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NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

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PRESS BUREAU

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National Suffrage News Bulletin

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#### SIXTEENTH SUFFRAGE STATE!

Southward the star of suffrage takes its way! Arkansas, 16th suffrage state, conferred what is the equivalent of full suffrage on her women on March 6. By a vote of 54 to 27 the Arkansas House passed the Riggs Suffrage Bill and Governor Brough signed it that very night at a great mass meeting. For the first time in history the soft voices of southern women were raised in a triumphant thanksgiving for votes for women, a thanksgiving which marked the end of a long and grilling struggle in Arkansas. Some of the Arkansas men have stood by Arkansas women nobly through the many defeats and discouragements attendant upon the struggle and to them as well as to the women is due the credit of the success. The bill just passed empowers women to vote at party primaries, after paying poll tax and swearing to support candidates of their party. It also provides that women meet all suffrage qualifications required of male voters. Proponents of the bill say it is equivalent to full equal suffrage, as nominations in Arkansas at the Democratic primaries always mean election.

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#### EXTENT OF SUFFRAGE IN CANADA

Now that the women of five of the nine Canadian provinces have the franchise, interest grows in the amount of suffrage extended in each case. According to the Toronto World the women in the four western provinces may vote at provincial elections, but in Saskatchewan and Alberta they cannot vote at Dominion elections. That the women of Saskatchewan and Alberta should be in a less fortunate position than their enfranchised sisters of Manitoba and British Columbia is due to an inhibiting clause in the Dominion Elections act. When Parliament reassembles in April, it is expected to decide upon some course that will obviate this discrimination. To the more highly centralized Government of Canada the anomaly of being an enfranchised citizen in one part of your country and a political ward in another part is more readily apparent than it is in the United States.

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#### EDITORIAL CO-OPERATION IN GEORGIA

Georgia ought by good right to be the next southern state to enfranchise women. Editorial co-operation in that state is often of the sort that puts new life into suffrage work local, state and national. "You can count on us", writes the Editor of the Wiregrass Farmer, "for a full and hearty co-operation with you in the great work you are engaged in. The writer was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention at St. Louis, and cast two votes of the only three and a half votes cast by the Georgia delegation in favor of the suffrage amendment. Some of the rest of the fellows wanted to vote that way, but were afraid. However in a short time they will be helping to shout the victory that's surely coming when suffrage will be popular."

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#### NOTED SUFFRAGIST FALLS ON THE FIELD

The meagre word of the killing of Mrs. Katherine Mary Harley at Salonika or Monastir brings stunning sorrow rather than surprise to American suffragists familiar with her brilliant record on the battlefield. Mrs. Harley was one of the best known of the suffragists who worked under the banner of the National Union of Woman Suffrage Societies. She was a sister of Sir John French and of Mrs. Charlotte Despard who heads the Woman's Freedom League.

At the beginning of the war the Scottish branch of the National Union of Woman Suffrage Societies set about raising funds for hospitals. A district teacher gave £10 from her savings. This was the first donation; since then thousands of pounds have flowed in, and a chain of remarkable hospital units has been established. Mrs. Harley was administrator of the one at Royaumont. To her had been given the French Croix de Guerre. She had charge of the ambulance transport whose duty it is to pick up the wounded on the field. She was of that picked group of women whose hospital units the British military authorities refused until the French accepted them and proved their value - a value so great that of them a British medical official at last said: "You have set a standard which is quite unknown even among the auxiliary hospitals." The report is that Mrs. Harley was killed while on ambulance duty by the bursting of a shell fired into the Servian lines at Monastir. She was 62 years old.

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#### WHEN AND WHERE MR. EDITOR?

In an editorial of March 7 the New York Times says that the advocates of suffrage have turned their attention largely to Legislatures "AND IN SOME CASES HAVE EXTORTED what they want from the politicians." Either be a good loser, Mr. Editor, or, if you have evidence with which to substantiate this startling and weighty accusation, give names and dates and places. You have before now taken suffragist leaders to task for making statements that showed some lack of faith in the inviolability of legislators. Make good in the matter of this, your own advertised, unfaith.

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#### THE PICTURE OF A BIRD

Senator Ogden Mills seemed to stump the New York Republican County Committee on March 3, by asking in the midst of a discussion as to the form of ballot to be used in New York State, whether it was more intelligent "to vote for a man in his individual record or to vote for the picture of a bird"? As voters women have made a special and sometimes disconcerting record, by their predilection to vote for men rather than for birds.

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#### HIGH COST OF VOTING

According to the report of the Board of Elections of New York the cost of voting has risen from \$1.17 per capita of voting population in 1901 to \$2.20 in 1916. If an anti suddenly discovers that this rise in the cost of New York voting is due to the added expense of the woman's vote it will not be much less relevant than some other anti deductions along this line.

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SUFFRAGISTS APPROVE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN  
AS CONVENER OF ORGANIZATIONS.

One of the decisions at the conference of the national suffrage association in Washington was to approve of the National Council of Women as the initiators of a Central Committee to act as a clearing house between the Government and the Women's National Organizations to insure that national service of a constructive sort may be rendered in the most expeditious manner possible. The approval is based on the provision that the members of said committee be selected by the component organizations and not appointed by the officers of the National Council, this Committee, and not the National Council, to have the power to select the Executive Committee which shall do the actual work. It was in 1888 - not 1902 as was inadvertently stated in last week's Bulletin - that the National and International Councils of Women were formed in response to a call from the National Suffrage Association, headed by Miss Anthony and Mrs. Stanton. Since that date there have been ten presidents of the National Council nearly all of whom have been active suffragists. They are: Frances Willard, Mrs. May Wright Sewall, Mrs. Mary Lowe Dickinson, Mrs. Sewall (again), Mrs. St. John Gaffney, Mrs. Wm. Tod Helmuth, Mrs. Mary Wood Swift, Mrs. Lillian M. Hollister, Mrs. Kate Waller Barrett and Mrs. Philip N. Moore.

To May Wright Sewall and Indiana belongs great credit for the development of what was known as the "Council idea". The Council idea was in itself of the nature of a central committee to represent all the women's national organizations. It was a sort of get together arrangement whereby a clearing house of ideas, plans and purposes might be afforded. This need of a general conference scheme, in evidence early in the history of women's clubs, has remained acute. If there were no National Council today the first number on the program probably would be the formation of one. The National American Woman Suffrage Association, having mothered the National Council into existence, has remained to this day one of its main contributing members, and it seems certain that it will make no mistake in delegating to the more inclusive organization the initiation of the central committee which will have in hand the program of constructive service to be afforded the nation by the women of America if war comes.

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ARIZONA SUFFRAGE BILL PROTECTED

Rep. Harold Baxter has introduced a bill correcting defects in election law. Amendments for suffrage and prohibition had been printed on ballot by number and title only. Revised statutes require printing in full. Representative Pauline O'Neill introduced a bill containing substance of both amendments for protection.

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