

# The Suffrage News Bulletin

Published Monthly by the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association

Vol. VI. 2

HARTFORD, CONN., NOVEMBER—DECEMBER, 1920.

No. 8.

## SUFFRAGISTS OF THE STATE MEET IN FINAL CONVENTION

### Association Votes to Dissolve—League of Women Voters To Be Formed

The last annual convention of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association held in Hartford Monday and Tuesday, November 8th and 9th, voted that the Suffrage Association should take the initiative toward the formation of a Connecticut branch of the National League of Women Voters by appointing a preliminary organization committee, instructing this committee to add to its members representative women from other organizations, and recommending that a general public meeting be called by this committee if possible by December 15th, to form the Connecticut League of Women Voters.

It was also voted that the Association whose work is accomplished, should remain in existence until the League of Women Voters is organized, in order to close up outstanding financial obligations, when it will automatically dissolve. The approximate date for this dissolution was given as January 1.

While it was not within the scope of this convention, for which preparations had to be made in the short time succeeding election, to review the past history of the Association, the ratification of the federal amendment and the actual entrance of women into the political field were celebrated at the Suffrage Victory Dinner held at the Hartford Club Monday evening.

That the enfranchisement of women means that they now possess the implement with which they will now fight for good government was the keynote theme of the speeches at the dinner.

Especially did Miss Harriet May Mills, one of the prominent New York State Suffrage workers, emphasize this point in her talk on "What women are going to do with the vote." Although Miss Mills "went down to glorious defeat" as candidate for the office of secretary of state in New York she declared herself to be a "free lance" voter. She referred to the heavy responsibility resting upon women to use their votes for good government and declared that women will stand for the best principles re-

gardless of party, adding that "no party on earth will ever own me." "Women must be educated in the machinery of government," said Miss Mills, "for every one knows that our present machinery is entirely medieval with superfluous committees and officers."

Mrs. Harriet Taylor Upton, of Warren, Ohio, vice-chairman of the National Republican Executive Committee, and a veteran suffrage worker, was the other prominent speaker of the evening. Mrs. Upton's humorous account of the final ratification of the suffrage amendment in Tennessee, where she had been as representative of the National Republican Party, entirely captivated her audience. Mrs. Upton explained that she had accepted her position in the Republican Party only on the understanding that her party should deliver the thirty-sixth state necessary for ratification. She urged women to get with the parties and "clean house" from the inside for "if you are non-partisan you are like the man who tries to clean his house by standing in front and waving his broom at it." The League of Women Voters received Mrs. Upton's commendation as she emphasized the importance of the background of suffrage work for the work of the new women voters.

Women candidates, both successful and unsuccessful were seated at the speakers' table and were called upon to speak briefly. Miss Emily Brown, Naugatuck, newly elected Republican representative to the legislature likened the legislature to an orchestra and expressed the hope that she might play her part as one of the members of the orchestra not as a phonograph with complete records furnished by some one else, and that men and women working together might be a new creative force in the state.

Mrs. Hiram Percy Maxim and Mrs. Fannie Dixon Welch, two defeated candidates for Democratic offices spoke briefly on "how it felt to run for office" and both declared the experi-

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## SUFFRAGE HEADQUARTERS PASSES

Suffrage Headquarters on Pratt Street, Hartford, has vanished to the outward eye. What has been for years a busy camp where battles were planned and launched and the results mapped with stars and pins, a gathering place for suffragists from the entire state, and a clearing house of information and suggestions, now lies empty. Ladies' cloaks and suits will soon occupy the place of its files and typewriters; and millinery, it is said, will adorn its show cases.

The staff has moved to higher realms. Mrs. Byles, its senior and indispensable member is on the third floor of 57 Pratt Street, together with Mrs. Kitchelt and the citizenship department. The executive department with Mrs. Dadourian and Miss Darby are on the second floor, and here also may be found any transient members.

Opened first about six years ago, the Pratt Street headquarters has been visited by many famous women both of this and of other countries. Mrs. Pankhurst, Mme. Malmberg of Finland and Mme. Grouitch of Serbia are among those who have been guests of the Hartford Political Equality League. Among those who have visited headquarters from other states are Miss Anne Martin of Nevada, Ex-Senator Helen Ring Robinson of Colorado, and the many distinguished visitors entertained by the state association during emergency week last May.

With the passing of the Pratt Street headquarters goes much that is precious to the hundreds of women who have been active in the work for suffrage in Connecticut. One Hartford woman said a short time ago: "One could always feel sure that in going there one would meet with understanding and a sympathetic hearing." As the relics of all the past years and campaigns were gathered together to be sorted and discarded or filed away, they formed a veritable monument to the untiring patience and energy of the women who opened these headquarters and who have carried them on as the nucleus of the woman movement in Connecticut. They formed also a promise of what that energy would now accomplish, freed from its immediate task.



**The Suffrage News Bulletin**  
PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY  
CONNECTICUT WOMAN SUFFRAGE  
ASSOCIATION  
55 Pratt Street Hartford, Conn.

**Subscription Price—25 Cents per Year**  
Entered as second-class matter March 9, 1920,  
at the post office at Hartford under the  
act of March 3, 1879

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With the combined November-December issue, The Suffrage News Bulletin makes its farewell bow to the Connecticut public. It regrets its disappearance for it has enjoyed life immensely. Its regrets, however, are entirely overbalanced by its rejoicing and satisfaction in seeing the purpose for which it has existed accomplished.

The Bulletin extends its best wishes to the women who will work for the formation of a League of Women Voters in Connecticut. It also extends its congratulations to the newly elected women members of the 1921 state legislature. Theirs is a unique and comprehensive opportunity. We wish them success.

Miss Hinaman will leave for Washington, D. C., Monday, November 29, where she will take charge of the publicity department of the National League of Women Voters.

### ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE TO MEET

Letters have been sent by Miss Ludington, Regional Director of the National League of Women Voters, to the presidents of women's organizations of the state, asking them to appoint representatives to an organization committee. This committee will probably hold its first meeting December 17th, and will have charge of the inauguration of a League of Women Voters in Connecticut. It will set the date and appoint committees for the mass meeting at which the League will be launched and its officers elected.

### TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CONNECTICUT WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION:

At the time of the convention on November 8th you did a very beautiful thing when you gave me as a memorial of the years we had worked together for suffrage, the painting of the livingroom in the old Headquarters. The picture is entirely delightful in itself, it has caught and preserved the spirit of the place and the memory of the efforts, the anxious conferences, the alternating hopes, and faith, and fears which had their center in this room. It will recall to me another picture which was always in my mind while I worked in this center, the picture of the Association itself, spread throughout the state, working like a well-divided army for a common aim, touched with a common vision. For however practical our work had of necessity to be, one knew that the driving motive back of it was an ideal. My picture is full of friendly and familiar faces and the memory of splendid service, rendered often under local conditions of extreme difficulty and discouragement, and of great and constant personal support and kindness toward the leader. It is filled with incidents too; a kind of homely epic, with varying phases and fortunes ebbing and flowing and a long history of successive "drives" and "moves", each projected with hopeful zeal on a long-suffering membership, each bringing us a little nearer the goal in spite of apparent failure.

It is a landscape with further horizons; the memory of a succession of courageous workers, through days far harder than ours—the vista too of suffragists in other states, working for the same ends under their own difficulties and discouragements. We knew we couldn't fail with such a past and such a present.

All these things Louis Orr's picture will symbolize, and it will remind me forever of what I have learned (and had to learn!) while I tried to lead you, of all that you had patience with, and upheld and inspired. No picture could ever hold a greater wealth of memory beyond its own intrinsic beauty.

We have won our immediate goal; is our purpose as a woman's movement fulfilled? Shall we separate now and pour all our energies, the experience that we have gained, and the wisdom, into the already existing political channels, or is there not the need of further co-operation, organized activity, as women, before we are ready to be entirely absorbed into the international life of our nation?

We believe that there is, and that a new organization is needed as an instrument to help us deal with a new situation.

Here's to many happy meetings as co-workers in the League of Women Voters!

KATHARINE LUDINGTON.

### CONNECTICUT ELECTS MOST WOMEN TO STATE LEGISLATURE

Connecticut leads every state in the entire country in the number of women it is sending to its state legislature this year according to a list compiled by the National Suffrage Association, which includes the western states where women have voted for so long.

Five women were elected in Connecticut; the next largest number comes from Kansas where four women were elected. Thirteen other states elected women to their legislatures. Of these five were eastern states. New Hampshire elected two women and Vermont chose one.

Connecticut also probably had the distinction of nominating the most women to public office. Thirty-one women were nominated to the legislature. The five who were elected were: Mrs. Lillian N. Frink, Republican, Canterbury; Miss Emily Brown, Republican, Naugatuck; Mrs. Mary M. Hooker, Republican, Hartford; Mrs. H. A. Jewett, Democrat, Tolland, and Rev. Grace I. Edwards, New Hartford, who was endorsed by both majority parties.

Many women were also elected to town offices.

### NOTES CONCERNING FORMER WORKERS WITH THE CON- NECTICUT WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Nancy M. Schoonmaker, who for two years was the director of citizenship for Connecticut, has just returned to New York after a trip across the continent speaking with the Pro-League Independents. She is now doing special lecturing. Her address is 454 West 20th Street, New York City.

Miss Mary Elizabeth Hutt, former executive secretary, is now living in Florida where she is "mothering" three small nieces and a nephew, her brother's children. Her address is 627 Emmett St., Palatka, Florida.

Mrs. Richard Cocke Jones, formerly Miss Daphne Selden, is living in Louisville, Kentucky.

Word has recently been received of the marriage of Miss Mary Parke London, of Birmingham, Alabama, formerly organizer for New Haven County.

The address of Miss Ninah Parshall, former Headquarters Secretary, is 35 Undine Apartments, Toledo, Ohio.

Miss Sally Fanny Gleaton is living at her home, Conyers, Georgia.

Mrs. Jerene Appleby, who organized in Litchfield and New Haven Counties, has been living in Washington, Iowa, since her husband's return from overseas service.

Miss Lola Walker is working for the Anna Howard Shaw Memorial. Her address is 4924 Center Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.



## FIFTY-ONE YEARS OF BATTLE RESULTS IN SUFFRAGE VICTORY

With the close of the last annual convention of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association held in Hartford Nov. 8 and 9, comes the dissolution of one of the oldest and largest women's organizations of the state. It is of course in the logical order of events that the association, which has seen its purpose accomplished after fifty years of untiring effort, should now go out of existence. It is also true that a new organization of women, known as the league of women voters will spring up to help women assume the responsibilities which political enfranchisement has brought them, and that in this new organization will be united not only the women who have worked together for suffrage but also those women who are interested in all sorts of social welfare movements.



Mrs. Katherine Houghton Hepburn

Nevertheless, the women who voted to dissolve the suffrage association did so with the feeling of regret with which one bids farewell to an old and tried and trusted friend. Nor was it only with a feeling of regret with which the women disbanded. The association has grown to stand for a definite, almost tangible, symbol of the spirit, self sacrifice, and labor of the women who had come in the earlier years of the struggle and had borne the brunt of the battle for the women of future generations. If there was any shadow on the rejoicing over victory, it was caused by the fact that the women who had so bravely formed the association back in 1869 could not be present to celebrate that victory.

Fifty-one years ago a gathering of prominent men and women came together in Hartford to organize the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association. Among them were Susan B. Anthony, Isabella Beecher Hooker, Harriet Beecher Stowe, the Rev. Nathaniel G. Burton, the Rev. C. E. Stowe, Frances Ellen Burr, William

Lloyd Garrison, Edward P. Parker, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Julia Ward Howe and Mary A. Livemore.

Last year at the fiftieth annual convention held in Bridgeport, the suffrage association celebrated its semi-centennial birthday and paid high honor to these founders of the association and those who had valiantly carried on the work after them.

However, it is fitting, as the association dissolves, that present members should once more call to mind not only the early supporters of suffrage but those who have since battled so gallantly to carry to victory the work begun by Susan B. Anthony.

Of those who signed the call to the first suffrage convention there is only one who is still living. She is Miss Ellen Burr of Hartford, who served as recording secretary of the association for forty-one years, from 1869 to 1910.

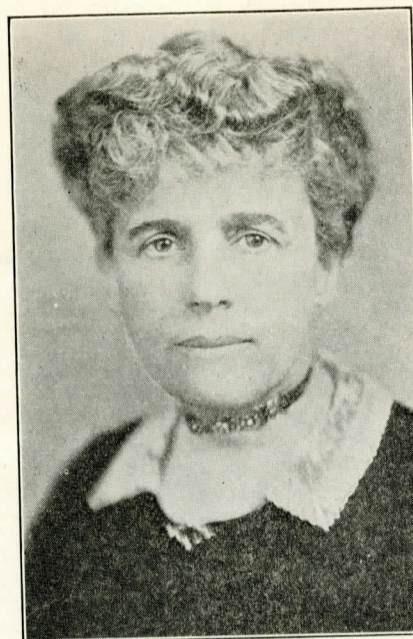
It is one thing to have an accurate and faithful secretary; it is quite another thing to have one who combines with the other virtues a decided literary sense and a nice feeling for effective detail. Not only do the carefully preserved records of each of the conventions of which Miss Burr made careful accounts, serve as an authentic history of the early suffrage movement in Connecticut but they afford delightful commentaries on the personalities of the noted men and women who were assembled to bring about what they believed was a great reform, and the general characteristics of the period. The leather covered book in which Miss Burr recorded the proceedings of the conventions and of the intervening executive board meetings is full of quaint, naively human details equally interesting in 1869 or 1920.

The first convention elected Rev. Nathaniel J. Burton of Hartford, president of the association, which office Dr. Burton held for two years. In 1872 Mrs. Isabella Beecher Hooker was elected president. Mrs. Hooker continued in this office for thirty-four years although her ill-health made it necessary for Mrs. Elizabeth Bacon, of Hartford, who was first vice-president, to carry on most of the executive work for several years. Mrs. Hooker was made honorary president in 1906 and Mrs. Bacon was elected president.

### Headquarters Opened

Mrs. Katharine Houghton Hepburn was elected president in 1910 to succeed Mrs. Bacon. Mrs. Hepburn came in at a time when the fresh enthusiasm and energy of new workers were greatly needed and built the organization up to one with an income of twenty or thirty thousand dollars. Under her administration, the suffrage association became a factor of political importance. Headquarters were hired on Pratt street, in Hartford, a state-wide organization was developed and Mrs. Hepburn and her able corps of workers carried the association through the propaganda period.

Mrs. Wm. Hincks was president during 1911 and 1912. Mrs. Hepburn



Miss Katharine Ludington

was elected in 1913 and continued until 1917.

### Miss Ludington Elected in 1917

Miss Katharine Ludington of Old Lyme, who had served as New London county chairman under Mrs. Hepburn, was elected president in 1917. Under Miss Ludington's direction the association continued to grow throughout the state until a local branch had developed in almost every town in the state. During the last few years, the political side of the organization has been particularly stressed in order that there might be local workers to whom to turn in the fight for state suffrage measures. The practicability of this movement was demonstrated in the presidential suffrage campaign of 1919 when legislators were interviewed by local women concerning their stand on suffrage. Under Miss Ludington, the suffrage association gained the distinction of being the first state to start an educational campaign teaching women the use of the vote before it was actually won. Out of this movement has grown a well-developed and extensive citizenship department which has served as a model for many other states.

The last few years have also seen the most intense political struggle of all the years of suffrage work. With a staff of efficient, college-trained, political, educational, and publicity workers, Miss Ludington has led the association through the final stages of well-organized political opposition to woman suffrage when sagacious and shrewd leadership and calm, fair judgment were needed, to the point where final victory has made the efforts of the association no longer needed.

Her honest methods of dealing, her astute leadership, her endless devotion have written Miss Ludington's name not only into suffrage annals but into the history of Connecticut as a state woman of the highest order; a name which will always be mentioned in connection with the final enfranchisement of the women of Connecticut.





## SUFFRAGISTS MEET IN FINAL CONVENTION

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ence had been invaluable.

At the close of the speeches, Miss Mabel Washburn presented to Miss Ludington a Louis Orr pastel sketch of the old-fashioned room in the building at 55 Pratt Street where Miss Ludington has done so much of her work.

When presenting the gift for the association, Miss Washburn said,

"We are pausing for a moment, this evening, on a peak of accomplishment looking forward to the heights before us, yet to be scaled, and backward, over the path by which we have reached our present position. On that winding path we have had many enriching experiences, the very greatest among which has been the fellowship of the courageous, broadminded and clear-visioned women with whom we have worked in our fight for justice.

"Among these women there is one especially whose help and inspiration have meant much to us. One hardly knows whether to speak of the steadfast serenity of temper which always refuses to be ruffled by the little daily happenings and irritations which are so disturbing to most of us—or the indomitable optimism which always believes even in the moment of defeat, that right must triumph and that the next move will prove successful, the fertile imagination, ever ready with plans for that next move, or the wonderful fair-mindedness which never lets prejudice befall the main issue and is always eager to see the best side of an antagonist, even in the moment of battle. All these qualities we have found and loved in Miss Ludington.

"There is an upper room in an old-fashioned house on Pratt Street where our beloved leader has spent many hours of work, and where we have never failed to find encouragement and inspiration—It is because I am among those who have most often visited that room that I have been given the privilege of saying these words. We have thought that when that old house is torn down, as it soon will be, Miss Ludington might like to have a picture of the room, as a souvenir of the years during which she has worked there, so we have had one made, and are giving it to her this evening as an expression of our love and devotion."

Mr. Orr who found the subject for his drawing a very pleasant one, made the sketch particularly for this occasion. The pastel includes the delightful old fire-place, a bit of the corner bookcase, a tea table and wicker chairs. It is in Orr's inimitable and delicate style which will preserve the memory of the room long after the building has been torn down.

The dinner was attended by a large number of representative citizens, men and women, Republicans and Democrats. Miss Ludington presided.

The Monday afternoon session of the convention was taken up by routine business and the reports of county chairmen and of standing committees.

Particularly interesting were the reports of the Citizenship Committee and of the executive secretary, Mrs. Ruth McIntire Dadourian who gave the history of the year, particularly reviewing the work for the special session, including the visit of the forty-seven women from as many states during emergency week, and the final ratification of the amendment which made Connecticut the thirty-seventh state in line.

The Tuesday morning session of the convention was given over to the discussion of "Our Duty to the Future." The principal address was made by Miss Ludington, who is chairman of the New England region of the National League of Women Voters, as well as president of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association. Miss Ludington explained first why there should be a league of women voters, pointing out that although the vote is won, the woman movement is not completed, that women will enter political life as women, with a definite responsibility to meet and a definite contribution to make in addition to the larger field of interests which women share in common with men. "If it is true," continued Miss Ludington, that women have a special contribution to make and have not yet an equal influence with men in public life they must remain organized in some form. The outcome of this is the woman's organizations within the political parties, and the League of Women Voters, **outside the parties.**

"The next question is, 'what is the League of Women Voters?' Of course, first of all we have in our minds the thing we call partisanship. The League of Women Voters is not a partisan organization, it is not an attempt to keep women out of the political parties. It is an effort to keep women voters alert to the possibilities of holding politicians to a stand upon national or local issues as they come before the electorate. Left alone to the political parties, women voters must rely solely upon party literature and the partisan press.

"The League of Women Voters is a nation-wide, non-partisan organization composed of affiliated leagues from each state. It is already organized in 42 states. It has two purposes, to work for citizenship and for the passage and enforcement of improved legislation especially in the interest of women, children and the home. It has a program of work both federal and state. The policy of the League is non-partisan, its membership is multi-partisan.

"The parties are means of formulating public purposes and establishing goals, but the parties were organized and developed and have been controlled by men and they are, perhaps of all our institutions, more exclusively of a man's point of view. That is not saying that men have not formulated and worked for great purposes which were human purposes. All that I need say is that they have not contained always the expression of the woman's principle and particular point of view.

"It is true that the woman movement is not over. I have not begun to touch on why it is not over. Let

## SUFFRAGE SOUVENIRS ON SALE AT HEADQUARTERS

Suffrage souvenirs, including many league banners and other banners carried in the 1914 suffrage parade, "votes-for-women" china, and many novelties, which were not disposed of at the auction held at the close of the convention, are now on sale at suffrage headquarters in Hartford.

Among the bargains which the indefatigable headquarters staff will be ready to sell you when you drop in is a very alluring book offer by which you will be able to obtain dozens of valuable books for a minimum price.

There are also many attractive pictures and posters. Stop in at headquarters and secure a suffrage memento before the supply is exhausted.

During Miss Murray's absence from Fairfield County work, Mrs. Frank Hiram Snell of Washington, D. C., served as County organizer.

us say that we agree that somehow or other the woman movement must find some future organized form of expression. I believe that one of them is going to be the work of women within the political party. There is a need for some organization that can be organized for specific purposes, but the National League of Women Voters will not attempt to supplement what the existing organizations are doing. The League of Women Voters takes the woman simply as a woman voter.

"The League is not a democratic organization, as we have been hearing pretty generally, and it is not a republican organization, as it has been rumored. How can the League supplement the work of the parties? In the first place it can bring the concerted pressure of the woman vote at times when it is needed to promote certain legislation which women want for the fulfillment of the program of women's needs. The simple knowledge that women voters want certain legislation will have a tremendous effect.

"The League of Women Voters can form a common meeting ground. We can develop a definite and certain woman's program, which already the National League of Women Voters has done. It can supply a non-partisan information service. That is a very difficult thing to do, because if you get your information service too non-partisan you get it colorless so that it really means nothing. It can keep the sense of solidarity for women. I want to end on that note because that note is the principal reason for the League's existence."

As a result of the discussion which followed Miss Ludington's address, the votes which were recorded in the first paragraphs were taken.

Mrs. Upton assisted with the raising of funds to carry the association through to the first of January. The final event of the convention was an auction, with Miss Julia Hinaman as auctioneer, of all kinds of suffrage novelties, including banners, books and pedestals which were sold as souvenirs. The convention was adjourned at the close of the auction.