

WOMEN IN POLITICS

By Mrs. W. J. O'Neill

The consideration of the new constitution is the most important issue placed before the people since women have had the suffrage in Illinois. Women are being urged by all civic bodies to give study to the proposed changes in the basic laws of the state so that they may register an intelligent vote.

The proposed constitution if carried on December 12 will shorten the ballot by appointing instead of electing Appellate Court Judges and the clerks and Supreme Court clerks and will in that way make elections more simple and also tend to save election expenses on the part of the state.

The Supreme Court is to have nine judges instead of seven as is the present law—Judge Slusser, one time resident of Downers Grove is being urged to accept nomination for one of these new judicial positions.

The proposed constitution also provides for reading the Bible in public schools without comment, provides for juries of less than twelve under certain conditions and also provides for women jurors.

Provision is also made for the appointment of justices of the peace and constables and the appointment of county superintendents of schools in place of the present system of election to those offices.

Provision is also made for the permanence of the Republican form of government, for the one member districts for the House and for the abolition of cumulative voting for state representatives, for safeguarding the spending of public money and for farm loans.

There is regret on the part of many that the proposed constitution is to be submitted as a whole, many controversial questions might have been submitted separately so that a modified constitution could have been arrived at by referendum.

The People's Forum of Downers Grove is discussing the sections of the new constitution every first and third Monday at the Public Library and an opportunity is offered in our own town to compare section by section, the present constitution and the proposed one, those attending may arrive at an estimate of the worth of the new document.

The League of Women Voters is making a big effort throughout the nation to double the membership during the present month and our women citizens are asked to join this progressive organization.

Another woman has come out for office. This time it is Miss Reba Hurn who is candidate for a place in the senate of the State of Washington. She says: "I will at all times aim to represent the interests of the people, but it will be my great concern if at any time the interests of women are jeopardized to overlook no

opportunity to protect them. I feel that the political and property rights of women obtained after years of work should be preserved." I am most emphatically opposed to any effort to weaken the effect of the prohibition law."

Mrs. Mary Scott Johnson of Superior, Wis., is a candidate for the assembly on an independent ticket. She is making her race on her ideals without any party tie. She says: "The finest ideals if hid under a bushel will do the world little good. We must do as Jesus did—get right down into the toil and grime of the task of working out the ideal republic until we have indeed a righteous government of, by and for the people."

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt has just sailed for Europe to investigate the stability of universal suffrage for both men and women and the political life in those countries. She is especially interested in the coming Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance to be held in Rome next spring. She believes that it is vital that women find some way of expressing their ideas and ideals in politics which actuated them in their fight for the vote. Women have from the detached nature of their position gained a perspective on affairs which makes them intolerant of political ills. They will not be patient with the delays in legislation which makes for the best interests of the world and for that reason they should take an active part.

In a recent election in Sweden the wet forces won by a margin of one

per cent. The vote of the women in favor of prohibition was 57.3 per cent while that of the men was 59.9 per cent. The total number of votes cast by the women were 800,000 as compared with 930,000 cast by the men showing that if more women had voted prohibition would have carried. The moral is that if we believe in a thing we ought to be willing to take the time to vote for it. Otherwise we might as well be against it in the final results.

Governor Hardwick of Georgia has shown a spirit of chivalry according to some folks by appointing Mrs. Felton, an 87 year old woman to the senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Watson. To others the governor has shown a trait of the wise politician in as much as Mrs. Felton will not have opportunity to serve and is to old to run for the office in November and besides the governor has announced himself as candidate for the office. Perhaps the "ladies" will repay his chivalry by voting for him this fall. In the meantime, the two women who were summoned to serve on the

jury in Will County, Illinois, have been rejected because the law says Jurymen are not Jurymen.

DuPage County Republican women will meet at lunch at Woman's City Club, 17th floor Stevens Building, Saturday, October 21 at twelve o'clock, plates 85 cents. As many women as can go from DuPage County are urged to advise Mrs. E. R. Tratman of Wheaton, Mrs. Frank Johnson, Glen Ellyn; Miss Hattie Glos of Wayne; Mrs. Ernest Fisher of Downers Grove, not later than Friday morning, October 20.

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