

WOMEN AND RECONSTRUCTION

An Appeal for the Co-operation of Canadian Women in Solving Economic and Industrial Problems and an Examination of the Relationship of Homes to National Business

Every woman who has the care of a home knows that its income is dependent upon the employment of a worker, using worker in its widest sense. In the great majority of cases that income is derived from the occupation of the husband. Sons and daughters may contribute to it. Occasionally the breadwinner is a woman. But only an infinitesimal number of Canadian homes derive their income wholly from investment. The effect of government action on occupations and on the homes of the country may be regarded, therefore, as a special province of women. Information which bears upon public business and its relation to home life is precisely the means of political education they are seeking.

The entire fabric of national business, all civilian pursuits and in time of war the citizen army, is built up from the homes of the country. In turn all national activity reacts upon the family unit.

The main occupations of Canadians are agriculture, manufactures, building trades, domestic and personal service, civil and municipal government, fishing and hunting, forestry, mining, professional, trade and merchandising, and transportation. A certain number of these occupations are directly wealth producing. They make wealth which helps to establish national stability, contributes to the development and support of other occupations, and enables the country to carry on its

business in the world of nations. Others, sometimes called secondary occupations since they do not produce wealth as directly, are nevertheless indispensable. Both basic and secondary occupations are inseparably interwoven with home life and its well-being. The wife of a civil servant, or of a professional man, or of a clerk in a store, knows that the upkeep of her home depends on the income of her husband equally as compared with the home of a miner, an industrial worker, a fisherman, a manufacturer or a farmer.

It will readily be recognized that, for the welfare of the homes of the country, the wealth producing occupations should be kept at their best, and all occupations should be maintained in healthful balance and co-operation. One of the most important functions of the business of government is to secure this end. The woman voter knows intuitively that these things must be her concern. She means to understand the conditions of national and international well-being for the sake of her own home and the homes of others.

STATISTICS AND HOMES

There are several ways in which occupations and their relative importance may take a living form for women who know that homes and occupations are interdependent. One is by a statement of the numbers of people at work in each employment. Another is from a table of the wealth