

TENNESSEE APPROVES

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17,000,000 U.S. Women Get Vote

SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT

SOUTHERN STATE FOR SUFFRAGE 49 TO 47

Leader of Antis Puts Opponents
In Position to Demand Recon-
sideration By Changing Vote.

17,000,000 WILL GET VOTE

Will Have Right to Cast Ballots
at November Election.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Aug. 18.—(P)—Tennessee today became the thirty-eighth state to ratify the Susan B. Anthony federal suffrage amendment. The constitutional change thus will become effective in time for the 17,000,000 women in the country to vote in the presidential election in November, unless the lower house of the Tennessee assembly rescinds its action of today in adopting the ratification resolution, 49 to 47.

Speaker Walker, leader of the anti-suffragists, put opponents in position to demand reconsideration by changing his vote from nay to aye and moving to reconsider. The house adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow, when the speaker's motion will have the right of way. Suffrage and anti-suffrage forces tightened their lines this afternoon for the final fight, and both sides were claiming victory.

Suffragists Confident.
The suffragists, however, had the advantage of today's victory, and expressed confidence that Speaker Walker's motion would be voted down tomorrow. The next step then would be the certifying of the action to the secretary of state of the United States, who would issue a proclamation declaring the amendment ratified.

The Tennessee senate ratified the amendment last Friday by a vote of 21 to 4.

Suffrage leaders declare they will not slacken their efforts, as they desire to have at least one other state ratify before the November elections, as they expect a fight to be made against Tennessee's action because of the clause in the state constitution which prohibits any assembly from acting on an amendment not submitted before the members were elected. Both United States Solicitor General Frierson and the attorney general of Tennessee have declared this clause to be unconstitutional in the light of the recent decision of the supreme court in the Ohio referendum case.

Ends Intensive Drive.
Ratification by the Tennessee legislature was the culmination of an intensive drive made by suffrage opponents to have the amendment made effective in time for the women of the country to vote in the presidential election in November. The drive was started when West Virginia became the thirty-fourth state to ratify early this year.

Washington was the thirty-fifth to ratify, and on the same day it acted—March 22—Governor Townsend, of Delaware, called a special session of the legislature of that state to act on the amendment. The Delaware assembly met early in May and the senate quickly ratified, but action by the house was delayed. Finally, June 2, the legislature adjourned with the ratification resolution still in the house committee of the whole.

President Appeals.
Meantime the Louisiana legislature met and efforts were made to have it act favorably. President Wilson appealed to Governor Parker to recommend ratification, but the governor declined to do so. The ratification resolution was taken up late in May and was debated at intervals. Governor Cox, democratic presidential nominee, threw his influence on the side of the amendment, declaring that the democrats of the legislature owed it to their party to ratify the amendment.

The legislature finally adjourned July 8, however, without acting.

While the Louisiana legislature was considering the question, appeals for planks favorable to suffrage were made to both the republican and democratic conventions and the republican convention was tickled by representatives of the woman's party.

The lineup of the democrats and republicans on the vote for ratification follows:

Democrats—Aye, 35; no, 34; absent, 1.
Republicans—Aye, 10; no, 22; absent, 2.

Ends Ancient Struggle.
Ratification of the suffrage amendment to the constitution ends a struggle which began in this country before the colonies declared their independence. It will eventually enfranchise 25,000,000 women.

Women's suffrage first raised its voice in America in Maryland in 1841, when

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Mistress Margaret Brent, heir to Lord Calvert, demanded a place in the legislature of the colony as a property holder of wide extent. And in the days of the revolution Abigail Adams wrote her husband, John Adams, at the Continental congress, which was framing the laws of the infant nation that, "if—in the new laws—particular care and attention are not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion and will not hold ourselves bound to obey any laws in which we have no voice."

Organized work for woman suffrage began in the United States with the Women's Rights convention in Seneca Falls, N. Y., in 1848, which was called by Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, early leaders of Massachusetts and New York, in response to the indignation aroused by the refusal to permit women to take part in the anti-slavery convention of 1840. From the date of that convention the suffrage movement in the United States began the fight that lasted seventy years and ended with victory. Another convention followed in 1852 at Syracuse, N. Y., at which delegates from many states were present and it was there that Susan B. Anthony assumed leadership of the cause to which she devoted her life.

Associations Unfile.

In 1869 the National Woman Suffrage association, with Miss Anthony as Mrs. Stanton at its head, was formed and in the same year the American Woman Suffrage association was organized in Cleveland with Lucy Stone and Julia Ward Howe as its leaders. At first differing widely in policy, the National association working to put a suffrage amendment through the federal congress and its friends working for the same in order to convert the country state by state, the two associations later united under the name of the National Woman Suffrage association. The association's drive for the vote was led in turn by Mrs. Stanton, Miss Anthony, Dr. Anna Howard Shaw and Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, the latter of whom is now its president.

The nineteenth amendment, which bears her name, was drafted by Miss Anthony in 1875, and was first introduced in congress in 1878 by Senator A. A. Sargent, of California, and it is in the same language that the new principle of the national law reads:

"Article —, section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote

shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

"Sec. 2. Congress shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to enforce the provisions of this article."

The amendment holds the record of being before the country longer than any other successful amendment to the constitution. It was introduced as the sixteenth amendment and has been successively the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth and has been before every session of congress since its initial appearance.

Little Progress.

During the first thirty-five years after its introduction into our congress the amendment made practically no progress and until seven years ago it had not been debated on the floor for thirty years. But the campaign for the movement was slowly but steadily gaining ground in the states.

Meanwhile Miss Anthony made a test of the right of women to cast the ballot by going to the polls and voting. She was arrested and convicted and, though she refused to pay her fine, was never jailed. She became, however, the forerunner of the "militants" who adopted the forceful tactics of the latter days of the campaign.

State after state gradually enfranchised its women citizens. Beginning with Wyoming in 1893, by 1913 sixteen states had given women the right to vote, and fourteen states had presidential suffrage previous to ratification of the amendment.

Militancy in the fight for suffrage in America made its appearance with the formation of the national woman's party in 1912. On the eve of President Wilson's inauguration, \$300,000 women, led by Alice Paul, now the chairman of the party, attempted to march from the capitol to the White House. They were harassed by a hostile crowd which overran an unsympathetic police and the capital of the United States had its first experience with suffrage riots.

Continuing their demonstrations over a period of seven years, members

of the women's party picketed the White House with banners in their hands and served terms in jail for the disturbances of the peace which grew out of their parades and blockade of the executive mansion. During the last few months before the adoption of the amendment the militants redoubled their exertions. Several demonstrations were held on the steps of the capitol and on New Year's day, 1919, watch fires were lighted in front of the White House in which every speech made by President Wilson in Europe on democracy and self government was burned. The acts, however, were disavowed by the National association.

Many Special Sessions.

Promptly with the passage of the amendment by the congress the suffrage forces turned their attention to ratification by the necessary two-thirds of the states. More special sessions of the state legislatures were called to act upon the nineteenth amendment than upon any other amendment.

Wisconsin and Michigan on June 10 were the first states to ratify, quickly followed on June 16 by New York, Kansas and Ohio.

Other states ratified in the following order: Illinois, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Texas, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Montana, Nebraska, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Utah, California, Maine, North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado, Rhode Island, Kentucky, Indiana, Wyoming, Nevada, Idaho, Washington, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and West Virginia.

From its beginning in this country, the woman suffrage movement met determined opposition from women as well as from men. The first organized

opposition on the part of women manifested itself in 1873, when a committee of prominent women presented a petition to congress "protesting against the extension of suffrage to women." Mrs. W. T. Sherman, wife of the Civil war hero, headed the committee, of which Miss Catherine Ward Beecher, sister of the famous divine, Henry Ward Beecher, was a member. Various anti-suffrage organizations came into being subsequently, until the National Association Opposed to woman Suffrage was formed in 1911 with Mrs. Arthur M. Dodge, of New York, as its first president. This body, step by step, fought the adoption and ratification of the amendment.

Full suffrage is enjoyed today by the women of twenty-one foreign countries, including the new states of Czechoslovakia and Poland and the ancient nations of England, Germany and the Scandinavian countries. Now that the women of the United States have won the right equally with the men to take their part in the government of the republic the effect of the women's vote in the political life of the country remains for time to show. Many women are joining the old line parties with their men folk.