

California Federation of Women's Clubs Election 1915 San Francisco

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(Address by Emily Hoppin, President-Elect at the end)

MRS. EMILY HOPPIN

Elected President State Federation

1915-16 OFFICERS

President, Mrs. Emily Hoppin,
Yolo Northern District.

Vice-President, Mrs. Edward D.
Knight, San Francisco.

Vice-President-at-Large , Mrs.
L. B. Hogue, Los Angeles.

Recording Secretary, Mrs.
Frank J. Russell, San Joaquin.

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs.
C. O. Hamilton, Northern.

Treasurer, Mrs. L. G. Leonard,
Alameda.

Auditors, Mrs. Andrew Fran-
cisco, Los Angeles ; Mrs. Aaron
Schloss, Alameda District.

General Federation Secretary,
Mrs. Lillian Pray-Palmer, South-
ern.

DRAMA OF FEDERATION

The curtain has been rung down on the last act of the state convention of 1915, the footlights have blinked out, and actors and audiences have returned home. All dramatic technique and principles were used to buffet through the most intensely interesting Federation drama ever staged. The curtain was lowered on suspense, climax and continuity developed to the nth power : on scenes replete with elemental niceties of tragedy and comedy, motions, emotions, and commotions ; and with most participants wrought to that thrilling moment of fainting propensit)^ in which they gasped – "Even though I die tomorrow, I have helped to defeat a quintet of amendments today." (Shakespeare, or somebody, forgive us).

It was a big Drama with a splendid Director. No one can forget that quiet, self-possessed little woman who stood valiantly hour after hour upholding the dignity of Federation, or her strong, heartfelt message delivered as she figuratively stepped out of office and virtually surrendered the gavel to other hands.

Mrs. Palmer's sweetness, courage, dignity and effective presiding, under most exasperating circumstances, are factors

which we are proud to mention. There was pandemonium to be sure – who wants a convention to snore – but it was a parliamentary pandemonium caused by two things – too much parliamentary knowledge on the part of the few and not enough parliamentary knowledge on the part of the majority.

\\"e observed much parliamentary procedure, very very much parliamentary ignorance, some parliamentary manipulation, and alas some parliamentary arrogance – and the worst of these is ignorance. It was the parliamentary ignorance that was in the majority at the convention and it was this ignorance that allowed some business to be passed that should at least have been handled more judiciously.

For example : A motion to "table" an important question like the "political" revision amendments has always been considered as evading an issue – some call it a moral issue. Big things like those amendments should have been fought out fairly and squarely by direct vote.

We do not intend to say that the speaker who introduced the motion manipulated the moment or that she was arrogant. She displayed breadth of parliamentary knowledge that took a clinch

hold at a psychological moment - a

breadth that every clubwoman ought to acquire. But we do say the majority of the delegates were not keen enough in the excitement of the moment to determine whether they should take a logical or emotional course - and they let a big parliamentary moment go by which would have allowed them the privilege to vote the amendments in or out - logically.

We take it that the MASSED INTELLIGENCE of a convention audience ought to be greater than the FIGURATIVE INTELLIGENCE of a parliamentary "table."

We have received letters both of praise and criticism of the action of Mrs. James Orr in taking the floor to speak against the "political amendments" when the report of the chairman, Mrs. Hartwell, had not been finished, and when Mrs. Orr herself "was not a voting member of the convention." Whether or not Mrs. Orr did the parliamentary thing is a question of the past. But whether or not it was proper, she at least scratched the psychological match that set the Federation fire going to burn up the amendments. Others remark that Mrs. Orr's

match was not needed as the majority of Federated women were well supplied with conflagration sticks themselves. The question naturally arises - Suppose the majority of delegates had been in FAVOR of the amendments, would Mrs. Orr's words have influenced the vote against them?

There was no reason why the Revision of By-Laws committee chairman should not have been accorded the courtesy of silence while she was making her report.

The committee spent many hours working to give the Federation what they believed the Federation wanted. It is perfectly proper to repudiate any question if done in parliamentary form by the majority, but such repudiation can always be performed gracefully. Those who talked with Mrs. Hartwell after the defeat can say she is a "game" loser.

Lentil the amendments were voted on at the state convention and decided by vote of the delegates, we have been non-
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EDITORIALS

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partisan in our expression in The Club-woman. But now that the question is

settled, we will state that personally we were opposed to the political amendments and the election amendment. We are happy . to see that the Federation is to remain a legislative, sociological and political body instead of being placed in a constitutional stockade or folding itself in its winding sheet to wait for its grave to be dug.

But we believe the woman who fought for the amendments have at least the right to be considered as sincere in their desires as those who voted them down.

SPEAKING OF CANDIDATES

Sometimes we have a candidate for president who is a fine woman. Sometimes her opponent is not a fine woman. But for 1915, the California Federation elected one good woman and defeated another woman just as good, for the presidency. Added to that we wish also to say, that a fine woman is retiring from the chair – but we retain her as General Federation Secretary, an office she is well equipped to fill.

. Mrs. Hoppin will represent California at The Biennial with three minutes on the Biennial program – the time allotted to each state president. We hope, how-

ever, that she will make time and knowledge and personal force count in other parts of the biennial program where she is not scheduled to appear, just as Mrs. Palmer did at the Chicago Biennial.

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

Comrades of the California Federation of Women's Clubs :

We are about to fare forth together. May we not take in our hearts, in our voices, and in our deeds, that good will that can be a guaranty of effective work during this coming year? There is the good will that exchanges benefits with one another, hoping for a return. There is the good will that is self-forgetful ; that, giving and constraining by its good gifts and by the greatest of gifts, — love itself — brings about great things for ourselves and for those around us.

I hope that this coming year may see generous gifts to our Caroline Severance Memorial Endowment fund. We have set our goal at \$50,000. We cannot expect to reach our goal in a day; but may we not hope to be well on the way by next spring?

I should like to see in every village,
and within the radius of every school
house, a neighborhood club that would
mean an uplift in every community
along our civic, art, literary and moral
lines of work. Through our Bureau
of Library Information and Recipro-
city I should like to have a co-operation
that would establish libraries in every
county of the state, for I know the
good they can accomplish.

I hope to have for you, as chairman
of the Department of Peace a woman
who can lead us in the best methods
of bringing about universal peace.

Yours for service,

EMILY HOPPIN.