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## O. S. W. S. A.

MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE OREGON STATE WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

A NEW CONSTITUTION ADOPTED—LARGE AND ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCES PRESENT—ADDRESSES BY MANY PROMINENT LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

### FIRST DAY—MORNING SESSION.

The ninth annual Convention of the Oregon State Woman Suffrage Association met on Tuesday, the 8th instant, in the large hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, as per previous announcement, the President, Mr. E. F. Heroy, in the chair.

Owing to the interruption of lines of travel by storms and floods, very many of the delegates from abroad had not yet arrived, the counties represented being Multnomah, Yamhill, Washington, Clatsop and Clackamas.

The Recording Secretary, Mrs. J. DeVore Johnson, being absent, Mrs. Duniway was appointed *pro tem*.

The President appointed the following Committees:

On Programme—Mrs. M. A. Dalton and Miss Ida Lesley of Multnomah and Mrs. E. A. Corwin of Clatsop.

On Finance—Chaplain Stubbs, Mrs. C. A. Corburn and Mrs. M. A. Dalton, all of Multnomah.

On Resolutions—Mrs. H. A. Loughary of Yamhill and Mrs. A. S. Duniway and Dr. Mary A. Thompson of Multnomah.

Mr. E. F. Heroy, the President, then read the following address:

#### THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

*Officers and Members of the Oregon State Woman Suffrage Association.*—The ninth annual Convention of your Society convenes this morning under unusually favorable auspices, and, though much of the progress of the question of woman's enfranchisement may be attributed to the earnest desire of the intelligent people of this coast to lay the foundation of our governmental fabric upon the rock of eternal truth, yet to-day we should not have witnessed the broad fields of ripening grain, now almost ready for the garner, had it not been for the wearisome toil, the unswerving purpose, the abounding zeal of the officers and members of this Association. A ready appreciation should be accorded to those who have stood and toiled in the front rank of the work.

In reviewing the work of the past year, I find that very much more has been accomplished for Woman Suffrage in that time than in all the former years of the Association's history; and it is significant to note that this work has been accomplished mainly within the latter half of the year, cheering the hearts of the husbandmen with the thought that the harvest so long delayed is at last ready for the gatherer. In justice to those who have labored so zealously in former years to prepare the soil and sow the seed of our present harvest—to show that we are not unmindful of their labors—I will briefly notice the successive stages of the work accomplished prior to the present year.

Mrs. Duniway, who has been the leader of the movement from the beginning in this State, and to whose untiring energy our success is thus far mainly due, attended the Legislature for the first time for the purpose of bringing the interests of women before that honorable body of law-makers in 1872. At that time the women of Oregon were wholly under the dominion of the old common law, which deprived them, as soon as married, of all legal, civil, political and financial personality, and made them alike the subjects of their husbands' munificence or illiberality, their affections or abuse, their prodigality or their disposition to be miserly. At the legislative session before alluded to, Hon. Samuel Corwin, then of Tillamook, but now a resident of Astoria, offered a resolution to secure the elective franchise to citizens without regard to sex. A number of gentlemen seconded Mr. Corwin's efforts and fought bravely for the resolution, but, though it received a handsome vote, it failed to receive a majority. In 1874, Col. C. A. Reed, who has always been a staunch Woman Suffragist, introduced the same resolution, which was equally well considered in the House, but eventually shared the fate of its predecessor. But the majority of our legislators were not indifferent to the rights of women, even in that early period of the movement, as was proved by their passage of "The Married Women's Sole Trader Bill" in '72, and a "Married Women's Property Bill" in '74. In '76, though an honorable effort was made by a called Convention of this Association for the purpose of securing further legislation in woman's behalf, there was no immediate result. In '78, Mrs. Duniway was again at her post, and remained at the Legislature throughout the session, bearing her own expenses,

as in former years, and, with the noble assistance of many gentlemen and ladies, so shaping public sentiment that a law was passed granting to married women the right to personal use and control of all property received by them through gift, devise or inheritance. They also secured at that session the right to make contracts and to sue and be sued. Public sentiment continued to grow in favor of exact equality for women before the law, until in 1880 there was a law passed granting to them, when married, the right to own and control their own earnings the same as if single. They are also entitled, under the same law, to the custody and control of their minor children upon equal terms with fathers. The "Probate Confiscation Court" has been abolished, and the wife can now hold the property and carry on the business, in case of the husband's death, with the same immunity from legal oppression with which the husband has always been able to carry on the business after the death of the wife. But the crowning act of the Legislature of 1880 was the triumphant passage of the resolution to amend the Constitution and grant women the elective franchise. Until this right has been secured to them, all other rights are unsafe. If men need the ballot for the protection of their interests, it is idle to say that women do not need it for a like reason. It has been well said that "men and women have the same animal and mental natures, the same physical and spiritual needs, and the same common destiny. The inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is common to both, and each is endowed with an individuality peculiar to the sex, and neither can rightly represent the other, because it is not possible for one class to comprehend the individual needs of another class."

The next great effort of our Association will be to exert its influence for nominating well-known Woman Suffragists for the Legislature of 1882. The resolution passed at the last session will require to be ratified at the next one before it can reach the people. Let every member of this Association and every friend of woman's enfranchisement be on the alert. Other States in the Union are moving rapidly in the same direction, and Oregon must hasten in the work if she would gain the prestige of leadership which those who are battling valiantly to secure so much desire. Women are already voting on educational interests in Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Colorado, California, Oregon, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New York, and on all questions in Wyoming and Utah.

Let us not delude ourselves with the idea that we shall have no opposition. Bigotry, ignorance, intemperance and licentiousness in every form will unite to place obstructions in the way; slander and vituperation will be hurled at the leaders in the future as in the past; but the friends of freedom will surely triumph if they do their duty.

I would recommend that you have a Committee on Political Action, consisting of picked men and women of each county, whose duty shall consist in securing the passage of a resolution favoring Woman Suffrage by every nominating Convention in State or county. I would also suggest that a standing Committee on Finance be appointed, and that one of its first considerations should be to devise some way of remunerating Mrs. Duniway in some degree for her labors in the cause. While others whose hearts are enlisted have occasionally assisted in the work, she has struggled constantly, suffering indignities and persecutions in forwarding the cause; has toiled and journeyed often, visiting remote places, meeting the untamed elements, fighting our battles, hand to hand with ignorance and prejudice, and, in spite of seemingly unsurmountable difficulties, has sown the seed of this gospel of truth broadcast over our mountains and through our valleys, scattering the leaves of the tree of knowledge, calling around her the friends of the cause, and, by organizing societies and speaking in school-houses and churches, so arousing the people that they have become our co-workers all over the State. To sustain her and the NEW NORTHWEST is to sustain the cause.

Opponents of Woman Suffrage, who have retreated step by step from their former positions, are now attempting to interpose a constitutional barrier to prevent the ratification by the Legislature of 1882 of the resolution adopted last Fall; but it is noticeable that the leading newspapers which at first favored this fancy have ceased to offer it as a reasonable or legal objection. The ablest legislators, lawyers, judges and jurists who have examined the Constitution with unprejudiced motives are unanimous in their opinion that the Constitution was not intended as a barrier to human liberty. To argue that the Constitution prohibits a proposition for amending any part or clause of the whole while an already proposed amendment of any other clause or part is pending, is to place an obstruction in the pathway of common sense. But if you make it say, as it

means, that no amendment to a pending amendment shall be proposed while such amendment awaits the ratification required by the Constitution as a whole, you then interpret the instrument in accordance with a broad comprehension of logic and law. Let every member of this Association read the Constitution and become properly fortified against the sophistry of unconstitutional opposition.

The National work is progressing grandly. The yearly Conventions at Washington are popular, well-attended and enthusiastic. The press and people are being instructed more rapidly than ever before in the principles of justice. Congress receives delegations of Woman Suffragists with courtesy, and gives them a respectful hearing before committees. Members of both Houses make stirring speeches for the cause. The White House is open for the reception of its advocates. Mrs. Hayes is a pronounced Woman Suffragist, and the President is not opposed to the measure. The leading divines of the country are giving the cause their warmest approval and making stirring speeches in its favor, and Christian men and women all over the Nation are beginning to realize the fact that the mission of Christ on earth meant peace and good will to women as well as men.

The cause is marching on. Let good will, harmony and enthusiasm mark our deliberations in this Convention. Let us be guided by wisdom and moderation in all we say and do, and victory will crown our labors with success.

#### AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE ADDRESS.

Letters favoring the work of the Association were read from Mrs. P. Kuhl and Miss M. L. Douthitt, President and Secretary of the Grant County Woman Suffrage Association; from Hon. M. Fulton of Clatsop, who introduced the Woman Suffrage resolution in the last State Senate; Hon. F. O. McCown of Clackamas, Hon. J. N. Dolph of Multnomah, Hon. W. Carey Johnson of Clackamas, and Hon. W. H. Smallwood and Hon. S. M. Gilmore of Klickitat county, W. T.

Dr. Thompson was called for, and made a brief address.

Adjourned to 2 P. M.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention was called to order at 2 o'clock by the President.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

Upon invitation, the Association was addressed by Mr. Cochran of Vancouver. He said that he had been taught the doctrine of Woman Suffrage by his mother and by his sister, who were noble women. His wife was a Woman Suffragist, and together they helped along the good cause of liberty according to their opportunities. He considered it a reflection upon the nineteenth century that conventions should be necessary for the consideration of the enfranchisement of women. He spoke at some length upon the desirability of giving women the ballot as a reformatory movement—especially in the cause of temperance. He devoutly believed that the women would wipe out the curse of intemperance. In conclusion, he enunciated his creed. He declared himself opposed to secession and to slavery of every kind, and in favor of universal suffrage, especially Woman Suffrage.

Mrs. A. S. Duniway, Chairman of the Committee on Revision of the Constitution and By-Laws, presented the report of the Committee. The revised Constitution and By-Laws were read and considered *seriatim*.

The following form was adopted by the Association:

#### CONSTITUTION.

We, the undersigned, citizens of the State of Oregon, in order to promote the enfranchisement of the women of the commonwealth, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to all persons, do ordain and subscribe to this Constitution.

Article 1. This Association shall be called the Oregon State Woman Suffrage Association, and shall be auxiliary to the National Woman Suffrage Association of the United States.

Article 2. The officers of this Association shall consist of a President, Vice-President at Large, a Vice-President for each county of the State of Oregon, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Executive Committee of five persons, and their duties shall be the same as devolve upon like officers in other associated deliberative bodies, except as hereinafter specified.

Article 3. The Vice-President at Large shall be authorized to lecture under the auspices of this Association, in any town, city or district he or she may visit within the boundaries of the State, and shall be vigilant in prosecuting the work of the Association; and he or she shall, as far as possible, organize County Woman Suffrage Societies and local Woman Suffrage Clubs, and shall be

entitled to such funds from the treasury as the Executive Committee shall deem appropriate compensation for the service rendered.

Article 4. The Vice-Presidents of this Association shall consist of the Presidents of the various County Associations. For counties in which there are no auxiliary societies, this Association shall elect the Vice-Presidents by a majority vote.

Article 5. The Executive Committee shall consist *ex officio* of the President, the Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, the Vice-President at Large, and one other member of the Association, to be elected at each annual meeting.

Article 6. The regular meetings of this Association shall be held annually in the city of Portland, beginning their sessions at 10 A. M., on Tuesday, of the first week of the Mechanics' Fair, and continuing the same as long as the officers and members shall deem expedient. But the Executive Committee may have the power to call extra sessions whenever necessary.

Article 7. All elections shall be effected by ballot, and a majority of all votes cast shall be required to elect.

Article 8. Election of officers shall take place annually on the afternoon prior to the closing evening session; and officers shall hold their positions until their successors are duly elected and installed.

Article 9. Five members may constitute a quorum at any regular session of the meetings of this Association.

Article 10. Any person may become a member of this Association and be entitled to a voice in its deliberations by signing this Constitution and paying into the treasury annually a fee of \$1.

Article 11. Amendments to this Constitution must be proposed in writing, and shall be presented to the Executive Committee two weeks prior to any annual meeting; and a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting of the Association shall be sufficient to adopt.

#### BY-LAWS.

Article 1. Three sessions of the Association shall be held daily during any annual meeting, viz.: at 10:30 A. M. and at 2 and 7:30 P. M. But a temporary change may be made at any regular meeting by a majority vote of those present.

Article 2. The Executive Committee shall meet from time to time at the call of the President.

Article 3. The following committees, each of three persons, shall be appointed by the President at the opening session of any regular convention, to-wit: on Programme, on Finance and on Resolutions; members of these committees to serve during the sessions of the meeting at which they are appointed.

After the adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws, the Convention was entertained by an instrumental solo by Miss Ellen Scott, of Forest Grove.

Adjourned until 7:30 P. M.

#### EVENING SESSION.

Convention called to order at 7:30 o'clock by the President.

Miss Dora McCord and Miss Nellie Waltz favored the audience with instrumental music upon the violin and the piano.

Mrs. Duniway delivered an address of welcome to the immense assemblage. She alluded to the small beginning of the Woman Suffrage movement in Oregon—a beginning scarcely noted by the people. She said the reform carried with it from its inception a promise of success, because it was a question of right, and as such must eventually triumph. "We are not advocating woman's rights, but equal rights for all, irrespective of race or color—recognizing for all the brotherhood of men and the fatherhood of God." She spoke of the struggles and aspirations of the women of the Revolution. They began the struggle for equal rights. Mrs. Abigail Adams uttered long ago the plea for political equality which the women of today present to the American people in all confidence. Mrs. Duniway concluded by saying that the Oregon Legislature had at last placed before the people of this State a live issue by consenting to submit to them the question of woman's enfranchisement.

Rev. J. A. Gray next addressed the meeting. He stated that he could not undertake to go over much ground in speaking upon the subject of discussion. He said that the States of the Union are rapidly recognizing the property and family rights of women who have helped to found our Republic. He reviewed the position of women in history, citing many heroic examples, and paid a compliment to the women of the Revolution, ascribing credit to them which has been too seldom accorded. He alluded to the great reformatory work which has been done by women in our country—especially in elevating and assimilating ignorant and often degraded hor-

[Continued on eighth page]