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For the Women in the Service.

AN INFLUENCE FOR CLEAN LIVING.

The Civilian desires to dedicate its first article to-day to the women in the service. The article printed below is an extract from an interview given to the N. Y. Sun by a young New Zealand woman studying journalism at the Pulitzer college of that city. The leavening influence of women in the world's work is becoming every day more apparent.

“Our remote little country has managed to set the world an example of good government. And yet twenty years ago New Zealand was the most drunken country in the world. Its wealth was all in its mines in those days, and the miners were hard characters.

Then, as now, there were two political parties—the Government and the Opposition, the Ins and the Outs. The Outs had been there for some time and were tired of it when some one suggested the brilliant idea of starting an agitation for giving the suffrage to women as a means of making the party in power unpopular. There was very little objection and the measure was carried by a few votes.

At first the women hung back. They had not asked for a vote and they did not particularly want it. But with the coming of a wave of temperance activity they began to take more interest. They were not eligible for Parliament, but for all civil service offices.

With the first use of their new power they found out what they could accomplish and an era of reform set in. The first measures passed by the women looked toward the protection of the families. A man cannot will his property away from his family or give away large sums of money during his life without

paying a crippling stamp duty. There is a sort of interstate traffic in deserting husbands between New Zealand and Australia, which now also has suffrage. They are shipped back, sent to jail and made to work for \$2 a day, which is paid to their families. Not a girl under 18 nor a boy under 16 is at work in the whole country, and there is a strong sentiment in favor of raising the working ages to 18 and 20. No boys are allowed on the streets selling newspapers or doing messenger service after 6 o'clock, the night work being done by men.

There is not a beggar in the whole country except a few blind men playing organs, nor are there any unemployed. In fact the demand for labor is rather serious and constant supplies are being sent out from England. But our immigration laws are very strict. The working people find the islands a paradise, for charwomen get from \$2 to \$2.50 a day, and factory hands work in beautiful light buildings. There is an eight hour day and a quarter of an hour off both in the morning and afternoon, when the men smoke and the girls make tea in their clean and airy rest rooms.

This extra half hour off as well as the time at noon is rather an innovation and I remember the horror with which my father greeted it in his