

# WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE CONVENTION

Meets for the **Fifth** Annual Session at Y. M. C. A. Hall.

## REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE.

*Mr. President, Gentlemen and Ladies:* As vice president at large of this association, I have, since my election to the office, endeavored as best I could to perform the duties assigned me, of which I will now offer a brief synopsis.

In January, Mrs. J. DeVore Johnson and myself accepted an invitation from the well organized and influential Woman Suffrage Association of Yamhill county to attend a convention at McMinnville, in connection with our able and indefatigable co-worker, Mrs. H. A. Loughary. This convention was largely attended and productive of the happiest results.

I then went to Lafayette and gave two lectures, and from thence, after a short season spent at home, to Corvallis, where I held several meetings and organized the Benton County Woman Suffrage Association.

I next held a series of meetings in Polk county, and organized the County Woman Suffrage Association in Dallas, and an auxiliary club in Independence. On my way to Portland, I stopped over and gave lectures at Amity in Yamhill, and also at Hillsboro in Washington county.

Thence I went to Wasco county, and gave a course of lectures in The Dalles and Upper-Cascades, and returning, organized the Wasco County Woman Suffrage Association.

My next public work was in Northern Idaho, where I went in June and held meetings in Lewiston, Mt. Idaho, Grangeville and Moscow. Then I went to Washington territory and organized a Whitman County Association at Colfax and a Spokane County Association at Cheney. Besides lecturing at these county towns, I also held a series of public meetings in Palouse, Spokane Falls and Alnsworth.

I returned to Portland in July, and after a brief respite from platform labor, repaired to Astoria, where I held meetings at upper and lower towns, and also at Ilwaco and Oysterville in Washington territory, and stopped over at Knappa and gave two lectures on my return to Portland.

In September, after a brief respite at home, I went to Southern Oregon and held public meetings in Jacksonville, Ashland and Phoenix; but the approaching convention of the state association and my own indisposition prevented any attempt at organization in Jackson county, though I found the people quite ready for it and the cause popular.

Since last February I have traveled seven hundred miles by rail, eight hundred by steamer, and five hundred by stage and buckboard; made fifty-two woman suffrage addresses, gave a Fourth of July oration at Cheney, W. T.; addressed the Pioneer society of Jackson county, Oregon; and organized five county woman suffrage associations and one auxiliary county club.

I have enjoyed the courtesy of press passes on most of the principal routes of travel and free entertainment in many private families, and also in the Parker house, Astoria. Besides, I have expended for hotel bills, hall rents, hack hire and incidentals inseparably connected with almost constant traveling the sum of \$142 65 from my private funds above all contributions to the fifty-two lectures above named. This sum I have raised as I needed it from the sale of books and from subscriptions to the journal in which I am interested. The lectures have in every instance been largely attended by the leading citizens of each community. The most respectable and intelligent classes have joined the associations in all cases, the officers frequently being among the foremost judges, lawyers, clergymen, farmers, editors and school teachers in the county, who are ready to assist their mothers, wives, sisters and daughters in their endeavor to secure equal rights for men and women. Occasionally I have met with very contemptible opposition from self-styled "protectors of women," but their numbers are so few of late, and their attempts to retard the work so futile, that they only provoke a passing comment, after which they relapse into oblivion. Very rarely I find women who are opposed to their own enfranchisement; but this few are always among those who take all the rights in the matrimonial catalogue, and their iron rule only extends over one voter in a household, so we have not much to fear from their meagre numbers and contracted influence. The most gratifying progress I note is among the young people, and in the schools and colleges, where the cause has become immensely popular.