

"Ma" Ferguson and Woman's Place

The Governor-Elect of Texas Reveals the New Woman's Interest in the Bonding of Public Officials

SINCE it is no longer possible for even the most reactionary male to declare that woman's place is in the home, and nowhere else, it is interesting to conjecture just what woman can offer to the public life of the present and future that has made her so indispensable in the home.

An interview with Mrs. Miriam A. Ferguson is enlightening on some of the details of what women can do and are doing as servants of the people.

"The qualities that women have exercised for ages in the management of their homes, their families and their religious and social life, they are now called upon to exercise to a greater extent than ever before in the interest of the country," states "Ma" Ferguson.

"And from what I have seen of the women in public life today, they are usually able to arrive at a pretty direct and rational conclusion on all matters that concern the people we serve, who, because of their dependence on us and their faith in us, we are prone to look upon as our family—even as our children."

Among the many problems deeply concerning the national welfare at this moment, which is receiving the attention of women in public life, is that of bonding the newly elected officer holder. Some enlightening incidents of specific cases where calamity has resulted from the old method of bonding were cited when the Honorable Mrs. Ferguson was interviewed by a representative of the Fidelity and Deposit Company, of Baltimore—an institution organized for the purpose of furnishing surety for individuals holding offices of financial responsibility.

"There is the case of the State or County Treasurer who is re-



"MA" FERGUSON

quired by law to furnish a bond before taking the oath of office, the newly elected officer himself deciding whether he shall give Personal or Corporate Surety. We are all familiar with some of the disasters resulting from the former method, but none of us is familiar with all the many calamities due to this ineffectual and slipshod way of offering security to one's government and community. I believe if our people were enlightened upon the subject, they would no longer tolerate the old method of bonding, but would require every office holder to procure a solid corporate bond from a surety company."

In Tennessee, recently, there arose a unique situation resulting from personal suretyship. A county trustee in office for 25 years, operating under a bond signed by personal friends, suddenly committed suicide, upon learning that the county was putting auditors to

work on his books. The reason for this was evident when the result of the auditing revealed a shortage of about \$30,000. Inasmuch as half the friends who signed the trustee's bond were now office holders of the same county, it devolved upon them, as officials, to sue themselves as individuals for recovery according to the bond.

Instances of tragedy resulting from the signing of personal bonds are many. In Connecticut, an old man, a veteran of the Civil War, was induced to sign the bond of a Tax Collector. When, eventually, the books showed a deficit in excess of the bond, the old soldier gave every cent he had to cover the loss and ended his days in a home for Old Soldiers.

A Congressman from Arkansas, speaking on this subject of paramount importance just now, concurs with Mrs. Ferguson on the subject of suretyship. He states that while he was Assistant State Treasurer of Arkansas he had in his custody \$3,000,000 to which he and the State Treasurer had access at all times, and that while the State Treasurer was under a bond of \$600,000, it was only a personal bond and was not worth over 10 cents on the dollar, while he, the Assistant State Treasurer, was not required to give a bond. And the salaries paid to these officials offered them a bare living!

"Every voter, every taxpayer, and every public spirited man and woman should be familiar with this state of affairs," concludes the Governor-elect. "It is one of the live subjects to which the public spirited woman is directing her attention today. For she is interested in anything that will increase the morale of the nation, just as she has always been interested in elevating the morale of her home."

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Odd Fellows To Build Temple At Claypool

Claypool, Ind., Jan. 6.—Odd Fellows of Claypool have completed plans for the erection of an Odd Fellows temple here.

The structure will be a two-story modern brick building with two bus-

iness rooms on the ground floor and lodge rooms and club rooms on the second floor. Work will be started early next spring.

Social Side Of Life Will Be Discussed

Lafayette, Ind., Jan. 6.—The cooking of food, care of children and the various features of the social side of life will be the chief topics discussed at the home economics section of the Agricultural conference to be held at Purdue University, January 12 to 16, it was announced today.

According to the announcement every woman who attend will feel, she is better able to devote herself to the welfare of her family and also her outside activities.

While the home economics program is highly specialized, it has been so arranged that women who care to

can attend the general sessions, which will be devoted to the more general topics of the conference.

Among the topics at the general sessions will be "The Indiana Farm Bureau," "What the Community Owe to the Child," and "Building an Agricultural Community."

Among the topics at the home economics section of the conference will be "Planning Meals for Children,"

"The Use of Honey in Cookery," and "When Shall We Buy Ready-Mades?"

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Doctors Want Profession Regulated More Closely

Indianapolis, Jan. 6.—The Indiana Medical Association is planning to introduce a bill in the legislature to make the present laws pertaining to practice of medicine in the state more stringent. Dr. Frank W. Cregor, chairman of the legislative committee of the association, announced today.

He said the bill would amend the law to give courts authority to enjoin any person without qualifications as stipulated under the present law from treating the sick.

The amendment would provide that an injunction may be obtained by the attorney general or the state medical registration board.

The bill, as similar ones introduced in past legislative sessions, is aimed at chiropractors, podiatrists, and others who seek treatment of illness without passing the state examination as provided under the law. Dr. Cregor declared the present law barred any such practitioners, but had no enforcement clause. He also declared the medical association would oppose formation of any medical boards other than present state boards such as asked by the chiropractors and podiatrists at former sessions. He said the present law permits the Governor to appoint any healer besides a physician to the board providing that the appointees can pass the state examination.

With reference to the statement that Christian Science healers or practitioners would seek a state board, Dr. Cregor said:

"The medical profession believes in prayers for the sick as much as anybody, but the medical profession does not believe in commercializing prayer. If any practitioner knows enough about the human body to pass the state's examination there would be no objection to practicing."

He cited cases where medical licenses had been revoked because of certain moral disqualifications, but that the physician had continued practice in the state under another name than a physician or surgeon. He declared the present law could not disbar this person in the state.

Attendance Law Improves Citizenship In Indiana

Indianapolis, Jan. 6.—"We now have an eighth grade citizenship instead of a fourth grade citizenship as a result of the 1921 attendance law in Indiana during the past three years," said Dr. Henry Noble Sherwood, new State Superintendent of Public Instruction in reviewing the annual report made by Miss Blanche Merry, State Attendance Officer.

Heretofore, the children of Indiana have stopped school on average at the conclusion of the fourth grade; nor they do not stop until they have completed the eighth grade, figures show. "This clearly indicates that

our citizenship has been raised from the fourth to the eighth grade," Dr. Sherwood says.

"Statistics for the past five years show that there has been a steady increase in the percentage of school enrollment until in 1923-24, 98.4 per cent of all the children in Indiana were enrolled in our schools and along with this increase in enrollment there has been a noticed reduction in the amount of irregular attendance of those enrolled," the State Superintendent said.

Other results of the 1921 attendance law as outlined by Dr. Sherwood in an interview were: a better class of local attendance officers of the state; a more accurate checking on all the children of the state has been made; truancy in rural districts is passing away; the school officials are engaged in a reorganization of the systems to meet the needs of all the children; and Indiana is being freed from illiteracy.

Dr. Sherwood is opposed to the consolidation of the attendance department with the probation department because, he says, "Attendance is fundamentally a part of school organization and deals with the legitimate right of every child to have educational training. Probation is specifically specifically concerned with crime and criminals. Children are not criminals and should not be allied with the agency of the courts such as the probation officer."

"The work of Miss Merry during the past year deserves much commendation. Few persons realize the problems she has faced in enforcing the attendance law but in spite of these perplexing situations, she has succeeded in securing an almost one hundred percent school attendance," the State Superintendent said. He also praised the local attendance officers of the state for the splendid co-operation given the state office.

State Utility Association To Hold Meeting Jan. 22

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 6.—(United Press)—The fifth annual meeting of the Indiana Public Utility association, comprising executives of the gas, electric, traction, telephone and water companies of the state will be held in Indianapolis Thursday, January 22, according to announcement today by Charles L. Henry, President of the Association.

In connection with this session will be the annual meeting of the Indiana Sanitary and Water Supply Association. The two organizations will hold joint sessions at noon and in the afternoon, and will join in a big annual banquet in the evening.

Officers of the Public Utility Association besides Mr. Henry are, S. E. Mulholland, of Fort Wayne, and F. J. Haas, of Evansville, vice-president; Marshal V. Kobb, of Clinton, secretary; and Frank C. Jordan, of Indianapolis, treasurer. Approximately 500 men are expected to attend the meeting.

Wanted Repair Department But Got Fire Department

Fort Wayne, Jan. 6.—Samuel Lewis is wanted the repair department of the telephone company. Operator thought he said "fire department." "What number did you say?" asked the fire alarm operator. "2022 N. Clinton St." answered Lewis.

And away dashed the fire trucks. A second later and the mistake was realized, but the firemen were on their way then.

Tong War Flares Up Again In New York

New York, Jan. 6.—The tong war believed at an end after police warnings that unless peace were kept, tong men would be deported, flared up anew with the slaying of Chin Sing, a member of the Hig Sing Long, in a crowded Chinese restaurant. His assailant escaped.

The victim was a member of the powerful Chin family of Canton. He was the twentieth death that can be traced to the renewal of the murder orgy of the tongs.

Police today examined a score of Chinese, including many who were in the restaurant where Chin was shot. Detectives have scattered throughout Chinatown in an effort to prevent renewal of hostilities.

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