

SUFFRAGISTS PRESS GOVERNORS TO HAVE AMENDMENT PASSED

Demand Prompt Ratification by States Which Have Not Adopted It.

2,000 REJOICE AT CHICAGO

Delegates Join in 30-Minute De- monstration Over Their Coming Victory.

ASSOCIATIONS TO DISSOLVE

League of Women Voters Also Will Be Organized as an Inde- pendent Body.

CHICAGO, Feb. 13.—Governors of the various States that have not ratified the Federal suffrage amendment will receive telegrams demanding immediate consideration and prompt action by the Legislatures as a result of action decided upon today at the opening of the fifty-first annual convention of the Nation American Woman Suffrage Association.

Delegates to the convention numbering more than 2,000 wish ratification to be completed so that all women of the country can participate in the Presidential election.

Demand on the various State executives for a changed attitude toward woman voters followed the receipt of a telegram indicating that a special session of the Oklahoma Legislature would be called Feb. 23 to consider ratification of the amendment.

Particular attention was directed by the convention against Governor Hart of Washington, the only equal suffrage State where no move has been made to call a special session. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, President of the association, was directed to send to the Governor the following telegram:

"Washington is now the only enfranchised State which has not taken action toward ratification of the Federal Suffrage amendment. Thirty-five ratifications are assured in the immediate future. The nation has been informed for many years that Washington approved woman suffrage. It therefore looks to you to call an immediate session of your Legislature, and once more announce Washington's indorsement of woman suffrage by ratification of the Federal amendment."

Condemn Washington Governor.

The message was dispatched following receipt of a telegram from the Washington League of Woman Voters saying:

"We were a pioneer suffrage State, the fifteenth State to be enfranchised. Therefore we resent the disgraceful humiliation put upon us by the stubborn refusal of our Governor to listen to our united demand for a special session to ratify the suffrage amendment."

With the reading, amid enthusiastic cheering, of a telegram of congratulation from President Wilson, the convention became a victory jubilee; patriotic celebration and political rally rolled into one. For thirty minutes the delegates, assembled in the Gold Room at the Congress Hotel and each supplied with a horn, indulged in a wild demonstration of joy.

A din of horns resounded. The delegates lined up by States and marched up and down the aisles waving banners. Women stood on chairs and led State cheers and songs, and the whole assemblage united in singing "America" and "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Mrs. Catt Reads Message.

During a lull in the cheering Mrs. Catt read this telegram from President Wilson:

Permit me to congratulate your association upon the fact that its great work is so near its triumphant end, that you can now merge it into a league of women voters to carry on the development of good citizenship and real democracy, and to wish for the new organization the same success and wise leadership.

Mrs. Stanley McCormick of Massachusetts, First Vice President, moved that a reply be sent conveying the association's gratitude for President Wilson's "constant co-operation and help, with deep regret for his recent illness."

Mrs. Grace Wilbur Trout, Chairman of the Committee on Local Arrangements, in her address of welcome expressed the hope that the ratification campaign would "make future conventions unnecessary."

Mrs. Catt then asked Mrs. Stanley McCormick to take the chair and began her address.

"We have no official proclamation announcing that our amendment has been ratified by the necessary thirty-six States," she said, "but the ratifications already completed and the special legislative sessions already called for ratifi-

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SUFFRAGISTS PRESS GOVERNORS TO ACT

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cation bring us within a very few of the required number. There is no earthly power that can do more than delay by a trifle the final enfranchisement of women.

Nevada Sends Official Word.

"Thirty-one States have ratified. Our able assistant, Mrs. Helen S. Gardener, has been camping on the doorstep of the Legislature to see that the certificates are rushed to Washington as soon as they are issued. I had a telegram from Robert Lansing, Secretary of State, today announcing that he had received the certificate of ratification from Nevada, which ratified the amendment on Feb. 7.

"I have just received a message from the Governor of Arizona announcing the ratification by that State. You read it in the newspapers this morning, but we do not take the newspapers for our authority.

"Here is something that hasn't been printed in the newspapers. I have just received word from the Governor of New Mexico saying he is going to call a special session of the Legislature on Monday. The Governor of Oklahoma calls his session on the 23d. Five other State Legislatures have announced their readiness to ratify. That will make

thirty-eight States altogether, but only three of the five Governors have promised to call their sessions in the near future, and that makes the necessary thirty-six.

Mrs. Catt laid the failure of the suffrage amendment to pass the Sixty-fifth Congress at the doors of Senators Pomerene and Hitchcock, Democrats, and Senators Borah and Wadsworth, Republicans, and blamed them for the necessity of calling special sessions of the Legislatures.

The Executive Council at the night session recommended that the association dissolve, as the object of many years' endeavor, the obtaining of the vote for women, was about to be attained.

Another recommendation, which was approved, was that the League of Women Voters, now a section of the Suffrage Association, be organized as a new and independent body. It also was recommended that the auxiliaries of the association retain their relationship to the Board of Directors to be elected by this convention, but that they change their names, objects, and constitutions to conform to those of the National League of Women Voters.

To wind up the affairs of the Suffrage Association it was decided to elect officers as usual to serve two years, if necessary.

Representatives of candidates for the Presidential nomination continued attempts today to enlist woman voters. The woman's branch of the Republican National Committee gave a dinner to the Republican women attending the convention, and the Democratic Women's Committee arranged a similar dinner for the same hour in the same hotel.

This afternoon the women's branch of the General Leonard Wood Campaign Committee gave a tea for the suffrage delegates. Tomorrow the women on the Lowden Committee will give a tea, which Governor and Mrs. Lowden will attend.

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