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**SUFFRAGETTE
PRIMER OR
A WINK TO THE WISE**



BY MARY RICHARDS GRAY



A Suffragette Primer
or a WINK to the WISE

By MARY RICHARDS GRAY

TO

Ann Eliza Smythe

An ardent advocate of universal suffrage

A Suffragette Primer
or a WINK to the WISE

BY

Mary Richards Gray



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Foreword

RECOGNIZING the very present need of a handy, compact volume, giving in simple language essential facts on voting, I have prepared a primer which sets forth concisely and with scrupulous regard for the truth, those details deemed of first importance on the great subject of politics.

¶ The chief authorities used in preparing this little book were newspaper editorials, election probes, whitewashes, and Government reports.

¶ None of the ideas can I truthfully claim as wholly original. For your benefit, fellow Citizenesses and prospective Citizenesses, I have browsed at large gleaning whatsoever I could, wheresoever I could, and herewith submit to you the results of my efforts.

M. R. G.

Los Angeles, California
November 15, 1911



A STANDS for Anti-
Suffragette
With Politics she does
not fret
“The home” says she,
“is woman’s place,
The sphere that she
should grace.
Of man-made laws
that ’gainst us stand,
Why talk? They’re
writ in shifting sand.

What’s gained from customs strange and
new?

This world’s all well enough—will do.”

Thus idly on she runs. Ah, me!

A Paradise for fools needs be.





B IS for ballot, the paper upon which the names of the candidates or issues calling for a Vote are printed. Sometimes this paper is yellow, the Suffrage color, not out of Courtesy to the Citizenesses, for where Equality runs rampant such slight attentions are unnecessary — but because of price. In voting remember Æsop's Fable of the Man, the Boy and the Donkey. Do not attempt to carry the Donkey. Of course, it is quite proper to be obliging, but obligations sometimes prove troublesome. Please yourself. No one can snoop around and spy on you while marking your ballot and you are not obliged to explain yourself. Men do not. The zinc voting stall though neither elegant nor artistic gives all necessary privacy. Your own ideas are good enough.



C IS FOR Caucus. This is a meeting called to give everybody a show in nominating Candidates; that is, the ideal Caucus should be of this sort. Notwithstanding, it usually proves a cut and dried affair, in which business is railroaded through by a few of the friends of aspiring

Candidates and the rest sit around mad. A Caucus may or may not be a bonnet affair, there being no precedent for the State of California "Take Time by the Forelock" and establish Tradition.



D IS for Democracy, something we have in some parts of the United States and not in others. Example: What California acquired at the time of the Great Revolution.

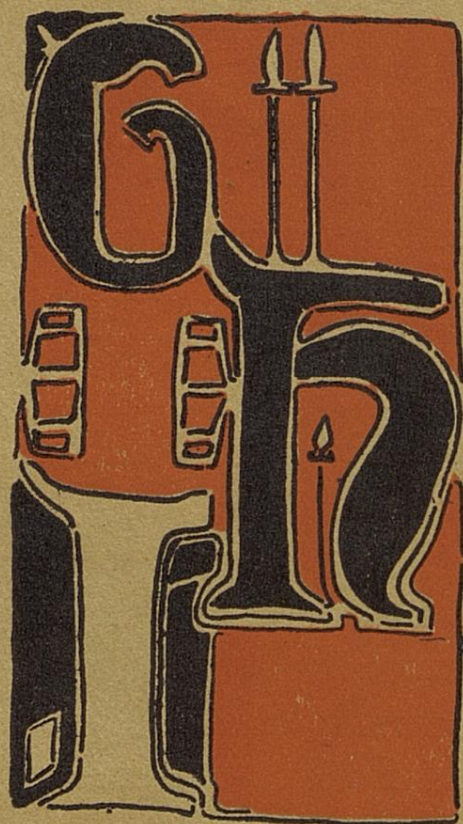
E STANDS FOR Equality—a State which does not exist, nevertheless has furnished the subject for almost as many high school essays as the Tariff has called forth speeches before the Senate. Always a safe subject for discussion if kept impersonal.



F STANDS for the FIFTY,
that body of Los Angeles
Archaics brought into promi-
nence by the action they took
in the Suffrage Campaign of
the Fall of 1911. Be chari-
table towards them, Citizen-
esses, now that the victory is
yours. They belong to the
class with your Grandparents
and give them the same min-
gled respect and patronizing affection that
you lavish upon the Old Folks. At present
their whereabouts are unknown.

Who has seen our doughty fifty?
Now tell us where they all may be;
'Lecture day they took a Hike-O
Without noise or ceremony.

Who has seen the doughty fifty
For their age so spry and nifty?
Are they keeping up their Pace-O
What t-ell! Who has seen the Fifty?



G STANDS for
Good Thing—
Woman since the
world began.

H IS for Harmony
an imaginary
state of quiescence
in Politics of which
men talk a great deal.
History furnishes us
no example as every-
body dies before the
real state is reached.

I IS for Insurgent. Any person guilty of the
crime of independent thinking may be
correctly classed as an Insurgent. Species
have been discovered in every State in the
Union.



Just 21



W. W. WET.



J IS for Jolt. The great seismic disturbance in California which began at sunrise on the Morning of the Tenth of October, 1911, and continued until noon of the Twelfth in varying degrees of intensity was one of the greatest Jolts ever experienced in the United States of America. Seismographs in Nevada, Oregon, Kansas, and Wisconsin also registered this disturbance and scientists in these particular States connect the signs with the Suffrage Movement.



K IS for Kibosh, a pronunciamento that becomes effective without being pronounced. Example: President Taft. Nothing has really been done against him, yet somehow he is out of Harmony with his Constituency.

A Kibosh's on Bill Taft.
He knows it well enough
Yet cannot quite make out
From whence it came and how
And what it's all about.
Just now it hangs upon
Him like an ugly Pall;
He's almost down and out
No danger of Recall;
No boom can he inspire.
He's playing out of luck—
No pair to which to draw—
A game that's hard to buck.
A Kibosh's on Bill Taft.



L IS for Left. In Politics the Left means the Red side, and the farther you travel in this Direction the Redder it gets.

M IS for Molly Coddle a male Species closely allied to the "Womanly Man" but differentiated by Brain Action. Conversation is the only sure test.

Now this is what the Antis call
a Molly Coddle.

He's man, but over-fed on Suffrage
Pap and Twaddle.



M

MURPHY

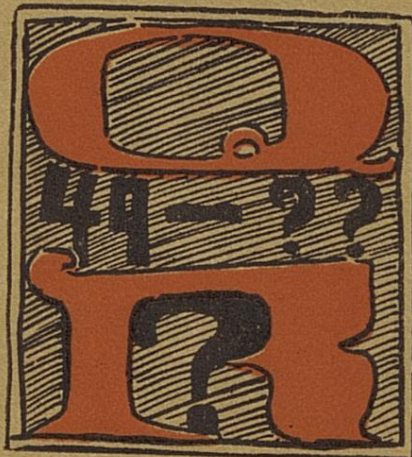


N IS for Noise. To the feminine Sounds heard abroad in the Land previous to the Great California Revolution Antis applied the opprobrious term, Noise. Wise men, however, attached to this Noise much significance, and translating it into the Cry "I Want to Vote," treated the demand as something more than a Joke.

O IS for Old Guard, an affectionate Term applied to the Regulars, those who vote under Instruction.



P IS for Polling Place. Most Polling Places are unsterilized ex-stores fixed up temporarily in Picnic Style. Boards laid across saw-horses for tables, grocery boxes, borrowed chairs and zinc stalls constitute the most of the furniture. Sometimes real furniture is used. As a matter of Economy no effort is spent on artistic effects, Utility and Privacy being the only motifs in the scheme of Decoration.



Q IS for Quitters, those who just leave their Party naturally.

R IS for Registration. This is the first preliminary to Voting, an Ordeal to be submitted to with equanimity, the

chief requirement being a correct statement of one's age. One of the first women to register in the State of California, gave her age as forty-nine and then volunteered the additional information that her hat cost a Dollar and a Half. Taken all in all, many people consider this a cataclysmal experience.

When Suffie registered she had a time.
To mental Reservations, queer and fine,
To lop the telltale years away she gave
No heed, but just owned up to forty-nine.
This conversation plank did break the ice
And then before she knew where she was at
Elated by our wondrous victory,
She'd up and told right out about her hat.
"It cost a Dollar and a Half marked down
From Ten."--That was enough. Impatient grew
The waiting line; she moved along.
Fate saved her
Then and there from telling all she knew.

Moral: Never tell your age. A Woman who will tell her age will tell anything.





S STANDS for Suffragette.
(Pronounced suf-ra-jet, not suffer-get, suffer-gate or sufferin'-yet. This last is a Misnomer, as we are not sufferin'-yet, except vicariously for our unemancipated Sisters.) The term applies to the great crop which California harvested in the Year of Our Lord, 1911—the most phenomenal crop ever known in a State where everything grows large.



T IS for Tariff, one of the largest questions in Politics. As the free list needs revision to include Bridge sets, Cosmetics, Hair, French wearing apparel, French Poodles and Turkish Cigarettes lose no opportunity to take the Stump. Use the Society columns of your home Papers freely. Follow precedent. Every Senator makes at least one speech on this subject and sees that it is printed in his Home Paper. These speeches, it is said, have not changed a single Vote since before Zachary Taylor's time. However, do not let that discourage you. Though not a Senator you are fighting for a great Principle. Get busy.



U STANDS for gracious
Uncle Sam.
He loves the Suffragettes,
the dear Old Boy,
Their cause he fully under-
stands
And champions with
greatest Joy.

The clamoring women of our Land
To him are not just one huge Joke.
He laughs, but's wise enough to see
There's always Fire along with Smoke.

Their cries for "Rights" ring loud
and clear,
They're marching on to Victory.
Six stars now grace their waving flag,
Soon he will rule a people free.

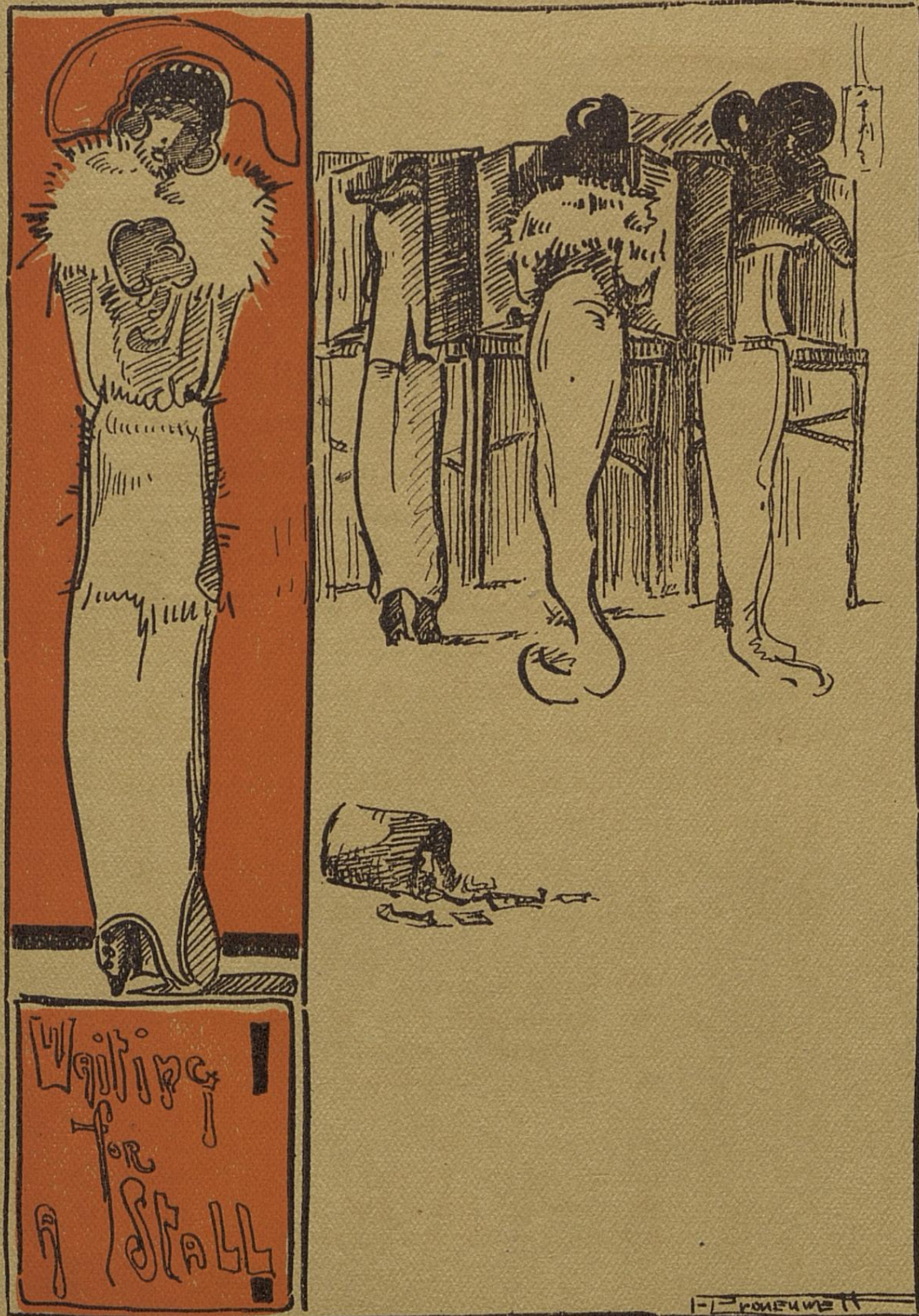




V IS for Voters. Who are Voters? All the people now in six States of the Union. The change does not mean that the Men are going to resign in favor of the Women. No, no, my child. Are you worried about what Hand will rock the Cradle when Mother goes to vote? Cast your fears to the Winds. The same Hand that rocked the Cradle when Mother went to pay the Taxes will rock the Cradle when she goes to Vote. Election Day will be no harder on her than Wash Day and nothing compared to a siege with the Whooping Cough. Though things have changed somewhat, Mother can manage. She will get to the Polls. Trifles will not deter her from doing her Duty and never mind how she looks.

Her Hat is on askew
Her Harem skirt does sag
And goodness, gracious me
Her Tongue, how glibly it does wag!

She talks on Politics
Authorities she quotes
She gives her Hat a jerk
And hies up the Polls and Votes.



TOMPKINS



W STANDS FOR
Women. How
may they be classified?
There are those who talk
part of the Time; those
who talk all the Time;
and those who begin in
the Middle and talk both
Ways at once. Examples?
Well I hate to call Names
as it is not genteel and
nice to do so.



X IS for Xtravagance—a term applied to the expenditure of Money. What someone else has spent that you feel sure you could have disposed of to much better advantage is the chief Point to be noted in connection with it. By the way this is always a Minority Viewpoint.

Y IS for Ycleped—a most effective Word to use in Maiden Speeches. Try it on your constituency. Run it in somehow in the introduction and repeat it once or twice in the Peroration. Possibly some will not understand but do not worry about that. Let them gather your meaning from the Context. It is a good word for your Vocabulary.



Z IS for Zounds, a contraction of God's Wounds. This expletive also can be used effectively at times, preferably when no "Lady Suffragettes" are present. However, as few of them really know the Origin and Significance of the Word do not sacrifice any oratorical Effects on Purity of Speech.

FASHION NOTES

Let the Hour at which you vote determine in large Measure what you wear. Of course, most Men on account of Business, go to the Polls early in the Morning, at Noon, or from Four to Six. The late Afternoon will possibly be the best time. Unbesmirched Skirts are most appropriate, but do not garb yourself in your best Costume on account of the Crowd. If you like, and the weather is cool, cover up in a becoming Cloak of Modesty.

Hoops, it is said, are traveling westward from Paris on the Road of Fashion. As Polling Booths measure somewhat less than three Feet from Flank to Flank it will be hard to make a fetching Entrance; therefore, do not consider their use on Election day.

Large Hats, too, are Taboo, unless they can be left outside in the Machine; for tilted at the rakish Angle necessary for Ingress and Egress to the Booth, they create an impression that reflects on one's Intelligence.

Very early in the Morning do not wear all your Puffs, Rats, Switches, and Feathers, as Dew and Fog are hard on them, and bedraggled Finery gives an Air of Cheapness, which Style says must be avoided.

Leave your Cigarettes at home, lest in your excitement you set fire to your Ballot and lose your Vote.

To avoid a Rush arrange with the Society Editor for a Description of your Costume several days before Election.

TAMAM

NEALE-MOORE Co., LOS ANGELES

