

# **PEACEFUL PROTEST**

**When people cannot access the ballot box, they find other ways to be heard.**

**In the newspapers, on city streets, in hot air balloons and parade floats, activists raise their voices to fight for suffrage.**





“Anxious to Vote: Students, Workers & the Fight For Women’s Suffrage” • Stonehurst • Waltham Public Schools • Mass Humanities

## PEACEFUL PROTEST

**When she came to Waltham to work as an artist, architect, and activist Florence Luscomb brought creative new ways of winning public support.**

“Our leaflets are unpacked, our flag erected, we borrow a Moxie [soda] box...and proceed to the busiest corner of the town square. Our chief mounts the box, the banner over her shoulder and starts talking to the air.... Within ten minutes our audience has increased from twenty-five to five hundred.”

—Florence Luscomb

*Florence Luscomb, “Open Air Campaigning,” ca. 1909  
Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University*



# Young suffragists found their public voice.

"I had always thought that there were a few cranks pushing [women's suffrage]. But that night, I saw that it was earnest, intelligent, refined women, who had convictions and were not afraid to stand up and say so."

—A Boston shopkeeper to Florence Luscomb

*Quote: Florence Luscomb, "Open Air Campaigning," ca. 1909*

*Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University*

# WOMAN'S JOURNAL

## AND SUFFRAGE NEWS

VOL. XLIV. NO. 10

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1913

FIVE CENTS

### PARADE STRUGGLES TO VICTORY DESPITE DISGRACEFUL SCENES

Nation Aroused by Open Insults to Women—Cause Wins Popular Sympathy—Congress Orders Investigation—Striking Object Lesson

Washington has been disgraced. Equal suffrage has scored a great victory. Thousands of indifferent women have been aroused. Industrial men are incensed and the United States Senate demands an investigation of the treatment given the suffragists at the National Capital on Monday.

Ten thousand women from all over the country had planned a magnificent parade and meant to take place in Washington on March 3. Artistic, elegant leaders, designers, women of influence and renown were ready to give a wonderful and beautiful piece of suffrage work to the public that would bring the National Capital for the inauguration festivities. The suffragists were ready; the whole procession started down Pennsylvania avenue, when the police protection, that had been promised, failed them, and a disgraceful scene followed. The crowd surged into the space which had been marked off for the parade, and the leaders of the suffrage movement were compelled to push their way through a mob of the worst element in Washington and vicinity. Women were spit upon, slapped in the face, tripped up, pelted with burning signs stubs, and insulted by jeers and obscene language too vile to print or repeat.

The cause of all the trouble is apparent when the facts are known. The police authorities in Washington opposed every attempt to have a suffrage parade at all. Having been forbidden a place in the inaugural procession, the suffragists asked to have a procession of their own on March 3. They were finally told that they could have a procession but that it could not be on Pennsylvania avenue, but must be on a side street. At last they got permission to have the suffrage parade on the avenue, and asked that traffic be excluded from the street during the parade. For a long time this was denied, and only on Saturday were they successful.

Everything was at last arranged; it was a glorious day; ten thousand women were ready to do their part to make the parade beautiful to behold, to make it a credit to womanhood and to demonstrate the strength of the movement for their enfranchisement.

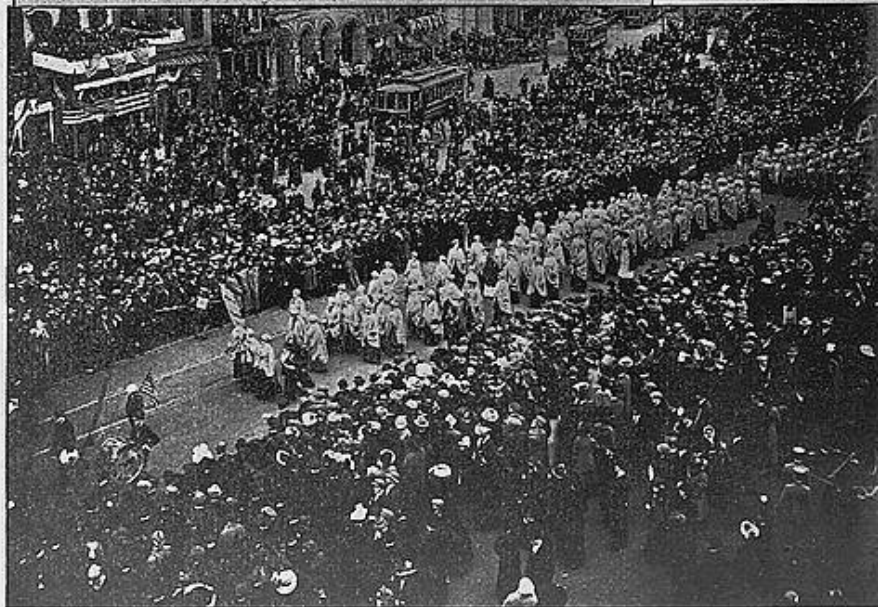
The police were determined, however, and they had their way. Their attempt to afford the marchers protection and keep the space of the avenue free for the suffrage procession was the simplest sham. Police officers stood by with folded arms and refused while the piked women of the land were insulted and roughly abused by an ignorant and uncouth mob.

Miss Alice Paul and other suffragists were compelled to drive their automobiles down the avenue to separate the crowds so the suffragists with the banners and floats could pass. The police officials say their force was inadequate to handle the crowds, but it is noted that there was no disorder on the avenue during the inaugural procession. It is stated that federal troops were offered to the chief of police for the suffrage procession, but that he refused their aid.

As any rate, assistance was finally called from Fort Myer and mounted soldiers drove back the crowd so that a straggling line of marchers could pass through.

Not only were the suffragists bitterly disappointed in having the effect

(Continued on Page 75)



General Rosalie Jones in Pilgrim Costume; Miss Inez Millholland on White Steed Leading the Parade; One of the Scores of Imposing Floats; One View of the Procession

### AMENDMENT WINS IN NEW JERSEY

Easy Victory in Assembly 46 to 5—Equal Suffrage Enthusiasm Runs High



The New Jersey Legislature passed the woman suffrage amendment in the Assembly last week by a vote of 46 to 5. The Senate had already voted favorably 14 to 5.

A large delegation of suffragists crowded the galleries, and when the overwhelming vote was announced there was a scene of great enthusiasm. Women stood in their seats and waved handkerchiefs and "votes for women" flags and cheered themselves hoarse.

Dr. Jekyll Becomes Mr. Hyde  
Opposition was confined exclusively to the old sentimental arguments.

(Continued on Page 79)

### MICHIGAN AGAIN CAMPAIGN STATE

Senate Passes Suffrage Amendment 26 to 5 and Battle Is Now On



Michigan is again a campaign State after a short lapse of four months. The amendment will go to the voters on April 7. The State-wide feeling that the women were defeated of victory last fall will help the suffragists.

The final action of the Legislature was taken last week, when the Senate, by a vote of 26 to 5, passed the suffrage amendment, with a slight amendment to make the requirements for foreign-born women the same as those for male immigrants.

Governor Watches Debate

The debate in the Senate lasted an hour and a quarter, and was characterized by the persistent efforts of Senator Weadock and a few others to tack on crippling amendments. Several suggestions, including the disabling of women for holding office or serving on juries, were voted down in quick succession.

Gov. Ferris was among the visitors who crowded the chamber and gallery. Mrs. Clara B. Arthur, Mrs. Thomas R. Henderson and Mrs. Wilber Brotherton, of Detroit; Mrs. Jennie Law Hardy, of Tecumseh, and other State leaders were present, supported by a large delegation of Lansing suffragists.

The final stand of the opposition was made by Senator Murtha in the hope of putting off the submission till November, 1914, and this also failed.

Of the five who opposed the measure on the final roll-call, three were from Detroit.

A complete campaign of organization and education has been mapped out by the State Association. The

(Continued on Page 74.)

## PEACEFUL PROTEST

**Florence, her mother and her friend Margaret marched in the first organized political protest in Washington, D.C., the day before a presidential inauguration.**

*“At the outset, I decided to use no militant methods whatsoever.”*

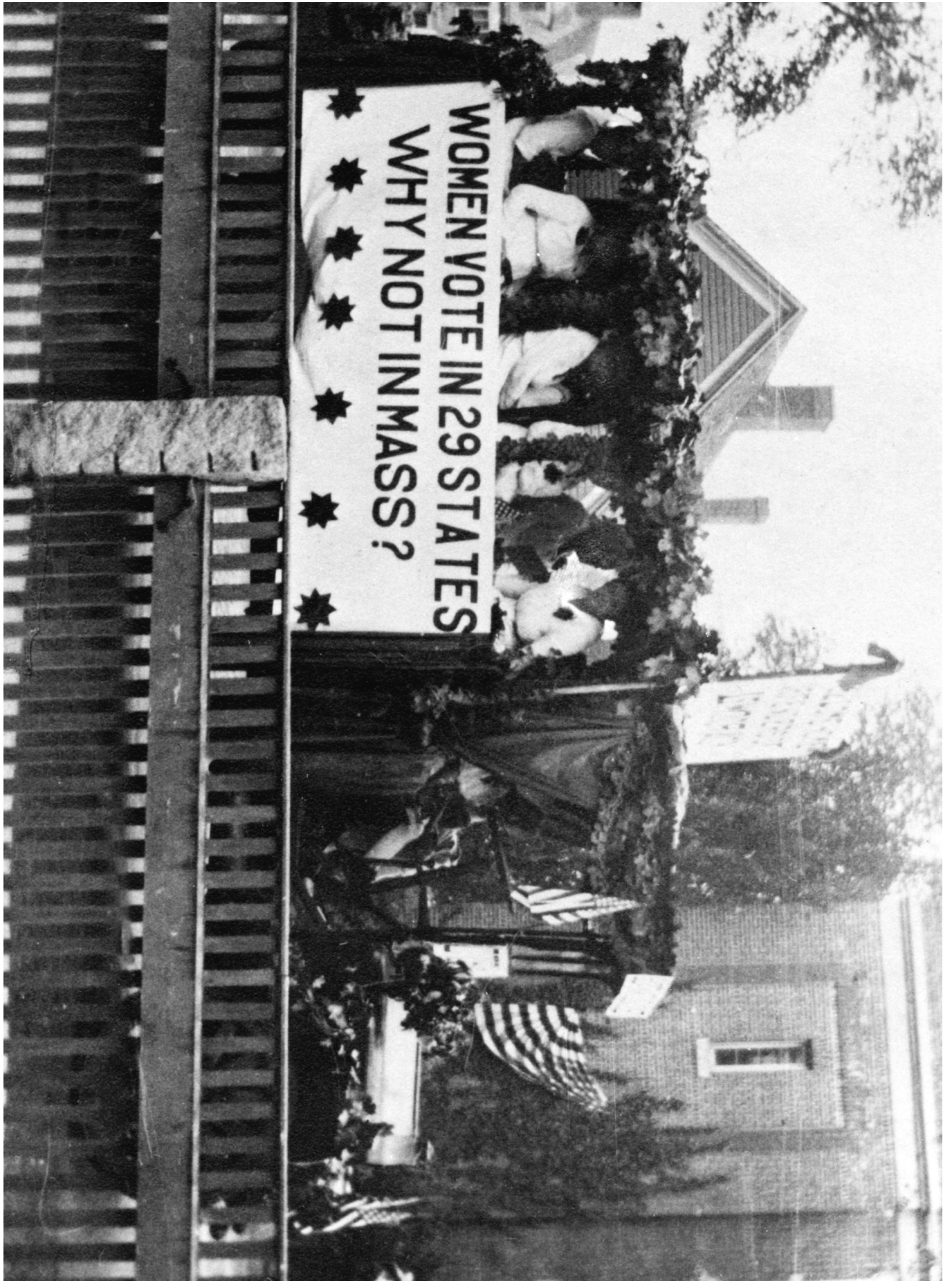
—Margaret Foley

The mistreatment of and inadequate protection for participants in this famous 1913 parade made newspaper headlines in every state.

*Quote: Margaret Foley, Boston Post, Oct 1, 1911*

*Image: Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University*





"Anxious to Vote: Students, Workers & the Fight For Women's Suffrage" • Stonehurst • Waltham Public Schools • Mass Humanities

## PEACEFUL PROTEST

**Using banners, floats and new forms of transportation, activists broadcast their ideas far and wide.**

“[Parades] were some of the most effective bits of propaganda.... Just why seeing women walk down the street in parade should convince men to vote is a mystery, but it did so by the thousands.”

—Florence Luscomb

*Quote: Florence Luscomb, Oral History, 1973*

*Image: Waltham Historical Society*



## PEACEFUL PROTEST

**Women posted 100,000 copies of Florence's artwork in shop windows, and on telephone poles, barns and fences across the state.**

**They even dressed up as bluebirds!**

"Everywhere we tacked up our 'Votes for Women' bluebirds, occasionally stopping a farmer to ask him to assist us in wielding the hammer. I am sorry to relate that many a man seemed to have no knack in assisting."

—Anonymous suffragist

*Quote: The Boston Globe, August 15, 1915*

*Image: National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution*

August 1910



"Anxious to Vote: Students, Workers & the Fight For Women's Suffrage" • Stonehurst • Waltham Public Schools • Mass Humanities

## PEACEFUL PROTEST

**Florence's friend Margaret  
dropped thousands of suffrage  
leaflets in many different  
languages over the mills of  
Lawrence, Massachusetts, from  
a hot air balloon!**

*"No state was ever carried for suffrage until it  
was sown ankle deep with leaflets."*

—Florence Luscomb

*Image: Margaret Foley Collection, Schlesinger Library,  
Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University.*



# **PEACEFUL PROTEST**