

SLATION BULLETIN
PUBLISHED BY
WISCONSIN, W. S. A.

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE

OLYMPIA BROWN

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RACINE, WISCONSIN
FEB. 1, 1907

Bills asking for the enfranchisement of women will be presented to the members of the Legislature of 1907, and to all future Legislatures, until the discrimination against women is removed.

Members of the Legislature are often unfamiliar with the subject, and consequently unprepared to act upon it. The gathering of the facts concerning it requires time, which, in the hurry of the session, members are unable to expend. It is to meet this need for information that this pamphlet has been prepared. More might, and perhaps ought to, have been presented, but in view of the value of time, completeness has been sacrificed to brevity.

Olympia Brown.

Legislation Bulletin, Compiled by
Olympia Brown.

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WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE

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LEGISLATION BULLETIN

Compiled by Olympia Brown

Published by the

Wisconsin Woman's Suffrage Association

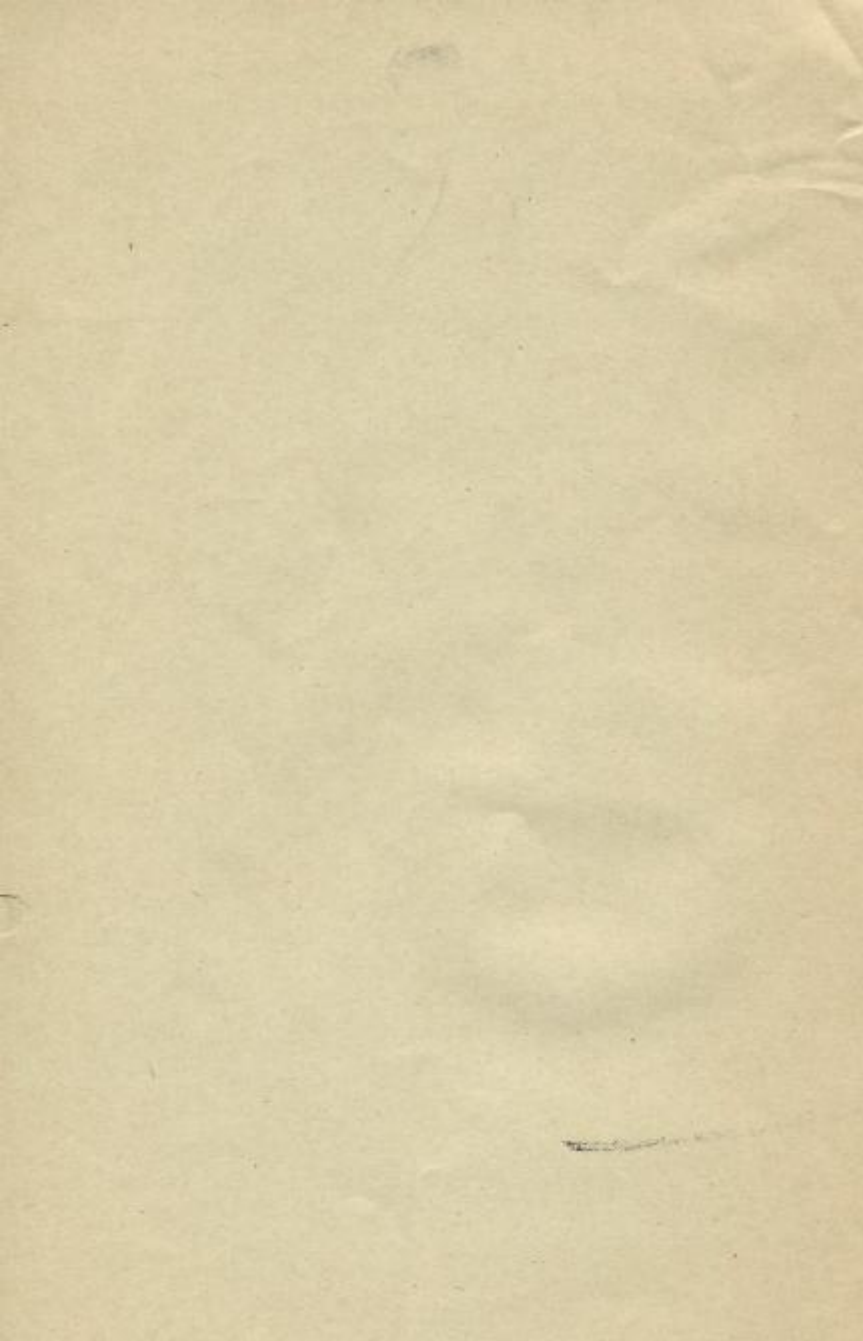
RACINE, WISCONSIN

1907

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The thanks of the compiler of this little booklet are due to the Secretaries of the several States for copies of the laws kindly furnished by them, and to Judge Arthur L. Sanborn and his assistant, Mr. F. E. Reed of Madison, for valuable aid; to Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt for statement of status of woman's suffrage in foreign countries, and to the *Woman's Journal* of Boston, from which a large part of the report on the results of Woman's Suffrage is taken. The laws quoted are copied from the Statutes and Constitutions referred to at bottom of each quotation. The compiler is not responsible for the law or the language.



THE NATURE OF THE RIGHT.

The right of suffrage has by some one been called "the right preservative of all other rights." It is the weapon of defense in a free, peaceful and civilized country; it is at once a stimulus to honorable ambition, a means of education, and a protection against injustice.

It stands for fair play in the working world. It is the consent which the individual gives to the government by which he is controlled.

It is an axiom that rights and duties should supplement each other, and the immortal Lincoln said: "I go for all sharing in the government who bear its burdens, not excepting women. Women are taxed to support the government equally with men; they are punished for the violation of its laws, and by their labors and character they contribute to the moral life of the state. In the early settlement of this western country they did their full share in reclaiming the wilderness; they endured labor, sickness, peril of every kind, and by their devotion, proved their patriotism and earned recognition. They belong to that "people" who by the statement in the preamble of the Constitution of the United States ordained and established this government, the same who by the bill of rights of the state of Wisconsin are declared to have "inherent rights" and therefore the present subordinate position to which they have been assigned is an offense against nature and a violation of the first principles of a democratic Government.

LAWS IN REGARD TO WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE IN THE UNITED STATES.

**States Where Women Vote on the Same Terms With
Men, on All Subjects and for All Officers:**

COLORADO,

by amendment to the State Constitution, passed on November 7, 1893, ratified by referendum vote. The word "male" was stricken from the Constitution in 1901 by a much larger vote.

IDAHO,

by Constitutional Amendment in November, 1896.

UTAH,

as a territory, enfranchised its women in 1870 by vote of the Legislature, and women exercised the right seventeen years, proving themselves intelligent voters and valuable citizens. During that time unsuccessful efforts were made to deprive them of the right, and in 1887 Congress, by the Edmonds-Tucker act, cut off all the women of the Territory from the right to vote. Notwithstanding this, the Constitutional Convention which met in 1895 adopted, by a vote of 75 for to 6 against, the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the right of citizens of Utah to vote and hold office shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex. Both male and female citizens of this state shall enjoy equally all civil, political and religious rights and privileges."

The Constitution, with the above provision, was signed by President Cleveland on January 4, 1896, and Utah became a state.

WYOMING.

A bill enfranchising women passed the Territorial Legislature in 1869, and woman's suffrage was incorporated in the Constitution when admitted to statehood, in 1890.

On Subjects Relating to Schools and Municipalities.**ARIZONA.**

46. All elections shall be by ballot.

47. Every person, male or female, of the age of twenty-one years or over, who is a citizen of the United States, and who has been a resident of the district for thirty days immediately preceding the day of election, and who is the parent or guardian of a child of school age residing in the district, or who has paid a Territorial or county school tax, exclusive of poll tax, during the preceding year, is eligible to election to the office of Trustee, and shall be entitled to vote at any school district election; provided, that every woman offering to vote at such election (who is otherwise qualified under this section), and whose husband or father is or was a citizen of the United States, shall be treated and considered as a citizen of the United States for the purpose of voting at such election.

School Laws of Arizona, Revised Statutes 1901.

CONNECTICUT.

1629. Women voters. Every woman who shall have attained the age of twenty-one years, who shall be a citizen of this state or of the United States, and who will have resided in the state one year and in the town six months, and can read the English language, shall, after having been duly admitted, have the right to vote for any officer of schools and upon any question relating to education or to schools.

1630. Women to qualify; lists; penalty. The board of selectmen and town clerk shall at any meeting held by them for the admission of electors, examine the qualifications of those women by whom or in whose behalf application has been made to be admitted as voters for school officers and upon any question relating to education or to schools, and whose names appear on the "women's list—to be made," and shall cause the person in whose favor such application is made to testify under oath to her qualifications to be made such voter, and shall deliver to the town clerk a certified list in writing of all women who are found to possess the requisite qualifications to be made such voters, which said list shall be kept by said town clerk as an official list; and the registrars may restore to said list the name of any woman, subject to the same restrictions and conditions as apply to restoration of names to the list of electors. Every woman who shall testify falsely as to her qualifications to be made a voter, or knowingly vote illegally at any town, school or district meeting, shall be fined not more than fifty dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days.

1631. Separate voting lists. Whenever registry lists shall be used by those voting in school district meetings, the registrars of voters of the town in which such districts are situated shall prepare separate lists of the names of those women residing in such school districts, or the voting districts of any such school districts, that have been admitted as voters

1661. Ballot box for women's ballots. At all elections at which women are by law entitled to vote, there shall be provided separate ballots containing, in addition to the name of the party issuing the same, only the names of candidates and titles of officers for which women are entitled to vote, and there shall be provided at such elections a separate ballot box, distinctly marked "for women's ballots," in which shall be deposited all ballots cast by women.

1846. Women eligible to certain town offices. No person shall be deemed to be disqualified from holding the offices of assistant town clerk, registrar of births, marriages, and deaths, or of assistant registrar of births, marriages, and deaths, by reason of sex.

2115. Women may be school officers. No person shall be ineligible to serve as a member of a board of education, board of school visitors, town school committee, or district committee, or be disqualified from holding such office, by reason of sex.

General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1902.

DELAWARE.

Has no general law, but women are allowed to vote by special laws in certain towns and school districts, at school and municipal elections.

ILLINOIS.

Women vote for:

Members of city school boards, except when appointed by the mayor;

School district trustees and the so-called township trustees;

Trustees of the State University.

For the latter women vote once in two years, electing three each time, who hold office six years. Some of the former officials are elected every spring. In the city of Chicago women have no right to vote for any officer except trustees of the State University once in two years.

Hart's Revised Statutes of 1903, Chap. 46, Sec. 332.

KANSAS.**Statutes.**

Article 4—Female Suffrage.—An Act Conferring upon Women the Right to Vote at City Elections, and to hold certain offices.—Par. 646—Women may vote.) Sec. 43. That in any election hereafter held in any city of the first, second, or third class, for the election of city or school officers, or for the purpose of authorizing the issuance of any bonds for school purposes, the right of any citizen to vote shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex; and women may vote at such elections the same as men, under like restrictions and qualifications; and any woman possessing the qualifications of a voter under this act shall also be eligible to any such city or school office. (Laws 1887, ch. 230, Sec. 1, Feb. 16.)

Chapter 18, Art. 3.—(Sec. 746—Right to vote.) Sec. 14. In all elections held for city or school officers, or for the purpose of authorizing the issuance of any bonds for school purposes, or other public improvements, the right of any citizen to vote shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex, and women may vote at such election the same as men, under like restrictions and qualifications; and any woman possessing the qualifications of a voter under this act shall also be eligible to any such city or school office.

KENTUCKY.

At this election (that is the school district election) the qualified voters of the district shall be the electors; and any widow having a child between six and twenty years of age, and any widow or spinster having a ward between the ages of six and twenty years, may also vote. The officers of the election shall be a judge and a clerk, who shall be residents of the district, and be chosen by the voters at the opening of the polls. The judge of the election shall give the casting vote in case of a tie, provided he has not heretofore voted, and give a certificate of election to

the person elected, signed by himself, and report the trustees thus elected, in writing, to the county superintendent of the county within five days after the day of election," etc., etc. (State Statutes, Sec. 4434, Law passed July 6, 1893.)

MASSACHUSETTS.

Section 13. Every female citizen having the qualifications of a male voter required by the preceding section may have her name entered upon the list of voters for school committee, and shall have the right to vote for members of the school committee upon complying with the requirements hereinafter set forth.

Section 14. A person qualified to vote in a city or town divided into wards or voting precincts shall be registered and be entitled to vote in the ward or voting precinct in which he resided on the first day of May preceding the election, or, if he became an inhabitant of such city or town after such first day of May, in the ward or voting precinct in which he first became a resident.

Revised Statutes 1898, Page 548, Paragraph 15.

Assessment of Poll Taxes and Lists of Persons Assessed.

Section 15. The assessors, assistant assessors, or one or more of them, shall annually, in May or June, visit every building in their respective cities and towns and, after diligent inquiry, shall make true lists containing, as nearly as they can ascertain, the name, age, occupation and residence, on the first day of May in the current year, and the residence on the first day of May in the preceding year, of every male person twenty years of age or upwards, residing in their respective cities and towns, liable to be assessed for a poll tax; and shall inquire at the residences of the women voters whose names are contained in the list transmitted to them by the registrars under the

provisions of section forty-four, whether such women voters are resident thereat, and shall thereupon make true lists of the women voters found by them.

In Boston the assessors shall, themselves or by the assistant assessors, in making the lists of male persons liable to be assessed for a poll tax and of the women voters proceed as follows:—two assessors or two assistant assessors, not being of the same political party, shall together visit every building and verify each other's work upon the spot, and the names of the male persons liable to be assessed and of the women voters shall be written down at every building upon the spot in the books furnished by the assessors, before the next building is visited.

The assessors shall, upon the personal application of an assessed person for the correction of any error in their original lists, and whenever informed of any such error, make due investigation, and, upon proof thereof, correct the same on their books. They shall cause all applications, certificates and affidavits received by them under this section to be preserved for two years.

Revised Statutes 1894, Page 268, Paragraph 1.

MICHIGAN.

(40.) 4662. Sec. 17. Every citizen of the age of twenty-one years, and who has property assessed for school taxes in any school district, and who has resided therein three months next preceding any school meeting held in said district, or who has resided three months next preceding such meeting on any territory belonging to such district at the time of holding said meeting, shall be a qualified voter in said meeting upon all questions, and all other citizens who are twenty-one years of age, and are the parents or legal guardians of any children included in the school census of the district, and who have for three months as aforesaid, been residents of said district or

upon any territory belonging thereto at the time of holding any school meeting, shall be entitled to vote on all questions arising in said district, which do not directly involve the raising of money by tax.

QUALIFIED VOTER: See Act 138 of 1893, conferring upon women the right to vote for all "school, village and city officers," and declared unconstitutional in *Coffin vs. Election Com'rs*, 97 | 189. The constitution of 1835, as well as that of 1850, in terms authorized the legislature to construct a primary school system and for years antedating the present constitution the legislature construed a similar provision as conferring the power to determine the qualifications of voters for district school officers.—*Coffin vs. Election Com'rs*, 97 | 193; *Belles vs. Burr*, 76 | 1. The election of members of a board of education at the annual charter election does not make such an election of "school district meeting" and give women the right to vote thereat, under the provisions of this section.—*Mudge vs. Stebbins*, 59 | 165.

(47.) 4669. Sec. 4. Any qualified voter in a school district whose name appears upon the assessment roll, and is the owner in his own right of the property so assessed, shall be eligible to election or appointment to office in such school district, unless such person be an alien.

Compiled Laws of 1897.

MINNESOTA.

An Amendment to Section Eight (8) of Article Seven (7) of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota.

Sec. 8. Women may vote for school officers and members of library boards, and shall be eligible to hold any office pertaining to the management of schools or libraries.

Any woman of the age of twenty-one (21) years and upward and possessing the qualifications requisite to a male voter, may vote at any election held for the purpose of choosing any officers of schools or any members of library boards, or upon any measure relating to schools or libraries, and shall be eligible to hold any office pertaining to the management of schools and libraries.

MONTANA.

Sec. 1186. Women have the right to vote at any school district election.

Sec. 1187. Upon all questions submitted to the vote of the taxpayers of the state, or any political division thereof, women who are taxpayers and possessed of the qualification for the right of suffrage required of men by the State Constitution, equally with men, have the right to vote.

School Laws, Subdivision 2, Section 4.

Sec. 1188. The payment of a tax upon property by any person assessed therefor on a county or city assessment roll next preceding the election at which a question is to be submitted to the vote of the taxpayers of the state, or to the vote of the taxpayers of such county or city, or any subdivision thereof, constitutes such person a taxpayer at such election within the meaning of the last preceding section.

Election Laws.

NEBRASKA.

Sec. 4. **Voters, qualifications.**—Every person, male or female, who has resided in the district forty days and is twenty-one years old, and who owns real property or personal property that was assessed in the district in his or her name at the last annual assessment, or who has children of school age residing in the district, shall be entitled to vote at any district meeting or school election held in any district, village or city; Provided, That all electors at school elections held in cities where registration of voters is required shall comply with the provisions of such registration law before they shall be entitled to vote.

All persons who are qualified to vote in a school district meeting are entitled to vote upon the proposition to issue bonds of the district whenever such question is properly submitted.—(Official Decision No. 14.)

Women vote at primaries.—Section 4, subdivision 2, chapter 79, Compiled Statutes, confers upon women having the necessary qualifications the right to vote at any school district meeting or school election held in any district, village or city. This statute also confers upon women possessing such qualifications the right to vote at primaries held in cities for the nomination of members of boards of education.—(Official Decision No. 14.)

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Any person, whether male or female, but in other respects except sex qualified to vote in town elections, may vote at school district meetings in the district in which such person has resided and had a home three months next preceding the meeting.

Section 9 of Chapter 90 of the Public Statutes of New Hampshire.

NEW JERSEY.

Every female citizen of the United States of the age of twenty-one years and possessing the qualifications respecting residence required of male voters, shall have the right to vote at any annual or special school meeting of the legal voters of said school district for any purpose other than the election of members of the board of education (a)

New Jersey School Laws, Revision of 1903.

NEW YORK.

Chap. 26, Art. 2, Sec. 41 of Heydecker's General Law and Revised Statutes provides: "A woman who possesses the qualifications to vote for village officers, except the qualification of sex, and who is the owner of property in the village, assessed upon the last preceding assessment roll thereof, is entitled to vote upon a proposition to raise money by tax or assessment."

Chap. 20, Sec. 44, provides: "A woman who possesses the qualifications to vote for town officers, except the qualification of sex, and who is the owner of property in the town, assessed upon the last preceding assessment roll thereof, is entitled to vote upon a proposition to raise money by tax or assessment."

Chap. 23, Title 8, Art. 1, Sec. 11, provides: "Every person of full age, in any school district, and who has resided therein for a period of thirty days next preceding any annual or special meeting held therein, and a citizen of the United States, who owns or hires, or is in the possession, under a contract of purchase, of real property in any such school district liable to taxation for school purposes; and every such resident of such district, who is a citizen of the United States, of twenty-one years of age, and is the parent of a child or children of school age, some one or more of whom shall have attended the district school in said district for a period of at least eight weeks within one year preceding such school meeting, and every such person not being the parent, who shall have permanently residing with him or her a child or children of school age, some one or more of whom shall have attended the district school in said district for a period of at least eight weeks within one year preceding such school meeting; and every such resident and citizen aforesaid, who owns any personal property assessed on the last preceding assessment roll of the town, exceeding fifty dollars in value, exclusive of such as is exempt from execution, and no other, shall be entitled to vote at any school meeting held in said district, for all school district officers and upon all matters which may be brought before said meeting. No person shall be deemed ineligible to vote at any such school district meeting by reason of sex, who has one or more of the other qualifications required by this section."

Several cities have also given school suffrage to women by a clause in the charter.

NORTH DAKOTA.**Par. 799. Who qualified to vote or hold office.**

At any election of school officers in any school corporation in this state, all persons who are qualified electors under the general laws of the state, and all women twenty-one years of age having the necessary qualifications as to citizenship and residence required of male voters by law, shall be qualified voters and shall be eligible to the office of county superintendent of schools, school director or member of board of education or school treasurer, or may be judge or clerk of such election. (1890 62, Paragraph 50; R. C. 1899, Paragraph 672.)

North Dakota Revised Code of 1905.

Women are also entitled to vote for state superintendent of public instruction at every general election.

OHIO.

Sec. 3970-12. Women may vote and be voted for, for school officers. Every woman born in the United States, or who is a wife or daughter of a citizen of the United States, who is over twenty-one years of age and possesses the necessary qualifications in regard to residence, as is provided for men, shall be entitled to vote, and to be voted for, for member of the board of education, and upon no other question. The law relating to registration shall apply to women upon whom the right to vote is conferred, but the names of such women may be placed on a separate list. (97 v. 354; 91 v. 182.)

School Laws of Ohio.

OREGON.

Section 46. Qualification of Voters. Any citizen of this state, male or female, who is twenty-one years of age and has resided in the district thirty days immediately preceding the meeting or election, and has

property in the district, as shown by the last county assessment, and not assessed by the sheriff, on which he or she is liable or subject to pay a tax, shall be entitled to vote at any school meeting or election in said district. Provided, That, for the purposes of this section, any man who has declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States, and has resided in the state for six months immediately preceding the meeting or election where he proposes to vote, shall be considered a citizen of this state: Provided further, That any person shall be deemed to have complied with the property qualifications imposed by this section who presents to the directors or judges of election satisfactory evidence that he or she has stock, shares, or ownership in any corporation, firm, or copartnership which has property in the district, as shown by the last county assessment, and not assessed by the sheriff, on which such corporation, firm, or copartnership pays a tax, even though his or her individual name does not appear upon the tax roll: Provided, further, That in districts of the third class any head of a family who is otherwise a qualified elector, and having children of school age, may vote at such election without property qualifications. The chairman of any school meeting, or any qualified elector, is hereby authorized to challenge any person who may offer to vote at such meeting. In case an elector has been challenged as disqualified, it shall be the duty of the chairman of such meeting to administer to each person so challenged an oath that he or she will truly answer all questions propounded to him touching his place of residence and qualifications as elector at such meeting, and upon taking which, if the meeting be in a district of the first or second class, he shall interrogate him respecting his citizenship in this state, his age, residence in the district immediately preceding the meeting or election, and whether he has property or shares in a corporation in the district, as shown by the last

county assessment, and not assessed by the sheriff, on which he or she is liable or subject to pay a tax; and if the meeting be in a district of the third class, he shall interrogate him as to whether he is the head of a family, and otherwise an elector, and has children of school age in the district. (Code, Par. 3386.)

Section 3386 B. & C. Codes and Statutes.

OKLAHOMA.

Chap. 77 (6211), Sec. 83, Art. 6. "That for the purpose of purchasing one or more school sites, purchasing or paying for and furnishing one or more school houses in and for any school district in the Territory of Oklahoma, the board of directors of the same shall have power to issue the bonds of the district in an amount not exceeding, with all outstanding indebtedness, four per cent of its taxable property as shown by the last assessment thereof, and for the purpose of extending the time of payment of the school district indebtedness, or of the bonded indebtedness of any school district, the board of directors shall have the power to issue the bonds of the district, in a sum not to exceed in amount its outstanding indebtedness, including bonded indebtedness; Provided, That no bonds shall be issued until at an election called for that purpose, the question shall have been submitted to the qualified electors of the district, and two-thirds of all the qualified electors voting at such election declared by their ballots in favor of issuing the same. Qualified electors for the purposes of this act are hereby declared to be all persons, male or female, over the age of twenty-one years who are citizens of the United States and have been bona fide residents for more than three months next preceding such school district bond election, within the limits of such school district," etc.

Chap. 77 (6152), Sec. 23, Art. 2, provides: "The following persons shall be entitled to vote at any district meeting: First—All persons possessing the

qualifications of electors as defined by the organic law of the territory and the statutes thereof, and who shall be residents of the district at the time of offering to vote at said election. Second—All female persons over the age of twenty-one years who are citizens of the United States or shall have declared their intention to become such and who shall be residents of the district at the time of offering to vote.

SOUTH DAKOTA.

Section 9, Art. 7, of the Constitution of South Dakota, provides: "Any woman having the qualifications enumerated in Sec. 1 of this article as to age, residence and citizenship, and including those now qualified by the laws of the territory, may vote at any election held solely for school purposes, and may hold any office in this state except as otherwise provided in this Constitution."

Section 1, Art. 7, of the Constitution, provides that "Every male person resident of this state who shall be of the age of twenty-one years, and upwards, not otherwise disqualified, belonging to either of the following classes, who shall be a qualified elector under the laws of the territory of Dakota at the date of the ratification of this Constitution by the people, or who shall have resided in the United States one year, in the state six months, in the county thirty days, and in the election precinct where he offers his vote ten days next preceding any election, shall be deemed a qualified elector at such election. First: Citizens of the United States. Second: Persons of foreign birth who shall have declared their intention to become citizens conformably to the laws of the United States upon the subject of naturalization."

Section 2331, Art. 4, provides: "All persons who are qualified electors under the Constitution of the state shall be qualified to vote at any school district election. The voting must be by ballot," etc.

Sec. 1866 provides: "Every male person resident of this state who shall be of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, not otherwise disqualified, and who shall possess the qualifications as prescribed by Article 7 of the Constitution, and shall have complied with the provisions of any law which is now or may in the future be in force relating to the registration of voters, shall be entitled to vote at any election in this state, and all persons possessing the qualifications mentioned in this section shall be eligible to any office, except as is otherwise provided for in the Constitution or by law. Provided, however, that persons shall vote in the precincts where they reside, and not otherwise.

VERMONT.

Sec. 803. Persons residing in a school district and qualified to vote in town meetings, shall be voters in school district meetings, and women shall have the same right as men to vote on all matters pertaining to schools, and school officers, and the same right to hold offices relating to school affairs, unless otherwise provided, and if a person offering to vote is challenged, the moderator at such meeting, the clerk, and the members of the prudential committees present, shall decide as to his right to vote.

Section 92 of No. 39 of the Acts of 1888.

WASHINGTON.

Sec. 153 (As amended by H. B. 472, Laws of 1899). Every person, male or female, over the age of twenty-one years, who shall have resided in the school district for thirty days immediately preceding any school election, and in the state one year, and is otherwise, except as to sex, qualified to vote at any general election, shall be a legal voter at any school election, and no other person shall be allowed to vote.

WISCONSIN.

Every woman who is a citizen of this state, of the age of 21 years or upwards (except paupers, persons under guardianship and persons otherwise excluded by Section 2 of Article 3 of the Constitution of Wisconsin), and who has resided within the state one year, and within the city or town in which she claims a right to vote ten days next preceding any election pertaining to school matters, shall have a right to vote at such election. (Laws of 1885.)

Law permitting separate ballot boxes passed in 1901.

There have been six judicial decisions upon this law, three by the lower courts and three by the Supreme Court. As now interpreted, women may vote in a separate ballot box on all school matters, though not "at all elections pertaining to school matters."

Other Fragments of Suffrage.**IOWA.**

Since 1894 women have been voters at any city, town or school election on the question of issuing bonds for municipal or school purposes, and for the purpose of borrowing money, or on the question of increasing the tax levy.

Women also are eligible to any office except that of legislator.

LOUISIANA.

A clause in the new Constitution, adopted in 1898, provides that "all taxpaying women shall have the right to vote, in person or by proxy, on all questions of taxation."

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance, furnishes the following statement:

England, Scotland and Ireland give to all women who are householders or house renters the right to vote in all elections except for members of Parliament.

The **Isle of Man** has a little Parliament of its own, and women have full suffrage, including the right to vote for this Parliament.

Iceland—Unmarried women and widows have the right of municipal suffrage.

Sweden—Unmarried women and widows have the right of municipal suffrage.

Norway—All women paying a very small rate, which counts for very little, have the full suffrage and use it to a great extent. Several women have been elected to members of city councils, including that of Christiania.

Finland has an absolute universal suffrage for men and women without any qualification whatsoever except those of age and residence.

Australia has universal suffrage for women in all provinces except Victoria, where women are still denied the right to vote for the members of the State Parliament, but vote for all other offices.

New Zealand—The women have full universal suffrage.

Canada—Unmarried women and widows may vote in municipal elections.

In **Germany** and **Austria** there are many provinces where women of large property have the right to vote by proxy, but this is only a recognition of the property and not often used by the women.

THE RESULTS OF WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE.

Women and the School Vote.

A circular letter was lately sent out from the National Woman's Suffrage Headquarters to the State

Superintendent of Public Instruction in all the states where women have the school vote, asking how it works. Most of the answers have now come in, and they are instructive.

The State Superintendent of Kansas says:

"Yes. We are able to interest both parents in school boards and school administration. Board member candidates who were unworthy have been defeated by the women's vote. Sometimes they vote wrong, but usually on the side of the inevitable intuition of what is right."

The South Dakota Superintendent writes: "It has many good results," but does not specify them.

The Nebraska Superintendent says:

"It has had many good results. For example, in the voting of school bonds where better school buildings were an absolute necessity, the bonds could not have been carried without the votes of the good and intelligent women, including useful wives and consecrated mothers. The instances are too numerous to mention. I name Geneva, Fillmore County, as one concrete case.

This recalls the reason Theodore Roosevelt gave for recommending woman's suffrage in his message to the Legislature, when Governor of New York. Being asked why he did it, he said that his home town of Oyster Bay had long been in great need of a new school house, but had never been able to get an appropriation for one until the women were given a vote. Then the mothers voted the new school house directly."

"The ballot gives women more influence in school matters, and this influence has always been exerted on behalf of the child, the home and the state."

"The educated and refined women vote in every election in far greater proportion than the ignorant or bad."

The Wisconsin Superintendent answers:

"I can assure you that as far as our experience in Wisconsin counts, the school interests of the state have been materially benefited by having the right of suffrage on school matters extended to the women."

The North Dakota Superintendent answers:

"Yes; no politics in our school affairs."

"It has many good results. Those mothers who are interested in good schools and good government are the active persons at these elections. Most women have the interests of their children at heart, regardless of everything else."

The Montana Superintendent says: "It creates more interest, and brings out better material for trustees."

The Wyoming Superintendent says:

"It makes the women take more interest in the questions of the day. Better men are made candidates, as women generally will not vote for an immoral man. Elections are conducted in much more orderly style than in states where equal suffrage does not exist. There is very seldom any disturbance, and the polls are kept free from the rough element. These are only a few of the good results."

The New York Superintendent writes:

"The women do not generally avail themselves of this privilege. Occasionally, where an important contest arises in a school district, the women do vote, and on such occasions I think that the majority of the women who vote are the intelligent and best women in the community."

The Utah Superintendent writes: "It has increased and intensified interest in the public school work."

The New Jersey Superintendent writes:

"The women who vote at our district school meetings are usually the mothers of the pupils, and are intelligent. It does not oblige them to neglect their home duties, and it makes them more useful as wives and mothers. Woman suffrage in school matters has been attended by good results."

MUNICIPAL SUFFRAGE—TESTIMONY OF MAYORS.

Mrs. McCulloch, the former president of the Illinois Woman's Suffrage Association, sent nearly 200 letters to mayors in the five equal suffrage states—Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah and Kansas—telling them that the women of Chicago are making an effort to have municipal suffrage for women made a law of that city under the new charter. "I told them that we would deem it helpful to the movement to have expressions of opinion from mayors of the cities in the states where either restricted or unrestricted suffrage for women has been in vogue," said Mrs. McCulloch. "One hundred and sixty replied, 150 positively in favor, only one opposed. I asked them to give the results of actual experience with woman suffrage, and that they might also give at length their personal views on the problem that is of such moment to women. The number of replies amazed me. I have been simply swamped with them. Every letter of the 150 mayors who favor woman's suffrage is an eloquent and often quite a learned treatise in favor of extending the right to vote to women."

FULL SUFFRAGE STATES.

From Wyoming, where women have voted longest, we have the following testimony:

Hon. W. S. Collins, President of the Big Horn County Irrigation Company, says:

"I have lived in Wyoming twenty-one years, and during all that period women have voted at all elections. I have often found newcomers averse to women voting. This soon wears off, and in a year or two husband and wife, brother and sister, father and mother and daughter and son go to the polls together, the same as to any other meeting.

"Women are no more corrupted by voting with their fathers, brothers and husbands than they are by going with them to any other kind of meeting. It lifts up and ennobles the men. Woman's influence for good is felt there as it is in the home and around the fireside. The polls are arranged with full knowledge that women will go there to vote. Should any man attempt to locate a polling place where a woman should not go, that man would have short shrift.

"There is very little bribery here. The man who electioneers with whisky is sure to be beaten, and it is not attempted very often. Women almost invariably split their tickets. They vote for the men they deem the best, and it follows that all parties endeavor to put up their best men, and so the best men are elected. Women everywhere are always in favor of law and order.

"Women here read of state affairs, notice what their Congressmen are doing at Washington, and go to political meetings.

"Women appear no more out of place at the polls than they do at a festival or fair. Citizens of Wyoming are proud that the Constitution of our state was the first for equal political rights."

THE FRUITS OF EQUAL SUFFRAGE IN WYOMING ARE:

Acts providing that men and women teachers shall receive equal pay when equally qualified (Revised Statutes of Wyoming, Section 614); raising the age of protection for girls to 18 (Same, Section 4964); making child neglect, abuse or cruelty illegal (Same, Section 2291); forbidding the employment of boys under 14 or girls of any age in mines, or of children under 14 in public exhibitions (Same, Section 2289); making it unlawful to sell or give cigarettes, liquor or tobacco to persons under 16 (Laws of 1895, Chapter 46, Section 4); establishing free public kindergartens (Same, Chapter 50, Section 1); forbidding the adulteration of candy (Laws of 1897, Chapter 39).

Making it illegal to license gambling (Laws of 1901, Chapter 65, page 68); and providing for the care and custody of deserted or orphan children, or children of infirm, indigent or incompetent persons (Laws of 1903, Chapter 106, page 134).

The Wyoming Legislature has twice passed the following resolution:

Concurrent Resolution.

Be it Resolved, By the Second Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

That the possession and exercise of suffrage by women in Wyoming for the past quarter of a century has wrought no harm, and has done great good in many ways; that it has largely aided in banishing crime, pauperism and vice from this state, and that without any violent or oppressive legislation; that it has secured peaceful and orderly elections, good government and a remarkable degree of civilization and public order; and we point with pride to the facts

that, after nearly twenty-five years of woman's suffrage, not one county in Wyoming has a poorhouse; that our jails are almost empty; and crime, except that committed by strangers in the state, almost unknown; and as the result of experience we urge every civilized community on earth to enfranchise its women without delay.

The foregoing resolution was passed in 1893, and was reaffirmed in substance in 1901. Both votes were unanimous.

THE FRUITS IN UTAH.

Laws providing that women teachers in the public schools shall receive equal pay with men for equal work, when holding certificates of the same grade (Revised Statutes of Utah, Sec. 1853; Laws of 1896, page 85; 1897, page 132); raising the age of protection for girls to 18 (Same, Sec. 4221; Laws of 1896, page 87); establishing free public libraries in cities and towns (Laws of 1899, page 121); requiring in all schools and educational institutions supported wholly or partly by public funds, systematic instruction in physiology and hygiene, including the effects of stimulants and narcotics (Same, Sec. 1829; Laws of 1897, page 127); creating a State Art Institute (Laws of 1899, page 47); providing for a course of free lectures every year at the capital, on sanitary science, hygiene and nursing (Laws of 1903, Chapter 102); for a curfew bell at 9 p. m. to keep children under 14 off the streets (Same, Chapter 89); making it a misdemeanor for any minor under 18 to buy, accept or have in his possession cigarettes, tobacco, opium or any other narcotic (Same, Chapter 135, page 186); providing for the protection of dependent, neglected or ill-treated boys under 14 and girls under 16, and for the punishment of persons responsible for their care who neglect or ill treat them (Same, Chapter 124); and requiring the establishment of

kindergartens in all school districts having a population of 2,000 or more (Same, Chapter 114, page 139).

IN COLORADO.

Mrs. Ione T. Hanna, the first woman ever elected to the school board of Denver, and one of the most highly respected women of that city, writes:

"Some results of equal suffrage in Colorado are generally conceded: (1) The improved moral quality of candidates nominated for office by the various parties; (2) a decidedly increased observance of the courtesies and decencies of life at the different political headquarters, previous to election; (3) better and more orderly polling places; (4) general awakening interest among both men and women, in matters of public health, comfort and safety."

Twenty-five good laws for the protection of women and children have been passed by the influence of women's votes.

In Denver the women voters have also secured ordinances placing drinking fountains in the streets, garbage receptacles at the corners, and seats at the transfer stations of the street cars; forbidding expectoration in public places; parking 23d Avenue and planting trees

Ellis Meredith of Denver says that equal suffrage has also led to a much better enforcement of the laws prohibiting child labor, requiring that saleswomen be furnished with seats, forbidding the sale of liquor to minors and the sale or gift of cigarettes or tobacco to persons under 16, and others of the same general character.

In 1899 the Legislature of Colorado passed the following resolution:

Whereas, Equal suffrage has been in operation in Colorado for five years, during which time women have exercised the privilege as generally as men,

with the results that better candidates have been selected for office, methods of election have been purified, the character of legislation improved, civic intelligence increased and womanhood developed to greater usefulness by political responsibilities; therefore, be it

Resolved, By the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that in view of these results the enfranchisement of women in every State and Territory is recommended as a measure tending to the advancement of a higher and better social order.

IN IDAHO.

Laws making gambling illegal (Idaho Laws of 1899, page 389); raising age of protection for girls to 18 (Same, page 167); establishing libraries and reading rooms and authorizing a tax for their maintenance (Code of 1901, Sec. 994); requiring at least 3 per cent of school fund appropriated each year to be applied to maintain school libraries, the books to be chosen from list compiled by State Board of Education (Same, Sec. 1065); establishing a State Library Commission, consisting of the President of the State University, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Secretary of State and the Attorney General (Laws of 1903, House Bill 164); providing for a Department of Domestic Science in the State University (Same, page 433, Senate Bill 110); and for a course of lectures on Domestic Science in the Academy of Idaho (Same, page 51; House Bill 52); establishing an Industrial Reform School (Same, page 12; House Bill 20); a Pure Food Act (Same, page 95, House Bill 97); and giving a married woman the same right to control and dispose of her property as a married man (Same, page 345, Senate Bill 35).

During the recent Oregon campaign reports were circulated that the voting of women was injurious

to the business interests of the state, in reply to which thirty-seven of the leading business firms of Boise signed their names to the following statement:

Boise, Idaho, May 10, 1906.

To Whom It May Concern:

Having been advised that it is asserted, to influence voters in Oregon, that equal suffrage promotes "fad" legislation, causes injury to business and discourages investment of capital in new enterprises, we, the undersigned, business men of the city of Boise, wish to state that the allegations are without foundation. After an experience of ten years with equal suffrage in this state, we are in a position to testify that it has no such effect but, on the contrary, is a powerful factor in the interest of good government, contributing always toward the establishment of better conditions, and directly benefiting business in many ways. Confidence in the stability and good faith of state and local government is measurably increased and the state is thereby made more attractive to investors.

One of the leading papers of the state makes the following statement in an editorial:

"That equal suffrage has been beneficial in this state will scarcely be denied anywhere. It has not brought the millennium, but has improved conditions. The fact that women are voters has a potential influence for good. It is felt in the Legislature, and in all our departments, being a factor both in making and in executing the laws. Better conditions are being created because our women can express themselves at the ballot box.

"The state is bettered by this influence of the gentler sex; communities are improved, and the direct effect is to improve business. Idaho is better as a place of residence, because we have this potential influence of the better half of our citizenship brought

to bear upon the administration of public affairs. The state has become more attractive to settlers. Moreover, since the conservative character of this great vote is widely recognized, the state is given a higher place in the confidence of investors.

"Money from abroad is being invested far more freely than ever before."

Word comes from New Zealand, where women vote: "Public life is extraordinarily pure. Corruption or mismanagement in public office is almost unknown."

