

1912

Third Quarterly Report: Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association

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THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT

MISSISSIPPI WOMAN SUFFRAGE
ASSOCIATION

1912-1913

THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT

After the strenuous work of the State Fair Exhibit which closed the second quarter, a relaxation on the part of the State Officers may not have been unexpected. The Christmas season with its absorbing home interests, also naturally interfered with outside activities, but with the coming of the New Year, the business of the Association was promptly taken up and has been steadily carried forward.

142 letters have been written by the President and Corresponding Secretary; 200 copies of *The Woman's Journal* and 950 leaflets have been sent out from headquarters.

In response to an invitation to attend the Conference of Southeastern Leaders in Nashville, in January, an effort was made to secure representation for the Association at the Conference. Failing in this a letter of greeting was sent to the Conference.

The call for the great suffrage parade in Washington came in clarion tones which could not conscientiously remain unheeded. To make a long story short, co-operation was hastily established between the Executive Board and a few loyal Mississippi suffragists in Washington, and on the eventful day when all the world looked on, Mississippi was creditably and effectively represented in that memorable pageant. A description of the Mississippi Float will soon be given to the press and it is hoped that pictures of it will be on exhibition at the State Convention in April. Many expressions of pride and approval from Mississippians who saw the parade have gladdened the hearts of those who could only fall into line with the marchers in spirit. To have passed by the opportunity to take part in this great demonstration would have been a perpetual regret, and the Mississippi Float was worth ten times the effort it cost to provide for it. The thanks of the Association are due Mr. and Mrs. Harmon L. Thompson, of Washington, who, working tirelessly with the Parade Committee in Washington, and the Executive Board in Mississippi, executed every plan for the Mississippi Float.

Evidence of the increasing interest in woman suffrage is indicated by the number of letters of inquiry which come to headquarters, from men and women and from college and high school students throughout the State. Within the knowledge of the President alone, thirty school and college students have discussed woman suffrage in speeches or debates, within the last three months.

Letters come from political parties endorsing woman suffrage, and some from suffrage societies in the old world. Among the latter was a recent letter and copy of the Annual Report from the Woman's Equal Franchise League of Ireland, with headquarters at Dublin, and another inclosing an article for publication in Mississippi papers, from the English Women's Equal Rights Union, representing the conservative, law abiding suffragists of England. This friendly intercourse of suffragists all over the world is one of the pleasant signs of the swift acceleration of the movement, to world-wide success.

The Legislative Committee will be represented at a joint meeting of the legislative committees of the women's organizations of the State, to be held in Greenwood, March 19. This meeting will be addressed by Mrs. Julia C. Lathrop, Chief of the National Children's Bureau, and its object is to consider methods of securing legislation commonly desired by the organizations represented.

The Press Committee is doing valuable service, having recently added new names to the list of papers giving space for suffrage news. It is pleasant here to note that some of the leading papers in the State are publishing fine editorials championing the cause of woman suffrage.

The Civic Improvement Club, of Greenville, reports valuable additions to its membership, the establishment of a public library, school improvement work and an active canvass in the interest of selling *The Woman's Journal*.

The Equity League of Jackson increases its membership at every meeting. One Motion Picture Benefit has been given, and a Week of Self Denial has been planned as a means of raising money for State expenses.

The prize offered to the one securing the largest number of signatures by means of the enrollment cards, was won by the President, Mrs. Lily Wilkinson Thompson, and consisted of a dainty Votes for Women Apron. The President offers a prize to the successful contestant for this quarter, to be presented at the Convention. Cards may be obtained of her and those signed should be returned to the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Ella O. Biggs, not later than April 8.

The Mississippi Valley Conference is to be held in St. Louis April 1, 2, and 3. The call to this Conference is signed by the Presidents of sixteen States, Mississippi among the number. It is hoped that some of the Mississippi leaders will represent the Association at this important Conference.

Inasmuch as the fiscal year is drawing to a close, and the Convention with attending expenses is upon us, the Treasurer urges that all members who have not yet paid dues or redeemed pledges, and all other friends who wish to help the cause by contributions of money, will do so at once. A glance at the Treasurer's report below will indicate the need for such action. Those who are attempting to finance the situation will be most grateful for substantial help.

Last, but most important, is the attention hereby called to the State Convention, which will be held in the Senate Chamber in the State Capitol in Jackson, April 15, 16, and 17. We wish that a cordial and earnest personal letter of invitation might be sent to each suffragist whom we know, but with the hundreds of known suffragists whose names now swell our roll, that is impossible. Hence, this message is sent instead. The Equity League desires to provide homes for those who will attend the Convention, and those who will do so are asked to forward their names as soon as possible to Mrs. Ella O. Biggs, 1031 Robinson Street, Jackson, who will turn them over to the local committee. Those who will stop with friends are asked to send in the names of their hostesses.

The program for the Convention will soon be given to the press. Among those who will address the Convention are Mrs. Roydan Douglas, President of the Louisiana Federation of Women's Clubs, Miss Belle Kearney, the dis-

tinguished Southern lecturer, and it is expected that Mrs. Craigie, of New York, National Chairman of Church Work, will also be present. Several well known Mississippi men will also address the Convention. Many attractive features are being planned. But the success of the Convention will depend upon the attendance. Therefore, all loyal suffragists should make every effort to lend the inspiration of their presence to the occasion. Never before have Mississippi Suffragists had so much cause to be thankful and hopeful. This movement is not permanent but passing. It is only a question of time when every Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association may adjourn forever, and the time, energy, thought and prayer now directed towards securing the ballot for women will be a great force, consecrated to the betterment of our great and beloved State. How soon that time will be, depends upon the loyalty with which friends of the movement stand true to their convictions.

Come to the Convention; identify yourself with a world-stirring movement for Truth and Justice, and do your part toward sweeping it on to a swift victory.

LILY WILKINSON THOMPSON,
PRESIDENT.

ELLA O. BIGGS,
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

TREASURER'S REPORT, THIRD QUARTER

November 17, 1912, to January 17, 1913.

Cash balance in bank Nov. 17, 1912.....		\$40.24	
RECEIPTS.			
Dues Equity League.....	5.00		
Dues State Members.....	3.00		
Balance from Bazaar.....	4.35		
Contributions from State Members.....	4.25		
Contributions from W. W. Finley.....	10.00		
Contributions from R. W. Biggs.....	5.00		
Contributions from Equity League.....	10.00		
Sale of buttons.....	.35	\$82.19	
DISBURSEMENTS.			
Float in Washington Pageant.....	\$56.50		
Printing and stationery.....	8.75		
Current expenses State President.....	9.92		
Current expenses Cor. Secretary.....	5.00	80.17	
Balance on hand.....			\$ 2.02

MRS. E. M. TUCKER,
STATE TREASURER.