

# SUFFRAGETTES TO ASK CONGRESS TO GIVE THEM VOTES

## Forty-second Annual Convention of National-American Woman Suffrage Association Meets at Capital.

By Frederic J. Haskin.

Washington, April 15.—The National-American Woman Suffrage association met yesterday in Washington in its forty-second annual convention. Next Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock the American suffragettes will move on congress and will present a petition signed by more than 500,000 American citizens, men and women, praying for the submission of an amendment to the constitution giving women the right to vote.

When the English suffragettes "ruined" the house of commons the police became very active, many women were injured, and many were sent to jail. The house of commons has not yet acted on the question of "votes for women." The American congress will be much more polite and courteous, and the American suffragettes will be much more gentle and womanly. Americans have much better political manners than Englishmen, anyhow, and this superiority will be demonstrated in Washington during this week and next.

**Congress Is Polite.**

Congress has made a habit of being polite and courteous to advocates of woman's suffrage. For more than 30 years the senate has maintained a committee on woman's suffrage. The members of this committee are regularly elected with as much gravity as are those of the finance committee. The chairmanship by one of the unwritten laws of the senate, is given always to a minority member. Every senator on the majority side is chairman of some committee, gaining thereby the use of a more or less palatial committee room and the services of a clerk and messenger paid by the government. Only a few of the older minority senators have chairmanships. One of these is Senator Alexander S. Clay of Georgia, chairman of the committee on woman's suffrage. His committee will awake from a hibernation of several years next Tuesday and will hear the Rev. Anna Howard Shaw, president of the National-American Woman Suffrage association, plead for another amendment

to the constitution giving the ballot to women. Then the committee will go to sleep again and pay no further attention to the subject. On the same day the judiciary committee of the house of representatives will give the suffragists a hearing, and will listen to arguments presented by representatives of working women. The judiciary committee will listen, and then do nothing else.

**Will Get Suffrage.**

Probably the good women who are at the head of the suffrage associations do not expect anything to be done by congress. The suffrage fight in America must be waged in the states first, but the agitation for a constitutional amendment and the storming of congress will have an excellent effect in stirring up enthusiasm in the several states. The cause of woman's suffrage is advancing—it is impossible to deny that fact. And in the United States the women will get the vote just as soon as even half of the women of the country seriously demand it. And that without throwing bricks through the skylight of the house to hit Speaker Cannon on the head, or without any woman going to jail and being fed with a pump through her nose.

The National Woman's Suffrage association, having for its sole object the amendment of the federal constitution to permit women to vote, was organized in 1869 by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and other women who already were famous for their victories in the cause of women's rights in other spheres of activity. There was some division of sentiment at the time, and another organization, the American Woman Suffrage association, was organized in 1876, with Henry Ward Beecher as president and Julia Ward Howe and Lucy Stone as moving spirits. This organization sought to obtain its end by amendments to state constitutions.

**Organizations Merge.**

Both associations held annual meetings regularly, but as time passed by the bitterness of the original difference was diluted, and in 1890, the two organizations merged under the present title, National-American Woman Suffrage association. Elizabeth Cady Stanton was elected president, Susan B. Anthony vice president at large, and Lucy Stone was made chairman of the executive committee. Since that time the association has pursued its work along both lines, fighting for both federal and state constitutional action.

In 1892 Mrs. Stanton retired from the presidency because of advancing years and was succeeded by Miss Anthony. She resigned in 1900 and was succeeded by Carrie Chapman Catt. Mrs. Catt retired in 1904 and was followed by Anna Howard Shaw, the incumbent. Rachel Foster Avery of Pennsylvania is first vice president. The convention now meeting in Washington is being attended by scores of the most prominent women in the country.

**Suffrage in Four States.**

Women enjoy full rights of suffrage on a basis of absolute equality with men in four states, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and Idaho. The cause is much more popular in the west than in the east. The monster petition to be presented to congress next week, said to be the largest single petition ever presented to a parliamentary body, is signed by quite as many men as women, and from the western states the men are in the majority. The petitions are arranged by states, and 13 of them are headed by the signature of the governors. The governors of Colorado, Florida, South Dakota, California, Minnesota, Michigan, New Hampshire, Maryland, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Washington and Oregon pray for the woman's suffrage amendment. It will be noticed that all but three of these suffragist governors hail from the west.

**Wanted Votes Since 1907.**

Although woman's suffrage is further advanced in some other countries than in America, it is recorded that the original "suffragette" was an American. She was Mistress Margaret Brent for whom was made in 1647. Mistress Brent was the heir of Lord Calvert, brother of Lord Baltimore, and executor of the estates of both in the colony. Representation in the Maryland legislature as that time, was based upon property. By virtue of her holdings she demanded "place and voice"—two votes—in the legislature. Her petition was debated hotly and finally declined.

Under the old province charter of Massachusetts women voted for all elective officers from 1691 to 1780. The constitution then succeeding excluded the women from voting for governor and members of the legislature, but gave them the right as to all other officers. The ballot was hedged about with many restrictions, however, and not one fourth of the men were eligible. In 1855 the Massachusetts legislature submitted the question of admitting the women to the suffrage to a plebiscite of the women of the state. Of the 575,000 women of voting age, only 23,204 were sufficiently interested to go to the polls and demand the ballot for their sex. The legislature concluded that the women didn't want it, and they didn't get it.

A few months before the Declaration of Independence in 1776, Abigail Adams wrote to her husband, John Adams, in Philadelphia, setting forth the political claims of the women. She said that she longed to hear the news that congress had declared the colonies independent of England, but she reminded her husband that the women ought to be considered in the question of representation, even threatening to foment a rebellion if they were excluded. Mrs. Hannah Lee Corbin, sister of Richard Henry Lee of Virginia, in 1778 presented a petition demanding the right to vote. Thus the sister of the mover of the Declaration of Independence and the wife of its principal advocate were among the first suffragettes.

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**Suffrage in New Jersey.**

The continental congress left the question of suffrage entirely to the states. New Jersey was the only one which gave women the right to vote, equally with men, its constitution conferring the franchise on "all inhabitants worth \$250, etc." In 1790, when the federal government under the constitution had been set up, a revision of the New Jersey election law used the words "he or she" in reference to

electors, thus confirming women in the right to vote. A sufficient number of women availed themselves of the privilege to insure the equality of the politicians, and in 1907 the legislature passed an act limiting the suffrage to "white male citizens." This was in violation of the constitution of the state, but the women apparently were not sufficiently interested to make an effective protest.

In 1826 Frances Wright came to America from Scotland and began a crusade for women's rights. This was the beginning of the movement which has resulted in the amelioration of the laws of so many states which placed women under disadvantages. The movement, however, was absorbed in the anti-slavery agitation, and it was not until 1849 that it took definite shape as a demand for the suffrage.

The first organized general movement was begun in 1848 when a woman's right convention was held at Seneca Falls, N. Y., to discuss the social, civil and religious condition and rights of woman. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mary Ann McClintock, Lucretia Mott and others of almost equal prominence were the guiding spirits of that movement, which is the same represented today by the convention in Washington.

**Tomorrow—Votes for Women.**

# MUCH FUEL FOR TWO DREDGERS

## Port of Portland Authorizes the Contract to Supply Portland and Columbia.

Authority was given Clerk Doyle by the Port of Portland commission yesterday at their regular monthly meeting, to make a contract with the St. Helens Mill company, St. Helens, the Monarch Lumber company, Oregon slough, and William T. Carroll for the necessary cut fuel for the dredgers Portland and Columbia during the coming season.

In the contract the mills will be required to furnish from 40 to 60 units of 200 cubic feet per day, although the Port of Portland will not be compelled to take that amount of fuel when it is not needed. The price of the fuel as quoted in the bids of the different parties at 80 cents a unit. By getting their fuel under this arrangement the dredgers will have a base of supply at both ends of the river, thus obviating the necessity of having it barged to them from one part of the river for another more or less distant.

Other business transacted by the commission yesterday was the reelection of John Driscoll, a commissioner, and Commissioner J. C. Ainsworth was given 30 days leave of absence in order to take a trip to Japan. Ninety days

is the longest period allowed by the commission.

The report of superintendent of towage and pilotage, H. F. Campion, in the matter of laying off of the pilot schooner, Joseph Fullmer, until next August, was read and approved. Mr. Campion said in his report that the boat had been taken off because of the fact that there are very few ships coming in at the present time and that by taking off the schooner temporarily, dropping one of the pilots and giving each one of the other three a month's vacation, \$1000 a month was saved to the port.

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