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W.C.T.U.

This department is conducted by the Local Union, and is under the charge of an Editor appointed by them. This Editor assumes the responsibility for the statements and articles which appear in this column.

Believing that family life is the foundation of the state, and its conservation the duty of government; that the mother is the proper guardian of her children, and every child is entitled to home life; that state aid should be extended where necessary to prevent the breaking up of the home, Therefore Be It.

Resolved, That we, the W. C. T. U. of Saint John county do urge the Provincial Government to consider the enactment of a law providing allowances from public funds for dependent mothers Whereby they may care for their children at home.

Further Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to each W. C. T. U. throughout the province, and to the Government at Fredericton.

The above resolution was forwarded by the St. John county W.C.T.U. for publication.

MOTHER'S PENSIONS

From an address by Mrs. Rose Henderson, before the Social Service Congress at Ottawa.

There is no figure in society today more deserving of our earnest consideration than the widowed mother with her family dependent and penniless.

The proposal to endow mothers must have become necessary or else it would never have become a law, and the arguments I have to bring forth in favor of mothers' pensions are advanced from the social and economic conditions. Mothers' pensions have become law at least in twenty one States to the south of us, and twelve other States are petitioning and legislating for it, and expect it to become law within a year. Germany spends millions annually looking after her needy mothers and children; most of the countries of Europe have adopted mothers' pensions; New Zealand and Australia lead in advanced legislation on this subject; Switzerland will tolerate institutions for neither children nor old people; and Japan makes the relations even down to the second and third cousin, responsible for orphans without support.

Death by accident and sickness claims a number of men in the prime of life. In nine case out of ten, these men leave a wife and young family, the oldest very often not older than eight or nine, and unable to assist in the maintaining of the family. In cases of this kind the suffering is very great; the mother must leave her home to earn a pittance to keep body and soul together, while the children run the streets half clothed, half fed and uneducated, and eventually are brought into the Juvenile Court, most of them in time finding their way to the reformatory, which many times is but a vestibule to the jail and penitentiary. We cannot blame either mother or children, society alone is responsible and must envolve a method dealing more humanely with the widow and orphan.

The Institution is a costly affair. The charges for superintendants, nurse, teachers, doctors, servants and all kinds of helpers are very great. All this extra expense is saved when you leave the child in its home with its mother. The mother asks nothing for her labor. Henry Neil, Chicago, says: "The facts I have gathered concerning the unhappy careers of children brought up in institutions sufficiently condemns them in the mind of any right-minded person." Judge Pinckny, Juvenile Court Chicago, says: "I am an ardent supporter of mothers' pensions since the Act was passed giving pensions to mothers. Thousands of mothers and children are being made happy it is helping us to do a great work!"

Under this law the mother is hired by the State to bring up her own children in her own home, under natural and normal conditions, thus preventing the children and mother eventually becoming a charge on the State by degenerating into incompetents, and at half the cost to the tax payers that it takes to bring them up in institutions.

What do we widows have in mothers' pensions want? We desire that the money be allowed out of the tax payers for the care of fatherless and needy children should be given entirely to the mothers, on the grounds that institutional life is bad for the child, and does up twice the amount of the tax payers' money that would be used if the mother was allowed to remain at home and keep her children with her. We believe that the child is the nations greatest asset, and that patriotism, morality and good citizenship are borne and nourished in the home, that the child to grow up to be normal, useful and self-respecting, must have his life and in the home and the community, by his mother. We hold the just views "that if a woman bears and rears her her children for the service of the State, she does her duty without earning their living as well, and we recognize the justice of the claim that if a mother risks her life for children, she is entitled to the pleasures in which mothers love finds its greatest compensation, namely caring for her children at home. In granting mothers' pensions the State will honor motherhood, and save money."

(To be continued next week).

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Real Help

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Wedding Announcements

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47

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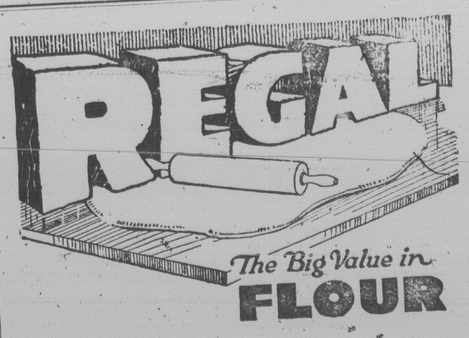

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