

The Woman Citizen

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"We shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts—for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own government."

Will Women Remember?

BEHIND William P. Hobby's victory over James E. Ferguson as a candidate for the Governorship of Texas, lay a chain of events: In 1916 Mr. Ferguson, who was then Governor of Texas, was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention at St. Louis.

This was the year in which five national parties, every political party of consequence, came out with an endorsement of woman suffrage as a plank in their platforms for the presidential elections.

At that convention Governor Ferguson showed himself far behind the democratic thought of the time. He was selected spokesman for the Democratic anti-suffragists and brought in a minority report refusing any consideration of woman suffrage in the Democratic platform.

After this Governor Ferguson returned to his own State of Texas and was impeached—not for his dullness in not hearing the death knell of special masculine privileges which was tolling all over the world, not for his political blindness in not seeing the dawn of woman's new day, not for any of those things—for maladministration of state funds.

And indignant Texas women set it down as an insolence to all women that a man who could not himself command the trust of his fellow citizens should have tried to keep honest women from the ballot. Governor Ferguson tried to start something against Texas women's political liberty in 1916, but he did not finish it. The women finished it at the primaries on July 27th.

"OUR purpose," he had shouted in the St. Louis Convention, "is to prevent suffrage states from undertaking to tell other states what they should do. Does anyone believe that Woodrow Wilson can be intimidated by the swish of the skirts of the few hundred thousand suffragists in the United States?"

Much water has gone under political bridges since 1916. The tide of woman suffrage has risen like a flood—and President Woodrow Wilson himself has acclaimed it.

Texas women have received the right to vote in their state primaries, and for months they have been preparing their campaign—a campaign against the man whose ideas about women and whose official record are alike hateful to American womanhood. For women want clean government and a square deal. Women of Texas enrolled for the primaries in numbers so great

that at first they were disbelieved. More women enrolled than there were men voting for President in the Texas presidential elections, nearly 400,000 in all. And when the primary returns were all in, it was found that James E. Ferguson had been defeated by a majority of 250,000.

Texas women remembered.