

WOMEN'S VOTE WILL SWING 1920 ELECTION

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28.—About 9,000,000 women will vote in the November election and they undoubtedly hold the balance of political power. This statement is based on a computation made from the woman's vote in the Maine election.

About 80,000 women voted in the Maine election. Based upon the census of 1910 that number is 32 per cent of the number of women 21 years of age who live in Maine. The Maine women number, according to the 1910 census, 248,309.

In the United States, according to the latest census statistics, there are 26,883,566 women of voting age. If the ratio of 32 per cent which existed in the Maine election prevails in all the states, and it probably will as women generally will want to vote for the first time, there will be in the November election an aggregate woman vote of 8,602,741, or nearly nine millions. In the northern states the percentage probably will be higher, and in the southern states lower because in the "solid south" the negro is largely disfranchised, and the negro women will receive the same political discrimination in that section. But the nation's average probably will be about 32 per cent, which will give nine millions.

Similar statistics show that there are 29,577,690 men of voting age in the United States. In the presidential election of 1916 there were cast 18,528,742 ballots, 62 per cent of the total male population 21 years of age. It can hardly be expected that so large a percentage of the women will vote, but it may be safely said that at least 32 per cent of them will.

Therefore it is evident to all observers that the women now hold the balance of political power. In the Maine election about 75 per cent of

the women voted the republican ticket. If that percentage should prevail in all the states north of the Mason and Dixon line and in the west a republican landslide of unprecedented magnitude should occur. That landslide is confidently expected by the republican managers and indeed in Washington is practically already acknowledged by democratic observers.

But it will not require 75 per cent of the nine million women voting the republican ticket to cause a landslide to Harding and Coolidge. If 32 per cent of the woman voters in New York participate in the election it will add nearly a million votes in the Empire state. In 1916 Hughes carried New York by more than 100,000, the total vote being 1,706,354. Had the women voted then a 100,000 plurality would have been increased several times over.

In Pennsylvania a 32 per cent ratio would have added nearly 750,000 woman's votes to the total of nearly 1,300,000 cast for Hughes in 1916. Hughes carried Pennsylvania by 181,950, or about one-fourth of the women votes that may be cast in Pennsylvania in November.

Wilson carried Ohio in 1916 by 89,503. In Ohio if the 32 per cent ratio occurs nearly half a million women will vote, eleven times Wilson's plurality in 1916. There can be no question but that the women now hold the key to the national political situation and can throw victory to republicans or democrats. Judging from the way they voted in the Maine election it would seem that a great majority of the newly enfranchised citizens are preparing to line up throughout the country, except in the south, for Harding and Coolidge.

Every intelligent observer must agree that the result in Maine was a complete repudiation of the League of Nations by the women, and a tremendous republican victory, which is omenous of democratic defeat in November. Women can justly claim a great share of the victory in Maine. Had the women voted for the League the victory would have been equally significant of democratic victory in November.

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RAILROAD ACROSS ANDES DISCUSSED

SANTIAGO, Sept. 1. (By Mail).—A bill has been introduced in the Chilean house of deputies in furtherance of the long discussed project to build a railway across the Andes connecting Salta, center of a rich agricultural region of northern Argentina with the Chilean port of Antofagasta. The bill provides that the contractors would receive a state guarantee of 6 per cent of the actual cost of the railway for 15 years after it is opened. The cost is estimated at \$15,000,000.

The Chilean newspapers comment-

ing on the measure say the railway not only would serve as an outlet to the Pacific for products of northern Argentina such as sugar, but would open to exploitation rich mineral regions of north-central Chile.

The only direct mail route now connecting the two republics is the trans-Andino from Los Andes, Chile, to Mendoza, Argentina.

CHIEF ON VACATION

Chief of Police Wilson and family have taken to the hills for a two week's vacation. The chief expects to bring back the limit of bucks. Patrolman James Hilton is acting chief during his absence.

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