

# WOMEN'S CLUBS

EDITED BY MRS. SARAH A. EVANS.

## CLUB WOMEN AND EQUAL SUFFRAGE

Among the most democratic people of our country from time to time the cry has gone upward that the patriotic societies based on the deeds of some dead and gone ancestor is building up in our midst, an American aristocracy that should never take root, much less spread its branches throughout a land where every man and woman is free and equal. A strong sentiment always has, and always will exist in this country against any form of entanglement. As every child is born into equal share in the property of American parents, so it is demanded that every American citizen should enjoy equal rights and honors, irrespective of ancestry. It is also claimed that these organizations are used to give prestige and members receive recognition at the hands of society and the government not accorded the people of obscure ancestry. These charges, we feel, are largely without foundation. In men's organizations they exist even to a less extent than among women, but in neither have they attained as yet any great magnitude, but there is in them, if not a basis of truth, at least a note of warning. So long as these organizations are kept for the recognition of the deeds of the men who have from time to time marched to victory under the flag of their country, to teach patriotism to the youth of the land; to honor the rank and file of patriotic manhood, and to preserve as object lessons to coming generations the landmarks, the historic places and the memory of the men who have made the nation what it is, and who have increased in strength. But when they become subservient to personal ambition, exclusive and conducted so that only the elect may share in the honors, and when the organizations have done the order of the Cincinnati, to which only the sons of officers of the revolution might enter. How much more American; how much nobler; how much more proud of it to be a descendant of the Grand Army of the Republic, and what organization in a generation or two dare say to a son or daughter: "You were the child of a private; enter not in."

It is only an alarmist, however, who sees any real menace or danger in these rapidly increasing societies. The strong common sense of the American people can be trusted to preserve their democratic ideals and institutions against any intrusions or aristocratic tendencies, and if their common sense did not, their keen appreciation of the ridiculous would. Every American boy has got to stand on his own bottom or be laughed at for his pains.

We did not mean to digress so far, but only to dispel a "foggy-bo" before recounting a few of the many things some of these societies of women are doing elsewhere, as suggestive of work that is lying dormant for the touch of woman's interest in Oregon.

Last week a number of these societies, which have combined in the New York, turned over to the public of New York the historic Morris mansion—better known as the Jumel mansion, for the one beautiful owner whose personality overshadowed all other residents of the place.

We have the McLoughlin home in Oregon City.

In every colonial state the Daughters of the American Revolution have provided markers and monuments to the graves of revolutionary soldiers, notably at West Point, Annapolis and in the old eastern cities. Many chapters have placed pictures and books on the revolutionary war in their schools. In one school a large book case has been filled with books on the revolution alone. Think of just one school in the whole of Oregon—if it owned all the books available on its history, its literature, its literature and its people.

The Massachusetts society maintains a boy and a girl at Hampton in memory of Lafayette's faithful servant. They also have scholars at Tuskegee and Ziria, and for a number of years have supported two boys at the George Junior Republic. Have we forgotten Captain Clark's York?

The New York society has tablets, and memorial window innumerable, and has a standing committee on "Record Preservation," which cooperates with the state historical society. Do the patriotic societies of Oregon maintain such relations with the Oregon historical society?

The Colorado society has placed 22 large pictures of George Washington in the public schools, gave 30 books on American history to the public library of the state, and the Pueblo chapter alone gave nearly \$800 worth of books to their public library. During the Spanish-American war the D. A. R. of Colorado sent copies of 27 of their daily papers to the soldiers in the Philippines.

In the same state the Sons and Daughters of the A. R. always celebrate together "Flag Day" at the City Park, where there is usually an audience of from 10,000 to 20,000, and every child present is presented with a flag. How many children in Oregon own flags presented by our patriotic orders, and what "children of an older growth" help them celebrate "Flag Day"?

Every one who has been fortunate enough to hear the "tolling and knelling" of Mt. Vernon's bells, and has set foot upon that hallowed ground, has raised his voice in reverent thanks to those noble women—the D. A. R.—for preserving almost intact the historic spot where lived and died the "Father of His Country."

The last great achievement of the general society, D. A. R., is the erection of a monument at Valley Forge, which is the first thing to be done to commemorate the heroism of that wonderful camp at Valley Forge. For the strong right arm that executed the mandates of the Declaration of Independence, and there will stand for all time that beautiful monument, towering 60 feet high, silently teaching its lessons of patriotic devotion, love of liberty and victory through patient endurance.

We of Oregon find our lesson in the words of Governor Stone, uttered at the dedication:

"The generation that neglects to build monuments will not beget a generation that deserves monuments."



DR. ESTHER C. POHL.

Dr. Pohl is one of Portland's leading women physicians. She will go with the excursion party that leaves New York in April for Europe, making the trip via the Mediterranean and returning through Germany and France, where she will remain a year to study.

As secretary at that meeting, which converted the organization into a national affair. However, that may be well recall the thrilling words she uttered in her earnest plea for a more universal organization, a broader field of action and more concerted work on the part of housekeepers. After the organization was effected her interest never flagged, and many in Portland will recall her earnestness in distributing literature for the National Household Economic association when she visited here several years ago with the editorial association.

Her death under such tragic circumstances, and the pity of it all appeals with peculiar force to her many friends whose heartfelt sympathy goes out to the remaining daughter.

**SACAJAWEA—AN IDEAL.**

In her address before the Women's club of Portland January 8th, Mrs. Eva Emery Dye said in part: "Recent historical research has but confirmed the opinions of earlier students of history upon this subject, and has almost conclusively proved that the American Indian had his origin in the barbaric tribes of Asia. It is an acknowledged principle in the evolution of the world that the Caucasian or white races have ever moved westward and westward, while the Mongolian or Asiatic races have ever moved eastward to the shores of the Atlantic where Columbus, the settlers of Jamestown and later the Pilgrim Fathers found them who with the Caucasian instinct were traveling westward."

In erecting a statue to Sacajawea it is not only to a brave Indian woman, the guide of Lewis and Clark, nor to the mother who carried her baby from the Dakotas to Oregon and back; that pioneer mother whose act in this alone, stands unprecedented nor yet from the fact that we are about to celebrate the centennial of this momentous expedition, the success of which could not have been compassed without her aid, and for which she was distinguished from all the others by receiving no compensation.

The Chicago Chronicle says that after the Sacajawea statue is erected by the women of this Oregon country to the universal brotherhood of mankind, was so forceful that nearly \$300 was contributed towards the statue at the close of her talk.

**FROM THE PRESS.**

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat says: "In erecting at the St. Louis world's fair monuments to the memory of those who figured in the discovery, conquest, exploration and development of the sun-set side of the Alleghenies, some memorial ought to be set up to Sacajawea, the Birge woman who piloted Lewis and Clark the first of the pathfinders, through America's wider and wilder West."

The New York Mail and Express calls the Sacajawea story "a passing legend." Not at all, Mr. Editor, but the true record of the deeds of a brave woman.

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**THIS WEEK'S CONTRIBUTIONS.**

"Nothing succeeds like success." So it seemed in the matter of raising funds for the erection of the Sacajawea statue. Or is it an epidemic, if so, let us hope that no meddlesome doctor will begin to look around for the microbes and find an antidote before it runs its course. Heading the list of the guarantors for this week was the guarantee by Mrs. Henry Coo of \$100. Ten dollars each from two members of the Woman's club and \$5 each from eight members, and sums of greater or less amount from 26 others.

From out of town \$30 was received from the Lewis and Clark club of Oregon City; \$5 from the Woman's club of Troutdale and \$5 from Mrs. Belknap for buttons sold by the school teachers of Prineville. If the women of the state would just keep the matter going like this for a few weeks, the officers of the association could "rest from their labors" and their work would follow after them.

**BEST ROOMS.**

The inquiry often comes to many of the club women, especially from women who belong to the different granges adjacent to Portland, "What has become of the rest room for farmers' wives that

At the suffrage meetings held during the past two weeks, there has been a noticeable lack of club women. Inquiry among some of our prominent club leaders develops the startling assertion: "We do not all believe in woman suffrage." Think of it! A woman with intelligence enough to administer property, some of them she may have acquired through her own economies, perfectly willing to subscribe to "taxation without representation." I almost said that her property might have been acquired through her own efforts, but, on reflection, I came to the conclusion that we find no anti-suffragists among our workers. It is the drone in our beehive who cares for no voice in the conduct of affairs, the lily of the field "who toils not, neither does she spin," who allies herself to those who say: "We will not vote, therefore you shall not." Our anti-suffragist can afford to ride in her carriage, to cultivate her talents, to send her children to private schools, to draw around herself and her particular set the lines of exclusive life. She labors under the impression that to be exclusive is to refine the clay; that to reform, to mix with the lowly, she is creating for herself and her kind, a sort of purified atmosphere in which only the initiated can live. Exclusiveness in these days has come to take on a new meaning. It has narrowed and squeezed, and shut itself up until it has finally crowded itself into that most detestable of all words—selfishness. And it is down to this selfishness that our anti-suffragists have lowered themselves. If they do not wish to exercise their privilege of citizenship, if they are so well taken care of, so tenderly guarded, that they do not feel the pressure of economic conditions that press upon the shoulders of the less fortunate sisters, would not the womanly course of action be to retire?

**No Compulsion in Proposed Amendment.**

There is in the proposed amendment nothing which is imperative as to voting. It does not say all women shall vote, it merely states that we shall not be deprived of the right to exercise this privilege of citizenship. It is the woman who earns her own living who she thinks of suffrage. Ask our teachers who work side by side with the voter and who is paid from \$10 to \$35 less for doing the same kind of work. Ask them who they think of suffrage. Ask our college graduates, who can give not only the religious history of our race, but know also the policy of our national and state administration, what they think of not being allowed to vote.

while the man in the north end who makes his living off the shame of our sisters, is allowed to exercise this right of suffrage!

They—the anti-suffragists—tell us that they fear for the destruction of the hearthstone—that the sanctity of the home will be threatened—if we women take part in the affairs of the government. To that charge I answer that it is because we recognize more clearly than they the dangers that threaten the home, that we are willing to share in the battle for its defense. We are not willing to throw the entire burden of its protection onto the shoulders of our husbands and fathers, already overburdened. The true wife is the one who shares—not only the joys but also the responsibilities, of the husband. The true mother is the one who does not shut out from her own knowledge, the dangers and pitfalls that lie in wait for her boy. She finds out what they are. She learns that the most dreaded of all is fostered by the patronage of the politician, and she learns that to successfully attack the evil she must meet it with its own weapons. Because she loves her home and her children, she delegates the task to no one else, she does the work herself.

**Anti-Suffragists Enforced.**

The anti-suffragist has the support of the liquor men in her campaign. Wherever there has been any agitation of the equal suffrage movement, we find the agent of the liquor trust. So, my anti-suffragist friend, just stop and think before you enter on an active campaign of opposition. You are entering into a partnership with Satan himself, with the most dreaded of all home destroyers! I recall an experience during a visit to a woman who had some years before came to this beautiful Oregon to reside. It was during the time for holding the primaries, and every one on the ranch, from owner down to stable boy, joined the procession to the schoolhouse. There was a man in the crowd, the mistress of the ranch and her sister, and a good deal of excitement as to the candidates for school director, one of whom was said by the men to be a "good fellow"—a little wild, perhaps, but still a good fellow. The other candidate was a sober, industrious cowpuncher. I noticed that the women said very little, and I thought it was lack of interest. After a little conversation I found that instead of being uninterested they were very much interested in the result of an organized opposition to the candidacy of the "good fellow," and was really the calmness of determination.

**Failure to Enforce Child Labor Law.**

If one were asked, "For whom was it necessary to enact the child-labor law?" the question might very truthfully be answered, "For the indifferent parent." The percentage of employers of child labor is small in Oregon, that if it were alone to correct the abuse there, would have been little need of enacting the law, and none of resorting to anything but a request to enforce it, but almost without an exception the employer of child labor is a selfish man, and his selfishness is not only the cause of his indifference to the law, but also the cause of his indifference to the child's welfare.

It is easier to let the child have its way than to correct it; it is easier to allow the child to be his own master, to do without ourselves to provide them; it is more harmonious and less taxing on our nerves to grant a questionable pleasure than forbid it. If it is all this, and we can ease our consciences by allowing the child to have his way, what would expect us to annoy ourselves about these?

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was agitated and so strongly endorsed by Portland women a year or two ago?" As nearly as we have been able to discover, after re-reading the question to a great many direct and indirect supporters of the movement failed of execution like most such failures from lack of funds, or more properly speaking, lack of generosity on the part of those who could have made the cause more successful.

**INDIAN DAY.**

Indians, old and young, handsome and otherwise, prevailed at the last meeting of the "Woman's club." The arrangement in honor of Sacajawea, the Indian heroine of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Mrs. Byron Miller was in charge of the decorations and was ably assisted by Mesdames Hathaway, Rose and Cohn. For the occasion, B. B. Rich, one of Portland's enterprising cloth merchants, loaned the ladies over \$500 worth of Indian curios, among them being some very handsome Navajo blankets, baskets of precious value, painted skins, bows and arrows, and, indeed, everything necessary to decorate the hall and make a handsome display. These were arranged in two very forest-like scenes, produced by fir and cedar trees and Oregon grapes on either side of the hall. Over the president's desk was draped a magnificent flag caught up in the center by a large Indian head of paper-mache and perched above was a huge American eagle. At the entrance to the hall was a table furnished with blankets, robes, and all the paraphernalia of Indian housekeeping, arranged by the chairman of the social committee, Mrs. E. B. Pague. The kettle in which corn mush simmered and stewed was presided over by Mrs. Nina Larowe, who in her Indian costume, would have deceived the very elect. At the close of the program the members and guests were treated to a bowl of this Indian meal mush, with a cream and coffee accompaniment.

**NEW ENGLAND CLUB.**

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, who is honorary president and vice-president of probably more clubs than any one woman in the United States, holds dear above all others the New England club of Boston of which she has been president over 20 years, she having succeeded Mrs. Severance, who now lives in Los Angeles and of whom so many Oregon women brought home pleasant recollections after the last biennial meeting of this club in Portland, reminiscent mood Mrs. Howe recently said:

"Dr. Harriet K. Hunt, one of the prominent women of the day and one of the very few women who are physicians, invited me to meet some ladies at her home, in order to talk over the forming of a women's club."

"There wasn't any women's club in Boston in those days. In all the country there was only the Sorosis, a month old, in New York."

"So I went there, and we talked over the matter of having a women's club. The ladies were very much interested. They felt the need of having a place, however small, where they could rest after shopping, leave their babies, and meet each other, downtown. Those of the ladies who lived out of town felt the need of such a club even more than the others."

"We found our club room very attractive indeed, but still the ladies did not seem to get acquainted with each other as they should, so we decided in a very short time to have a regular afternoon meeting, so we fixed on Monday."

"The first Monday in the month was put aside for art and literature, the second for a discussion. Some member of the club would first read a 15-minute paper on some important topic, and the remainder of the time was spent in discussing it."

"The third Monday afternoon we called our work Monday. Then we all turned up matters of public interest, and the fourth Monday was our day of intermission."

Time for the nominations arrived and with it a quiet, modest-looking little woman whose speech in favor of the cowpuncher killed for all time the aspirations of the "good fellow." "Do you think that we will ever consent to have that man as guardian of the education of our boys—a man who gets drunk?" That settled it. Our anti-suffragist friends were at home, guarding the family hearthstones.

**No Arguments That Convince.**

But really, there are so few arguments that can be brought forward opposing the principle that it hardly seems wise to use valuable space in combating them. The woman of today has no more bloody battles, no more pestilence camps. Mothers are patriots as well, but their patriotism is of humanity, not the patriotism of party and politics, and war. The truest patriot is that citizen who knows the laws of his own country and respects the laws of other countries; who does not measure his citizenship by his dollars, nor wishes to use his country's honor in adding to his wealth.

**The Petitions.**

Just one more word as to the petitions to be circulated.

These blanks may be obtained on application at room 315 Oregonian building. Each solicitor will be furnished with a map of the precincts, so that each voter when he signs the petition can also register as required by the law. On account of the short time in which to circulate the petition, the committee has adopted this wise precaution, as the name without the proper precinct number will be thrown out in the final count. It was necessary to forward 1,300 names of bona fide voters to the state in order to have the amendment voted on at the June election.

This means hard work on the part of the supporters of the movement. It was necessary to have in other parts of the state desiring their petitions obtained by sending to the address mentioned.

**Intelligent Appreciation.**

Had an intelligent appreciation of the law been felt by these women who either themselves or through their representatives were pledged to support it, had they realized what it might mean in their own family some day and had they not been so totally indifferent to the results of the legislation, these performances could not have been given. If enough children had been found to put on the play, a notification to any one of the commissioners would have been all that was necessary. As long as we close our eyes to the law breaking we will open them to crime and shame.

**Recent Violations.**

Within the week it has come to the knowledge of the commissioners that the Eastern company is going about from town to town, giving an entertainment which requires 60 children between the ages of 8 and 16. It requires a daily rehearsal for three weeks to prepare them and then there is usually two evening and one matinee performance, and in larger towns more. This violates, first, keeping the children out of school to rehearse; second, employing them under 14 years of age for wages or money collected at the door, which the children are earning; if they don't have the privilege of spending it. Third, employing children under 16 years of age between the hours of 7 p. m. and 6 a. m. Third, plain provisions of the law violated and yet these entertainments have been given twice in our Oregon towns, where a women's club is doing its best to keep the law.

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man's soul life, expressed in the great problem tragedies, such as Othello, Lear, Macbeth and Timon of Athens, which were followed by the beautiful dreams of reconciliation of the perplexities of life—"Winter's Tale," "Cymbeline" and "The Tempest." Mrs. Wilber explained some characteristics of the Elizabethan age, saying that it was not really a period of great national prosperity but an era of strong feeling and intense interest in man in all his relations."

A very beautiful guitar solo by Mrs. Monroe closed the program. At the business meeting of the club six new members were admitted and a number of applications for membership read.

**GRANTS PASS WOMAN'S CLUB.**

**First Annual Club Evening of the Woman's Club of Grants Pass.**

On New Year's evening some 300 guests were received by the Woman's club of this city in celebration of their first anniversary. The general consensus of opinion by those in attendance being that it was one of the most charming social functions that the society people of Grants Pass have yet enjoyed.

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man's soul life, expressed in the great problem tragedies, such as Othello, Lear, Macbeth and Timon of Athens, which were followed by the beautiful dreams of reconciliation of the perplexities of life—"Winter's Tale," "Cymbeline" and "The Tempest." Mrs. Wilber explained some characteristics of the Elizabethan age, saying that it was not really a period of great national prosperity but an era of strong feeling and intense interest in man in all his relations."

A very beautiful guitar solo by Mrs. Monroe closed the program. At the business meeting of the club six new members were admitted and a number of applications for membership read.

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