

SCOTT 201925  
30 MUST REGISTER FOR

Label #13920  
NABRIDGE 10 9/17

THE Bridgeport evening FARMER:

Bridgeport, Conn., SEPTEMBER 20, 1917 PRICE TWO CENTS

Page 1

ROSE

AVAILABLE  
and up at

SUFFRAGIST OFFICERS CONSENT TO CO-OPERATE WITH ORGANIZATIONS;  
WON'T WITHDRAW RESIGNATIONS  
(Special to The Farmer.)

CONTENT 11/10/17

UP 11/10/17

Hartford, Sept. 20. At the meeting of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage association executive committee held yesterday afternoon at suffrage headquarters, Mrs. Thomas M. Hepburn, president of the association and Mrs. M. Toscan Bennett, treasurer, tendered their resignations, which were accepted.

FOR US - LABEL  
WSB Bridge 920

They will fill out their terms, however, because Mrs. Ernest Thompson Seton, who was elected to the presidency, said she would be unable to take the job because of work she is doing at Washington. The request to Mrs. Hepburn to stay in office temporarily was accompanied by one to Mrs. Bennett. Mrs. Hepburn's letter of resignation follows:

"The time has come when I can no longer continue to be president of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage association and I herewith send you my resignation.

'For the past seven years we have worked together and I have come to have a very deep personal affection for the members of the board. It is a great grief to me to realize that if I am to follow my honest convictions I must sever my official relations with you.'

"During the time that we have worked together the C. W. S. A. has grown from small, organization to one with over a hundred local branches and 38,000 enrolled members. I like to feel that the hard work and generous contributions, not only of the members of the board, but of the officers and members, of our local leagues, are largely responsible for these thousands of converts to the suffrage cause in Connecticut.

"In the early days of our association we were entirely independent and could adopt any policy that we believed to be good for the promotion of suffrage but today this has all changed. The National American Woman Suffrage association, of which our association is a member, dictates our policy and determines all of our essential concerns; -v I am- not protesting

SCOTT

against this attitude on the part of the national association. I believe that they cannot do otherwise. Today national work is of first importance. Women now vote in 19 states for president and it is obvious that the shortest way to secure suffrage for all the women of the United States is for suffragists to concentrate on the federal amendment instead of trying to secure the vote through state action. Naturally the national association feels that it should dominate the states in order to ensure a uniform policy within its own organization. The question before us is therefore whether or not we believe in the policies of the national association.

"I have reluctantly come to feel that the policy of the national association in their work for the federal amendment is futile, academic, and out of date. After the last national convention, held in Atlantic City, I felt pretty hopeless about the ability of the national association to lead us to victory. The president of the association made a very fine speech called "The Crisis" in which she said that we must change from academic to political methods, but every practical effort I made at the convention to secure the adoption of any constructive political policy on the part of the national was frowned upon. This summer the national has lined up with the Anti-Suffragists in their condemnation of the suffrage work which the Woman's party is doing at Washington in spite of the fact that this is the most practical work which has been done this summer toward securing the passage of the federal amendment. This carping attitude on the part of the national association, taken in connection with their own unwillingness or inability to adopt any adequate political policy has made me realize that I cannot consistently serve as president of a state branch of the national association, notwithstanding my devotion to the Connecticut Woman Suffrage association.

"The National Woman Suffrage association is not the only national association working for woman suffrage. The Woman's party, a younger and more vigorous body, is devoting all its energies to securing the passage of the federal amendment. While, the national association ignores the women's vote in the west as a lever toward securing the passage of this amendment the Woman's party asks them to vote against the party that has refused, to pass the amendment. I think that the Woman's party is

BIBBET FARMER Sept 26, 1917 SUFFRAGE

right and the national is wrong. In fact, the policy of organizing the western women's vote to push through the federal amendment would seem to be the A B C of political methods in any practical attempt to secure the national enfranchisement of women.

"Today, more than ever, the importance of woman suffrage is thrown into high relief. England, Russia, and Canada have given women the vote since the war began. With their men gone it is imperative for the women left at home, the only representatives of their families, to have a voice, in the government. Both industrially and politically women in war time have to do the work of the men who have gone to the front. Our government should pass the federal amendment at once to protect themselves and their families, but we know that the government will not do this unless those most interested insist upon it.

"We have, gone to war for democracy and yet millions of women in our country are denied the right to vote. Simply mentioning this fact in suffrage journals and to suffrage audiences is futile. We must say it in such a way that all the world will hear and that is what the pickets of the Woman's Party have done at Washington. . My sympathies are all with them. I admire their honesty, their self-forgetfulness, and their practical wisdom. In my opinion it is through such women as these, that we shall secure, the suffrage, in Connecticut by federal amendment. In the future - I shall support the Woman's party."

Mrs. M. Toscarl Bennett's letter:

"Together with this communication I present my resignation as treasurer and member of the executive board of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage association. I hope that the members of the board will be able to accept this resignation at once, for I feel that the difference between my convictions and those of the members of the national American Woman Suffrage association with which our Connecticut association is affiliated is so great and is based upon such fundamental matters of principle as to make it possible for me to continue longer in my present official position.

improbable

653

FIXED ✓

"At the risk of being misunderstood, misinterpreted, yes, even misrepresented, as others of my faith have been, I wish to endeavor to set before you the reasons for that faith. I feel that our long association in a common cause makes this incumbent upon me now when our ways seem to lie apart.

"For years we have worked for the advancement and fulfillment of the reality of democracy. We have all felt that this must of necessity precede any true and lasting betterment of the conditions of our country and of our people, for it has seemed to us that so long as one-half of those people have no share in the control of the government under which they live; democracy was a hollow mockery and human betterment dependent upon the grace of those who thought their own thoughts and perhaps thought them well but whose thoughts were not our thoughts.

"In increasing numbers each year the men and women of our state and of our country have been brought to believe in the value of women's possible contribution to the political life and in the Justice of her being allowed to participate therein. I assume that all of us have felt that this value and this justice were matters of firm and abiding conviction. To me they were as deep and meaning a part of my life as any other matters of spiritual faith were. To me they seemed of at least as great a practical and immediate importance for realization as any other subjects for which my creed urged me to labor.

"My position today seems the logical Inevitable one based upon my continuing faith. To me the day of the reality- of democracy seems as much worth working for as ever. The coming of this calamitous war and our entry into it seem rather to increase not to diminish the importance of that work. The necessity for - women's participation in government seems greater, more immediate. If the welfare of our country and of our people required that women be represented in the solution of peace problems, it requires it still more in the solution of war and after war problems.

"Believing as I do, no course appears honorable to me except the one I have adopted. Believing as I 'do' it is basically impossible for me to continue my official connection with a group whose, connection with the national American Woman Suffrage association, seems to require, me to deny the

faith that is in me. Believing as I do, I feel spiritually bound to reserve to myself the right to express freely by speech and action my fundamental convictions. What other work I may feel called upon to perform. I cannot forsake a task "which lies so close to my heart, nor abandon to the vituperative epithets of foe and fair weather friend the women whose convictions seem to be as my own.

"The Washington pickets seem to me to embody the spiritual principle which has been responsible for every great advance in civilization. They and their associates have clung to this faith in spite of every obstacle and hindrance, - legal and illegal, which could be raised against them. And now to crown their sacrifice they are being accused of the very crime their inability to commit, which is responsible, for their doing what they "are doing. "Pro-German traitors, disloyal" are but a few of the names which have been applied to them even by suffragists. Calumny is heaped upon them by those who are unable to see that it is this very loyalty to their country which compels them to suffer. That the day of the realization of democracy may soon dawn, not only in Europe but here at home as well they have fought and will continue to fight, even as their men will soon be fighting. These women have not the time nor the will to explain. Their acts must speak for them with those who can see and understand. They have given generously, freely, not alone in the line of pure suffrage work, but in straight war help as well. Those who impugn their motives must do so from ignorance or malice, they cannot or will not understand, and I cannot bring myself to add to their burden even by my silence."