

# Some of the Women Running for Office

By ELEANOR BOOTH SIMMONS.

One hundred maidens  
Asking for pie.  
When the campaign opens  
The maids begin to cry.

—Mother Goose Revised by Women Voters.

IT is here. The boggy that men have seem threatening them ever since Susan B. Anthony began to agitate for the vote has arrived. Women are running for office.

In the Empire State, where the more or less fair sex has possessed the right of franchise less than one year, more than one hundred spinsters and wives and widows are romping up and down and to and fro in their districts, blithely and boldly demanding to be made Lieutenant-Governors, Secretaries of State, Coroners, Town Clerks, Assemblywomen, State Senators, Congresswomen of the United States. Their respective parties are aiding and abetting them and some of them seem to have an excellent chance of winning on November 5. One baleful thing about the whole business is that those who are running against odds and don't expect to be elected are making their campaigns with the greatest zest, saying, oh, well, we won't get in this time but it is good practice—it is important for us women to get the hang of this—and the next election you can just look out for the women candidates!

### Three Likely Winners in Their Races.

Three women who are said to have a pretty good prospect of getting their bite of the political pie this year are Mrs. Ida B. Sammis of Huntington, L. I., running for the State Assembly from the Second district on the Republican and Prohibition tickets; Mrs. Mary Grey Brewer of Staten Island, Republican, who wants to represent the Twenty-fourth district in the State Senate, and Mrs. Mary M. Lilly, Democrat, who is trying to beat Abram Ellenbogen for the Assembly in the Seventh Assembly district.

Now Mrs. Lilly lives in what she describes as a silk stocking Republican district, and the first time I saw her, which was about two weeks ago at a tea for women candidates at the Fifth Avenue Restaurant, she spoke with philosophic pessimism of her chances.

"I've about as good a lookout to be elected as the rest of you women candidates," she said with good natured sarcasm.

Mrs. Lilly is a lawyer with a fairly sharp mind and is onto the pleasant male habit of handing out nominations to women in districts where their parties are regularly snowed under at the polls.

I felt sorry she wasn't going to the Assembly, because when in the course of that tea Miss Pauline Newman, whom the Socialists nominated for Congress in the Eighteenth district, got up and made animadversions upon the United States espionage laws, which resulted, she said, in sending "our best citizens to jail," Mrs. Lilly arose and dealt Socialist-pacifism some heartfelt wallops that did my soul good. Mrs. Lilly has a son in the service and will tolerate no nonsense about the war, wherefore, and also because she is a suffragist and a good, solid, sensible woman, I regretted that she had no chance.

### Suffragists Resent His Stand.

But now it seems that she has. I had it straight from a Republican leader, who knows what is what, that Mrs. Lilly's prospects are excellent, and the candidate herself thinks so now and is making a fight for it. According to my Republican informant Assemblyman Ellenbogen, the G. O. P. candidate to succeed himself, is an avowed anti-suffragist, and the women of his district resent that.

Mrs. Lilly, at her new headquarters at 2010 Broadway, a pleasant room with the biggest American flag I ever saw on the wall flanked by the picture of her soldier son, has gathered around her a strong committee of women, which includes a good many Republican names. Among her committee women are Dr. Alma Arnold, Mrs. Simon Baruch, mother of the head of the War Industries Board; Miss Amelia Bingham, Miss Dorothy Dix, the writer; Miss Grace I. Colburn, who has always been a single taxer; Miss Emily Hooper, the suffrage leader in that district; Mrs. Owen Kildare, Mrs. Isabel Vernon Cook (Republican) and a score of others.

Mrs. Lillian Sire, an ardent Democrat, is headquarters manager and every Wednesday they will keep open house at 2010, with classes in the afternoon telling women how to vote, and in the evening pleasant parties with quantities

## More Than 100 in This State Alone Seek Office, From Lieutenant-Governor to Coroner

of punch of the strictly W. J. Bryan brand.

"I'm going to beat Mr. Ellenbogen," Mrs. Lilly informed me firmly. "He's not only an anti-suffragist but he's always been rude and disobliging to women of this district who went to Albany in support of bills that were needed. The people of this district don't feel that he represents them—he is dominated by the up-State Republican machine."

As to Tammany, Mrs. Lilly thinks that the condemnation of that organization is far fetched.

"The common people get their rights from Tammany," she said. "As an old New Yorker I remember that more than once in times of great poverty Tammany gave food, clothing, fuel to the needy. Tammany is a great big Democratic club, and why blame people for belonging to the club of their party? The Republicans have their machine, all right."

Mrs. Sammis of Huntington, like Mrs. Lilly, is a widow of middle age, and, like Mrs. Lilly, she has a son in the service. I haven't talked with Mrs. Sammis, because she is out campaigning so hard that she is never at home to answer her telephone, but Mrs. Ruth Litt, suffragist and farmerette of Suffolk, is her campaign manager, and I have it from her that Mrs. Sammis is all right.

### Won in Primaries on Dry Issue.

She won out against her Republican antagonist at the primaries on the dry issue, and with the Prohibitionists backing her, too, she is pretty likely to be elected. At least that is what Miss Helen Variak Boswell, the Wise Woman of the Republican party hereabouts, says.

Mrs. Sammis isn't breaking the influenza regulations by holding any meetings, but she is making a house to house canvass, which is the campaigning that counts. She has lived in Huntington all her life, and her parents before her, so she is up in questions of riparian rights—Mrs. Litt says they are very important around there—and she knows what her neighbors want and is prepared to stand for it in the Assembly. She is a lifelong suffragist, and led the cause in that part of Long Island till women got the vote.

Mrs. Brewer of Richmond and Rockland counties has a harder proposition than Mrs. Sammis, for she's only on one ticket, the G. O. P., and then her district is so divided and naturally Rockland county and Richmond county have different interests. But she is strong in her intention of going to Albany and has made plans to take her small daughter with her for the five legislative days.

Week ends they would spend at home in Staten Island, where Mrs. Brewer has a husband and a garden and various normal and pleasant appurtenances. Personally I think Mrs. Brewer would improve the landscape in the State Senate very much. It's a cinch that if Mrs. Brewer is elected and if a beauty contest were held in the Senate next January she would win out with no trouble at all. Also she has brains.

## Diction of Patriotism

"THE woman who sells Thrift Stickers and W. S. S. to our office people," said the Manager, "is a rather severe person, very businesslike, meticulously exact in all her dealings. That, of course, is why she was selected. But she gave me a shock the other day."

"Miss Wafers," said I, "here is a \$2 bill which my small boy entrusted to me for investment in Uncle Sam Preferred. Can I have eight of your best thrift pasters?"

"Of course you can, Mr. Jones," she said, "the question is whether you may."

"I think Miss Wafers must once have been a school teacher. She spoke half in jest and the other and larger half in earnest. Accuracy of speech is a hobby of hers; it makes her invaluable in the correspondence she takes care of. Really more business people than you might think admire correct and careful diction in business letters!"

"Why, Miss Wafers," said I, "surely in this case it's all the same—if I can I may and if I may I can."

"No, indeed, Mr. Jones," says she. "There's a real difference involved in that distinction! You were not questioning your ability to buy the stamps, you were

In the roster of women candidates are two for the office of Lieutenant-Governor, Ella Reeve Bloor, Socialist, and Mamie W. Colvin, Prohibition. The Socialists have also put up a woman for Secretary of State, Jessie Wallace Hughan, and so have the Prohibitionists, Ella W. McCarthy of Syracuse. They will probably have some excitement out of the campaign, though Socialist women are so used to being put up for office and not winning that it must pall on them occasionally.

### Four Are Running for Congress.

That party has nominated four women for Congress, and there's one of them, Elinor Byrns, who I am willing to wager would be the pet of the House of Representatives if she got there. She is running in the Eleventh Congress district, and I don't know what her chances are—probably not bright—but every reporter in New York who had to cover suffrage while the suffrage fight was hot would vote for Elinor Byrns joyously.

As press representative for the National Woman Suffrage Association Miss Byrns made the reportorial daily visit to those headquarters a delight, and it seems to me that the qualities which made her shine there would light up the House of Representatives. There's none too much of the sense of humor in the Capitol at Washington and Miss Byrns is chock full of it.

It's a good old fashioned platform Elinor Byrns is running on. Here is her appeal:

Times are hard. Rents are high.  
Food and clothes are higher.  
You know it.

Let's send a housekeeper to Congress.  
Housekeepers have Hooverized the home—why not a housekeeper to help Congress Hooverize the profiteers?

Profiteering in 1917 was heaviest in food and clothes.

American business made its usual profits and \$5,000,000,000 more in a single year.  
Save these \$5,000,000,000 for the people.  
Tax all excess profits 100 per cent.

That is the platform of the Socialist party. It is also the platform of the housewife and mother.

Billions for our needs but not a cent to waste—in family or in nation.

Miss Byrns also promises her district that if elected she will write a nice, chatty letter home once a week, telling them what Congress is doing, and if the papers won't print it she will print it herself. She will also come back and give a party for her constituents once a month. That ought to fetch everybody.

Miss Byrns is really and truly a housewife, if not a wife and mother. She has a charming home at Arrochar, S. I., where she is keeping the home fires burning for her brother Rob, who enlisted in the army. She designed everything in it and bossed the architect. Also she is a lawyer.

It was the great shirt waist strike that determined her to take legal training so as to be qualified to work for woman suffrage and the right of the worker. She says she was brought up a conservative,



MRS. MARY M. LILLY  
DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE FOR  
ASSEMBLY 7TH DISTRICT  
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but "somehow began to think." She is small and dark eyed and rather dimpled, and altogether a contrast to the present Congressman from her district, Mr. Riordan, who, by the way, has always cast his vote against woman suffrage, even after New York enfranchised her women.

The Republicans are running a woman for Congress in the Twenty-second district, Miss Sadie Kost, and the Democrats have nominated two women, Elisabeth Arthur of Ticonderoga, in the Thirty-first district, and Clara B. Mann, in the Thirty-ninth district, up around Genesee and Wyoming and Livingston counties way. The Socialists of Syracuse have put up Hattie Kreuger for their Representative in Washington.

### Many Trying for State Senate.

There's a whole bunch of women designated for the State Senate, and not more than half of them by the Socialist party. This is an improvement on former times, when if a woman got to yearning for politics she had to mount the Socialist wagon or, maybe, the Prohibition, because the elephant and the donkey would have none of her. There's Catherine Peck Wylie, Democrat, in the First district; Kate F. Southmayd, Republican, in the Fifth district; Mary G. Brewer, Republican, in the Twenty-fourth, and Mary L. MacMillan, Democrat, in the Thirty-second.

Twenty-six women are seeking seats in the State Assembly. Twelve of them are on the Democratic ticket—Elisabeth Colbert of Albany in the Second district, Grace Martin of Monroe county in the First district, Mrs. Lilly in the Seventh and Myra Marks in the Fifteenth district, New York city; Etha P. Claney, Niagara Falls, in the Second district; Margaret Spooner of Orleans county, Harriet C. Orvis of St. Lawrence county, First district; Kathryn H. Starbuck of Saratoga county, Elisabeth Van R. Gillette of Schenectady, Second district; Hattie B. Mitchel of Kingston, Ulster county; Mattie E. Truman of Yonkers in the Fourth district and Annie T. Connelly, also Yonkers in the Fifth district.

The Republicans are not giving women much of a show, only two being named for the Assembly and one of them shared up with the Prohibitionists. They are Jennie B. Cohen of the First district, lower New York, and Mrs. Sammis.

The only woman candidate for Alderman is Jane Olcott, designated by the Socialists, in the Ninth district, New York city. There are going to be any number of lady town clerks if the voters do their duty by candidates of this sex on November 5. There will also be lady justices of the peace, sheriffs, constables, supervisors of the poor and even coroners.

It is the Democrats who have been most generous to the women in the matter of nominations throughout the State, and the two women nominees for coroner, Florence W. McCarthy of North Bangor, Franklin county, and Annie Cheeny Spofford of Batavia, Genesee county, are both running under the sign of the star.