

DR. ANNA SHAW GAVE TALK ON SUFFRAGE

"And what are you going to talk about tonight?" asked The Suffrage Daily News reporter of Dr. Anna Shaw.

"The very thing I would like to know myself," replied this little woman of whom so much has been said and written for the past forty years. "You see," continued the doctor, "I really never know. Once upon a time back in Kansas the manager came to me just before time to begin the lecture and told me that I was requested to speak on the subject of 'The Missing Link.' 'Why, I couldn't possibly do such a thing,' I replied. 'I don't know anything at all about the subject.' 'Well,' said the manager, 'the advertising has been done and the tickets sold on the presumption that you would speak on that subject and you really must.' So Anna Shaw said that she would try and think, while the audience was gathering, as to how to bring in 'the missing link.' 'Suddenly,' said the doctor, 'I thought how woman was the missing link in politics, and I gave them a good suffrage talk and did not forget to refer to my assigned subject with becoming frequency.'

And Dr. Anna Shaw can certainly approach the subject of suffrage from every conceivable angle and drive home her points by the most unique witticisms and anecdotes. She just spoke in Billings before the Chamber of Commerce on "Woman in City Building," and there is no doubt but that she handed these grave and dignified city fathers a few original packages along that line.

In her speech in this city last evening Dr. Shaw stood before her great audience and, in brief, said:

"I shall try to show that our cause is a fundamental principle of democracy, that the right of a citizen to take part in his government is not to be denied, and the denial of this right is a violation of the right of the individual and a violation of the constitution of the United States, which guarantees to every state a republican form of government. And so long as any part of its citizenship is denied the right to take part in the government it cannot be called a republican form of government. We believe that governments have the right to protect themselves against half the people, and it is men, but these qualifications must apply to all citizens equally, as, for instance, the restrictions of age, residence, etc. But when they say a citizen must be male or female it is not a qualification—it is an insuperable barrier, because it is against half the people, and it is against this insuperable barrier that we protest.

"I believe that the whole character of government has changed during the last 50 years and that governments now have to do almost wholly with domestic problems and concerns even more specifically than men. The working woman and the home-maker and the child-bearer are interfered with by government if deprived of all power of the ballot

effecting the vocation of home making.

"The ballot in the hands of women means home government as opposed to irresponsible balloting. By which I mean that in a new state like this women have helped to build up the state through its pioneer days and establish its homes, and when prosperity comes it brings with it a great influx of outside influences, but the woman ballot keeps the balance of power in the hands of those who helped to build the state."

Dr. Shaw delivered a magnificent address which space forbids reporting in full. Her anecdotes are irresistible. She tells the story of the little Irish woman whose husband supported her by allowing her to take in six washings a week. After she had done a big washing one day, there came a heavy snow storm and she went out and cleaned off the sidewalk. While she did this a big, burly policeman paced back and forth on his beat and offered to take a hand. Later in the afternoon the same little wash woman went to the polls to cast her ballot. The ballot box was rather high and the same policeman happened to be near and stepped up to say, "Madam, can I assist you?" The little Irish woman turned around indignantly. "Shure, and plawat do you think?" said she. "I've done a big washing today and cleaned off the sidewalk and you stood around and never offered to lift a hand, and now don't you think I've got the strength in my fingers to drop this little bit of paper in the box."

"Yes," continued the speaker, "we women have to do everything to contribute to the government just the same as men, and the ballot is the only thing in the world that can help to lighten the burden of government."

Dr. Shaw said in conversation with the reporter that once she was introduced by a very earnest man who spoke of her as having the brains of a man. Dr. Anna responded to this unique introduction by saying: "I do not know whether the gentleman who just introduced me meant to pay me a very great compliment or to insult my sex. If I have the brains of a man I should like to see that man."

Judge Cheadle of Lewistown, who presided at the meeting and introduced Dr. Shaw to her state-wide audience in Helena, made no such tactless remark. The well known judge from Lewistown was never in haploger form and his introduction was one of the fine things of the great occasion.

THE QUESTION OF FITNESS.

So often we suffragists receive in reply to our question "Are you interested in the woman suffrage movement?" the answer, "No, but I think it is coming." Why is it that people who have never given suffrage even a thought, at once have that instinctive feeling that it is coming? It is because suffrage is such a logical "next step" in the democratic working out of national and community development, that nearly everybody, adherents and anti-alike, feel intuitively that the culmination of the movement is merely a question of time.

The claim that suffrage is an integral part of democracy is based on the irrefutable argument of Jefferson and Jackson that the whole community should participate in the governing, because the whole community is governed. Never was the reason advanced that all men were thought wise enough or capable enough to rule the state, for if an understanding of actual political conditions was the test required, surely not more than 1 per cent of the men could be permitted to vote. Fitness is not now and never has been the test for suffrage. American democracy is not based upon the assumption that individuals are wise or virtuous, but upon the idea that "two heads are better than one"—that the whole is greater than any of its parts—that the whole community is wiser than a part of the community.

Inasmuch as women are fully one-half of the population, and if all the men are wiser than half the men; men and women together must be wiser than the men alone. The whole history of the government of our country has been an undeniable throwing off of qualifications for voting wherever they existed. The past has shown that wherever qualifications for suffrage have existed, of any kind whatever, it has inevitably resulted in the elimination of the very life-blood of the community, which is dissimilarity of views. The present can profit by the experience of the past. It is because women are one-half of the community and are different from men that we can look to them to bring to our modern governments the dissimilarity of ideas which furnishes the spur for the development of governments and of their component parts, men and women. Suffrage, then, is coming, it is coming in Montana.

Qualifications for votes in Montana are:

Every male person of the age of twenty-one years or over, possessing

the following qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all general elections and for all officers that now are, or hereafter may be, elective by the people, and upon all questions which may be submitted to the vote of the people: First, he shall be a citizen of the United States; second, he shall have resided in this state one year immediately preceding the election at which he offers to vote, and in the town, county or precinct such time as may be prescribed by law; Provided, first, that no person convicted of felony shall have the right to vote unless he has been pardoned. * * * Almost one-half of the population is excluded from voting by the qualification Male. Join us in a joyous but reverent welcome to "Votes for Women," as that vitalizing energy which society literally cannot afford to lose.

THE WOMEN'S PROCESSIONAL By Ellis Meredith.

God of our Fathers, as of old,
Lord of the smoking, thin, red line!
How oft have flaming roof trees told
Of yet another victor's shrine;
Olin, or Mars—grim God of War,
Ah, let us bow to him no more!

For mercy there is none with him;
He piles the earth with victims slain.

That Caesar's glory may not die,
Nor Dives lose his wretched gain,
Our Father's God, still thine the part
To break again the broken heart.

Nay, let us seek our Mother's God,
Who hears the ravens when they cry.

And sends the rain to parching sod,
Nor lets the widow's curse run dry;
Our Mother's God—thy cross gleams red
Where lie the wounded and the dead!

Father of Mercy, all our sons
In travail and in pain we bear;
Now they march up before the guns,
O Lord of Love, hear thou our prayer.

For Hate goes forth, and round the world
His battle flags are all unfurled.

God of our Fathers!—Nay, no more—
The hideous tolls of war increase—
Forever hush the cannon's roar.

Lay by the bugle, give us peace!
Gor of our Mothers, hear our cry,
It is our sons who go to die.

Mrs. J. M. Darroch, wife of Senator Darroch of Park county, registered at headquarters Friday in time for a place in the parade.

"The war in Europe," said Dr. Anna Shaw, "in seven weeks has mortgaged the future of the children of Europe for 500 years."

And don't forget the women who stayed at home and sewed or pasted letters on the banners so that someone might carry them in the big parade. There were 600 women in the ranks marching that everyone could see, but a thousand other women throughout the state were there in spirit and contributed to its success.

Varying comments on the parade were heard when the children's division passed where a certain woman was standing. She exclaimed: "Look at that—bringing in the children who don't know better. If a child of mine was in there I'd horsewhip it to death." Our heart goes out to the children of such unnatural mothers.

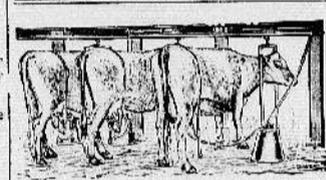
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MRS. MAGGIE SMITH HATHAWAY, STEVENSVILLE, MONTANA.
Mrs. Hathaway has been prominent in suffrage work in this campaign, having traveled 1,000 miles over the state making speeches.

STOP!

Women and Compensation.
Women and children bear the brunt of industrial accidents. A man who is killed is dead, but his wife is a widow and his children are orphans. He is at peace; they are at war, fighting for bread.
Is this always to be true? Cannot some system be devised whereby the wife and the child will cease to bear the burden?
The answer is, **Workmen's Compensation Laws.**
Such a measure is now up to a vote this fall. In case of death resulting from an industrial accident the class of industry in which the accident occurs pays the widow \$30 per month as long as she lives or remarries, and pays each of three children \$7.50 per month; boys to 16 years, girls to 18 years.
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