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Connecticut Suffrage News

The summer automobile campaign of the suffragists, which comes to an end tomorrow, has been one of the most successful enterprises undertaken by the Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association during the last four years of its active and energetic career. The campaign opened on June 15th in Thompson, and during the eight weeks over which it has extended over fifty meetings have been held in halls in the evenings and almost an equal number in the open air in the day time. The workers have been under the leadership and management of Miss Emily Pierson with Miss Alyse Gregory as her chief lieutenant. The young women who have been constantly at work include Miss Ann Tuttner and Miss Vera Kirchwey of New York, Miss Rankin of Colorado, Miss Vera Buck of New Haven, and Miss Catherine Fanagan of Hartford. Besides these whole time workers, Miss Pierson has had the aid of numbers of volunteer suffragists, including

Mrs. Grace Gallatin Seton, who is now in California, but who was with the campaigners in the early days of the campaign, Mrs. T. N. Hepburn, Mrs. Edward Porritt, the press secretary, Mrs. L. F. Middlebrook, and Mrs. C. H. Gallup of Hartford.

Dr. Donald Hooker of Baltimore and his wife, Mrs. Edith Houghton Hooker, Mrs. Hepburn's sister, have also given valuable volunteer help, and the suffragists have also to acknowledge a large amount of aid from local clergymen and sympathizers who have done much to make the campaign a success and to render possible the holding of so large a number of suffrage meetings. At the end of the campaign Miss Pierson sums up the results of the work as entirely satisfactory "There is nothing like a continuous campaign," she remarked in reviewing the work. "The interest is cumulative. One meeting helps the next one and the next, and the people of one town when they hear of the meetings held in a neighborhood town or village, become keenly anxious to see and hear for themselves the women who are invading their territory with this new message."

Three counties – Windham, Tolland and Middlesex – have been completely covered in the course of this campaign, and the suffragists have had energy enough to spare to hold several meetings also in border towns in Hartford and New London County. The final meetings to be held this

evening are at Higganum and Middletown – at both of which places Miss Pierson has every reason to expect big audiences and keen interest. The meeting on Monday evening at Cromwell was a proof that Miss Pierson's fame has even penetrated into her own town and as Middletown is so near to Cromwell, it is to be expected that the people there will also be anxious to hear the woman who has made for herself a national fame during her three years of work in the Connecticut suffrage movement.

As soon as the campaign is over both Miss Emily Pierson and Miss Alyse Gregory are planning to take their vacations. Miss Gregory has taken her passage for England on August 15th, but it remains to be seen whether the sailings will be disrupted by the European war which has unfortunately broken out. Miss Pierson has not yet made her vacation plans public, but both she and Miss Gregory has abundantly earned the vacation with which they are about to take.

Mrs. George D. Harrison of Lakeville has arranged a meeting for Monday afternoon for members of the Salisbury Equal Franchise League and their friends. The meeting will be open to the public. The speakers will be Mr. and Mrs. Edward Porritt of Hartford. On Monday evening Mrs. Harrison with the help of Mr. and Mrs. Porritt will hold an outdoor meeting in

Lakeville in order to reach many of the inhabitants of the town who are not easily induced to attend suffrage meetings indoors.

At the Putnam Chautauqua this week were speakers both for and against woman suffrage. For suffrage the speaker was Mr. Frank Stephens, the sculptor and lecturer. Mrs. Minnie Bronson appeared for the other side, and in her talk quoted many of the assertions that have been so fully and adequately refuted by Miss Goldmarek and Prof. Sophonisba Breckinridge of the University of Chicago. The effect of Mrs. Bronson's address was to stir the enthusiasm of the Putnam suffragists to fever heat and to turn many wavers over into the suffrage camp.

Next Saturday is the day set apart by the National Suffrage association as Sacrifice Day for the benefit of the campaign States. All kinds of devices are being used to accumulate a large fund to aid in these important campaigns. One of the most picturesque is the Melting Pot. The melting pot in this case is a literal and actual fact, not merely a figure of speech. It is the invention and possession of the National Campaign Committee, and bears the inscription "For Our Sisters in the Campaign States." Women from all over the United States are sending their old trinkets and keepsakes to be melted down and converted into coin for the

fund for the campaign States. Almost every woman has some old bit of jewelry of gold or silver of little value as far as artistic workmanship is concerned, unwearable in modern days, and yet of intrinsic value for the previous metal it contains. Some of these keepsakes may be broken, but they will be none the less welcome in the melting pot for that. Keepsakes of greater value might be sold to realize a higher price, and some of the articles sent to the campaign committee have already been disposed of to the highest bidder. Such a one was Miss L. Dock's gold thimble which was not allowed to go into the melting pot.

The women who are in charge of the melting pot have their headquarters in Chicago, and all articles sent to them should be addressed National Suffrage Campaign Committee, City Hall Square, Chicago, Ill. Money earned or saved on Aug. 15 – Sacrifice Day – should be sent to the State Suffrage Treasurer, Mrs. M. Toscan Bennett, Suffrage headquarters, Hartford, to form part of the Connecticut contribution for the Campaign States. Nor need any woman who contributes think that she is thereby neglecting suffrage work nearer home. Nothing can be more beneficial even to Connecticut suffrage work than the gain of these seven campaign States next November. Nine States have now full suffrage – five of them gained since 1910. Illinois has presidential, municipal and partial suffrage.

Seven additional suffrage states – Nevada, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska Missouri and Ohio – would vastly change the color of the map of the United States and would make it different for legislatures in other States to refuse enfranchisement to their women in view of the wide area over which woman suffrage would then extend.

A few of the daily newspapers are pleased to poke fun at the gift by Miss Lavinia Dock of her thimble They pretend to believe that a thimble is an article the use of which is unknown to the advocates of woman suffrage. People who know the suffrage workers in Connecticut know how ridiculous such an assertion is in their case. A few days ago a gentleman was discussing with the president of the Connecticut Woman Suffrage association the best way of winning over an indifferent politician. “Give him some of your red current jelly,” was the advice offered to Mrs. Hepburn. “No politician could resist that argument. Suffragists have provided by the food sales, their cake and candy sales, and their sales of needlework that the homely household arts are just as much their field as is suffrage agitation. In fact, a very large proportion of the members of the C. W. S. A. [Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association] have joined the association because they desire the vote for the protection of the home.

The heavy burden of women during war has been emphasized since the outbreak of hostilities in Europe, even by newspapers opposed to woman suffrage. A Hartford paper printed an editorial about the weeping women of Europe and a most impressive cartoon appeared in a New York paper showing the women facing in desolation and despair the outbreak of the threatening storm. When the full accounts of the world's wars are balanced it is probably that it will be found that the biggest contribution of lives will be found to have been exacted from the babies and the little children. It is an old and well authenticated saying in Europe that no baby under six months ever survives a prolonged siege, and the hunger and overwork that the absence of fathers and brothers brings upon the families of the poor have created siege conditions in many a town far from the scene of combat. While the babies have been actually sacrificed in greatest numbers probably the largest share of the suffering produced by war has been borne by the women, and women in all European countries have had also to bear unspeakable horrors which by the nature of things can only be inflicted upon their sex.