

O. S. E. S. A.

O. C. W.

OREGON

STATE EQUAL SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

AND OREGON CONGRESS OF WOMEN.

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Thank

ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE:
ABIGAIL SCOTT DUNIWAY
DR. ANNICE J. JEFFREYS.

A Pioneer Incident

402 Market St Portland, Ore. Dec 21st 1902

Dr. Annice J. Jeffreys
Chairman Legislative Committee,
O. S. E. S. A.

My Dear Doctor:

I do not know that I can recall my impromptu "talk" of yesterday, before the fourth annual meeting of the Oregon Historical Society, so as to give it exactly verbatim, but the following "copy" is substantially correct; and I have no doubt that the Oregon Press will accede to your request that my presentation of the subject may follow the main address of the afternoon wherever that is published, as an act of courtesy as, well as of justice to the mothers of men. Cordially, Yours for Liberty,

Abigail Scott Duniway.

The ~~my~~ remarks, quoted from memory follow:

Mr. President: I am almost as much astonished at finding myself upon my feet, addressing this Assembly as I would have been if

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struck by lightning.

I remember once, many years ago, (I will not say how many, but it was when I was engaged in the labor of love that raised my sons to manhood) that I was invited to attend an Odd Fellows' installation, a ~~public~~ ^{and stranger} function new to me then than ^{the} inauguration of a National President would now be. The women in attendance on that occasion were 'side degree members', known to this day as 'Rebekahs'; that is, they had ^{been permitted to} ~~been~~ a beautiful supper in an adjoining room ~~while~~ ^{for} the men ~~who~~ were going through their ceremonies in an inner temple. But we were graciously permitted to attend the public installation. And when the Noble Grand came forward to address the audience, robed in ^{imperfectly} embroidered silk apron, and other ornaments ^{which} ~~matched~~, which became him as well as if he had been a woman, there was nobody to present him; and he said, addressing himself with a Chesterfieldian bow, his hand upon his heart, 'Noble Grand, I have the honor to introduce myself!' I trust this audience to make the necessary application, here and now.

*I'm listening to the master's address this afternoon, and the interesting discussion which followed, I was glad to echo

every sentiment therein expressed; and I am proud
to add thereto my own humble admiration of
the strenuous worth, the genuine ability, the deep
integrity, the lofty patriotism of the men who
framed not only the State Constitution - but the
men who formed the Provisional Government
which preceded it.

The men and women who first took up their
line of march across untracked continents,
who settle upon the outposts of civilization
and raise the standard of Liberty for all the people
to higher planes, are ~~always~~ the very best
and most enterprising citizens of any land.

The instinct of enlightened government is
the instinct of self preservation. It is in-
herent in every individual and cannot right-
fully be denied ^{to} anybody.

While I am proud to echo every sentiment that
has been uttered in praise of the men who formed
the State Government of Oregon, I must, as
we are making history, voice my protest,
in the name of the pioneer women of Oregon,
against two words, "white" and "male" that
occur in the State Constitution in the article
on Privileges and Elections. These words are not
used in this way in the Constitution of the United
States; and they ought to be null and void in
in the Constitution of every state. You have already
outgrown the use of the word "negro" in your Constitution
and before many years you will also eliminate
the word "male". When this is done your
work will be perfect, and you will have proclaimed

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your manly belief in the immortal words
of ^{the preamble of} the Constitution of the United States, and of
the Declaration of Independence which I need
not repeat.

You know, gentlemen, ^{that} justice and liberty do
not inhere in one ^{only} sex; ^{that} life, liberty, and
the pursuit of happiness are ^{inherent} in every individual.

As I listened to the roll-call of honored names
affixed to the Constitution of Oregon I recalled
the faces and voices of many, alas! how many! now
gone to their reward, who in the early days of
my untought public sturdiness assisted
my trembling steps, as bearding the cry of
woman in the wilderness, I sought the ^{aid} of
Legislative Assemblies in the interest ^{of} all the
people; and I need not tell you ^{that}
I recall with pride the important fact that a
large majority of the men who framed ^{the} the
Constitution of Oregon were, and ^{of the old guard} those ^{who}
remain, ^{are now} almost without exception, my aiders
and abettors in the equal suffrage fight, and
all are good friends, staunch and true, who
will rejoice in the final victory when it comes,
whether they aid in the struggle or not.
Nobody was to blame, and we are blaming nobody
for the failure of the framers of the Constitution
to remember their wives and mothers. Every-
thing in its order is the law of evolution
and woman's hour has not yet come,
but it is coming, men and brethren, and

is almost here,

The splendid vote you gave us two years ago, ^{attested this, when it} ~~which~~ came so near a majority that leading men at once discovered the necessity of amending the Constitution that our way to liberty might be made straight. That way [the Initiative and Referendum] is before us now, I trust winter, as I lay a victim of a lingering illness, at the point of death, I said to those around me: No, I am not ready to die; my work is not yet finished. I shall live till it is done.

The broad-brained, big-hearted men of the ~~west~~ ^{west} have expanded their ideas of liberty and justice under the shadow of our snow-capped mountains. They have grafted inspiration from our mighty rivers when following them from their frozen sources to the ocean breakers that thunder on the Pacific beach. The march of Empire has spread yet further westward till our flag floats over the Hawaiian Islands, and the ensign of liberty is now unfurled in oriental seas. The men whose minds expanded under object lessons like these are the men who scorn to claim or accept a right for themselves which they would deny to their mothers. The fiend has gone forth! No man, or set of men, can measure miles and bounds for men, much less for women. The world moves and woman is moving with it. Dr. M. Prichard, thank you, as I take my rest,

On the back of this page
ASD wrote "My First Banquet"

Supplement to foregoing.

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Some afterwards, in the year 1908, an
elegant luncheon was given, in the Hotel
Portland by Mrs May Schwing ^{of Spokane,} ~~Hutton~~ ^{to}
and distinguished visitors from the ^{American} National
Equal Suffrage Association and ^{the} local
leaders of the ~~suffrage~~ ^{suffrage} movement,
~~where~~ ^{on this occasion} the time tables were so completely
turned, ~~that~~ ^{that} men by many scores, sat in
silence along the walls of the hotel corri-
-dors, watching the women on their
way to the feast, to which not one of them
had been invited. Men ^{waiters} were our
waiters at the tables, ^{and} women were the
only post prandial speakers. When it came
my turn to respond to a toast, my subject
was "Our Men - God bless them", and I related
the foregoing incident ^{amid} ~~and~~ much merriment,
~~and~~ concluding my remarks with words of
combined condolence and encouragement
for the ~~men~~ benefited by the men in the corridors,
whom I thought ought, ^{always} to be invited
on equal terms ^{with us} ~~to every~~ ^{at every} feast, as an
~~attractive~~ ^{attractive} introduction.

I to the feast, to which not one of them
had been invited. Men ^{occasionally} were our
waiters at the tables, ^{also} and women were the
only post-prandial speakers. When it came
my turn to respond to a toast, my subject
was "Our Men - God bless them", and I related
the foregoing incident ^{amid} much merriment,
~~and~~ concluding my remarks with words of
combined condolence and encouragement
for the ~~men~~ benefited by the men in the corridors,
whom I thought ought ^{always} to be invited
on equal terms ^{with us} (~~every~~ ^{at every} feast), as an
~~attractive~~ introduction to the reign of peace
on earth and good will to men and women, ~~which~~
which it was our business to inaugurate. Mrs.
McRae, our reporter for the occasion, did me
the honor to tell the readers of the Oregonian
the next morning that my ^{little} speech was
"inimitable".