

SUFFRAGE LEAGUE IS FORMED HERE

**Dr. Anna H. Phelan and Miss
Elsie Ueland Make Address
in Behalf of Cause.**

A branch of the Women's Equal Suffrage Association of America was organized in Duluth last evening as a result of a meeting in Kalamazoo hall, which was addressed by Dr. Anna H. Phelan, professor of English at the state university, and Miss Elsie Ueland, a student of economics at the same institution.

Dr. Mary Ryan was elected temporary chairman, Miss E. C. Turrell secretary and S. M. Stonim treasurer.

The names of those who joined are: Dr. Mary McCoy, Miss Mary W. Carter, Miss R. Turrell, Mrs. L. Gauthier, Miss Dora Dorfman, W. Kaplan, A. P. Mandlein, Morris Kaplan, Sigmund M. Stonim, Samuel Nixon, Dr. H. C. Leonard, Oscar Covell, D. M. Roberts, Chris McCarthy, Hugh Wakefield, Louis Gauthier, S. Materson, Henry Ringer, Nathan Ringer and Oscar Siegel.

Dr. Mary McCoy Speaks.

Dr. Mary McCoy, who presided at the meeting, remarked that the women of ancient days held a much higher position than do their later-day sisters, and as an instance she gave Deborah, who for 40 years ruled over the Jews wisely and well. Solomon realized and allowed the economic independence of women and allowed her rights to stand alone and plan her own industries. Dr. McCoy quoted passages from the Bible in proof of her statements.

Miss Ueland, following said that in only four states of this vast union had women any voice in the making of the laws to which they were subject, viz.: Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho and Utah, and remarked that many other countries were far ahead of America in this respect. Thus women have complete franchise in Norway, Sweden, The Isle of Man and Australia, and municipal franchise in Great Britain and Canada. The speaker enumerated the arguments used against woman suffrage and proceeded to refute them. That women should not vote because they cannot fight in case of war she showed to be absurd by pointing out that the main business of the government is not the upholding of dynasties nor the maintaining of domestic peace, but rather the social welfare of the people. That the general efficiency of the vote would be lowered were women granted the franchise was disproved from the statements of eminent physicians and judges, who declare that, while there are more geniuses among men, there are also more criminals and lunatics, and that the intelligence of the average woman is equal, if not superior, to that of the average man. The belief that it would break up the home and render women unwomanly, Miss Ueland declared to be merely a matter of point of view, for conditions change every year. The contention that women would lose their influence were there equal rights was very speedily dismissed with the reminder that they never had any influence, for it took 50 years to pass a law giving the mother equal rights to a child with the father, and that the law was only passed after one of the most terrible tragedies in the records of American history.

Ridicules the Argument.

That women don't want the suffrage Miss Ueland refused to allow as an argument against it remarking that the mass is always indifferent to reform and that at the present day a striking example of this is to be found in the apathy with which the good American citizen views the agitation of the all-important question of child labor. In Colorado, said Miss Ueland, women form 40 per cent of the voters and in Victoria, N. S. W. 82 per cent of the eligible women voted in the first election after the franchise had been granted which goes to prove that when women get votes they will use them. The thinking women of this country, continued the speaker believe that it is only fair and right that those who pay taxes should be allowed a voice in the making of the laws. They believe that on certain questions, for instance moral, educational and humane, women have distinct contribution to make and that they will do so uninfluenced by parties or partisanship. They are convinced that the franchise would raise the wage of the working women to a level with that of men and render it impossible for an employer to underpay an employe merely on the score of her sex.

Equal Rights Demanded.

Dr. Anna Helmholtz Phelan claimed for women an equal voice in the government of the country, and an equal right to live and make the best of themselves as well as full opportunity for self expression and self development. She said that many people believed that a woman's duty was bounded by the four walls of her home, and then proceeded to disprove this statement. She showed how the railway rate affected her should she be a farmer, for the profit on her produce depends on the cost of freight—therefore, she is interested in seeing that the railway rates are reasonable.

She buys the clothing for herself and her family from stores which in all probability have purchased their supplies from sweat shops that are in many cases dens of infectious disease. It is therefore to the interest of the women to see that conditions there are improved. Dr. Phelan spoke at considerable length on this subject and declared man to be a "bad house-keeper," saying that the time had come when women must bestir themselves in the interests of themselves and their children and that the absurd point of the suffrage was not that women should demand it but that there should be any question about it in this day and age. She went on to say that in Minnesota there are 90,000 women earning their living outside their homes while in the entire states there are something like 6,000,000, doing likewise and that it is absurd to think that they have no representation in the making of the laws of this country.

Dr. Raymond Phelan spoke a few words on the subject more especially on the social problem resulting from the inadequate salaries paid the greater number of girls in stores.