

From the  
National American Woman Suffrage Association,  
Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, President.

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Press Bureau,  
Gertrude Mosshart, Chairman.

For Immediate Release.

Wash Feb 15 -- Jubilant over the second victory for state suffrage in 1917, officials of the National American Woman Suffrage Association today expressed their keen satisfaction with the passage of a presidential and municipal suffrage bill by the Ohio legislature and with information that Gov. James M. Cox will sign the bill.

The campaign for presidential and municipal suffrage, granted by state statute with the Illinois suffrage act as a model, has been conducted solely by organizations connected with the National American Woman Suffrage Association. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt announced early last month that presidential suffrage bill would be introduced in the legislature of each state where a referendum on the question is not being conducted. Complete victories have been scored in Ohio and North Dakota. The victory in North Dakota was the subject of a congratulatory letter from President Wilson to Mrs. Catt and members of the association believe that the White House is quite as greatly pleased with the action of the Ohio legislature.

- The passage of the bill by the Ohio legislature will be the subject of a ratification meeting at the headquarters of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in Washington to which Ohioans here will be invited. Reports of the action of the legislature brought forth much commendatory comment from members of the Ohio delegation in Congress today.

"I am greatly please ,"said Dr. Simeon D. Fess, "This bill does not go as far as I believe suffrage legislation should go but it is a step in the right direction and the first step along a path where many more steps will be taken. I believe the campaign for suffrage by states is a wise forerunner of the campaign for universal suffrage which is certain to come ultimately. The passage of this bill by the Ohio legislature marks the beginning of a new era in the use of the franchise in Ohio."

Gen. Isaac E. Sherwood, of Toledo, dean of the Ohio delegation, similarly expressed pleasure at the action of the



Ohio legislature. Senator Pomerene has been known for some time to favor state suffrage by constitutional amendment.

The campaign for the passage of the presidential suffrage bill in Ohio was under the general direction of Mrs. Harriet Taylor Upton. Mrs. Upton paid a visit to Washington in December and then stated that she felt sure that a majority of both houses of the Ohio assembly would vote for the bill.

Fourth state in point of population and among the first five in wealth, industrial activity and political power, the suffrage victory in Ohio is of large significance.

In connection with the news from Ohio, the National American Woman Suffrage Association today made public a letter written by Senator Robert M. LaFollette, of Wisconsin, to Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the association, in which the Wisconsin Senator expressed his satisfaction with the victory for suffrage in North Dakota and predicted that other states would follow rapidly in its path. His letter follows:-

"Dear Mrs. Catt:-

"Permit me to congratulate you upon the action of the North Dakota legislature in extending presidential suffrage to women. It is a notable advance and points the way in other states.

"As a citizen of Wisconsin, I trust the legislature of our state will enact a like statute.

"There is neither logical, political nor moral justification for any limitation upon the right of women to vote.

"But to secure this right in full measure, constitutions must be amended. The delay incident to the adoption of such amendments justifies the practical wisdom of your present course. Secure that which is within reach while campaigning for unqualified suffrage in every state.

"The opposition is breaking down. Your cause is gaining strength every hour. Go forward with your great fight for a real democracy.

"Sincerely Yours,

(Signed) Robert M. LaFollette

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