Equal Rights

VOL. XI, No. 8 FIVE CENTS SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1924



WAITRESS: New York won't let me work at night, but it doesn't interfere with your job.

SCRUBWOMAN: You see, dearie, nobody wants my job.

Notes of the Week

Great Britain Appoints Women

THE Woman's Leader of March 14, offi-I cial organ of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, of Great Britain, contains the following article by Philippa Strachey on women in the professions in Great Britain during 1923:

"The year 1923 has been a black one for British industry and commerce, and the misery and widespread unemployment has filled the minds of po-litical and social workers alike. Amongst professional and semi-pro-fessional women breadwinners distress has been very common, for when once a job has for any reason been lost it has frequently been impossible for proficient workers with good training and experience to find another in the over-stocked market.

"Against this sombre background of wasted energies and heart-breaking anxieties we may see, however, the continued progress of individual women making their way forward and opening fresh fields of work for the successors in the future, and from the steadily increasing record we can draw courage to hope that when the national situation at last improves, women will suddenly be observed to be in a very much more satisfactory professional position than they were before the passing of the Representa-

tion of the People Act. "The one serious discouragement of the year has been the backward tendency seen in so many directions to prevent the employment of married The action of the London County Council in regard to its married women teachers has been paralleled in many other areas, and there is no disguising the fact that the right of the married woman to earn her living is very seriously impaired. For this, as for so many other evils, the present dearth of employment is responsible. But it is undoubtedly a point upon which further organized

"Accounts of the actual developments in each of the professions appear from time to time in this paper, and very full and accurate summaries of progress up to July, 1923, appeared in the Woman's Year Book in the course of the year. Perhaps, therefore, instead of re-stating these facts profession by profession, it would be of more interest to present a sort of professional calendar for last year. In this way readers will be able to form an idea of the general rate of progress over the whole field; and for the collected facts and summaries in regard to any one profession we would refer to the Year Book mentioned above.

effort will soon be required.

"January—Results of first open competitive examination for higher civil service posts (income tax inspec-One woman, five men ap-

"March-Appointment of woman assistant secretary, Royal Astronomical Society.

"April-First woman municipal commissioner in Bengal, appointed by Government.

"May—Woman wins postmaster-general's first-class certificate in Government examination for proficiency in wireless telegraphy.

"June—Woman appointed glazier to Exeter Cathedral. First woman lecturer before Royal Institution. First woman passed examination for membership of Institute of Actuaries.

"July-Woman wins Freshfield Fellowship for Metallurgical Research, Royal School of Mines. Woman elected president of geological section of British Association. Women (members of Surveyors' Institution) employed on Crown estates. Woman appointed minister of Congregational Church.

"September-Woman admitted member of Exeter Stockbrokers and Shareholders' Association.

"October-Woman elected chairman Trades Union Congress. Woman jockey in race for Newmarket Town Woman appointed Town Chamberlain, Fort William.

"November-First woman appointed City Sheriff, Canterbury. Woman appointed entomologist, South Sea Expedition.

"December-First woman associate member of Institute of Railway Signal Engineers."

Danish Women to Retain Citizenship

ME. HAUSCHUTZ, one of the nine women members of the Danish parliament, has introduced an amendment giving Danish women married to foreigners the right to keep their Danish citizenship if they continue to reside in Denmark, and to resume it by a simple declaration if they return home after a stay abroad, states L'International Feminin for January and February.

German Women to Organize

'International Feminin for January L and February also gives an account of the Women's National Socialist Congress held recently at Liege. It was stated at the Congress that the men's trade unions fear the competition of women working for low wages and that they are thus unconscious allies of the movement "Equal Pay for Equal Work." Efforts are being made to organize more unions of women workers. Out of 21 million affiliated with the Syndicalist International, 16.8 per cent., or 3,546,850, are women. The largest proportion of women members is found in Germany, which had, in 1922, 1,697,840 women out of a total membership of almost 8 million. The proportion of women members is very small in France, while in Belgium it is only 8.4 per cent., or 52,208. To this number should be added the large membership of the Christian Syndicate organizations.

Paris Opens Institute to Girls

a Française, organ of the National Council of French Women, announces in its issue for March 8 that a long-needed reform has at last been accomplished. By an order of the Minister of Social Welfare and Hygiene dated January 9, girls from six to nine years old will hereafter be received as pupils in the National Institute for Deaf Mutes at Paris. Hitherto there was no such school for deaf and dumb girls in Paris and parents of daughters so handicapped either had to send them away from home at a tender age or else defer a training which it is very important to begin as early as possible.

Women Serving in Political Offices

N the same issue La Française gives a few notes on the women members of parliament of different countries. The dean of them all is Annie Furnhjelm of Finland, who is serving her fifth three-year term in the Diet. She has devoted herself entirely to politics, as has Elna Munch of Denmark. Of the seven women deputies of Holland, three are lawyers and two teachers. The Hungarian parliament has one woman deputy, Anna Keithly, who has directed her efforts to socialism. In the Swedish parliament there are two women, Miss Platen, an architect, and Sarah Christie, director of a large girls' school.

Protection for Men and Women

L e Droit des Femmes, a magazine of the French League for Woman's Rights, in its February number, tells that Mlle. Andree Lehmann, who was recently given the degree of doctor of laws in Paris, took as the subject of her thesis "The Legal Regulation of Woman's Work-A Study in Comparative Legislation." Her conclusion is that "to wish to protect woman's work, except for the special circumstances of maternity, is to make women inferiors," and that "work should be indiscriminately protected for both men and women."

Citizenship Bill in France

THE French Senate has passed a bill introduced by Louis Martin permitting French women married to foreigners to keep their nationality, and it is now before the Chamber of Deputies.

Spanish Women Consulted

N the February number of the Accion Catolica de la Mujer (Madrid), we learn that among the experts consulted in drawing up a new bill on labor contracts were two women, the Machioness de Rafal and Senorita Maria de Echarri. Their advice was especially sought on matters concerning women's work.

Minnesota Progressives Send Message to Congress

RMED with the Farmer-Labor resolution, passed March 12 and 13, at the Minnesota State Farmer-Labor Convention, endorsing the National Equal Rights Amendment, and the resolution supporting the Amendment, passed the same week by the Women's Non-Partisan Clubs of Minnesota, Myrtle Cain, one of the Farmer-Labor representatives in the Minnesota legislature, and one of the leading women in the Farmer-Labor Party, arrived at Washington Headquarters of the Woman's Party on March 26. The resolutions she brings are a message from the Progressive groups in Minnesota to the Minnesota Progressive members of Congress, asking that they pledge their vote favoring the Equal Rights Amendment.

In addition to the resolutions from the Farmer-Labor Convention and the Women's Non-Partisan Clubs of Minnesota, Miss Cain also brought to Washington a resolution passed at a meeting held by the leading Progressive women of the State at the home of Mrs. F. A. Kingsley of Minneapolis.

The resolution of the Women's Non-Partisan Clubs reads:

"Resolved, That we, the women of the Non-Partisan League, believing in the equality of men and women, urge our representatives and senators in Congress to vote for the Equal Rights Bill."

The resolution passed at the meeting held at the home of Mrs. Kingsley reads:

"Resolved, That we, gathered at a meeting at the house of Mrs. F. A.

Names of the Farmers organizations and Labor unions that endorsed the Equal Rights Amendment at the Farmer-Labor Convention in Minnesota will be listed in next week's issue

Kingsley, 3417 Humboldt avenue, Minneapolis, heartily endorse the National Equal Rights Amendment and call upon Senators Shipstead and Johnson and the Minnesota representatives to give it their support."

The resolution of the State Convention of the Farmer-Labor Party reads:

"Resolved, That we endorse the National Equal Rights Amendment now before Congress and call upon the Minnesota congressmen to vote to submit it to the state legislature as speedily as possible."

This last resolution was passed at a convention representing practically all of the farmer organizations and labor unions in Minnesota and all of the Progressive groups. The convention at which the resolution was introduced and passed has the record of being the most representative and largest ever held in the State of Minnesota. It is the political expression of the organized labor movement and of the farmer organizations in that State.

During her stay in Washington Miss Cain is not only planning to interview all of the Progressive members in Congress from the State of Minnesota on the question of the Amendment, but will try to secure pledges for the Amendment from the Progressive members of Congress from every state.

Miss Cain is an active leader of the Farmer-Labor movement. She led the Minneapolis telephone strike in 1919, and was a member of the telephone union in Minneapolis and St. Paul until the union disbanded. She is at present a member of the City and County Employes' Union, and through that organization is a member of the American Federation of Labor. She was formerly president of the Minnesota Woman's Trade Union League. She is at present secretary of the Hennepin County Committee of the Farmer-Labor Federation. In January, 1923, she was elected as the only woman member of the Farmer-Labor Federation to the state legislature. She is credited with being the youngest woman legislator in the country, since she is only 27 years old.

In speaking of the endorsement of the Equal Rights Amendment by the Progressive groups in Minnesota, Miss Cain, on arriving at the Woman's Party Headquarters, said: "The Progressive leaders in Minnesota have always supported the principle of equality of the sexes. When the Woman's Party introduced the Equal Rights bill in the 1923 session of the legislature, before the introduction of the Equal Rights Amendment in Congress, the measure was enthusiastically backed by all farmer and labor organizations in the State. The Progressives in Minnesota also believe thoroughly in the principle of equality in the industrial field. They know that if women are handicapped in their competition with men in this field, equality can never become a reality. They believe that whatever legislation is enacted to protect the worker, should apply to the particular industry involved and not to one sex alone."

The Head of the Family

HE disabilities of women under the laws of the various states are vividly brought home to anyone who sits day after day in the court rooms in any city or town of the United States. No one can go through this experience, or can read the legal reports of the cases coming before the courts, without realizing the importance of the immediate passage of the National Equal Rights Amendment in order to remove these disabilities.

One of the cases that has recently come before the courts involves the question of the headship of the family. The case came before the Alderman's Court in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, over the question of whether a husband can prevent his wife from having visitors in the family home who are personally distasteful to him. Charles

Liddle, a boarder in the home of Jesse Wood, was asked to leave by Mr. Wood, but Mrs. Wood, the wife, asked him to remain. The Alderman decided that the husband is the head of the family and has the right to say who shall or shall not cross the threshold, and therefore the objectionable guest was held under bail on a charge of wilful trespass for remaining after the husband had requested him to leave.

The case came up for trial in the March term of court.

In reply to a letter to the Alderman asking about this decision, the Alderman wrote as follows, on February 14, 1924, to the National Headquarters of the Woman's Party:

"Yours of the 11th at hand. In re-

ply would say that my decision in the Wood-Liddle case was based on the fact that the man was the head of the house. Under the laws of the State he is held responsible for the conduct of his family, their support and maintenance. This would make him the manager and as such he must be recognized as the head of the house.

"The much-quoted saying, 'A man's home is his castle and he shall be protected therein,' is an acknowledgment of his supremacy.

"In case, as you say, the property is owned by the wife, I still contend that the man would be the head of the house. Even in the marriage vows, the female acknowledges the supremacy of the male when she promises to obey him.

"Trusting this information will be of interest to you, I am, etc. (Signed) "JAMES W. HOEPSTINE."

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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.]

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 Support of the Progressives

THE week that has just passed has brought to Congress appeals in support of the National Equal Rights Amendment from the strongest group in the Farmer-Labor movement.

This stand taken by the Progressives of the Northwest recalls the stand of the Progressives in the early days of the campaign for the Suffrage Amendment. The line-up for and against the Equal Rights Amendment is very similar to that for and against the Suffrage Amendment at that time. It was not until the Progressives, outside of Congress and in Congress, took up the cause of the Suffrage Amendment that any real political progress was made toward securing its passage. But when the Progressives were induced to give it their support, victory was not long delayed. The fact that one political group had endorsed the amendment made the question a political issue. The more conservative groups were then forced to give it their endorsement also, as a matter of political expediency.

The endorsement this week of the Equal Rights Amendment by an important element of the Progressives is, we believe, the beginning of the end.

The Opposition

In dramatic contrast with the endorsement of the Amendment this week by the Labor and Farmer groups of Minnesota is the statement of opposition to the Amendment which has this week been sent to the Headquarters of the Woman's Party by a national organization of women. This organization is the National Council of Catholic Women. Its opposition is based upon a resolution passed at its last convention, reading:

"Asserting that the so-called Equal Rights Blanket Amendment will seriously jeopardize the remedial industrial legislation for women in industry now existing in many states and will postpone indefinitely passage of such legislation in states where such laws do not exist, and, in the belief that the adoption of the Blanket Amendment will affect seriously the whole attitude of men and women to the obligations assumed as husband and wife and the unity of home and family life, it is pledged that the active opposition of all Catholic women be stimulated against the passage of this legislation."

Again we are reminded of the suffrage struggle. Throughout the years of campaigning for suffrage, various women's organizations opposed the Equal Suffrage Amendment and thereby delayed the final victory—just as they are today opposing the Equal Rights Amendment. Women today are unequal with men in their economic rights, in their legal rights, in their educational rights—in fact, in all their rights except the right to the suffrage; and again some women are opposing the effort to win complete and nation-wide Equal Rights!

The present subordinate position of women need not continue another day. It will end as soon as women themselves determine to be free. We appeal to all women to stand shoulder to shoulder in our common battle to remove every discrimination against women, and not to delay the final victory by throwing any obstacles in the way. The ultimate establishing of Equal Rights in all laws and customs is as inevitable, it would seem, as was the establishing of Equal Rights in suffrage. The time of the final victory, however, will depend on the effort of women. We have it in our power to hasten it or to delay it. If we cannot actively assist, let us at least not obstruct those who are bearing the burden of the struggle,

Why an Equal Rights Amendment?

THE Equal Rights Amendment of the Woman's Party embodies the goal visioned in 1848 by the Seneca Falls Convention, which marked the beginning of the organized effort for suffrage for women. That convention demanded suffrage for women as a tool with which to uproot all the injustices of the law toward women. We have won the tool. Now, under the leadership of the Woman's Party, we are going forward to make real the complete equality visioned by the great leaders of 1848.

In not a single State of the Union today do women have equal rights with men. In some instances inequality has been written into the statutes; in many instances the injustices of the Common Law, which considers women little more than chattels, still continues. In one State at least, for instance, the husband can forbid even the wife's father or mother to come to the house, even though the house is the property of the wife. Columns could be filled with other injustices almost as glaring. Often laws which on their face seem to guarantee women the same rights as those guaranteed to men are interpreted by Courts, which still, so far as the minds of the judges are concerned, belong to a bygone age, to deprive women of the rights guaranteed by such laws. For instance, Secretary of War Baker ruled in 1918 that, though the law said that citizens possessed of certain medical education were eligible to the Medical Reserve Corps, women could not be appointed, and his Judge Advocate General supported him on the ground that "citizens" under that law meant only male citizens, because (in his opinion) "women were not suited for the work."

Only an amendment to the Constitution, which in clear-cut language decrees that everywhere and always women and men have equal rights under the law, can guarantee to women that they shall not be discriminated against by written statutes or unwritten Common Law, or the narrow prejudice of judges and governSpeech at National Headquarters of the Woman's Party

By Gail Laughlin

[Editor's Note—Miss Laughlin is Vice-Chairman of the Woman's Party and was formerly National President of the Business and Professional Woman's Club. She is one of the most prominent practicing lawyers in this country.]

ment officers clothed with a little brief authority.

In every State in the Union a married woman's work in the household or for her husband in any capacity is the property of the husband. If there were even one State in the Union where today some men legally owned the labor of other men, it would start a revolution. Even Teapot Dome would be forgotten and neglected until Congress and President blotted out such remnants of the days before 1863. But, it is true that today not merely in one State, but in every State, some men, that is, husbands, own the labor of some women-that is, own the labor of their wives. Do we not need an Equal Rights Amendment?

Some oppose our program because they still believe that women were created solely for the comfort and glory of men. Some oppose it because they think that "anything that's new is scandalous." Some oppose it because equality for women affects their selfish interests. Some oppose it because they would rather play the uplifter to the weak than give the weak a weapon which would make them strong; but, for the most part, those opposed or indifferent are opposed or indifferent because they do not know the facts and have not been aroused to their responsibility to do justice. It is from these latter we will get our recruits to swell us to the mighty army which will sweep us to our goal.

The restrictions placed upon the labor of women unless removed will shut the door of opportunity to women. Executive positions in the business or industrial world, which mean influence and high salaries, are never filled from the ranks of

clock-watchers. But a law diminishing the hours of labor for women makes all women clock-watchers. Men and women in industry and business are competitors, and so long as women are subject to restrictions which do not apply to men, women will get only the jobs which no man wants. This is the way the eighthour law for women only has worked in California and other States. If there were competing stores on either side of a street and those on one side were forced to close at 4 o'clock while those on the other side could stay open until 6, it would be cold comfort to the shopkeepers compelled to close at 4 to tell them that it was for their benefit and to lessen the strain on them, and to give them time for other things, if they saw the customers streaming into the rival stores while they had to stay closed.

Because such restrictions mean the closing of opportunity to women whose ability would enable them to rise to executive positions, the business and professional women of the country are nearly a unit in opposing them. In 1920 the National Federation of Business and Professional Women passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs favors a shorter work day and the most sanitary and humane conditions in industry, but stands for the principle of equality of rights and opportunities and equal freedom of contract for men and women, and stands for any such industrial legislation regulating hours of labor or in any way affecting freedom of contract as is based upon the conditions obtaining in the respective industries or vocations thereby affected, and not upon the sex of the worker."

The Woman's Party will never rest from its labors until women have reached the goal visioned by the great leaders of 1848—the complete emancipation of women.

Opening Offices to Women

We are rejoicing in Oklahoma in the recent victory for the Oklahoma constitutional amendment making women eligible for all state elective offices, and repealing the section of the state constitution that prohibited women from being elected Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Auditor, Attorney-General and State Examiner and Inspector,

By Florence Etheridge Cobb.

[Editor's Note: Mrs. Cobb is State Chairman of the Woman's Party in Oklahoma. She is at present a practicing lawyer in Oklahoma, and is famous as the only woman who has ever been a probate attorney in the United States. She held the position of probate judge for four years, having been appointed to the position by President Wilson.]

The author of the constitutional amendment was Mrs. Lamar Looney, the only woman member of the Oklahoma

state senate and a member of the Woman's Party. After it had passed both houses of the last legislature it was referred to the voters at an election to be held October 2, 1923. A few days before this election there was placed on the ballot a new constitutional amendment which had been instituted by the initiative route, enabling the legislature to call itself together in special session for the investigation and impeachment of public officials. This amendment arose out of

Comments of the Press

Injustice

Syracuse (N. Y.)
Telegram,
March 8.

THE discrimination is against women of which the Woman's Party complains are of two kinds—

those in law and those in custom.

"As an example of the latter, take the status of women in the medical profession. Of 482 hospitals recently canvassed only forty admit women internes. Many important medical schools do not admit women.

"Here, as with the complaint that no appointment to a Federal judgeship has been given to a woman, although many women succeed in the profession of the law, the remedy is agitation, education and time.

"Among discriminations in law are some which cannot be defended and are therefore in need of political remedy.

"A glaring one, existing in this State, relates to a husband's property interest in his wife's services. This involves various phases of unfairness.

"Suppose that a husband has a business and the wife works in it. She cannot claim a wage. What he may give her for her toil is regarded by the law as a gift.

"But reverse the condition—let the husband work in a business belonging to the wife—he may then enforce by law his claim to a wage.

"Another instance: If in the home a wife does all the work of feeding, caring for or nursing a boarder, any money payment the boarder may make belongs by law to the husband, unless the wife and husband sign a contract specifying otherwise.

"The earnings of minor children belong to the husband exclusively, not jointly to husband and wife.

"In the case of a wife dying without a will and leaving a child, the husband inherits the use for life of all her real estate. But when it is the husband who dies without a will, leaving a child, the wife has the use for life of only one-third of his real estate.

"There are other legal discriminations even less defensible. One is found in the double standard for sex offenses. Another is the release from full responsibility of the male parent of children born out of wedlock.

"In urging legislation to correct these inequalities, officers of the Woman's Party will have the co-operation of many who do not go all the way of that Party.

"There are some discriminations in favor of women which an Equal Rights program would cancel, but which seem desirable not merely for women, but for society.

An instance is the guarding of women

from industrial overstrain to a degree not necessary in the case of men. Here the discrimination is a health measure in the interest of the race. Its removal would be at the expense of the general welfare.

"Enough will have been accomplished at one time if those discriminations for which no defense exists are removed from the statute books of New York State."

Feminist Topics in Magazines

Isabelle Kendig

Is Woman Suffrage a Failure? Charles Edward Russell. Century. March.

CHURCH WORK AS AN AVOCATION FOR WOMEN. Grace T. Davis Christian Century. February 7.

Are the Boys Better Than the Girls? Frederic L. Collins. Collier's. February 9.

SHE SHARES THE SPOTLIGHT WITH RAMSAY MACDONALD. Current Opinion. March.

THE NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN. Sir J. G. Butcher, K.C. Fortnightly Review (London). February.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT. Why the Woman's Party Is for It. Inez Haynes Irwin. Why Other Women Groups Oppose It. Florence Kelley. Good Housekeeping. March.

Eight Women M.P.'s. International Interpreter. February 9.

Gains and Losses in 1923—What the Women of the World Have Been Doing with Their Increasing Liberty. Nancy M. Schoonmaker. International Interpreter. February 16.

Woman's Hand in the Rise of Ramsay MacDonald. Literary Digest. February 9.

A Woman with a Thumb in Many Pies (Elizabeth Marbury). Literary Digest, February 23.

THE WOMEN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. I. A. R. Wylie. Living Age. February 23.

FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR ANNUAL AWARD.
Ida Clyde Clarke. Pictorial Review,
March.

When a Woman Is Asked to Marry.
Albert Edward Wiggam. Pictorial Review. March.

WHAT ABOUT "EQUAL RIGHTS?" Public Affairs. March.

A JOB FOR EVERY GIRL. Margaret Woodrow Wilson. Woman's Home Companion. March.

OUR CO-OPERATIVE HOME SERVICE. Ethel Puffer Howes and Myra Reed Richardson. Woman's Home Companion. March.

So This Is Politics—for Women! Anna Steese Richardson. Woman's Home Companion. March.

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