

Equal Rights

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SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 12, 1925



Marguerite Zorach

One of America's Leading Modern Artists and President of the New York
Society of Women Artists.

Feminist Notes

Political Education for Japanese Women

LECTURES on political subjects as part of the campaign for woman's suffrage in Japan are being held by the Woman Suffrage Alliance in Tokyo. All the women's clubs of Tokyo have united to obtain suffrage. Mrs. Ochimi Kubushiro is general director of the organization. Miss Umeko Shukiri, Mrs. Fusaki Ichikawa, and Baroness Shizue Ishimoto are other prominent members. At a recent meeting of the Alliance in Tokyo optimism was expressed, every woman saying that sooner or later the women of Japan would be enfranchised.

Irish Women Lobby Against Inequality

THE Dail Eireann is learning that, with equality between men and women written into the Constitution of the Irish Free State, it cannot get away with trying to pass, quite unobtrusively, a measure that would enable the Government to bar women from certain Civil Service posts. Under the existing law no distinction of sex can be raised with regard to candidates for Civil Service appointments.

Once a ministry advertised for "women shorthand-typists." Sixteen men, however, under the Equal Rights provision, maintained their right to take the examinations, and two passed and were given posts. Women maintained their right to compete in examinations for male customs and excise offices.

The ministers tried to bring in an amendment providing that they could decide whether a man or a woman should hold any specific post. The first reading went through without attracting any attention, but when the second reading was announced, Irish women observed that this measure could be used to bar women from higher posts in the Government, and began their protests.

Under the Constitution, women have equal political rights with men, and are not barred from any elective or appointive office.

Women Elected to New Jersey Assembly

SEVEN women have been elected to the New Jersey Assembly. They are: Madge I. Ebert (re-elected) and Agnes Jones, Essex; Catherine Finn, May Carty (both re-elected), and Marian Urbanski, Hudson; Isabelle M. Summers, Passaic; May Ashmore Thropp (re-elected), Mercer. Lila W. Thompson, who last term represented Ocean, did not seek re-election.

Women Democrats Demand Political Equality

WHEN the chairman of the Democratic County Committee of the Twelfth Assembly District, Brooklyn, New York, sent out invitations only to the 250 men members of the Democratic Club, requesting their presence at a meeting to elect a leader, he forgot the 172 women members of the club and the Suffrage Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The women members went into court with the matter, and Judge Cropsey granted an injunction restraining the club from holding its meeting to elect a leader without having officially notified the 172 women members who pay dues and are members in good standing, duly constituted. The chairman explained that Section 2, Article 16, of the rules of the Democratic County Committee of King's County provides that women can vote only for a woman co-leader, not for a man leader.

Smokers and "Vamps" Not Identical

IT is now a matter of court record that it cannot be presumed that a woman is a "vamp" just because she smokes a cigarette in public. Two young men in Chicago were fined for accosting two young high school girls whom they observed smoking on the streets as they returned from classes.

"Women have a right to smoke any time and anywhere. I cannot excuse these defendants because they felt privileged to speak to these girls who were smoking," the judge said.

Woman Explorer of Africa

THE first "one-woman" expedition sent by a scientific institution to explore Africa has returned. The explorer is Delia K. Akeley, and she was sent by the Brooklyn Museum to make the informal and intimate contacts necessary to a real knowledge of the lives of any people. Mrs. Akeley, however, is perfectly capable of shooting and preserving big game, but in this instance she preferred to study the people as a friend rather than the animals as an enemy.

Of women in the Belgian Congo she is quoted by Miriam Beard in the *New York Times* as saying:

"However they differ in looks or customs, nearly all of them are united in the same bonds of lifelong toil. If they had an Equal Rights movement, it would be, not for 'a share in the professions,' but for an hour to loaf."

Mrs. Akeley will return in the summer of 1926 to make motion pictures in the jungle.

Women in Office

THE *Washington Star*, commenting on a recent interview with Mabel Walker Willebrandt, Assistant United States Attorney General, appearing in its Sunday edition, said:

"It is just a little over fifty years ago that General Spinner, Secretary of the Treasury, named the first woman to a Government job—a clerk in his office. It startled the country and shocked thousands of good men and women.

"Today we have a woman Assistant Attorney General, two woman governors, three Congresswomen, a State Supreme Court judge, about 150 State legislators, many minor judges, and we have had a woman United States Senator. We have even had a few women political bosses."

Women in Burma

THE mother is the center of domestic life, and the real head of the family in Burma, in spite of the "patriarchal system," Maung Maung Ji writes in *Stridharma*, the official organ of the Women's Indian Association. The mother arranges the education and marriage of her children. A girl baby is as welcome as a boy baby. Boys and girls play together and attend monastic schools together. Marriages may be made without the consent of the parents. Children, regardless of sex, have equal rights to share in the property of their parents. Marriage does not take from a woman the ownership and control of her property, and her husband cannot use it for himself or for their children without her consent. Women engage in trade and in public life.

Woman Taxi Owner Dead

EDITH F. GREGG, the National Capital's successful woman taxi owner, was recently killed in an automobile accident. Mrs. Gregg started in business in Washington in 1916 with one taxicab—her own car which she rented out by the hour while recuperating from a siege of double pneumonia. She was married at 16, and at 26 was left a widow with two daughters to support. At the time of her death she owned a fleet of more than sixty limousine cabs, and was patronized by many notable personages in the diplomatic, social, and official sets of Washington. She had the concession at the Mayflower Hotel, the Racquet Club, and other sources of exclusive patronage.

Women Baseball Players

A BASEBALL team, composed of American women, has been playing teams of men in Japan.

To Equalize Cable Act

MARRIED women in the United States will have the same rights as men to keep their nationality upon marriage to a foreigner, if two measures to be introduced in this session of Congress pass.

The Cable Act was hailed three years ago as equalizing the nationality status of men and women. It did not quite do so, however, for it exempted from the benefits of this act those women who marry men not eligible for citizenship—Chinese, Japanese, and other Orientals.

Thus, while a man's marriage in no way affects his status as an American citizen, women who marry men not eligible for citizenship absolutely lose their citizenship, and cannot regain it by naturalization, as can woman who married before the act went into effect.

It is to restore citizenship rights to these women that Emma Wold of the Legal Department of the National Woman's Party is drafting an amendment to the Cable Act which would provide that no American woman can lose her citizenship upon marriage, and that women who have lost their citizenship by marriage to ineligible may have their citizenship restored by affirming their allegiance to the United States.

Congressman Walter H. Newton of the Fifth Minnesota District is introducing an amendment to the Cable Act providing that American-born women who lost their citizenship by marriage to aliens

prior to September 22, 1922, when the Cable Act went into effect, may regain their status as American citizens by appearing before a court of proper jurisdiction and affirming their allegiance to the United States through a shorter process than is now required.

Thus both groups not put on an equal basis by the Cable Act will become equal with men in nationality status if these amendments are adopted.

A case which has attracted widespread notice is that of Mrs. Mary Das. Mrs. Das is an American of pre-Revolutionary stock. After the passage of the Cable Act, she married Taraknath Das, a high-caste Hindu who had been naturalized as an American citizen, and had functioned as such for ten years.

In 1923, however, a Supreme Court decision held that Hindus were not eligible for citizenship, in spite of their Caucasian origin.

Then, it was held by the government that Das' citizenship papers had been null and void from the beginning, and that Mrs. Das, because of her marriage to an ineligible, was no longer a citizen of the United States.

When Mrs. Das recently tried to get a passport to leave this country on business, she found that she could not get a passport, but only a permit to leave the country for a limited time, and that her readmittance could not be guaranteed.

It is said that 150 American women

have lost their citizenship by marriage to Hindus alone. There are no statistics on those who have lost their status by marriage to other ineligible.

Since the adoption of the Cable Act, some curious international complications have arisen. For examples: If an English woman married an American man, she lost her English nationality in England, but she did not thereby gain citizenship in the United States. Thus she had no country.

On the other hand, if an American woman married an Englishman, she thereby gained citizenship in England. But she did not lose her citizenship in the United States. Thus she had two countries.

This situation, which greatly confused the issuance of passports and visas, is being corrected by movements in European countries to equalize the citizenship status of men and women.

A resolution providing that marriage shall not affect the citizenship of English women has been adopted by the British Parliament, and is now awaiting the action of the dominion parliaments. France, Belgium, and Austria are considering such measures. The Scandinavian countries, Russia, and others have already adopted equal nationality laws for men and women.

If both these amendments to the Cable Act are adopted, men and women will have Equal Rights to determine their citizenship, regardless of marriage.

English Women Question Parliamentary Candidates

AMONG the questions which the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship is asking candidates for the British Parliament are the following:

If elected, will you urge the Government to introduce, adopt, and carry legislation to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to women on the same residential qualifications and from the same age as to men? Will you make a statement to this effect in your Election Address and in your speeches?

Further, will you oppose attempts to link up the question of Equal Franchise with any controversial change in the existing system, such as a proposal to raise the minimum voting age?

If elected, will you support legislative and administrative measures to secure in the Civil Service, under Local Authorities and elsewhere:

(1) Full professional and industrial freedom and opportunities for women?

(2) Equal Pay for Equal Work?

If elected, will you support legislation to make illegal the compulsory retirement

on marriage of women employed by the State or by Local Authorities?

If elected, will you urge the Government to make provision for women as well as for men in any scheme for the training or relief of the unemployed in proportion to their numbers, and will you pay special regard to those, whether men or women, who have dependents?

If elected, will you: (a) Support legislation to abolish the present Solicitation Laws, so that the laws for maintenance of order in the streets may be the same for men and women? (b) Further, will you urge the abolition in the Crown Colonies of the licensing of prostitutes and the State Regulation of vice, which were abolished in this country in 1886?

If elected, will you support legislation which will: (a) Place on the father of an illegitimate child equal responsibilities with the mother? (b) Strengthen the machinery with regard to the payment of affiliation orders? (c) Provide for the legitimation of a child on the subsequent marriage of its parents?

If elected, will you support legislation to make compulsory on Local Authorities the appointment in all police areas of an adequate number of women police with powers and status equal to those of men police?

If elected, will you support legislation to ensure that: (a) A British woman shall not lose her nationality by marriage with an alien? (b) An alien woman shall not acquire British nationality by marriage with a British subject?

If elected, will you support the inclusion in the next Finance Bill of provision for the separate taxation of the incomes of those married people who desire it?

If elected, will you urge the Minister of Health to allow information with respect to methods of Birth Control to be given by Medical Officers at Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics in receipt of Government grants in cases in which either a mother asks for such information or in which, in the opinion of the Medical Officer, the health of the parents renders it desirable?

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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.

The Fruit of the Loom

PROBABLY at one time or another every member of the Woman's Party has had the question put to her: "What, after all, have women done with their votes, what specifically have they accomplished?" The query is usually advanced not as a bona fide request for information, but as a tacit criticism of the Feminist movement. It is somehow assumed, especially by those who in the original instance opposed the enfranchisement of women, that the millennium was slated to follow directly on the heels of the Nineteenth Amendment, and they ask their question in the querulous fashion of those who have endured an expected but more the less a real disappointment.

When one retaliates by asking what men, in a much longer period of time, have accomplished through their ballots, the interlocutor appears honestly aggrieved as though one were begging the question. In his mind manhood suffrage is "natural," a thing to be taken for granted, whereas woman suffrage is an innovation, needing proof of its excellence like a pudding baked by a bride.

WHAT then, to descend to his level and turn our back on Justice, have women done with their votes? For the moment, and for the fun, we shall take but a single instance, and that perhaps to our interlocutor a not altogether satisfactory one, to wit: they have begun, we confess only just begun, to elect their own sex to public office. Prior to the passage of the Federal Suffrage Amendment it was almost an unknown thing for women to be elected to public office of any kind. Here and there in New England women were returned as school commissioners, and be it noted women voted for these offices, and in the suffrage States occasionally some woman in a minor capacity slipped through, but by and large, over the whole country elective office carried a large legend, For Men Only, No Woman Need Apply! In many States women could not hold elective office under the law.

But now all that is changed. By the votes of men as well as by the votes of women the transformation has been wrought.

READ what happened in New York State alone. Says *The Woman Republican* of New York.

"Reports have already reached us from ten counties, giving the names of women elected to office on November 3. Our Assemblywoman, Mrs. Rhoda Fox Graves, was returned in St. Lawrence. Mrs. Ruth Pratt of New York City was elected to the Board of Aldermen, which thus takes on the first City Mother along with the City Fathers. As we go to press, we are able to give our readers the following incomplete but very interesting list:

"Chemung—Celia O. Hoke, superintendent of the poor, given the highest majority of anyone on the ticket.

"Delaware—Margaret Schlafer, tax collector in the town of Walton.

"Franklin—Florence Boyce Bryant, Malone, town clerk; Elizabeth Hayes and Mary L. Keets, school directors in Harriettstown.

"New York—Ruth Pratt, Board of Aldermen.

"Niagara—Luella Dale Richardson, Niagara Falls, county treasurer; Hat-tie F. Rommel, Lockport, re-elected city treasurer for fourth consecutive term. She was endorsed by the Democratic and Socialist parties. She had previously served eleven years as deputy treasurer.

"Onondaga—Mrs. Linda Hull Larned, Syracuse, member of the Board of Education.

"Town of Stony Point: Carrie M. Keesler, elected school director by a majority of 109."

REMEMBER this is from one State alone. If we were to proceed with the returns from all the other States, we should exceed the boundaries of our pages.

Hence for the first answer: Women have begun, just begun, to elect their own sex to public office. It did not happen before, and it has increasingly happened since, they won the suffrage, so we may infer a causal relationship. Our interlocutor shrugs his shoulders, becomes actually angry, his question was not who was elected, but what did they do.

With the manners of freemen we shrug back. We have the vote now, we can dispense with his favor, when enough women are elected to public office they will show him what they can do.

The Irish Feminist Movement

By Ruby A. Black

MARGARET CONNERY of Dublin, distinguished feminist leader, who has done valiant service for the cause of women, has recently been a guest at National Woman's Party headquarters. Mrs. Connery is a member of the International Advisory Committee of the Woman's Party, which includes outstanding women of thirteen countries. Mrs. Connery was one of those who founded and helped to carry on the Irish Women's Franchise League; the militant suffrage organization in Ireland. She underwent prison repeatedly for the vote and suffered two hunger strikes in connection with women's struggle for citizenship.

Of the Feminist movement in Ireland, Mrs. Connery says:

"For 50 years an agitation for the vote was carried on by Irish women by every constitutional method, but they did not succeed in winning it. The Irish Women's Franchise League, a militant organization, sprang into being about 1908 and in ten years by militant methods secured the reform for which women had so long asked in vain by peaceful and lady-like methods.

"Irish women have now secured equal

franchise with men within the Free State area (26 counties), but are dissatisfied with their present status, as they find themselves discriminated against in industrial life and excluded from all the higher official positions in the civil service and in government work generally. Also women do not get fair representation in Parliament,—there being only one woman member in the Free State Parliament so far.

"Irish politicians show great reluctance to adopt women candidates for election to Parliament and when they do adopt women members, generally put them forward for constituencies where they haven't the faintest sporting chance of winning the seat.

"Women teachers are paid on a lower scale than men teachers.

"In Ireland at present it is very difficult for married women to enter into any gainful occupations. There seems to be a very definite and subtle policy to drive married women back into a condition of economic servitude to men. In the large dry goods stores, there is an unwritten law that when a woman employee marries, she must retire.

"Women doctors find it very difficult to get appointed into any work in the public health service in connection with public health or poor law administration. In competition with men doctors, the men are always chosen.

"In the civil service practically the only positions open to women are those of minor clerks and typists.

"To my surprise, I find that this great free country where women are supposed to enjoy equality the same sex discriminations are practiced against women. The discriminations are so great that it has been necessary to form the National Woman's Party with its program of Equal Rights, to have these grievances swept away. We women of Europe look with great hope and confidence to the women of America to secure speedily real equality before the law, as it would act as a great leverage in securing similar rights for the women of Great Britain, Ireland and for the European countries generally."

Mrs. Connery spoke Sunday afternoon at National Woman's Party headquarters, on "The Woman Movement—Irish and International."

Art Has No Sex

By Rebecca Hourwich

PERHAPS the most difficult group to approach on the question of Equal Rights is the literary and artistic women. With tact and courtesy, or ill-concealed scorn, the artist explains that her lack of interest is the remoteness of the issue to her, that if only other women rose up and conquered even as the woman in the arts, in whatever fields they had special ability, and forgot sex, they would rise or fall purely on their merits, even as she has done. Invariably the futile discussion closes with the person of creative ability addressing the hopelessly material politically-minded one with a beaming rapt maxim, "Art has no sex." Sometimes they add, "my Dear," possibly from pity or emphasis.

So throughout my friendship of years' standing with Marguerite Zorach, one of America's leading modern artists, and president of the New York Society of Women Artists, I have never introduced Feminism into art, but she has! All summer long I tracked this busy gardener, busy mother, busy swimmer, busy tapestry maker, busy artist, to get a summary of her views. Invariably she took me to her garden, or we did anything but formally discuss Feminism and art, as is the way of people who see each other every day. Finally I trapped her, and by her fire, crouched low on footstools, we wove our story.

"We organized the New York Society of Women Artists last April at the home of Madge Huntington, in New York City. Twenty-eight women agreeing for the time being to limit our number to thirty, a group getting together for adequate exhibits, not a stray thing fitted in here or there. There already is a large association of women painters and sculptors mostly academic in character. Our association is not in opposition to it, but ours has a tendency to include the more modern artists, though we have members of the older society with us. We plan to exhibit at some well-known New York gallery this winter.

"As far as art dealers are concerned, only a dead artist is any good, but as for women, they don't think them good, even dead." Twinklingly she continued, "If a woman approaches a dealer for an exhibit he almost invariably refuses, although often a young attractive woman calls on him and wins him over against his prejudice purely on the strength of her personality. An artist of much greater excellence or power may not have this taking way. Occasionally a woman of wealth or with wealthy connections will find her beginnings easy with art dealers, but that, too, is an exceptional circum-

stance that in no way paves the road for her women successors.

"An art dealer is the artist's middleman, who stands between the artist and the public. The dealer exhibits the artist's work, puts it on view, arranges for its sale, and transacts the necessary business details for the artist. On the zeal and interest of the dealer often depends the popularity and income of the artist. Dealers take men artists under their wing and promote them, push them as a good business proposition, but they refuse to take women artists seriously.

"The dealer's reluctance to handle women's work is largely precedent, probably the same as in other fields that women enter. But when women find it difficult to get exhibitions and when they find discrimination against them, it makes it more difficult for them to be artists. If their work is not shown, they may continue to paint, but they might as well not for the impression gained is that they have given up their work.

"The attitude of the men artists is purely an individual matter, some are very nice and anxious to see women succeed, others sneering in their contempt. A few women are invited to show at mixed exhibits got up by artists, but not many. The New Society, the most prominent independent art organization in America, four or five years old, has never

invited any woman to join except Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney. It is undoubtedly true that the society has maintained a very high standard for membership, and in proportion to the men, there are not many women who can approach that standard, but there are some who judged by the standard set are superior to men who were invited when they were excluded.

"The most significant handicap women artists have is that they have never done any serious work that compares with the work produced by men throughout the ages. They have not the background that men have, but this is largely due to the general position of women. Women are new in art, as in every other extra-home activity, and the number of women who have been steadfastly, diligently applying themselves to their work is still a scant minority.

"For centuries women have put their creative energy, and their practical strength in man's work. It was not his alone. It is only recently that there has been a separation, and women have commenced to strike out for themselves. It may be difficult, but the struggle makes for development and benefits the work. It is needless, wasteful struggle that we wish to eliminate.

"Another challenge we have to meet, both from the dealers and the public, is that women lack continuity of interest, that they have only a short periodic interest in their art that does not last after

love or marriage. The dealers call women a bad gamble because of it. But in art there is a constant weeding out, and the temptation to try a less exacting and more profitable profession often affects men on the eve of marriage, or during the mated effort for subsistence. Very few of the men who study art for a livelihood remain artists after a short span of years. If the figures were available, the proportion of men who try and fail would probably be about equal to that of women who make the same attempt.

"At the leading art schools, the opportunities are about the same for men and women, but already there is the subtle faith in men and lack of faith in women students that is not the most encouraging atmosphere to prepare a career in. Yet, on the whole, men and women show about the same ability and aptitude in schools, which has no effect on the quality of their work later on."

At this point I asked directly what had been her personal experience with discriminations, for those who are acquainted with the substantial success of this woman who enjoys a reputation on two continents, would be certain to ask if her own career did not belie her statements.

"I started by holding joint exhibits with my husband. We were a team, and as such they were not afraid of me. I am certain that had I not had an artist husband, and had I tried to exhibit on my own, I would have had all the difficulties I have told you about which I have

Latchkeys and Homes

By Evelyn Sharp
In the Manchester Guardian.

AT a recent inquest on a young girl, supposed to be the victim of a passionate crime, the coroner implied in his remarks that the case was an outcome of what was called the emancipation of the sexes. "Our grandmothers," he said, "would have been horrified at the idea of so young a girl as this being allowed out so late at night with a latchkey." Our grandmothers, who were habitually shocked at very much less, would undoubtedly have verified the coroner's estimate of their opinion; but that does not carry us very far, and at best it carries us only backwards. The question for most people to settle is not what our grandmothers would have said about our girls, but what our grandchildren will say about us when their turn comes to inherit the earth we are now tilling for them.

Like children bored by the nurse who perpetually praises the perfect children she has known elsewhere, most of us remain unmoved before the reputed halo of the Victorian young girl. After all, Becky Sharp could not have been evolved entirely from the prophetic consciousness

even of a genius; and no one denied while some do not even regret, that in every age you may find a minx, with or without a latchkey. Of course it may be said that special conditions in our own day have enlarged the sphere or the minx, and extended her activities to many who would not normally be minxes at all. But to attribute this exceptional state of things to the emancipation of the sexes, which happened to coincide with it, merely reminds one of Harriet Martineau's story of the foreigner who, happening to be put ashore at Dover by a one-legged waterman, went back to his own country and praised the British customs of appointing only one-legged men to be watermen, a post for which the immunity of a wooden leg against rheumatism eminently fitted them.

The truth is, we cannot have it both ways; and if people want the young girl to behave like a serious person they must take her, and incidentally all women, seriously. Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M. P., has

fortunately been spared. This freedom from practical annoyance in connection with my work has been of untold benefit to me. I doubt very much if I would have got far alone, which was proof that his genuine heart generously bore no rancor for the opposite sex.

"I know as I sit here," suddenly she interrupted herself, "the agony of discriminations seem vague and in the distance, but they are very real. I have no memory for accumulated detail, and I don't seem to remember any of the cases my ears have been filled with for nearly fifteen years, and I know a case can be made for the other side, that there are women enjoying prestige and renown, but they are unique exceptions. Actually it is hard for women to make exhibits and be part of the art life of the country, harder than for men, and it is difficult enough for the men!"

The officers and members of the New York Society of Women Artists are really national in character. Mrs. Zorach, president, was Marguerite Thompson of California; Anne Goldthwaite, vice-president, hails from Alabama, which she has glorified in landscape; Ellen Ravenscroft, secretary, vivid painter, comes from New England; and Mrs. Jerome Meyers, caricaturist and sculptor, is a New York resident. The officers are arranging a comprehensive exhibit, at which all the members will show their work, some time in the near future, the time and place to be announced later.

just been complaining that the four women in the House of Commons are badly handicapped through being still regarded as curiosities; it is considered of more importance to discover whether a woman member bobs her hair than to discover what work she is trying to do; and she is never left to learn her job quietly as a man back-bender is allowed to do. Almost any day in the week the newspapers afford instances, outside Parliament, of the application of her words to women generally. A woman cannot get on with her public work because of the publicity that is forced upon her; she cannot let her light shine before men because they blind her with limelight, as motor-car lamps blind the pedestrian who is trying to get on with his journey.

If two women and one man apply for the post of medical officer of health, as happened at Chester last week, a man member of the corporation instantly wants to know if either of the women candidates has any intention of getting married; while the mayor is reported to have added, with regard to one of them, that it was remarkable a woman of such

News From The Field

Congressman Weller Receives Deputation

CONGRESSMAN WELLER received a delegation of New York women, and some of his constituents who are also members of the National Woman's Party, at his office Friday, November 20. The interview took the nature of a very interesting and informal discussion of Equal Rights.

The present status of the measure, its importance and the urgent need for the adoption of the amendment, were ably discussed by Mildred M. Coombs, Mrs. John Rogers, Jr., and Mrs. John Winters Brannan.

Mr. Weller pledged his support of the Amendment and promised to work for it with the other members of the Judiciary Committee and his colleagues in Congress.

Some of the members who were present were: Mrs. Coombs, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Winters Brannan, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Joseph Dixon, Mrs. Butterworth, Miss Cora Week, Mrs. Shiverts.

Sen. Couzens Deputized on Equal Rights

THE Michigan Branch of the National Woman's Party recently sent deputations of women to Senator James E. Couzens and Representative Sosnowski, both of whom listened attentively to presentation of the reasons for the immediate adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Mrs. Arthur Cramer, National Chairman of Organization, introduced the speakers to Senator Couzens when the delegation visited him. Besse Garner, lawyer, an officer of the Michigan Branch, spoke on the legal status of women in the United States.

Kathleen Hendrie spoke on the situation in Michigan. Mrs. Hendrie is chairman of the Michigan Branch. Mrs. Nelson Whittemore spoke on the status of women in the home. Margaret Whittemore, National Vice-President, spoke on the international aspects of Equal Rights.

Pennsylvania Room to Be Finished

THE literature room on the first floor of Number 21, National Woman's Party Headquarters, is now being refinished as the Pennsylvania Room. This room will house the Equal Rights literature prepared by the National Woman's Party. Ruth Billikopf, State chairman of the Pennsylvania Branch, has signed the contract for the completion of the room, and the State Treasury has sent money for finishing the room in the name of Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Bright at Headquarters

MRS. ALBERT H. BRIGHT pioneer Feminist of Minnesota, was a guest last week at National Headquarters of the Woman's Party. Mrs. Bright called on Minnesota Congressmen and Senators in the interests of the Equal Rights Amendment.

While in Chicago, Mrs. Bright conferred with Bertha Moller, Dr. Frances Dickinson, Florence Holbrook, and Josephine Casey on the Equal Rights campaign.

Illinois Professional Council Greet

THE Teachers' Professional, Business and Producers' Councils of the Illinois Branch of the Woman's Party have united in sending a message to the organized women of Mexico. The telegram which was sent to Luis Morones was as follows:

"Teachers, Professional and Business Councils of Chicago unite with the Producers' Council of the National Woman's Party in extending through you cordial greetings to the organized women of Mexico. Kindly assure them their advancement is noted with profound satisfaction."

(Signed),
"JOSEPHINE CASEY."

The reply received read:

"Grateful and happy to deliver your message to organized women of Mexico in whose name I salute you and your organization most cordially."

(Signed),
"LUIS N. MORONES."

California Branch Very Active

EXCELLENT and effective activity is reported by the California Branch of the National Woman's Party. Petitions are coming into Congressmen advocating the immediate adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment. Maud McCreery, a young woman leader in the labor movement, is speaking on Equal Rights, and selling copies of EQUAL RIGHTS to women at meetings which she attends.

Women in Los Angeles were greatly interested in the work of Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence, member of the International Advisory Council of the National Woman's Party, in the interests of worldwide equality between men and women.

Rupert Hughes spoke on Equal Rights in the ballroom of the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles on December 2. Detailed account of this meeting will be reported in a later issue of EQUAL RIGHTS.

Miss Grogan Addresses Secular League

SARA GROGAN, one of the chairmen of the District of Columbia Branch of the National Woman's Party, recently addressed the Secular League of Washington on Equal Rights. Through discussion of the subject among smaller and more intimate groups, much is accomplished in the education of men and women for the need of the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment, and of the removal of social customs, in economic rights, and all discriminatives against women in the professions and industries, as well as before the law.

Mrs. Klein D. C. Legislative Chairman

AT a meeting of the District of Columbia Branch of the National Woman's Party on November 22, Pearl Klein was elected chairman of the District of Columbia Branch Legislative Committee. The District of Columbia Branch plans an intensive campaign for opening jury service for women in the District, and Mrs. Klein, an able lawyer, will direct this campaign.

Two Million Dollar Fund

Treasurer's Report

EDITH AINGE, Treasurer

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

RECEIPTS collected by National Headquarters, December 7, 1912, to November 20, 1925, \$1,314,528.65.

Contributions, membership receipts and other receipts, November 20, 1925, to December 4, 1925:

Mrs. Rebekah Greathouse, D. C.	\$1.00
Miss Sallie H. Turpin, D. C.	1.00
Miss Ruby A. Black, D. C.	1.00
Miss Mary Gertrude Fendall, Md.	5.00
Miss Katherine Dowling, Mass.	1.00
Mrs. Martha Neff, D. C.	1.00
New York City Committee, N. Y.	50.00
New Jersey Branch	20.00
Mrs. Laura V. Beach, N. J. (New Jersey Branch retaining one-half)	.50
Miss Mary L. Renshaw, D. C.	1.00
Pennsylvania Branch	100.00
Mrs. E. H. Cross, D. C.	1.00
Rent of rooms at Headquarters	338.00
Telephone receipts	2.65
Sale of stationery and copies of EQUAL RIGHTS	5.00
Deposit on keys	1.00
Total amount received by National Headquarters	\$529.15
Per Equal Rights Committee:	
Mrs. Richard Wainwright, D. C.	\$10.00
Mrs. Townsend Scott, Md.	4.50
Woman's Club of Secondary Schools, Maryland	50.00
	64.50
Total receipts, November 20, 1925, to December 4, 1925	\$593.65
Total receipts, December 7, 1912, to December 4, 1925	\$1,315,122.30

DAY PRINTING COMPANY
Printers
LIGHT AND LOMBARD STREETS
Entrance on Balderston Street
BALTIMORE

appearance should not be engaged. It is true that, amid the usual laughter, the one woman member of the corporation protested against such remarks; but what guarantee has the public, in the face of such flippancy, that the man who did obtain the post was the best of the three candidates—though of course he may have been. The other day, in London, Dr. George Steel-Perkins told the nurses in a lecture, among many admirable things, not to chatter, for “all women are born chatterers, therefore you are handicapped.” At an urban council meeting in county Meath, a councillor recently asked: “Are we going to be bossed by petticoats?”—simply because some women in Ireland are obtaining posts that used to be taken only by men.

These foolish remarks would be beneath notice but for their bearing upon the criticisms of youth, and especially of feminine youth, that are being continually called forth by tragic cases in the courts.

Fortunately, also within the last few days, we have had two instances of a more constructive kind of criticism from people who chose to tackle seriously what these others have treated flippantly—or at least insufficiently, as in the case of the coroner. Miss Picton-Turbervill, in an address on “Women and the Ministry,” presented the case for allowing women equal opportunities with men to give their interpretation of the Christian message, and submitted that this message could never be given in its fullness as long as women were excluded from the church. Whatever opinions may be held on this debatable question, it is at least desirable that it should be seriously and not frivolously considered; and one cannot help reflecting further that if people want women to cease chattering about nothing they should give them the opportunity to talk wisely about something, and if they do not want unqualified women to occupy public posts they should not place arti-

ficial barriers in the way of qualified women.

The second instance was supplied by the Dean of Manchester in his excellent address at Rusholme on the alleged immorality of young people. For the price of two or three battleships the greater part of the housing problem could be solved, he said; and if it were solved, one of the main causes of immorality today would not exist. One could wish that his words had been heard in the coroner's court, for it is quite clear that until we have solved the housing question we have no right to blame young women for possessing latchkeys and staying out half the night. The problem lies, not in the latchkey, but in what the latchkey unlocks. If it opened the door to a decent and attractive and clean home, the very great majority of modern young girls could be more safely trusted with a latchkey than, probably, the Early Victorian young miss could ever have been.

Press Comment

Supreme Court Drives Women Into Trade Unions

The International Musician

THE United States Supreme Court has smashed the women's minimum wage law system. In setting aside the Arizona law, the court re-

affirms a similar decision on the District of Columbia minimum wage law for women, when it held, in 1922, that the law of contract operates regardless of sex.

In the Arizona case it was the first time the Supreme Court made a clear-cut decision on a State law of that character.

Previous decisions included the right of industrial commissions to set working conditions, as the Stettler versus O'Hara case (Oregon) and Stevenson versus St. Clair (Minnesota).

In the District of Columbia and the Arizona cases, the Supreme Court draws a sharp line between the right of women to contract for wages and the State's right to enforce working conditions that protect the health and morals of women.

In answer to the claim that wages affect morals, the Supreme Court replied (in the District of Columbia case):

“The relation between earnings and morals is not capable of standardization. It cannot be shown that well-paid women safeguard their morals more carefully than those who are poorly paid. Morality rests upon other considerations than wages; and there is, certainly, no such prevalent connection between the two as to justify a broad attempt to adjust the latter with reference to the former.”

It would be well for trade unionists

and students of social questions to keep in mind this distinction the court makes between the State's right, under its police power, to protect health and morals of wage workers by guarding their working conditions, and its lack of power to deny woman the right to contract to work for any wages she elects.

Emily Bronte

(From the Poetry Review)

Spirit of wind and fire,
 Lover of moor and sea,
 Wild, untamed of desire,
 Lonely, vagrant and free;
 Life was too feeble to bind
 Long her impetuous soul,
 Only through death could it find
 All its desires and its goal.

—M. C. Lockhead.

It is safe to estimate that hereafter no State minimum wage law, as such, can successfully pass the Supreme Court. State Supreme Courts will undoubtedly follow the higher court. The Wisconsin State Supreme Court has already taken this position.

These decisions affirm organized labor's belief that trade unionism is the only hope for women wage workers.

Labor has repeatedly emphasized the uncertainties and dangers involved in attempting to correct evils arising out of industrial relations through the political power of the State, rather than by the collective power of wage earners.

The Supreme Court decision is a notification to the working women of this country that they must depend upon themselves.

Working women must organize if they would raise their living standards.

They can no longer listen to the lure of those who assure them that their hope to raise wages is in State legislatures, whose agents will tell them how many street car rides they may enjoy, what food they may eat, what clothes they may wear.

Working women must remember that if they depend on the State, the United States Supreme Court decision in the Arizona case will serve as a rude awakener.

Women on Juries

A CAMPAIGN is under way, it *Washington Herald* appears, to have women declared

eligible for jury duty in Washington. Certainly there seems to be no reason why women should not serve on juries. Jury duty is looked upon by most men in the light of an obligation or civic duty, rather than as a privilege, and if that view is correct, there is no good reason why women should, now that they have won general recognition as citizens, be exempted from the duties of citizenship.

Women serve on juries in most States, and have proved quite as efficient and capable as men. In fact, the chances are that they are more efficient, for while it is notorious that “professional jurymen” are an institution in many cities, it is difficult to imagine women ready to accept any such status.