

O. S. W. S. A.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL CON-
VENTION OF THE OREGON STATE WOMAN
SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association was called to order at 2 o'clock by the President.

Minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

Mrs. Duniway, Vice-President-at-Large, read her annual report, which was adopted, and is as follows:

In November, 1881, I visited the Washington Territory Legislature, and addressed the honorable body in a joint convention assembled for the purpose of hearing an equal rights argument, in company of a large attendance of spectators, including the Governor, the Territorial Secretary, the United States Marshal, and their families, and many other prominent individuals, all of whom accorded the appeal the most profound attention.

To the surprise of almost everybody, and amid the general rejoicing of the better elements of Olympian society, the House of Representatives passed the Woman Suffrage bill at its very next session by a majority of two, when that branch of the Assembly adjourned for the remainder of the day. The wildest excitement prevailed, and the topic of equal rights formed the theme of conversation in all circles. The Council very soon reached the bill in the regular order, and, to the surprise of those who had not expected the House to vote affirmatively upon the question, the higher body, to which the women had looked confidently for assistance, refused to concur by a majority of two, thus leaving the question to a tie vote on joint ballot, and, of course, the bill was lost.

I continued my labors in Olympia for a brief season, when, learning that it would be impossible to reach a reconsideration of the vote, I returned to Portland, and went on with my work in various parts of Oregon until September, 1882. This work consisted in part of my weekly labors connected with writing a serial story and furnishing regular editorial correspondence for the *NEW NORTHWEST*, traveling about constantly and lecturing four times per week upon the average, canvassing for the paper, and forming local Woman Suffrage clubs wherever the outlook was favorable for the same.

Since my last report was submitted, I have lectured on 26 different occasions, confining my work to Oregon principally, though I have spent in all four weeks in Washington Territory. I neglected this year to prepare and keep a tabulated statement of receipts and expenditures. I tried it for two months, and the balance on the wrong side of the ledger became so large that I feared to keep it up, lest the unpleasant reflection over statistics would so discourage me that I would not have the heart to carry the work to completion. I managed, however, by the sale of my books and by collections at lectures to meet the most of my traveling expenses without drawing upon the finances of the *NEW NORTHWEST*, and have had no help outside of my own resources in carrying on the work, except a fund of \$10.50 which remained in the treasury from the last convention, which sum was paid over to me by order of the Executive Committee to apply on traveling expenses in visiting the Washington Territory Legislature. The citizens of Yakima, W. T., also tendered me a benefit in November of last year, from which I realized \$53, as proceeds of my farewell lecture in that enterprising city.

The work in the Oregon Legislature at its last session was especially satisfactory in results, the Legislature having, by its nearly unanimous action, acceded to our demands as far as the Constitution of the State would permit. A grand ratification jubilee was held at the Opera House in Salem in honor of the members of the Legislature, at which spirited and excellent speeches were made by Senators Siglin and Humphrey, Mrs. H. J. Hendershott, Col. C. A. Reed and Mr. W. S. Duniway. The expenses of that meeting, including hall rent, music and carriage hire, amounted to \$32, of which I paid \$25, Colonel Reed \$5, and Dr. C. H. Hall \$2, I meeting my share of disbursements by dress-making nights and mornings during the entire legislative session. I mention these facts that the public may see that sacrifices must be made by somebody if we would succeed in keeping this movement before the people.

The outlook, among intelligent men, is favorable. If the vote upon this question could be left to brains only, there would be no doubt as to our ultimate success. But we know it is not brains alone, but numbers, that win at the ballot-box; therefore we must be diligent in our efforts to secure the affirmative votes of numbers.

I have nothing to recommend further than has already been suggested by our worthy President. We must have a campaign fund, and it is hoped that this convention will name committees to secure the necessary means to reach every voter in the State with arguments to stimulate pride, awaken patriotism, and arouse enthusiasm. We need the co-operation of intelligent, influential and wealthy men, and we earnestly urge them to "come over into Macedonia and help us." Oregon's grand opportunity has come. She can lead the van in this great march of liberty if her sons shall will it. We look to men for aid, and our experience in the past emboldens us to hope that we need not look to them in vain in the future.