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O. S. W. S. A.

THE TENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE OREGON STATE WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

MINUTES OF THE FIRST AND SECOND DAYS—THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT-AT-LARGE.

The Oregon State Woman Suffrage Association assembled in tenth annual convention on Tuesday morning, October 18th, in Y. M. C. A. Hall. The attendance was limited, owing no doubt to the fall, which poured down in torrents and continued nearly all the forenoon.

FIRST DAY—MORNING SESSION.

President Heroy called the Convention to order at 10:30 o'clock.

The Secretary, Miss Maggie Foster, of Albany, failing to arrive, Mrs. M. C. Cline was appointed Secretary *pro tem*.

After a musical selection on the organ had been rendered and prayer offered, the President appointed the following committees:

On Programme—Mrs. M. A. Dalton, Mrs. A. E. Torrey, Mrs. M. A. Edmunds.

On Finance—Mrs. M. C. Cline, Mrs. Sue R. Keenan, Mr. C. J. Curtis.

On Resolutions—Mrs. C. A. Coburn, Mr. J. F. D'Arcy, Hon. W. F. Benjamin.

President Heroy then delivered his annual address, as follows:

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Fellow Officers and Members of the Oregon State Woman Suffrage Association:—I need not remind you that the occasion that convenes us is one of no ordinary interest. The last Legislature, through its action in passing a resolution for so amending the State Constitution that women citizens may be entitled to the elective franchise, has triumphantly carried your claim beyond the pale of ridicule, and entitled it to the respectful consideration of all honorable men.

Since our last meeting, but little of importance has transpired in connection with our movement for me to note, except the gratifying evidence on every hand of its healthy, vigorous and steady growth. We rarely hear objections urged against equal rights of late; and the few exceptional arguments of the opposition are generally from persons so lacking in comparative intelligence and morals that their objections awaken no surprise, and would occasion no concern but for the fact that every ignorant and unprincipled man is a voter, and therefore a factor that will be counted as one against us in the final reckoning that must be made up at the polls.

Our principal object in holding these meetings is agitation. Error dreads discussion and flees from it. Truth seeks the light of investigation and basks in it. Our cause is truth, and "the truth shall make us free."

Before another annual meeting of this Association shall convene its delegates in council, the next session of the Legislature, upon which the fate of our movement rests, will have met and taken final action upon the Woman Suffrage resolution now pending. I would recommend a careful distribution of our work among the various county organizations, to secure such agitation before the different political associations as shall result in electing known advocates of equal rights to seats in that honorable body. It is not enough that we meet and offer resolutions and discuss and pass them, and make speeches, sing songs and read essays. There is a work to do in every county after we go hence; a work which is especially important, and which must necessarily devolve upon a few chosen persons, clothed with proper discretionary power. This work, in my judgment, should consist in great part of writing letters to or communicating personally with all known candidates for Legislative honors, or those liable to become candidates, and securing from them, if possible, an expression of opinion upon the question at issue. After the nominees have been chosen, if any are doubtful, they should be again addressed and respectfully requested to favor the ratification of the Woman Suffrage resolution with an affirmative vote. A true representative of the people will have no desire to thwart the expressed wishes of his constituents in his capacity of law-maker, and no man can consistently do so after he has been properly instructed.

I am confident that your deliberations will be marked by the courtesy, fair dealing and harmony that have characterized those of former conventions of this Association. You are working for the right, and working to win. Do not permit this week's unusual outside attractions in the city to swerve you from your duty here. You are working for liberty, justice, morality, temperance, religion, homes, happiness and country! The eyes of the world are upon Oregon. Nebraska will reach a vote upon Woman Suffrage before our State can reach it, because her organic law requires no ratification of any Legislative act by a subsequent assembly to make it constitutional. But I believe Nebraska will lose power because of her speedily approaching vote, and we know that the cause in Oregon is gaining daily because of delay. Popular as is the cause in many States of the Union, and rapidly as it has progressed in Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Louisiana, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Kansas and California, Oregon leads them all, and will, I doubt not, be the banner State of the future. This Association has only to adhere to its present policy, while its workers continue to maintain the harmonious unity of action throughout that has characterized it thus far, and in due time its triumph will be complete.

The Vice-President-at-Large, Mrs. A. S. Duniway, submitted the following report, which was unanimously accepted:

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT-AT-LARGE.

Mr. President, Gentlemen, and Ladies:—As Vice-President-at-Large of this Association, I have, since my election to the office, endeavored as best I could to perform the duties assigned me, of which I will now offer a brief synopsis.

In January, Mrs. J. DeVore Johnson and myself accepted an invitation from the well-organized and influential Woman Suffrage Association of Yamhill county to attend a convention at McMinnville, in connection with our able and indefatigable co-worker, Mrs. H. A. Loughary. This convention was largely attended and productive of the happiest results.

I then went to Lafayette and gave two lectures, and from thence, after a short season spent at home, to Corvallis, where I held several meetings and organized the Benton County Woman Suffrage Association.

I next held a series of meetings in Polk county, and organized the County Woman Suffrage Association in Dallas, and an auxiliary club in Independence. On my way to Portland, I stopped over and gave lectures at Astoria in Yamhill, and also at Hillsboro in Washington county.

Thence I went to Wasco county, and gave a course of lectures in The Dalles and at Upper Cascades, and, returning, organized the Wasco County Woman Suffrage Association.

My next public work was in Northern Idaho, where I went in June and held meetings in Lewiston, Mt. Idaho, Grangeville and Moscow. Then I went to Washington Territory and organized a Whitman County Association at Colfax and a Spokane County Association at Cheney. Besides lecturing at these county towns, I also held a series of public meetings in Palouse, Spokane Falls and Alnsworth.

I returned to Portland in July, and after a brief respite from platform labor, repaired to Astoria, where I held meetings at upper and lower towns, and also at Ilwaco and Oysterville in Washington Territory, and stopped over at Knappa and gave two lectures on my return to Portland.

In September, after a brief respite at home, I went to Southern Oregon and held public meetings in Jacksonville, Ashland and Phoenix; but the approaching Convention of the State Association and my own indisposition prevented any attempt at organization in Jackson county, though I found the people quite ready for it and the cause popular.

Since last February I have traveled seven hundred miles by rail, eight hundred by steamer, and five hundred by stage and buckboard; made fifty-two Woman Suffrage addresses and a Fourth of July oration at Cheney, Washington Territory; addressed the Pioneer Society of Jackson county, Oregon; and organized five County Woman Suffrage Associations and one auxiliary county club.

I have enjoyed the courtesy of press passages on most of the principal routes of travel and free entertainment in many private families, and also in the Parker House, Astoria. Besides, I have expended for hotel bills, hall rents, back hire and incidentals inseparably connected with almost constant traveling the sum of \$142 65 from my private funds above all contributions to the fifty-two lectures above named. This sum I have raised as I needed it from the sale of books and from subscriptions to the journal in which I am interested. The lectures have in every instance been largely attended by the leading citizens of each community. The most respectable and intelligent classes have joined the associations in all cases, the officers frequently being among the foremost—judges, lawyers, clergymen, farmers, editors and school teachers in the county, who are ready to assist their mothers, wives, sisters and daughters in their endeavor to secure equal rights for men and women. Occasionally I have met with very contemptible opposition from self-styled "protectors of women," but their numbers are so few of late, and their attempts to retard the work so futile, that they only provoke a passing comment, after which they relapse into oblivion. Very rarely I find women who are opposed to their own enfranchisement; but they are always among those who take all the rights in the matrimonial catalogue, and their iron rule only extends over one voter in a household, so we have not much to fear from their mesager numbers and contracted influence. The most gratifying progress I note is among the young people, and in the schools and colleges, where the cause has become immensely popular.

The Convention adjourned until 2 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

A greater number was in attendance than at the morning session.

The meeting was called to order by the President. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and approved, an opportunity was afforded those desiring to pay dues to come forward and do so.

The Recording Secretary, Miss Maggie Foster, then read letters from Hon. M. C. George and Hon. J. N. Dolph, of Portland; Hon. Thomas H. Brents, of Walla Walla; Rev. Thos. Condon, of Eugene; Rev. I. Dillon, of Albany; Mrs. J. B. Eaton, of Union county; Mrs. E. W. Andrews, of Salem; and Philip Ritz, of Ritzville. Letters were also received from Judge Burnett, of Corvallis, and Dr. Mary O. Brown, President of the Washington Territory Woman Suffrage Association.

The general tenor of these letters was the hope that the cause might be furthered and strengthened in every possible way, and also regretting the inability of the writers to attend.

Rev. Dr. West was introduced and delivered a brief address, advocating that the elective franchise be extended to women.

Mr. West was followed by Miss Julia Shelton, of Olympia, who expressed her views on the subject in a few remarks.

Judge L. Holmes announced himself in full accord with the woman movement. He said, among other things, that there was no good, sound, cogent reason why woman should be deprived of the ballot. When it is taken into consideration that the moral restraint which woman now exercises could be equally exercised at the polls, there is absolutely no reason why this privilege should not be accorded. After much observation and investigation, it had been demonstrated by scientists that no individual of any nationality whose brain did not average 85 cubic inches was capable of self-government. That there were but three or four nations on this earth who collectively are able to govern themselves; that the women of those countries were on a par in intelligence with the male sex, and should be granted equal rights and privileges.

Judge Holmes resumed his seat, and Mrs. Duniway offered the following:

Resolved, That the ballot is an educator, and as such should not be denied to any person of sound mind and good moral character.

should not be denied to any person of sound mind and good moral character.

Mrs. Dr. Thompson, in support of the resolution, said that with woman's conscious responsibilities will come her conscientious discharge of them; and the women are the conscience of the nation. She did not believe the statement that there were as many degraded women as there were depraved men. There were ten men incarcerated in jails to one woman. Those men were and many of them still are voters. Women have just the same opportunity to drink, commit larceny and arson as men have, but they are engaged in far fewer crimes. As ignorance is the parent of vice, and as every woman, in the average, is more moral than man, there is no valid reason why they should not have the ballot. If women had the power, rum-holes would not be allowed to exist, and men who keep these places would be put where they would have to work for an honest living. The ballot as an educator will make women free women, and then we will have free men also, for free men were never born of serf mothers.

Judge Holmes objected to the form of the resolution, as it conveyed the impression that universal suffrage should be granted, of which, in the present condition of mankind, he did not approve.

Mrs. Duniway asked to be permitted to withdraw the resolution, as it had accomplished the object intended, namely, that of provoking discussion. In reply to a remark of Judge Holmes, that women were purer and better than men, she said that she could not believe it; neither did she believe that when woman should be enfranchised the millennium would have come; that were women to attempt to close the rum-shops they would have a thousand hostile forces against them, and one of the most hostile part of their opponents would be composed of women; that the women of this country demand the ballot because it is their right; because they are tired of being servants without wages. Woman Suffrage has never been universal in any place save in the Territory of Wyoming; its influence there has been for good and for good only; yet it has brought no millennium to Wyoming. If the men have grown no better, the women have certainly grown no worse. Sometime, when our votes are counted as factors in any great public pledge or issue, then men will appreciate our merits.

After she had concluded, the constitution of the Association was read, and upon motion the Convention adjourned until 7:30 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

The hall was well filled with a very intelligent audience, who manifested their appreciation later in the evening in a substantial manner.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:30 o'clock promptly.

After spirited congregational singing, Miss Fearnside presiding at the organ, Mrs. Duniway was introduced by the President. She responded briefly in a few happy allusions to the growth of the movement, and closed by reading a telegram just received from Dr. Hall, of Salem, stating that he "couldn't come till morning." This she said necessitated a change of programme for the first part of the evening, but she saw many friends of the movement in the hall, among them Hon. W. F. Benjamin, of Roseburg, whom she begged leave to invite to the platform.

After a beautiful solo by Mrs. Woolner, entitled "Star of my Night," with piano accompaniment by her daughter, followed by "Banbury Cross" as an encore and an equally happy response, Mr. Benjamin came forward, and in a masterly manner explained the rise and progress of woman's claim to equal rights. He said that men everywhere are coming to the front in advocacy of her very just demand, and predicted that it would not be long till victory perched upon the banners of liberty and everybody recognized the principle of equal rights.

Mrs. Duniway then called for Mrs. A. M. Martin, of Lafayette, who came forward and made a brief speech, full of telling points, illustrative of her faith in the justice of her cause.

Mrs. Duniway asked leave to supplement this speech with a statement, and created no little merriment by explaining that this lady, who wanted to vote, was the happy mother of thirteen children, and she was proud of her as a living refutation of the charge that women would neglect the important duties of motherhood when enfranchised.

Colonel Taylor, of Astoria, was called for, but excused himself for the evening.

Mrs. H. A. Loughary, of McMinnville, was then called for, and proceeded for the next half-hour to hold the audience spell-bound with a logical address, which was received with enthusiastic applause.

The constitution was then read and presented for signatures.

On motion, the Convention adjourned until 10:30 o'clock Wednesday morning.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

Convention called to order by the Vice-President, Mrs. Duniway.

Minutes of previous session read and approved. Mr. C. J. Curtis wished to know if it was Mrs. Curtis or himself who was to act on the Finance Committee. If the latter, he would like his title abbreviated. Correction ordered.

The report that Judge Holmes had said women were better than men was corrected. This remark had been made by Mrs. Thompson and disputed by Mrs. Duniway.

Reports from different counties were next in order.

Mrs. H. A. Loughary reported much progress in Yamhill. The cause was steadily growing among the voters. Yamhill will give a rousing vote for Woman Suffrage.

Mr. Martin, of Lafayette, spoke encouragingly of the progress of the cause among the men in Yamhill county.

Mrs. Corwin, of Clatsop, said the NEW NORTHWEST was largely circulated in her county, and the cause was popular.

Dr. C. H. Hall, of Marion, said he had given the cause a good deal of careful study of late, and had talked it over with many prominent men. Every thinker was an advocate.

Mr. C. J. Curtis, of Multnomah, reported that the leading men of his county were outspoken friends of the cause, and the head speakers, irrespective of party lines, would advocate it in the canvass.

Mrs. Thompson said there were two hundred and twenty-five women tax-payers in Portland, one hundred and twenty of whom had voted at the last school election. It was nonsense to say women wouldn't vote if they could. They were all getting ready to vote.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The afternoon meeting opened with the Vice-President in the chair.

A report from the Committee on Resolutions was called for, but not being ready, an essay was read by Mrs. A. M. Martin from the pen of Mrs. S. A. McKune, of Amity.

Mrs. Johnson, of East Portland, was called upon and made a brief and pointed speech.

A poem was then read by Mrs. Dr. Thompson in a spirited manner.

Some extracts followed, which were read by the Vice-President from the "History of the Woman Suffrage Agitation." These extracts illustrated the barbaric laws of the past half century, of which our present modified system is an outgrowth.

Rev. J. A. Gray was called upon, but excused himself from speaking till he had time to gather inspiration from the spirit of the meeting.

Judge Holmes arose and said that from the tenor of the press reports yesterday it might be inferred that he forced himself upon the Convention, whereas he dropped into the hall casually and was invited to speak.

Dr. Hall said he agreed with Mrs. Thompson that women were better than men. The question of comparative goodness between the sexes was an anatomical one. The degree of intelligence, or rather the capacity for intelligence, depends to a greater or less degree upon the convolutions of the brain and the amount of gray matter in that organ. He continued in this direction for some time.

After Dr. Hall resumed his seat, the chair called on Rev. T. L. Elliot, who responded in a few brief words and assured the members of his earnest sympathy with the movement.

A short interval elapsed while the dues of some members were collected.

On motion, the meeting adjourned until 10 o'clock to-day.

PROGRAMME FOR TO-NIGHT.

The programme for this (Thursday) evening will consist in part of an address by Mr. C. J. Curtis; music; address by Dr. C. H. Hall, of Salem; solo by Miss Crandall, of The Dalles; address by J. F. D'Arcy, and closing speech by Mrs. Thompson.

Mr. Scoville, attorney for Guiteau, describes the assassin as a "handsome, winning man," of gentlemanly and polite deportment, who could borrow money from a stranger after half an hour's acquaintance, secure accommodations at a hotel without baggage or other security, and force himself forward anywhere with the grace and tact of the elegant loafer. These statements are offered to prove that the man's moral sensibilities are blunted and to show that he is insane. The Oregonian makes this comment: "After reading his brother-in-law's account of him, one must be convinced that the assassin is as mild-mannered a man as ever 'beat' a hotel-keeper, swindled a casual acquaintance, hunted office with the instinct of a spookman, or murdered a President. Insanity" is, of course, the substratum of such a character. Then insane men are the very ones who ought to be hanged!!