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Interesting Facts Concerning Women

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS LETTER March 27, 1911.

No one in New York can think or talk of anything today but the horrible tragedy of last Saturday afternoon when 148 people, mostly young women and girls, were killed in a way that is an utter disgrace to any community which calls itself civilized.

The day after the fire, a great wave of horror swept over the city, and over the country as the news was instantly telegraphed everywhere. And the next day came the searching questions, "Who was to blame?" "Were the building laws and fire regulations defied?" "What will be done about it?" "How can such things be prevented?"

The answers to the first two questions are important, and they should be answered with unflinching accuracy, but the answers to the last two questions are matters which demand the immediate attention of all responsible citizens, men and women alike. Over and over again we suffragists insist that women are citizens and should be equally responsible with men. A frightful shock like this makes us know it as we never knew it before. It is enough to silence forever the selfish middle-headed drift of the anti-suffragists who recently said at a legislative hearing that working women can safely trust their welfare to their "natural protectors." We might perhaps be willing to consign such women to the sort of protection, care and charity that is shown by the men who allow 700 women to sit back to back, wedged in such close rows between machines that quick escape is impossible in a ten-story building with no outside fire escapes, and only one rickety interior fire escape, with a jump of 25 feet at the bottom of it, and the exits leading to the iron gates shutting and locked; and cigarette-smoking allowed in the midst of inflammable material.

But we are not willing to consign unwilling women or helpless young girls to such tender mercies. We claim in no uncertain voice that the time has come when women should have the one efficient tool with which to make for themselves decent and safe working conditions—the ballot.

Women who are at first unable to use their votes with unerring wisdom or with lightning speed efficiency, but they will learn, and that they care and care hard is shown by the way the State women immediately took hold and cleaned up their towns by recalling a disreputable mayor, and by voting a new town council into existence. Women must have a fair chance and have it now.

Public opinion will have to be won to little purpose if all this needless suffering and horror does not carry with it the inevitable conclusion that women, suffering as they do, must have precisely the same power to alter these conditions of work that men have, and that working conditions can be altered only by laws, that laws can only be passed by the people, who are chosen by the people, and that the people means women as well as men.

And the very least that privileged women can do is use every bit of their time, their strength, their education and their money to help hand-picked working women to step up on to the firm base of political freedom from which she will be able to smash out help herself, toward economic freedom and safety.

There was a great mass meeting held last night at Congress Union, called by the New York Collegiate League, in cooperation with the Women's Trade Union League, the report of which will appear next week's paper.

Send all contributions for the relief of the five women of Finance Committee, and only a few scanty drops of the golden shower went to improve the facilities of the Bureau of Education. The educators who are disappointed and indignant should join the Suffrage Association. One of the good results of equal suffrage in Colorado has been to make it easier to secure liberal appropriations for education. Colorado spends more in proportion upon her schools than any of the older and richer Atlantic States.

CONGRESS STARVES EDUCATION. The National Bureau of Education asked the congress that has just adjourned for an additional appropriation of \$75,000 to enable it to meet constantly growing demands and opportunities for service. It got \$7,000—about one-tenth of what it asked. Glen Edwards of the House and Senate Foundation writes in the Journal of Education.

In no other department of national activity has advance been so slow and difficult as in that which is represented by the Bureau of Education. It has tried year after year for nearly fifty years to win the favor of an unsympathetic congress. This it has failed absolutely to do.

A few weeks ago one of the most stupendous engines of war ever built by civilized man slid over the ways into the water at Norfolk, Va. She will carry in her main battery twelve 12-inch guns, valued at \$750,000; or more than enough to pay the salaries of the entire force now employed in the Bureau of Education for twelve years. She will carry twenty-one 5-inch guns, valued at \$183,200; or more than enough to employ a force of ten field specialists in education for six years. She will cost the nation \$9,000,000 in repairs and maintenance over her life; or nearly three and one-half times as much as the Bureau has cost the government in more than forty years. At the end of twenty years she will have depreciated in value 80 per cent., and will have cost the nation to build and support in time of peace not less than \$30,000,000; or nearly four and one-half times as much as the work of the Bureau, including the Alaska service, has cost in more than four decades. Have we anything to show what this war vessel really means?

In the filthy mud of a foreign port lies her prototype, a grisly, forsaken memorial to wicked sacrifices of human life. The misuse of man's most heroic qualities, wounds, greed, starvation, disease, suffering, sorrow, grief, and the widows and the orphans of civilized nations. This is what it all means in the last analysis. As these facts drive their way to our hearts is it a pleasant thing to learn that while the whole country is alive to the need of a fuller knowledge concerning facts of human life and happiness, there are men who refuse \$75,000 to the Bureau of Education, and permit themselves a few days later to grieve with pious ceremony, the launching of an \$11,000,000 battleship? It is the business of Education, 200,000 servants, to set these things right. Her should learn of Agriculture, of Commerce, and of Labor. Her three sisters know how to get the funds and the equipment to do their necessary and splendid work. They possess the wondrous gift which charms the self-styled watchdogs of the treasury, and the results show up in better farms, finer cattle, safer mines, better transportation, and a wealthier nation. Let Education then sit at their feet and learn that she will come to her own not merely because it is good or just or right, but only when and because she has acquired the power to compel.

Education lacks the power to compel, because most of her means are in the hands of women, and lack votes, and because that half of the population most interested in the school children—the mothers—lack votes also. Agriculture, Commerce and Labor have millions of votes behind them.

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Instructions: (See note) The hair is modelled, dressed with a slight part, set toward the face. The rest of the hair is taken up in center of the head and set as a foundation to which is added Grecian puffs. An Aphrodite coil is placed like a ribbon around the puffs. The ends of the coil are used to finish the dressing being made into two large loops and fastened with hair ornaments as shown by the back view.

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