

To a Trenton audience of five hundred Republican men, some of them accompanied by their wives, Mrs. Maud Howe Elliott told of the glorious reception the Hughes women campaigners have received on their swing across the continent and back. She was the first of the speakers from the special to be introduced at the Republican Club gathering to welcome them.

In groups of twos and threes they tripped from the train to waiting automobiles and were carried to the rally, for which they were more than half an hour late. To keep the crowd entertained while awaiting the arrival of the travellers Ira Wood, formerly a Representative in Congress, made a speech, but his eloquence was drowned by the applause that greeted the appearance of the women from the special.

"Our trip across the continent and back has been a victorious one," Mrs. Elliott began. "We have talked in more than seventy cities and have received enthusiastic receptions everywhere. We have exchanged numerous Hughes buttons for Wilson ones, and have returned with several Democratic trophies left on the battlefields.

"In some places our path has been strewn with roses. We were given baskets of grapefruit and oranges, and in the Southwest everywhere people have been generous and kind."

Mrs. Elliott said that subscriptions to the Hughes special fund now numbered more than \$11,000. Some of the donations were for \$1.

Delays along the line brought the women campaigners into Baltimore too late for them to attend the meeting arranged in their honor. Their flag-draped special arrived more than three hours behind schedule, and the telegraph wires were kept busy by the Baltimore women's committee trying to find out when they could count on the campaigners to appear. Finally they had to recall their cohorts at the station and go ahead with the meeting, substituting men speakers for Hughes's train orators.

Hughes's success next Tuesday as they were on October 2, when the Grand Central Terminal boomed with goodbys and good-lucks.

The last day of the Special's campaign had been a little like the rather dull waits before weddings. The Princeton meeting and the Pennington assembly, held early yesterday after motor runs from Trenton, were successful but small. Newark at 1 o'clock turned out with a band and a committee headed by Mrs. Arthur Whitney.

#### Women Await Mrs. Hughes

From 1 to 2 the women sipped milk in the corridors of the Robert Treat Hotel and waited for Mrs. Charles Evans Hughes, who had come down from Albany, and was being borne from New York by Mrs. Alexander Kohut and Mrs. Rosalie Loew Whitney to the Returned Travellers' luncheon given by Mrs. George Harvey and Mrs. Whitney.

An occasional husband crossed the river to meet the train—Nelson O'Shaughnessy, William Curtis Demorest and Frank Mebane, of North Carolina—but the husbands ate their luncheons alone, while their wives heard Mrs. Hughes greet the train members with "I thank you very deeply for the splendid work you have been doing in behalf of the cause we are also interested in."

Miss Elizabeth Cutting was there to join the others in giving five-minute samples or three-minute parodies of the serious speeches with which they had pleaded the leadership of their guest of honor's husband across the country and back.

"I feel so sure of what will happen next Tuesday that I address you already as Mme. President," was one of them.

It was the 191st meeting at which Miss Frances Kellor, Rheta Childe Dorr, Mrs. Mebane, Mrs. O'Shaughnessy, Mrs. Noble Prentiss, of Kansas; Mrs. Demorest, Elizabeth Freeman, Mrs. Maud Howe Elliott, Dr. Katharine Davis and others had spoken for their old friend and neighbor, Charles E. Hughes, under whom and with whom most of them had worked during his memorable administration as Governor of the State of New York.

#### Spoke in Twenty-eight States

Thirty-one dinners had they eaten, eighteen hundred and forty speeches had they made, indoors and out, in circus tents, coliseums, movie palaces and street corners. Twenty-eight states where the nation's destiny is to

parties run a one-handed campaign. First, because the women like the game. They like the martial trumpet of the town band and the red sputter of rally torches. The women of the Hughes train have ridden pretty comfortably in motors to most of their parades, but once or twice in Oregon they felt the thrill of marching men, as shoulder to shoulder they paced the main streets of a strange far town and counted the cheering crowd whose votes were just as good and just as valuable as Fifth Avenue's.

#### Women Loved the Game

Mary Antin has loved the game, the bowing to right and left, the coming of slogans that run like gossip of the bazaars up to the political throne; Mrs. Demorest loved the game, the telling stories that caught a crowd as big as a hundred dinner parties with a pleasant chuckle; once to have heard Mrs. Maud Howe Elliott distributing Hughes buttons to the motley men on a railway platform, with her sweet old smile and her, "Sir, accept this token in memory of the women of the Hughes Campaign Train," is to know that women enjoy the wide, wide world with its man's dimensions.

Second, and far more important, most of the women of the party return from their thirty-three days of campaigning, regarding national politics as a duty, almost religiously eager to steer the nation, and determined to find a powerful way of expressing themselves.

The women's swing from sea to sea cost more than \$40,000. Mary Antin says it was worth it if it were nothing more than a school of politics for the women who experienced it. They learned how local politics really are and how little the farmers of North Dakota care for the unimagined working children of the East. They woke in their berths over rocky Nevada roads to ponder that getting the registration out is the cornerstone of getting the party in. In Minneapolis, St. Paul, Spokane, Seattle and Portland they did a real service for the Republican party.

#### Fought There for "Teddy"

A good many of the women had made ties in the Northwest when the fight was on for "Teddy," and nearly all were women of national reputation for discriminating social service. They were speaking in behalf of a man, lately obscured by his official position on the Supreme Court bench as an intimate in the popular imagination, and what Hughes himself could hardly in modesty do, they could.

They drew for the women of the West a picture of a man who had believed in women, used them in public office to their full capacity where members of their sex had unique talents, a man who had grasped the problems of politics as women believe they should be grasped, ever relentlessly in defence of the human resources of the country guarding the working children, protecting the working girls of our industrial centres who daily jeopardize their chances of wifehood and motherhood through the strain of machine industries.

Again and again Frances Kellor spoke of the permanent quality of his workmanship, his fundamental legislation, and the women of the West liked to be told these things by women whom they believed and whose contagious faith was far more thrilling to them than either the more sober appeal of the candidate himself or the flabby pacific but sentimentally successful "He kept us out of war" slogan of the active Wilson Women's League out of the Coast.

#### Politicians Give Welcome

Twice the women had the enthusiastic "Honest to God" thanks of the wariest politicians of their districts—West Coast and Illinois. It made up to them somewhat for what Dr. Davis with her mouth at its firmest, called the "pussyfooting" of an influential part of the men, bearing the responsibility for the Hughes election, men from anti-suffrage states, men who didn't in the least see why the women of the country didn't put their money into the general fund and let the men work out the campaign on less experimental lines.

#### Miss Kellor to Preside

On November 17 Miss Kellor will preside at an informal convention made up of the local leaders everywhere in the West, most of them already pledged to come, which will organize the same constituencies through which the Hughes Special has just passed, for political education in time of peace, that will be as thorough as German drill before the war.

The Republican women are to be marshalled for constant patriotic purposes and active backing to the Hughes programme, which the women have everywhere advertised. They expect to help make good the policies they have asked Western women to support.

The Hughes campaign special was an experiment in campaigning, not in "Realpolitik." It had a touch of the testimonial prayer meeting about it occasionally; it often, in the unenfranchised states, took its tea with Tom, Dick and Harry with drawing room reservations, and not with the cheerful even if feigned cordiality of wet ward politics.

But Miss Kellor has little reason to fear that with care a better organization than the Progressive service, which she fostered under Mr. Perkins, will carry on the tradition established by the 11,600-mile adventure.

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says they came ical time. With Flagg Young, turning their heir followings linois saved by Dr. Davis and

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