Argue That "He" in Constitution Might Bar Miss Rankin From House

Special to The Washington Post.
Chicago, Nov. 11.—Is the Constitution of the United States so eternally masculine that the personal pronoun "he" may not be interpreted as "she?"

If it is—and may be it is—Miss Jeanette Rankin, Congressman-elect from Montana, may be prevented from accepting the prize of her victory.

This ungalant question was brought up today by students of the Federal Constitution, who quoted the following passage:

“No person shall be a Representative * * * who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.”

Judge Barton Payne, an authority on the Constitution, said:

“The opponent of Miss Rankin might, of course, contest the election. In that event Congress would ultimately decide the matter. The laws of Montana would be taken into consideration. As for the ‘he’ in the Federal Constitution, I don’t believe it would be construed so as to prevent Miss Rankin from accepting the seat in Congress.”

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