

Keokuk Men and Women Tell Why They Favor Equal Suffrage; Votes for Women Amendment to Be Voted on June 5

[EDITED BY PRESS COMMITTEE OF SOUTHERN LEE COUNTY EQUAL SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.]

From These Comments One Judges the "Ayes" Have It

Business and Professional Men of City Tell in Few Words How They Stand on Question.

Keokuk men endorse equal suffrage. Here are their comments: "While a man through the years is building a business which adds to the commercial value of the state, during the same years a woman is working to develop a family of good citizens. She should be entitled to a voice in the control and protection of her product."

F. M. FULLER.

"Yes, I am heartily in favor of woman suffrage. One of the popular objections we hear to equal suffrage is that 'Women's place is in the home.' So it is, and always will be. Giving her the vote places in her hand another means of doing more efficient work in that home."

T. R. BOARD.

"The objections which are made to giving the women the rights of equal suffrage, are in my judgment, so illogical and trivial, that I have no patience with debate upon the subject. Women have a common interest with men in the government under which they live, and are entitled to an equal right to the use of the ballot. Traditional prejudice alone, in my opinion, is responsible for any doubt or hesitation on this question. Women as a matter of right are entitled to demand equal suffrage, and it is simple justice and common sense to amend our laws so that it will be given to them."

W. C. HOWELL.

"I judge the women of Iowa by those I know in Keokuk. I am persuaded that these are more thoughtful, more aggressive in questions of public welfare, public morals, and civic reform than we men are. I therefore see no

al, or mental, or even physical qualifications, but what is there about sex that can affect the right or ability to vote?

"A man might be too bad to vote, so might a woman. A man might be too ignorant to vote; so might a woman. But what possible, logical, sensible reason can be advanced that shows any dividing sex line that marks all men capable of voting and all women incapable?"

"What kind of a man is it that thinks his sister that is everything else his equal or superior; his mother who bore him and his wife who bore his children, not fully his equal in this?"

W. G. BLOOD.

"Sure I favor equal suffrage."

JAMES M. FULTON.

"The reason I favor equal suffrage is that the country needs the working power of all its citizens, and women are citizens of this country whether officially recognized or not."

L. MATLESS.

"Most suffragettes are conscientious earnest women who want the privilege of voting because of the greater opportunities for doing good that they feel the ballot will give them."

"I sincerely believe that equal suffrage will mean much for the uplift of Iowa or any state that grants it."

J. B. WEILL.

"So long as women are able to do so many other things well there should be no question about their voting intelligently."

H. C. BROWN.

"It is perhaps not surprising that I should be unqualifiedly in favor of extending the right to vote to women. The espousal of this cause is traditional in my family. My uncle, Dr. Isaac Hollingsworth, when in the state legislature more than forty years ago, introduced a bill granting the suffrage to women, and sustained it by a speech on the floor of the house, but was met by a storm of opposition which defeated the bill. He early handed me Herbert Spencer's little book entitled 'Subject of Women.' My father held the same views. I thus early formed this impression, cultivated in a friendly atmosphere, and later upon studying law I became clearly convinced that in as much as the ordinary burdens of the law in the administration of civil government press with absolutely equal force on women and men alike, they should both have some voice in making the laws that impose these obligations. The obligations to pay taxes or comply generally with legal requirements are not made to depend on sex nor should the right to participate in imposing those requirements depend upon sex. Often the evils of an unwise law bear harder upon the weak than upon the strong."

"The old worn-out argument against it that women are unfit for military service in time of war has never appealed to me strongly and it does now with less force than ever in view of the self-sacrificing devotion of women all over the world in the great struggle that is going on. They have neither shirked the burdens of holding the industries and social order together at home while the war goes on, but are found in every hospital and even on some of the battle fields doing heroic duty. The suggestion that they do not have the same interest in the war that the men have will be rejected by every person who is keeping in touch with the happenings of these terrible times."

"I have always placed the right of women to vote upon the proposition that no one person or class of persons has any right to say to another class, who have attained years of discretion, that the latter shall yield obedience to laws which they took no part in making. There is an inherent right in ev-

ery person, who has attained mature years, to participate in the making of laws which make life one of joy or misery, and to participate in the determination of questions which vitally affect themselves."

"The right to suffrage in this country has not generally been made to depend upon whether the party exercising it had especially fitted himself to vote (nor could all women be fairly excluded on this ground), but rather upon the proposition that no one had the right to deny another a vote when his interests are vitally affected. I never could and cannot now see any reason why this principle does not apply to women. If they are weaker physically they are not entitled to protection but they are much more entitled to help determine the questions upon which their safety and welfare depend."



"Me and Ma," First Converts Made in Campaign in Iowa

When Miss Flora Dunlap, president of the Iowa Equal Suffrage association, was here in October, as the honor guest at the Civic League luncheon, she told the story of the first converts made in an automobile trip across the state three years ago when the Iowa campaign began. This automobile trip was about the only spectacular thing the Iowa women have done, and it was undertaken by the advice of Governor Clark and others who said it was the most effective way to let the state know that a suffrage campaign was being inaugurated. The plan was to go from town to town and hold open air meetings in a public square or on a street corner, speaking from an automobile.

There were then very few suffrage associations in the state and Miss Dunlap wrote in advance to the mayor of the town, telling him they were coming and asking him to announce the meeting. One night they were late reaching a town, and it was after dark and no moon. Now if there is anything darker than a little town on a moonless

night, we don't know what it is. As they drove down the street they could hear people talking on the porches and by the lights on the car, see here and there a man on the street. They stopped before a house and the chauffeur asked where the mayor lived. A little girl perhaps ten years old, came to the fence, and when they told her their mission, she said, "I'll take you to the house." So she directed the way, standing on the step of the automobile.



DR. EFFIE MCCOLLUM JONES

frage to women, and thus wiping out the only remaining obstacle to equality between the sexes. I hope and believe that a large majority of the men of Iowa will do the same."

WILLIAM BALLINGER.

"My opinion on the subject of women's suffrage was so well summed up by Roosevelt that I can only quote him."

"I am in favor of women's suffrage because it is simple justice."

"There appears to me little to add to that."

M. MEIGS.

SOME REASONS WHY, GIVEN BY SUFFRAGIST

Ten Points to Affirmative Argument as Propounded by Prominent Worker for Cause.

Here are ten reasons why every vote in Iowa should be for equal suffrage, according to a letter from suffrage headquarters. These ten rea-

sons are propounded in ten questions asked by one of the foremost suffragists of the country, Alice Stone Blackwell, editor of the Woman's Journal which is doing all in its power to aid the suffrage campaign in Iowa. Let the voters of Iowa study the following questions:

If equal suffrage is a bad thing, why has it spread from the state that first adopted it to ten neighboring states, all adjoining one another?

If the majority of the people anywhere are dissatisfied with it, why is there no move to repeal it?

If it leads mothers to neglect their children, why is the lowest infant death rate in the world found in New Zealand?

If it increases divorce, why did Colorado grant 925 divorces the year before women were given the ballot and only 57 the year after?

If it is demoralizing, why did only sixty-two out of 624 ministers and editors in the suffrage states replying to Julia Ward Howe's letter of inquiry give an unfavorable opinion?

If the majority of women are opposed, why have only about one percent of the women in the United States joined the widely advertised National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage, according to that association's own figures?

If the majority of women are opposed in Massachusetts, where an active Anti-Suffrage association has been gathering signatures of women against suffrage ever since 1895, why has it succeeded in twenty years in accumulating the names of only about three percent of the women of the state?

Among the millions of citizens of the enfranchised states, why have the opponents of equal suffrage thus far failed to find a dozen respectable men who assert over their own names and addresses that it has had any bad results?

Keokuk Had Organization for Suffrage Back in '98

On June 9, Eighteen Years Ago, Political Equality Association Was Organized—Three Men Were Members.

The recently organized Equal Suffrage association is not the first club in Keokuk having for its object the enfranchisement of women. On June 9, 1898, the Keokuk Political Equality association was organized by Miss Grieg who was then the national organizer. Mrs. Louise B. Field, who was the secretary, still has the books and records of that association. From the minutes it is shown that Mrs. W. J. Roberts, Mrs. William Ballinger and Miss Ina Carter were the nominating committee, who named the following officers, who were elected:

President—Mrs. Charles P. Birge. Vice president—Miss Mary M. Meigs.

Recording secretary—Mrs. Louise B. Field. Treasurer—Mrs. Birge.

Meetings were held monthly at the home of the members, with an occasional meeting in the library building.

Among the standing committees were: Membership committee—Mrs. W. J. Roberts, Mrs. Wm. Ballinger, Miss Bertha R. Craig, Miss Mary Meigs (Mrs. Atwood).

The program committee—Miss Wolcott (Mrs. T. C. Balaam), Miss Craig, Mrs. Augustus W. Kibbourn, Mrs. Edmund Jaeger, Miss Cora H. K. Pittman, Mrs. Orion Clemmons, Mrs. A. C. Goodrich, Mrs. Meigs.

The press committee—Mrs. Mills, Miss Meigs, Miss Annette Martin (Mrs. I. A. Sawyer), Miss Ada Reid.

Studies Fiske's Works. The club studied Fiske's civil government, beside reviewing current magazine articles relating to equal suffrage. There is a special record made of a review by Miss Lida G. Howell of a magazine article written by Prof. Peeks and dealing with "woman's sphere." The club in October, 1898, made elaborate arrangements for the coming of Carrie Chapman Catt, only to be disappointed, by illness which made it necessary that she cancel her engagement.

Mrs. Field compiled statistics of the women tax payers of Keokuk. Another accomplishment of the club was the securing of a long list of signers to a petition to be sent to the legislature at Des Moines, in the hope of securing the passage of a bill to give the ballot to women.

Out of this suffrage organization grew a class which studied parliamentary law, using Robert's Rules of Order as a guide. The class met with Mrs. Helen M. Comstock and Mrs. John H. Craig.

The roll of members of the Equality league was:

Miss Lida Gordon Howell, Mrs. I. M. Bennett, Mrs. Lucy Kellogg Birge, Mrs. Lorene Curtis Diver, Mrs. Alice Read Craig, Miss Ada Read, Dr. Mary Geiser, Miss Lillian Mathias, Miss Mary Meigs, Mrs. Mattie G. Price, Mrs. A. C. Goodrich, Mrs. Ellen Ballinger, Mrs. Lucy W. Bowers, Mrs. Augusta W. Kibbourn, Mrs. Louise B. Field, Miss Bertha Wolcott, Miss Irene L. Carter, Miss Bertha R. Craig, Mrs. Nannie C. Roberts, Miss L. Opal Mershon, Miss Jonnie Carter, Miss Annette Martin, Dr. Sarah Gramm, Mrs. Edmund Jaeger, Miss Cora H. K. Pittman, Mrs. Orion Clemmons, Mrs. A. C. Goodrich, Mrs. Meigs.

There were three men who belonged to the league, Major M. Meigs, John N. Irwin, S. W. Tucker.

Goodrich, Nannie C. Roberts, Isabella N. Foelker.

First Petition Signed By Women in June in 1899

In June, 1899, a petition was circulated in Keokuk by the members of the Political Equality league asking that the word "male" be stricken from the constitution. The petition was signed by both men and women. The list of names forwarded to Des Moines, on the petition, were found in the old suffrage organization books by Mrs. Field, and the petition and names are given here:

Petition. To the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

We, the undersigned, citizens of Lee county, State of Iowa, do most respectfully petition your honorable body to favor a Constitutional Amendment, striking out the word "male" from the Constitution, the same to be submitted to the voters of the state:

Voters' names—George S. Tucker, W. B. Collins, H. R. Collins, W. S. Sample, W. H. Bowman, Frank M. Fuller, W. A. Loeffler, J. A. Hennesman, A. Hollingsworth, S. M. Clark, William Ballinger, W. D. Patterson, James H. Anderson, D. B. Hamill, W. J. Roberts, H. T. Graham, Robert M. Lapsley, C. P. Birge, Geo. E. Ehinger, Joseph R. Downey, S. M. Gaston, Ralph O. Roberts, I. A. Sawyer, Major M. Meigs, H. A. Heaslip, P. C. Brawner, W. A. Coombs, Hugh H. Craig, Theodore Craig, Samuel Allen, Wm. A. Logan.

Women's names—Sara M. Rand, Bertha Wolcott, Virginia B. Alexander, Lillian Mathias, Mary D. Goodrich, Alice Read Craig, Ella B. Craig, Ada Read, Carrie S. Hamill, Olive Hill, Jessie D. Holmes, Ora T. Boyer, Helen M. Comstock, Garnet Allen, Anna Moloney, Freda Meyer, Bertha R. Craig, L. K. Birge, Mary A. Howell, Lida G. Howell, Ada M. Worthen, Julia A. Shuler, Louise B. Field, Lorene C. Diver, Ella Ballinger, Mary L. Geiser, M. D. Mary E. Clemens, Jennie Carter, Irene L. Carter, Mary J. Anderson, Martha P.



Miss Elizabeth Perkins.

THESE WOMEN ARE DIRECTING CAMPAIGN

Officers of the Southern Lee County Equal Suffrage association:

President—Mrs. Winona E. Reeves.

Vice presidents—Miss Nettie Younker.

Mrs. J. E. Elder.

Mrs. W. G. Blood.

Mrs. H. C. Brown.

Mrs. W. J. Roberts.

Mrs. Leonard Matless.

Mrs. J. J. Ayres.

Mrs. William Ballinger.

Recording secretary—Mrs. Louise B. Field.

Treasurer—Mrs. H. O. Whitner.

The object of the Lee County Equal Suffrage association is the enfranchisement of Iowa women.

Women Vote In All the White States. Why Not In Iowa?



White states, full suffrage; shaded states, partial suffrage; dotted state, presidential. Partial county and state suffrage; black states, no suffrage.

The vote was given women in Wyoming, 1893; Colorado, 1893; Idaho, 1896; Utah, 1896; Washington, 1910; California, 1911; Arizona, 1912; Kansas, 1912; Oregon, 1912; Alaska, 1913; Illinois, 1913; Montana, 1914; Nevada, 1914.



Miss Flora Dunlap.

reason for withholding from women the most efficient means of expressing their views—the ballot box."

W. J. FULTON.

"I have never heard one reason why women should not vote. I have heard some excuses and talk about the subject. But I have never heard one sound, logical reason why there is anything about sex that differentiates the suffrage qualifications."

"There may be other limitations to be applied to the suffrage, such as mor-



MRS. CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT