

# **SUFFRAGISTS PLEDGE AID TO THE NATION**

## **Declare at Washington Meeting That 2,000,000 Women Will Serve in the Country's Crisis.**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—The National American Woman Suffrage Association at a mass meeting today pledged its loyalty to the Government in the event of war and offered the services of its 2,000,000 members to assist in the organization of the country to meet the crisis. A note adopted today by the Executive Council of the Suffrage Association, to be sent to President Wilson, says:

We devoutly hope and pray that our country's crisis may be passed without recourse to war. We declare our belief that the settlement of international difficulties by bloodshed is unworthy of the twentieth century, and our confidence that our Government is using every honorable means to avoid conflict. If, however, our nation is drawn into the maelstrom, we stand ready to serve our country with the zeal and consecration which should ever characterize those who cherish high ideals of the duty and obligation of citizenship.

With no intention of laying aside our constructive, forward work to secure the vote for the womanhood of this country as the right protective of all rights, we offer our services to our country in the event they should be needed, and, in so far as we are authorized, we pledge the loyal serv-

ices of our more than 2,000,000 members.

To unify the efforts of all women's organizations and co-operate with the Government authorities, the association plans to formulate a Central Committee composed of representatives from "each national organization of women willing to aid in war work if the need arises." The Suffrage Association itself expects to establish a bureau to work out plans for employing women in positions left vacant by men who might go to war.

Secretary of War Baker, addressing the meeting, discussed the elimination of waste, which the war in Europe had affected. "There is no people so wasteful as we are," he said. "It is not wanton waste, but perhaps a part of modern civilization. We have lived like untrained children in a rich garden, trampling down the flowers. A lesson against waste is being brought home to every civilized man in the world under the iron heel of necessity. When peace comes, Europe will be populated by a people who have learned not to waste."

Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont of New York today made a contribution of \$5,000 to the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage to help finance the suffrage demonstration at the White House next Sunday. Women from all parts of the country will participate in the demonstration, the object of which will be to further the passage of the resolution submitting a constitutional amendment for woman suffrage to the States.

The contributions for this purpose received today amounted to \$12,500. The Massachusetts branch of the Congressional Union gave \$1,000, the Pennsylvania branch \$5,000, the Colorado branch \$2,000, and the Delaware branch \$500.

The Woman's Party and the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage will hold a joint convention in Washington this week, and the two organizations will be amalgamated.

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