SUFFRAGISTS ASK FOR THE BALLOT

WOMEN PLEAD BEFORE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.

MANY ARGUMENTS URGED

Women's Interests Would be Furthered if They Were Permitted to Vote for Representatives in Congress—To Appear for Bill Again

Washington, Feb. 15.—Two or three hundred women, members of the National American Suffrage Association, made their annual plea to-day to the Senate Committee on women's suffrage for the right to exercise the franchise. Senator Hawes presided and with him sat Senators Perkins, Wetmore and Hovey. He, Anna H. Shaw presented the various speakers and brought to the committee a message from Miss Susan B. Anthony, the originator of the movement, in which she said the woman had done as much as the man to develop the country—a country the government of which is of the people for the people, not for men by men, and expressed the hope that women as well as men might be free.

Elizabeth Bacon, of Connecticut, made a plea for suffrage largely on the ground of property right.

Mary Bentley Thomas, of Maryland, asked for her sex the right to assert to their full capacity in promoting the interests of the race, and said Maryland protected its terrain, but not its women.

Her, Antoinette Blakewell, 80 years old, who was introduced as the first ordained woman minister of the country, made an equally plea for parity in the professions. She told how the propertied woman of Chile, pensioned for the beautiful rest of the ball, and warned the committee that if the United States was not expeditions the women of Chile and Argentina would assert their rights in advance of the women of this country, as their Constitution contains nothing to prohibit equal suffrage.

Miss Anna Miller, of Georgia, N. Y., said the women wanted to be placed on an equality with men, but not on a plane above them. Like Josh Billings' wife, she said women had a business end and many of them had had a jarring experience in business affairs, due to discrimination because of sex.

Mrs. Susan Fraseniden, of Massachusetts, said that "God never intended that there should be any special use in being a man."

Mrs. Shaw closed the presentation of the case with an argument for the passage of the bill giving women the right to vote for members of the House of Representatives. If compelled to go to each of the states, a long time would be necessary to secure results. She said that foreignborn in the United States were far more prejudiced than natives, and expressed the opinion that the end sought would soon be attained if only native Americans were to be dealt with. As going to show that women are intellectually equal to men, she said that 80 per cent. of the prizes offered by twenty-two coeducational institutions last year had been awarded to female students, despite the fact that only 25 per cent. of the total attendance were women.

In closing the meeting Senator Hawes expressed the hope that the committee might see the Indian aggro., and Mrs. Shaw replied that unless the bill was passed they certainty would have that pleasure.

Fifty delegates attended the hearing before the House Committee on Judiciary. Mrs. Florence Kelso, secretary of the Consumers' League, New York, was in charge of the hearing. Arguments were presented by various speakers that women should be permitted to exercise the franchise, one being on the ground that they were better protect the home product—children.