

Suffrage Leaders Go To Austin to Urge the Enfranchising of Women

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BY MARY LEE M'GREAL.

Mrs. Hortense Ward, president of the Houston Equal Suffrage Association, will leave Sunday night for Austin, where she will remain in the interests of suffrage during the special session of the legislature called by Governor Hobby. The suffragists will also be represented by Mrs. Minnie Fisher Cunningham of Galveston, state president of the association. The efforts of these ladies will concentrate on the amendment recently prepared by Judge Ocie Speer of Fort Worth to the Terrell election law, granting primary rights to the women of Texas, and upon the success of this concentrated effort rests the granting of the ballot to the women of the state at the July primaries.

In the opinion of Judge Speer, the state legislature has this right of granting primary suffrage and in accordance with this view Governor Hobby will be asked by the leaders of woman suffrage to submit the amendment to the legislature at the special session along with the other eight bills presented by him for the state solons' consideration. They have strong hopes as to the governor's friendly attitude and are not anticipating any disappointment in that direction, banking on his Americanism and his strong backing of the administration at Washington, now decidedly in favor of votes for women, to submit the proposition to the legislature as a war measure. The aid of women in war preparations in this country has been invoked in every field of effort and their right of suffrage, the women think, should no longer go unheeded.

In the event, however, of the governor taking an unfavorable view of the situation, the suffrage leaders are prepared to ask the legislature to pass a resolution requesting the governor to submit the amendment to that body. Men and women of the state in large numbers are interested in the proposed amendment and its fate will be watched with as much anxiety and keen interest as any of the other war measures. Labor unions throughout the state, from the larger cities in particular, Dallas, Fort Worth, Waco, Houston and Galveston, have urged upon Governor Hobby the necessity of securing the passage of the amendment in order that the women may vote at the July primary.

Houston equal suffrage women are planning a big organization campaign, which was discussed Saturday noon at a luncheon given at Munn's as a good luck farewell to Mrs. Ward. There were present at the request of Mrs. Augusta Young, secretary for the Houston association, a number of women who will have charge of divisions during this proposed campaign. The object of this organization will be the rendering by women of more efficient service to the country, a system to be involved which will be similar to that employed by the New York women, who thereby rendered a service of inestimable value to the New York authorities when military census became imperative for the male residents of the metropolis.

In the service organization to be launched, the old political markings of the city will be followed in that the work will be divided into wards and precincts, division leaders with ward and precinct leaders and workers, all combining for a thorough organizing of the women of the city.

In this work of the local association there will be no political significance whatever, the work being undertaken purely in the interests of further efficiency in taking up the various lines of war work, daily becoming more necessary and more imperative. This thorough canvass of the City of Houston will be valuable in more ways than one, giving an insight as it will regarding the buyers of Liberty Bonds and war savings stamps and of the military service of the householders.

The ward workers will meet again during the coming week to further perfect the organization campaign, which will be conducted in a businesslike manner, the work being done in days, instead of dragging out for an indefinite period.

*File
Mrs. Hortense Ward*