WOMEN'S CLUBS AND THEIR WORK

Edited by Mrs. Sarah A. Evans

IN compliance with the promise made the members of the annual convention of the Oregon Federation of Women's clubs which was held at La Grande this month, we will begin this week the publication in this department of the committee and club reports that were made at that time. The officers' reports will be published in the year book which is now in course of preparation. The reports of several committees follow:

Considering the effort put forth in behalf of club extension, the results seem small. One hundred and twenty-seven letters have been written to personal friends, postmasters and members of other clubs, concerning the unfederated. The postmasters courteously replied to the best of their knowledge, or handed the inquiries to the secretary of the commercial clubs or chambers of commerce. The clubwomen gave us all the help possible. Thirty-three invitations have been extended. The replies are most interesting. One club, organized for purely social purposes, saw the need of a charity fund, and in two years raised and disbursed $409 for that purpose. Another established a rest room, still another built a drinking fountain, another obtained and beautified a city park. Valuable as these clubs would be to the state organization and in spite of all our argument, they still prefer to work independently. A mixed club thought itself ineligible. A civic club stated it had a large membership scattered from Alaska to South America, with an initiation fee of 25 cents and no dues, but expressed the hope at some time to be in a position to belong to the federation. Two have the matter under consideration at this time. And to some letters we have received no response. We are glad to announce that four have been added this year—the Beautiful America of North Bend, the Woman's club of Oswego, the Mothers' and Teachers of Arleta, the Woman's club of Hood River. With these we now have 40 clubs in the state federation of Oregon.

HELEN HASTEN SADLER.

* * *

THE land marks commitee, through its chairman, reports as follows:

The different landmarks which I have had special interest in and some part in establishing during the last year have not been done as club work, but as a member of an auxiliary of the Oregon Historical society. The members of the historical society united with the ladies of the Good Intent society of the Methodist Episcopal church and together placed a brass tablet in the side of a sugar loaf rock, which they named Pulpit Rock.

We learned from an old Indian, Joseph Luxillo, that the Methodist missionaries carved out a seat in the top of which they preached to Indians as early as 1836. He came and told his story to me two years ago. I asked some of my associates in the society to go with us to the site of the old mission and show us this primitive pulpit. His story was pathetic and extremely interesting, giving many incidents of missionary life of nearly 70 years ago.

The old man climbed in the seat occupied by those pioneer preachers of long ago. I sent for Mr. Gifford and had him photographed. A few weeks ago one of the teachers of the school at Lyle, Wash., Mrs. T. R. Coon, began corresponding with our secretary, Mrs. Lulu D. Crandall, in regard to marking the grave of Frederick Homer Balch, the author of "The Bridge of the Gods." The outcome was that we got up a small party, taking a stone cutter with us, and went down to Lyle where we were met by a delegation from Hood River and one from White Salmon. Many of the residents of Lyle met us there and witnessed the ceremonies. We had a rough granite boulder cut and set as a marker on a concrete base at the head of his grave.

We also dedicated the building erected by Balch for a church and now used as a schoolhouse, "The Balch school," and had a tables placed upon the front with the name.

I have petitioned our city council to place a tablet in the stonework of our new city hall, now nearly completed, stating that the site is that of the first courthouse between the Cascades and Rocky mountains. This is to be a brass tablet cemented into one of the large square stones of the foundation. The council has placed the matter in the hands of a committee and I have every reason to believe my wishes will be carried out.

I want to say to the ladies that it was a positive grief to me that I was unable to accept Mr. Himes' kind invitation of a year ago to accompany Colonel Shaw and himself to La Grande to locate and mark the Indian battleground near that place. This is all I have to report for 1908. With kindly greetings for all and good wishes for a harmonious session I remain

MRS. ELIZABETH LAUGHLIN LORD,
Chairman, The Dalles, Or.

* * *

IN the Absence of Miss Helen L. Spalding, chairman of the Scholarship Loan Fund, who was detained by illness, the following report was read by Mrs. Frederick Eggert:

Of the applicants assisted last year, the first was a young woman studying kindergarten work, who received $50. The second was a young woman studying music, who received $50. The third, a young woman from eastern Oregon, who wished to study music. She was most highly recommended by her teachers. She received $50, and has made such progress that she writes she will be able to repay the loan before the first of the year.

The fourth, one of the most interesting cases that has come to the knowledge of the committee. She was a young girl who had a thirst for knowledge, but no advantages, being one of a family of 13 children the prospect of opportunity was anything but bright for her. Her application came at a time when the funds were low, and so the committee agreed to advance one half of the sum of $50 which she applied for, provided the school would give the other half.

An interested friend went to see the head of the school in her behalf, and he gladly and most cheerfully consented to the proposition. Friends interested themselves in her wardrobe. She worked for her board during the first term, and she in every way proved herself so worthy that the school has given her work which will secure her way for the future, and all this dividend has accrued from a loan of $25.

The fifth case was a young woman recommended by the president of one of our large institutions as a young woman of exceptional ability. She asked for $150 in three installments of $50 each.

The sixth case is from the same institution. This young woman is also highly recommended by the president. She received $50 just before the close of her school term, and is now doing journalistic work.

These have all except the fourth case, finished their school work.

At present there are two applicants highly recommended by Professor Carson and Mrs. Stafford.

The one applied for $250 in five installments, and has received the first installment of $50.

The second asked for $100, in two installments, and has received the first $50.

There are applications for the next year, but the committee has reached the limit of its means, and in order to continue this work we should have an ever growing fund, which should finally reach at least $14,000.

Up to the present time we have not yet received back any of the money loaned.

One is now teaching, and desires to pay but can not at present. Another has the money ready to pay, but as yet we have not received it.

Thus far our work has been in a measure experimental, and while we have to a degree learned the best manner of distribution, the character and needs of the applicants we feel that some plan must be evolved regulating the refunding of the loans.

We suggest that printed forms of conditions of loan should be supplied, and the thought has occurred, that it may prove expedient and even necessary to charge interest after the beneficiary has for a stipulated period reached the status of a wage earner, or attained the possibility of self support.

The chairman of the committee, as also all its members, desire to express appreciation for all the clubs have done in the furtherance of this noble work, and earnestly appeal to all to continue in well doing.

Let us not forget to emphasize the important fact that this is the major work of this federation.

The committee would reiterate its appreciation of all that has been done by the clubs, and urge that all who have not participated in this important enterprise should have some part in it, however small.

The committee most heartily seconds the suggestion of our president that the last Wednesday of January shall each year be dedicated and set apart for this most worthy cause, thus keeping it annually and perennially before us, having in mind the fact that upon that day 1,800 women scattered throughout the state are all with our accord each in her own place working for the accomplishment of one and the same object.

Respectfully submitted.

HELEN L. SPALDING.
By Mrs. F. Eggert.

* * *

THIS meeting closes the third year of my work as chairman of the Oregon reciprocity department, or rather as we decided to call it last year, the bureau of information.

The labor has been exceeding pleasant. My only regret is, that I have been unable to interest more clubs in this part of our federation work.

The first of the year I sent to all the clubs in the state, lists of papers we had on hand, accompanied by a letter asking for contributions, club papers, year books, newspaper clippings on everyday subjects and matters of interest to club women. Several clubs responded by sending their year book and often a written report of work done by the members. Please accept my thanks for all those so kindly sent.

A new departure has been made this year which bids fair to be of inestimable value to our little federation. Letters have been received from the reciprocity bureau of other states offering an exchange of papers. Some were received from the bureau of Idaho and although the work is new there much has been accomplished. Recently I received a catalogue from the Colorado reciprocity bureau. Reciprocity means giving as well as receiving. If we have a good article, pass it on so that others may profit by it also. Now just a word to the papers to be sent, we are especially in need of practical, common sense articles. In looking over our list you will readily see that we have many scholarly compositions, but are lamentably lacking in up to date essays. We need papers on civic improvement, one club sent asking me how to kill weeds and the only thing I could tell them was to get a goodly number of hoes with men or boys at one end of them, on the prevention of tuberculosis and on all questions that are constantly coming up. Papers on mythology or ancient literature are interesting to the student, but live club women are thinking of the things of the present and are anxious to know how to bring up their boys and girls to be useful citizens.

Another matter I would call the attention of the club presidents to, is to see that the papers sent from the bureau are returned, several valuable ones having been lost in that way. I would recommend that the president of the club send for the papers wanted, and that she consider herself responsible for their return, also that applications for papers be accompanied by six cents postage.

It is hoped that this year will see a renewed interest in the bureau, that many papers and articles of worth will be sent us, and that you will call upon us for aid when you think we can be of any help.

To those who are on the committee with me, I would say, do all in your power to gather items of interest for the bureau, perhaps someone in your club has given a lecture which some other club would gladly pay to hear, if so let it be known.

Trusting that the coming year will be the best we have had yet.

MRS. J. C. PRITCHARD.

* * *

SINCE the convention last year five clubs have reported to your committee as having maintained a club column in their local papers, a committee having charge of the work and conducting it after the plan outlined by the state committee.

Among the clubs having done very credible press work are the Oregon City Woman's club, La Grande Neighborhood club, Roseburg '95 Mental Culture club, Eugene Fortnightly club, and Pendleton Thursday Afternoon club.

There are, I am sure, a few others but I have had no reports up to the present time.

Many clubs see the benefit of such work and would be glad to take it up but for the need, as one club member expresses it, "of finding some one or two persons willing and able to devote the time to it." From this, and other suggestions gleaned from correspondence, I conclude that press work would be more generally taken up by the clubs if it were somewhat systematized. I would therefore offer the following suggestions: That all chairmen of state committees, in making up their yearly letter to the clubs, include general information regarding their particular departments, in suitable form for publication. These letters could then be turned over to the press committee, thus helping the press work, while materially advancing their own.

And now a word to those clubs who want information regarding press work. The object is to put club work—this grand movement—of which we, with thousands of noble women are a part, in its true light before the community, before the world. To tell of the good laws, the educational advancement, in fact all things which make for the welfare of the home. For to all these the club women stand pledged.

The need is, then, not lack of object, nor lack of opportunity; for the press of our fair state, so far as I can learn, stand ready to place at your disposal as much space as you can fill, the need is for workers. Club women, would you have the power to make laws? Here is the opportunity to make public opinion, which not only makes laws but which also enforces them.

With the hope that the club women of Oregon will recognize this opportunity to advance all lines of club work. This report is respectfully submitted.

MRS. MERWIN PUGH,
Chairman.

* * *

PURE FOOD COMMITTEE reports—Since the last convention of the Oregon State Federation of Women's clubs held at Salem October, 1907, the members of the state pure food committee have been made to face the situation, as the newspaper account put it, of proving up or shutting up, and they chose the former. The state dairy commission had issued a statement, as they had often done through many preceding years, that the dairies supplying milk to Portland were clean and sanitary. The time had now come for the women to prove the falsity of the report, or forever hold their peace.

Personal investigation was decided upon as being the only satisfactory course to take. Accordingly, accompanied by The Journal photographer, they drove out the Cornell road, one of the main thoroughfares leading into the city. A few miles out on this charming country road, macadamized like a city street and noted for its lovely scenery, they came to the first dairy, several views of which will be given on the stereopticon slides to be exhibited before the convention. But no slides could do justice to the accumulated filth which everywhere pervaded this place. The cows (80 miserable animals are milked at this dairy) stood around knee deep in mud and liquid manure, their sides caked with stable excretion. The barn where the animals stood to be milked, reeked with filth, there being no floor drainage or method of hosing it out. Not more than 15 feet from the stable was the milk room, where the milk was strained and poured into the milk cans.

Here was the horror of horrors in this dairy inferior. The tubs in which the milk cans were washed were on this day filled with water, in which were soaking dirty socks, overalls, underclothing and cloths, presumably the straining cloths. Over head hung lines of dripping clothes, while on the floor were piles of soiled clothes. In these odoriferous surroundings were rows of milk cans inverted on hanging shelves to air and dry.

Less than 30 feet from the milkhouse men were dumping manure from the stable, leaving it to eventually settle under and around the milkhouse. Out of this mound of muck rose the pump, which was sunk into a spring beneath the mass, and furnished water for rendering the cans clean and sanitary.

The fame of this dairy now bids fair to become national. It came about in this way: An official of the dairy division of the agricultural department at Washington, D. C., was shown these views and was told of the conditions existing at this dairy. By request of the department at Washington those photographs have since been forwarded to Washington, the official stating that the conditions were about the worst that had ever been brought to his attention.

Other dairies were visited at different times by this committee, and were found to rival in every particular the unsanitary conditions of the dairy described above. A few nice clean dairies were found, but they were the oases in the desert waste of reeking filth and shiftlessness.

This is the first chapter in the story of Oregon dairies, but if club women can be relied upon to rise to an emergency this will not be the last installment of the story.

As in previous reports, this committee does again recommend to the federated clubs of the state active and persistent effort along two lines:

First, the improvement of the milk supply.

Second, the improvement of sanitary conditions in markets and provision stores.

In this connection we would add that the report of the pure food committee of the General Federation of Women's clubs, by Mrs. Walter McNab Miller, chairman, was prepared as a guide to clubs desiring to take up work along these lines. Numerous copies of this report, also many copies of the Portland clean list requirements have been distributed by this committee to the clubs of the state.

Communications were mailed to the federated clubs requesting that they report to the chairman of this committee any work or study pursued along the lines of milk or market inspection. Some encouraging replies were received, showing an awakening interest in the subject.

Respectfully submitted.

ELLEN R. MILLER, Chairman.

* * *

THE coming session of the Oregon legislature promises to be an interesting one, as well as an important one for Oregon club women. We are to be witnesses of the struggle between old line politics and the new democracy—the battle between government by the machine and government by the people. No one knows better than the club woman, the vitalizing, educating force that comes from direct participation in the affairs of the day. Since organization is part of the education of the modern woman, whether in women's clubs, college fraternities, church societies, woman has become a more and more intelligent factor in the work of the world. She is no longer the child, neither in intellect, comprehension nor in participation. She is becoming the coworker of her brother—man. The Oregon woman has not come into a full partnership until she has a direct voice in the affairs of government and no one realizes more fully than the club woman, what dorect participation means, and to the members of the legislative committee, this need comes with particular emphasis, to attend the sessions of the legislature, as some of us have come to be allowed the privilege of presenting our measures to the legislators simply through their courtesy—to be made to feel as is so often the case, that we are an infliction, that is part of the disagreeable side of the legislator's duty, and must be borne with, to know that these measures mean a better condition for women and children, and as a consequence, a better citizenship will result—to know that through the efforts of our club women, more humane provisions have been made for our unfortunates; to realize all this, and to realize as well, the long years of struggle, of patience, of watchfulness, that passed by before we could attain to success; and to know that had we been voters—with a direct power—that same success would have been ours in half the time, is knowledge that should convert each one of us to equal suffrage.

But the experience has brought with it wisdom, and the measures which your legislative committee submit for your consideration, have been carefully sifted. We believe that it is wiser to concentrate on a few bills, rather than scatter our forces by advocating a larger number. The first bill is a resurrection—a bill that was presented two sessions ago—a bill which provides that no married man may become security for another man's note, without the wife attaching her signature to the note.

2. An amendment to the school law which will provide that schoolhouses may be used for other than educational purposes. This is directly in the interest of the community. We believe that our school buildings should be neighborhood centers and they are too valuable to be in use but one third of the time. They should be the common ground for the parents as they are now common ground for the children.

3. We hope to amend our pure food and drug act so that it shall be considered unlawful for any patent medicine vender to throw about samples of his wares. It is a dangerous practice and should be stopped. Elaboration on this topic is unnecessary. We have heard too many cases of death or serious illness through children or careless people taking the medicine.

4. Our law providing for public playgrounds needs attention in that part referring to cities of the first class, and should be the direct interest of the Portland club woman. The present law creates a special commission for Portland. The execution should be placed rather in the hands of the park board, which will always be composed of people directly interested and with a full knowledge of the resources of the town, rather than as it is at present, in the hands of people who are the heads of certain organizations, who may not have the least interest in the subject.

These four measures, we believe, the club women should initiate and for these, they should be directly responsibe.

In the matter of cooperation, we shall be asked to lend our support to the bill to be presented by the State Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, which will provide for the cure of tubercular poor.

The Consumers' league will ask us to help in the amendment of the 10-hour law so that it will apply to telephone women operators.

The child labor commission of which our honored president is a member, asks for your watchfulness in case our enemies attack the law. The legislation we guard is preventive—our state is building up rapidly and with this building come the evils as well as the advantages—and the Oregon Prisoners' Aid society will ask for our cooperation in amending the indeterminate sentence law, as well as help in passing new laws for a better control and for establishing better conditions for our unfortunate brothers who have crossed the line.

In closing this report, we ask the direct attention of the delegates in the matter of bringing to the attention of the home clubs and to the necessity for prompt action on communications sent to them by the committee—if the communication is laid on the table, advise the committee; if more information is needed, advise the committee.

If you need literature or some speaker on the subject in hand, advise the committee. If you throw it into the waste basket advise the committee.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE,
Millie R. Trumbull, Chairman.

* * *

OWING to numerous personal cares which cannot well be explained here, I, as chairman of your industrial committee, was for some time after my appointment in grave doubt of my ability to retain the position and am therefore unable to report such progress as I would wish. After deciding to take the responsibility and continue the work, I found it necessary to begin at the very foundation to acquaint myself with the conditions of the labor world, as I had not been in sufficiently close touch with the industrial situation to have any more than a general impression of the condition of working women and children of our state. Your committee is now, however, prepared for active work, ready to supply information to all clubs in the federation, and to cooperate with its legislative committee in securing the enactment of laws looking to the betterment of social and industrial conditions for women and children.

We purpose also to send copies of the 10-hour law for women as well as the child labor and compulsory education laws to the various clubs throughout the state and endeavor to enlist their active assistance in the enforcement of said laws.

In the hope that our efforts may result in the creation of a more just and humane public sentiment towards all classes of workers and a fuller recognition by each and all of us of our common brotherhood.

CATHERINE R. CHAPMAN,
Chairman.

* * *

IT is with pleasure that your Chautauqua committee submits this report. Owing to the generosity of last year's conventions we were able to set up one of the finest tents on the grounds, of which we were very proud. We were thus enabled to do more fitting entertaining than heretofore and many will recall with pleasure the reception to John Sharp Williams, which was attended by many distinguished guests, including President Hawley and wife, Governor Chamberlain and wife, Mayor Lane and others.

Miss Clark, who was secured for the Chautauqua through the efforts of your state president and who brought such helpfulness to clubwomen and made of Woman's day such a success, was a frequent guest at state headquarters.

As an aid to the state work the tent was loaned to the state fair, the Woman's club of Salem taking charge.

We feel that more interest than ever was taken this year, especially by the Portland clubs, showing the effect of the good work done by your president. Thanks are due all who assisted in any way, but especially to the efficient members of the committee.

M. A. DALTON, Chairman.

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LINN COUNTY IS FORGING AHEAD

(Special Northwest Correspondence.)

Albany, Or., Nov. 25.—Linn county is on the verge of a boom. Real estate values have doubled in the past six months and property in the city of Albany is hardly obtainable at any price. An increased activity has been noted since the national election. Prior to it the moneyed men displayed a certain hesitancy which affected business over the entire county.

During the past two weeks some of Albany's leading business men have let contracts for business blocks and costly residences. Every carpenter in the city is busily engaged. An employment office, the first business of its kind in Albany, recently opened up and within 24 hours its windows were plastered with signs stating, "Men Wanted."

Dwellings are going up as fast as men and lumber can be secured, yet there is not a vacant house. There is talk of platting out a tent city.

One of the most significant indications of Albany's prosperity occurred at the apple fair, just closed. On the opening night an elegant banquet was served and, in order to make it a success, plates were sold at $2.50. About a year ago a similar affair was arranged, at $1 a plate, and it proved a failure. On the present occasion over 400 business men attended.

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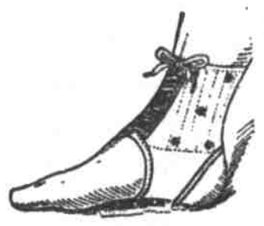

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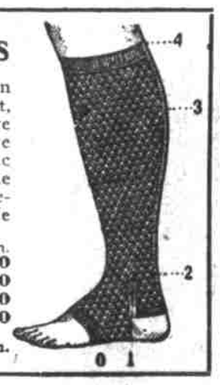

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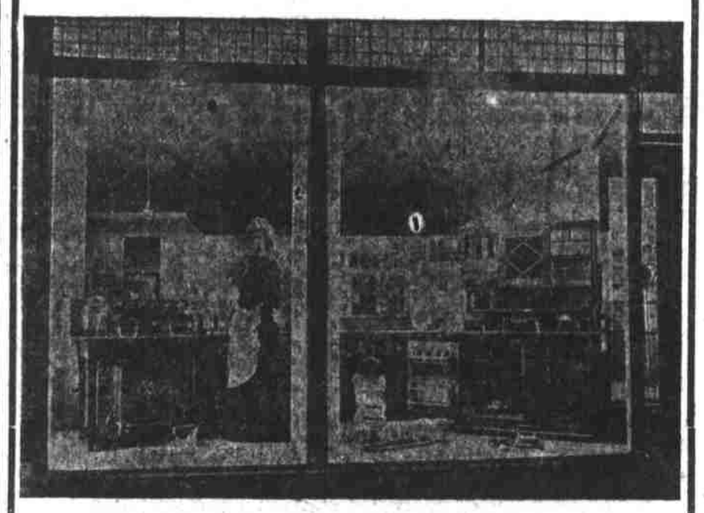

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