

# MARYLAND SUFFRAGE NEWS

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Editors:  
DR. AND MRS. DONALD R. HOOKER,  
Cliffhurst, Mt. Washington, Md.

Contributing Editors:  
MRS. JOHN G. WILSON, DR. O. EDWARD JANNEY,  
DR. THADDEUS P. THOMAS, DR. FLORENCE H. SABIN,  
MRS. B. J. BYRNE, MISS MILDRED HANKIN.

Managing Editor:  
MISS M. B. DIXON,  
317 N. Charles Street.

Business Manager:  
MRS. CHARLES JOSEPH OGLE,  
2513 N. Charles St., Baltimore, Md.

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## THE NATIONAL CHILD LABOR BILL

THE Federal Child Labor Bill to prevent "raids" to commence in the protection of child labor passed the House last week, by a vote of 233 to 43. With the exception of four or five opposing votes, the opposition came entirely from the South. There were no solid delegations voting against the measure. For example, in 1904 its 12 votes against it, North Carolina 7 out of 10 and Missouri 11 out of 8. There were 6 adverse votes from Texas, 4 from South Carolina, 3 from Alabama, 2 from Virginia, and one each from Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, New Jersey and Oklahoma.

"The men who voted against the child-labor bill in the House of Representatives were the men who voted against suffrage." This statement was made a few days ago by Representative Palmer of Pennsylvania, who fathered the child-labor bill in the House and is also a staunch supporter of woman suffrage.

"A very interesting and significant fact in connection with the vote on the Federal child-labor bill," said Mr. Palmer, "is that all of the opponents of the bill save one were found also amongst the opponents of the woman suffrage amendment to the Constitution. Of course, the opposition to child-labor legislation comes principally from the cotton-mill States of the South, where the labor of little children has long been exploited to swell the profits of the mill owners. The theory that the little children are employed with the consent and approval of parents does not gibe with the action of these members of Congress who realize that if the women get the vote the child-labor evil will be wiped out. The women of America are the friends of the little children, and if they could effectively speak their opinion by the use of the ballot the child-labor evil would soon be relegated to the realms of ancient history.

"The vote on the child-labor bill is only another indication of the way in which the woman suffrage proposition is tied up to many of the great questions now confronting our people. Every vicious interest, of which the liquor traffic and the exploitation of child labor are conspicuous examples, is violently opposed to the extension of suffrage to women. They know that the day when woman suffrage is an accomplished fact is doomsday for themselves."

The opposition was based on the ground that the Federal Government was usurping the powers of the States in the control of their industries, but, as was pointed out by Representative Lenroot of Wisconsin in the course of the debate, this same Congress, on the 4th of March, 1914, passed, with only three dissenting votes, a convict-labor bill prohibiting the shipment in interstate commerce of the products of convict labor. "If we have the right to do that," said Mr. Lenroot, "and we have, then we have the right to prohibit all interstate commerce shipments of the

products of child labor, which ought to be of a great deal more concern to this country than any other form of labor."

Of the 43 members who voted against the child-labor bill not one voted against the convict-labor bill. Thirty of them voted for it, 2 voted present and 9 did not vote.

## THE DISTINCTION OF "SEX"

It is well to remember, when the amicable, well-fed, well-dressed anti-suffragists, who have so much time to "protect women in the home," and who state so calmly that "sex is a distinction imposed by Nature which precludes men and women from doing similar work equally well"—that it is not difficult now to prove to the anti that women "unsexing themselves" by deserting their homes to compete with men in masculine employments is not a matter of choice, but of stern necessity. Of the women who work, it has been found that more than 85 per cent. are forced to leave home by being compelled to support themselves and others. Every woman who does not need to earn a livelihood has a responsibility to every one of her sisters who has to work. That responsibility is certainly nothing less than to look up on the suffrage question in its broader aspect. Not as a personal matter of what she herself wants, but as to what the woman who must work needs to make lighter the handicap endured by the weaker sex, who of necessity must earn her daily bread.

## WHY WOMEN WANT TO VOTE

The United States Government spends 63 cents out of every dollar of the total yearly budget for wars past, present and to come. Politicians are filling the newspapers with their pleas for more money for an "adequate army and navy."

Yet Dr. Claxton, United States Commissioner of Education, says there are between 4,000,000 and 5,000,000 illiterates in this country, and that \$20,000 a year, for ten years, properly expended, would wipe out illiteracy.

The United States Government also spends 4 per cent. of its annual income on the Department of Agriculture. It spends but one-fiftieth of 1 per cent. on the Federal Children's Bureau.

## WAGES AND BABIES

The report of the Federal Children's Bureau shows that babies whose fathers earn less than \$10 a week die at the rate of 256 per thousand, while those whose fathers earn \$25 or more a week die at the rate of 84 per thousand. Where mothers are employed a large part of the time in heavy work babies die at a rapid rate. In one group of nineteen mothers whose babies all died, fifteen had been keeping lodgers. In houses where water was supplied by pipes the death rate was 118 per thousand as against 108 per thousand where water was obtained from the outside.

## BE SURE TO TELL HIM

The New York State Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage is urging its members to "tell every man you meet, your tailor, your postman, your grocer and your dinner partner, that you are opposed to woman suffrage." The New York Tribune hopes the 90,000 sewing-machine operatives, the 40,000 saleswomen, the 32,000 laundry operatives, the 20,000 knitting and silk-mill girls, the 17,000 women janitors and cleaners, the 12,000 cigarmakers, to say nothing of the 700,000 other women and girls in industry in New York State, will remember, when they have drawn off their long gloves and tasted their oysters, to tell their dinner partners that they are opposed to woman suffrage because it might take women out of the home.

## THE COMPANY HE KEEPS

Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan has publicly declared that the Democratic party cannot afford to stand with the brewer and the saloonkeeper against woman suffrage. At a dinner of Democratic editors in Indianapolis he said:

"A man is known by the company he keeps, and I want to tell you now that the man who prefers the saloonkeeper's company to that of his wife will not be in the Democratic party long. If we are going to favor woman's suffrage we might as well go the whole hog and drive the saloon out of politics.

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