INFLUENCE OF WOMEN BEATS MASK FACTION

Local Politicians Observe New Powerful Element in Civic Affairs

VICTORS IN DEBATE

Hassler, Heckled in Own Bailiwick and Law Sharp, Talks Up to Board

The absorbing topic in the City Hall yesterday was the defeat of the mask ordinance by woman influence. The women killed it. That was what the experienced politicians said. They were predicting that more and more the voices of the new citizens will be heard at public deliberations on civic affairs.

"They come before the Board of Supervisors now as much concerned as any other part of the community, with their fathers, husbands, or brothers," said an old-timer.

"It is different a dozen years ago. A convention or legislative body would have stared in astonished at a woman raising an objection. It would address it on civic subjects. Now a public meeting would be surprised if some woman did not take an active part in the discussion."

The women formed the larger part of the audience. It was a body of women to hear the Health Board's verbal battle against the women of the mask. There were none more assertive and tenacious than the women. There was a woman physician to heckle the Board of Health in enforcement of quarantine and the closing of public places. She was ready and competent to enter the debate at any point where her side needed to be heard.

"They were not a body of women in the sense of being religious denominations or social set. They were more represented in various political organizations and county and state bodies to voice their opinions on various questions which came before the Board of Supervisors. They were ready to come to the defense of their husbands in the prime of life, who have no opportunity to speak up.

"Having evidently a firm belief in the psychological effect of applause in bringing public opinion to bear, they had stimulated their women champions by frequent and hearty outbursts, regarding the indiscriminate killing of horses and the closing of public places as a menace to the health of the community."

"The Mayor was one of the first men in the city to get behind the Board of Health. When it came to the final test in the Board of Supervisors' action, Dr. Hassler's vote was his for the mask."