

# ALL WOMEN SHOULD WORK, SAYS MARY ANDERSON

## Bureau Chief of the Department of Labor Asserts the Old-Fashioned Idea of Idleness Is Being Replaced by the Progressive Theory of Production and Matrimony Is No Alibi From Wage Earning

BY WILLIAM ATRERTON DU PUY.

"THE nation is coming to realize," says Mary Anderson, the government's premier woman official, "that there is no place in its make-up for an idler of either sex. That women who are capable of productive work should remain idle is industrial waste. They owe it to themselves and to the community to go to work. Steadily they are doing so. The greatest development in the lives of women of this generation is not that they have been enfranchised, but that they are taking their proper place in the working world."

I realized that this was advanced ground this woman was taking. I realized that her utterances were important because she is the chief of the woman's bureau of the department of labor. The head of a bureau at Washington is an official of high place and great importance. Only cabinet officers rank bureau chiefs. There are but two bureau chiefs who are women—Miss Julia Lathrop and Miss Mary Anderson, one of the children's bureau and one of the woman's bureau. Of these Miss Anderson has received an appointment under President Harding. She is the only woman, at the time of writing, who has received a presidential appointment under the present administration of such importance as to require the confirmation of the senate.

"The old-fashioned idea that women should remain in idleness," Miss Anderson continued, "while the head of the family earns a modest income for his wife and three or four daughters. The wife would work adequately in keeping the house going. It might not be necessary for the girls to do much work in the home and, therefore, they would be practically in idleness year after year. They might fall to marry and continue throughout their lives in virtual idleness."

"These girls received the benefits of the civilization of which they are a part, participated in the rewards of the labor and contributions of their times were very small. From the standpoint of the state they have been complete losses. The daughters of the poor, of the laboring classes, have, quite generally, gone in and done their share, but many daughters have died while waiting for matrimony and, if it was not attained, have contributed nothing to the world in payment for what they have received from it."

"I do not grant either that matrimony is a complete alibi from wage-earning. While the wife keeps the home, does the work of the household, takes care of the children, she is performing her full share. But a woman without children, whose home tasks are light, owes it to the community to perform some productive work."

"Then there is the very vital question of whether women should quit work outside the home when they

woman is no longer confronted with the necessity of going to her husband for every penny. Doing so brings much bitterness into the lives of many women. The family has much more money to spend, which relieves the financial strain and makes better living possible. The man has more of his earnings. Where she earned \$15 a week and had to turn over \$15 of it on Saturday night to run the house, he might look at the remaining \$5, as the total of the earnings that really came to him. He might think to himself of the better times he might have had if he had remained single to spend the entire \$30. I think it is better for married women to work whenever they can."

I wondered just what experience this frank, intelligent, wholesome, middle-aged woman had back of her to lend weight to her pronouncements that entitled her to sit at the head of the bureau whose province it is "to formulate standards and policies which shall promote the welfare of working women . . . and report upon matters pertaining to the welfare of women in industry."

So I asked Miss Anderson about herself and discovered a romance. I had not thought of her, for instance, being anything but a native-born American woman, and yet she told me that at the age of 15 she spoke not a word of English. In fact, she lived in far away Sweden upon a farm and had seen no more of this big world than could be gained by hiding away in her father's farm wagon and coming down to the town of Lidköping, with its 7000 population, situated on Lake Wener, back in the interior of that far northern land, and meeting those early risers who came to market at dawn. Matilda Anderson, her mother, was an ambitious woman, much given to reading, and it was through her that the family came to know of the opportunities that lay in America. The mother encouraged one of the elder daughters to go overseas, which she did. There she prospered and, as is the way with women, married. She lived in Ludington, Mich.

So, when Mary Anderson was fifteen, it was decided that she and another sister should go to the United States. Thus it was that the daughters of the family emigrated, while the sons remained at home. To be sure the opportunities in agricultural

And in all the journey from Lidköping, Sweden, to Ludington, Mich., not one word of English did these girls speak, for they knew not how to help them fit into the new environment.

And no sooner had the Swedish girl begun to pick up English in conversations in the household of her sister than she hired herself out as a maid in the pantry of a well-to-do American family, there to get her first lessons in the ways of these strange people and to wrestle with the idiosyncrasies of the new speech. It was in this pantry, Miss Anderson says, with an American newspaper as a primer, that she learned the language. Link by link the basic sim-

men offer many a parallel, but this experience is new in the world of women.

Mary Anderson was 17 when the husband of her married sister got a job in West Pullman, that growing factory suburb of Chicago, and moved to that industrial center, taking the three Swedish girls along with her. That move meant the development of all their lives along entirely different lines and for Mary the evolution of a career that was to be wrapped up in the interests that revolve about women who work.

In Chicago her first work was in a garment factory, where she stitched the hems on the bottoms of the men's trousers which were its product. This

life she went up town to some sort of meeting. It was the method she instinctively took for schooling herself into the life of America. Little transpired in West Pullman of which Mary Anderson was not cognizant.

She early joined the union. So conscientious was her attendance at that industrial center, taking the three Swedish girls along with her, that she was rewarded by being called upon for service. She became a member of the shop committee in the factory where she worked. For years she worked busily as the collector for her local. She was one of the arbiters who sat in on the differences between the employers and the workers.

"I was down at the end of the work-room one day," she told me, "when a



Mary Anderson, chief of the woman's bureau of the department of labor.

employment, however, did not work out and at the end of a week she was looking for another adventure in the industrial world.

She applied at a shoe factory and there was initiated into the mystery of the operation of machinery in the making of footwear. She was given little scraps of leather and instructed to run lines of stitches around them at given distances from the margin. This early stitching served no other purpose than to familiarize her with her machine, to give her sufficient

great commotion broke out up at the other end. Two of the Irish girls, sisters, were coming down through the floor crying out excitedly, "Our Kit's fired, our Kit's fired." They were urging their fellows to join them in a protest. Kit was their sister. Soon the whole floor was thrown into commotion. All work ceased.

"I inquired into the situation and found that the foreman had dismissed the girl upon the claim that she was doing bad work. I was assured that the work was not bad. By this time the superintendent had arrived and we presented our protest to him. 'Let's see the work,' he demanded. The tops that Kit had been stitching were produced and the stitching on them was something awful. It was here that I learned the lesson of procuring all the facts before presenting a case. But this was a typical case of the sort of thing which I handled during all those years in the factory."

Finally, Miss Anderson became president of local No. 94, United Boot and Shoe Workers. This was getting up in the industrial world. In this post she became an executive. It often her business to meet with employers and bargain with them as to the wages that the members of her union should receive or the conditions under which they should work. It was with matching wits and the stake was often more vital than mere money. She had become a fighter in the ranks for better conditions under which to labor. As a representative of her union also she made occasional trips to other cities, there to observe other conditions and come in contact with other minds.

So it came to pass that, after 13 years at her machine, Mary Anderson was called into the national field as an organizer for the National Woman's Trade League and that she should have worked eight years in that field before the United States found itself in war. Then it was but natural that the government should draft this woman of wide industrial experience and should make her an arbitrator who should stand between the government and that army of women who worked that the production of munitions might be maintained. So she came into government service and so she came to head the woman's bureau of the labor department, when in 1920 it finally came to make up a place in the great governmental organization. So was the long journey made from the farm in Sweden to leadership in the problems vital to women in the greatest nation under the sun.

"You have had many years of factory work," I said to Miss Anderson. "Now tell me this: Is the grueling work of the factory injurious to the woman worker? Can women stand work as can men? Are they physically up to it?" "Women stand work as well as

men," she replied. "It is necessary, of course, that the conditions under which they labor should be favorable, but this is also true of men. I did not find my 15 years at a machine in a shoe factory in any way injurious to me. I emerged from it a normal, healthy woman. I never tired of it. It was highly specialized, of course, and I did the same things day after day and year after year. Just enough skill was required, however, to lend interest to the task and it never grew irksome to me."

"I am very firm in my belief that there is no acceptable excuse on the part of women for not joining the ranks of the productive workers of the world. I am very firm in my belief that the woman who works is happier and better contented than the idle woman. If the idle, discontented woman but knew if the road for her to greater happiness lies through getting a job and going to work."

"With us in the woman's bureau the task is getting better conditions in the places where women work. We want to lay down and get established the principle of the eight-hour

day. Eight hours is a long enough period to work. The work of the world can get itself done on the eight-hour schedule. It gives workers a chance for health and happiness and both of these benefit the employer in the long run.

"Many employers have found that where women work at monotonous tasks it increases their efficiency and the output if the forenoon and afternoon is broken by a period of ten minutes for relaxation. If it cost the employer money to give them this relaxation there might be some excuse for his refusing. But he gets more work done by giving it. It is for such improvements as these in working conditions that we are striving."

"There are certain problems of industrial life that are very baffling. I remember well the case of a woman in Chicago who worked for 45 years in the factory where I was employed. As she grew old and could no longer operate her machine, she had to leave it and work at some simple task like sorting bundles. The new job paid her but half as much as the old. The time will come when she cannot even manage it. The twilight of life to these aged working women is so likely to be full of tragedy."

"The great need is not that women should find a way to avoid work, but that they should be able to earn better money. During all those years that I was in the factory we did 'o'ce work. The efficient worker made more than the inefficient, the constant worker more than the casual. But the skilled girls were able to maintain incomes of \$16 to \$18 a week. The same work today brings twice as much, but the pendulum is swinging back. The wage is not enough that women may properly maintain themselves. There is no possibility of preparing for the approach of age."

"You advise working people to marry and continue at work, Miss Anderson?" I suggested. "Will that not lead logically to their bringing fewer children into the world?" "I think it will," she admitted. "I think, further, that no harm will be done if it does. It seems to me that the working classes are contributing their full share of responsibility in perpetuating the race. I do not believe that the need of the world is for more children, particularly from the working classes."

"Are there any men working for the woman's bureau," I asked. "Just one," Miss Anderson answered. "He is the colored messenger."

### FOGS ARE OF TWO CLASSES. RADIATION AND ADVECTION

Formation of Condensed Moisture With Each Individual Drop a Solid Body of Water Enveloping a Particle of Dust.

BY S. K. PEARSON JR. Co-operative Observer, United States.

WHAT is fog? Most people would say it is low clouds resting on the earth's surface. Which is quite true, but the question is usually dropped at this point and little thought is given to why these clouds form so much nearer the ground at some times than at others.

Both fog and clouds are formed when condensation of moisture takes place in the atmosphere. Fog is composed of minute particles of visible vapor. They were once believed to be hollow spheres, but science now declares that each individual drop is a solid body of water enveloping a particle of dust in the air and supported by the upward tendency of air currents and the resistance of atmospheric to the falling of minute spherical particles. The diameter of the smallest visible particles of fog has been estimated to be 1-180 of an inch.

Fogs of Two Classes. In accordance with the conditions under which fogs develop they are divided into two general classes, "radiation fogs" and "advection fogs."

The former kind, which may also be designated as "land fogs" and "summer fogs," are likely to occur along streams and rivers and in mountain valleys during any clear, still night in summer and fall. In such regions during a warm, calm day considerable water becomes evaporated into the lower atmosphere, where, if the weather remains calm, a large portion of it lingers after sundown. This moist air, together with the heat from the earth at night, is cooled rapidly by radiation into the clear sky, and they often cool to a degree below the dew point, which condenses the moisture into a visible vapor known as fog. Like dew, "radiation fogs" will

not form on cloudy or windy nights. Such fogs may continue well after daybreak, but will vanish when the sun's heat induces evaporation and a discontinuance of radiation.

We all understand the word "radiation" more readily than "advection," which is a comparatively new scientific word, but when we are told that this word relates to horizontal movement, or transporting of air, we immediately grasp the idea of the formation of this class of fog, which may be caused by circumstances that justify the terms "sea fog" and "winter fog." Mild, humid air drifting over a cold surface reduces its temperature in its lower turbulent strata by conduction to that surface, and also mixes with remaining portions of the previous cold atmosphere. This induces condensation, and is evidenced by fog.

Depth Greatly Vary. This same condition exists when air flows from warm water to cold, as from the Gulf stream to the Labrador current, or when a sea breeze passes over snow-covered land. The temperature of the North Atlantic in July is 45 degrees, while that of the Gulf stream is 75.

Fogs are seldom more than 1500 feet in depth and sometimes they only extend 20 or 30 feet above the ground. They have been known to form in a stratum to only the height of a man.

Austrian Women Get Work. VIENNA—The wives or widows of 47 former ministers of state are supplementing their pensions or other income by sewing and embroidering underwear. The plan was originated by the relief organization for the middle classes which has furnished means of earning money to a very large number of Austrian women.



get married. I have observed men and women who work in the factories for two or three decades. I have seen young men and young women working side by side in factories, I have seen them marry. I have seen both the men and women remain at their benches. I have seen them combine their incomes. It has meant that their benches, I bet, get more out of their lives than in any other way.

"I see no objection to working people marrying and continuing at their work. There may be years of interruption to this scheme due to the bringing up of children, but the mother may go back to her trade when the babies are out of the way. Women make much of the excuse that children keep them from work. It is a good excuse when it is real, but there is but a limited period in the lives of most women when they are held down by the care of children and many women never have any."

"And do you think the family circle is as happy when both the man and the woman work?" I asked. "It seems to me that many irritations are removed," Miss Anderson answered. "In the first place the

Sweden were greater for men than for women.

Elaborate were the preparations, for the Andersons were by no means poor people, and the girls should be provided with all things necessary. Busy were the looms that produced the homespun that was to make their dresses and great was the care that was put into the tanning of the leather for their shoes. Then, upon an appointed day, as is the custom in rural Sweden, they arrived at the Anderson farm a group of those traveling artisans who make seasonal calls and convert the homespun and the leather into raiment and shoes. So were the adventures provided with wardrobes for the New World,

facilities between her own language and English dawned upon her. Day by day the clouds grew dispelled that kept her in the shadow world of half understanding. By the end of the year she was out in the full glow of participation in the life of the New World about her. Not then nor since did she take a single lesson in English. She has never attended a school where English was taught. Upon her primary education obtained in the country in Sweden she has built by incessant reading and today she stands forth as a woman leader in the great new land to which she came as an immigrant girl and in which her first service was that of a pantry maid. The chronicles of successful

employment, however, did not work out and at the end of a week she was looking for another adventure in the industrial world. She applied at a shoe factory and there was initiated into the mystery of the operation of machinery in the making of footwear. She was given little scraps of leather and instructed to run lines of stitches around them at given distances from the margin. This early stitching served no other purpose than to familiarize her with her machine, to give her sufficient