huge ships.

The Adriatic, at present the queen of the White Star fleet, will be transferred Aug. 19 from the Southampton service to the old New York-Queens-town-Liverpool route. Sailing days of the Liverpool boats from each side will be Thursdays instead of Saturdays.

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Usters
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Cravenettes
Prince Alberts
Full Dress Suits

DREAMED OF CONEY; FELL INTO THE RIVER.

Plunge Awakened McLaughlin and Watchman and Police Rescue Him.

Patrick McLaughlin's dream about the opening of Coney Island caused several persons, including Pat himself, a lot of trouble at 4 o'clock this morning.

McLaughlin is a cook and waiter, living at No. 342 Third avenue, and works at Coney during the busy season.

He visited some friends last night, and on his way home went to the dock at the foot of One Hundred and Eighteenth street and East River and sat down on a barrel to rest.

He had beautiful dreams about Coney Island's opening, he told a policeman later, and the next thing he knew he was in the water.

Como Biebeto of No. 547 East One Hundred and Eighteenth street, a watchman, blew his whistle for help and

jumped in after Pat. He swam with him to the dock, but could get no further. Policeman Wellwig heard his cries, and running to the edge of the dock with a rope hauled both to the pier. Dr. Cole took Pat to the Harlem Hospital suffering from submerision and exposure.

NO RED FIRE AT THIS RAID.

There was no swinging of axes, sliding down fire escapes and other spectacular plays by Deputy Police Commissioner Flynn and ten detectives in charge of Detective Collins, in their raid yesterday afternoon on an alleged gambling house at No. 24 East Twentieth street.

Promptly at 5 o'clock Flynn and his men broke the glass in the basement doors and let themselves in. A detective who was inside told the seventy-five men present what was happening and the alleged gamblers stood quietly awaiting developments. Nine men were arrested.

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