

Citizens' League Bulletin

FOR BETTER CIVIC CONDITIONS

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SHOULD SERVICE ON JURIES BE EXTENDED TO WOMEN?

Women's clubs are not all agreed on the subject of jury service by women. The accompanying article by Mrs. Mary Miller is in favor of women serving on juries. Mrs. Miller is a business woman and prominent member of the Woman's Chamber of Commerce of Kansas City.

There is no aristocracy save the aristocracy of intellect. Intelligence is a democratic thing, so far as the sexes are concerned, and men and women are found with hands clasped, smiling into each others faces, and ready to bear one another's burdens in all fields of human endeavor for the social, political and economic good—and, making a living.

Woman has taken her place by the side of man in business, in many of the professions and in the performance of civic duties. Perhaps the last stand of well meaning conservatism, the last speech upon the subject of the otherstuffness of women is: "Shall she serve upon juries?"

I confess to a revulsion of feeling as I contemplate the sin, sickness and death which make up the substance of trial court proceedings. I know that the argument of men against the innovation is that women should not be thrust into gross and brutal recitals and thus coarsen her fibre and lower her ideals. Then I remember that most of the thoughts and acts of men between cradle and grave are shared very intimately by women, and then I take hold of the general text and conclude that woman's part as civic burden bearer demands her place 50-50 with men upon these disagreeable boards of judgment.

But this need not be mere speculation. England has testimony from the experience of judges and feminine jurors. Wild Laramie, Wyoming, had to be freed from bad men and a few women jurors did the business and their record is available. Ohio has its evidence written in court records everlastingly complimentary to the judgment of women in the capacity of jurors.

"The caliber of the jury in this state has been enhanced greatly by the presence of women on the jury. They are both more intelligent and more conscientious than the men jurors whom we had before the enfranchisement of women."—A distinguished lawyer of Ohio.

MRS. MARY M. MILLER

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Judge Florence Allen, of Ohio, says: "For my own part, I think that in the last fifty years nothing is so advantageous to the administration of justice as the use of women on juries."

Annette Abbott Adams, first women assistant attorney general of the United States deposes, "I believe that in practically every kind of case tried to a jury, civil and criminal, a woman may serve together with men, to the furtherance of substantial justice."

As to the indecency of so much of the evidence, Bernard Shaw calls attention to the fact that we never question for a moment the presence of woman in hospital or sanatorium. And I agree with the great Irish essayist that facts of one place some times are close kin to facts of the other.

A woman juror testifies, "If, as a large part of the world contends, chivalry is declining because women are assuming this new role, no one can deny that women are receiving more practical respect and admiration from men than ever before." And she goes on, "too many men of intelligence, business men, slip out of jury duty and the consequent mean character of our juries is too well known to need comment. Women should set the example by accepting the whole responsibility of citizenship. Women take duty seriously—maybe their lives are taken more seriously. And married women are better jurors than single women; their judgments are broader, wiser, less set in moral judgment. In outlaw communities women are the only solid reliable citizens."

Another woman juror says, "I went in, antagonistic, resentful] obstinate; I came out with a sense of responsibility of citizenship and the joy of broadening the vision of life."
—MARY M. MILLER.

AN ARCHITECT DEFENDS THE SKYSCRAPER

"Skyscraper or no skyscraper, the automobile (congestion) situation would be the same," writes H. W. Corbett, a New York architect] in the National Municipal Review. "Where the buildings are the highest and the streets narrowest, there is actually less congestion than along the shopping and residential streets.

"Let us take an individual example to show how a skyscraper may actually reduce street congestion. At the present moment we are erecting in a small city in Pennsylvania a 22-story skyscraper. There is hardly another building in the town over four stories. This structure is being erected for an enormous concern—the Pennsylvania Light and Power Co.—and their employees at the present time are scattered throughout the town in twelve or fifteen buildings.

"The employees come to business in motors and park them in the streets. To get from one building to another, they use their cars. But] when the new building is complete, and all departments are under one roof, they will keep off the streets all day. Waste motion is eliminated, greater efficiency is insured, and traffic greatly simplified.

"The real criminals are the automobiles and the careless drivers. A man walking in the streets occupies only about ten square feet of] surface. An automobile going 15 or 20 miles an hour takes up three or four hundred feet of surface. Divide the area of the streets by the number of automobiles and you have the answer."

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MISTAKEN LIBERTY

For any of our inhabitants to observe such parts of the Constitution as they like while disregarding others, is a doctrine that would break down all protection of life and property and destroy the American system of ordered liberty.

—PRESIDENT COOLIDGE.

AGAINST CRIME BILLS

During the last two years the Missouri Association for Criminal Justice has made a careful survey of crime conditions and has recommended legislation designed to reduce crime in this state. The work of the Association is commended in the platform of both political parties and without doubt has the approval of the great majority of the people.

Yet there is a surprising amount of opposition in the legislature to the bills designed to curb crime in Missouri. More than one-half our state senators are lawyers. The proportion of lawyers is not so great in the house but the lawyers are influential. Can it be that some lawyers are opposing the crime bills to retain loopholes for their crooked clients? New York City has a 5 cent street car fare and the tax payers make up the huge operating deficit.

SALT LAKE SMOKE VICTORY

Salt Lake City, because of its location in a basin has suffered peculiarly from the smoke nuisance. A campaign conducted by the civic authorities has reduced the production of smoke in the industrial and business districts by 95% in the past five years. The number of hours during which light or dense smoke conditions existed was reduced 33% and 63% respectively. The business district, formerly the center of the smoke cloud, became the clearest part of the city.

An observer atop a skyscraper watched for smoke during the day and telephone the plants which were violating the smoke regulations. A searchlight was used to locate offenders in the early morning. Smoke inspectors visited boiler rooms and instructed firemen in correct firing methods and a campaign of education was carried on for the residence districts.

A questionnaire sent to plants where equipment had been altered to reduce smoke production brought out the fact that a substantial saving in fuel costs had been effected at the same time. This looks like good business. A New York architect proposes to solve the transit problem for that city by airway lines. He would provide a system of towers, or use high buildings, and connect them with suspended airways upon which aerial cars would run with safety and at great speed. Kansas City is making a bad start on its motor death record for 1927. Nearly twice as many people have been killed as in the corresponding period in 1926. Last year in New York City 950 persons lost their lives in motor car accidents.

NULLIFICATION: 1832, 1927

In opposition to a tariff law passed by congress, the legislature of South Carolina, in 1832, passed the famous "Nullification Act," which declared the tariff law null and void; and should the federal government attempt to collect the duties, the state would secede from the Union.

But Andrew Jackson was in the White House. He sent troops to South Carolina and enforced the federal laws. In the meantime, congress modified the tariff act and the Southerners were temporarily appeased. Later, the civil war established the principle that national authority is above that of the state and that it is the duty of every national and state official to "support and defend the constitution and laws of the United States."

The constitution and laws of the United States now require the prohibition of the liquor traffic. The 18th amendment makes it the duty of the states to co-operate in its enforcement. The governments of two states, New York and Maryland, are deliberately withholding their support of prohibition and are thus lending their influence to nullify the authority of the federal government.

The question of prohibition, important as it is, is insignificant compared with the vital necessity of maintaining the authority of the federal government. It is the right of citizens or states to advocate changes in the constitution, but when it is established that citizens or states may obey the laws that please them and ignore the ones they do not like, the doom of our form of government is pronounced.

As in the time of Jackson, it is incumbent on the president of the United States, our chief executive officer, to make the federal enforcement agencies effective using whatever military and naval forces are necessary to maintain the unquestioned authority of the United States government.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCES

The bonded indebtedness of our school district is \$18,371,500.

The total expenditures of the board of education for the year ending June 30, 1926, were \$11,812,272.64; this includes the purchase of over \$1,200,000 sinking fund bonds.

Our school district owns bonds of other districts and of municipalities to the amount of \$4,352,400. These bonds were purchased with sinking fund money and often bear a higher rate of interest than our outstanding bonds. The bonds owned by the district will be used in paying the bonds the district owes as they become due.

The Junior College cost \$190.54 per pupil; the Teachers' College, \$188.16; High Schools, \$137.81; Junior High Schools, \$104.87; Elementary, \$84.19.

In round numbers the cost of our] public schools exceed ten million dollars. A less extensive building program will doubtless reduce the total expense for the present year.

On Cecil Rhodes tombstone in South Africa are these words: "So much to do; so little done." Evidently Cecil Rhodes did not play bridge.

Membership in the League is \$1.00 per year, which includes the subscription price of the weekly Bulletin. As dollar memberships do not meet the League's expenses, larger payments are desired. Group subscriptions to Associate Member Clubs, twenty-five cents. Check below the amount of your remittance and send to the Citizen's League 510-511 Ridge Building, Kansas City, Mo.

\$1 \$3 \$5 \$10 Date 1927

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