

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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(Women)

National Woman's Party. "Our Hat's in the Ring"

Washington, D.C. / Chicago: National Woman's Party (1912)



One single leaf folded to make four pages. Illustration on front cover by "Allender[?]". Old folds and a few small stains, overall age-toning, but a sound and very good copy. The text expounds upon the electoral power of the 4,000,000 woman who can vote in the twelve suffrage states, and their ability to make the election about suffrage if they vote as a block, rather than by party. Although the pamphlet lists a Washington, D.C. address, it also bears a union printer's slug from Chicago. A visually pleasing and nicer than usual suffrage flyer. [BTC#401874]

SUFFRAGE IN THE NEXT ELECTION

BY PUTTING SUFFRAGE FIRST and party affiliations second, women can make the suffrage issue a deciding factor in the next presidential campaign. This results from the fact that the free states are "doubtful" states.

Take first the presidential elections: Women now vote for President in twelve states. These states can control one-fifth of the electoral college and cast one-third of the votes necessary to elect a President. In the last five presidential elections not one of these states has gone steadily for one party.

For the congressional elections the same situation prevails. Women equally with men, vote for members of the upper and lower Houses of Congress in eleven states. Twenty-two Senators and forty members of the House of Representatives come from these states to Washington.

In these states eleven congressional districts have elected Representatives but twice. In the remaining twenty-nine districts since 1896 (301 cases in all) not one of these districts was carried steadily by the Democratic party and only five of them were held during that period in the Republican column.

Not only are the suffrage states doubtful, but a small turn-over of votes could have altered the election results.

In all the presidential elections in the free states since 1896, for instance, the average change of votes needed to throw the election to the other party was 9 per cent of the total vote cast. In 1912 none of the equal suffrage states would have required a change of more than 7.8 per cent of the total vote to swing the presidential election in that state.

In the congressional elections since 1896 six elections have been carried by a majority of less than 80 votes; 28 by a majority of less than 500; 17 by a majority of between 500 and 1,000. In 223 of these 301 elections less than 10 per cent of the total vote cast would have sufficed to change the result.

Even a small group of women, determined to stand out for the long-delayed enfranchisement of their sex throughout the nation, can form the balance of power and demand and secure the immediate passage through Congress of the Susan B. Anthony amendment.

At last the moment has come when it is possible to put in execution the plan which Susan B. Anthony, with wonderful vision, outlined as long ago as 1872.

"My view of our true position," said Miss Anthony, "is to hold ourselves as a balance of power to give aid and comfort to any party which shall inscribe on its banners 'Freedom to Women.'"

"If I am a Republican or a Liberal or a Democrat, *per se*, and work for that party—right or wrong—then I make myself and my co-workers no added power for or against the one which adopts or rejects our claim for recognition. I do not expect any *man* to see and act with me here, but I do not understand how any *woman* can do otherwise than to refuse to accept any party which ignores her sex."

And again when she said:

"If all the Suffragists of the United States could see eye to eye on this point, and stand shoulder to shoulder against every party and politician not fully and unequivocally committed to 'Equal Rights for Women,' we would become at once a moral balance of power which could not fail to compel the party of the highest intelligence to proclaim Woman Suffrage as the chief plank in its platform. 'In Union Alone Their is Strength.' Until that good day comes I shall continue to invoke the party in power, and each party struggling to get into power, to pledge itself to the emancipation of our enslaved half of the people and I, in turn, promise to do all a 'subject' can do for the success of a party which thus declares its purpose to 'undo the heavy burdens and let the oppressed go free.'"