

MARYLAND SUFFRAGE NEWS

SUPPLEMENT TO THE WOMAN'S JOURNAL.



"The truth shall make us free."

Editors:

DR. AND MRS. DONALD R. HOOKER,
Cedar Lawn, Remond Avenue, Govans, Md.

Contributing Editors:

DR. THADDEUS P. THOMAS, MRS. CHARLES J. KELLER,
MRS. JOHN G. WILSON, DR. O. EDWARD JANNEY,
DR. FLORENCE R. SAHIN.

Business Manager:

MRS. CHARLES JOSEPH OGLE,
Sylvanside, Kenwood Avenue, Catonsville.

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BALTIMORE, DECEMBER 7, 1912

IN TIME OF PEACE

The suffrage campaign goes on from year end to year end. Each day is crowned by the conviction of someone that the cause of equal suffrage is just and expedient. Each day the circle of influence widens. Each day the light of success shines brighter.

We must not forget these things, because opportunity is merged with them. The attitude of the next State Legislature will be determined largely by the events which are taking place today, and the events of today are of tremendous significance to suffrage.

This is a time of peace so far as our Legislature is concerned. But next summer in the primaries and county conventions the first skirmishes of war will take place and the personnel of the Legislature will be largely determined. Even now candidates are making their appearance. This is the time to make suffrage work effective. Let no candidate in your neighborhood arise without meeting promptly a question as to his intentions toward an equal-suffrage bill. Make him reply definitely, in writing if possible—at any rate in such a form that he cannot be misunderstood. Remember the question at issue is equal suffrage.

In the primaries especially a candidate can be helped or hindered. After the nomination is decided men are less willing to be open in their statements. Suffrage support is no longer to be sneered at, and men who are seeking nomination know it full well. A refusal to answer a question in regard to suffrage is equivalent today to a refusal to support an equal-suffrage bill. The attitude of candidates is important in connection with the campaign next summer, and we propose in so far as possible to make this known to suffragists.

If we begin now and continue alert in these times of peace, we can be assured of a Legislature which will submit the question of equal suffrage to the people. This is the first great step. Every candidate must know of our intention to support or oppose him. And we must, in turn, make good our word and see to it that the cause of suffrage plays no minor part in the next Legislature.

CURIOSITY

We have never seen Dr. Nicholson. This we regret exceedingly, because a good look at him might go a long way in explanation of his assertions. Dr. R. L. Nicholson is "a Washington student of anthropology" who has come to the conclusion that "curiosity is the common bond between woman and the monkey."

It appears from press reports that Dr. Nicholson bases his conclusion on experience. He has found that when he passes a cage of monkeys they rush to the bars and examine him from head to foot with the most avid curiosity. We are left to infer that he has the same effect upon women.

Under the circumstances we confess ourselves a curiosity to see Dr. Nicholson. If he thus affects women and monkeys, we wonder what men think of his looks. Perhaps men are less observing, or maybe their sex loyalty precludes any expression of their feelings.

THE APPEAL OF THE POLICE COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Police Commissioners of Baltimore has issued a statement in regard to the so-called Sunday blue laws. This statement is, in effect, an appeal to the public to define its position in relation to the widespread conduct of business in the city on Sunday. We are seldom met with such honorable frankness on the part of public servants. Usually such individuals know in advance what the public wants, and somewhat curiously these wants of the public at large agree explicitly with the wishes and point of view of the officials concerned. It is therefore a matter of profound gratification that our present police board is apparently able and willing to divorce private opinion from public duty.

Mr. Bonaparte and others have of late ably demonstrated that the intent of our government is to deprive entirely officials chosen to enforce the law of any rights in the making or interpretation of the law. The people and their chosen representatives make the law for good or for bad, and public officials are chosen as needed to enforce that law.

In the present case the officials are in doubt as to whether the public sanctions the law in question; specifically they find that grand juries will not indict shopkeepers arrested for illegal selling on Sunday. And they propose through public discussion to approach a solution of the question raised. We are not directly concerned with the right or wrong involved if there is such right or wrong. It appears to us, however, that no great hardship would be wrought on the buying public by the Sunday closure of shops; the public can be expected to develop sufficient foresight to know on Saturday what it will need on Sunday without any great effort. On the other hand, the workers and those involved in the sale of goods require imperatively one day of rest in seven. To be sure, the shops involved probably do not employ many "hands." But with the establishment of the principle of Sunday opening the necessities of business competition would quickly compel the larger shops with their many "hands" to remain open as well. We may, therefore, consider the question from the point of view of the greatest material good to the greatest number. Hence we incline to the view that grand juries and other similar bodies of well-intentioned people refuse to indict the law-breakers because the logical expansion of the principle has not occurred to them and the single offense involves, in their minds, neither anti-social perversion or individual turpitude.

The position taken by the Police Board is commendable. But this position involves an extension of the plan which has not been suggested by them. They should endeavor by interviews and public speeches to make the question in its practical aspects clear to as many people as possible, and then they should go before the next Legislature with an amendment to the law, which, in their opinion, will cover the case in point. If the Legislature sustains the law as at present written, no further choice is left the police authorities—they must proceed vigorously and conscientiously to an enforcement of the law. And if they fail to satisfy the people as to the value of their efforts, they have but the duty of resignation from office.

The greatest weakness of our body politic today, as expressed in the conduct of public officials, is the toleration of unenforced legislation. In a healthy government this condition of affairs would give place to a sincere effort on the part of those who desire it to amend the law. Officials would then be cognizant of the public will and could be expected to govern themselves accordingly. We hope that the position now taken by our Police Board is indicative of progression in this direction.

WOMEN AND PALLIATIVE MEASURES

Dr. Kelly's letter to the *Evening Sun* (November 30), in which he appeals to the women of Baltimore to give practical aid to those unfortunate who seek reclamation from a life of shame, points one thing clearly—the community is most decidedly dependent upon women in the community-sense, i. e., outside the home.

This work of reclamation is obviously women's work. Unenfranchised they have struggled with it these many years, and now the wiser of them seek enfranchisement in the firm belief that reclamation, like all other ills, has a side of prevention as well as one of cure. Without real power—the power of citizenship—they have been bailing a leaky boat, and now they propose in the wisdom of experience to stop bailing for a moment in order to obtain the power to stop the leak. The reclamation of the past has not reduced the number in need of reclamation.

In spite of the very strong feeling among suffragists, as above set forth, many will doubtless be glad to help in the work suggested by Dr. Kelly. But the work will be a little work, almost an insignificant work, until the political voice of women sounds loudly in the ears of public officials.

ORGANIZED OPPOSITION

One paper says Miss Morgan-Harding of Pittsburgh, and another says Mrs. Cassatt of Philadelphia, originated the astonishingly brilliant idea of spanking suffragists to stop their propaganda. It appears as if the idea, like moving pictures, was "released" in several places at once. As clippings come in we expect to find it credited to still other people in other places—it is so very clever.

ONE REASON WHY WOMEN SHOULD VOTE

Among the many reasons why every town and city, instead of simply doing their duty and putting forth their utmost effort to carry out the laws against social vice, place themselves in the position of deciding what laws should be enforced, and which should not, thus raising themselves above the people who make the laws and are responsible for them. Clearly, it is the duty of the police to enforce the laws, and the act of enforcement will prove whether they are wise laws or do so. The police force in almost

(Continued on page 144.)



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Correspondents to the MARYLAND SUFFRAGE NEWS are requested to use one side of paper only, to leave space for heading, write legibly, and have letter in such condition that it can be forwarded immediately to the printer.—Ed.

What Will You Do?

Dear Editors:

I was among those who helped to sell a few of the Christmas seals at the National Convention, and I found people very grateful to me for offering them the chance to buy. Every suffragist seemed to really wish to have a few of the seals to put on her Christmas gifts, and some of the postals to send with a greeting to friends on Christmas day. If we can only get enough people to help sell the seals and cards in the shops on Suffrage Day, a great deal of money can be made for the cause.

Very sincerely yours,
M. E. L.

"Opportunity Knocks Once At Every Man's Door"—Could This Be Your Chance to Bring Some One Into the Ranks?

Dear Editors:

I am delighted to hear that Mr. Max Eastman is going to speak at the suffrage rally on Tuesday, December 10. When he was last in town I took three friends who had formerly been determined antis to hear him, and they all became convinced of the righteousness of the cause without any further delay. I am writing to urge all suffragists to make use of this great opportunity for converting their anti friends. Bring members of your own family who do not believe with you, and you will find home more congenial in the future.

Yours truly,
ELSA LONGWORTH.

By special arrangement the *Woman's Journal* with the *Maryland Supplement* is being sent from the Baltimore and not from the Boston office.

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