

Equal Rights

VOL. XII, No. 14
FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY,
MAY 16, 1925



Mrs. Margery Corbett Ashby

President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance and an ardent worker in the feminist movement. She was the guest of honor at a tea given on May 8 at National Headquarters, when there were present guests representing some seventeen countries.

Feminist Notes

King George Appreciates Feminist Effort

A RESOLUTION of congratulation to Mrs. Millicent Fawcett on the bestowal upon her by King George V of the Dame Grand Cross of the British Empire was adopted by the town council of her native Borough of Aldeburgh. The bestowal of the order was in recognition of self-sacrificing work in the cause of women.

French Women's First Vote

THE municipal elections in France, which took place on May 4, were the first in which women participated. This was made possible by the eleventh hour enactment of legislation by Parliament. The cable has failed to report to what extent women voters were responsible for the result which was favorable to the parties of The Left, thus giving encouragement and support to the government of Premier Painleve.

One Intelligent State Department

NOT all State departments having control of passport matters keep hemming and hawing over simple affairs as does Secretary Kellogg over the application of Ruby A. Black. Czecho-Slovakia, for instance, apparently allows common sense precedence over red tape and antiquated custom when passports are under consideration. Recently a Czech couple living in Vienna wished to visit their native land together with their two-year-old child who had been born in Vienna. The couple had been very careless in matters of religion and the child had not received a church christening. Consequently the Austrian officials refused to issue a passport for the child. Their argument was to the effect that since no christening certificate could be shown for the child, as Austrian law requires, they could not recognize its existence and passports cannot be issued for persons who do not exist. So the parents, casting respect for constituted authority and for red tape to the winds, left with their child for Czecho-Slovakia without a passport. Arrived at the border they found the Czech authorities ready to trust the evidence of their senses as to the baby's existence, even if it had no christening certificate. All questions as to its birth and parentage they held sufficiently answered by a statement from the sanatorium where it had been born. So parents and child were promptly admitted and are now at Prague. The Austrian authorities are still pondering, like Secretary Kellogg, over the deep and difficult problem.

Chinese Women Out of Their "Sphere"

COOKING is not a new occupation for women in America or Europe. In China, however, it seems to be, according to a story from Canton telling of a recent innovation, the opening of a restaurant by a woman with a woman cook and waitresses. The cook, so the story goes, proved a failure, as did all her successors of her sex, so that the proprietor has been compelled at last to hire a man. A cooking school for women has now been opened. Possibly there are scoffers in Canton pointing to this happening as evidence that cooking is a man's job and that women should stick to their natural work, such as plowing.

Mother's Nationality to Determine Child's

THE National Council of Switzerland has decreed that a child born in Switzerland of an alien father and Swiss mother shall be held as of Swiss nationality. Hitherto the nationality of the father was the determining factor regardless of other circumstances.

Japan Still a Backward Nation

JAPAN'S recently enacted "universal" suffrage law turns out to be but a partial suffrage measure. Women are barred from its provisions and the Government of Japan will derive its powers for the present from the consent of no more than half of the governed. This must seem ideal to American anti-feminists.

German Universities Becoming Feminized

THE latest statistics of German universities show an increased enrollment of women students. There are 7467 today as against 4056 in 1914. At the same time the enrollment of male students has to some extent fallen off.

A Feminist Minister

FOR the first time an active feminist is to be included among the foreign diplomats at Washington. He is Mahmood Sami Pasha, the newly appointed Minister from Egypt. The Minister, his wife and wife's mother are all reported as prominent in the movement in their own country.

Something New in Baltimore

FOR the first time in its history the Baltimore Chapter of the American Institute of Banking has elected a woman on its board of governors. She is Miss Hazel E. Foster.

Fannie Hurst a Judge

FANNIE HURST, eminent novelist and short story writer, has consented to be one of the judges of the Inter-collegiate Equal Rights Essay Contest, now being held by the students' council of the National Woman's Party. The other judges are Inez Haynes Irwin, Dean Emma Gillett, Lucy G. Branham, Zona Gale, Ida Clyde Clark, Mrs. William Kent, Mrs. John Dewey and Mrs. Cornelia bruere Rose.

In this contest \$100 will be awarded for the best essay of three thousand to five thousand words on the subject of Equal Rights. Any college or university student may take part. The contest closes June 15, 1925.

Miss Hurst is the author of "Lummo," which many critics regard as one of the most original and powerful pieces of modern fiction, as well as several other novels and many short stories. Miss Hurst is also an ardent advocate of Equal Rights.

On the Road at Mandalay

A REPORT from Mandalay states that Burmese women are being affected by the feminist movement in other parts of the world and particularly by happenings in India. Nothing in the way of organization has taken place as yet, but prevailing discontent is said to forecast early steps toward definite action.

Women May Send Proxies to Jail

THAT a woman convicted of violating a law may send her husband to serve her sentence may sound absurd and improbable, yet a press dispatch from Uniontown, Pa., tells of an actual occurrence of that kind. Three women were fined and given jail sentences for violating the State prohibition law. Their husbands appeared and asked the judge, E. H. Reppert, to let them serve instead, and the dispatch states, the judge agreed. The reason given was that the women were needed at home to look after their families. Apparently the presence and services of the men were not nearly so important.

An All-American Alliance

AN international women's organization, composed of delegates from all countries of the Western hemisphere, is one outgrowth of the international conference at Washington. The new organization is known as Inter-American Union of Women. The first president is Dona Bertha Lutz of Brazil.

Women in the British Civil Service

By Dorothy Evans

Editor's Note: Miss Evans is organizer for the Association of Women British Civil Servants; she was formerly secretary of the British section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She was organizer for the Women's Social and Political Union during the suffrage campaign in England; she is one of the most prominent of the younger feminists in Great Britain.



DOROTHY EVANS

WOMEN CIVIL SERVANTS are in the vanguard of the Equality Movement in England and are assaulting most strongly those restrictive barriers blocking their careers.

The Sex Disqualification Removal Act passed by Parliament laid down that "a person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from holding any civil or judicial office or post." Discretion was allowed to the Civil Service Commissioners by Orders in Council to make exception if considered desirable, and the said commissioners proceeded to make every woman established in the service an exception.

In spite of common belief to the contrary, women in our country show an undoubted desire to make careers for themselves. It is the plea for a chance to compete for responsible positions on equal terms with men which is pressed most ardently by women Civil Servants. It is the segregation of women and men on separate sections of the work which is the great hindrance they encounter. "Let us have done," they say, "with this cant about 'Women's work and men's work.'"

As in other paid occupations, the excuse of "protecting" women from arduous or harmful work is advanced for excluding them from employment. An example is the exclusion of women from the cable rooms of the Government Post Office on the ground that the night duties it involves are injurious to women. This work, we point out, was performed with great efficiency by women during the war. Since the war, however, the authorities have insisted upon reverting to the pre-war practice of excluding women from the cable rooms on the ground of "protecting" women. Against this spurious "protection," we are working with particular vigor. We are determined to retain the right to judge for ourselves whether an occupation is harmful to us or not. We observe that the male telegraphist who is so sure that the cable rooms are bad for women, is as complacent as other men when an infant or invalid in his family breaks his wife's nights.

Marriage is made the reason for immediate dismissal of women from the Civil Service. Their resignation is required on marriage. Yet the argument most frequently used in refusing the demand of women Civil Servants for equal pay and opportunity of advancement is that women cost the country money for training and that afterwards there is what is called "wastage" from their ranks, i.e., a proportion leave the service to marry. Yet this "wastage" consequent on marriage is compulsory! It is, moreover, as a matter of fact not more than 3 per cent per annum of the whole woman staff.

—and much of the work hitherto performed by women clerks has been allotted to this grade. Needless to say this is being paid on a very low scale. We all know the kind of pay considered adequate to occupations earmarked "women's work." Women clerks are given difficult and responsible work which is graded as clerical work and is paid for at the rate for clerical work, while similar work put in the hands of men is regarded as executive and paid for accordingly.

A COMMON seniority list is demanded by the women Civil Servants as a necessity if equal opportunity is to be obtained. Miss D. Smyth, honorary secretary of the Federation of Women Civil Servants in a pamphlet entitled "Equality in the Civil Service—A Case for a Woman Seniority List," says: "Under the separate establishment system we find that the woman Civil Servant has not only to wait longer for her promotion owing to the much smaller proportion of higher posts allotted to her side of the service, but that she is frequently doing the work of that grade, but at the lesser rate appropriate to the women of the grade below." She gives some striking figures of the number of higher posts held by men compared to the number of lower posts held by women.

"The 12,000 clerical men in the Service have nearly 5,000 higher posts above them, or a proportion of one to every 24 clerks; whereas the 5,000 clerical women have only 430 higher posts, or one to every 14 clerks."

An example of this situation is shown by the Ministry of Health where executive and administrative posts held by women in the various branches are:

Branch	Headquarters	No. of Posts	Women	Men
House Production and Slum Clearance		864	19	345
Pensions (including Hospitals, Workhouses)		37	No Women	All Men
Bath and Washhouses, Public Conveniences, Recreational Grounds, Refuse Disposal, etc.		10	No Women	All Men
Health (Nurses — Medical Research, etc.)		39	No Women	All Men
			No Women	All Men

Our women Civil Servants are pressing for (1) Common Recruiting Examinations; (2) Equal Pay; (3) No Segregation; (4) Equal Opportunity and Common Promotion Tests; in fact, a chance to match with men their capacity to make careers for themselves in the service. They do not confine themselves, moreover, to raising the status of women in the Civil Service but co-operate in the general campaign for equal rights, and no restrictions against women on the ground of sex, in the professional and industrial life.

Equal Rights



OFFICIAL ORGAN
of the
National Woman's Party
Capitol Hill
Washington, D. C.

Published weekly
at 19 West Chase Street
Baltimore, Md.

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Entered as second-class matter at Postoffice,
Baltimore, Md., under Act March 3, 1879.

Subscription, \$2.00 A Year

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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 18, 1923,
by REPRESENTATIVE D. B. ANTHONY.

The Sisterhood of Man

TO a visitor at National Headquarters, during the progress of the tea in Mrs. Ashby's honor on May 8, it might almost have seemed as if a new language were developing—the language of feminism. On that occasion guests were present from Australia, New Zealand, Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, France, Germany, South Africa, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Canada, Ukraine, Mexico, Porto Rico, South America, England and the United States. On one side you heard women discoursing in French, on another in German, farther off you couldn't catch at all what language it was, and yet everyone greeted everyone else as if they were old friends. A more companionable gathering never took place. New Zealand exchanged cards with Poland, Germany and France walked arm in arm, England and Czecho-Slovakia ate sandwiches from the same plate. National barriers did not exist, impediments in speech were lost in smiles and hearty handshakes. Feminists from the four corners of the earth had met and they were sisters. It was a heart-warming moment and made one wonder whether perhaps the sisterhood might not precede the brotherhood of man. The common interests of women are so vital, they lie so close to the well-being of the race, that their binding quality is more potent than is the case with men. The common interests of women are not dissipated by ambition, by egocentric desire, by commercialism; they are impersonal and altruistic. Peace, honor, a good environment for children to grow up in, equal opportunities for all, these are the things for which women really care.

The sisterhood of man—it is a new phrase, but we venture to predict that it predicates the next step upward for homo sapiens.

Standing Together

WHEN, on the occasion of the annual banquet of the New York Branch, April 30, Ida Clyde Clarke became a member of the National Woman's Party, she said, "It is only after long deliberation that I have decided to join the Woman's Party, for I am not by nature a 'joiner.' I belong to but few organizations. Two things, however, have convinced me that I should belong to yours. First, you know exactly what you want, and second, you have developed the technique for getting it."

Thus in a single sentence did Mrs. Clarke sum up the essentials that differentiate the National Woman's Party from most other organizations, whether of men or of women. To know "exactly what you want" in terms of social rearrangement is to demonstrate in unusual fashion the capacity of the human cortex. In addition to adapt the technique to the end is to introduce something relatively new in the conduct of human affairs.

As Mrs. Clarke implies most organizations looking to the transformation of the social order are either too diffuse in their objective or too confused in their method of work ever to arrive anywhere.

History itself is but one long parable on this theme. Over and over again humanity has indicated its intellectual incompetence consciously to guide its own affairs. People wished for peace; therefore they spent most of their substance preparing for war; they desired morality, therefore they tolerated open brothels; they yearned for justice and liberty, and themselves kept slaves. We find it in our heart to agree with the Webbs when they say that the planet Earth might easily pass for the lunatic asylum of the universe, for at what hideous cost has progress in the past been purchased. Rivers of blood, and then a little step forward, oceans of tears, and then a half pace more. A dreary and agonizing waste down the ages, the long trail toward liberty. In almost every instance even the ballot has come blood-drenched into the hands of men. Might against right ever in mortal conflict and both the combatants starkly blind.

But women, at least the women in the feminist movement, have developed vision. They see what they want and with wide open eyes they go directly toward their goal. No need for bloody revolution for them to win the franchise; no necessity for might to place right upon a tottering throne. The battle won is lost by the old method, as every feminist knows. If reason is to prevail, if justice is to dominate, if liberty is ever to be, the method of achieving these heights must be otherwise than it has been before.

There is a serenity that predicates success, a reasonableness that will withstand all contradiction, both in the objective and in the method of the National Woman's Party. Above the banquet table when Mrs. Clarke joined, inscribed on one of our victorious banners, were the words, "Women, standing together, will take their lives in their own keeping."

Hands Across the Sea

By Ruby A. Black

AT the conclusion of a charming tea given to delegates of the International Council of Women in the gardens of the National Woman's Party, on May 8, honoring Mrs. Margery Corbett Ashby, international president of the International Suffrage Alliance, an inspiring climax was reached when two Scandinavian delegates, Fru Clara Tybjerg and Froken A. Klemen, rose to declare their entire agreement with the equal rights program of the Woman's Party.

"Progressive women know that they can protect themselves," said Fru Tybjerg, referring to restrictive industrial legislation for women. "We want equality and organization, not legislative protection." Edith Houghton Hooker, editor of EQUAL RIGHTS, presided and introduced the speakers.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby spoke of the purposes of the International Suffrage Alliance, in which the Woman's Party has applied for membership. She said that the organization stands for equality and liberty for women throughout the world. Forty nations are represented in its membership.

"When we organized," she said, "we felt that we must get the vote before we could make any other advances. We knew that if we had the vote, these other things would be added unto us. It took us fifty years to get the vote in England, but those fifty years gave us sound political training.

"After we won the vote, we were about to disband, but the women around the Mediterranean and in South America said, 'But we are not yet enfranchised,' so we decided to continue our organization to work for equal rights, and to safeguard the advantages we had won.

"Now in twenty-eight of the countries represented women are enfranchised. Every year, in every country, women make some advances.

"We in Europe, think differently about the League of Nations from the way you in America think of it. We no longer discuss it. We just accept it as part of the mechanism for obtaining peace. During the Peace Conference, the International Council of Women and the International Suffrage Association sent a delegation to safeguard the rights of women in the formation of the League. As a result, we saw that all the offices are open to women. But we have to watch continually to see that the door stays open.

"Women have taken an especial interest in the International Labor Bureau. There as citizens of the world, women are working to achieve better labor conditions throughout the world."

Mrs. Corbett Ashby sketched the vary-

ing conditions in which they find themselves in the various countries represented: In Scandinavia women have most successfully accomplished equality in theory as well as in practice; in Australia the vote was won long ago, and women have long been working to improve conditions for children; in Egypt women still have to fight to gain a right to education; in France the fight is for suffrage and to abolish state regulation of vice; in Germany and Hungary women have, with the equality won under their new constitutions, fought against great odds for reconstruction, and have in great numbers entered political life.

FLORENCE BAYARD HILLES spoke on the aims of the Woman's Party.

"A New York lawyer recently said that the work of the Woman's Party concerns the whole human race. Seventy-seven years ago American women met at Seneca Falls and formulated an equal rights program. Soon the movement concentrated itself on the vote. After it was won, the National Woman's Party set out to finish the job, to see that all discriminations against women in law and in custom are removed," she said.

Mrs. Hilles described the ways in which the Woman's Party is working to attain equality — through the Equal Rights Amendment to the Federal Constitution, and through special laws in the several states. She quoted the statement of Senator Curtis, made when he introduced the resolution for the Federal Amendment into the Senate, urging that all legal inequalities be swept away at one stroke.

"When the Woman's Party started out to work for equal rights," Mrs. Hilles said, "we were surprised that seven women's organizations opposed us. While several reasons were given, they all centered around one thing. They opposed us because we demanded equality in industry. We held that so-called protective laws applied to women alone served only to limit women's opportunities in industry.

"I remember when I was legislative chairman of the Consumers' League in Delaware, we introduced a measure for the 44-hour-week for women in industry. Not a single laboring woman had asked us for it. Nobody had asked us. But the headquarters of the League in New York had sent out the 44-hour-week as one of its measures, and we introduced it.

"Just after we had introduced the measure, a committee of women working for the Pennsylvania Railroad asked us to abandon the measure, saying that they would lose their jobs if it passed.

"But do you think that, as welfare workers, we let that stop us? Not at all. We continued to work for it, but fortunately it failed of passage."

MRS. HILLES described the restrictions against women in various States. California is the only State which provides that women cannot be barred from any occupation. In Ohio women are barred from sixteen occupations—including anything which would require the lifting of weights of 25 pounds or more.

"I want to ask you mothers if you did not, when your children were young, have very frequently to lift weights of more than 25 pounds, and if you wanted any legislation to protect you from it?" Mrs. Hilles asked.

Mrs. Hilles told how girls enter the School of Mines in Colorado, but have to leave the State to practice their profession, as women cannot enter mines there except as visitors.

Speaking of customs discriminating against women, Mrs. Hilles referred to the former custom of insuring women only against fatal accidents, not against disabling accidents. She stated that this discrimination has now been removed from the largest agency selling accident policies to travelers, but said that one company still limits its benefits for disabling accidents to "women in business."

"The business of making homes is the greatest business in the world," Mrs. Hilles commented, "but the insurance company does not recognize it."

She told of a successful woman doctor who, when she leased a house, had to provide a man as a guarantor. Guarantors were not required for men. Her father signed the lease as her guarantor. A few months later her father was quite ill. His daughter, the successful physician, was supporting him, her mother, and herself, and paying his expensive hospital and doctor's bills, but still his name appeared on her lease as her guarantor!

"Just because a woman is not considered as having an economic value," she added.

"You are interested in peace," she concluded, "and I never like to talk about equality without talking about peace, too. During the war a noted war correspondent told me that the word most frequently heard from the wounded, lying on No Man's Land, was the word 'mother.' I want to say that if mother is called for on the battlefields, mother has a right to say whether or not there shall be battlefields. It is fine to work for peace. But we must work to be in a position to obtain peace. We can do it only through sharing in the control and direction of

governments, and sharing in the responsibility of governments for war and peace. That is why we must never stop working for equality till it is won."

Among the reports of progress toward equality made by women in various countries of the world reported at the International Council of Women were the following:

Dona Bertha Lutz, of Brazil, one of the outstanding women leaders of South America, traced a graphic story of the development of the women of that country. She described several recent victories won by women in Brazil, notably those granting opportunities for women in the universities and the placing of women under the Civil Service on an equality with men.

Froken Ingegerd Palme declared that in Sweden independent citizenship rights have been won for married women, equal pay for equal service under the Civil Service has been granted, and five women members are in the Reichstag.

More and more women are entering the professions in Great Britain, Mrs. George

Morgan, president of the National Council of England, declared. There are 300 justices of the peace in the kingdom, 2,029 school guardians and three women in Parliament, a number reduced from eight in the last elections.

Denmark, through the National Council of Women, has won the consent of the woman Minister of Education to introduce peace propaganda in the schools.

The Norwegian Council has asked that the Noble Peace Prize be awarded to the International Council of Women for its peace activities, according to Fru Betsy Kjelsberg, its president.

The Australian delegation at the I.C.W. has cabled its congratulations to the British House of Commons on "its unanimous acceptance of the right of a married woman to retain or change her nationality on marriage." They added that they would like to see Australia be the first to follow this vital and important step.

Among the members of the National Woman's Party in Washington attending the International Council of Women Quinquennial who attended the tea were:

Equal Rights

Margaret Baker, Ohio State chairman; Mrs. Mittong, State treasurer of the Missouri Branch of the N. W. P., who was a delegate to the council; Florence Bayard Hilles, who was a delegate from the Delaware Business and Professional Women's Clubs to the I. C. W.; Mrs. Adelaide Johnson, sculptor of the Suffrage Pioneers statue given by the National Woman's Party to the United States, who was one of the group who founded the International Council of Women in 1888, who was an honorary guest of the Council's Quinquennial; Mrs. Lillian Ascough of the Near East Relief, who recently spoke at the opening of headquarters at 2233 Park Boulevard, Detroit, for the Mid-western Equal Rights Conference; Mrs. Rowe, of Virginia; Mme. Kuyper, the Dutch orchestra leader, who is organizing an orchestra composed entirely of women; Dr. Aletta Jacobs, of Holland, leader in peace, feminist, and birth control movements there; and Mrs. Beatrice M. Mason, of South Africa. A large delegation of Maryland women attended the tea.

The Legal Dependence of Women

TODAY we are met together to rejoice in that forward-looking spirit and love of liberty which characterized brave "Little Rhody" in declaring her desire to throw off the yoke of dependence and inequality of the oppressor a full two months before the other colonies could make up their minds to take so drastic a step. We are proud of the pioneer enterprise of our forefathers and foremothers, for I have heard of no protests raised by the latter, and wish that the same spirit of virile independence might carry down through the ages. That it was not wholly lacking in the suffrage movement is manifest in the one little star in our crown, that of being the first State on the Atlantic seaboard to grant Presidential suffrage to women. We lost no time in endorsing the Nineteenth Amendment, but our newly acquired independence politically served but to open our eyes to other forms of dependence which must be fought in the years to come. I will not speak today of the many forms of the dependence of women resulting from environment, education or custom, save one to which I have given considerable attention during the past three years and which assumes greater magnitude upon closer inspection.

I refer to the legal inequality of women. The vote gave us much. It did not give us full independence, we have learned to our sorrow, in the eyes of the law either as citizens or persons. Legally women are very dependent in this ad-

An Address given by Mrs. Sara M. Algeo, a founder of the National Woman's Party, before the Rhode Island Citizens' Historical Association in the Old State House on May 4, Rhode Island's Independence Day.

vanced day and year of our Lord, May 4, 1925. We are indeed far in the rear of many of the States where partial realization has come that no true independence for women can be achieved until "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

THERE are but two women lawyers in Rhode Island. There are considerably more than four hundred men lawyers, a sad commentary upon the legal equality of women in our State. It needs but the most cursory glance at our laws to see how badly woman's view is needed. Masculine psychology, however, is not yet ripe for their admittance to the bar in any great numbers. We find for our encouragement in Boston and other large cities that many law firms have one woman member as a matter of good business. She attracts trade with her ready sympathy and understanding of feminine psychology.

The ordinary lawyer's viewpoint of flippant disrespect and querulous timidity toward this new invader in his chosen field is well typified by the following excerpt from Wellman's "Art of Cross Examination." Dedicated to his two young

sons and full of advice for their future careers as members of the bar upon this very important phase of the law, it seems that a more idealistic note might have been struck in reference to our sex than the following crafty warning:

"If the witness happens to be a woman and at the close of her testimony it seems she will be more than a match for the cross-examiner, it often works like a charm with the jury to practice upon her what may be styled the silent cross-examination. Rise suddenly, as if you intended to examine. The witness will turn a determined face toward you, preparatory to demolishing you with her first answer. This is the signal for you to hesitate a moment. Look her over good-naturedly and as if you were in doubt whether it would be worth while to question her—and sit down. It can be done by a good actor in such a manner as to be equivalent to saying to the jury, 'What's the use? She is only a woman.'"

Wherein, you may ask, does the legal dependence of women consist? I have already referred to one form which is peculiarly humiliating to women. There are too few women in the legal profession and those that are in have too hard a time to maintain their position against the adverse pressure of their competitors and the community, eager as always to present their thread-worn argument of woman's place in the home. At times certain women, though this species,

thanks be to suffrage, is growing rarer every day, try to assert their inferiority complex by retarding the professional advancement of their more aspiring sisters.

Until more women are fitted to fight their own battle for legal equality women can hardly expect to rectify their second form of dependence, legal inequalities which have been written into every existing form of law either in precise wording or by court decisions. Men stand together and against women in the legal world as elsewhere. Women have not as yet cultivated this virtue, or vice, as we may regard it, but we have no time today for lengthy discussion of that mysterious outcast called sex antagonism. Suffice it to say that the sooner women realize they must attain legal independence through a stronger grasp and more intimate knowledge of law for their own protection, the quicker will be their attainment of the goal marked "Equal Rights." The *International Suffrage News*, sums up our situation rather neatly:

"We cannot refrain from quoting the following remark made by Miss Agnes McPhail, the only woman member of the Dominion House of Commons in Canada. The question under discussion was a measure for giving women equality with men in regard to grounds for obtaining divorce. Miss McPhail said she distrusted the sincerity of men who spoke of women as 'the angels of the home.' I don't want

to be the angel of any home. I want for myself what I want for every woman—an absolute equality. Then we shall take turns at being angels."

IN Rhode Island we find numerous court decisions which are unjust to women either through the sickly sentimentality which exonerates through a sex appeal or unduly condemns when this appeal is lacking, or through general misunderstanding by one sex of the mental processes of the other sex group. No less an authority than the clerk of our Superior Court said that he looked forward to the time when women would serve on juries because now the judge himself cannot tell when woman are fooling him, let alone the juries. We find the following discriminations actually written into our laws:

Mothers cannot sue for the seduction of their daughters while the father is living.

Mothers do not have equal rights with fathers to services and earnings of their children.

While the rights of the married mother are thus curtailed, the unmarried mother is the sole guardian of her child.

A wife's services in the home belong to her husband. As she cannot make contracts with him in business he practically owns her wages in that capacity also.

Women teachers are discriminated

against in regulations and customs of school boards.

Women are excluded from jury service. I was amazed to find how even the men in our Legislature who are known throughout the community for their upright and honorable character shrink from rectifying our thoroughly bad laws in regard to illegitimate children. Rather than run the gauntlet of masculine prejudice in favor of such moral inequality, they are willing that innocent children should bear the full onus of their parents' depravity. The time is not far distant when legality and morality must bear a closer relation to each other if standards of living are to be raised.

How are women to attain legal independence? By exactly the same methods by which they secured the vote. By just what women throughout the nation are doing, hammering away without cessation at State and National laws. Ultimately, by writing the principle of equal rights for men and women into the Constitution of the United States may be disobeyed, but it is not ignored. The Lucretia Mott Amendment, "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction," is the safe and sane solution to this vexing problem of legal dependence now confronting the women of this country.

Woman's Party Aids Porto Rican Women

Porto Rico alone is empowered to enfranchise Porto Rican women.

"We found that on June 25, 1919, at the very time women in the United States were gaining suffrage, the legislature of Porto Rico passed an act limiting the suffrage to male citizens," Margaret Whittemore, vice-president of the National Woman's Party said:

"We of the National Woman's Party feel that helping the women of Porto Rico, who are American citizens, to obtain the suffrage is a part of our work for equal rights for all women subject to the jurisdiction of the United States," Miss Whittemore explained. The cablegram to Governor Horace Towner reads:

"National Woman's Party uniting with Porto Rican women, expect you as official United States representative to use all possible power to gain full immediate suffrage for women of Porto Rico in this legislative session.

(Signed) MARGARET WHITTEMORE,
"Vice-President, N. W. P."

The cablegram sent by the National Woman's Party to President Barcelo, of the Senate read:

"The National Woman's Party of the United States is gravely concerned at continued disenfranchisement of Porto Rican women citizens of the United States and calls upon you to insert the word 'female' wherever necessary in the election law to give Porto Rican women their right to vote by act of this legislature."

President Barcelo recently told a group of Porto Rican women who petitioned him for suffrage that respectable women in the United States do not vote. The women, though they have no vote, defeated him in their district as a result of his activities against suffrage.

Recently Governor Towner told the National Women's Press Club in Washington, that he would favor suffrage for women in Porto Rico on the condition that a literacy test be made prerequisite to voting. He said that he would advocate the literacy test for all new voters, both men and women.

Dr. Robert came to the United States for the sole purpose of seeing what could be done by the enfranchised women of the United States to enfranchise the women of Porto Rico.

News From The Field

A tour for equal rights will be begun by Margaret Whittemore and Lucy Branham on May 17. They will spend the first day in Baltimore where they will confer with Maryland leaders regarding the Detroit conference. They will drive their Ford on through Wilmington, Philadelphia, Lancaster, Leadville, Erie, Cleveland, Toledo, on to Detroit, to attend the Mid-Western Equal Rights Conference to be held there June 4-7; inclusive, conferring with local leaders along the way.

"THE WOMEN OF NORWAY" was the subject of an address by Mme. Signe Lund, of Norway, at a tea given by the California Branch of the National Woman's Party at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco on May 1. Mme. Lund, who was born in the cradle of the feminist movement, is a deep student of social problems, a fervid advocate of equal rights, and a musician, linguist, and lecturer. She is conceded to be Scandinavia's greatest living woman composer, having received a decoration from King Haakon in recognition of her work.

Mrs. William Kent is state chairman of California, and Genevieve Allen, California organizer, is chairman of the Program Committee.

At the hearing on the 48-hour week bill for women before the Committee on Labor and Industries of the New York Legislature, Mrs. J. W. Fitzgibbons, representing the Brotherhood of Railroad Enginemen of the State of New York, made the following statement, which was quoted in our issue of April 4th:

"In regard to the statement just made by Assemblyman Boyle, I think that it is very important that this point should be covered now. He asked Mr. O'Hanlon (of the American Federation of Labor), why he was opposed to equal rights between men and women. I believe that Mr. Boyle or any other member of this committee who is familiar with the constitution of the State, will readily see and determine that it is impossible to legislate for men * * *. The constitution today prohibits legislation for men * * * the Legislature has the right to legislate for women but not for men."

The Woman's Party representatives asked the Chairman for the opportunity to reply to this statement at the hearing, but owing to the limited time and the number of speakers to be heard, it was impossible to grant the request.

Since the hearing the New York State Committee has reminded Mr. Fitzgibbons that the statute limiting a day's labor on public work to eight hours was held to be constitutional in *People ex. rel Wil-*

liams vs. Metz (193 N. Y., 148, 1908); that the statute prescribing a six-day week in New York factories and mercantile establishments (Labor Laws, Sec. 8a) was pronounced to be constitutional, not to enforce religious observance, but "for the promotion of the public health and welfare." (*People vs. Klinck Packing Co.*, 214 N. Y. 121, 1915; *People vs. Fifth Avenue Coach Co.*, 184 App. Div. 936; 130 N. Y., 921, 1921); that all of the New York courts sustained the act limiting the employment of men in bakeries to a 10-hour day; that the United States Supreme Court held such act unconstitutional; that since then, in 1917, the United States Supreme Court has held the Oregon 10-hour law for "persons" constitutional, and that his statement at the hearing that it is unconstitutional to restrict the hours of men in industry was incorrect.

Correspondence

Adyar, Madras,
March 31, 1925.

Dear Editor:

I see in a recent copy of your paper, EQUAL RIGHTS, a paragraph written by a missionary from Mysore City, quoting various texts from the Laws of Manu, very much to the degradation of women, and bringing them forward as the Hindu idea of womanhood. This seems to be hardly a fair thing to do, for you know that, if one takes isolated texts from any scripture, one can prove almost anything. That is equally true of the Christian scriptures as it is of the Hindu. The following are also texts from the same Laws of Manu, which give exactly the opposite teachings from those quoted by our missionary friend:

"The Acharya is ten times more to be revered than the teacher, the father a hundred times more than the teacher, but the mother a thousands times more than the father." (Manu II: 145.)

"Women must be honored and adored by their fathers, brothers, husbands and brothers-in-law who desire their own welfare." (Manu III: 55.)

"Where women are honored there the gods are pleased, but where they are not honored, no sacred rites yield reward." (Manu III: 56.)

"Where female relations live in grief, the family soon wholly perishes; but that family where they are happy ever prospers." (Manu III: 57.)

You will see from these above quotations that exactly the reverse teaching is given from those mentioned in your note.

The majority of people in India are quite aware that there are many things

in the social customs that need changing in this country, as indeed there are in every country, and for any one who has lived in India for some years, it is a wonderful thing to see how rapidly bad customs, evils, prejudices and superstitions are changing, and there is a large body of enlightened men and women both within and outside the legislative and other councils who are working in every way possible for progress and freedom for the men and women of India. I trust that you will publish this letter, because we regret that quite a wrong impression should be given of Hindus and Hinduism from isolated passages of scripture. We know that you would not wilfully want to misrepresent India, and that you would be glad of a chance to give your readers another point of view.

Yours truly,
DOROTHY JINARAJADASA.

Two Million Dollar Fund Treasurer's Report

SHELDON JACKSON, *Treasurer*
NETTIE TRAIL: *C. P. A., Auditor.*

RECEIPTS of National Headquarters, December 7, 1912, to April 3, 1925, \$1,300,244.48.

Contributions, membership receipts and other receipts, April 3, 1925, to April 17, 1925:

Lydia A. H. Burklin, D. C.....	\$1.00
Miss Frances Berrien, Ga.....	15.00
Miss Florence C. Bell, D. C.....	.50
Mrs. Hans H. Dieckhoff, D. C.....	.50
Miss Frances Elliot Hickox, D. C.....	1.00
Miss Cora MacMullen, D. C.....	1.00
Mrs. Dwight Clark, D. C.....	25.00
Mrs. Ruth Baker Crothers, N. H.....	5.00
Miss Lavinia Dock, Pa.....	5.00
Miss Helen Hastings, D. C.....	1.00
Dr. Sallie E. McLeod, D. C.....	.50
Mrs. Emma Wilson Noel, D. C.....	1.00
Mrs. Alma P. Kower, Ariz.....	1.00
Mrs. Jack Hardin, Ill.....	1.00
Per Mrs. Eileen C. Erwin, Md.....	3.00
Miss Lella Enders, N. J.....	2.50
Mrs. Clara I. Boone, D. C.....	1.00
Miss May Dowling, N. Y.....	10.00
Miss Ada Lee Owens, Me.....	1.00
Miss Annie E. Plummer, Mass.....	1.00
Mrs. Dorothy C. Fox, Md.....	1.00
Mrs. E. M. E. Solly, Colo.....	20.00
Per Minnesota Branch:	
Miss Alice Henry.....	.50
Mrs. G. Phillip Sundby.....	.50
Mrs. James Manahan.....	.50
Mrs. Sarah G. T. Pell, N. Y.....	50.00
Dr. Helene Stoecker, Germany.....	1.00
Dr. Aletta Jacobs, Holland.....	1.00
Mrs. Lucy Karr Milburn, N. J.....	20.00
Rent of rooms at Headquarters.....	108.50
Sale of literature.....	2.05
Telephone receipts.....	.45
Per Equal Rights Committee:	
Dr. Caroline E. Spencer, Colo.....	10.00
Miss Mary Winsor, Pa.....	500.00
Total receipts, April 3, 1925, to April 17, 1925.....	\$792.50
Total receipts, December 7, 1912, to April 17, 1925.....	\$1,301,036.98

DAY PRINTING COMPANY

Printers

LIGHT AND LOMBARD STREETS
Entrance on Balderston Street
BALTIMORE