

WOMAN SUFFRAGE LEAGUE OF MARYLAND

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL AMERICAN WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

MRS. CHARLES E. ELLICOTT, *President*

MRS. J. ROSS THOMPSON, *Honorary President*

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

MRS. EDWARD SHOEMAKER

STATE HEADQUARTERS

2 EAST LEXINGTON STREET

BALTIMORE

TREASURER

MRS. FRANK F. RAMEY

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

MRS. WILLIAM MILNES MALOY

RECORDING SECRETARY

MRS. ROBERT MOSS

3RD VICE-PRESIDENT

MRS. SYDNEY M. CONE

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

MISS JULIA ROGERS

AUDITORS

MRS. GEO. CRAWFORD
MRS. WILLIAM SILVER

February 5th, 190.

Honorable Sir:

The Federal Woman Suffrage Amendment has already been ratified by twenty-seven states, comprising more than one-half the territory and including more than one-half the population of the United States. According to authentic reports from the National American Woman Suffrage Association, Legislative sessions in which ratification is assured are scheduled to take place in four other states within the next few weeks, leaving only five additional states needed to complete ratification. The Legislatures of more than the necessary five states are publicly pledged to ratify as soon as they are called in session.

These facts prove that the complete ratification of the Amendment is inevitable and that perhaps within a few weeks the women of Maryland will be enfranchised. Shall they have the honor of being accorded that right by the men of Maryland or must they receive it by the action of other states? We no longer face a theory but a fact. The Maryland Legislature must ratify if our State is to escape the discredit of compulsion in doing right.

There are those "professional southerners" who would play upon prejudice and ignorance, not hesitating to prostitute the most sacred traditions of the south in their effort to cloud the real issue of the suffrage question by linking it with the negro question. The real facts concerning the negro population in the South are as follows:

In the fifteen states south of the Mason and Dixon line, according to the United States Census Report of 1910, there are:

10,661,926 white women
4,354,089 negro women

6,307,837 more white than negro women

10,661,926 white women
8,643,640 total negro population

2,018,286 more white women than total negro population

These fifteen states are: Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Missouri, and West Virginia.

In only two, South Carolina and Mississippi, are there more negro than white women, and in those states there are also more negro than white men.

In South Carolina, voters must read, own and pay taxes on \$300 worth of property. In Mississippi, voters must read the Constitution.

Four other states of the black belt - Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Louisiana - all have educational tests. In the other nine, Maryland being one, white women exceed the total negro population.

Under the proposed Woman Suffrage Amendment the same restrictions which now apply to men must also apply to women and as these qualifications restrict the negro man's vote, it stands to reason that they will also restrict the negro woman's vote.

Anti-Suffragists will tell you that negroes will rule the South when women vote. Surely you do not believe that the white race is puny, pusillanimous and degenerate. That race will continue superior which is superior and the talk of "negro domination" is a bug-a-boo which will frighten no man when he knows the facts.

We respectfully submit that equal suffrage in southern states would (1) increase vastly the white vote; and (2) raise the educational and moral standard of the electorate.

Respectfully,

WOMAN SUFFRAGE LEAGUE OF MARYLAND

Per

Publicity Chairman.