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Description: Annie F. Boyd report on anti suffrage convention

Report of the Maine delegate to the Annual Meeting of the National Association Opposed to Suffrage for Women, held at Washington, December seventh and eighth, 1916.

Madam President and Members of the Executive Committee of the Maine Association Opposed to Suffrage for Women: —

Realizing that illness is always a misfortune, mine, coming as it did, when I should have given this report, was a double one, as it deprived me of the privilege of hearing Miss Robinson's

account of the meetings in Washington, which, undoubtedly, was of such interest that mine will lose what little it might otherwise, have had: but, I think that it is the duty of a delegate to make a report and I crave your indulgence for the defects of mine: perhaps, I can read it so low that you can sleep!

On the train between Boston and Washington, I met many of the Massachusetts "Antis" and two New Hampshire delegates, all of whom impressed me as being especially well-fitted for the duties dirolving upon them: nz but, of earres, in a for

duties devolving upon them: we discussed our state problems, and I discovered that the charge of receiving funds from liquor dealers – made by Suffragists – is not confined to our Maine assocciation; but, of course, in a prohibition state it is a more heinous offense.

The first meeting of the convention was held at the new National Theatre, at two-thirty, the seventh, and nearly all the seats were filled. State banners indicated the place for the delegates and were very decorative. Mrs. Dodge presided:

she read a letter from the President of the United States, in which he said that he was so constantly asked to address conventions that he had to decline all such invitations.

Major General Leonard Wood was to have been the first speaker, but he was detained at Governor's Island and, at one hour's notice, M^r Frediric L. Huidekoper, president of the National Security League, took his place and gave a very fine address on Preparedness, explaining the utterly de-

fenseless position of the Uni-(2 ted States and, urging the importance of compulsory military training, eulogizing the Swiss system.

Miss Mabel Boardman spoke on the Military Relief of the Red Cross, which has accomplished much.

M^{rs.} B. L. Robinson of Massachusetts, told how the Anti-Suffragists have helped the Red Cross, rendering great assistance.

A very illuminating statement on the Federal Amendment for Woman Suffrage written by the Hon. Elihu Root, was read by Miss Chittenden: such an argument as his is a very great asset for our organization and was much applauded –

A fine message from
His Eminence former, Cardinal Gibby
bons, was read ^ Monsignor William T. Russell, of the District
and I should think it would
carry great weight –

The presidents of five societies gave their reasons for being Anti-Suffragists and I was much impressed by what M^{rs.} Robert Garrett, of Maryland, said: it was because of her interest in a wage earner, whose employer said she earned more than he paid her, but that he would not increase her salary while she was an Anti-Suffragist: this injustice appealed to M^{rs.} Garrett and we secured an able convert –

mas Talbott of the O Lio association which das accomposisted

Mrs. Talbott of the Ohio Association, which has accomplished great results, called the Suffragists "a boisterous minority".

Mrs. Gilfillan, of the Minnesota one, said the "Antis" were such from patriotism and that the Suffragists were working for political power, not for humanitarian interests: with which sentiment we all seemed to agree!

Mrs. Wells of the Texas Association, said that the men of her

state were to balance the mer-(3 its of the question : if they do it impartially, we must not fear the result –

The evening of the seventh a beautiful dinner was given at Rauschers; all the seats in the banquet hall were taken and tables to accommodate, at least, fifty guests were placed in an ante-room, those dining there coming to the hall to hear the speeches: the experiences of our speakers

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in West Virginia and South Dakota were quite thrilling; and, if any of us had supposed that the paths, through which they trod in the campaign states, were strewn with roses, we were disillusioned!

M^{rs.} Olyphant whom we Maine "Antis" remember so pleasantly-Miss Chittenden, and Miss Bronson gave accounts of the way in which the Suffragists behaved: in one case, all the front seats in the hall, where M^{rs.} Olyphant

was to speak, were taken by them and a huge Suffrage banner, nearly large enough to hide her was placed in front of the platform where she stood: a man, not an "Anti," said if that banner were not removed, he should call a sheriff!

Much enthusiasm greeted all the speakers and a very interesting address was given by Judge Leser, of West Virginia: in that state the men have been of great service and his coming to the dinner was much apmoney hack burn received from

preciated.

At ten o'clock the morning of the eighth, the Annual Meeting of the National Association was called but was not opened till much later: the reports of the last Annual Meeting — or rather a résumé of them — was given; the treasurer's report announced a balance of fifteen cents: M^{rs.} Dodge said that she had personal knowledge that no money had been received from the liquor or vice trusts: more than

nin thousand dollars Had bungt Sport in eambaign state my Thus victories had trun wow: sas made astrong and attend to the

nine thousand dollars had been(4 spent in campaign states where three victories for our cause had been won: she made a strong plea for help in the states not organized.

The Men's Anti Suffrage Association is to help financially and attend to the political work in Washington: those of us who have known something of the demoralizing effect of women lobbyists there, will be sincerely grateful to these

men.

The Connecticul- association 12_ ported ninetun thousand, mun_

The Connecticut-Association reported nineteen thousand members, five thousand more than last year: the head of the Labor Union in that state is an "Anti". At a Suffrage meeting a Socialist speaker announced that "Socialism is Suffrage": so, presumably, all the Connecticut Suffragists agree with this sentiment, as no dissenting voice was heard.

Maryland reported that the Suffragists were daily besieging the Legislature, while the "antis kept anal sending

"Antis" kept away; spending their time in relief work for their militia at the front in Texas and raising four thousand dollars for Belgian Relief work-

M^{rs.} Balch, of the Massachusetts Society, said that the Suffrage amendment in her state was defeated by 153447 votes: they have organizations in 147 towns. A College "Anti" League has been formed, which would seem to be a most judicious move, as the colleges, generally, I mean, women's ones, are Lot. Track

women's ones, are hot-beds for Suffrage. This association was the first one in the state to offer its services to the families of soldiers on duty in Texas, seventy-eight families needing aid.

Mrs Balch met almost daily at the office of the Adjutant-General and did splendid work; as did other "Antis", for their militia in Texas.

The Georgia Association has a most able friend in M^r James Callaway, of the Macon Telegram, as he has pub-

listed mors "late" literature Lan any man in america:

lished more "Anti" literature (5 than any man in America. "His paper has served as a break-water against the name of Suffragism": their Women's Christian Temperance Union has twenty-five times turned down Suffrage.

Iowa expressed the deepest gratitude for the aid given her: speakers and money being most generously sent to her: by nearly every association the sums eint to Jours were

the sums sent to Iowa were mentioned and it was a large amount that she received.

New York has reason to be proud of her Junior League which raised eight hundred dollars for the aviation services: the report spoke of Suffragists' violent methods in waylaying members of the Assembly in the halls, yet they refused to grant their requests —

said

M^{rs} Talbott, of Ohio, ^ that a careful canvas of a factory –

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where three hundred and eighty five women were employed – discovered not one Suffragist: in shops they found twenty-two Suffragists and four hundred and seventy-eight "Antis": which is quite encouraging.

Pennsylvania gave more than eight thousand dollars for national and state work – not her own and sent an agent to Washington for four months. The Pennsylvania Association did most effective work for their militias in Texas, M^{rs} Cas-

satt gave up her usual summer outing focussing the entire season in Philadelphia, looking out for the needy families of their men in Texas: she and other "Antis" provided food for the militia passing through Philadelphia and made many surgical dressings: surely, a most wonderful record.

Virginia reported that Suffrage was losing ground in that state and no mention of it was made in the platforms: There are ten thousand mm-16.

There are ten thousand mem- (6. bers of our organization in Virginia.

The Texas delegation in Congress is opposed to Suffrage: Its "Anti" president, M^{rs} Hills said "We are in politics to keep out of politics."

Owing to the lateness of the hour, some of the state reports could not be read and only a very few words were said by the delegates from Tennessee, West Virginia,

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and Wisconsin: as the reports were called in alphabetical order, that of the Maine president was read, and received with applause: had all been as brief and concise as hers, every report could have been heard; and as those one did hear were of such interest, one can but infer that all would have been so —

At three p. m. we met, for the adoption of the National Constitution and election of officers, at the home of M^{rs} James

W. Wadsworth, J^r, wife of the junior New York Senator: after discussion the Constitution was adopted, as printed, a copy of which I have and, I think, one was sent to each state president: before I left for the convention, Mrs Merrill told me of her choice for the National president and I was very glad that every one else felt as she did, and that M^{rs} Dodge- who has given her time and means absolutely without reserve for years – should have been u-

nanimously elected: the Braine

nanimously elected: the Maine Association was honored by its president being made a national vice- president, to succeed its honorary president, whose term had expired.

In order that the book of the treasurer might be balanced, M^{rs} Dodge made up a deficit of three thousand dollars, I think, and urged the delegates to pledge the running expenses of the national office – seven hundred and fifty dollars a month:

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never during the convention, did (7 I more deeply regret that some affluent delegate was not our representative: however, but two states did offer funds: M^{rs} Brock, of Pennsylvania, made a personal pledge of five hundred dollars and Virginia promised one hundred and fifty. Although, at first, M^{rs} Dodge seemed to feel that she could not accept the responsibilities of the presidency, unless relieved of the financial ones, she said, after her

re. election, Lovern that

re-election, however that
"The money always has come in
and, I suppose, it will, now" –
I sincerely hope it has!
The greatest interest and enthusiasm was evident at all
the meetings: and I was much
impressed by several young
women, who are preparing to
take up the work, when the older ones have to lay it down.

After the meeting at M^{rs} Wadsworth's was adjourned, she invited us to stay for tea,

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and we had an opportunity of seeing some whom we had not met and saying good- bye to others, as the Massachusetts—and in fact, New England delegates—were to leave Washington at nine, a. m. the ninth. I think that all must have been encouraged and inspired by what they heard of the splendid work done, and I only wish that all of our Maine Association could have been present and enjoyed the meet-

ings

On the train to Boston, I heard some rather amusing things: one was said by M^{rs} Robinson, of Cambridge, when asked by a Suffragist why- if she disliked publicity- she went to meetings of "Antis": she replied "Because I prefer to be vaccinated, now, to having small-pox later "—

A M^{rs} John F. Hill- who was to have been our delegate to the convention- was kept in Boston, by her work for the

Allied Bazaar, Me rry Rind Les by sunt me, and I Live mish to acknowledge my induttalness for the pleasure I Lad in the

Allied Bazaar, she very kind- (8 ly sent me, and I here wish to acknowledge my indebtedness for the pleasure I had in the meetings.

Respectfully submitted:

Annie Frances Harrod Boyd.