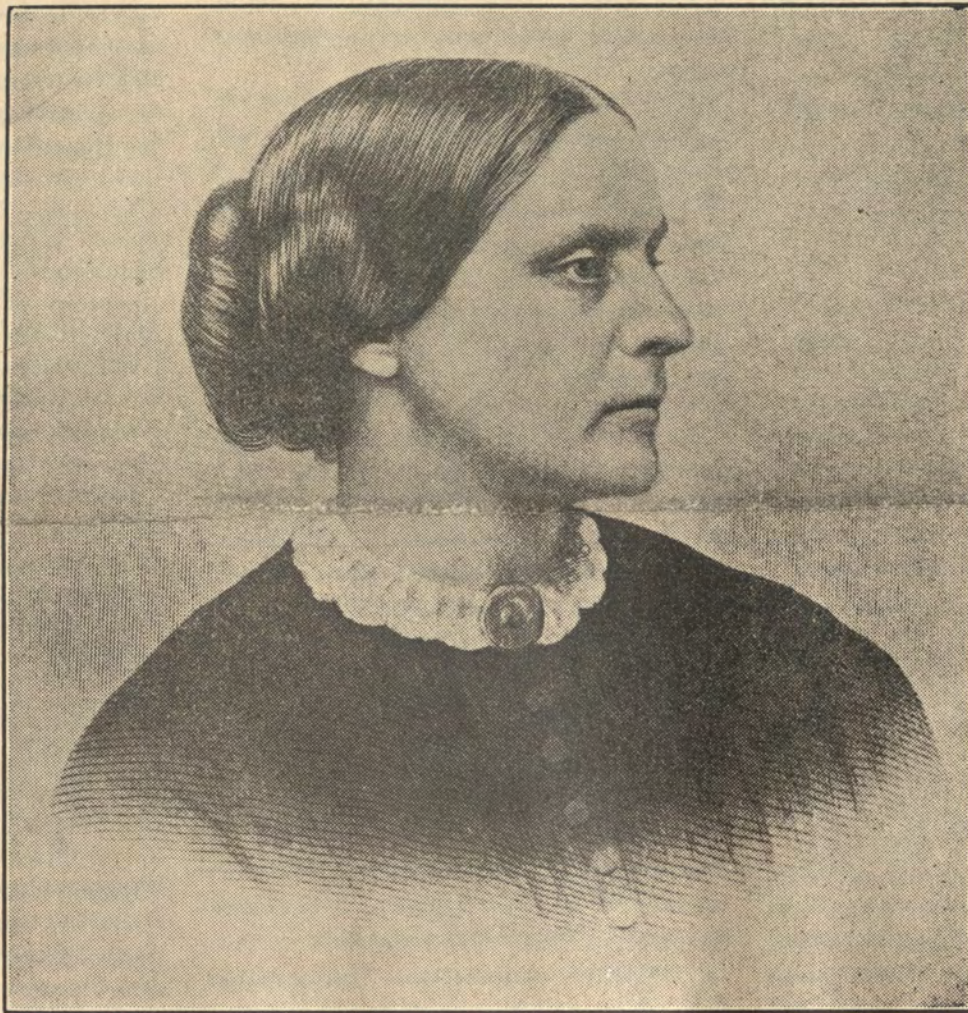


# Equal Rights

VOL. XII, No. 24  
FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY,  
JULY 25, 1925



*Wide World Photo, From an Old Engraving.*

## Susan B. Anthony

"The fight must not cease; you must see that it does not stop," were the last public words of Miss Anthony, nineteen years ago.

This issue of Equal Rights contains the news of how the National Woman's Party is carrying on the fight for "women, their rights and nothing less."

## Feminist Notes

### Woman Candidate for Senator

VIRGINIA PETERS PARKHURST of Berwyn, Maryland, has announced her intention of entering the Democratic primaries in 1926 as a candidate for the United States Senate. Mrs. Parkhurst is an ardent advocate of Equal Rights, which will be a part of her platform. She is a Founder of the National Woman's Party.

In a letter to the National Woman's Party, Mrs. Parkhurst says: "I have given deep thought to this progressive movement, and I am convinced that, although it may take a little time to develop fully, there will surely come a time when citizenship and sex will not confuse in constitutional rights.

"I believe in a good eight-hour law and adequate wages for both working men and working women.

"We women of all condition and classes wanted equal suffrage, and now it is for us to work and have all discriminations which exist against us on account of sex removed. We want to have all rights of citizenship; our property rights; equal control over our children; right of jury service; and, in short, to be declared free American citizens. I am of the notion that we should have an eight-hour working law which would affect the men as well as the women, because the very moment that we favor a law which would by its operation restrict a woman, we discriminate in favor of the man and allow a man to compete unfairly with women in trades."

### Equal Suffrage in Palestine Approved

URGING of equal suffrage in Palestine was the substance of a resolution adopted at the twenty-eighth annual convention of the Zionist organization of America in Washington. Woman suffrage already exists in Palestine, but since some opposition was recently manifested by ultra-conservatives in the Jewish National Assembly, who walked out rather than sit with women delegates, the action was taken to let these recalcitrants know how the Americans looked upon the matter. There was some opposition to the resolution not due to hostility to suffrage but to the opinion that the American organization should not interfere in Palestine's political affairs.

### At the Irish Bar

IN the Irish Free State there are five women barristers and in North Ireland there are three. This is not slow progress considering the short time since equality was established in these places.

### Equalization of Teachers' Salaries

WITH considerable reluctance and after much prodding by the Woman's Party, the Baltimore Board of Estimates has at last partly obeyed the legislative act to equalize the pay of men and women high school teachers. In one case this means an increase of salary from \$1260 a year to \$3000. The smallest increase is \$10. The total increase amounts to \$65,973 for 102 women. Even at that the law is not being entirely obeyed. The city officials are still quibbling over inclusion of colored teachers and are depending upon the courts to uphold this petty and unfair policy. The Baltimore News has been active in support of the teachers' rights.

### Remarkable Business Success

THE feat of successfully managing a credit union under difficult circumstances has been accomplished by a group of women at East Cambridge, Massachusetts, who formed the organization several years ago. Eighteen of them met one day and organized. All were housewives with no other incomes than their housekeeping allowances. They elected officials who gave their time and efforts gratis. Two years after organization the union had 55 members and 27 borrowers. The following year, 1922, it had assets of over \$2500. By 1923 its assets had grown to \$4883 and the loans outstanding to \$4840. No later report is available, but it is said to be still at work and growing. As credit unions work on a very small margin of profit in comparison with other money-lending agencies, most skillful business management was required to produce such a result.

### Designer of An International Gift

A WOMAN sculptor, Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney of New York, is the designer of the memorial to be presented to France by the St. Nazaire Association of the American Expeditionary Force of the World War. The design is of a soldier riding upon an eagle.

### Portuguese Women Active

AT Lisbon the first Portuguese Feminist Congress was held during the latter part of March and the first part of April. It commemorated the tenth anniversary of the formation of a national council of women. Discussion was on the vote, nationality of married women, various educational matters, and laws regarding marriage and other matters of interest to women.

### Another Woman Senatorial Candidate

JUDGE FLORENCE E. ALLEN of the Ohio Supreme Court may be the first woman to be elected for a full term in the United States Senate. She is being urged for the Democratic nomination to contest the re-election next year of Senator Willis. If elected, she will have the distinction to enter the Senate solely on her own political achievements. Judge Allen is the first woman ever to be a member of a State Supreme Court, and is a great feminist leader.

### Women Breadwinners in America

THERE are in the United States 8,500,000 women earning their own living and contributing to the support of families according to the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor. Three-fifths of these are under 25 years of age and one fifth under 20. The number of married women is 2,000,000. The best conditions seem to prevail in Rhode Island where but one-tenth of these workers toil longer than 48 hours a week, and where the average wage is \$16.85 a week. Apparently, however, the bureau includes in its list of breadwinners only women working for definite wages or engaged in business. It does not seem aware that the woman who does housework and manages the home is contributing to the family support to the same extent as—and sometimes greater than—those employed by outsiders.

### Spanish-Speaking Women Meet in Mexico

AN international convention of Spanish and Spanish-American women was held in the City of Mexico on July 5, having been called by the Feminine League of Mexico. Acceptances of invitations had been received a month before from Spain and from Central America and South America. The well-known Spanish author, Carmen de Burgos, was one of the delegates. The secretary of the Congress is Elena Arizmendi, residing in New York.

### Discriminatory Legislation Contrary to Unionism

THE July issue of the *Seamen's Journal*, organ of the International Seamen's Union of America, says: "Women, forced by necessity to labor, receive the same pay and treatment as men in the trade where the product bears the union label." It would seem from this that organized labor is opposed to legislation discriminating against women, even though it be under a mistaken notion of welfare.

## Equal Rights In Public Morality Laws

### The Need for International Watchfulness

By Alison Neilans

*Editor's Note: Miss Neilans, author of this article, is secretary of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, which is the British Branch of the International Abolitionist Federation, with which is incorporated the Ladies' National Association for the Abolition of State Regulation of Vice. She is editor of the Association's official organ, The Shield. In addition to her work on social hygiene, Miss Neilans is also one of the foremost of the younger feminists of England. She was an organizer with the militant suffragists during the suffrage campaign, and is now an active champion of Equal Rights, a member of the International Advisory Council of the Woman's Party.*

WHEN women enter political life with the status of voters they tend to concern themselves with matters which seem specially to affect the home, the family, and women themselves. It is therefore not surprising that they have taken an active interest in questions of public health and morals, since not only do these things closely affect women, but the laws and regulations dealing with them have, in the past, nearly always been grossly unjust to women.

In the very enthusiasm of most women for a higher and healthier morality there lurks a danger. Provided that new laws dealing with health and morals refer equally to both sexes, many women are content to support such laws without inquiring very strictly as to whether they are (a) good in themselves and (b) are applied equally to both sexes.

The intensive campaign of public instruction in the prevalence and dangers of venereal diseases has induced many men and women to support laws for the drastic repression of prostitution and the enforced medical examination and attempted compulsory reformation of alleged prostitutes. The "American plan" for fighting venereal diseases, repressing prostitution and educating the public has been widely broadcast in leaflets and magazines and by lectures, but although having some excellent points, specially on the educational side, such schemes contain grave dangers to equal law and administration between men and women.

American thought and influence plays so large a part all over the world today that I would like to urge EQUAL RIGHTS readers and those working for equality between men and women to examine very carefully, not only the wording and administration of all laws dealing with health and morals, but the basic idea behind these laws.

Mrs. Edith Houghton Hooker has done great service in this respect and we owe her a debt of gratitude for her book, "The Laws of Sex." We may not agree with all Mrs. Hooker's proposals, but she has clearly pointed out the dangerous and inequitable effect which certain laws, designed to repress disease and immorality, may have upon morality and upon the equality movement.

WE in England are watching American legislation with great interest.

We note that in New York State prostitution and the offer to commit prostitution has been made a legal offence. The wording of the law is equal, as it deals with "persons" and not merely with women, yet the courts have ruled that "a man cannot participate in an act of prostitution" because prostitution is a practice of women only. The result of this decision is that an apparently equal law simply means an intensification of the campaign for the repression of prostitution in women only.

The educational effect is that the State sets an example in publicly upholding the double standard of morals—the real cause of prostitution. Efforts are now being directed to obtain a "customer" law which shall make the man also liable, but, in the existing state of public opinion, the only methods by which such a law could be operated must open the way to the corruption and debauching of the individual police officer and the successful evasion of the law by all but the poor and ignorant.

It has been wisely said that "the campaign against prostitution should not be confused with a campaign against prostitutes," but this is generally what happens, and feminists have always to bear in mind that all short cuts for the elimination of prostitution tend to result in the harrying and persecution of a small number of unfortunate girls and women of the poorer class, while the evil of promiscuity is left almost untouched.

AGAIN, there is a tendency everywhere to lay most of the blame for spread- ing venereal infection upon prostitutes. The real problem, however, is not that one diseased woman may infect twenty men

in a day, but that twenty men will, voluntarily—well knowing that all promiscuous women are potential givers of disease—consort with such a woman.

Moreover, it is not the prostitute who constitutes the link along which disease is brought into the innocent family. Such women are almost completely cut off from contact with decent families. It is the man who serves as the link which brings the family into contact with disease. The number of women who take part in prostitution is so few compared to the number of men who take part in it that it is surely a waste of time to concentrate on the medical examination and compulsory internment in reformatories of the women. Is not our real problem how to effect a change in public opinion which will eliminate the willingness of twenty men to run the risk of infection by consorting with one promiscuous woman?

CAN we effect this change in male public opinion by forcible measures? Have we done our educational work so long and so well that the majority of men and women are convinced, and willing to act on the conviction, that prostitution is undesirable, unnecessary, and wrong in itself? I doubt it. Yet if this conviction does not lie behind our laws, are we wise to make prostitution in itself a legal crime? How can we educate men and women into this conviction? Only by the slow method of challenging all inequality in matters of morals and by a continuous education in good citizenship and spiritual ideals. We shall never educate men to equal morality by interning immoral women in reformatories. By so doing we only teach men that immorality is wrong for women.

I want to urge feminists everywhere to study the law and administration concerning morals in their own and other countries, to write to women in other lands, to link up and to think internationally about these problems. On American women there lies a special responsibility, as their country is making experiments in morals legislation, and American ideals are likely to carry great weight throughout the world.

# 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 MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation"

[ Senate Joint Resolution Number 21.  
House Joint Resolution Number 75. ]

Introduced in the Senate, December 10, 1923,  
by SENATOR CHARLES E. CURTIS.  
Introduced in the House of Representatives,  
December 13, 1923,  
by REPRESENTATIVE D. R. ANTHONY.

## Have You Interviewed Your Senators and Congressmen?

THE fate of the Equal Rights Amendment in the next session of Congress is being determined during this interim. The people's representatives are learning this summer what measures their constituents consider vital and urgent. Issues the people in their States and in their Congressional districts talk about during the recess are the issues Senators and Congressmen will act upon when Congress convenes again.

In Michigan, in Wisconsin, in Illinois, and in other States in different sections of the country, women are interviewing their elected representatives, pointing out to them the disabilities with which women are now burdened, demanding that these disabilities be removed, and that the principle of Equal Rights between men and women be written into the Constitution of the United States, so that American women may be permanently liberated. Many Congressmen are meeting groups of women of various professions, businesses and industries, women homemakers, women students of the status of women, and are learning the depth and determination of women to obtain for themselves and their posterity equal opportunity, with its attendant equal responsibility.

Have your Congressmen and your Senators learned from you the status of women in the United States and in your own State? Have they learned the necessity and the inevitability of Equal Rights? Have they learned the significance of Equal Rights?

Have you deputized every Senator and every Congressman in your State to urge the immediate adoption of the Lucretia Mott Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, thus writing into the fundamental law of the land founded on the principle that men are created free and equal, the final principle that men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction?

The detailed account of the deputation to Senator Deneen of Illinois, in this issue of EQUAL RIGHTS, is typical of what is being done in many places.

We should waste no opportunity to see every Congressman and every Senator before Congress convenes, to urge his support of Equal Rights.

## Women for the Senate

THIS issue of EQUAL RIGHTS contains accounts of movements to elect three women to the United States Senate, to which no woman has ever been elected, and in which only one woman has sat as a member, and that for only one day.

Whether or not Mrs. Belle Case La Follette should decide to accept the seat which Wisconsin has freely offered her, and which women throughout the country have urged her to accept in the interests of women, the very fact that the opportunity was definitely given her is encouraging to those who look forward to seeing women take their rightful place in public life on an equal basis with men. Mrs. La Follette was offered the position, not out of sentiment, but out of the conviction that no person could more adequately fill Senator La Follette's place than the person who was his partner and his most valued advisor. That person was not any of the men leaders in Wisconsin who have been La Follette's advisors, but it was Mrs. La Follette.

Mrs. Virginia Peters Parkhurst of Maryland has announced her candidacy for the Senate, with support of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution as one of the chief planks of her platform.

A political writer reports a definite movement in Ohio to nominate Judge Florence E. Allen of the Ohio Supreme Court as the Democratic candidate. Judge Allen's record for being the first woman to enter various aspects of public life make one feel that no barrier of custom will impede her for long, and that her chances for a successful candidacy are indeed great. Certainly her record in Ohio is evidence alike of her ability and her popularity.

These three events are "signposts on the Dover road." We may expect, whatever the result of these possibilities of women's nomination, that they surely mark the near approach of the time when women will sit in the United States Senate.

## What Every Member of Congress Ought to Know

WHEN the Illinois Branch of the National Woman's Party sent its representatives to call on Senator Charles Deneen on July 6, to ask his support of the Equal Rights Amendment, proposed by the National Woman's Party to remove finally and completely all remaining discriminations against women in the laws of the United States, there was enacted a scene that is typical of what is going on in many States, in the offices or the homes of many Senators and Congressmen during the interim between the last and the next sessions of Congress.

Women of different trades and professions set forth their demands for equal opportunity and equal pay. The legal disabilities of women were pointed out. The advantages of writing the principle of equality into the fundamental law of the land were explained. What took place at that meeting is a cross-section of what the National Woman's Party is doing throughout the United States to hasten the coming of equality between men and women.

Genevieve Melody, chairman of the Illinois State Branch and head of the Teachers' Council of the Woman's Party, presided and introduced the speakers to Senator Deneen. She said, in part:

"The National Woman's Party is not a party in the political sense, but an organization dedicated to the proposition that men and women are created equal. We are pledged to carry on the unfinished work of the old suffrage organizations, demanding, as we do, not only political, but legal, social, and economic equality—not only Equal Rights, but equal opportunity and equal pay. We demand that all forms of discrimination against women should cease, not only in law, but in custom. We see in the so-called 'privileges,' often unasked and unwarranted and always trivial, a poor substitute for the recognition of woman as an independent, self-supporting being in herself.

"Our platform does not, however, interfere with maternity legislation or with mothers' pensions, measures intended primarily for the protection of the child, and for supplementing the inadequacy of the father or mother in providing for the family."

Mabel Raef Putnam, formerly a resident of Wisconsin, where she led the campaign which resulted in the Wisconsin Equal Rights law, but now a resident of Chicago, presented to Senator Deneen the arguments which she laid before President Coolidge a few months ago in her plea for Federal action.

"We cannot be delayed in securing this necessary act of justice by interminable years consumed in action State by State.

The 'State method' is slow, expensive, and insecure," said Mrs. Putnam."

BERTHA MOLLER, LL.B., Northwest-ern University, an attorney, outlined the legal disabilities which now burden women.

"Under the old common law of England, which has been adopted by the States of the Union," explained Mrs. Moller, "married women had no legal existence whatever, while the legal rights of unmarried women were very much restricted. Upon marriage a woman's legal identity merged completely into that of the husband. The phrase, 'The two are one and that one is the husband' was actually and literally true, so far as the law was concerned. This legal concept of women was adopted into the laws of the several States and prevailed till about 1850.

"As a result of the first Woman's Rights Convention in 1848 and of subsequent activity on the part of women themselves, we find the various legislatures passing laws giving women control over their separate property, the right to contract, legal rights in their own children. The legal status of women has been slowly changing since that time.

"But no one state in the United States has given women complete Equal Rights under the law, up to the present time. The National Woman's Party has made a thorough survey of the legal status of women in this country by a systematic research of all state constitutions, all statutes, and all court decisions relating to women. This is the first time in the history of jurisprudence that such a survey has been made. Women for the first time in history know their exact position in every branch of law. We find that not a single state has removed all the legal discriminations against women and wiped out in its entirety the old common law concept.

"For instance: In Georgia a husband is still entitled to his wife's earnings. A husband owns his wife's clothes in South Carolina and Michigan, the common law in that regard not having been changed. In Georgia and Maryland the father has the right even to will the child away from the mother. Inheritance laws discriminate against women; women are discriminated against in public offices and positions; and in more than half the States in the Union women cannot serve on juries.

"Illinois is one of the half-dozen States which is most progressive in its legislation for women. Women in this State have a right to contract with their own

husbands. They have exclusive control over their separate property and can conduct a business as if *feme sole*. But even in Illinois we find discriminations.

"The husband is the head of the household.

"A statute gives married women the right to their own earnings, but several cases hold that if the labor of the wife is performed for her husband or is bestowed on his business, the earnings from such labor belongs to the husband.

"A wife has no right of action for damages for injuries to the husband which prevented him from supporting the family, throwing that burden on the wife.

"But a husband has right of action for injuries to the wife where he has lost her society or has been put to expense for her injuries.

"The earnings of minor child belong to the father, though both father and mother are equally liable for the child's support.

"The father and not the mother is entitled to sue for damages for the injury or death of a minor child.

"Only the father, if alive, can sue for the seduction of a daughter.

ROSE M. KAVANA, secretary of the Teachers' Council of the Woman's Party, called attention to the discriminations against women teachers.

"In the absence of laws requiring equality of treatment for men and women, women are generally paid less than men for the same work; they are given fewer opportunities for promotion; and their marriage may exclude them entirely from service. For equality of treatment they are dependent only upon the discretion of local boards of education, made up for the most part of men," Mrs. Kavana said.

"An investigation made last year by the American Association of University Women reveals the fact that in the 104 co-educational universities and colleges investigated, there are only 28 women enjoying full rank as professors compared with 2,110 men; or about 1.3 per cent, and this in the face of the fact that 31 per cent of the students are women.

"There are few women appointed to boards of education and educational commissions, and altogether education is too much of a man-made affair. Women have little to do with the shaping of educational policy or the distribution of educational patronage. In positions of low pay involving much drudgery, women are compelled to work out their contribution to the state, regardless of their educational patronage. A recent investigation of the North Central Association of Col-

leges and Secondary Schools shows that the educational equipment of the superintendents and principals of the secondary schools of the North Central States is much inferior to that of the teachers whom they supervise."

JOSEPHINE CASEY, of the Industrial Council of the National Woman's Party presented the industrial aspect, as it concerns 'protective' legislation.

"The American Federation of Labor does not care to have working hours legislated for men. President Samuel Gompers in his last great message to labor at El Paso before the Convention of the American Federation of Labor said, 'Only in voluntary association is there integrity.' Mr. Morrison of the American

Federation of Labor, when asked if this principle applied to men only, replied that it was meant for both men and women. Women are at the parting of the ways. They must elect to be semi-wards, the subject of special legislation for a class not fully competent, or they must go forward to full equality, with protection for the weak, whether men or women, but no handicap for the strong," Miss Casey said.

EDITHA PHELPS pointed out to Senator Deneen that the United States is not the pioneer in the movement for constitutional recognition of equality between men and women, since eight European constitutions provide full equality for women.

"We are now living under relics of the

English common law, the Napoleonic code, and the Spanish law, all of which are restricting to women. We do not feel that American women are unreasonable in asking that the United States adopt at least as progressive constitution as Germany, which grants to women equal rights with men," Miss Phelps said.

Margaret Whittemore, vice-president of the National Woman's Party, who accompanied the delegation, said:

"The success of this amendment is as inevitable as was suffrage for women, and the liberation of the Negro. Our constitution provides for Equal Rights for men only. We are endeavoring to bring it into harmony with the ages in asking Equal Rights for women."

The Illinois Branch plans deputations to various Illinois congressmen.

## Mrs. La Follette Urged to Enter Senate

BECAUSE of her long record of fights in the interest of women; because of her excellent political experience; because of her personal, intellectual, and legal attainments; because of her opportunity to gain admission of a woman to the Senate earlier than might otherwise be expected, Mrs. Belle Case La Follette, widow of the late Senator Robert Marion La Follette, is being urged by women all over the country to announce her candidacy for the seat in the United States Senate vacated by the death of her husband.

On July 15, the National Woman's Party presented to Mrs. La Follette a petition from the Wisconsin Branch of the National Woman's Party, urging her to enter the race. Emma Wold, of the Legal Research Department of the party, and a close personal friend of Mrs. La Follette's, in presenting the petition, told her that women everywhere were looking to her to help advance the women's cause, and assured her of the entire support of the National Woman's Party. As Alice Paul said, it may be decades before another woman would have such an opportunity to enter the Senate, for Mrs. La Follette's election is conceded, if she cares to run.

Mrs. La Follette said that one of the inducements which would lead her to consider entering the race is the fact that her election would make it easier for women hereafter to take their rightful place in public life.

No woman has ever been elected to the United States Senate. Mrs. Felton sat in the Senate one day, by appointment, but had no opportunity to take any part in legislation. Mrs. La Follette would thus be the first woman really to occupy a place in America's highest legislative body.

Mrs. La Follette had definitely decided not to run, and to relinquish her opportunity to her son, Robert Marion La Follette, Jr., but the pleas of women all over the country to perform this service for women have caused her to reconsider this decision, it is said.

DURING the Equal Rights tour being made in the Middle West, Margaret Whittemore, Laura Cramer, and Helena Betcher found in every village and city they visited in Wisconsin an enormous enthusiasm for Mrs. La Follette.

"We found a keen interest among the women throughout the State in Mrs. La Follette's possible candidacy for the Senate," Miss Betcher writes. "Everywhere petitions, urging her to accept the nomination, are being circulated. At the meeting in Milwaukee a resolution was adopted, urging her to accept it, and pledging the support of the Milwaukee Branch of the Woman's Party to her campaign. At the luncheon on Thursday telegrams were sent to Miss Paul and to Isabelle Kendig, asking them to urge Mrs. La Follette to accept, and the resolution adopted at the meeting on Wednesday was wired to Mrs. La Follette. Every woman with whom we have talked (which means every woman we've had any contact with) has expressed the opinion that nothing could be more fitting than that Wisconsin, the first state to have Equal Rights [it was likewise the first state to ratify the Suffrage Amendment] should be the first to send a woman to the Senate, especially a woman so eminently fitted for the position as Mrs. La Follette."

At various places along the way, where the Equal Rights Ford stopped only for a few minutes, women, hitherto unknown to Miss Whittemore, Mrs. Cramer, and Miss Betcher, spoke of their desire

to see Mrs. La Follette in the Senate.

On July 16, the Government Workers' Council of the Woman's Party sent a letter to Mrs. La Follette, urging her to enter the Senate, because women government workers have so long needed a champion in the Senate.

When Jessie Dell, chairman of the Government Workers' Council, presented the women workers' plea, Mrs. La Follette said, "I am gratified that women, for whose advancement I have always worked, should recognize in me a friend, and should want me to serve them in the Senate. It is a great happiness to me, and I feel that it is a great honor, that so many women have expressed faith in my friendship for them."

The letter sent by the Workers' Council to Mrs. La Follette was as follows:

"My dear Mrs. La Follette:

"In behalf of the Government Workers' Council of the National Woman's Party I am writing to express the desire of this large group of women in the government service that you accede to the almost unanimous demand of the people of your state to take up the work of your illustrious husband and enter the Senate of the United States.

"As you doubtless know, ever since women have been in the government service they have not been given equal opportunity to rise to the highest positions and have met with discriminations on every hand. We have long felt that the position of women in the government service would be greatly helped by having a woman in the Senate to champion our cause, and we therefore are laying before you our plea that you accept this opportunity which has been given you to aid women in the government service as well as all women in the country.

"We feel that your acceptance of this call will hasten the entrance of women into high positions of service by years and perhaps decades.

"Respectfully yours,

"JESSIE DELL, *Chairman,*  
"Government Workers' Council."

On July 18, the Students' Council of the National Woman's Party, in the name of thousands of young women who seek wider opportunities than were open to their predecessors of a generation ago, urged Mrs. La Follette to accept the nomination for the sake of the young women of the future. Mary Van Casteel, chairman of the Students' Council, in presenting the petition, told Mrs. La Follette that the students felt that she should grasp this

opportunity to open one more field for women's service.

IN his autobiography, Senator La Follette paid frequent tribute, not merely to the inspiration, but likewise to the legal and political advice of his wife.

"\* \* \* in my political career she has been my wisest and best counselor. That this is no partial judgment, the Progressive leaders of Wisconsin who welcomed her to our conferences would bear witness. Her grasp of great problems, sociological and economic, is unsurpassed by any of the strong men who have been associated with me in my work."

Following this paragraph is what may be a prophecy and a guide to the time

when Mrs. La Follette herself might be in the United States Senate, for the Senator expressed the opinion that women should play a larger part than they do in the greater housekeeping of the State.

Every person who has watched Senator La Follette's career knows Mrs. La Follette's activity in campaigning in Wisconsin for the Progressive Party ticket from time to time, as well as her campaigning in Eastern States last year for her husband's candidacy for the presidency. She was the first woman to be graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School, and is an able lawyer.

Mrs. La Follette has not yet announced her decision on whether or not to accept the opportunity given to women through her.

## News From The Field

### Equal Rights Tour in Wisconsin

SUCCESSFUL meetings and conferences throughout Wisconsin have been held during the Equal Rights tour being made by Margaret Whittemore, vice-president of the Woman's Party; Laura Cramer, chairman of organization, and Helena Betcher.

The days from Tuesday to Friday (July 7-10) were spent in Milwaukee, where the members of the Milwaukee Branch of the Party showed great energy and enthusiasm in working for Equal Rights. At a well-attended meeting on Wednesday Miss Whittemore presented the Equal Rights program of the National Woman's Party. Belle Rupp, an attorney and vice-president of the Milwaukee Branch of the Woman's Party, spoke, stressing the responsibility that rests on the members as individuals to see that the Equal Rights Amendment not only is passed, but that it becomes an active force. She spoke of the success of the Wisconsin Equal Rights Bill, which, although it still allows for legislation restricting women in industry, is a great step in advance and is constantly being enforced to the great benefit of the women of the state. Mrs. Rupp urged that deputations be organized to interview Senator Irvine Lenroot and their Congressmen during the recess of Congress, so that they may be thoroughly informed with regard to the Lucretia Mott Amendment when it comes before them at the next session.

Wednesday evening Miss Whittemore spoke at the Milwaukee Press Club on Equal Rights. Thursday morning conferences with Milwaukee women leaders were held and definite plans for deputations to Senator Lenroot and Representative Cooper were made. Mrs. Rupp,

Mrs. Gustave Hipke, Mrs. Schroeder, Mrs. Wiltt, Mrs. William Langen, Mrs. Rosenthal and others are arranging further activities. Thursday afternoon and evening Miss Whittemore broadcasted Equal Rights from Station WSOE in Milwaukee.

Of the visit to Madison, seat of the Capitol and the University of Wisconsin, Miss Betcher writes: "On Friday we drove to Madison, and although we were there only over night, we succeeded in getting some publicity and in seeing a number of people. In the evening we went to a play at the university, which was directed by Mrs. E. P. Sperry of Milwaukee, chairman of the Wisconsin Actresses' Council. Afterwards we talked at length with Mrs. Sperry, and she, too, is going to help the delegation."

Conferences were also held with Zona Gale of the National Council of the Woman's Party and Mrs. John Blaine, whose husband is Governor of Wisconsin.

Everywhere the interest in Mrs. Belle Case La Follette's possible candidacy for the Senate was manifested, as described in another article in this issue. Other sidelights on the Wisconsin Equal Rights tour are given in Miss Betcher's letter to EQUAL RIGHTS.

"On our way to Madison we stopped by chance for luncheon at the home of Mrs. J. E. Jacobson in Cambridge. Miss Whittemore immediately told her (she never misses an opportunity) who we were and what we were doing. Mrs. Jacobson said, 'Oh, I heard a lady talking about Equal Rights over the radio last night.' (Of course, the lady was Miss Whittemore.) She was greatly interested both in the Woman's Party and in Mrs. La Follette's candidacy, and had us write

a story for the Cambridge weekly paper before we departed. In Cambridge, too, we 'gave a lift' to a little Norwegian lady, the Methodist minister's wife in the town, and she, too, was much interested. She proved to be from the same town in Norway and a friend of Frucken Eugen, who was a recent visitor at Headquarters and a member of the Woman's Party."

These are but a few instances, Miss Betcher says, showing the interest in Equal Rights and the opportunity for work such as is being done on this tour.

Miss Gale entertained the party at her home in Portage on Saturday, and plans were made for deputations to Wisconsin members of Congress. From there the party drove to LaCrosse and arrived in time to get a front page story in the Sunday morning *LaCrosse Tribune*. They found a woman serving as city editor of this paper.

Sunday was spent in conference with Ada James at Richland Center. Miss James was at one time State Chairman of the Woman's Party in Wisconsin, and is one of the great feminist leaders of the State.

Of the visit to St. Paul, Minnesota, where they arrived Sunday night, Miss Betcher says:

"This morning we've been discovering what very energetic and cordial people we have in Minnesota. Both the Minneapolis and St. Paul branches have had board meetings with regard to what we should do while we were here, and all morning Miss Whittemore has been busy with conferences and reporters. Tonight there is to be a joint executive meeting of the St. Paul and Minneapolis branches, and tomorrow noon a luncheon at the St. Paul Woman's City Club."

Of Miss Whittemore's talk to Nakama, a women's club in Oak Park, Illinois, made earlier in the tour, *Oak Leaves*, a weekly paper there, says:

"Miss Whittemore aroused considerable interest in her message, evinced by the number of women who remained to speak

with her, eager for information on this mooted question. One woman was heard to remark that women in Oak Park had more equal rights. Miss Whittemore replied that the men were fine enough to grant them without pressure from the law, but that most women are not so fo-

tunate and need the protection of the law."

The story continued with more than a half-page outline of the existing discriminations against women in the laws of the country.

## Press Comments

### Women in the Next War

From the *New York Times*.

FOR a small price Premier Mussolini is planning to secure a vast increase of armament for Italy against the next war. He has forced a bill through the Chamber of Deputies bestowing the municipal franchise on women. In return he merely asks that in the next war women as well as men shall be called to the colors. With a characteristic touch of that efficiency which has won him so many admirers in this country, he has already prepared a mobilization order to this effect. Woman suffrage in itself he does not take seriously. It will not make much difference one way or the other. In a limited sense that has been found to be true everywhere. The women voters have merely increased the electorate without affecting relative party strength. Concerning the subtler and more distant effects of woman suffrage we have had so far to guess. But now comes a strong hint of what a bitter equality it may turn out that women have been struggling for. In the next war they will certainly be drafted into the munition factories, very probably into the labor battalions behind the front, and, when the nation's back is against the wall, into the trenches.

This new horror throws into the shade the minor terrors against which the nations have been endeavoring to set up safeguards. We have had a conference on the limitation of naval armament. We are striving toward a conference on the limitation of land armament. The use of poison gas has been prohibited in treaties signed by most of the Powers. But all these limitations are rendered derisory by the removal of the great limitation of which Mussolini has made himself the pioneer. For that matter, the Italian dictator has only formulated in words an inevitable development if there is indeed to be a "next" world war. A nation in desperate straits will throw battalions of women into the fighting line. Necessity which knows no law will attend to that. Nor will there be wanting rationalizers to point out how much more logical and merciful in the long run it is to send women into the trenches than to condemn millions of women to broken and sterile

lives because the men who should have been their husbands have been killed off.

Compared with this dread eventuality, compared with the demoralization of child life, which we must expect when the mothers as well as the fathers are drafted away from the home, how pitifully shortsighted and cowardly are the fears and menaces invoked by those who have set themselves against efforts under way to postpone or banish the threat of the "next

war!" There is danger in "commitments" to a League of Nations and in "commitments" to a World Court. We must be on the lookout for peril in this clause and the ultimate consequences in that paragraph. And in the meanwhile Mussolini has drafted a mobilization order summoning the women to the colors.

Women Diplomats  
*Washington Post*.

IT will be "Mme. Ambassador" and "Mlle. Minister" before long, now the invasion of women into the diplomatic field has become an assured fact. Prominence to this possibility is given by the presence in Washington of America's two women diplomats, Miss Lucille Atcherson and Miss Patty Field, and Mrs. A. L. Macfeat, the first woman to have her name appear in the official diplomatic list from the State Department. Mrs. Macfeat is second secretary to the legation of the Irish Free State. She is a charming, handsome woman, whose husband died in the World War, and has with her in Washington a nine-year-old daughter. Mrs. Macfeat sailed last week for Erin, but will return to her post here in September.

### Grave Danger Averted!

CHARGED with flirting on the streets of Peekskill, Miss Martha Conklin, twenty-two, received a suspended sentence yesterday with the understanding she agree to be banished from the village. She accepted the mandate of Judge Barker and left town immediately. Because of the presence of so many National Guardsmen on furlough from the State camp nearby, police decided to use extra vigilance in guarding against flirting on the public streets.—*New York World*, June 27, 1925.

It is an interesting precedent started in Peekskill. The National Guard must be kept from flirting, the streets must be free of flirting. The remedy—banish from town all women who show a disposition to flirt. Probably with women inclined to flirt removed, the National Guard will be kept from flirting. Viewed more tolerantly, it is just an instance of protection for the weaker sex. A little hard on the women, but obviously a case of the greatest good for the greatest number. The National Guard can't be disturbed because they are busily engaged in mastering the difficult art of soldiery; the Guard can't be moved. Martha Conklin, twenty-two, must go. If she is of a philosophical turn of mind, she may get comfort from the knowledge that with her departure Peekskill and the National Guard are safe from flirting.

A UNIQUE and amusing and most interesting chapter on "The Women of London" appears in a new book by George Byron Gordon, the director of the Museum, University of Pennsylvania, entitled "Rambles in Old London," published recently by George W. Jacobs & Co., Philadelphia. It draws attention to the fact that London has six monuments to women. The admonitions on behavior addressed by a mother to her daughter are so greatly at variance with what would be tolerated in polite society today as probably to bewilder some of our readers. We almost envy Anthropologist Gordon his ability to uncover and enjoy "original sources."

PERY D. WARREN.

### DAY PRINTING COMPANY

Printers

LIGHT AND LOMBARD STREETS  
Entrance on Balderston Street  
BALTIMORE