

Oswego County Suffrage Meeting

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Women Present and Are Allowed to Address the Committee

The Pulaski Democrat, July 22, 1914, page 2.

For probably the first time in the history of the Republican party in Oswego county women were present at the session of the county committee last week. A delegation of active suffrage advocates, headed by Miss Florence Roberts, state organizer, and including Mrs. R. G. Post, Miss Anna Harmon, Mrs. W. R. Fisher, Mrs. James Dunlap, and Mrs. A.S. Bracket of Connecticut, filed into the room, the privilege of the floor having been given them by the committee at Chairman Richards' request.

Miss Roberts was introduced and made a brief address, citing the progress already made in equal suffrage throughout the nation and calling attention to the recent

indorsement (sic) of the movement by three very influential organizations, including the National Education Association. She referred

to the victories in Illinois and other states and said that the suffragists were anxious to add New York to the roll of honor. Not for the vote alone was the ballot wanted, but that the women might have that weapon which alone would be

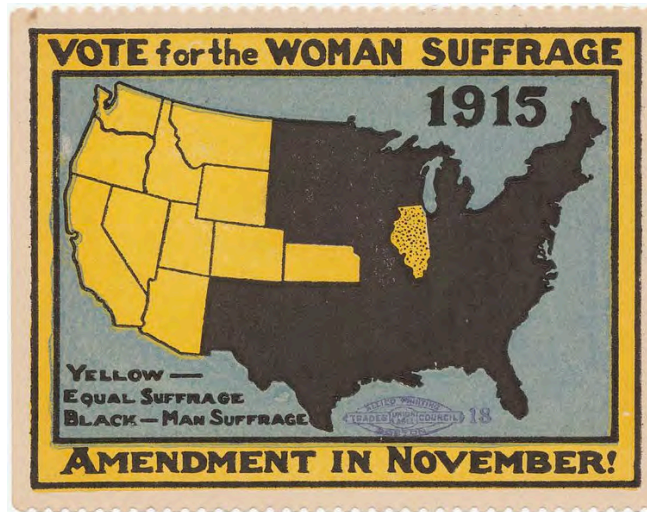
effective in gaining needed reforms, such as pure food laws, the protection and care of factory workers and the proper care and food

for the babies. While the men were at their business, the women would be watchful of the health and moral-interests of the community and state. Miss Roberts cited what had been done by women in Illinois since they secured the ballot.

Concluding, she said that Oswego county was interested in and strongly in support of woman suffrage. She said that many men had told her that women should have the vote. Miss Roberts asked that a resolution be adopted by the county committee requesting the state committee of the party at the Saratoga meeting to instruct the delegates to use all honorable means to secure a plank in the state constitution on woman suffrage in order that the people might vote on the question in 1915.

Miss Roberts was applauded when she took her seat and Sheriff Stranahan advanced and offered the following resolution, P. W. Culliman gallantly seconding it:

“Resolved, That the Republican county committee of Oswego county, New York, calls upon the legislature of 1915 to give early passage to the bill providing for the submission



Vote for the Woman Suffrage Amendment, 1915, poster stamp, currently at Cornell University Library; This work is in the public domain in its country of origin and other countries and areas where the copyright term is the author's life plus 70 years or less.

of the woman suffrage amendment to the constitution to the voters of the state.

“Resolved, That we call upon the constitutional convention of 1915 to ratify the same measures and embody it as an article in the proposed constitution, to be voted upon separately in order that the will of the people on this subject may be correctly determined.

“Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be sent to all candidates for member of assembly from Oswego county and senator and delegates to the constitutional convention from this senatorial district in the coming Republican primaries.”

But Charles Stewart of Fulton was of a different mind. He does not believe in woman suffrage and said so very emphatically. He went so far as to say that he had been a Republican all his life but that if woman suffrage became effective he would never even cast a vote again. “The woman’s place is in the home, caring for the children and the home,” concluded Mr. Stewart.

Captain Culkin said that this resolution did not bind the committee or the party to the support of woman suffrage but simply provided that the people be given a chance to vote on and decide the matter.

When the vote was taken viva vece, there were numerous “noes,” but the ayes appeared to have it and Chairman Richards so announced. Miss Roberts thanked the committee and the delegation departed.

A resolution was adopted providing for the unofficial primaries to be held August 6 in all the districts of the county for the selection of seven delegates and seven alternates to an unofficial state convention to be held at Saratoga, August 18, for the selection of delegates to the constitutional convention to be voted for at the September primaries. The polls will be open from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the primary date. The following were named in the resolution as a committee to meet at headquarters, August 10, to canvass the vote cast at the unofficial primaries: James Buckley of Altmar, W.W. Spencer of Oswego, Frank A. Sayer of Oswego, Charles Stewart of Fulton, J. B. Burt of Hannibal, Ansel W. Brown of Richland and A.P. Murriam of Phoenix. Two weeks notice of the primaries is to be given in the Oswego Times.

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Questions from the article:

1. What meeting was taking place?
2. Who attended the meeting for the first time?
3. Who was the main speaker for the group?
4. What did Miss Roberts request?
5. Did everyone in the meeting agree with Miss Roberts?
6. What did the delegates vote for at the conclusion of the meeting?

Questions for further research and discussion:

1. What states voted for woman's suffrage prior to 1914?
2. What can you find out about Mr. Richards from Oswego?
3. Locate articles from round 1914 that were anti-suffrage. Explain their point of view.
4. The article states that Miss Bracket was from Connecticut. Research the other women in the article and determine where they were from.
5. What happened to the New York State Constitutional Convention at that time?