



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

Compliments to League of Women Voters

Statement by H. C. Hampton, Duluth

I have followed with great interest and admiration, the activities ~~and~~ of the League of Women Voters.

They are performing a great service to the country as a whole in endeavoring to promote more intelligent citizenship.

Their work is of the highest merit.

Statement of Mr. R. D. Underwood
Lake City, Minn.
in re League of Women Voters

The American Constitution marked a new move toward government by the consent of the governed, implying recognition of the ideal that the collective will of the people should rule. But Will without understanding cannot bring realization of that Ideal. After a century and a half of test, the women of America now present the first nation-wide system aimed at ~~xxx~~ making voters understand their constitution, and at intelligent use of the franchise.

I regard the League of Women Voters as being an inspired movement, which will go into history as having found the exxential thing which ~~can~~ will make our national, state and local government approach perfection.

(Signed) R. D. Underwood

Compliments

The Bulletin of the Illinois League of Women Voters for May, in a page of "Gratifying Editorials During Convention Week", quoted the Chicago Journal as follows: "The sober fact is that no other organization of national scope comes within gun-shot of the League of Women Voters in its systematic, unrelenting, well-directed policy of getting together the information on which reasonable opinions can be based for the settlement of basically important political questions."

The Republican Herald of Winona, Minnesota wrote, following the convention, "Many men and women have tried to point triumphantly to the fact that no tremendous changes have come about in government or politics since women were granted equal suffrage with men. They seem to have expected a sudden millennium and are maliciously gleeful^{ly} or sadly disillusioned that it has not arrived."

"Miss Edle Sherwin, recently re-elected president of the National League of Women Voters, is neither ashamed nor elated by anything that has occurred since women got the vote. She had too much sense to expect miracles overnight. But she points out that considerable quiet progress has been made since the days when suffrage agitation was the talk of the floor. She believes women are teaching men new political methods."

"Women, she says, are chiefly responsible for the present practice of bringing opposing candidates together to speak on the same platform. Women have developed the questionnaire to a fairful useful art. Perhaps most important, they have worked successfully to a much-desired goal in several local elections by emphasizing issues instead of personalities. Civic needs, the best ways of satisfying them, ideals of government and numerous proposed ~~political~~ policies have been boosted or attacked, as the case demanded, but the men representing them have not been attacked or boosted directly."

"That looks to many people like the right way for voters to go about their electoral duties."

COMPLIMENTS TO THE LEAGUE

Prof. Jesness: ' I think the League of Women Voters is the organization which has done the most to reach the public with information'--- not a direct quote but said following the Institute on Financing the War. Feb. 1943

Christian Science Monitor

" The National League of Women Voters one of the most alert and useful organization in American Life."

Senator Joseph Ball:

" I think the League's broadside on the isolationist issue is 100% and I think it is high time we got busy on this education job."

Gideon Seymour:

"I am particularly happy to have the data on trade agreements and policy, because the Star Journal and Tribune are beginning to get their guns limbered up to go to the support of the reciprocal agreements."

From: The Minnesota Commission of Administration and Finance
(An administrative history 1935-1939) Lloyd Short and Carl W. Tiller.

"Strong support for, and leadership of, the reorganization movement (reorganization bill) came from the M.L.W.V. The League conducted institutes and schools all over the state to hear discussions of the need for reorganization. From their work came a Citizens' Committee, on which women voters and other groups were represented and which took over direction of the movement. Representatives of the league kept in close touch with the Interim-Committee and later with House and Senate leaders during the hearings and debate on the reorganization bill. Altogether, it was a convincing demonstration of what an alert, well organized and intelligently led group of citizens can do in influencing governmental action."

STATEMENT OF FRED ENGELHARDT, PROFESSOR OF EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The League of Women Voters in Minnesota has, during the period involving the last regular and special session of the legislature, devoted much of its energies in developing public interest and public enlightenment regarding the needs of the schools of the state. The League has cooperated vigorously with an organization of citizens of the state to increase the state financial support of public schools at a time when conditions were most critical. This citizens organization comprised in its membership representation from practically every state organization that had interests in education. The taxpayer, the farmer, the parent-teacher, College Women, labor, and other interests were represented at the meetings held to coordinate the activities of all citizens who were interested in promoting public education.

The activities of the League were most effective during the legislative session in preventing legislation that would financially injure the schools and in promoting legislation that would result in a more efficient and economical operation of schools. By concentrating effort on the County School Unit Bill the attention of the citizens of the state was called to the need producing in actuality equality of educational opportunity for all the children of all the people. Although the County School Bill failed to receive the support of the legislature it is believed that considerable headway has been made. The people of Minnesota are becoming increasingly aware of the inefficiency of the small school district as it operates in this state. The League has done good work in educating the citizens in this regard in spite of the entrenched resistance that encounters every suggestion for a change in the existing order. The continuous and persistent insistence on better school facilities for all children effected through a school government that is economical and efficient will produce in the long run results. There is no other way that will drive out prejudices, entrenched privilege, and ignorance and it is hoped that the League will continue on in its good work.

(SIGNED)

Fred Engelhardt

"Education, by which we had thought to keep the electorate competent for self-government, was breaking down because we had no scale of values and no real objective in our educational system. For the masses, at its best, it had become a confused jumble of "book learning" that gave them neither values to strive for nor that knowledge and intellectual training which might have been of help in understanding the complexity of the forces with which they had to deal intelligently.

COMMENTS ON LEAGUE BY LEGISLATORS

"I assure you that every letter that I received was appreciated very much and solicit any of your letters or correspondence of any kind and all letters of importance which will help your League I always have read from the desk so the whole house can hear them."

(Signed) John J. White, 55th district

"Personally I am very anxious to get the views and opinions of the members of your organization in regard to legislation. It is a big help in studying all sides of such questions. In fact I feel that the legislator is not contacted often enough by organizations of the people and a great deal of the time he is left to try and figure out how the people view pending measures, with no help or suggestions at all. . . . At the present time the only way the women of our state can have any voice in law-making in the state is by means of such organizations as the League of Women Voters, and surely they can do much to improve legislation by studying the measures that are introduced and taking an active part in contacting members of the legislature with their opinions and suggestions. I can say for one that I welcome their assistance."

(Signed) Fay Cravens, Senator
55th District

"It has been my observation that the League of Women Voters are very well informed on public questions, and they probably come as near to being a cross-section of our social structure as any organization I know of. I hope that I may continue to have the benefit of your views and reactions in the future as in the past."

(Signed) Harold Knutson, Representative
6th Congressional District

"I believe anyone who sincerely desired to represent the wishes of the people of the district could best represent them with the knowledge of what the people wanted. I found your letters very helpful and will say that I hope you continue the good work. While in the legislature I received three letters from your organization and many from individuals who belong. I used them to back up the stand I took in supporting two bills on education. Your letter on taxation perhaps could have been made clearer. I cannot say I understood just what means of taxation your organization suggested. I will soon be called to a special session, and I hope your organization will continue to remind me of your wishes on the different matters on legislation."

(Signed) John W. Cox, 55th district

The only hesitation I have in complying with the request to make a statement regarding the work of the League of Women Voters is due to a doubt lest it seem a bit condescending for a man to venture to appraise the work of a group of women. To avoid placing myself in such predicament let me repeat at the outset what I have said more than once to male friends, to wit: I wish we could be assured that men of corresponding social and intellectual status could be counted on to vote as intelligently on public issues as do the members of this women's league. I am sure, in fact, that men might well emulate the example which their womenfolk have set. // To meet periodically for a penetrating and non-partisan study and discussion of issues which are of basic importance in various fields of public welfare ranging from the problems of the precinct to those of international relations seems to me to be as substantial a contribution toward good government as most of us are likely to be able to make. That at least one lay group is pledged to a program of such study is indeed an occasion for hope in a democracy which is not without its occasions for regret. //

Leal A. Headley
Department of Psychology and Education
Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota

FROM THE MINNEAPOLIS LEAGUE'S BIRTHDAY MAIL-BAG

Only when a League has woven itself into the very life of a community after years of consistent work and development do we begin to realize what a contribution it has to make to better citizenship. It is difficult to think of more thrilling evidence of progress made and work accomplished within three short years than the annual meeting of the Minneapolis League of Women Voters held November 23rd.

It was distinctly a business meeting, and inspiration was in the business—a very good place for it to be, by the way. The chairmen of the committees which have attended the meetings of the different divisions of the city government through the year made their reports: Mrs. Harry Rubins, for the City Planning Board; Mrs. George Titus, for the Library Board; Miss Florence Burton, the Board of County Commissioners; Mrs. C. H. Chalmers, Board of Estimate and Taxation; Mrs. Lloyd Smith, Civil Service Commission. Mrs. F. J. Smith, City Council; Mrs. Pierce Atwater, Board of Education, and Mrs. F. W. Wittich, Board of Public Welfare. Mrs. W. I. Marley spoke on "High Lights of the State Efficiency in Government Program."

Mrs. R. T. Hargreaves, chairman of the Committee on International Co-operation to Prevent War, announced as the first work of her committee for the winter a series of luncheon lectures to be given by Professor Bryn-Jones, exchange professor from Oxford at Carleton College. The first lecture will be given at the Radisson Hotel December 11th on the subject "Parties, Personalities and Prospects in British Politics." Mrs. F. E. Cobb announced the working plans for the Legislative Committee which will train speakers on the various planks in the League's legislative platform for the year.

Mrs. Ruth Haynes Carpenter, manager, spoke of the work of the city office and reported that during the past year with a staff of "two and one-half persons"—two full-time and one half time workers—it had distributed by mail or otherwise a total of 231,610 pieces of material, or an average of 634 pieces daily throughout the year. Best of all events of the meeting, however, was the report of the nominating committee and the re-election of Mrs. McKnight as president for Minneapolis for another year. Mrs. McKnight read letters of greeting and congratulation from men well known in many of the activities of the city. We regret that space does not permit us to publish them all and publish them in full.

From George E. Leach, Mayor of Minneapolis—

"I am very much interested in the work of the League. I believe that you are a real problem to office-seekers; to the best of them difficult, and to my judgment absolutely necessary. The greatest problem before the country today is teaching people how to vote. This is a matter of continual work as every campaign is different, and I am therefore enthusiastic over your work and believe that it is of great value."

From Lotus D. Coffman, President of the University—

"It has been a pleasure to follow the work of the League of Women Voters, not merely

because of the interest of the League in political questions but because of its constructive program. I sincerely hope that the efforts of the League will be continued."

From Edward F. Waite, Judge of the District Court—

"I have been much interested in the growth and development of the League of Women Voters, locally and in its state and national organizations. Its fine educational work, its persistent avoidance of the partisan attitude in politics, and its sane and yet progressive stand upon public questions generally, have commanded my admiration. I trust the League will long continue to be as wisely managed and as useful to the community as it has been heretofore."

From Norman Wilde, Professor of Philosophy at the University—

"I am very glad indeed of an opportunity to express my admiration for the work of the League of Women Voters—admiration both for the insight of its leaders in their grasp of the fundamental problem of democracy, and also for the tireless energy with which its members are working for the solution of that problem. . . . The task is endless and the beginning difficult, but so much the more astounding is the actual achievement of these first few years, an achievement that is a tribute more adequate than words to the statesmanlike wisdom and heroic persistence of those who are carrying on this work. Certainly no movement of the day can compare with it in its promise for the realization of intelligent democracy."

From W. O. Winston, Business Man—

"The League of Women Voters, in my opinion, is doing more than any other association or organization, political or non-political, along constructive and practical lines for the education of both men and women in the state to an intelligent exercise of their right of franchise."

From Fred B. Snyder, Attorney and Regent of the University—

"I consider the League of Women Voters one of the most wholesome, enspiriting agencies for good in the field of politics. It has done as much, if not more than, any other organization to acquaint women with their obligations as voters and to furnish to them the information which has enabled them to think and act for themselves. . . ."

From W. F. Webster, Superintendent of Schools—

"The work which you are doing and the work which the schools are trying to do are so analogous that, if I should commend the schools, I must commend the League of Women Voters. . . . Your absolute fairness, the acumen displayed in avoiding criticism for partisan leanings and the high ideals which you have set for yourselves, together with large, generous altruism in the work which you are doing, make this organization of the League of Women Voters invaluable in the community."

From William Anderson, Director, University Bureau for Research in Government—

"There is no more important single organization for political education in the United States today than the League of Women Voters. Every woman citizen ought to get into the movement."

THE SHORTER WORKING DAY

By Louise E. Shutz,

Superintendent of the Division of Women and Children, State Industrial Commission

The Division of Women and Children with its corps of six investigators is in a better position to know the need of legislation limiting the hours women may work than is any other organization.

We find that young girls are often expected to devote their entire time to work at the switchboard in the telephone exchange in the smaller towns. There is no limitation placed on the number of hours they may work in the telephone exchanges outside of the larger cities. Since there is a disposition on the part of many employers to expect unreasonably long hours from the employees on the ground that the girls are really busy but few hours and have much time to devote to sewing for themselves, we believe that there should be legislation limiting the number of hours women may work in all telephone exchanges.

When making inspections in the smaller towns in the state, we make it a practice to go into the restaurants and inquire from the girls about the hours that they work. We have visited many restaurants in the smaller towns and cities in the past two years. Most of the women we talked with worked more than the 58-hour limit set for such workers in the four largest cities of the state. Ninety-five of these workers were on duty from 80 to 85 hours a week, and two were found who had worked more than 100 hours. It is quite the common thing for these women to be on duty from 10 to 12 hours a day, and in a few cases of from 15 to 16 hours a day.

Furthermore, we have no law that in any way limits the number of hours that women can be forced to work in hotels, anywhere in the state, in offices and in elevators. If it is necessary that women engaged in certain occupations should be protected, then certainly it ought to be necessary to safeguard women working at all occupations outside of the home.

There are many reasons why we advocate the 8-hour day. In the first place there is a double burden of domestic duties and wage earning that fall on many women. Most girls do their mending, their laundry work, and get their own meals. Many women do general housework in their homes outside of the regular working hours. The working day then should be shortened to permit women carrying this double burden, without unduly taxing them to the very limit of their strength.

Most important of all, when women work long hours infant mortality rises and surviving children are injured by inevitable neglect. The female sex is peculiarly susceptible to both fatigue and disease, to the strain of industry. Married and unmarried women are alike subject to the physical limitations of their sex, and suffer permanent injury from overstrain, from excessive speed and complexity, and from prolonged standing.

Many objections will be raised to prove the impracticability of an 8-hour working day. Employers will say that they will have to close down their business, that there will be less output; that hotels and restaurants in the smaller towns will have to close, that wages will decrease, and that the shorter work day is all right for the larger cities, but it won't do in the smaller towns because stores must be kept open evenings to accommodate the farmers, and so on, and so on, ad infinitum.

HEADQUARTERS NOTES

Since our state convention which closed October 7th, we have sent to each one of our local chairmen:

Four form letters: one outlining the Getting-Out-the-Vote work, one on organization, one on the general legislative program, and one on education week.

Two report forms: One on organization, one on the Getting-Out-the-Vote work.

Sample literature as follows:

Poster for the Getting-Out-the-Vote work
Platforms of the three political parties
Mrs. Park's pledge for conscientious citizens
Sample state ballots with instructions on How, Where, When and Why to Vote
Complete legislative program
Outline for Education Week
"A Few Facts on Education"
"The Compulsory School Attendance Law"
Proposed bill for part-time schools
M. E. A. education poster
M. E. A. leaflet on the "county unit"
"Teacher Helpers in the Rural Districts"
"The State Owes Equal Opportunities to all Its Children"

Set of 3 education posters

During the same period we have sent out on order from local Leagues 5,000 sample ballots, 2,750 posters, 1,000 copies of the platforms of the political parties, and 1,000 copies of the Pledge for Conscientious Citizens. A letter has also been sent to the newly elected members of the state Legislature enclosing a copy of our legislative program. With the general correspondence, the three issues of *The Woman Voter* published since the convention, and miscellaneous literature distributed, this makes a total of 17,696 pieces of material sent out from the state office in this period—or 305 pieces of material daily.

This is not perhaps a staggering total but it has been enough to keep a staff of two persons pretty well occupied.

In addition to the material listed above, new material at state headquarters includes:

The Sheppard-Towner Act—a new reprint
The Shorter Working Day by Louise Schutz.
(A part of this article appears on this page of the Voter.)

The Eight-Hour Day and Rest at Night by Statute. Publication of the National Consumers' League, 5c each.

For eighty years and more, the length of the working day has been argued in the United States. It has been hard to get at the truth. Social workers and labor leaders have asked for the short working day on humanitarian and political grounds. They know that men and women who work from sun to sun cannot share in family life, or take that part in the community which citizenship requires.

Now captains of industry themselves admit that it is a good business to put men on the 8-hour day basis. They even say that overtime work is inefficient. It sounds very plausible to say that if a woman can accomplish so much work in eight hours, she can do twice as much in sixteen. Arithmetic teaches us that that assumption is correct, but experience has taught us otherwise.

The sentiment of the states in which an 8-hour day law is already in effect is general satisfaction with the law. It has proved practicable and feasible even in the smaller towns.

Comments on the League of Women Voters
by husbands of League women.

"A keener appreciation of the too little understood affairs of government has been evidenced among our readers who are members of the League of Women Voters. They are responsive to public appeals for good government, commendably inquisitive regarding local affairs and splendidly informed on public matters."

H. Z. Mitchell, Editor

Bemidji Daily Pioneer

The Minnesota Woman Voter

Published Monthly by the
MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

At 1639 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn., and
406 Sixth Ave. So., Minneapolis, Minn.

Marguerite Milton Wells.....President
Emily ChildEditor

Yearly subscription (to members only).....25 cents

Entered as Second Class Matter at the Post Office at
Minneapolis, Minn., under the Act of March 3rd, 1879.

This expanded and special number of the VOTER is issued in response to a growing membership-consciousness on the part of Minnesota Leagues of Women Voters. Its purpose is to introduce new members to the League—its program and organization—and also to furnish old members with material that they may use in efforts to extend membership. The interest in extending memberships has been spontaneous in many directions.

There has never been a time when the League did not present itself as an every woman's organization. It has always desired and solicited wide membership. Emphasis in Minnesota, however, has been on something else; it has been on the effort to make of the local League a real League, an organization of a special and definite kind. It has been recognized that the League of Women Voters is not just another woman's organization with a new name and the same old purpose and procedure. Yet the women who make up the League's membership except in the case of very young women, have been the same women that have made up membership of other organizations in the past, with their so different purposes and methods. Thus it has been necessary to drill ourselves in new methods of work, new procedure, new fields of operation, new purposes. We have, in brief, had to learn how to work more responsively, as enfranchised not just as unenfranchised members of society.

It is still necessary in every League to emphasize what may be called the pattern of the League, to drill ourselves as officers and boards in League methods and procedure, to induct new members with infinite care into League ways and League understanding. But with the tenth birthday, all at once, there came from many directions the urge to emphasize, also increase in membership.

Every day brings to the office news of some local League that has recently added to its membership. It is to assist these Leagues in resending the League to new friends and to help the new members to understand the League that there has recently been printed a pamphlet—"Some Achievements of the First Ten Years."* It is still further to extend assistance to new and old members that this special VOTER is issued.

* May be ordered from State League headquarters at 75 cents per hundred.

ARE YOU A MEMBER?

A membership-at-large in the state League is provided for those living in communities where there is no local League of Women Voters. It includes a year's subscription to the VOTER and makes it possible for us to keep such women informed as to our publications and activities by occasional letters during the year. Mrs. F. W. Wittich of Minneapolis was recently named by the state board as chairman to direct the contact of the state League with its members.

The membership fee is \$1.00. Send to us for an application blank and information about the work of the League which we shall be glad to send you.

Five standing committees representative of different phases of Public Welfare in Government were provided for in the original plan of organization for the National and State League of Women Voters. During the years of campaigning for suffrage, women, while still unenfranchised, used their "indirect influence" in behalf of certain legislative standards and accomplishments on subjects that touched them closely. The Public Welfare committees in the League are a heritage from those days. Through them the League has conserved the knowledge and interest thus developed in connection with legislation affecting child welfare, education, women in industry, living costs, social hygiene and the legal status of women.

The Committee on Social Hygiene, Mrs. Woodard Colby of St. Paul, chairman, is the only one of these committees that is not represented by a statement in this issue. Since there is no item in the committee program active at present, and since Mrs. Colby is not in the state this winter, we did not ask her to prepare an article for inclusion in this number.

The National League chairman of this committee, Mrs. Ann Webster, has said: "Many of our state laws relating to social hygiene have been enacted through the interest and the hard work of women. There are hundreds of these laws; in fact, each state is so well equipped that a fairly good social hygiene program could be carried out in every state if the laws now on the statute books were enforced." Subjects for study in the committee program cover criminal court procedure, the administration of probation systems and penal institutions, and the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

HONOR ROLL

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The fund to be presented by Minnesota in honor of Mrs. Ueland, Mrs. Noyes, Mrs. Harrison, Miss Lawrence, Dr. Hurd and Miss Sanford is in charge of Mrs. A. L. Searle. Contributions may be sent to her at 1639 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis. Please designate which name you wish to honor.

File Compliments
Minn. League

THE LEAGUE—AS IT LOOKS TO ITS OFFICERS

The League of Women Voters means, to me, something outstanding in pioneer achievement. It has not duplicated any former effort of organized women but has struck out into a new path, the destination being an informed and interested, an alert and active group of women, devoted to the ideals of better government and obedience to enacted law.

MRS. M. J. DOWLING, *Olivia.*

To me the League is an organization where women may learn the art of unbiased thinking upon matters of public concern and acquire ability to formulate opinions based on facts rather than prejudices or emotions. It offers an opportunity for women to investigate thoroughly, decide impartially, and act unitedly. It trains for effective participation in Government.

MRS. KURT STAI, *St. Cloud.*

The League of Women Voters is to me the outstanding organization of women for sane, practical, progressive solution of community and national problems. The ills of this old world are all due to ignorance and inaction, both of which are anathema to League women. Not to be interested in the League of Women Voters would be for me to hide my head in the sand as the ostrich is popularly supposed to do—voluntarily to blind myself to opportunities to get unbiased information on vital issues in world affairs. While I live I wish to be alive to everything about me; the air we breathe is charged with politics and whether we wish it or not, we are every day subscribing to some issue either by our indifference or by our consent, intelligently or non-intelligently. The League of Women Voters is the only organization that attempts to study in an unbiased, unpartisan way candidates and issues in politics, to help us understand local and world affairs, that we may intelligently and therefore helpfully serve the best interests of our communities—in other words the League of Women Voters both preaches and practices the highest ideals of good citizenship.

MRS. J. D. MORRISON, *Winona.*

Membership in the League of Women Voters links me with a potential force, nation-wide, working for a better informed electorate, a more efficient government, and improved social conditions and standards that affect my home and community. As a citizen how can I afford to be outside?

MRS. EDWARD RINGSTAD, *Northfield.*

Why do I believe in the League? Because it has enabled me to co-operate more intelligently for better government in national, state and local affairs.

MRS. J. PIERCE WOLFE, *Moorhead.*

So far the League is the only woman's organization founded for the sole purpose of education for participation in government, a most necessary factor in every responsible woman's existence. It furnishes the chance to use her right to vote intelligently and build up constructively a better heritage for her children.

MRS. CARROLL W. SHERWIN, *Monticello.*

To me the League of Women Voters is first of all an outstanding educational organization. Its field is broad and varied but its limits clearly defined. It concerns itself with adult education and its educational goals are defined—more intelligent and more active citizens and greater efficiency and welfare in government. Its methods of procedure are carefully thought through and its education means not simply passive information but active participation. Membership in the League of Women Voters means to me an opportunity of supporting a practical and constructive citizenship program and the privilege of association with thoughtful, clear-headed, public-spirited women who are inevitably interesting because interested in the multitude of local, national, and international projects of the League.

MRS. HARRINGTON BEARD, *Minneapolis.*

There are many reasons why I believe the League of Women Voters should receive the support not only of women but of all voters. Among them is the very important one that there is no other local or national group which is organized solely for political education with a procedure which gives each member a share in the responsibility of making the program and emphasizes in that program study as a preparation for action. Its open minded, unpartisan study of problems of local, national and international importance is well known. Its systematic and thorough way of getting together the accurate, scientific information on every subject in its program is not the least of its many accomplishments.

MISS CORNELIA LUSK, *St. Paul.*

My reason for joining the League of Women Voters was that I was extremely ignorant on all matters connected with the vote.

I found in the plan of work outlined by the National League that provision was made for the needs of the new as well as the more seasoned voter.

That all information on the program sent out from the state and national headquarters was accurate and unbiased.

That it was a program which prepared for action.

That through its three departments I could work for causes nearest the hearts of most women.

Nothing I have ever done outside my home has given me the thrill that comes from watching the wheels of government go round and knowing something, though it be ever so little, of the motive power behind these wheels—a knowledge I could never have gained outside the League.

These are just a few of the reasons why I believe in League membership. There is one other gift I have had from my League membership which I saved for the last. It is the opportunity it has afforded me for contact with the women of vision, culture, understanding and tolerance who are the backbone of the leadership of the League of Women Voters.

MRS. CHARLES S. ROULO, *Duluth.*

SOME EMINENT OPINIONS

on the
League of Women Voters

I have known the work of the League of Women Voters since the League was formed. It seems to me that in all those years the League of Women Voters has been the sanest, bravest, wisest, most effective organization of forward-looking American women.

William Allen White
The Emporia Gazette

The National League of Women Voters has proved itself a non-partisan organization which furnishes to its members an able and thoroughly informed discussion of all political questions. It is also equipped to give advice in regard to forward-looking legislation on both state and federal matters.

Ellen F. Pendleton
President Emeritus, Wellesley College

I cannot speak too highly of the League of Women Voters. They have been a wonderful help to me in trying to perform my duty as I saw it.

Geo. W. Norris
United States Senate

I regard the League of Women Voters as one of the most important agencies for the raising of the political intelligence of the country. ...Its policies have seemed to me to have been determined by a willingness to find the facts and face them and a desire to think straight.

W. A. Neilson
President, Smith College

Wherever I have gone in the United States during the last ten years, I have never failed to find the League of Women Voters in the front ranks of the intelligent civic-minded element of any community. The national and the local representatives of the League of Women Voters made a profound impression upon the Commission on Public Service Personnel, and upon those who attended the Commission's hearings throughout the United States during the past year in the course of its inquiry. We saw more clearly than ever before that the League is second to no civic organization in this country as an agency of imaginative, informed, and practical civic life.

Luther Gulick, Director of Research
Commission of Inquiry on
Public Service Personnel

What I would like to remark on especially is that its (the League's) work has retained its vigor in the communities which have come under my observation, and how it continually draws on new sources of information and new groups of people bringing the two together.

Margaret Culkin Banning

I am increasingly impressed with the valuable work which the League of Women Voters is performing from the standpoint of training prospective members of boards, commissions, and committees of Government. In many instances the most able and informed persons on such agencies with which we have come in contact are the League of Women Voters representatives.

Donald C. Stone,
Public Administration Service

This organization (The League of Women Voters) can be trusted to take an attitude on such a question as the protection of women and children which is at once scientific and humanitarian, avoiding the extremes represented by the radicals and by the industrialists, and remaining uninfluenced by the very vocal group of feminists who demand freedom for working women from all protective laws.

Whenever I appear before a legislative committee to speak for the prevention of child labor, or for the eight-hour day and minimum wage for women, I find that the hearing is either under the auspices of or ably assisted by the League of Women Voters, and I find also that the Federal measures which seem to me desirable are those that the League is backing. In this field, certainly, the League has done most valuable work.

Alice Hamilton
School of Public Health
Harvard University

During its fifteen years of work, the League of Women Voters has demonstrated that its ideals--technical understanding of the programs it advocates, courage and persistence in the face of opposition which seeks to discredit motives and confuse issues, and improvement in the methods and techniques of public education in governmental problems--are not visionary and impractical.

Miss Grace Abbott

Debt-weary and tax ridden Americans will applaud the League of Women Voters' timely campaign against the spoils system.

New York World Telegram Editorial

Without a competent government service personnel, there will continue to be extravagance and inefficiency in government service, and without careers available for the best minds and the best trained persons, we shall continue to have mediocrity and instability in public administration. (From a comment on the League's campaign)

Lotus D. Coffman, President
University of Minnesota

Congratulations to the League of Women Voters for tackling the Civil Service problem. Alert, effective citizen interest and intelligent trained public personnel are found always together. Each helps the other. The best way to remedy the lag in our social and political progress is by trained public personnel. Without it, public interest is defeated.

H. J. Miller, President,
Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Ass'n.

If there ever was need for intelligent and thorough arousing of interest in civic and national problems, it is now. Time is opportune for the League of Women Voters to take a major part in the affairs of the United States.

J. N. Darling, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture

The League of Women Voters is one of the most active and effective non-academic agencies in America today in the field of adult political education.

Lloyd Short
Professor of Political Science
University of Minnesota

Compliments to the League in connection with
Second Institute of Government and Politics
November 16-21, 1925

"I was delighted to learn of the success of the Institute of Government and Politics. Every report which I have received has been favorable. We ~~and~~^{at} the University are pleased that we were permitted to cooperate with your organization in planning, organizing and maintaining the Institute."

President L D Coffman

"I greatly enjoyed the session of the League on taxation and regret that I was unable to attend other sessions covering equally important questions... ."

J G Armson

"I was a great pleasure to me to speak before your gathering and I can assure you that I appreciate the cooperation of your organization in behalf of the reorganized state government....."

Governor Theodore Christianson

".... I retain the most pleasant impressions of my visit with the members of the Minnesota League of Women Voters."

Dean Isidor Loeb

"I enjoyed my visit very much, as I did before, and am always glad, if I can, to contribute to international understanding. You are engaged in a great work, and I think it is gradually coming to have its effect."

Carl Russell Fish

"...It has been a great pleasure to me personally to cooperate in this enterprise, and I know that is the opinion of all the University men who were called in. The University is doing some of its best work when it thus functions in a live and practical cooperative fashion with those who are actually engaged in accomplishing something. Our admiration for the constructive and enthusiastic efforts of the League of Women Voters is enhanced every time we undertake a joint enterprise."

Richard R Price

"Thank you for the letter received this morning and for the enclosure. That group that met with me was the best-informed I have had. The League's program of education is working out well."

Harold S Quigley

"...I assure you that I enjoyed very much taking part in the discussions of the Institute of Government and Politics, and I believe your organization is doing a splendid piece of work in stimulating its members to study and inform themselves on the great questions of the day."

Charles F Keyes

"...For my part it was indeed gratifying merely to be associated with the splendid work that the Minnesota League of Women Voters has been doing. You know, of course, that every one at the University, at least all with whom I personally have conferred, feel that this particular Institute constituted one of the outstanding contributions in the field of politics and government in the northwest."

Morris B Lambie

File Compliments (1925)
Institute & Convention

Notes

A woman from Faribault remarked that the Taxation session was particularly valuable, that they had had many discussions on this subject at home, but had never had the facts so clearly before.

Mr. Keyes, who presented this subject, said that he was very much impressed with the intelligence of the audience - thought it remarkable for women to take such an interest in his talk - he didn't know of any group of men who could sit down and listen so patiently to the subject of taxation.

Miss Peterman of Redwood Falls mentioned that it was the first convention she ever attended and that it was full of inspiration.

Mrs. Bertelsen (speaker on symposium on Women in Public Office) said that she felt it a great honor to be invited.

Several people said they thought the Young Voters session the most delightful session of the convention.

The convention luncheon was the largest luncheon held in St. Paul (?)

Miss Jordan (Minneapolis teacher) said the institute was "splendid". She said that Prof. Fish's talk convinced her that the U S should enter the World Court.

Mrs. Parkes said she thought the session on the adoption of the Plan of Work was done beautifully - with very good discussion.

Miss Borderwich (Party woman) very favorably impressed. Did not realize how thoroughly we did things until she came to the convention.

"I want to take this occasion to tell you how inspiring the reports of the work of the Minnesota League are to those of us who are struggling along trying to build up in other states. Your Institute program was the finest thing I have ever seen of its kind. It is a joy even to read about it."

From Mrs. H H Koons, president, California
League of Women Voters 2-9-26

*File Compliments
Minnesota League*

File League Compliments

From letter of Mrs. Bess Wilson of Redwood Falls (October 26, 1926)
following state Convention in Duluth.

"I greatly enjoyed the meeting and think the League is doing
a splendid and worthwhile work."

Excerpts from letters.

From Miss Louise E. Schutz, Superintendent of the Division of Women and Children, Industrial Commission of Minnesota, on December 18, 1927:

"I was very much interested to note that Course I of the Institute offered by the League of Women Voters, was to be devoted to the subject of 'Women's Changing Economic Conditions!'

.....

"We were especially interested in Dr. Holming's presentation, which was accurate, sympathetic and informing. It is a splendid thing that the League gave so much time to the new subject of how women will adjust themselves to changing conditions. The courses such as were offered will mean a more enlightened public with a more complete understanding of the work being done by those who are trying to secure needed legislation and to enforce what we have."

From Mrs. Blanche L. LaDu, of the State Board of Control of Minnesota, on October 8, 1926:

.....

"I wish to assure you that I have the greatest respect for the work which the League has been doing since its organization in our state, and that I am very anxious to keep in touch with your plans and policies, and to be of assistance whenever I can in the furtherance of our mutual problems of welfare work and other lines of civic interest."

From the late F. L. Olson, Associate Director of the Pittsburg Bureau of Governmental Research, Pittsburg Ohio, on January 10, 1926:

"I felt always an assurance of a strong right hand in any efforts for good government in the personnel of the League. One of my pleasantest recollections of my stay in Minneapolis was the opportunity to cooperate with yourself and members of the League in a number of civic enterprises, not the least of which were the reorganization of state government and a proposal for a new city charter."

From Mr. E. G. DeMots, Minot North Dakota, District Governor of the District of Minnesota and the Dakotas of the American Legion, on July 29, 1927:

"Thank you very kindly for the literature you send me and I want to commend you on the material you have in that and some of the other literature, I received."

"You have no idea how much it means to me to be able to get something concrete and how much it means to know that there is an organization actually working out these problems in an intelligent manner."

In connection with the Second Institute of Government and Politics, November 16-21, 1926, from Governor Theodore Christianson:

"It was a great pleasure to me to speak before your gathering and I can assure you that I appreciate the cooperation of your organization in behalf of the reorganized state government....."

Mimeographed by the
Minnesota League of Women Voters
(From the Cleveland Voter - June 1927)

MY ESTIMATE OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

by
A. R. Hatton
Professor of Political Science,
Western Reserve University
Member, Cleveland City Council

I believe that I know something of the spirit and purposes of the League of Women Voters. It chances, also, that I have had unusual opportunities to observe its activities and estimate its influence. Therefore, I shall set forth some of the fundamental principles and purposes of the League as I understand them and give an estimate of its influence and accomplishments based on my personal observations.

Unless I entirely misunderstand the principles upon which the League of Women Voters is founded, it accepts without reservation the idea of political democracy. It assumes that, in America, we are committed to government of, by and for the people. But, in accepting that principle, the League has kept its touch with the realities of human nature and of politics. * *

Believes in Democracy

Believing in political democracy, the League recognizes in the ballot both the symbol and the indispensable instrument of popular control. It was quick to realize that the right of suffrage alone was not enough. It saw that the ballot could be perverted and its value minimized, or even nullified by complex, confusing and defective electoral devices and practices.

The women of the League therefore turned first and almost instinctively to the improvement of electoral methods. They have put new life into the short ballot movement; they are the most effective opponents of the party column, party circle, ballot with its encouragement of indiscriminating, unintelligent voting; they are the principal force behind the growing demand for permanent registration of voters; and, from coast to coast, they are fighting for honest elections decently conducted.

The League has not confined its activities to these efforts to make the ballot more directly effective. It is the only nation-wide organization with which I am acquainted which recognizes in its program that efficient administration is an essential of democracy. * *

But the League of Women Voters has not been content with seeking to improve the forms and processes of government. Among the organizations of national scope it is leading the way in proclaiming the need of political education and in providing the means for its accomplishment.

Has Courage

Nothing that the League has planned or done testifies so strongly to its courage and its grasp of political realities. Education of any kind is difficult enough as those of us who have tried to carry it on well know.

Most people, while proclaiming the virtues of education, strive desperately against acquiring it except in the hard school of experience. In matters of government and politics the situation is far worse. Few people will even admit that political education is needed, to say nothing of the possibility of carrying it on.

In America the very processes of our politics has tended to flatter the voters into the delusion that the ability to pass with wisdom on political questions is in some manner mysteriously conferred upon them along with the ballot or, like the sense of sight, is a gift of nature.

The League has raised its voice against this fundamentally erroneous attitude. It has taken the first steps in educating the voters to the need of political education. It is proclaiming with all its might, and with an earnestness that is in itself appealing, that popular government is a grave and difficult matter and can be safely conducted only when the voters so realize and are in possession of accurate information regarding the questions upon which they must pass.

Accomplishments

What has the League accomplished? Well, in the first place, it has worked mightily and effectively for the things already mentioned. In some states and many cities much of this program has already been carried out.

But, above all, the League has already set a standard of intelligent, political action based on investigation and accurate knowledge of facts which is profoundly influencing the course of political thinking and political action throughout the United States.

Everywhere, the League has made careless legislation and inefficient administration at least a little more difficult. Everywhere, I find formerly slipshod politicians wholesomely respectful, though a little resentful, of the demand of the League that their actions be open to investigation and justifiable upon a basis of fact.

Everywhere, I find greater care in both legislation and administration, born, in part at least, of the knowledge that the women of the League are likely to confront public officials at any time with broad and accurate information as to how things should be done.

Exerts Influence

Upon the political parties the influence of the League has been powerful, though seldom acknowledged by party leaders. Without being anti-party, the League offers a constant challenge to the parties to give an intelligent account of themselves. It is a standing admonition to them that they exist for the government and not the government for the party organizations.

It says to the voters, "Be partisan if you will, but let your partisanship follow knowledge of the facts rather than precede or ignore such knowledge". In this manner the League is performing the enormously valuable function of reminding the parties that they can justify their existence only as instruments of popular government and must not assume that they are substitutes for it.

If one may judge by its attitude and activities, the League of Women Voters recognize the complexity of modern life and the fact of a changed and changing world. It, therefore, insists that the problems and processes of government call for investigation, for thought, for the constant application of intelligence, and can no longer be dealt with by the slap-dash methods which a simpler time made tolerable.

Gets Facts

The League does not appear to be terrified by the idea that, with a changing world, the methods and instrumentalities of democracy must also change. At the same time it refuses to jump at conclusions, to change for the sake of change, to proceed without knowledge of the facts involved or to act without due deliberation.

Beyond doubt the League of Women Voters is today the outstanding organization of national scope working for, pleading for, demanding the application of intelligence as well as conscience to the solution of political problems and the conduct of public affairs. Already its influence has been out of all proportion to its age or its numbers.

No one who wishes well for the future of American democracy can do other than express the hope that the League may hold fast to its present ideals and that as the years pass it may find its numbers increased and its courage undiminished.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IS IN FAVOR OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Last year when the League of Women Voters held its convention the prohibition question caused a rather dangerous discussion. The dry delegates wanted to commit the organization to approval of prohibition, but a few of the delegates objects, so to preserve harmony a committee was appointed as a compromise measure to see whether the subject should be added to the organization's study program. That settled the matter for the time being, but at the League convention in Chicago last week the report of the special committee came in and was chiefly concerned with the fact that the committee had been unable to find sufficient reliable data for the League to study for and against the Eighteenth amendment, since everything had been written from a prejudiced angle, therefore was not worthy the consideration of so intelligent a body of women as the League of Women Voters.

To be sure, this special committee, after scanning some fifty volumes, mentioned mentioned "Prohibition, Its Industrial and Economic Effects" by Herman Feldman, assistant prof. of industrial relations at Dartmouth college, as the best of the pro books, and Leigh Colvin's "Prohibition in the U.S." and John Allen Krouts, "The Origin of Prohibition" as the most unprejudiced and authentic histories of the prohibition movement in the U.S.

Yet, according to the committee, there was not sufficient material to be worthy of a place on the study program of the League of Women Voters. So the committee was asked to continue its work, looking for further collections of history and facts on prohibition in this country, with League members in the meantime evidently putting cotton in their ears so that they might remain ignorant of the most discussed topic of the day until the committee could find information that would be wholly unbiased and safe for consumption.

Fortunately the common sense as well as the intelligence that has been conspicuous in the League of Women Voters since its beginnings came to the rescue and the convention agreed to pass a vigorous law enforcement resolution.

The delegate who moved this resolution said: "The Eighteenth amendment has been passed, but it never yet has been enforced. Most of us would like to see it tried and I am prepared to move a resolution declaring our unwavering advocacy of law enforcement."

So the League of Women Voters is definitely on record for law enforcement, which is in keeping with its founders, the older generation of women, like Carrie Chapman Catt and Catherine W. McCullough. The younger women need to remember that intellectual quibbling in the face of a moral issue will do more to injure an organization than a fair, open fight over a debatable question.

Editorial from the Duluth Herald, June 12, 1928

"The League's Good Work "

"It has been the pleasure of this newspaper on many occasions to praise the practical and constructive way in which the League of Women Voters attacks its responsibilities, doing works for the enlightenment of the electorate that the men, through all their years of monopoly of the ballot, never thought of doing.

"One of these practical works is holding a meeting, just before a primary or general election, to which all candidates are invited to come and talk, if they please, giving the reasons, if any, why it would be a good idea to elect them.

"Such a meeting is to be held by the League tomorrow evening at the Hotel Duluth. All candidates for nomination who are to be voted upon in next Monday's primary election have been invited, and many of them will come. No doubt all will come who can, for such an invitation is not one that any candidate may safely or sensibly ignore.

"Thus again the League does the community and the state a very real service, and again the League justifies its existence by useful and practical work to the end that voters may do their duty more intelligently and with better knowledge of what they are doing."

Editorial from the Duluth News-Tribune, June 13, 1928.

"The League of Women Voters of Duluth is performing a very fine public service in calling a mass meeting of citizens and inviting the various candidates for office to address them... All candidates who will appear on the local ballot at the primary election next Monday have been invited to attend the meeting and give short addresses outlining their aims and policies.....

"The League of Women Voters is a non-party organization that is doing a great work in educating the public and especially the women, in the duties of citizenship and the principles of government, and in overcoming the growing indifference of public opinion to affairs of government. It is a nation-wide organization that reaches all types of women, carrying on an intensive program of political education which has the indorsement of prominent educators and men and women of affairs.

"The program of the League provides not only for a study of improved government and of public welfare in government, but it is pledged to that far-reaching international co-operation which is necessary to insure world peace.

"By calling these public meetings and inviting candidates to speak, the League of Women Voters will overcome indifference and tend to revive that wholesome custom of local discussion of public affairs, which is in danger of falling into decadence. The work of the League is not only to instruct voters and to fit the great army of women to use their privilege of suffrage conscientiously and intelligently, but to get out the vote at election time.

"All citizens, both men and women, who have the welfare of their community at heart should attend the meeting tonight. They should take advantage of this splendid opportunity to hear the candidates outline their policies and discuss public questions. It will help all to mark their ballots more intelligently next Monday.

"The women are to be commended for their great work in the field of politics and government since they were given the vote. They have set a splendid example for the men and have proven that the best thing that ever happened to politics and our government was granting the women equal suffrage."

From an editorial entitled "Good Work By Women Voters" in the Christian Science Monitor, May 23, 1927

"One of these groups of feminine students of politics, perhaps the most conspicuous for the extent of its organization and the practicality of its methods, is the League of Women Voters. This organization is strictly and consistently non-partisan. It conducts an intensive all-the-year-round campaign of investigation of political and government affairs for the education of its members and the general public, and it does so with no apparent predilect or in favor of any political or economic theory and with no ulterior object in view. It seems simply to seek facts and to find out the best way in which to apply the ascertained information to the machinery of popular government."

Quoted from an editorial in the Chicago Journal, during a National League of Women Voters convention in Chicago, April 1928 :

"The sober fact is that no other organization of national scope comes within gun-shot of the League of Women Voters in its systematic, unrelenting, well-directed policy of getting together the information on which reasonable opinions can be based for the settlement of basically important political questions."

Quoted from an editorial in the Duluth Herald, December 31, 1926:
" Studying Peace"

"The local League of Women Voters, always active and constructive and useful, is planning a series of round-table discussions of world cooperation, and especially of the cause and prevention of war.

"These meetings will be held January 4, 11, 17, and 25.

"This is a good thing to be doing. The more people there are doing it the nearer peace will be; for war and the causes of war are not things that will stand analysis in the light of common sense."

Quoted from the Brainerd Tribune, September 6, 1924, from a letter from "A Farmer" to the editor of the tribune:

....."In conversation with a leading market gardener near Minneapolis, and who had had the charge of putting on the market gardeners' exhibit at the State Fair for twenty years, he commended the exhibits most highly.

"One thing attracted our attention to the hall was the little booth of the League

of Women Voters. The work they are doing to stir up the citizens to a faithful discharge of their civic duty on election day is certainly a Timely Topic for farmers as well as all other classes of citizens.

Quoted from the New Republic, April 11, 1928:

"From time to time, disappointment is expressed over the results of universal suffrage in America; and it is true that most of the great reforms in politics which were predicted 'when women get the vote' have failed to materialize. Yet there are conspicuous exceptions to the rule. The New Republic has observed on more than one occasion that there is no organization of men, in the political field, one-half so intelligent, efficient and devoted as the National League of Women Voters. Its non-partisan character makes possible a scientific approach to the great problems of the present which is refreshingly and startlingly at variance with the attitude of the chief parties and their candidates."

October 1929
File Comments

THE INSTITUTE PROGRAM APPRECIATED

During my many years as chairman of the Department of Efficiency in Government, I have been hoping and working for this event—an entire Institute on Taxation! Practically all of our governmental situations revolve about it and now we are to have the opportunity not only to learn about it, but also to help work out solutions for some of its problems. Please, everybody, come and find out with me how thrilling TAXATION really is!

MRS. F. W. WITTICH,
*First Vice-President,
Minnesota League of Women Voters.*

In all countries of advanced civilization, and in all branches of their governments, national, state and local, we see a marked tendency toward the increase of governmental activities. It is only natural, therefore, that governments need to increase their revenues and that, of course, usually means increasing taxes also. Natural as all of this may be, it is still true that many persons do not understand it and cannot see in what ways they are benefited. Then, too, many tax laws are antiquated and do not give justice to all taxpayers under modern conditions.

Let us give some serious thought and study to these problems of the public purse, to the end that we may help to promote justice in taxation and efficiency in public expenditure. The coming Institute of Government and Politics of the Minnesota League of Women Voters presents a good opportunity to begin the study.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM ANDERSON,
*Chairman, Dept. of Political Science,
University of Minnesota.*

I am looking forward with much interest to this year's Institute because I hear a constant discussion of taxation and I am anxious to know more about that important subject. I believe that the very comprehensive program that has been arranged will enable every person attending to get a definite grasp of the details of government finance. We shall find just where the money to run the government comes from and just what percentage each department of government receives and whether there is a just distribution of the tax burden between different groups of citizens. I have heard Professor Douglas and Professor Groves of Wisconsin and I feel that no better choice could have been made for the topics which are assigned to them. Both men are able speakers, presenting their ideas in a very informative and attractive manner.

MRS. A. J. MCGUIRE,
*Second Vice-President,
Minnesota League of Women Voters.*

A while ago English writers were sent to Denmark to learn why the Danish farmer is the best educated, most cultured and wealthiest in the world. We note that the concensus of opinion seems to be that there are two outstanding contributing factor—political education and co-operative marketing. If rural America is to profit by these findings, it would seem we must do more effective work along these lines.

Years ago the League of Women Voters blazed the trail for practical education in citizenship; and because it is the only agency presenting constructive work along this line, I covet its lessons for every farm woman. If we do not feel we can afford to attend the Institute of Government and Politics for our personal satisfaction, then we may assure ourselves that as a matter of good business we cannot afford not to attend.

MRS. H. O. TELLIER
*Farm woman member of the
state League board.*

When we consider the widespread apathy on the part of the American citizens with regard to the problems of their own government, we are alarmed for the future of democratic institutions. Under such circumstances the recent interest of intelligent and educated women in the welfare of the state is perhaps one of the most significant and hopeful signs of the times. Such organizations as the League of Women Voters have set before themselves the project of informing citizens about the problems of modern government of the United States, by studying the present institutions, and by proposing solutions which shall be based upon the careful study of the facts involved.

The League of Women Voters has wisely made use of the best scholarship in the field of political science, and of the experience of experts in the field of public administration in its effort to bring about constructive changes in governmental institutions. Of the political problems facing government today none is perhaps more important or intricate, and certainly none is more in need of careful study and of constructive reform, than that of state and local taxation. It is to this problem that the League of Women Voters is devoting itself in this year's Institute of Government and Politics. With the rapidly expanding functions of government and the continual increase of expenditure of state and local governments for a variety of objects until recently the concern, not of governmental institutions but of private interests, the whole question of taxation and its relationship to the individual citizen and to the welfare of the state is brought to the fore.

Any criticism of the Minnesota system of taxation must be based upon a thorough-going knowledge of the field of state and local taxa-

(Continued on page 8)

MINNEAPOLIS MILESTONES

Published by the Minneapolis League of Women Voters

Join a Study Group and Help

THE woman citizen in her capacity of housewife has always spent a large part of the private income of this country. She has budgeted her expenditures in purchasing for the home and family. Now that she is extending her activities in so many other fields, it is timely for her to give thought to the operation of public budgets and the essentials of public finance.

The Board, therefore, has had prepared this year the program here outlined for a study of the public purse. The coming Institute of Government and Politics which will consider problems of taxation, lends strength and impetus to such a study. The program, which is printed in pamphlet form, is arranged for twelve meetings, with carefully prepared references listed under each topic. All the reference material is available at League Headquarters, and some of it at the Public Library.

All League members are eligible to membership in the groups which may be formed to study this program, and all League members should find such a study invaluable to their education as intelligent citizens.

**MORE THAN 100 WOMEN ARE ALREADY
ANALYZING THE PUBLIC PURSE**

No limit to the number of groups
Do help to organize or join one
Let Headquarters hear from you

Atlantic 4268

(Continued from page 5)

tion in general. The Institute this year wisely devotes the earlier portion of its program to a consideration of the nature of the state, the facts as to where the burden of taxation falls, of the uses to which the state income is put, and then attempts to present a constructive program for the planning of state and local taxation. It then proceeds to the criticism of the Minnesota methods and from that point to constructive suggestions for the guidance of Minnesota citizens.

For the Minnesota citizen desirous of keeping abreast of the times and of understanding his own state institutions, and of having an intelligent outlook toward this fundamental problem of state and local taxation, no better opportunity for such information and understanding is offered than that presented through the Institute of Government and Politics sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the University of Minnesota through the agency of its General Extension Division in the program to be offered October 30-November 1.

THOMAS A. H. TEETER,
*Acting Director, General Extension
Division, University of Minnesota*

MILESTONES

s League of Women Voters

olic Purse

LIC PURSE

STORY

*Medieval, and Modern Times.
ited States.*

HOUSEKEEPING

overnment Fill Its Purse?

Extract from Report of Miss Anna Munson,
Secretary of Kenyon League

March 6, 1930

Much enthusiasm was aroused by the interesting and very valuable information in those two papers compiled by Mrs. Wittich in such an interesting, clear and concise form. The Superintendent of Schools has asked for the use of those papers in the High School Civil Government class.

File Compliments
Minnesota League

Extract from Letter of Louise Schutz (Supt. Division Women & Children
August 13, 1931 State Industrial Commission)

"I relied more on the support and sympathy of the League
of Women Voters in my work with the Industrial Commission
than the membership realized, possibly."

January 29, 1931

Comments on League Work

During One Day at the Capitol
(E. Child)

Mr. Paul Dansingberg, state librarian, said that the Minnesota Woman Voter is the best ~~and~~ local publication that reaches his office. He says he gets more definite, concrete information out of it than out of any other publication.

Mr. Glende, member of the House from Fergus Falls, said after a meeting of the Elections Committee at which Mrs. Atwater spoke on the "party convention" bill, that the League of Women Voters was a wonderful organization - that it is so thoroughly equipped with information on the legislation it supports. He said that the League of Women Voters in Fergus Falls is a fine group and doing a great deal of good in the community.

LEADER
U.S.A.

HELPING THE VOTER

Ramsey county members of the League of Women Voters have been doing a valuable public service in giving out information concerning candidates and issues at this election.

It is especially appreciated by women voters who find themselves confused by the din and aghast at the prospect of making an intelligent choice among the 100 or more candidates and questions on the various ballots which will be presented them Tuesday.

The League at its own expense has been maintaining an information bureau at the Frederic hotel and has had printed some 7,500 sample ballots for distribution. Not a few men have availed themselves of its help.

The long ballots which will be given the voters Tuesday constitute an unusual problem. Few can be sure of making a selection which they can justify satisfactorily even to themselves, because it is impossible for most individuals to learn about all the candidates. Most voters have made up their minds regarding the candidates for president and governor, but the choice of the host of other candidates is a problem.

This confusion makes the work of the League all the more timely and is the principal reason why The Daily News has printed facts and recommendations about the candidates and the amendments. Both are interested in helping the conscientious voter answer the question:

"For whom will I vote?"

The Annual convention of the Minnesota League of Women Voters, opening today in Minneapolis, attracts from all parts of the state progressive and civic spirited women representing the vanguard of one of the strongest movements toward better government in our country today.

That movement is the woman voters' movement. Well organized and unified, it could wield more influence and attain greater benefits in the administration of public affairs than any other one group or faction. And certainly in the work of the league, a great step has been taken toward unifying that power and putting it to work.

No other organization has brought more vividly to the attention of the average voter the need of the merit system in public office than the League of Women Voters. Its slogan, "Find the Man for the Job, Not the Job for the man," expresses in terse and graphic terms that need, and the wisdom and plain common sense of meeting it as soon as possible.

In this campaign for efficiency in public service, and in all other movements for better government, the league has taken a prominent role which is bound to grow more prominent as time goes on.

Such meetings as the one taking place this week show that women are awakening to a realization of their power in deciding the issues of the day. They can use that power to a far greater extent than they have so far, because both in numerical strength and in the influence they wield over others of voting age in their homes, they have equal if not greater strength than have the men voters.

"EDITORIALLY SPEAKING"

Tulsa, Oklahoma TRIBUNE (October 31, 1935):

Lack of public consciousness accounts for ninety per cent of the patronage graft and resultant bad government we load on our own pocketbooks. The League of Women Voters has undertaken a big job, and an important one, to make citizens aware of the quality of their government, or lack of it. "Impossible" isn't in their vocabulary.

Indianapolis, Indiana NEWS (October 2, 1935):

The national drive of the League of Women Voters for the abolition of the spoils system in all units of government, is making inroads on the only resistance encountered, that offered by politicians who under the merit system would stand little chance of a place.

The League has selected an issue appealing not only to practically all women voters, but probably to 90 per cent of men voters, the desire of all being to abolish forever the waste and incompetence that mark the administration of many non-elective government offices.

Grand Rapids, Michigan INDEPENDENT (February 8, 1935):

This paper feels that the matter of trained personnel in government, county, state and federal government, and the assurance that such personnel would be kept as long as he or she gave efficient service and lived up to a reasonable moral and personal code, would be one of the longest steps it is possible to take toward securing better government.

Waltham, Massachusetts NEWS TRIBUNE (September 3, 1935):

If the League of Women Voters can create a public sentiment in favor of establishing the merit system more firmly and extending it to the higher places in the public service, it will be a contribution to advancement in governmental efficiency whose value cannot well be estimated.

Birmingham, Alabama AGE-HERALD (June 26, 1935):

Congratulations and all power to the League for taking up this old and yet ever new and vitally important fight.

The costs of the spoils system to the average citizen are too apparent for him to remain indifferent to its abuses. The National League of Women Voters, therefore, has sound reason for expecting a ready response to its campaign.

St. Paul, Minnesota DISPATCH (December 18, 1935):

Advocates of good government everywhere will agree with the sentiments expressed in the two winning anti-spoils slogans in the nation-wide contest sponsored by the National League of Women Voters.

The first prize slogan is, "Find the Man for the Job, Not the Job for the Man," and the second winning entry, "Let Ability, Not Politics, Be the Yardstick." These phrases embody the thought of the present-day crusade against the political spoils system, a ringing answer to the politician's war-cry, "To the victors belong the spoils."

It is obvious that during elections the whole concern of the campaign seems to be in finding the jobs for the faithful and not in finding the competent man or woman for the particular office. With such an attitude, politics and not ability is the yardstick, yet the old prejudices and misconceptions remain that originated early in the nation's history regarding the inherent ability of every true-born American to handle any type of government service. This ultra-democratic concept applies less than ever in this modern day of a more complex civilization and highly specialized activities of government requiring experts.

The cause of good government will not be won by slogans alone. It will be won when the American people no longer tolerate patronage and insist on putting trained men in charge of their governmental affairs.

Minneapolis, Minnesota STAR (September 25, 1935):

Public service must be made a career not only demanding the best men but the best in men, a worthy and high calling. If the women can bring about this change, more power to them.

MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
914 Marquette Avenue
Minneapolis

February 12, 1936

Dear Member of the Editorial Association:

At your recent state convention I had the opportunity of calling to the attention of the editors present the Campaign for Trained Personnel in Public Service which the League of Women Voters is carrying on in every state. The press in those localities where we have local Leagues have co-operated in a remarkable way in this opinion-forming Campaign. Several of your fellow editors suggested that I send those of you, who have no active League in your town, the enclosed excerpts from a few of the many editorials which have appeared in newspapers throughout the state, hoping that you too would like to take a part in either writing an editorial or re-printing one of these.

The enclosed Petition Card is a sample of those being circulated, which when signed, will be collected and presented to the two political parties for the purpose of obtaining planks to this effect in their party platforms. Your national president, Mr. R. H. Pritchard, while in Minnesota, signed one of these cards. Mr. Alvah Eastman of St. Cloud, Mr. Jens Gron-dahl of Red Wing, and my brother, Mr. H. Z. Mitchell of Bemidji, were among those editors who were the first signers in their localities.

I am confident that you are one of the editors who will wish to sign this card and add your influence to the wide-spread stream of public opinion already formed. We would appreciate having the card returned to us at above address when you have signed it, or have obtained some other signature on it. Any publicity you use in your paper we would be glad to see.

Sincerely,

Ruth H. Mitchell

Ruth H. Mitchell
State President

Enc.

"EDITORIALLY SPEAKING"

ST. PAUL DAILY NEWS - February 4, 1936 - "Trained Servants"

American people spend \$4,500,000,000 annually in salaries to the 3,300,000 federal, state and local government employes. That total, beyond the comprehension of most of us, would not be so staggering if the public got its money's worth. But it doesn't.

Private industry demands men and women qualified by training and experience. There is no good reason why federal employment should not be on the same basis. Good government needs trained administrators as much as good business does. In our form of government it is necessary that the policy-making positions be filled by popular election. Administrative positions, however, should be available only to men and women trained for them.

The League of Women Voters, non-partisan and unselfish in good government achievements in the past, has started a movement to bring about this ideal. Every taxpayer in St. Paul should sign the petition which has for its goal "the man for the job, not the job for the man."

MINNEAPOLIS STAR - February 10, 1936 - "Public Service as a Science"

The new concept of public service as a science demanding specialized training and special skills and aptitudes is gradually taking the place of the old expedient of making public jobs a species of gratuity for political service.

Lewis Meriam of the Brookings Institute had a pointed word or two to say on this subject in a recent talk before the League of Women Voters, the group that is supporting a movement for trained personnel in public service. Mr. Meriam declared that expansion of governmental activities, based on social changes and related factors, is making the proper selection of public employes more and more a vital requisite of efficient government.

The League is doing a real public service in stirring up interest in favor of putting this branch of government under the same regulation that any first-class business concern would impose. The waste, the corruption and the expense of government in the past have had much of their source in the ingrained habit of tossing political plums to the faithful, regardless of how poorly equipped those faithful were to carry out the duties involved with the plum. That habit, though discredited, is still widely in force. It is high time to uproot it.

ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS - January 28, 1936 - "Spoils of Politics"

The national movement for better government personnel in which the Minnesota League of Women Voters is participating is naturally concerned with the extension of the merit system in public service. Its philosophy is embodied in the apt slogan, "Find the Man for the Job, Not the Job for the Man."

The widespread interest during the past year or so in the administration of government personnel undoubtedly arises from the increased number of new Federal activities requiring a vast army of unclassified workers. The citizen is naturally justified in inquiring whether his tax money is used as economically as it should be.

MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL - January 12, 1936 - "Careers in the Public Service"

. . . As the business of government becomes the greatest business touching the welfare of every citizen, it is imperative that government personnel be carefully considered. According to a late report of the Commission of Inquiry on Public Service Personnel, there are certain attitudes of mind which still foster the notion in this Country, more than in some others, that "to the victor belong the spoils." The first of these is the old democratic notion that any kind of government employment is so simple that any citizen of average ability can meet it effectively. Another vestigial idea runs to the effect that party government is so important in this Country that the victorious party must reward faithful workers by positions and build up its strength by patronage. This notion also needs some stringent qualifications.

A challenging project of the Commission of Inquiry on Public Service Personnel is that of encouraging career men and women in government employment. This would be several steps in advance of the customary Civil Service. The suggestion is that young people prepare themselves for careers in government even as in the past they have prepared for careers in the professions and business.

Surely this marks a great advance on the traditional American habit of testing applicants as to their fitness for only specific and limited positions. If careers in public service are to attract young people here as they long have in Great Britain and in Germany, they must carry a sufficient degree of security, fair remuneration and adequate opportunities for advancement. If modern government is to cope adequately with the tasks and problems that face it today, careers in public service must be possible and worthwhile to modern American youth.

MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE - December 25, 1935

The "career man" in government is one who has worked his way up through the service to a position of high responsibility. Unlike the political appointee, he wins his place solely on a merit basis; his rewards, for the most part, are the rewards of competence and experience. The "career man" is a commonplace in many countries, notably England, but in the United States he is chiefly conspicuous by his absence. The best plums on the federal job tree usually fall in the laps of the party faithfuls; the opportunities of those who seek careers in public service is definitely limited as a result. Yet everyone agrees that the "career man" should be encouraged in the interests of efficient government, and that it is good policy to reward years of long and faithful service with responsibility.

ST. CLOUD TIMES - January 14, 1936

The Minnesota League of Women Voters, under the leadership of Miss Ruth Mitchell of St. Cloud, is making a brave campaign against the spoils system in politics, and its daring is of that high degree that is not afraid to tackle the nearly impossible.

When a political party - regardless of its name - comes into power it is subjected to the tremendous pressure of the hungry and faithful who want jobs, and the popular slogan of all parties has been, to the winner belongs the pap

The ideas of the League are endorsed by most papers, outside those of ultra partisanship. The fact is their fight against the spoils system is so sane and sensible, eliminating much of the graft, and would result in much better service to all the people, that most people agree with it. But there is much more than just agreement needed. There must be positive and enthusiastic and united public sentiment. That is what the League is striving to accomplish, and more power to it. It has a hard job against political selfishness and tradition - and after all despite our boast of the rule of the people, the fact is that we are largely governed by well organized minorities, in which self advantage is the mainspring of power.

NORTHFIELD NEWS - January 24, 1936

The campaign for trained personnel in government service being sponsored by the League of Women Voters thruout the country this month is an encouraging effort to do something more than to talk about what has tended to be a permanent shortcoming in American democracy.

No more startling illustration of the need of a permanent corps of trained workers could have been obtained than the lavish additions which have been made to the federal payroll in recent times. The need for a large body of governmental employees is not likely to lessen seriously in the future. Whether or not one subscribes to the policies of the New Deal, he must realize candidly that the emergence of government into the lives and business of its people has come to stay, and will persist in any one administration as well as in another. And recognition of that fact should bring renewed energy and spirit in the drive to place competent and able men into the service of the government.

More and more the government is coming to require of its employees such a wide array of interests and abilities that only those with technical and specialized training are able to respond with efficiency and competency. A personnel that has been manned at the direction of politicians who are more interested in buoying the spirit of their party machines than in the morale of the government service is almost utterly incapable of administering its duties effectively. The economy, interest and ability generally shown in the management of private business must eventually be transferred to the operation of public affairs. Democracy cannot continue to function, particularly in such strenuous times as these, unless it is administered with the highest degree of efficiency.

RED WING DAILY REPUBLICAN - January 27, 1936

The League of Women Voters, whose local president is Miss Mary Ann Page, has undertaken a campaign which deserves commendation and public approval. Its purpose is to provide trained personnel for public service, which means the selection of officials for offices rather than selecting official positions for men and women.

The Red Wing Daily Republican is conclusively sold on the wisdom of such a movement and shall be glad to give its utmost support to bring the program to a successful issue. The editor of the Republican had the privilege to sign the first membership card in this City. While it is not the custom for this newspaper to sign membership cards or petitions of any kind, as it prefers to speak for itself in all matters of public policy, it made an exception in this case and was delighted to join that large number of citizens which it hopes will rally to the movement which the League is sponsoring this year.

"EDITORIALLY SPEAKING"

Tulsa, Oklahoma TRIBUNE (October 31, 1935):

Lack of public consciousness accounts for ninety per cent of the patronage graft and resultant bad government we load on our own pocketbooks. The League of Women Voters has undertaken a big job, and an important one, to make citizens aware of the quality of their government, or lack of it. "Impossible" isn't in their vocabulary.

Indianapolis, Indiana NEWS (October 2, 1935):

The national drive of the League of Women Voters for the abolition of the spoils system in all units of government, is making inroads on the only resistance encountered, that offered by politicians who under the merit system would stand little chance of a place.

The League has selected an issue appealing not only to practically all women voters, but probably to 90 per cent of men voters, the desire of all being to abolish forever the waste and incompetence that mark the administration of many non-elective government offices.

Grand Rapids, Michigan INDEPENDENT (February 8, 1935):

This paper feels that the matter of trained personnel in government, county, state and federal government, and the assurance that such personnel would be kept as long as he or she gave efficient service and lived up to a reasonable moral and personal code, would be one of the longest steps it is possible to take toward securing better government.

Waltham, Massachusetts NEWS TRIBUNE (September 3, 1935):

If the League of Women Voters can create a public sentiment in favor of establishing the merit system more firmly and extending it to the higher places in the public service, it will be a contribution to advancement in governmental efficiency whose value cannot well be estimated.

Birmingham, Alabama AGE-HERALD (June 26, 1935):

Congratulations and all power to the League for taking up this old and yet ever new and vitally important fight.

The costs of the spoils system to the average citizen are too apparent for him to remain indifferent to its abuses. The National League of Women Voters, therefore, has sound reason for expecting a ready response to its campaign.

St. Paul, Minnesota DISPATCH (December 18, 1935):

Advocates of good government everywhere will agree with the sentiments expressed in the two winning anti-spoils slogans in the nation-wide contest sponsored by the National League of Women Voters.

The first prize slogan is, "Find the Man for the Job, Not the Job for the Man," and the second winning entry, "Let Ability, Not Politics, Be the Yardstick." These phrases embody the thought of the present-day crusade against the political spoils system, a ringing answer to the politician's war-cry, "To the victors belong the spoils."

It is obvious that during elections the whole concern of the campaign seems to be in finding the jobs for the faithful and not in finding the competent man or woman for the particular office. With such an attitude, politics and not ability is the yardstick, yet the old prejudices and misconceptions remain that originated early in the nation's history regarding the inherent ability of every true-born American to handle any type of government service. This ultra-democratic concept applies less than ever in this modern day of a more complex civilization and highly specialized activities of government requiring experts.

The cause of good government will not be won by slogans alone. It will be won when the American people no longer tolerate patronage and insist on putting trained men in charge of their governmental affairs.

Minneapolis, Minnesota STAR (September 25, 1935):

Public service must be made a career not only demanding the best men but the best in men, a worthy and high calling. If the women can bring about this change, more power to them.

"EDITORIALLY SPEAKING"

ST. PAUL DAILY NEWS - February 4, 1936 - "Trained Servants"

American people spend \$4,500,000,000 annually in salaries to the 3,300,000 federal, state and local government employes. That total, beyond the comprehension of most of us, would not be so staggering if the public got its money's worth. But it doesn't.

Private industry demands men and women qualified by training and experience. There is no good reason why federal employment should not be on the same basis. Good government needs trained administrators as much as good business does. In our form of government it is necessary that the policy-making positions be filled by popular election. Administrative positions, however, should be available only to men and women trained for them.

The League of Women Voters, non-partisan and unselfish in good government achievements in the past, has started a movement to bring about this ideal. Every taxpayer in St. Paul should sign the petition which has for its goal "the man for the job, not the job for the man."

MINNEAPOLIS STAR - February 10, 1936 - "Public Service as a Science"

The new concept of public service as a science demanding specialized training and special skills and aptitudes is gradually taking the place of the old expedient of making public jobs a species of gratuity for political service.

Lewis Meriam of the Brookings Institute had a pointed word or two to say on this subject in a recent talk before the League of Women Voters, the group that is supporting a movement for trained personnel in public service. Mr. Meriam declared that expansion of governmental activities, based on social changes and related factors, is making the proper selection of public employes more and more a vital requisite of efficient government.

The League is doing a real public service in stirring up interest in favor of putting this branch of government under the same regulation that any first-class business concern would impose. The waste, the corruption and the expense of government in the past have had much of their source in the ingrained habit of tossing political plums to the faithful, regardless of how poorly equipped those faithful were to carry out the duties involved with the plum. That habit, though discredited, is still widely in force. It is high time to uproot it.

ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS - January 28, 1936 - "Spoils of Politics"

The national movement for better government personnel in which the Minnesota League of Women Voters is participating is naturally concerned with the extension of the merit system in public service. Its philosophy is embodied in the apt slogan, "Find the Man for the Job, Not the Job for the Man."

The widespread interest during the past year or so in the administration of government personnel undoubtedly arises from the increased number of new Federal activities requiring a vast army of unclassified workers. The citizen is naturally justified in inquiring whether his tax money is used as economically as it should be.

MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL - January 12, 1936 - "Careers in the Public Service"

. . . As the business of government becomes the greatest business touching the welfare of every citizen, it is imperative that government personnel be carefully considered. According to a late report of the Commission of Inquiry on Public Service Personnel, there are certain attitudes of mind which still foster the notion in this Country, more than in some others, that "to the victor belong the spoils." The first of these is the old democratic notion that any kind of government employment is so simple that any citizen of average ability can meet it effectively. Another vestigial idea runs to the effect that party government is so important in this Country that the victorious party must reward faithful workers by positions and build up its strength by patronage. This notion also needs some stringent qualifications.

A challenging project of the Commission of Inquiry on Public Service Personnel is that of encouraging career men and women in government employment. This would be several steps in advance of the customary Civil Service. The suggestion is that young people prepare themselves for careers in government even as in the past they have prepared for careers in the professions and business.

Surely this marks a great advance on the traditional American habit of testing applicants as to their fitness for only specific and limited positions. If careers in public service are to attract young people here as they long have in Great Britain and in Germany, they must carry a sufficient degree of security, fair remuneration and adequate opportunities for advancement. If modern government is to cope adequately with the tasks and problems that face it today, careers in public service must be possible and worthwhile to modern American youth.

MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE - December 25, 1935

The "career man" in government is one who has worked his way up through the service to a position of high responsibility. Unlike the political appointee, he wins his place solely on a merit basis; his rewards, for the most part, are the rewards of competence and experience. The "career man" is a commonplace in many countries, notably England, but in the United States he is chiefly conspicuous by his absence. The best plums on the federal job tree usually fall in the laps of the party faithfuls; the opportunities of those who seek careers in public service is definitely limited as a result. Yet everyone agrees that the "career man" should be encouraged in the interests of efficient government, and that it is good policy to reward years of long and faithful service with responsibility.

ST. CLOUD TIMES - January 14, 1936

The Minnesota League of Women Voters, under the leadership of Miss Ruth Mitchell of St. Cloud, is making a brave campaign against the spoils system in politics, and its daring is of that high degree that is not afraid to tackle the nearly impossible.

When a political party - regardless of its name - comes into power it is subjected to the tremendous pressure of the hungry and faithful who want jobs, and the popular slogan of all parties has been, to the winner belongs the pap

The ideas of the League are endorsed by most papers, outside those of ultra partisanship. The fact is their fight against the spoils system is so sane and sensible, eliminating much of the graft, and would result in much better service to all the people, that most people agree with it. But there is much more than just agreement needed. There must be positive and enthusiastic and united public sentiment. That is what the League is striving to accomplish, and more power to it. It has a hard job against political selfishness and tradition - and after all despite our boast of the rule of the people, the fact is that we are largely governed by well organized minorities, in which self advantage is the mainspring of power.

NORTHFIELD NEWS - January 24, 1936

The campaign for trained personnel in government service being sponsored by the League of Women Voters thruout the country this month is an encouraging effort to do something more than to talk about what has tended to be a permanent shortcoming in American democracy.

No more startling illustration of the need of a permanent corps of trained workers could have been obtained than the lavish additions which have been made to the federal payroll in recent times. The need for a large body of governmental employees is not likely to lessen seriously in the future. Whether or not one subscribes to the policies of the New Deal, he must realize candidly that the emergence of government into the lives and business of its people has come to stay, and will persist in any one administration as well as in another. And recognition of that fact should bring renewed energy and spirit in the drive to place competent and able men into the service of the government.

More and more the government is coming to require of its employees such a wide array of interests and abilities that only those with technical and specialized training are able to respond with efficiency and competency. A personnel that has been manned at the direction of politicians who are more interested in buoying the spirit of their party machines than in the morale of the government service is almost utterly incapable of administering its duties effectively. The economy, interest and ability generally shown in the management of private business must eventually be transferred to the operation of public affairs. Democracy cannot continue to function, particularly in such strenuous times as these, unless it is administered with the highest degree of efficiency.

RED WING DAILY REPUBLICAN - January 27, 1936

The League of Women Voters, whose local president is Miss Mary Ann Page, has undertaken a campaign which deserves commendation and public approval. Its purpose is to provide trained personnel for public service, which means the selection of officials for offices rather than selecting official positions for men and women.

The Red Wing Daily Republican is conclusively sold on the wisdom of such a movement and shall be glad to give its utmost support to bring the program to a successful issue. The editor of the Republican had the privilege to sign the first membership card in this City. While it is not the custom for this newspaper to sign membership cards or petitions of any kind, as it prefers to speak for itself in all matters of public policy, it made an exception in this case and was delighted to join that large number of citizens which it hopes will rally to the movement which the League is sponsoring this year.

Editorial
Educating in Politics

When equal suffrage became a fact twelve years ago, fifteen million women suddenly were faced with the duties as well as the privileges of the franchise. To enter intelligently into the sphere of politics, they needed political education and intelligent leadership.

To meet the need, the League of Women Voters already had been formed. Working at all times as a nonpartisan body, it has used its influence to inform the voters on issues and to foster the spirit of inquiry.

The Minnesota branch of this great organization is meeting in Minneapolis today, for its fourteenth annual convention. Its brief history presents an admirable record of service. While the league places its influence behind certain measures, and so becomes another "organized minority", knocking at the doors of Congress and of Legislatures, it continues to do valuable work in its studies of election methods, in getting out the vote, and in giving facilities for impartial dissemination of the views of candidates. Its biennial "field day" for candidates for Governor has become an institution.

Thanks in large part to the unremitting work of this organization, the average women voter today is better informed than the average man on the facts of government. In this field of political education the League of Women Voters has made its outstanding contribution.

From Minn. Journal, October 19, 1937

Compliments

I have always given full consideration to any legislation sponsored by the League of Women Voters because I have found that they are a non-partisan group who are interested in state wide problems. They do not foster bills in behalf of any particular group or class. This is a rare quality these days.

J. A. Paulson

~~4. 10. 1937~~

March, 1937

-Rep. from St. Paul

CHIEFTAIN BOND

PAGE CONTENTS

"Everybody seems to be fine and hopeful here. Nobody more than I. Pleased at the election, which was not a reactionary one at all, but on the contrary. A rebuke to that foolish Benson, a stupid man who was filling the place up with ignorant blokes. We are all grateful to the League. They seemed to be so wonderfully, so unusually lucid and intelligent now an organization of just Platos. Sometime that millenium will come, when a political campaign is just quiet, deeply interesting educational procedure, a making clear of everything."

BRENDA UELAND
Nov. 6, 1938

Keep for sheet on
opinions -

Extract from newspaper account of talk in St. Cloud by Miss Cora Dorsey, instructor in literature in St. Cloud Technical High School.
Jan. 1938

In quoting comment by Harry Overstreet in a lecture

"Mr. Overstreet stressed the need of awareness today and declared that the League of Women Voters was the outstanding organization among women, and was accomplishing a constructive piece of work".

16 lines
I pay high compliment to the League of Women Voters as I have seen it functioning in many states of the Union. Everywhere in this country the League is rapidly becoming the most outstanding organization in the fight for improved personnel procedure. I am optimistic about its continued leadership because it is an organization without political affiliations, with no political ambitions to satisfy, with no selfish objectives to be attained. In the fight for better Civil Service in America, it shares leadership only with employee organizations, and while I am particularly interested in the latter groups, it must be admitted that because employees can be accused by the public of working for self-interest, the same accusation cannot be made against the League. I can hope for your state continued leadership of this group, shared, too, I hope, by properly led employee organizations. // You are fortunate in having in your midst a man who did more for my state in bettering personnel procedures there than any other person at that time or before, not in public office. I refer to Harold Henderson who is sitting with us today. //

W. V.

— A. E. Garey

Chief, Wisconsin Bureau of Personnel (A. E. Garey)

Spoke at the Conference of Governmental Problems, sponsored by the MLWV Feb. 1938

CIVIL SERVICE PROGRESS IN MINNESOTA

By
CARL P. HERBERT

National Conference on Government
Indianapolis, November 17, 1939

Four years ago the ordinary citizen of Minnesota became convinced that he could no longer afford spoils politics in the state government. He had come to know that inherent in such a system are overloaded payrolls, expensive labor turnover, incompetent state employees, and the appointment to the payroll of politicians whose duties consisted in spending all their time campaigning for the re-election of their superiors. Then, too, there had been instituted the indefensible corollary of this method of employment, the financing indirectly from taxes of the dominant political party through the levying by that group of a 3% assessment against the employees in order to help the party perpetuate itself in power. If Minnesota were a wealthy state, possibly this luxury, the spoils system, could have been afforded because it was so stupid that it gave even the serious minded political scientist a laugh through his tears. But the state was being forced to borrow money for current operating expenses and, if it was to get back on an even financial keel, would have to retrench wherever possible and substitute effective for incompetent, inefficient government.

Not only did the people not want a wasteful, extravagant government but they also were opposed to a sadistic state government. They were tired of seeing the competent employe squirming under degrading party politics, with the removal axe at his neck continuously, -- an axe that would descend if another group came into office or if he failed to work for the party in power or refused to contribute to its

"educational fund." This latter was a device conceived not only to get money into the party's campaign funds, but also to reduce the income tax payments of the state employes by allowing their contributions to be deducted from earned income in arriving at the tax base. Incidentally, in the opinion of competent observers no civil service bill became a law at the 1937 legislative session for one reason only: the governor and the leaders of the dominant party were unwilling to discontinue assessing the employes, a condition that must be contained in any sound civil service law.

The state employes, themselves, were naturally for a civil service system that would give them independence and the right to use their ability to increase state services instead of applying their time and energies to further the interest of the party that happened to be in power. In other words they would prefer to work for the people instead of the politician. And, too, they were tired of giving of their substance to bribe the party in power to allow them to stay on the state payroll.

Public sentiment in Minnesota was against these unsound, expensive employment practices. To the Minnesota League of Women Voters goes the credit for crystallizing this public opinion so that both political parties were forced to make it an important part of their platforms. Nor was this group of women merely theoretical and vocal; they not only created the demand for personnel reform but formed a state-wide civil service council consisting of representatives of such organizations as the farm bureau federation, the parent-teachers, the American Legion, and the state federation of labor. This group in turn assembled those in the state best qualified to construct a civil service law, and, with their help, drafted and presented to the state legislature a suggested model civil service statute.

While some political compromises crept into the suggested bill

before final passage, the act that became a law in April of this year is essentially the model law presented to the legislature by the civil service council.

Department of Civil Service Created

The act creates a state department of civil service in charge of civil service board of three members appointed by the governor, confirmed by the senate, for a six year staggered term of office. An independent board is an essential buffer to political influences playing around any state capitol. In addition, the long term of office tends to make the board politically free of the current administrative officers. Members of the board are paid \$15 per day plus expenses with a maximum of \$450 in any one year. However, this maximum limitation does not apply to the first two years due to large amount of work necessary to get the system started.

Director Under Civil Service Provisions

The act requires the selection of a director of civil service on a merit or civil service basis, who shall be the executive head of the department. The supervision of a merit system is a highly technical field, requiring years of specialized training. Under this law, the civil service commission selects the director from a list of three names created by a competitive examination given not by the board itself but by a committee of three civil service specialists, one of whom must be a non-resident of the state. The director need not be a resident of the state and is placed in the classified service with all other employees, subject to the same protection. In other words, the merit system is applied to the director who is the keystone of the civil service arch. Such a provision gives the public as well as the mass of employees confidence in the entire civil service system.

Duties of Director

The director is to be the executive and administrative head of the civil service department. He is to classify positions giving proper titles, fixing duties and minimum qualifications, and prepare salary schedules so that like service shall receive like pay, and he must set up rules of procedure, all of which shall be subject to modification and approval by the board.

Duties of Board

The act definitely restricts the activities of the board to the field of policy-making and judicial determination, leaving the field of administration to the director and his technical assistants. Experience elsewhere indicates that board members are poorly fitted for administrative work of this character. The board passes on general policies of the department and approves the classification plan and the schedule of salaries as well as the rules and regulations. It conducts hearings in respect to the removal, suspension or demotion of all classified employees so as to guarantee tenure of office for competent employees and protect them against political removal. The decision of the board is final in such hearings.

Exemptions from the Act

All employees in the state service other than those in the unclassified service, are subject to the provisions of the act. Those exempted from the act are: elective officials and one private secretary and one deputy for each, the employees of the legislature and the courts, all University employees (for constitutional reasons), legal staff of the attorney general, present state highway patrol officers, teachers of state teachers' colleges, department heads appointed by the governor, deputy registrars of motor vehicles, seven confidential employees of the governor, and administrative heads of departments, divisions and institutions specifically

created by law. However, superintendents of institutions cannot be discharged except for cause.

Too many exemptions were made in the law if weighed against similar provisions in model civil service acts. It is generally accepted by civil service specialists that only policy-determining officials such as the heads of departments, the so-called cabinet members, should be without the classified service. If the most responsible as well as the higher paid positions are all exempted from civil service requirements, the career service idea becomes a farce and continuity of the technical work of the departments is interrupted upon the election of every new governor.

Treatment of Present Employees

The treatment of present employees was the result of a series of compromises such as usually occur when civil service is being applied for the first time in a state that has suffered from a "spoils" procedure for many years.

All persons who have been employed by the state for a total of five years, not necessarily continuous, and who were in service on the effective date of the Act (April 22, 1939), are "blanketed in" without taking an examination, but are subject to a six months' probation period (ending October 22, 1939). During this probation period they can be dismissed without an appeal to the civil service board.

All veterans holding positions on the effective date of the act regardless of length of service are given classified civil service status without any examination or probationary period.*

* - Persons who have passed the U.S. examination for their present positions in the Minnesota State Employment Service are "blanketed in." Persons in the recently created Unemployment Compensation Division, even though they have just passed civil service tests will have to take qualifying examinations.

All other persons with less than five years of state service and employed by the state before August 1, 1939, are required to take and pass qualifying non-competitive examinations within two years, subject to a six months' probation period.

System Starts Operating August 1, 1939

Beginning August 1, 1939, all employees appointed to the classified service are to be considered temporary employees until they have passed a competitive test and are among the three highest in the eligible lists compiled by the director. All new appointees may be dismissed during a six months' probation period for any cause without an appeal to the civil service board. In addition, at the end of the probationary period, supervisory heads must make a specific recommendation for retention of a probationary employee before he or she obtains a permanent civil service status. These provisions make the probationary period a definite part of the examination procedure.

Veterans' Preference

War veterans are given special preference and advantages over other citizens under the act. Veterans taking examinations for either original entrance or for promotion are to receive five points additional credit to any mark obtained. Disabled veterans are to receive ten points, and if then passing the examinations, are moved to the top of the eligible list. This preferential treatment is also extended to widows of veterans or wives of veterans who are too disabled to qualify. These veterans preference provisions are as liberal as any provided in this country. Preference for veterans is not provided for in a model civil service since it is in direct violation of a true merit system.

Tenure Insured

Definite tenure is provided for all classified employees since dismissal of a civil service employee can be only for cause, and after a written statement of charges, and a public hearing before the Civil Service Board,

which must approve the discharge.

Other Provisions

Civil service employes are protected against political assessments on their salaries and are restricted from taking part in certain types of political activity, but are permitted to make voluntary contributions to candidates or political parties.

Layoffs are made according to seniority. This is a compromise with a true merit system but simplifies the problem of administration.

The director is required to establish standards of performance for each class of position and to provide for a system of service or efficiency ratings which are to be used in promotions and dismissals. This is a very important provision and should prevent the service from being filled with incompetent employes.

The director shall also provide schools for training employes while in the service. In service training programs are vital to the public career service idea. Such provisions were not a part of older civil service laws. The modern conception of civil service is to recruit the service from the younger people and then to train them on the job, giving weight to promotion as a means of filling the more responsible positions.

Many other provisions are included which are usually found in civil service acts and need not be mentioned here. Loopholes of other civil service laws relating to temporary and emergency appointments, certification of payrolls, etc. have been closed insofar as possible.

Progress Under Act

Since the passage of the law a competent civil service board has been appointed and organized, with the chairman of the Minnesota League of Women Voters' committee on civil service as chairman of the board. A number of months ago a trained executive, a specialist in employment management, form-

erly personnel director of Michigan, was appointed director after a nationwide competitive examination. A national organization has been retained to classify positions and standardize salaries. A staff is being recruited. This week rules and regulations will be submitted to the Board for its consideration.

Conclusions

Civil service reform cannot but be successful in Minnesota because:

- One - The people of Minnesota not only were ready for it, but were insistent in their demands that it be adopted. As everyone acquainted with government knows, this is the first requirement in bringing about any major change in governmental processes and guaranteeing its successful operation. This truism is quite often forgotten by many in their zeal for reform, with the result that civil service reform has often been instituted before the people as a whole were prepared for it, only to have it prostituted within a short time by its political enemies. This has not been the case in Minnesota.
- Two - The act making effective the new employment system, while not perfect, is reasonably satisfactory. Good employment policies and administration can be had under it. Any defects appearing now or later can be corrected without necessitating any change in the fundamental structure.
- Three - The persons responsible for the administration of the act are strong partisans of civil service reform and because of this have the confidence of the public. The governor and the heads of the state departments as well as the employees are in sympathy with the act. There will be no sabotaging from within.
- Four - Governmentally speaking, our house was placed in order before

the civil service act became effective. The state budget was not in balance and this necessitated retrenchment. This meant discharging employes, the least competent workers. When the act went into operation, there were 15,147 persons on the state payrolls. Just one year before the number was 19,893. Thus there was a decrease of 3,643 and a payroll saving of \$2,500,000 a year. A major problem, that of reducing personnel, which might have been postponed until the new employment procedure was in operation, was already taken care of.

At last the State of Minnesota can expect wasteless, satisfying, government because it has erected a keystone upon which good administration depends. It has enacted and put into operation an employment procedure that cannot but result in the good government that we all demand, but seldom get.

Comments on Minn. LWV on file and possible further suggestions

Governor Stassen - see December 1939 Voter ✓

Speaker of the House Lawrence Hall - see attached letter and clipping

Carl B Herbert - attached extract from speech in Indianapolis

Allen H Seed, Jr., executive vice president, Mpls. civic council - clippings attached ✓

Brenda Ueland - attached extract from letter ✓

Daisy Brown	(
Florence Burton	(See June 1939 Voter attached ✓
Benj. Youngdahl	(

A E Garey- formerly Chief, Wisconsin Bureau of Personnel - see statement attached

(See Civil Service)

Lefcovitz

Val Bjornson

President Guy Stanton Ford

Allan Briggs

Minnesota League of Women Voters,
914 Marquette Ave., Minneapolis
September 1940

AS SEEN BY OTHERS

file copy

Compliments

Governor Harold E. Stassen:

"The people of Minnesota are indebted to the Minnesota League of Women Voters for their active and intelligent work in studying and preparing civil service legislation and in bringing to the attention of the people and the legislature the desirability of this legislation. The outstanding civil service law now upon our statute books is due in no small part to the leadership and the continuous constructive efforts of this organization."

Guy Stanton Ford, President, University of Minnesota

"In fact, in most public matters, I should be perfectly willing to underwrite a recommendation from the League of Women Voters."

John Cowles, President, Minneapolis Star-Journal

"For many years I have regarded the League of Women Voters as one of the most valuable organizations in America. The League not only performs a genuine service in educating voters so that they are better informed in casting their ballots, but also deserves great credit for the numerous improvements in our laws and their administration for which it has been primarily responsible. Many organizations have intelligent, constructive programs but few have as high a batting average as the League of Women Voters in getting results."

Donald D. Davis, Minneapolis

"May I take this opportunity of again confirming my interest in the League of Women Voters. I have considered it a privilege to be of assistance to your organization, as I feel that their twenty years of experience in the development of their objectives have increasingly given them sound tools with which to accomplish their purposes."

"I am quite certain that anyone who will thoroughly consider your organization and its procedure will conclude that support and assistance is a good investment in preserving and enhancing our democratic ideology."

Robert F. Pack, Minneapolis

"In these troubled and uncertain times, it is more than ever important that every American citizen take an active part in the affairs of his government, a duty he acknowledges when he informs himself on the interests of his country and exercises his right to vote."

"In my opinion, the League of Women Voters is doing an excellent job in emphasizing the responsibility upon women to vote and to vote intelligently."

Harold C. Deutsch, Associate professor of history, Univ. of Minnesota

"The League of Women Voters can point to their splendid record as one of the most constructive and disinterested forces in the political life of America. In the trying days which we all recognize to be ahead for our country, we can look to the League to continue to make available information on and promote understanding of the issues that we must solve if our democratic government is to survive."

O. Hyking Mehus, President, Winona Teachers' College

"I feel that the League of Women Voters deserves the hearty support of every one who is interested in making politics a science of government. In trying to solve our social and economic problems in a scientific and non-partisan manner, you are setting an example that is vitally needed at the present time."

Lloyd M. Short, Professor of Political Science, Univ. of Minn.

"The League of Women Voters is one of the most active and effective non-academic agencies in America today in the field of adult political education."

Leal A. Headley, Carleton College, Northfield

"To meet periodically for a penetrating and non-partisan study and discussion of issues which are of basic importance in various fields of public welfare, ranging from the problems of the precinct to those of international relations, seems to me to be as substantial a contribution toward good government as most of us are likely to be able to make. That at least one lay group is pledged to a program of such study is indeed an occasion for hope in a democracy which is not without its occasions for regret."

Lawrence M. Hall, St. Cloud (Speaker of House, 1939 session)

"For those people who see the necessity of knowing their government and making opinions felt through cooperative effort, which is the only way they will bear weight, I know of no better organization than the League of Women Voters."

William Allen White, Emporia Gazette

"I have always felt that the League of Women Voters of all the organizations of American women, was best equipped and accoutered to make swift, intelligent attacks upon the evils of the day... And I believe that among the organized forces of women in this country, the League of Women Voters has the best record of achievement and aspiration."

F. H. LaGuardia, Mayor, City of New York

"The most significant features of the League's work seems to me to be the fact that its program is determined upon democratically by the entire League membership, matters on the program are carefully studied before action is taken, and both the National and local Leagues are not content merely with passing resolutions but arouse community support for measures which they endorse."

Frank R. Kent, The Baltimore Sun

"In my judgment the League of Women Voters is the most effective, competent and understanding organization for the dissemination of political information and the stirring of political interest in the country. In my opinion it fills an extremely important place in our national life and performs a vital function."

W. A. Neilson, President emeritus, Smith College

"I have had occasion to observe the activities of the League of Women Voters for many years, and am more and more impressed by its importance in the political education of the country.... Its lack of partisanship, its emphasis upon fact finding, and the scrupulous care with which it selects those issues on which it takes up a definite position, have earned for it the highest respect of all who are interested in raising the level of American political thinking."

Harold H. Swift, Chicago

"The splendid work of the League of Women Voters - its education in, encouragement of and fight for good government - is praiseworthy and deserving of support."

Recent magazines which have included articles and comment on the League:
Readers' Digest, July 1939 and July 1940
Survey-Graphic, February and June 1939
Good Government, June 1939
New Yorker, December 8, 1939
National Municipal Review, June 1940

Golfer & Sparkman Jan. 1940

Among Those We Know

IT WAS before North and South Dakota had changed from one big territory to the eminence of statehood. In an old frame building a political party caucus was being held. A small girl, with the twinkling eyes of a fun-loving boy and wearing a boy's cap, sat next to her father, a delegate, and took it all in avidly. She saw the behind-the-scenes business of politics unfold its complicated machinations.

She saw too that those who pulled the strings were all men.

In those days, woman's suffrage was classed as a fad, promoted by crackpots.

The young girl who sat in so interestedly at the caucus was Marguerite M. Wells of Minneapolis, now president of the National League of Woman





Partially Scanned Material

The remainder of this page/item has not been digitized due to copyright considerations. The original can be viewed at the Minnesota Historical Society's Gale Family Library in Saint Paul, Minnesota. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/library/.

Northfield, Minnesota

March 26, 1940

In my opinion, the only way to make democracy effective is by open discussion of the problems of the day. This discussion, combined with self education, creates individuals who can contribute something constructive to the life of their community, state and nation.

I know of no other agency in Northfield that is doing this job so well as the League of Women Voters.

Vincent R. Hunt

Vincent R Hunt

Vincent R. Hunt, Department of Economics
and Athletic Coach
Northfield High School
Northfield, Minnesota

SEP 14 1940

In these troubled and uncertain times, it is more than ever important that every American citizen take an active part in the affairs of his Government, a duty he acknowledges when he informs himself on the interests of his country and exercises his right to vote.

In my opinion, the League of Women Voters is doing an excellent job in emphasizing the responsibility upon women to vote and to vote intelligently.

Robert F. Pack.

May 18, 1940

Extract from letter to Mrs. Havens of Austin, from
Byron M Smith, head, Bureau of Personnel Procedures, & Staff Development,
Division of Social Welfare

"This is not surprising to us because we know that the League of Women Voters throughout the entire state of Minnesota has been most cooperative ~~in this effort~~ and understanding in the efforts which have been made to develop sound and efficient policies and procedures."