

SUFFRAGETTES LOSE, BUT VOTE DEFIANTLY

Party Descends on Dunellen,
N. J., School Election and the
Men Are Taken Back.

HUSBANDS PROTEST IN VAIN

Wives Cast Their Ballots for \$5,000
Appropriation and Meet De-
feat by Two Votes.

Special to The New York Times.

DUNELLEN, N. J., March 21.—Led by Miss Mabel Bennett, a school teacher, local suffragettes rallied seventeen strong at the most exciting school election in the history of this staid old village and came within two votes of defeating the opponents of a \$5,000 appropriation to purchase a new school site as recommended by the School Board. The presence of the women and their intention to vote did not become known to the men voters until after the end of a warm debate that lasted three hours.

On reaching the school they were escorted to Principal Guy Rentschler's office, where they remained until Miss Bennett gave the signal for the march to the ballot box. Then all filed into the school auditorium and cast their ballots for the appropriation. The determined appearance of the suffragette brigade caused the men voters to stand aghast, especially the husbands of some of the women.

Leaders of the opposition, when they recovered their wits, realized that the tide was going against them and left the hall for recruits. When the vote was announced it showed that the opponents of the appropriation had carried the day by a vote of 62 to 60. Said Miss Bennett:

"We lost, but we showed the men that we will exercise our rights and have something to say about a new school. The town needs one and we are sure to win out."

One amusing incident of the election occurred when School Commissioner A. J. Hamley, President of the local bank, saw his wife waiting for her turn to vote. Approaching the line Commissioner Hamley tapped his wife on the shoulder and remarked: "Now Esther, I don't want you to vote. You better go home."

"I will vote, and don't care what you think about it," was Mrs. Hamley's reply.

"Good for you," shouted the suffragettes in unison as Mrs. Hamley proceeded to prepare her ballot.

Willard Appgar, leader of the opposition, appeared highly exasperated over the action of the women in turning out to vote. "What is this world ever coming to?" said he.

"It was a piece of small politics," said Editor George W. Day.

One of the most enthusiastic of the suffragettes, Mrs. Ernst Field, a cousin of Billie Burke, the actress, said:

"All of the men in Dunellen would never stop me from voting."

"You are perfectly right," said her husband.

In the line of feminine voters were noticed Mrs. A. J. Hamley, Mrs. Ernst Field, Mrs. Theodore Day, Mrs. James Day, Mrs. B. A. Cole, Mrs. Ray Hamley, Mrs. John Fenner, Mrs. J. Newton Appgar, and Miss Mabel Bennett.