

"Governments Derive Their Just Power From the Consent of the Governed"

BUTTE, MONTANA, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1914.

THE STATE CAMPAIGN  
FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE

The first suffrage speech ever delivered in Montana was delivered by Miss Willard in 1883. When the Montana state convention met in 1889 to adopt the constitution which was later ratified as the Constitution of the State of Montana, an effort for equal suffrage was made, but the suffrage resolution was defeated by a vote of 43 to 25. The matter was brought up before successive legislatures with varied success till the suffrage bill finally passed in 1913.

The present campaign for Equal Suffrage in Montana, which will, there is good reason to hope, end tomorrow in victory at the polls, began in January, 1911, when the Political Equality Club of Missoula was organized. In that year Miss Jeannette Rankin went to the legislature and succeeded in having an equal suffrage bill introduced in the house. The bill received a majority vote but failed to secure the two thirds majority necessary for passage.

Aside from the work of a few speakers, and the work of the Political Equality Clubs of Missoula, Kalispell and Helena, little was done till August, 1912, when political party conventions were held in Great Falls. Miss Rankin, with a committee of women representing the existing state suffrage organizations, secured at that time the endorsement of the Republican and Democratic parties for suffrage. Later the Progressive party came out in favor of equal suffrage. All parties were thus pledged to the passage of a suffrage bill.

During the State fair in 1912 a temporary Montana Woman Suffrage state central committee was formed with Miss Jeannette Rankin chairman, Miss Ida Auerbach secretary and Mrs. Willard Smith treasurer.

At this time half the counties of the state were visited and organizations started. Candidates for the legislature were interviewed, and pledges were secured from many. After the election hundreds of letters were sent from all parts of the state to the governor and lieutenant governor asking support for the measure.

A meeting of the state central committee was called for the first of January, 1913, when permanent organization was effected and Miss Rankin was elected permanent chairman. The committee visited the legislature in a body in time to hear the Governor in his message to the Thirteenth Legislative Assembly recommend the passage of the suffrage bill.

The suffrage bill, Senate Bill Number One, was introduced by Senator Stout. It passed the senate with only two votes against it, those of Senators Leighton of Jefferson county and Edwards of Rosebud. The bill later passed the house, also with two votes against it, those of Representatives Higgins of Missoula and Blair of Powell. It was signed by the governor.

By continuous agitation, organizations were formed in many counties.

The second meeting of the State Central committee was held at Livingston in June, 1913, and the third meeting in Butte, September, 1913. In January, 1914, headquarters were opened at the Thornton hotel in Butte. The State Central committee met at headquarters in February, and in June at Livingston.

At the present time every county in the state is organized. Montana speakers have toured every county, and speakers from outside the state have gone into

Abraham Lincoln says:  
"I go for all sharing the privileges of government who assist in bearing its burdens, by no means excluding the women."

THE EQUAL SUFFRAGE  
CAMPAIGN IN BUTTE

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MRS. R. F. FOOTE, MRS. J. B. ELLIS, CHAIRMAN SILVER BOW COUNTY, MRS. H. SALHOLM, MRS. A. OBERMEYER AND MRS. E. G. CLINCH, WHO, WITH MRS. ELLIS' FORD CAR, CAMPAIGNED FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN FOUR COUNTIES

all but four counties. Hundreds of thousands of leaflets have been distributed, systematic press work has been carried on. Every paper in the state has received a news bulletin each week, hundreds of feature stories have been sent out, special suffrage editions of city papers have been published, while during the State fair in Helena the Suffrage Daily News was published and distributed.

One of the special features of the campaign was the demonstration on May the second, which Governor Stewart proclaimed Woman's day. Demonstrations were held on that day in almost every city in Montana, and in hundreds of country schools.

During the Federation meeting at Lewistown suffrage luncheons and dinners were given. Open air meetings were held in Livingston and many other places in Fergus county.

In July there was an encampment at Billings, beginning on the Fourth and lasting a week. General Rosalie Jones, Colonel Ida Craft and Miss Margaret Hinchey were the prominent outside women attending.

The very successful suffrage parade in Helena during the State fair in September was the result of weeks of hard work carried on at headquarters during the hot summer months. A long line of women wearing the suffrage yellow and carrying banners marched down Main street to the Auditorium where Judge Cheadle and Dr. Anna Howard Shaw delivered very fine and inspiring addresses.

During the State fair suffrage headquarters were opened in Helena, and at the Fair, and were the source of much pleasure to visitors.

Most people have no idea of the vast amount of work that has been done in this campaign. Thousands of miles have been traveled by speakers. Miss Rankin, alone, has traveled over 9,000 miles in Montana since January. Letters and circulars to the number of 100,000 have been sent out since headquarters opened.

All the work done by Montana women has been volunteer ser-

vice, and many of the speakers have paid all or part of their traveling expenses. Of the speakers from outside the state, the services of all but two were donated, and almost all paid their own expenses as well.

This campaign should be a successful campaign for the reason that it has been the work not of a few but of many. Its complete history will, probably, never be written, but could this be done, it would stand as a remarkable record of unselfish effort for a fine and ideal end. Every woman who has sacrificed time and pleasure in order to do her share may—and does feel proud of having been a part of this movement for better citizenship and truer democracy.

The Montana Woman Suffrage association wishes to acknowledge indebtedness to the National Woman Suffrage association for co-operation and help in sending speakers, in financial aid and in the giving of sound advice and encouragement at critical times.

WORD FROM  
JANE ADDAMS

In the earlier stages of the movement for woman suffrage great stress was laid upon two points: that the woman of property should have the power to protect her interests, and that the woman of education could be entrusted with the vote with benefit to the nation.

We are beginning to realize that in asking for the ballot for women, neither of these limitations can be considered.

The woman of property has, indeed, just claims to the suffrage, that she may have a voice in those public measures which depend upon and imply an increase in taxes.

The woman of education, already a power for good in the community, needs the franchise, so that when she asks for pure-food laws, for protection of infant life, for child-labor restrictions, she shall not be treated as a mere motherless theorist, but as one

who may determine the term of office of the legislators with whom they are pleading.

But if, both for their own sakes and for the good of the republic, women of property and women of education should be enfranchised, far more is the power of the ballot needed by the working woman, whose stake in the country is represented by her life, her health, her virtues, and the safety and happiness of her children. The ballot is not demanded for her because she is good or wise, or because she will make no mistakes in its use. Neither goodness nor wisdom is the sole possession of one class, and freedom from mistakes is the privilege of none. Working women need the ballot because they must possess some control over the conditions of their lives and those of their children; and, in this twentieth century world, the ballot box offers the only channel through which they can give expression to such legitimate control.

Is it quite by accident that those states where women enjoy partial or complete suffrage make also the best showing as regards the administration of schools, the restriction of child labor, and the protection of young girls? There is probably no country in the world where the interests of children, taking them from every point of view, are so carefully guarded as in Colorado, where the women have full suffrage. Colorado was likewise the first state to raise the age of protection for girls to 18.

But it is not only the interests of children which the women of a community are especially fitted to guard. They are also the natural protectors of their own sons, who, though past childhood, are still young, inexperienced and in the industrial contest, utterly helpless.

I believe I must have been born believing in the full rights of women to all the privileges and positions which nature and justice accord to her in common with other human beings. Perfect equal rights; human rights—Clara Barton.

The campaign for equal suffrage in Butte has been, of course, only a part of the state-wide campaign. It is, to be sure, the part in which we are most interested, but also the part about which least needs to be said, for we have all participated, either as workers or merely as interested onlookers.

The several local suffrage organizations have worked together intelligently and harmoniously. We have done our best, and tomorrow will show whether or no our best has been good enough.

It is impossible to give even a partial list of those whose good work has contributed to that triumph we confidently expect. It is, however, fitting and right that we should mention with deep appreciation the services of State Chairman Miss Jeannette Rankin, her able assistant, Miss Mary E. O'Neill, and our county chairman, Mrs. J. B. Ellis.

The state association has been particularly generous to Butte in the matter of speakers and help of all kinds, a generosity we thankfully acknowledge. We all wish to thank Mrs. Nellie Hall Root of California for the gift of her services during many weeks.

Man is an individualist; his instinct is to compete rather than to co-operate. Woman is essentially social, the center of a family group. It is her instinct to make things comfortable, the natural outgrowth of the mothering impulse. And a good half of the business of governing is just that; it is neither a duty nor a privilege but an efficacious way of making us all comfortable together.

## AN ODE TO AMERICAN WOMEN

(By Richard Wightman)

Our institutions change, likewise our laws;  
The program of the Season knows its pause;  
The very rivers thread along New courses, and the lark's blithe song  
Is altered by the meadow's mood;  
But every onward road  
Of the long path our fathers chose,  
Down to the very close  
Of days,—is ours to dare, elate  
and free,  
Clothed with that ancient loyalty  
To Right which made America  
the land whose name  
And birthright we so proudly claim.  
And now, O Woman, we have come to see  
Thy hand in all our Nation's history—  
A gentle hand, maternal, clean  
and kind;  
And so, O Woman, 'tis our newer mind  
To give to thee the right men  
long have known.  
To say thy say, by ballots never blown  
On vagrant winds for purposes  
unfair.  
Slowly we came to this, but all  
the air  
Is vibrant with thy reason's just demand  
To share with men the problems  
of our land.  
Be thou exalted by this later trust;  
Be woman still, for that thou  
ever must!  
Thy new task is not little, but  
the shades  
Of patriot mothers steal from  
out the glades  
Of the dim past to hearten thee  
and say:  
"We did our part; thine is the  
greater day!"  
—The Pictorial Review.