

WOMEN SERVE IN LEGISLATURE THE FIRST TIME

PIONEERS AMONG SOLONS; HAVE VARIED IDEAS

Will Take Seats Along With
Veterans At Opening
Of Legisla-
ture

By FRED A. HOLMES,

For the first time in Wisconsin women will serve as members in the coming session of the legislature. One is the daughter of a state senator, who will serve in the lower house while her father serves in the upper house.

The three women to come to the assembly are:

Miss Mildred Barber, Marathon county.

Mrs. Hellen Brooks, Coloma.

Miss Helen Thompson, Park Falls.

Ever since her father was elected to the senate two years ago Miss Barber has taken an active interest in politics. She attended the legisla-



tive session of 1923 and spent much time gathering data on the workings of the session and the more important bills that came up for consideration. She is a normal school graduate and at the republican state convention in September was elected secretary of the organization. Like her

father, Senator J. L. Barber, she has been active as a La Follette progressive.

"I will be 23 years old by the time the legislature convenes," Miss Barber declared in an interview this week.

Has Educational Experience

Miss Helen Thompson, because of her experience in educational fields, will probably be one of the leaders on the house educational committee. She was born in the town of Menasha, Winnebago county, attended high school and normal school and went to Price county in 1893. She taught in the public schools of Fifield and Park Falls and later for eight years owned and managed the hotel at Park Falls. She was a member of the Park Falls school board for 13 consecutive years; was president of

F902
LE

Pioneers

in Law Making Body



HELEN THOMPSON



MILDRED BARBER



HELLEN BROOKS

the Red Cross in her community and did many phases of war work. She was the first woman to serve as a spectator of election board at Park Falls and one of the first women to serve on a jury. She was appointed jury commissioner for Price county

by Circuit Judge Risjord and was the capacity. In the primary she defirst woman to serve the state in that capacity. In the primary she defeated two opponents and in the general election defeated Assemblyman A. B. Blomberg, who represented that district in the legislature two years ago.

Here is her signed statement which she gave to the press of her locality as her pledge:

"I will serve my county and state with the same zeal that I have served my city.

"They talk about a woman's sphere as though it had a limit.

"There's not a place in earth or heaven,

"There's not a task to mankind given.

"There's not a blessing or a woe,

"There's not a whispered yes or no,

"There's not a life, or death or birth

"That has a feather's weight of worth

"Without a woman in it."

20 Years A School Teacher

Helen M. Brooks, who will come to the legislature from Waushara county has been a successful public school teacher for over 20 years. She was educated in the country schools near her father's farm in Rock county, afterwards attended Milton College for one year and later graduated

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin



The State Historical Society of Wisconsin

(Trustee of the State)

from the Milwaukee Normal school. She married a retired farmer in 1911 and has lived in Caloma, Waushara county, since that time. During the war she was active in Red Cross work being chairman of a chapter of more than 700 members. She was also chairman of the Woman's Liberty Loan committee of her community. She and her husband were active members of the M. E. church. Her husband was injured on Sept. 12 by an automobile which was being driven with one light and died on Oct. 8.

"I pledged myself to the law enforcement platform and this accident will make me much stronger in my demand than when I gave that pledge," declared Mrs. Brooks.

The newly elected speaker of the assembly is expected to place three women on the most important committees of the legislature. While Miss Thompson is expected to be put on the educational committee it is also likely that Mrs. Brooks may go on the committee on public welfare which deals with many of the problems of law enforcement.

Go

Lawson