

OREGON WOMEN CAST THEIR FIRST VOTES IN CITY ELECTIONS

Many Incidents Mark Exercise of Their Right of Suffrage for First Time—Keen Interest Is Taken in the Debut of Women Into Politics.



Women Voting in 2nd Ward, Albany City Election, Monday



Miss Cassie H. Thompson, First Oregon Woman to Serve on Regular Election Board.



Miss Cassie H. Thompson Serving as Clerk of Election Board, 1st Ward, Albany



Mrs. Amanda Edmonds, First Woman to Vote at Tillamook.



Mrs. Martha Van Winkle, age 78, First Woman to Vote in Western Oregon.



Women Voting in 1st Ward, Albany.



Mrs. A. D. Shollenberg, First Woman to Vote at Newport.



Miss Cove, First Woman to Vote at Hillsboro.



(Left to Right) Mrs. J. P. Lucorat and Mrs. Chas. H. Carten, Serving on Hood River Election Board.



Mrs. Viola P. Franklin, First Albany Woman to Vote in City Election.



Prominent Grant's Pass Women Casting First Vote at Municipal Election Dec. 2nd



Mrs. Emma J. Snyder, First Woman to Vote in Astoria.



Mrs. Mindwell E. R. Church, Elected City Treasurer of Gladstone.



Mrs. S. M. Whitford, First Woman to Vote in Bend, Or.

IN THE days to come, when the young and old gather together around the fire, and anecdotes and reminiscences are the order of the evening, the young children who gather at their mother's knee will learn to their astonishment that women did not always vote. Then will arise a storm of those questions generally so aptly hard to answer, and generally dodged by the paterfamilias, to the best of his ability. One question, however, will be answered, there is every reason to expect, the question as to the date of the entry of women into the arena of government, and the mothers will be able to answer it.

Soon, too, with the inevitable advance of time will come about that in the obituary notices one will read of some pioneer woman, "She was the first woman to vote in her city," or "She was the first woman to hold office."

There have been held recently city elections in many of the large towns and cities of Oregon.

Curiosity was rife to see how the women conducted themselves, what was the effect of their presence on the merely masculine element on the great questions of the day; in fact, every little move a poor woman made on this day of days was noted with avidity and seized upon as the basis for some report or discussion.

Long before suffrage had become an accomplished fact men were telling how women would make this city or that county dry; how the election booths would become my lady's boudoir; of the time they would take to vote and of their keen desire to run for every office under the sun. They watched with interest, therefore, this first attempt.

What did they find? Certainly they found that many towns went dry and that women did vote as a rule against candidates who had come out into the open in favor of keeping it "wet." But they also found that women on election boards made for success. They were quicker at tabulating; they were neater with their figures, and they did not turn the polling booths into dressing-rooms or prevent the men from acting in the main just as they always did, though it must be confessed that more articles, especially feminine, were left behind. Certainly the men were pressed to continue smoking; they were even told they could keep their hats on, but their gallantry proved adamant against such a misdeed of manners. That gallantry, too, urged them to bring flowers and candy, and it also had the effect of bringing about a cleaner condition at the polls. This much-needed improvement, therefore, is one more feather in the cap of the woman voter.

Additional interest centered on the success of those women who ran for office and on the proportion of women who would turn out to vote.

Women as a Rule Defeated.

Taken as a general rule, women who ran for the larger offices were defeated handsomely, though in some few cases the results were close—notably, at Camas, where Dr. Louisa Wright came within one vote of success for the office of Mayor. In smaller offices they met with quite their fair share of success.

The anti-suffrage argument that



Mrs. Meta G. Saunders, First Woman to Vote in Junction City.



Mrs. J. R. Metzger, 1st Woman to Vote in 1st Ward, Albany



Mrs. Will J. Hayne, First Woman to Vote in Sutherlin, Or.



Members of Bridge Club, Bend, Or., All of Whom Voted Tuesday



Many Hood River Women Voted



Mrs. J. P. Powell, Age 90 Who Voted at Gresham



Mrs. Geo. Leslie, First Woman to Vote at Gresham.

As a rule, it was a woman who was first to vote, often through the gallantry of the man who stood aside, recognizing this as an occasion which meant possibly something to them, but infinitely more to the opposite sex. The actual honor of being the first woman to vote was not won without a struggle. Some went many miles and waited many weary hours to lose no chance of being first in the field. Mrs. G. P. Putnam made a break-neck

journey from Connecticut to Bend in order to be at the polls and also to vote for her husband.

In one or two instances, though, a woman was first who did not even want the distinction. For instance, Mrs. F. E. Van Tassel, of Albany, was almost indignant when she heard that no woman had voted before her. She said she wasn't hunting any publicity and did not want it. Miss Emma Snyder, too, of Astoria, just happened to be first, for she voted as a duty, not as a privilege.

Oregon City seems to have had more powder puffs and mirrors left in the booths than any other city, while the woman candidate for Mayor, Mrs. Kate Newton, ran a bad second to Linn E. Jones. There Mrs. Dora Blanchard was the first woman to vote out of 466 from a possible 500, or a percentage of over 92.

At Gladstone, Mrs. Minda Church was elected City Treasurer over a mere man by 25 votes.

Mrs. Powell, Aged 90, Votes.

It was at Gresham that, in all probability, occurred a feat never to be repeated in Oregon. Mrs. J. P. Powell, in her 90th year, voted side by side with her daughter, Mrs. Minnie Clannahan, who ran for the office of Treasurer, and her son, Earl Clannahan, not one of whom had ever voted before.

At Redmond women had a great deal to do with the decisive defeat of ex-Mayor Jones, who was ousted a short time ago by Governor West. Wascomen got their helpmets to aid in quashing the proposed amendment to the city charter. At Shaniko Miss Annie Magee received ten complimentary votes for Mayor, while a woman lost by one vote in her race for Recorder. Three women and two men made up the election board at Island City, this being a common occurrence. Miss Letta Luke, the popular Postmistress of Talent, managed to win her first municipal fight as Recorder by 13 votes.

Great enthusiasm was displayed at Dayton, one of the earliest of all the cities to hold an election after the passage of suffrage. In order to make assurance doubly sure, Mrs. Ella Harris, wife of the ex-Mayor, awaited outside the polls for a considerable period of time to be the first woman ever to vote in Dayton.

As was only fitting, a granddaughter of the first white woman to make her home in Astoria was the first woman to vote. This was Mrs. Bertha W. Holmes, the granddaughter of the late Mrs. Nancy Welch.

Another case of special aptitude for the honor of first woman voter was that at Warrenton of Mrs. S. S. Munsion, a survivor of the Whitman massacre of '47 and widow of the late J. W. Munsion, for 39 years keeper of the lighthouse at Fort Canby and Point Adams.

The only woman running for office