

WOMEN SUFFRAGE.

Presentation of the Case from the Standpoint of those who Advocate it.

At a recent meeting in Albany, New York, in the interest of Women Suffrage, the views of the advocates of that important measure were strongly set forth.

Mrs. Harriet A. Keyser, speaking upon the value of the working women to the State, said:—"Until recent times the working woman was ignored. When any one in society was compelled to become self-supporting, she chose work that could be done at home, and followed her avocation in an atmosphere of deep and impenetrable mystery. Society looked down upon the working woman, who had not generally the standing to respect herself, in spite of the verdict of society. While workingwomen have been ignored, workingmen have been recognized. Even a member of the high caste social order, shrinking from actual contract with the workingman, yet feels an occasional thrill of satisfaction in the consideration of some wage-workers in our own country who achieved greatness, recognizing in Abraham Lincoln the greatest of them all, because he never despised nor forgot the people from whom he sprang. The industrial world has taken on a different expression in the last half century. The workingwoman is not ignored, nor is she socially despised. There are some who do not know much about her, but they must know something, as she touches every grade of society. Instead of, as in olden times, wealthy people being expected to support needy women relatives, the modern educated woman says, in a spirit of honorable independence, 'I will not eat the bread of dependence, and sit at any fireside an unwelcome guest.' So she goes in the great marts of the world, and competes with men. In striving to arrive at the value of the workingwoman by comparing her with the woman of leisure, it must be premised that many a woman who has not earned a penny in her life, has devoted her time to noble aims. By a woman of leisure I mean the woman who is idle in important matters, and devotes herself to trivial things, caring more about the cut of a gown and the architecture and building of a bonnet than for the welfare of the entire race. It is safe to say, then, that a woman of leisure is of no particular value to the State. She would have political value if she could vote. She is disfranchised, and lacks the aspiration for enfranchisement that might give her some political weight. As she is a consumer and not a producer, her economic value is only a negative one. She may or may not be the mother of children. If she is, it may be claimed that she is of economic value but this is direct. It must be remembered, that children, like speculation in futures, are at present expensive, with only a chance of value of the workingwoman to the State is direct. When I speak of workingwomen, I do not divide them into classes. I mean all women working at professions of trades, and even in unskilled labor, battling for a pittance. I embrace in my definition farmers' wives, believing that, as a class, they work harder than the farmers themselves do, and count them among the great producers of the State. There is no act of the anti-suffragist that seems to me worthy greater blame the one of the attempting to persuade the workingwoman to sign away the hope of liberty by adding her signature to that deplorable negation of liberty called an anti-suffrage petition. This will be a stain on the pages of history—almost a stain of blood, for it attacks not only the liberty, but the very life of the workingwoman. Before history is written, the logic of events bringing conviction even to the dull-witted will I am sure, cause the anti-suffragists to thrill with sorrow and shame that they stood in the way of the liberty of those valiant workers of the State. No greater evidence of the value of the workingwomen to the State can be found than the fact that from New York County we bring endorsements of labor organizations representing more than 100,000 men who work side by side with the workingwomen, and know their value. What I ask of you is, in what is the hope for the future? Surely it is to the workingwomen enfranchised that the State must look for the complete expression of the idea of American liberty. Our vision for the future is not a unit of value, for with the value of the workingwomen recognized we can fix our gaze on an enfranchised sisterhood whose freedom will be given to the advancement of the human race."

Mrs. Blake said that she wished to remind the convention that when the first convention was called to make a constitution in 1777 the qualifications of a voter were property to the value of \$20 colour, and sex. In 1801 the idea of human liberty had so far spread that the Legislature, in providing for the calling of this convention, extended the right to vote for delegates to "All free made citizens" above the age of 21. The constitutional convention of 1821 again extended the right to vote for delegates to all free male citizens, and abolished property qualifications. In 1846 the convention finally swept away all qualifications for voting except colour and sex, and in the convention an earnest plea was made for women. In 1867 the convention considered at great length the question on woman suffrage, and among those who pleaded for it were George William Curtis, Hon. Charles J. Folger, both deceased, Hon. Gideon J. Tucker, and Hon. W. D. Veeder, both members of this committee. "Now, gentlemen," she said, "We have

come here to ask that this great convention of 1894 will make itself forever memorable by giving its voice in favour of the grandest of all concessions to the cause of justice, the political enfranchisement of the women of this State. It will scarcely be denied that women are people, and in the constitution it says:—

"We, the people of the State, do establish the constitution." The constitution declares that no member of the State should be deprived of any right or privilege. Women are members of the State, and they are citizens of the United States, and yet they are disenfranchised and deprived of the highest privilege. On what ground? Not the judgment of their peers. Now, gentlemen, how will you frame the new constitution? Shall it be an honest or dishonest one? If you will strike out the word 'male' then may you retain all the fine phrases. 'We the people', and 'Elected by the people', for they will be beautiful truths. But if you do not, then must you change the text. We believe that our cause is safe in your hands, and if you submit it to the people, and women were allowed to vote it would be adopted triumphantly. No longer is it possible to say that women as a sex do not wish to vote. That statement is disproved by the wonderful uprising of women in favour of this movement. Such a movement can no more be turned back than the stars in their course."

Boston Incidents.

Last week I endeavored to show that through the power of money New England interests were being deliberately sold out by our United States Senate—a body of men that represent the people about as much as the House of Lords represent English interests.

Everyone knows that the last national election was fought and won on a "free raw material" basis, which meant free Canadian coal and iron for New England. Even ex-Gov. Ames, one of our largest manufacturers and a high protectionist at that, admitted that New England with free coal and iron would regain its old time supremacy. His own party set on him hard for telling them the truth, and they retired him to private life. We have 262 trusts or combines in the country, which are fostered and only made possible by extreme high protection. High protection might be endurable if competition was allowed to do its work. But with damnable craftiness they raise the duty out of all reason, and then combine together and not only reap their legitimate profit but the duty besides, and we understand that Canada goes still further in its vain endeavor to gain prosperity on a false economic basis by endeavoring to outdo us in this line.

You have such a high protection that your population remains almost at a standstill, because of your endeavor to legislate for the few at the expense of many; both nations are new and have resources, that challenge the admiration of the world, and yet they sit paralyzed. Young giants that need only their freedom to conquer and subdue the wilderness and set our thousands of idle men to work, but through a false political economy both build a tariff wall and find that prosperity is far "from being within its gates." We are now forced to the humiliating spectacle of our State speculating and trading with the greatest combine the world ever saw, viz., the Sugar Trust. It is said that one of our western senators alone cleared over two million through his knowledge of the probable outcome of this special legislation.

As a fair illustration of the way the interests of the masses are handled by our representatives, the writer being intimately acquainted with a member of the Massachusetts Legislature, and being somewhat surprised at the amount of money he spent in proportion to his salary of \$700, naturally enquired for an explanation. He said, "Money was around as free as water." From the largest New England railway he had received \$800; from the street railway he had got \$500; while from another source he had received \$500, and then the people wonder why they are poor and the middle class are commencing to get severely pinched between politics and labor-saving machinery.

We have overproduction of the worst kind; our factories produce much faster than we can consume. The labor-saving machinery is compelling our people to look into an eight-hour solution of the "labor problem". Attleboro, Mass is the home of the manufacturers of jewelry in this country; within three months the Attleboro Manufacturers' Association declared they could, with the aid of labor-saving machinery, flood the market with jewelry, while ex-Secretary McCollough, one of President Arthur's cabinet officers declared that it was his deliberate judgment that with the aid of all of our labor-saving machinery we could produce all of our goods in six months of the year. Therefore he declares that he can see but one solution of the labor question viz., a national eight-hour law. Looking over a new line of shoes lately I was told by the manufacturer that he had just introduced a machine that not only made the channels in the soles for the McKay sole fastening machine, but it trimmed the edges at one and the same time, doing away not only with labor but with brains. This machine and others are causing a re-adjustment in business and must have a tendency to force labor in other avenues of employment. Perhaps ex-Secretary McCollough may be right and a national eight-hour law would be salutary legislation. Anyway we are tending this way for a solution of our labor question.—*St. John Globe*

Correspondence.

The North British and Mercantile.

The year 1893 will be a notable one in the history of fire underwriting as being, it is hoped, the culmination of a series of unfavorable years for companies generally all the world over. While the above company has not escaped the common experience, unlike many of its competitors, it has emerged from a year of flames in such a condition as to be able to declare a dividend of \$550,000, which is at the same rate as in 1892, viz.: of \$5 per share. That the company was able to announce such a satisfactory result after such a trying time is a speaking commentary upon the stability of its resources and the wisdom of its management in so conserving them in the past as to bear the strain imposed upon them without affecting the dividends. The fire experience of the past twelve months can only have one effect upon the public, and that is to confirm their confidence in such institutions as the North British and Mercantile, and to increase their appreciation of the protection they afford.

In the fire branch the net premiums, although slightly less than in the preceding year, owing possibly to an elimination of unprofitable risks, amounting to no less than \$7,236,950, a striking indication of the magnitude of the company's operations and of the prominent place it holds in the front ranks of the world's fire insurance companies. The net losses, which amounted to \$5,250,920, were at a somewhat higher ratio than in 1892, but it is gratifying to note the statement made at the annual meeting that the losses this year so far are \$430,000 less than for the same period in the preceding year; and it is expected that with the return to a more normal condition of the fire hazard, of which there is good prospect, and a re-organization of the Company's business in the less profitable parts, a much better showing will be reported for the current twelve months. The total fire insurance fund at the close of the year, including a dividend reserve of \$750,000 and \$497,205, balance carried forward, aggregated \$11,409,520, which, together with the paid up capital of \$3,437,500, constitutes a splendid security to the policyholders. The fire business of the Company in Canada is the second largest of any in the field, the amount at risk at the end of the year being \$52,626,021, the premiums received \$404,544, and the losses paid \$334,930.

The general balance sheet shows that the paid-up capital and fire assets aggregate \$16,773,085, the life and annuity assets \$41,103,280, giving a grand total of \$57,876,365. Of this amount nearly \$5,000,000 is invested in Canada in real estate, loans thereon, stocks, bonds, etc., showing in a practical way the confidence the company has in Canada as a field for insurance and the investment of capital. With such a stake in this country, and an enviable record for honorable dealing, liberal treatment and progressive methods, the company well deserves the patronage and popularity it has won in the Dominion. To its capable and popular managing director, Mr. Thomas Davidson, the Company owes much of its local progress and popularity. The managing director has an able lieutenant in his son, Mr. Randall Davidson, who is superintendent and acting manager during his father's absence.

J. N. W. Winslow is local agent for this company in Woodstock. He is prepared to accept risks at current rates, after personal inspection. His company is prepared to make quick and liberal settlements, as heretofore.

France's New Premier.

M. Dupuy, who for the second time in a little over a year finds himself at the head of the French Cabinet, is a philosopher turned politician. He is a grave and earnest man with much intellectual and moral distinction and a good deal of personal dignity. He has always been an industrious worker since the days of his boyhood in the country town of Puy, when the dawn often surprised him over his books after a long night of study. After taking his degree in philosophy in 1874 he became a professor in various lycées, and eventually became vice-rector—a superior kind of inspector—in Corsica. At this period in his career the Prefect wrote confidentially concerning him: "I know no one like M. Charles Dupuy for settling a difficulty of any kind whatever and sending everyone away satisfied." He was first elected to the Chamber in 1865, and showed great interest in educational questions. He became Prime Minister in April, 1893, and held office through the general election in the following August and September. He was not successful, however, in keeping his cabinet in hand owing to the radical tendencies of some of his colleagues, and the ministry accordingly resigned in November. Whether he will be more successful with the new team remains to be seen, but probably all parties will combine to tide over in a provisional way the interval before the Presidential election in October. M. Dupuy is not yet forty-three.

Bangor and Aroostook.

Work on the B. & A. Railroad between Houlton and Presque Isle was begun in earnest last week and will be pushed to completion to carry the farmers' crops to market next fall. The grading of the whole line has been sublet between the above named points. McLaughlin, with a crew of Italians, is finishing the grading from Littleton to Monticello. A. E. Trites has contracted for ten miles from Monticello to Bridgewater Center, and has a force now to work. W. O. Johnson & Sons have five miles under contract from Bridgewater Centre to Robinson's Mill in Blaine. Contractor McPhail has two and a half miles from Blaine to the Mars Hill line. Stewart & McQueen, two and a half miles from Mars Hill line through Westfield, within thirteen miles of Presque Isle. Messrs. Simmonds & Burpee have taken the contract to build the trestle and temporary Railroad bridges across the Meduxnekeag on the line North and will begin the work at once. The line between Houlton and Presque Isle is assured and will be completed within the next few months.—*Aroostook Times*

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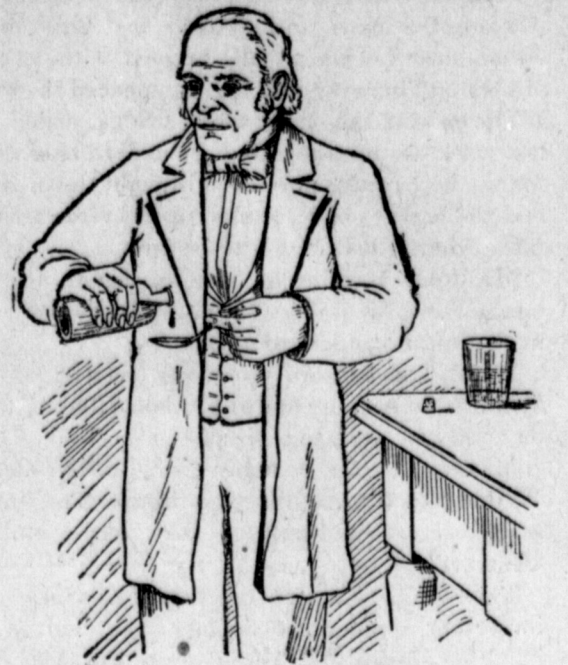
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