

Winnetka Weekly Talk

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SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1922

THE WOMAN'S POLITICAL CLUB

Women's organizations for the study of political affairs, qualifications of candidates, and methods of campaign procedure are growing in number and in effective work. But their chief value of activity, but in the character lies not in the thoroughness with which they work out a program of the work that they do. They must, if they are to stand for anything good in the community in which they operate, serve to bring up the character of the candidates, impress upon men who are seeking office, the necessity to bring to the voters some claim which can be substantiated for a capacity to perform the work of the position which they would hold. It can be of no use whatever to add to the political organization that already exists, it can be of no value to the country to have women's clubs of political origin and purpose, unless there is within them a new element of good citizenship, an appreciation impressed upon candidates that they must offer more than a consistent consideration of the party welfare.

It is unfair to the great body of new voters to expect them to make over the nature of politics. It is unfair to them to expect them to inject into the code which has always guided men in the conduct of public affairs the elements of righteousness and honesty that men have never considered essential. Women will not make over the political system of the country. Women will not purify politics, nor be able to effect a regeneration of political life. But they have their opportunity to stand for something bettering in its nature, by refusing to countenance patent dishonesty which is only slightly disguised by the badge of the party.

Lillian Russell is a woman of many talents. She has enjoyed during her life a succession of experiences that come to few. From being a favorite on the stage, an authority on the subject of feminine beauty, advisor to inquiring girlhood, to advisor to the government of a country like the United States of America on a question of such importance as the limitation of immigration and how that difficult policy may be developed and carried through, shows a wide range of talent which it is interesting to contemplate.

It is easy to see how the eyes of the half starved people of those bankrupt nations in central and southern Europe look towards America, a land "flowing with milk and honey" and a refuge from all the distress which has been their portion since the war turned their world topsy turvey. How to exclude those who seek that refuge without injustice is a problem that may well puzzle the intellects of those who constitute the government of the nation. But it doesn't daunt Lillian Russell, who looks at the question from the "standpoint of the American," without the hampering consideration of doing justice to the oppressed of the rest of the world

who would throw in their lot with ours. Most problems are easy if one leaves out of consideration the more difficult factors and is unconcerned with the correctness of the answer which is finally arrived at.

By the death of ex-emperor Charles the monarchist movement in Austria and Hungary should certainly have received the death blow. Anything that may develop now can be nothing more than a sentimental flourish, a spasm that need cause no alarm in republican circles. It is usually easy to find a victim when there is a desire to establish a new monarchy, but not when there is no legitimate hope of success, as there is none in the once dual monarchy. Charles had sufficient following to make himself think he might possibly succeed in an effort to regain the throne. Nobody else can possibly find such material for self-deception as to encourage him to offer himself as a sacrifice.

EDUCATION OF THE MASSES

America may become, in spite of itself, a nation of educated people, partially educated, that is, for there are realms that will be missed in the plan of David

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Griffith to put upon the screens of the country a dramatization of H. G. Wells' Outline of History.

A knowledge of history is recognized as the essential basis of a proper education. If the masses of the American people, the millions whose habit it is to sit in the darkened hall, watching the silent drama unfold on the screen, are to be made familiar with the whole history of the world from its beginning unto the present time, there will be

laid the foundation for an educated people upon which future building should be fairly easy.

Gratification with the prospect of the wholesale initiation of the general public into an acquaintance with the great personages and events that have made the world what it is today is somewhat tempered, however, when one realizes what has been done to the stories, classic in their day, when they were "adapted" to the screen. Changes in plot which

leave only the names of the characters and a few of the climactic events by which the work is to be recognized are the common lot. Will such liberties be taken with the story of human achievement in the "Outline of History" or will the great producer be content to tell the story as Mr. Wells unfolds it, sticking fairly near to the truth, conquering the instinct to make a good story out of an assortment of facts by the injection of a few bits of fiction.

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