

AN ANSWER TO THE EDITORIAL "WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN WISCONSIN".

To the Editor:

"Why should Wisconsin of all states vote almost two to one against equal suffrage" Your editorial on Woman Suffrage from which this statement is quoted calls for an explanation.

While Wisconsin has been freed from political domination of the railroads and the insurance companies, the Brewing interests control the State government to as great an extent as other special interests ever did.

In the manufacture of fermented liquors, Wisconsin ranks third in the United States. The Malt Liquor industry of Wisconsin are capitalized at 85,894,000. This represents the opposition to the enfranchisement of women in our state.

The suffragists carried on an active campaign for seventeen ~~XXXXX~~ months, and although they were made to feel the powerful hand of these interests, it was impossible to smoke them out. They knew and we knew the nature of the opposition could be exposed to the best element of the state, they would rally to our support.

The following is a synopsis of the suffrage fight as carried on between the liquor interests of the state and the women. In the legislature, when the bill seemed about to pass, the La Crosse Brewers sent letters to the members urging them to vote against the bill, for women if enfranchised might neglect the home. (Since when have the the liquor dealers the best interests of the home at heart?)

The bill passed. Then it was found that many newspapers in the state misrepresented the suffrage movement willfully. In some instances this was at first incomprehensible inasmuch as the owners, editors and stockholders were known to be in sympathy. In reply to ~~xxx~~ insistent inquiries, the women were told that it was the policy of the paper to oppose their enfranchisement. But who controls the policies of the papers if not the owners? The answer is to be found in the great advertisements of the Schlitz Brewing Company, Pabst Blue Ribbon etc.

Anonymous literature was circulated in violation of the corrupt practises act toward the end of the campaign, literature that was branded by Judge Lindsey in Milwaukee as as "yard of infamous lies". At much expense this literature was traced to its source by the women, and it was found that it had been paid for by Mr. Wm. Austin, the famous brewery lobbyist, and was circulated by an officer of the German American Alliance. Just previous to election, the saloons were placarded and woman suffrage was fought over the counters.