

Equal Rights

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FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY,
JULY 11, 1925



From the painting by John Opie, National Portrait Gallery, London.

Mary Wollstonecraft

Born April 25, 1759—Died September 10, 1797

Feminist Notes

America May Yet Overtake Esthonia

COMPLETE equality of men and women in political and economic matters prevails in Esthonia and has so prevailed since the independence of the country was recognized in 1920. The constitution adopted that year established equal rights at once. There was no opposition. During the centuries of struggle against Romanoff oppression the comradeship of men and women had made equality a matter of course. Describing the existing situation in the course of an address in New York before the World Service Council of the Y. W. C. A., Madam Marie Reisk, formerly of the Esthonia Parliament, said:

"Our ministers of public affairs beg us to appear before them and present the woman's point of view about laws affecting women and children. In fact, we have been called a woman's ministry. The government supports many phases of our work."

Injustice to Teachers an Injury to Pupils

THE Baltimore *News*, in the course of a fight it is making for equal pay for teachers, gives prominence in its issue of June 26 to a statement by Dr. Florence R. Sabin, recently of Johns Hopkins, but now of the Rockefeller Institute. Dr. Sabin said in reference to the local situation where the pay is both poor and unequal:

"The profession that is well paid attracts able people. Work that is underpaid does not draw as high types as where the pay is adequate, and in the teaching profession it has been noticed that, where the salary is below normal, good people migrate to other places. Improve the teachers and you improve the schools. In my opinion, teaching should be one of the best paid professions."

Malay Girls Eager for Education

FOUR schools for girls are maintained by the British Government in Singapore and two additional ones are maintained by missionaries. At first parents had to be urged to send their daughters but now there is said to be a waiting list.

Mrs. Rogers Elected

MRS. EDITH NOURSE ROGERS, widow of a Massachusetts Congressman, was elected to fill her husband's unexpired term on June 30, defeating the Democratic nominee, ex-Governor Foss, by a vote of 23,614 to 9,251.

Irish Feminists United

AMID all the dissension in Ireland between North Ireland and the Free State, between Republican and Free Stater, and between Orangeman and Catholic, the woman's movement stands as the one which unites all elements, represents all sections and all shades of political and religious creeds. The Central Council of the Women of Ireland, of which Miss Dora Mellone is press secretary, knows no distinction. With it are affiliated nearly all the women's organizations in North Ireland and South Ireland, making it the chief feminist organization.

Wisconsin Opens Opportunities

MORE than 400 women hold municipal offices in Wisconsin, according to a report recently made by the Municipal Information Bureau, University of Wisconsin.

Dodging Duty in Alaska

THE announcement that the United States Government has opened schools in Alaska for Indian and Eskimo children contains the further statement that the pupils are almost all boys. The reason given is that males predominate in the Arctic zone, the ratio being nearly five out of eight, so that girls must give so much time to domestic duties that they have none left for school. The hope is held out, however, that in ten years the interest of the Federal Government will have grown sufficiently to give proper facilities to all children. To this explanation, as well as to the hope of the far future, there is clearly something lacking, and that is that Congress, while quite lavish in appropriations for some things, has not made the Alaskan educational appropriation large enough to take care of all the children. That in ten years Congressmen will realize the importance of equal education depends considerably on the interest voters will take in the matter.

Protests Against Clergywoman

THE appearance of a woman in the pulpit of a Philadelphia church, where she officiated in her husband's place, is reported to have aroused protests—not from the congregation, but from other ministers of the same denomination. Their objections, however, do not appear to be based on sex, but on the claim that the woman, Mrs. Julius F. Seebach, lacks theological training and has never been ordained. She is preaching with the congregation's approval, from which it is to be inferred that her efforts are satisfactory.

Women Only Efficient Help Available

TO keep clean the seventy-five automobiles and trucks of Baltimore's gas and electric light corporation, four women have been steadily employed since 1917. At this "man-sized job" they were originally put during the labor scarcity of the war. When after the war women were replaced by men the corporation found that no male help equal in efficiency to these women was to be had. So they were kept on, the superintendent openly admitting that they constituted the only help he could get. Their hours are from 4 P. M. to midnight, and nothing but the enactment of a "woman's protective law" is likely to get them out of their jobs. Speaking of their efficiency, the superintendent said: "The women are most satisfactory workers. They are less inclined to laziness than men. We never are bothered by having them drunk or asleep when they should be working."

Object to Women Workers

NOT satisfied apparently with "protective" legislation which tends to displace women from industry, the Iron Trades Council of Melbourne, Australia, has protested against the introduction of women into iron foundries, where they work amid dust and grime under the same conditions as men. They are said to start as apprentices at \$4 a week, and when entitled to higher pay are dismissed to make room for raw hands. Just why it does not occur to the protesting male workers that this would not be in so great a country as Australia with a sparse population, had they used their votes to open opportunities to all, is a mystery unexplained in the report.

An Intergovernmental Sin of Omission

TO the recent International Labor Conference, under the auspices of the League of Nations, not a single woman was appointed as delegate by any of the interested governments. Women were sent as advisers by several countries, but none as delegates—this in spite of pressure brought to bear. The omission cannot be considered either unintentional or accidental.

A Woman Electrical Wizard

THE highest degree in electrical science was conferred recently by Union College at Schenectady, New York, on Mrs. Bruce Bucklin. It is the first earned degree to be conferred by this college on a woman in 129 years. Mrs. Bucklin took a post-graduate course while employed in the engineering department of the General Electric Company.

The Minnesota Tenure Bill for Teachers

WHAT are teachers?

Principally women! Rural schools, kindergartens, grade schools, high schools, junior colleges, are almost entirely taught by women instructors. The obvious facts of existence so often fail to impress us—this one, for instance, that teachers on the whole are women, whereas superintendents, school board members, commissioners of education, *et cetera*, are men. The governing bodies of teachers, the person who appoints or suspends teachers, the one with the arbitrary power concerning a teacher's most intimate concern, her job, is a man. This is not necessarily prejudicial to the teacher, but it serves to explain the interest which the National Woman's Party takes in the Teacher's Tenure Bill which is now before you legislators.

Justice, not protection, is the ideal of the National Woman's Party. The object of the bill in question is not to "legislate life jobs for teachers," but to give them the weapons to prevent arbitrary dismissals from positions fairly acquired and well filled. Constitutional safeguards of the rights of the individual, such as notice, the right to counsel and an open trial, as well as the right to specify grounds for dismissal; namely, for ill-health or immoral conduct, or inefficiency in teaching or administration are incorporated in this bill. This right to dismissal only on grounds specified safeguards against spite or personal preference dismissals. No woman need then lose her job at teaching medieval history, say, because the visiting superintendent reacts to Titian hair like a bull to a red flag, or because the commissioner's wife wants her niece to get the position. Nor is a commissioner of education, nor a school

TYPICAL of the legislative activities of the Woman's Party to better the position of women teachers in this country is the introduction this year of bills designed to secure equal pay with men for equal work, as in South Carolina, New Jersey and Ohio, and the support of tenure measures for teachers, as in Minnesota.

The address made to the Minnesota House of Representatives by Kathryn Manahan, attorney and chairman of the St. Paul Branch of the Woman's Party, in favor of the Minnesota tenure bill for teachers, is published herewith.

board, so likely to prefer charges which cannot be substantiated when it is known that these same charges will be publicly aired and their falsity made apparent. The right to counsel would encourage a teacher to defend her position, when alone, she might be too timid to deny the charges made against her.

TENURE, a word much in use in feudal times, originally meant a holding and was applied to the right of permanence which a serf had to his bit of land, even though its actual ownership was in the master. Teachers, too, are entitled to their bit of land, their permanence in what in these days constitutes their castle, that is the right to work at their profession. While it is not any more practical now than in the days of Louis Blanc for us to legislate "the right to work," surely it is fair enough to legislate in such a way that

professional positions, once obtained, are safeguarded from arbitrary and unjust interference. It is particularly important that teachers should not stand in fear of arbitrary dismissal.

Children are not well taught who are under the influence of nervous teachers. Teachers who are in constant fear of supervision which is limited by no standard other than personal prejudice cannot radiate the atmosphere of optimism so essential to the proper conduct of a schoolroom. The Tenure Bill, here proposed, requires that the charges shall be clearly specified, shall fall within one of the classes already enumerated, and shall be substantiated in an open hearing. It gives the teachers their "holding."

What then, is the immediate interest to you legislators in this bill? I run the risk of being trite in enumerating to you the values of the teacher to the State. Whatever we have of value from the past is in their hands. Whatever we expect to build of merit in the future will largely be through them. Once having obtained the aptitude requisite to the carrying on of their profession, they are entitled to reasonable security in the practice of this profession. If they are to do this well, I am sure you will agree, they cannot be at the mercy of chance dislikes or unnamed prejudices in their masculine "superiors." Positions of esteem and stability, desirable enough to attract women of high ability, are none too good for the chief mentors of future citizens, future men and women who vote. In the interest of teachers, women generally, which means in the interest of the State, the National Woman's Party endorses this Tenure Bill and recommends to you legislators that it be passed.

Progressive Prison Management by a Woman

By Eleanor Danziger

WHEN the Federal Industrial Institution for Women, to be built at Alderson, West Virginia, will be completed, it will be under the charge of Dr. Mary B. Harris, now a teacher at Bryn Mawr School, Baltimore, Maryland. The institution is to be a penal establishment for women unfortunate enough to be convicted in the Federal courts. It was authorized by Congress more than a year ago, but Dr. Harris was only recently appointed superintendent.

Now from published accounts of her plans and ideas, it is clear that the appointment is an excellent one, that the in-

stitution will be run on common-sense principles, chiefly conspicuous by their absence in most institutions of the kind. It is not to be a prison of iron bars and cells, of black holes and floggings, of lockstep and silence. It will be more in the nature of a vocational school, in which the inmates will be trained in occupations which will make easier the earning of an honest living upon release. The inmates will live in cottages and each will have her own private room. In each cottage there will be about thirty residents, who

will divide among them all the work of keeping it in order.

Student councils will be formed, as in many other educational establishments, to lay down rules of conduct and enforce discipline, subject, of course, to the approval of the superintendent. A sense of responsibility will thus be developed, self-respect maintained, and such inmates as have been justly sentenced will have every reason to leave the institution better citizens than when they entered. It is hoped that this example will prove beneficial to male prison superintendents.

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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. E. ANTHONY.

Congratulations to Hagerstown

THERE is something delightfully modern and up-to-date in a statement issued recently by Mr. B. J. Grimes, superintendent of education at Hagerstown, Maryland.

The statement was made in response to rumors that married women were in danger of losing their teaching positions.

"Unless we are notified by the principal of a school that a married teacher is allowing her home duties to interfere with her school work, we have no objections to employing a married woman," Mr. Grimes said. "If she neglects her school for her home, then she must be dismissed."

We are half inclined to add an exclamation point to the final sentence; it is so astonishing to read the words. "If she neglects her school for her home, then she must be dismissed," says Mr. Grimes, but when did another man, on this green earth, ever have the grace so to envision the concerns of women? This statement, free as it is from mawkish sentimentality about the "sphere of woman," freshens the spirit like a clean sea-breeze. Of course, women must not neglect their work for their homes, but what a pleasure it is to find a man broad-minded enough to admit it!

Taking Sex Off the Market

READING the life of Mary Wollstonecraft for the first time is apt to be a disappointment, even to the modern feminist. In addition it is often a rude shock to the reverential attitude previously held toward the author of "The Vindication of the Rights of Woman." So accustomed we are to regard the quest for emancipation on the part of women as a cold academic growth having its root in statute books and its blossom in the frigid air of justice, that any display of passionate earthly emotion affronts and embarrasses us, particularly in our leaders.

The earlier feminists were all inclined to keep Mary Wollstonecraft as much in the background as possible. It was all very well for people to read her books, but it was another matter for them to read her biography.

It is not difficult for us in this epoch to understand their timorous attitude. The doctrine that Mary preached, and with her whole soul tried to live up to, borders upon the danger zone even today. For she advocated liberty in matters of sex, as well as in the rest of life, for both men and women, and sought with desperate hands to free love from bondage. Her ideas were like dynamite to the established order, and it is little wonder that her own life was shattered in the explosion. But she made people think, and thinking brought some few of them to understand that the winged god, like the birds of the air, is not adapted to life in a cage. To her, prostitution and compulsory matrimony were equally abhorrent, for she sensed in both the commercialism of sex. While she perhaps overstepped the mark and failed to see that stated rules of conduct are even more essential for companies of free-men than for slaves, still in the main she struck true notes.

All the great group of self-supporting women who today marry successfully and keep their own incomes and their self-respect, serves as a vindication of Mary Wollstonecraft's philosophy. They are her dream come true. No longer held in servitude by a financial lien upon their sex, they are free to bestow their love without base considerations.

To take sex out of the market place, to shatter all the old excuses for women's using sex as a means to a livelihood, within or outside wedlock, and to exalt the love life of men and women from a relation of slave and master to the splendid union of two free souls, this was the vision that Mary's eyes beheld. Not "free love," which according to the current phrase signifies a base and meaningless relationship, but honest love whose very essence is its free bestowing.

Mary Wollstonecraft saw what many women see today, that only upon a basis of complete equality can the love between man and woman flower forth in full perfection. That she sensed this truth and dared to face life fearlessly, amid a contemporary public that was both hostile and blind, places her forever among the immortals.

Mary Wollstonecraft

By Madeline Linford. Published in London by Leonard Parsons, and in Boston, U. S. A., by Small, Maynard & Company.
Reviewed by Sophie Treadwell.

THIS book about the woman who is generally acknowledged as the great pioneer of the modern feminist movement, is a clear, straightforward, sympathetic piece of work. It recreates the story of this woman's life by a plain narrative of its external facts, illumined by copious quotations from her own writings.

One is in the grip of two feelings on putting the book down. One wonders what, after all, is Mary's claim to greatness, and one knows the answer. Tragic, defeated Mary! Passionate, brilliant Mary! Mary who proclaimed much and achieved of that much,—nothing, and is great, nevertheless,—simply from the fact of this proclaiming.

Mary proclaimed the rights of women, and she proclaimed them rather badly. It is a pompous, stilted proclamation weighed throughout with platitudes. Yet Mary's entire external claim to greatness rests upon it, and it is a rightful claim because at the time she did it, it was a momentous, a revolutionary thing to do. She wasn't the first of her time to say it but she was the first of her time to proclaim it in a voice that by its very clearness and courage demanded attention.

Mary Wollstonecraft lived at a time when the Western world was obsessed by the idea of rights—the rights of man. Tom Paine was helping to win a revolution in America with four pamphlets. In England, William Godwin was writing "Political Justice" (the book that later was to have such a profound effect on the spirit of young Shelley). In France, there was the great and bloody revolution that was to bring it all true in a day.

Mary was born in 1759; the second of six children, of a couple with "claims to gentility," but now in "reduced circumstances," as the clichés of the time put it. Her father seems to have been an ill-tempered, even cruel man, who drank to excess. It is undoubtedly true that Mary's lifelong hatred of the marriage state had its source in her own childhood's knowledge of her own father and mother. When this mother finally died, after a life of suffering and humiliation, her last words were: "Just a little more patience and all will be over." "Thank God," said her valiant daughter some years after this, "I have not been patient."

Mary grew up in an atmosphere of care, unhappiness and poverty. She was the oldest daughter, and most of her childhood was given to helping in the bringing up of younger brothers and sisters. What pleasure the poor child found was mostly from her own imagination. When she was sixteen she had the good fortune to find a new and devoted friend in a clergyman who was as cultured as he was ec-

centric. The natural brilliance of the young girl's mind awakened his interest and he undertook her education. She gave herself to this new and fascinating task of acquiring knowledge, as she did to everything else throughout her life with passionate intensity; and advanced so far that she was finally acceptable as a governess and even, when twenty-four, as the head of a girl's school. (Although, to speak justly, the requirements for these positions at that time were modest in the extreme.) In her spare time she read Rousseau and wrote a novel called "Mary."

WHEN Mary was twenty-nine years old she made her first great flight out of the life that surrounded and encompassed her (she was to make others). When she was twenty-nine she announced in a letter to her sisters, "I am going to be the first of a new genus." In other words, she was going to be a woman supporting herself by writing. She adds, "I tremble at the attempt, yet if I fail, I only suffer."

She established herself in cheap lodgings in London and laid in a stock of new quill pens. When Mary announced herself as "the first of a new genus" she was almost, if not literally, claiming the truth. There were other women writers, but it is doubtful if there were any actually attempting to depend upon writing for their living: Fanny Burney had published "Evelena," and Harriet Moore was well along in her career, though Jane Austen and Maria Edgeworth were still too young to be heard from.

She became a reader for Mr. Johnson, the great publisher of the time, and also a regular contributor to the "Analytical Review," a philosophical journal started by him in 1788. (This step marked Mary's first great proclamation for herself and other women, the first proclamation of the several she was not really to achieve. It proclaimed her right to economic independence in the work she wanted to do, but really she was now and many times later in her life a sort of ward on the bounty of the good and powerful Mr. Johnson.)

Fuseli was enjoying a relatively happy married life when he knew Mary, but she proclaimed her right to the closest mental intimacy with him. For weeks she was his daily companion, "sharing his mind as she (his wife) shared his heart." She acknowledged him as the "prop of her existence." When Mr. and Mrs. Fuseli went

to Paris just before the revolution, Mary went too. "I cannot," she said, "live without the inspiration of his presence. I have never known another being with his fineness of soul, his quickness of apprehension, his lively sympathy." She was passionately in love with him and in a short time Fuseli left Paris for Rome to escape the awkward complication.

IT was then that Mary met Gilbert Imlay, the charming, gallant American, as experienced in his knowledge of women in love as Mary was limited in her knowledge of men in the same condition. Mary by this time had written her pamphlet, "The Reply to Burke," and was in the process of writing her "Vindication of the Rights of Woman," and proclaiming as part of her philosophy that "marriage as it has become is wrong, but that an attachment in some degree permanent between persons of opposite sexes is right."

Imlay became her lover. She also proclaimed, "It would seem that one reason why men have superior judgment and more fortitude than women is undoubtedly this, that they give a freer scope to life and by more frequently going astray enlarge their minds. Variety is an animating principle of nature." But later when Imlay, realist that he was, began to put this animating principle into practice, he wrecked Mary's life.

It was then that she acknowledged "there are arguments which convince the reason while they carry death to the heart."

Mary here became the mother of a daughter known as "Fanny Imlay," and Mary herself was forced by the dangers and oppressions of the time to seek refuge under the name of Mrs. Imlay. (Still another defeat of passionate principle in the cold grip of reality!)

Some years later, when Imlay had gone finally and definitely out of her life, she began her relation with William Godwin, the great philosopher, who had waited forty-four years to find "a real partner capable of being the true companion of my mind, the improver of my powers." This relation was to be according to her philosophy, a free union of free souls, but in no time Mary found she was to become a mother, and listening to the counsel of the philosopher Godwin, who acknowledged "I am bold and adventurous in opinions, not in life," and at Mary's expostulation, went on "that does not please you and yet, it is the only reasonable, the only helpful way for people in this day to be. Consider the loss of usefulness which stigma brings, the natural ties of children which necessitate the duration of any connection which if

tampered with must end in misery. Accept the ceremony which you disdain, because then and then only in a world like this are you actually free to do as you please."

And so Mary, the opponent of marriage, Mary, who had said, "I will not submit to an institution I wish to see abolished," was married, and some months later Mary, author of the "Vindication of the Rights of Woman," died in childbirth.

This brief resumé of her life seems a his-

tory of futility, a history of defeat, a story of gallant gestures fizzled into futility.

Mary is great, not for the bigness of her achievement,—but for the greatness of her dream. All her strength was given to trying to clear just a little place around herself, just a little place from which to soar. What would have been Mary's fate had she been born a few years later? Now, perhaps, when so much of the way is clear? She was ahead of her time because she said: "I do earnestly wish to

see all distinctions of sex confounded in society, unless where love animates the behavior."

Would she be ahead of her time now because she said: "Women as well as men ought to have the common appetites of their nature. The attempt to raise ourselves above human beings is ridiculous. We cannot expatriate our passions, nor is it necessary we should. Better pray for the fortitude to pursue our happiness. It includes our utility by a natural and direct path."

Laws Concerning Compensation of Teachers

By Emma Wold,

Member of the Teachers' Council of the National Woman's Party,

Member of the District of Columbia Bar.

INEQUALITY of pay based on sex is by no means the only obvious discrimination in the teaching profession, though perhaps the most conspicuous. So glaring was this injustice that as early as 1874 California enacted a statute placing the compensation of teachers on the basis of training and service. This statute reads:

"Females employed as teachers in the public schools of this State shall in all cases receive the same compensation as is allowed male teachers for like services when holding the same grade certificate." (Henning's Gen. Laws of 1920, Act 4557, Sec. 1.)

It is unnecessary here to do more than mention the fact that teachers, whether men or women, in any State have about the same standards of living and are required to maintain the same professional standing and equipment. A difference of from \$100 to \$700 and more a year makes the difference between penurious "scrimping" and rather comfortable economy. But this injustice goes farther. It travels on into the years when the public servant retires. The teachers' retirement fund, which has come to be a most important consideration for men and women in a profession generally none too well paid, is usually built up on the basis of the teacher's compensation. A percentage of the individual teacher's salary, supplemented by a sum from the State also based on the teacher's salary, furnishes the fund upon which that teacher's retirement allowance is calculated. A system, therefore, which permits its women teachers to work for less than its men teachers, extends the discriminations of the working years into the period of old age. It asks that its superannuated women teachers, who rarely have families upon whom they may call for aid, shall go down to their graves under the burden of an injustice which began in their youth and continued through all their years of active service.

Women teachers themselves, too long accustomed to sit silent while men talk of their own heavier family responsibilities and boards of education discourse

on economical administration of the schools, have become aware of the necessity of acting in their own behalf in order that they may carry with some degree of dignity the domestic burdens placed upon them as upon other men and women. They are asking that inasmuch as public taxation is no respecter of sex, public expenditure of taxes shall take no cognizance of sex. This has led to legislation to end discriminations in pay.

A FEW States have adopted laws of a similar import to that of the California law given above.

Wyoming in 1890 declared that:

"In the employment of teachers in the public schools in this State, no discrimination shall be made in the question of pay on account of sex, nor on account of the religious belief of the applicant for the position of teacher, when the persons are equally qualified, and the labor is the same." (Wyoming Comp. Stats., 1920, Sec. 2271.)

Nevada in 1911 enacted the following: " * * * The salaries of teachers shall be determined by the character of the service required, and in no district shall there be any discrimination in the matter of salary as against female teachers." (Rev. Laws of Nevada, Sec. 3385.)

Oregon followed in 1915 with the prohibition that:

"In the employment of teachers in the public schools of the State of Oregon, the district school boards shall not discriminate between male and female teachers, and for the same and like service shall pay female teachers the same or like compensation as shall be paid to male teachers, taking into consideration the years of successful teaching experience in the districts where the teachers are employed." (Oregon Laws, 1920, Sec. 5081.)

Washington in 1919 placed the Pacific Coast States solidly against inequality in pay by enacting that:

"It shall be unlawful for any board of

school directors in fixing the compensation of any teacher in the public schools of this State to discriminate between male and female teachers on account of sex: Provided, That this act shall not affect any contract entered into prior to the date of passage thereof." (Pierce's Code of Wash., 1921, Sec. 5048a.)

IN 1919 both Montana and Texas enacted statutes covering the whole field of public service. The Montana act is a prohibition and reads:

"It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, State, county, municipal, or school district, public or private corporation, to employ any woman or women in any occupation or calling within the State of Montana for salaries, wages, or compensation which are less than that paid to men for equivalent service or for the same amount or class of work, or labor in the same industry, school, establishment, office, or place of any kind or description." (Rev. Code of Mont., 1921, Sec. 3090.)

The Texas statute reads:

"All women teaching in the State schools of the State of Texas shall be paid the same compensations as are paid to men for performing the same kind, grade and quantity of service, and that all women performing public service for the State of Texas shall be paid the same compensation for their services as is paid to men performing the same kind, grade and quantity of service, and that there shall be no distinction in compensation on account of sex." (Complete Texas Stats., 1920, Art. 2781a.)

The latest State to join this group in declaring against discriminatory salaries was New York, which in 1924 adopted an act for the whole State that had previously applied to cities of one million or more. This reads:

"On and after the taking effect of this act there shall be no discrimination in the determination of the amount to be paid or the payments to be made to persons employed as teachers in the public schools in any city, union free or common school district in this State based on sex. All contracts hereafter made for the employment of public school teachers and all schedules of salaries and salary increments adopted by boards of education, as provided in this chapter, shall not dis-

criminate between the salaries and salary increments of public school teachers to be paid under such contracts and schedules because of the sex of said public school teachers, notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special act inconsistent herewith." (Laws of N. Y., 1924, Ch. 614, p. 1131.)

Efforts to secure legislation of this kind were unsuccessful in Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Ohio, and Rhode Island in 1923 and again in the two last named States in 1925.

A type of act more extensive and far-reaching in its attempt to end discriminations against women teachers is now being urged by the National Woman's Party. The act adopted in Maryland in 1924 includes the subject of appointments, promotions and dismissals as well as compensation. It reads:

"It shall be unlawful for the State Superintendent of Schools or any of his assistants, and for the Board of School Commissioners of Baltimore City, or for any superintendent or assistant employed by said commissioners, and for any superintendent or commissioner of public education in any of the counties or municipal corporations of the State of Maryland, and for any assistants employed by them or either of them, to make any distinction or discrimination in favor of or against any teacher who may be employed in any of the public schools of this State, or of the City of Baltimore, or of the various counties or municipal corporations of this State, on account of sex, it being the intent and purpose of this act that the provisions thereof shall apply with reference

to the appointment, assignment, compensation, promotion, transfer, dismissal and all other matters pertaining to the employment of teachers in the public schools of the State of Maryland, the City of Baltimore and the various counties and municipal corporations of the State of Maryland." (Laws of Md., 1924, Ch. 233, p. 746.)

BRIEFER but covering the same broad field is the act passed at the recent legislative session in New Jersey and adopted over the governor's veto, reading:

"In the formulation of a scale of wages for the employment of teachers in any school, college, university or other educational institution in this State, which is supported, in whole or in part, by public funds, there shall be no discrimination based on sex, and the provisions of this act shall apply to appointment, assignment, compensation, promotion, transfer, resignation, dismissal and all other matters pertaining to the employment of teachers; provided, where any such school, college, university or other educational institution is open only to members of one sex, nothing contained herein shall be construed to prohibit the exclusive employment of teachers of that sex. (Adopted March 25, 1925.)

A similar bill was rejected by a committee of the legislature of South Carolina at its 1925 session.

The results sought to be secured by legislation of the type reviewed above have been achieved in Wisconsin in a different manner. An equal rights law, a general bill of rights for women, proclaims that "women shall have the same

rights and privileges under the law as men in the exercise of suffrage, freedom of contract * * * and in all other respects." (Wisconsin Statutes, 1921, Sec. 6.015.) Under this law it has been held that a woman teacher can not be penalized for marrying and that rules of a school board discriminating against women teachers are illegal and invalid.

Thus it will be seen that eleven States,—less than one-fourth of the United States—have safe-guarded the rights of women teachers as respects compensation, and that only three of these carry this protection into other matters. There remains much for the women teachers to do, for it can be expected that the men of the profession will generally oppose legislation of this nature. It has been notably so in Massachusetts where the school masters in 1923 contributed to the defeat of an equal pay measure for the City of Boston, and in New York where school superintendents and boards of education united to urge the governor to veto the teachers' equal pay bill and have been urging its repeal. Such opposition, when growing out of a wish to perpetuate inequalities, is a distinct barrier to the recognition of teaching as more than a "job"—as a "profession" in which the training and ability of the "professor," be it woman or man, give her or him a recognized standing in the community.

Common sense declares that "a fair field and no favor" is essential to the development of a profession.

News From The Field

Touring for Equal Rights

MARGARET WHITTEMORE, vice-president of the National Woman's Party, and Mrs. Laura F. Cramer, national chairman of organization, are spending the summer touring the Middle West in a Ford, organizing women for Equal Rights. Everywhere meetings are being held, and plans made for deputations to Congressmen, urging their support to the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

The first meeting of the tour was held at Springwells, Michigan. There Miss Lila Neuenfelt, a brilliant young lawyer and a justice court clerk in Springwells, who got her inspiration for the work for equal rights from her participation in the "Equality" pageant at the Detroit conference, was made chairman. A mass meeting for July 7 was planned.

The next meeting was held at Ann Arbor, Michigan. There Miss Alice Lake, chairman of the Legislative Council of Michigan Women, gave a luncheon for Miss Whittimore and Mrs. Cramer.

Among the guests were Mrs. Conrad Georg, president of the King's Daughters; Miss Elba Morse, field director of the American Red Cross; Miss Jane Perry, social director of the Betsy Barbour Dormitory; Miss Dorothy Ketcham, director of the Social Service Department of the University of Michigan; and Miss Loving of the League of Women Voters, and the Ann Arbor Women's Club. Plans were here made for a deputation to Congressman Michener, a member of the House Judiciary Committee, and for larger meetings later.

Conferences were held in Jackson with leading club women, Y. W. C. A. workers, nurses, and other business and professional women. Plans for summer and fall meetings were made.

Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, and Chicago were next on the itinerary of the tour according to news dated June 23. In Chicago, Miss Genevieve Melody, chairman of the Teachers' Council of the National Woman's Party; Miss Helena Betcher; and the Illinois Board planned an Equal

Rights Luncheon. Many meetings have been planned for the tour, and various groups other than Woman's Party gatherings are being addressed. At Springfield, Illinois, Miss Betcher was organizing a meeting when news of the tour was last reported to Equal Rights. Miss Whittimore and Mrs. Cramer plan to cover the Middle West twice during the summer.

Miss Paul Entertained by Michigan Board

ATEA in honor of Alice Paul was given by the Michigan Board of the National Woman's Party on June 21, at the Open Hunt Club in Bloomfield Hills, a suburb of Detroit. Miss Paul told of the international lobby of women, which is the International Woman's Party Advisory Council, formed to protect and further the interests of women at the international conferences and before the League of Nations. She pointed out that, with women voiceless in the councils, edicts gravely affecting women are constantly being issued, and therefore it is imperative that the interests of women be safeguarded by women,

Press Comments

A Woman Alderman

New York Times.

MRS. JOHN T. PRATT, who is expected to be the first woman to become a member of the New York Board of Aldermen, is pleased with the prospect, and believes that office holding, like voting, should not be a question of sex. Frank J. Coleman, Jr., Republican leader of the Fifteenth Assembly District, whose assistant Mrs. Pratt has been for a year, has proposed her as aldermanic candidate and confidently predicts her election next November to represent the Seventeenth Aldermanic District as the successor to Alderman Bruce M. Falconer, who has served for eight and one-half years.

"I have always believed in equal suffrage, though it has not been possible for me to take an active part in the movement, for (and she stopped to smile) I have had six children. Aside from which I have had other outside interests," Mrs. Pratt said.

The eldest of Mrs. Pratt's children, John, Jr., is twenty-one and is to be married this summer. Virginia made her debut last winter, Sally is to come out next year, while Phyllis and Edward are still at school.

"It is my conviction," said Mrs. Pratt, "that now that women have the vote they must take their place in the political world with men. Equal privileges bring equal responsibilities. The obligations entailed are greater than those of merely voting, and they should be shared both by men and women. Office-holding is not a question of sex. The position should go to the one best suited to fill it. Women should be as experienced as men are. They must have ability, training and intelligence. Their intensity of purpose advances women with an astounding rapidity."

It Seems to Me

Heywood Brown.
New York World.

WHEN Gertrude Ederle stepped on the beach at Sandy Hook the shake of her shoulders sent flying many things besides drops of water. As she crawled and kicked down the bay the churning of her feet beat against tradition and bruised it.

In the face of the fact that she beat the best time ever made by any man over the same course, the various theories about male superiority may have to be amended. I don't think I am mistaken in assuming that this has been, in recent centuries, a man-ruled world because of the prevalent

belief that strength lay with man. He was not asked to prove the superiority of his wisdom. It was enough that he could enforce it.

Of course, Miss Ederle has exceptional prowess, but there is every reason to expect that what she has done other women can do and will do. In so far as athletic sports are a test of the relative physical capacity of the sexes, the gulf once fixed between men and women has dwindled with amazing rapidity.

A year or so ago I ventured the prophecy that within fifty years there might well be a woman who could compete with the best of the men in golf or in tennis. And now I think that estimate might well be cut in half. In neither game is power as considerable a factor as in swimming.

The reason that men excelled so markedly in sports for so long a time did not lie in any lack of potential equality among women, but was explicable rather on the ground that women didn't even get the chance to try conclusions. Little girls were brought up to believe that the games of boys were not for them. Those who crossed the line were repulsed by the boys or spanked by their parents.

And so in the old days men were superior because they were not challenged. But now the challenge has come, and before we know it the old legends against which we leaned so contentedly will crumble. But even if women do fight their way up to recognition as co-equals in manly sports, the result will not be wholly tragic. The urge upon men to surrender subway seats must be a little less now that a girl has swum from the Battery to Sandy Hook.

Women Carpenters

Washington Herald.

ARTHUR GOBIN, a carpenter of Flushing, N. Y., believes that women are better carpenters than men. He has employed his wife and daughter and gives them men's wages.

He says that he has a job waiting for any woman that wants to work, as he believes they are better workers than men.

Women have always been good workers and the fiction of men's superior strength is liable to give way before the advance of civilization.

It is not strength that is wanted these days, but skill.

As far as that is concerned, a woman can pull the trigger of a gun in battle quite as well as a man.

Two Million Dollar Fund Treasurer's Report

SHELDON JACKSON, *Treasurer*
NETTIE TRAIL: *C. P. A., Auditor.*

RECEIPTS of National Headquarters, December 7, 1912, to June 15, 1925, \$1,303,903.24.

Contributions, membership receipts and other receipts, June 15, 1925, to June 25, 1925:

Mrs. Izetta Brown, W. Va.....	\$5.00
Mrs. Anna Milburn, Wash.....	60.00
Miss Mattie L. McMorris, D. C.....	5.00
Mme. Alice Baroni, N. Y.....	30.00
Mrs. H. B. Ewing, Ill.....	25.00
Dean Emma Gillet, D. C.....	5.00
Miss Anita Pollitzer, S. C.....	25.00
Mrs. Ruth Bakers Crothers, N. H.....	10.00
Miss Virginia Blount, D. C.....	10.00
Mrs. Clara Breckenridge, Ohio.....	5.00
Per Wisconsin Branch (Walcott Memorial Room, H. F. Comm).....	500.00
Per Michigan Branch (H. F. Comm).....	35.00
Sale of literature.....	2.00
Per Equal Rights Committee:	
Dr. Donald Hooker.....	500.00

Total receipts, June 15, 1925, to June 25, 1925\$1,217.00
Total receipts, December 7, 1912, to June 25, 1925.....\$1,305,120.24

CORRECTION

The statement was made in an article on women diplomats in the June 27 issue of EQUAL RIGHTS that Mme. Rosika Schwimmer was appointed minister to Switzerland by Bela Kun. We are informed that this statement was incorrect; that Mme. Schwimmer was appointed minister by Count Karolyi; and that she was at no time a friend of the Communistic regime of Bela Kun. We regret that we accepted incorrect information about Mme. Schwimmer's political connections.—*The Editors.*



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