

WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Second Day's Proceedings of the State Association.

On Wednesday morning, the Opera House was nearly filled with anxious, intelligent people,—eager for information on the great subject of woman suffrage. The audience who attended the convention comprise people from all parts of the State, and quite a number from other States. Of our own citizens from Bloomington and Normal, the sessions draw out the most intelligent and the deepest thinkers on political and moral subjects.

Miss Susan B. Anthony spoke about half an hour immediately after the opening of the convention, adverting principally to the legal status of woman as a voter, urging that under our laws as they at present stand—that is, the federal constitution—woman is a legal voter.

Mrs. E. B. Ferguson followed in a short, pithy speech, reviewing the sources of government. She quoted copiously from Prof. Fluxley's "Science of Government," and showed that in former times women had a great deal to do with governmental affairs. She inveighed against the practice of taxation without representation. This principle of tyranny should be expunged. Our fathers thought it was tyranny to be excluded from a voice in a government that taxed them. Certainly it is as much tyranny to exclude women. She thought no woman should pay any more tax until she was granted a vote.

Dr. T. F. Worrell said that he had been urged to make some remarks in opposition to woman suffrage. But he couldn't do it. He said that if he had been delegated especially to answer the arguments he had heard advanced in favor of suffrage he would have to acknowledge himself as dumb as B. laan's ass.

A general invitation was extended for some one who opposed the woman movement to make himself heard. Nobody responded, however—all acknowledged the suffragists had, as the boys say, "the dead wood" on the question.

Miss Anthony related an amusing anecdote of a woman who owned a house, and when the tax collector came around she bolted and barred her house and talked to the collector from an up-stairs window, from which look-out she would quote all sorts of aphorisms to him bearing on the tyranny of her being taxed without being allowed a voice in the matter.

Mrs. Ferguson cited (in the matter of opposition to paying tax) the case of the dissenters in England refusing to pay the tax for the support of the established church. By reason of their resistance the law was eventually repealed. Quakers in that country, also, refused to pay their militia tax, and they are now exempt from that duty.

A letter from Madame Anneke was read by Mrs. Ferguson, in which the writer paid a glowing tribute to the memory of Lilly Peckham, deceased, one of the leading advocates of woman suffrage, who died some time ago.

IN THE AFTERNOON

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An interesting discussion ensued in the consideration of the resolution presented on Tuesday which says that the 14th and 15th amendments secured the right of suffrage for women. Mr. B. F. Diggs and Mrs. Hazlett contended that those amendments were meant for the negro alone, and that women could not by a forced construction of them be included in the privileges they secure. In the course of this discussion Mrs. Hazlett took occasion to express her regret that Mrs. Woodhull was made so prominent a character in the suffrage movement. She believed Mrs. W. had hurt the cause by being thrust, and thrusting herself, forward so boldly. She also made good points on Miss Anthony for that lady's furious tirades on men as a class.

Miss Anthony went into an argument to show that women, by the fairest, and the common-sense, construction, of these amendments, had the right to vote. She repudiated the idea of any trick or forced construction in the premises.

The resolutions as reported on Tuesday were then all adopted.

IN THE EVENING

Mrs. Hazlett opened the ball by speaking half an hour. She was sorry no opponent of the cause had come forward and openly opposed it in the convention. She said if the men were all afraid to take care of themselves she would place herself on their side. She then, in the broadest burlesque, proceeded to show that women now had all the rights under the law they needed, and that men granted her every thing they needed. Then, turning from burlesque to seriousness, she made a strong argument for the cause. She believed many men were in sympathy with the cause who did not openly avow themselves, for fear of ridicule. The peroration to her address was especially fine.

Mrs. E. B. Ferguson followed her in a half-hour's speech. She spoke principally concerning the frivolity of fashionable life to which so many girls are brought up. They are educated too much in the direction of finery and feathers and not enough in the direction of useful information and the knowledge of how to take care of themselves. In this city alone there are many young girls who would grow up to be magnificent specimens of womanhood if they were to leave the realm of fashion. Daughters should be self-supporting. She believed there were comparatively few wives who are able to take the helm and support their family if a reverse in fortune should overtake the husband. Mrs. Ferguson is an impressive and convincing speaker, practical and thoughtful in everything that relates to the cause—and withal a woman of education and culture.

Miss Anthony was the last speaker. Her remarks were principally an enumeration of the benefits the ballot confers on men, from which she argued it could do no less for woman. She referred at some length to the trades unions in this country and England and by the power wielded by combinations of working people who have votes. She referred, also, to what perfect revolution the ballot had made in the negro's status. From a reviled and despised noughty he is a power that is feared and respected by all political parties. Can the ballot do less for intelligent women than foreigners? She instanced the want of power in the Chinese on the Pacific coast to protect themselves in consequence of being disfranchised. She hoped in the approaching city election in Bloomington, the new local association just formed would make itself felt, and see that nobody is elected mayor or alderman who is not in favor of suffrage and reform.

The convention then adjourned by singing "Old Hundred," in which the audience joined with a hearty good-will.

The sessions have drawn out large numbers of people. Yesterday afternoon and evening the hall was crowded.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted at the evening session:

Resolved, That our thanks are due to the representatives of the press in this city for their fair and impartial report of the proceedings of the convention.

tion, and also to the citizens of Bloomington for their kind entertainment of the visitors to the convention.

WHEREAS, Since our last annual meeting, Miss Lellie Peckham, of Milwaukee, has been called from among us by death; therefore,

Resolved, That in her loss the cause of woman suffrage has suffered an irreparable loss, and that personally we feel that we have lost a dear friend, sister, and co-laborer; and that humanity has lost one of its brightest ornaments; and that we tender our deepest sympathy to the family, who mourn in their desolated home the loss of its hope and pride.

STATE OFFICERS.

The following officers of the State Association were elected for the ensuing year:

PRESIDENT.

Mrs. Fernando Jones, Chicago.

RECORDING SECRETARY.

Mrs. Alma Van Winkle, Chicago.

TREASURER.

Mrs. J. W. Loomis, Chicago.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

Mrs. Ellen B. Ferguson, Bloomington.

Mrs. C. V. Waite, Hyde Park.

Mrs. O. E. Grover, Earlville.

Mrs. Janet Bone, Bloomington.

Mrs. B. L. T. Bourland, Peoria.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Mrs. Kate M. Daggett, Chicago.

Mrs. K. H. Fell, Bloomington.

Mrs. E. M. Prince, Bloomington.

A. J. Grover, Earlville.

Mrs. S. A. Richardson, Earlville.

G. O. S. Bowen, Chicago.

Mrs. E. O. Willard, Chicago.

Prof. D. C. Gross, Chicago.

Miss E. L. Baldwin, Peoria.

Mrs. J. A. Sewall, Normal.

Judge C. V. Waite, Chicago.

Mrs. Wm. Hogg, Bloomington.

S. M. Underhill, Normal.

Mrs. Clara Wiley, Earlville.

Mrs. McCormick, LaSalle.

Gen. B. J. Sweet, Chicago.

Mrs. C. T. Wilt, Chicago.

Mrs. R. Somers, Evanston.

Mrs. C. K. Smith, Mouthouth.

Mrs. C. E. Larned, Champaign.

BLOOMINGTON OFFICERS.

The following officers of the new-formed Bloomington Association were elected:

PRESIDENT.

Mrs. Horace Smith.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

Mrs. A. Gridley,

Mrs. Townsend,

Mrs. Stephen Smith,

Mrs. Dr. Sewall, Normal;

Mrs. Geo. W. Parke.

RECORDING SECRETARY.

Miss Mattie Marble.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

B. F. Diggs.

TREASURER.

Mrs. Wm. Bone.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Mrs. Wm. Hogg.

Mrs. I. J. Bloomfield,

Dr. T. F. Worrell.

Mrs. Clark, of McLean;

Mrs. K. H. Fell,

Miss George Trotter.