

REPORT OF TEXAS EQUAL SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

(September 1, 1917, to November 1, 1917.)

Opening of down-town headquarters, following last year's Convention, having equipped us for greater service, our report will be better rendered under separate headings.

LEGISLATIVE: Included writing and interviewing candidates before election, followed by congratulatory one to victors, with greetings at Christmas time. Headquarters established in Austin for attendance on Legislative session, (January and February,) celebrated with a big Suffrage luncheon and evening mass meeting, presenting Miss Lottie E. Stearns of Milwaukee as the distinguished speaker; many legislators present and some converts to add to her laurels. Three bills introduced: In the House, for Submission of Constitutional Amendment, received seventy-six ayes and fifty-six naes on first ballot and died on the calendar because we would not let it be brought up again. Primary Bill in Senate came out of Committee adversely, with favorable minority. Unable to bring up again. Presidential Bill in House, out of Committee with favorable minority; managed to have printed, giving another chance, but investigation proceedings against our corrupt liquor governor forced abandonment. Several months of the summer consumed in vigorous work in Woman's Committee of Good Government

Campaign, in which our legislative and political card index proved valuable aids in impeaching the corrupt Governor of Texas.

War Service: Emergency Committee formed following Mrs. Helen Moore's return from Emergency Committee meeting at Washington, in February, and activities vigorously pursued to date, including "Plant a Garden" movement. In Houston the local organization alone distributed gratis one hundred thousand cabbage plants and five thousand potato slips. Lots were listed and people solicited to plant them. Suffragists all over Texas registered for various forms of service.

Food Conservation: Pushed at first untiringly through headquarters. Now under guidance of Woman's State Advisory Committee, organized by State Food Administrator, through Emergency Organizer Miss Mary E. Gearing, Professor of Home Economics, University of Texas, our president being a member.

Liberty Bonds: Press Chairman, Mrs. E. B. Reppert, was appointed Chairman of the Eleventh Reserve District, accomplishing magnificent results, which called forth a tribute from Mr. J. W. Hoopes, Deputy Governor of Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, at a Banquet in Dallas, October twentysixth, planned as the annual Suffrage celebration during the Dallas Fair but converted into a patriotic Banquet, falling as it did on Liberty Bond Day. Met with pronounced success, with Liberty Bond speakers and many representing other branches of War Service. Services of our Field Secretary donated to speak and organize where emergency demanded; and State President spoke under federal direction for two weeks in last campaign.

White Zone Work: Started with preliminary steps on the Border through Mrs. Ella Pomeroy, Chairman of Twenty-third District, over a year ago. Stressed at Convention in May, when our president was chosen Chairman of a Committee to pursue this social service, and culminating in formation, June fifth, at San Antonio, of Texas Woman's Anti-Vice Committee, at a meeting of the heads of most of the women's organizations throughout the state, called by our Association. Our President elected Chairman of this Committee, vested with full power to act, and tendering our complete machinery for pursuance of the work. Mrs. Elizabeth M. Speer, who was made Chairman of the Educational Campaign immediately launched, rendered marked and creditable service, forming local committees in camp towns and others nearby and remote where participation in this forward movement was desired. This Committee has but recently disbanded, followed by formation of Texas Social Hygiene Association, on October twenty-fourth, in connection with which our individual members intend to work in earnest cooperation.

Federal Amendment: Covers entire fiscal year, beginning with letters to and interviews with candidates and those later elected. At request of the National Association, this form of endeavor has been rigorously stressed, with a stream of letters constantly flowing to Congressmen at Washington from representative men and women of their districts, at the instance of our Congressional Chairman and State President, and also through our Senatorial Chairmen. These men also interviewed by those visiting Washington, of which there was no small number.

Press Work: Most ably handled by Press Chairman, Mrs. E. B. Reppert, of Dallas, who has accomplished wonderful things in organizing general publicity throughout the state. A large majority of newspapers favorable, running fine editorials for Suffrage. Presidents of many local organizations are conducting departments in the Sunday issue of leading papers in their home towns. Dallas has weekly Sunday and Monday articles, with photographs.

Organization: This has progressed with rapid strides under Miss Lavinia M. Engle, of Washington, D. C. Her plans are to work into field organization many college girls for the "final drive in Texas." We expected to hold an encampment for intensive training for workers from each local organization, on the cool Gulf Coast the past summer; all expenses to be paid in return for certain volunteer services to be rendered following the training period, with a salary after this volunteer service had been rendered. Emergency War Service work prevented, but we have not abandoned hope of later executing this plan.

Generally, our organization has grown in leaps and bounds and far more accomplished than we dared even to hope.

Respectfully submitted,

Minnie Fisher Cunningham.

November 5, 1917.

Mrs. Frank J. Shuler,
Cosp. Secty., National American Woman Suffrage Assn.,
171 Madison Ave.,
New York City.

My Dear Mrs. Shuler:

Enclosed please find report from our Association covering period September 1, 1916, to November 1, 1917, which we trust may reach your hands in ample time for printing, as it is noted this must be by November tenth.

It was almost impossible to "boil down" our report to the required six hundred words, to accord with our National representation, and for this reason a second report is enclosed. We would like very much to have as full a report as possible, and if permissible would be glad to have you use the longer report, which is really little in excess of requirements, but which more clearly represents our activities and accomplishments the past year. However, if this is not possible, the other report figures out six hundred words exactly and may be used.

We have the poster conspicuously displayed, as furnished by you, per your letter of October twenty-second, and will be able to use at least one hundred; however anything short of that, suitable to your supply, will be satisfactory and we will use to advantage.

Very truly yours,

Headquarters Secretary.

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Extra Carbon.