

# MRS. HARRIET TAYLOR UPTON, DYNAMO OF ENERGY, IS OFFICIAL HOUSEKEEPER FOR REPUBLICAN PARTY

*Vice Chairman of Executive Committee of G. O. P., National Committee Organizes Campaigns, Makes Speeches and Never Fails to Get Results—Has Cultivated Individuality Distinctly Her Own.*

**SHE FOUGHT FOR SUFFRAGE FORTY YEARS; IS FIGHTING NOW FOR CLEANER POLITICS**

*Overflows in Humor, Philosophy and Language and Is Rated as the Best Political Woman Organizer and Manager in the Country—Gives You Her Point of View Without Moment's Hesitation*

She is the feminine Will Hays of politics. She is a dynamo of energy; she is tireless, physically and mentally. She organizes, campaigns, makes speeches—and in the end never fails to get results.

She knows more about politics than the average politician in pants, and she has a sense of humor that would appall the common garden-variety statesman.

To top it all, she has a cultivated individuality distinctly her own. And she is Mrs. Harriet Taylor Upton, of Ohio, vice chairman of the Executive Committee of the Republican National Committee, with headquarters in Washington between times, and on almost any political platform or in Chicago or San Francisco or Philadelphia or New York when the fight is on, harvesting millions of votes for the G. O. P. And she is still doing it. The woman who fought forty years for suffrage is still fighting. But her fight is now for clean politics; for higher standards in politics.

She is the housekeeper of the Republican Party. And woe betide him who leaves a spot in the party kitchen, who tramps in mud on the party floors, who breaks up the party furniture or spills cigar ashes on the rugs!

Almost any day at present you can walk into the headquarters of the National Committee in Washington and ask for the vice chairman in charge of women's activities with a reasonable certainty she'll be there. Not improbably she may be coming or going—returning from or starting out to keep an engagement. In that event, she will wear a turban hat, a veil of some sort, a blue serge tailored suit and stout walking shoes. She will sit you down in front of her and invite you to begin.

**Looks Ominous, You Think, But You Are Mistaken**

"Hi," you think. "Looks ominous!"

And then you hear her laugh! After that you are at home. You feel you might call her "Aunt Harriet" with perfect impunity. You know that she "belongs." "Aunt Harriet" is human, as you might

have realized in advance. And your visit progresses apace.

Mrs. Upton overflows. It is one of her characteristics. She overflows in humor, in philosophy, in language, in energy, in the genius that is the capacity for hard work and attention to detail. She frequently sits on the edge of her chair as she talks to you.

Possessing a remarkable memory, sound judgment, candor, a keen and intuitive mind, always a quick and ready wit, she is rated by associates as the best woman political organizer and manager in the country. But admit it? Not for a moment!

"I do very little," she says. "Appointed vice chairman at the personal request of President Harding while he was still a Senator, shortly after his nomination at Chicago in 1920, she devoted herself exclusively to politics for the last two years, reverting as it were, to type. For her father was in Congress, and much of her own life has been devoted to political activities. Her sense of humor is historic. It will be testified to by thousands who have heard her speak or come in personal contact with her. It is recorded, too—but this must be said in whispers—that on one occasion she kept a group of campaign associates awake all night in Atlantic City telling imitable stories."

You have heard all these things. You have heard her called a born leader, a natural organizer—the best in the game.



MRS. HARRIET TAYLOR UPTON

How does she do it? What are her secrets? What is her background? Where does she get her interest in politics? What does she conceive to be woman's function in politics? You call on her. A short wait and she appears.

**Gives You Her Point of View Without Any Hesitation**

Introductions dispensed with, you tell her why you came. You want to know her story. You want her point of view. There is never a moment's hesitation.

She settles back on her chair and begins: "I cannot remember when I was not interested in politics. My father was Town Committeeman. This, I think, was before there were wards. I am not sure of that. Anyway, he always kept the poll book, and it was my business to run around and find out about the new people in the neighborhood. I would come home from school and report there were new children in the class. My father always wanted to know immediately who their parents were. They would be looked up and catalogued as Democrats or Rep-

ublicans. One day, when I was twelve years old, my father rewarded me for my activity in rounding up these new neighborhood arrivals by permitting me to mark 'R' or 'D' in the proper column in the poll book. I was awfully proud to do it. That really marked the beginning of my political activities.

"I was never so young, within my recollection, that I did not like to know what the returns were on election night. It was hard to get me to bed on those nights. That has been true all my life. Even now I stay up as long as the Associated Press will answer me. And that, though it is silly now, for you never know the results for certain until the next day.

"My father was a very able lawyer, magnetic, with dramatic ability, possessing a strong personal appeal. He was elected Judge of the Common Pleas Court, and later came to Congress, taking Garfield's seat when Garfield became President. I was associated with him, and helped him politically during all of his public life.

"My political education? How did it come? Well, I showed an interest in organization from the start. I also realized the value of accurate political records. One year the men lost the poll

me, he let me alone. He did not accept the presidency of the Ohio Woman Suffrage Association, I should say, because he felt he could not hold it and give the proper attention to his duties in Congress. But his support of suffrage never wavered.

"Thinking it over, I concluded that as suffrage women were so strong and active for suffrage, I ought to do something against it. I started to write some articles. I wrote one, and was paid for it. By the time I had finished the second I began to see I was wrong. I had my facts wrong. By the time I had finished the third I had convinced myself I was wrong.

"That was a turning point. I turned all the organizing energy I possessed—this political energy, if it may be so described—into the suffrage association. Yes, the National American Woman Suffrage Association—the regulars. They were in existence forty years or so ago, before these young girls were born. We worked for suffrage along non-political lines.

"Mrs. Carry Chapman Catt came into the association the same year I did, and at the same convention. We worked together from that time on, either she as my superior officer or I as hers. We were together in the early days of the suffrage fight and down to its conclusion.

"Finally the amendment was passed in the Senate. She wouldn't come to hear the last rollcall in the Senate. But we were together in Tennessee when the Legislature ratifying the amendment made it effective.

**Turned Down Chairmanship of G. O. P. Body in Ohio**

"That ended the suffrage fight. Then, as quickly as we were through with suffrage, and it became apparent women were to be a force in politics, politicians naturally turned to the women who were doing things. They asked me to become chairman of the women's Republican organization in Ohio. I refused, because, I said, my work was plainly for suffrage, and I was not going to do anything for a political party.

"Then, in 1920, after Mr. Harding was nominated, he chose me as vice chairman of the National Executive Committee of the Republican National Committee.

"Some one asked him why he chose me. He said because I was 'safe and sane.' So you see it was not ability. He didn't know whether I had any."

There were peals of laughter at this.

*Father, an Able Lawyer, Took Garfield's Seat in Congress—When Mrs. Upton Was Schoolgirl She Reported the Political Faith of Her Classmates' Parents to Her Dad*

**WOMEN IN MISSOURI WILL 'RAISE THE DICKENS IN NOVEMBER,' SHE DECLARES**

*'Were Very Active in Primary and Are Not Going to Be Controlled Very Much in the Election'—All Women Should Join Party and Not Be Non-Partisan, Mrs. Upton Says*

you could talk to at any length. Then they called for me out of courtesy. I had to go out front. I came out, put my finger to my lips and shook my head. I never said a word. It brought down the house. They had feared I would make a speech.

"Every political speechmaker speaks too long. In my opinion, the ordinary person can condense everything he has to say, and certainly everything he ought to say, into a fifteen-minute speech. That doesn't apply to a President, or presidential candidate, or a man who specializes in some subject like the tariff. But all men speak too long, and I think all public meetings are too long. I would feel I had made a constructive contribution to the party if I could do something to make public meetings shorter."

"Talk turned to the influence of women in politics.

"I don't think any one realizes the tremendous interest women are taking in politics or what a terrific force they

"Look at the primaries," she answered. "Almost as many women as men voted. That was true everywhere. And they voted for the best candidates."

"Surely the women of Missouri, for instance, are going to raise the dickens in November. They were very active in the primary campaign and are not going to be very much controlled in the election."

She came to a full stop. "Now," she asked, "why don't you ask me how women should interest themselves in politics?"

"All right," you reply, "you're asked."

"By joining a party," comes the answer, "instead of being non-partisan."

**Declares Women Should Come in and Clean House**

And that brings its amplification: "Women should come in and clean house. The political parties need cleaning up. They should be organized on a better basis."

"No man can keep house, can he? But women are natural housekeepers. That is their function in politics."

"I think women realize that there must be machines in politics. I do not mean that in an unsavory sense. The word 'machine' in politics has degenerated, as the word 'pious' has in its ordinary usage. 'Machine' should mean organization. Everything that is organized on a communal basis has to have a machine. Churches have to have machines. Clubs have them. Social organizations have them. Even picnics have them—some one must make the coffee, some one bake the cake, others make the sandwiches and some look after the lemonade. Without organization, community efforts fail. And so it is in politics."

"To my mind, the principal function of women in politics now is to build the best possible machine for the party and to watch and improve that machine all the time. And that machine must be like the printing presses many newspapers are installing in their street windows. They must be operated in full view of the public, so people can look in on them and see how they are run."

"Just as the voting places were moved from barber shops and saloons and livery stables into schoolhouses and residences when the first women voted, so must women who interest themselves



Mrs. Upton conferring with Attorney General Daugherty

book in our district. After that I kept it myself under lock and key. On Election Day I would turn it over, but between elections I wouldn't trust them with it.

**Always Accompanied Dad on His Political Trips**

"I always accompanied dad on his political trips. Mother died when I was a child, and I always went with father. Much of his time, naturally, was spent in hotels. There he would hold conferences with other men. "These, as a rule, were lawyers and politicians. There would be important questions would be discussed. I suppose I imbibed—absorbed—much of my knowledge of politics. I was not conscious of the process. I suppose my interest was stimulated by being so much with men. "You would have thought that when father came to Congress in the winter of 1880 I would have been a suffragist. But I wasn't. I was an anti-suffragist. I had never discussed it with father, but he was against it, too. To my surprise, I learned when I came down to Washington he had been elected president of the Ohio Woman's Suffrage Association. I was perfectly furious—just furious! I thought women in politics were not respectable; not of the lower class, exactly; for I knew they were not greatly interested in politics, but 'fighting' women—women of the militant, masculine type. I could not understand how women of refinement, like those with whom I associated, could favor woman suffrage.

"Father tried to reason with me. When he found he could not convince

"Then you admit," it was suggested, "that you are 'safe and sane'?" "Oh, yes," was the laughing reply. "I had been backing along quietly. I usually do. Perhaps I don't do much. I think, myself, I don't. But whatever I do I keep in a good humor. I hate contention. I never get mad. I haven't been mad but five times in my life. Consequently, I never have to spend a lot of time going around telling people I am sorry."

"It always seems funny to me when other people get mad. When I see them go up in the air and lose their temper, their faces flushed, and hear them say things they will be sorry for afterward, it's a regular sideshow to me. I don't see how people get in such a fuz."

Mrs. Upton's effervescent humor makes her popular as a speaker. She has spoken on street corners, in opera houses, public halls and conventions.

"My job," she explained, "is to come out, tell one or two stories, get everybody in a good humor and then retire. In street-corner meetings I was always the—what do you call it?—goat! That's not the name for it. There's something else, but that will do. I was the preliminary. They used me to catch the crowd."

**Doesn't Believe in Men Making Long Speeches**

"I don't believe in long speeches. One day, out in Ohio, a woman who preceded me on the program spoke much too long. She spoke on and on and on. The audience was tired and restless. They were hobnobbing and bums from Cleveland. It wasn't the kind of a crowd



MRS. LOUISE DODSON

are going to be in the fall campaign," Mrs. Upton observed.

"In what direction?" she was asked. "How will the force be applied?"

in politics in the future insist upon higher standards. They are the housekeepers of politics. They must keep politics clean."

## Wyoming as Territory Led the Van In Battle for Woman Suffrage

WYOMING in the battle for woman suffrage was the first Territory to grant suffrage to women. This was in 1890. In 1890 the Territory's request for statehood was considered by Congress. The enabling act provided for the leaving out of the word males in the Constitution—that is, of providing for full suffrage for women in the new State.

This was not a new thing for Wyoming, but it was a new thing for Congress. When the bill reached the floor of the House of Representatives the question of woman suffrage had taken the form of an amendment. Susan B. Anthony, the president of the National Association, and Mrs. Upton were the only national officers who happened to be in Washington at that time (the congressional work was in their hands between conventions because they spent their winters in Washington), and on the day that this amendment was discussed they sat in the gallery of the House and were really the only people in the gallery who seemed to be at all interested in the fundamental principle involved.

The discussion on the part of those opposed took the form of sarcasm or leaned toward sex lines. Finally, a gentleman from Tennessee, bearing the same name as the father of our country, except his name was James instead of George, worked himself into great excitement, pacing the aisle as he spoke, urging his colleagues on the Democratic side of the House to vote against the amendment. He said: "Gentlemen, if this amendment passes, what will we see in our great national Congress—bonnets and bustles!"

This humor was applauded. Nobody seemed to think that supporters and neckties were then making the national laws, but so it has been always.

"That was a good many years ago. Some of the things in that discussion are clear in my mind," said Mrs. Upton; "most of them are hazy. One thing I can remember is that a woman, holding some flowers in her hand, passed them over to Miss Anthony and told her to throw them down on the floor, that it would attract the attention to our question if she did. How plainly I can see the expression on that Hicksite Quaker's face as she rejected the suggestion!

"Mr. Washington's prophecy would be proved true in the next Congress if bonnets and bustles were now fashionable. Literally, they will not be there because they are not worn. Miss Rankin is not a back number. She is up to date in thought and thought."

"One woman alone cannot revolutionize a body of men, even if she would care to do so. Much has been said about her being the pivot on which many congressional questions would turn. That is utter nonsense. She is not an unsophisticated mountain lass coming down into civilization for the first time. She is a college woman, has studied the questions of philanthropy and economics.

"A seat in Congress will not give her a big head. She will not discredit women. Her congressional experience, of course, will teach her lessons and enrich her life in a certain sense. All women are glad she was elected, and she will never do anything to make any of us sorry."



MRS. CHRISTINE BRADLEY SOUTH