

**WOMAN SUFFRAGE. SERIAL NO. 2.
HEARINGS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON
THE JUDICIARY,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SIXTY-
SECOND CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION.
MARCH 13, 1912**

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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-SECOND CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

MARCH 13, 1912



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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

SERIAL NO. 2.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Wednesday, March 13, 1912.

The committee met at 10.30 o'clock a. m., Hon. Henry D. Clayton (chairman) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will be in order. At a previous meeting of the Committee on the Judiciary, in response to a request made by several Members of the House and by two ladies, to-day was set apart by the committee for the hearing of those who advocate the amendment of the Constitution providing for woman's suffrage. Since the committee has met this morning I have been requested by a lady, representing other ladies in opposition to the resolutions now under consideration by the committee, that she be accorded 10 or 15 minutes at the conclusion of the hearing to-day to present the views of these ladies to the committee. I have conferred with some members of the committee, and they have thought, following precedents obtaining in like requests in cases of former hearings, that that request ought to be accorded. I deem it proper to advise the ladies who asked for this hearing of that request at this time, and I would think it fair to the ladies who have asked for this hearing that they be given an opportunity, if they see fit, to reply to any statements or arguments that may be made by the ladies in opposition to these resolutions.

I wish to know, for the benefit of the committee, what lady will apportion the time to-day, among the advocates of these resolutions.

Miss ADDAMS. I will do it, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Miss Jane Addams, of Illinois.

The committee has several resolutions before it, House joint resolution 201, introduced by Mr. Raker, of California, House joint resolution 198, introduced by Mr. Lafferty, of Oregon, House joint resolution 91, introduced by Mr. Taylor, of Colorado, House joint resolution 213, introduced by Mr. Berger, of Wisconsin, House joint resolution 87, introduced by Mr. Mondell, of Wyoming, and House joint resolution 17, introduced by Mr. Rucker, of Colorado, all relating to this same subject; that is, the proposition to amend the Federal Constitution to provide for woman's suffrage.

I may say to the ladies who have been accorded this hearing that this committee heretofore, on similar occasions, has not limited the ladies as to the time they wished to use in putting their views before the committee. We have, I think without exception, heretofore given the ladies a whole day on this subject, and the committee has the permission of the House to sit during the sessions of the House. With that statement, I will say to the ladies the committee will hear you this morning until 12 o'clock, and then the committee will take a recess for lunch and for a brief attendance upon the House, and then they will come back after lunch, at such time as may be agreed upon by the members and by the ladies advocating these resolutions.

At this time I may say, Miss Addams, you may proceed in such manner as you ladies have agreed upon. I suppose if you have made any allotment of time, that you will advise the chairman whenever any speaker has consumed her allotted time.

Miss ADDAMS. We have nine speakers, Mr. Chairman, and have given each of them 10 minutes. Perhaps, by shortening them a little, we can conclude by 12 o'clock.

The CHAIRMAN. I should be very sorry to have the ladies feel compelled to shorten their speeches.

Miss ADDAMS. We would like to show you, Mr. Chairman, that we can make short speeches.

The CHAIRMAN. I believe we are to have a short statement by Mr. Taylor, of Colorado.

REMARKS OF HON. EDWARD T. TAYLOR, REPRESENTATIVE AT LARGE FROM COLORADO, INTRODUCING MISS JANE ADDAMS.

Mr. TAYLOR of Colorado. Mr. Chairman and members of the Judiciary Committee. My colleague, Judge Rucker, was to be accorded the honor of presenting to the committee the distinguished lady who will preside and introduce the speakers. But owing to his illness this morning that courtesy, which I very highly appreciate, has been extended to me. But before doing so, permit me to say on behalf of the authors of the various bills providing for constitutional amendments now pending before your committee, as just-mentioned by your chairman, that while we do not desire to take up any of the time of the committee to be heard at present, because this is a women's meeting: nevertheless, if your committee desires to hear from us at any time in support of our respective bills, or if you will permit us to make a statement to go into the hearings, we will be pleased to avail ourselves of that opportunity. Personally I should like to make

and have it appear in the record a brief statement of the results of woman suffrage in the State of Colorado during the past 18 years. Our good women have made a splendid and most brilliant record, of which the Centennial State is supremely proud. I especially would like to insert in the record a brief mention of 150 of the wisest, most humane, and progressive laws in this country for the protection of the home and the betterment of society which the women of Colorado have caused to be placed upon the statute books of our State during the last 10 sessions of our legislature. However, I will not until after the ladies have spoken ask to take the attention of the committee, nor detain this splendid audience and all of these eminent women speakers longer; but will simply say that I am exceedingly proud to be accorded the distinction and pleasure of presenting to this committee and this audience the first vice president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, a lady whom you and all this country know and honors, Miss Jane Addams, of Hull House, Chicago. [Applause.]

REMARKS OF MISS JANE ADDAMS, OF CHICAGO, ILL.

MISS ADDAMS. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, in presenting our arguments for your consideration in regard to these amendments to the Constitution, we would like first to draw your attention to the fact that women have suffrage already, to a very large extent, in the United States. More than a million women will be eligible to vote for President of the United States next November. More than half a million in addition have the municipal franchise. In fact, the remaining women of America are almost the only English-speaking women in the world who are deprived of the municipal franchise. In England women vote upon all civic matters, and all of the women in the English colonies also vote upon municipal affairs. The women in the north, particularly Finland, Sweden, and Norway, have the full franchise; and America, so far from being in the lead in the universal application of the principle that every adult is entitled to the ballot, is fast falling behind the rest of the world. A hundred years ago we occupied an advanced position in regard to the extension of the franchise; at the present moment we are quite behind in this belief that every adult is entitled to representation in his own governmental affairs.

As I have been engaged for a good many years in various philanthropic undertakings, perhaps you will permit me, for only a few moments, to speak from my experience. A good many women with whom I have been associated have initiated and carried forward philanthropic enterprises, which were later taken over by the city, and thereupon the women have been shut out from the opportunity to do the self-same work which they have done up to that time. In Chicago the women for many years supported school nurses who took care of the children, both made them comfortable and kept them from truancy. When the nurses were taken over by the health department of the city the same women who had given them their support and management were shut out from doing anything more in that direction. And I think Chicago will bear me out when I say that the nurses are not now doing as good work as they did before.

I could also use the illustration of the probation officers in Chicago who are attached to the juvenile court. For a number of years

women selected and supported these probation officers. Later, when the same officers, paid the same salary, were taken over by the county and paid from the county funds, the women who had had to do with the initiation and beginning of the probation system, and with the primary and early management of the officers, had no more to do with them. At the present moment the juvenile court in Chicago has fallen behind its former position in the juvenile courts of the world. I think the fair-minded men of Chicago will admit that it was a disaster for the juvenile court when the women were disqualified, by their lack of the franchise, to care for it.

The juvenile court has to do largely with delinquent and dependent children, and I think there is no doubt that on the whole women can deal with such cases better than men, because their natural interests lie in that direction. I could give you many other examples.

The establishment of a sanitarium for the care of tubercular patients in Chicago was begun by some philanthropic women, and later on, when these also were put under the care of the city, these women were shut out, save as they were permitted to do some work through the courtesy of the officials. Sometimes the officials are very courteous to them and glad to have their assistance; sometimes they quite resent the suggestions offered them, claiming it is "up to" them to take care of the city affairs, and that women are only interfering when they try to help.

So, it seems fair to say, if women are to keep on with the work which they have done since the beginning of the world—to continue with their humanitarian efforts which are so rapidly being taken over into the Government, whether wisely or not is not for me to say, and which, when thus taken over by the Government, are often not properly administered, that the women themselves will have to have the franchise.

The franchise is only a little bit of mechanism which enables the voter to say how much money shall be appropriated from the taxes, of which women pay so large a part. When a woman votes, she votes in an Australian ballot box, very carefully guarded from roughness, and it seems to us only fair to the State activities which are so largely humanitarian that women should have this opportunity.

I am going to introduce, Mr. Chairman, women who will represent different points of view in regard to suffrage for women, a matter which seems to us so important.

Perhaps no class of women in the entire community need the ballot so much as the working women. I am sure you are conversant with the splendid series of reports being issued by the Federal Department of Commerce and Labor upon the condition of women and children wage earners in the United States, in which this is being demonstrated. You will be glad to hear, I am sure, from Miss Leonora O'Reilly, of New York, who has done so much to improve the condition of working women. It gives me very much pleasure to introduce Miss O'Reilly, who will speak to you for 10 minutes.

REMARKS OF MISS LEONORA O'REILLY, NEW YORK CITY.

Miss O'REILLY. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee. I ask this committee in all seriousness to understand that we working women are not asking for the vote for fun; we need the