

# WOMAN SUFFRAGE

## SPEECHES MADE IN ITS BEHALF TODAY.

In the marble room of the Senate, from 10:30 o'clock this morning until they were told to go because it was time for the Senate to convene, a large number of woman suffragists bombarded Senators Clay of Georgia, chairman of the woman's suffrage committee, and Johnston of Alabama, a member of the committee, with arguments in favor of franchising women, which, they said, were unanswerable. When it came time for the room to be cleared it took Col. Rainsdell and his assistants to do the work.

Rev. Anna Howard Shaw of Philadelphia, president of the American Suffragists, had a last word to say, and when she finished the seventy-five or more women who had crowded into the room commenced at once to talk it over, so that the chatter could be heard in the Senate chamber across the hall. It was with some difficulty that Dr. Shaw got everybody fairly started toward the east front of the Capitol to have a photograph taken.

### Senators Dumfounded.

Senators Clay and Johnston said never a word during the speechmaking. They were to all appearances dumfounded by the flood of reasons for woman's suffrage poured upon them. They smiled weakly when Mrs. Carry Chapman Catt of New York, the international president, faced them with the fact that never in the history of the Senate committee's hearings had more than two or three members been present.

Mrs. Catt made the strongest plea. What the women ask for is perfectly constitutional, she said, just as much so as the enfranchisement of the negroes. She begged the committee to keep her and her sisters from the humiliation of going among ignorant and disrespectful male voters and asking for the ballot.

"You don't want us women to go to the negro and beg him to give us a voice in this free government, do you?" she inquired. "Then give us some hope of congressional action looking toward a constitutional amendment."

### Mrs. Isabella Ballard.

Mrs. Isabella Ballard of New York said, among many other things:

"In tones of appeal and in tones of warning we repeat the awful phrase, 'taxation without representation is tyranny.'"

Others who spoke were Dr. Shaw, Mrs. Belva Lockwood of this city, Mrs. Fanny Fernald of Maine, Miss Anna Miller of New York, Mrs. Ella S. Stewart of Illinois and Mrs. Ida H. Harper.

Several of the speakers referred to the fact that the women of the country by their taxes help to pay the salaries of the senators on the committee.

"It seems ungracious to mention it," said one woman apologetically, "but the situation demands it—demands very plain speech."

To this Mr. Clay smiled as if to assure the speaker that she was not overstepping the bounds or hurting anybody's feelings.

At the end Dr. Shaw asked that the committee make "some sort of a report" to the Senate on woman's suffrage. She then asked that a petition she had printed by the Senate, 10,000 copies in all.

Senator Clay graciously and with the greatest display of manly chivalry promised to ask the Senate about the printing.

### Before the Judiciary Committee.

The advocates of female suffrage were given an opportunity to present pleas also to the House judiciary committee.

The hearing was presided over by Chairman Jenkins of the judiciary committee and was in charge of Mrs. Harriet Taylor Upton of Ohio. The speakers before the House committee were Miss Emma Gillette of Washington, Mrs. Chapman Catt of New York, Mrs. Richard W. Fitzgerald of Massachusetts, Senator Owen of Oklahoma, Miss Rose Sullivan of Utah, Mrs. Mary E. Craigie of New York, Mrs. Ida Porter Boyer of Pennsylvania and Miss Kate Gordon of Louisiana.

# WOMEN SEEK SUFFRAGE

## Present Arguments Before Senate and House Committees.

[From the Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, March 3.—Suffragettes invaded the Capitol to-day and legislators trembled. They first went to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and flooded the ears of Senators Clay and Johnson with reasons why women should vote. They asked why negroes were enfranchised and not women. They cajoled the two Senators, and then overcame them with logic, and during the whole proceedings the two lawmakers uttered no word.

Senator Owen, of Oklahoma, summed up the argument in a strong speech, during which he said that the nation owed suffrage to women for their labor in the homes, and that he loved "the cause" for the enemies it had made, the saloonkeepers and other lowering elements in the national life.

The address of Senator Owen was frequently interrupted with applause. He paid a glowing tribute to womanhood, and earnestly advocated universal suffrage. He claimed that the saloon element in Oklahoma had defeated the universal suffrage proposition, and said that if women had questioned every candidate before the election they would have carried that point, instead of having their suffrage limited to school questions.

Mr. Alexander asked Senator Owen if he would be willing to give the ballot to the low class of immigrant women who come to this country.

"Yes," replied Senator Owen, "because the vote of the male immigrants is largely dominated by the saloon and brothel influences, and the vote of the women would counteract the votes of this class of males." The Senator pointed out that in states where woman suffrage is universal the percentage of women convicts is very low. He said that in Wyoming there is not one woman now incarcerated in the penitentiary. He contended that the vote of the women would largely be against corruption and immorality in the states.

Among the speakers before the Senate committee were Mrs. Isabella C. Barrows, wife of ex-Representative Barrows, and Mrs. Ella Crosset and Anna Miller, of New York; Mrs. Ella S. Stewart, of Illinois; Mrs. Ida Husted Harper, Susan B. Anthony's biographer; Mrs. Laura Clay, of Kentucky, and Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt.

Then the suffragettes turned their attention to the House committee, and during their march through the corridors frightened Representatives could be seen scurrying into cloak rooms and niches in the walls. In the House committee room they found Representative Jenkins, the chairman, supported by two other members. All seemed about to go well until a bell sounded; then three other members of the committee who were about to enter the room fled in dismay, while visitors to the Capitol peered through the door wondering if Mr. Jenkins was celebrating his birthday with a dinner.

The bell was rung by Mrs. Harriett Taylor Upton, of Ohio, who took this means of shutting off each woman whom she thought had talked long enough. The women pointed to other countries where the right of suffrage is granted, and held that these countries were better off. They claimed that taxation without representation is tyranny, and the committee nodded its head all the while in affirmation. The speakers before the House committee were Miss Emma Gillette, of Washington; Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, of New York; Mrs. Richard W. Fitzgerald, of Massachusetts; Senator Owen, of Oklahoma; Mrs. Emma Funck, of Maryland; Mrs. Mary E. Craigie, of New York; Mrs. Porter Bryer, of Pennsylvania, and Miss Kate Gordon, of Louisiana.

Mrs. Catt devoted the greater portion of the time allotted to her to showing that the condition of women in foreign countries, and even in Great Britain, where much agitation of woman suffrage was now going on, was better than in the United States. She claimed that the male riffraff of foreign countries who emigrated to these shores, after a year or two of residence were allowed to vote on questions vitally affecting women. Still, woman herself is denied the right of ballot. Most of the speakers claimed that woman should be given the ballot as a matter of right. They pointed out that her education was equal and in a great many cases superior to that of man; that to her was intrusted the training of the voters of the country, and that if she was competent to raise her sons so that they might become good citizens, she certainly was competent to be given the right of ballot.

It was claimed by Miss Gordon that had it not been for "machine politics" Louisiana would have

declared in favor of woman suffrage.

Mrs. Craigie advanced the claim that the action of the states in disfranchising woman was unconstitutional. The original Constitution, she said, made no restriction as between the sexes.

Mrs. Boyer spoke of the influence of motherhood upon future voters. She was interrupted by Mr. Alexander, of New York, who said that his mother had died forty-three years ago and that the principles she taught her son had been voted for by that son for the last forty years.

"If every one," replied Mrs. Boyer, "had the surroundings, the environment and the ability of your mother's son this room would be filled with Senators."

The members of the committee adjourned the hearing in order to take their places in the House, but it was agreed to take the matter under consideration.

### They Want Ballot for Women.

Many women prominent in the social and political life of Washington have declared themselves in favor of the ballot for women, and every step in the suffragette fight in England is being followed with keen interest. Of course, the continuous political unrest in the capital tends to rouse women to other interests than the social circle, and just at present the problem of equal political favors for both sexes commands attention. Perhaps Mrs. Fairbanks, wife of the Vice President, is the most influential as she is the most enthusiastic champion of women's rights in Washington. She is a member of the Governing Board of the National Suffrage Society and is active in all work of the organization. Another prominent woman suffragist is Mrs. Taft, wife of the Secretary of War, who arrives at her opinion by a more devious line of argument than Mrs. Fairbanks. A limited suffrage is what Mrs. Taft really favors, but, thinking it would be impossible to define that with exactness, she believes the only outcome possible is to bestow the ballot without any string attached. Mrs. William E. Chandler, wife of the veteran Senator from New Hampshire, is a member of the National Suffrage Society, and the wives of Senators Burrows of Michigan, Carter of Montana and Clark of Wyoming are enthusiastic in support of the feminine cause.

### It Would Confuse Politics, She Says.

Mrs. William J. Bryan also believes in woman suffrage, but there are equally determined foes of that plan. One of these is Miss Dolly Curtis, sister of Senator Charles Curtis of Kansas. Miss Curtis has handled all her brother's correspondence for many years, and is one of the most popular women in Washington. Repeated attempts have been made to convert her. Mrs. Fairbanks, Mrs. Taft and others have lectured to her, but her reply always has been the same. "I am against women voting," says Miss Curtis, "because I think it would make politics more confused than they are at present." Another conspicuous foe of woman suffrage is Mrs. Mrs. Knox, wife of the Pennsylvania Senator. She is old-fashioned in her views, and her argument is the old one, that women belong in the family circle rather than on the political rostrum. Miss Helen Cannon, who presides over the household of "Uncle Joe," is directly opposed to Mrs. Knox, and the two have enlivened several afternoon gatherings with animated debate. Miss Cannon is a firm believer in the suffrage movement, and a little story is going the rounds of her latest encounter with Mrs. Knox. Miss Cannon had wound up a long argument with the statement that Mrs. Knox and Miss Curtis were practically alone in opposing the enfranchisement of woman. Mrs. Knox, with a grave face and in a tone of resignation, answered: "Yes, indeed; I'm afraid that's so. And what are we two against so many?"