Urge Women Voters to Gossip to Cure All Political Evils

By Hazel Canning.

Durham, N. H., July 9.—Five hundred women, prospective women voters of New England, and especially of the State of New Hampshire, met at the New Hampshire State College for a week's schooling in citizenship.

The main subjects considered at the first day's session were the policies of the different political parties, parliamentary practice and contemporaneous world history, as it affects the future women's vote.

The morning and afternoon sessions of the school were presided over by Mrs. Mary E. Wood of Portsmouth. The evening session was in charge of Mary R. Spaulding, food administrator of New Hampshire.

Next was the first advice given women students by Mrs. Nancy M. Schoonmaker of Connecticut.

"By man's blessed faculty of gossip, the wife of our political life may be cured, as far as woman's vote can cure them."

"How? This way. The wretched politician of our cities will have his failings described perhaps by a man to his wife. She must then tell all her women associates, who, in turn, will tell all their friends. Thus will the ball be kept rolling till the awakened woman voter finds out what sort of men are running for office, and support him according to his dessert."

"No one imagines that the new woman voter is going to vote the "straight Republican ticket or the straight Democratic" will be quickly disillusioned if he steps in for a minute where the future sooths, at this college, set among rolling New Hampshire hills, are putting their heads together. For, as Mrs. Schoonmaker further advises, "split your ticket, girls, find out the record of the man, and vote accordingly."

"The girls" signed their interest in the procedure. An atmosphere of optimism was about, especially when Mrs. Wood, the presiding officer, gave the first talk on parliamentary procedure.

When Mrs. Wood first began, a group of white-haired women near the door who looked the wives of prosperous farmers, shook their heads. "I always forget to say Madam Chairman," one confessed, and as for questions of order: Mrs. Wood put the question to rest with her first sentence, "it is no trouble to learn the machinery of government to accomplish political results," she said.

MUST SOCIALIZE THE HOME.

Above all else, Mrs. Wood emphasized on women carrying out new political parties for themselves. Said she: "If our voting means simply doubling the ballot, then our object is defeated. We must contribute feminine intelligence."

"We should be more interested in good schools, clean water, fit milk, above all, homes that rest and comfort, than in the tariff or high finance. We must socialize our vote. We must bring the world into the home and the home out into the world, even to baking baking biscuits abroad if that is needed."

Professor Donald Babcock wound up the program with a prophecy note when he spoke of town and country problems. He told of a country funeral he attended where the overworked farmer drunk his last. The old man had died of cancer received when she dropped & battle was won —

"I saw the kettle," he explained. "It was of iron, like those brought home from the war. It was nine inches in diameter, and weighed, or more, a hundred pounds."

This woman had had for this purpose, all the days of her farm life. The rest of her home was even as the kettle. "If you women with the vote, cannot settle machinery that will make some weapon of the future, and save of the toasters in kitchens, then woman's vote had better not be cast."

WHAT TO VOTE AGAINST.

Here is one thing to vote against, as learned, the first day of the school by woman voters of the future. The man who holds out against an eight-hour day, the man who voted against the age of consent, the man who voted against the Child Labor Law. Other speakers were Miss Edna Wright, of the staff of the National Woman Suffrage Association; Miss Mary J. Shuler, chairman of the Suffrage Commission of New York State, and associate editor of the Woman Citizen; Mrs. Helen Rand Thayer, who spoke on Americanization; Mrs. Frank Recton, whose subject was "Child Welfare;" Dr. D. L. Hancock, who spoke on "Community Service," and Mrs. Myra B. Lord, who spoke on thrift.

The voting school here is memorable for one thing above all others, that is not the lessons taught, nor the politics learned. It is by means the parliamentary law and usage daily urged upon the women, it is rather, and most abundantly, the amazing interest taken in the great new weapon of the future, now in the hands of woman, the vote, and this vote brings out from little humble farms, women of all races and conditions, and, particularly. It brings out the old, gray-haired women whom one would rather expect to see turning in at the Sowing Circle. As Mrs. Schoonmaker praised it in the morning, "Our supreme effort must be to do for the world, as women voters what we have done for the home."

A note of warning followed. Need all you politicians of the day have seen the ways, for women, with votes soon, up at the voters' school in New Hampshire, send it out?—And before we cast ever a vote, we mean to red out who are our friends and who are our enemies."

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