

MARYLAND SUFFRAGE NEWS

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ORGANIZATION.

THE principal work to be accomplished by the suffragists before the fall elections come to pass, is to complete and reinvigorate the suffrage organization throughout the State. Without a strong organization there is absolutely no hope of forcing the suffrage bill through to success next winter, but with a strong organization there is no reason in the world why victory should be longer delayed. In nearby States, such as Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts, success has already been achieved in the Legislature, but it has been won at the cost of hard work and careful organization. Conditions in Maryland are not so very different from conditions in these other States, even when the inevitable colored question rears up its head. At least we are spared the Pennsylvania Dutch and the enormous foreign population of New York. A score of voters picked at random from any one of the States mentioned would be equally easy—or difficult—to convert! The only difference between Maryland and the Eastern States that have already met with success is that in these other States more people are at work *doing the converting*. That is primarily what organization means—getting a large number of people in line for work and then seeing that they keep eternally at it.

There should be a suffrage club in every town and village in Maryland, and the duty of the parent organization should be to stimulate and encourage these local bodies to work unceasingly.

These organizations should be infused with the practical idea of using their strength at the time of the fall elections. They should be taught the truth, which few voters comprehend, that the power of a vote is great just before election, but is insignificant immediately afterwards. Above all, they should be urged to influence every possible vote *against* candidates opposed to suffrage and in behalf of those favoring suffrage. Politicians, like other men, respect common sense and power; they will respect the suffrage movement and lend it their support as soon as they realize that suffragists have the power of organization and the good sense to use their organization effectively.

A NEW ENDOWMENT FOR LIBERTY.

IN the early days of America, before girls were admitted to the public schools, some people who had a very concise notion of woman's sphere were gravely doubtful as to the wisdom of instructing the gentler sex even in the three R's. These conservatives felt that it was a dangerous thing teaching girls to read and write, whereby they showed great astuteness, for the education of women was the first step in their emancipation, and this was precisely what the conservatives feared. Education has always been the forerunner of liberty in the case of men as well as in the case of women, and every factor which makes for the greater enlightenment of women stimulates at the same time their desire for freedom. It is for this, as well

as for many other reasons, that suffragists may congratulate themselves upon the recent acquisitions of Wellesley College. The \$2,430,000 which was obtained for the college during the 14 months just ended will indirectly do much to further the suffrage movement. Wellesley is richer now than she has ever been, not only in the material sense, but in the spiritual sense as well. The devotion of her alumnae, strengthened by their zealous work of raising more than \$200,000 in behalf of their Alma Mater, is an endowment whose worth will increase with years. The \$750,000 gift of the Rockefeller Foundation, the \$95,000 gift of Mr. Carnegie and the \$200,000 pledge made by the General Education Board indicate the faith that is felt in the institution's future. But these gifts indicate still more—they show a true belief in women, in their potentialities and their worthiness as human beings. It is this sort of faith in women that will eventually lead to their recognition as free citizens, having equal rights with men in every department of life.

NEW YORK'S EXAMPLE.

ONE of the leading benefits of a good example is that it tends to inspire others to go and do likewise. All suffragists will do well to turn their eyes at intervals to the Empire State to see what women can do and are doing to further the cause of suffrage. In the first place, there was that recent \$106,000 raised at a single meeting; then there is the painstaking organization from the peaks of the Adirondacks and the Catskills to the Valley of the Genesee. Again, there is the constant and prodigious number of meetings, from 25 to 50 a week in New York city, and literally hundreds throughout the State. It is quite an event in Baltimore to have an opportunity to hear a really first-rate suffrage speaker, but consider for a moment what speakers have been on the boards in New York in behalf of suffrage during the past week. There was Evelyn Briggs Baldwin, who spoke at an open meeting for the Political Equality Association; Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Mrs. Julie Opp Faversham, who presented the case at the Suffrage Forum; Rev. Percy Stickney Grant of the Church of the Ascension, and Mrs. Edward Baldwin Whitney, widow of a New York Supreme Court Justice, who spoke at the Suffrage Shop, and in addition daily meetings held by the Women's Political Union, addressed by such distinguished speakers as Prof. Henry A. Overstreet and Miss Anne Martin, Dr. Frederick A. Cleveland and Mrs. Nora Blatch de Forest, Commissioner Joseph Hartigan and Miss Sadie American, Gutzon Borglum and Mrs. Marie Jenney Howe, Walter Weyl and Mrs. Inez Milholland Boissevain, and Prof. George W. Kirchwey and Miss Pauline Goldmark. If even one of these speakers appeared weekly in Baltimore great interest would be aroused, and if but a few of them could be taken into the counties the whole State would soon be buzzing with suffrage. Fresh inspiration is constantly needed to spur the workers on to their tasks, and this is what truly able speakers bring.

Let part of the suffrage program for the new year be a long list of distinguished suffrage speakers who will speak not only in Baltimore city, but out in the counties as well.

WOMEN AND CITIZENSHIP LAWS

In every civilized country women have protested, though in vain, against the anomaly by which a woman's birth is ignored on her marriage to a man of foreign birth and she is handed over to the nationality of her husband. In Great Britain and Germany today there are thousands of women who, because they have married foreigners, are interned as "alien enemies" in the country in which they were born and have spent their whole lives. An anomaly which is merely irritating in normal times is heartbreaking during war.

EQUALITY THE BASIS OF PARTNERSHIP

"As women get the vote and learn to use it they will, I believe from what I have seen in the voting states, introduce a human element into politics which has heretofore been lacking.

"There's still a stronger reason why women ought to vote. This world is run by partnerships. And the partnership between the man and the woman who live together in a home is the best partnership of all. Giving women the ballot will add one more great sphere of common interest to this partnership and make it what it ought to be,—an alliance founded on equality."—Gifford Pinchot.

A woman taxicab driver has appeared on Broadway! Surely if a woman has sufficient self-control and good sense to maneuver a taxi through the Metropolis she has the requisite characteristics for voting in Maryland.

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