



Conducted by "ISOBEL"

## Woman Suffrage in New Zealand

One of the most brilliant women of New Zealand is Lady Stout, wife of Sir Robert Stout, the chief justice of the Dominion. She has been deeply and actively interested in all the great political advance movements that have marked New Zealand during recent decades, which fact has not, however, prevented her from raising a large family of promising children. In a recent conversation with Mr. W. T. Stead of London, Lady Stout advocated suffrage in the strongest terms, because she has seen the splendid results that have followed its introduction in her own country. Before the vote was given to women the government refused to give the necessary protection to female workers that normal health and the demands of maternity call for, but since women began to vote, necessary protective legislation for women and children has been granted.

"Here," said Lady Stout, "are some of the humanitarian enactments passed since women were emancipated in New Zealand.

"Equal pay for equal work in the Factory Act.

"Equal treatment of husband and wife in divorce.

"Economic partnership of man and wife in municipal franchise.

"Law against white slave traffic.

"Legislation for adoption of children.

"Act for protection of infant life.

"Act protecting interest and health of work girls.

"Legitimizing of children born before marriage.

"Equal rights in technical schools.

"Women admitted to the practice of law, etc.

"There are many other laws passed and many others we are going to pass. But these will suffice for the present."

Lady Stout has a number of letters from men and women of prominence and in authoritative positions bearing out all that she claims for suffrage. Mr. Robert McNab says:

"I have had experience of seven contests (in New Zealand) in which women played their parts as electors. Giving votes to women has given political power to the home instead of the tent. The wandering man stands alone; but the women of the family, grouping themselves around the home, send forth from there a political power which goes for all that is best in public life. In New Zealand the men would not allow the women to give up the vote even if the latter desired to do so as such action would permit the floating nomadic to menace the stationary home vote."

The president of the New Zealand Women's Christian Temperance Union declares that suffrage has promoted temperance, advanced social reform, been the means of passing measures safeguarding the home, has raised personal morality among legislators and banished riot and disorder from elections. She adds:

"Women of all classes of society place high value on the right to vote, and no man in public position would dare to suggest that the woman's vote and political influence was not of real value to the state."

W. A. Chapple, who has made a close study of the practical working of woman's suffrage in New Zealand during the past sixteen years, comes to the conclusion that this is a reform "based on justice counselled by wisdom, justified by experience." Here is his mature conclusion as to the practical results of women voting in the progressive Dominion:

"The enfranchisement of women in New Zealand has enlarged woman's outlook, deepened her interest in public affairs, discovered to her mind the great and important part that politics and social reform play in the betterment of conditions that directly and indirectly

affect her home, and with these advantages none of the prophecies of evil which were hurled at the reform by its enemies have been realized. The home is not neglected, domestic infelicity does not result."—*Twentieth Century Magazine*, for October.

### WOMAN RATIONAL

When I say man must change, I do not mean it as a threat. I do not mean that woman by force or by the ballot is going to upset things, ride over things in a rule-or-ruin frenzy. I do not mean that she is going to set herself upon a pedestal or take herself too seriously. I do not mean that she is going to become masculine or force men to become feminine. Quite the contrary.

Women in this age are going to be equipped to look out for their own food and clothing and shelter. I mean so to equip my daughters. Other men have the same thought. I mean to leave my girls, if I am taken away and what I leave them is taken away, so equipped that they will not have to marry for

attention called to the certainty of contagion being transmitted from home to home through the medium of those overused school books. Yet such is the case; and now we have from Saskatchewan an account of what was practically an indignation meeting protesting against the regulation now in force of giving a book from child to child, and recommending the provincial government to disallow this practice and urging on hygienic grounds to give the book outright to the pupil and never have it used again by another pupil unless by one of the same family.

How could the education departments have been so short sighted as to have overlooked the danger of contagion from these peripatetic books? Doubtless they were so busy inculcating patriotism and hoisting flags that the mere health of a community was of much smaller moment. Which will be the next community to advise its education department to adopt safer and saner practices?

### HIS PLAN, BUT — !

C. C. Wylie

He was a middle-aged Scotchman waiting for the incoming train from the East. He had left the old land because things that gone badly. He himself had grown careless and neglectful, and then had come the lost position and no employment to be secured. His wife became a charwoman and his eldest child entered a factory. He was content to exist on their small earnings, and even at times took the money from them. At last remorse brought him to himself. Ashamed of his past he determined to seek in the new land a chance to redeem the years of waste.

He had now been two years in a fast growing city of the West. With the exception of one or two slight failures

## Thanksgiving Day

Now the turkey roasting low  
Finds his spirit full of woe.  
Notes that popularity  
Is not all 'tis said to be;  
Wishes that he had been wise  
In his corned paradise.  
He'd by far the wiser been  
Had he rested 'mongst the lean  
Had he dieted a bit.  
Keeping all his muscles fit,  
'Stead of like a prideful fat  
Gorging until plump and fat!

See! In state at last he lies,  
Flanked about by pumpkin pies:  
Flanked with fresh-cut celery  
Giblet sauce and cranberry;  
Covered with a pall of crisp;  
Here and there a parsley wisp  
Lying softly on his breast;

Stuffed with spice and nuts of chest—  
Poor old Turkey; victim he  
Of his gobbling vanity.  
Gladsome day for young and old  
Whether winds be soft or cold!

Day that gives a Nation pause  
For its grateful "Deo Laus"  
Day that brings us face to face  
With the Fount of Love and Grace  
It were blessing past compare  
That we have a day so rare;  
Day from others set apart  
Given over to the Heart  
To a realizing sense  
Of the great beneficence  
Of the Hand divine above  
That hath ruled us but through love.

John Kendrick Bangs.

food, clothing and shelter. I mean to leave them equipped so that if they make a mistake and marry a brute instead of a man they can send him on his way. Do you see what that means? Fathers are doing it everywhere. Women are not going to be housekeepers nor dolls nor mistresses, but mates, and that means man must change. When women live with men because they want to and not because they have to, marriage will average very much better than it does now.

And men will be men, which many of them are not now, and women will be women, which—shame on men!—many of them are not permitted to be now. And it is all coming about naturally, and fathers are quite as much concerned as mothers to bring it about.—*Erman J. Ridgway*, Editor of *Delineator*.

### INFECTED SCHOOL BOOKS

#### Crossing the Danger Line

The economy practised by the school boards in the distribution of free text books from one pupil to another and from family to family until an accumulation of all varieties of disease germs in a neighborhood has found a breeding ground in one filthy school book which is passed around until it is worn out, is an economy peculiar to education departments of provincial governments.

It is singular indeed that an education department should need to have its

he had done well. He was a new man and proud of the fact. He had been able to send home money enough to help them to secure their tickets. He had rented a house and gathered together a few bits of furniture, which would do for them to make a start.

He had all his plans for the brighter days. He would make up to his wife and children for all the neglect of the past. He saw his wife with the old-time smile on her face. He heard the ringing shouts of his children as they raced to meet him. How much had been lost; but what a lot might yet be theirs!

The days during the last two weeks had been long ones. He was heart hungry for the sight of loved faces.

The train was on time, fifteen minutes more of waiting, and then— At last the long line of coaches came gliding through the yard and came to a standstill at the platform. From car to car he hurried. At last there they were, and with a glad rush he snatched his baby from the arms of his eldest.

The mother, where was she? Left behind in the hospital at Quebec. She would follow in a few days.

Two weeks afterwards he stood in a cemetery by the banks of the St. Lawrence and saw the spent form lowered to its long rest.

Extremely wide ribbons will be in great demand for huge bows on large hats.

### YOU'RE A BRICK

No doubt you have often heard one man say to another, when he is very much pleased: "You are a brick, old fellow!"

Perhaps you will think it is a very queer thing to say, but I will tell you how such a saying is said to have come in use.

Many, many years ago a famous king sent an ambassador to another famous king. The ambassador was much surprised to find that the king whom he was visiting had no walls around the city.

In those days, of course, in order to keep out enemies, nearly every city was surrounded by strong and high walls. So the surprised ambassador said to the king, "Why, you have no walls for the city?"

"We have," said the king.

"Where, where?" asked the ambassador, more surprised than ever.

The king then pointed to his large army, which was not far away, and said, with a smile, "There are the walls of my city. Every man you see is a brick!"

The king meant that an enemy would have to defeat these soldiers before they—that is, the enemy—could enter the city.—*North American*.

### AN EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS

Editor, *Fireside*:—May I be allowed a little more space. "Mere Man's" opinion is a sensible one, but just a little one-sided. Women on the prairie can't expect a man to be wealthy when he marries. Providing he has sufficient, if he gets the right kind of wife, he will succeed far better married than bachelors. Just a word to "Wigwan Bachelor." On Aug 24th, he says girls "won't wait." If a girl loves a fellow she will wait a lifetime; she only really loves once.

If "Mere Man" will send me his address through "*Fireside*," I will give him my private opinion on the subject.

### "BACHELOR GIRL"

Sask.

Note.—Mr. "Mere Man" will you kindly step forward and send your name in that *Fireside* may formally present you to Bachelor Girl—Editor.

### DECLARE FOR EQUAL SUFFRAGE

Governor Brady, Senator Borah and other public men of Idaho have lent their support to the Washington campaign, declaring that equal suffrage has been a good thing in their state, has helped to purify politics and forward the best interests of the state and its counties and cities.—*Tacoma (Wash.) Forum*.

In entering upon the campaign of 1910, the Socialist party of New York demands in its platform "Equal suffrage for all adult men and women;" "Equal pay for equal work to men and women employed by the state or any of its subdivisions," and "Prohibiting the employment of children under the age of sixteen years."

### MAKING HARDSHIP EASY

Difficulties find their being more in our way of looking at things than in actual facts. Several members of a certain family found it extremely difficult to get to breakfast early enough to have family prayers afterward, before separating for the day. One morning the head of the house quietly set the clocks twenty minutes fast, and called the others at what seemed to be the accustomed time. They were, as usual, fifteen minutes or so later in dressing and breakfasting than they needed to be, but were all quite surprised to find after breakfast was over, that they still had time enough for prayers,—when the clocks were set right,—and nobody was a bit the worse for it. It had proved just as easy for them to be on time,—when they did not know it,—as to be late; the only difference was in their way of looking at the thing. We cannot fool ourselves into duty-doing as they were fooled into it; but we can sensibly recognize that the chief difficulty in duty-doing is of our own imagining, and then go ahead and do what we ought to do. We are likely to find our hardships as unexpectedly easy as did the late-risers.—*S. S. Times*.