

# Women Are Taking to Politics Like Ducks to Water

Old Line Party Leaders Studying the Uncertainty Injected by New Voters, This State Being a Shining Example

By MARTHA COMAN.

It has been but a step from the suffrage ring to the political arena. Women who have been trained as franchise fighters have taken to the new environment and the solving of the larger issues like ducks to water. The men higher up admit their political adaptability and value, though they are still uncertain regarding the direction of the combined feminine activities.

"How did you happen to go into politics?" one of the most aggressive Republican captains was asked.

"Well," she answered tersely, "I was born in Ohio."

Most of the women who are already leaders in the two parties have the same organization background. They have joined hands in a friendly spirit with the men in the wider movement which determines the policies of the country, and are availing themselves of every educational opportunity to fit themselves for deciding on issues and candidates if not for actually holding offices.

In national politics, so far as women are concerned, New York and Illinois have picked the political plums. It may be recalled, for club activities are not yet forgotten, that these two States were leaders in the less important movements into which women threw themselves with heart and soul. It is only consistent therefore that they should be in the front rank when the new army is formed.

Mrs. John Glover Smith, of Frankfort, Ky., and Miss Mary Garrett Hay of New York are the leaders of the Republican National Committee. Mrs. George Bass of Chicago reigns as the head of the Democratic National Committee's Women's Bureau.

Mrs. South, whose political training dates back to suffrage days, is chairman of the Republican Committee of her own State and was elected to succeed Mrs. Medill McCormick of Chicago as chairman of the Women's Committee of the National Republican Committee. Kentucky has been generous in her recognition of women in the Democratic party's activities by appointing Mrs. Samuel T. Castleman of Louisville a member of the Women's Committee of the Democratic National Committee.

Though not an equal suffrage State, Kentucky has shown her desire for the national recognition of the disfranchised sex by ratifying the Federal suffrage amendment.

## She's the Storm Centre.

Miss Hay is bound to be the storm centre of the New York State political campaign, which is already outlining its programme for the April primaries. Her opposition to the nomination of Senator James W. Wadsworth, Jr., for re-election to the United States Senate is causing the Republican party deep concern. Her disapproval of the Republican Senator is of long standing, and is based on his anti-suffrage attitude and his refusal to vote for the Federal suffrage amendment when his vote would have scored a victory for the women of the country during the session of Congress preceding that which finally indorsed the bill.

Every time that Miss Hay publicly criticised the Republican Senator she let Will Hays, national committeeman, know that she was willing to resign from the national women's committee. But the chairman so far has declined to consider accepting her resignation.

The situation has become so tense that the Republicans have been casting about for another Republican candidate in the event that the women's vote, which Miss Hay may or may not influence largely, is a thing for the party to reckon with.

As chairman of the New York City League of Women Voters Miss Hay may be able to swing the deciding number of ballots. Her suffrage training has proved an excellent step into political leadership and her reputation is not only State-wide, but national.

Both the State and the city leagues of women voters are non-partisan bodies, yet its workers are allied with both the Democratic and the Republican organizations. When the league decides to campaign for or against a candidate or an issue the result of its activities may or may not be pertinent.

This element of uncertainty in the power of women leaders is a thing the seasoned political chiefs are pondering over. In fact they are sitting up nights considering situations that may develop and outlining a programme of action that they hope will hold the women's votes and assure the nomination and election of their favored candidates.

## Going True to Form.

In this one party predicament woman shows that she is running true to form. There is no movement or situation into which she enters, whether it be domestic or civic, where the men feel absolutely certain of her opinion and her future action.

Naturally a large number of the recently enfranchised have gone into the two parties with an entirely partisan feeling. If an issue of a non-issue belongs to the Democrats



MRS. FLETCHER DOBYNS



MRS. M. REID and CHILDREN



MRS. SAMUEL T. CASTLEMAN

party, then these earnest new Democrats believe it or he to be absolutely right, and they could no more view impartially the other side or the opposing party's political offering than they could make friends of an enemy.

On the other hand numbers of women have declined in favor of an open minded attitude toward men and issues. They have enrolled with the party of their choice, but they reserve the right to vote for the man they believe in and think will best fill the office, regardless of his party affiliations, and to defeat a measure they hold to be unfavorable, whether it is put forward by their own party or by the opposition.

This question of how large is the independent vote will be decided at the forthcoming election. And men will then learn how large a proportion of the women voters are following in the footsteps of the more experienced party member.

The two national political conventions which are to be held in June, the Republican in Chicago and the Democratic in San Francisco, will mark the real entrance of women into the wider political field. Both parties have appointed women on their various national convention committees, and the question of sending women as delegates at large to the conventions is now rousing widespread interest.

Miss Elisabeth Marbury, never a suffrage worker, has been mentioned as a possible delegate at large. She is an out and out Democrat. She believes in President Wilson, the League of Nations, Gov. Alfred E. Smith and all her party tenets. She worked for Gov. Smith in his gubernatorial campaign and there is a firm belief among her friends that she will receive important recognition from the Democratic leaders.

How strong her position is compared



MRS. MABEL G. REINECKE



MRS. GEORGE BASS

with that of Mrs. John Sherwin Crosby remains to be seen. Mrs. Crosby, widow of a leading Democratic organization man, has for many years guided the women Democrats of the city and the State. Long before women had the vote in New York she organized and was president of the Women's Democratic Club.

Some time ago she was appointed associate chairman of the Democratic State Committee, and her followers feel that if one woman is to be selected as delegate at large to the National Convention the choice should be Mrs. Crosby.

Democratic circles are disturbed just now by the attempt of Miss Margaret Vale and a group of Democratic women to organize a national body of women of this political faith. Naturally Miss Vale has met with some opposition, especially from Mrs. Bass, who disapproves of the charter. Associated with her in this organization of the Women Democrats of America are Mrs. George H. Childs, president of the Women's Democratic League; Mrs. Mary A. Morse of Buffalo, a party leader up-State; Mrs. Henry Keith of Jamaica and a score of other prominent Democrats.

Every Presidential Boom Has Its Enthusiastic Supporters Among the Women Politicians—Conventions May Surprise

talks at the Republican Club, with Mrs. Walter Damrosch and Mrs. Pleasants Pennington presiding alternately.

Miss Maude Wetmore of the National League for Woman's Service, has been appointed on the women's campaign committee for the nomination of Major-Gen. Leonard Wood as Presidential candidate. Mrs. Mabel G. Reinecke of Chicago is executive secretary of the Women's National Republican Committee.

Mrs. Fletcher Dobyns of Chicago is in charge of the women's work in the campaign of Gov. Frank O. Lowden for the Republican nomination for President. She is chairman of the Illinois Republican Women's Executive Committee. These appointments of women show that every candidate for the Presidential nomination feels the importance of having representatives of the new element on his committee.

The practical work of women in politics may be illustrated by a few incidents which developed in the recent gubernatorial election. A woman captain of one of the five best Assembly districts has introduced a feminine touch in campaign work which has been characterized by men as "out-Tammany Tammany." By that they mean her methods are effective because of their personal interest. They are fair if unusual. Few men would have thought of the many ways she has found of being helpful to the women of her election district.

## True Politicians.

"When you need help or advice of any kind call me up," this astute politician told the women of her district, on whom she makes frequent personal calls.

Being a staunch Republican, she cast a longing eye on four women of Democratic leanings who live in a large apartment house in her district.

And one day a call came over the telephone as follows: "You told us we were to appeal to you whenever we needed help. Didn't you?" questioned a feminine voice over the office telephone wire.

"I did," replied the woman captain encouragingly.

"Well, our dog has died and we have tried for two days to have it taken away and can't. Can you do it?"

"I can," promised the captain. "Rely on me. Your dog will be gone in an hour."

Hanging up the receiver, she asked herself what they did with dead dogs in the city if the organization in charge of that work was too busy to cart the carcass away. "I'll take a taxi and go for the dog," she said to herself. "But what shall I do with it when I get it?"

Her next thought was to telephone to the captain of the men's district organization. He had never been asked in his political capacity to affiliate at the removal of a dead dog. But his associate's appeal could not be ignored. It meant not only a possible vote or two, but rendering distressed women a service and helping a fellow worker to make good on a promise.

"Is it a big dog?" he inquired anxiously, turning over in his own mind the taxi idea.

"I don't know, but I'll call up and let you know," the newly appointed captain replied. It might be a Pekinese or a Newfoundland.

The owners informed the anxious political leader that the dog was large.

In less than one hour from the time the distressed stranger from the South had telephoned, the woman captain heard from the man captain of the district that a delivery wagon belonging to one of the party workers owning a store had carted the dead dog away. He didn't know just what had been done with it, but at least the women were relieved and happy.

This careful attention to a feminine call for aid won over two Democratic votes to the Republican party.

Will Hays, chairman of the Republican National Committee, has appointed from the various States seventeen women to serve on an advisory committee on platform and policies. His appointments include 152 men, also representing the various States. Both men and women will work together.

Most of the women thus recognized owe their political preference to their long and active association with their own State suffrage organization or their affiliation with the National American Woman Suffrage Association, which is being merged into the National League of Women Voters, or to both.

This list, which gives Illinois three and New York two representatives, includes the names of Miss Mary Garrett Hay and Mrs. Ogden M. Reid of New York, Mrs. F. T. Bagley of Massachusetts, Mrs. Arthur Balantine of Maine, Miss Caroline Hazard of Rhode Island, Miss Marie L. Obenauer of the District of Columbia, Mrs. Raymond Robins, Mrs. George A. Soden and Miss Harriet E. Vittum of Illinois, Mrs. Anna Wolcott Vaile of Colorado, Mrs. Rupert Asplund of New Mexico, Mrs. Clara B. Burdette of California, Mrs. Solomon Hirsch of Oregon, Mrs. Walter McNab Miller of Missouri, Mrs. Josephine Corliss Preston of Washington, Mrs. M. D. Cameron of Nebraska and Mrs. Theodore Youmans of Wisconsin.

# Millions Study Riddle of the Hereafter

Continued from First Page.

from a dead friend, the psychologist, F. W. H. Myers, that Raymond would be slain, and the event did not take place until September 14.

"I am convinced," Sir Oliver says, "that death makes no sudden change at all: that the next world is merely a phase, and may not be a different world than this. Departed friends have talked to me of trees and flowers and animals that they observe, but they may be describing this world seen from another point of view."

"The material body is left behind at death. The ethereal body persists. That is what I speculate to be the mechanism of survival. The fact of survival has to be ascertained from the other side, but my long study of the ether helps somewhat to explain the way we are able to survive; to realize that we feel somewhat the same after death as we do in this world."

"I do not hold that we become saints or devils and go to heaven or to hell, as the case might be. I do not think we are good enough for one or bad enough for the other. Most people are rather weak. They go wrong not because they want to. I think all of us want to do better, and I think we shall have the chance. At any rate, young fellows who were killed in the war say so. I have talked with a good many of them. They have found a job and only hope that their people will not grieve too much and believe they have gone out of existence. They can't. I have known people who wanted to but couldn't. Suicide is no good. Man keeps right on living, and suicide seems to be regarded as a crime over there. I dare say there are exceptions. I have talked with some. Most of them say they are horrified, and feel that they have set a bad example; that it has thrown them back."

The man who says this is one of the hardheaded, scientific reasoners of a practical world, one used to all the balances and counterchecks of analytical judgment. He has been at work on the problem since 1880, though he did not accept belief in spiritualism until 1906.

The late Dr. Isaac Funk was one of the leaders of the spiritualistic cult in this country. Among his settled beliefs was the conception that we are all spirits living in bodies, as much ghosts in the flesh as we ever could be out of it. He thought the only question to be solved really was whether disembodied ghosts could live.

Dr. James H. Hyslop, one of the foremost of American investigators, has had innumerable strange experiences in the course of his years of painstaking investigation. The many instances of 'fraud and trickery' encountered by him has never dulled his zeal or affected his belief that communication is a fact. After the death of his friend, Dr. Richard Hodgson, who had been constantly associated with him, and especially in observing and studying Mrs. Lenora E. Piper, the largely built, stolid medium of Boston, and whose psychic powers finally convinced both of the truth of spirit communication, he obtained through Mrs. Piper and another medium what he believes to be spirit messages from Dr. Hodgson, as well as messages from his own father and other relatives that had died.

## Heroic Measures as Test.

"I proved the genuineness of Mrs. Piper's trances," he tells us, "by running needles under her finger nails and through her tongue and by sprinkling red pepper in her nostrils and throat. She showed no consciousness of sensation. And in a profound state of unconsciousness she wrote intelligent communications. She was closely studied for years. Dr. Hodgson closely observed her for eighteen years. Again and again, isolated and guarded by men terribly in earnest, she described what persons hundreds of miles away were doing and saying. I have worked in a cold, scientific mood, determined to reject everything that could not stand the tests and analysis of experience and reason. It is hard to understand how any sane scientific man can remain unconvinced to-day."

"One of the foolish criticisms of this work of investigation is that scientific investigators get communications that are

trivial or nonsensical. What do they expect? It is impossible to say whether the spirit, in trying to communicate through the nervous system, the senses and the general organism of a living person may find diminished powers of thought and memory."

"I am quite satisfied that Dr. Hodgson has communicated with me since his death. The spirit of George Pelham, which convinced Dr. Hodgson of the survival of identity after death, has communicated with me through several mediums. It informed me that spirits wear clothes which were created by their own desire. My father's spirit gave me a 'pass' sentence in a rare language unknown to Mrs. Piper, the medium. He told me never to recognize him, no matter what medium should seem to produce him, unless he gave the pass sentence. I waste no time on physical phenomena, rappings, table tipplings and the like."

## Sincerity and Fraud.

The foregoing opinions, comments and episodes, springing from the experience of scientists and scholars beyond a suspicion of chicanery (and these are merely a selection from a multitude of reported phenomena) are of fascinating interest surely whatever one's point of view may be. Can they, after all, be dismissed with a smile of derision? It is settled that the so-called "experiences" of untrained observers cannot be taken seriously, much less the testimony of ignorant believers, for fraud and deception, practised in heartless, shameful contempt of sorrows that should be sacred are everywhere rampant. Since the war pretended mediums, long since exposed, have revived their ugly trade and are again in this and every large city fattening on the offerings of the distressed in heart. That has been true in America since modern spiritualism began with the Fox sisters in this State sixty-four years ago. But one asks oneself perhaps if the calm assertions of the Doyles, the Lodges and the Hyslops can be as finally rejected. Very many men and women are keeping their minds open nowadays, not convinced, nor even in the road toward conviction, but passive, willing to hear all sides and to

weigh, so far as they are able, the evidence that may be offered. The state of the world truly makes for this attitude of mind. Certainly speculation has progressed a long way since men wondered what caused the Fox table rappings.

The interest in spiritualism, the present worldwide interest, like no wave of interest that ever before ran around the globe, is due, first, to the grief caused by the terrible fatalities of the great war. Apart from this vast emotional impulse is the hope that trustworthy advice in worldly matters can be obtained through mediums, a hope that has sent men and women to the fortune tellers since the world was young.

The more thoughtful spiritualists are chiefly interested in the assurance of life and progress after death, and in the moral and religious teaching they seek to obtain through automatic writings and trance speaking.

Nothing like a universal spiritualistic creed has been arrived at, though the Rival doctrine of successive reincarnations with intervals of spirit life is popular. This view has made no headway in England and in the United States, where the opinions of the great majority of spiritualists vary from orthodox Christianity to Unitarianism of an extreme kind. Ecclesiastics of the Protestant Episcopal Church in England have protested against the sweep through England of the spiritualistic doctrine, and in this and other countries Roman Catholic prelates and priests have uttered sharp warnings tending to hold that supernatural manifestations are of the devil and not of God.

The Great Riddle persists. Doubtless the evidence is not ample enough to sway the many, though the few are convinced. But this fact is startlingly true: that never in the world's history were so many people's minds concentrated upon the mystery. Never were so many hopes and prayers sent winging into the beyond. Is it impossible for this tremendous and terrible concentration to appeal to break through the wall, the unseen and impalpable wall, that has always stood, so far as men knew, between the living and them we call the dead?