

# Women the Real Personalities in Chicago; Convention Proves Their Place in Politics

## This Year's Progress Forecasts Great Advancement in Party Councils Four Years Hence

By Hannah Mitchell  
**CORINNE ROOSEVELT ROBINSON** stands out as the woman of the Republican convention. In fact, she is the person whom every one there will remember.

Visitors and delegates from one district may go home and tell of hearing Chauncey Depew, others will rehearse the speech and mannerisms of "Uncle Joe" Cannon, others will describe Senator Lodge. But every person in the convention, at least every individual who was in the Coliseum when the nominating speeches were made, will take home something about Corinne Roosevelt Robinson, "Theodore Roosevelt's sister, you know."

Although Mrs. Robinson is well known in New York and throughout the East, many of the Westerners did not know her. I was sitting in the gallery the day the nominations were made. Now, in convention time every one talks to every one else. It may be Chicago and it may be the convention, but whoever sits near you talks freely to you about the people who are in the limelight.

"That is Theodore Roosevelt's sister, you know," I was told seven or eight times by different informers in my section.

"Yes," I said, trying to act grateful for the information every time.

### A Boon to the Writers

Mrs. Robinson's speech has been written about, and she herself has been described by every writer in the convention. Personalities that stood out were so few that the newspaper writers rejoiced in Mrs. Robinson. But aside from her furnishing material for special and regular writers, Mrs. Robinson made an impression on the people gathered in the interests of the party and of themselves which will be taken to thousands of American hearthstones and to hundreds of corner grocery stores. And the fact that she is Theodore Roosevelt's sister will serve only as an introduction.

"We are glad Mrs. Robinson is on a committee," said a man of the New York State organization. "We want to have her cooperation. Then if anything goes wrong and we need some women or men brought into line, we could just have her talk to them. She's the greatest speaker I ever heard."

Mrs. Robinson's official place is that of a member of the State Executive Committee. She had a guest seat at the convention in the big section back of the speakers' platform with Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, Theodore Roosevelt jr. and his wife. There were many celebrities of the party and the families of Senators and Representatives in this section. Mrs. Medill McCormick had a seat just behind that of the Roosevelt family. "Uncle Joe" Cannon was over in the center of the section. Floor Leader Mondell, of the House of Representatives, and Senator Brandegee sat near him.

### Her First Appearance

Mrs. Robinson's first public appearance was made before a meeting of women Monday afternoon. Her speech was well received, but her reception was overshadowed by the ovation given her niece, Alice Roosevelt Longworth. Mrs. Robinson was an ardent supporter of the candidacy of Leonard Wood and her speech seconding his nomination was the thing that put her across, even if it failed to get enough votes to nominate General Wood.

Among the leaders of women in the party Mrs. Medill McCormick might be chosen as the foremost. Although she resigned her position as chairman of the Republican Women's National Committee about a year ago, she came back with great force in the convention.

It was Mrs. McCormick who drafted the resolution passed upon by the women asking first for adequate representation on the executive committee of the national committee, later amended to read "equal representation." Mrs. McCormick went before the rules committee with this resolution.

The decision was not all that the women leaders wanted, but it was satisfactory to most of the women in the convention. It provided that the executive committee should be increased to fifteen members, seven of whom should not be members of the national committee. A new

### Indorsed Mrs. McCormick

The women did not decide upon their choice for the new places until Saturday morning, when a meeting of the council of one hundred, women chosen from every state, met and indorsed Mrs. McCormick for the place of vice-chairman. A meeting, held before the rules committee had granted the women any concessions, was planned to make some suggestions along this line, but instead was devoted to speechmaking and meaningless "getting together," which had been pretty well done before.

In the work of getting the women together Mrs. McCormick is rather impatient. She herself understands the Republican organization so well that she did not seem to realize that many of the women had never seen the machinery in action before. She, the daughter of Mark Hanna, has lived in the atmosphere of party organization all her life; it is second nature to her. To many of the women the convention was simply a laboratory, a place where all the study of pamphlets and systems was demonstrated.

Mrs. John Glover South, of Kentucky, chairman of the women's division of the national committee and a delegate-at-large from her state, fell into line and worked in the convention as if she were a veteran. Politics is nothing new to her. She has been active for a number of years in building up the Republican party in Kentucky and understands the game.

When Governor Morrow repeatedly announced for Frank O. Lowden when Kentucky was called, Mrs. South's vote was one of the twenty-six cast for the Illinois Governor.

### Belle of the Headquarters

This leader from the Blue Grass country is a real Southern woman, feminine to her finger tips and gracious of manner. She was the belle of the women's headquarters in the Congress Hotel, flowers and candy always being received there for her.

Miss Mary Garrett Hay, as chairman of the Republican Women's National Executive Committee, was not satisfied with the recognition given the women on the executive committee. She wanted an equal number of women put on the committee with the men and stood by her contention.

Miss Hay presented the suffrage plank to the resolutions committee, and as acting chairman of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in the absence of Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt will direct the work for the thirty-sixth state legislature's ratification of the Federal suffrage amendment.

Among the women in the convention, including those from the Middle West and the Far West who have had suffrage and been in politics for years, New York's representatives stood out as the best organized, the most understanding workers.

### Mrs. Livermore's Leadership

Mrs. Arthur L. Livermore as chairman of the Women's State Executive Committee was the leader. She was an alternate-at-large and was named on several convention committees.

"In this convention women made the greatest strides they have ever made in politics," said Mrs. Livermore after it was all over. "Most of us went to learn, as well as to work, to see the machinery working, and we have come away with enlarged understanding and many things to think over."

"It was a marvelous experience, to see all the interests and factions struggling for advantage, sweeping forward now here and now there, like a great battle line. Then the moment the decision was made settling into a new alignment, getting ready to work together and support the ticket."

"Women have a natural tendency to ask 'Why?' to go to the bottom of things and to talk things over. They will work harder now because they understand how conventions function."

"One contribution of the women, which several of the men have mentioned, was good humor. The nuisances and discomforts, the heat and other disagreeable features of the convention were received by the women in good part. They were



INTERNATIONAL PHOTO

**THE Republican Woman's Executive Committee. Seated, left to right—Mrs. Margaret Hill McCarter, Kansas; Miss Mary Garrett Hay, New York; Mrs. John G. South, Kentucky, and Mrs. Josephine C. Preston. Standing, left to right—Mrs. Florence C. Porter, Mrs. C. A. Severance, Miss Maude Wetmore, Mrs. George W. Reinecke and Mrs. Raymond Robins**



**MISS LAURA SKINNER, of New York, who says women learned a lot at the convention**

ready to adjust themselves to all exigencies.

### Consulted the Women

"I noticed a change in the attitude of the men toward the women in politics in this convention. The



PAUL THOMPSON PHOTO

**MRS. DOUGLAS ROBINSON'S speech was one of the features of the convention**

IRVING UNDERHILL PHOTO

**MRS. JOHN T. PRATT, of New York, who came to the front as an effective worker at the convention**

men wanted to know what the women thought, what they were going to do on every question. Heretofore their attitude has been one of toleration. This time they made us welcome.

"The action relative to places on the executive committee is to my mind superb recognition. I believe that there are few women going away from the convention with any ill feelings. Certainly there is none on the men's part toward the women."

"Former Governor Willis of Ohio voiced the spirit of the men toward the women when he said, 'Now, boys and girls, let's nominate Senator Harding!' They have taken us in as members of the party, not as women."

"The women are leaving the convention in a happy state of mind. Incidentally their spirits are good, but their voices are weak. We have all talked until we're hoarse."

### A New Star

A new star among the women in politics dawned in the convention. She is well known in New York both socially and politically, and her introduction to national politics found her one of the most popular women in the convention. This was Mrs. John T. Pratt, of New York.

Mrs. Pratt was a member of the ways and means committee and evinced ability and practical knowledge in the work of that body. She is enthusiastic about her work and believes in women's taking part in the organization where they are best fitted to be of service.

New York's two women delegates, Miss Helen Varick Boswell and Mrs. Florence Knapp, received recogni-



**MRS. FLETCHER DOHYNS, one of the women leaders**

the convention and officiating at the graduation ceremonies of the Home Economics School in Syracuse, of which she is dean.

### A Better Teacher Now

"If I had stayed for the graduation I should have meant something, of course, to the girls whose work I have watched for the last few years. But I feel that my decision to go to the convention was wise because I can be more to the girls who are in school and to those who are leaving as well, from the experience I have had in the convention."

Mrs. Rosalie Loew Whitney, of the New York Women's State Executive committee, was in the New York group of women. She is getting ready to work in the coming campaign and is known to be one of the New York women's star speakers.

"We have swung pretty far in this nomination," she said. "Although I wasn't satisfied at first, I have become reconciled. As we rode through the farming country of Indiana and Ohio on the way back to New York I realized that this so-called reactionary ticket was what the country needed and that it was what the people wanted."

### The Ticket for the Time

"Everybody wants to get his feet back on the ground, and I believe it



**MRS. MEDILL McCORMICK, wife of Senator McCormick, and their two children**

one day when it was very hot: 'See that man out there carrying an umbrella in the sun. I had forgotten, but that's the way the men in the Middle Western small towns always do in summer.'

On the New York delegation trains going and coming from the convention the women did not upset the customs of the men or make them uncomfortable with an air of prudery. They didn't mind the smoking in the cars, and within a few hours after the start out of New York any men who may have regretted that the women were on the train found that the women were not in their way at all.

Among the New York women who attended the convention, all of whom were active and interested, were Mrs. Ruth Litt, Mrs. Charles Sabin, of the State Executive Committee; Mrs. Courtlandt D. Barnes, of Manhasset; Miss Mary Cahoon, of Ausable Forks; Miss Laura Skinner, Mrs. Charles S. Whitman, Miss Florence Wardwell and Mrs. Eli Hosmer, of the Women's Executive Committee, and Mrs. Claudia Q. Murphy.

### To Talk It Over

The New York women will hold a meeting to talk about the convention to-morrow afternoon at their headquarters in the Vanderbilt Hotel. Mrs. Macdonald DeWitt will preside.

The women who went to the convention as alternates from New York State were Mrs. Livermore, Mrs. Ebb Winslow, Marion Munniger, Virginia O'Connor, Estelle D. Bush, Mrs. Olive Stott Gabriel, Nellie Wilson, Elizabeth Cadmore, Caroline L. Iselin, Katherine Hammer, Myrta Hanford, Mary Cahoon, Florence Wardwell, Cora West Diven, Mrs. Zada Ferry Walker, Mrs. Helen May Hosmer, Miss Ada Schenk, Miss Mary Lorbick Felton, Mrs. Grace Parker, Mary B. Jepson and Elsie Blum. Mrs. Marie P. Hoffman was in the delegation as a supporter of Hiram Johnson.

Miss Laura Skinner, in discussing the women's accomplishment, said:

"I am not wholly satisfied with the women's part in the convention. Now, understand, I am not dissatisfied with the place the men gave the women in the convention. Their attitude was splendid. But I feel that the women failed to grasp many of their opportunities. Of course, their lack of experience in conventions and the fact that they did not realize how completely the men had accepted them may account for their failure to take their opportunities. The women leaders did not get together enough. I myself am as much at fault as the others. The next time we shall be better informed as to our place."

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Some of the writers Dorothy Dix, Elizabeth Miner King, Jane Dixon, Gene LaMotte, Ruth Seeley, Leola Allard and a number of other women writers were in this section.

Every one in the country knew that William Allen White was in the convention. But only a few persons realized that "The Emporia Gazette" was represented most of the time by Mrs. William Allen White. "Sally" White is an attractive, keen-minded woman, who was very popular with all who met her.

Every newspaper man or woman knows that being a writer and being a reporter may be a very different thing. That is why so many of them smiled when one woman sent to "cover" the convention because she had made a big reputation as a writer of fiction was heard to explain:

"Oh! why did I come? How can any one have rhetoric in this rush?"



**MRS. FRANK DODSON, of Iowa, won the admiration of the entire convention by her clever work**

tion in their official positions and as representative women from the state. In summing up the convention Miss Boswell said:

"We are going home with a good solid Republican ticket of real American origin."

### To Seven Conventions

"I have been to seven Republican conventions, and never before did I see more than three women delegates on the floor. To have advanced from three to twenty-six is a great gain. Another noticeable feature of the women's representation was the quality of the women delegates. Many of them were women who have been interested in the party for a long time. The first day I went to the convention I saw Minnie Nielson from Minnesota. She has been a Republican for years. She is state



PHOTO UNDERWOODS/UNDERWOOD STUDIOS

**MRS. ARTHUR L. LIVERMORE, of New York, says women made great progress at the convention**

superintendent of schools in Minnesota and an able woman.

### Part of the Party

"In this convention we got away from the temporary attitude that women should be interested in politics only because they had been enfranchised. The men accepted the women as part of the party. In the New York delegation we had the same latitude as the men and received the same treatment the men did."

Mrs. Knapp's expression on the convention was that she felt intensely gratified that she had gone. When she was elected delegate she had to make a decision between attending

will take this kind of a ticket to do it. But we mustn't think we can carry out this program on every ticket. The states will need to nominate Republican men who are of the more progressive type.

"The convention was a cross section of American life. I think it did all of us Easterners good to get acquainted with our Western brothers and sisters personally. My husband is from the Middle West. He has been in the East so long that he had gotten out of touch with the Middle West. This is just a little thing, but it serves to bring up a whole train of reminders and refresh his memory on the Middle West and its ways. He said to me

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