

Equal Rights

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FIVE CENTS

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Photograph by Harris and Ewing.

Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont

President of the National Woman's Party, who returned to the United States last week. During Mrs. Belmont's year in Europe the International Advisory Council of the National Woman's Party and the Woman's Party Committee of American Women in Europe were formed for the advancement of Equal Rights throughout the world.

Feminist Notes

Marriage as a Disability in England

OPPORTUNITY, the official organ of the Federation of Women Civil Servants (England), recommends that women who subscribe largely to hospitals limit their benefactions to such institutions as "come into line with twentieth century opinion regarding women's work." This recommendation is made in view of the fact that a well-marked tendency is now shown by English hospitals and other agencies retaining physicians to discharge women for no other crime than that of marriage.

Discriminations against married women in the Civil Service under the proposed Contributory Pensions Bill require a single woman to contribute to the insurance fund just as others do, but if she remains unmarried, she gets nothing back, her old-age pension being already actuarially provided for out of her pay; if she marries an insured man, she gets nothing back, since his contributions are to care for the widow and orphans, if any; if she marries an uninsured man, she gets nothing in the form of a widow's pension, and at her death as a widow her orphaned children get nothing.

Ellen Wilkinson, M. P., has fought all these discriminations, and has already succeeded in having some dropped and others alleviated.

Women Surgeons Win Rights

BBRITISH women have gained another victory in their fight for Equal Rights with men. The Royal College of Surgeons has decided to admit women on the same terms and under the same conditions as men. Heretofore women have been admitted as fellows and members, but without the right to vote as members of the college for the council, the executive body of the college.

Henceforth women also will be eligible for seats on the council, which right heretofore has been denied them.

There are at present thirteen woman fellows and members who are affected by the decision.

Equal Rights in Albania

WOMEN in Albania have equal rights with the men, the press reports. The statement made that during their minority they are under the control of their parents even implies that mothers and fathers have equal control over their children. Before and after marriage women have a right to absolute control over their property.

Australian Women for Equality

REITERATING their demands for equality, the Women's Service Guilds of Western Australia adopted resolutions at their annual congress reasserting "women's claim to a real equality of liberties, status and opportunities in the family and society, and as fellow-citizens with men in the common service of the state." They also urged the immediate action of the Dominions on the Nationality of Married Women Bill, which is being delayed by the inaction of the Dominions; proposed to introduce legislation to make the endowment of motherhood an accomplished fact in the Commonwealth; and urged the appointment of a woman to the Department of External Affairs, particularly in connection with the League of Nations.

Fitting Women for Business

THE educational program of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs includes the giving of financial and other assistance to young women struggling to fit themselves for business. Co-operation with the schools, improvement of high school courses, contact and conferences with students and the building up of loan and scholarship funds are some of the features of this work. A pamphlet by Dr. Iva Lowther Peters of Goucher College has been issued by the Federation, giving an outline of these activities.

Equal Pay Demanded by English Women Civil Servants

ENGLISH women civil servants are demanding that the principle of equal pay in the Civil Service, adopted August, 1921, and not put into effect because of the cost that would result to the Government, be now put into effect. The provision that postponed the application of this principle provided that the matter be brought up again in three years, but four years have passed without any further discussion. The Federation of Women Civil Servants has demanded that a committee of inquiry be appointed to find the most economical way of putting the principle into effect, and urges every woman member of the Civil Service to write her member of Parliament at once to learn his stand, and to urge his support of equal pay.

In New South Wales

THE first woman member of the New South Wales Parliament is Preston Stanley. Miss Stanley has just recently taken her oath of office.

Girls Win Chemistry Scholarships

GIRLS won four of the six scholarships awarded by the American Chemical Society for the best essays in the national chemistry prize essay contest. The girls will study at Vassar, their tuition fees for four years and \$500 expenses annually being provided from a fund established by Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Garvan of New York. The girls winning the scholarships are: Jane Summers, Ensley, Alabama; Ruth Jamieson, Rivers, California; Marion Honke, Carroll, Iowa; and Shirley Cordill, New Orleans, Louisiana.

A Sensible Conclusion

IN giving an opinion that smoking may be permitted on Detroit, Michigan, street cars, Frank J. Denny, assistant to the general manager of the municipally-owned street railway system, is quoted by the Associated Press as saying: "There is no law in the State of Michigan that prevents women from smoking. If they want to smoke and the privilege is extended to men, there is no reason why they should not be permitted to do so." It is encouraging to see every manifestation, however insignificant, that people have begun to realize that women are human beings, not incompetent creatures who require special protection and guidance.

On the other hand, Helen Clark, a school teacher in Secaus School, Newark, New Jersey, has been discharged because she smokes cigarettes. No man in that school would have been discharged for such a cause. Miss Clark is fighting for her rights, however, and has been granted a hearing before the school board.

Women Barred from Belgian Polls

A BILL denying women the right to vote in the provincial elections of October in Belgium has passed the Belgian Parliament by a vote of 81 to 74, with 9 abstentions. The Government supported this measure, although M. Vandervelde promised in 1921 to support woman suffrage. The British press reports this denial of women's rights as "a very narrow squeak for Belgium ministry."

Another Road Open in France

MLLE. SUZANNE BLUM of Paris, France, recently selected to serve as one of the twelve secretaries of the Paris "Cour d'Appel," is the first woman to receive such an appointment.

Mrs. Belmont's Work for International Co-operation Among Feminists

IN her work for feminism in Europe in the last year, from which she has just returned to the United States, Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, president of the National Woman's Party, sees the beginning of the realization of a dream she has long had.

The International Advisory Council of the National Woman's Party is the first step taken by the National Woman's Party toward "an international parliament of women," not a body officially delegated, but a "meeting place for the womanhood of the world, where women would have an opportunity to become articulate," as Mrs. Belmont said when she proposed the resolution for an international committee "to deliberate upon problems of common interest to women."

Already the International Advisory Council of the National Woman's Party has been launched, ready to draft its "charter of Equal Rights," as the National Woman's Party has drafted its "Declaration of Principles." On it already sit women leaders from eleven European countries. This committee will serve as an advisor on ways to "aid in the movement to end the world-wide subjection of women."

"In addition to the women who have joined our International Committee, a number have given us their names as international supporters, prominent among whom is Madame Curie," Mrs. Belmont said.

"This World Committee, devoted to raising the status of women, will be a kind of International Feminist Lobby. It will be a vigilant group to guard the rights of women and watch over their real interests in all international agreements, treaties and conventions, and to advocate the full program of Equal Rights for men and women throughout civilization."

As Mrs. Belmont stated upon her return, the committee will likewise present to every international conference, to every international body, such as the League of Nations, the World Court, the International Labor Office, the demands of women for equality.

BECAUSE she spent most of her girlhood in France, and learned to speak French even before she learned to speak English, and likewise speaks German with great fluency, Mrs. Belmont has been peculiarly fitted to forming international contracts with feminists so that the National Woman's Party can take a larger

part in the world-wide campaign for Equal Rights.

Mrs. Belmont's interest in art and architecture, which has taken her to Greece to study architecture and all over Europe to study art, has likewise aided her in bringing her in touch with women of the whole world. The facts that Mrs. Belmont has a home in Paris and one on the Riviera, and that she has a daughter living in France, have also enabled her to render great service to feminism through her contacts with the leaders in Europe.

Her interest in the idea of bringing together feminist leaders of the world took definite form when she attended the meeting of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in Budapest, in the early part of this century, when the struggle for suffrage in the United States was just beginning to reach national proportions, and long before the National Woman's Party was formed to obtain the enactment of a federal suffrage amendment. Mrs. Belmont was a delegate from the United States branch, the National American Woman's Suffrage Association, to this convention. Her daughter was a delegate from the English branch.

IN her work in Europe Mrs. Belmont has shown the same sagacity and long-vision she used in the early suffrage campaigns in the United States.

Mrs. Belmont was one of the first women to make suffrage a political issue in state suffrage work. In New York State, she waged a impressive campaign against anti-suffrage office-seekers, and succeeded in defeating the first candidate for the New York Assembly ever campaigned against on the suffrage issue.

In her book, "Jailed for Freedom," Doris Stevens says of Mrs. Belmont:

"Mrs. Belmont has given hundreds of thousands of dollars to suffrage, both state and national, but she has given greater gifts in her militant spirit, her political sagacity, and a marked tactical sense. She was practically the only leader formerly associated with the conservative forces who had the courage to extricate herself from the old routine propaganda and adventure into new paths. She always approached the struggle for liberty in a wholesome revolutionary mood. She was essentially a leader and one who believed in action—always action."

After the Susan B. Anthony Amendment was ratified, Mrs. Belmont entered with her usual spirit into the fight for

final equality between men and women. In order to provide a permanent home for the Equal Rights movement, she bought the buildings known as the "old Capitol" at 21-25 First Street Northeast, in Washington, just opposite the Capitol, and gave them to the reorganized National Woman's Party for use as National Headquarters. On the front of these buildings hangs the banner bearing the prophecy and the unalterable purpose: "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

At the 1923 conference of the National Woman's Party, Mrs. Belmont presented her plan for international co-operation for Equal Rights, which she had conceived several years before. In her seconding speech following Mrs. Belmont's proposal of her resolutions, Alice Paul said that this was the third great decision made by the National Woman's Party, the first having been the decision to work for a federal suffrage amendment, and the second having been the decision to work for the final removal of all forms of the subjection of women.

UPON her return to the United States on August 6, Mrs. Belmont was greeted at the dock by a delegation of members of the National Woman's Party, among whom were: Lucy Branham from National Headquarters; Doris Stevens of New York, vice-president; Mrs. William H. Blauvelt, maintenance chairman of the New York City Committee; Helena Hart, headquarters secretary of the New York City Committee; Mrs. John W. Branham; Emma Elliott; and Marguerite Raef, Founder of the Woman's Party from Maryland, New York, and Wisconsin.

Permission was asked for Miss Branham and Miss Stevens to go on the revenue cutter with the ship reporters to meet Mrs. Belmont at the ship. The Treasury Department refused to grant this permission, on the grounds that it was too dangerous for a woman to climb the ropes from the cutter to the ship's deck. Jessie Dell, chairman of the Government Workers' Council of the Woman's Party, appealed to higher authorities, saying that Miss Branham had received a Carnegie award for saving two men from drowning, and thus seemed able to take care of herself.

These appeals were not effective, however, and Miss Branham and Miss Stevens were not permitted to greet Mrs. Belmont on the Olympic.

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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.

Our Rights in the Hands of International Bodies

THE Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States would prevent such tragedies as that of Mrs. Das' loss of citizenship, told in this issue. Prior to the adoption and ratification of this amendment, however, the Cable Act should be changed to provide equality between men and women in citizenship.

But even when that change is made, and even when the principle of Equal Rights between men and women is written into the fundamental law of the United States, as it will be, the drift toward internationalism tends to bring the matter of citizenship into the realm of treaties and of international law.

The citizenship of married women is now before the Committee on the Codification of International Law, acting under the League of Nations. At this very moment women in the United States, and women of other countries which have some measure of equality in their citizenship and naturalization laws, run the risk of losing their gains through action of this committee. Therefore feminists of the world must co-operate in eternal watchfulness of the actions of all international bodies.

The Swedish Government, which has a nationality law providing that a Swedish woman who marries an alien keeps her own nationality until she takes up her abode in her husband's country, has appealed to the League of Nations to take up the question of married women's nationality. This action was taken following a petition presented to the Government by the Frederika Bremer Society, a feminist organization.

Thus we see the urgent and present need for international action for Equal Rights, and for such a group as the International Advisory Council of the National Woman's Party to confer on the problems of women all over the world. We must recognize and eliminate the danger of losing internationally what we have gained nationally.

"The Same Right to Authority"

OFFICIAL confirmation of press reports that President Coolidge will appoint a woman to fill the vacancy in the Civil Service Commission has come to the National Woman's Party this week.

The time will come when we shall not have to watch every moment to see that women have proper representation in the offices of our Government. Sometime it will be a matter of course that women will be appointed and elected to positions for which their ability and their experience have fitted them. Then women will not need to seek any position on the grounds that women need representation in public office.

But now, when women rarely are given the opportunity to hold public office of great importance, it is necessary to put forth extraordinary efforts to see that suitable women are placed in elective and appointive positions.

The place on the Civil Service Commission which President Coolidge has said he will fill with a woman is one of the highest positions, in both pay and authority, which any woman has held. The National Woman's Party has, since the vacancy occurred, concentrated its efforts to see that a woman be appointed Commissioner.

The city and state branches of the National Woman's Party have the opportunity to do in their territories what the National Headquarters of the party did in connection with the vacancy in this important Federal position. Every city and state has elective and appointive offices for which capable and experienced women can be found.

If every local branch of the National Woman's Party would grasp every opportunity to place a woman in public office, then it would soon be true, as forecast in the Woman's Party's Declaration of Principles—

"THAT woman shall no longer be discriminated against in civil and government service, but shall have the same right to authority, appointment, advancement, and pay in the executive, the legislative, and the judicial branches of the Government service."

A Woman Bereft of Country

By Emma Wold,
Member of the Bar of the District of
Columbia

WHEN is an American woman not an American? Since the adoption of the "Cable Act," the act relative to the citizenship of married women which went into effect in September, 1922, we have been in the habit of answering briefly, "Never, unless she chooses."

Recently, however, Mary K. Das, an American-born woman, married in 1924, has been informed by the officials of the State Department that she is an alien and that, on leaving the United States, she can return if permitted to do so by the Department of Labor, but the return must be within a year.

Mrs. Das, a Founder of the National Woman's Party and related to Lucretia Mott, married Dr. Taraknath Das, a high caste Hindu and brilliant scholar who became a citizen of the United States in 1914 and has frequently travelled through America, Europe, and Asia on passports issued to him as an American citizen.

The following extracts from a letter written by Mrs. Das to the Commissioner General of Immigration when applying for a permit to leave the United States and to re-enter, tells her story:

"You will kindly note that I have complied with all the specifications set forth in this document, with the exception that I do not subscribe myself as an alien.

"I am a native-born American woman, my ancestors having settled in these United States of America before the Revolutionary War. In the year 1924 I married Dr. Taraknath Das, a native of India, who was naturalized as an American citizen in 1914 by the United States District Court, at San Francisco, California, and who up to the present date possesses his naturalization certificate.

"A few weeks ago when I applied for a passport, I was informed to my utter amazement that, owing to the decision of the United States Supreme Court, rendered in the United States vs. Thind, February, 1923. Dr. Das had been rendered a stateless person, and that I also share this position because of the so-called Cable Act of 1922.

"Mr. Jessup, of the State Department, advised me that he saw no reason why I should not be allowed to return to the United States without undue difficulty, owing to the fact of my being an American-born woman, and suggested that I make application for the necessary permit.

"My family, relatives, property, and other vital personal interests are all in the United States, but owing to ill-health and business reasons, it has become necessary for me to go to Europe. I do not regard myself as an alien, and in view of the facts stated above, claim the right to return to my country and that of my ancestors."

THE Cable Act provides that a woman citizen of the United States does not cease to be a citizen of the United States

because of her marriage, unless she formally renounces her citizenship before a court having jurisdiction over the naturalization of aliens. This worked a radical change in the law which theretofore had automatically made an alien out of every American woman who married an alien. But the act specifically excepts from this beneficent change the American woman who marries an alien ineligible to citizenship. She ceases to be a citizen of the United States.

It will be remembered that aliens entitled to be naturalized under our laws must be "free white persons" or persons of African nativity or of African descent. It will also be remembered that in the case mentioned in Mrs. Das' letter, the Supreme Court held "white persons" to mean those understood by the common man to be white, not "Caucasians" or "Aryans," ethnological terms unknown to the framers of the law who in 1790 held the Adamite theory of creation.

Mrs. Das' misfortune goes farther than the loss of American citizenship. She has not only become non-American; she has become stateless as well, since her husband is a man without a country. As Dr. Das, who is an authority on international relations, pointed out in presenting this subject before the convention of the American Society of International Law in April of this year, a British subject renders himself an alien to the British government by renouncing his allegiance to the British Crown and taking the oath of allegiance to another government. The action, therefore, of the State Department of the United States in declaring Dr. Das' naturalization papers void from the beginning, does not automatically restore him to the position of a British subject. It does automatically make his wife a woman without a country.

The particular injustice in the case of Mrs. Das is that she has had no choice in the matter. She married a man whom she supposed to be an American, one who believed himself to be an American and who had been treated as a citizen of the United States for nearly ten years. Her only remedy is that somewhat brutally suggested to her by an official of the Passport Division, that she obtain a divorce. It may be questioned whether lack of American citizenship would be accepted as a ground for divorce in any of our state courts, in the absence of fraud on the husband's part. If it should be, even then to regain her nationality, it seems that Mrs. Das would have to comply with the re-

quirements of the naturalization law, since the Cable Act makes no provision for the restoration of citizenship lost by marriage since September 22, 1922.

THE practical consequences of a deprivation of citizenship such as Mrs. Das has suffered are numerous. One is indicated by the question raised in her case of her right to re-enter this country—her own land, to which she is bound by ties of ancestry, of children, friends, and property. Her right to government protection is cut off, for a permit to leave or to re-enter the United States does not lend protection or win consideration abroad. Her right to own property in some States is immediately called into question. Her right to engage in work is restricted, as many states demand that teachers and other state and municipal employes shall be citizens. In many states mothers' pensions are allowed citizens only, and workmen's compensation laws make smaller provisions for aliens. Questions of inheritance, taxation and the right to sue, are affected. An American-born woman might under some circumstances face deportation. Even the possibility of conscription for military service is not quite as unthinkable as it was some years ago. It should not be possible, therefore, for a woman to have her nationality automatically changed.

To those who believe that nationality laws should be equal for men and women, this case is another of the personal tragedies which furnish arguments for the principle that a woman should have the same right as a man to retain or change her nationality. Certain races and persons are not eligible for citizenship in the United States. No American man loses his nationality by marrying a woman of these races. Why should a woman lose hers? Why say to the wife, "You have married him, you must accept the consequences of the change of citizenship, though these consequences have nothing to do with marriage or the unity of the family"? Why should not a woman's nationality be determined without respect to the marital status?

MUCH has been written about the tragedy of the woman without a country, those alien women within our borders who, under the law of their own land, lose their nationality by marriage to an American, yet under our law acquire no citizenship until they are naturalized. To remedy their stateless condition, it has been proposed to repeal the Cable Act, to go back to the law of 1907 by which an American woman's nationality was dependent upon her husband's, or perhaps

back of that to the time when confusion ruled on the question of what became of a woman who married a national of any other country.

Statelessness results from the Cable Act

Some Problems of Wives' Nationality

THE State Department has in various unofficial ways showed its disposition to worry over the statelessness of foreign-born women who marry American men. It has seemed more concerned over the welfare of these foreign-born women who lose their status by the laws of their own country when they marry Americans, but do not gain American citizenship because of the Cable Act, than over American women who lost their citizenship under the old laws.

Secretary Frank B. Kellogg, in an interview on an entirely different matter, expressed himself as troubled over the confusion caused by the statelessness of these foreign-born wives of American men. He seemed to think that their welfare is more important than the welfare of American women who marry foreign men. It did not seem to occur to him that these countries should protect their own nationals, just as the United States has protected those of its women who marry men eligible to citizenship in the United States—that is, "white men," whatever that means, and Africans. The American woman who marries a Hindu, as Miss Wold has pointed out, though that Hindu be of the same Caucasian or Aryan racial ancestry as the European customarily considered White; the American woman who marries a Japanese, a Chinese, or other Oriental, has no redress. The American man who marries a woman of a nationality ineligible to citizenship in the United States is not affected.

SOME other countries, however, are making an effort to protect their women citizens who marry foreigners, just as the United States partly did by the adoption of the Cable Act. England has under consideration a proposal to amend the British Nationality Act to provide that a British woman shall not lose her British status by marriage until by the law of her husband's country she becomes a citizen of his country.

Russia permits women to choose whether they shall keep their citizenship or adopt that of their husbands.

Nell Ray Clarke says in an article in the *Phi Delta Delta*, the official organ of the Phi Delta Delta legal fraternity for women:

"Some foreign countries have been farsighted enough to provide for the citizenship of their women who marry aliens. Belgium, for instance, has a law, passed

because it is not sufficiently cognizant of the situations growing out of a conflict of American and foreign laws. Changes in the Cable Act must come to remedy the inequalities and injustices now arising

in 1922, by which a Belgian woman has a right to remain Belgian if within six months of her marriage to an alien, she makes a declaration of her desire to remain Belgian. France and Italy have passed legislation providing that the national-born wife does not lose her nationality on marriage unless she acquires the nationality of her husband according to the laws of his country."

She further points out advantages of the Cable Act to American women:

"It would seem, however, that the new law, though it may work hardships in some quarters, is on the whole an excellent one. It, at least, obviates a few objectionable features of the earlier law, notably those cases of foreign women who automatically became American citizens upon marriage to an American, without any understanding or appreciation of the privileges they had acquired until they were permitted to return to their foreign homes upon the death of those husbands and carry with them, or receive yearly, large sums of money from this country by right of that citizenship. The decisions in such cases now will depend largely upon the various laws of the States regarding dower rights and the laws concerning the holding of property by aliens.

"One real advantage has been given foreign women by the new law. Formerly the foreign-born wife of an alien living in the United States could not obtain citizenship in her own right. She was dependent upon her husband for citizenship. If he did not choose to take out his naturalization papers there was nothing for her to do about it. Now she has the right to stand on her own qualifications just as her unmarried sisters do."

Miss Clarke relates a story of the confusion which prevailed before the Cable Act was passed. The case is that of Isadora Duncan, the dancer, who married a Russian, Serge Essenine, in April, 1922, before the Cable Act went into effect:

"In accordance with the Soviet law a woman has the right to preference to her citizenship, and the dancer chose to remain an American. According to the American law at that time, she became a Russian. Therefore she was an American in Russia, and a Russian in America. When she returned to this country and was tactless enough to make some complimentary remarks about the American government, the question as to whether or not she should be deported was freely discussed."

under it, but the changes should be in the direction of a real independence of citizenship for women. They should be in harmony with the principle expressed by the proposed Equal Rights Amendment.

THE Cable Act, Miss Clarke says, provides some loopholes for evading the immigration laws:

"One rather alarming practice has sprung up under the provisions of the new law which were designed primarily for the benefit of foreign women who might marry Americans—that they do not have to enter under the quota. In Havana, Cuba, alone, since July, 1924, 130 women have managed to get into the United States by marrying citizens of the United States. The quotas of their countries were full. The women landed at Havana, got some one to make arrangements for them to marry an American (and sometimes they even manage it with a proxy wedding, which is lawful in Cuba but not in the United States), and they enter the country whether they ever intend to remain married to the object of the arrangement or not."

In contrast to the case of the American woman who has no nationality, an account of which appears elsewhere, is the case of the woman who by her marriage acquired three citizenships. This is the story as told by the *New York Times*:

"Mrs. Beta Isenberg of Bremen, who enjoys all the rights and privileges of German citizenship, is an American citizen because she is a citizen of the Hawaiian Islands, according to a decision today by Justice Smith in Equity Court, in a suit filed by Mrs. Isenberg against the Alien Property Custodian to recover about \$1,000,000 in property which had been seized on the theory that she was a German citizen and hence an enemy alien.

"The decision followed a motion to dismiss by the custodian, and it is equivalent to an order for the return of the property, as nothing belonging to an American citizen could be seized as alien enemy possessions.

"This peculiar triple citizenship status is because Mrs. Isenberg's husband, the late Paul Isenberg, had six citizenships in his lifetime, and died in 1903 with three of them to his credit before even the spectre of dual citizenship arose.

"Isenberg, originally a German, settled in Hawaii in 1869. He became heavily interested in the sugar cane business and his ability was recognized in 1874 by the King of Hawaii, who made him an Hawaiian citizen and a noble with a seat in the upper house of Parliament. After the monarchy was overthrown, Isenberg and

his family gave allegiance to the Provisional Government, which in turn was succeeded by a republic. In none of the laws of the monarchical, provisional or republican government was there any bar to any Hawaiian citizen becoming a citizen of another country.

"The islands were annexed to the United States by act of Congress in 1898. The act made all persons, whether born or naturalized citizens of Hawaii, citizens of the United States.

"Isenberg and his family visited Bremen

in 1899. The authorities there, in recognition of his accomplishments in business and science, made him and his family citizens of that city. It appears that Isenberg went to Germany to die, as his health was failing. When he died he and his family were citizens of Hawaii, of the United States, and of Bremen.

"The court took the view that the citizenship conferred upon the Isenberg family in Bremen was honorary, as the property interests of Isenberg were in Hawaii, and that he had never renounced

Missouri Branch Grows Rapidly

By Genevieve Thomas Wheeler

THE Missouri Branch of the National Woman's Party has passed a milestone in experience. State officers have been re-elected for the ensuing year. While many have long had their names enrolled at Headquarters in Washington, D. C., yet it is only this last year that they have been formally organized in the State of Missouri.

In the Kansas City Branch are three women lawyers, several writers and authors, and many representative women of outstanding clubs.

It has been learned that each branch of the National Woman's Party stands as a veritable information bureau to the surrounding districts. EQUAL RIGHTS, the official organ, is found to be indispensable in this activity. At first those who were subscribers to the paper shared them with new members, but now the need is seen for all to be awake in supporting the magazine by taking it, and after reading it, giving it to the local Committee on Distribution of Literature. This committee sends marked copies to the "silver tongues" and leading club

members throughout the city and State.

Through experience it has been found essential for every member to be able and ready to give direct and concise talks on the subject of unjust discriminations against women, for few otherwise able speakers are informed on the subject.

The Missouri Branch, state and city members, have had newspaper articles and reports of meetings published; have had evening meetings and bridge parties in behalf of Equal Rights; and have made trips and are planning others to cities in Missouri to promote organization. The alertness of members in asking other clubs of which they are members to hear speakers of the National Woman's Party, has been commendable. Early in the year two radio addresses on Equal Rights were given by one of the members over two of the largest radio casting stations in the Midwest.

They enjoyed the large order of stickers bearing the words of the Lucretia Mott Amendment and have sent them broad-

his Hawaiian-American citizenship, and could not do so without the consent of the United States."

All these difficulties can be better corrected by amending the Cable Act to make provision for justice for women like Mrs. Das, and to prevent such evasions of the immigration laws; and by the State Department's encouraging foreign countries to protect their own women natives in a similar manner, rather than by taking from American women the rights they won in the Cable Act.

cast on the backs of their letters. The Missouri Branch has sent petitions to the State Legislature in behalf of women school teachers, and to Congress urging the adoption of the Lucretia Mott Amendment. It will continue these activities.

One of the latest steps in progress was the unanimous adoption of the plan to furnish a room at Headquarters in Washington which shall be called the "Missouri Room." Great interest has been shown in this project since the need was set forth by returning members,—delegates to the recent International Council of Women.

There is markedly a whole-hearted cooperation among the members, each feeling free to volunteer services in the way best suited to the individual.

Many expressions of gratitude are heard that there is such an organization as the National Woman's Party, and that all may take part in rousing their dear country to provide that men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.

Press Comments

Protecting Women Workers
Milwaukee Sentinel

LAWS designed to protect women are coming in for an increasing share of criticism as hampering woman's freedom and restricting her opportunities to earn a living.

In many places women are barred from night work. Now Mrs. Mary A. Murray, newly elected chairman of the Industrial Council of the National Woman's Party, arises to denounce these restrictions as a hardship. Speaking from her own experience, she says that the opportunity for night work, to many a struggling mother, is "heaven on earth," because in many

lines of business, such as restaurant jobs, the duties of night work are easier and the pay is better.

No doubt there are opportunities in night work of which women would gladly take advantage and which they could fill without endangering their health and safety. When they are shut out from remunerative and safe pursuits on the plea of "protection," many women, as Mrs. Murray intimates, begin to suspect that the real motive is fear of feminine competition on the part of male workers.

The aim of protective legislation is to safeguard, and not to handicap, women and children. From this point of view, hard and fast rules are just as apt to

work injury as to afford protection. Sweeping and arbitrary laws, such as the total prohibition of night work for women, obviously can do more harm than good. Legislation will have to adapt itself to specific conditions instead of dealing in generalities. Women and children must be protected from exploitation, but it is no protection to abridge the opportunities of able and willing workers.

Daughters as Partners
Washington Herald

LADY RHONDA, daughter of one of the world's richest mining men, makes a timely suggestion when she urges that women be

admitted to partnerships in business when they prove their ability. Lady Rhondda sighs for the day when signs reading "John Brown and Daughters" will be as commonplace as announcements like "John Brown and Sons."

Thousands of women in this country are in business for themselves under their own names. Many other women use initials to screen their sex in commerce and the professions. Hundreds of women are efficient directors and officers of corporations.

Yet, as the progressive Englishwoman says, men appear averse to admitting that their daughters and wives are fit to be their partners in business. The wife or daughter who is a successful partner in the home would seem to be worth training for partnership in business, where responsibilities are no more important.

Protection for Both Sexes

Washington Herald A BILL designed to safeguard young women who might get married on the spur of the moment is proposed in Illinois.

The legislator sponsoring the bill would amend the marriage law so that no wedding bells could ring until at least three days after the issuance of a marriage license. He believes that the bill, if it becomes a law, will protect "young girls who too easily fall victims to the rushing tactics of scheming young men."

Anything to protect young women is worthy, of course. But cynically disposed persons may regard the proposed law as a protection to guileless young men from scheming young women. It all depends on the way you look at it.

An Unconscious Pioneer

By Sue S. White

I FIND I have a reminiscence and a moral,—for it has just occurred to me that I have been a pioneer. I became one almost twenty years ago. Having just become conscious of the fact, I lose no time exercising the privilege of the pioneer to reminisce and moralize.

A recent issue of EQUAL RIGHTS reported Miss Stevens as saying, in her narration of the Scopes trial in Tennessee, that the court room is not considered any place for a woman in Tennessee. That statement makes me realize, not only that I have been a pioneer (without knowing it), but also what a culprit I have been in breaching the canons of proper behavior, times without number. It also brings on a flood of reminiscences.

I commenced going into court rooms in Tennessee in January, 1906, and kept steadily on until 1918, carrying these bad manners into a score of counties.

That is my confession. But what has it to do with Equal Rights? Nothing especially, except that Miss Stevens' statement is a fair representation of conditions in practically every state, including Tennessee; and also I have too long neglected to pay tribute to the women practicing a profession which I have deserted — the women court-reporters. They are the pioneers in the court rooms,—more even than women lawyers, in towns like Dayton and counties like Rhea in Tennessee and other states. They precede the woman lawyer, in the smaller towns at least, and help make a way for her. Usually they precede the woman court-clerk. They go alone, stand alone, work alone, and

their right to work at all is sometimes questioned by squeamish judges, who in cases involving elemental passions declare, "No woman can take a case of this kind in my court." But they stand their ground, and one more outpost is won. Finally, after several centuries, they may see women clerks, women lawyers, women jurors, women judges.

Last summer I was in a certain isolated county which in many respects could outdo Dayton. There were four women in the court room as officers of the Court—two as clerks, one as a court reporter, and one as a member of the bar. It was the same old court room, but somehow there seemed to be a suggestion of change in the air, since I first came there alone almost twenty years ago. Perhaps I was mistaken, for twenty years is a long time to remember an intangible thing like "atmosphere." Of course, had I realized then that I was pioneering, I might have made a mental note of the atmosphere. As I did not, the chief thing I could remember was the box of sawdust under the rusty stove where men spat tobacco juice. It was still there last summer. I wonder if it will always be there. Perhaps,—but a woman sheriff, if there were one, might at least have the sawdust changed.

The world moves slowly, even to a 20-year pioneer.

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