

CHARACTERISTIC ADDRESS BY MR. DUNIWAY.

New President of State Organization Slyly Twits National Leaders Over Last Campaign.

The dove of peace hovered affectionately over the heads of the Women Suffragists Saturday when their first meeting under the Duniway regime was held. The W. C. T. U. faction was most conspicuous by its absence, but no one seemed to be offended at that fact. The dogs of war were securely chained, an olive branch was in each faithful hand, and a love feast was presided over by the new officers. Not so much as a reference to the unpleasant episodes of election day was made, and as for Mrs. Hidden's name, no one even breathed it. Mrs. Clara Colby was among the first to arrive, but with her usual finesse and tact she joined in the spirit of the meeting and became as deeply interested in plans for future work as anyone present.

Mrs. Duniway's address, as president, was the only important number on the program, business of a routine nature only being transacted and a committee appointed to frame and submit a new constitution. Mrs. Duniway caused much amusement by her reference to the shipwreck of suffrage, which had been left in Oregon by the National leaders who came out here last year to show Oregon women how to do things. Her reference to the Indians, Chinese and negroes being pulled in by the hair of their heads, also caused much mirth. Mrs. Duniway said:

To the officers and members of the Oregon State Equal Suffrage Association, Greeting:

In resuming once more the office of chief executive of this intelligent and patriotic body of disenfranchised tax-paying citizens, after having many times in its history voluntarily relinquished its responsibilities to beloved and capable presiding officers, with each and all of whom I have worked at all times in perfect harmony, I am yielding again to the solicitations of a worthy and capable presiding officer, Mrs. Henry Waldo Coe, to whose unswerving devotion to the cause of Liberty we are all ready to bear testimony.

In reverting for a moment to the stirring events of the past fortnight, which need not be recapitulated here, I recall the first strenuous years of my itinerant devotion to the fundamental principles of Liberty and Justice for all the people, during which gloomy period I was compelled to stand practically alone, as one described by the poet Richard Realf:

Who did not wait till freedom had become
The easy shibboleth of the courtier's lips,
But snote for her when God himself seemed
dumb.

And all arching skies were in eclipse.

That these continued efforts, reinforced by slowly increasing numbers of noble men and women, through nearly four decades of eventful years, have at last borne such abundant fruit that a multitude of new aspirants for place and power are eager to undertake its management, has recently been abundantly attested.

At the close of the late equal suffrage campaign, during which many of our time-honored voting constituents temporarily stepped aside to watch the brilliant pyrotechnical management of our distinguished National standard-bearers, we found ourselves in the condition of the survivors of a shipwreck, a conflagration, a sirocco or a flood. Our treasury was empty, and our work of reconstruction has ever since been much handicapped by the necessity of removing the debris of a struggle which ought to have been successful.

Our faith in the final triumph of the elemental principle of equal rights for all the people is so strong, our belief in the fundamental basis of self-government is so clear, our devotion to the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States is so unyielding, and our confidence in the growing enlightenment of the average voter is so hopeful, that no disaster can dismay us.

To you, my beloved co-workers of the old guard, and also of the new, I am looking for co-operation in renewed confidence, expectancy and hope. I come to you as the president of no party, the adherent of no faction; but as the humble servant of the cause, trying to secure equal rights for the mothers of the race, in whose interest, through so many of the earlier years of my strenuous womanhood, I consecrated my life, my earnings and my sacred honor; and I now lovingly renew the fond allegiance of these declining years to a cause far dearer than my own life. I have no personal ambition to gratify, no additional honors to seek. The good people of Oregon, Washington and Idaho long ago bestowed upon me more than the ordinary meed of human praise and position, without the asking. For all of this I am profoundly grateful; but my life work is not finished, nor will it be till the women of New Oregon, relieved of their present political rating among idiots, insane persons and criminals, shall stand before the women voters of Old Oregon's youngest daughter, the fair State of Idaho, as free as they from the stigma of disenfranchisement. We look confidently to the voters, our beloved fathers, brothers, husbands and sons, to relieve us of this stigma. For this reason, we call upon every woman who loves liberty to lay aside every factional interest she may cherish, and every personal ambition she may crave. Then, with a long pull, a strong pull and a pull all together, we may outride every storm and land our ship in the haven of freedom alongside that of our friends, the liberty-loving voters of the state, upon whom the patriotic mothers of men are every ready to bestow good and not evil in proportion to their own opportunities.

The present is no time for argument. Every thinking and reflecting son of woman knows that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and that the women of these United States outside of the States of Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Idaho, are taxed without representation and governed without consent. What men need, to induce them to vote for the enfranchisement of women, is the sincere conviction that by their affirmative votes they will not bring us into our inheritance as their rulers or enemies, but as their helpers, co-workers and friends. We must let them know that the majority of women are not seeking to enact arbitrary laws for the government of men, but the blessings of freedom for ourselves that we may unite with them in securing and maintaining a government of the people, for the people and by the people.

We have much to encourage us. The entire civilized world is agitating this question and making progress toward the equal rights of the mothers of men before the laws under which all must live. Step by step our own Government is extending us recognition. Our own Governor of Oregon, our own Mayor of Portland and the majority of our clergy, our leading lawyers, orators and Judges are our open and avowed allies. The State Editorial Association is with us almost to a man. The Socialists, the Prohibitionists, the Labor party, the State and National Grange, and Republicans and Democrats outside the party machine, are demanding our enfranchisement. If I do not mention the different associations of women, which in large majority are backing us from all over the state, as well as they are able, it is because women do not, as yet, have votes. We used to have the negro, the Indian and the Chinaman as our political equals, but modern legislation has reached out its law-making hand, and grasping the negro by his wool, the Indian by his scalp and the Chinaman by his queue, has rescued these gentlemen of color from the ~~royal~~ companionship of the idiotic, insane and criminal classes, leaving us, the mothers, wives and daughters of the voters, to endure a political rating to which no sensible man can blame patriotic women for objecting with honorable indignation.

For our work in making way for liberty during the coming year, I would suggest the formation of governmental study clubs, for which I have ordered textbooks. Let us, while following the line of least resistance, inform ourselves upon such topics as the intelligent voter approves. That our enfranchisement is coming and coming speedily, nobody doubts. The recent ravings against the women voters of Colorado attest the dire straits in which that time-honored institution, the political machine, finds itself floundering. Read the forthcoming facts in the daily press and you will see on and between the lines the real reason for the discomfiture of such tax-eaters as under equal suffrage find their occupation gone, and, like our father Adam, lay the blame for their downfall on the women whom God gave to be with them, because, as co-workers, according to their own record, he saw it was not good for man to be alone.

Let us prepare ourselves for the responsible duties of citizenship, as, with malice toward none and with charity for all, we stand by the right as God giveth us wisdom to see the right, seeking first the kingdom of liberty and its honor in the firm belief that all other blessings shall be added thereunto as rapidly as a free and united people can be made ready to receive them.