

# MARYLAND SUFFRAGE NEWS

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BALTIMORE, MARCH 22, 1913

## THE MARYLAND WOMAN SUFFRAGE BILL

In our issue of August 31, 1912, we said, in defining the function of this paper, that we would support only *equal suffrage* for women.

"The problem is to give the women of Maryland political expression. It is not to give a group of women political expression. The rich, the well-to-do and the poor, the idlers and the workers, the good and the not-good, the married and the unmarried, the mother and the childless, all have an equal right according to the principles of our government."

In the months which have passed since this was written our opinion has grown into strong conviction. There can be no middle course. Indeed, we venture to suggest that people with the good of the movement at heart might properly fight against any form of limited suffrage for women. This issue is too clear for sophistical arguments.

Suffragists should unite on one bill enfranchising women on equal terms with men and stop there. No other bill should be introduced, and if one is introduced having different scope, it should be vigorously opposed as running counter to our principles.

## HUNNEWELL ON THE MAP AGAIN

We are glad to note that the Supreme Court of Kansas has sustained the Mayor of Hunnewell, Mrs. Wilson, in her contest with some of the members of the City Council.

It will be recalled that Mrs. Wilson, subsequent to her election as Mayor, was blocked and antagonized in every conceivable way by three members of the council. These men adopted methods to embarrass the administration, which if used by women would have caused a nationwide outcry. The fact would have been conclusive evidence for some people that women are fundamentally and inherently unsuited for participation in government. We wonder what sort of evidence would be regarded as adequate by these same people to demonstrate the incompetence of men for government.

The Supreme Court held the Councilmen against whom Mrs. Wilson filed charges as guilty of wilful misconduct in office and of persistent failure to co-operate with in administering the affairs of Hunnewell. They were accordingly ousted from office.

## THE PAY OF TEACHERS

We have recently seen it stated that in eighteen out of fifty-eight States the average annual wage of public school teachers is less than \$1.00 a day and that one State rents its convicts per annum for more than it pays its teachers.

This might serve as the basis for an interesting investigation in Maryland. Confirmatory results might activate some of our own teachers in suffrage work.

The force of the argument would doubtless be increased if the wages paid to the women were alone considered. Men receive higher pay which brings up the average. Do the convicts in Maryland earn more than the State pays its women teachers? If so, are we to assume that they are worth more?

## THE BALTIMORE BRICK

This is the glad season of spring when the Baltimore brick lolls softly in its puddle of clay. The unwary foot shoots a stream to the ankle which is not conducive to whole-hearted enjoyment of the birds and budding trees. She who walks with gaze above quickly realizes that while thoughts may dwell in the clouds feet must need travel close to the earth.

## THE DYNAMITE DISASTER

It is fitting that we should express sincere regret at the dynamite disaster which occurred near Baltimore a short time ago. Our hearts go out especially to the women and children so suddenly bereaved.

## THE NATIONAL VIEW OF SUFFRAGE

The United States Senate has raised the Committee on Woman Suffrage from a minor to a major position. The committee has furthermore been enlarged and the majority of its membership given to Senators who favor the extension of the suffrage to women. This change offers a tangible sign of the change in sentiment and indicates that the National Democratic Party foresees the approach of an amendment to the Federal Constitution.

The effect on our own majority party in Maryland will be interesting to observe. It is writing progress in capitals. What will it do in action? Will it grant the principle of popular government on the question of woman suffrage or will it resort to the methods of troubled Waters? Readers will remember that in the last Legislature Mr. Waters forsook his word and spoke against the bill. Mr. Waters, and others, have decided that he will not go back to the Legislature. We hope that the Democrats of the State will not bungle things so badly.

Whatever the State Democracy decides to do it is apparent already that the National Democracy realizes that future tenure of office is inextricably bound up with the question of woman suffrage. It is not improbable, however, that Democratic politicians of Maryland will shortly attain to the same processes of celebration.

## A TIMELY WARNING AGAINST OVER-ENTHUSIASM

Rabbi Rubenstein took up the question of wages and morality in his sermon at the Har Sinai Temple last Saturday and, even as reported, offers a timely protest against the excessive emphasis which is now being placed upon low wages as a contributory cause of prostitution.

We have no doubt that Rabbi Rubenstein, considering the collateral factors of low wages, such as overwork, lack of facilities for proper recreation and mal-nutrition, regards them as contributing causes. But it is a mistake to over-stress them to the exclusion of other environmental or hereditary conditions.

Although Rabbi Rubenstein is an avowed suffragist we are bound to disagree with him if, as reported, he thinks equal suffrage would not be a powerful force tending to the suppression of prostitution and ultimately to the establishment of a single standard of morals. The pessimism of many good men finds its origin in a concept of civilization as it has been—that is under the dominant control of men, and men as a whole have been prone to accept marital faithfulness as ethically adequate and to forget the ethics of pre-marital life. This peculiar dual point of view arose because man did not bear, or thought they did not bear, the great burden of unchastity. Women have always borne it. Modern knowledge has shown that in wedlock they bear it even to generations unborn. They, therefore, in wisdom and suffering have a more progressive and rational point of view. And this point of view carried into government and thereby emphasized in education in the broadest sense will undoubtedly, in our opinion, bear fruit.

## TEACHING AND MOTHERHOOD

We suppose the New York School Board fears to establish a precedent if it grants leave of absence to a teacher for the purpose of procreation. It used to be said that if women entered into gainful occupations they would neglect motherhood. Now it has to be said of teachers that if they assume motherhood they will neglect their teaching and of all wage-earning women that they must choose either the wages or the children. Strange that presumably rational beings, appointed for the conduct of our schools, cannot devise a plan by which women may be mothers as well as teachers!

## THIN WOOL FOR THE PUBLIC EYES

State's Attorney Broening's claim that criminals escape the law because his office lacks funds for extradition purposes would come with better grace if there were not so many cases "pending" with the accused still in the city.

We approve the law to extradite and punish wife desertion. His office might well be provided with special funds for this purpose. But at the moment this wool is too thin to blind the public view of some cases which drag to the detriment of the public welfare.

## THE AMUSEMENT OF LEGISLATURES

The proposition offered in the Ohio Legislature for a commission to regulate woman's dress has probably already attained its purpose. Jokes of this kind are taken in good enough part by women. At the same time we have a dislike of play legislation at the expense of women while the unenfranchised sex contributes to the tax revenue by which such legislatures are supported.

## THE SUBTLE INFLUENCE OF WOMEN

What is this we read of embroidered trousers? On and off in the daily news one comes upon ideas and facts which must shiver the very timbers of our School Board. Are we to martyr these good men with torturing facts about the decadence of their fellow-voters? Are we to permit our newspapers to belittle their efforts at regeneration?

The School Board has a wider vision than the public appreciates. Its members have realized the influence of ill-paid women teachers upon our boys, and have expressed the ideal that voters, at higher pay, should be brought into the work of bringing up our youth.

The dyspeptic outcry of "political patronage" is in very truth silenced, and cured, by the facts.

Note the proposal that men shall wear embroidered trousers! Will anyone now question the wisdom and farsightedness of our School Board in the face of this fact? If women teachers have been subtly putting such notions into the minds of our boys, is it not time that we united with the School Board and brought about an obviously needed reformation in such matters?

## HYATTSVILLE MEETING

Suffragists Ready to Organize in Prince George's County.

A most successful meeting was held at Hyattsville Saturday night, March 15. Over seventy people attended in spite of the rain.

The speakers were introduced by Mr. R. P. Whiteley, who was a member of the last Legislature, and who voted in favor of the suffrage bill.

Miss Edith Hamilton of Bryn Mawr School made a most convincing presentation of the arguments for the enfranchisement of women.

She was followed by the Rev. Mr. Mythen, whose speech was received with enthusiasm. When questions were called for, one young man had a great many to ask. His surmises as to what might happen if women voted finally drew forth an answer from a gentleman from a suffrage State, who was present.

He begged leave to state that in the community where he had been living the women held office with great credit, and so far from losing the respect of the men, were gaining even greater respect, owing to the good work they were accomplishing.

Mr. Martin Williams, from Riverdale, made a few remarks, and invited those present to a suffrage meeting in Riverdale in the near future.

Mrs. J. B. Coates offered the use of her offices as headquarters for the new league. A number of names were handed in, and a meeting for organization will be held very shortly.

Mrs. Whiting took charge of the petition work, pending the organization of the league.

## SUFFRAGE PARADE BENEFIT

On April 1st, 2d and 3d, the Ziegfeld Players will be seen at Albaugh's in Katharine Kavanaugh's play, "The Wayfarers." The Finance Committee of the Woman Suffrage Parade Fund have undertaken to sell tickets for the April 2d performance, and 50 per cent. of the proceeds will go toward the parade fund. These tickets, which are now on sale at headquarters, 817 North Charles street, cost 50 cents apiece and can be exchanged for reserved seats either at Albaugh's Theater on the night of the performance or at 406 North Eutaw street, after March 24th. This is a chance to see a nice play and contribute toward the expenses of the suffrage parade at the same time.

## STATE EQUAL

### FRANCHISE LEAGUE

At a meeting of the State Equal Franchise League, held on Wednesday, March 19, Mrs. William J. Brown was elected president to succeed Mrs. William M. Elliott. Mrs. Brown is a strong supporter of universal suffrage, and believes that an equal suffrage bill should be introduced at the next session of the Legislature providing for the enfranchisement of women on the same terms as men.

For some years Mrs. Brown has been a most influential member in the W. C. T. U., so that her election to the office of president of the S. E. F. L. will undoubtedly result in increased suffrage activities on the part of temperance workers.

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