

## WANT THEIR OWN WAY.

The International Woman's Council at Washington City.

The Most Distinguished Gathering of Woman Suffragists Ever Held.

Entertaining Addresses by Prominent Leaders of the Movement.

### SPECIAL WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.]

The International Council of Women has been in session here during the week. It was called by the National Woman Suffrage Association of the United States to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the first woman's rights convention. The sessions were held in Albaugh's Opera House. There were



SUSAN B. ANTHONY.

in attendance about 220 delegates from National Woman's Rights Associations or kindred societies in this and other countries. About thirty associations of this character were represented in the council, which was probably the largest gathering of notable women in the history of this country. Susan B. Anthony called the council to order. Elizabeth Cady Stanton delivered the address of welcome, and, after reviewing at some length the history of the suffrage movement, she said:

"In calling this council we anticipated many desirable results. Aside from the pleasure from mutual acquaintance in meeting face to face so many of our countrymen, as well as those from foreign lands, we hoped to secure those through national and international organization in all those reforms in which we are mutually interested. To come together for a week and part with the same fragmentary societies and clubs would be the defeat of half the purpose of our gathering."

Mrs. Stanton made the startling announcement that if the rights of women were not to be obtained by just and fair means the result would be that they would join hands with the Anarchists, and the second of the French Revolution would be the consequence. This dire threat, when first uttered, was received in silence on the part of the audience, instead of being greeted with applause, as were most of her climaxes. But to the outside public it would appear that the bomb had not been so quietly received. J. D. Cannon of Iowa, a prominent member of the Grange, has prepared an urgent protest against the dissemination of such principles among the woman-suffragists.

At the conclusion of Mrs. Stanton's address, which was often interrupted by applause, Miss Anthony introduced to the audience, in the order named, delegates from Norway, Finland, France, India, Ireland, England, and Canada. Each was greeted with hearty applause, to which brief responses were made.

The first paper of the congress was read by Mary Wright Sewall, of Indianapolis, on the subject of "The Higher Education for Women in the United States."

At the conclusion of Mrs. Sewall's address, Miss Anthony introduced Pundita Ramabai Sarasvati, a native Indian woman, who was dressed in Indian costume. She spoke extemporaneously for half an hour upon the subject of "The Women of India," and received the closest attention of the audience. She said that in the olden times in her country women were completely under the control of their husbands and but few were allowed to be educated, and these of the Brahmins or priestly caste. Only a few were allowed any educational advantages. According to the teaching of their priest, an Indian woman could only reach heaven through complete and perfect obedience to her husband. Since 1878 about half a dozen native women had graduated with honor from the universities. Calcutta has taken the highest ground in the education of women. A great change is being wrought. What India needed was women teachers.

Mrs. Louisa Reed Stowell read a paper upon the subject of "The Typical Woman of This Century."

She said that the typical woman of this century was, in the earlier portion of it, seated on the schoolhouse steps listening to the recitations of the boys. She had left the steps, had undertaken her crusade against college doors, and had now entered the colleges and universities but had, in many instances, taken the instructor's chair.

"Temperance" was one of the topics discussed by the council. Of course Miss Frances E. Willard was the leading speaker on this subject. She had among her audience Senator and Mrs. Palmer, Senator and Mrs. Sabin, and a goodly number of other Congressional people, and her talk was warmly received. Miss Willard's most brilliant sentence was that which she declared that the granting of woman's rights would in no wise imperil the happiness of her home circle, since woman carried with her wherever she went, under any and all conditions of life, the essence of home, which was to her a God-given thing which nothing ever could or would eradicate or eliminate.

One of the most startling addresses so far made before the council was that of Prof. Rena A. Michaels, of Evanston, Ill. Her subject was "Co-education," and in the limited time at her disposal she only sought to discuss the social phase of it. The underlying thought, drawn from experience of college life, was that the girl made her home wherever she was, even amid books, and that no amount of educational training or culture would uproot these home instincts. The women of the West were eulogized even beyond their sisters of the East, and a neighborly tribute by Prof. Michaels to the eastern in which Prof. E. Willard was held met with a hearty response.

Leona M. Barry read a paper upon "What the Knights of Labor are Doing for Women." She said: "We are building around our working girls a wall to defend and protect them from the humiliations which heretofore they have been subjected to. There are no better law supporters, no more loyal citizens true to the law of their country and their country's flag, than the organized working men and women of to-day. They do not demand revolution; but they do demand reform. They do not ask it by the power of the ballot, but by the power of strength, they do not ask it by the destruction of life or property, they simply ask it at the hands of the law-making bodies of their nation."

Hulda B. Loud also delivered an address. She said that she was beginning to question why it was right for her to vote, to speak, and to hold office in the Knights of Labor it was wrong for her to do so in the state? Women's recognition was slow on account of man's selfishness and female timidity; and then, besides, office has not and never will have the attraction for a woman that it has for a man. The Knights of Labor is the grand

educational force among the masses which protects capital and monopoly from the results of their folly and crime."

An address which met with a warm response was that of Miss Clara Barton, fresh from the relief work at Mount Vernon, Ill. Miss Barton is called the American Florence Nightingale. Her name is known by many veterans of the war to whom she brought comfort when wounded on the field of battle, or when languishing in prison, and is honored in Europe, where she served during the Franco-Prussian war as an active member of the Society of the Red Cross of Geneva. The paper was interesting as a comprehensive outline of the work accomplished by the Red Cross Society, and at its close Miss Barton was loudly applauded.

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe's paper on "The Power of Organization" was distinctly Bostonian in tone and remarkable in the coming of the word "organization" into the language. The Association of Massachusetts, between which and the present International Council, it has been rumored there was lack of sympathy. Mrs. Howe said that she hoped to see the two organizations unite in their efforts, and that much good would result from this combination. A happy phrase applauded by the audience was that the watchword would then be to make home the college, court, church, and sanitarian of all true women.

Mary F. Eastman, President of the Association for the Advancement of Women, began her address by quoting from Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Blessed are those who say good things for us."

Rev. Amanda Deyo, of the Universal Peace Union, told of the movement which had given rise to that organization. The society had, she said, twenty-five branch circles in the United States.

Mrs. M. Louise Thomas gave an account of the famous Sorosis Club, its organization, object, and growth during the twenty years of its existence.

Mrs. D. G. Croly (Jennie June) followed Mrs. Thomas and gave a passing allusion to the Sorosis, of which she was one of the original incorporators. Mrs. Croly said that her first appearance as a speaker was thirty years ago, when by invitation she attended a convention for the purpose of discussing some contemplated change in the matter of dress—a woman's hoopskirt at that time measuring four yards in circumference. Her own dress to-day was a braided skirt of clay-colored broadcloth, with draperies of seal brown ottoman silk. One of Mrs. Croly's pet organizations is the Working Women's Guild of Philadelphia, which has now a membership of 700, composed of women engaged in manual labor.

Frances E. Willard spoke of the suffrage work. She illustrated her idea of organization at once in an object lesson. "Do you see that?" she said, holding up her open hand with the fingers spread wide apart. "And do you see that?" and she closed her fingers and put her clenched fist up in an attitude worthy of John L. Sullivan. She went on to speak of the power of taking hold of hands, the accumulating power of organization. It took a great many years, she said, for women to come out in power strong enough to have an International Council.

Miss Anthony introduced Mrs. Marella M. Hill, of Dover, N. H. Mrs. Hill is a little woman, 82 years old. She is bright, and her hair is still black. Miss Anthony said that Mrs. Hill was one of the first women to engage in organized efforts to elevate young women. Mrs. Hill represented the Free-will Baptists. She spoke for some minutes, telling of her denominational organizations, and especially those that helped young women.

The legal conditions of women were discussed at length by the council, the ablest speaker



ELIZABETH CADY STANTON.

being Mrs. Alice Scatcherd, who addressed on "The Legal Conditions of Women in the Three Kingdoms." Mrs. Scatcherd is a delegate from Leeds, England. She divided her discourse under three heads—"The Industrial Property Rights," "Rights in the Family," and "Personal Rights"—and gave a fine address, which was listened to with interest by the audience, who were nevertheless put to the blush by her plain speaking, for Mrs. Scatcherd was much in earnest, and believed in calling a spade a spade. In enumerating the different clauses of the English law relating to women, Mrs. Scatcherd said that previous to 1882, when the Married Women's Property act was passed, no married woman could open or keep a bank account without the consent of her husband.

The address of Mrs. Lily Devereaux Blake, of New York, on "The Legal Disabilities of Women" was an able one, treating of those things in America of which her successor spoke in regard to the English laws. One point advocated was that when women transgressed the laws and were up before the tribunal to have justice meted out, they should be tried by a judge and jury composed of their peers—

Miss Alice Fletcher, who is Special Indian Agent under the Soverain's hill, read a paper on the "Legal Conditions of Indian Women" which went to prove that the generally accepted idea regarding the Indian woman as a slave to be bought and sold without rights or position in the tribe was a wrong one.

Miss Anthony introduced a native woman, the Princess Viroqua, a Mohawk by birth, whose portly person was gorgeously apparelled, and with right good reason, as she was brought forward by saying that she never they had seen her look than hear her speak. Over a patricio of black velvet, heavily inlaid with crystal beading, was worn a short polonaise of scarlet satin glittering with a border of spangles and dangling crystal fringe. Around her neck were ropes of crystal beads, while a giddy little yellow bow confined the lace of her corsage within its prescribed limits. Her head was innocent of ornament and with its dark, bristling, black hair looked like the broad-shouldered bobo of a dormat.

"What Shall We Do with the Neglected Rich?" was the subject of an address by Frances E. W. Harper, who was proud to announce herself of African parentage. In a



FRANCES E. WILLARD.

plain worsted gown, without an attempt at fur, plain or ornamentation of any kind, this mattock woman stood up before the crowded house and delivered her discourse with such telling effect that after the opening lines perfect silence reigned. A clever view of her subject was stated when she said that the class of persons to whom her discourse had reference were those of "plethora" but attenuated souls."

Another interesting discourse was that on "Police Matrons," delivered by Mrs. Susan H.

Barney, National Superintendent prison, jail, police, and almshouse work of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. The gist was an urgent plea for the appointment of a woman at every station-house in order to inspect and minister to such unfortunate of their own sex as should be from time to time brought in.

Esther L. Warner, made an address on "Women as Farmers." Prof. Rena A. Michaels spoke on "Women at Auctions." Laura C. Holloway dealt with "Women in Journalism" and Sarah Hackett Stevenson read a paper on "Women in Medicine." "Women in Law" was the subject treated by Mrs. Ada Bittenberger, who is her husband's partner in law. The Rev. Ada Bowles spoke of "Women in the Ministry," and said that women should be allowed to share the pulpit equally with men. Other addresses were made by Mrs. Martha S. Fields (Catherine Cole) of the New Orleans Picayune, representing the Woman's International Press Association; Mr. Andrew Hagedorn, of Washington, D. C., representing the National Press Association; and Matilda B. Carse, who spoke of what a few women have accomplished in the financial world; Rene A. Michaels, Ph. D., dean of the Woman's College of the Northwestern University, who spoke on "Co-education." Cora A. Benson, A. M., LL. B., Michigan University, and fellow in history, Bryn Mawr College, who chose for her subject "College Fellowship for Women"; Martha McLellan Brown, Vice President Wesleyan College, Cincinnati; Phoebe Cousins, of Missouri, the first woman United States Marshal ever appointed; and by

Chicago.... \$20,000 Erie harbor and

New Orleans.... \$200,000 for purchase

Anarans Pass.... 100,000 Presque Isle

Galveston.... 500,000 Galveston Bay

40,000 Sandusky City

40,000 Toledo.... 75,000 Michigan City

95,000 Duluth.... 150,000 Sand Bch hbr

80,000 of refuge.... 70,000

Humboldt, Cal.... 150,000 Milwaukee

60,000 Oakland, Cal.... 175,000 Superior & St

Wilmingt.... 93,000 Louis Bays....

73,000 Ashland.... 60,000

Greenville.... 13,000 Racine.... 10,000

Vicksburg.... 150,000 St. Joseph.... 10,000

Ashtabula, O.... 39,000 Gangatuck.... 5,000

Muskingum, O.... 63,000 South Haven.... 10,000

Calumet hbr.... 1,000 Marquette.... 25,000

Gr. Haven.... 25,000 Ahnapee.... 5,000

Gr. Marais.... 50,000 Green Bay.... 10,000

Ludington.... 60,000 Kenosha.... 7,500

Muskegon.... 45,000 Keweenaw.... 10,000

Hickman, Ky.... 50,000 Manitowoc.... 8,000

Columbus, Ky.... 25,000 Menominee.... 9,000

Charlevoix.... 45,000 Milw. hbr....

Chesapeake.... 8,000 of refuge.... 70,000

Fremont, O.... 8,000 Milwaukee

Manistee.... 10,000 hbr....

Black Lake.... 5,000 Oconto.... 2,000

Monroe.... 5,000 Pt. W. shington.... 5,000

Ont. nagon.... 12,500 Racine.... 10,000

Pentwater.... 8,000 Sheboygan.... 15,000

Waukegan.... 25,000 Two Rivers.... 2,500

Appropriations in the bill for rivers and canals include the following:

Mississippi.... \$1,385,000 Gt. Kanawha.... 300,000

from mouth of Missouri.... Fox.... 100,000

to Gulf.... \$3,385,000 Illinois.... 200,000

St. Mary's Fls & H. Lake.... Muskingum.... 102,000

& H. Lake.... purch se lock channel.... 1,500,000 & Minn. No. 7.... 162,000

Mississippi.... 625,000 Allegheny.... 25,000

Ohio.... 515,000 Schuylkill.... 25,000

Colombia.... 633,000 Horr. Island....

Tennessee.... 263,000 dam, Pa....

Cumberland.... 210,000 Mo. on onghela....

St. John's.... 150,000 River, W. Va....

Detroit.... 130,000 Saginaw.... 55,000

Red R.... 10,000 Wabash.... 65,000

Black Warrior.... 100,000 Calumet.... 50,000

Arkansas.... 175,000 Plaumine.... 100,000

Cape Fear.... 100,000 La Fourche.... 5,000

Big Sandy, Va.... 31,500 Cascades, Ore.... 175,000

Pascagoula.... 27,500 Columbia.... 350,000

Zazoo.... 32,000 Lower Illa....

Buffalo Bayou.... 25,000 St. Clair flats....

Red River of N.... 20,000 ship canal....

San Joaquin.... 25,000 Clinton River....

San Luis, Cal.... 21,000 Chippewa.... 5,000

Sacto & Feather.... 20,000 Chippewa at

Deep sea moorings in Cal.... 150,000 Yellow Bnks.... 5,000

Coquille R'ver.... 20,000 St. Croix.... 7,500

Coos Bay.... 50,000 White.... 5,000

The distribution of the river and harbor money is as follows