

“Sex: Female—Dependents: Yes”

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porting were supporting children. Disaster may also deprive a family of a male breadwinner and his place is taken by other members of the group. One Women's Bureau publication states that from three to four in every ten women are living at home and are contributing total or partial support to the family group.

Most married women work to provide for their families—to substitute for a husband's salary if he is unemployed or to supplement his wages when they are insufficient. Approximately one-third of all wage-earning women are also home-makers, which means that they have a double responsibility for most of them cannot, because of low wages, afford to hire domestic aid in their homes. The types of dull, laborious jobs which these women do would indicate that they could not be working for love of these jobs. War casualties will make it necessary for many more

women to take the places of husbands, sons or brothers as providers.

It becomes obvious that we can no longer overlook women's low salaries on the basis that “the men have families to support”—women, too, have families to support. Women don't work for fun or for pin money. They work in order to carry on the serious business of living. Their inadequate salaries lower the standard of living for them and for their dependents, and in turn bring down the general level of wage schedules. No one group can be depressed without other groups feeling the effects. Wages in war plants are high at present for both men and women but no one expects them to remain at this level. In state and municipal government offices and in non-war industries wages have been increased to varying degrees, but seldom sufficiently to meet living costs.

Women shudder to think of a return to a “woman's wage” of the pre-war period. To avoid such a backward step, they must make their necessities and responsibilities known and then ask for adjustments. By conscientious effort in their work and in their group affiliations, women can overcome the prejudices and customs which place them in the position of supporting themselves and their dependents with inadequate paychecks.

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