

# WOMEN'S CLUBS AND THEIR WORK

Edited by Mrs. Sarah A. Evans

**"IRRESPONSIBLE voters"** is to be no more the war cry against giving women the right to protect the property they have worked hard to earn.

It was confidentially expected by the alphabetical society opposed to justice for women that after the defeat of the suffrage amendment last June that the suffrage would never so dark and ominously on the banner of woman's liberty that no further effort would be made to disturb the women who have everything they want. But they counted without their host; they knew not the intrepid leader who, for 40 years, has led the forlorn hope against the hosts of the unemployed class, the indifferent and the mud-throwing element among her own sex. Like a ruler's hand, that has thrown down hard, Mrs. Dunaway sprang up, fuller of enthusiasm and more buoyant and certain in her events of the day.

Not a day was lost; before the end of June and before the official vote was announced the petitions for re-submission were ready and in the hands of the friends of equal suffrage and before the end of the state. It took thousands necessary for re-submission and today in the hands of Mrs. Dunaway are more than 100,000 names of voters that is actually necessary to again submit the question of justice to women to the voters of Oregon.

"Too much irresponsible voting," has been one of the most potent weapons in the hands of the enemies of women, and thinking women, while they could not recognize the difference between irresponsible voters and those who are quite willing to admit that there was too much irresponsible voting and would any time have cast their own reasonable qualification. Whether property qualification is a just and American one will remain an open question, but it most certainly answers the argument that is the web and woof of legitimate opposition. That women should be allowed to vote is a question that is not only a matter of justice, but it is a matter of business sense as they had. But, granting for the sake of argument, that there was danger in this, the women of the state now come forward and ask that only such women be allowed to vote as have, by their own earnings, accumulated a little property with which to make easier their declining years, or have been made the custodian of inherited wealth. These women surely would not vote upon themselves enormous taxes to gratify some smothered fancy, for if they were that kind of women they would either not have laid by for a rainy day, or their wealth would have vanished like dust before the rays of the sun.

Women as a rule, are closer, more economical than men; never have made purse strings in early times has been in women an enlarged idea of the value of money, for a silver dollar looks larger than a purse full of them, and this has been the difference between the value put upon that dollar by men and women. And is not just this quality in women what is so badly needed in our electorate today? If we look over the newspapers of last spring and of two years ago we will see lengthy arguments against giving a vote to women on account of their irresponsibility, and on the reverse pages we will see startling announcements of malfeasance in office, embezzlements of public funds and fraud and graft on every hand. And yet never a word against the irresponsible male voter.

We believe the time has come when public credit and public honor needs and demands the infusion of some element that will curb the irresponsible vote and nothing can do this so thoroughly as to allow women, who have safeguarded the interest of their property, a voice in saying who shall levy their taxes and who supervise the spending of the money.

Thinking women are awaiting with some interest the argument that the "anties" will put forth to meet this demand of tax-paying women.

ing an agreement to try to raise the standard of domestic service by faithful and interested work; to keep engagements when made; to give a week's notice before leaving a place. The league reserves to itself the right to terminate the membership of any person, whether employer or employee, for breach of contract, or for any other failure to comply with the principles of the league.

**Registration**—Employees are registered between the hours of 4 and 4 p. m., daily, upon personal application. Every applicant for registration is required to furnish a reference for good character. In domestic service she is required to furnish a reference for good character. In domestic service she is required to furnish a reference for good character.

**Contracts**—When engagements are made, the employer and employee are required to sign the following contract: "The first week is to be a trial week, for which the employer is to pay unless the employee leaves voluntarily before the end of the week, in which case the employee shall forfeit all claim for wages. In this way a score of hands and minds are trained and gained to helpfulness, where there might be none. It is in all probability true that no deep study is done by women's clubs, that no subject is thoroughly mastered, that all of the members are not altogether in earnest. We do not claim that the club means much to the student or the genius. Those who are pursuing some special study or course in life may not need the club, but to the average woman it does mean much. Surely there is a saving grace of humor—a humor that sheds its light and life upon every situation. It is a rare character that is founded upon strong, deep purpose.

thousands upon thousands of children—shall she have no part in these things—she who is best fitted by God to understand many of them? Her duty done at home, and done well as only a trained mind can do, may she not reach out to do a deed here and there productive of good?

It is better to spend one afternoon a week in making it possible to put good literature into the hands of a country lad, in learning something which she may afterward read in training of her child, in saving another's child from slavery, in seeing to it that the food she buys must be pure, and that it shall be possible for her to know what is in the patent medicine she sometimes relies on for her sick ones, in helping to make attractive and beautiful her town, than to spend the same time in playing cards, in straining her eyes over a piece of lacework or the reading of a light novel? Surely, surely. The vast majority of women's clubs are composed of those who, to use a masculine term, form the "yeomanry" of their country, the pride and backbone of America, women who keep the house and rear the children, who shall lead our nation on to greatness.

"Think what a million such subventions all working in cooperation through their general federation, can accomplish."

**A DISTINCT LOSS** came to the club women of the state, and particularly to the club women of Portland, in the death of Mrs. Rose Bernstein which occurred this week.

Mrs. Bernstein was one of the quiet, faithful members, who listened with intelligent interest and was brave and courageous in standing for what she considered the right. She was never one to be influenced by fear or favor; acting conscientiously upon every question she had nothing to fear, and asking nothing had no favors to curry. Her presence was always an inspiration for others to do the right thing, and the meager and coarser elements vanished before her kindly word.

LABAMA CLUB WOMEN have felt the stigma that attached to their state in having the lowest age limit in the country for the employment of children, and have spared no effort in supporting every movement to bring about improved conditions. There has been a distinct reform instituted by the laws, which will go into effect on the first of January of next year. No child under 12 may be employed in any mill, while no child is not allowed under 16 years. Sixty hours per week for children under 14 is the limit instead of 48, and penalties are provided for false ages given by parents. The inspection system has been completely reorganized and put upon a basis that will guarantee the enforcement of the new laws.

THE Woman's National Progressive League talked about "The Effect of Competition on Unmarried Women" at its recent monthly meeting in New York City. The New York Tribune said: "The tale was rather a depressing one. It was something of a relief therefore when Mrs. Mary A. Gates, late of Wyoming, rose and said, that in that state there are more jobs than girls, and an unlimited supply of husbands. It is

who feels the burden of the poor and dependent upon them, who meets intelligently the momentous questions of the day, and who has the struggles of life to contend with, and yet takes life not so seriously that the joy, the gladness and even the fun has not been quenched. And this was the character of Mrs. Bernstein. A happy seamstress, the state convention of the Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs at Salem last year was made most joyous by the presence of Mrs. Bernstein, who went as a delegate from the Council of Jewish Women, and many who were there remember her with pleasure that is now akin to pain, when they think that her oft-repeated desire to again mingle with the club women of the state will not be realized.

The North End Improvement Society of Tacoma, Wash., is one of many women's clubs which has vigorously taken up the suppression of heavy taxation of bill-board advertising. This club made a list of the boards in its district, and wrote to each advertiser using them, asking him to abstain, as the bill-boards were considered objectionable. If the first letter was ignored, a second followed, and, if necessary, a personal interview was the next step. The bill-board evil has been stopped as a result of these tactics, and those that have survived the campaign of education have had their tax doubled.

**Woman's Claim on Glacier.** From the Los Angeles Examiner: Mrs. Mary E. Hart, formerly of Los Angeles, who has just returned to Seattle after visiting Alaska, has the distinction of being the first person to stake out a mining claim on a glacier while it was still in action.

It was Disquieting. "The electric door opens, by means of which the doors opened apparently without human aid, and made people think themselves bewitched in the days when they were first put into apartment houses, are not to be considered with the modern electric elevator in private houses," says a woman who has many wealthy friends. "You are thrust into them alone, to go up or down, and if you come out alive it's not your fault. I have not a mechanical mind, I don't know anything about electricity, and I would be sure to do the wrong thing if possible."

friend of mine who has a beautiful new house, and of course an elevator, which the members of the family and servants use at will by means that I have never discerned. I had been sitting upstairs, and when it was time for me to go my friend came to the elevator with me. I stepped in, she shut the door and set it going, and I found myself alone in this little box, not knowing how to stop it, how or where I should land if I didn't. To my great joy, I discovered a button which I touched, but it only made matters worse, for it put out the lights, and I was in pitch darkness, still going down and no chance of finding any more buttons.

Madam forgets that her guests do not understand, she said, with a smile. "It is evidently a custom of the house to send people off in quest of adventures in this way."

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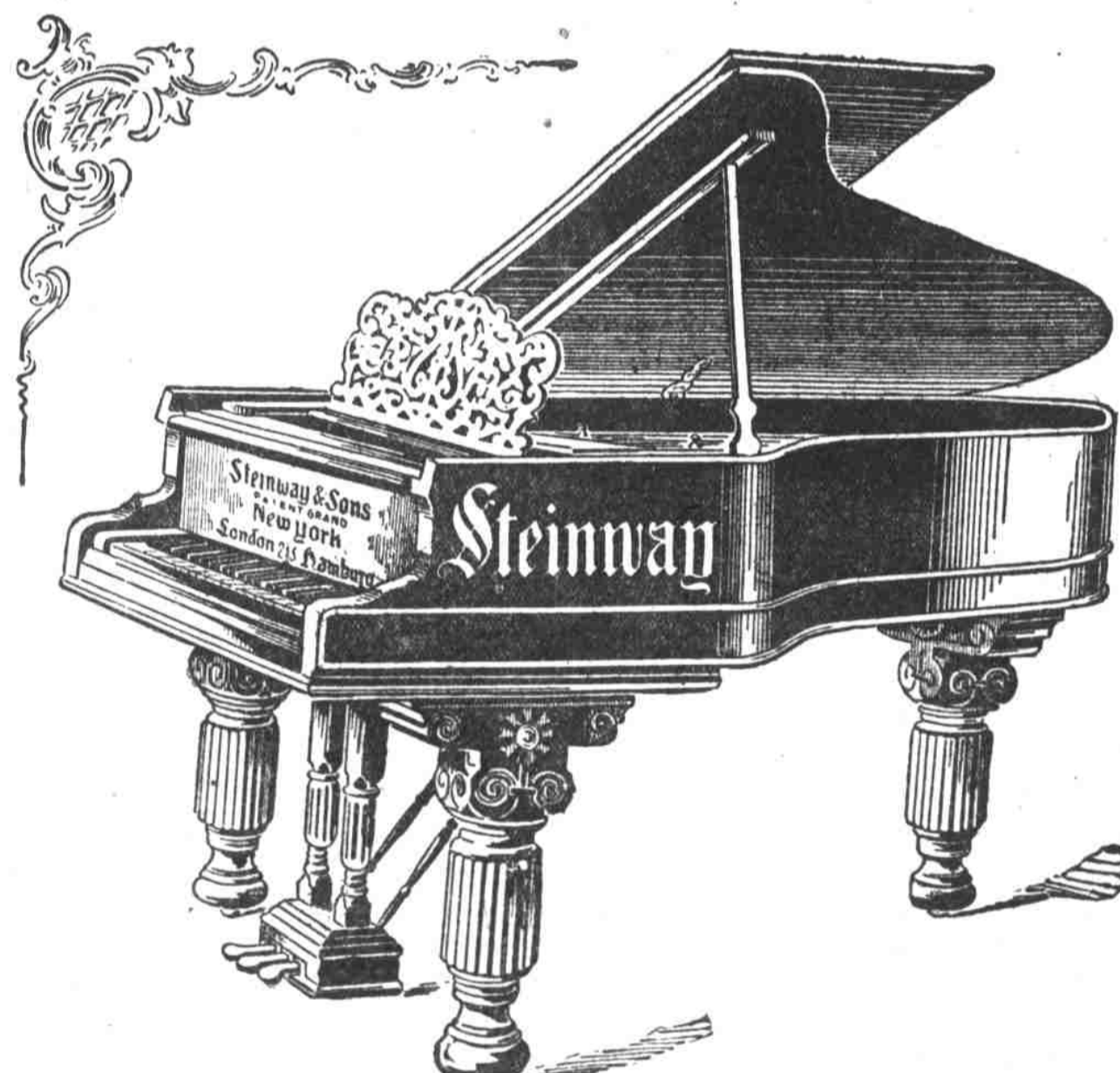
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