

# Woman's Work in the World

## What Will The Answer Be to This?

Will Women Leave the Jobs They Volunteered to Fill?

DEMobilizing 4,000,000 men is a huge undertaking, but the reconstruction and re-establishing civil life, is a much greater one. Patriotism! That was the flag waving before every true American woman when the men were called from our midst for army duty. Had it not been for the women, industry would have suffered a paralytic stroke from which it might have taken many years to recover. But the women did come forward and they did prove their fitness for the positions left vacant by men. And from the different heads of our governmental machinery comes the glad tidings that the war could not have been won, but by the ceaseless efforts of the women.

But here comes the next question to be decided. The war is over. Our soldiers are rapidly being turned back into civilians which is just as disturbing as it was to take them away, so far as business and industry are concerned.

Let us remember that this is no age for mere dolls whose empty-headedness is supposedly cleverly concealed under temptingly arranged curls and whose extravagant phrases are meant to hide the lack of ideas. Women have proven that they are real flesh and blood beings with intellect and will power. They were forced into this life of production and now that the boys are coming back—are they to be forced out? Or will they, after tasting of the full jug of life, be willing to go back to the lap of leisure without being asked to do so?

The arguments printed on this page—letters from those who see many angles—are intensely interesting because they bring forth the various individual situations. They present not only the patriotic side, but the economic and domestic phases of life during reconstruction.

Miss Elizabeth Wentworth Roberts of Concord, Mass., from the beginning of the European war in 1914 has made it her invariable practice to turn over all the money she has received for her various paintings to the various war relief funds, and now that the war is over she finds that she has in this manner donated more than \$10,000.

The first society actress on the American stage was Mrs. Anna Cora Mowatt, a brilliant author, playwright and actress, the centennial of whose birth will be observed this year.



Miss Pat McCoy in dancing frock and Miss Pat McCoy as traveling saleswoman.

Photos by Rinehart-Steffens

## Pretty Pat McCoy Says Her Job is a Woman's

"It's a Great Old Game if You Don't Weaken," She Says, as She Sighs and Starts on Another Trip

PAT MCCOY! That's what we see on her business card. And the card states that Pat McCoy is special representative for a firm selling plumbing supplies but there isn't the tiniest hint that Pat is a petite, brunette girl of 22 years with laughing brown eyes. Nor does this card mention the fact that Pat is the only girl in the country selling plumbing supplies; nor that she visits the camps and cantonments throughout the territory west of the Mississippi and lands many an order for \$25,000—and up.

Pat McCoy, Jr., and when mother was sending her little Pat to the Sacred Heart convent she had no idea that a few years later this Pat, Jr., would be doing her best to come up to father's expectations of a boy.

The mannish cut of Pat's business suit (pardon, we should say suits for Pat still "loves" clothes) only accentuates her girlishness instead of giving her the air of a severe business woman. This soft hat and buckled vest are not filling "cute little girl in uniform" instead of the strictly tailored woman salesman.

"I meet men just as they meet me. My experience has taught me to sense atmospheres and I can tell the minute I enter an office whether the proprietor's car is working or whether his domestic affairs run smoothly that morning. If he meets me in a snappy, hustling manner, I am just as brisk and have the 'blank line' ready to be signed before he has time to tire of me. If he is in a joking mood I may smile and joke a bit about the weather or the service star I wear for the regiment I sent over—my regiment of sweethearts—or some other light, noncommittal something."

Patricia is it?—Miss Patricia McCoy? Oh, no, no, not at all! She's just plain Pat McCoy, Jr., and when mother was sending her little Pat to the Sacred Heart convent she had no idea that a few years later this Pat, Jr., would be doing her best to come up to father's expectations of a boy.

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"But, Pat, tell us how you got this job selling plumbing supplies," we insisted.

"Same way—same way, I suppose. Only let me tell you this much—the job was the hardest sale I ever made. My firm seemed to think that selling their line was strictly a man's job but I have proven that it is a woman's," she laughed. "My sales are larger than most of the men's who were selling plumbing supplies when I was born."

And Pat, in her pleasant, smiling way convinces you that what she says is true. She also convinces you that she is all woman, tender hearted and all those things which are supposed to be perquisites of the fair sex.

Is Pat hardened to the bitter old world? Not a bit of it. Why, there is a tear right back of every smile if you speak harshly to her. The great blessing is that nobody wishes to speak harshly to Pat, whose manner is always pleasant, courteous and whose personality is like a spring breeze wafted over the last dull drab of winter. She is always welcome in every office.

Miss McCoy has proven to her firm that she is not a "first order man" because her business has increased on every trip. Many of her customers wait for her and have large orders ready when she reaches their city.

"Now that you are out in the business world like a regular man, what do you think of this momentous question of women taking men's jobs?" we asked.

## Battle Ground of Public Opinion

A Man's Opinion.

"And the Lord God said: 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a help meet for him.'"

Thus it was in the beginning. Every story of the creation, in whatever tongue it may be told, starts with a man and a woman. Heaven and earth alike were peopled thus from the primeval pair. It is not a wonder, at all, but the recognition of the simplest and grandest fact in nature. The oldest symbol known to man, the cross, emblematic of this combination of creative and productive functions, and in itself originally was a sign of life. Surrounded by a circle—the symbol of Poseidon—it stands for life eternal.

It is an illuminating fact, also, that man's first assertion of property rights was in the woman who administered to his comfort; his nest in the pot in which he cooked his food. This glimmering ray of dawn light may mean something in connection with the "war of sexes" now being debated if not actually waged.

Woman has had her share in war always from the dear old days when she followed her lord into battle for the cheerful task of cutting up the remains, down until now, when she took up the work the men laid down and kept machinery moving that the business of war might not be checked for want of material to work with or on. In the days of the civil war woman was thrust into various occupations that had been closed to her. She was installed in store and office, and other places from which she has never been ousted. She also made some headway in various mechanic trades, but gradually receded from many of them, although in the textile, shoe-making, garment making and similar industries, she not only held her own, but made headway as the business grew. In Europe she had long been accustomed to work in shop and mine, in field and factory. In the "black district" of England woman at the forges hammered out chains at a pitiful pay, while in Belgium's collieries, they tugged at loads that would have discouraged a donkey. In Germany, in France, in Russia, even in "Sunny It," the woman knew the burden of toil, slavery and brutal.

Therefore, woman is far from being a novelty in the industrial or commercial field, nor has the war widened especially the scope of her employment. It has bettered her economic condition, however, because she forced her wages up to a higher level. In this connection it may be well to record that organized labor has not objected to woman in industry on account of her sex, but only because she was a menace to wages. Once, in the early years of the 19th century, a parliamentary inquiry brought out that in great factory districts women were employed in the mills while the men were doing the housework and caring for the children, because wages were so low men would not work for the prices paid. Labor unions have insisted steadfastly for equality between the sexes so far as wages go—equal pay for equal work being the rule.

Woman will not go back to where she was in 1914. No earthly power could put her back. Her presence in the industrial and commercial life of the world will continue, subject to the restrictions that always have and always will affect her. Soon or late she will feel the impulse of nature, and turn to the function to perform which she was brought into existence. In good time, the economic balance will be established, just as it has been, and the competition between the man and the woman for the job will be no more acrimonious than in the past.

The immediate question, whether the woman should give back to the man the job he held before he put on the uniform has but one answer in good morals and sound ethics. In all fairness and justice to herself, she should turn over to him the place that was his when he was called on for sterner duty. The splendid relation of genuine comradeship and true helpfulness should not be embittered by a post-bellum wrangle over employment in a world where there will be work enough for everybody who can work.

A COLONEL.

The Children's Call.

Woman has stepped into her own. Old shackles have been broken by the force of the world's war, and women steps forth free from bondage and slavery.

The women who so nobly worked to help free the world no longer sit idly by while men rule the world. Now she may take her rightful place with men. There is no avenue of business or commerce which does not lie open to her.

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She will assume her new place and her new responsibilities with the same clear intellect and ability with which she accepted the millions of war jobs in which she acquitted herself with so much glory.

Glorious womanhood! It was yours to give your sons to fight for world peace, and it was yours to help those boys to a final victory. Now it is yours to accept your partnership in the affairs of the world to keep the world safe for honor, liberty and justice.

No one will deny that women are needed in the business world today. Duty calls them. In every today

walks a tomorrow, and the children of tomorrow are whispering for women to continue to help the world. Reforms begin in the business world. Women are helpless to aid affairs if they sit idly at home. Homes are ruled by laws and dominated by customs made in the business world and women must influence business life before laws for the home and the family can be reformed.

Men have learned that women are their equals and already listen when women speak. The scepter of power has been given to woman. She may teach men to "temper justice with mercy" and to put into practice all of the divine teachings of Christianity.

Women will not abandon the opportunity which has been won for her by bloodshed and suffering. She will not step back quietly into the seclusion of home life without making use of the privileges which are hers; she will speak and the world will listen; she will act and the world will be changed. We are facing a real democracy and the queen of the new order of things is free womanhood unshackled by the bonds which formerly kept her away from the business and affairs of the world.—By M. A. G.

A Young Wife.

Why this widespread condemnation of the married woman who retains her job now that her husband has been discharged from the service?

The same patriotic spirit which prompted women to take the places of their husbands in industry should induce them to give up their jobs now that the war is over, those in charge of employment bureaus say.

Why doesn't some one try to help young married couples solve their problems instead of narrowly branding the woman as "unpatriotic"?

Do you want to know why she doesn't give up her job? Quite simply—she can't afford to. Economic necessity is greater than patriotism. The crave of food is more urgent than the love for flag.

Rent, the price of food, clothing, in fact the whole cost of living has advanced since the men were called to the colors. Doctors and dentists' bills, insurance, Liberty bonds, war drives and countless other demands have piled themselves up. Thirty dollars (a soldier's pay) a month didn't leave much to save—and there wouldn't be much left of a man's first month's salary after he was discharged, if he had to buy a suit of civilian clothes. Then there is the extra expense of reopening a home, express charges, gas, water and electric light deposit funds, etc.

No wonder the wife has to keep her job. Something drastic will have to be done—either in increasing

the pay or reducing the cost of living before the average paid office employe can afford to establish his home again in the before-the-war manner or his wife can be released from her involuntary and unnatural place in industry.

A WIFE.

Service to Humanity! Shucks! I just read your article in last Sunday's paper about our society "war work ladies." I don't know any good they did. They only dolled themselves up in beautiful uniforms and made a grand show of themselves here in Omaha during the war. Some of them even had to give themselves "commitments" and wear bars denoting their "rank" on the shoulders of their \$150 uniforms.

These poor society women probably never earned a dollar in their life, and don't know any harder work than sitting in their Pa-kard cabs and driving about town. Some of them were so patriotic that they discharged one of their chauffeurs and drove their car themselves some times after having purchased an ex-

pensive uniform and shoes and leggings and hats and everything to match! Some patriots! Some self-denial!

But, of course, the society women wanted to get in the swim. So they grabbed all these show-off jobs and dolled themselves up in uniforms and, judging by the way they acted, you'd have thought they were winning the war all by themselves.

What they ought to have been doing was stay at home and make fudge—or more likely get the hired girl to make it, because I don't think most of them even know how to do that much cooking.

Service to humanity! Shucks! Humanity would have been a lot better off if these impractical, inefficient women had kept their hands out of affairs that required practical, economical, wise, commonsense management.

The women that ought to have the credit are the common workers in the Red Cross workshops and the canteens and many other places, doing an honest day's work in an efficient manner and without any social

glory or any \$150 uniforms or any shoulder bars. There were such women in Omaha by the thousands and they did the work in spite of being hampered by those would-be leaders who set themselves up above those who were really capable.

Give the glory to the women in the "rank and file" who did the real work and practiced real self-denial.

A BEE READER.

Babies or Bonds?

Women can make good in the business world—they have demonstrated that without a doubt. Their work during the awful chaos of war has been both wonderful and marvelous. But although war forced them to step down to the lower plane of commercial life for awhile, every true man and woman knows that their place is something infinitely higher and nobler—the home.

Some women have wrong ideas and assume a false attitude in these days of war work. They have learned that they can do man's work and are inclined to insist that they be

accepted on an equal footing with men. They are forgetting that they have always been honored as better than men. Women have always typified the holy virtues—purity, charity, faith and hope. Is it not absurd then for women to clamor to be made the equal of men? Women who have always been men's superiors must not be so ready to relinquish their places of honor.

No real home is a place of frugality. The ideals of home which are the keys entrusted to women make home a sanctified place and, although there is often "work and a plenty" to do there, the work is a labor of love absolutely free from the atmosphere of commercial life where the employer's rules are obeyed and the pay is a pay check instead of the worthier things, love and affection.

When all is said and done, no one can deny that business life too often rubs off the bluish from a woman's cheek and leaves in its place a touch of rouge. That typifies the whole change which commercialism brings to its followers of the fair

sex. Contact with sordid business problems, and crafty competition gradually dull the fine sensibilities of women just as surely as soot besmirches snow. Sometimes the change is gradual, but a few years will see a man get it away from me. Why, my expense account is a great deal less than the man's. I have no entertaining to do, no drinks to buy, no cigars nothing but my actual expenses. When my day's work is over I go to my hotel and rest or write letters or do any other thing I choose which means nothing in the way of expense to my firm.

These statements were all true and her argument for women and against big expense accounts were sound. Then instead of wondering why Pat was selling plumbing supplies we began to wonder why many women were not selling them. And we were glad to learn that most all men were friendly and few of them "fresh" from a girl who knows.

As we wished her good luck on her trip, when she left for the sunny south, she smiled, through a serious mood and said: "It's a great old game if you don't weaken."

A BRIDE TO BE.