

Equal Rights

VOL. XII, No. 19
FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY,
JUNE 20, 1925



Conference of International Advisory Group to Woman's Party at American Women's University Club, Paris, France, in May. Left to right, standing, Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont and Simone Tery, French writer; seated, Madame Gabrielle Duchene, Vice-President Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Madame Malaterre-Sellier, Vice-President International Suffrage Alliance, and Alice Paul.

Feminist Notes

A Foreign View

DIE FRAU IM STAAT, Germany's feminist organ, has the following to say of the American movement:

"The most radical women's organization in America is the National Woman's Party. It fights uncompromisingly for equal rights for man and woman, traveling the ways of Lucy Stone, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Blackwell. The members of the National Woman's Party are making a hard fight not only against masculine opposition, but against that of the female sex. There are still in America surprisingly many women of the opinion that the State has the right to impose a thousand restrictions on occupational doings of woman, ostensibly in the interest of her eventual motherhood, and so deprive her of rights.

"Blind and deaf are these women to the fact that the State would apply this deprivation of rights only where well-paid work is involved, and would shove the women in other cases, without regard to motherhood, into the poorly paid occupations there to be exploited to complete exhaustion, so that the man may have the advantage and convenience. Alice Paul, manager of the National Woman's Party, has just been in Europe with the object to make her organization international. The preparatory committee in France is Mes. Durand, Duchéne Jouve and Dumont. In England, Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence, Lady Rhondda, M. P., and Elizabeth Robins. The first meeting will be in December of this year in Washington under the title, "International Women's Parliament."

A Woman Revenue Collector

A WOMAN has been appointed collector of customs at Honolulu. She is Mrs. Jeannette Hyde. Her district comprises the whole of Hawaii.

Women in the Hall of Fame

BUSTS of two more famous women have been placed in New York University's Hall of Fame. These are Harriet Beecher Stowe, authoress of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and Charlotte Cushman, the actress. The total number of women now so honored is seven. The fact that Charlotte Cushman is the only representative of dramatic art to be so honored indicates that the university has let many opportunities go by to select worthy subjects. Both busts are the work of women sculptors. Mrs. Stowe's was produced by Brenda Putnam and Miss Cushman's by Frances Grimes.

Chili Makes a Beginning

SENORITA JOVITA VALENZUELA is the first woman in Chili to be appointed to a judicial position. The Minister of Justice has tendered to her the office of Juzgado de Letras of the District of Valdivia.

Equal Pay Postponed in London

THE reactionary majority of the recently elected London County Council ran true to form on May 19 by voting down a resolution for equal pay of men and women teachers. One member gave as his reason for objecting to just dealing its financial cost. It would cost the ratepayers 75,000 pounds, argued this statesman, Angus Scott by name. Another objector was a woman, Mrs. Wilton Phipps, chairman of the education committee. She had only her prejudices to offer in explanation. The vote was 64 to 36.

Woman Rules a Gas Company

MISS MARY E. DILLON is vice-president and general manager of the Brooklyn Borough Gas Company, a five million dollar corporation. She started to work for the company in 1903 and gradually worked her way to the top. Should Miss Dillon apply for an automobile license in Washington or perhaps for a passport she would be compelled to sign as Mrs. Henry Farber as she is a married woman.

A Woman in the Pit

THE Dublin Stock Exchange broke away from old ideas and established a precedent by admitting a woman, Miss Mary Keogh, to membership. This step was not taken without a struggle. To the majority of members the suggestion was so strange and new that they thought it must be a jest. So the application was ignored or treated as a joke when noticed at all. This stirred a number of women to plan the starting of an independent exchange, and this threat, touching the pocket nerve of the staid and dignified brokers, suddenly aroused them to realization that the supposed joke was, in fact, a very serious matter. After fencing over the matter for a while they finally saw the need of discretion and surrendered. Miss Keogh was admitted and the danger of a competing exchange were averted.

A New Inspector

THE Canadian Government has appointed as its first woman customs inspector, Miss M. A. Jamieson, who will be stationed on the International Bridge at Niagara.

A Daring Achievement

TO spend 14 years in Thibet, disguised to avoid trouble with natives, would be considered quite an achievement for a man. It was a woman, however, Mme. Alexandra David of France, who succeeded in this accomplishment. A part of the time she was in the forbidden city of Lhasa, where she lived disguised as a beggar. For two years she lived in a cave on the frontiers. She has now returned to France.

Women Begin to Own Syndicates

THEODORA ("Teddy") BEAN, who recently resigned as editor of the Sunday Magazine of the New York *Morning Telegraph*, has announced the establishment of a syndicate of her own called the T-Bean Syndicate, with headquarters at 299 Madison avenue, New York. She was connected with the *Morning Telegraph* from 1917 to 1924.

Miss Bean has recruited her syndicate staff from former contributors to the *Morning Telegraph*. They include Martha Coman, formerly of the New York *Herald*; Benjamin De Casseres, author of "The Mirrors of New York"; Marion Ryan of London; Alice Rohe, former Rome correspondent for the United Press Association; Baird Leonard, writer of "Mrs. Pepy's Diary" in *Life*; Maude A. Bentley, astrologist; Delight Evans, conductor of a movie column, and Susie Sexton, magazine writer.

EQUAL RIGHTS extends congratulations and best wishes to the new enterprise. Alice Rohe has long been one of our editorial board.

On Important Committee

PROF. VIOLET BARBOUR of Vassar is the only woman among 15 savants named by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation to spend the academic year of 1925-26 in scientific investigation of a wide range of subjects. Professor Barbour has been assigned to historical subjects, including Anglo-Dutch relations in the period of Oliver Cromwell and of Charles II.

Legislation Without Discrimination

A FORTY-FOUR-HOUR WEEK, to go into effect on July 1, has just been provided by law in Queensland. It differs from many similar legislative efforts in other parts of the world, in that it applies to the work of men as well as of women, and thus embodies the principle of equal rights.

Tennessee Women Honor Mrs. French

AS a memorial to one of Tennessee's pioneer suffragists while she still lives, a tribute to her services in behalf of women, the Tennessee Branch of the National Woman's Party has completed arrangements for furnishing the Tennessee Room at National Headquarters in honor of Mrs. L. Crozier French of Knoxville, at one time State chairman of the Tennessee branch.

Mrs. French was the founder of Ossoli Circle, the first woman's club in the South. This organization has a custom of giving Mrs. French a gift on her birthday. Recently on her seventy-fourth birthday the club made its gift in the form of a contribution to the furnishing of the Tennessee Room at the National Woman's Party Headquarters. Women

all over the State have contributed to the fund, which will be used to furnish the room in colonial period style. Several pieces of early American furniture have been given for the room, and a portrait of Mrs. French will hang in it, and a copy of a volume of memoirs which Mrs. French is now writing of her work for the emancipation of women will be placed on the table.

Mrs. Mary R. Branch is organizing the campaign in Tennessee. In Middle Tennessee, Mrs. D. T. Kimbrough of Nashville, Mrs. Betty Donaldson of Nashville and Mrs. L. S. Gillentine of Murphreesboro are chairmen. The East Tennessee committee is being formed by Mrs. James B. Wright, president of Ossoli Circle.

Sue White says of Mrs. French:

"I can think of no one who deserves to

be honored by women of Tennessee as much as does Mrs. French. When I view her long life of service to women, in the light of conditions of today, I know the difficulties with which she, as a pioneer, had to deal. I know that every woman who now enjoys the privilege of the ballot, every business and professional woman who is getting along in the world, every mother and teacher who finds herself in a position really to help solve the problem of the child, owes an incalculable debt to Mrs. French."

Other rooms already completed at National Woman's Party Headquarters are: The Delaware Room, the Michigan Room, the Ohio Room, the Virginia Room, the Founders' Room, and a small room adjoining the Delaware Room, recently completed.

Concerning Equal Rights

By Lavinia L. Dock

OF late the arguments against the Equal Rights Amendment to the United State Constitution have been changing their line somewhat, as their former angles are modified by the newer point of view. This is especially true of the alarming contention that "equal rights" would put an end to all such socially helpful measures as widow's pensions, maternity aid and the like, because such provisions would necessarily be regarded as special privileges to women.

This dire prophecy is fast losing its force as social workers and legal authorities, in and out of public administrative office, are coming to regard all such measures as racially and nationally useful; not sex privileges at all, and not at all limited in their beneficence to women only. They are in fact measures designed for the welfare of the young of the human race, the "young" being composed of boy babies and children, and girl babies and children, alike. The Children's Bureau which used to use the term "Mothers' Pensions" now writes in a recent publication: "The earlier familiar title * * * Mothers' pensions * * * is becoming obsolete. * * The emphasis is being placed on Home Care for Children." Judge Lindsey says: "I heartily favor the Equal Rights Amendment. * * * Special legislation is in fact not for women at all, but for children. Colorado makes no distinction as to parent." The Colorado law says: "A parent or other person" in its provision for dependent or neglected children,—we may soon, therefore, see widowed fathers receiving "maintenance for children," and why not? Fears for the Sheppard-Towner

Act under equal rights are already subsiding as it is clear that all babies born are not girls and that husbands are equally benefited by a reduced death rate of mothers in childbirth and a diminished infant mortality.

Age-of-consent laws would certainly be more effective if applied to both boys and girls and here, too, as a matter of fact, we find examples where progressive States are now legally protecting the youth of both sexes against sex offenses. There is a glimpse of future possibilities here.

Many aspects of sex morality or immorality are only known to experts, who are aware of dangers both to boys and girls which the general public know of only in relation to girls.

Labor legislation presents the strongest case in opposition, because men don't want such legislation for themselves. Yet it needs only a little imagination to understand what the results would be in a very short time if the legal exclusion of women from numerous opportunities for earning a living, should be extensively attained throughout our States.

Women would soon be pushed back into the wretched state of helpless dependency that they were in a hundred years ago, and it will not be easy to break through again if shut out by specific legislation. The strain and struggle and overwork in our labor world are caused basically by poverty and it will not help that to make it harder for women to find self-support. A quite different treatment is indicated for the disease of poverty. Moreover we claim that the very

reason women have been handicapped in competing with men is the inferior position which custom, the common law, and the canon law have heretofore given them. It has put them in the class with aliens. We must get them out of this.

What is needed in the world of labor and industry may be outlined as follows: Ample protection for boys and girls up to a given age (this protection has, so far, been hindered by the frequent linking of "women and children" together in attempts to legislate, for, after all, no legislator of common sense will believe that women need the same labor laws as children need—"women" being a term signifying "adults"). Equal conditions of protection for young workers of both sexes in industry, equal rights and opportunities for adult men and women without restriction or exclusion based on sex alone—such restriction or exclusion to be based only on physical fitness, or age, or the dangers of an occupation, or general hygiene applicable to human beings. Women would then be able to give men a lead—not just tag submissively after them in industry. Motherhood as we have pointed out is a race service and it is possible that fatherhood may also come to be so regarded. We are beginning to learn that sterility may be traced to an overworked father. We must come to see that all labor legislation should aim at health conservation. Now, health is not a sex privilege. We claim, too, that fundamental rights of citizens should be declared in our federal constitution, not left to the several States. State laws are too easily altered or overthrown by selfish elements and too difficult of improvement by reform elements.

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

The Outcome of the Conference

THAT organizations celebrate in much the same manner as the individual mind does is strikingly made evident in the proceedings of the Mid-Western Conference. A consideration of the detailed business of the conference indicates how from a mass of information logical deductions may be intuitively drawn and how intelligent action comes as the fine fruit of knowledge. Starting with a resume of the manifold discriminations from which women suffer in American life, ranging all the way from law to love, the final mandate of the conference was two-fold; first, to perfect the organization of the Woman's Party, and second, to focus public opinion directly on the members of Congress. To these ends the education of the public in regard to the Equal Rights Amendment was recognized as essential.

As a demonstration in the technique of popular enlightenment the pageant was an unparalleled success. It interpreted the equal rights movement in its true proportions in the scheme of life, leading the mind to an acceptance of the principle of equality by pleasant steps, easy to achieve. There is no question but that the pageant, in its converting quality, surpassed any verbal presentation of the subject.

The members of the Michigan Branch and the director of the pageant, Miss Nina B. Lamkin, are to be congratulated on the complete success of the conference. Not only will it be long remembered by the people of Michigan, but in many other States its results will be felt.

Those who were not fortunate enough to be numbered among the delegates may at least follow the behest of the conference, interview their members of Congress, strengthen their local organizations and thereby doubly reward the efforts of those who conceived and carried through this magnificent undertaking.

Equal Penalties

ANNOUNCEMENT by Secretary of the Navy Wilbur that two women of the Naval Nurse Corps, charged with smuggling liquor into the United States on board the navy transport Kittery, are to be court-martialed, establishes a new policy of treating women in the navy on exactly the same plane as men in enforcing discipline. This will be the first time women in the navy have faced court-martial proceedings.

During the war period an order was issued by Secretary of the Navy Daniels to the effect that women were not to be court-martialed. This was because of the large number of women in the service, and because they were inclined to ignore some of the minor regulations. Secretary Wilbur takes the position that times have changed.

In this we heartily agree with him. There is no valid reason why sex should serve as a cloak to evil doing, nor can the ends of justice be secured so long as men and women stand on an unequal plane before the law.

While we regret that anybody, man or woman, should become involved in charges of this sort, we commend the stand taken by Secretary Wilbur in regard to the equal responsibility of the two sexes. It is fitting that adult women should be answerable for their conduct just as adult men are, but there is a corollary to this proposition which should be noted by the Secretary of the Navy and all other American citizens. In a just State equal penalties and equal rights must go hand in hand. If women are to be court-martialed on the assumption that they are "persons" and "citizens" in the matter of trial and sentence, surely it is not right to alter this assumption when it comes to the question of the equal protection of the law. Moreover, there is something strikingly unjust in a vacillating policy with regard to the rights, privileges and immunities of human beings. One of the benefits that will flow from the incorporation of the Equal Rights Amendment into the Federal Constitution will be knowledge on the part of women as to where they stand before the law. It is a serious matter to be court-martialed, but it is even more serious when one has been assured immunity by a previous administration. This unfortunate case points again the necessity for the Lucretia Mott Amendment.

American Apostles to France

By Simone Tery

FROM America have come Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont and Alice Paul as ambassadors to the women of Europe. They are women whose names, over here, symbolize feminism.

They have come to Europe to study the possibility of uniting the feminists of the world into a closer relationship and of forming an international advisory group to the American women who are carrying on the feminist movement.

As a result of their stay here there has been formed a French section of the International Advisory Committee to the Woman's Party of the United States. The first conference of this newly formed French group was held April 28 at the American Women's University Club in Paris. Mrs. Belmont, president of the Woman's Party in the United States, had come from the Riviera to meet the distinguished French feminists whom Alice Paul during the preceding weeks had rallied to the idea of an International Committee. The meeting was extremely cordial, and there was deep interest in the launching of the Advisory French Committee—a step toward the forming of a World Committee.

The three French women who have joined the committee are not only the most prominent among the French feminists, but each of them represents a different tendency of French feminism, so that the committee includes all shades of opinions—a sure guarantee of its impartiality and broad-mindedness.

The membership of the French Committee is as follows:

Madame Gabrielle Duchéne. Madame Duchéne represents the most radical wing of the group. You can see her patience and devotion in her kind smile. All her life has been devoted to feminism and to peace, but she is perhaps most concerned with economic questions and the organizing of trade unions among women. She was one of the first French feminists to start a campaign in favor of equality of salaries between men and women. She is one of the leaders in the movement to organize trade unions among women. She was one of the French delegates to the International Women's Labor Congress, held in Washington in 1919. She is especially interested in the question of home industries, and is now endeavoring to get an amendment to the Home Work Bill, so that it will include men as well as women. Madame Duchéne is the founder of the Producers' Co-operative Society—"L'Entr'Aide"; she is the international vice-president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; she is the founder of the French Bureau of Feminine Inter-

Editor's Note: Miss Tery is one of the foremost of the young women journalists of France, she is the author of two books on Ireland [one a critical survey of the political leaders in Ireland—the other a study of the Renaissance in Irish Literature, the latter published May 20, 1925.] She is also a regular contributor to the Irish Statesman, writes for numerous French magazines and journals, and is on the staff of the Paris "Quotidien." The following article was written for a French journal. Miss Tery has translated it and sends it to be used in Equal Rights.

ests and of the French Committee of Aid to Children.

Madame Marie Verone, a second member of the committee, is one of the most eloquent and active French feminists. Wherever there is a feminist meeting there she is, pacing to and fro, attacking her enemies with a bitter and fierce energy. She is warrior-in-chief of the French feminists, and when her powerful voice rings anywhere all opponents are cowed to silence. She is a reputed barrister and journalist; she is president of the League for Women's Rights in France, president of the Suffrage Section of the National Council of France, and editor of *Les Droits des Femmes*.

The third member of the committee is *Madame Malaterre-Sellier,* a woman of beauty and vivacity. She symbolizes all of the charm and loveliness of the French woman. But her gentleness hides a great energy that may change into heroism when occasion occurs. She was awarded the Décoration de la Légion d'Honneur and the Croix de Guerre for her splendid conduct during the war. Though very young at that time, she was the best help to the heroic Madame Macherez, who assumed the functions of the Mayor of Soissons during the German occupation. Madame Malaterre-Sellier was wounded by a bombshell and caught typhoid fever whilst nursing the wounded soldiers. Now she is spending her life traveling through France and abroad as an orator of feminism—she has but to appear to win all hearts. She is the general secretary of the French Union for Woman Suffrage, vice-president of the International Suffrage Alliance, and a member of the Bureau of the League of the Young Republic, which represents the liberal tendency of Catholicism in France.

One of the first acts of the newly formed French Section of the International Advisory Committee was to draw up a statement of the position of the women who are in the vanguard of the feminist movement in France concerning the question of special labor legislation for women—a question which we are told is exceedingly controversial in the United

States. This statement was sent to President Emeritus M. Carey Thomas of Bryn Mawr College, who is collecting information concerning the position of women in other countries on this subject. The letter to Miss Thomas reads:

Paris, France, April 28, 1925.

"Dear Miss Thomas:
"We understand that you are collecting information for the American Federation of University Women on the subject of special labor laws applying to women and not to men. Thinking that it may be of interest to you, we are writing to tell you that there is a strong feeling among French feminists in behalf of equality between men and women in labor legislation, as in all other legislation. Those of us holding this point of view are absolutely opposed to any special labor laws applying to women and not to men.

"We believe that laws regulating night work, the hours of labor, the conditions of labor, the compensation of labor, should be enacted so as to apply alike to men and women, and should not apply to women alone.

"We believe that the demand for equality between men and women should apply to all fields and that it is an illogical position to ask for equality in some fields and not in all fields. Sex should never, in our opinion, be a basis for legislation. Our position in this matter has no reference, of course, to maternity legislation. This is based upon maternity and not upon sex.

(Signed)
"G. MALATERRE-SELLIER,
"GABRIELLE DUCHENE,
"MARIE VERONE."

"Our present campaign in the United States," said Mrs. Belmont in conferring with the committee at the American University Club, "is concentrated upon the endeavor to get an amendment to our National Constitution: 'Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.'"

"And you believe * * *

"Of course we shall succeed in the United States. We have no doubt of that. And now we want to help to make this campaign for equal rights world-wide. Instead of having a merely individual fight in our own country, we must help each other. We must create a world-wide movement that will bring about an entire world in which women will have the same opportunities as have men."

"So that your call would be: 'Women of all nations, stand together!'"

"If you like. We believe that the women of England, America, Sweden, Norway—all the countries that are farthest along

in the woman movement—ought to help the women of the nations less advanced along the lines of feminism."

"We in America are coming out of our position of aloofness as a nation, and it is the moment when the women of our nation should begin to work internationally also. You see, whether we wish it or not, the problems that we Americans have to solve, day after day, become more international. More and more the United States is coming to take part in international matters. If women continue to work only nationally while the important things in their lives are being settled internationally, they are failing to keep up with evolution."

"Are there any other groups organized to work internationally?"

"Yes. There are women working internationally for peace, others working internationally on social, educational and labor questions. There is an International Suffrage Alliance. But there is no organization of women working, without any political preoccupation, with the single object of raising the status of women in every respect. It is along this line that we are working."

"And you wish women of all nations on your committee?"

"All nations, of course."

"By bringing together women of all na-

tions, even enemy nations, don't you think you will work for peace?"

"That is possible, indeed," smiled Mrs. Belmont. "We don't yet know all the good fruits the union of the women of the world may bring. I believe that one of the greatest forces of the world for peace is woman. It is up to us to persuade her of her own strength that she may use it."

"Poor humanity badly needs to be defended against herself. If women wanted?" * * *

"They shall want, and when they want they can change conditions as they now exist."

Prior to the formation of the French Committee, Mrs. Belmont and Miss Paul had outlined a plan of campaign during the latter's visit at Mrs. Belmont's villa on the Riviera. Arriving in Paris, Miss Paul's four weeks' visit was devoted to preliminary work for the International Feminist Committee. She spoke before a meeting of French suffragists; she met practically all of the French feminists of importance and was entertained by many of them in their homes. The French press gave an amazing amount of publicity—amazing when one thinks of the small amount of space devoted to the activities of our own French suffragists and feminist leaders.

The four weeks' visit of Miss Paul, during which so many of us have come to know her personally, also gave us a feeling of acquaintanceship with the woman movement in America and of what the women in the movement are like. Who fancies American feminists as raging viragos? That untiring apostle from America that flies to help the women of the whole world is young, very slender, with a small gentle face, somewhat apparent cheek-bones, hands so wee, long and flexible—and such a calm, a baffling calm—one would almost call it indolence—only it is the calm of great resolutions. She speaks but little—she chiefly asks questions, laying on you the straight and thoughtful look of her big dark eyes. She knows what she wants, and she doesn't need shouting—everything seems so simple and inevitable to her. It is sufficient to want something, with some method in one's pursuit.

With the forming of the French group so representative of French feminism, the idea of a World Feminist Committee has been greatly strengthened. America may be proud of the work which Mrs. Belmont and Alice Paul have done in France, and France was honored to have the visit of these women who symbolize so well for us the generosity and activity of American women.

she is chairman. Miss Florer discussed a bill for contractual rights for women, which at the last session passed the House, 74 to 12, but was defeated in the Senate, 18 to 11. She expressed her belief that at the next session of the Michigan Legislature the bill would pass. Mrs. Culbertson said she had entered the campaign for no personal reasons whatever, but because she wanted to see circumstances as they actually existed. "More than ever I see that women are needed to clean things up. Politics will be cleaner and better for women's taking part," concluded Mrs. Culbertson.

During the afternoon session immediately following the luncheon in the large dining room of the Lone Pine Tea House, discriminations against women in every phase of life were discussed. From south, east, and west the stories of injustice came, all prompted by the same sense of right and wrong. From Wisconsin Mrs. Belle Borten Ruppia, vice-president of the Wisconsin branch, brought the results of so-called equal rights, Wisconsin being the only State in the Union that has enacted any sort of equal rights law.

"Wisconsin is the only State in the Union to have an equal rights law in operation; but it is not at all what the people want. It is far from what the National Woman's Party is working for. Our State has a long way to go yet. The statute specifies that the feminine gender shall be written into the laws of the State wherever the masculine gender appears, except, when the granting of such rights shall interfere with the special protections and privileges afforded that sex. Woman has the same rights and privileges as man in suffrage, contracting, jury service, business contract and the rearing of children unless the granting of such rights denies women the special protections and privileges they now enjoy for the general welfare. So if the court wishes to interpret a disability as a privilege, it can do so and the woman is no better off than under the old common law.

"We are women first and human beings last. At the State capitol during the legislative sessions there is a great demand for stenographers. Much of the work is at night and very well paid. So it is decided by those in authority that woman, in enjoying her special privileges, shall be excluded from these well-paid positions. The same thing is done in regard to work at resorts and hotels."

Discussing legal disabilities Mrs. Ruppia told in a humorous way of how any man—be he butcher, baker, or candlestickmaker—has the legal right to act as a trustee, but a woman to enjoy this privilege must be a lawyer. Mrs. Ruppia then congratulated herself upon being an attorney. "Wherever there is something the men

wish for themselves, they throw the cloud of protection over it and exclude women," said Mrs. Ruppia.

Mrs. A. V. Jacowska Peterson, a colleague of Mrs. Ruppia, spoke on the need of women judges and jurors, especially in divorce cases, declaring that women need not necessarily equal men in numbers but that their service and viewpoint was most desperately needed. One of the illustrations in this connection was of a washer woman who asked for alimony so she could purchase a washer, to which came the judicial decision that "her tastes were too fastidious and that a washboard would answer her purpose as well."

Attempts to level the salaries of men and women teachers in Baltimore was related by Mrs. Vera Fowler Lewis, declaring that male instructors doing the identical work of women teachers were receiving higher pay. Mrs. Lewis also reported on the success of women for the first time in securing passports in their own names and finished by urging ardent support of "EQUAL RIGHTS," that "most necessary branch of the activities of the Woman's Party."

Burnita Shelton Matthews spoke with the voice of one having authority. Coming fresh from her work in the Supreme Court Library, all the good intentions but injustices of protective legislation of these hundreds of years of law making was portrayed in the summary of her research. She has been reading and studying law; but she has also been feeling law. The room ought to have been filled with men instead of women.

"In our study of the situation in Louisiana, it was found that very little was known about the laws as they read, but more was known as to how the laws were used. In man's interpretation of the law woman, as a special creature, has been placed, according to Southern chivalry, on a pedestal. The pedestal has never been so high, however, but that a man could jump over it and secure his wife's earnings. Men are capable of all sorts of rights, women are incapable unless specifically qualified by law. Legal rights are explained away by difference in sex.

"In the case of a legitimate child, the father has the superior rights but in the case of an illegitimate child the mother is pushed to the foreground.

"In Georgia, the earnings of a wife belong to her husband, for, according to the common law, man and wife are one, the one being the husband. Under this arrangement, if a man wants to make his wife a gift of her earnings he must give it to himself and no one can give himself anything. So in most cases the man keeps the money.

"In questions of divorce in Maryland a man can divorce his wife for one act of indiscretion on her part even though it

be committed before marriage, if the husband discovers it after the wedding. A woman has the right to divorce upon a single act of infidelity on the part of her husband, only if committed after marriage.

"In the University of Virginia, although women pay State taxes, the girl must be older than the boy before entering that institution of learning.

"In government service, the same injustice is evident. Women nurses for the Panama Canal Zone receive \$120 for a monthly stipend while men are awarded \$125 in a calling that belongs to woman if any occupation ever did belong to her. In a recent Civil Service examination women were barred on the grounds that the work was not suitable for them. Upon further inquiry it was found that the 60 men who took the examination were attempting to fill a position requiring travel in foreign countries gathering statistics on women's clothing.

"There are three ways we have been attempting to do away with these discriminations; by education, by legislation by specific bills and by an amendment to the United States Constitution. The Federal law is the supreme law of the land. If we could write this amendment into the Constitution of the United States then no State legislature could repeal it. In the State by State legislation, one session of a legislature can take away the privileges given by the preceding legislature. If we attempt to solve the problem in this way it will mean that we must be eternally alert all our life, and our children too, and our children's children."

Florence Bayard Hilles spoke on law and custom, declaring the latter to be sterner than law and often working greater hardship on women. She pleaded for a higher regard of woman as a housekeeper. In the question of inheritances the mother has been so disregarded as to figure fourth and last in the order of heirs. A woman graduate of Johns Hopkins supporting her invalid father and keeping the household was compelled recently to secure her father's signature to a lease for the home which she was purchasing on monthly installments.

Then came Doris Stevens who did not deal with specific problems but spoke broadly and with vision. She sees woman realizing her highest potentiality. Her world has no discriminations. Woman is not shut in a cage, but walks where she wills in the free and open air. Useless laws, imported from heathen countries are no longer hindrances. Prejudices disappear. Custom is not hugged fearfully. All barriers fall away. Love in its greatest sense remains.

"Civilization advances, each decade pushing on further and further ahead.

The Mid-Western Conference

By Louise Hastings

IDEAL, spirit, soul, atmosphere—call it what you will—around the gathering of some hundreds of women at the Mid-Western conference lasting for four days, beginning June 4 in Bloomfield Hills and Detroit, this indefinable something hovered. In religious gatherings it is called the holy ghost, in stadiums it is commonly known as pep, and in educational circles it is called school spirit. Among this group of delegates it stands unnamed, although throughout the four days it seemed a very tangible thing. On the night of the pageant among the pines, in the report of the National Council, in the most human survey of legal discriminations by Burnita Shelton Matthews, in the simple pleading for greater love between man and woman by Doris Stevens, this principle was present.

At eleven o'clock on the morning of June 4 the conference was called to order by Mrs. George T. Hendrie, general chairman of the conference. Among the delegates from other States than Michigan were Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles of Delaware, Doris Stevens and Mary Murray of New York, Elizabeth Culbertson, Marie Hempel and Mrs. M. A. Stickle of Pennsylvania, Mme. Helene Romnicio

of Roumania, Burnita Shelton Matthews of Washington, D. C., and Mississippi, Mrs. James W. Beall, Mrs. Vera F. Lewis, Mrs. Minnie Eason, Miss Bessie Malach and Lucy Branham of Maryland, Mathilde Calhoun of Washington State, Mrs. Gustav A. Hipke, Mrs. H. O. Smith, Mrs. Belle Borten Ruppia, Miss Margaret Christenson, Mrs. Jacowska Peterson, Lenore R. Weisroff and Frances Wettstein of Wisconsin, Margaret Whittemore of California, Mrs. Elma D. Miller and Miss L. M. Hipke of Lahaina Territory, Hawaii. Prior to the report of the nominating committee, the presiding officer gave a brief but encouraging survey of State work.

"It does not seem that a year has passed since we were together, for it has been a year of many activities. It has been, I believe, the most active period since those years of struggle for suffrage." Mrs. Hendrie then sketched briefly the various isolated events that led to the idea of giving a pageant on equality. The success of the benefit performance of "The Goose Hangs High" on March 9 at the Bonstelle Playhouse in Detroit was one of the main incentives. A need for be-

coming better organized was expressed, with the opinion that over-organization could not at present be a danger.

After the report of the nominating committee was read and acted upon the officers were elected. Mrs. Arthur Cramer will succeed Mrs. George T. Hendrie as president of the Michigan branch. Mrs. F. C. Aldinger will serve as first vice-president, Mrs. E. Le Roy Pelletier and Mrs. W. A. McGraw as second and third vice-presidents, respectively, and Mrs. Ralph Collins as recording secretary. Bess M. Garner will continue as corresponding secretary and Mrs. M. B. Walburn as treasurer. The board of directors added Mrs. W. Nelson Whittemore and Mrs. Emma Fox as its new members.

Resolutions were read by Mrs. L. Grimes, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, and were adopted as read.

At the conclusion of the morning session informal talks were given by Alice Lake, director of nursing at the University of Michigan; Frances M. Florer, a junior member of the law school at the University; and Mrs. Culbertson from Meadville, Penn. Miss Lake gave a short resume of the work of the Legislative Council of Michigan Women, of which

Every century one group passes on to the next its heritage. If we could only pass on a clean slate to our children with no laws of discrimination, a world of greater love and friendship would arise. It's the ones who resist and resist who breathe the spirit of antagonism."

Margaret Whittemore closed the afternoon session by a plea for greater activity: "We can theorize, accumulate material, get members, unite and grow strong. It is magnificent to think but it is more magnificent to do. Women united can take their lives in their own keeping."

The National Council met on Friday morning and a report of their conclusions was given at the organization conference held at the Community House in Birmingham in the afternoon. Mrs. Matthews reviewed briefly her legislative report.

"Forty-two legislatures have met within the past year and only six out of the 112 equal rights measures introduced were passed. When, through State by State legislation, will we secure victory at this rate?"

Mrs. W. Nelson Whittemore as presiding officer introduced Mrs. Cramer, who reported on the proposed plan of party re-organization. A plan was recommended for consideration at the National Convention to be held in December. Congressional districts, containing three and sometimes four large cities, were thought to be too unwieldy for concentrated effort. The United States, according to the plan, would be divided into eight regional districts, according to the legal status of women. The regions in turn would be divided according to State, and State according to city. Thus city, State, region and nation would serve as the units. The region would be under a director and general council. Dues were discussed but no definite decision was taken toward a proposed system.

The second plan perfected and proposed had to do with the educating of the people on just what the Woman's Party is trying to accomplish. Mrs. Cramer proposed that the Extension Committee communicate with the American Association of University Women, League of Women Voters, Jewish Council of Women, and Young Women's Christian Association in an effort to have members of these organizations appointed to the regional councils which will not be made up of party members alone.

Margaret Whittemore spoke at the conclusion for a few minutes on the relation of American women to those of foreign countries. Just as the women of the world become more powerful so in proportion will the women of the United States become more powerful. There are at present about 20,000 members in the Woman's Party.

Friday evening a dinner at the Bloom-

field Golf Club marked the mid-point in the conference. Miss Whittemore served as toastmistress and Mary Murray and Mme. Romnicianso appeared as new speakers. What a wide difference between the two women; one a mother working for bread for herself and five children, the other speaking of her queen and nobility; one pleading for "a good wage," the other asking for international harmony.

"The little girl," prophesied Mme. Romnicianso, "who, yesterday noon at the luncheon stood up and said that she was for equality is to me an eastern star standing for a better world and a better time—and I hope she will live to see it.

"I ask you American women never to forget us in Geneva and remember us as your sisters with hearts full, pressed down and running over with love and sympathy for you in this common cause." These were Helene Romnicianso's parting words. She is sailing this week for Switzerland, to tell the women over there what she heard from American women.

Mrs. Murray, a Brooklyn-Manhattan Railroad worker, painted vividly the effect of protective legislation on women, who by unavoidable circumstances find it necessary to earn their own bread and butter instead of living as parasites on society.

She told of her friend Mrs. Mahoney, who in 1919 upon the passage of the Transportation Law found herself without a job, and of Helen Maxwell, who had come from a consumptive hospital and who had through her out-door work on the cars recovered her health, having her congenial work taken from her. Waitresses, counter women, women pharmacists and many others were deprived of an equal chance with men to earn their living and yet were compelled to pay the same doctor bills and the same grocery bills.

Discriminations against women as mothers and as wives and citizens were discussed by Mrs. Matthews.

Mrs. Florence Bayard Hilles also spoke briefly on custom and law illustrating her words with concrete examples. She told of a woman attempting to educate a daughter who found it necessary to borrow a small sum of money; but her note was refused on the sole ground that her guarantor was a woman. Yet the same trust company official had his office fairly honeycombed with women employees and a large share of his depositors were women.

"It seems incredible that we have come together this evening," said Doris Stevens, "to dispute whether man and woman shall have equal rights. Like all great demands this is simple.

"Here at my left is Mr. Hendrie, who happens to be born a man. Here am I with the fortune to have been born a

woman. By that very fact he has rights that I do not. If we could but live in a world where man and woman could enter together without any discriminations, how much better it would be.

"Let us hope that the time is not far off when men and women shall meet not at grips but in a friendly way."

Saturday will be a day long to be remembered, beginning in the morning with a ride in the hills and ending with the colorful pageant at "Cranbrook," the estate of George G. Booth. In the morning the Pontiac women took the delegates for a visit through the Ford factory. Luncheon was served at noon from the Sunset Hills Club, when Dr. Margaret Daniels talked on greater union between man and woman from a psychological standpoint, ending by declaring that the need of all life was a finer friendship. Elizabeth Culbertson spoke on the vital need of women in legislatures, on benches, in cabinets. Alice Lake gave her report for the Legislative Committee of which she is chairman, and Mrs. Lewis spoke of "EQUAL RIGHTS."

A resolution was passed to call on every Congressman in the States represented at the Conference and to ask them to vote for the equal rights amendment.

At sunset Saturday evening the pageant "Equality," written by Nina B. Lamkin, was staged in the beautiful Greek Theater. Miss Lamkin offered her services gratis and has also become a member of the party. This wonderful piece of work depicts woman from the time she was a slave in the Grecian household, on into the vision of the future when man and woman shall go

"Forth to equal chance,
Equal pay for equal work
Equal life and equal rights."

All the wrong of the past, all the hope of the future is portrayed in the drama. The stage filled to overflowing with women of the past, and leaders of the present. So vividly is the principle of equality depicted that it seems to belong to us already. Then suddenly the vision of the future vanishes and across the space of years from the unknown time when humanity shall "cease this high authority one over another" we are brought to the present—the year of our Lord, 1925, with women struggling bravely to raise their heads and straighten their backs and breathe deeply in the free open air. And there are those who would deny them that right.

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