The New Hampshire General Court of 1919 met in special session, upon the call of Governor John H. Bartlett and the Executive Council, at 11 a.m., Tuesday, September 8, and adjourned at 4:40 p.m., Thursday, September 10. The call for this extra session stated as its purpose the consideration of the suffrage amendment to the Federal Constitution, and this matter had first attention in both branches. A joint resolution, ratifying the amendment on the part of the state of New Hampshire, was passed in the House by a roll-call vote of 212 to 142 and in the Senate by 14 to 10. "If and when" the amendment becomes effective by the ratifying votes of thirty-six states, certain legislation, framed at the New Hampshire special session, goes into operation, defining the entrance of women into Granite State citizenship with its various privileges and duties, including the payment of the largest poll tax in our history.

In his address to the Legislature upon its convening Governor Bartlett recommended action, in addition to the consideration of suffrage, upon an increased bonus for World War soldiers and for the prevention of profiteering, and both of these matters were taken up, as he desired. At its regular session, the Legislature had voted $30 to every New Hampshire soldier and sailor in the war with Germany. To this $70 each was added by unanimous vote of both branches at the special session, making a total of $100 per man to be thus paid and to be raised by a bond issue of $1,500,000. A sinking fund for the retirement of these bonds will be secured by increasing the annual poll tax from $3 to $5 for a period of five years. Those soldiers who already have received the $30 from the state will have the additional $70 sent to them without further formality soon after December 1, when the act takes effect.

In the matter of a law to punish profiteering, such a statute was drafted by representatives of the Federal Department of Justice and submitted, through the Judiciary Standing Committee, to the House of Representatives, which passed it unanimously. In the Senate, however, the measure was deemed too drastic, and a majority of the Judiciary Committee in the upper branch recommended that it was inexpedient to legislate in the matter. A minority of the committee submitted a new draft of the bill which the Senate adopted and in which the House concurred, though with the freely expressed opinion that the statute in its final form has so few teeth as to be of little value.

Affirmative action was asked of this special session of the General Court upon several other important matters, including, especially, labor and liquor legislation, but all were postponed indefinitely by the House in accordance with its vote on the opening day that the business of the session should be confined to the subjects for whose particular consideration it was called.

The value of this brief and business-like session was far in excess of its cost, which is estimated at $15,000. It placed the state of New Hampshire on the right side of one of the great questions of the day and gave her action an influence comparable in importance with that vote of hers which ratified finally the first Constitution of the United States of America. The right of women to vote, always evident, but long denied, soon will be granted to them in full measure throughout the nation, and it is gratifying to our sense of state pride that New Hampshire is recorded among the first, rather than among...
the last of the states to ratify the Federal suffrage amendment. It is fitting that this should be so, for, taken as a group, there is no constituency of women in this country or in the world more worthy of the ballot or more capable of using it intelligently and to good purpose than the women of New Hampshire. With them holding the balance of political power we shall expect to see the demagogue and the partisan less influential than in the past and more consideration given to those leaders who believe in good causes and who have the courage of their convictions.

BOUNCING BET

By Alice M. Shepard

Bouncing Bet romps in the lane
   Around the feet of sweet-breathed kine,
When, lowing for the tardy swain
   They stand and wait in patient line.

When bars are down, and cows go home,
   She follows softly in the grass,
From barn to cot she loves to roam,
   A bonny, carefree, country lass.

She nestles 'neath the lean-to eaves,
   Then wanders, eager to explore,
And blooming rosily, she leaves
   A garland greeting at the door.

The house can never be forlorn,
   Though broken windows gape and stare,
Though chimneys fall, and thresholds yawn
   While Bet keeps loyal vigil there.

Bouncing Bet romps in the lane
   And sports and ranges unconfined,
For Nature's laws alone constrain
   And home is in her heart enshrined.

Franklin, N. H.