

# Equal Rights

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FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY,  
JUNE 27, 1925



Genevieve Taggard

A young, American, feminist writer who is perhaps best known through her two volumes of verse, "For Eager Lovers" and "From a Hawaiian Hilltop."



## Feminist Notes

### African Women Ask for Real Civilization

NATIVE women of the British Province of Nigeria have appealed to the Council for Representation of Women in the League of Nations for help in securing redress for grievances for which they have appealed in vain to the provincial Governor, Sir Hugh Clifford. They complain of lack of maternity hospitals in Nigeria and of provision for the care of sick children and infants who have lost their mothers. Furthermore, they say that no provision has been made by the Government for education of girls and that facilities are also lacking for vocational education of boys. The Governor, in reply, is said to have declared maternity hospitals to be a medical luxury and that the women have no knowledge of the things whereof they speak.

Having thus been rebuffed by the ruler forced on them from London, they have presented the matter to the women representatives in the League of Nations in the hope that some moral pressure will be brought to bear.

### Women to Run the Ranch

A PLAN to turn a number of wealthy Englishwomen into "lady farmers" is about to be put in operation in Southern Alberta by Miss Patricia Carlisle, an English writer who has a ranch near Calgary. Miss Carlisle plans to bring a number of women compatriots each year to her ranch to study agriculture. They are then to start ranches of their own.

### Heckling the Government on Equal Pay

THE question of equal pay for equal work in the British Civil Service is apparently being pushed by an active group. In the House of Commons on April 7 these members seem to have dragged through considerable questioning the information from the Chancellor of the Exchequer that there are approximately 25,000 women doing the same work as men. Many more questions were then asked, designed to throw some light on the pay these women were receiving, but practically all they revealed was the extraordinary ability of the questioned ministers to shirk the giving of straightforward replies. They were willing enough to inform the inquiring ones that women doctors are receiving the same pay as men, but aside from that they had nothing of value to impart. The logical inference is that the other women are paid less than the men and the members of the government do not want to admit it.

### A Natural Succession

FOR the vacancy in the United States Senate caused by the death of Robert M. LaFollette, his wife, Mrs. Belle Case LaFollette, has been suggested, and without waiting for her approval or consent petitions to put her name on the ballot have been put in circulation. This is not to be classed with previous cases where widows have been pushed for sentimental reasons into their husband's places. It is rather a case where the second in command of a movement takes the place of the dead leader. Mrs. LaFollette was always an active worker with the Senator, helping him lay out his plans, suggesting methods to him and encouraging him at every step. Her co-operation was essential to his campaigns and political struggles. Should she be chosen to succeed him it will be a choice of the fittest to represent his ideals and the most competent to carry on his efforts.

### The Old Issue in New Form

THE equal rights issue has appeared in the province of Punjab in India. There a bill is pending before the provincial legislative council to give every man of the Sikh persuasion a vote in the election of the board which manages the shrines. The omission of women has brought about a protest. In the city of Amritsar Sikh women have organized demonstrations and vigorous demands have been made that the bill be amended to include them. In India, as elsewhere, women are the strongest element backing religious institutions, so that it will be difficult to find plausible grounds for refusing their demands.

### A Competent Diplomat

THE Russian Socialist Soviet Republic is represented in Norway by a woman minister. She is Mme. Kollontai and has held the post now for nearly a year. Within that time she is said to have done much to create friendly feeling for her country and its government where antagonism had existed before.

### Another Prospective Congresswoman

ANOTHER Congressman's widow has been nominated for her late husband's seat. She is Mrs. Edith Nourse Rogers, who had but trifling opposition in the Republican primaries on June 16 in the Lowell (Mass.) district. Her husband was John Jacob Rogers. She will be opposed at the election by former Governor Eugene Foss.

### Discouraging Teachers

OUT of 503 graduates of Maryland's State Normal School, only 27 are men. Apparently the pay of men teachers is but a poor attraction. In the meantime Baltimore authorities are doing what they can to discourage women teachers, also, by insisting on keeping their pay below the level of the men's, even though the Legislature has ordered otherwise.

### Married Women in the Public Schools

THE history of the married woman in the schools of the city of Detroit began with the war. Before that time marriage constituted resignation. The war brought a change in policy and it began to be looked upon as the patriotic thing to retain the soldier's bride and such teachers continued in the system on the same basis as formerly.

With the war over restriction again set in, but to a limited degree. Women already in the system were allowed to remain, but it was understood that, regardless of merit, they should not be eligible for promotion. Married women seeking appointments were given substitute work only.

This disability of no promotion for the married teacher in the system and no contract for the married applicant continued until the last meeting of the Board of Education. At that time a resolution was passed placing the married women in the public schools on an equal basis with the unmarried.

### First Woman to Address Senate

THE first woman to deliver an address before the United States Senate, Mrs. Mary C. Walling, died at Louisville on June 13, aged 86 years.

### Industrial Council Holds Meeting

A MEETING of the New York State Industrial Council of the Woman's Party was held at headquarters, 698 Lexington Avenue, on Tuesday night, June 16. Several hundred women, who are actually working in industry, are members of the council. Mrs. Mary Murray, president of the B. M. T. Women's League, was elected chairman of the council. Mrs. Margaret Kerr Firth, a member of Typographical Union No. 6, was elected vice-chairman; and Miss Mollie Maloney, a member of Local 43, Bindery Women's Union, was elected secretary. Mrs. Murray represented the New York Industrial Council at the Industrial Conference at Detroit, and made an interesting report of the conference at the meeting, which was well-attended.

## Genevieve Taggard

By Sara Bard Field

FROM Mary Woolstonecraft, or even from Susan B. Anthony to Genevieve Taggard may seem a far cry. Yet they fall within the same curve. So do all women poets writing frankly and directly about human experience as does the poet of these paragraphs.

Our human history, like the record of the physical universe is not a series of unrelated phenomena. What the early feminists did was to abolish the political and economic taboos against women. What the modern women poets are doing is to abolish the "modesty" taboo limiting woman's poetic utterance. The latter could never have happened without the former and our women poets who are scornful of feminist propaganda should remember this, quite as much as professional women in all other fields.

The liberation of the lip is an essential part of "equal rights." Man has had his poets such as Horace, Ovid, Shakespeare and Whitman to reveal the peculiar male attitude toward sex — toward life, but "woman's modesty" being "man's best commodity," the horror of her expressing any sturdy sex sentiments was immense enough to keep her dumb. Even in poetry as late as Elizabeth Browning's one feels the pathetic restraint, the taint of a corrosive modesty. That formidable taboo! Because of it, what riches the world lost between Sappho and now, such poets as Helen Hoyt, Edna St. Vincent Millay and Genevieve Taggard reveal.

Helen Hoyt, our first poet in this field of frank expression, coming upon sex as a passionate nature-lover upon a strange flower, is preoccupied in giving "a local habitation and a name" to every petal and stamen of her new-found flower or crying in ecstasy over its crimson joy. Edna Millay, like Shakespeare, is concerned with passion's sad, transitory and unsatisfying nature or with its whimsical absurdities.

GENEVIEVE TAGGARD identifies Love, as Keats did, with Beauty, and as no other poet with whom I am familiar has done, with the visible earth and all that lives upon it. Whether in "Beach Cabin," "The Long Magic," "Endless Circle," a perfect eddy of a lyric, or in "Boys and Girls," the flame of lovers' ecstasy rises and falls with tides and winds, bends with trees and leaps with the sun. In "Epithalamium," a poem of superb symbolic metaphor, we find highly developed this quality of earth-identification with

the every breath of passion. The pregnant woman's load, Love's last visible sign, like that of apple trees, wheat fields and burdened beasts is earth's ultimate concern.

Now I am slow and placid, fond of sun,  
Like a sleek beast, or a worn one:  
No slim and languid girl—not glad  
With the windy trip I once had,  
But velvet-footed, musing of my own,  
Torpido, mellow, stupid as a stone.

You cleft me with your beauty's pulse,  
and now  
Your pulse has taken body. Care not how  
The old grace goes, how heavy I am grown,  
Big with this loneliness, how you alone  
Ponder our love. Touch my feet and feel  
How earth tingles, teeming at my heel!  
Earth's urge, not mine—my little death,  
not hers;  
And the pure beauty yearns and stirs.

It does not heed our ecstasies, it turns  
With secrets of its own, its own concerns,  
Toward a windy world of its own, toward  
stark  
And solitary places. In the dark,  
Defiant even now, it tugs and moans  
To be untangled from these mother's  
bones.

TO my mind this is one of the great poems of our language—to all men, precious; to all women priceless. Utterly free it is from all Victorian sentimentality or inhibition. For this poet could not thus identify such human experience with the life of our planet and its most elemental manifestations, without gaining profound and dignified sincerity combined with magical loveliness. It is the good sod mixed with sun and shadow and windy passages—with life and death: the leaves of yesterday, the flowers of tomorrow.

Frank, fearless and luxuriantly abandoned, Miss Taggard's love poetry is too earth-rooted to ever become morbid or feverish or detached into a thin, emotional cry.

Turning from this phase of her work over which I would willingly linger through a whole essay, and examining her more impersonal poetry, I am reminded of J. H. Haldane's essay, "Daedalus" in which he marvels that the wonders of science had not furnished more poets with themes. To illustrate his contention he himself tries a dubious flight.

Is it not curious and gratifying to women that a woman has written what is

probably the most important poem of our time founded on scientific research? I refer to Miss Taggard's "Ice Age." Like an air plane, this poem runs, from its original impetus, along the ground of modern scientific investigation, ascends in easy curves, gaining power and speed with each spiral rise. A rich imaginative emotion plays upon the crystal findings of science with a cold, yet vivid, color effect of light refracted through ice. The terror in the poem has a quality of glacial calm. The tenderness is all embracing. The lines are sometimes brittle-short like quick breathing.

"Not to give in,  
Men will go on,  
Cold to the chin—  
Light-stepping for fear,  
Feeling the thin  
Ice feather-poised earth, and the near  
Nuzzle of snow, and the wind's spear."

Or they are liquid-long in sorrowful meditation: or

"And they will never cease to look for  
Spring"  
"And calling snows and deepening snow  
falls, strange."

ONE is tempted to quote at every turn. Space forbids. The emotional intensity yet quiet in which the poem moves comes to a fitting climax in the requiem quality of its close.

"Until, in the end, comes twilight glimmer:  
Voices, faces, motions dimmer,  
Breath as low  
As the all-covering snow;  
Even the evening and the morning laid  
Cheek to cheek will fade—  
Radiance and sound made one  
And quieted and blended into none."

What absence of hysteria in the face of Great Mother's doom! Only one who had passionately loved earth, who had felt its sap in her own veins, could so passionately sing its death. Only one who had absorbed its goodly heat and been rocked by the wild wonder of planetary rhythms could give us this colorless cold, this white and heartless silence. The poem might have been called "Lament of the Lesser Mother to the Great Mother."

It is through such poetry as Genevieve Taggard writes, that one glimpses the reason why Goethe was driven to the expression "the mothers" as the symbol of life's ultimate secret.



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### OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

To remove all forms of the subjection of women.

### THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation"

[ Senate Joint Resolution Number 21.  
House Joint Resolution Number 75. ]

Introduced in the Senate, December 10, 1923,  
by SENATOR CHARLES E. CURTIS.  
Introduced in the House of Representatives,  
December 13, 1923,  
by REPRESENTATIVE D. R. ANTHONY.

## What Price Independence?

EDITORIALIZING on the unanimous nomination of Mrs. John T. Pratt as Republican candidate for Alderman from the Seventeenth Aldermanic District of New York City, which constitutes a virtual guarantee of election, the Washington *Herald* says:

"If elected she will be the first woman member of the Board of Aldermen. "This news is not without its limitations, for Mrs. Pratt announces that she is a staunch Republican and takes the job mostly because she can be of service to the Republican Party.

"If there is anything in the woman movement, it is the hope to have more independent representatives—those that stand for the people and not for a party.

"Unfortunately the women seem to be as hidebound as the men in politics." True enough perhaps. But what happens when women run independently?

Almost everywhere some woman has run for some office independently of party, representing, as she thought, what the *Herald* refers to as "the people." There have been Socialist candidates, Labor candidates, candidates on various local independent platforms. Few have been elected.

Voters are loath enough to leave their party to vote for men independents. How much more loath are they to vote for women independents!

It is no criticism of the feminist movement that women wish to be nominated on strong party tickets. It is usually their one hope of election. Besides, has not a woman as much right to an honest belief in the Republican or the Democratic party as a man has? Men are not often criticized because they are loyal to a party. Women are people, all the laws and the customs to the contrary notwithstanding. People may be justly criticized for not being more independent, perhaps. But women should not be more harshly criticized than men for being loyal party members.

## Justice vs. A School Board

THAT it is worth while for women relentlessly to pursue their way in the matter of equal rights, notwithstanding the gloomy predictions of friend or enemy, is indicated in a decision handed down on June 9 at Binghamton, New York, by Supreme Court Justice Leon C. Rhodes.

The decision was in the case of Miss Rena Rockwell, head of the department of history in Elmira City High School, who had obtained a peremptory order of mandamus compelling the Elmira Board of Education to pay her a salary equal to that of Ralph S. Austin, a teacher in her department. Miss Rockwell had been notified her pay for the school year 1924-25 would be \$2000, but she learned that Austin was being paid \$2100 for practically the same work without the added responsibilities of the department head.

Justice Rhodes held that the discrimination against Miss Rockwell was based on sex alone and that such action violated the provisions of the New York State Statutes that women school teachers shall receive pay equal to that of men teachers for equal work and that women teachers must not be discriminated against because of sex.

Prior to the institution of mandamus proceedings warnings were voiced both by those who advocated and those who opposed the teachers' equal rights law against taking the matter into court. It was said that certain hostile members of the school board looked with favor on a test case as a means toward having the law declared unconstitutional.

Miss Rockwell is to be congratulated on her courage and determination in pressing the case, and especially upon her refusal to heed the timid solicitation of half-hearted advocates of equal rights. Those who put their hand to the plow and then look backward constitute a danger not always recognized. The chagrin of the members of the Elmira Board of Education at the outcome of the case appears in their unanimous and instantaneous vote to appeal the decision of Justice Rhodes. Corporation Counsel John J. Crowley, former Chemung county judge, will represent the board.

It would be of great scientific interest to have the members of the Elmira Board of Education "psyched." We surmise that on examination they would be found to be suffering, in an extreme degree, from a superiority complex. It must be their egos and not the people's taxes that's troubling them, for the small advance in salary that Miss Rockwell is asking would not go far toward paying fees to corporation counsel.

# America's First Woman Diplomat

By Ruby A. Black

MISS LUCILLE ATCHERSON, America's first woman diplomat, is now on her way to Berne, Switzerland, where she is to be the third secretary of the American Legation. Miss Atcherson entered the ranks of the diplomatic service in 1922, when she passed the diplomatic service examinations. She was in the Latin American Division of the State Department for two years.

Just before Miss Atcherson's promotion from the ranks to the foreign service, Mrs. Lindsay Lucy Patterson of Winston-Salem, N. C., who had strong political backing, was refused the post of American Minister to Siam. Mrs. Patterson is the first woman on record as asking for a post as minister to a foreign country. As a hard worker in the Republican Party, Mrs. Patterson felt that she might obtain the support of President Coolidge for a

post in the diplomatic service. She was recommended for the post by the Republican State Committee of North Carolina. Mrs. Patterson is 50 years old, a widow.

Miss Atcherson was the first woman to pass the foreign service examinations, in December, 1922. She is now 31 years old, and is a graduate of Smith College. She is a native of Columbus, Ohio. Before her entrance into the foreign service, Miss Atcherson was secretary of the University of Chicago. Her work in the State Department was regarded as of the highest type.

Miss Pattie Field of Denver, Colo., is another woman who has just passed the examinations for entrance to the diplomatic and consular service, and is now on duty in the State Department. She was the only woman among the twenty

candidates who took the examinations. Miss Field is 24 years old, and a graduate of Radcliffe College. She has also studied in France and is a fluent speaker of the French language. She is to take a course in the Foreign Service School of the State Department.

Miss Atcherson's post in Switzerland carries a salary of \$3,500.

Few women have ever served as diplomats from any country. During the transitory Bela Kun government in Hungary, Mme. Rosika Schwimmer, who is said to have sold the "peace ship" idea to Henry Ford, was appointed Hungarian minister to Switzerland, but Bela Kun was overthrown before she had an opportunity for active service. The world's only woman envoy at the present time is Mme. Kollontai, who is Soviet Russia's minister at Stockholm, Sweden.

## The Case of the Married Woman Teacher

By Emma Wold,

Member of the Bar of the District of Columbia and Member of the Teachers' Council of the National Woman's Party.

THE recent decision of the New York State Commissioner of Education in the case of the dismissal of the public school teacher in Albany follows well-established precedent. The Commissioner took the position that the State law in educational matters is higher than the city law.

Under a rule of the Board of Education of Albany reading: "Should a woman teacher marry, her place shall thereupon become vacant," Mrs. Emma McCollom Thomas was dismissed last November after discovery of her marriage and the continued use of her maiden name on her pay checks. Her appeal to the Commissioner of Education whose decision is final, resulted in an order for her reinstatement.

The basis of the Commissioner's decision is a State law providing that after a probationary period of three years a teacher may be dismissed only for cause. In effect the Commissioner holds that marriage after satisfactory service for three years is not a cause for removal, nor is the use of her maiden name by a married teacher an offense constituting such cause.

In 1904, a similar question came before the New York State Court of Appeals in *People ex rel. Murphy vs. Maxwell*, (177 N. Y. Rep. 494), when a by-law of the Board of Education of Brooklyn was attacked. In this case a teacher had notified the local committee of her marriage and had applied for continuance in her position. No action was taken to dismiss her and the question of the operation of the by-law was not raised until she attempted to collect her salary. The final

decision in the case was that since the charter of the City of New York in effect at that time provided that teachers should be removed only on the ground of gross misconduct, insubordination, neglect of duty, or general inefficiency, and since mere marriage could not be classed as any of these, there was no authority for removing a teacher merely because of her marriage.

The same question has arisen in other States. It is worth noting that the decisions of the courts depend upon the existence of some tenure law for teachers and may be colored by their rights under the retirement acts.

In West Virginia in the case of *Jameson vs. Board of Education* (74 W. Va., 289), in 1914 the Supreme Court reversed the judgment of the lower courts against the teacher involved because the statute in that State declares the causes for dismissal to be "incompetency, neglect of duty, intemperance, profanity, cruelty or immorality," none of which includes marriage.

In the District of Columbia in 1916, in *Blair vs. United States* (45 D. C., App. 353), the Court of Appeals held it unnecessary to pass upon the reasonableness of a rule of the Board of Education which declared that "should a female teacher marry, her place shall thereupon become

vacant." In the view of the court the rule was inconsistent with a statute requiring the written recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools for the dismissal of any teacher and in this case there had been no recommendation by the Superintendent.

The Supreme Court of Oregon has considered whether the marriage of a woman teacher can automatically work her dismissal or can be a reasonable cause for dismissal. The case of *Richards vs. District School Board* (78 Or. 621), decided in 1916 was brought to test the validity of a rule that "all women teachers who marry during their time of service, thereby terminate their contracts with the district." The decision that a rule could not operate automatically to dismiss a teacher the moment she married was based upon statutes that provided permanent tenure for teachers and prescribed a procedure to be followed by the school board in the exercise of its power of dismissal. This procedure had not been followed by the Board of Education of the City of Portland when it notified Maud L. Richards of her dismissal because of her marriage on the preceding day. Therefore her dismissal was held ineffective.

A statute provided also that "the board shall dismiss teachers only for good cause shown." The question then was whether marriage furnished a "good cause." The court reasoned as follows:

"The reason advanced for the rule adopted by the board is that after marriage a woman may devote her time and attention to her home rather than to her school work. It would be just as reasonable to adopt a rule that if a woman teacher joined a church it would work an



automatic dismissal from the schools on an imagined assumption that the church might engross her time, thought, and attention to the detriment of the schools; but such a regulation as the one supposed would not even have the semblance of reason. \* \* \* The act to which the instant rule relates does not involve a single element of wrong, but, on the contrary, marriage is not only protected by both the written and unwritten law, but it is also fostered by a sound public policy. It is impossible to know in advance whether the efficiency of any person will become impaired because of marriage, and a rule which assumes that all persons do become less competent because of marriage is unreasonable because such a regulation is purely arbitrary. If a teacher is just as competent and efficient after marriage, a dismissal because of marriage would be capricious. If a teacher is neglectful, incompetent, and inefficient, she ought to be discharged whether she is married or whether she is single."

The decision was different in California. *Catania vs. Board of Education of City of Oakland* (37 Cal., App. 593), decided in 1918, involved a rule of the Oakland Board of Education which provided that when a woman employee married her position should become vacant. A teacher married in September, 1915. In June, 1916, she was notified that her services would no longer be required and the rule was quoted to her. Mrs. Catania sought reinstatement by court action and this was denied. On her appeal she urged as a ground for the reversal of this judgment that the rule under which she was dismissed was illegal as it operates in restraint of marriage and also discriminates against women, in this respect violating that provision of the State constitution which declares that "no person shall, on account of sex, be disqualified from entering upon or pursuing any lawful business, vocation, or profession." The Court of Appeals in its opinion gave no consideration to this contention nor to the question whether the rule of the board was unreasonable and oppressive, but considered only the validity of the action of the board in discharging Mrs. Catania. It held that in the absence of a statute in California providing for permanency of tenure of teachers or stating the grounds for dismissal, the board may exercise an unlimited discretion in the dismissal of teachers.

A different phase of the question enters into the recent case of *Thompson vs. Board of School Directors of City of Milwaukee* decided in 1923 (179 Wis., 284). By a rule of the School Board of Milwaukee, a "married teacher shall be known by her married name on all school records and printed matter." During the school year of 1920-1921, Elsie Dickerhoff married Peter Thompson. She made no report of her marriage to any school authority and continued to sign the payroll and school records with her maiden name.

Before the beginning of the next school year she reported the fact of her marriage and soon received notice that she was suspended from the service on the ground that she had repeatedly signed her maiden name in violation of the rule of the board. The only rule of the board dealing with dismissal or discharge of teachers provided that the board might dismiss for misconduct, incompetency, inefficiency, or inattention to duty. The Circuit Court of Milwaukee County rendered a judgment for Mrs. Thompson, to the effect that the dismissal was unwarranted and that she was entitled to her position, to credit for teaching experience for the school year, and to her salary for the year. The Supreme Court of the State, in affirming the judgment, said that without determining the validity of the rule regarding the use of her married name by a married teacher, it was constrained to hold "that the facts as presented in the record will not and do not support a finding that there was either misconduct or inattention to duty" such as warranted the action of the School Board in this instance. The Court said:

"There is no showing of any willful or intentional flouting of the authority of the School Board by the relator, and no showing of any harm having arisen by reason of her failure to immediately notify the School Board of the change from her status as an unmarried to a married woman. The rule itself was silent as to how soon after such a change the fact of such change should be reported. \* \* \* The entire record of this transaction is here before us, and it is barren of anything indicating any harm or damage actually done in the administration of the school affairs, to school discipline, or control, and in the absence of such showing we cannot assume that there was anything else."

In this case the Supreme Court briefly adverted to the fact that Mrs. Thompson's standing in her profession and in the retirement fund were of value to her and would either be lost or placed in serious jeopardy by the action of the School Board.

An allied question is that of the removal of a woman teacher because of absence for giving birth to a child. This was before the New York courts in 1913 and 1914 in the case of *Mrs. Peixotto of the New York City Schools*. The Supreme Court held that the Board of Education could not dismiss for this cause as it is not given as a ground for dismissal in the New York City charter. (People ex rel. Peixotto vs. Board of Education of the City of New York, 144 N. Y. C. 87). The court declared: "If she cannot be removed because of her marriage, she can not be removed because of an act which is a natural incident of her marriage."

It was contended that an absence of several months constituted "neglect of duty." Under the by-laws of the Board

of Education teachers might be absent on the ground of "serious personal illness." The court said:

"Married women being lawfully employed as teachers and excusable for absence caused by personal illness, the idea that because the illness resulting in absence is caused by maternity it therefore becomes 'neglect of duty' is repugnant to law and good morals. Until the Legislature shall exclude married women as teachers, or shall provide that absence of the teacher on account of maternity shall constitute 'neglect of duty,' I know of no authority resident in the Board of Education or the courts to so hold."

In this case, the court suggests what rights of the relator were affected by her dismissal. She had been a teacher in the New York City School for eighteen years and had paid into the pension fund for teachers her pro rata assessment. Her dismissal, as the court pointed out, involved a forfeiture of her rights in this fund. She was ordered reinstated.

An appeal by the Board of Education brought a reversal of the order of the lower court for the reinstatement of Mrs. Peixotto. The Appellate Court held that the proceeding of the Board of Education with regard to Mrs. Peixotto involved simply a matter of school discipline and the courts had no jurisdiction, since the charter of Greater New York provides that relief in such cases shall be by appeal to the Commissioner of Education whose decision shall be final. But the court said that the absence of a woman for the purpose of bearing a child might be of such length as to give the board jurisdiction to remove for neglect of duty, though she might not be removed merely because of absence for that purpose. (People ex rel. Peixotto vs. Board of Education, 145 N. Y. S. 853, 1914).

The New York State Court of Appeals affirmed the above decision that the courts had no jurisdiction. A dissenting opinion of the justices, however, declared that since Mrs. Peixotto's property rights were involved, that is, her right in the teacher's pension fund, the court had power to dispose of the question of the right of the board to remove her on the ground given. (212 N. Y. 463.)

These cases demonstrate that the courts, if called upon to render a decision, outrun the policy of local school boards which still continue to regard the woman teacher as a person upon whom a "job" is to be beneficently conferred in order to maintain her until she can get support from a husband. That she may be a member of an honorable profession is being established by the courts whenever legislation permits.

Every victory such as Mrs. Emma McCollom Thomas and others before her have won, is a substantial contribution toward establishing teaching as a profession in which neither sex nor the incidents of sex are a factor.

## Miss Paul Returns to America

AFTER an absence from America of nearly six months Alice Paul has returned to Washington, D. C. While abroad, in collaboration with Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, she established relations with the women active in the feminist movement of eleven nations. Miss Paul arrived in Washington on Friday, June 19, and immediately began laying plans for further development of the newly formed international advisory committee of the Woman's Party.

"Upon this world committee," said Miss Paul, "are women in the vanguard of the

woman movement of Great Britain, France, Norway, Switzerland, Germany, Rumania, Holland, Austria and Hungary.

"The committee includes women holding high positions under the League of Nations, among whom are: Mme. H. Vacaresco, of Rumania; Mme. Betsy Kjelsberg of Norway. Other members of the committee are: Dr. Stegeman, of Germany; Mme. Helene Granitsch, of Vienna; Mme. Boas de Jouvenel, of France; Dr. Louisa Martindale, of England; Mme. Malaterre-Sellier, of France; Mme. M. Gobat, of Switzerland; Mme. Glucklich, of Budapest; Lady Rhondda,

of England; Dr. Gneditsch, of Norway; Dr. Alletta Jacobs, of Holland; and Mme. Palme, of Sweden."

"The purpose of the International Committee," said Miss Paul, "is to bring into closer relationship the women who are working all over the world in the common cause of raising the position of women. The International Committee will be a vigilant group to guard the interests of women in all international agreements, and to advocate the program of equal rights for men and women throughout civilization."

## Press Comment

### Women Storm House of Lords

*P. W. Wilson in the New York Times.*

"FOR our resurgent sisters throughout the world it is certainly an omen that in the last remaining citadel of unregenerate man, called the British House of Lords, the bill which admits peeresses to a seat and vote should only have been rejected on division by 80 to 78, or a margin of two, in a chamber of 700 peers. Such a defeat is no more than a victory postponed. Even a Conservative House of Commons favors the bill. It will be pressed upon Parliament, year by year, until it is carried.

"Everywhere women are gaining omnipotence; and it is Britain that more than any other country, has accomplished the downfall of mere man. There, dominating the Thames, you may see, sternly symbolic, the statue of Boadicea, no loungee bleeding from the Roman rods, but mounted on her bronze chariot and driving her steed furiously amid the astounded traffic of Westminster. Her heralds are Queen Elizabeth and Victoria. Her ladies in waiting are the Viscountess Astor, the Duchess of Atholl and the colorful Ellen Wilkinson. And her army of Amazons outnumbers the masculine in the nation by nearly two million.

"True, men vote at 21 years of age and women only at 30. But Parliament, so we are promised, will not be dissolved until that inequality is rectified. Among enfranchised citizens at the heart of the British Empire women will then hold in their hands the balance of power.

"To defend the House of Lords against the swish of silken petticoats there has stepped forth bravely the Earl of Birkenhead. The odds were all against this gallant knight. In 1919 a Parliament intoxicated by armistice, passed an act to remove all disqualifications of sex which interfere with "the exercise of any public function." The statute seemed to be as

plain in its meaning as the Equal Rights Amendment which the Woman's Party proposes to introduce into the Constitution of the United States. And in 1922 the Committee of Privileges in the House of Lords consisting of peers who respect the law, agreed by seven votes to one that peeresses are entitled to be summoned to the red benches of the gilded chamber by the usual writ.

"But at this point Lord Birkenhead intervened.

"What he did was to demand a new and larger Committee of Privileges. The earlier committee had only enough law lords to apply the statute. The new committee must include enough law lords to evade the statute.

"A dozen of these dignitaries, including three former Chancellors, were found to be sufficient for the purpose. With Viscount Haldane somewhat amazedly dissenting, they gravely announced that, under a law removing the disqualification of women for public functions, peeresses were still disqualified!

"That practicing barrister, Mrs. Helena F. Normanton, who on visiting the United States recently said that New England pies are the surest antidote to Bolshevism, will remember how, a dozen years ago, the law lords disposed of women with degrees who claimed the academic vote. The law then said that any person, thus graduate, was entitled to the said suffrage. The law lords blandly replied that, without legislation, a woman is not a person. \* \* \*

"Lord Birkenhead's argument has been not less ingenious. He institutes a flattering contrast between women on the one hand and felons, bankrupts and infants on the other, and he shows how, compared with felons, bankrupts, and infants, a woman labors under serious disadvantages.

"It is true that the felon, bankrupt or infant—assumed as a matter of course to be of the masculine gender—cannot at

once take his seat in the House of Lords. But if the felon be purged of his felony, if the bankrupt be discharged from his bankruptcy and if the infant become of age, he is entirely welcome as a Lord of Parliament, and is recognized as the equal in wisdom of an Archbishop. Even a lunatic, if he can achieve a lucid interval, is greeted, when a man, as the peer of all other peers.

"But a woman is, according to Lord Birkenhead, always a woman. For that kind of felony she cannot go to prison, serve a sentence and emerge a man. For that kind of bankruptcy she cannot compound her debts to the Creator and be declared masculine and solvent. As an infant she may grow up, but she cannot grow out of her sex. Even if, as a lunatic, she recovers her sanity, she still continues to be merely a mother, a wife, and a sister—unworthy of the active and responsible peerage.

"For a felon, a bankrupt, an infant and a lunatic, there is thus a hope of amendment; for a woman, none. Her case is hopeless. She is, alas, herself.

"As law that doubtless is unanswerable. But the peers have had to reckon also with public opinion. Women have occupied the British throne. Women sit as magistrates. There have been years when half a dozen women have served as Mayor. Women are in the House of Commons, and both a Conservative and a Labor Government have included a woman as Minister. For the peers to apply the padlock against women in a land so woman-ridden as this is manifestly ridiculous. It means no more than a few years of delay, with damage to the door.

"\* \* \* Today a peeress in her own right is merely the possible mother of the next peer. She is a temporary makeshift. But if once you admit that a daughter can take a son's place in Parliament, from that moment you accept the theory that sons and daughters are equal."



# Resolutions Passed By Mid-West Conference

**A** BRIEF summary of the work of the Mid-Western Conference of the National Woman's Party held June 4-7 in Detroit, Michigan, is presented in the five following resolutions. We print them herewith as an essential part of the permanent record of the activities of the Woman's Party.

The five resolutions are:

### Hospitality

*Whereas*, we, the members of the Michigan Branch of the National Woman's Party, have enjoyed the beauty and charm of Mr. Booth's lovely estate, his theatre, and above all, his personal interest and wonderful generosity, and

*Whereas*, we have enjoyed to the utmost the support of the press, the hospitality, and enthusiastic co-operation of our friends in Bloomfield Hills, in Birmingham, Pontiac and Detroit; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we extend to each and every one of them our thanks and appreciation of this highest gift of friendship-co-operation.

### Legislators and Mr. Condon

*Whereas*, we, the members of the Michigan Branch of the National Woman's Party realize the lack of understanding on the part of the legislators and politicians as to the necessity of removing

the legal disabilities of women; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we express our sincere appreciation to Senator Condon for his intelligent understanding of and earnest effort to secure legislation to remove these disabilities; therefore, be it further

*Resolved*, That we call upon all other legislators to make a careful study of this important question.

### Lucretia Mott Amendment

*Whereas*, we, the members of the Michigan Branch of the National Woman's Party believe that no woman shall be deprived of her rights because of sex, and

*Whereas*, we believe that no woman should be deprived of her just rights by removal from one State to another, and

*Whereas*, we believe that the equality of men and women should not be subject to change by each passing legislature but should be a part of the fundamental law of the land; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we devote our utmost energy to securing the passage of the Lucretia Mott Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which provides that "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction"; and further be it

*Resolved*, That we endeavor to present this amendment for consideration before the convention of every State organization in Michigan.

### Federal Work

*Whereas*, we, the members of the Michigan Branch of the National Woman's Party earnestly desire the passage of the Lucretia Mott Amendment to the United States Constitution, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we extend our thanks and appreciation to Senators Curtis and Cummins and Representative Anthony for their support in the Congress of the United States; and further be it

*Resolved*, That we call upon all the Senators and Representatives of the Mid-Western States to work and vote for the Lucretia Mott Amendment.

### State Work

*Whereas*, we, the members of the Michigan Branch of the National Woman's Party, believe that present social conditions and the demands of a forward looking civilization necessitate that men and women shall be equal before the laws; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we continue to present to the legislature of Michigan such measures as shall be deemed necessary to secure that equality.

## Two Million Dollar Fund

### Treasurer's Report

SHELDON JACKSON, *Treasurer*

NETTIE TRAIL: *C. P. A., Auditor.*

**R**ECEIPTS of National Headquarters, December 7, 1912, to June 5, 1925, \$1,302,824.04.

Contributions, membership receipts and other receipts, June 5, 1925, to June 15, 1925:

Mrs. Mildred Thanouser, France.....	\$50.00
Mrs. Sophie Meredith, Va.....	100.00
Mrs. Ogden Armour, Ill.....	50.00
Miss Lavinia Dock, Pa.....	5.00
Mrs. F. M. Kellogg, Colo.....	1.00
Mrs. Genevieve Morrill Fuller, Mass.....	10.00
Mrs. Letitia F. Snow, D. C.....	20.00
Miss Kate Lipop, Va.....	3.00
Mrs. S. G. Henskell, Tenn.....	1.00
Mrs. Augusta Gould Batchelor, Ill.....	5.00
Miss Pauline Hammitt, D. C.....	1.00
Miss Jessie D. Patton, D. C.....	3.00
Mrs. Julian Ortiz, Del.....	25.00
Mrs. A. G. Guthridge, D. C.....	2.00
Mrs. Cornelia B. Treuthart, Ohio.....	10.00
Per New Jersey Branch:	
Mrs. Miller Greiner.....	.50
Mrs. Clara P. Laddey.....	5.00
Miss Ernestine Parsons, Colo.....	20.00
Mrs. Elizabeth Culbertson, Pa.....	10.00
Mrs. Cora Ashton, Colo.....	20.00
Mrs. K. E. Smith, Ohio.....	10.00
Mrs. K. R. Prall-Bird, N. Y.....	10.00
Mr. W. W. Denton, Mich.....	5.00
Per California Branch:	
Mrs. L. A. Kelly.....	.50
Mrs. F. B. Keip.....	.50
Miss Valerio M. Ansell.....	.50
Miss R. Federle.....	.50
Mrs. M. C. Gartz.....	5.00
Miss Z. Clements.....	5.00
Mrs. Francis M. Younger.....	1.00
Mrs. Marion Alderton.....	.50
Dr. Festal Crain.....	1.00

Mrs. Lucille B. Lapachet.....	.50
Miss Margaret Mary Morgan.....	.50
Mrs. W. B. Hamilton.....	2.50
Miss Mary Yost.....	1.00
Mrs. O. E. Chaney.....	.50
Mrs. J. C. Hawver.....	5.00
Mrs. Hugh McCrum.....	5.00
Mrs. A. E. Puck.....	.50
Mrs. Nion Tucker.....	1.00
Mrs. Mary K. Solari.....	25.00
Miss Lois Kohn.....	5.00
Mrs. W. C. Hofin.....	.50
Ms. Marietta Johnson.....	.50
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Mrs. A. May.....	.50
Mrs. F. A. Reynolds.....	.50
Mrs. W. H. Carruth.....	.50
Mrs. J. S. P. Tatlock.....	.50
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Miss Grace Reynolds.....	.50
Miss Dora E. Powell.....	.50
Mrs. Russell Wilson.....	.50
Miss Alma Steinger.....	.50
Mrs. Ernest Crooke.....	.50
Miss Margaret V. Girdner.....	.50
Mrs. Florence Brooks Whitehouse, Me.....	25.00
Florence E. Cobb, Okla.....	1.00
Mrs. Avery Coonley, D. C.....	300.00
Mrs. Thomas F. Daly, Colo.....	200.00
Mrs. Sophie Meredith, Va.....	10.00
Miss Grace Henshaw, Mass.....	10.00
Miss Annie M. Wilson.....	10.00
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Mrs. Helen B. Jones.....	.50
Mrs. Selene Corbett.....	.50
Mrs. Blanche Corbett.....	.50
Mrs. Isabel K. Coffman.....	.50
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Miss Marguerite Beaubien.....	.50
Mrs. Ralph Collin.....	5.00
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Mrs. Grosvenor.....	.50
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Dr. Isabelle Holden.....	.50
Mrs. H. S. Williams.....	.50
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Mrs. Matilda Calhoun.....	.50

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Miss M. Kenny.....	.50
Mrs. Nora Bennan.....	.50
Mrs. P. Boresch.....	.50
Mrs. M. Kirkwood.....	.50
Miss K. Edelman.....	.50
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Mrs. Fitzsimmons.....	.50
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Miss Gladys L. Homan.....	.50
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Mrs. Doretta M. Joy.....	.50
Mrs. Priscilla Ingalls White.....	.50
Miss Adelaide Stedman.....	5.00
Mrs. Anna Oberwager.....	5.00
Miss C. Butler.....	.50
Mrs. Doherty.....	.50
Miss Anita Wolff.....	.50
National Headquarters' share of annual dues.....	4.50
Rent of rooms at National Headquarters.....	25.00
Sale of EQUAL RIGHTS.....	1.20
Telephone receipts.....	.50
Rent of chairs.....	7.00
Total receipts, June 5, 1925, to June 15, 1925.....	
\$1,079.20	
Total receipts, December 7, 1912, to June 15, 1925.....	
\$1,303,903.24	

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