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NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

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NATIONAL PRESS DEPARTMENT  
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INFORMATION SERVICE.

July 31, 1919.

RELEASE IMMEDIATELY.

WHO ARE AGAINST SUFFRAGE?

In an open letter to a prominent politician, the opponents of woman suffrage are calling for proof of an alleged statement made by public men that "the forces of evil are lined up against the ballot for suffrage". In answer to this challenge the National American Woman Suffrage Association submits a brief summary of data which it has in full in its files and which, even in brief, suggests the wide range of the "forces of evil" in their work against suffrage.

In his annual speech before the Wholesale Brewers Association, in 1914, Neil Bonner, president, said: "We need not fear the churches, the men are voting the old tickets; we need not fear the ministers, for the most part they follow the men of the churches; we need not fear the Y.M.C.A., it does not do aggressive work; but, gentlemen, we need to fear the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the ballot in the hands of women; therefore, gentlemen, fight woman suffrage".

In the 1915 suffrage campaign in New Jersey, the leader of the anti-suffrage forces was James Nugent, commonly known as "Boss" Nugent, who is now running for Governor of the State on a platform whose main planks are the support of the "wets" and the defeat of ratification of the Federal Suffrage Amendment.

A factor in the state suffrage campaign in Texas was James E. Ferguson, who directed the campaign against suffrage. Advertisements which must have cost much money appeared over his signature in leading Texas papers. They were headed "AGIN' em" All, - meaning the amendments, both prohibition and suffrage. These advertisements were scurrilous personal attacks on Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and of Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, chairman of the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense. Mr.



Ferguson is the impeached Governor of Texas, beaten at the primaries by the women of the state who would not endorse a man accused of misappropriation of public funds. What the Texas women thought of James E. Ferguson was demonstrated by their "Hobby-for-Governor" campaign. Yet this discredited politician was the ally of the anti-suffrage women in the Texas state campaign of May 1919.

In the Nebraska suffrage referendum case, finally settled by the Nebraska Supreme Court on June 28, 1919, it was proved that anti-suffrage petitions, circulated through that state asking for a referendum on the presidential suffrage bill in the hope of defeating it at the polls, were invalidated by fraud. This decision cost anti-suffragists thousands of dollars. On these petitions were found fraudulent names, some of them those of dead people; in many cases, names were all written in the same hand-writing. Saloon-keepers and bar-tenders were prominent circulators for the anti-suffrage petitions. One active worker was a colored sporting man for twenty years keeper of a notorious dive in Omaha. Several men who could neither read nor write testified that they thought they were giving their names to the census taker when they gave in their names for the petition. Many thought they were signing a petition to "bring back beer". A leading paper of Nebraska said editorially of the Nebraska victory: "Testimony was brought forward to show that people circulating petitions for a referendum of the suffrage law were guilty of every conceivable sort of fraud, including forgery, the listing of dead men and the copying of names from directories. The women interested in suffrage made so complete a showing up of this conspiracy, and won so signal a victory by going to the courts with a well prepared case that they have probably ended for all time this particular political crime in Nebraska. For their labors on behalf of a clean referendum petition they deserve the thanks of all of the supporters of good government in this state."

This is not the first nor the only time that anti-suffragists have lined up with questionable people in Nebraska. In 1914, it was with the German-American Alliance as well as with the liquor interests. A letter sent secretly from the German-American



Alliance three days before the vote was taken on the Nebraska

Suffrage Amendment gave as its reasons for opposing woman suffrage the fear that woman suffrage would "saddle the yoke of prohibition on our necks." "We should oppose it with all our might," said these enemies of Americanism. "In these times when, on account of the European War, the English-American press has stirred up popular sentiment against Germany and Germanism, it behooves us to stand together and demonstrate to our many envious enemies our political power."

"With true German greeting - The Committee of the local Alliance."

The same German-American Alliance - the Staatsverband of Michigan, - was busy against suffrage in Detroit in 1913. "More than ever the Staatsverband sees the necessity to warn its members against ratifying the amendment," read a letter of instructions sent out to members of the German American Alliance concerning the vote on the Michigan suffrage amendment. The objection of the Alliance to Woman Suffrage was that it was framed to exclude foreign born women from the vote unless they took out naturalization papers and these would cost about \$6. If American women only were allowed to vote, the letter went on to predict that "prohibitionists and their refuse, the anti-saloon League, will easily set up for dictators in the state of Michigan. For these and many other reasons German Brothers," the letter ended, "vote upon the Woman Suffrage Amendment on Monday, the 7th of April, NO ☒

Staatsverband, Michigan, Carl Bauer, President."

According to an analysis of the Texas Suffrage defeat on May 24, 1919, the German element was no less active in that state. Here is a part of a statement made by Dr. Ellis of the University of Texas: "Comal and Gillespie Counties, composed practically entirely of Germans, gave only 128 votes for the Suffrage-Alien Amendment and 1,396 votes against it; that is, over ten to one against. If we would see how the German vote went, take a box which is all German; for instance, in Travis County the voting box at Germania Hall stood 41 against and 1 for the Amendment."