

### Says Business Gives Women Square Deal

Does American business give women a square deal? It does, says Mary Dillon, president of the Brooklyn Borough Gas company, who is the first woman in this country to head a big public utility corporation.

She began her career at the age of 15, when she got a job filling inkwells, sharpening pencils and making herself generally useful around the office of the gas company. In three years she was office manager. Eighteen years later she had risen to be vice-president and general manager. Another year, and she was president of the company.

In an interview with the American Magazine, she declares that big business has today got over its prejudices against women. "The girl worker," she says, "gets a square deal—except that she must work harder than a man to reach the top."

As a pioneer in an industry which at her entry was practically closed to women, Miss Dillon says she has felt keenly her responsibility to her sex. "Today, in my company," she explains, "there is no discrimination against women as such: offices depend entirely on efficiency. Even in the manufacturing end of the business I see no bar to women workers. I myself am familiar with the gas plant, and I have insisted that it shall be as neat and attractive as possible. Its sunlight-yellow painted walls and clean floors and its meticulous order are obviously a woman's planning. And a garden lies at its base.

"Business is in many cases dreary and drab. It needs all the color women can bring to it. All the social grace they have acquired in the administration of their homes is wanted there.

"As for the women employees, I prefer married women, because they are more stable, more fully matured and usually more in earnest. No woman loses her job here because she marries. If she wishes to have a baby she can obtain leave of absence for that purpose and return later to her place. In no case has any woman's value been altered by such a vacation except for the better."

### Cost of Maintaining Pupil in School Big

The cost of maintaining a pupil in public school is more than two and a half times as great today as it was 15 years ago, according to figures compiled by the Bureau of Education. In 1913 the cost of schools, divided by the number of pupils actually attending, showed that \$38.31 annually should be chalked up against each of them. In 1916 the figure had grown to \$49.12, in 1920 to \$64.16, in 1925 to \$98.45, while the latest figure available shows an expenditure per student of \$102.05.

The expenditures for public schools have almost doubled since 1920. Annual expenditures for grounds, buildings, and contents increased rapidly from 1920 to 1925, when they reached \$433,000,000. The year following there was a decrease of \$22,000,000 spent for these purposes, which was taken as an indication that construction had overtaken the shortage caused by the war.

### Legislator Suggests Tax on Chain Stores

Representative Walker of Joliet has proposed a tax for chain stores. Representative Gains of Chicago has suggested a jury trial for persons accused of contempt of court and to raise the amount of petit larceny from \$15 to \$100.

The boys all favor swimming pools, in spite of the fact that the water may wash off the protective covering of dirt on which the kid crowd depend to keep warm with.

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