

YOUNG WOMEN ANXIOUS TO VOTE.

Miss Ida M. Hall Has Banded Together Some Fifty Russian Girls in a Political Club.

CARRIE YARREN.



MINNIE BAKER.
TREASURER



HEDWIG KAMINSKY
SECRETARY.



SARAH GORNEY
1ST VICE PRESIDENT.

OFFICERS AND PROMINENT WORKERS OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S POLITICAL CLUB.

One of the most energetic sets of equal-rights women in this city are those Jewish maidens from Imperial Russia who have banded themselves together in the Young Women's political club, there to pursue, under their president, Miss Ida M. Hall, the lawyer, such preparation as may best fit them to exercise the franchise they are striving to gain.

Many of the girls in this club, which now numbers about 50, were at one time or another leading members of the classes at the Wells evening school in the West End. All are ambitious for education and have done much to improve themselves since they first came to this country. Most of them worked through the day, and in their various employments came naturally to learn a good deal about trades unions. Concerning socialism, too, they heard various views advanced by the men of their families, so from this to interesting them in broad questions of the time was a comparatively easy step to a woman with tact.

"I had not been working long with my Political club girls," said Miss Hall the other day, "before some of them asked me to have the tickets to our entertainments printed under the union label. This was my first hint that they had become interested in trades unions.

"One has an idea that women of the old world are kept in the background by the men, but I soon noticed that these bright girls of mine had a great influence upon their fathers, brothers and sweethearts, and the more the girls took part in public things the prouder the men were of them.

"The grasp of these Russian Jews upon public matters is astonishing. Governmental rights and the liberty that these imply particularly appeal to the Russian Jews, and at the public library the works most called for by them are short United States histories and biographies of great men.

"One of the girls in our political club got naturalized not long ago so that she might vote for the school committee. Another organized a tobacco strippers' union.

"Our club is about two years old, and

has almost doubled its membership during its short lifetime. We meet once a month in the Woman's Journal rooms on Park st, and after an hour devoted to regular business we have some one speak to us upon some phase of the woman question. Senorita Huidobro, Mrs Charles Park, Otto B. Cole, Henry Blackwell and Mrs Rufus Gilmore are among those who have talked to us recently. Once Mrs Marie F. Hill of Somerville came and gave us a parliamentary drill, and since then we have had admirably businesslike meetings. Of the topics treated those of most interest to the girls are public schools, the care of the young, poor and defective, clean streets, substitutes for the saloon and the prevention of vice.

"It is interesting to see how the girls' standards of taste change after they have been sharing the uplifting influences of the club. Sometimes when they first join they are dressed loudly, but gradually, without anything being said about it, they tone down in their clothes and up in their manners, as a result of club influence. One of our members is the mother of two others in the club, one of whom is fitting for college."

Sarah Gorney, the first vice president, is soon to be married to a young man who believes in equal suffrage.

"I wouldn't have become engaged to any man not in sympathy with woman's advancement," she said. "All women should fight for equal suffrage with all the power of their mental strength. The women of today cannot be content in that particular sphere men have assigned them. Under the old thought a girl must marry, keep house, bear children and live a life of servitude to them and to her husband. Now, she is often broad-minded and well educated and possesses all the qualifications required of men who vote. Why, then, should not she vote?"

The secretary of the club is a talented high school girl, Hedwig Kaminsky, who lives at 126 Mt Vernon st. The treasurer is Miss Minnie Baker of 11 Minot street. Another devoted worker in the club is Carrie Yarrin, who lives at 268 Western av, Cambridgeport. Katie Bennett of 32 Poplar st is second vice president of the club and Rose Alfovich of 2 Anderson pl is third officer under Miss Hall.