

The woman's party campaign for equal rights. (Reprinted from the Christian Science monitor—September 18, 1922).

THE WOMAN'S PARTY CAMPAIGN FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

(Reprinted from the Christian Science Monitor—September 18, 1922)

IT IS salutary occasionally to take account of civilization's progress in one's own country, although the review may not always be particularly stimulating to national pride. Indeed, it is rather a check to one's sense of liberty to be reminded, for example, that it is still possible in the United States of America for fathers, if they elect, to will away children from the mothers; that a married woman's services and her earnings belong to her husband; that married women are classed with children and the insane, as unable to contract on their own responsibility; and that a married woman may not choose her legal residence for voting or taxation, or say of whom the family circle shall consist. Yet, in every state but one, there remain on the statute books some such discriminative shadows of the chattel slavery days. That these laws have fallen into disuse does not excuse their continuance.

ONLY the artless, indeed, could have imagined that the ratification of the National Suffrage Amendment to the Federal Constitution, in 1920, brought to women an equality with men under the law. The better informed recognized in this amendment but one step in the evolution toward that goal. As a matter of fact, American women are yet face to face with many legal discriminations, just as were the English women at the end of their suffrage campaign; and in every state but one their citizenship is lame.

IT IS now more than a year since the Equal Rights Bill was passed in Wisconsin, giving to women equal rights with men in every respect. There has been sufficient time and opportunity to observe the effect of the law in actual operation. It is significant that, while general satisfaction with the law is felt throughout the state, there has been no intimation from any quarter that it has had the effect of nullifying any special legislation enacted in the interests of women workers. This fact need not be surprising, when it is considered that such protective laws are not enacted exclusively for the benefit of women workers, but for the good of mankind; and as such they will doubtless persist.

THE Woman's Party, to whose efforts the successful passage of the Wisconsin Woman's Rights Bill was largely due, has launched a campaign with the aim of removing all legal discriminations against women. In order to secure the necessary basis of information, a committee of ten women lawyers has for some time been making an extensive study of all national and state laws bearing upon the status of women. It is the expectation that this work will be completed by the time Congress opens in

December, so that there may be in hand the needed information for the drafting of legislation to be introduced in Congress and also in the state legislatures when they convene.

WITH the commendable example of Wisconsin before them, it would seem as if the other states might well urge the passage of "blanket bills," according to the requirements of their various constitutions, in order that this unevasive question of equal rights for all citizens may be settled once and for all. The Woman's Party is doing its part in rousing a countrywide interest in the equal rights question. The information concerning the discriminative laws in the various states which it is issuing in pamphlet form should be of interest to everyone who has at heart the securing for the women of the whole nation of the rights that have been won in Wisconsin.

MORE of the educational processes by which women and men are acquainted with the existing discriminative laws may rouse them to insist that no antiquated statutes shall be allowed to linger. When women more universally refuse longer to "think inferiority," and when they prepare themselves to take an equal part in affairs, they will help more thoroughly to eliminate the so-called "inferiority complex" which still seems to trail through some legislative opinions concerning the position of women. Anne Martin, recently writing in *The Woman Citizen*, wisely declares that our institutions "will be humanized when women as legislators re-make laws, as lawyers interpret them, as judges apply them, as jurors render verdicts." Since equality means half-part activity, it is obvious that women have before them the inevitable task of demonstrating, through preparation and participation, just as have also the men, the simple and fundamental truth of equality. Then only will end the ancient and ludicrous superstition concerning the inferiority of women.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

President, Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, N. Y.

Vice-President, Alice Paul, N. J.

Chairman, National Council, Elsie Hill, Conn.

First Vice-Chairman, Gail Laughlin, Calif.

Second Vice-Chairman, Dr. Gillette Hayden, Ohio

Third Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Agnes Morey, Mass.

Secretary, Anita Pollitzer, S. C.

Treasurer, Edith Ainge, N. Y.

Advisory Council Chairman, Mrs. John Rogers, N. Y.

Legislative Chairman, Maud Younger, Calif.

Join the Woman's Party

Work with Women for Women

Help to Win for All Women:

Equal control of their children

Equal control of their property

Equal control of their earnings

Equal right to make contracts

Equal citizenship rights

Equal inheritance rights

Equal control of national, state and local government

Equal opportunities in schools and universities

Equal opportunities in government service

Equal opportunities in professions and industries

Equal pay for equal work

Equal authority in the church

Equal rights after marriage to their own identity

Equal moral standard

In Short—Equal rights with men in all laws and customs

SIGN THE MEMBERSHIP BLANK BELOW AND SEND WITH YOUR DUES TO THE

National Woman's Party Headquarters**Capitol Hill, Washington, D. C.**

Annual Dues \$10.00, to be shared equally between State and National Headquarters.

Special Classes of Membership *Campaign Membership*: \$1.00, to be shared equally between State and National Headquarters.

Founders: \$90.00, in addition to annual dues of \$10.00, payable to National Headquarters.

Life Membership: \$1,000.00, no further dues, payable to National Headquarters.

I enroll as a member, enclosing dues.

Name Address

This leaflet may be obtained from Woman's Party Headquarters, Capitol Hill, Washington, D. C., for 3 cents a copy and \$3.00 per hundred copies.

4

208-34c