

Women Turning New Page in History

Their Leaders Insist Every Young Man and Woman Should Receive a Short Course of Federal Education and Training Before Voting

Heads of Many Big Organizations Believe Future Demands Greater Equality of Fitness, Opportunity, Understanding and Service For All

WAR HAS REVEALED DEFICIENCIES WHICH MUST BE CORRECTED

Selective Courses of Training Prepared by Country's Ablest Leaders and Given at Government Expense Recommended, the Aim Being Perfect Health, Personal Efficiency, Discipline, Intelligent Citizenship and the Americanization of All Aliens

Leaders for Nation After War Must Be Trained Soon

This question must be answered now: Shall the thinking women of the United States help to make broad plans for the welfare of humanity after the war for their children who survive, or shall they leave the problems which have long been neglected, in addition to the serious ones to come, to be solved by an untrained citizenship, possibly under the influence of demagogues and unscrupulous sets, who will attempt to lead during the troubled period which may follow the world war and may lead to chaos?

Federal education and training for every young man and woman—at least six months of it—under military discipline, we believe, offers the solution to the problem.

This is the MOST IMPORTANT MOVEMENT BEFORE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TODAY.

—From statement by committee of fifty national organizations of women.

Early this year a few Chicago women, following suggestions made by Mrs. Joseph T. Bowen, the chairman of the woman's committee of the Illinois division of the National Council of Defense, studied the future of progress in the United States, and what action, if any, should be desirable as the result of changing conditions arising from the world war.

In her opinion, thought should first be directed to overcoming striking weaknesses in our social fabric, such as the Americanization problem, the increase of juvenile crime, the disregard of the laws of nature and hygiene and the lack of understanding between different groups of people.

Women's Clubs Back Plan.
From this beginning developed a resolution, passed by the Chicago Woman's club, providing for federal training as the most comprehensive character for all future young citizens before permitting them to vote.
At the biennial convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs at Hot Springs, Ark., in May, the Chicago Woman's club secured unanimous endorsement of the movement. This took the form of a petition to the government for universal training of women as well as of men.

It was the formal expression of over two million American women, organized in about 10,000 clubs for personal and community improvement throughout the United States.

In a matter of such general importance it seemed desirable to know the opinion of all other women as reflected through the national leaders of organizations of varied activities. Representatives of fifty such organizations in Illinois formed a committee to invite expressions from women of national prominence.

Find Women Unanimous.
From the replies it is evident no question ever brought before the American people has had the immediate and general support of thinking women of such wide diversity of interest. The significance of this deserves public recognition.

As the expressions received represent the approval of several millions of women, it is clear that America is about to turn a new page in its history, one which will mark an epoch in the development and utilization of our people, if the plan is given early official support.

"The basic purpose of the movement," said Mrs. Edwin T. Johnson,

HASTE IS ASKED

"No more important movement has been inaugurated than the one for federal training. America must make haste in a constructive, human and soul-developing movement and organization, that America may stand up as a proper plane of existence in the protection of her freedom, her homes and her people and the world's freedom.—By Mrs. M. Dunlop, Davey, Ill., Chairman of State Food Production Committee.

president of the Chicago Woman's club, "is to make plans for the welfare of humanity and for our children who survive the war. It is evident action of the most fundamental character is demanded to reach all young people who will share in the work of reconstruction and the making of government policies after the war.

Training Brings New Visions.

"Anyone who has seen the wonderful physical change wrought in the youth of our country by even a brief period in the camps and cantonments cannot but covet the same benefit for every youth in our land. Nor is it a physical gain only; a subtle change in attitude toward other social groups than his own, brought about by the democracy of the camps, a wholesome regard for health, both mental and physical, a respect for authority, a habit of obedience, a new vision of his responsibilities as a citizen, in short, a wholly new and fine attitude toward life—this is the gift that his country, through the service it asks of him, has given him in return.

"The government will ask both our boys and our girls to perform their duties as citizens. Is it not, therefore, reasonable and just that the government should take steps to afford them such training as will make this service worth while?

Such courses in training for citizenship as a preparation, not for war, please God—although we have learned from the experience through which we are now passing that preparedness in a great nation is an obligation a country owes to its citizens—but for peace and its duties. Let us as a country give our young people every opportunity, such as the plan for federal training provides, and we shall not be leaving them at the mercy of demagogues within or foes without."

Decision Most Vital.
The statement of the committee of fifty women's organizations referred to above, in part:

"The stability and progress of the nation and even the preservation of our civilization are involved in the decisions of the present period and all should share the obligation to aid the government in reaching sound conclusions based upon experience and to demand action of the most fundamental character.

"Short courses of intensive federal training for all young people before they vote appear to offer the only solution. It is our conviction that such courses, covering at least six months' life in the open at government expense, under military discipline, accentuating physical, economic and civic training, in accord with plans to be approved by the nation's ablest leaders, would qualify our young people efficiently to discharge their family and citizenship obligations and prove of inestimable value to the nation.

"The beneficial results of training in the cantonments demonstrate what can be done under a broader educational plan, when young people of all nationalities, from all parts of the country, and all classes widen their horizon through intensive training in the essentials of life and government upon equal terms.

In addition to making strong, alert, clean-cut, thinking Americans, the training will create a sense of individual responsibility, strengthen character and promote a higher regard for each other, for their country and the co-operation necessary for the welfare of all.

Red-Blooded Missionaries.
"Preparation for the training cannot wait until after the war, as the

should supersede former assurance and self-confidence.
"The physical survey and the wonderful regenerating capacity of the training camps have suggested a rapid, comprehensive and democratic method as a model upon which to prepare a plan for short courses of federal training for all young people.
"The highest aims for America can be realized if the nation's leaders prepare adequate selective courses of study, development, discipline and service, and the federal government furnishes such courses to all.
"I heartily endorse the plan."

What Leaders Say.
Mrs. George B. Carpenter, secretary of the committee, permitted an examination of the letters from the many

the various branches of religious effort there is but one dissenting voice.
Roman Catholics, Protestants and Jewish women send strong expressions of approval. The national boards of the Young Women's Christian association and the Women's Christian Temperance union are both represented among the founders of the movement.

From Social Students.
Among the members of the women's committee on federal training are a number chiefly concerned with the welfare of wage earners. These include Mrs. Raymond Robbins, president National Women's Trade Union league, and Miss Harriett Vittum, president Federation of Social Settlements.

LEADERS WHO DEMAND PLANS FOR FEDERAL TRAINING NOW



Left above, Mrs. Edwin T. Johnson, president Chicago Woman's Club; right, Mrs. Frances E. Burns, great commander, Ladies of the Maccabees; left below, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president National Woman Suffrage Association; right, Mrs. Philip North Moore, St. Louis, president National Council of Defense.

national and state leaders of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the heads of many national organizations. All, with one or two exceptions, strongly support the movement for federal training. The letters are so numerous that only the most vital parts of some of them can be quoted.

First from Suffrage Leaders:
BY MRS. CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT, President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

"I am very glad to be one of the founders of the movement for Federal Training and agree with all points made by the committee.

"Like a torchlight the war has pointed out all our weak spots. We are a brave people and strong. There is nothing which we will regard as impossible to do. While it is a tragic price to pay, the war will leave us better informed and more alive to the needs of our country than before."

BY MISS MARY GARRETT HAY, Chairman, New York State Woman Suffrage Party.

"I am heartily in favor of the plan to give American boys and girls the civic and military training outlined by the committee on federal training.

"I am convinced that the proposed course to be given in the open country and in cantonments will improve the health and morals of our youth, will help to make them understand our American institutions, will make them civic consciousness and inspire them with devotion to the great ideals for which our nation stands.

"The association of the children of all classes for common purposes must make for reciprocal understanding and sympathy and will foster the democratic spirit."

Churches Agree on It.
In the expressions of national leaders identified with women's work to

of the Women's Association of Commerce of the United States, in favor of early action by congress urge all be better equipped physically to endure the strain of the work they must shape, and contend that broad, intensive training will prove the most profitable investment the government can make.

Praised by Colleges.

The Collegiate Bureau of Occupations and others interested in self-supporting women favor federal training. Graduates of Bryn Mawr, Smith, Wellesley, Vassar, Holyoke and other women's colleges are included among the founders of the federal training movement. Several women presidents and deans have sent their endorsements, and the National Federation of College Women, speaking informally through the president, Mrs. Myra Kingman Miller of New York, and the secretary, Mrs. Flora Warren Seymour, urge early action.

Mothers and Teachers.
Mrs. Frederick Schott, president National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers' association and director home education division United States bureau of education, Washington:

"Education for citizenship is of vital importance if the ideals of the founders of our country are to be maintained. With hearty approval I pledge co-operation in the idea and suggest that a committee be formed to consider what definite measures will be most practical and effective for realization of the desired purpose."

Of the many endorsements from parents and teachers it is only possible to quote one in part:

BY MISS STELLA LOUISE WOOD, President of the International Kindergarten Union.

"For our education in social adjustment, intelligent citizenship and ready co-operation in the responsibilities of a democracy, the plan for federal training of all young citizens meets with my hearty approval."

Miss Elizabeth Harrison, president of the National Kindergarten college and well known as a writer on education, expresses similar views.

Patriotic Societies.
The Daughters of the American Revolution, by Mrs. George Thatcher Guernsey, President; the Ladies of the G. A. R., by Mary Eleanor Tarbox, National President; National Society Daughters of 1812, through Mrs. Robert Hall Wilson, their President, and the Daughters of the Confederacy, through Miss Mary B. Popenheim, are all represented in the active support for federal training.

Mrs. Guernsey says: "This is the psychological moment to present to our country the importance and necessity for intensive federal training for the youth of the land."

BY MRS. NAT S. BROWN, President of Children of America Loyalty League.

"The movement for federal training is wise. This is an opportune time to bring together the children of America, whether born or adopted, and teach them to love, respect and care for our government."

General Federation Leaders.
With the expressions favoring federal training from Mrs. Josiah Evans Cowles of Los Angeles, the president and the department chairmen of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, are two from esthetic leaders which strike a new note.

Mrs. Cyrus R. Perkins says: "No time should be lost in putting this work of regeneration into immediate operation. When such training becomes universal we may predict that

from this great world struggle shall evolve a new American nation."
Mrs. William D. Steele of Seattle, Mo., chairman of the music department of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and Mrs. Albert J. Coleman, Chicago, president National Federation of Music Clubs, write a joint statement:

"We heartily endorse federal training. Give music a place, with its harmonizing and strengthening powers. The great training centers will afford a wonderful opportunity to make a broader, more sympathetic and spiritual citizenship."

An Inspired Plan.
BY MRS. WILLIAM FREDRICK JR. OF BALTIMORE.

Chairman of the General Federation of Women's Clubs:
"Universal and obligatory federal training of young men and women is an inspired plan for a national functioning of the ideals for which the United States should stand. There could be no more admirable method for distilling the essence of democracy and for achieving physical and moral regeneration."

BY MRS. JAMES LEES LAIDLAW.
"To inform our electorate and our prospective electorate; to give them the tools of citizenship; to equip them to use these tools to the full efficiency of citizenship is a Herculean task, but a completely possible one."

"Let the great plan of federal training once be made operative and I believe a great army of citizen workers, men and women, will rise to cooperate."

Doctors Urge Idea.
Women leaders of the medical profession are aggressive in expressing their conviction that a system of federal training is essential to regenerate our American stock and teach the laws of hygiene and sanitation at the age when they will be most appreciated.

Dr. Bertha Van Housen, former national president Medical Woman's Club, of Chicago; Dr. Clara Seppel of the medical section, Council of National Defense, and Dr. Violet Palmer Brown, head of the Illinois federation's department of public health, are among the founders of the movement.

Mrs. Elmer Blair, chairman public health department General Federation of Women's Clubs, wires her hearty approval.

Authors Enthusiastic.
No group of leaders of thought seems to have responded more patriotically or vividly than the few authors who were invited to express opinion. They deserve a page. The names include Mrs. Edwin Markham, Agnes Repplier, Mary Roberts Rinehart and others.

BY AGNES REPLIER.
"I am glad to endorse the resolution on federal training. When so many malign influences are at work, we should teach all young Americans the duty they owe to their country, and arouse in them disciplined democratic patriotism that will save them from the supreme selfishness of the present and the demagogue."

BY HELEN A. CLARKE.
"Among great historical movements there is not one of more immediate and far-reaching importance than that inaugurated by the committee on federal training."

"The great good to human society resulting from the war is that the ideal of democracy has been acclaimed by the most progressive nations of the world as the inevitable ideal of an enlightened civilization. But an ideal may be accepted with enthusiasm and exciting scenes and yet remain vaguely defined in the minds of the majority of the people."

WEAK SPOTS THAT FEDERAL TRAINING WOULD CURE

WEAK spots in our national life, mentioned by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president National American Woman Suffrage Association, which the committee representing many women's organizations, declares federal training would remedy or eradicate, are:

ALIEN INFLUENCE.—It requires more than use of the English language to integrate the various peoples into the life and spirit of this nation. The army training camps have proved the greatest centers of Americanization ever known.

PHYSICAL DEFECTIVES.—Thirty to 60 per cent of the drafted men were found physically defective to an extent that hampers their value as breadwinners and citizens. Ninety per cent can be cured. Can any one question the wisdom of curing them in an open air federal training camp?

CRIME AND VICIOUSNESS.—Leading authorities say the health and self-control acquired through federal training under military discipline will reduce crime in the United States fully 50 per cent.

IGNORANCE OF HYGIENE.—The shocking revelations of the prevalence of disease among drafted men and the lack of information regarding the laws of hygiene and sanitation show the need of federal training for all young people.

INEFFECTIVE EDUCATION.—Of the 18,225,743 voters at the last presidential election, about 2,000,000 are said to have been illiterate. Less than 10 per cent of our children attend any school after 14 years of age. Short courses of federal training can serve as the people's colleges and prepare for intelligent citizenship.

VOCATIONAL WASTE.—Federal training should provide some opportunity for vocational guidance which would result in boys and girls finding work suited to their talents.

PERSONAL INEFFICIENCY.—Employers know the high percentage of young workers who will not follow instructions closely and do not appreciate the value of co-operation. Federal training discipline would benefit both employers and the workers.

GROUP SELFISHNESS.—Lines of cleavage forming within our citizenship seem largely to be the result of ignorance and prejudice. Training camps promote a community of interest.

CIVIC DUTIES.—Short courses of federal training should make it possible to inculcate a desire for civic service in all young men and women.