

**WINNING EQUAL SUFFRAGE IN
CALIFORNIA: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
OF THE COLLEGE EQUAL SUFFRAGE
LEAGUE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA IN
THE CAMPAIGN OF 1911**

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OF THE

**College Equal Suffrage League of Northern
California**

IN THE

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INTRODUCTION.

The news of the success of our campaign in California, that, on October 10th, 1911, gave the right of suffrage to the women of the State, had scarcely been confirmed before letters began to pour into the headquarters of the College Equal Suffrage League from almost every State in the Union, asking advice and suggestions for organizing and conducting a like campaign.

To meet this demand, which was most urgent from the States with a campaign immediately ahead, the directors of the College League, at a meeting on October 14th, 1911, resolved, "That the chairman of each committee write an account of the work done by her and her committee, these reports to be printed in concise form and bound together for filing, and for the benefit of campaigners in the other States." An editor was then chosen. The reports published in this volume are the result of that resolution.

Months have passed in collecting and revising the scattered material, and in an effort to fill up gaps in the story. The history of hasty, unrecorded work—one task having sometimes gone through the hands of five successive volunteer chairmen—has been curiously difficult to trace. An advantage of the method of presentation chosen by the League, of telling the story of the campaign through signed reports of chairmen of committees, is that something of the vividness of first-hand experience is retained; but the defect of the method is equally apparent, for like the "spot light," it brings out one group of facts sharply, only to leave adjacent groups in darkness, and, in this way, there is often a serious loss of perspective.

For instance, the Blue Liner report gives, with copious detail, an account of the campaigning work done in about twenty-five towns in four counties, but of the work accomplished by our Eastern helpers, by Miss Jeanette Rankin, Mrs. Helen Hoy Greeley, Mrs. A. C. Fisk, Mrs. Stanislawski, Miss Margaret Haley, Mrs. Catherine Waugh McCullough, Miss Helen M. Todd, and Miss Gail Laughlin, in building up organizations in thirty counties of the State, through weeks and months of traveling and speaking, we have only the sketch that makes a part of the Central Campaign Committee's report. Happily, the record of their efforts exists in another, and more substantial, form in the splendid gains in the country vote shown in most of the counties where their work was done.

In the report on City Circularizing, we have a clear account of how three city districts were circularized, but no reports have been procurable of the same work in the circularizing of the 10,000 school teachers and the trustees and boards of education of the State; the circularizing of the voters of Contra Costa County, of the 43rd District of San Francisco, and of many social and business clubs.