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L. D. H.

THE BIRTH OF WYOMING DAY.

When Woman's Suffrage Came
To Wyoming

December 10, 1869

A One Act Play

Grace Raymond Hebard
and
Marie Montabé

WYOMING DAY

AN ACT designating the tenth day of December in each year as "Wyoming Day", and providing for its proper observance and for a proclamation by the Governor.

Section 1. In recognition of the action of the Wyoming Territorial Governor on December 10, 1869 in approving the first law found anywhere in legislative history which extends the right of Suffrage to Women, the tenth day of December of each year is designated as "Wyoming Day". Such day shall be observed in the schools, clubs and similar groups by appropriate exercises commemorating the history of the Territory and State and the lives of its pioneers, and fostering in all ways the loyalty and good citizenship of its people.

Section 2. The Governor shall not later than the first day of December of each year issue a proclamation requesting the proper observance of "Wyoming Day" as outlined in Section 1 hereof.

Signed February 19, 1935 at

4:13 P. M. when the act

became a law as voted by

Wyoming's ^{twenty-third} State

Legislature.

(Signed)

Leslie A. Miller

Governor of Wyoming

THE BIRTH OF WYOMING DAY

Play in One Act

Two Scenes.

by

Grace Raymond Hebard

and

Marie Montabé

Reading Time: 20⁵ minutes; Acting time, 30⁵ minutes.

Place: Scene 1 - In the second story of a frame building located on the southeast corner of Ferguson (now Carey) Avenue and Seventeenth Street. The Stairway on Seventeenth Street. House of Representatives of the First Wyoming Territorial Legislature, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Two windows back stage, door left, Speaker's desk and chair on raised rostrum right stage, flag with 36 stars above speaker's old fashioned business desk on which are an oil lamp, a few books, papers, quill pens and ink well. Front of desk on rostrum chief clerk's small old fashioned table and chair with oil lamp and writing materials. Page's chair to right of Speaker's desk. Twelve desks (school desks may be used) and chairs face Speaker's desk, four in a row (desks may be placed slightly unevenly so that all men will be in view of audience) names of Representatives printed in large letters and pasted on desk toward the audience. Waste basket at front of each row, ink wells, pens, papers and bills on desks. Chair for Sergeant-at-Arms at door L. stage. Men seated in first row, F. S. are Messers Curran, vacant desk with Mr. Hass' name, ^{Mr.} Strong and ^{Mr.} Wilson; center row: Messers Abney, Sheeks, Sebree and Menefee; third row; Messers Douglas, Herrick, Holbrook and Miller.

Time: Scene 1 - December 6, 1869, 4 o'clock afternoon.

Properties: Scene 1 - Two enrolled bills, papers, oil lamp, quill pens and pen points, pencils, ink wells, copies of Woman Suffrage Bill for Speaker, Clerk and eleven Representatives, flag, three waste baskets, gavel, and copies of amendments and alphabetical list of members for Chief Clerk.

Characters: Scene 1 - Mr. Curran, Speaker of the House, medium build, dark hair and flowing mustache; Mr. Sebree, tall, angular, grey hair and heavy side whiskers; Mr. Sheeks, pompously stout, medium complexioned with mustache and beard; Mr. Abney, medium build and clean shaven; Messers Wilson, Strong, Menefee, Miller, Douglas, Herrick and Holbrook with side burns, mustaches or whiskers, two or three wearing old square gold rimmed glasses; Reading clerk young and dapper with mustache and side burns; Sergeant-at-Arms, medium build with whiskers; Page, a youth about fourteen years; two Senators, one with side whiskers and mustache and other with beard. All men costumed to fit the period, plain or striped trousers, over boots, cutaway frock or rounded short coats, white shirts with windsor or flowing black ties, derby hats.*

PROLOGUE--To be read in front of curtain.

To Mrs. Esther Morris is due the credit and honor of advocating and originating woman's suffrage in the United States. At the first election held at South Pass City, (then in Sweetwater County, Wyoming) on the 2nd day of September, 1869, Colonel William H. Bright, democrat, and Captain H. G. Nickerson, republican, were candidates for the First Territorial Legislature. A few days before election Mrs. Morris gave a tea party at her residence at which there were about forty ladies and gentlemen present. Colonel Bright and Captain Nickerson, ^{were} invited for a purpose, for while sitting at the table Mrs. Morris arose and stated the object of the meeting. She said: "There are present two opposing candidates for the first legislature of our new territory, one of whom is sure to be elected and we desire here and now to receive from them a public pledge that whichever one is elected will introduce and work for the passage of an act conferring upon the

*Note: Chair always recognizes speaker, this is often omitted in this manuscript to save space. All men conduct themselves with dignity. The Chief Clerk writes most of the time and pays slight attention to floor debate.

women of our new Territory the right of suffrage."

Of course the two candidates both pledged themselves as requested, and received the applause of all present. Colonel Bright, the successful candidate, true to his promise, introduced the woman's suffrage bill and it ultimately became a law.

Scene I

Scene 1 opens with Speaker Curran in the chair, the seats of Messers Hass, Wilson and Holbrook are empty, all other Representatives are in places. Two Council members stand at the right of Speaker's desk on which lie enrolled bills; Speaker Curran leaning over bills with pen poised.

- Curtain -

Speaker Curran: (One stroke of the gavel) "Signing of enrolled accounts. I give notice that I am about to sign a Council Bill which is an act to establish a territorial road from Sherman to the Colorado line in the direction of the North Park gold mines." (Signs and hands bill to Senator saying at same time, "I have so signed." Picks up another bill.) "I am about to sign a Council Bill which is an Act to establish the boundary lines of Albany County and for the appointment of officers therein." (Signs, hands bill to other Senator saying, "I have so signed." Picks up the last bill.) "I am about to sign a Council Bill which is an Act to organize the County of Carbon and to establish the boundary lines thereof and for the appointment of officers therein." (Signs and hands to first Senator saying, "I have so signed." Two Senators go down R aisle together and exit rear.)

Mr. Strong: (Rising) "Mr. Chairman, I move a call of the House."

(This motion of a call of the House is now seconded by four members indicating their approval of the motion by rising. The names of the members of the House are now read by the Clerk, each member responding to his name and those not responding to roll call are so recorded. Following the recording of those present and absent the Sergeant-at-Arms is instructed by the Chairman to search and take into custody any member who can be found who did not respond to roll call except those who have been excused.)

Speaker Curran: (Rising) "Will the Sergeant-at-Arms see that each Representative is in his seat with the exception of Mr. Hass who has been excused from duty at this time."

(Sergeant-at-Arms exit rear. Mr. Curran seated looks over papers on desk. Mr. Abney goes to Sheeks' desk and carries on whispered conversation. Other men lean back in chairs, read papers, arrange desk, read, write. Sergeant-at-Arms enters with Mr. Holbrook who goes at once to seat and begins whispered conversation with man behind him. Sergeant-at-Arms exits rear and returns with ^{Mr.} Wilson who takes seat and Chairman raps for order.)

Mr. Herrick: (Rising) "Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Curran: "Mr. Herrick."

Mr. Herrick: "I move that the House of Representatives resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the consideration of bills on general file, and an Act to grant to the Women of Wyoming the Right of SUFFRAGE."*

* This bill, introduced by Mr. William H. Bright of South Pass City, had passed the Wyoming Territorial Council with but slight opposition and no open challenge, on November 30, 1869, six members of the Council voting for the bill, two against the measure and one member absent.

(The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole passes the bill to the Chief Clerk who reads the bill in its entirety. (Reading) "An Act to Grant to the Women of the Wyoming Territory the Right of Suffrage and to Hold Office.

Be it enacted by the Council and the House of Representatives of the Territory of Wyoming:

Section 1. That every woman of the age of 18 years, residing in this Territory, may at any election holden under the laws thereof, cast her vote. And her right to the elective franchise and to hold office shall be the same under the elective laws of the Territory, as those of electors.

Section 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.")

Mr. Abney: (Rising) "Mr. Speaker, I second the motion of Mr. Herrick."

Speaker Curran: "Mr. Herrick moves that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the consideration of bills on general file and an Act to grant to the Women of Wyoming the right of Suffrage. All those in favor of the motion respond by the usual voting sign of 'aye.'"

Chorus of "Ayes."

Speaker Curran: "Opposed, 'No'." (There is no response.)

Speaker Curran: (Standing, raps once with gavel.*) "The motion is carried. I will ask Mr. Sebree to take the Chair." (Mr. Sebree advances to speaker's desk by L and Mr. Curran takes his desk on floor by R.)

Chairman Sebree: "Committee of the Whole please come to order and the Chief Clerk will call the roll."

* The gavel used during this session is in the archives of Wyoming's State Historical Department, Cheyenne. The head of the gavel is made from a rough piece of oad obtained from Herman Haas' wagon shop in Cheyenne, the handle a round of a chair. This gavel was used by Hon. William H. Bright, President of the First Wyoming Legislative Council, 1869.

Haas'
Haas

Chief Clerk: (Rising reads from list checking off names as men answer "here.")
"Mr. Abney, Mr. Curran, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Hass, Mr. Holbrook, Mr. Herrick, Mr. Menefee, Mr. Miller, Mr. Sebree, Mr. Sheeks, Mr. Strong, Mr. Wilson." (Turns to Chairman) "Mr. Chairman I find all present with the exception of Mr. Hass who has been excused."

Chairman: "The Bill under consideration at this time is Council Bill No. 70, an Act to grant to the Women of the Wyoming Territory the Right of Suffrage and to Hold Office.

Mr. Herrick: "Mr. Chairman, I move that when this committee rises to report that it do so with the recommendation that Council Bill No. 70 do pass."

Mr. Sheeks: "Mr. Chairman, owing to the committee work which has piled up and the nearness of our adjournment on December 10th I move that consideration of Council Bill No. 70 be deferred without prejudice until the evening session."

Chairman: "All in favor of Mr. Sheeks' motion signify by saying, 'Aye'."

(Loud "Ayes" from Messers Holbrook, Sheeks, Curran and Strong.)

Chairman: "Those opposed, 'No'."

(All others vote "No" loudly.)

Chairman: "The motion is lost." (One rap of the gavel) "Continue with the bill."

Mr. Douglas: (Rising) "Mr. Chairman, I wish to speak in behalf of this bill. (Picks up a copy of bill from desk) I see no reason why it should not pass, originating, as it did, in the mind of a woman whose strong character and high integrity of purpose are unquestionable. Gentlemen I refer to Esther Morris, a citizen of South Pass City, who a few days before the first election in that frontier mining city invited guests to a tea party to be given at her log cabin home. It was at this time and place that Mrs. Morris obtained the promise from the two legislative candidates that whoever might be elected would introduce a

woman's suffrage bill in this the First Territorial Legislature. Of the two gentlemen nominated for office Captain H. G. Nickerson was defeated and Colonel W. H. Bright was elected.* This bill was drawn and presented to the Council by Colonel Bright who is a friend to all of us. The Council saw fit to pass this bill. Colonel Bright is a southern gentleman, a man who holds women in highest regard. Serving as Colonel under General Lee during the late war he moved westward at the close of that terrible conflict, gentlemen, so that he might help to build a new empire. The West, and I may say Wyoming, needs men like Colonel Bright, men with vision, men who are leaders, men who will help us place another star in the flag we all love and that new star will grandly and gloriously bear the name, WYOMING. (Applause from other members.) Can this man whom we all admire, whom we all trust be wrong? He comes from a state, where women are protected and carefully reared, into a new territory fraught with danger and privation, a territory where women are partners and share the hardships that come to us here. I ask you to stand with him, with that friend of yours in making our women not companions in name only but in reality. Give Wyoming's WOMEN the right of

To immediately follow

* See Prologue.

franchise. Let us be the leaders and some day, gentlemen, who knows but through this action of ours today a woman may occupy the Governor's chair, farther yet, a seat in the Congress of the United States or even a cabinet position.¹ Let us blaze the trail. Hand in hand let the women and men of Wyoming march forward under the banner of equality. I ask you gentlemen to support this bill."

Mr. Curran: (Rising and speaking easily and tolerantly.) "I have listened with pleasure and no little amusement to the oratory of my friend, Mr. Douglas, and although I heartily agree with him as to the standing of our mutual friend, Colonel Bright, I also feel that this bill (picks up bill from his desk) is nothing but a by-product of the Civil War. Personally I have no woman in partnership with me and I have always maintained that woman never knows what she wants and so is never satisfied until she gets it'; why should we, the First Territorial Legislature of Wyoming take it upon ourselves to pass laws which will affect those yet unborn, that will affect the citizens of a Territory that has not yet reached statehood. I object, gentlemen, to the motive of this bill and I beg of **you** to not allow a little sentiment and gush to sway you. You are men, and as men disapprove this measure and if in years to come, when Wyoming State has a voice in these United States, then if the coming legislative bodies agree, then they may give women the right to vote.² I move that the consideration of this bill be postponed until July 4, 1870."

Chairman: "Mr. Curran moves that further consideration of Bill No. 70 be postponed until July 4, 1870. All in favor of the motion signify by the usual voting sign, Aye."

1. Time has proved to an astonishing degree the truth of this prophesy. (see Epilogue.)

2. See Epilogue.

means
(Curran, Strong, Holbrook and Sheeks vote 'Aye'.)

Chairman: "Those opposing by voting No."

(All others vote No.)

Chairman: "The motion is lost." (*strikes* ~~HITS~~ gavel once.) "Had this motion passed it would not be signed because July 4 is a legal holiday and in 1870 there will be no Legislative Session."

Mr. Sheeks: (Rising and speaking with gusto.) "Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen-- You cannot be serious. This question is vital to us, why the first thing you know women will want to be serving on juries, they will desire to be sitting on the bench of justice, heavens alone knows what they will be wanting.³ Let us keep woman in her rightful place as home maker and mother. Mr. Chairman, I move that further consideration of this bill be postponed until Saturday next."

Chairman: "Mr. Sheeks moves that further consideration of Bill No. 70 be postponed until Saturday next. There being no discussion on the motion are you ready for the question?"

(Men in chorus "Question.")

Chairman: "Those in favor of *council* Bill No. 70 being postponed until Saturday next signify by the usual voting sign. Aye."

means
(Curran, Strong, Holbrook and Sheeks all vote Aye.)

Chairman: "The opposing, No."

(All other loudly call No.)

Chairman: "The noes have it. The motion is lost. (Strikes gavel once.) We are now working on the original bill. Is there more discussion?"

Mr. Curran: (Rising and bending over desk.) "Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Section 2, line 1 (other men all lean over desks and mark bill) after the word force 'three years or sooner discharged.'"

3. See Epilogue.

(Mr. Abney jumps to his feet as ^{Mr.} Curran is seated.)

Mr. Abney: "Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen, this is horse play, I protest! Are we children or are we men. If we are men let us conduct ourselves as such and as men serve the people who placed confidence in us to send us here and not as puppets dancing at the ends of strings of ill-timed humor." (Abney is seated and looks about, other men whisper together and Chairman raps gavel for silence.)

Chairman: "You have heard the amendment of Mr. Curran. Are you ready for the question?"

Chorus: "Question."

Chairman: "Those in favor of the amendment signify by the usual voting sign, Aye."

Curran and Sheeks vote "Aye".)

Chairman: "Opposing, No."

Chorus of others: "No." (Mr. Sheeks hurriedly writes on paper.)

Chairman: "The amendment is lost." (gavel)

Mr. Sheeks: "Mr. Chairman, I wish to offer an amendment." (Motions for page who goes to ^{Mr.} Sheeks' desk and ~~takes~~ paper to Chief Clerk.)

Chairman: "The Chief Clerk will read the amendment."

Chief Clerk: "Mr. Sheeks moves that ^{Council} Bill No. 70 (all men look at bill and write as he reads.) Section 1 be amended as follows, strike the word 'woman' in line 1 and insert 'all colored women and squaws'."

Mr. Miller: (Rising) "Mr. Chairman, I move that this amendment be tabled without discussion."

Mr. Herrick: (Rising) "Mr. Chairman, I object and insist that we vote on this amendment which is an insult to every white woman in the Territory of Wyoming."

Chairman: "We are voting for or against the tabling of the amendment ~~to~~ ^{Council} Bill No. 70, Section 1, line 1. Is there any discussion. Hearing no discussion

are you ready for the question?"

Chorus: "Question."

Chairman: "All in favor of laying the Amendment to Council Bill No. 70 on the table signify by the usual voting sign, Aye."

messes
(Sheeks, Curran, Miller, Holbrook vote Aye loudly.)

Chairman: "Opposing, No."

(Others all vote "No" loudly and Mr. Miller calls heatedly, "Division.")

(6) omitted
Chairman: "The chair is in doubt, will the 'Ayes' please stand."

messes
(Sheeks, Holbrook, Curran and Miller rise. The Chief Clerk counts them.)

Chairman: "The 'noes' please stand." (All others stand. Clerk counts them.)

Chairman: "The motion is lost! (Uses gavel.) **Gentlemen** we are now voting on the amendment."

Chorus: "Question."

(6)
Mr. Herrick: "Mr. Chairman, this bill is running the gauntlet of ridicule and doubt and you, Mr. Sheeks (~~t~~urning directly to Sheeks) are aiming well directed blows but the time will come, Mr. Sheeks, when you will have seen the folly of your ways.⁴ This proposed law for woman's suffrage is a natural and logical sequence to the other laws that have been made at this First Territorial Legislature. I refer to the one giving to a widow the guardianship of her minor children; to give women the power to acquire and possess property and to give equal compensation to both sexes when qualifications are the same. The right of suffrage only rounds out the laws already passed and if this law is amended it had far better be lost. This amendment must not pass!"

Chairman: "Is there any further discussion on the amendment?"

Chorus: "Question."

Chairman: "All in favor of the adoption of the amendment to strike out the

⁴. See Eiplogue.

word 'woman' and insert the words, 'all colored women and squaws' signify by the usual voting sign, Aye."

^{Curran}
(Curran and Sheeks vote, Aye.)

Chairman: "Opposing, No."

(Others all vote No.)

Chairman: "The proposed amendment is lost." (gavel)

Mr. Strong: (Rising) "Mr. Chairman, I wish to offer an amendment," (Page comes to Mr. Strong's desk and takes amendment to the Chief Clerk.)

Chairman: "The Chief Clerk will read the amendment."

Chief Clerk: "Mr. Strong moves that Council Bill No. 70 be amended as follows, Section 1, line 1, strike out the word 'woman' and insert in its place the word 'Ladies.'"

(Men all write on bill.)

Chairman: "Hearing no discussion on the amendment are you ready for the question?"

Chorus: "Question."

Chairman: "All those in favor of the adoption of the amendment signify by the usual voting sign, Aye."

^{Curran}
(Sheeks and Curran and Strong vote Aye.)

Chairman: "Opposing, No."

Chorus: "No."

Chairman: "The amendment is lost." (gavel.)

Mr. Sheeks: "Mr. Chairman, I wish to amend the bill by striking out the word 18 years in the first line and inserting the word 21. If we are going to pass this bill, and it appears very likely, let us at least not give the right of franchise to anyone who has not reached the age of discretion."

Chairman: "We are voting on the amendment to Council Bill No. 70, Section 1, line 1, striking out the word 18 and inserting the word 21. Hearing no discussion are you ready for the question?"

Chorus: "Question."

Chairman: "All in favor of the amendment signify by the usual voting sign, Aye."

Chorus: "Aye."

Chairman: "Opposing, no."

(Silence.)

Chairman: "The amendment carries." (Clerk writes on bill and arranges desk.)

Chairman: "If there is no further discussion you are voting on the original motion, that when the committee rise to report that they do so with the recommendation that the bill do pass as amended. All those in favor of the motion do so by saying, Aye."

(Messers Abney, Douglas, Herrick, Menefee, Willer and Wilson vote Aye.)

Chairman: "Opposing, No."

(Messers Sheeks, Holbrook, Strong and Curran vote, No.)

Chairman: (Gavel) "The 'Ayes' have it and the motion is carried."

Mr. Holbrook: (Rising) "Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee do now arise and report."

Chairman: "Mr. Holbrook moves that the committee do arise and report. There being no objection it is so ordered."

(Speaker Curran advances and takes his chair while Mr. Sebree gathers his papers and returns to his seat.)

Mr. Wilson: "Mr. Speaker, I move that the rules be suspended and that Council Bill No. 70 be placed on second reading, considered the engrossed copy, placed on third reading and final passage."

Mr. Speaker: "Mr. Wilson moves that the rules be suspended and that Council Bill No. 70 be placed on second reading, considered the engrossed copy, placed on third reading and final passage."

Mr. Menefee: "Mr. Speaker, I second the motion."

Mr. Speaker: "It has been moved and seconded that the rules be suspended and that Council Bill No. 70 be placed on second reading, considered the engrossed copy, placed on third reading and final passage. The Chief Clerk will call the roll."

Chief Clerk: (As Clerk calls name, man votes word following name.) "Mr. Abney (aye), Mr. Douglas (aye), Mr. Herrick (aye), Mr. Holbrook (no), Mr. Miller (aye), Mr. Menefee (aye), Mr. Sebree (aye), Mr. Sheeks (no), Mr. Strong (no), Mr. Wilson (aye), Mr. Speaker (no)."

Chief Clerk: "Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows eight voting aye and four voting no."

Mr. Speaker: "By your vote you have suspended the rules for the purpose of considering Council Bill No. 70 the engrossed copy placing it on 2nd and 3rd reading and final passage. Council Bill No. 70 on second reading."

Chief Clerk: (Standing) "An Act to grant to the Women of Wyoming Territory the right of Suffrage and to Hold Office. Be it enacted--"(On second reading the title is read.)

Mr. Menefee: "Mr. Speaker, I move further reading of the bill be suspended."

Mr. Speaker: "Hearing no objections it is so ordered." (gavel) "Council Bill No. 70 on third reading and final passage."

Chief Clerk: (Standing) "AN ACT TO GRANT TO THE WOMEN OF WYOMING TERRITORY THE RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE AND TO HOLD OFFICE. Be it enacted by the Territory of Wyoming--"

Mr. Wilson: "Mr. Speaker I move that further reading of the bill be suspended."

Mr. Speaker: "Hearing no objection it is so ordered." (gavel) "The Chief Clerk will call the roll." (The third reading of a bill must be read in its entirety unless someone requests or moves further reading of the bill be suspended. In any event the title of the bill must be read and the enacting clause, "Be it enacted by the Territory of Wyoming.")

Chief Clerk: (Chief Clerk calls name and men answer as following name) "Mr. Abney (aye), Mr. Douglas (aye), Mr. Herrick (aye), Mr. Holbrook (no),

Mr. Miller (Aye), Mr. Menefee (Aye), Mr. Sebree (Aye), Mr. Sheeks (No), Mr. Strong (No), Mr. Wilson (Aye), Mr. Speaker (No)."

Chief Clerk: "Mr. Speaker, roll call shows eight voting 'aye' and four voting 'no'." (Turns and hands roll call to speaker.)

Mr. Speaker: "By your vote Council Bill No. 70, giving to the WOMEN in the TERRITORY OF WYOMING the right to vote, ^{and To Hold Office} has passed the House."

C U R T A I N

THE BIRTH OF WYOMING DAY

Act 1, Scene 2

Place: Scene 2- Governor's office, desk R. Stage, candles at each end and oil lamp in center on desk with papers, ink well, quill pens and steel pen points and a few books; chair behind desk, three chairs informally placed in room, small table near door L., pictures on wall and United States flag hanging on back wall with two old fashioned coal oil wall lamps on either side (may omit lamps.) . Plain rug on floor and other office furniture typical with period of disired. Lamps and candles burning.

Time: Scene 2 - ⁶ 8:00 evening of December 10, 1869.

Properties: Scene 2 - Business desk and chair, three office chairs, small table, coal oil desk lamp, two candles, two coal oil wall lamps, flag with 36 stars, Woman's Suffrage bill, books, papers, ink well, quill pen and steel pen point, pictures and rug.

Characters: Scene 2 - Governor Campbell medium build, aristocratic, black hair parted on left side and flowing black mustache and beard. Wears dark trousers, over boots and frock coat. White shirt with flowing black tie and carries a large

old fashioned silver watch. Mrs. Esther Morris, large, imposing, grey hair, dressed high on head, wears black silk dress to floor with black ribbon belt at waist, lace ruffles about the neck, heavy necklace, brooch, earrings, finger rings and a long watch chain with the watch carried in belt at waist. A frilled black lace cap to back of head with black velvet bow at back and shoulder length streamers. Colonel Bright, tall, medium height, iron grey hair and sweeping mustache. Wears white shirt, windsor tie with large stick pin and a high cut vest with cutaway coat, striped trousers over boots. Governor's Secretary, medium build, fair complexioned correctly dressed in brown trousers over boots, short dark coat, white shirt, high cut vest with windsor tie. Messers Sheeks and Sebree dressed as in Scene 1.

Curtain - Governor's Secretary standing behind desk arranging papers. Door opens and Mrs. Morris enters dressed in outdoor clothes. Secretary advances, shakes hands and helps her off with coat, seating her to L. of desk, talking as he helps her.

Secretary: "The Governor will be so pleased, Mrs. Morris, that you came up tonight. In fact he postponed the signing of the Suffrage Bill until your arrival."

Mrs. Morris: "Well I would not have missed the signing of this bill for all the wealth in Sweetwater County and especially after Ben Sheeks' hard battle to defeat it. When will Governor Campbell arrive?"

Secretary: "He is in the building now."

Mrs. Morris: "Don't you think you had better send for Colonel Bright? The reports are that the Council and House will not adjourn before midnight and I would not have him miss the signing of this bill, for after all, you know he is the father of the bill."

Secretary: "I'll be glad to send for Colonel Bright, Mrs. Morris. Mr. Sheeks and Mr. Sebree also wanted to be present."

Mrs. Morris: (Laughing) "Well I will say that the Honorable Ben Sheeks is a good loser."

(Secretary nods, laughs and exits door L. Mrs. Morris walks to desk, looks down on bill lying there and reads aloud, "Council Bill No. 70, and you are to become a law. Conceived in a most frontier town, South Pass, in a little log cabin miles from civilization surrounded by Indians and by other dangers. I feel, I know, that your birth will bring a new era to this old world. In you, *Council* Bill No. 70, dwells the hopes of countless millions." Door L. opens and Colonel Bright enters alone, lays hat on table near door and advances hand outstretched meets Mrs. Morris center stage.)

Colonel Bright: "Esther Morris! To say I am happy to have you here--well that would be too mild. Indeed I am quite overcome!"

Mrs. Morris: "Words are always unnecessary between you and me, Colonel Bright, but I'm glad you came for I was about ready to indulge in a few sentimental woman's tears so look out or I may need a shoulder." (Laughs)

Colonel Bright: (With mock seriousness) "My dear Mrs. Morris, I would consider it an honor and from this time hence I beg that if ever you should need a shoulder on which to expend woman's charming weakness of tears let it be mine, let it be mine!"

(Secretary enters with Mr. Sebree and Mr. Sheeks.)

Secretary: "The Governor will be here in a few minutes if you will take chairs?"
(Exit.)

(Mr. Sebree and Mr. Sheeks advance, lay hats on table L., nod to Colonel Bright, Mr. Sebree shakes hands with Mrs. Morris saying, "Greetings to the Mother of Woman's Suffrage in Wyoming.")

Mrs. Morris: (Laughingly) "Thanks to you for your splendid work Mr. Sebree, but remember the bill is not yet signed."

(Mr. Sebree takes a chair as Mrs. Sheeks advances and bows to Mrs. Morris in military style.)

Mr. Sheeks: "I too wish to pay homage to a woman who with an inborn intuitive cleverness held seven men so firmly in line that the Suffrage Bill was passed even against their better judgment."

Mrs. Morris: (Hold out her hand and smiling as Mr. Sheeks takes her hand) "Ben Sheeks I could not take even you seriously tonight, I am too overcome with happiness. This Bill means so much to all of us and to those who are to come after. It was not for the mere privilege of putting a piece of paper in a ballot box that we wanted and worked for equal rights--it was for the enfranchisement of women--is--"

(Secretary enters and announces "Governor Campbell." All turn as the Governor enters the room, advances, speaks to the men and crosses to shake hands with Mrs. Morris.)

Governor Campbell: "I see the Mother of Wyoming Suffrage is here right on time."

Mrs. Morris: "Where else would a mother be at this time, your Excellency?"

(All laugh. Secretary advances back stage to desk and arranges papers, then steps to back of Governor's chair as the Governor comes around the desk and is seated. Takes out watch, looks at it and lays it on desk, others display deep interest. Colonel Bright places a chair in front of desk and seats Mrs. Morris, then he takes place side of desk facing audience with Sheeks and Sebree between Colonel Bright and Mrs. Morris.)

Governor: "It is after 8 o'clock and at 8:30 I shall sign the bill which will give to the women of Wyoming Territory the right to vote. I am signing this bill because I believe in its purpose, its vast importance and its wide spread influence."

Before President Grant appointed me Governor of Wyoming Territory I heard Susan B. Anthony speak at a convention in Ohio. I went to the meeting to scoff, but went away to pray. Her logical reasoning sold me to the idea of Woman's Rights and I am proud that this First Territorial Legislature saw fit to take a step forward and I sincerely feel that much good may come from this not only to Wyoming but to the United States and perhaps to the world. To you, Mrs. Morris, and to you, Colonel Bright, goes much credit, and Wyoming will long remember the splendid work which you have done."

(Mrs. Morris smiles and shows deep emotion under self-control.)

Colonel Bright: "I have so thoroughly believed in Woman's Suffrage, Governor Campbell, especially after the war for I felt that ^fit the negro in his illiteracy and ignorance could vote how much safer the ballot would be in the hands of our women."

(Governor takes quill pen holder from desk and examines its point carefully, moves lamp closer, looks at watch and says, "I am about to sign Council Bill No. 70 which will give to the women of Wyoming Territory the right to vote and to hold office." Mrs. Morris rises and all stand in silence as he signs the bill. When the document was signed Governor Campbell with a strong voice said, "I have so signed"--pauses, then rises and hands pen to Mrs. Morris.)

Governor: "I think that you should have this pen Mrs. Morris, it finished the great work you so courageously started."

Mrs. Morris: "Thank you, Governor Campbell, and may this new law pave the way to a greater freedom, a broader education and an advanced citizenry, not alone for Wyoming but for the entire world."⁵

Mr. Sheeks: (Steps forward and all direct attention to him) "Governor Campbell, I have opposed this bill from the first but it is now a law; therefore

5. See Epilogue.

I accept it. May I propose a toast?" (Men all nod. Mr. Sheeks raises arm in grand gesture.) "To Wyoming's lovely ladies, once our superiors, ~~but~~ now our equals."

C U R T A I N

EPILOGUE. *Reading Time five minutes.*

Footnote 1. How the "fearful" prophesy as made in the session of the First Wyoming Territorial Legislature, 1869, became true.

Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross, Cheyenne, Wyoming, elected by popular vote, January 5, 1925, as Governor of the State of Wyoming, the first woman to occupy such an important executive office. Mrs. Ross was appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, April, 1933 as Director of the United States Mint, generally spoken of as "The first lady of the Mint." Mrs. Susan Wissler, Dayton, Wyoming, elected mayor 1911, the first woman as chief executive of a municipality. Jeanette Rankin, Montana, the first woman to be elected a member of the United States Congress, March 3, 1918, to serve in the House of Representatives. Mrs. Hattie Wyatt Caraway, Arkansas, the first woman to be elected a member of the United States Senate, January 12, 1933. Mrs. Mary Godat Bellamy, ^{Laramie,} Wyoming elected as a member of the House of Representatives, Wyoming Legislature, 1910, the first woman to be elected as a Legislative Lawmaker. Miss Frances Perkins, New York, appointed March 4, 1933, as United States Secretary of Labor in President Roosevelt's Cabinet, the first woman to have the title "Madam Secretary".

Footnote 2. Article XIX United States Constitution grants to women in all of our states the right of suffrage.

Footnote 3. The first jury on which women served was held in Laramie, Wyoming, March 7, 1870. The first woman Justice of the Peace, it is believed, in the world, was Mrs. Esther Morris of South Pass City, Wyoming, her appointment to the office

coming from the County Commissioners of Sweetwater County. Miss Florence E. Allen, Ohio, appointed by the President of the United States, March 6, 1934 as a member of the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, Washington, D. C. Judge Allen was the first woman to serve on the Federal Bench, her position placing her but one step from the United States Supreme Court.

Footnote 4. Mr. Herrick's prophesy was, after a period of fifty years, completely varified.

Montesano, Wash. Oct.- 14th, 1919

Dear Miss Hebard

Wise as I thought myself fifty years ago, I am willing to admit that I have learned some things since.

I have advocated and voted for woman's suffrage, and have no doubt of the wisdom and justice of my later action, whatever the good women of Wyoming may think of my former conduct.

Yours truly,
(Signed) Ben Sheeks

Footnote 7. ⁵ ^{Wm.} Carrie Chapman Catt, New York, suffrage leader 1876-1920, a "warrior against war", visiting Wyoming in 1919 was responsible for the first special session of Wyoming Legislature called by Governor Robert D. Carey to vote on a proposed suffrage amendment of the United States Constitution. This measure was favorably voted upon ^{as} by Wyoming Senate Joint Resolution, January 28, 1920, "ratifying the proposed amendment to the Consitution of the United States, extending the Right of Suffrage to Women."

Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen, Florida, April 23, 1933 was appointed by the President of the United States as a United States Minister or Envoy to Denmark and Iceland, the first "Lady of a Diplomatic Corps", or "Lady Ambassador". Through the efforts of Mrs. Owen, sponsored by Governor Leslie A. Miller, a Wyoming flag was presented by our American woman Minister to the people of Denmark on July 4, 1934. ✓

Additional examples might be given illustration¹ of Shakespear's pronouncement, "How far a little candle throws its light in this wicked world." The "candle"

was Council Bill No. 70 of Wyoming's First Territorial Legislature of December 10, 1869 which opened the doors of franchise to the women of Wyoming and ultimately to the women of the United States and to the women of more than twenty nations. The Indian woman not only votes with interest, but in Wyoming she now has a place on the Tribal Council of the Shoshones as does Secretary Perkins in the President's Cabinet. Until the year of 1935 no tribe of Indians had permitted an Indian woman to sit in Council with their high officials. In this year Mary Mead, a Shoshone at Fort Washakie was elected a member of the "Shoshone Tribal Conference", the first woman so to be distinguished.

"From Fort Washakie to the ghost town of South Pass is a scant 70 miles as the crow flies.

It was at South Pass 67 years ago that Esther Morris sponsored the principle of political equality for the women of the infant Territory of Wyoming, an idea that was incorporated in the territorial law a few months later.

Now Esther Morris' ideal finally has penetrated across the Wind River range to Fort Washakie and been accepted by the folk whose residence in the region was immemorial when Esther Morris came.

A far call, indeed, from Esther Morris to Mary Mead as measured in terms of political progress. While equality for women was spanning the little distance across the Wind Rivers it was encompassing all the remainder of the nation."*

* This Epilogue may be presented by a reader who stands on the platform in front of curtain.

All of the dialogues, debates and discussions are taken, generally word by word, from records, documents, reports and letters. Statements are made frequently that were obtained by "word of mouth" from some of the chief actors of this drama now written for Wyoming Day. The material has neither been fictionized nor the characters sentimentalized.

G. R. H.

University of Wyoming