

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

SOME NOTES ON THE PROGRESS OF WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE

Canada's First Woman M.P.

WOMEN are frequently told that non-partizanship is only a dream, that it will not work out, but the western provinces are prepared to give it a fair test.

One of the best evidences of this lies in the fact that Alberta has elected to its legislature a woman who stumped on an independent ticket—Mrs. L. C. McKinney.

Canadian women generally rejoice over Mrs. McKinney's success. She is pre-eminently the type of woman by whom other women wish to be represented. She has the honor of being chiefly the farmer's candidate, and her tactics have been demonstrative of their sound common sense and clear insight.

Ontario is proud of being the province of her birth, her early education and five years of public school teaching. North Dakota was the scene of several years of outstanding public service for the W.C.T.U. As a resident of Claresholm, Alberta, for several years, she and her family have done much to uphold a high standard in the community. An acquaintance upon hearing of her election remarked, "She is now reaping what she sowed in keeping her home at the disposal of every young man and woman who had no home and it set an example to the whole neighbourhood."

Mrs. McKinney is a firm believer in women maintaining an independent attitude in politics, that they may be able to offer effective opposition to the giant evils that have grown up under the party system. Both Alberta and Saskatchewan are strong on the independent ticket and a clearer political atmosphere is assured.

She believes that fair minded people are thoroughly disgusted with party politics. Canada is to-day reaping the fruits of their blind partizanship of a few years ago. Parliament and politicians are distrusted because they have not kept faith with the people. Every move is considered from the party and not from the national standpoint. Patronage has weakened men's independence and their sense of justice.

The Non-Partizan League of Alberta, which is behind Mrs. McKinney with its five thousand members, boasts that it is in politics to remedy all evils from which the farmers and the thousand million dollars' worth of farm lands of Alberta are suffering. Among other advanced measures, they stand for Federal direct legislation and recall, equal suffrage, abolition of official charity and substitution of compulsory insurance, Government ownership of elevators, cold storage plants and other public utilities. At their political nomination convention this past winter women were, for the first time, admitted as delegates on an equality with men.

Mrs. McKinney's constituents eagerly anticipate the good that must be effected by their representative's adherence to her principles and her opposition to general political corruption.

More Policewomen Needed

At the recent conference of the policewomen of the United States and Canada, held in Pittsburg, the women dedicated themselves once more to "the work of home defence, especially with regard to homes broken by the war, to industrial problems caused by the entrance of women into new fields of labour, and to the unprecedented social problems attendant upon the establishment of large training camps." They urged the need of more policewomen throughout the country. The first policewoman of America, Mrs. Alice Stebbins Wells, of Los Angeles, was re-elected President.

Social Centre for Soldiers

The Y.W.C.A. of the United States has opened the first house in connection with the military training camps at Plattsburg, N.Y. It takes the form of a social centre where soldiers in training may meet their women friends and their families. Its broad terrace facing the parade grounds, rest and writing rooms, a well equipped restaurant, make it most convenient for soldiers and their women friends to meet under proper conditions. The American Association is trying to raise a million dollar fund for the erection of similar buildings at other training camps at home and in Europe, and some of the workers are now in France in preparation for the work.

New in World's History

For the first time in the history of the world, Jewish women will vote for representation in a Jewish Congress. In September of this year, Washington,

D.C., will entertain the greatest convocation of the Jewish people in 1847 years, that is, since the destruction of the Temple at Jerusalem. The ablest business men of America will meet in this Conference to discuss the problem of 13,000,000 Jews, and will choose a committee to represent the Jewish people when the nations assemble after the World war. For nominations to the Congress all men and women over 21 years are allowed to vote—the first Jewish Congress which has ever adopted woman suffrage.

A Monument to a State

General J. C. Thompson, of Cheyenne, has launched a movement for the erection of a worthy monument in commemoration of Wyoming granting women full suffrage and equal rights with men on December 10, 1869, when it was made a territory.

In 1890 when it was admitted as a State, and before any other State had given women the franchise, equal suffrage was made a part of its constitution.

The New Woman in France

Jane Misne in her fine survey of woman's work in France, "War and Women's Work," says:—"Sex inequalities have passed away, and in industry women have taken their place along with men, assuming



Mrs. L. C. McKinney is regarded by women all over Canada as pre-eminently the type of woman other women wish to be represented by.

the same obligations and receiving the same remuneration. But more significant for the future is the change in attitude toward employment on the part of women. The prestige which once belonged to the women of leisure now goes to those who are engaged in some useful occupation. This change in attitude, together with the indispensable services which the women have rendered during the war, and which they have still to render in the period of reconstruction that is to follow, assures us that the gains of the past two years will



A QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY GIFTS

Queen Mary, Princess Mary and Princess Beatrice looking at the Queen's Birthday Gifts at the Headquarters of the Queen Mary Needlework Guild, St. James' Palace. The 102,000 gifts came from all parts of the Empire, and will in addition to the £1,600 in money be distributed among hospitals.

be conserved. But equality in industry must be followed by political equality. The feminists are demanding all their rights as the sole means which will make it possible for them to fulfill all their duties."

Premier Hearst's Pen

Shortly after the granting of the franchise to the women of Ontario, Sir William Hearst received a letter from Mrs. Bruin, of Lion's Head, Ontario, expressing her desire to have as a souvenir the pen with which he had signed the momentous document. In due time Mrs. Bruin received not only the pen but a personal letter from the premier complimenting the women of the North upon their splendid efforts in the cause.

A great many women now wish they had thought of it sooner.

Enlistment Where Women Vote

The Provinces of Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Ontario, where the women have been enfranchised, have a record of 1 man in 14 serving the Empire. With the proportion constantly going up, Quebec, which has not given votes to women, has a record of enlistment of 1 man in 136. In the United States the equal suffrage states have sent the greatest number of volunteers. This does not look as if voting women were pacifists, but were even more ready to serve their country by sacrifice than those who do not seek the rights of citizenship.

What Dr. Anna Howard Shaw Hopes of Ontario Women

The United States honours itself in heaping honours upon the veteran leader of women, Dr. Anna Howard Shaw. She recently preached the baccalaureate sermon at Bryn Mawr, the first time a woman has been asked to do this for any large college. The Temple University had her deliver the address for its graduating exercises and has conferred upon her the degree of L.L.D. She is also Chairman of the Woman's Committee of National Defence.

In a delightful visit with Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, in speaking of the granting of the franchise to the women of Ontario, Dr. Shaw said:—

"I hope your women will not form a political party of their own. They should do nothing to separate them from the men, but in every way seek to co-operate with them. They should not join political parties except individually. I do not want to see a woman led or driven. I want a woman to vote her own vote. Let them form leagues to study legislation and prepare measures by all means."

The World's Debt to Women

"Wonderful as this hour is for democracy and labour, it is the first hour in history for the women of the world. This is the woman's age! At last, after centuries of disabilities and discriminations, women are coming into the labour and festival of life on equal terms with men. At last the unfair burdens are being lifted from the backs of the mothers of the race. In the awful lightning made as death strikes sharp on life for millions of sons the value of daughters are being discovered by the lords and masters of the earth. Woman's labour in the fields feeds the soldier on the firing line. Woman's labour in factories and mills feeds the cannon in the trenches. Woman's labour in shops and stores feeds the homes of Europe. Canada, Russia, America and even England should have enfranchised womanhood when this war is over. But it is in the industrial and economic field that the reaching transformation in the condition of women. From casual to permanent, from unskilled and unimportant to trained and essential factors in the economic life of the world, this will be the effect of the war in the condition of the working women of the western nations!"

In these inspiring words Mrs. Robins hailed the advent of woman's era in her address at the opening of the Sixth Biennial Convention of the National Woman's Trade Union League of America, held in Kansas City.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Robins are known throughout the United States and Canada for their magnificent social service among the industrial workers.