1924

Homemaker as Citizen

Alice Salomon

Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker

Part of the Home Economics Commons

Recommended Citation
Salomon, Alice (1924) "Homemaker as Citizen," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 4 : No. 3 , Article 11.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol4/iss3/11

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
Homemaker as Citizen
By DR. ALICE SALOMON

We may consider ourselves fortunate that so many women as Dr. Alice Salomon visited the Iowa State campus this spring and consented, through her friendship for Mrs. Edward Allen and his interest in our college, to give our citizenship readers a glimpse of what women of another country are doing along the lines which our citizenship page is devoted.

Dr. Salomon has been called the "Jane Addams of Germany. She is at the head of a school for social education, which trains women of the better class in the science of social welfare work."

In a Way German women are more emancipated than the women of other countries. Not only that every female being from the age of twenty has a right to vote—the number of women in the Reichstag equalizes the representation of women in other parliamentary bodies, as it amounts to thirty-six in the present moment.

These women—members of the Reichstag of the Reichstag, have gone thru some sort of training or preliminary experience in public work before they were elected. A good many come from the ranks of teachers—others, as most of the socialistists, have formerly done organizing work for trade-unions or for their party. Hardly any of them went directly from the sphere of home and family-life into politics; the half of the women-deputies are married women, wives and mothers. The sphere of their interest has not been limited to questions of special importance for women. They have taken active part in discussions on taxes, on foreign politics, industrial questions—but their main initiative was felt in all questions concerning women's rights, education and social work.

As far as women's rights are concerned, we have been placed in the pleasant position to depart from the recognized principle of equal rights for men and women, as laid down in the Constitution of the Republic. This made it comparatively easy to get admission to the stock exchange, to get the legal profession opened and to bring about an act admitting women as jurors and magistrates. Of course no such bill passed without some opposition. For instance, when the women-juror's bill was introduced by the Nativism, it suggested that the Assembly has only scope to express principles of a general political character as during the last two years, when a number of bills were introduced by the government, it suggested that the court of chancery may make divergent decisions if this seems desirable, in the interest of the children or whenever the parental actions were taken for another arrangement. These motions have already been considered and a bill will be prepared before long, but it will probably not be easy to come to an understanding with the representatives of the Catholic church, who are on principle opposed to all facilities regarding divorce.

The drafting of this bill was one of the matters of an other country are doing along the lines which our citizenship page is devoted.

It is entirely and exclusively due to the personal influence of women at the head of a school for social education, which trains women of the better class in the science of social welfare work.
Homemaker As Citizen
(Continued from page 8)

sively due to the women members, and it is from them that reforms are to be expected.

Amongst the problems which have already been settled in the interest of women and with their support is the maternity-benefit-act, which grants an allowance to all working women and all women of small means for ten weeks at the time of confinement, and of another grant for a period of twelve weeks in case they nurse their child.

Equality of Women Officials

With great emphasis the women members protested against the tendency to dismiss for reasons of economy women state officials, especially in the post office. They are of opinion that no difference should be made between the sexes in this respect, as women depend upon their earnings just as much as men.

Another matter bearing on the position of women officials has been discussed various times, but it did not unite women from all parties in the same attitude. It concerned the question if illegitimate motherhood should be considered a reason for dismissal of women officials. In spite of the opposition of some of the associations of women post-officials and women teachers it was decided, that the fact should not be considered a sufficient reason for disciplinary dismissals. This is due to the passionate attitude of the socialist-women and of those who stand up for perfect equality of both sexes and who are convinced that a man has never been and will never be dismissed on account of being father to an illegitimate child.

No settlement has been attained up till now regarding the nationality of married women; here again the women members have been very active. They claim that German women who are married to foreigners may decide whether they wish to retain their nationality or whether they would rather acquire their husband's nationality.

It need hardly be mentioned that women have taken part in all sorts of parliamentary work, dealt with all questions and that they gave their special interest to all matters of social work and social politics. Their main work has of course been achieved within the parliamentary committees, as is equally the case with men. There the real work is done, and their opinion was always accepted with much consideration. In fact, all parties have rather a tendency to push their women to the front and to show them off, and women are so much at home in Parliament, that it seems strange and queer to German people to hear foreigners express the wish to see women sitting in the Reichstag.

Has women's political work made life better and easier and has it made them happier? Certainly German women have realized that suffrage is not so much a right as a responsibility, that for them it means to share in a new sense the burdens, the distress and anxiety, which the German nation has to endure. Yet, in spite of everything, life is better in one way, at least for all who believe in democracy and who have social ideals.

THE IOWA HOMEMAKER

A Magazine for Homemakers from a Homemakers School

No information printed that does not have the stamp of approval from persons experienced in that particular line.

If you can say "It Came from the Homemaker" both you and your friends know it is the latest and best in homemaking news.

Show this copy to your friends, and have them fill in the slip below for their subscription.

The Iowa Homemaker, Ames, Iowa.

Please enter my subscription to your publication for Three years, $3.50; Two years, $2.50; One year, $1.50.

Name................................................. Route or Street...........................................

City.................................................. State..................................................

JUDISCH BROS.
Drug Store