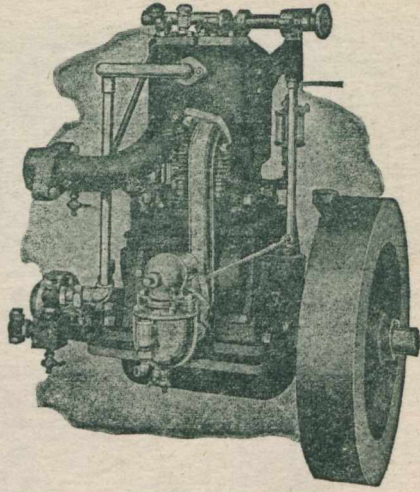


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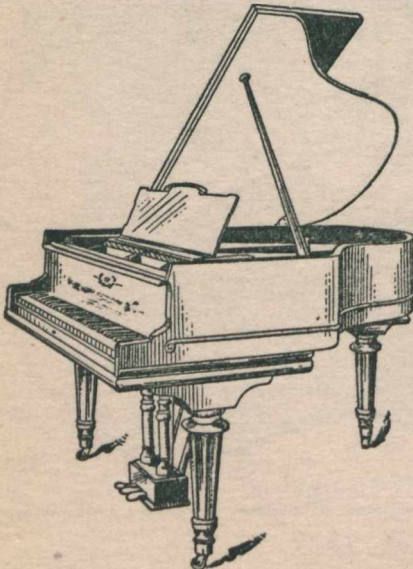
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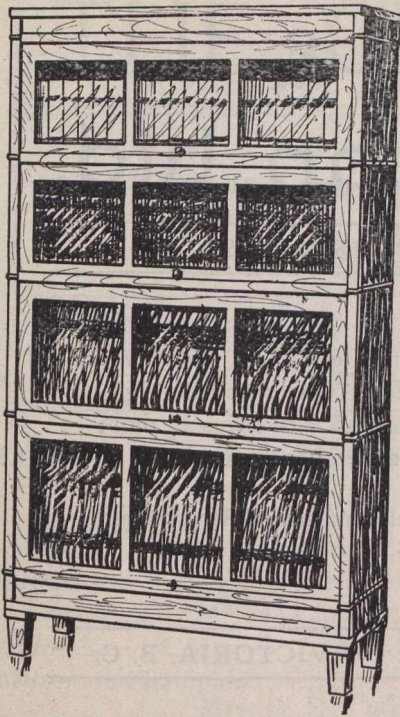
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*A Monthly Magazine Edited by*

**THE POLITICAL EQUALITY LEAGUE**

*(Victoria Branch)*

*"THE WOMAN'S CAUSE IS MAN'S"*

\$1.00 Per Year, Postage Paid



Single Copies 10c.

VOL. I.

VICTORIA, B. C., DECEMBER, 1913

No. 17

## POLITICAL EQUALITY LEAGUE

### Victoria Branch

President.....Mrs. Gordon Grant  
Vice-President.....Mrs. Baer  
Secretary.....Miss D. Christopher  
Treasurer.....Mrs. E. A. Ramlose  
Treasurer of Champion.....  
.....Mrs. G. H. Pethick  
Office, 103 Campbell Building.

1. This Society adopts as the fundamental principle of its Constitution the establishment of the Political, Social and Industrial Rights of Women and Men.

It recognizes as indispensable the possession by Women of the Parliamentary Vote on the same terms as it is or as it may be granted to men.

It demands from the Government immediate legislation to secure this.

The further aim of the Society is to take active means to remedy existing evils and to bring to the knowledge of the public the inefficiency of some of the laws of British Columbia especially as they affect women and children.

2. The objects and aims of the Society as set forward above, need very little explanation. We intend to expose in every way possible to us, the dual standard existing for men and women, to demonstrate the evil resulting therefrom, and to force public recognition to the direct connection between this dual standard and the political disability of women.

We stand to emphasize the fact that causes of individual cases of injustice can only be satisfactorily and finally dealt with by legislation in which women have a direct share.

3. Regarding the enfranchisement of women as essential to the attainment of equality between the sexes, we are necessarily working primarily for Woman Suffrage, and the principal item on our programme is therefore the demand for a Government Measure giving the Parliamentary Vote to Women on the same terms as it is or may be given to men.

### EDITOR'S NOTES

#### The Outlook

Within four months the work of the next session of Parliament will be over and there will only remain one more session before the General Election. This means that a special opportunity lies before every suffragist and also before the Government with regard to Woman Suffrage. If the Government chooses to introduce and pass during the coming session a Bill giving the Vote to Women, it will have that vote to reckon with, or to reckon on, in the Election. We all know that a step of this sort on the part of any Government is almost wholly a matter of party policy. In other words, if they think it is likely to pay, they will make the plunge, but if they are afraid that the Women's Vote will preponderate against them, then no other considera-

tions under the sun will carry any weight with them against the refusal of it at this juncture.



### Political Opportunity

These facts have to be taken into account by Suffragists in determining their immediate policy and line of action. There are two alternatives open to the Government in the event of their deciding that it would be to their interest to conciliate the women of the Province and frame a Bill for their enfranchisement. The Bill might be a simple measure providing that women should be given the Vote on the same terms as men, or it might be drawn up on the Norwegian lines, giving the Vote to married women and those over 25. To us, it would make very little difference which alternative were adopted, for the establishment of the **principle** is the essential and immediate goal of our endeavour; but the Government would see in these alternatives quite different prospects for themselves and for the future of the country. They would probably be of the opinion that the former arrangement would add considerably to the Liberal and Socialist Vote, and would so endanger their own existence, whereas, considering the two hypotheses (1) that the majority of men voters in the Province are conservative, and (2) that married women would almost invariably simply duplicate their husband's vote, they would expect the Norwegian system to strengthen their hands in the party fight which lies before them.

Our policy should, therefore, be to call the attention of the Government to the fact that the issue of Votes for Women is one of extremely practical import to themselves, and that it will do their party no good to ignore it or to leave it still unsettled. And there is this also to be said—that although the votes of women are not to be bought by any system of bribery, either direct or indirect; and though we disagree personally with the view that married women will necessarily hold the same political opinions as their husbands, and with the equally naive view that most

married men in this Province are sincere supporters of the present Government, yet—women are very loyal creatures, and, while they will probably vote generally for principle rather than for party, there are, of course, a number of them in this country whose political opinions are not yet definitely formed, and who will in consequence be inclined to vote, at any rate at first, for the party that gives them their freedom, as a mark of gratitude and a recognition of its public spirit and generosity.

The Government, therefore, would do well to bear in mind the significance of the present moment, and the public of B. C. should concentrate on such efficient political work as will leave it in no doubt as to the discretion of valour where progressive innovation is contemplated.



### Suffrage Vitality

There is no surer sign of life in any organism or in any society than a tendency to push forth new roots or new branches, to venture upon new developments, to blaze new trails. Just as in the world of nature fresh life is manifested by the amalgamation or by the splitting of cells, so in the world of politics and in the social world every fresh move in the formation of associations representing a new kind of activity or a different point of view is proof of healthy and vigorous growth. Division is not by any means always dissension, much less rivalry; it implies rather the quickening of individual faith and of a sense of individual responsibility.



### New Suffrage Societies

This is particularly the case with regard to any movement such as the Cause of Votes for Women. Suffragists are not all moulded according to one pattern. The grounds of their faith are many and yet one. Their points of view vary greatly, and are influenced by nationality, by religious opinion, by temperament, by personality, and by mental and moral and even physical characteristics. And this is where their fundamental unity and

their essential strength lie. This great movement is broad enough to contain leagues and persons representing every shade of political outlook; strong enough to hold them all in bonds of fellowship that no diversity of private opinion can strain; deep enough to afford a common basis of united effort and concerted action, and free enough to give scope for vision of the loftiest ideals.



#### A Welcome

For this reason the announcement of the formation of a new suffrage league in Victoria has our warm sympathy, and has also, we are asked to state, the best wishes of the Political Equality League. And it is to be hoped that Suffragists who have hitherto refrained from actually joining any league, including those who do not wish to belong to either already existing, will speedily set to work to organise a third—perhaps even a fourth—suffrage society.



#### Seattle's Example

The Cause in Seattle never made any gigantic strides of progress until a new society took its stand beside the first, and the success of both was only achieved when a third sprang into being. Perhaps now that the Go-Aheads have set the example of striking out for themselves, other societies will also organise; and any and all will find the hand of comradeship stretched out from every true suffragist in cordial and sympathetic welcome.



#### Change in the Staff

As a result of this new departure Miss Dorothy Davis has severed her official connection with the Political Equality League in order to act as Organiser of the Go-Aheads; and it is as well that readers of The Champion should know that the whole transaction has been conducted with the utmost friendliness and understanding on all sides. The Editorial staff of The Champion remains, of course, unaf-

fectured by the official suffrage positions of its members.



#### Municipal Progress

An interesting move has been made by the City Council of Victoria, to whom the Organising Secretary of the Victoria Branch, P. Eq. L., wrote on the subject of the extension of full municipal voting privileges to the women of the City. This public-spirited body has replied that at a meeting held after the receipt of the letter a Resolution was passed without a dissentient, expressing the Council's recognition of the principle involved and their cordial sympathy. Thereupon another letter was written by the Organiser, calling upon the City Council to put their creed into action, after the example of such progressive cities as Vancouver and New Westminster and approach the Provincial Government on the women's behalf with regard to the proposed urgent reform. The "Times" states that the City Council has determined that the Government shall be approached on this subject at the next session. "Nothing venture, nothing have!"



#### Political Equality League

The Political Equality League has asked us to make special mention in our editorial column this month of a prevailing misapprehension, and so help to correct it. It is said in some circles that this League is Conservative in principle and supports the present Government. This, of course, is a very foolish thing to assert or to believe. The P. Eq. L. is out for one definite purpose, the obtaining of the Vote for Women, and its ranks contain women and men of all shades of political opinion, united for the time in this common demand. It is an essentially non-party organisation, and imposes no political party obligations upon its members. Its hopes at this moment are focused necessarily upon the party that happens to be in power, but as a League its support is given to none.

### THE WOMAN-TAMER

By Thomas O'Meara.

He said, "She shall be my slave!  
 Lesser in all than I;  
 Feeble of body and brain,  
 She shall carry a golden chain,  
 And dwell until she die  
 In the golden cage I gave." . . .

And he found a treacherous creature of  
 hate and fear,  
 With teeth and claws that were ready  
 when he came near!

He said, "She shall be my star!  
 I will set her high above  
 This dusty world of mine.  
 I will bow me down at her shrine,  
 Pray for the light of her love,  
 And worship her from afar." . . .

But he found that the light of her love  
 had been withdrawn,  
 Leaving only a faint, chill pity, a faint,  
 chill scorn.

He said, "She shall be my friend!  
 Side by side let us stand,  
 For I need your help and you.  
 Comrades loyal and true,  
 With my hand holding your dear  
 hand  
 We will see life out to the end." . . .

And she turned and her eyes met his;  
 and I think she cried  
 (But she laughed through her tears)  
 and she came to her place at his  
 side.

—The "Englishwoman."

### THE GREAT UNREST AMONG MODERN WOMEN

#### II.—Worker, Wife, and Mother.

(From the Christian Commonwealth.)

"If we compare one country of the civilised world with another, or one part of England with another, we find that the degradation of the working classes varies almost uniformly with the amount of rough work done by women. The most valuable of all cap-

ital is that invested in human beings; and of that capital the most precious part is the result of the care and influence of the mother, so long as she retains her tender and unselfish instincts, and has not been hardened by the strain and stress of unfeminine work."—Dr. Alfred Marshall.

One of the pleasant conventions about women's work, still sedulously maintained by those who are unwilling to face the harsh reality, is the fiction that all the rough and disagreeable tasks are discharged by men. The "stronger" sex chivalrously spares women the heavy bodily labour which they are physically unfitted to sustain; and for a parallel reason women are excused from work involving prolonged or arduous mental toil. In a hazy, indefinite fashion, no doubt most people honestly believe that the work of the world is divided on this admirable principle. And they would be considerably startled, and perhaps shocked, if they could be made to apprehend the grim fact, against which women are increasingly inclined to revolt, that an immensely disproportionate share of the unpleasant drudgery of daily life, a great deal of the dangerous work, and most of the monotonous and semi-automatic work, is borne by women.

#### Miss Cicely Hamilton,

indeed, has suggested that as the world grew more crowded and less a place to fight in, that first rude division of labour which allotted to man the duties of hunting and fighting and to women all the other tasks was broken down, and men began to invade the "sphere of women," and to divide the industries hitherto heaped upon the other sex: allowing women to keep those trades which men did not care to enter, and which were naturally the most disagreeable, monotonous, and laborious duties of their common life. And with sardonic humour Miss Hamilton points out that if the world's work were divided on the principle of giving to men the heavier tasks and to women the lighter and more pleasant duties, the ordinary male clerk should



at once change places with the ordinary housemaid, and the ordinary ticket collector with the ordinary laundress. "The physical labour of holding a pen or collecting tickets is infinitely less than the physical labour of carrying coals upstairs, scrubbing a floor, or wringing out a dirty garment."

It is perhaps unnecessary to follow the guidance of Mr. Bernard Shaw in "Press Cuttings" and compare certain risks "of the harmless domestic kind" run by women to the "fearful risks of the battlefield" on which men pride themselves. One has only to read the chapters in Lady Bell's "At the Works"—if one is so unfortunately constituted as not to be able to see what is passing before one's eyes in everyday life—in which the life of

#### Working Wives and Mothers

in a manufacturing town is described with the intimate knowledge of detail which comes of nearly thirty years' intercourse with the people, in order to realise that women's share of the ordinary work of the world is not allotted to them on the principle of saving them from the "strain and stress of unfeminine work."

It would be difficult to define with any degree of precision and accuracy what is and is not "women's work." The number of admittedly idle women in the community is extremely small: of the population of England and Wales between the ages of twenty and fifty-five, as Mr. Chiozza Money has pointed out, only 823,135 unmarried women figured in the census of 1901 as "without specific occupations." Even agriculture and coal mining are not yet exclusively the monopoly of men. The number of women employed in agricultural work is certainly diminishing, but so also is the number of men thus employed. At the census of 1901 nearly 12,000 women were engaged in agricultural work, a very considerable decrease compared with the 143,000 odd thus engaged in 1851; but those who have had the opportunity of seeing women at work in farmhouses and in rural districts will not need any further evidence than that which has come

under their own observation to prove that the lightest and most pleasant tasks are not reserved for women in this department of industry. More than 5,000 women and girls, again, are employed about the mines of the United Kingdom, though not now underground; and 643 of these are under sixteen years of age.

Domestic service accounts for the largest proportion of occupied women at the present time, no less than 109 out of every thousand being thus employed. What domestic service means from the point of view of easy, attractive work for women is again a matter of which it is not possible to write with any enthusiasm. It is, however, germane to the argument with which we are here concerned, to point out that

#### Among the Workhouse Inmates

whose occupations were given in the census of 1901 15,630 out of a total of women inmates of 77,249 were once domestic servants. At the same census there were no fewer than 111,841 charwomen returned, of whom 86,463 were married; and this, too, is an occupation whose natural termination appears to be the workhouse; 8,176 of the total number of women inmates of the workhouses given above were formerly charwomen.

Factory employment accounts for more than a million and a half women and girls; nearly half a million follow professional and commercial occupations. Mr. George Shann has commented upon a very significant fact in connection with the factory employment of women which illustrates the prevailing tendency to saddle women with the traditional domestic duties of their sex, whatever industrial occupation they may follow. "Often the woman works in the factory or in some other way all day," writes Mr. Shann, "as well as the man. But the woman does all the work of the house, while both the man and the woman take it for granted that the man should be free to rest or to amuse himself. Often the woman herself would resent the suggestion that the man should do his share of the housework. It would be

considered *infra dig.* for the man to do any housework. There is a passive acceptance on the part of the woman of a certain inferiority, and there is an almost total lack of comradeship between the man and the woman. The man seeks his pleasures by himself, amongst other men, and it is only occasionally that he and his wife go out together."

The foregoing facts are all more or less preliminary to the substantiation of the grave and weighty judgment of the famous economist whose words stand at the head of this article. It is one of the worst consequences of the

#### **Economic Inferiority of Women**

that the prime service they can render to the community in motherhood and the care of children is inefficiently discharged, or not discharged at all, because the work they do, both at home and in factories and workshops, involves too great a strain upon them. When women become workers they are less fitted to become mothers. It is putting altogether too great a burden upon them to give them the three-fold task of bearing children, taking charge of the home, and working to earn a living for themselves and their families. But this is what is required of a very large number of women in our modern world. They are driven to work by the sheer compulsion of necessity, because the wages earned by husbands and fathers are too small to keep the household going. We have entered upon a vicious circle in this matter of women's work, which it is the task of statesmanship to break, but of this break there is as yet very little sign.

Unmarried girls enter industry to help themselves and their families to live, and because the demand for cheap unskilled labour is taking the place of the demand for skill and intelligence and physical strength; their menfolk are driven more and more to depend upon these women's earnings to supplement the family income; and when the girls who have begun life as workers marry, they repeat the cycle on a descending scale of physical deterioration and inefficiency from the point of view

of the higher interests of the race. Of this later articles must supply the proof.

Here there is only space to insist that the full weight of our existing social and economic order falls not upon men but upon women, and upon married women, the mothers and wives in whose hands the future of the race is invested, most of all. Evidence that the strain is too much for their resources is accumulating on all hands. The alarm excited amongst those charged with the administration of the National Insurance Act by the "excessive claims" for sick benefit on the part of women, which has led to the appointment of a commission of inquiry for the purpose of ascertaining the causes and to investigate the charges of malingering, is perhaps the most striking of recent indications that we are only now beginning to perceive that the

#### **Burden Placed Upon Womanhood**

is greater than it can bear. There is very little doubt that the "sickness" among women which has upset all actuarial calculations upon the Insurance Act is not a new thing: it existed before the Act came into force, and was patiently borne by women because there was nothing else to do but to bear it and to meet its incidence out of their own resources. The Act discovered it—that is all. But that is enough to show that this generation is being made to carry some of the load which has hitherto rested entirely upon the shoulders of married women. They paid, in weakness and tears and weariness, a tax too great for them: overwork and small nourishment, a slow draining of their strength and stamina, the shattering of health and the harassing of nerves involved in trying to discharge the triple function of worker, wife, and mother, have begun to show their inevitable effects. We have begun to reap the harvest of women's economic inferiority. What that economic inferiority means in terms of life as well as of money it is the aim of these articles to show. Before we can proceed far we must deal with the question of women's wages at closer

quarters, in an endeavour to show what the exploitation of women really means.

The next article will deal with the general facts of women's wages.

### IN OTHER LANDS

"For so the whole round world is every way Bound by gold chains about the feet of God."

### Where Women Have Won

The International Woman Suffrage Alliance has done a very sensible and practical thing in compiling and issuing a little volume, "Woman Suffrage in Practice," giving a brief outline of the Suffrage agitation and the successes it has achieved in different part of the world. It is a valuable reference book, and contains just the sort of facts that people want to know—where women are allowed to vote, how their vote has affected legislation, percentages of men and women voters, and similar information. The book has been very carefully compiled from first-hand sources by Frau Marie Stritt, Mme. Maria Verone, and Miss Chrystal Macmillan, the latter writing for this edition a very interesting introduction. Mrs. Chapman Catt contributes a foreword, in which she remarks that Woman Suffrage is not now an academic question, but has been lifted from the realm of academic discussion to one of empirical knowledge. We no longer ask, "What will happen?" but "What has happened where women vote?" And this little volume answers the question in that form with remarkable fullness and precision.

### The Women's Charter

For those who wish seriously to know the real claims underlying the women's movement of our day there is no safer or more comprehensive statement to be found in print than the "Women's Charter Review," which Lady Aberconway has just issued. It is the most thorough and systematic statement of the women's case that has

yet been formulated. In the form of nine Parliamentary Bills the Charter was presented to the House of Commons by Sir Charles McLaren, supported by Mr. Philip Snowden, Mr. Atherley-Jones, Mr. J. M. Robertson, and Mr. Theodore Taylor. The substance of these Bills appears in the pages of the Women's Charter Review, edited by Lady Aberconway. It sets out the position of women before the law with unanswerable cogency and force, on property rights, educational and economic position, and in relation to the marriage laws and the laws governing immorality. When the Charter first appeared we stated that it would one day become as famous as other great charters, not excluding Magna Charta itself. In this form we are very glad to welcome it again, and a re-reading of the massive summary of the injustices and inequalities under which women suffer today has strengthened the view we formerly expressed regarding the importance and value of Lady Aberconway's service to the women's cause. We hope these sixteen pages of solid argument will have a very wide circulation among men.

◆ ◆ ◆

### Unwomanly Woman!

A highly exciting story has reached here concerning the passage of the American square-rigger John Ena, which reached Philadelphia a few days ago, sugar laden, after an unusually slow run from Hilo, Hawaiian Islands. According to advices received the heroine of the voyage was the wife of Captain Charles V. Olsen, master of the windjammer. On October 21 the John Ena ran into a terrific hurricane off the North Carolina coast. Sail after sail was torn to ribbons by a gale which blew at the rate of ninety miles an hour.

Captain Olsen was on the forward deck, says the story which comes from Philadelphia, and Mrs. Olsen was in the cabin busy with some of his papers. Startled by a particularly heavy roar of the sea, she looked on deck just in time to observe the sailor at the wheel desert his post. Badly frightened, Mrs. Olsen hurried on deck. The force of

the blast nearly carried her overboard, but she crept along the poop until her hands grasped the wheel. The vessel had brought up in the wind. Rigging, sails and flying splinters fell around the intrepid woman. She managed to swing the heavy wheel over and brought the vessel about.

◆ ◆ ◆

### WOMEN TAKING PART IN MEXICAN FIGHTING

Acting as Soldaderas Members of the Feminine Sex Risk Their Lives for Relatives

Delrio, Tex., Nov. 2.—Women of Mexico are playing a prominent part in the welfare of the southern republic, either as "soldaderas," forging successfully for their menfolk in the armies, or occasionally as actual fighters. Many women have left their homes rather than remain alone, and a few of them have gone under fire from motives of revenge.

In the siege now in progress at Monterey, a valued member of General Pablo Gonzales' constitutionalist command is Senorita Mariasanchez, said to be a wealthy Castilian, whose brother was shot by a federal regular. She left a luxurious home and begged permission to replace her brother.

Recently at Monclova a son of Senora Pimental, of that city, had been sentenced to be shot. The mother, it is said, entered the federal jail by stealth and, stabbing two guards, released her boy and both escaped to the constitutionalists' headquarters at Hermanos.

In the federal ranks there is told the story of the wife of an officer who led the rebels into an ambushade at Puerta Carmen and though fired on by the angered rebels, galloped through the lines to her husband's side.

◆ ◆ ◆

### Historic Women Complaint

Washington, D.C., Nov. 25.—Women of history are not given fair play and are, in fact, virtually ignored in the histories used in the local schools, members of college of women's equal suf-

frage league announced today. Their protest was aroused by the report of a special committee appointed several weeks ago to look into the school books.

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### German Women Are Seeking the Vote

Berlin, Nov. 25.—A petition for the introduction of woman suffrage in Germany was among those presented to the imperial parliament when it met today after a recess of nearly five months.

◆ ◆ ◆

### Crime and Punishment

Letters have appeared in the "Manchester Guardian" calling attention to the extremely disproportionate punishment inflicted upon a young married man convicted of assaulting a little girl in the darkness of a picture theatre. He was fined 20s. Miss Evelyn Sharp, in her letter, contrasted this sentence with the one of two months' hard labour passed upon a man at Bow Street for stealing a pet dog, which he sold for £2, and of three years' penal servitude given to another man with previous convictions against him for stealing 2s. 4d. and a collar stud. The case is one degree worse, Miss Sharp remarks, than that reported recently of a labourer given one month's hard labour without the option of a fine for committing the same offence upon a baby of four. Miss Sharp points out that there is a third class of offenders who receive sentences ranging from a week to three and five years' penal servitude. These offenders are women who have committed damage, or incited others to commit damage, because they believe that little girls are worth more than pet dogs and collar studs, and because it is no longer tolerable to them to acquiesce in a political subjection that keeps them from reforming a society in which it is possible for little girls to be rated lower than pet dogs and collar studs. We echo Miss Sharp's query whether the magistrates who allowed this man to pay for what he did with a sovereign realised the number of militant suffragists they have made.

### Young Woman Makes Heifer Calves Corner

North Yakima, Wash., Nov. 12.—A young woman stenographer in a North Yakima law office is attempting to corner the market in heifer calves. The young woman has figured out that ranchers are seeking to buy cows, and will want more as time passes. She has rented a few lots north of the city, and has the calves corralled there, well fed and developing.

◆ ◆ ◆

The Norwegian women have guaranteed to every illegitimate child the right of inheritance to its father's name and property by a law which also provides for the care of its mother.—The News, Victoria, Nov. 15.

### THE CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE

By The Rev. G. Herbert Davis, Minor Canon of Hereford Cathedral.

(Passages from a speech delivered at the Knightsbridge Hall.)

What I am going to speak about to you this afternoon may be thought a comparatively prosaic subject, but at any rate it is an important one. I ask for the attention and the kindness of the audience while I deal with it, because I think it is best for a clergyman to deal with it. It is the new line taken by the Suffragette on questions of morality. Now you, all of you, must have read those articles, and I am very glad to hear that they are being very widely read, even by people who have never read the paper before. I hope that these articles will do all the good they ought to do. I thoroughly believe (and I believe the majority of the clergy would say the same thing) that it is the right thing to do to speak in plain language in this matter. This Miss Christabel Pankhurst has done.

Now the fame of these articles and their usefulness will, to my mind, be increased greatly by the very unfair and prejudiced criticism which has appeared in a very pronounced anti-Suffrage organ, the "Standard." I say that the opposition of the "Standard" will

do good, because all unjust criticism in the end returns upon itself, and does good to the cause which it has attempted to damage. May I remind you of the terms which were used in the "Standard" with regard to these articles? I believe there are other papers which have criticised them unfavourably, but the "Standard" gives us an example of what a newspaper ought not to do. What the "Standard" said was this: "Disappointed by the apathy of the public towards the militant Suffragist agitation, and faced by the withdrawal of financial support and the declining circulation of their journal, the militants have resorted to this appeal to the prurient-minded of both sexes in order to swell the sale of the Suffragette. It is no exaggeration to say that the half-dozen articles on 'Chastity of Men' and 'The Dangers of Marriage' are the most daringly indecent matter published within memory." My own word is this: that it is the most disgraceful and cold-blooded lie that I have ever read.

Now if you will allow me, I will turn to some of these articles. The first one appeared on October 3, and the keynote of that article was this great danger that we are in of sensuality being the ruin of the race. Miss Pankhurst says that sensuality is ruining the race. Now she puts that forward as a fact; one of those facts which is supported by statistics, and she draws on those statistics to support her proposition. No logical, fair-minded person can deny that she is doing a public service in publishing facts in question, and in doing what she can to rouse the conscience of men. I only wish, madam chairman, that the clergy had followed out what you have said, and done more than they have done to make certain facts known.

We have to consider the extraordinary widespread character of the effects of immorality. I will not dwell upon that very much, but it has been proved, and lately stated by medical authorities, not by irresponsible persons like Suffragettes and clergymen, but by doctors and scientific men. At that great Medical Congress held in the

summer and in that admirable letter that most of the doctors, including members of the College of Surgeons and the College of Physicians, sent to the Press, grave statements have been made on this point. It is said that there are annually 200,000 fresh cases of venereal disease in London. That gives you a rough idea of the extraordinary malignity and widespread character of the effects of sexual vice.

There are other effects besides these, which it is difficult to measure, but which a few figures may help us to understand. According to the statistics of an American society, which shows that 80 per cent. of the diseases of women, or more than three-quarters are the result of infection, and the result of venereal disease. You may ask why I quote American statistics. For this reason: that we have no body of people engaged in a scientific investigation of this matter in our own country. It is time we had. A very large percentage of children infected die before birth, and those who finally survive have organic defects which may be transmitted to the third generation. Then with regard to blindness, that terrible infant blindness. It is said that 90 per cent. of infant blindness is caused by this terrible germ of gonorrhoea. I am not going to harp on that any more, but it teaches us a very great deal. What, I ask, is the moral of these articles, and what is the duty of those of us who are trying to do good in the world? What ought we to do in the face of these things, which, according to the "Standard," must not be talked of and should be dealt with only by the medical profession? We have a duty to our children and to our friends. And that is the burden, as it seems to me, of Miss Pankhurst's second article, about which I wish to speak to you this afternoon. It is in the issue of October 10. She takes her objectors to task, and says:

"It has been objected that the articles are not suitable to be read by young boys and girls. This might be true if the question of sex could be withheld from their attention, but it is not, and it cannot be so withheld, and

what happens is that girls, and especially boys, learn half-truths, and this half-knowledge it is which is so dangerous. Let us take first the case of the young girl. People who think her too young to learn the truth about sexual disease still think she is old enough to be sought in marriage by men, to marry, and as it may happen, to be infected unknowingly with a disease which, within a short space of her wedding day, will bring her to the operating table or may doom her to a life of invalidism. A girl who is not old enough to learn the truth about sexual disease is certainly not old enough to be exposed to the risk of contracting it in marriage."

Then she says something with regard to the working classes:

"The young daughters of the working classes, and such girls are the majority, have not, owing to the circumstances of their parents, the protection which is accorded to the daughters of the more prosperous classes."

Now if any clergymen are here this afternoon who have worked, as I have, among the poor in great cities—Birmingham and elsewhere—they will support me in what I say here: that the most terrible fact that a working parson has to face is not intemperance or that men don't go to church, but it is in all these big industrial centres, and may be elsewhere, the shocking, the appalling immorality between girls and boys, and that is due, as Miss Pankhurst says, to the fact that they are not educated on the subject. Let me remind you, supporting what Miss Pankhurst has written on this subject, of the fact that there was recently a Commission appointed to consider the question of divorce, and the Commissioners, though divided on certain points, were all united on this point: that marriages should be null and void in the case of venereal disease. It was recommended by the Commission that the Court should have jurisdiction to annul marriages where one of the parties was infected by this disease and had concealed the fact. Well, now, supposing that a marriage can be brought to an end, declared null and

void, because of the existence in one of the parties of this terrible disease, is it not only reasonable to say that both the young girl and the man shall be educated with regard to the nature of venereal disease before they become subject to it and before they have the right to enter into the married state at all? That seems to be one of the most powerful arguments in support of that very powerful appeal that Miss Pankhurst has made in regard to the education of the young.

But we have to fight another great obstacle and enemy. It is the fatal, terrible law of "taboo," that policy which covers up all these unpleasant things, emulating the wisdom of the ostrich, and thinking that if you cannot see danger it does not exist. The rule that these things must not be mentioned has resulted in the prevalence of these terrible things which all of us are now deploring and seeking to remedy. I would remind you who are fighting this evil that William Blake, a poet who lived 100 years ago, pointed out with great precision some of the social evils of his day, and warned us in beautiful language, in the language of his poetry, how to fight those evils. In one of these beautiful little poems of his he speaks of what is, after all, the most fatal mistake a nation can make, and that is for the Government to organise the people's vice. He says:

"The whore and gambler by the State  
Licensed, but build that nation's fate;  
The harlot's cry from street to street,  
Shall weave Old England's winding  
sheet."

These terrible words ought to be burned into the consciences of all of us when we think of the public lethargy that has existed ever since his poetry was written about this awful subject. To what has it been due? I think very largely to the false ideas of the Victorian age, which have intervened between Blake's time and ours—the false ideas of the Victorian age about the Victorian woman. The Victorian woman lived in a kind of hot-house atmosphere. She entrenched herself in a fool's paradise. To her mind chastity

was an exclusively feminine virtue. Her great duty was to keep her girls unspotted from the world. She did not think, I am afraid, very much about the poor woman on the street, whose sacrifice she accepted as the price of her daughters' purity. That terrible blot on civilisation, whom we call the fallen woman, was pushed aside where she could not be seen, it being thought that such women were not intended to work with their hands, but to supply a demand which our ancestors of the Victorian age, at any rate, thought was a necessary demand. That is the cause of the bottom of it. What I want you to understand is this: that we have got past the Victorian ideals, I am very glad to say—past the Victorian woman. The women of today are very different altogether from her. I remember, at the recent Church Congress which I attended, there was a very good specimen of the Victorian lady who addressed the Congress, and who won all our hearts by the way she put the case for the Victorian woman. But in that Congress we had too much of the modern spirit in us to agree with her. I much regret that it was not explicitly declared that women ought to have the vote, and that this terrible disease ought to be known and thought of. There was not that expression, yet on the whole I think all of us ought to be glad that the woman's question did take such a prominent place, and was received with so much sympathy right through. We realised that, after all, the women of the past did not see their duty to the sex. They saw their duty, and carried it out in a religious manner, to their husbands and to their daughters—not always to their sons.

I think that the temperance movement has helped in times past to set aside other important reforms. The efforts of the reformers were too much on the lines of temperance reform, and they left the other things, as I have said before, in the dark and hidden. Now with regard to temperance, self-respect will make a man temperate, but something more is required to make a man chaste, and that is respect for others—respect for women.

In the plays of Brieux those terrible matters are portrayed in a dramatised form for the stage. We cannot have the play performed in England—the Censor would not allow that—but you can read it in book form with a preface by George Bernard Shaw, who says “Decency is indecency’s conspiracy of silence.”

One more quotation from a woman always looked upon as the leader of the purity crusade of the last century, a woman whose name always evokes cheers—Josephine Butler. The opinion of a woman like that will do very much to support Miss Pankhurst and the Suffragette in this task which they have undertaken. She says that we should call each sin relentlessly by its right name; that we should reject any covenanting either with the sin or with the social prudery that would ignore it. And I might add to that the words of a still greater—of Christ Himself, when He warns His followers “to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.” There is hypocrisy in prudery. “There is nothing covered that shall not be revealed and that shall not be known. What ye have spoken in the inner chamber shall be proclaimed upon the house-tops.”

While I was reading those words last time, and while I was thinking, and my wife too, of all these women suffering martyrdom in prison, my eyes went on to the very next verse, “Be not afraid of them that kill the body and after that have nothing more that they can do.” Does not that refer to those noble women martyrs who are in gaol today and are suffering for their faith? The martyr spirit is wanted in this movement.

Remember that God is on the side of the women. Why do I dare say that? Because God is always on the side of justice, and not on the side of the biggest battalions.

There are other things that I should like to ask you to remember. There is an old proverb which says that “You cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs.” I leave that to be applied according to the conscience of everybody present. There is another old saying,

which is, “That the blackest hour of the night precedes the dawn.” I think that applies to us and our movement very clearly indeed. I should like to add to this the inspiring words of Russell Lowell:

“Truth for ever on the scaffold,  
Wrong for ever on the throne,  
But that scaffold sways the future;  
And behind the dim unknown  
Standeth God within the shadow,  
Keeping watch upon His own.”

### ARE SWORN IN

Mrs. Clayards and Miss McDonald, Victoria’s new police women, were sworn in before Magistrate Jay last month and are now members of the force. They have been carefully instructed in their duties by Chief Langley, which will be chiefly of a preventive nature in regard to women and children.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The usual fortnightly meetings of the Political Equality League will take place in the King’s Daughters’ Rest Room on December the 8th and the 22nd, when first-rate speakers will be present, and a very good musical programme will add to the attractions of these now popular affairs.

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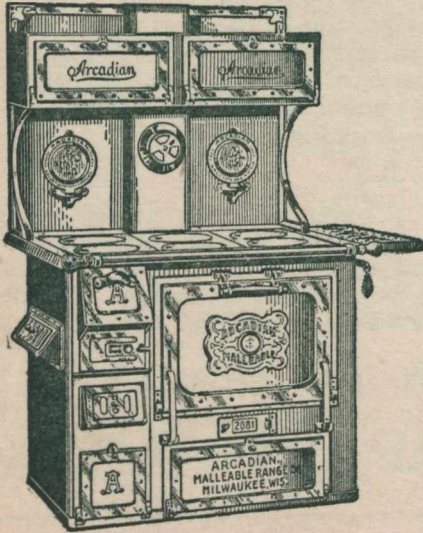
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