

NEWSPAPER WOMEN IN THE NORTHWEST

Many of the Best Country Weeklies in the Full Care and Charge of the "Weaker Sex"--- Some All-Around Printers and Mechanics in the List---Clever Writers on Metropolitan and Provincial Papers.

AN eastern woman writer recently said: "The work of owning and promoting an enterprise is a delightful experience, and one which women would often attempt were it not that they are not taken seriously by the business world. A woman has to prove herself something more than a precocious child before men will grant her even the ordinary degree of responsibility which she must assume in the least ambitious of enterprises outside the home."

So far as the northwest is concerned the newspaper woman is taken seriously enough and is here to stay. She is more or less either at the head of weekly papers, or prominently and publicly associated with their management. As many more perhaps have important departments on daily papers. The west has long been a young man's country. It is a young woman's country as well. The newspaper woman has found an abundance of work here and is doing her work well.

Massachusetts vs. Minnesota. Historic Cambridge in Massachusetts has a newspaper conducted exclusively by women. It is the Enterprise. It is a little town in Minnesota, has for several years had a like enterprise similarly committed to woman. No male help is employed in the office of the Herman Enterprise. It is the work of Nellie Jacobs, the editor and publisher. All of the writing, type setting, printing, collecting and business soliciting is done by women, and all the contemporaries of the Enterprise know that it is a success. Miss Jacobs bought the paper in 1895, and up to that time had never been employed in a printing office, and knew practically nothing about the work. This put her at a disadvantage in the public estimation. All obstacles were met and overcome, and to-day Miss Jacobs can do any newspaper or job work which is taken to her.

The Enterprise is independent in politics. This does not mean that it never discusses political issues, for quite the opposite is true. Few country papers devote more space to the consideration of these questions, which are treated upon the merits. The Enterprise was the first paper to mention A. J. Volstead of Granite Falls as a desirable candidate for congress, and its support and influence were potential factors in his success.

Miss Jacobs was born at Diamond Bluff, Wis., and was educated at the River Falls, Wis., and Winona, Minn., normal schools to be a public school teacher. This work she pursued for several years with excellent success. As a newspaper woman Miss Jacobs' career has been eventful—more eventful than many women would enjoy. In all opposition she has held her own, and these incidents of newspaper life have been the means of creating an unusual demand for her paper.

Mrs. Cole's Venture. But Miss Jacobs is not the only plucky woman in the west. Up to five months ago, when she sold her paper to her brother, Mrs. Carrie Folsom Cole was editor and publisher of the St. Croix Valley Standard, just over the line in Wisconsin. All that the staff of editors is doing at Cambridge, Mass., Mrs. Cole did at St. Croix Falls, and the Standard came from a newspaper making family, her father before her and her brothers around her being in the business.

St. Croix Falls was acting when the Standard came out under her auspices, but as it was well printed and up-to-date in every respect it became a favorite at once and soon held its own with all opposition. Since the sale of the Standard, Mrs. Cole has been employed on St. Paul papers.

Clover Miss McFadden.

Mary D. McFadden of the Duluth News-Tribune is accounted one of the cleverest of northwest women editors and publishers. She began in 1899 as a feature writer on the Duluth Globe and did her first reporting in a general way on the Times of Minneapolis the same year. Two years later she went to the News-Tribune and has been with it since. Of her work in Duluth one of her acquaintances says:

"Miss McFadden was called exchange editor when she came to the News-Tribune and was put in special charge of the daily feature of the editorial page called 'News and Comment.' After a time she was given practically carte blanche with this column and developed into a paragrapher not surpassed by any in the northwest for originality and brilliancy. This work and her personal vivacity and charm of manner have made her popular among the Minnesota papers, metropolitan and provincial.

Miss McFadden has also acted as the News-Tribune's dramatic critic. Were she to give her attention to that department she would make a sparkling critic and in time a most discriminating one. She has also been interested in editorial work. In treating subjects that appeal strongly to her sentimental and pathetic side, Miss McFadden has, in my opinion, few equals among newspaper writers on the daily press. In cases of emergency all the editorial of the News-Tribune has been committed to her care, and she has managed it all readable and always without doing violence to the policy of the paper. She has performed a vast amount of miscellaneous work on the News-Tribune all times, and is capable of taking any desk in the editorial department."

Her Ambition. One might quote Miss McFadden herself to advantage right here. Recently she said: "I believe in the newspaper woman and I do not think her advent in the newspaper field has narrowed it any. I am in no wise a 'new woman,' but believe there is individually rather than sex in success of brains. My ambition is to be a clever and broad-gaged newspaper woman some day."

Miss McFadden was educated at Our Lady of the Lake convent at Graceville, Minn., and at the state university. In addition to her work upon the papers since 1899, she contributed most efficiently to the literature sent out by the state democratic committee in the campaign of 1900, and displayed exceptional tact and ability about the committee's head-

quarters, possessing the full confidence of Governor Lind.

All-Around Newspaper Woman. The editor of the Herald at Montrose, S. D., Mrs. O. E. Bowman, comes of a family of printers, her uncle, J. C. Moss, being the inventor of the now well-known system of photo-engraving. He was for many years the president of the Moss Engraving company of New York city, the pioneer firm in this line of work. Mrs. Bowman married a printer and soon took up the editorial work, leaving the mechanical details and the conduct of a large job office to her husband. Largely thru the efforts of her editorial work Montrose has been advanced from a mere way station to an incorporated town possessing telephones, a large milling plant, a pub-

lic water supply system and good public schools.

The Herald is regularly issued as a six-column quarto, and often appears as a twelve-page paper. Mrs. Bowman is thoroughly conversant with every phase and detail of the newspaper business, as she has grown up in the profession and has insisted on knowing how to do all the work in the office from inking the old hand press that was used in printing the early editions of the paper to feeding the large cylinder and folder which now turns out the Herald in the most up-to-date manner. She has set type, prepared editorials, solicited and written advertisements and largely managed the business, which has reached proportions rarely known in country offices. The Herald has a fine plant, and is about the most complete printing office to be found in a place the size of Montrose.

Mrs. Bowman has traveled over much of the United States, and has done much descriptive writing. Her letters home have been real treats to Herald readers and have brought her many compliments from members of the press and railway officials.

Knows How to Bake, Too.

While the Herald is not conducted as a political paper, Mrs. Bowman has done some clever hits in political writing. She has opinions and knows how to present them in a caustic and forceful manner. Besides her editorial work she has found time to master all the details of the photographic art, which she declares is only a branch of printing. She is a painter of some merit, and is a good musician. Besides, her husband is sure she can bake the best bread and pies of any newspaper woman in the sunshine state.

In manner Mrs. Bowman is cordial and visitors to the Herald printery are treated with a rare old-time courtesy.

Began in Minneapolis.

Miss Pauline A. Bagley, business manager of the South Dakota Weekly Vindicator, published at Garrettsville, was born in Beloit, Wis., in 1875, and when 4 was brought by her parents to Minneapolis, her father, George W. Bagley, founding the East Side Re-

publican and opening a job printing office. In a year or so little Miss Bagley knew most of the type boxes and even did a little straight composition.

In 1892 the family moved to South Dakota, then Dakota territory, and Mr. Bagley started the Wentworth City Bond, and later the Dakota Letter. Ten years later he changed his location to Madison, where for two years he edited the Lake County Independent. At Madison Miss Bagley was graduated from the grammar school and entered the high school, but left to attend All Saints college, the Episcopal church school, at Sioux Falls. She worked in her father's office during her vacation and after school hours. When but 16 she began teaching school and for eight years was so employed in the country schools of Lake and Minnehaha counties.

Her Father's Partner.

Five years ago her father started the Vindicator at Garrettsville, and two years later she became the junior partner, local editor and business manager. Except for four months spent at Washington, D. C., she has devoted her entire time to the interests of her paper.

Miss Bagley is a member of the South Dakota Press association, and last spring was admitted to membership in the International Typographic union. She is the only woman in

her father's office. She believes the club to be a positive force in the upbuilding of the community and society.

Mrs. Gossage holds a high place among newspaper editors in the United States, and is looked upon with marked respect by the male members of the profession.

Mrs. Doherty's Hard Task.

Mrs. R. B. Doherty, the senior newspaper woman publisher in North Dakota, became an editor by pressing necessity, and by sheer pluck and ability made her paper, the Nelson County Independent, of Michigan City, N. D., one of the best weeklies in the state. When her husband, the editor of the paper, died, there were five little Dohertys, who are pictured in the group, to be clothed and fed. Here was a condition to tax all the resources and ingenuity of one more worldly-wise and experienced than the wife of a frontier editor.

Love for her family gave Mrs. Doherty love for her hard task and helped her to surmount every obstacle. In the ten years of her editorial management she has paid the debts contracted during the hard times and when getting a start, and now has a new office, with machinery and types, that make the Independent one of the best properties of its class in the state. She has kept her little family together and given each member all the advantages possessed by

but she attributes, in a large degree, her success as a newspaper woman to the rigorous discipline received in so strenuous a service.

Worked a Reform.

On one occasion she made a unique purchase of a baby for \$20.50. The unusual traffic brought her into court and several other unpleasant situations; but the result was that no more babies were sold and other reforms followed. Again she went to the Italian quarters to verify a report that children of fourteen were being married. She secured her proof, but found herself surrounded by a room full of smiling grimy faces of both male and female. She was obliged to take an embroidery lesson before she could get out and went home that night to dream of stiletos and other pleasant things generated from a knowledge of Italian peasant life.

She has interviewed innumerable lions in their dens, has pursued her sociological investigations in the heart of the slums, has gone late at night thru the loneliest streets, and yet she says: "I have met with no difficulty and generally with the utmost courtesy."

She even considers the interviews with celebrities one of the pleasantest features of her work, and looks back to a certain gay little chat with Anna Held with amused realization of the fact that "two women will gossip even

She spent six weeks "at the front" and returned to her labors in the school room in September with her head full of journalistic "pipes."

Editor of the Sketch Book.

That was the beginning. To-day she owns and manages the Sketch Book, an art student publication, which originally was managed by the students of the Art Institute, but which is now represented in all the leading art schools of this country. In the interim she edited Symmetrical Development, a physical culture magazine published by the Lachenmaier School, Physical Culture, Milwaukee, and later another publication called Expansion, the official publication of the Woman's Athletic club of Chicago, the president of which is Mrs. P. D. Armpur. Last January she purchased the Sketch Book from the students of the Art Institute.

When she began the editorship of Symmetrical Development, she had absolutely no experience as a publisher or editor, and upon announcing her resignation from the faculty of the high school, one of her friends declared she was rushing into publishing with the courage of her ignorance.

"Whatever measure of success I may have had is due," she says, "to the conviction that a willingness to serve humanity and a large capacity for hard work are essential to success. The policy of the Sketch Book is in itself a reason for being. It is a magazine by students and for students. I believe in art for humanity's sake."

Success Where Others Failed.

Mrs. Stella Marie Stutenroth of Watertown, S. D., has had a varied and interesting career in the field of journalism. Born on a farm in Eaton county, Michigan, Dec. 30, 1886, she has spent a few years of her life in her native state.

In 1889, with the financial aid of an uncle, who had confidence in her ability, she purchased a Washington hand press, George Gordon job, a quantity of type, took the outfit to Olivet, Mich., and founded the Olivet Optic. The field had been tried by four former publishers, none of whom succeeded in making a paper live. She secured 500 paid up subscribers and a good advertising patronage, and on May 13, when the first number of the paper was distributed, the editor herself placed copies of the Optic in all the farmers' wagons on the street and otherwise advertised her new venture. She did the editorial and reportorial work, kept the books and worked at the case, often until midnight.

In 1891 she sold the Optic to its present owner, and to-day it is the same five column quarto sheet, a lasting monument to the energy of a woman, and that woman the only one who ever started a newspaper in Michigan.

In September, 1892, she became one of the publishers of the News at St. Joseph, Ind., continuing for three years. Then she went to Maysville and helped to put the News of the University of Wisconsin, taking up special work for a better equipment in her chosen line of activity.

How She "Broke In." Catherine E. Cook, editor and publisher of the Sketch Book, Chicago, did her first newspaper work about six years ago as special correspondent at Washington for the Milwaukee Sentinel during a convention of public school teachers. Journalism had always attracted her, but, having found success and a comfortable income in the schoolroom, she did not indulge in her predilection until after she had taught in the West Division High school in Milwaukee about five years. She was instructor in rhetoric and composition, and she felt, together with her fondness for scribbling bits of news items and book reviews for friends among the reporters of the Milwaukee Evening News, that she was called upon as special correspondent at Washington for the National Educational association, which met there during the summer of the Spanish-American war.

The editor of the Sentinel very kindly furnished her with credentials and she sent daily reports from Washington. After the convention was over she was sent to Fortress Monroe, not because of her sympathy with Spain nor as a prisoner of war, but because she wanted to see what she could of real war. She had a most delightful time, and, if writing of delightful stories whose scenes was at Virginia Beach, where dozens of handsome soldiers and officers of the army and navy made the evenings gay for pretty southern girls, was what special war correspondents are expected to do, then she did her duty most thoroughly. The hotel detective gave her splendid copy and she made a reputation for being a good reporter.

Press association, only resigning when she transferred her interests to Watertown by marrying Dr. C. W. Stutenroth of that city.

Believes in Clubs for Women.

Mrs. Stutenroth is a strong advocate of the club movement for women, believing that one of its chief merits is that it has offered to women a means of culture and self-expression, which they have failed to find elsewhere. She believes it has opened woman's mind, deepened her sympathies and taught her the great virtue of self-reliance, while at the same time it has helped to abolish lines of social difference, bringing women together on the basis of personal worth and fitness.

Mrs. Stutenroth is a member of the League of American Pen Women, an exclusive club of writers, illustrators, authors and artists, with headquarters in Washington, D. C., and for which she has the honor to be representative from South Dakota as a state delegate.

Notwithstanding her determination to give up active newspaper work when she came to Watertown, the news of the League of Pen Women well grounded that she accepted an offer from Ransom & Corey, publishers of the Daily Public Opinion, to conduct a department in their paper under the name of "Up to Date." This has proved very popular and contains not only breezy comments of interest to the modern eyes, but to the sons of Adam as well.

Mrs. Stutenroth has identified herself with the literary clubs of Watertown, being secretary of the Woman's club, and holding a prominent place in society. Her appearance is as well youthful with a face that radiates sunshine wherever she goes. She takes a keen interest in public affairs and finds time to do much writing for outside publications.

Mrs. Stone and the Post.

When Franklin W. Lee, editor of the Rush City, Minn. Post, in 1896, his wife, now Mrs. J. F. Stone, became the editor and publisher, and has successfully conducted the paper since, increasing its patronage and maintaining its position for herself among the publishers of the state. The Post fills its field admirably. For thirty years it has gone from strength to strength, and for thirty-five years, when her husband was editor, assisted in the preparation of the personal, local and society notes. When he devoted upon her to take full charge of the office she was well prepared, having an intimate knowledge of the field and its requirements and opportunities, and the paper has been prosperous and influential.

Mrs. Rindlaub has been identified with the Wisconsin Press association for several years, and is at present its treasurer. She takes a keen interest in everything pertaining to newspaperdom and the Witness has all the features of the up-to-date, progressive country weekly.

Office of State Association.

The Grant County Witness is one of the solid, stable and reliable weekly papers of Wisconsin. It has a fine field at Plattville, the seat of one of the normal schools of the state. Mrs. M. P. Rindlaub, the editor and proprietor, has had charge of its destinies for some time and for thirty-five years, when her husband was editor, assisted in the preparation of the personal, local and society notes. When he devoted upon her to take full charge of the office she was well prepared, having an intimate knowledge of the field and its requirements and opportunities, and the paper has been prosperous and influential.

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Fabulous prices have been paid for the edition comprising less than 500 volumes. It is safe to say that the present owners put a high value on them and the London papers tell of vast sums having been offered and refused for some of them. When invitations are sent heavenward for these prayer books by the worshippers they might be certain to be answered, says one press critic sarcastically.

WHY CHURCH NOT SMOKED

At a sort of campfire in New York the other evening, when the Eleventh Army Corps association got together to swap army yarns and punish a whole lot of good things to eat and drink, a story was told by General James Grant Wilson as to how General Grant became an inveterate smoker. It seems that after the night at Fort Donelson the northern newspapers circulated the story that General Grant manuevered the whole fight chewing at the end of an unlighted cigar. Until then Grant was an extremely moderate smoker, but people of the north, believing he was fond of smoking, began to send him cigars. They arrived at camp in boxes, packages and wholesale quantities, until General Grant had thousands upon thousands. He didn't care to give them away, and he couldn't return them, so he started in to see what he could do toward stopping the supply by smoking. Thus he got the habit.