

# Equal Rights

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SATURDAY,  
JANUARY 24, 1925



## ETHEL LEGINSKA

Pianist, composer, wife and mother, who recently conducted the New York Symphony Orchestra in Carnegie Hall, New York City. She is the first woman in America to lead a major symphony orchestra.

## Feminist Notes

### The Woman Criminal Crop a Failure

IN an address before the Ladies' Imperial Club of London in December, Sir William Johnson-Hicks, the Home Secretary, said that ten years ago the average daily population of the prisons consisted of 15,300 males to 2422 females. Today it is down to 10,000 males and 1000 females. But the hardened criminals, those who had been in prison before, composed 62 per cent. of the male prisoners and 83 per cent. of the female. This proportional disparity was considered remarkable by the Home Secretary, who had no explanation to offer. He failed to see apparently that the figures indicate that the creation of new criminals among women is lagging far behind the same process among men. The figures show that while 38 per cent. of the male prisoners were brand-new beginners on the pathway of crime, only 17 per cent. of the females were in that class. On the face of it this showing indicates that crime among women in Great Britain will be nearly a thing of the past after the present generation of criminals has passed away.

### Equal Rights Before Parliament

QUESTIONS bearing on equal rights were put to the British Ministry in Parliament recently. Premier Baldwin was asked if the Government intended to back a measure to give women the vote on the same terms as men. The reply was the stereotyped one of all dodging politicians. "The subject is receiving consideration," was the answer of "The Right Honorable."

The Home Secretary was asked if he proposed to increase the number of women police. He answered affirmatively. The Minister of Labor was asked if he intended to force unemployed women workers skilled in other lines into domestic service by withholding unemployment doles from those refusing offers of domestic employment. He practically admitted that to be the case. He was then asked if he was not aware that definite promises of a contrary nature had been given by his predecessor. He dodged.

### Russia Becoming Feminist

AT recent municipal elections in the City of Kiev, Russia, and in surrounding territory, one-fourth of the offices in the city and village soviets were filled with women. This is the result of a campaign throughout the Soviet Republic urging the election of more women to local positions.

### Victoria Anglicans Grant Equality

AFTER defeat for five consecutive years, the granting to women in the State of Victoria, Australia, of representation on the Anglican Synod has this year been allowed by the Annual Conference of the Victoria National Federation in Melbourne.

The wife of Dr. James Booth, champion of the measure, was elected a member with all the dignities and prerogatives of her masculine confreres.

### Prussian Women Lose

ALTHOUGH the representation of women in the German Reichstag was slightly increased at the recent election, in the Prussian Landtag, or State legislature, it was reduced. In the outgoing body there were 47 women members as against but 33 in the new. Still that is a better record than the United States has so far achieved.

### An Unequal Minimum Wage

MINIMUM wage rates for women textile workers in London have been fixed at 27 shillings a week. For men the minimum is 63 shillings. These rates have been ratified by the London Wholesale Textile Branch and by the Shop Assistants' Union. They represent an increase of from one to five shillings a week.

### Illinois Celebrates Election of Women

THE installation into office of four women members of the Illinois Legislature was celebrated early in January by a banquet at the Leland Hotel in Springfield. More than half of the male members attended. Addresses were made by each of the four women members. These are Senator Florence Fifer Bohrer and Representatives Lottie Holman O'Neill, Rena Elrod and Katherine Hancock Goode. Mrs. O'Neill, who had been the only woman member of the last Legislature and the first to be elected in Illinois, said she hoped that the election of women to public office would soon become too common an occurrence to call for special rejoicing.

### Woman's World Fair

PLANS for the Woman's World Fair at Chicago on April 18 to 25 have been advanced by the organization of its board of directors. Mrs. Joseph T. Bowen was elected chairman and Mrs. Medill McCormick general director.

### First Woman Governor's First Message

THE first message of Governor Nellie Ross of Wyoming was sent to the legislature on January 16. She urged ratification of the Federal Child Labor Amendment. A considerable part of the message was devoted to taxation and the budget system. The latter she strongly insisted upon as essential to economy and efficiency in the conduct of the State's business. Thus she gave new evidence of the fact that woman executives may be depended upon to give attention to business matters in a businesslike way. On the taxation question she directed attention to discrimination practiced against small property owners in favor of the great ranches and similar interests, and urged legislation to make an approach to equalization possible. It will be hard for scoffers against equal rights to find wherein Governor Ross' first message does not measure up to messages of men governors of the first quality.

### Margaret Haley Still in the Ring

MISS MARGARET HALEY of the Chicago Teachers' Federation, a fighter for equal rights long before the movement reached its present stage, is still heading the Federation she has led successfully for so many years. There has scarcely been an issue raised in Chicago, during the past thirty years, involving some form of equality in which she has not taken a prominent part. As a result of her work the Teachers' Federation became a force to be reckoned with, and she is still, at the age of 57 fighting with old-time vigor. Equal pay for Chicago's men and women teachers and a salary schedule from \$1500 to \$2500 are but a part of her accomplishments in the public interest.

### Women Achieving Distinction as Artists

WOMEN artists are the recipients of considerable praise for work exhibited at the annual exhibition of American Art. Nearly one hundred artists from 13 States have presented canvases, and one near the head in receiving attention is Camelia Whitehurst of Baltimore, whose painting entitled, "Eliza," has been declared a fine picture of childhood. Caroline Gibbons Granger is another woman artist who has been given favorable mention.

### Woman Magistrate in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA has a woman magistrate, the first in its history. She is Mrs. Violet Fahnestock and was appointed by Governor Pinchot to fill a vacancy.

## Women In Russia

By Ruby A. Black

THE absolute economic, political and legal emancipation of Russian women is one of the biggest achievements of the Russian Revolution, according to Jessica Granville Smith, who has spent three years in Russia working in famine relief and studying factories, schools and other institutions as an American newspaper woman.

Miss Smith described the status of women in Russia to a large and interested group of people at the weekly meeting at National Woman's Party Headquarters on January 18, held under the auspices of the District of Columbia Branch. Miss Smith was with the Friends' Relief Committee in the famine area in 1922-23, having charge of the distribution of food and clothes among 40,000 people. She spent last year studying conditions in Russia and serving as interpreter in the negotiations which resulted in the concession of three farms to the Russian Reconstruction Farms, organized to demonstrate and introduce modern American farm methods among the peasants of Russia as a means of preventing the famines which have heretofore been periodical there. During this time she was also correspondent for the International News Service and the Federated Press. Miss Smith was active in organization and publicity work with the Woman's Party in the 1917 suffrage campaign.

"In Russia," Miss Smith said, "one does not think of women as women, or of men as men, but of human beings working for the economic and social restoration of their country after the chaos produced by war, revolution and famine. The problems of men and of women are so much involved with each other in Russia that they cannot be separated."

"But the principle of absolute equality is a part of the Soviet system. The decree defining the rights of citizens to vote and hold office applies to men and women alike. Only productive workers have the right to vote, and women who keep house for the members of their family who are working in the industries, the Government, the trades and the professions are defined as productive workers. A woman keeping house for as many as two children is considered a worker. They may vote and hold office equally with men, and the number of the women in public office is increasing very rapidly as women are becoming more and more fitted for such service by the greater education and experience now available."

"The only limitation women suffer is the limitation of their own education and experience. Illiteracy is greater among women than among men, because under

the Czarist regime women had little opportunity for education. Many women, however, have fitted themselves for the highest positions in the few years during which these offices have been open to them. In the Government offices they work side by side with men. Their positions are based on their ability. Krupskaya, Lenin's widow, is in charge of the vast system of education which Russia has undertaken as a campaign to liquidate illiteracy. She organizes the libraries and adult classes throughout Russia, from Moscow to the smallest village. She is also on the Central Control Committee of the Communist Party, the most powerful organization in Russia.

"Lebedeva is head of the Mothers' and Babies' Department, and is forming a network of institutions throughout Russia for the protection of motherhood and the improvement of children's opportunities.

"Women sit as judges in equality with men, making their judgments on a common-sense basis, not on a basis of old laws and customs.

"In marriage men and women are equal before the law, although it is harder for new ideas to become prevalent in social customs than in law. Only the civil marriage, which is simply a matter of registration, is legal, although the religious marriage is allowed. Contrary to common opinion in America, the churches are still functioning in Russia, and many people attend them.

"Certain prohibitions against marriage exist, of course. Relatives of certain degrees may not marry. Bigamy is not permitted. Divorce is almost as easy as marriage. Divorce by mutual consent requires only the registration of the fact that the marriage union has been dissolved. If only one of the parties wants a divorce, the case is brought before the court and settled according to its merits. If the father is unable to support the child, the mother is held responsible for its support. If the mother is incapable of supporting it, the father is held responsible.

"In the first marriage decree it was stated that a woman could keep her own name if she so desired. In the new marriage law it is stated that a woman may take her husband's name if she wishes. The children may take either name, or a combined name.

"More is done to protect mothers in industry and their children in Bolshevik Russia than anywhere else in the world. A day nursery is a part of every factory. A factory cannot exist without a nursery. These are kept scrupulously clean. In a

factory nursery I visited in Moscow, I was asked by a white-clad nurse to remove my outer garment and put on a fresh white robe before being shown through the nursery, so that I might take no dirt or germs among the children. I was shown through the sleeping rooms with their rows of clean, white cots for the children, attended by white-clad nurses. The principle of perfect sanitation and excellent child-care is maintained as carefully as economic conditions permit.

"The mother is not permitted to work for two months before and two months after childbirth. During all this time she is paid her wages by the state and the industry, and for one month is given double pay to provide for additional expenses attendant upon the birth of her child. Free hospital care is provided for her confinement. During the first nine months after childbirth she works only six hours a day, instead of the regular eight hours required of other workers. She is also given three periods a day for nursing her infant.

"All these provisions for motherhood are given to women in clerical, government, trade and professional work, as well as to women in industry.

"The principle of equal pay for equal work is firmly established. In the chaos following the Revolution, some women who had held jobs during the war may have been thrown out of jobs or lowered in pay to give men their old jobs. But the State cared for the children of women who were out of work as a result of the drastic efforts made to restore economic stability. Those discriminations do not exist now. Production was only 10 per cent of normal then. Railroads were not functioning. Now production is more than 50 per cent. of normal, and Russia is gradually rebuilding her industries and her social life. In this reconstruction women are working equally side by side with men.

"It is interesting to see that the new ideal of womanhood is penetrating into the new countries to the South—Turkistan and other states, where women were still veiled till these states entered the Soviet union."

Miss Smith concluded her talk with a statement of the work to be undertaken by the Russian Reconstruction Farms.

Following Miss Smith's talk, L. M. Zajewskaya, a Russian woman connected with the Friends' Relief Committee, spoke of the history of the woman's movement in Russia and pled for co-operation between American women and Russian women in solving the problems each nation still faces.

# Equal Rights



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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.

## Stand Up and Be Counted

ON February 4 those who believe in equal rights will have an opportunity to put their belief into action. On that day the members of the National Woman's Party will present the arguments in favor of the Lucretia Mott Amendment before a full meeting of the Judiciary Committee, of which Mr. Graham of Pennsylvania is chairman. The arrangements for the hearing are in Maud Younger's hands, so it may be assumed that the speakers will be interesting and forceful. More important, however, even than the speakers, is the presence of a representative group of women. In order to bring home to the members of the committee the diverse and widespread nature of the demand for equal rights, women from every State and from all walks in life should attend the hearing.

The various State organizations should appoint and send representatives, even though there may be no opportunity for them to speak before the committee. Their mere presence will indicate more emphatically than any verbal expressions can the weight of the sentiment behind the measure.

We all realize that women of every group in all parts of the Union support the measure wholeheartedly, but this demand must be visualized to the committee members. This is one of the rare occasions when we can stand up and be counted on the right side. Let us make the most of the opportunity.

## Ethel Leginska Conducts

A VERY beautiful and moving event took place in New York recently. For the first time in the history of our country a woman led a major symphony orchestra. Ethel Leginska—British born, American trained, still in her thirties—artist, wife and mother, conducted the New York Symphony Orchestra in Carnegie Hall before a warm-hearted and loving audience which filled the hall to capacity. Cheers, bravos, applause rang through the sedate concert hall. The stoutest-hearted antagonist of women adventuring into new fields of distinction must have yielded to the grace, power and appeal of this conductor.

Even the usher, that somewhat mechanically-moving person, smiled graciously as late-comers packed the back aisles of the hall. People arriving during the first number of the program were pushing and puffing to get a glimpse of the conductor. Doors opened and closed. People whispered their awe and admiration to strangers. There were no shushes. Everyone seemed to feel that this was not the ordinary concert night. There was electricity in the air. There was an irrepressible excitement which no one tried nor wanted to suppress. Here was an extraordinary occasion.

To appraise her as a musician is the task of music critics. \* \* \* And they praised grudgingly with the exception of the superior, Deems Taylor. But we sing of the social aspect of her achievement, which no critic mentioned. They were right to judge her on the merits of her musicianship, not on her sex. Nevertheless it would have been a gracious and warming thing if one of them—just one of them—had risked a single humble line to point the historic event. Since they did not, we are happy to do so. One critic warned that it was a high, oh very high ambition toward which to aim, the position of conductor. So it is. Our answer to that is, AND WHY NOT?

And it would have disarmed those fearful ones who wish to describe the circle of woman's physical and mental activities had they seen what the writer saw. A woman enduring the physical and mental strain of conducting a great orchestra. Leginska did not spare herself in the least. And to the admiring throng which crushed about her—it seemed as if the entire audience had crowded into the small reception room to acclaim her—she stood happy, triumphant and fresh as the proverbial daisy.

And her appearance was an aesthetic delight. Slight and childish of figure, she was dressed in a beautiful adaptation of the stern male dinner attire. A soft black velvet coat of tunic length topped a plain black satin slip. Crepe de chine frill collar and small soft cuffs finished the costume. There were no trailing chiffons, no startling colors. Her appearance and concert manner were wholly satisfying. Leginska has conducted in London, Paris, Munich and Berlin. Since New York is perhaps now the greatest musical center in the world, last week's triumph was her greatest.

Welcome to Leginska, pianist, composer, conductor! There will be more Leginskas as time and woman's effort encourage our sex to enter new fields of creative beauty. There is always a "first." That distinction belongs to Leginska in our country.

## Slave Labor in the Home

UNDER our present system of man-made laws, a wife's work in the home belongs to her husband. In return, she is entitled only to support, which is precisely what the slaves received from their owners. In the absence of an agreement to the contrary, the husband possesses a "right to the earnings or services of his wife, rendered as wife, by her in and about either their domestic matters or his business affairs. For such services she has no legal recourse against him or his estate."

In cases of personal injury to a married woman, she has no claim to damages for any loss of ability to work in the household, nor for loss of ability to render services in her husband's business if she rendered such as wife, without remuneration; for such services are the property of the husband and he alone has the right of action in such a case.

A Pennsylvania woman, in addition to her household work, assisted her husband in his business as a florist. For this assistance she received no wages. Her husband was subsequently compelled to employ a man to take her place as assistant in his business, owing to an injury which she received through the alleged negligence of a railroad company. In an action against the company, damages were awarded to the wife for her pain and suffering only, while the husband was given damages for the loss of her power to

work in the home and in this business.

The National Woman's Party's legal research department has dug up some shocking instances of women who, after years of toil, found themselves robbed of the fruits of their labor. In spite of a statute passed by the Michigan Legislature in 1911, permitting a wife to control wages or salary earned in separate business or employment, her earnings still belong to her husband. "Richard Rogatsky owned a bakery in which his wife, Matilda, assisted him for over twenty years, in addition to attending to her regular household duties. The husband often promised that he would convey certain property to her in consideration of these services and, finally, on the day of his death, did so. The conveyance was set aside, the court holding that 'The services of the wife would not furnish a consideration for the conveyance, as least not against the claims of the husband's creditors. The services which she rendered were those of a clerk in the bakery, waiting upon customers, and they were rendered for, and belong to, the husband.'"

"Anna C. Brackett, a married woman, presented a claim against the estate of her former boarder, Chauncey Burnham, who had since died, for board, room, mending, etc. Her husband testified that when Burnham came to board with them he had told his wife 'that if she wanted

to take him she could take him and whatever she earned was hers.' It was held that even this agreement between the husband and wife was not enough to entitle her to recover the money for her work. \* \* \* The court declared the claim in such a case would be the husband's."

Such cases are to be found in every State of the Union.

"A Mrs. X, a married woman of Baltimore, Md., took care of a sick woman in her home. She washed and ironed for the sick woman and rendered her services 'as nurse and attendant' for a period of two years. The sick woman, Miss Y, said she would pay for the services, but died without having done so, and Mrs. X sued Miss Y's estate for the value of her services. The court said that Mr. X could recover for these services, but that his wife could not, in spite of the law which says that a married woman 'who by her skill, industry and personal labor shall earn any money,' may keep the same as her property. In the words of the court: 'It was the husband's right that the wife should work with and for him, and it was natural that she should, and if she did, he was entitled to pay. In such case there is no division of profit as between partners in business.'"

Margaret Loring Thomas gives a graphic picture of a wife in such a position. M. W.

## Abigail Aldrich

By Margaret Loring Thomas

"A BIGAIL-ALDRICH-applies-for-a-permit-to-board-babies-for-the-State! Abigail Aldrich."

The monotonous voice of the clerk reverberated through the dingy little upstairs room where court was being held, in a small New England mill town. The air was heavy with the smell of disinfectant. Not one of the motionless men and women waiting in the stuffy room seemed to care why the court was sitting. There was no sign of resentment against the hand of chance which had placed this little group on the hard, wooden benches.

"Abigail Aldrich, Abigail Aldrich," droned the clerk.

No one replied. The name Abigail Aldrich did not move the sickly little woman who sat alone, wearing clothes such as had never been placed in shop windows to tempt the mill girls by their charm. On her head was a hat ugly enough to make a scarecrow blush. So used was she to being called "Ma," or "Mom," or "You-there," that she did not realize that she had any other name.

"Abigail Aldrich! Where is she?" asked the judge with the eyes of a politician.

"Here, your Honor." As Abigail Aldrich walked into the shaft of dusty afternoon sunlight streaming through the dirty windows she looked like a pressed flower dropped from an old album.

"You are not very large, I didn't see you at first," said the judge, in a kindly way. "Are you married? Is your husband living? Have you any children?"

Abigail Aldrich had the look of a martyr. Without the joy of martyrdom she replied, "Yes, sir; I am married. I have seven children living; two dead. My husband is living."

"Where do you live?"

"Two miles back on the Pond Road."

"Well, I suppose that if you board babies the oldest child will help you with them?"

"My oldest son is away. He is working his way through the State Agricultural College."

"And the next?"

"He, too, sir, is in college. He will be a minister."

"Ummm. Well, how about the next?"

"The next is a girl. She is in a business school."

"Can the next help you?"

"Hardly, your Honor. She takes care of her grandmother, my husband's mother, who is blind and has been bedridden for nine years. That takes all my daughter's time when she is not in school."

"Now, umm, let me see. The oldest, a boy, in college. One. The next, a boy, in college. Two. The next, a girl, in a business school. Three. Girl at school. Four. That leaves three."

"The next two are boys—nine and eleven. They look after the cows and chickens. And then there is the baby."

"What does your husband do?"

"He has charge of the farm, but he is not home much, except for dinner. He never sleeps home."

"Is your house in good condition?"

"Oh, yes; your Honor, except for the roof. That leaks a little when the weather is bad. I have a pump in the kitchen. I haven't had to carry water now for three years. We have electric lights in the barn."

"Umm, well, it seems to me as if you had about enough to do now."

"Oh, sir; please, your Honor! I can take good care of the babies. I have plenty of good milk. This is apple year. The little ones always like apple sauce. And there are the hen's, too. Oh, please!"

"Umm, grant a permit to Abigail Aldrich to board two babies for the State," said the judge mechanically.

"Thank you, sir!"

Holding the permit in her hand, Abigail Aldrich turned and walked out of the court room. At the door a well-meaning man, as he stepped aside to let her pass, said, "I am real glad for you that you got your permit."

She did not answer, but went on into the dark hallway. Halting, she worked her way down the steep stairs and out to the street. There a tall, thin man of middle age, dressed in rough, baggy store clothes, put out his hand to grab her.

"Remember, Dan; don't touch me. I meant what I said. The next time you put your hand on me I'll have the law on you."

They walked on together in silence. Dan Aldrich, lumberman by trade, was

as straight as the trees which for years he had marked for felling, perhaps with more feeling than he now showed for the wife at his side.

"Haven't seen Dan Alrich with his wife for sometime. Something must be up," she heard some one remark.

Dan and Abigail went by shop after shop, the windows filled with fur coats wrapped about chilly wax ladies, their modest prices marked on yellow cards almost as large as quarantine flags; silk dresses, neither useful nor ornamental; bridal gowns for hire; Circassian walnut, or grey painted, furniture for sale, cash, club or deferred payment plan; diamonds; watches; after-dinner coffee services, and occasionally rubber boots and slickers waved above a doorway. They made their way through the crowd of loafers and women with baby carriages, crossed the bridge over the river and passed the last gasoline-filling station without speaking a word.

"Got the permit?" asked Dan Aldrich when he was sure that he was well beyond the hearing of passers-by.

"Yes."

"How many?"

"Two."

## News From The Field

IN Delaware the State Branch of the National Woman's Party is working in co-operation with the Women's Joint Legislative Committee, with Miss Edith Spruance, State legislative chairman of the Woman's Party, as its representative. Measures supported by this committee for introduction at the present session of the Legislature have been submitted to the State Bar Association for endorsement. These measures propose (1) to change the present law regarding the inheritance of personal property, so that the father and mother may inherit equally; (2) to secure for mothers equal rights to the custody and control of the education, earnings and services of their minor children; (3) to establish the legal residence of a married woman by the same facts and rules of law as apply to any other persons; (4) to place upon a married woman responsibility for civil injuries committed by her; (5) to give a married woman the right to secure full damages for her personal injuries and loss of time and ability to work resulting therefrom, and (6) to repeal the act adopted in 1923 excusing women from jury service on their request.

The Women's Joint Legislative Committee is also working for a more adequate recognition of the needs of the Woman's College of the University of Delaware and for support for the separate prison for women.

ONE of the most flagrant instances of discrimination against a woman is reported from Memphis, Tenn. Miss Jennie L. Davis has been assistant librarian of the Cossitt Library there for twenty-four years. Recently the librarian died and the question of his successor arose. On behalf of Miss Davis it was pointed out that she had rendered splendid service, knew more about the library and its needs than any one, and merited the promotion. Every woman's club in Memphis and the members of the bar endorsed her, and there was no question of her ability. But all this was of no avail against the prejudices of the board, who appointed Mr. Jesse Cunningham of St. Joseph, Mo., no doubt a good librarian, but a rank outsider whose only claim to appointment over Miss Davis, who has served the Memphis people a quarter of a century, is that he is a man. As he does not take office until August 1, however, it may be that a reaction will set in that will yet result in justice being done to Miss Davis.

"You can go to the State Home and get 'em tomorrow. I'll allow you fifty cents a week of the money the State pays."

"Isabel needs shoes."

"Give her yours."

When the big barn and the little house of the farm, two miles back on the Pond road, came into sight, the sun was low, and long black shadows of pine trees lay on the sandy road.

"Shadows getting long. They look like holes dug for graves. I hope it don't get dark before I can get to the woods and pick the ferns to send to the undertaker in the city for his funeral pieces. I can't afford to lose the only money I make Dan don't know about," Abigail Aldrich thought; then aloud, "I'll be hurrying now, Dan."

Dan Aldrich, without a word to his wife, let down the bars leading into a stony pasture, and followed a narrow path through hardack, sweet fern and bayberry bushes leading to the hardwood growth at the north of the pasture, muttering to himself, "Well, I call that good business. Prety good business. Easy way to make money. I don't know's I mind letting her have the fifty cents."

### Pennsylvania

IN Pennsylvania the work of the legislative chairman, Miss Ella Riegel, of finding the strongest sponsors for the bills to be introduced in the Legislature, has been complicated by the fight of the various forces to secure control of the Legislature. Since the session will be short, only a few bills will be introduced. They will be measures equalizing the guardianship rights of parents, the rights of appointment as administrators of estates, and the rights of contract of married women, and a measure basing the legal residence of a married woman on the same grounds as that of other persons instead of on the ground of her husband's legal residence.

### Maryland Branch Arranges Luncheon

THE Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party has arranged an "Equal Rights" luncheon in honor of Doris Stevens, to be held at the Emerson Hotel, Baltimore, at one o'clock, Monday, January 26.

Mrs. George C. Smith will preside as toastmistress. The local speakers will include Mrs. D. R. Hooker, Mrs. J. W. Funck and Mrs. R. H. Walker. Mrs. Dora G. Ogle will present plans for the hearing before the Judiciary Committee February 4.

Mrs. George Rollman and Mrs. Charles H. Bubert constitute the committee on arrangements.

## Ethel Sidgwick—An Appreciation

By Esther Sayles Root

THERE are two classes among readers of modern fiction—those who look yearly for a violet-bound volume of Ethel Sidgwick and those who either don't know her at all or know only enough to entertain an annoying confusion between her and Anhe Douglas Sedgwick—a confusion which inclines to make the former class become slightly testy. For to them Miss Sidgwick's writing is a rare thing, not merging with the writing of anyone else at all. It is a thing of elusiveness and tenderness, of delicacy and opalescence, run through with a stout scarlet wire of intensity. With those who have discovered her quality, perhaps years ago in the first books that won her English and American audience, "Promise" and "Succession," perhaps later in "A Lady of Leisure" or "Hatchways," I feel free to recapture some of my own reactions. They were delight, and curiosity and delight again; which is a fine sequence.

"Hatchways" was my introduction. It was lying on some table in the summer of 1916. The binding had a familiar look, for I had seen "Promise" and "Succession" on the bookshelf and had passed them for being too thick. But there was nothing else on the table, which is a casual enough way to begin a long enthusiasm. I read it with delight—twice; recovered it from subsequent borrowers, and hid it away thinking—and that is a feeling it gives—"I hardly believe that anyone else would quite get this."

In a few months when I was starting for France, during those days of uniforms and light luggage, and had to limit myself to half a dozen books for what looked like a long war, I remember three of them: Heath's French Dictionary, the Oxford Book of English Verse, and "Hatchways." It was a good choice, for I remember evenings that followed days of mud and traffic and Ford trucks when it was healing and lovely to turn to the English countryside, to Iveigh and his dogs and his walks in the woods; to Bess in her cottage with her water-colors and her great love for Iveigh; to the first love of Iveigh, who came back from India without her military husband and wrought such subtle havoc for them all.

In a bookshop on the Avenue de l'Opera, in 1917, a sequel to "Hatchways" appeared—"Jamesie." Here was the 80-year-old son of Iveigh told of in the letters of his family and friends which cross and re-cross in an intricate web that is hung around the shining spirit of Jamesie himself. The war is the background of the story, and in its development Jamesie has to be told things, bitter things, one by one. He has to be told that his uncle has

gone away, and is not coming back—but how to tell the intrepid, trusting inquiring child? The consultation, on paper, of those who love him is as poignant and, though only suggested, as unanswerable a protest against war as I have seen in fiction.

Some time later, in London, I wondered if I should ever see Miss Sidgwick. At first I always fancied that I was seeing people in London. Any man with bundles and a mustache might be Arnold Bennet, just down from the Five Towns; any narrow gray beard might be Shaw; any portly gentleman Chesterton. But women would be harder to recognize. Rebecca West, Rose Macaulay, May Sinclair, Ethel Sidgwick—I shouldn't know them if we should all chance to rock together inside a bus.

I queried about it to a friend one day. "Ethel Sidgwick?" was his answer, "she lives on the floor above me. And she likes Americans." So we climbed five flights of stairs in a high old house in Bloomsbury. I was expecting the flat of a successful woman novelist, also the successful woman novelist, gracious and perhaps a trifle mondaine in manner—Iveigh was the son of a duchess, wasn't he?—And there are often Frenchmen of lineage in her countryside. So the higher we went the more surprised I grew.

We entered a small attic room, irregular and inviting with its eaves and casement window, and were greeted by a slender woman with gray hair and gray eyes, a shy smile, and an English voice at its loveliest. We sat in little old-fashioned chairs around a glowing gas fire, and had tea from the kettle on the gas ring. There is something inevitably practical and modern about a gas ring, and yet in this rite there was a savor of the traditional and the exquisite. It must be an aura, and certainly not the tea kettle's, I thought. I looked at the hostess, reflecting—a sensitive, narrow face, an aristocratic nose, daughter of an Oxford Don, quiet quadrangles, ancient streets, scholarly tradition, gentlefolk \* \* \* I caught myself answering a delicately accented, silver-sounding question, and suddenly felt my mouth filled with ugly slurs and twang. But she was not thinking of my accent; she was speaking beautifully of America and of the impression she took away with her, after one short visit here, of its great kindness and vigor.

The conversation turned to Russia—the communist experiment was less an accepted fact than now. "Are you in sympathy with the Russian Revolution?" I asked.

"Passionately!" she said.

I cannot tell with what fire that one word leapt out. The storming of the Bastille, the taking of the Kremlin, all the surge of an imperative protest were there. Oxford, exquisiteness? Second place for a moment when the spirit leaps through. This amazing contrast of fragility and aloofness with the living fire beneath I learned to know on other visits to the attic room as the salient characteristic of Ethel Sidgwick.

One thing I wonder about her writing. Does she, in those many elliptical passages which are more elusive and sometimes entirely baffling—does she consciously allow gaps in her meaning in order to call more drastically upon the imagination of her reader, or is this the direct, inevitable way for her? It was an awkward question to ask. I began one day. "Do you draw your pictures purposely with a broken, impressionistic line in order to make your reader do a part of the thinking himself, or do you—are you—is this your way of speaking plain?"

She laughed. "It is all there, to me. I don't feel anything left out—I speak 'plain!' But so many people say that they don't understand what I mean; that since my earliest books I have made a practice of reading my books aloud to my brother—who is my publisher—before they go to press. If he stops me and says, 'I'm lost,' I go back and try to make the passage more inescapable. But it is always as clear as crystal to me."

"Do you find writing the arduous business than most writers do?" I asked.

"No," she said, "I love to write. You see, as a young girl I used to write stories in my spare time, often when I should have been studying. It was not encouraged. Ever since I have had to steal time for it from other work that had to be done."

Work, real work, was not writing at all. During the war she was one of those to establish and work for the Women's International League. After the war she became interested in the Save-the-Children Fund. It was an uphill task to organize relief for German children with the miasma of war hatred still infecting the impulses of even the generous-minded. Then came the Russian famine, with work continually increasing. But it was work that appealed vividly to Miss Sidgwick. The wonder is to find a novelist who occupies herself in quite another field from 9 until 5 every day, and who, in fourteen years, has written twelve novels and two volumes of plays for children, outside a daily grind—for pleasure.

It may be that this pleasure, this stolen delight of the writer, is the substance and the aroma of the reader's delight.

# From The Press

## The Basis of the Demand

Kenneth Andrews,  
in New York  
World,  
January 5th.

done about the Woman Problem in America, you would probably tell him that there isn't any.

An amendment to the Federal Constitution gives women the right to vote; they are therefore the equals of men. What more could they possibly want?

No doubt ninety-nine voters out of a hundred have that complacent feeling, but, to say the least, it does not square with the facts. Right now there are indications that Congress may be persuaded to pass another Federal amendment which would, quite possibly, have more sweeping results than the Suffrage Amendment itself. It is called the Equal Rights Amendment, and the National Woman's Party is sponsoring it.

The phrasing of the proposed amendment is simple, so simple and so innocent in appearance that one may be inclined to wonder what reason there could be for passing it. This is the way it reads: "Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

LAST week I talked to Miss Margaret Whittemore, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Woman's Party. Let me repeat some of the things she said, to which, as a male, I listened in blushing astonishment.

There is not one State in the Union in which men and women live under equal protection of the law.

More than half the States do not permit women to serve on juries.

In only a third of the States is prostitution a crime for the males as well as the females.

In two States it is actually possible for a father to will away the custody of the child from the mother. He may "bequeath" it to any one he may care to appoint. He may do this even before the child is born. That is, if the father should die before the mother gives birth to the baby he may exert this extraordinary power from his grave!

In two States the earnings of a wife outside the home belong to the husband.

In every State practically the husband owns—that is the exact word—the services of his wife in the home. That means that if the wife is injured in an accident it is her husband who collects the damages. In the eyes of the law it is not the wife who is injured, but the husband, because he has been deprived of her services.

IF one of those disconcertingly inquisitive visitors from England should stop and ask you in that forthright way they have what was being

The grotesque way in which this may work out is illustrated by the experience of a woman in the State of Washington. Her husband had deserted her, leaving her in considerable want. She was forced to take in washing to make ends meet. In an accident she was so severely injured that her leg had to be amputated. She brought suit for \$10,000. In the course of the trial her lawyer informed her that her husband had settled the suit out of court for \$350. The woman, who had not seen her spouse for two years, did not see how such a thing could be possible. But it was. Her husband still owned her services. He had been "injured" by her accident. And incidentally the husband took the \$350 and used it to get a divorce from his crippled wife!

In a case in New York City a man who had tuberculosis rented a room in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Potter. He asked Mrs. Porter to take care of him, and promised to *remember her in his will*. She cared for him for eleven years, until his death. The bequest of \$500 which the man made to Mrs. Porter in his will was too small to pay for her services. A suit was brought to recover from the man's estate for the services which had been rendered. The husband collected the money for these services, the court holding that he was entitled to a reasonable amount for her services—\$7,500. "It is clear," said the court, "that the wife was acting not for herself, but in the service of and subordinate to her husband."

In Rhode Island a father is the sole guardian of a legitimate child; but the law assumes that there is no blood of the father in an illegitimate child. The mother alone is legally responsible.

There are only a few hospitals in this broad land where women are admitted as internes. They must find this vital training elsewhere. They must overcome this obstacle somehow before they can compete with men as physicians.

There are many law schools which are not open to women under any circumstances.

ALL of which may come as something of a shock, may seem almost incredible. But these facts and a great many more as startling were unearthed after what is perhaps the most thoroughgoing and painstaking scrutiny that has ever been made of our State laws. That was the first step in the present campaign: to find out exactly what woman's standing actually was in the law courts of the land. It was a man's size job; but before the attempt was started to have a Federal amendment passed, it was completed with extraordinary meticulousness under the direction of Miss Alice Paul, Miss Pollitzer, and others.

After this exhaustive and efficient preparation the assault on Washington began. They are concentrating on Washington now, rather than on the various State Legislatures. It is a Federal amendment that they want. The experience of the Woman's Party in working for the vote for women makes it clear, they say, that Federal action alone can actually give Equal Rights to women.

## Two Million Dollar Fund

### Treasurer's Report

SHELDON JACKSON, *Treasurer*  
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RECEIPTS of National Headquarters, December 7, 1912, to January 10, 1925, \$1,285,007.38.

Contributions, membership receipts and other receipts, January 10, 1925, to January 15, 1925. (*Half of membership fees are retained by the State Headquarters. The half of these fees sent to National Headquarters is listed below*):

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