

'COUNTY JAIL' IS TOPIC AT MEETING

At the December meeting of the Winnetka League of Women Voters, Mrs. Lynn Williams, a member of the committee on police, police stations and jails of the Woman's City club, and chairman of the jails committee of the Chicago Woman's club, spoke on "The Cook County Jail," and gave a summary of Dean Kirchwey's report in which were his recommendations sent to the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

Dean Kirchwey was for many years professor of law and dean of the law school at Columbia University. He stands high among prison experts, having been commissioner of prison reform in the state of New York, warden of Sing Sing Prison and president of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology.

Place of Detention

Mr. Kirchwey, in his report, states that the Cook County jail is a place of detention and not a place of punishment, and raises the question as to how far and in what ways may the county rightfully restrain the liberties of the inmates until the question of their guilt or innocence is lawfully determined.

As a solution for the fearful conditions of the jail, which is overcrowded, filthy and altogether impossible as a place of detention, Mr. Kirchwey proposes that the John Worthy school be remodelled at an estimated cost of from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and that 250 first offenders be taken from the jail into that school. With somewhat more extensive remodeling the school could accommodate 400 men.

Another recommendation is that the women be taken out of the County Jail and be put into the present juvenile detention home.

Opposes Large Jails

Dean Kirchwey does not believe in having a large jail. By diminishing the number of unnecessary arrests and by having the cases come to more speedy trials, the population of the jail could be materially reduced.

It is estimated that at least 33 per cent of the people detained in jail are never brought to trial, or, when tried, are found innocent.

Mrs. Williams spoke of the effective work of Mrs. Aden Miller Rich, the director of the Community Trust Bureau of Surveys and Exhibits in assisting Dean Kirchwey, and called attention to the excellent plan sug-

gested by Mrs. Rich of arranging an institution in which one place would be given to first offenders, and another to the "repeaters," or old offenders.

Urged to Visit Jail

The members of the league were urged to go to the Cook County jail and see for themselves the conditions there and then to write Mr. Anton Cermak for the suggestions that he Cook County Commissioners, urging that Dean Kirchwey's recommendations be taken as a basis of the board's plans for the building of the new county jail, and commending Mr. Cermak for the suggestion that he has given and for the interest he is taking in plans for ameliorating conditions in the Cook County jail.

McDowell Club Invites to Recital at Glencoe Monday

An organ and oratorio recital is to be given at the Glencoe Union church Monday afternoon, December 11, at 2:45 o'clock by the McDowell Musical club.

The club has extended special invitations to the Musicians' club of Evanston, the Musical club of Wilmette and the Community Drama club of Winnetka.

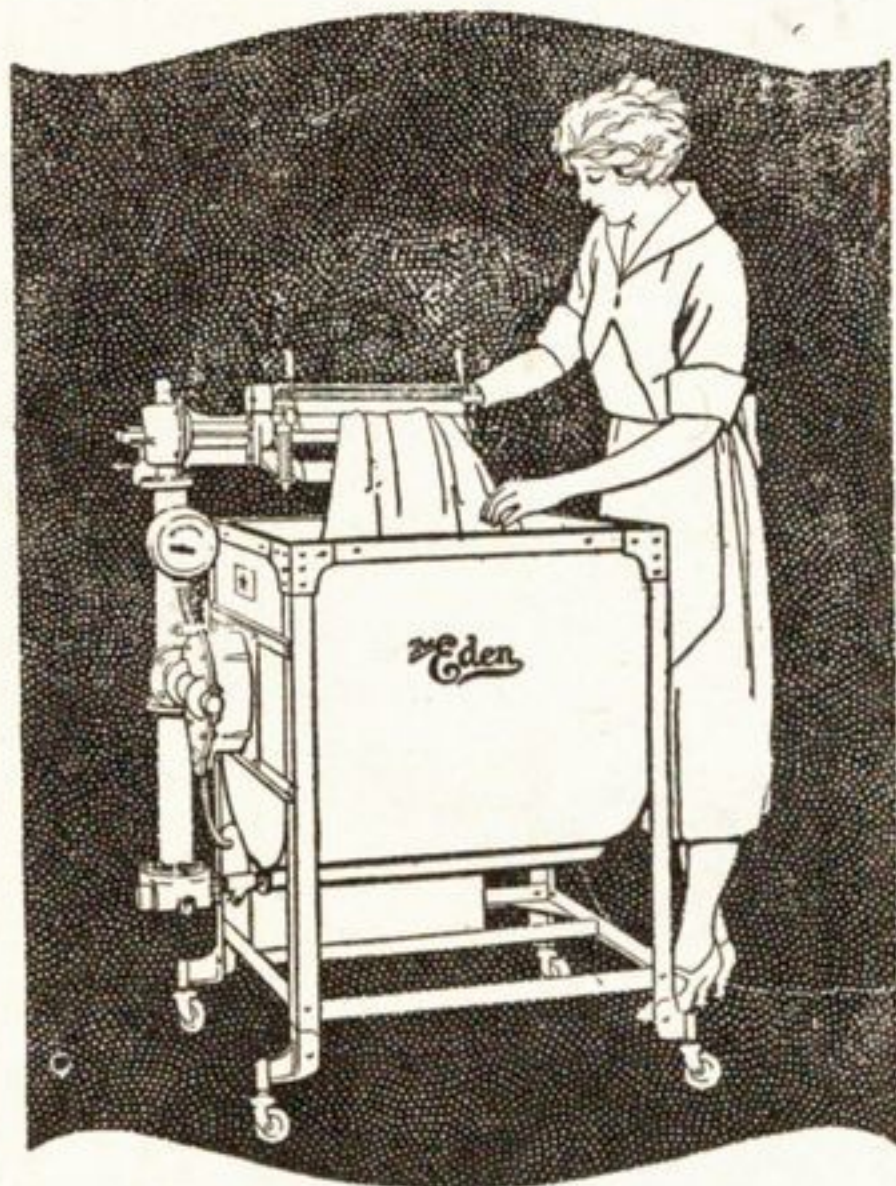
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