

Folder: Duniway, Abigail S. Papers Suffrage Correspondence (etc.) 1914

* the missing ms. from the
empty folder

MRS. ABIGAIL SCOTT DUNIWAY

ON THE

W O M A N S U F F R A G E M O V E M E N T .

October 6th,
1914

REPORTED by
D.A. Norton,
907 Yeon Bldg.
Portland, Ore.
Marshall 286,
Tabor 4990

Stenographic

Report of an Address which was to have
been given by

MRS ABIGAIL SCOTT DUNIWAY, at a mass meeting of
citizens in Library Hall, October 5, from which
she was ~~detained~~ ^{and the} ~~by~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{person} ~~from attending~~
Woman Suffrage Movement and Trunk
of prohibition.

My attention was first directed to the Equal Suffrage
Movement by learning through personal experience the ^{legal} financial
handicap of the ^{average} married mother. I had been wooed and won
by a young rancher, and taken from my school room to his
Donation Land Claim, where I conscientiously attempted to
perform the ^{labors} ~~duties~~ of a pioneer farmer's wife and the duties
attendant upon a rapidly increasing family of many children.

Many experiences occurred, one after another, that
led me to see and understand the handicaps, financially
speaking, of the mother who went from the school room,
where she had her salary and could pay her expenses, to ~~the~~ ^{the}
home of a rancher who was improving a farm in the wilderness
and employing many hired men, - men for whom I boiled and
baked and stewed ^{and fried,} and washed and scrubbed and sewed and
patched and performed all the duties devolving upon what
should have been ^{the work of} a half dozen women, - wearing out my bridal
outfit and cutting up what was left of it to make clothes
for the babies. I would probably have gone on to my death,
as other ^{had} women done by hundreds of thousands, if it had not

been for an accident that befell my husband, ^{when} ~~He~~ was injured by a run-away team. This threw the entire support of the family upon myself. We moved from the farm to the village of LaFayette, in Yamhill County, where I engaged in teaching ^{the double tasks of} and keeping boarders, ^{doing all the work myself.}

I did not then learn the need of woman's enfranchisement ~~because~~ ^{my} husband ~~did not drink~~ ~~and~~ was not addicted to any bad habits, such as many women whom I knew were enduring, ^{and I felt that I had no special cause for complaint} While assisting my husband to get a new farm and to begin anew, ^{I was occupied} by teaching ^{and} and keeping boarders, ^{retired} I used to arise at three o'clock in the morning in the

Summer and at four o'clock in ^{and boarders} winter to do a days work in the kitchen for my family, before beginning my school at nine o'clock. Yet, during all these efforts I did not learn that equal political and financial rights for married mothers could be a cure for the handicaps I had met.

^{I had saved up a little money} After ~~some time~~ I went into trade, ^{and} and I began engaging in merchandizing ⁱⁿ near Albany, in the interior of the State. While thus engaged I was brought into contact with very many women of the farms who were seeking better opportunities for their daughters than they themselves had met. One day a woman came to me in tears, and asked me to go with her to the Court House.

I said, "The court house is a place for men? But she was evidently in distress and I accompanied her. On ^{our} the way, ^{to the} ~~to~~ ^{the halls of man made laws} she told me of her struggles, since the death of her husband, ^{raise and} to keep the family of daughters together, and ~~to~~ sell the produce of the farm to pay the yearly bills. By the time we had reached the court house I was thoroughly enthused with her troubles, and going to the Judge, whom I knew personally, I told him the woman's story and was, of course, very indignant.

I was, at that time, ignorant of the intricacies of the law and was politely told that ^{as I was a woman} I did not know what I was talking about. But, I said, "We know enough to foot the bills, though!" The lady's lawyer beckoned to us to come to his table and said, with a twinkle in his eye, "I guess you wont have any more trouble with that Judge." We didn't. But, on the way back to the store the lady told me that if she was not compelled to administer ^{on} her husband's estate, and employ a lawyer, she and the girls ^{would have money} ~~could earn~~ enough ^{every year} money to pay their bills. ^{PF} That was one lesson. Then I had others, many and varied, until at last I went one day to my home after a discouraging experience in the store with impecunious ^{mother} ~~woman~~ and said to my husband, who was ill, "One half of the women of this world are dolls, and the other half

are drudges, and we are all fools." And he said, "Don't you see that it will never be different with women until they have the right to vote?" I said, "What good would that do?" And he said, "Why, women do ^{fully} half of the work of the world, besides bearing all the children, and can't you see that they ought to have one half of the pay?" ^{The truth} dawned on me suddenly, and I began making preparations ^{to} move to Portland and ~~to~~ start a newspaper, "The New North West," which, with the aid of my family, I published for sixteen years, and reached all the best ^{leading and} thinking people of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, ^{who became} converts ^{to Equal Rights for women through its teachings.}

Then, always having been interested in the temperance cause, a delegation of suffragists went with me to the State Temperance Alliance in Salem, where we were characterized ^{by prohibitionists} as "setting hens" and "belligerent females," bent upon destroying the whole, and we were not allowed ^{to take} our seats as delegates, although all classes of men, including those from the penitentiary, were given honored seats. I never was a success as a dodger, so I rose to my feet and moved ^{so} to amend the report of the Committee on Credentials ^{as to} and seat the women. The Chairman said, "Take that crazy woman out of the house and take care of her." The Sergeant at Arms came forward in the discharge of his duty, but ~~he~~ he

mailed before

~~quelled him with~~ my uplifted pencil, and several men rushed into the aisle and began taking off their coats to defend me, when the Sergeant at Arms considered discretion the better part of valor and retreated in ^{as} good order *as was possible under the circumstances* X

The next year, when we met at the Alliance, the organization of Prohibition was so complete that it took a running fight of two days to get the Suffrage delegation admitted, ^{causing} ~~But~~ the Alliance ^{to secede, and finally} ~~didn't last much longer.~~
die of inanition X

The so-called Liquor Traffic had, previous to that time, made no objection to the enfranchisement of women.

It furnished halls, free of charge, for ~~many of~~ ^{often} my meetings ^{because} ~~whenever~~ the church ^{is where} was closed against women speakers ^{almost everywhere}
I believe in giving credit where credit is due ^{It was often a saloon man who} ~~enabled~~ ^{me to get} such a start in favor of equal rights ^(a hell on a hearing, and I soon got)

for women that the church ^{as} found it impossible to crush the movement, ^{Do they} ~~and~~ seized it as their Shiboleth, and began ^{at} to demand votes for women, "as a short-cut to Prohibition".

hard,

Seeing, at once, the effect of this reflex action against the cause of liberty, and realizing the creation of a new force of enemies ^{in the liquor business} that had formerly been the

friends of the movement, I began to analyze Prohibition
 itself, and proceeded to turn all the powers of my paper,
 my pen and my platform work to an attempt to neutralize
 the two antagonistic forces of prohibition of the Liquor
 Traffic and Prohibition ^{of} Women's Right to Vote. For a
 number of succeeding years the W.C.T.U. and the Liquor
 Traffic joined in waging a warfare between the two kinds
 of Prohibition just cited, *although the W. C. T. U.,
 was too blind to see the combination &*
 Finding it impossible to teach fanaticism any common-
 sense, I began, very cautiously, to convince the liquor
 buyers and Liquor sellers, *(and women did it)* who had votes, that the movement
 for equal rights for the mother sex was not intended as
 a movement against the liberties of anybody, but was in-
 tended to establish equal rights for everybody, by no
 means excluding the mother sex. It took a long time
 and much quiet effort to remove the barrier of Prohibition
 against equal rights for the mother sex from the majority
 of the people who had votes, but I persevered. I subscrib-
 ed for the Liquor Journals, to see what they had to say
 about the subject. For a long time I did not dare to
 write to one of them, but I would simply watch the
 newspaper clippings, and whatever I saw bearing upon my
 view of the situation, I would send unannounced to the

Liquor Journals.

Finally, when election day came, on November 5th, 1912, the "liquor element", buyers and sellers, - I put them all together, you know, - called off their dogs and allowed the women to get the majority vote.

Then came amongst us a horde of irresponsible agitators, claiming women suffrage as their weapon, and exciting a reign of despotism, which sent me to the Bible to sustain my attitude and argument, and drove Prohibitionists back to their original slander, accusing me of ^{of} selling out to the Liquor Traffic!

But, I did not flinch, and I want you all to know that I am still in business at the old stand, fighting for liberty for all the people, "by no means," to quote Abraham Lincoln, "By no means, excluding the women."

I charge that these latter day invading agitators who are preaching Prohibition and passing the hat ^{for money} ~~around~~, ^{are} ~~are~~ ⁱⁿ direct violation of the ^{Holy Scriptures, the} Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. It has gone so far that the President of the United States cannot possibly accept our demand for ^{the} a full and free enfranchisement of all women, because he would then have to meet the

demands of the Women's Christian Temperance Union for Nation Wide Prohibition. ^{The} ~~He~~ as President of the United States, no matter to what party he may belong, is brought into daily association with European, Asiatic, African and Australian powers, which compel him to so far neutralize the clamor of idealists and cranks as to protect and preserve, as far as possible, our friendly relations with the nations of the world. I do not say this as a Republican, as a Democate, as a Socialist or as a Prohibitionist or Progressive, but as a patriot. I desire, above all things, to see the ship of State so steadily guided and so intelligently controlled, that, although I am in my eightieth year, I hope ^{live to} see the day when "Swords may be beaten into plow-shares and spears into pruning hooks, and ~~the~~ nations may learn war no more." When that day dawns, the wife of the drunkard will have ^{begun} ~~learned~~ to assert her inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness ^{on her own account,} and ~~she~~ will be able to rise above marrying an inebriate, or raising a drunkard, or creating a soldier to be butchered in war. The pseudo-emotionalism of half-baked theorists seems cheap indeed as compared with the larger questions that surround our

will surely,
 planet, ~~and are destined~~, as civilization advances and
 liberty and knowledge increase, ~~to cover~~ ^{spread} the round globe
 with the practice of the Golden Rule, ~~and~~ which ^{is} ~~are~~ des-
 tined to establish the prosperity, enterprise, sobriety
 and happiness of all the people. Let the majorities
 of the Mother Sex become
 enfranchised citizens. Let them
 rise above the handicap of
 servitude without wages that
 now enslaves so many of
 the women ^{in the home,} over whom the
 orthodox churches are ~~now~~
 shedding tears, and the equalization
 of economic forces ~~will~~ will be
 speedily adjusted ~~themselves~~ ^{render} to
 right conditions, and ~~stop~~ ^{stop}, both
 the ^{occasional} intemperance of husbands, and
 the money-making schemes of
 the Prohibitionists alike obsolete.

Abigail Scott Dumray