

WOMEN OPEN COMPAIGN FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

SENECA FALLS, N. Y., July 21.—The campaign for the Lucretia Mott amendment has begun. The National Woman's Party this morning unanimously adopted the plan of Miss Alice Paul for carrying the feminist demands to Congress with a simply worded amendment which covers the whole field of equal rights.

By EMMA BUGBEE in the New York Tribune of July 22, 1923.

The resolution was seconded by twenty women, representing many States. The only dissenter was Miss Susan Anthony Radley of Illinois, who wanted an amendment demanding a woman's Congress, equal in

The resolution as presented by Miss Paul reads:

"Whereas, only one point in the Equal Rights program of 1848, that of equal suffrage, has been completely attained, and whereas the National Woman's Party, as stated in its declaration of principles, is dedicated to the same Equal Rights program as that adopted on this spot seventy-five years ago,

"Be it resolved, That, in order to bring the complete equal rights ideal to the victory that was won for suffrage, we undertake the following program: The securing of an amendment to the United States Constitution, stating, 'Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.'"

IT was a picturesque scene, differing vastly from the simple gathering which marked the beginning of the equal rights movement here seventy-five years ago. The campaign was launched from the pulpit of the Presbyterian Church, as the other was launched from the Methodist seventy-five years ago. Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton had to boost her young nephew through a window to unlock the doors for the women, whereas now the entire village of Seneca Falls has been alive for weeks in preparation for this event, and the church itself summoned the women with emphatic pealing of the bell.

Purple, yellow and white banners adorned every pew, and pulpit and choir were vivid with banners and field flowers, yellow lilies and purple larkspur and daisies. Miss Paul herself, in white linen, was a slender figure against the brilliant ground, and by her sat Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, the "good angel" of the organization.

Flushed with the success of the Susan B. Anthony amendment, confident of their leader and their organization, guaranteed plenty of money and publicity and counting on a public opinion far less hostile than that which greeted the pioneers of 1848, the women pledged themselves to the new campaign, feeling victory already in the air.

MISS PAUL, in offering the amendment, said that the plan of removing the disabilities of women State by State had been found intolerably slow and insecure.

"If we keep on this way they will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the 1848 convention without being much further advanced in equal rights than we are," she said. "We have much the same feeling now that we had in the beginning of the suffrage movement, that many groups were working in many States, all for different measures, with much waste of effort. If we had not concentrated on the Federal amendment we should be still working today for suffrage.

"With the greatest difficulty our women have succeeded in having a few discriminations wiped out—inheritance, jury duty, place of residence. The next year, perhaps, a new Legislature will modify our hard-earned equality. In Wisconsin, the only State where our blanket equality bill was passed, the succeeding Legislature wiped out two items, the dower rights and the right of women to work the same number of hours as men.

"We shall not be safe until the principle of equal rights is written into the framework of our Government."

numbers and power to the masculine group in Washington. The convention listened to her because of her cousinship to Susan B. Anthony, but nobody seconded the resolution.

Miss Ella Sherwin and Mrs. Ada R. Wolff of New York, representing the women in industry, demanded from Miss Paul an exact statement of the intentions of the Lucretia Mott amendment as to protective laws for women.

"In Wisconsin, where the Equal Rights law was passed, it was said that the term 'equal rights' did not apply to women in industry. Unless this amendment nullifies those protective laws you won't get the industrial women behind it," said Mrs. Wolff.

Miss Paul answered that she included industrial equality in the Equal Rights amendment.

The New York State women held a business meeting this morning at which the following officers were elected: Chairman, Mrs. Clarence M. Smith of New York City; secretary, Miss Adelaide Stedman of New York City; treasurer, Mrs. Lloyd Williams of New York City; State committee members, Mrs. Leiber E. Whittic of Syracuse, Mrs. Charles W. Deangelis of Utica, Mrs. Edward Gould of Seneca Falls and Mrs. Frederick R. Kendall of Buffalo.

Mrs. Belmont took out a year's subscription to EQUAL RIGHTS, the party's magazine, in the name of President Harding, to be sent weekly to the White House.

Miss Janet Cowing of Seneca Falls, who kept the memory of Elizabeth Cady Stanton green in this village when suffrage was not popular, was honored with a founder membership in the National Woman's Party, and \$100 was collected in the convention to pay for this membership. Miss Cowing has presented to the national headquarters in Washington for the "Elizabeth Cady Stanton" room the rocking-chair in which Mrs. Stanton rocked her babies to sleep while devising suffrage arguments.

THE evening session was devoted to memories of the pioneers, with an address by Mrs. Harriet Stanton Batch, daughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, while Mrs. O. H. Havermeier of New York eulogized the memory of Lucretia Mott. The speeches were followed by a pageant showing the events of 1848.

The attics of Seneca Falls had been ransacked for hoop skirts, poke bonnets, lace mitts and Paisley shawls, and there was even an antique "bloomer" costume. Mrs. Amelia Bloomer, for whom the first reform costume was named, also was a resident of Seneca Falls, and came into the movement later, Mrs. Stanton and Miss Anthony both being her disciples for a short time.

The part of Lucretia Mott was taken by Mrs. Edward B. Gould, that of Elizabeth Cady Stanton by Mrs. Claude C. Christopher and that of Mrs. Martha C. Wright by Miss Helen Addison.

The pageant was presented on the banks of the Seneca River, with the actors floating into the scene on barges. More than 500 persons participated, and the river bank was crowded with spectators.

SENECA COUNTY PRESS ISSUES SOUVENIR EDITION ON JULY 21 IN CONNECTION WITH CONFERENCE

On July 21, the Seneca County Press issued a special edition as a souvenir of the National Woman's Party's seventy-fifth Equal Rights celebration. The publishers and editorial staff of the Press are:

Norman J. Gould.....President
H. S. Fredenburgh.....Secretary
L. D. Stafford.....Editor and Treasurer
G. E. Blackford and Francis J. Murphy.....Editors pro tem

Miss Bugbee, who is one of the foremost woman journalists in the country, was among those giving the dinner to the members of the National Woman's Party Press Committee at the Hotel Gould last Saturday evening. Miss Bugbee is much interested in the Party's campaign for Equal Rights.—Ed. Note.