

such a character that it may be inferred that without it the Legislature would not have passed the act. The decision, therefore, pronounces the act as a whole Constitutional and construes it to mean that women may vote on all offices and public policy propositions, local or State-wide, except those specifically named in the Constitution. The majority opinion was written by Justice Frank K. Dunn and concurred in by Justices Orrin N. Carter of Chicago, James H. Cartwright of Oregon, and Alonzo K. Vickers of East St. Louis, all Republicans. The minority three judges were Justice George A. Cooke of Aledo, Justice Charles C. Craig of Galesburg, and Justice William M. Farmer of Vandalia, all Democrats, each one of whom filed his own dissenting opinion. Attorneys for the appellant were reported as announcing that a petition for rehearing would be filed before the ten-day time limit should expire. [See vol. xvi, p. 584; vol. xvii, pages 11, 178.]

Important additional voting power was decided to belong to Chicago women when on June 3, at the request of the Board of Election Commissioners at Chicago, County Judge Owens ordered that women be allowed to vote for State, Senatorial and ward committeemen of all political parties at the September primaries, that is, that women be treated as possessing precisely the same rights as men in whatever party they may enroll themselves as members. On the next day the question as to whether Chicago woman might vote for county commissioners, upon which Mrs. Catherine Waugh McCulloch had requested a ruling, was taken under advisement until after the Supreme Court decision on the Constitutionality of the suffrage law should be announced.

Woman Suffrage at the Biennial.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs for the first time took official action in favor of suffrage when, on the morning of June 13, at its twelfth biennial convention, in session at Chicago June 9 to 13, the following resolution was presented by the resolutions committee in a special report and passed by an overwhelming viva voce vote:

Whereas, The question of political equality of men and women is today a vital problem under discussion throughout the civilized world, therefore,

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs give the cause of political equality for men and women its moral support by recording its earnest belief in the principle of political equality, regardless of sex.

At the afternoon session of the same day, a telegram announcing the Illinois Supreme Court's decision in favor of the Constitutionality of the State equal suffrage law called forth a jubilant demonstration. And that evening, at a banquet

given by the Illinois Equal Suffrage League to the visiting club women, the double victory for woman suffrage was joyously celebrated. Miss Jane Addams, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt and Mrs. Ella Flagg Young were among the prominent suffragists who spoke. [See vol. xv, pp. 638, 659.]

Congressional News.

The Panama Toll Exemption bill passed the Senate on June 11 by a vote of 50 to 35, having been amended on the previous day by adoption of the following paragraph known as the Simmons-Norris proviso:

Provided, that the passage of this act shall not be construed or held as a waiver or relinquishment of any right the United States may have under the treaty with Great Britain, ratified Feb. 21, 1902, or the treaty with the Republic of Panama, ratified Feb. 26, 1904, or otherwise to discriminate in favor of its vessels by exempting the vessels of the United States or its citizens from the payment of tolls for passage through said canal, or as in any way waiving, impairing or affecting any right of the United States under said treaty, or otherwise with the respect to the sovereignty over or the ownership, control and management of said canal and the regulation of the conditions or charges of traffic through the same.

Several other amendments had been previously offered and rejected. The Simmons-Norris amendment was adopted by a vote of 50 to 24. On final passage 37 Democrats and 13 Republicans supported the bill and 23 Republicans, 11 Democrats and one Progressive opposed it. The bill went at once to the House, which concurred in the amendment on June 12 by a vote of 216 to 71. The bill was signed on June 15 by President Wilson. [See current volume, page 561.]

According to the House program, June 8 was District day to be devoted to local affairs of the District of Columbia. But, on motion of Congressman Mann, the Sundry Civil bill was taken up instead. This action was denounced by Congressman Bryan of Washington, who intimated that it was part of a plan to postpone consideration of the Crosser bill to municipalize the street railways of the District. The Crosser bill is not yet before the House, but the District committee has decided to report it favorably. Mr. Bryan made clear that postponement of District day meant postponement of the committee's report, and consequently less time for action on the Crosser bill and less chance of bringing it to a vote. [See current volume, page 561.]

Amendment of the La Follette Seamen's bill as demanded by the steamship owners was decided on by the House Committee on Marines and Fisheries