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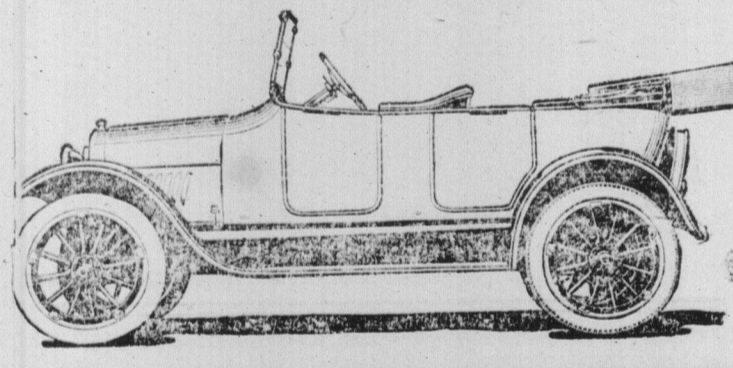
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**VIEWS ON WOMEN
IN PUBLIC LIFE**

Lady Astor Thinks Better Politics and Better Homes Are The Result of Their Entrance

Montreal.—Saturday's Gazette has the following:—
Descending upon the metropolis for the space of an hour and a half last night on route from Ottawa to New York, Lady Astor, the first woman to be elected to the British House of Commons, delivered a speech before a large mixed audience, in which she made a powerful apology for the entrance of women into public life. "Not to usurp, but to help" was a phrase that fairly well summed up her attitude. Beyond a reference to Montreal as a one-horse town, there was no bitterness or vindictiveness in the arguments used, simply an appeal to the best instincts of the human race and a reminder that male government has, so far, not produced satisfactory results either in world politics or in ordinary human problems.

In view of the short notice that had been given, the arrangements passed off admirably, and although the Windsor Hall did not fill up rapidly at the early hour of 7.45 p.m., for the public meeting, it was well filled by the time the speaker got under way. It was a few minutes after 8 o'clock when the guests of the evening, Lord and Lady Astor, came on the platform, accompanied by Mrs. Walter Lyman, President of the Quebec Provincial Women's Suffrage Committee, and delegates representing various women's organizations. Bonquets were presented by Miss Idolia St. Jean, Mrs. T. de Grey Stewart and Mrs. John Scott, after which the President briefly introduced the guests of the occasion.

A ONE-HORSE TOWN

After an expression of thanks for the warmth of her reception and an appreciation of the beautiful bouquets presented to her, Lady Astor proceeded: "Now I think there is something strange in the weather which Montreal has given me for this visit, because so far as I can make out Montreal is very, very far behind the times; in fact, Montreal looks like becoming a one-horse town, and I will tell you why, because most two-horse towns have already given women the vote, and it is the one-horse town that has not yet awakened to this new spirit. I am not yet allowed to lecture Montreal; it is not my job to lecture anyone."

Lady Astor pointed out that she had come to this continent at the request of the League of Women Voters for the Baltimore conference, and that although she had intended after that to take a holiday down south in Virginia, she had been inundated with invitations to speak. That task she had accepted, first, because she was willing to speak out for the League of Nations, and also to put a new view of the subject of women's suffrage. There were people who were not abreast of the times who were terrified of this change.

The eastern mind, said the speaker, had kept women in subjection. "All you have to do is to go and look at the east, look at all countries where women do not play their rightful part. Look at Germany; there was no place in the world where there was to be seen the sight of these husky Germans followed by wives carrying their clothes and goods. I have watched them many a time until my blood boiled. That is impossible here in Canada or America or in France; I have never seen it happen anywhere but in Germany. There is no better housewife in the world than the German wife; no woman can do her business better or take better care of her children; but look at the result of the German mentality when women confine themselves to their homes. You had better have them anywhere else in the world out of their homes if that is the result."

"Then we have the French women struggling for the vote, and can assure you that the women in France who are struggling for the vote are right; they are not the women who are content with the world as it is, but are longing for the world as it should be."

"I would like to urge upon the men that while women want the vote it is not that we want to break up our homes and neglect our duties; it is something much deeper and bigger. It is because we have deep down in our hearts a feeling that homes will

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be a little better and cleaner, and perhaps a little kinder, if women go into public life and take their share in making the laws. We do not want to usurp your job; what we want to do is to help you, and heaven knows you need it in public life (laughter). Everywhere I go I hear complaints about politics, politicians this and politicians that. Well, I am a politician myself, and I may say that the only difference about a politician and a private person is that the politician is always in the limelight and his faults can be seen; whereas the people who vote for him sit in the dark and you cannot tell what they are doing. What we want is better laws and stricter administration and to have public life a little more like private life. The man who lives by himself is a lamentable object. It is the same with public life.

"When I entered the House of Commons I went there as a prohibitionist and I was elected by the prohibition party, who a that time thought the best thing we could do was to back Lloyd George, who had done his best to win the war, and was doing his best to establish peace. But when I got into the House I was told there was a certain feminine aspect of the question, which was entirely different from that of the man's viewpoint, and which was just as vital to the question as the man's view."

MORALITY STANDARDS

Lady Astor touched upon one such point, namely, the single standard of morality. "We know the world will never be any better for the daughters of men until we have the single standard of morality. Men are very particular about their own daughters and very anxious as long as they are in jeopardy. But we put up with a double standard of morality for men and a single standard for women. Every man wants to look after his own daughter; but have we not a duty for the girls who are less protected than ours? Is it protection for our own children that is wanted only? Is that the highest ideal for civilization? No, I can never join any group which is only thinking of itself; and I can assure you men that when we fight we begin to see the problems of the world, and surely in Canada and all over the world we are weary of war and are longing for peace."

"Do you believe that if women were represented at Genoa, the women of France, if they could really speak, would have wrecked that conference? Of course they would not have done so. They have not had the vote, for they have been on a pedestal."

Lady Astor referred to starving children in Europe, in Russia, Austria and underfed children in Germany, and added that if women had had a vote they would have reached the point at Genoa, instead of bringing old Europe back to its former jealousies, rivalries and corruptions. She also expressed the opinion that if the people of America had their way their country would come into the League of Nations. She had spoken to thousands through various organizations, and had found that with one voice women believed in the League.

NATURAL PEACE MAKERS

Women are desirous of preventing war, and if they could only play their part in public life, they would bring to bear upon it a spiritual influence that is in them because they are mothers and bore children. They had to learn to make peace with men and with children, and have to use their spiritual qualities from the time of birth to the grave.

Lady Astor told of her experiences in committee with the amendments to the Criminal Code, and argued that although it was a delicate task, there was no embarrassment, because the minds of those who were engaged on

it were pure. She contended that there is need for those with high ideals to go into public life, and that they should not shrink that duty. "Old parties are breaking up," declared the speaker; "old party politicians are getting frightened and the new politicians do not know what to do. It is an extraordinary thing the political world to-day, and that is the reason people are groping for something they do not quite know or understand. The women here cannot grope, but the men are groping."

Lady Astor pulled herself up, looking at Lord Astor and remarking: "You have got to speak."

In conclusion Lady Astor recalled the Cliveden hospital at Taplow, England, and told some very touching stories of Canadian soldiers, and she also referred to her husband as one who had put aside certain political prospects in order to support Lloyd George's social legislation for tuberculosis. "That is the kind of man who wants women in politics," she said; "he is the man who wants to get things done. The men in politics are those who want to get things done, those who want to do you. Make no mistake about that. I bet you have them here in Montreal, for they are in all towns and places. You are ready to die for your country, but are you ready to live for it? Dying does not take long, but living—oh well, it's a long way to Tipperary."

LORD ASTOR'S VIEWS

Lord Astor suggested that he had been afraid to come to Montreal because he was likely to be regarded as a horrible example of the man who approved of giving women not only the vote but of admitting them into public life. He stated that he had met at Ottawa certain leading federal politicians from Montreal, and it occurred to him that they must owe their presence there largely to the women's vote in this city.

Addressing himself not so much to those who were present, as to "those hesitating and doubting husbands, fathers, brothers, and bachelors who are outside," Lord Astor put forward a few arguments for the admission of women into public life. He pointed out that family lawyers could show that unhappiness in marital matters arose less in the homes of public women than in the homes where cars, amusements and clothes were the only thought. He spoke of his wife's popularity in Plymouth and Devonport, where the soldiers and sailors were her most ardent supporters. He had had some experience of parliamentary life. "I knew both parties," added Lord Astor, "and in my opinion all parties have elevated their political programmes since women had votes. If you really want to improve the conditions of your women folk, of those who are employed in industry, to protect your daughters in the next generation, see to it that you have the direct influence of women, and don't merely look for it in an indirect way through husbands and fathers."

Lord Astor spoke of how he intended to rear both sons and daughters with the idea of service to the community, and he would probably have continued, but the inexorable reminder of the President that the New York train would not wait, brought the meeting to a sudden close.

Thereafter Lord and Lady Astor stood at the entrance to the Windsor Hotel on Dorchester Street for picture men, and then motored down to Bonaventure station, where they boarded the eight o'clock, standard time, train for New York.

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