

BIG CONGRESS OF MOTHERS

How the National Organization to Convene in Denver Works For the Welfare of Children.

Constructive force That Is Laboring for the Future by Endeavoring to Improve the Present.

By WALTON WILLIAMS
A mother is a mother still,
The holiest thing alive.
—Coleridge.

FROM all sections of the United States women will gather in Denver to attend the National Congress of Mothers June 10 to 15. In the beautiful "mile high" capital of Colorado the devoted mothers will spend a week in the discussion of matters pertaining to the welfare of children—not their own children alone, but the offspring of others as well. The Congress of Mothers is a movement for the benefit of the race, looking toward the making of happy and useful men and women out of the raw material of childhood. The members realize the urgent need of an organized campaign for the education of parents in the bringing up of children and for the protection and fostering of child life through local and national governmental agencies. Many matters of vital interest to family life and the future citizenship of the nation will be considered by the women in the Denver convention.

From the east, the north and the south the delegates will assemble at Chicago, whence they will go to Denver by special train. From Texas and the far west and northwest special

concerns childhood into the home and school and in preventing some of the alarming mortality among children.

There is an able advisory council, composed of men headed by Theodore Roosevelt. Governor Bradley of Missouri is much interested in all pertaining to the work in behalf of children. In an address before the congress of mothers President Roosevelt said: "This is the organization for which I care most. You are dealing with vital things in a sane and healthy way."

A man who was himself a walf and thoroughly familiar with the misfortunes of childhood has given some of his best efforts to legislation for the betterment of conditions surrounding children, the child labor problem. This man is Thomas E. Kinney, state senator from St. Louis.

Senator Kinney was born and reared in the "tough" district of St. Louis and when he grew up became owner of a saloon in that section which a number of years ago was notorious as a "hangout" for the gang element. Kinney got into politics and was elected to the state senate, where he has served several terms. He surprised the element which opposed him and feared that his legislative work would be detrimental to the interests of society. Senator Kinney became an earnest and able advocate of education, particularly for children who had grown up under the evil conditions which surrounded himself in his childhood. He is in hearty accord with the work of the Congress of Mothers.

Is a Constructive Force.

The National Congress of Mothers tries to lead through research, meditation, suggestion and observation. It is a constructive force reaching all over the United States. The mothers' work to eliminate those errors menacing society which have brought degradation and disease to the little ones is to the end that less of wrong shall confront each generation.

These women are working to get at facts and not at theories, fully realizing the statement of all students of social conditions that the inefficiency and insufficiency of homes is responsible for most of the crime, disease and failure. The ignorance in this line is not so surprising when it is remembered that child nurture is almost the only line in education that has been neglected. Mistaken methods in rearing children in the home or school or state are the result of ignorance and of a lack of practical teaching. To supply this deficiency the Congress of Mothers urges provisions that shall embody and make available to parents and young people a knowledge of the science of child nurture.

The future's solution lies with the children. From their ranks must come the malefactor and the benefactor, the helper and the hinderer.

Thus the Congress of Mothers is working for the future by seeking to improve the present.

Appeal to Mothers.

Mrs. Frederic Schoff, president of the National Congress of Mothers, has issued an appeal to the women of America. She wants mothers to send their names to her address, 3418 Bar-

Work of the Congress.

The work of the organized mothers embraces effort for children in all branches of endeavor. The congress advocates the co-operation of home and school through the organization



MRS. FREDERIC SCHOFF

A MOTHER'S love—how sweet the name!
What is a mother's love?
A noble, pure and tender flame,
Enkindled from above,
To bless a heart of earthly mold;
The warmest love that can grow cold—
This is a mother's love.
—J. Montgomery.



HAPPY he
With such a mother! Faith in womankind
Beats with his blood, and trust in all things high
Comes easy to him, and tho' he trip and fall
He shall not blind his soul with clay.
—Tennyson.

coaches will carry the delegates to Denver. While it is not to be assumed that the majority of these mothers are suffragettes, it may be taken for granted that all of them will welcome the opportunity while in Colorado to study conditions in one of the four states where woman suffrage prevails.

Denver also is the home of the famous juvenile court presided over by Judge Ben B. Lindsey, whose work in behalf of the bad boy has won international attention and approbation. It is expected that Judge Lindsey will address the Congress of Mothers and tell about his methods of reclaiming erring boys who but for his influence might go still further on the downward track.

Judge Lindsey says he owes his success in his efforts for childhood to the National Congress of Mothers, which was the pioneer organization in demanding and obtaining a juvenile court and a probation system that labors to "put a little love into law."

Organized in 1897.

The National Congress of Mothers has been in existence since 1897. The "mothers" of the Mothers' Congress were Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst and the late Mrs. Theodore W. Birney. The president of the mothers is Mrs. Frederic Schoff of Philadelphia, who said a few years ago in addressing the congress and speaking of the work of Mrs. Birney and Mrs. Hearst: "The inspiration of that meeting will never die. Its results have been felt

of "parents' associations," the education of parents in the physical and economic injury brought about by some forms of child labor, prevention of juvenile crime by the providing of playgrounds and recreation centers, the establishment of juvenile courts to consider the cases of morally defective children, the establishment of separate schools for the blind and the deaf mute, the systematic care of dependent, neglected, erring children; co-operation with other sociological workers in anything which tends toward the giving of a square deal and a fair chance to the nation's little ones.

"The National Congress of Mothers," says Mrs. Charles M. Stone of Swarthmore, Pa., of the publicity committee of the organization, "is not a dictatorship, nor does it assume the superior pose. It seeks to lead through helpfulness. In thirty-two states it has alert and active branches. Its influence extends beyond the borders of our own nation, and even across the seas it has been instrumental in arousing interest in child welfare."

Government Aid Assured.

This organization has awakened the United States government to a realization of the fact that it is at least as necessary to conserve the lives and rights of children as to preserve the fish and forests and to protect the birds.

After much earnest work both government and state co-operation is assured in carrying on the mother work and the mother thought into all that

ing street, Philadelphia. The appeal follows:

"Mothers of America, do you realize that upon you more than any one else rests the future of this nation?"

"Have you grasped the breadth and height and scope of work that is now in your hands?"

"Are you giving it first place in your thoughts and life?"

"Are you fitting yourselves to be mothers in the broadest sense, or are you drifting, without aim or compass, in the greatest life work given to humanity?"

"God made you the medium through which life begins. He gave to you the nurture and guidance of his little ones. On you more than any other devolves the possibility of life, health, mental growth and spiritual ideals. On you more than any other is the welfare of the child dependent in home, school and state. Mother love, mother thought, mother wisdom, must consider his needs, must see that each child has the chance to develop the possibilities implanted by God in every human heart."

"The science of child nurture is the greatest of all. To reach every home, to enlist every mother in this study of how best to meet the great responsibility that God and humanity look to her to bear—that is the work of the National Congress of Mothers."

"Organized, intelligent, purposeful

motherhood can in large degree prevent infant mortality, disease and crime. To the home must we look for physical, moral and social uplift. To the careless, thoughtless home can we trace most of life's tragedies."

"Mothers of America, it is only through united, purposeful effort that conditions favorable to child welfare in home, school and state can be provided. For love of your little ones, whose guidance and guardianship have been intrusted to your care by the Heavenly Father, you should become part of the organized motherhood of the nation. Only by making the opportunities for all children what they should be can you give to your own their rightful heritage."

"Fathers, you, too, should become a part of the organized parenthood of the nation."

"Mothers of America, unite as guardians of the childhood of America. Unite to give every child the mothering which combines an intelligent knowledge of child nurture with sympathetic love. This work will count for more than all else. The National Congress of Mothers needs you. Try to attend the great annual convention at Denver from June 10 to 15. There you will hear discussed many vitally important subjects bearing on the conservation of this nation's most precious asset, the child."

TOOK ACCIDENTAL PLUNGE IN DEVIL'S PUNCH BOWL

A party of visitors at the Devil's Punch Bowl, on the east fork of Hood river were horrified a few days ago to see a man fall from the cliff 60 feet above and plunge into the icy pool. The victim of the accident proved to be Roy Blagg, a resident of the valley, who, on coming to the surface of the whirling water, by heroic efforts, managed to reach some stones above the falls, where he was rescued by the spectators.

Blagg, who was almost insensible and numbed by the intensely cold water, was quickly divested of his clothing and wrapped in a horse blanket. On recovering he said that he must have lost consciousness before falling, as he couldn't remember anything after losing his hold on the rocks until he had struck the icy waters.

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