

idly by and look with indifference upon the suffering of so many of her sex, occasioned by unhappy conditions. If these things are wrong they must be put right, so woman thought and so woman gained courage to say. If the law is unjust in its discrimination as to sex, the law must be changed. Law is designed to secure the rights of all, and wherein it comes short of that it fails in its purpose. As a result of this enlightenment woman's environments have changed. The barriers to her enjoyment of the highest educational advantages have been removed. She has been able to occupy spheres in benevolent and philanthropic enterprises. She has a more intelligent appreciation of the highest social and political problems of the day, and is able to enter numerous lines of industry and business from which she was formerly excluded. These things have developed in her a spirit of self reliance and an ability to think and act for herself, which makes her more than could otherwise be the case, an intelligent counsellor, a helpmeet for man. What has been achieved has been, to say the least, more speedily accomplished because of the hearty recognition by men of broad views and generous sympathy of the beneficent influence which enfranchised, liberally educated and wisely organized womanhood is destined to exert in the uplifting of humanity. Although much has been accomplished, there yet remains a great deal to be done before woman shall have been relieved of all the disabilities imposed upon her. Year after year she has petitioned Councils and Legislatures for protection and help. In some instances it has been given, but in too many her efforts have been fruitless. She has found that the petitions of those have to be considered whose votes can carry the election, therefore she has had to lay aside her early training and prejudice and seek for the ballot as a stepping stone to greater protection and increased usefulness. At the repeated and united request of both sexes the school and municipal franchise has been given to women property owners in municipalities of Brit-

ish Columbia, and the household franchise to the women of New Westminster and Vancouver. That this privilege has been used wisely may be safely asserted, as no objections are being raised to its continuance.

Some, however, consider that the extension of the political franchise to women will result in the home being thoroughly disorganized and man's position be usurped by woman. We have, however, only to refer those objectors to the countries which have enjoyed the full suffrage for many years, where home conditions continue to be harmonious, where women are still womanly but with a broader outlook, a greater intelligence and keener interest in public affairs and questions of home interest.

The women of British Columbia are asking for the ballot, not that they may use it against men but with and for all good men in the building up and development of this Province and Dominion. They ask it not that they may disrupt the home and forsake the children, but that they may better protect both home and children, and they ask it because they believe that a greater development of mind and heart will make them better fitted for the responsibilities of motherhood.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

A COMMENT

By Crystal Eastman Benedict

If I should try to express with two adjectives the most striking features of this great international gathering of women, one of those adjectives would be "hatless." Owing probably to some wise municipal ordinance of Budapest, we were confronted at the entrance to our first meeting by two Hungarian guards, who suggested kindly, but firmly, that we check our hats, coats, and unnecessary appendages before going in. This rule was enforced at all sessions of the Convention, both public and private. Though objected to at first by many of the fretful, it was soon