

## CENTRAL POINT HERALD

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## EQUAL SUFFRAGE IN OREGON AND OTHER STATES.

The recent meeting of the federated womens' club at Portland seems to have been a warm proposition according to the press dispatches. Mrs. Abigail Scott Duniway, who is, without doubt, the mother of the womens' reform movement on the Pacific Coast, was a candidate for the position of president of the organization, and in the face of a strong opposition she was elected by a good big majority. Mrs. Duniway, it seems, has not favored the coupling of the equal suffrage proposition with the temperance question, and certain members of the W. C. T. U. strenuously objected to the honor of the presidency going to her for that reason. There seems to be a prevalent idea in Oregon, not only among the good women who represent the temperance societies, but also among the liquor interests, that the triumph of equal suffrage in Oregon means the total abolition of the liquor business. This idea is not well founded, if we are to take the history of other states that have adopted equal suffrage as a criterion upon which to base our judgement. Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Idaho, the four states in which equal suffrage has been firmly established, have none of them hedged the liquor dealers about with the same galling laws that Oregon has done, and Oregon has repudiated equal suffrage by a big, strong vote more than once. This is not saying that the women of Idaho and Wyoming are either better or worse, morally or intellectually, than the women of Oregon. After a residence of several years in each of the states mentioned, the writer feels justified in saying that the ladies, God bless 'em, are about all alike; they are all—on—most—good, pure, true, noble women. Many of them in all the states mentioned are opposed to the liquor traffic, but in the states where they now vote they wisely decided to segregate the question of temperance and womens' suffrage. In Oregon some of them insisted on coupling the two, no matter how badly they wanted votes for the suffrage amendment, and they are still clamoring for suffrage. Mrs. Duniway is no mean politician, inasmuch as she has been obliged to study political economy for the 30 or more years in which she has been in the van of the fight for the political rights of her sex as she sees them, and the "anti-Duniway" forces, who proclaim that equal suffrage in Oregon can never be accomplished so long as Mrs. Duniway lives—because of her views on the coupling of the suffrage and temperance questions—might do well to study the history of suffrage in the states where it is now an accomplished fact, and quit criticising a noble woman who espoused the cause of equal suffrage before some of them were born and at a time when such espousal meant much to any woman who naturally shrank from close acquaintance with ruffians, rowdies and rotten eggs.

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Dated at Woodville, Oregon, October 1, 1906.  
OSCAR SIMPKINS,  
Administrator of the estate of Isaac Simpkins, deceased.  
Date of first publication Oct. 4, 1906.

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