

To the Editor of the New York Age.

Dear Sir:

In your issue of November 16th I note an editorial giving reasons for the defeat of Mr. Hughes in the recent general election.

I take exception to that part which deals with the Hughes Women's Special Train. In making the statement that it was a miscalculation to send the train to get the suffragist vote, shows that the Age is sharing the general ignorance of both press and public. It seems that both have found it difficult to discriminate between "Train Committees" and "Train Speakers". The former was made up of over eleven hundred women, of all classes and ranks of society, who contributed to the expense of the train. The "Train Speakers" were women who have contributed to our national life, either by service in working for and with the oppressed, or by giving to the reading public their best efforts in disclosing conditions under which people live and work, also women who could give first hand information of Charles Evans Hughes, because of their close association with him in his work when Governor of New York State.

The editorial states: "We are sorry to admit it; but it is true, - up to the present the main difference between men is generally governed by what they know; the main difference between women is generally governed by what they wear". If this were really true it would, indeed, be a sorrow to admit it, - but experience has taught us that men and women are very much alike when it comes to voting. Few have a real desire to see good in our politics. Some want prosperity no matter what it cost; the rest, many, alas, too many, want some one else to do their thinking for them and they are amply satisfied.

Continuing, the editorial says: "Whether a man addressing an audience be seedy or dressed in style makes no difference, so long as he shows he knows what he is talking about. But the elegantly dressed women who toured the West for Hughes, appear to have stirred up little more than envy amongst their less fortunate sisters". Truly that is absurdly amusing.

The women of the Special Train had neither time or space for 'elegant dresses'. On all occasions their hostesses and audiences were better dressed. The showing of smart gowns was the least of their thoughts,- their main business was to get votes for Hughes, and prove his worth to the nation by his splendid record.

One statesman, recognized all over the world for knowing what he is talking about, and what he thinks is best for this nation, at a joint meeting with the women of the Special Train, found it was the men in the audience who didn't want to hear what he knew, and who prevented him saying what he hoped from Mr. Hughes. There was heard from various quarters, men saying after the meeting, "Why cannot he come to an evening meeting in a dress suit, it would look so much better and show taste". Another national orator, who also toured the West for Hughes, was criticized by men because he was always the "pink of fashion." Yet no one has written that these men helped to loose the campaign for Mr. Hughes, because of envy they aroused.

Truly, it is most interesting to note, when women come into the field of man's activity, whether industrial, political, or what not, any failure that takes place, is no longer put to any masculine shortcoming, but is wholeheartedly blamed upon the women. It ought to be a joy and the men ought to hold out a

wonderful welcome to women to enter politics, then they (the men) would have something handy to blame their failures upon.

It was the women of the Special Train who fearlessly made an issue, in this campaign of Wilson's failure to keep his pre-election pledges to the American negroes, who separated the colored folk in governmental departments, who removed them from official life to make room for deserving white Southern Democrats. In other words, did that, which speakers and politicians of both parties feared to do, - told the truth about the down-trodden negro of both the North and South, - not only to negro audiences but street meetings and public gatherings.

Maybe, somewhere in this land, someone will say, this is one of the reasons Hughes lost the election, because an effort was shown the voting negro the necessity of changing the administration, if he expected to keep what little political representation he had. This would be just as plausible as putting the blame in part or whole, of the loss of the election, upon the Women's Special Train.

When the history of the Special Train is written in the annals of American political history, it will be read, that women with a big National vision, against mountains of prejudice and much opposition, financed and carried through a wonderful piece of work, in which women were launched into National Politics to stay, and with their help the men and women of the country realized the need of a common policy, which each and every one understands and believes.

Then Americans will feel it an honor and loyal duty to give efficient service for justice and right and liberty.