

art of playing on the piano? Does one not go to a carpenter for instruction in carpentry? Who but a mathematician would teach mathematics? Would parents trust a non-swimmer to take care of their children in the water? Then why does the State handicap so many of its teachers in this vital matter? Why are so many teachers content not to be citizens, if they are to train up citizens? For women are not recognized as such by the State.

And can, dare, shall, teachers stop short at trying to teach in the smaller world of school those duties of citizenship to one half only of their pupils? Education is to be for all, free for all, universal. Then shall this great object of education be for only some? Is it reasonable? Can it be right?

Democracy—"Government of the people, by the people, for the people," not of the whole of the people by half and for half.

Surely this Province, with its magnificent future stretching out before it, with its traditions all in the making, with its power to free itself from all the abuses, weaknesses and mistakes of older countries, with its proud boast of having "inherited all that is great in the past history of the world," and the obligation thereby laid upon it, to "make Canada better than anything that has been," surely it cannot afford to lose the opportunity presented by its system of universal education to train up all its children to be citizens, able and willing to exercise the full privileges of citizenship, sanely, understandingly, wisely, equally, men and women working side by side for the good of the nation as a whole; for, as Principal McDiarmid goes on to say, "A principle of national government for us to recognize is the value and worth of the franchise. The liberties we enjoy today were purchased for us by many bloody struggles of past generations."

Much can be done by the teachers—more, perhaps, than by any other body,

to ensure that the British Columbia of this generation and the next shall be so far-seeing, so broad-minded, as to read the lessons of history clearly enough to prevent the sowing of the seeds of just such terrible struggles in the future against injustice, oppression, bondage. If anyone doubts that those words can ever have a meaning in this "free" and "democratic" country, let him enquire into the state of the laws regarding the guardianship of children, into the rates of pay for equal work as between men and women, into the conditions, industrial or otherwise, which not only make possible but even protect, the white slave traffic, and he will see that the menace is real, not imaginary. That men are a great deal better than the law allows them to be is, mercifully true; but that does not justify the legalization of wrong or cruelty in those who are bad enough to wish to perpetrate it.

Let us fit the future women as well as the future men to take their share in all national affairs which are the concern of both alike, and should be the responsibility of the former no less than of the latter. And what fits a man or a woman for responsibility better or more quickly than having to bear a measure of it?

China is quoted by the speaker as having "passed by a bloodless revolution from tyrannical empire into the sisterhood of great republics." Well, even China is ahead of us in this matter, for China has openly recognized the equity and advisability of calling upon her women as well as her men to take their share in the direction of national affairs, and China will thereby rise, not sink, in the scale of nations.

With the women of China and of several of the Western States enfranchized, British Columbia will surely not long lag behind her neighbours westwards across the Pacific and southwards across the forty-ninth parallel. And towards this, as towards