

The Bridgeport Times and Evening Farmer

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Headline: Gov. Holcomb Asks for Ratification

Sub-headline: 100 Antis From Tennessee Are Coming Tomorrow: Says Tennessee's Doubtful Action Makes Emergency

Article Heading: 200 Women Take Possession of the Capital in the Hours Preceding the Convening of the Legislature - Gov. Holcomb - Calls Special Session on Ratification for Sept. 21- Tennessee Delegation on the Way.

(Special to the Times)

Hartford, Sept. 14 - Connecticut will ratify the Woman Suffrage amendment to the Constitution, and thus remove all doubt as to the legality of the women's vote in the election this fall. At 1 o'clock this afternoon Governor Marcus H. Holcomb appeared before the joint session of the Legislature in Hartford and read a message calling upon the joint session of the Legislature to ratify the amendment.

He said in his message, that under the original call for the special session no action upon ratification could be taken but that a real emergency had arisen by reason of the fact that Tennessee had acted upon suffrage and that the Legislature had refused them [then?] to reconsider, leaving the whole matter more or less in doubt.

Because of the existence of this emergency he thought it his duty to ask the Legislature of the State of Connecticut to ratify the amendment and thus remove all doubt as to its legality.

There is no doubt but that the Legislature will carry out the suggestion of the governor because they might have done so even without the message.

The message of the governor was in effect a proclamation convening the Legislature in special session on September 21 for the purpose of ratifying the amendment.

The message of the governor was a great surprise to everybody, and particularly to the 200 women who early this morning stormed the Capitol and buttonholed every member on action on the amendment. J. Henry Roraback and Lieutenant Governor Wilson were the storm centers of the situation. nobody at that time having knowledge, apparently, that the governor was to ask for ratification.

The news that 100 members of the Anti-Suffrage association of Tennessee were en route to Hartford to fight the ratification of suffrage caused quite a little excitement among the women workers, and there will probably be plenty of fun when the Tennessee special arrives here tomorrow.

There were conferences in every nook and corner of the Capitol this

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Article heading: Legislature to Ratify

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morning, and there were conferences outside the Capitol. Chairman J. Henry Roraback, the Republican State convention was a storm center of ebbing and flowing politicians, Chairman Fitzgerald, of the Democratic State committee was lining up the Democratic members for suffrage, while Colonel I.M Ullman was also doing missionary work for the women.

Lieutenant-Governor Clifford B. Wilson was the man to whom all of the suffrage leaders were looking for advice, and the smile of the mayor of Bridgeport refused to be dimmed by any thoughts of state conventions or any other unpleasant features of the campaign.

As the hour for the convention drew near it seemed to be taken for granted that efforts will be made to adjourn the session without action on the ratification of suffrage while it was equally certain that such a procedure would be met with determined opposition.

Bills which were intended to be introduced into the senate were brought by Senator Bailey in behalf of former Senator John E. Doughan, now town clerk of New Haven. One of these considerably simplified the so-called Blodgett bills, providing the machinery for women's voting, which was the main business of the session.

One Doughan bill provides briefly that Chapter 42 of the 1919 Public Acts be suspended, and that cities over 50,000 be permitted to make voters from Oct. 4 to Oct. 16 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., provided the voters have the necessary qualifications. This act is not to be operative after Jan. 1 next, according to its provisions.

The Blodgett bill, as already published, is much more complicated and provides for individual registration boards in various wards of the large cities.

Another Doughan bill provided that Nov. 1, 1920, election day, be a legal holiday and that hereafter all national and State election days be legal holidays except for town clerks' offices which shall be open solely for the purpose of correcting the voting lists.

Ex-Senator Doughan sponsored another bill which would strike out of Section 711 of the General Statutes the following words:

"When more than twelve justices of the peace are to be elected and nominations are made for justices of the peace suitable ballots for voting split tickets for justice of the peace on the voting machines shall be furnished and printed for electors by the town clerk."

A fourth bill introduced by Senator Bailey for Mr. Doughan would restore to the statutes a part of Section 566, which was recently omitted from the statute revision, and which provides that registration boards shall endorse their approval or disapproval of naturalization papers of voters to be made.