Women's Clubs and Their Work

Edited by Mrs. Sarah A. Evans

IT HAS been stated from time to time, more or less seriously, that the matter of employing women to conduct railroad excursions of women instead of employing men, as has always been the custom, would probably come up for discussion at the next meeting of the passenger traffic managers. To the many women who have acquired the "convention habit," this will be joyful news. Not that the men on the trains have been lax in attention, as a rule, but because they impose a restraint which correspondingly curtails the pleasure.

Let us reverse the thing and see how it would work. How would the Shriners, or the Elks, enjoy a woman conducting one of their special trains when they went on their annual jaunts? This is too funny to be imagined, and yet why isn't the rule flexible enough to work both ways?

When these railroad magnates discuss this subject, they will no doubt develop some "don'ts" that are not apparent to the "mere woman" at this time, who sees but two well developed reasons why it should be done—one for the women, the other for the railroad itself.

It is a well established fact, whether the railroad officials know it or not, that women in traveling are discriminated against, particularly in the matter of sleeping berths. Hundreds of women will testify that after telegraphing days ahead, and receiving a reply that their lower berths would be reserved, when they applied for the ticket, with their telegram assuring the reservation, they have been curtly told, "nothing but uppers left," and when they insisted upon their rights, were still more curtly told, "You will have to arrange it with the conductor," which meant the handsome tip would have to be forthcoming before the lower, that had been reserved, was turned over to her.

These are not isolated cases. One conductor out from Chicago, after treating a lady abominably, being told by her that she would pay the full price and extra for a lower (which had been reserved for a week), and would also give her upper to some one who would exchange, came to her very shortly and told her "he had her fixed," and at once gave her one of the half dozen empty lowers that were in the car, remarking as he settled her, "There is no extra charge for the berth, but you can pay me for my trouble if you like." He pocketed the handsome fee, but the woman was not born yesterday, and kept close watch upon that conductor that night, and three times she saw him do similar tricks with women on the train. Burning with indignation, she meant to report him on her return through Chicago, but after several weeks her wrath had consumed itself, and she had not the public spirit necessary to make her take the trouble, which no doubt the conductor had counted on. This was at the time of a large convention of women in the south, and hundreds of women, going and coming, had the same tale of woe to tell.

Women know that if they receive any attention from porters they have double the money to pay for the service that men do, and why? Because the mistake is prevalent that women are not as generous as men, and the American citizen of African descent immediately counsels with himself how to transfer the coin from the woman's pocket to his own, and he accomplishes it most skillfully. This kind of treatment not only materially detracts from the pleasure of the trip, but it undoubtedly deters many women, particularly those who, if they traveled at all, would have to travel alone, from making journeys of any length.

Again, women must travel with baggage, and everyone knows the utter confusion that reigns, the wrangling and misunderstandings that must be adjusted, when it is a free-for-all fight, each one trying to be served first, and nobody to consult about time or trains; for the indifference of men employes to women under these circumstances is proverbial. But we could go on indefinitely enumerating the advantages to women traveling in parties, in having a woman conductor, but the railroad company may want to know where their advantage would be.

A few years ago there would have been none perhaps, but today a large percentage of the passenger travel is done by women. There are, at least, in America today 10 national organizations of women whose membership runs up into the hundreds of thousands, and each one holds a convention from annually to triennially. Take, for instance, the biennial convention of the General Federation of Women's club that met in Boston last year and will meet in Cincinnati next year. Over 2000 delegates registered at Boston, and twice that number of visitors attended.

Every state in the Union was represented. Many special trains were run into Boston from the eastern and New England states. One large special went out of Chicago so crowded that delegations from farther west had to be refused accommodations on it. This goes to show the disposition women have to go in parties, and surely the trade is worth the trouble of any road to work for.

It was the dream of many western women to have a train run from the Pacific coast to Boston, letting the various state delegations fall in from place to place, but it could not be arranged unofficially and through correspondence, so it fell through, and the hundred or more from the coast straggled off alone till they could catch up with eastern delegations.

The same hope exists for the Cincinnati convention, but whether it meets with any better success is doubtful. But there is no question that if the various states could have been reached personally, and the plans laid before them with the assurance that women would have been in charge of the parties, large crowds could have been induced to go. Here would have been the economic advantage to the railroad which, after all, is the only thing that counts.

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EVERY club should realize that the essential thing in taking up any course of study is to get something that is reliable beyond a question of doubt. Something that is not thrown together haphazard for display and pecuniary profit, and is so riddled with errors the most important facts won't hold together, which is the case with some of the study courses that have grown so popular of late.

In contrast to this character of study courses, we take pleasure in recommending to the clubs of the state the most excellent courses offered, almost entirely free of expense, by the University of Oregon in its Correspondence-Study course, and which has been prepared by specialists upon these various subjects. The faculty has brought its best efforts to bear upon these courses and it goes without saying that the work presented is absolutely authoritative.

There are 14 courses prepared for this year. Some are particularly adapted to the study of teachers, others for the students preparing for college, while a number would particularly interest, and be highly beneficial to the women's clubs. Among these we note the course in English classics, and the Shakespeare course, both prepared by Professor H. C. Howe; Oregon history, prepared by Professor Joseph Schafer, and botany, prepared by Professor A. R. Sweetser.

Those in charge write this department of The Journal: "We are especially anxious to get in closer touch with the club women of this state and to be of assistance to them in any way possible. If they could let us know what courses of study, particularly in literature and history, they are interested in, we might be of considerable assistance to them in arranging their programs and supplying material. The university library is at our disposal, and we might in this way share it with them."

After carefully examining the bulletin sent out, we can conscientiously recommend that clubs that have not already decided upon their work for the coming year should give this offer their consideration, with the assurance that they can get nothing better. There is a method and system about it that is almost entirely absent from many courses that are offered by many eastern magazines that go into the work with an eye single to the business side of it, and from which the university course is entirely free.

All particulars will be sent by applying to the "Correspondence Study Department, University of Oregon."

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CLUB WOMEN of the state will be pleased to learn that Judge Lionel Webster of the county court has recognized the Oregon Federation of Woman's clubs by the appointment of Mrs. A. King Wilson as a delegate to the National Irrigation congress that convenes in Spokane the ninth of this month.

The first suggestion for a national irrigation congress came from the club women of Denver, and they have always received special recognition and honor at these gatherings.

Mrs. Wilson has for several years been the chairman of the irrigation commiteee of the State Federation, and while the clubs, as organizations in Oregon, have not been able to do much active work, the able chairman of the committee has kept them in close touch with what is going on, and they lend it, at least, their moral support. Mrs. Wilson is deeply interested in the subject, and the honor conferred upon her by Judge Webster is well deserved. The report she will make of the congress, its great work done and to be done, will form an interesting feature at the state convention when it meets in Forest Grove in October.

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THE Harvard Dames are women whose husbands are students in the great university, and it is a growing club that now has a settled place of meeting in Cambridge. A dozen years ago three western women went to Harvard with their student husbands, and all engaged flats in the same apartment house. They formed a club and other wives asked for admission. The first president was Mrs. Frederick Stafford of Philadelphia. The members are helpful in many ways to the students, and to the young wives going each year to Cambridge.

* * *

A CLUB toast recently given before a meeting in Denver by Mrs. Virginia Lucas Cousens, the famous Nebraska sculptor, is worth repeating: "The club seems to be developing woman so rapidly as to eliminate the petty things of life and to center her thoughts on her particular perspective in life. Health has become a more vital subject and its preservation more thoroughly understood. Gossip has been reduced 75 per cent, because of the larger interests which have arisen."

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THE New York State Woman's Suffrage association offered a $50 prize to the universities and colleges of the state for the best essay on "Woman Suffrage Essential to a Democracy." The judges were Professor Nathaniel Schmidt of Cornell, Dr. Peritz of Syracuse and Mrs. William M. Ivins, new York City. Essays were sent in from Vassar, Barnard, Teachers' College of Columbia, New York university and Cornell. Miss Zoe Hartman of Cornell was given the prize.

Miss Mary S. Anthony left $1000 to Mrs. Crossett, Miss Mills and Miss Isabel Howland as trustees, and they give the interest to the state association to offer the prize.

A larger number of essays were received this year than ever before, which shows the growth of interest in the subject among the college students.

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THE membership of the New York Woman's Municipal league has grown to 1200. The league has been represented at the conference on the city budget, under the auspices of the Bureau of Municipal Research, at the meeting of the Citizens' Recreation committee, the conference on city planning, and the meetings of the Board of Censorship. The league cooperated with the People's Institute in a series of investigations of the cheap amusements of Manhattan, and is now represented on the Board of Censorship of Moving Picture Shows. These official connections with the various movements for reform and betterment of municipal affairs represent but a small part of the interests of the league.

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THE North Carolina Federation of Women's clubs held their annual meeting at Raleigh in the hall of the house of representatives. An evening meeting was held at the executive mansion, at which the governor made an address on the work of the clubs in behalf of education. This federation succeeded this year in having a law passed establishing a library commission, and the federation, clubs turned over to it the circulating libraries in their possession. Household science is one of the undertakings of the federation, and the state has established women's institutes under the direction of the state agricultural department in response to the requests of the federation clubs. A normal school students' aid fund is maintained, and scholarships in other colleges are assigned through the federation.

TEACHERS SAIL FOR LABRADOR

New York, Aug. 7.—Twenty Brooklyn girls teachers in the public schools, sailed on the Rosalind, of the Red Cross line, for Nain, Labrador. They are supplied with bon bons and fishing tackle.

The Rosalind will stop at Halifax and then proceed to St. Johns, Newfoundland. There the tourists will divide, one party going on the steamship Prospero to circumnavigate Newfoundland by the northern route, and the others making the journey by the southern route on the Portia.

Aboard the same boat with the school teachers are Dr. W. B. Tinker and Dr. F. R. Wright and their families, of Ithaca, N. Y. The teachers are to be their guests in visiting St. Anthony's hospital, in northern Newfoundland, and also a hospital at Indian Harbor and another at Battle Harbor, Labrador. These institutions are conducted by Dr. Wilfred Grenfell for the benefit of the deep sea fishermen of the far north.

There are 35 physicians and nurses, mostly from New York, at the hospitals. The departing physicians have taken seventeen large cases of toys, drugs and clothing to the institutions, sent by the Grenfell association, at No. 156 Fifth avenue. The doctors and their families are to remain indefinitely.

The girls will be away about six weeks. Among them are the Misses Emma Shea, Mable Gray, Mary Shea, Helen, Sarah and E. F. Barrett of No. 154 Warren street, Brooklyn; L. A. Donnelly, Florence B. and Silvia Post.

FLEES; ARRESTED; WEDDED--3 DAYS

Roseburg Miss Becomes a Mrs. After Strenuous Experience With the Law.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Roseburg, Or., Aug. 7.—To run away from home one day, get arrested 250 miles from home the next; to escape from the sheriff the next and to be married the third day was the experience of 14-year-old Maud Koken of Roseburg.

She disappeared from home Friday, July 30, and was arrested the next day at The Dalles. There being no suitable quarters for women in the jail there, she was given quarters in a tent at the sheriff's home to await the arrival of the superintendent of the Boys' and Girls' Aid society, to take charge of her pursuant to a commitment issued in this city on the day of her arrest. The sheriff was called out of town on Sunday and she made her escape. The officers conducted a vain search for her. She went directly to La Grande, it appears, where she joined a man named Clarke, and was married. The girl had plenty of money when taken into custody at The Dalles. Clarke is not known here, but it is reported that he was formerly with the Sells-Floto circus, and that Maud Koken met him while that show was here, a few months ago.

A letter received by Sheriff Fenton from Sheriff Childers of La Grande says in part:

"Maud Koken arrived here August 2, and was married to a man named Clarke. I understand the couple are now working on a farm near this city. In obtaining a marriage license they had a hard time getting a man to swear that the girl was of the age of consent. They finally got a man to do this—a stranger giving the name of Brassey. No one seems to know him. I think the girl's parents have a very good case of kidnaping because she is under age."

Whether to take legal steps to annul the marriage and prosecute Clarke, or to leave the couple as they are is the question that is now being considered by the girl's mother and county Judge Wanacott.

KLAMATH PROJECT MAY BE ENLARGED

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Klamath Falls, Or., Aug. 7.—The Klamath Water Users' association is planning a movement to increase the acreage signed for government irrigation. This is one of the requests made by the officials of the reclamation service. If it is successfully carried out it will have a tendency to decrease the cost of irrigation per acre in the upper project and also to expedite the construction of the system.

Project Engineer Patch has made an investigation of the entire project and reports that all work is progressing very satisfactorily. The Clear Lake dam is being rushed and will be completed this fall if no unforseen conditions arise. It is hard to say when this mammoth structure will be used, but it is certain that it will be at least two years. If the campaign to increase the signed up acreage bears fruit the work will be expedited and water will be placed on the lands just as soon as the main canals and laterals can be built.

The friction that has existed between the landowners is disappearing. The recent meeting between the officials of the service and a committee of the water users had a tendency to establish more harmonious relations.

England has over 600 women doctors, of whom about 200 practice in London.

BIRD ON CARDS BETRAYED SUITS

Secret Marks on Backs Defense Against Gambler's Claim.

New York, Aug. 7.—"I was fleeced by my own friend."

This is the defense Maurice Berenberg offers to the suit Jacob Morgenroth has brought against him for a "loan" of $60. In support of his contention he has 25 "United States Playing Cards" in the care of his attorney, each one marked on the back in an ingenious manner, that accounts, he claims, for the loss of $140 to Morgenroth.

"Ocha" was the name of the game in which Berenberg says he and his friend indulged last winter. It was at the plaintiff's home that they shuffled the deck. The shuffling, however, Berenberg contends, was a useless form, as a little bird on the back of each card told his friend exactly what was on the face of the card, no matter where it was placed.

Took Cards to Examine Them.

Barenberg says that after he had lost a few dollars each night that he played with his friend without ever winning a cent, he became suspicious and grabbed a handful of the cards.

He took the cards home and studied them. The back and front of each card seemed to be in perfect order. Then Berenberg took the deck to his attorney, Saul H. Immergluck, and the two examined the backs of the card line for line. The scroll work decoration about the four circles in the four corners of the cards was identical. The circles containing the picture of the bicycle rider and a tree with shading on the ground differed.

Little Bird Told the Story.

In some of the pictures the tiny pair of birds flying about were found to have a minute foot hanging down and in others no foot could be discovered. By comparisons it was found that where the upper of the two birds had a foot attached the card was a diamond; where the lower bird had a foot the card was a heart; where neither of the birds had pendant feet that card was a spade, and where both had feet the card was always a club.

Further examination showed that the denomination of each card was indicated by the shading in the landscape. When the shade was below the ground or horizon line and close to the bicycle the card was always a nine spot; where the shading was below the line in the center the card was a ten spot. Other shadings exposed all the various denominations.

Attorney Immergluck stated that he would present the cards to the district attorney's office and would call on the manufacturers of the cards to explain the presence of the key.

RAISE TAX VALUE OF TIMBER LANDS

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

South Bend, Wash., Aug. 7.—All timber land which has not heretofore been assessed according to the figures returned by the county cruisers will be increased to meet the cruisers' figures. In some instances the increase is radical, one instance being a quarter section owned by the Willamette Pulp & Paper company of Portland. This land has been on the tax rolls at $5000, but the assessed valuation will likely be raised to $14,000. The county recently had all the timber lands cruised at a cost of $40,000, and all timber land is now being assessed according to the reports of the cruisers.

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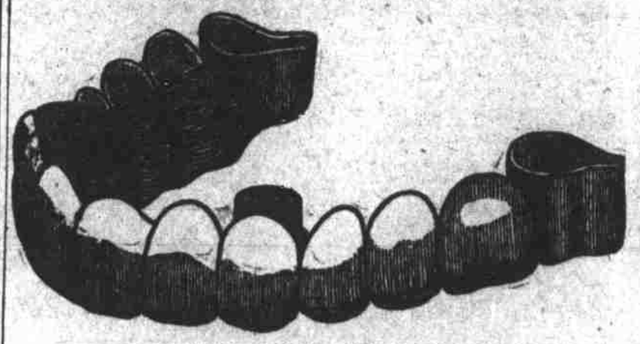

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