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## Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association

HEADQUARTERS: 55-57 PRATT STREET, HARTFORD  
TELEPHONE CHARTER 6217

1917

### SUFFRAGE NEWS AND NOTES.

By Annie G. Porritt.

Yesterday a new paper made its appearance. That does not sound a very exciting or extraordinary announcement in view of the many newspapers with which the country is blessed. But to women it is an important event, for the new paper is designed to serve the women of the nation. It is to be not only a suffrage paper, but it is to be a useful journal for the women who have won the vote, and in its title its promoters look forward to the day--now so near at hand--when all the women of the United States will be voters and the struggle for the vote will be at an end. The new paper is called the "Woman Citizen". It is to be published in New York, and will have the advantage of the backing of the Leslie Suffrage Commission--the commission formed by Mrs Catt to take charge of the fund bequeathed to her by Mrs Frank Leslie to be used for the promotion of the suffrage cause and for the advancement of the interests of women.

Three newspaper are being amalgamated to form the new journal. These three are the "Woman's Journal of Boston, the Woman Voter of New York and the National Suffrage News--a monthly magazine which has been published by the National American Woman Suffrage Association. Of these three the National Suffrage News is the newest. It has published only four numbers, since it evolved out of the Headquarters Newsletter--a modest little sheet that was published for three years from National Headquarters. The Woman Voter was the organ of the Woman Suffrage Party of New York. It was started in February 1910 and its brilliant yellow cover is very familiar to New York Suffragists, and even much beyond the borders of that ~~the~~ State. At the time the Woman Voter was started Mrs Catt was at the head of the



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New York Suffrage party. When Mrs Catt became president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association a further impetus seemed to be given to the party with which her name had been associated. For awhile the Woman Voter was edited By Mary R. Beard, wife of Professor Charles A. Beard of Columbia University, and in April 1911 Mrs Beard was succeeded by Mrs Florence Woolston who remained in control until the Woman Voter was swallowed up in the new Woman Citizen.

One remarkable page of the Woman Voter--a page that has given more joy to Suffragists perhaps than all the others combined--was one headed "With Our Allies--The Antis". On this page were collected sayings--frequently mutually contradictory of speakers and writers against Women Suffrage. A gem of first water appeared on this page in the last issue of the Woman Voter--the issue that contained the valedictory of the paper to its readers. This gem is taken from the Watertown (N.Y.) Times and it appeared over the signature of Mrs Nelson H. Henry. It certainly is subversive of all the old anti-theories of women being represented by the head of the family. It reads:--

Normally, of course, a husband's and wife's interests are identical, but that is beside the question. Anti-Suffragists do not claim that a woman depends upon her husband or any male relative to represent her

It is impossible that every woman should not be represented since every shade of opinion, every interest and every class (women are a sex, and form part of every class) is represented under our system of government, and a woman is represented by every man whose interests and opinions are identical with her own, whether related to him or not. He represents her involuntarily. A Catholic woman with a Socialist husband would not be represented at the polls by her husband, but she would be represented by all Catholic voters. It is automatic.

Of course the woman who wrote that paragraph is ignorant of the working of politics. She misunderstands entirely the meaning of the word represented when applied to citizens. She is in dire need of the ballot.

Nothing but the possession of the ballot would educate such women as these in the real meaning of citizenship. But give them the ballot and watch how

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quickly they would learn its use and its value.

The third paper in the amalgamation is the Woman's Journal. This is the oldest suffrage paper in existence, though not the first suffrage paper to make its appearance in this country. It was founded in 1870 through the ~~work~~ efforts of Lucy Stone and her husband, Henry B. Blackwell. Its first editor was Mary Livermore, the great champion of prohibition and woman's rights. After a couple of years under her editorship Mrs Livermore was succeeded by Lucy Stone, and ever since then the paper has been under the guidance of Lucy Stone, her husband and finally her daughter, Alice Stone Blackwell.

Tomorrow begins the first course of instruction on canning and ~~Storage~~ Service. The party of suffragists, under the leadership of the Central War ~~Work~~ Committee that is entered for this first course numbers over thirty women. They are from all parts of the state, and are under the leadership of the chairman of the Committee Miss Ruutz-Rees who is herself taking the course.   
Mrs Louis F. Middlebrook  
The other women include Miss Mary Bulkley, Mrs Arthur Wiedman, Miss Katharine ~~Bennett~~ Mrs A. B. Risteen and Miss Catherine Flanagan of Hartford; Mrs H. W. Fleck, Mrs Hohn Grant, Mrs William Chew, and Mrs Harry Hurlburt of Bridgeport; Mrs J. Slade Ely, and Mrs Josepha Whitney of New Haven; Mrs A. E. S. Taylor, Miss Grace Ludlow and Miss Alice Smith of Norfolk; Mrs F. A. Spencer and Miss Grace Murray of Guilford; Miss Gladys Gilbert of Tariffville; Mrs A. C. James of Newington; Mrs J. H. Hurlbutt of Stamford, Mrs Sam Russell Jr of Middletown, Miss Daphne Selden of Deep River, Miss Katharine Ludington of Lyme and Miss Rosamond Danielson of Putnam. Miss Ludington and Miss Danielson have also notified Headquarters that a number of women from New London and Windham Counties are also to attend the course, whose names have not been given.

The Central War Service Committee has not yet received an answer from Governor Holcombe's Food Supply Committee to its offer to provide \$800 in each of the five counties of Hartford, Fairfield, Litchfield, Tolland and Windham, to pay the expenses of a woman supervisor on condition that the



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salary of such a supervisor be paid by the state. In Middlesex and New London Counties the Suffragists have raised \$1000 for paying a supervisor and women have been secured for the work in each of these counties and are now actively at work. In Fairfield County the Farm Bureau provides a woman to teach and supervise home economics, and the suffragists feel that another woman would be superfluous.

The Suffragists, working under the Central War Service Committee have now two farm camps in full working order. One is at Greenwich, and the other is the Racebrook Farm Camp near Derby--one the way between New Haven and Derby. This Racebrook Farm is under the management of Mrs B.L. Mott of New Haven, and she has already from 10 to 15 suffrage volunteer workers taking the farming instruction course and giving their work on the farm. About three acres have been under potatoes, and other cultivation is being carried on. It is intended to have a camp school on the farm during the summer. Girls and women will be received at the camp at a charge of \$4 a week for board. They will be paid at a regular rate for all the hours they put in at work, and can use the money to defray their camp expenses.

Another scheme in connection with the War Service work is a Sacrifice Sale. Every loyal suffragist in the state is asked to send some article of value to the sale--something that she prizes but that she is willing to offer as a sacrifice. The sale will be held in July. It is under the management of a committee of which Miss Elizabeth W. Farnam is the chairman. Some favorite shore resort in the state will probably be chosen as the scene of the sale, or if there is sufficient for such a course, the sale may be held first in one shore resort and then carried on to another.

Miss Farnam has only just returned to Connecticut from California and next Friday the Suffragists of New Haven are extending a welcome home to her at a luncheon to be held at the Center Church House. Another interesting meeting in the coming week will be held at Mrs Thorpe's tea room in

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Waterbury. Mrs F.A. Spencer will preside and appointments will be made for canning demonstrations.

The Suffrage Leagues all over the State are making themselves agencies for the sale of Liberty bonds. The Leagues are also cooperating with the Red Cross in the work of civilian relief. They are planning to increase the comfort of the soldiers in the camps and to offer the young men more opportunities of wholesome recreation. Where there is no Red Cross Unit organizing this work the Leagues are forming committees for the purpose. In every possible way the excellent organization of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association is being put into service for women's <sup>patriotic</sup> work during the war, and in every way the Suffragists are showing a ready spirit of cooperation with all other organizations both governmental and voluntary.

During the summer it is planned to have canning caravans traveling through the state and holding demonstrations in the towns and villages. A canning outfit will be carried by the demonstrators, and short stays will be made in each town. To help in this work the C.W.S.A. is mobilizing the automobiles which its members have offered to it for war service. In some cases the automobiles will be taken over for a week. In others for a day or two and many automobiles will be available to carry women out to the various towns for part day service or for special days.

One of the pieces of work accomplished by ~~the~~ a suffragist was the recruiting work done in Bridgeport by Miss Grace Murray, Suffrage Organizer for Fairfield County. Miss Murray was remarkably successful in her appeal to the young men of Bridgeport. She secured no fewer than sixty-one recruits and was greatly complimented on her success. It is probable that her services will be in request in other towns. This work however, is done not under the control of the Suffrage Association but under the control of the state and city authorities. So far, although the Central War Service Committee is encouraging recruiting, it has <sup>not</sup> undertaken any definite work in connection with it.