

**National Woman Suffrage Convention.**

The 39th annual convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (p. 1064) met at Chicago on the 14th and remained in session until the 19th. About 200 delegates were in attendance. The convention was formally welcomed by Dr. Howard S. Taylor as the representative of Mayor Dunne, and by Mrs. Ella S. Stewart on behalf of the Illinois Equal Suffrage Association, Bishop Samuel E. Fallows on behalf of the churches, and Susanna M. D. Fry on behalf of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union. The Rev. Anna H. Shaw presided. On the 15th the delegates were given a luncheon reception at Hull House, and on the 16th an evening reception at the Woman's Club.

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One of the interesting events of the 16th was the report of Miss Laura Gregg on the suffrage situation in Oklahoma. "We made a powerful battle," said Miss Gregg, "against almost overwhelming odds in the Constitutional convention. Although we lost our fight, we feel that it really was a victory. We were beaten by only thirteen votes. But we are to have the initiative and referendum, and I predict that within two years we will be on a plane of political equality with men." At the Sunday meeting of the 17th Rabbi Hirsch said that if women voted, our neglected water supply, our dirty streets and our crowded tenements would not be tolerated; and Jane Addams answered the objection that it would be dangerous to put the ballot into the hands of women of the underworld, with the declaration of her belief that "the women of this class if allowed to vote would do more to purify the police force which now preys upon them than many generations of men." Herbert S. Bigelow, at the same meeting, described "men who deny woman the right to vote," as "simply barbarians who have not refinement enough to apply the golden rule." In his view "woman suffrage is essential to man's self respect and to woman's development." Other speakers on the different days were Henry B. Blackwell of Boston, Prof. John H. Scott of Northwestern University, Mary McDowell of the University settlement of Chicago, Josephine Casey, president of the Political Equality League of Self-Supporting Women, Ellen M. Henrotin of Chicago, Alice Henry of Australia, Edward N. Nockels of the Chicago Federation of Labor, Mary E. Coggeshall of Iowa, Prof. Emma Perkins of the Northwestern University of Ohio, Louis F. Post of Chicago, John Z. White of Chicago, Laura Clay of Kentucky, Harriet Taylor Upton of Ohio, Kate M. Gordon of New Orleans, and Caroline Lexow of New York. A Susan B. Anthony memorial meeting was held on the 15th, Miss Anthony's 87th birthday, at which Mary T. L. Gannett of New York and May Wright Sewall of Indiana were the leading participants.

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The following officers were elected on the 18th: President, Rev. Anna Howard Shaw of Swarthmore, Pa.; first vice-president, Rachel Foster Avery, Pa.; second vice-president, Florence Kelley, New York; corresponding secretary, Kate M. Gordon, New Orleans; recording secretary, Alice Stone Blackwell, Boston; treasurer, Harriet Taylor Upton, Ohio;

auditors, Laura Clay, Kentucky, and Mrs. Mary S. Sperry, California.

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On the 19th the President said, in closing the convention, that President Eliot of Harvard did not understand the meaning of several English words when he stated that universal suffrage exists in the United States. She continued: "I never had a party and I have only made one partisan speech. That was twenty years ago, and if the Lord will forgive me for that I'll never do it again unless I have better reasons than I had then. I am not wise enough to be a Republican, not good enough to be a Democrat, I have not suffered enough to be a Socialist, and I am not sober enough to be a Prohibitionist. Since I couldn't be anything, I decided to be everything. I have attended political meetings by the score, and I yet have to hear a candidate approach fairly and squarely the issues the people will be called upon to decide. They tell how bad the other fellow is, how good he is, and then talk about the great and glorious country, with its 'rock ribbed' shores—I never knew what 'rock ribbed' shores are, but we have them on every coast—the towering pines that point to the heavens, the giant peaks that pierce the blue, and when they are through they have said nothing." Comparing the well regulated cities of Germany with those of the United States, Miss Shaw declared that she would nevertheless rather live here than in Germany, "because in Germany citizens are orderly because they are surrounded by soldiers, while in this country compulsion does not come from armed military power without but from a desire to obey from within;" and in allusion to injustices here she added: "They are the growing pains in the evolution of a republic. The time will come when order will be evolved, but the only way it will come is by the removing of the shackles from the women of the land. The reason we are asking for the ballot is not that for one moment we consider it an end but as a means without which the end can never be attained."

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The convention on the 19th adopted the following resolutions:

That the National Woman Suffrage Association, assembled in the State of Abraham Lincoln, does affirm the principle enunciated by Lincoln, who said in 1836, when a candidate for the Illinois legislature: "I go for all sharing the privileges of government who have a share in its burdens, by no means excluding women." That we rejoice in the fact that more women have obtained full suffrage during 1906 than during any previous year, through enfranchisement of all the women of Finland; also in the extension of municipal suffrage to the women of Natal, in Africa; also in the generous support given the equal suffrage cause in the Chicago charter convention, when municipal suffrage for Chicago was disapproved only through the adverse vote of the chairman. In view of the fact that in only fourteen out of the forty-five States have married mothers any legal right to the custody and control of their minor children, we urge the women of the other thirty-one States to work for the enactment of laws giving mothers equal right with fathers in the custody and control and the earnings of their minor children. That the traffic in women and girls which is carried on both in the United States and other countries is a heinous blot upon civilization. That we urge upon Congress and the State legis-

latures the enactment of a law prohibiting the employment of children under 16 years of age in mines, stores, and factories. That we favor the adoption of State constitutional amendments establishing direct legislation through the initiative and referendum. That we rejoice in the advance of the cause of peace and arbitration, indicated by the proposed calling of a second Hague conference. That we extend our sympathies to the members of the Woman's Social and Political Union of England in their heroic struggle for liberty; and we glory in the fact that there are women today who are so imbued with the love of liberty that with sublime courage they are willing to suffer stripes and imprisonment that women may be free.

The resolutions also embody a protest against the proposed plans for the Jamestown exposition, and request the management to subordinate the representations of military and naval spectacles to those representing the triumphs of the arts of peace, education and industry, and the educational, industrial, and philanthropic development of the nation.

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#### English Woman Suffragists Mob Parliament.

Woman suffragists of England on the 13th made a more determined and better organized demonstration at the doors of Parliament than ever before (pp. 801, 854, 856). The Chicago Inter Ocean's special dispatch states that from an early hour on that afternoon "until 10 o'clock at night a large force of police had their hands full in defending the precincts of Parliament from suffragists' raids. Every entrance to the House of Commons was guarded by detachments of policemen, while other officers of the law were engaged in clearing adjacent streets, and a body of fifty constables was kept in reserve for emergency. Some of the police were mounted and at one time during the demonstration they drove their horses on the gallop into the crowd of women, knocking down and injuring several of them. As the House was about to adjourn Claude George Hay, a member of the House, called attention to the disturbances, and protested against using the houses of Parliament as a fortress to be filled with police to protect the members against women. Home Secretary Gladstone replied to Mr. Hay, saying that he had little knowledge of what was going on outside, but that the measures employed were for the general convenience of the members, and he was sure no unnecessary violence had been used." In all about eighty women were arrested. On the next day fifty-six of these were arraigned in the police courts, charged with disorderly conduct and resisting the police. All were sentenced to pay fines or go to prison for 21 days or two weeks. All elected to go to prison.

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A private bill was introduced in Parliament on the 14th by Mr. Dickinson, for conferring the suffrage upon women. Its introduction will at least force the Government to take a position on the question.

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#### The London County Council.\*

Nominations for the London County Council (p. 395) are to be made on the 22nd, and the polling comes on March 2. The campaign is earnest and

even bitter. The issue, according to the London Tribune, is the universal monopoly issue—that "between the schemes of private financiers and the civic good sense" of the people. The Interests are represented by the Moderates, who have raised the cry of criminal extravagance on the part of the Progressives. This charge the latter violently repudiate, claiming that it is based upon "faked figures." The Tribune gives the following statistics in reply to the charges of the Moderates:

The County Council is only responsible for a comparatively small proportion of the debt of London and of the rates that Londoners have to pay, and the County Council's rate has not increased with the same rapidity as that of other public bodies. This is how London's total debt of £105,578,030 is made up:

Water Board .....	£23,575,517
London County Council (excluding Education) .....	33,542,430
Borough Councils and City Corporation .....	13,639,809
Education (formerly School Board) .....	11,691,768
Poor Law .....	4,393,351
Asylums Board .....	3,464,669
Police .....	263,486

It must be remembered that not all of the debt of £33,542,430 was created by the County Council. Of this sum £17,500,000 was inherited from the Board of Works, the Council's predecessors. Then, from the remainder, there must also be deducted the remunerative or "revenue producing" debt of about £7,500,000.

This leaves, approximately, £8,500,000 as the net unremunerative (but essential) debt for which the County Council is responsible.

Here are the facts expressed in another way, by means of the respective rates:

	s.	d.
London County Council .....	1	5
Education .....	1	6
Borough Councils, etc. ....	2	0.54
Poor Law .....	1	6.46
Asylums Board .....	0	5.12
Police .....	0	5
Unemployed .....		0.14

These figures show that of the rates paid by Londoners the portion demanded by the County Council is considerably less than one-fifth.

There is just another table that is worth giving. It proves that in ten years, while the average total rate in London has increased by more than 1s 3d in the pound—that is to say, by about 17 per cent., the County Council rate has only gone up 2d—or a little under 12 per cent.:

	L. C. C. rate.		Average London rate.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
1896 .....	1	3	6	2.42
1897 .....	1	3	6	2.29
1898 .....	1	2	6	1.21
1899 .....	1	2	6	0.22
1900 .....	1	1.50	6	0.36
1901 .....	1	2.50	6	0.63
1902 .....	1	3	6	0.23
1903 .....	1	3.50	7	2.29
1904 .....	1	4.75	7	2.29
1905 .....	1	5.75	7	2.77
1906 .....	1	5	7	6

Increase .....

The Tribune also asserts that the debt of London is in comparably less in relation to its taxable property than that of the larger provincial cities, and that the County Council's stock stands at a higher figure on the stock exchange than that of the German gov-

\*See page 1120 of this Public.