

FIRST MOTHER TO TAKE SEAT IN CONGRESS WILL CARRY TOUCH OF DAINTY FEMININITY

Mrs. Winifred Huck Intends to Sit in Nation's Councils as Representative of Womankind

PRESENT WORRY IS "WHAT TO WEAR"

Matronly Grace, Developed Through Years of Blissful Home Life, Her Outstanding Asset

"CONGRESS will convene in a month and I haven't a thing to wear!" Is it the wife of some Senator who expects to go to Washington, plunge into the social whirl there, the center of society? Is it the wife of some lobbyist who is going to be present at the opening of Congress—a woman who will make her dress and appearance an aid to furthering her husband's projects?

No. It is a very pretty, unaffected woman, a housekeeper, the mother of four children—Mrs. Winifred Mason Huck, elected last week as Congresswoman-at-large to fill the vacancy left by the death of her father, Congressman William E. Mason, of Illinois.

She is the first mother to go to Congress. She is the first woman east of the Mississippi to win such an office, and she won it without party support or organization. She made her own organization, turned her living room into a campaign headquarters and sent out her letters at night after supper.

Like any other woman who would go to Washington, she first thinks of her clothes. Mrs. Huck insists on being a woman—a woman's woman. Nothing mannish about her. She will not wear men's collars, men's cut coats and straight-brimmed severe hats.

"I am the representative of women. I am going to Washington to further the woman's cause. I will go as a woman, and, of course, I must think of something to wear."

As the caller talks Mrs. Huck is busy in her apartment at 421 North Central Park avenue, Chicago, attempting to convert her campaign headquarters back into the family living room.

"You might write something like this," she says. "The hand that rocks the cradle will, for the first time in the history of the United States, be raised in affirmation of national politics in the historic walls of Congress." I like that part of it—"The hand that rocks the cradle." You see then under what banner I go to Congress."

This pretty woman, who looks thirty, sweeps the political flies off the mantel and puts back the clock and the candlesticks. She is attired in a white apron, and her hair is covered with a towel. A broom stands in the corner.

When it came to putting the Oriental rug back on the floor—it had been taken up while all the people filed into the "campaign headquarters"—Mrs. Huck had to call on her husband, Robert Wardlow Huck.

"He is glad to have a home once more, I know," she said. "This was his favorite room."

Her Vote Astonished Veteran Politicians

The rug laid, this amazing woman, who easily ran up a vote for herself that astonished veteran politicians, started to outline the policies which will mark her congressional career. She spoke intelligently and concisely of issues and aims.

This is not so unusual when it is considered that she had been virtually reared in Washington and during her entire life had been thrown with the great lawmakers of the Nation.

"I knew all of the outstanding figures in the capital," she said. "They were continually coming to my house. I heard a great deal of talk on how nations should be run and on politics. I became interested in my younger days, and I have always kept up with such things."

"When I go to Washington it will be with a thorough understanding of what I have to do. And I go with no doubt in my mind as to what I want to do."

"One of the main things I am going to fight for is a war referendum bill. I do not believe that Congress should be allowed to declare war. This matter should be put up to the people. The women, those who suffer the greatest during a war, should have a chance of expressing their desire."

"My father always impressed on me the need of a war referendum, and, as I say, I shall fight for this. Of course, I am going to fight for the things I believe will help the country."

elation over the outcome of the election. She merely says:

"I observed the office. It was my father's office, and when he died I was the proper person to put in it."

"I've been through dozens of campaigns with my father, and neither victory nor failure is new to me," she adds. She always reverts to the question of world peace.

"The foundation of world peace



Mrs. Winifred Mason Huck, Congresswoman-at-large from Illinois

Has Clear Idea of What She Would Accomplish in Fight to Ease Burdens From Masses

WOULD SOFTEN WAR SPIRIT BY EDUCATION

Insists Hand That Rocks the Cradle Can Also Rock the Forces Retarding Humanity's Progress

gresswoman, too, because my two brothers and my sister and I know she is a crackin' good mother!" His mother took up the thread of the conversation.

"I don't permit even elections to upset the routine of my daily life," she said. "I was giving the children their breakfast, and watching the toast to see that it didn't burn, when the returns, which showed that I had won, came in. I was pretty sure that I would be elected, so I was not greatly excited about the matter."

She smiled again, and it was obvious that if, when women campaign, they give away smiles instead of cigars, she must have garnered many votes—so winning was hers.

That mother's going to Congress will break up the family orchestra is one of the regrets of the family. Mrs. Huck herself plays the violin, while Wallace plays the piano, Donald the drums,

occur, William Tyler Page, clerk of the House, stated, after her appeal had been made to the Governor.

Demanded Seat After the Primary Election

Mrs. Huck filed her candidacy in the primary of April, 1922, and won the nomination. In August she forwarded to Congressman-at-large Richard Yates, at Washington, a request that she be given a seat in Congress pending the outcome of the November election. Her argument was that the April primary was an election within the meaning of the Federal Constitution; that she received more votes than all her opponents combined; that Congress is a judge of its own membership; that Illinois should have its full vote in Congress on important pending bills.

Mrs. Huck believes the politicians "left her alone to see what she would do."



"Mother" Huck and her family. Mrs. Huck is the first mother to be elected to Congress



The Huck family orchestra is a close corporation organized along union lines, but doesn't keep union hours. Only dad is missing, for his talent runs to literature not music

should be laid now," she says. "World peace cannot be legislated. It can be accomplished only by educational means. I think it is the duty of this generation to the next generation to make a world peace in the future possible."

Doubts World Peace Through Legislation

"I have studied this subject. I have gone to libraries and read many books on it. I have also written many articles."

The universal divorce law, the proposed constitutional amendment to permit the making of child labor laws, the soldiers' bonus are some of the main issues included in her program.

Although she considers the victory rightfully hers, she says:

"I am glad that I received a big plurality. I will need it, so they won't try to wrap me up in red tape and lay me aside. I couldn't do much fighting without a big plurality."

"I had the disadvantage of not being a club woman in this campaign. That was a real disadvantage so far as getting votes was concerned, but it is not a mental handicap for me. You see, I spent years at Washington and know all situations thoroughly and almost every body."

it by announcing that her husband is "the boss."

"He always has been head of the house, and always will be I guess," she declares. "He is happy over my election."

"My husband is a civil engineer, you know, but he is also something of an author, though he is so modest about it that he never speaks of it."

Does Not Yet Know Husband's Pen Name

"He has had many stories printed under a pen name. You may think it unusual, but even I do not know his pen name. He is a grand-nephew of Thomas Carlyle's, and I am quite proud of that."

There are four Huck children—Wallace, seventeen; Donald, fifteen; Edith Carlyle, twelve, and Robert, nine. The two younger children will go to Washington with their mother, but the family residence on North Central Park boulevard, Chicago, will not be broken up because of the shortness of Mrs. Huck's term.

"For that very reason, because my time is so short, I will have to work very hard to accomplish my program," she said.

Wallace, the oldest son, is an enthusiastic supporter of his mother.

"Sure I wanted mother to be a Congresswoman, because I know she will be a good one," he said loyally.

"I hoped she would get appointed when she went down to ask the Governor to appoint her in my dead grandfather's place."



Mrs. Huck and her husband, Robert W. Huck, who has a "home" once more, now that the election is over. Mr. Huck is a writer and he allows Mrs. Huck to attend to her own political campaigns

Edith Carlyle the banjo and Robert the guitar. Family concerts are one of the evening diversions of the Hucks. Mrs. Huck used to refer to her musical family as "my political band."

Mystical Seven Runs Strong in Her Family

An interesting sidelight on the new Congresswoman is that she was one of seven children and that her father was a fourteenth child, born the seventh day of the seventh month, and that she campaigned seven months for election.

"I am not superstitious," she laughs, "but the predominance of the numeral seven in my family matters is rather interesting."

Mrs. Huck was already an experienced campaigner in 1918 when her father, "Billy" Mason, the former United States Senator, was running for Congressman-at-large.

By actual count in that campaign she kissed 710 babies in ten days, in Iroquois and Kankakee Counties, or an average of more than seventy babies a day.

She also interrupted the harvesting on several dozen farms by hailing farm hands to the fence corners and talking politics to them. From the running board of her automobile she "stumped" both counties, reminding the mothers of the babies that her father would urge national suffrage, and telling the men folks that he would advocate good Government contributions for good roads and a 1 per cent postage law. William E. Mason was elected Congressman-at-large.

"My father was in politics forty-five years," she said. "His followers in Washington asked me to run. I did so without the support of any organization. I sent out 3000 letters to committeemen and received 500 indorsements. I sent letters to 40,000 school teachers. My vote represented the vote of the individual—not the votes of a political machine. I was not indorsed by the newspapers, nor backed by the large women's organizations, which worked so energetically for other women candidates for office. However, before I am through those organizations will be with me, I am sure."

Nailed Rumors That She Would Not Run

Shortly after she had filed her candidacy, there were reports current that Mrs. Huck did not intend to run after all. In defiance of the theory that women are prone to change their mind, Mrs. Huck came out with flat and indignant statements to the effect that her bonnet was in the political ring to stay.

"My opponents have circulated reports tending to create a doubt as to whether or not I would run," she said. "I wish to reiterate that I am a candidate for the office of Congresswoman-at-large from Illinois, and have no intention of withdrawing from the race."

Although Mrs. Huck is a Chicagoan, it was her down-State vote that put her in the lead. Her closest competitor was Stephen A. Day, of Evanston, who had never been conceded a chance, instead of John J. Brown, of Vandellin, who was looked upon as her strongest opponent.

The prognostications were that the race would lie between Brown, with a strong down-State vote, and Mrs. Huck, with a strong Cook County vote. The complete reversal in the returns was one of the remarkable features of the election.