



Correspondents to the MARYLAND SUFFRAGE NEWS are requested to address all communications for the Letter Box to Mrs. Franklin P. Mall, 1514 Bolton street; 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.

**Mr. Heflin's Southern Chivalry Goes Down to Posterity in the Congressional Record.**

To the Editor of The Maryland Suffrage News:

When Congressman Mann of Illinois opposed the investigation of police inefficiency in protecting the suffragists in the Washington parade by asserting that the women "ought to have been at home," he adopted methods of open and unmistakable hostility; when Congressman Heflin of Alabama opposed the resolution providing for the suffrage parade, he resorted to low rallery designed to be none the less blasting. Congressman Heflin was overruled and the parade took place, but it was men of his stamina who marred the beauty of it and subjected the marchers to such annoyance.

The full text of Heflin's "speech" occupies nearly two columns on the front page of the *Jeffersonian* of March 8th, a newspaper closely allied with Baltimore county ring politics. The *Jeffersonian* takes pains to inform its readers that the text as printed is taken from the Congressional Record, and is, therefore, accurate. The speech, for the most part, is made up of a conglomeration of vulgar jingle, designated by the *Jeffersonian* as a "poem," whose chief claim to literary merit lies in its rhyming; and we are assured that the speech, and Congressman Heflin's mode of delivering it, was received with applause bordering upon hilarity.

Think of the stately record that chronicles the proceedings of a nation graced by the following, for the edification of an admiring posterity:

"The lark was up to meet the sun,  
The bee was on the wing;  
And soon the sufferin'-yets begun  
To make the welkin' ring."

**TALBOT COUNTY LEAGUE WINS PRIZE!**

The prize of \$5, which was offered to the county league sending in the first 100 names on the petition, was awarded to the Just Franchise League of Talbot County on Thursday, March 20.

**LIMITED OR UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE**

By EDITH HOUGHTON HOOKER.

As the legislative work has begun to take definite form, it has been found essential for the suffragists to know precisely what kind of suffrage bill or bills they intend presenting to the Legislature next winter. One of the first questions asked by every politician and prospective candidate who is interviewed, is "what kind of suffrage do you want, limited or unlimited, municipal, or State-wide?" A clean-cut answer to this question is prerequisite to securing from the candidates endorsements which will be of use when the Legislature takes action. It is, for example, no use to secure the promise of a Republican to vote for a State-wide bill if a limited bill is to be introduced, and vice-versa, it is no use to persuade a

And the following choice morsel, which serves to illustrate the quality of the Congressman's wit:

"Said the big red rooster  
To the little speckled hen,  
'The way you air crowin'  
Around here is a sin.'  
"Said the little speckled hen  
To the big red rooster,  
'I'll crow around here  
Whenever I chooster.'"

Congressman Heflin comes from the South—from the extreme South, where women are supposed to be soft-voiced and too fragile for everyday wear; but it is significant that it is in the South where the laws discriminate more harshly against women than in any other part of the country. Perhaps the fact that in a number of the Southern States a married woman is a mere chattel, and upon her wedding day all that she owns or earns forthwith becomes the property of her liege lord, accords with Congressman Heflin's idea of the functions of the "big red rooster" towards the "little speckled hen."

One of the grounds for his objection given by Heflin was that the street cars would have to stop running upon which his "constituents may ride for 5 cents apiece, when, if the cars stop, they will have to pay two or three dollars for a cab to ride around another way." The solicitude of the officeholder for his "constituents" is worthy of notice. If women were numbered among Mr. Heflin's constituents, this would probably put a "cramp" in his chivalric impulses towards the weaker sex; or, what is even more desirable, purge legislative halls of foul-mouthed ribaldry, and improve the moral tone of the people's representatives. E. G. T.

**EQUAL SUFFRAGE LEAGUE**

At the weekly meeting of the Equal Suffrage League of Baltimore, held on Wednesday afternoon, March 10th, at 4 o'clock at their headquarters, 829 North Charles street, Hon. Jacob M. Moses spoke on the best form for the next suffrage bill to be presented to the Legislature, and strongly urged the introduction of a bill providing for the enfranchisement of women on the same terms as men. After Mr. Moses had spoken the meeting was open to informal discussion and tea was served.

Democrat to endorse a limited bill if a State-wide bill is ultimately to be decided upon.

By accepting endorsements for both limited and unlimited bills, we merely work toward splitting the pro-suffrage vote, which is precisely what we cannot afford to do. All of the candidates who endorse suffrage as a part of their personal platforms must endorse the same kind of suffrage bill or the result will be that the friends of suffrage will antagonize each other.

This is perhaps even more plainly the case when we come to the party platforms. The Progressive party which numbers among its members Mr. George Dobbin Pennington, Mr. George R. Gaither and Mr. N. Winslow Williams, is presently pledged to support equal suffrage, which in this State at the present time means unlimited suffrage. The Progressives cannot be so untrue to their own principles as to venture the introduction of a limited manhood suffrage bill at the next session of the Legislature, and consequently they cannot logically as individuals or members of the party support a limited woman suffrage bill. Such a monstrous violation of their own platform would wreck the party at the outset.

With regard to the Republican and Democratic parties, the situation is somewhat more obscure. The Republicans are already pledged to universal suffrage. They dare not put in a limited suffrage plank for women. Their own constituents would be up in arms. Moreover, the prospects are very bright for the insertion of a woman suffrage plank in the Republican platform.

Now, if the Republicans put in an unlimited plank, and we permit the Democrats to put in a limited plank, we shall be defeated at the outset, for with a split vote, we can never get the necessary three-fifths majority. The Democrats are, however, more or less pledged to restrict the suffrage, and here we come at the root of the matter. If we are to hope for success, we must persuade the Democrats that woman suffrage has nothing to do with limited or unlimited suffrage, that it is a question apart by itself, and we must force the Democratic party to go on record as supporting or opposing the sex qualification alone without relation to education, property or color. In other words, we must emphasize the fact that we are trying to do but one thing in our present campaign, namely, to establish the fact by law that the single circumstance of having been born a woman is insufficient in itself to disqualify one-half the population from the franchise. If we permit the question of limited suffrage to enter in, the whole discussion will be diverted from woman suffrage to qualified suffrage, and as has already been thoroughly demonstrated the rightness or wrongness of continuing to hold sex as a qualification for the franchise will be lost sight of.

It is extraordinary to realize how many kinds of qualified suffrage can be suggested, once the question is raised. There is municipal suffrage, with or without qualifications, one man believes in a high property qualification, another opposes it. One believes in an educational qualification, another thinks it useless. The county people in general object to municipal bills, for they would bring them no benefits. Then there is the limited State-wide bill for both men and women, which on account of the limited manhood suffrage clause would unquestionably meet defeat in the referendum vote, even if it passed the Legislature. The voters of the State have already expressed themselves pretty frequently at the polls with regard to limiting their own rights, they are oversensitive and suspicious where qualifications respecting their own or their male offsprings' right to the suffrage is concerned.

It is only when we come to the limited State-wide woman suffrage bill, however, that we find what limitless variations may be played on the question of qualified suffrage; the grandmother clause, the county option suffrage bill, property qualifications of differing degrees, educational qualifications of every sort, combinations of them all that positively make you dizzy—the thing ends in a different opinion for every individual, a graceful way out for every candidate, disruption, split votes and chaos.

For two sessions of the Legislature already the municipal bill for Baltimore City has been experimented with. It has caused friction in the suffrage camp, it has undoubtedly helped to defeat the State-wide bill by confusing the minds of the candidates and by showing them plainly that the suffragists were divided, at least temporarily, against themselves.

Rev. Anna Howard Shaw, President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, condemns municipal bills utterly. She states with perfect candor that the limited suffragists in Pennsylvania are more harmful to the cause there than are even the anti-suffragists. Now that New Jersey and New York have succeeded in passing State-wide equal suffrage bills, it seems a bit out of date for so near a neighbor as Maryland to consider limited suffrage. The general nation-wide movement has gone too far for it.

Reviewing the situation in Maryland, it seems most improbable that the question of a limited woman suffrage bill will ever be raised here again. In view of the fact that the Maryland State Woman Suffrage Association and the Men's League have already gone on record as supporting a State-wide unlimited bill it appears at least probable that a bill incorporating their demands will be considered. To introduce a limited or unlimited bill simultaneously would obviously be unwise, and to discuss the introduction of bills subsequent to the failure of the State-wide bill is to court defeat in a manner either malignant or puerile.

We shall undoubtedly be given the privilege of stepping into our own grave if we prepare it in advance.

If, on the other hand, we follow the example of New York and New Jersey and advance toward our goal with a solid front and a single purpose, it is not at all unlikely that we shall follow in their footsteps to victory in 1914.

We must take the bull by the horns, discuss the question fairly, and then live up to our own principles sufficiently to abide by the majority rule.

This is a question which involves every suffragist in the State, and one which can only be decided correctly when every suffragist who wishes to have an opportunity to cast her vote in the decision.

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