

Equal Rights

VOL. XII, No. 25
FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 1, 1925



The New Chairman and Her Daughters

Edith Houghton Hooker of Maryland is the newly-elected Chairman of the National Council of the National Woman's Party.

Feminist Notes

Women Singing Teachers Organize

BECAUSE they felt that the teaching of singing requires professional standards for the protection of students, and because they felt that the American Academy of Teachers of Singing is discriminating against them, women teachers of music have launched a guild which will admit every proficient woman teacher of singing, but will exclude those not meeting the professional standards adopted. This movement was stimulated by Alice Baroni, a Founder of the National Woman's Party and editor of *The Musical World*.

In a recent editorial in her magazine, Mme. Baroni quoted the Academy as saying that its membership was restricted to "men who are American citizens," and that these were admitted by invitation only. Mme. Baroni commented: "The poor women teachers don't count," and stated that the Academy was thus defeating the ends for which it was founded. In a short time afterwards the Academy published its aims in full page advertisements in two musical magazines, and invited all teachers of singing to register their names with the Academy, but did not invite them to become members.

Mme. Baroni has offered to give a concert for the benefit of the National Woman's Party in New York City before beginning her winter concert tour as her contribution to the Woman's Party's campaign for Equal Rights.

Another Myth Exploded

THE notion that women are less careful drivers than men turns out to be a fallacy. The American Automobile Association announced on July 18, after a series of tests conducted by the Institute of Government Research at Washington, that women and men show practically the same amount of care, there being a very slight difference in favor of the women. Tests were made with students of both sexes from the George Washington University with equal experience in driving.

An Intra-Empire League

THE British Commonwealth League is the latest international organization working for Equal Rights. It is composed of representative suffragists from all parts of the British Empire, and its work will be confined to Great Britain and the various dominions, commonwealths and colonies admitting allegiance to King George. The first conference held in London on July 9 was addressed by Viscount Cecil.

This Year's Prize Painting

ODETTE PAUVERT, a 22-year-old French girl, is the first woman painter to win the *Grand Prix de Rome* of the Paris Academy of Fine Arts. The prize was awarded for a painting, entitled "The Legend of St. Ronan." The award was made on July 18.

ELEANOR DANZIGER, editor of "Feminist Notes" in *Equal Rights*, died on July 25 following an operation for appendicitis. Just two days before the operation copy arrived for this week's issue. Mrs. Danziger read dozens of weekly and monthly foreign papers, in several languages, to collect this material for our readers, and wrote her page anonymously, interested only in the advancement of women and the gaining of equality.

This feature of *Equal Rights* has been one of the most popular and informative pages in the magazine. A letter received a few days before her death from a renewing subscriber says that her news of the advancement of women in other countries "are particularly interesting, thrilling and inspiring."

Mrs. Danziger was an active and ardent worker for Equal Rights for all people, and one of the leading members of the Maryland State Branch of the National Woman's Party.

She was buried Tuesday at her old home, Wilmington, Delaware.

Boshi

IF Mayor Antonio Bosch of Regia, Cuba, has been correctly reported, there must be a superfluous letter in his family name. He is said to have asked the City Council to pass an ordinance making employment of women compulsory in department stores and other places where women's articles are sold. Mr. Bosch should know enough about merchants to be aware that they need no law to force them to employ the kind of help most attractive to their customers. And he should also know that a law which arbitrarily shuts out men from certain employment is as undesirable as one that arbitrarily shuts out women.

Honoring a Heroine's Memory

A MOVEMENT has been started in Palestine to erect a monument to Sarah Aaronson, a native of Turkey who, being in sympathy with the Allies during the World War, joined "The Nili," an organization of spies in the Orient in service of the English and French. Captured by the Turks, she refused to reveal anything concerning her organization, though subjected to barbarous tortures. Finally, while in prison in Damascus, she managed to obtain a revolver and killed herself. For thus giving her life for the liberation of Syria and Palestine the monument to her is to be raised.

Struggling in Hungary

SUFFRAGE and other equality questions are involved in discussion of the new constitution of Hungary now being framed. A limited and unequal form of woman suffrage now prevails. Women's organizations are demanding that qualifications for women be made the same as for men. The same applies to qualifications for the House of Lords, which is limited at present to representatives of male aristocrats paying taxes of 3000 gold crowns or more. Since Admiral Horthy dominates, complete success cannot be expected, but some advance may be forced.

Scientific and Business Women Meet

AN international congress of women engaged in scientific, industrial, and commercial pursuits was opened in London on July 15. Lady Astor presided. The American Society of Automotive Engineers and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers were represented by Ethel Bailey, who brought fraternal greetings.

Suffrage Bill in Argentine

A SUFFRAGE bill for native or naturalized women more than 22 years of age has been introduced in the Argentine Chamber of Deputies by Deputy Leopold Bard.

Equal Pay in Ireland

AS the result of much agitation, Finance Minister Blythe of the Irish Free State is reported to have ordered that beginning with the successful applicants at the next civil service examination the pay of men and women employees be equalized. This does not affect those already employed, but is at least a start.

"Women at War" for Their Rights in Industry

By Helen Black

"AMAZONS Beat Off Invaders. Defend Union Headquarters Against Attack by Strong-Arm Squad."

So the newspaper headlines of June 16 described the unsuccessful effort of officials of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union to gain possession of No. 16 West Twenty-first Street, New York, the home of the Dressmakers' Union. Two other buildings, headquarters of Locals 2 and 9, with a squad of men on guard were captured; Local 22, where a hundred women held the fort, stood firm.

This battle resulted from a long struggle between members of this great union of garment workers and a group of officers who have maintained themselves in power for years and have skillfully built up a powerful machine that perpetuates their rule. The three largest locals in the International, comprising over 30,000 of the 50,000 members in New York, revolted when the last special tax was levied and cried:

"No more taxation without representation. No more government by a body where 60 per cent of the members of this city have less than 25 per cent of the votes. Either we have a voice in union management proportionate to our huge membership, or we refuse our support."

The answer from the union officials was suspension of the executive committees of Local 2, 9 and 22, and a sudden raid on the three headquarters by a band of hired thugs.

"They ought to have known they could not get Local 22," its members say. "We have a majority of girls in this local and we have never yet been a meek or docile crowd. We have always been creating disturbances in the union by demanding our rights. They might as well let us alone; they'll never get this headquarters."

You would agree with them if you saw Local 22 and the band on constant watch there. Ever since that first attack, in the midst of a thunderstorm, at 2.30 in the morning, there has been a squad lining the long flight of outside steps, a guard on the outside door, a guard on the inside door, watchers at every window except when at night these windows are covered with heavy wooden shutters and barred with iron. You are severely scrutinized if you pass the headquarters; you are immediately challenged if you try to enter the building. And few there are who get past those formidable feminine guards.

For the first week after that initial attack, no doors remained open; no win-

dows except those on the top floor ever took down their heavy shutters. Under strict discipline, a hundred women were on watch night and day. They carried no weapons but their own strong right arms. They slept on benches, on the floor, on tables, on steel filing cases, ready to be called at the first sign of attack. At intervals a messenger brought in sandwiches and coffee, and this was the sole diet for three days while no one was allowed to leave the building without a special permit.

Captain Esther Weissberg came on duty each night. She assigned each girl to a special post to remain there until her relief appeared. There was no confusion behind those barred doors and windows. Everything was as orderly as an army detachment on duty. Without a question each girl obeyed the commands given her. Without a question she remained in the building day and night, with only a few hours of sleep.

STRONG arm gangs sent scouts to report the lay of the land, and they evidently decided the 'amazons' looked well able to defend themselves, for two weeks passed without another attack. A small group of men has re-inforced the perpetual guard of women inside the headquarters. Two uniformed policemen patrol the sidewalk outside. And so the siege goes on. A recent attempt to capture the headquarters by methods of persuasion has been just as unsuccessful as the early attacks. The girls were deaf to the plea of a man who came at three o'clock one morning asking admittance because he was sick. They recognized his type; he was one of those who had often beaten them on picket lines. They had seen his confederates slowly wheeling past in taxicabs; they had already spied his gang at a near-by corner waiting for the signal to attack. So the "sick" man received no feminine sympathy. He was given a chair on the curb next to a policeman, and his illness soon disappeared.

"Better not follow him," the officer warned a group of defendants who wanted to see him safely out of sight. "He's a gangster, without a doubt, and I can't be responsible for what might happen to you."

So the guard went back to duty on the steps of 16 West Twenty-first Street. There they still are, holding their headquarters by force until a settlement of the union difficulties makes it possible to resume more peaceful ways.

These girls have worked hard to buy

their local building with their own money. It is to them a recreation center, a meeting place, the center for reporting all their difficulties in industry.

"Why should we give it into the hands of these officers of the International?" they ask. "They are men who have been officeholders so long they have forgotten what it means to work at a machine. They have acquired the habit of raising dues and imposing special taxes without realizing what a drain they are on the workers' meagre incomes. Worst of all, when we raise a voice in protest, we are told to keep still or we will be put out of the union. Out of our own union, which many of us have worked years and years to build up.

"No sir. We will not get out, nor will we give up our home. We are the union, and if the officers do not like us, they can get out. For a long time we have felt that they had not our interests at heart, but cared only for their jobs. Now we know it."

This defiance comes also from Local 2, which has no women members; from Local 9, which has a few women members. But it comes most vigorously from Local 22 and its "fighting girls."

THE whole dispute is the old story of the voters' fight against a political machine. This particular union has a typical "rotten borough" system of representation; a steam roller that is oiled by the dues and taxes paid by the workers in the shops and operates smoothly for the benefit of those in power. Some of the money maintains an "organization committee" within the union, a group of thugs who quell any opposition to the officials. They have been active during this present battle in attacking sympathizers of the three locals. One girl was hit on the head with a milk bottle, and the resulting cut had to be stitched at a hospital. Another girl was mauled by gangsters and her arms twisted until they were black and blue. Other girls, and men, have been arrested for resisting the attacks of gangsters.

But they look upon it as all part of the fight and not to be taken too seriously. They are sure they will win. They know they are going to drive out the tyrants. They are confident they will one day have a truly democratic union ruled by the rank and file of the members for the benefit of all the workers.

And just as the women have served as defenders, as leaders, as speakers at mass meetings, and members of the Joint Action Committee, they will be found at the helm of the re-organized union carrying on the good work when the fight is won.

The Foundations Laid

THE movement for Equal Rights in law, in custom, and in economic opportunity is fortunate in having as its newly elected campaign director a woman who has achieved great distinction in every field of feminist endeavor.

Edith Houghton Hooker, who has just assumed the office of National Chairman of the National Woman's Party, is one of the foremost Americans in the field of social hygiene, and one of the leading feminists of today. During all her work in social hygiene she has ever insisted that in any legislation for social hygiene, equality between the sexes must be unwaveringly maintained. Many in their eagerness have forgotten this, as Alison Neilans, English leader in the social hygiene movement, pointed out in her article in EQUAL RIGHTS last week.

MRS. HOOKER takes up the Woman's Party work for which the foundations have been laid in the four years since the winning of suffrage, during which time the National Woman's Party has concentrated on winning Equal Rights between the sexes in every form of human activity.

Among the outstanding achievements for equality during this short period are:

The drafting and introduction into Congress of an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

The conducting of a thorough investigation of the discriminations against women in the laws.

The drafting of more than five hundred Equal Rights measures for introduction into State Legislatures.

The establishment of a permanent National Headquarters for the Equal Rights movement, through the generosity of the National President, Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont.

The raising by the National Headquarters of \$422,939.90 to carry on the work of Equal Rights, in addition to the funds raised and spent by the State and local branches.

The creation of Equal Rights literature, consisting of EQUAL RIGHTS, a weekly feminist magazine, and numerous pamphlets, digests and folders.

The performance of four great pageants as a means of propaganda for the Equal Rights movement.

The organization of professional and industrial councils to work for equal economic opportunity for women in all occupations.

The wiping out of specific discriminations in the laws of seventeen States, affecting millions of women.

The conducting of the first organized effort to elect women to Congress.

The establishment of state and local organizations working for Equal Rights.

The arousing of the country to the Equal Rights question by a publicity campaign.

The establishment of contacts with women all over the world in the international movement for equality, through the formation of an International Advisory Council.

THIS a record of achievement of which we may be proud. But women are still discriminated against in the laws of every State in the United States. Women are still the first to be dismissed by large employers in any retrenchment. Women still are not properly represented in public office. Women are still hampered by unequal opportunity and unequal pay in every occupation. Women are still unequal even in the control of their own homes and their own children.

On the foundations laid by these achievements, with the active work of every member, still more rapid progress toward equality in every field of human activity can be made by the National Woman's Party under the leadership of Mrs. Hooker.

R. A. B.

Equal Rights



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of the
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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.

New Chairman of the National Council

EDITH HOUGHTON HOOKER has accepted the office of National Chairman of the National Woman's Party of which Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont is National President. Mrs. Hooker was elected by the National Council to fill the unexpired term of Elsie Hill, who has resigned.

Mrs. Hooker has been on the National Council of the Woman's Party since 1914, the second year of its existence. Even before that, she was a leader of the Maryland suffrage organization, as president of the Just Government League of Maryland. She has been president of the Maryland Branch of the National Woman's Party since the affiliation of the Just Government League with the National Woman's Party.

For many years Mrs. Hooker has devoted much of her time to a feminist paper which she founded as the *Maryland Suffrage News*, and continued after suffrage was won as the organ of Just Government League. This magazine became EQUAL RIGHTS, the official organ of the National Woman's Party, in 1923. Mrs. Hooker is editor of EQUAL RIGHTS.

AS a student in Bryn Mawr College, Edith Houghton was interested in the woman's movement, and in her later work in Johns Hopkins Medical College, she became interested in social hygiene, and is an authority on that subject. She did work in sociology in Berlin, Germany, after her graduation from Bryn Mawr.

She is the author of "The Laws of Sex," a book which combines her knowledge of social hygiene and her feminist rebellion against all discriminations against women in law and in custom. She is also the author of other works on social hygiene. Mrs. Hooker's husband, Dr. Donald R. Hooker, is secretary of the American Association of Social Hygiene, and is managing editor of two physiological journals. Both Mrs. Hooker and Dr. Hooker have long been among the most generous contributors of time, thought, and money to the feminist movement.

Mrs. Hooker has done considerable work in other reforms, particularly those concerned with political reform. She is the mother of five children, and has foster-mothered several more.

MISS HILL, who has resigned because of the time taken from her active work by her young daughter, Elsie Hill Levitt, born last November, has been chairman of the National Council since 1921. Alice Paul was chairman throughout the suffrage campaign, from 1913 till 1921. Miss Hill was one of the original members of the National Woman's Party, when it was founded in 1913. She says she joined "the day Alice Paul came to Washington."

Miss Hill is a graduate of Vassar College, and was a student of the New York School of Philanthropy. After spending a year in Europe, 1907-8, Miss Hill returned to Washington, and entered into the social life of the Capital, where her

father was for twenty-one years a Republican member of the House of Representatives.

In 1911, Miss Hill was appointed on the faculty of the Central High School, and taught for five years, during which time she was president of the College Women's Suffrage Association of the District of Columbia.

She was one of the picketers to protest in front of the White House, and to go to jail for the suffrage cause. She was in the midst of the entire suffrage campaign, and participated in all the measures adopted to hasten suffrage for American women.

When the Woman's Party was reorganized in February, 1921, to work for full equality for women, she was elected National Chairman. Since that time she has led the campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment and for the Equal Rights bills before the State legislatures.

On December 24, 1921, Miss Hill was married to Albert Levitt, then professor in the University of North Dakota Law School, and now professor of law at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia.

The following year, 1922-1923, Professor Levitt and Miss Hill both entered the Yale University Law School, where Professor Levitt took his J. D. and Miss Hill did first year law, as a further preparation for the Woman's Party campaign for the removal of all legal discrimination against women.

Women's Progress in Japan

JAPANESE women are making rapid progress toward a radical social reform by which they may take their places side by side with men in national life, the Baroness Ishimoto, the head of a woman's college and of an enterprise for exporting the finest examples of Japanese women's craftsmanship, writes in the April issue of *Current History*.

As evidence of women's advance there, she points out the new tendency of women toward organization. Among the women associations are: Christian Women's Union, which is working for the abolition of legalized prostitution; the Japanese Women's Suffrage Association, which works for political rights for women; the Women's Peace Society, founded to work for the abolition of war, and beginning its work by obtaining the use of school books less obsessed with the idea of military heroism; and various women's industrial and agricultural associations. Following the disastrous earthquake and fire of last

year, most of the societies already in existence federated into a Woman's Party.

Of this party the Baroness Ishimoto says:

"Millions of Japanese women have now come to realize that once they act as a unit, speaking their wishes with a single voice, they can make their influence a very powerful one in the new Japan. It is this important development that gives significance to the movement now under way to solve the population problem by the radical methods of Western science."

"It is not easy for the woman of the West to understand the position of the woman of the East," she adds. "From an economic point of view, Japanese women of the lower classes, the wives and daughters of the farmers and petty tradesmen, who work in the fields side by side with the men, planting and weeding the rice, picking tea leaves and tending the silk worms, weaving at hand looms or

running little shops, have far greater freedom and independence than the women of the upper classes. But women who are

entirely dependent for their support upon their husbands or families are hedged in by conventions and rules of behavior handed down from past ages. According to the old Confucian code, which has largely dominated Japan's social and educational system for a thousand years, a woman's duty is to obey her father before her marriage, her husband after, and, in her old age, her son. * * *

"Education has marked the first forward step. Girls, as well as boys, now receive an elementary education in all parts of Japan. This has been compulsory since 1890. In no other Oriental country do the girls receive an equal chance with boys in the matter of education. Higher schools for girls have rapidly multiplied, and today even the imperial universities have been thrown open to women for special courses. * * * *"

cleaning days, and well defined children's household duties. She observed and learned how to mix a cake, how to operate a vacuum cleaner, how to set and clear a table, and how to make a bed.

It is now summer. Faith has had an equivalent of a year of domestic science. Does she spend her time putting all that good knowledge to use and so free her mother for higher things? Far from it.

Faith, having passed the novelty stage of housework, seeks a wider field. It is true that her choice of a career is nothing to write about. She is apprentice to Dolly, the cleverest little seven-year-old snake and toad catcher, mouse trainer, and general live stock collector in Sagadahoc County. But just the fact of an outside interest, steady and attended to daily, not to mention contact with a different type of femininity, has created a great difference in my daughter. No longer does she coax for hair ribbons—they get lost in the pond, or hung on a tree. She still loves the beautiful and modish, but she is content to leave that and stockings and shoes for Sundays. Even Sundays may become overall days, for no one has told Faith that she is responsible for a future generation, and she pursues her chosen career twelve hours a day, including the appointed day of rest. Whether eventually she will swing back to her early conservatism and definitely limit herself to a prescribed woman's working week of forty-eight hours, it is a little early to determine.

A career in the wide open spaces, away from habitual authority and oversight, resting entirely on individual responsibility, also a career fraught with danger and requiring a certain degree of acquired professional skill, has had the to-be-expected broadening influence on Faith's female nature. She has gained in strength and agility, and independence of mind and manner. I will not deny that she has coarsened.

Today I have a glimmering that my daughter may yet be saved, that the eternal feminine bends as the wind of circumstance blows, and that many women have never passed the stage of household strangulation from which my six-year-old daughter has already graduated. And when graduation does take place, probably the reaction is very similar to Faith's.

Not a very dignified illustration, but it will serve. Just below my window a scuffle, shouting, my daughter addressing a ten-year-old boy. "Ugh.—Ugh.—You dumbell — I AM AS GOOD AS YOU ARE!"

I am a proud mother; I think my daughter will be a feminist—is a feminist.

Equal Rights

A Feminist Weekly

(Official Organ of the National Woman's Party)

Special issues for the fall will present authoritative articles on:

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RECEIPTS of National Headquarters, December 7, 1912, to July 5, 1925, \$1,305,300.89.

Contributions, membership receipts and other receipts, July 5, 1925, to July 22, 1925:

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Telephone receipts.....	2.20
Per Equal Rights Committee:	
Dr. D. R. Hooker, Md.....	500.00
Miss Mary Winsor, Pa.....	100.00

Total receipts, July 5, 1925, to July 22, 1925\$1,082.20

Total receipts, December 7, 1912, to July 25, 1925.....\$1,306,383.09



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