

Tennessee---The 36th

MAKING the most of all the dramatic possibilities, Tennessee—after a week's suspense had almost reduced suffragists to a conviction of defeat, gave the final vote for ratification on August 18, and enfranchised 27,000,000 women.

Uncertainty lasted to the very climax when, after a tie vote in the House which would have defeated the amendment, Governor Roberts went upon the floor and in the name of the Democratic party, its leaders and its platform, prevailed upon an additional Democratic member to cast his vote for the amendment.

The great national forces for and against the enfranchisement of women came to final grips in Tennessee. The bitter contests in New Jersey, West Virginia and Delaware were only a prelude to the opposition encountered in this thirty-sixth state—an opposition which continued through every political maneuver for two days after the ratification vote was cast. But the earlier contests had served their purpose. The national political forces were aware of the energy which must be put into the campaign to achieve success.

Convinced that only the national parties and the presidential nominee as leaders of those parties could exert an influence which would offset the influence of outside opposing forces, the National Woman's Party acknowledged Ohio as the center of the field of battle.

Even before the calling or convening of the special session in Tennessee, the importance of the action of that state was made clear to the Democratic party by persistent work at its national convention in San Francisco. Following this, delegations of the Woman's Party which, late in June and early in July, waited upon Senator Harding and Governor Cox in Ohio, made Tennessee the theme of their arguments. At the suggestion of Governor Cox, a committee was at this time appointed to consult with him constantly on the Tennessee situation.

With the convening of the special session, the Woman's Party campaign developed a three-fold char-

acter. Efforts with the presidential candidates were redoubled. Mrs. Abby Scott Baker, political chairman of the Woman's Party, who went to Ohio herself to work with Mrs. James Rector, member of the advisory council in that state, kept in daily touch with Governor Cox and held repeated consultations with Senator Harding. From Washington, where Alice Paul remained throughout the campaign, other national political forces were induced to exert every possible pressure for favorable action; while in Tennessee there was an intensive



Mrs. Abby Scott Baker, political chairman of the National Woman's Party, and Governor Cox consult, in his executive offices at Columbus, over the ratification poll of the Tennessee legislature.

state-wide campaign under the direction of Miss Sue White, the state chairman. Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles, Delaware chairman of the Woman's Party, was sent by the Delaware branch to assist in the work in order that Delaware might, after all, have some part in the victory. Miss Mary Winsor, of Philadelphia, represented Pennsylvania. The most experienced of the ratification workers who had taken part in the other hard-fought contests—Miss Anita Pollitzer, Miss Betty Gram and Miss

Catherine Flanagan campaigned before the opening of the session in the home districts of the members and later concentrated their efforts in Nashville. Mrs. Mabel Reber was in charge of the publicity.

Before leaving Washington for Tennessee, Miss White polled the legislature by letter and wire. Supplementing this poll by interviews with the members in their home districts, the Woman's Party organizers secured a majority in both Houses of the legislature for ratification. Everything seemed hopeful. The sentiment of the state, which had already granted presidential suffrage to its own women, was undoubtedly in favor of ratification. The members of the legislature, convinced by opinions rendered by state and national attorneys that action on the amendment at a special session was legal, were ready to vote for it.

The day of the session came. The men arrived in Nashville. Poll and pledges in hand, the Woman's Party workers approached them. One by one the