"PRESSURE" FOR SUFFRAGE: Three Interlocking Systems of Political Machinery Used by Women in Converting the Members of Congress

Miss Alice Paul, Militant Chairman of the National Woman's Party.

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Mrs. Abby Scott Baker, Chairman.

Cumber was opposed to suffrage, and, I understand, still is, but when, following our efforts in his home State, the Legislature passed a resolution in favor of it, he took that as a mandate, and voted for it. Senator Colburn of Washington was to send for Senator Gage of the Senate Suffrage Committee and ask him not to fail to call up the amendment again before adjournment. If that had been possible the amendment would have been put to the vote of the Senate. It was one of the additional voice of Senator Gage of Louisiana, and that vote would have carried the measure through.

Miss Maude Younger, Lobby and Card Index Chairman.

by direct action. Then the Political Committee was notified. Mrs. Baker saw every one in power that could bring any influence to bear. We had from Miss Younger the information as to whom to see. Mrs. Baker had personal interviews with Mr. Hayes, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, and with men prominent politically in Senator Keyes' home State.

"At the same time the Legislative Committee under Miss Stevens got to work. Miss Stevens went to New Hampshire to get the organization there to speak out to Senator Keyes, to get all the three Republican State lines there for suffrage to make themselves heard in favor of it. If the State forces for suffrage are not made articulate, nothing is accomplished. We have a strong State organization in New Hampshire, and they made themselves heard, and while the two committees under Miss Baker and Miss Stevens were pressing their work Senator Keyes gave another declaration yesterday that he would vote for the amendment. I do not mean to claim that what we did led him to make the change.

"The same course has been pursued with regard to others to whom we have gone from the 531 members of Congress. Of course, we can persuade a man by direct argument through Miss Younger's committee, there is no need of using any further, but we don't give up because we find the man can't be persuaded. We turn to his people at home, or his party, and to men of influence in whose advice he is known to give heed. We think a member is more likely to be converted by seeing what his party wants than by argument.

"Will you name some of the men of influence who have talked to members of Congress in your behalf?" was asked.

"Colonel Roosevelt was one of our best helpers," was the answer.

"He would invite some one whom we needed to change and who was a member of his party to lunch, or to Oyster Bay, or call him up and talk to him over the telephone. There are at least five Republican Senators whom we think Colonel Roosevelt was either wholly or partly influential in changing over. Ex-Chief Justice Hughes has also helped us; in response to a visit from a member of the Political Committee, he wrote out a statement supporting suffrage which was of much assistance to us. Senator William E. Crapo of New York, who has large business connections, has also been very active.

"We have considered the political morality of bringing pressure on a member of Congress to vote against his real convictions."

"We think it is the duty of a Congressman to represent the people in his vote instead of his own personal opinion, and through our organization we seek first to create and organize that public opinion and then to bring it to bear on the member. This the Congressmen themselves recognise. Senator Me-