

CLUBWOMEN CAPTURE DONGAN HILLS FAIR

VISITORS DESERT EVEN THE HORSE RACES TO CROWD INTO THE
SPEECHMAKING TENT—SUFFRAGISTS OUT IN FORCE—DISCUSS
EVERYTHING FROM ART TO VOTING AND HEAR PLANS FOR
A CLUB AT WHICH TO ENJOY WEEK-ENDS.

Several hundred members of Women's Clubs held a meeting in a large tent on the Interborough Fair Grounds at Dongan Hills, on Thursday, and speeches were made on a score of different topics. It was Club Women's Day at the fair, which had been in progress since Monday, and the event proved to be the main attraction of the day, outrivaling even the horse racing.

Although club women from this State predominated, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and other States were represented. The suffragists were out in force, and most of the speeches made were along the lines of the "Votes for Women" movement. A suffragist booth at the main entrance of the grounds had been opened since the fair began, and on Thursday Miss Mary Donnelly, who has charge of it, said proudly that more than five hundred visitors had enrolled their names for the good of the cause.

A committee of Staten Island women, headed by Mrs. Mary Lawton Metcalfe of Great Kills, representing the Daughters of the American Revolution, and Mrs. Ida Powell Priest of Huguenot Park, welcomed the visitors and escorted them to the big tent at the southern end of the enclosure, which had been provided by President W. S. Van Cleaf, of the Agricultural Society. The tent easily held a thousand persons, and it was crowded all day.

President Van Cleaf officially welcomed the women and made a short address in which he invited all hands to the grand stand to view the horse racing. None accepted, however, the suffragists explaining that they were too busy attending to the great human race to bother about horses.

Among the subjects discussed by the various women were peace, public education, art, music, history, education for citizenship, patriotism, good government, drama, law, literature, agriculture, philanthropy, economics, science, medicine, civics, and public hygiene. In fact few subjects were overlooked. The speakers appeared to know all about their topics, and the enthusiasm they evoked, even from among the men who strolled into the tent, brought an excited crowd running from the other attractions every few minutes.

One subject not on the program which aroused considerable discussion was the new law establishing in this city a special night court for women. Miss Donnelly and other suffragists attacked the law on the ground that it was unfair to their sex. An effort will be made to array all the women's clubs against the law and start a movement to have it repealed.

The Domestic Science and Pure Food Congress was represented by Mme. Kage Moustaki, its vice-president, and she made a speech setting forth the good work done by the club. Mrs. Anita Corfort-Brooks, president of the Gotham Club, announced that she and several friends were soon to start a new club to be known as the Week-End Club, its principal object being the supplying of a desirable place for its members to spend week-ends in the Spring, Summer, and Fall. The Club will be located on Long Island and men will be allowed to join. Hops, barn dances, straw rides, and outdoor sports will be encouraged.

Some of the speakers on Thursday were Mrs. Camille Birnbohm, Mrs. William Grant Brown, Mrs. Winnifred Cooley, Mrs. Ida A. Craft, Mrs. Priscilla D. Hackstaff, Mrs. Howard Cynthia Westover Alden, Mrs. Clark Bell, Mrs. Helen V. Boswell, Mrs. Mary E. Dreier, Mrs. Charles Greene, Mrs. Mary Garrett Hay, Mrs. N. S. Lowe, Mrs. Caroline Lexow, Mrs. Horace Rounds, Mrs. Anne Rhodes, Mrs. L. C. A. Volkman, Mrs. Clara I. Watson, and Mrs. Wilbur Whitford.

Among the clubs and organizations represented were the New York Women's Suffrage Party, the Kings and New York County Suffrage Party, the College League, the New York Homes for Californians, the Pure Food Congress, Library Association of Gifford's, Staten Island; the American Playgoers, the Gotham, the Empire State Club, the Child Labor Association, National American Tax League, Henry George League, the Sorosis Club, the Rainy Day Club, Women's Health Protective, Educational Work Among Immigrants, the National State and City Federation of Women's Clubs, College Women, Dames of the Revolution, Knickerbocker Chapter, D. A. R., Century Theatre, Daughters of 1812, the Portia Club, Women's Press Club, the Forum, William Lloyd Garrison Club, Knickerbocker Relief, New Yorkers, Mothers and Teachers of Staten Island, the Council of Women's Clubs of Staten Island, and the College League.

"The meeting was one of the largest and most successful ever held," said Mrs. Priest, when it was over, "and it will do a great deal of good."

It is with great pleasure, that we are publishing in "The Staten Island World" an account of the brilliant meeting of women, many of whom had never before visited this Borough.

The New Thought Times has an immense national circulation, so that the report of Women's Club Day, September 8th, 1910, has gone out from Greater New York, as the beginning of a wonderful season of extraordinary activity in the union of many minds for human betterment.

The idea in our minds constantly prompting all co-educative work, is that the greatest activity should be directed to the grand distribution of ideas for practical, common sense results.

There is no grander pulpit than the

press. Women with earnest purpose to do good, must be awakened to the fact that the clean, wholesome newspapers are the widest distributing agents in the march of ideas to the realization of Success!

In arranging the preliminaries for Club Women's Day, the officers-of-the-day were most enthusiastic, as to the value of such a public occasion.

The splendid big tent; impromptu platform, draped with national colors; the "camp meeting" seats and green carpet of God's own grass, were simple settings for a living picture of simple life, which has impressed itself indelibly on the minds of the several thousand persons—a changing audience from half-past ten o'clock until half past five.

President Van Cleaf is, to our minds, actually the most altruistic worker in this borough, because his motives are to establish the grandest kind of philanthropy, which is that to open up this borough as a prosperous business centre for ambitious workers.

Mr. Van Cleaf made a short, cordial address of welcome, to express the pleasure of the Richmond County Association in giving the freedom of the grounds, as the intellectual centre at least for one day of women. Mrs. Ida Powell Priest gave also a greeting, and Mrs. Mary Lawton Metcalfe read a paper, which concisely sets forth the dominant idea of suggesting the first Club Women's Day in Greater New York.

Mrs. Metcalfe's Greeting.

Mr. President:
In behalf of these club-women representing International, national, State, and interborough organizations, we cannot refrain from thanking you your able and splendid Secretary, Mr. Nellis, and the officers of this Fair of 1910, for this visible expression of good-will and interest in women's club-work for human betterment.

This is indeed a significant and gala day in the club-history of New York State.

We thank you!
Fellow-clubwomen: We welcome you with enthusiastic greeting, and at this moment link in spirit any power which may be ours with tongue or pen to advance the noble aims for which you work.

There are 50,000 club-women in Greater New York. Of this number 2,000 are residents of this beautiful, healthful Borough of Richmond.

To-day marks the actual making of new history on Staten Island. The Fair Association of representative business men, organized to promote advancement and progress, has taken the initiative. In giving us this welcome and the privileges of the Club Women's Day, Mr. Van Cleaf and his association have established a recognition of the power of organized women's clubs, as factors to facilitate happy times of general national prosperity, good government, public education; when no children shall be ruled out on half time—advancement in arts and sciences and all departments of the world's work, summed up in the words "Eternal Progress!"

There is no stand-still in Nature. Mother Earth is always busy. Stagnation is death. Vitalizing words from you earnest, thoughtful women will generate and transmit a current of positive electricity, which will carry us upward into a purer atmosphere of intellectuality, spirituality; progressive thinking and forceful doing.

In high altitudes of glorified thought, Innate divinity casts off the earthly mask of the human, and the naked soul holds communion with its God—the All-Spirit of Life!

We see our Father face to face and, on the heights of mental Pilegah, His word becomes flesh in your understanding and mine. Girded with Divine Inspiration, we fear not criticism or censure, but in practical work make visible expression of God's impression.

There is the power of Gentleness. For Progress there must be Peace.

This law which governs life is the Law of Growth. No man can grow intellectually alone; no woman can grow alone. Self-centred individuals, clubs, communities, are anchors to keep back the ship of state. Things are working, unfolding, into the perfection of the Highest Consciousness. Therefore in our cordial greeting, fellow club-women we emphasize the pass-word of Club Women's Day, 1910: Progress! In union there is strength.

Fraternally,
MARY LAWTON METCALFE,
D. A. R.,
Officer-of-the-day.

Many hundred letters of congratulation and telegrams were received by Mrs. Ida Powell Priest, who as secretary of the Woman's Press Club, had been invited as an officer-of-the-day to assist Mrs. Metcalfe.

Mrs. Priest secured several copies of the Club Woman, a directory of clubs in Greater New York, and with the co-operation of the courteous and gallant secretary, Mr. A. C. Nellis, the stenographers sent out several thousand letters signed by Mrs. Priest on Stationery, generously printed for the occasion.

Never has the Fair of the Agricultural Society received such wide advertising as through the advance work of The Staten Island World and through the Club Woman's Day invitations.

Mrs. Metcalfe's committees were made up from the active membership

lists of Staten Island Clubs.

Other names were secured from the Club Woman, directly through the energetic direction of Mrs. Priest, who was untiring for three weeks in giving her time and valuable services to make Club Woman's Day, one of eclat and splendor.

Gowned in fetching garments of white with a picture hat and black ostrich feathers, Mrs. Priest, with poise and grace, acted as secretary and an officer-of-the-day, reading in turn the list of speakers pledged to represent their clubs.

The majority of prominent club-women were present at some time of the day. Not only women, but from two o'clock to four eager listeners of men, were standing six deep in the tent, with concentrated attention, to hear the magnificent and inspiring messages incorporate in new vitalizing ideas of progressive thought.

Brain force cannot be bottled, gentlemen; but there is strength in union, we only ask, that we are pried by the results of our professional work.

Mrs. Edith Totten McGrath is a beautiful woman. She is a Totten of Tottenville and her brilliant congratulations, that this congress of women could meet on Staten Island, was warmly applauded by an appreciative audience.

Mrs. Charles Greene of Great Kills, president of the Great Kills Free Library Club, in a forceful address, told of a membership of 300 persons, who are supporting a free library at Great Kills.

Mrs. Sarah Roberts Morris, (Mrs. Ira K.) in zealous, splendid English, presented the international work of Temperance.

Mrs. Charles Schaefer, vice-president of the Mothers' and Teachers' Club of P. S. 20, brought the message from Mrs. Edward D. Wisely, president of that club, who was to have spoken from the platform, but was prevented by a painful accident. Playgrounds and Relief Work, besides greater educational opportunities, were included in the report of this club.

The Red Cross Banner placed by Mrs. Callahan of St. Vincent's Hospital Auxiliary Association, suggested the object of that noble club of women.

Mrs. Callahan was one of the most gracious and charming hostesses of the day.

Just here we must thank again these representative Staten Island Club Women for their untiring efforts not only as speakers from the platform, but as delightful women with gracious smiles and winning ways, to greet the constantly changing audience.

Miss Mary Wolcott Green, regent of the Staten Island Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, made a splendid plea for patriotic education of children, and explained that her Chapter offers prizes to stimulate the study of American History as a means of cultivating the true spirit of patriotism. Miss Green also served indefatigably as one of the hostesses.

Mrs. Augustus Acker, Miss Margaret Lynd, Miss Florence Braniff, Mrs. William Gibson, Mrs. Richard Heustis, Mrs. Louis Vidal, Mrs. William Wheeler, Mrs. Walter Washington, and others assisted to make the day one of historical club value.

Mrs. Camille Birnbohm lives at Eltingville. She is the president of the Knickerbocker Relief Club. Mrs. Birnbohm told the message of her club summed up in the practical motto:

"Relief first: Investigation after."

Madame Kate Moustaki, a member of many valuable interborough clubs, is an English woman with deep earnestness of purpose, expressed in cordiality and enthusiasm. Madame Moustaki is a dominant note in the harmony of life. She makes music in the Mothers' and Teachers' Clubs of Staten Island, between times when she is not filling professional engagements in Manhattan.

Madame Moustaki spoke in behalf of public education for the best class of music to be presented to the masses in and out of school.

Madame Moustaki gave invaluable assistance as hostess, during the entire day.

Among the visitors we noted Mrs. Bernard Murphy, Mrs. Benjamin Williams, Mrs. P. K. Nichols, Mrs. David Tyson, Miss Brassington, Mrs. Edward P. Doyle, Mrs. David Van Name, Mrs. George Clapp, Miss Euphemia Green, Madame Agramonte, Mrs. Ralph McKee, Mrs. William Grant Brown, Mrs. S. A. Braniff, Miss Mary Donnelly, Miss Jean D. Robb, of Charleston, South Carolina; Miss Birney, Elizabeth, New Jersey; Mr. and Mrs. William L. Vening, Wando, South Carolina; Mrs. William J. Ball, Brooklyn; Mrs. Gabriel, New York; Miss Fanny Chapin, New York; Mrs. James Nolan, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Lackerstein, Brooklyn; Mrs. Colquhoun, Miss Colquhoun, Miss Turpish, Miss Editha McKee, Miss Meakum, Mrs. Norman Walker, Mrs. Evelyn Metcalfe, Mrs. Laura Metcalfe, Mrs. Selma Abd-el-Nour, and hundreds of women, who have been inspired to know that life simply does not mean white slavery for women, but a wholesome diversity of interests in the betterment of the human race.

The Dog Show did not attract the crowd on Club Woman's Day; nor could horse-flesh in pace draw off an audience of appreciative listeners to new ideas on old subjects for Peace, Philanthropy, Patriotism, Public Education, and vital departments of the world's work. "In union there is strength." Thus beginneth and endeth the object lesson of Club Woman's Day, September 8th, 1910.

The Staten Island World, for sale at all newsstands; 2 cents a copy.