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OPENS OCTOBER 24th, 1916

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Woman in Politics

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and mothers, have many problems which they will talk over with a woman but not with a man trustee.

Now that women in the three prairie provinces have the vote many wonder what they will do with it. Without assuming the role of a prophet we may venture a look into the future. The Political Educational League is now vitally interested in prison reform—that seems to be the next thing women will work for. Then there are matters relating to the hours, wages and conditions of women in industry. Property laws and laws relating to crimes against women will also have to be revised if we may judge from what has been accomplished in countries and states where woman suffrage is in operation. So far the women have not tackled the economic problem any more seriously than the men, but they will, because they must, before their problem can be solved.

Let us then with glad hands welcome the women into the field of politics and bid them come on. The strife and the stress will develop some faculties which they have been entertaining unawares, which will be well for the human race. For, let us not forget, mother and son, father and daughter are bound together with an indissoluble bond. The sissy-boy and the tom-girl warn us that nature cannot be fooled. The women of today mould the manhood of tomorrow. Therefore, it is essential, if the growth of civilization is not to be arrested, that the women as well as the men should strengthen their minds and bodies and souls by exercise in every righteous field of human endeavor. Only thus can we enlarge the temple of the soul and bring the human race to a higher plane. In some things women will agree with men, in others they will differ, and it is most important that the points on which they differ should be emphasized in the realm of politics. Take, for instance, the momentous problem of war. Men can never look at war thru woman's eyes. There was much force in Dr. Michael Clark's remark, during the recent debate on suffrage at Ottawa, that "If women had the vote there would be no war. They would not be such fools as the men."

Women and War

Women will end war when they get a chance, because "There is no battlefield on earth, nor ever has been; however covered with slain, which it has not cost the women of the race more in actual blood and anguish to supply than it has cost the men who lie there." Women pay the first cost on all human life.

As Olive Schreier so beautifully points out, in "Woman and Labor," if a city were besieged and the walls were damaged no sculptor would thoughtlessly throw beautiful statuary into the breach, the others might, so, she says: "Men's bodies are our woman's works of art. Given to us power of control, we will never carelessly throw them in to fill up the gaps in human relationships made by international ambitions and greeds."

Above the roaring shot and the hissing shell, above the shrieks of the wounded and the groans of the dying, over the battlefields of Europe floats a woman's voice. The voice of a woman who nursed friend and foe alike. The voice of a woman who paid the supreme penalty because she set the captives free. The voice of a woman whose name is being used to foment hatreds which she never felt. The voice of a woman and a prophetess whose name will be remembered when the war lords are forgotten. Hear and remember the words of Edith Cavell:

"But this I would say, standing as I do in view of God and eternity, I realize that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."

The spirit behind those words is the spirit which will end the war. It is the mission of woman to bring that spirit into politics. Not that woman will be alone in her efforts for peace or any other form of human betterment, she will always find some men ready to help, but in some lines she must lead and in some lines men must lead, and

together the New Woman and the New Man will create a New Earth, in which new values will be placed on human life and labor.

The Mail Bag

TIME FOR A CHANGE

Editor, Guide:—An editorial article in The Guide of last week, which discusses the tariff situation at Ottawa, says:

"The chief reason why the people of the West get no more consideration than they do from the Liberal and Conservative parties in the East is because our western members do not solidly and consistently stand up for the rights of the West but too frequently allow themselves to be influenced and dominated very largely by the party leaders of the East."

There is a reason for this, or perhaps several reasons. First, western representatives are sent to Ottawa as members of one or the other party, and under the stringent rules of party discipline which prevails in Canada it would require exceptional force of character to break away from this connection. To do so means personal ostracism for the offender. Second, western men go to Ottawa as individual members of a party which is dominated by eastern interests. Consequently there is no solidarity nor cohesion among those composing the western contingent. Third, influence of the common party campaign fund.

Remedy:—Call a convention for the three prairie provinces. Draw up a brief "western platform." Have a candidate in every constituency who subscribes to and may be relied upon to stand by this platform. This would give the West a solid body of men at Ottawa who would be free from eastern affiliations and eastern domination.

Organizations now exist thru which this move could be carried out. What is lacking is funds. The organized farmers of the three provinces have subscribed an amount to the patriotic funds during the past year sufficient to finance this move. If, for one, say that this fund or a like one should have been contributed to a movement to secure relief from the bondage of monopoly. The government should have been compelled to do their duty in furnishing funds for all war contingencies. It is not too late to make this move.

D. W. BUCHANAN.

Winnipeg.

ADVICE TO BACHELORS

Editor, Guide:—We see in every paper experiences from people along the lines of better farming, eradicating weeds, and so on, but few, if any, do we see advising the young man to quit bacheling and settle down in life with a partner. I don't believe there are many who think at first that they will be making pancakes for the next twenty-five years, and how often it occurs that we just seem to get careless and grow shy. I know lots of us would like to have a nice tidy woman to do the housework, and in my opinion in most cases they would have a fine home. But, as I have said, we are shy and seem to think no girl would look at us. Perhaps they would if we had offered ourselves when we first started, so here is where I give the young bachelor a word of warning. Quit the hard and lonesome life of shanty living. I am glad, at the age of forty-five, that I see my mistake after twenty-five years of bacheling and leading the hard life. As I look back over those last twenty-five years and see myself as I started out, if I had known what was before me I might have fainted. When I think of the ranch life I put in and the hard trail and now living on the homestead, as well as all these hardships we go thru for what gain, I wonder at myself at not seeing my mistake before. But better late than never, and right here is where I give up pancake making and enjoy the remainder of my life to the fullest extent of my limited means. I only write these few lines hoping some young bachelor might stop and think. I will feel well repaid if it only puts the thinking cap on someone.

Yours to a cinder,
PANCAKE BILL.