

Equal Rights

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FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY,
MARCH 14, 1925



Edna St. Vincent Millay

who is a member of the Editorial Board of Equal Rights, is a poet unexcelled in lyric intensity and in vigor, simplicity and poignance of expression. Hers is the voice of a vital passion for living.

Feminist Notes

Pompeian Feminists

IT required an eruption of Mt. Vesuvius to put an end to an equal rights movement which had made considerable progress in ancient Pompeii. This newly-discovered historical fact was revealed by Mme. Anna Scalera, the Italian archeologist, in a recent lecture at Rome before the Academie des Lynx. Although woman suffrage was probably not dreamed of, Mme. Scalera's researches brought to light that the men were in the habit of consulting their wives as to how they should vote and that politicians in consequence catered to the women. In signing ballots husbands would write, "and wife" after their names. Then there were such remarks as these: "Asellina is for Caius Secundus for duumvir." Or "Caprania recommends this candidate with Nymphius." In the latter case it is significant that Nymphius, the legal voter, put his wife's name first, thus implying that her will was the dominant one. Further evidence of feminine political influence is seen in campaign inscriptions like the following:

"The election of Casellius and Albucius is demanded by Statia and Petronia. May there be many more like them."

In this case, however, the suspicion is allowable that Statia and Petronia were wealthy women who had some voters among their servants. That method of coercion was common enough and considered quite proper.

At the conclusion of her lecture Mme. Scalera promised to present more facts concerning feminism of the first century in future addresses.

The Egyptian Struggle

MME. FAHMY BEY WISSA, Egyptian feminist leader, writes concerning the movement in her country:

"In fighting for the freedom of their country the Egyptian women have won their own rights, and the veiled women now have as much freedom as they want. A committee of more than 1000 women has formed the Delegation des Dames, authorized to speak in the name of feminine Egypt. This delegation has given great aid in freeing the Zagloutist leaders who had been exiled to the Seychelles and also in liberating prisoners at Cairo. Some members of this committee made eloquent pleas at The Residence in favor of the condemned. At parliamentary sessions boxes are reserved for women visitors, where they are moreover allowed to assist the debates, which they follow with much interest."

A Woman Aide to the President

A WOMAN, Senorita Cholita Gonzalez, has been appointed private secretary by President Calles of Mexico. The position is of even more importance than the similar one in the United States. There have been occasions when the presidential private secretary in Mexico has been called upon to issue military orders or to represent the President in other matters of equal or greater importance. Miss Gonzalez is an enthusiastic feminist who has taken a leading part in the movement in Mexico. She took an active part in Calles' campaign also, and her influence in the new administration is certain to carry great weight.

Island Ruled Entirely by Women

TIBURON, an island in the Gulf of California, is ruled entirely by women. The inhabitants are a remnant of the Sevis tribe of Indians, formerly numbering about 5000, but now shrunken to a few hundreds. They live in almost complete isolation and refuse to marry any of the Indians of the mainland. The woman is head of the household, and a council of matrons conducts public affairs.

Feminism in London Politics

AT least 26 women will be candidates at the approaching triennial election for the London County Council. The present body has been strongly anti-feminist and an effort is being made to elect a more progressive body. The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship has issued a questionnaire to candidates in which the question of equality is emphasized. The candidates are asked if they favor removal of disqualifications of women for a number of posts under the council, if they oppose compulsory retirement of women employes on marriage, if they favor equal pay for equal work, and if they favor equality in other ways.

Same Old Political Game

A BILL granting municipal suffrage to French women has been introduced in the Chamber of Deputies by M. Fontanier, representing le Cantal. It is not expected to become law, however, and is apparently looked upon by leading suffragists as a cheap political gesture.

No More Yeomanettes

YEOMANETTES in the United States Navy have been abolished. The Naval Reserve Bill, passed during the closing days of the recent session of Congress, eliminates them.

What Women Can Do

A SURVEY of occupations in which women are engaged has been made by the International Quota Club, an organization of business and professional women. This shows that there are at least 504 ways of earning a living from which the sex barrier has been removed. There are women farmers, lawyers, bankers, bicycle makers, contractors, boat builders, automobile manufacturers, aeroplane builders, chemists and chemical manufacturers, coal dealers, rolling mill superintendents, electricians, detectives, civil engineers, surveyors, engravers, impressarios, furriers, sales agents of various kinds, musical instrument manufacturers, druggists, dentists, barbers, hairpin manufacturers, house wreckers, linotype operators, molders, tanners, machinists, chauffeurs, street railway conductors, motormen, plumbers, bricklayers, policemen, lithographers, junk dealers, painters, show-card writers, etchers, acetylene welders, automechanics, designers, meat packers, steeplejacks, lumber dealers, opticians, upholsterers, furniture repairers, carpenters, cabinet makers, commission merchants, hotel keepers, tire dealers, oyster packers, marble cutters, soap makers, and many other occupations too numerous to list. In fact, a list of lines in which women have not yet entered would now be comparatively short. Another ten years may see it eliminated entirely.

Small Vote in Chicago

ONLY 480 votes were cast for women candidates for aldermen in Chicago at the municipal election in Chicago on February 24 out of a total of nearly 500,000. However, there were but three women running and these were on independent or minor party tickets, which explains the poor showing.

International Conference Announced

THE Sixth International Neo-Malthusian and Birth Control Conference will be held at the Hotel McAlpin, New York City, March 25 to 31, under the auspices of the American Birth Control League. The program committee consists of Leon J. Cole, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin; E. M. East, Ph.D., Harvard University; C. C. Little, S.D., University of Maine; W. F. Ogburn, Ph.D., Columbia University, and Adolph Meyer, M.D., and Raymond Pearl, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University. Many distinguished speakers will present papers.

Edna St. Vincent Millay

By Genevieve Taggard

Life must go on,
And the dead be forgotten;
Life must go on,
Though good men die;
Anne, eat your breakfast;
Dan, take your medicine;
Life must go on;
I forget just why.

The first stanza of *Portrait by a Neighbor* runs in a well-known but hitherto unexpressed groove:

Before she has her floor swept
Or her dishes done,
Any day you'll find her
A-sunning in the sun!

The *Poet and His Book* turns sharply to the invisible audience often unconsciously addressed:

Women at your toil,
Women at your leisure
Till the kettle boil,
Snatch of me your pleasure,
Where the broom straw marks the leaf;
Women quiet with your weeping
Lest you wake a workman sleeping,
Mix me with your grief!

Miss Millay is what she asserts herself to be, nothing primarily but a poet, very busy and hard put to it to keep herself traveling light enough to suffer no diminution of that complicated power. But because the world is still sifted deep with the old, out-grown conception, and because in the English lady's past her poetry was often like her embroidery, we have an audience now that minimizes this lyricism. In an article a year ago in the *New Republic* Miss Amy Lowell lamented that the new school of poetry, of which Miss Millay is the chief figure, was essentially a feminine and minor affair, claiming for her own the adjectives major and masculine. Subjective poetry for Miss Lowell is, according to the article, always, or usually, minor. These distinctions are so curiously interwoven with all manner of popular synonyms and prejudices that they eventually take themselves off without a murmur of protest from me, even when later on in the article another related idea rears its head—Miss Millay lacks intellectuality! I console myself with the loss of this blue-stocking virtue and take down *Aria da Capo*, *The Lamp and the Bell*, or reread the *Sonnets from An Ungrafted Tree*.

Aria de Capo, written long before the existence of the American expressionistic play is, while small, perfect, of the age, and revolutionary.

An hour with this play makes it apparent that Miss Millay has no difficulty in being a poet when she is writing a

drama. The next notable fact is that she is exceedingly dramatic throughout even her most gossamer poetry. Always it is the gesture, never a static picture. Even the massive sandal of Beauty is remembered as set on stone. *Prayer to Persephone* would be wrong and ruined without the gesture and the descending cadence of the last utterance:

Be to her, Persephone,
All the things I might not be;
Take her head upon your knee.
She that was so proud and wild,
Flippant, arrogant and free,
She that had no need of me,
Is a little lonely child
Lost in Hell,—Persephone
Take her head upon your knee;
Say to her, "My dear, my dear,
It is not so dreadful here."

The common confusion of which Miss Lowell's remarks are an example comes from a misunderstanding of the driving force behind the whole lyric impulse. An eternal feud between centripetal and centrifugal forces sunders and reunites all magical expression. There is one impulse for control and its antagonistic impulse for abandon, one pressing inward, the other exploding at the center. This battle holds the little atom of creative intensity almost quiet because of its balance. If either gain the upper hand entirely, the moment of creation is destroyed. To despise lyric poetry or call it personal—and this, I think, is what many people are doing when they say subjective—is to miss the point of its being uttered at all. A Doionian abandon, a sharp lyric cry may sum up all the slow-moving objective meanings and purposes. Lyric poetry by its very fragility and singleness of voice can achieve an intimate universality that ponderous magnificent masses only build up to. With the Greeks the instinct for control and form perfected itself in their drama. At the end and peak of drama a song like this *Mariposa* (which was written for *The Lamp and the Bell*) is all that is left to be said:

Butterflies are white and blue
In this field we wander through.
Suffer me to take your hand.
Death comes in a day or two.

All the things we ever knew
Will be ashes in that hour,
Mark the transient butterfly,
How he hangs upon the flower.

Suffer me to take your hand.
Suffer me to cherish you
Till the dawn is in the sky.
Whether I be false or true,
Death comes in a day or two.

WOMEN have borne poets and evoked poetry, but how few of them have written it! And for the simplest possible reason. We are coming to know that you cannot separate the creative fibre. All the nervous vitality that flows into a great poem begins in physical fertility, just where in the past it has almost always ended. In short, the creative woman before our time usually had twelve children; she seldom wrote poetry. After thirty, whatever her creative dimensions, she probably did not even read it. Children are tangible, insistent, appalling actualities, and their reality has a way of hushing the intensity that lies behind all abandon. Counting Sappho first, although she is really little more than a shadowy symbol, we find in consequence the meagre list in our own tongue Emily Brontë, Christina Rossetti and Elizabeth Barrett—none of them very adequate to our desire.

And then—suddenly, quite dazzlingly, in America, Emily Dickinson and Edna St. Vincent Millay.

I turn directly to Edna Millay to avoid, perhaps, all the temptation to contrast her with Emily Dickinson—a task so subtle and at the same time so full of pure generic extremes that nothing short of a long essay would suffice. Forgetting all likenesses and differences then, there remains one that is big and significant. Edna Millay is really the first woman poet to take herself seriously as an artist. Even Emily Dickinson, for all her strength and self-knowledge, refused to do that, except at midnight, when alone, like a burglar or a miser, she gloated over her riches.

Edna Millay is, if you love the truth of exaggeration, a new thing under the sun. Or at least the first of her sort for a long time. Perhaps in Crete before Sappho's day, in the large-minded matriarchate, there were women who achieved all the qualities of the artist that we now find ourselves calling masculine. But to get nimbly away from adjectives and vague speculation, let us look at some of this lyric poetry. Find, if you can, in another poet, a theme like this *Lament*:

Listen, children:
Your father is dead.
From his old coats
I'll make you little jackets;
I'll make you little trousers
From his old pants.
There'll be in his pockets
Things he used to put there,
Keys and pennies
Covered with tobacco;
Dan shall have the pennies
To save in his bank;
Anne shall have the keys
To make a pretty noise with.

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

To remove all forms of the subjection of women.

THE LUCRETIA MOTI 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.

An Ultra-Male Resolution

THE importance of having women in positions of authority where the public service is concerned is well exemplified in the results of the Conference of Venereal Disease Control officers of the State health departments and the United States Public Health Service, held at Hot Springs, Arkansas, December 1, 2 and 3, 1924, under the auspices of the United States Public Health Service. Conspicuous among the members of this conference were Dr. George Walker of Baltimore, perhaps the most prominent advocate of chemical prophylaxis in this country, and a large number of gentlemen representing commercial manufacturing chemists. Women were conspicuous exclusively by their absence.

One of the most far-reaching results of the conference was the passage of a resolution declaring in part,

"And whereas experience has also shown that education and measures for the control of environment can be aided by the incorporation of measures for immediate disinfection of those exposed to these diseases, which measures have been proved to be scientific and practicable.

"Be it resolved, That greater efforts now be made by officials and voluntary agencies to devise and demonstrate community procedures to this end, and be it further resolved that a special committee be appointed to facilitate such efforts."

In other words the Public Health Service is again to undertake, at the expense of the taxpayers, the impossible task of making vice safe for men. Since prophylaxis, and especially the prophylactic station, necessarily involves a double standard of morality, and governmental connivance at vice in its most unashamed form, it is astonishing that the men in control of one of the most vital departments of the public service should dare to give "community" chemical prophylaxis official endorsement. The National Woman's Party demands a single standard of morals for both men and women and time will show that this principle is fundamental to all "scientific and practicable" measures designed to limit the spread of venereal disease.

When Doctors Disagree

IN a recent number of the Journal of the American Medical Association an amusing contrast between the man's and woman's point of view on the feminine sex is presented.

Sir W. Arbuthnot Lane claims that the primary factor in the development of cancer is the degeneration of women by civilization. "The poor, badly nourished thing," he says, "has lost most of the normal physical characters which are such a marked feature in the magnificently built savage; her capacity to bear and produce children has become complicated by much trouble and innumerable sequelae which too often make life miserable; her sexual characters are very defective. She is degenerating also in size, so that the vast majority of them are puny and insignificant." The women of today he holds responsible for various other ills. Their brains are overstimulated by what is called education, by unsuitable foods, and by drugs; in consequence, the mortgage entailed by their sex makes an abnormally heavy demand on them. They are unable to provide sufficient nourishment for their offspring, and are obliged to fall back on the deleterious combinations provided for them by food chemists.

On the other hand, "our women are progressing toward the truest and fullest womanhood," says Winifred Cullis, the first woman professor of physiology at the London School of Medicine for Women, who has had an extensive experience of women of all classes and ages. It is nonsense to say that the woman of today is degenerating physically or in any other way, she declares. "On the contrary, my experience is that women and girls were never so fine physically as they are now. The women of 1924 are physically superior to the women of a quarter of a century ago, and are steadily improving in physique and healthfulness. In every way my experience as a physiologist testifies to that fact. For instance, those bad cases of anemia which used to be so frequent a few years ago have almost entirely disappeared. The principal reason for this is that women have learned to lead more natural and healthy lives. Their clothes are more sensible. The modern girl could not play tennis or hockey if she could not breathe. Another point is that the girl of today eats more than her grandmother did. In the old days it was considered not nice for a girl to eat heartily."

It will not take any member of the National Woman's Party long to decide which authority speaks from the facts! But suppose there were no women doctors?

Equal Rights Greet Inaugural Visitors

BECAUSE of the cold winds on the evening preceding the inauguration of President Calvin Coolidge, "voiceless speakers" had to be substituted to some extent for street meetings in the interests of Equal Rights.

As it was too cold to expect crowds to listen very long to the women who spoke intrepidly against the biting winds, members of the National Woman's Party, assisted by young girls and one small boy, wearing the purple, white and gold of the party, carried large placards presenting their demands for equality all through the crowded thoroughfares of the capital. Automobiles drove slowly up and down Pennsylvania and Connecticut avenues, and around the Capitol and the White House, carrying the message in windows and on the front of radiators.

The placards said:

"President Coolidge and the Republican Party have the responsibility of the Equal Rights Amendment."

"Mr. President, What will you do about Equal Rights?"

"The President and his party can give women equal rights."

"Women demand equal guardianship of their families."

"Women demand equal control of their children."

"Women demand equal control of their property."

"Women demand control of their own services."

"Women demand control of their own earnings."

"Women demand equal pay for equal work."

"Women demand the right of jury service."

In addition to these "voiceless speakers," Maud Younger, Margaret Whittemore, Amelia Himes Walker, Mrs. Waters, Mrs. Almira Sweeten, Sophie Meredith and Vivian Simpson made short addresses to street crowds. Among the visitors at headquarters during the inauguration were: Mrs. Meredith of Virginia; Mrs. Waters, Mrs. Walker and Mrs. D. R. Hooker of Baltimore; Bertha Harrington Koon, chairman of the Detroit (Mich.) Branch of the Woman's Party; Mrs. W. E. Barkley of Lincoln, Neb.; Mrs. Myra Osborn of New York, and Mrs. MacKenzie and others of Detroit, who interviewed Senators Ferris and Conzons on the Equal Rights Amendment.

Mary Macarty and Helen S. Rapley spent inauguration day selling peanuts, candy and chocolates to hungry crowds who were watching the ceremonies. The proceeds are being used to help furnish the Founders' Room.

Woman's Party Headquarters wore gala attire for the inauguration. The great

banner bearing the words, "Men and Women Shall Have Equal Rights Throughout the United States," hung across the front of the building. From every window waved the purple, white and gold.

Pharisees and Publicans

The well-to-do wife of a wealthy pork-packer,
With millions and millions of dollars to back her,
Well-manicured, scented and gowned in the best
That Paris can send her and taking her rest
While lolling in limousine, cushioned and cosy,
With lips from her lip-stick all dewy and rosy
Looks down on a street-crowd, quite shabby and shady,
Encircling a soap-box where piercing-voiced lady
Demands with a yelp (to compete with the trolley)
Full justice to women ("What consummate folly!")
And Women for Congress (Was ever such babble?)
Equal Pay, Equal Rights (loud applause from the rabble).

A comfortable female in sheltered position,
With plenty of gold and a great lack of vision,
May forget a Reformer both holy and human,
Who oft in his time urged full justice to Woman.
But we who are bearing the brunt of the battle
In the North and the South, from New York to Seattle,
May comfort our souls with the pleasing reflection,
Though our views in High Life meet with speedy rejection,
Though our chat makes the haughty feel sickly and sadly,
Yet the People, Plain People, Plain Folks, hear us gladly.

—Mary Winsor.

"Women demand equal control of government offices."

"Women demand equal educational opportunities."

"Women demand the right to choose their own voting residence."

A Just Demand

By Ruby A. Black

EQUAL RIGHTS for policewomen was asked by Mrs. Mina C. Van Winkle, Director of the Woman's Bureau and the House of Detention of the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, speaking before a large audience at Woman's Party Headquarters on March 1.

"The Director of the Woman's Bureau has more people under her command than have some of the other bureaus. We believe that the head of the Woman's Bureau should have the same rank and pay as the heads of other bureaus, and should be directly responsible to the Chief of Police, as the heads of other departments are," Mrs. Van Winkle said.

The power to do more protective-preventive work than the bureau now has was also urged as necessary if the Wom-

an's Bureau is to fulfill its function in preventing minors from committing crimes.

"The policewoman in a store knows when a woman is going to steal. She sometimes knows it before the shoplifter herself does. But she has to wait till the woman has stolen, and then arrest her. She would be personally liable, and the shopkeeper and the Director of the Woman's Bureau would be liable, if the woman were touched before she had stolen. We should be able to prevent crime, not merely to punish it," Mrs. Van Winklesaid.

Mrs. Van Winkle told stories of the methods used by the Woman's Bureau in taking young boys and girls from bad moral environments, and in giving delin-

quent minors and women another chance.

"We have lent money to more than a thousand boys, girls and women to help them get a new start. We have never lost a cent. We have lent money to shoplifters and thieves, but they have always paid back. We have had women brought before us as shoplifters who were the wives of clergymen. We had a school teacher, a social worker from the Middle West, a newspaperman's wife and a newspaperman's daughter. Would it have been better if we had brought these women into court, injured the church, lost the school teacher's job, discredited the newspaper and social work? We did not do that. We gave them another chance, and they all made good.

"Of 120 women who have been under our supervision since the early days of

the bureau, 113 have remained adjusted all this time, just because we gave them another chance. They come to the Woman's Bureau for help and friendship, and they always get it."

Mrs. Van Winkle denied that the Washington policewomen use decoy methods to arrest men "mashers," but admitted that New York and St. Louis policewomen use such methods.

"We have been fortunate in that we have had the whole-hearted support of all three chiefs of police since we have been in existence. Eight of the nine district commissioners under whom we have functioned have supported us."

Mrs. Van Winkle told how in the early days of the bureau a district commissioner who wanted to be reappointed

went to an influential newspaper which opposed the Woman's Bureau and offered to abolish the bureau if the paper would support him for commissioner. The newspaper, however, came to Mrs. Van Winkle and told her of the incident, and the commissioner went out and the bureau continued.

Mary MacSwiney, sister of Terence MacSwiney, who died while on a hunger strike in Ireland, spoke of the condition of women in Ireland.

"Women in Ireland have had Equal Rights since before the advent of Christianity," she said. "When feudalism came, with its chivalry, which meant only slavery for women, an effort was made to establish the system in Ireland, but it did not work. Under English rule, women

Industrial Hearing at Albany

THE hearing on the Mastick-Shonk Bill, limiting the gainful labor of women and female minors to 48 hours a week, offers a singular opportunity to determine at first hand the attitude of working women toward sex limited protective legislation. This hearing was held in the assembly chamber, Albany, N. Y., on February 25, before the joint committees of Labor and Industry of the New York Assembly and Senate. It was an unusually dramatic occasion. For the first time in three years the Woman's Party was the aggressor, and the proponents of the bill were markedly on the defensive. In order to enable our readers to follow the argument through for themselves we propose to print the transcript of the hearing in abridged form in our columns. The first installment, appearing herewith, includes the speeches of the working women who appeared in opposition to the 48-hour bill. Excerpts from the speeches made by Woman's Party members and by the proponents of the bill will appear in subsequent issues of EQUAL RIGHTS.

Mrs. Rheta Childe Dorr, feminist, journalist, author, presided over the forces opposed to the bill.

Mrs. Anna du Puis—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Committee: I am a worker at the Cluett-Peabody Company of Troy. A poll among our women workers shows the following result: Total vote cast, 2326; for the measure, 980, or 30 per cent; against the measure, 2256, or 70 per cent. I also have figures for Corliss Kuhn & Company: 100, no; 10, yes. I also have it for C. W. Ferguson & Company: 148, no; 1, yes.

Mr. Mastick—Do you know how many hours they work now?

Mrs. du Puis—50½ a week.

Miss Janet Tate—At the request of Assemblyman Donohue, we had a vote cast on the 48-hour bill. Total votes cast, 755;

against, 633; for, 122; or 84 per cent. against and 16 per cent. for the bill.

The Chairman—How many hours a week do you work there?

Miss Tate—When we are working full time, 50½ hours.

Mr. Hackenburg—What is the objection to reduction of hours? You must have something in your mind on that point. We would like to know what it is.

Miss Tate—In the shirt and collar industry we have dull seasons and we have busy seasons, and a girl likes to make just as much money as she can. *Her object in working for a living is just exactly the same as a man's object—her pay envelope at the end of the week. We feel that a girl should be allowed to work just as many hours as a man. Why should we have a separate bill for women?*

Miss Edith Wilcox—Vote taken at the shirt and collar factory of Hall & Hartwell Company showed the following: No, 223; yes, 57.

Mr. Mastick—How many hours a week do you work now?

Miss Wilcox—About 50½ hours, when we are working full time.

Mr. Hackenburg—Do you think it would reduce your wages if the hours are reduced?

Miss Wilcox—That is a question.

Mr. Hackenburg—You are afraid of that?

Miss Wilcox—Well, we don't know. I could not answer that question.

Mr. Hackenburg—Did not that fear enter into the poll that you took?

Miss Wilcox—We did have that fear, but I could not answer that question.

Miss Mary Ives—I am from the Lion Collar & Shirt Company of Troy, N. Y. The result of our poll: Total votes cast, 170; 150 opposed the measure, 20 favored the measure.

Chairman—How many hours do you work now, full time?

were in an inferior position under the English law.

"The Declaration of Independence of the Irish Republic," Miss MacSwiney said, "gave absolutely equal political, legal and civic rights to women—equality in every respect.

"When a great national struggle is taking place, the sex and class struggles disappear. Therefore, the woman's movement is inactive in Ireland now."

"Women's place in politics is to put honor in politics," Miss MacSwiney continued, "and unless we can do that, we had better stay out. But it can be done."

Margaret Whittemore presided, and announced the plans for the street meetings held for Equal Rights on the eve of the inauguration of President Coolidge.

Miss Ives—Full time, 49½ hours.

Mr. Hackenburg—Can you give us any reason why you oppose this bill?

Miss Ives—We are perfectly satisfied with the conditions as they are now.

Mr. Mastick—What proportion of the year do you work full time? More than half a year?

Miss Ives—Not at present.

Mr. Mastick—How many hours a week are you working on now?

Miss Ives—49½ hours.

Miss Ann Bassett—I am from Van Zandt, Jacobs & Company, Troy. The total vote on the proposed bill was 195; against, 183; for, 12.

Mr. Mastick—How many hours a week do you women work now?

Miss Bassett—For the last two years we did not work 30 hours a week.

Mr. Mastick—What do you work when you work full time?

Miss Bassett—54 hours. We are very well pleased with it.

Mr. Hackenburg—Would you rather work 54 hours than 48?

Miss Bassett—Yes.

Miss Facticeau—I work in a factory that makes woodenware. I work 54 hours a week, and I am against this 48-hour law because it would mean cutting down the wages, because we are on piecework. It is not necessary to protect my health.

Mr. Miller—How many girls work in your factory?

Miss Facticeau—About 250.

Mr. Mastick—Do you now work 54 hours a week?

Miss Facticeau—Yes.

Mr. Hackenburg—And are you satisfied to work 54 hours a week?

Miss Facticeau—Yes.

Mr. Mastick—Did you take a vote?

Miss Facticeau—No.

Mr. Miller—Have you talked it over with the other girls?

Miss Facticeau—Oh, yes. Their health

has not been damaged or hurt by it. They say, "Why work 48 hours when it would only mean cutting down our wages?"

Mr. Hackenburg—How long have you been working there?

Miss Facticeau—Three years.

Miss Anna Smith—I am from Tupper Lake. I work for the same mill as the young lady who has just spoken to you. I do not want the 48-hour week, because it would cut down our wages. My work is piecework, and in working 54 hours I think it doesn't hurt me. We do not stand or sit steadily, and I think that no other girl in the mill has ever complained of working 54 hours a week.

Mr. Boyle—How many girls work there?

Miss Smith—245.

Miss Emily Davis—I am from the Mohawk Carpet Mills of Amsterdam. There are about 2500 women employed in the carpet industry there. I think the majority of them are perfectly satisfied with the 54 hours that they are working, and they think that a reduction in hours would mean a reduction in money; and, of course, with the present cost of living, we cannot do with less money. We need money to live.

Mr. Goodrich—What is the average in piecework of the 2500 workers?

Miss Davis—I could not tell you the average of the 2500. The average of the department where I work is about \$33 or \$34 a week. * * * *It is utterly impossible to get the work ready (for the men) if the women have a 48-hour week and the men work 54 hours a week.*

Mr. Hackenburg—Would not the result of that be employment of more women?

Miss Davis—That would be a good thing, of course, but in some of the operations you cannot get women so easily. In the operation that I do it takes a woman, or anyone, about two years to learn, and you cannot pick them up.

Mr. Hackenburg—Let me ask you a question. You are not a young girl like the others who have spoken to the committee so far.

Miss Davis—No.

When Women Disagree

Albany Evening News, February 26.

WHEN women disagree, what are men to do?

The legislative hearing yesterday made plain that women are very much divided in opinion on the bill for a forty-eight-hour week for working women. And the weight of argument seemed to be with the opponents of the measure.

It seems to be a question now of equality in opportunity and in hours. Those

Mr. Hackenburg—Don't you think working, year in and year out, 54 hours a week, must necessarily affect women's constitutions?

Miss Davis—Well, I have worked 17 years at the Mohawk Carpet Company myself, 54 hours a week, and I don't think I have been any the worst for it.

Miss Edith G. Waterman—I have worked for Wood & Brooks 18 years. In that 18 years I have handled anywhere from 100 to 125 girls. I have 10 girls on my payroll, and out of those 10 girls—they are all pieceworkers—they all agree that *this 48-hour law would harm the women in our plant, because our work mingles with that of the men, and it is required that the men and the women should work the same number of hours. If not, and if this law is enforced, the result will be that all of the women will be replaced by men.* I cannot see why a woman is not just as capable of holding a position as a man. All of our girls are pieceworkers, and they wish and desire the 54-hour week of working, and they are glad of the opportunity to do the work. We are now working only 49 hours. Our business is slack. When we do work this 54 hours we put in six days a week. Now we are only working 5½ days.

Mr. Hackenburg—How many weeks of the year do you work 54 hours?

Miss Waterman—We have not worked 54 hours for one year. Only five days and a half. In some of our departments there, where we are employing from 200 to 250 girls, they are only working four days a week now. We have every comfort in the plant, even to a restaurant; and on an average, when we are working 54 hours, there is not a girl in the whole department but that takes one day off a week—not a girl that puts in that 54 hours a week.

The Chairman—How many girls are employed in the plant?

Miss Waterman—We have in our plant 225 girls.

Miss Catherine Converse—I am from Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and represent the girls and women of the Schatz Manufac-

turing Company and the Federal Bearings Company, and we are strongly opposed to a bill being passed which will permit us to work but 48 hours a week. Most shops are operating on a basic week of 48 to 50 hours, and we are glad of an opportunity to work 4 to 6 hours a week overtime, when it is required by our employers. The duties assigned to us are not in any way injurious to our health, and each job is selected so that it can be performed without tiring the person. I have talked with a number of girls outside of our own organization, and they are all very much against their work being limited to 48 hours a week.

The Chairman—How many are employed in this plant which you represent?

Miss Converse—We have 50 girls working steady.

Mr. Goodrich—Working full time?

Miss Converse—Working full time now, but during the past summer only 33 hours a week.

Mr. Boyle—That is on piecework?

Miss Converse—Piecework and day work, too.

Then followed the employers' and manufacturers' representatives, who opposed the bill. There was nothing new in their opposition. Their primary concern was for the industries involved. As was to be expected, they showed little or no concern over problems which were uppermost in the minds of the women—the well-being of the workers. The only exception to this was Mr. W. R. George of the George Junior Republic who said, in part:

"As to the question of the sexes, I may say that the day of the fragile girl has passed. I know that they are quite able to hold their own in almost anything—even in physical contests—in these days, and we are in no need of this sob stuff about hours, and all that. That is going a little bit too far. I will bet on the American girl when it comes to holding up her end, at any time, in anything that goes."

(To be continued)

From The Press

opposed to the measure do well to point out that when women work sixteen hours a day at home nothing is said about it, but when they work more than eight hours earning money outside of home much is said about it. And, as one woman put it, many of them want "legislation to help working women work," and they think it "time to stop sobbing over the woman with a job and do a little sobbing over the one without a job."

That is one side of the case. The other

side was based on protection of women and many arguments were advanced. Enough was brought out to prove that sentiment is not united in favor of a forty-eight-hour week. There is something in the argument that everyone should be permitted to work as he or she wishes to work. And there is something, too, in the argument that with too many restrictions women may not have sufficient opportunities to work. The legislature has many things to consider before it acts on this bill.

News From The Field

MRS. GIFFORD PINCHOT, wife of the Governor of Pennsylvania, will speak to many women's clubs of her State urging support for the Equal Rights measures introduced into the Pennsylvania Legislature by the Pennsylvania Branch of the National Woman's Party. The Pennsylvania Federation of Women's Clubs has endorsed all the equal rights measures.

Emma Wold, secretary of the Legal Research Department of the National Woman's Party, who made the digest of the Pennsylvania laws affecting women, will speak at a series of meetings in Pennsylvania on the Pennsylvania laws discriminating against women. She spoke before the Republican Women's Council in Erie on March 4, Mrs. Svea Taylor, chairman of the Erie County Branch of the National Woman's Party, being in charge of the meeting.

On March 6 she spoke at Meadville, with Miss Beatty, chairman of the Crawford County Branch, in charge of the meeting.

Ella Riegel is legislative chairman in Pennsylvania.

THE House Furnishing Committee reports that the Virginia Room and the New Hampshire Room at National Headquarters of the Woman's Party are completed. The furniture for the Michigan Room is on its way to headquarters, the hooked rugs having already arrived. Mrs. John Jay White visited headquarters last week to make plans for furnishing the library, which will house the famous feminist library given to the National Woman's Party by Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont. New York is furnishing the library as its contribution to the headquarters.

THE members of the Buffalo Branch of the Woman's Party met at the home of Mrs. Robert M. Fotheringham recently and re-elected the following officers: Chairman, Mrs. Robert M. Fotheringham; vice-chairmen, Mrs. Mary Rumsey Movius, Mrs. Louise L. Kahle and Mrs. M. W. Tift, Mrs. C. A. Mueller and Mrs. Mary A. Morse; secretary, Mrs. John M. Lee, and treasurer, Miss Edna L. Sickman.

The committee which called on Senator Gibbs in connection with the bill now before the Legislature for the service of women on juries reported a hearing on the bill at Albany on March 3. A delegation was appointed to attend the hearing in support of the bill.

WIDE publicity is being given in Texas papers to the four bills which the Texas Branch of the National Woman's Party is having introduced into the Texas Legislature

The measures provide:

Equal guardianship of children.

Eligibility of women for jury service.

Full right of contract for married women.

Equal grounds for divorce for husband and wife.

Considerable attention has been drawn to the common law disability of married women by the necessity of Governor Miriam Ferguson's appearing in court, with the consent of her husband, to have her disabilities removed so that her contracts and official acts as Governor would not be attacked.

The present divorce laws in Texas provide that a man may divorce his wife for a single act of infidelity, while a wife may not divorce her husband unless he lives in open infidelity.

Rena Maverick Green is chairman of the Texas Branch, and Esther Warrick is secretary.

In connection with the articles in newspapers on the Texas measures, much mention is being made of the proposed Loretta Mott Federal Amendment, which reads, "Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

STRANGE news has come from Idaho and Colorado, which have the reputation of being progressive Western States. Idaho has indefinitely postponed the measure making women eligible to all kinds of jury service. Twenty-four voted to postpone the bill, 14 voted to consider and 10 did not vote. Senator L. E. Glennon introduced the motion to postpone the bill indefinitely after it had been reported out of the judiciary committee without recommendation.

The Colorado House Judiciary Committee refused to report out the Equal Rights bill introduced into the Colorado Legislature by Frank Mobley of El Paso county. Dr. Caroline Spencer of Colorado Springs appeared before the committee to speak for the bill, and pointed out the discriminations against women in the laws of Colorado. Mrs. Bertha Fowler of Colorado Springs is State chairman of the National Woman's Party.

While such news is depressing, it simply adds to the conviction that women's emancipation must come by amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

EMMA WOLD, secretary of the Legal Research Department of the National Woman's Party, spoke at Buffalo, N. Y., on March 7 on laws discriminating against women. Mrs. Janet Fotheringham, chairman of the Buffalo Branch, was in charge of the meeting.

MRS. GENEVIEVE ALLEN, organizer for the California Branch of the Woman's Party, reports that Assemblyman Walters has introduced for the branch three equal rights bills as follows:

A measure giving women employes equal pay with men employes in public employment;

A measure making 21 the age of majority for girls as well as boys; and

A measure giving the mother equal right with the father to appoint a testamentary guardian for their child.

According to Mrs. Allen the fact that the National Research Department sent the bills ready for introduction was of great assistance in facilitating the work of the California branch.

Two Million Dollar Fund Treasurer's Report

SHELDON JACKSON, *Treasurer*

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

RECEIPTS of National Headquarters, December 7, 1912, to March 1, 1925.

Contributions, membership receipts and other receipts, March 1, 1925, to March 7, 1925.

Mrs. B. W. Mayer, D. C.....	\$10.00
Per Headquarters Committee.....	25.00
Anonymous	1.00
John Pries, Colo.....	5.00
Miss Alice T. Barrett, D. C.....	1.00
Miss J. Patricia Sullivan, D. C.....	1.00
Miss Dorothy S. Johnston, D. C.....	1.00
Miss Else Gericke, D. C.....	1.00
Miss M. H. Lewis, D. C.....	1.00
Mrs. M. H. L. Wilmarth, D. C.....	2.00
Miss Lavinia L. Dock, Pa.....	5.00
Mrs. Hazel L. Nyman, D. C.....	45.00
Mrs. Myra Osborn, N. Y.....	3.00
Mrs. Ida L. Turner, Md.....	3.00
Miss Ernestine Parson, Colo.....	20.00
Rent of rooms at National Headquarters.....	112.50
Cash collection at Sunda yafternoon meetings	4.71

Total receipts, March 1, 1925, to March 7, 1925\$241.21

Total receipts, December 7, 1912, to March 7, 1925.....\$1,293,620.34

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