

Dominion Brewery WOMAN IN INDUSTRY

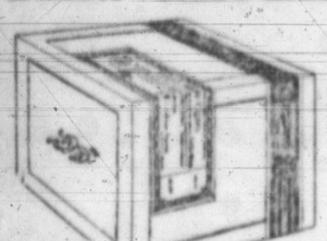
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The Effect Upon Society is to Promote Pauperism.

Reduces the Wages of Men, but Does Not Diminish Their Responsibility for the Support of the Family, Loss to the Home.

There is room for sober thought by economists and historical students, who still are to be reckoned with the women—righteous adherents to the conclusions which have been reached by Mrs. Flora Thompson, champion, and which are stated by her with unusual force and clearness in an article in this issue of the North American Review, "The Truth About Women in Industry," says the Philadelphia Ledger. These conclusions, based on the statistics of labor put upon close reasoning from economic principles, are too complex to permit of a simple analysis of sentiment, are based with a distinct and emphatic note of social unrest, yet the author does not seem to know what she means by this. "Women are a threat to society, in a frightful failure." Mrs. Thompson sets forth these fundamental propositions in support of her opinions.

The practice of modified economic independence has, however, for women average earnings of less than \$1.50 a day. The effect of the practice on a woman's interests is to lessen efficiency and to increase the cost of production.

The effect upon the woman herself is to impair her physical fitness for maternity and to subject her to a false system of education which mentally and morally unfit her for her economic office in the family.

The effect upon society is to promote pauperism by reducing the expense of living and by robbing men of the responsibility which gives them force and energy and their natural office of dispenser of wealth to the family.

In maintaining her premise that the statistics of women's wage earners, instead of indicating the progress of the sex, really show that the woman in industry is an object of charity, an economic pervert and a social menace, Mrs. Thompson points out that, while the law of the business world simply demands the greatest production at the least cost, the official information about women's work deals not with the volume of production, its cost, etc., but chiefly with the question whether it is a profit, pleasure, not, profitable or otherwise, in relation to her sex, always in relation to her sex.

The numerical strength of women workers is a confusing and uncertain factor, because the industrial energy of women is constantly depleted by marriage. Woman's aim in industry is not a livelihood, as a rule, and she works as a makeshift pending marriage; hence she not only enters into competition with men, displacing them and lowering the value of labor, but she withdraws an indispensable force from household production, and thus increases the cost of living.

The wages of women are fixed not by arbitrary and cruel discrimination, but by the economic law of the relation of sex. "By virtue of the legal provisions of marriage, a husband is the family relation," writes Mrs. Thompson, "and an inheritance applies for the work pertaining to the support of life, women are accorded to receive less wages than men, because as a class it costs them less to live."

And while reduction of men's wages is brought about by the competition of women, there is no diminution of the man's responsibility for the support of his family. A further injustice is done in the case of the wife who is a wage earner, because while the wife's earnings may supply what the household lives by her want of application to household pursuits, this is entirely optional with her, and is her duty to his husband's interests and often fails in conserving the husband's interests.

What Mrs. Thompson terms "the humor of wages earning for woman" is that it has taken her out of the home and reduced her office in the family to a convenience of business. Health, good morals, the beautiful, religion—all the blessings which accrue to the family through the immunity from business which woman enjoys in the domestic sphere—must be sacrificed, and the general tendency is to the overthrow of the family and the destruction of humanity.

The foregoing summary of Mrs. Thompson's paper will serve to draw attention to the grave importance of the problem which she presents so boldly, and to the arguments which have an added weight as coming from one who is herself a broadway.

In connection with the masculine boast that men are more consistent than women I always recall Emerson's remark that "Consistency is the jewel of fools."

The attitude of the feminine mind toward the truth is that of a child which feels free to make any sort of statement when its fingers are crossed.

What did old Goriot love his wife like before?

A widow.

Well, she is doubtless grateful for that.

At what age does coquetry in woman begin and end? After diligent inquiry in kindergartens and old folks' homes, we are forced to admit ignorance.

Having recognized and rewarded the man behind the gun, how about the woman behind the washboard?

Today's worry is the result of yesterday's neglect.

Good actors and good architects draw good houses.

Japan feels that it needs Port Arthur in its business.

When you feel for the poor, put your hand into your purse.

Some men are free thinkers and some others are married.

Don't think because a girl's complexion is a dream that all dreams are hand-painted.

The Real Issue is the Moral Issue."

Some of the good Bishop's "points" were quite refreshing, and that they should have been uttered in such a Thieves' Kitchen as the House of Commons adds about 100 per cent. to their pugnacity and pertinacity. What he means by the Government in effect said to the Chinese was: "We won't have you as men, but as estimated implements. When using

you are done with, we will export you back again, dead or alive. That is what men are saying." The real issue is the moral issue, and yet it is you who will, this willingly condone the existence of slavery. Lord Milner has said that it is a monstrous abuse of language to say that the slaves are "men." I say that it is a monstrous abuse of language to say this.

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