

ILLINOIS WOMEN FEATURE PARADE

Delegation from This State
Wins High Praise by Or-
der in Marching.

CHEERED BY BIG CROWD.

Question of Color Line Threatens
for While to Make Trou-
ble in Ranks.

[BY A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.]
Washington, D. C., March 3.—[Special].—
The Illinois delegation today won the place
of first rank in the suffrage parade in the
opinion of the spectators along the line of
march.

The women, in their trig stoles of white,
with jaunty turbans set at a military angle,
marched with the precision of veteran sol-
diers and brought forth much praise from the
men who lined the sidewalks of Pennsylvania
avenue.

"Look at the Illinois suffragists. They sure
do keep step," shouted one excited boy scout
as the delegation passed his stand.

Mrs. George Welles, chairman of the Illinois
parade committee and major of the state del-
egation, walked at the head of the marchers,
giving the signal to stand at "attention,"
"forward, march," and "turn," with a
large brass baton which was presented to her
a few days ago by a veteran who had carried
it at the battle of Gettysburg. The way she
kept her troops in marching order during the
long waits of half an hour or more would
have done credit to a "regular" army
officer.

Delegation Numbers Sixty-five.

The Illinois delegation numbered sixty-
two marchers at the start and finished with
sixty-five, a number double that of many
of the western delegations. The state band,
the money for which was donated by the
north side branch of the Illinois Equal suf-
frage association, was one of the largest and
best in the entire parade.

Immediately following the band was Mrs.
Grace Wilbur Trout, president of the Illinois
Equal Suffrage association and commander
in chief of the delegation, with the other suf-
fragists marching behind her four abreast.

The Chicago Political Equality league ban-
ner, which flaunted itself bravely in the
center of the first row of marchers, was
carried by Mrs. Robert McCall, the official
delegate from the league.

Miss Marlon Drake, president of the suf-
frage alliance of Cook county, bore the ban-
ner of her organization.

One Hitch in Program.

Preceding Mrs. Charlotte Rhodus, with
the banner of her organization, the Wom-
an's Party of Cook county, was a row con-
taining only three suffragists whose in-
terpretation of Democratic principles al-
most resulted in the disruption of the Illi-
nois delegation at the drill this morning.
As a result, they did not join the marchers
until they had passed half way down the
line of march on Pennsylvania avenue.

In the center of the row was Mrs. Ida
Wells Barnett, a member of the Chicago
Woman's club and president of the Alpha
club, a suffrage organization of colored
women. Flanking her on both sides were
her two champions, Miss Virginia Brooks,
the "Joan of Arc" of West Hammond, and
"Mrs." [Mex.] Belle Squire, president of the
No Vote, No Tax league.

The first hint that there was to be any
discrimination against the colored women
came when Mrs. Welles was putting the
Illinois suffragists through their practice
in the drill hall on the second floor of the
suffrage parade headquarters. Mrs. Trout,
who had been missing from the room for
some minutes, came in hurriedly, held a
short conference with Mrs. Welles, and then
announced to the waiting women that it was
a question whether Mrs. Barnett would
march with her delegation. A murmur of
excitement passed round the room and those
standing near the colored woman kept an
embarrassed silence.

Mrs. Trout Voices Protest.

"Many of the eastern and southern wom-
en have greatly resented the fact that there
are to be colored women in the delegations,"
announced Mrs. Trout. "Some have even
gone so far as to say they will not march
if negro women are allowed to take part.

"Mrs. Stone of the National Suffrage as-
sociation and the woman in charge of the
entire parade has advised us to keep our
delegation entirely white. So far as Illinois
is concerned, we should like to have Mrs.
Barnett march in the delegation, but if the
national association has decided it is unwise
to include the colored women, I think we
should abide by its decision."

She looked around for approval.

"You are right; it will prejudice southern
people against suffrage if we take the col-
ored women into our ranks," said Mrs.
Schuyler Coe Brandt of Oak Park, a Georgia
woman and a sympathizer with the south-
ern suffragists.

"But it is entirely undemocratic," inter-
rupted Miss Brooks. "We have come down
here to march for equal rights. It would be
autocratic to exclude men or women of any
color. I think that we should allow Mrs.
Barnett to walk in our delegation. If the
women of other states lack moral courage, we
should show them that we are not afraid of
public opinion. We should stand by our prin-
ciples. If we do not the parade will be a
farce."

Plea by Mrs. Barnett.

Mrs. Barnett's voice trembled with emo-
tion and two large tears coursed their way
part way down her cheeks before she could
raise her veil and wipe them away. "The
southern women have tried to evade the ques-
tion time and again by giving some excuse
or other every time it has been brought up,"
she said. "If the Illinois women do not take
a stand now in this great democratic parade
than the colored women are lost."

"It is time for Illinois to recognize the col-
ored woman as a political equal," replied
Mrs. Trout, "and you shall march with the
delegation."

But the matter was not settled. Some one
drew Mrs. Trout aside, whispered a few
words in her ear, and then, to every one's
surprise, the Illinois delegate announced
that she should have to see Mrs. Stone before
any final decision could be made.

Each woman of the Illinois delegation had
a decided opinion of the matter and did not
hesitate to express it.

"Mrs." Squire Is Peacemaker.

"It will be undemocratic if we do not let
Mrs. Barnett march with us," declared Mrs.
Marlon Drake. "But we should not go
against the law of the national association.
We are only a small part in the great line of
march, and we must not cause any confusion
by disobeying orders."

In the meantime Mrs. Barnett, looking
much disappointed, took a seat quietly be-
side "Mrs." Belle Squire, who has been ill
since she reached Washington yesterday af-
ternoon.

"It will be all right, I'm sure," said "Mrs."
Squire, patting Mrs. Barnett's hand reassur-
ingly.

"I am afraid that we shall not be able to
have you march with us," announced Mrs.
Trout, reappearing in the room, followed by
Mrs. Welles. "Personally I should like noth-

ing more than to have you represent our Il-
linois suffrage organization. But I feel that
we are responsible to the national association
and cannot do as we choose."

"After talking again with Mrs. Stone, I
shall have to ask you to march with the
colored delegation. I am sorry, but I feel
that it is the right thing to do."

Ultimatum by Mrs. Barnett.

"I shall not march at all unless I can
march under the Illinois banner," indignantly
replied Mrs. Barnett. "When I was
asked to come down here I was asked to
march with the other women of our state, and
I intend to do so or not take part in the
parade at all."

"If I were a colored woman, I should be
willing to march with the other women of my
race," argued Mrs. Welles.

"There is a difference, Mrs. Welles, which
you probably do not see," replied Mrs. Bar-
nett. "I shall not march with the colored
women. Either I go with you or not at all.
I am not taking this stand because I per-
sonally wish for recognition. I am doing it
for the future benefit of my whole race."

Her face set in lines of grim determination,
but her voice trembled and several tears
glistened in her eyes.

"If you will walk in the colored delegation,
Mrs. Barnett, I shall walk by your side,"
said Mrs. Squire.

"I shall join Mrs. Barnett and Mrs.

Squire," announced Miss Brooks. "I think
it would be a disgrace for Illinois women to
let Mrs. Barnett march alone when the
parade is intended to show woman's demand
for the great principles of Democracy."

Mrs. Barnett Accepts Plan.

Mrs. Barnett consented to march with the
women of her race when the two suffragists
promised to join her. For a time it looked as
if many in the delegation would swing over to
her support. In time to avoid further defections
in the ranks Mrs. Trout announced the
meeting adjourned until the afternoon.

At 2 o'clock the three suffragists were miss-
ing from the Illinois delegation, which had
drawn into line on New Jersey avenue in ad-
vance of the parade. Half an hour later Miss
Brooks walked up and inquired if "Mrs."
Squire and Mrs. Barnett had been seen.

Hearing that "Mrs." Squire was not likely
to take her place with any of the marchers
on account of illness, Miss Brooks announced
she was willing to march alone with Mrs.
Barnett.

"They have said you are going to do it be-
cause you want publicity," some one warned
her.

"Let any one say anything they please,"
she replied. "I cannot prevent that, but I
can prevent having one of our delegation left
to march alone, almost as if she were in dis-
grace. I shall go and find Mrs. Barnett."

Later "Mrs." Squire appeared, asked for
Mrs. Barnett, and set off on a search for the
stray delegate.

All Return to Fold.

A little further down the line Miss Brooks
joined the delegation. She joined "Mrs."
Squire. The sympathy for Mrs. Barnett
changed to alarm. It was feared she had
taken her dismissal from the ranks as a per-
sonal matter and had decided to stay away.

Suddenly from the crowd on the sidewalk
Mrs. Barnett walked calmly out to the del-
egation and assumed her place at the side of
"Mrs." Squire. There was no question raised
of her eligibility and she finished the parade.

Mrs. W. H. Stuart, a member of the Chi-
cago Political Equality league and a fine
horsewoman, rode beside Illinois' women on
a spirited horse. Several times she helped
out the mounted police force which was in-
adequate to handle the crowds.

In the Pioneers delegation, near the head of
the pageant, rode Dr. Julia Holmes Smith, in
an automobile. Mrs. Trout asked her to ride
as a personal favor to the rest of the dele-
gates and so she consented to join the Pio-
neers.

Give Thanks to "Tribune."

At a meeting held this morning in the head-
quarters of the Illinois delegation the suf-
fragists adopted the following resolutions:

"Resolved, The Illinois delegation deeply
appreciate the comfortable accommodations
provided by the Baltimore and Ohio railroad
and are deeply grateful for all the courtesies
extended to the women.

"The Illinois delegation of marchers thank
THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE for sending a special
representative to Washington to write up the
parade."

Miss Elizabeth Pier of Dubuque, Ia., joined
the Illinois suffragists at Chicago and
marched with the delegation in the pageant.