

The Mother's Pension Act of Manitoba, the Dower Act of Alberta, the right to accept office on municipal councils in town or city, a place on school boards—these are some of the things that women have achieved already.

But, perhaps, the best thing that women of to-day have secured, is the franchise, the weapon with which to defend themselves. The state of Wyoming was the world pioneer, granting woman's franchise 48 years ago. The Isle of Man came next, 12 years after Wyoming; then followed Australia and New Zealand, and to-day the record reads: Five Canadian provinces, 13 American states, all Australia, Finland, Norway, Denmark and Iceland, Russia and England will soon come into line and in a few years there will be world-wide suffrage for women.

### (3)—The Follow-up Work

After securing a favorable answer to her main request, Esther did two other things. She kept continually in touch with the king, personally and through Mordecai; and she carried out reform work among the Jews until the author of the book could say that there was "light and gladness, joy and honor" among the people of the Jews all over the kingdom of the Persian monarch.

Women of to-day must do follow-up work. They must demand further changes in the laws of our land. Just here, let me congratulate the H.E.S. for the splendid manner in which they handled the petition re alterations to the criminal code. Some 250 signatures of men and women have been secured in this town and district, praying the Dominion government to raise the "age of consent" and the "age of seduction," and to make adultery a crime. I trust petitions will pour in from all over Canada and that the requests will be granted.

The Manitoba government did nothing this session with your requests re amendments to the "Wills and Intestacy Act," the "Infant Act," and the "Home-stead Act" but keep at it; you'll get them yet.

And go after the abolition of the "double standard" in morals. See to it that men found in immoral houses are not only fined but their names published.

In January of this year a beast of a man indecently assaulted a little eight-year-old girl in a Kildonan street car Winnipeg. He was fined a paltry \$50 and his name kept secret, because he was "an aged man of respectable family!"

And how long are women going to stand for the absurd penalties attached to such offences? This man, for indecent assault, was merely fined; the maximum penalty is only two years. Yet, if he stole a letter from the post office the minimum sentence would be three years and the maximum, life imprisonment! Letters are evidently of greater value than little girls.

Again, if a man steals your daughter under 16 years of age and lives in immoral relations with her, he is liable to a maximum penalty of five years; if he steals your cow he can be imprisoned for 14 years. Our cows are worth more than our girls.

In addition to alterations to the criminal code, it is the privilege of women to raise the ideals of our political life. Surely in women we shall have able advocates for the abolition of patronage, the rule by caucus and similar reforms.

Women can also do a great deal among the women and children of the European immigrant. We may not be able to greatly influence the adult males, but Canadian women have a great opportunity among the mothers and children of the foreigners.

And when peace comes and the future is to be safeguarded; in the reconstruction period after the war, women must have a voice. As Asquith says, she has earned the right—yes indeed, earned it by sacrifice, suffering and service.

Just a last word. Woman must prove to-day that she is no less a woman because she has become a citizen. Ladies, you will touch, as you ought to touch, the political, social, economic and industrial life of this province; and you will touch it for good. You will do this more effectively because you have been granted the right of citizenship. You have received a new name, the name of citizen.

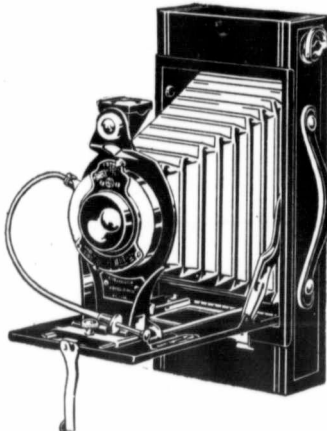
But will you let me suggest to you that you forget not your old names—

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