

# WOMEN'S CLUBS AND THEIR WORK

Edited by Mrs. Sarah A. Evans

**A** MORE remarkable utterance was scarcely ever heard upon the floor of any legislature than that made last Monday evening, when a representative stated that he would not vote for the additional appropriation for the Seattle fair because he was asked to do so by a clubwoman, and because he understood that "a certain woman's club" would have additional space given to it if this money was appropriated.

Several others concurred in the sentiment expressed by the representative from the far east; but it was a time when the clubwomen of the state could good naturedly smile and apply that memorable body—the Oregon legislature—the kindly words of our greatest American, "Malice toward none, but charity for all," for they knew the dear men didn't know what they were talking about.

This attitude, however, calls for an explanation upon the part of "the women who lobbied for the Seattle appropriation." At every exposition for the past 15 years the clubwomen of every state, save and except Oregon, where there has been a state building, have been invited to take charge of the social features. The benefit to be derived from well conducted social entertainments cannot be gained. No one will deny the fact that at the Lewis and Clark Fair Oregon lost and New York gained thousands of dollars in advertisement because there was no provision made for social features in the Oregon building, and all social functions for Oregon had to be carried on in the New York building. Washington and Idaho put the social features of their buildings at our fair to the head of the clubwomen, and their social functions are remembered, to their credit, to this day, while their exhibits have long been forgotten.

There are good and sufficient reasons, too, why this particular organization should be chosen. First, because its object is not to advance any national and for civic righteousness it tolerates no fads; it is non-sectarian and non-political; its eye is not single to any one interest and service to the public is its watchword. It has a national organization of 800,000 women, without one single paid officer to wield its enormous business. It would be against club ethics and its constitution for any member to take pay for services rendered, and to the Oregon legislature remains the distinguished honor of making the first charge of "graft" against this organization which is composed principally of mothers and women of mature years and discretion.

When the Washington commissioners set apart a handsome sum and invited the clubwomen of that state to assume charge of the social affairs, going even so far as to put them up a building, the Oregon clubwomen felt that their state could not afford to fall behind, and therefore presented the matter to the Oregon commissioners and requested that they be allowed to do for Oregon what Washington and other states were doing for their women and their state. The plan, as presented by the president of the Oregon Federation, was commended and approved by the commissioners, but it not having entered into their estimates, the question of means presented itself, for the clubwomen would only assume the responsibility with the understanding that it should be conducted in a manner creditable to themselves and the state.

When the commissioners showed the women who were interested that this demand could not be met unless the promised increase in the appropriation was made, the women, upon their own initiative, sent a committee of the officers to the capital, as the clubwomen of other states did, and put the matter plainly before many of the legislators, little thinking that their very honesty would be used against them on the floor of the house. To compare the way Washington women were treated and the way Oregon women were treated by their respective lawmakers, would be a comparison that would be odious, indeed, and one quite unnecessary for people with eyes who can see for themselves.

As this goes to press the appropriation is trembling in the balance and by the time it reaches the clubwomen its fate will be decided, but in either case it is to the credit and honor of the Oregon clubwomen that the social features of the Oregon building will not be neglected, and if scripping must be done it will be done where it will do the least discredit to the state.

**M**RS. A. A. LAFFERTY, the only woman member of the Colorado legislature, is chairman of the educational committee and a member of the committees on criminal jurisprudence, state institutions, enrollment, Denver city affairs and county lines. Mrs. Lafferty has already introduced two bills, the eight hour day bill and the bill for the physical examination of school children and the care of defectives. The appointment of a master of discipline in towns where there is no juvenile court is another of Mrs. Lafferty's bills.

**A** LONG the same line we hear most encouraging reports from Mrs. McFadden, the only woman in the Idaho legislature. Three bills have been presented that are very dear to the hearts of the clubwomen, viz.: children's home finding aid bill, a civil service bill and a juvenile court bill. These Mrs. McFadden is giving special attention to, as well as keeping a sharp lookout upon every bill that may affect women or children.

**W**OODBURN clubwomen have been quite active this winter and feel they have good results to show for their work. They have but recently opened their much desired reading room and library. It is kept open Friday afternoon and every evening except Sunday. A movement is on foot to make it possible to keep it open every afternoon after the first of next month, with a paid librarian in attendance.

**M**ISS LAURA D. GILL, chairman of the educational committee of the General Federation, has requested Dr. Paul H. Hanus of the department of education in Harvard university to prepare a list of books for the use of clubwomen especially interested in education. This list covers administration, general theory, school hygiene, manual training and periodicals, all of which may be had by applying to the reciprocity bureau, Mrs. Mary I. Wood, Portsmouth, N. H.

**T**HE college women in the University of Illinois are to have the first opportunity ever offered to women to study the relative advantages of the housekeeping of our grandmothers and of the present day. The department of social science has rented a large dwelling-house near the campus and divided it into equal apartments. One is fitted up according to the most approved theories of household economics. Heating, cooking and laundry work are done by gas and electricity. The floors are varnished and covered with rugs.

**T**HE art department of the Woman's club met at the appointed time in the art room of the public library. The subject of "Civic Art" was discussed and Mrs. Ellen R. Miller appointed chairman of a committee to arrange work along this line in connection with the department work.

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