



WOMEN VOTERS HOLD FIRST FALL MEETING

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on Monday evening, October 20, the league is sponsoring a candidates' meeting at Elm Place school. An invitation to speak is being sent to all candidates up for election on November 4. At that time too, women on juries will be discussed by some well-known speaker.

Mrs. Raymond Simons, chairman of Legal Status of Women introduced Mrs. Beatrice Podell, member of the Illinois Bar association, and one of the committee appointed by the Women's Bar association to campaign for women on juries. Mrs. Podell told of speaking from a truck platform in the Chicago Loop and

throughout the state, and of her gratification at the response she received. People seemed eager for the literature which was given out, and in many cases surprised to learn that women were not already serving on juries in Illinois. Following is a brief resume of her talk to the Highland Park league:

Summary of Address

Trial by jury, which succeeded the more primitive methods of trial by combat, or trial by ordeal, is one of the greatest contributions to civilization. It is now a person's right to be judged by his peers, and peers should mean men and women, since women own property, pay taxes and hold key positions in every avenue of life, besides solving most of the problems of the home. Foreigners without training or background may serve on juries after five years residence in this country, while in Illinois and

some other states women who always back the constructive things, and who have charge of all most near and dear to the home, are excluded.

Most men would be glad to share the burden of jury service with women. A woman usually has more time at her disposal, and would be able to give her whole energy to the case in question with no worry about business to distract her. Women lawyers are eager to serve having seen the improvement in the atmosphere and language of court rooms where women are present. There are of course women who fear and distrust the idea of jury service. This is usually caused by lack of self-confidence or ignorance of the subject. Few qualifications are required, and no woman with a legitimate excuse would be forced to serve.

Jury lists are made in the most impersonal manner. Names are selected

from the polling lists or directory, and 300 of these are drawn from the jury box. Questionnaires are then sent to all these people to determine their eligibility. Women who were ill or pregnant, or who had the care of small children or aged people, would be exempt. Most men are called on the average of about once in six years. If women were added to the jury lists, the possibilities of service would be once or twice in a life time.

With no political power, women have helped to raise the standard of living. How much more they might accomplish, if they felt themselves to be part of the machinery of justice.

Both parties have endorsed women on juries, so that it is the duty of every Republican and Democrat to work for it. The League of Women Voters hopes that every voter will say "Yes" to the amendment on November 4.