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WOMAN IN INDUSTRY.

Writing in the current number of the North American Review on "The Truth About Woman In Industry," Flora McDonald Thompson reaches the sweeping conclusion that woman in industry "is a frightful failure." She earns on the average, according to Mrs. Thompson, less than \$1 a day; her effect on economic interests is to lessen efficiency and to increase cost of production; the effect on herself is to unfit her physically for the material function and morally and mentally to unfit her for her economic office in the family; while the effect on society is "to promote pauperism, both by increasing the cost of living and by robbing men of the responsibility that gives them force and success in their natural office of dispenser of wealth to the family."

Mrs. Thompson makes out a very strong case for her side of the question, and it is impossible not to agree with much that she says about the deteriorating effect of feminine labor outside of the household. It is difficult to see, however, what is to be done in the matter. Most women who engage in work wherein men might perhaps be employed do not do so from choice—as Mrs. Thompson seems to assume—but from necessity. They are compelled to work in lieu of starvation or, at least, of privation that renders life hardly worth living. They are face to face "with a condition, not a theory," and nothing is left for them but to make a choice of two alternatives.

Nor does it follow as a general rule—as Mrs. Thompson contends that it does—that where women become wage-earners they necessarily crowd men out of employment. This might have been the case 20 and 30 years ago, had women been as widely employed then as they are now; but the progress of invention and science has opened dozens of new avenues of employment for women and at the same time has opened still more avenues of employment for men. It may be a fact that women in industry earn, on the average, less than \$1 a day, but it is notorious that the general rate of wages tends constantly upward; and this would be impossible were it a fact that women were usurping the place of men to any important extent in the field of industry.

Furthermore, there are certain branches of business for which women are particularly fitted and for which men are, by nature, usually unfitted. Of such branches of business—to indicate merely their general character—are millinery and dressmaking and a variety of other occupations requiring the use of the needle and sewing machine; the manufacture of artificial flowers; the conduct of stores and departments devoted to feminine garments and the like. In these occupations vast multitudes of women are employed, in the absence of whom most of such kinds of business would probably come to a halt. Either this would be the case or they would be carried on in the home, in which event women would continue, to all intents and purposes, to be wage-earners.

But even admitting all that Mrs. Thompson says to be true, what is to be done in the premises? She offers no remedy for the state of affairs that she deplors and condemns. She would hardly propose that all women wage-earners should be summarily turned adrift to shift for themselves, or that the state or private charity should take it on itself to provide for such as might be unable to provide for themselves without working. Mrs. Thompson seems to be so thoroughly alive to the wrong of feminine labor outside of the household that it is to be hoped she will now tell us how it is to be cured.

A NEW FRENCH FIREBOAT.

A test of the newly-devised and patented Henry lifeboat was recently had at La Rochelle, France. This boat is an ingenious and remarkable structure. In short, it is a boat with a hole in the bottom for the water to run out. More wonderful still, the water that comes over the sides runs out through the hole in the bottom. The construction consists of two galvanized iron or steel concave shells, the smaller superimposed in such a manner that the concavities are uppermost and leave a large air space between them. This air space is divided into 12 lateral, one forward, and one after water-tight com-

partments. In the very center of the boat is a longitudinal opening, which extends the whole length of the space intended for crew or passengers and is really a case for a centerboard. It is much wider than necessary for that purpose and is intended partly to empty the boat and partly to hold a centerboard consisting of thin sheet steel, weighted with a 600-pound bulb of molded lead. This centerboard can be raised or lowered as in ordinary cases. There are the principal distinctive features of the Henry boat and may be applied to pleasure craft as well as to lifeboats.

These boats are fitted with oars and sails, and one of the notable features of the experiments at La Rochelle was the maneuvering of what is claimed the first automobile lifeboat. A Henry boat was furnished with a double-cylinder 12-horse power gasoline engine, which gave a speed of six knots an hour. The engine can not be reversed, but by an ingenious contrivance the propeller blades can be reversed instead, which produces the same result.

The claims for the Henry lifeboat are that it is unsinkable and cannot be upset. The following experiments were made to prove these claims: A boat of this type was raised stern first until its length assumed a line vertical to and six feet above the surface of the water. It was then instantly released, and plunging bow first into the water righted itself immediately.

Another boat was turned upside down on perfectly smooth water, and being slightly raised on one side, much as a wave would do, the lifeboat at once rolled over on even keel.

The Henry boat is not only unsinkable because it has more than a dozen watertight compartments, but also because the opening in the center permits the water to escape immediately when a wave is shipped. An artificial wave consisting of four tons of water was suddenly thrown into a lifeboat from a height of about 12 feet. The boat emptied almost instantly.

The experiments were made before many thousand people and delegates from various life-saving societies. The navy department (ministers de la marine) had a special representative. The consensus of French newspaper opinion on these experiments is that a decided advance has been made in the development of machines intended to save human life from the sea.

The ethical question which has been avowed on a great corporation in New York is an interesting one. It is proved that the poolroom gambling establishments would be compelled to close if the telegraph services were cut off. Everyone knows that the eminent gentlemen who compose the board of directors of the Western Union would not enter into the service of the poolrooms for hire. But the question whether their corporation shall do so is regarded as an entirely distinct one in corporate ethics.

Society girls are warned not to carry their poodles to the St. Louis fair, for fear the Ygorotes may eat them. Does anybody seriously believe that a girl would be so wild as to pay for hotel room for a poodle at present prices.

If anything could make Judge Parker speak, the insinuation that Gorman has been using him to pull democratic chestnuts out of the Hearst blaze ought to cause him to use cuss words.

An English scientist has discovered that radium will disintegrate and vanish 1,150 years from now. Intending investors may well pause.

Mr. Bryan declares that he has been honest with the people. And the people are disposed to be perfectly frank with Mr. Bryan.

The employes of the congressional library are now on the warpath in defense of their right to life, liberty and 30 days in bed.

The democracy might feel better if Mr. Parker would consent to talk and Mr. Bryan would consent to be silent.

It looks as if the Japanese, in addition to learning all the old tricks of warfare, might invent a few of their own.

One of the greatest difficulties that confronts the arctic explorer is raising the money for another expedition.

Port Arthur is one of the few cities that entertain no hopes of real estate boom for some time to come.

This is a picturesque war. The generals on both sides are of types to which the halftone is becoming.

Now that the Japs have surrounded Port Arthur, a question arises as to what they shall do with it.

A number of people will wish that Mr. Cleveland would be more punctual with his explanations.

It is safe to say that whoever suffered in the Woodend mix-up Patti got her money.

JUST FOR INSTANCE.
 That Illinois convention has the staying qualities which made a certain Bob Fitzsimmons famous.

Felix Tanner has announced that he is going around the world in a barrel. That isn't half as bad as the United States interior department trying to get around Oregon with four forest reserves.

A girl in a hospital at Seattle has announced that she is satisfied to die. So would anyone be—in Seattle.

About all that we can make out of it is that the Japs can't and the Russians won't, and if the Russians can't the Japs won't and the Russians won't if they can't, and, on the other hand, can't if they won't, while the Japs won't and really can't, and the Russians can't because of their wont and think the Japs won't because of their cant.

1905—Pieless Year.
 "The Italian prune crop is almost a failure in this vicinity."—Roseburg Review.

A new phase of the race question—the department of the interior has found a nigger in the wood pile.

Seventy thousand Russians are marching to relieve Port Arthur.

The only thing that will relieve Port Arthur is the immediate removal of those Russians now there.

In the meantime China seems to be holding the bag.

Editor J. F. L.—Nicholas is flirting with Germany. What would you advise me to do? EDWARD VII.
 (Get up a yacht race and withdraw Wilhelm's attention. Or—we'll send him an invitation to prepare to attend the Astoria regatta.)

The Russians are sending balloons to Port Arthur. Somebody's going to get up in the air.

Unrespectable people always try to surround themselves with an air of respectability. Also cities! Portland is doing away with the saloon boxes. McCULLY.

Weather Indications.
 Portland, May 20.—For Oregon—Fair and continued warm.

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Notice to Contractors.
 Proposals will be received by the Astoria Water Commission until 2 p. m. on June 2, 1904, for the construction of a Stone Retaining Wall at Sixteenth street and Irving avenue, Astoria, Oregon. Plans and specifications can be seen at the office of the Water Commission, 501 Duane street. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.
 J. H. MANSELL, Clerk.

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