CLUB WOMEN AT "THE BIENNIAL" DISCUSS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS

BEAUTIFUL CAPITOL GAY WITH FAIR DAMES

VISITING LADIES ATTEND FORMAL RECEPTION.

Building Is Ablaze from Basement to Dome and Most Noted Women of the Land Meet the Governor and Admire Magnificent Decorations and Appointments of Structure.

Dr. Justus Ohage gracefully told the clubwomen yesterday that they were a healthy looking lot of women, the highest praise he could give them in his estimation, but last evening they were more than healthy, they were radiant, smartly radiant, when they attended the reception which was given at the new state capitol. No wonder the baggage committee found it difficult to arrange for the huge lot of baggage brought into St. Paul last week, for many of the clubwomen have worn a different gown each day, and last evening they donned their very best.

The capitol was illuminated from dome to basement and it formed a fitting background for the throng of brilliant, brainy women who surged thru the corridors or gathered in the rooms for a chat with friends from a faraway state. Men were in the minority, altho there was a goodly sprinkling of masculinity to countenance Governor Johnson. The illuminated capitol was as much of a treat to the twin city people as to the visitors, and the beautiful building with its marble stairways, its wonderful mural decorations and beautiful finishings, was inspected and admired by thousands. There was a large Minneapolis representation, and the interurban cars carried several hundred clubwomen and their escorts to the saintly city.

Local Board Hostesses.

The affair was given by the local biennial board, and Governor and Mrs. Johnson were asked to receive with the general officers, Mrs. Sarah Platt Decker, president; Mrs. Philip N. Moore of St. Louis, first vicepresident; Mrs. May Alden Ward, Boston, second vicepresident; Mrs. Percy Pennybacker, Austin, Texas, treasurer; Miss Louise B. Poppenheim, Charlestown, S. C., corresponding secretary; Mrs. John D. Sherman, Chicago, recording secretary; Mrs. Sarah H. Kendall, Seattle, Wash., and with Mrs. J. W. Edgerton, president of the fourth district, and Mrs. Russell R. Dorr, president of the local biennial board.

Mrs. Decker was resplendent in a handsome gown of white and gold satin. Her ornament was a diamond cross, a family jewel that is probably over 100 years old, in which the setting has never been changed. Mrs. Moore wore a light gray radium silk fashioned with real lace. Mrs. Ward was in black lace and Mrs. Pennybacker's gown was of lavender radium. The lace that trimmed it was given to Mrs. Pennybacker to adorn her wedding gown and was worn by a cousin when she was presented to Napoleon and Josephine at the imperial court. Mrs. Pennybacker's ornaments were pearls. Mrs. Sherman wore a stunning gown of white satin, the severity of the cut softened in the bodice with cluny lace. Miss Poppenheim was charming in a Parisian gown of white lace and her jewels were pearls. Mrs. Edgerton was in black; Mrs. Dorr wore white lace and diamonds and Mrs. Johnson was in black net, relieved with touches of blue. Miss Harriet Platt, Mrs. Decker's attractive daughter, was in white lace over a pink silk slip.

Admire the Capitol.

The guests were introduced to the receiving group by the ushers and after a cordial greeting they wandered at will over the beautiful building. Here and there in the large offices were groups of assisting women, women whose names everyone knew and whom everyone wanted to meet, Miss Helen A. Whittier of Boston, Massachusett's state president, who was a cousin of the poet Whittier; Mrs. Jessie Bryant Gerard of Connecticut, who belongs to another poet's family, that of William Cullen Bryant; Miss Mary Woolley, president of Mount Holyoke college; Miss Gill, dean of Barnard college; Mrs. Mary Lockwood, Washington's "grand old lady," one of the organizers of the Daughters of the American Revolution; that bit of boundless energy, the founder of the first women's club, Mrs. Caroline F. Runcie of St. Joseph, Mo.

In one corner was Mrs. Philip Carpenter of New York, the first woman to argue a case before the supreme court. In another was the Countess di Brazza, who was formerly an American girl and who is known for her philanthropic efforts to revive lacemaking among the Italian peasants; Mrs. Rheta Childe Dorr, who makes her home in a settlement house in the New York Ghetto; Mrs. Cynthia Westover Alden, the sunshiny organizer of the International Sunshine society, and the equally genial Mrs. Theodore Seward of New York, a vicepresident.

The new capitol will probably never see such a gathering of women, the flower of the country, as moved thru the corridors, while above their chatter and laughter sounded the music from a string orchestra hidden away up near the dome.

MRS. JOHN D. SHERMAN
of Chicago, the Recording Secretary of the General Federation.

WILL VISIT HAHA

Club Women Plan Big Picnic for Tuesday Afternoon.

Tuesday will be play day for the Minneapolis club women have planned a gigantic picnic for the biennial visitors at Minnehaha. The guests will be taken to Minnehaha at 12 o'clock in carriages and automobiles thru the courtesy of the St. Paul Commercial club and after a luncheon there will be an informal reception in the pavilion.

A band will furnish music and later Mrs. Cynthia Westover Alden will give a short address and then there will be a trolley ride thru the city. Mrs. W. M. Hopkins, president of the fifth district, and the members of her committee will be assisted by the presidents and past presidents of all the clubs in the district.

The fifth district clubs have been asked to bring their luncheon and join the visitors, so that Minnehaha will see one of the largest gatherings of the summer on Tuesday.

MOTHER OF CLUBDOM IS PET OF CONVENTION

GIFTED MRS. RUNCIE HAS ROMANTIC HISTORY.

Is Educated by Teachers of Royalty in Germany, Becomes Preacher in Her Native Town, and Finally Marries Bishop—Descends from Kings on Both Sides.

No one has received more of an ovation at the biennial than Mrs. Constance Faunt Le Roy Runcie of St. Joseph, Mo., the founder of the first woman's club, who has been made an honorary vice president of the general federation.

"And while the club women were still clapping some one from the press table sent up a slip of paper asking my age. I wanted to write back, 'how old do you think?'" laughed the 70-year-old woman who has more enthusiasm even than the average club woman.

When she was 17 Mrs. Runcie went to Stuttgart, Germany, where she studied languages and music. Her tutors were those employed by the royal family. As she herself phrased it: "I knew just how to rise from a chair, I knew just how far to advance to meet an acquaintance or just how far for a friend, if receiving in my own home. I learned how to approach the queen. Oh, I was quite a model young woman."

Returns to Her Home.

Her studies finished, carefully reared, well versed in the conventions of life, possessing a splendid education, she returned to little New Harmony, a free-thinking town, where the Sunday was spent in card playing and dancing and things religious were not to be mentioned. When she arrived she found a small Episcopal chapel had been built by a young clergyman who had abandoned his work. With the fearlessness of youth Mrs. Runcie sent word to the townspeople that she would preach.

"I preached that night and I preached the next Sunday and then I preached three years in that little church because the people liked it and wanted me and they packed the church," she said. "Finally a number of them wanted to be baptized, so I wrote to a minister in a neighboring town and told him that I would do the preaching if he would do the baptizing. Then the bishop sent a man to see what the young lady he had heard of was doing." Here she hesitated and a gleam of humor sparkled in her eye. "He came down to see this young woman and then—we got married. He was James Runcie."

It was in New Harmony that the Minerva club was organized and its founder, Mrs. Runcie, was elected the first president. This club has now the distinction of being the first woman's club in the United States.

First Club Organized.

The Bronte club was organized in 1866 in Madison, Ind. Even now Mrs. Runcie is actively engaged in club work, and she occupies the unique position of perpetual president of a club. The Runcie club in St. Joseph has about eighty members and it holds all of its meetings at Mrs. Runcie's home. The whole first floor consists of one room. "I was my own architect," she boasted playfully, "and I have it just as I wanted it, one large room with a big chimney in the center of it."

Music has not been forgotten even in her busy life. An opera figures among her achievements, and she has written many shorter works. Some of these have been orchestrated and played by John Philip Sousa.

"I have always been told," she said, "that my music sounded as tho a man had written it." A few years ago the Philharmonic club of Kansas City gave a benefit recital for Mrs. Runcie, the program of which was made entirely from her own music.

Comes from Royalty.

Mrs. Runcie has a romantic lineage, descending from royalty as she does on both sides. She is a granddaughter of Robert Owen, and related to the Earl and Countess of Breadalbone and the Earl and Countess of Hallam and Lord Colin Campbell, governor general of Gibraltar. She is a cousin of Sir Guy Campbell, who married the beautiful Pamela, daughter of Madame le Genlis. On her father's side she claims Viscount Lord Faunt Le Roy, who came to America in 1733. Her grand-aunt was the famous lowland beauty who twice refused the hand of George Washington, and her double cousin married one of the famous Patterson sisters, one of whom became the wife of Jerome Bonaparte.

Many honors have come to Mrs. Runcie, but there is none she prizes more highly than those conferred by the federation. Her portrait is now on its way to France, where it will be placed among the collection of portraits of the world's famous women in the Bibleotheque National at Paris.

QUESTION OF SCHOLARSHIP

Educational Conference Brings Up Matter of Sending Students Abroad.

The club women are not shirking their duty and despite the fact that the morning session rarely adjourns until 2 o'clock, they are always back at 3 for the conferences. Yesterday the educational conference brought up the question as to whether the federation should adopt the suggestion of the Society of American Women in London and establish scholarships for American girls in the English colleges and universities after the Rhodes plan. "Is it not possible for women to do for women what a man has done for men?" asks the president in her letter.

It would cost about $1,500 a year for each student and the federation is not extravagant with its funds. Miss Margaret Evans of Northfield said there was no doubt but the American girl would be of real benefit to Oxford. Miss Gill, dean of Barnard college, is not sure that the Rhodes method will be successful and will not form an opinion until the men have been home for a year or more. She thought the experience might be tried in a small way with perhaps one student. The matter was discussed but no definite action was taken.

Mrs. A. S. Rankin of Minneapolis read a paper on "Do Our Public Schools Teach English?" in which she said that the public is responsible for the schools and if they do not teach English it is the public's fault.

Mrs. Edward F. Moulton of Cleveland was besieged with questions in the civic conference as to how a civic league might be formed.

"Invite a few people to meet together, take an issue with which the public will be in sympathy, take only one and fight it to a finish," she gave as her recipe.

She stated that public sentiment was so thoroly expressed against the billboards that at the recent national meeting of advertisers in Detroit nearly every one of the men promised not to place on the boards anything objectionable. Ohio is working to secure a passage of a law forbidding the driving of nails into trees under penalty of a $5 fine. Maine has such a law in reference to pine trees.

MRS. MARY I. WOOD
of Portsmouth, N. H., Chairman of the Bureau of Information.

Mrs. Decker seemed much concerned in regard to general federation secretaries at the conference she called yesterday afternoon.

"I wrote to all of them and there were thirty-one from whom I never received replies. They must be dead," she said solemnly and everybody laughed and the secretaries sprang to their feet to explain that they were not dead, but negligent.

The conference had been called to emphasize the duties of the general federation secretary, who is regarded as the medium of communication from the clubs to the general federation. "We have her, what shall we do with her?" asked Mrs. Decker.

She suggested that the general federation secretary be made a member of the state board, that she write one letter a year to the bureau of information sending the club history and year book, that she take part in the program of the state meeting, furnish at least one program to every club and visit and correspond with the clubs in her state.

DEVOTE DAY TO TREES

Tomorrow's Program Will Be in Charge of Committee on Forestry.

Tomorrow will be forestry day at the biennial and the program will be in charge of Mrs. Lydia Phillips Williams, chairman of the forestry committee. Mrs. Williams is the only Minnesota woman represented in the general federation directorate, and she is the only member of the board who was re-elected at the St. Louis biennial. Minnesota clubwomen are proud of Mrs. Williams and what she has done for club work. She served the state as president of the Minnesota federation and during her term of office visited many of the other state federations, bringing home with her any idea that would better the work of her own state. It was Mrs. Williams who introduced the ballot box at the annual meeting of the state federation and it was also Mrs. Williams who took the ballot box made by the pupils of the Minneapolis manual training school to St. Louis and presented it to the general federation. Before the last biennial the election of officers was a most tedious and complicated affair, but the ballot box simplified it, as it did in the state meeting. Mrs. J. C. Buchanan, a well-known Minneapolis club woman, acted as chief of tellers at that first use of the ballot box.

While Mrs. Williams is well known for her club work among many lines, her efforts in behalf of the forestry commission have made her name familiar to all the lovers of the forests. Mrs. Williams has not spared time or strength and she has visited most of the states, east and west, rousing interest and enthusiasm thru her own personality. She has had the forestry work almost from the beginning altho the first forestry report at the Los Angeles biennial was presented by Mrs. Mary Mumford of Philadelphia. Mrs. Mumford was the first chairman of the committee which was appointed as a result of her report, but her health failed and Mrs. Williams was chosen to finish out her term of office and at the next biennial was appointed her successor. She has held the office now for two terms.

Mrs. Williams has planned a most delightful session with such well-known forest lovers as Enas A. Mills, Long's Peak guide of Estes park, Colorado; George H. Maxwell, the well-known irrigation advocate, as speakers. At 5 p.m. there will be a forest conference on the general topic, "Methods and Results—What to Do and How to Do It." The sutopics will be on experiments in tree planting, tree protection, co-operation, advance in forestry legislation and the big trees. The speakers will be Mr. Mills and the chairmen of the following state forestry committees: Mrs. F. W. Gerard, Connecticut; Mrs. Catherine Hoffman, Kansas; Mrs. W. E. Murdoch, Ohio; Mrs. A. L. Sioussat, Maryland; Mrs. Warren Higley, New York; Mrs. A. C. Osborne, California.

During 1905 172 climbers lost their lives on the Alps. But as 150,000 persons made ascents the percentage of loss was small. Only 10 per cent of the accidents, fatal or otherwise, were due to unavoidable causes. The rest were due to carelessness or foolhardiness.

Mr. Charles Lewis, who has filed his affidavit of candidacy for the office of alderman of the fourth ward on the republican ticket. Mr. Lewis has been a resident of the fourth ward for about twenty years and has taken a very active part in the work of the republican party in this city. He has entered the field at the earnest solicitation of his numerous friends, who realize his worth, and he certainly deserves the hearty support of the ward. He is one of our most successful Nicollet avenue business men, having been engaged in the bakery business for the past eight years, and has won many staunch friends, who assure him of their support. Adv.

'MODEL' FLAT LIKE THE HOME OF LUXURY

ORIENTAL RUGS FOR THE BRIDAL PAIR ON $100 SALARY.

Exhibit Is More the Ideal of Art and Beauty than the Dwelling Place for a Young Couple Just Going to Housekeeping on Modest Salary.

With floors covered with oriental rugs, with straight-lined, beautifully designed furniture fitting into just the right places in every room, with a kitchen so equipped with improved appliances as to realize women's dream of household convenience, the General Federation of Women's clubs have placed an ideal before the young couple who are expecting to go to housekeeping on a salary of $75 a month in a modest flat which has been fitted up for exhibition during the biennial convention in the old capitol, St. Paul.

No accompanying scheme is posted in the flat which might suggest to the young man how many months' savings from his $75 or $100 salary it would take to accumulate enough money to furnish a flat in such a way, and prospective bridegrooms must figure that out for themselves.

It is beautiful, it is artistic; best of all, it is sanitary, and it moves the club women who go to see it to exclamations of approval, but—and here comes the obtruding question. Invariably it comes: "But—is it practical? Can a man on $75 or $100 a month afford to furnish a flat in such a manner?"

Queries by Club Women.

Question follows question from practical women:

"Would a couple who expected to live on such a salary have tastes sufficiently cultivated to care for such artistic things?

"If all these expensive articles are wedding presents—as some one has suggested—would it not be quite a tax on the young people to buy return presents for those who were following their example in marrying?

"Would a man in a poistion paying such a salary be likely to have friends who would give him $100 oriental rugs, or a $125 gas fixture, or, if the gas fixture belongs to the flat, would the salary warrant the expenditure for rent?"

Is It the Ideal Flat?

These are only a few of the questions which come surging forth to make one wonder whether this is not the ideal flat for a wealthy young man and his wife who have resolved to lead the simple life, rather than a model for a man struggling under the burden of maintaining a home on $100 a month.

Mrs. Walter McNab Miller, chairman of the national pure-food committee, thru having lived so close to cultivated people on modest salaries in her university work, is fitted to speak authoritatively on the practicability of such furnishing on such a salary.

"In my experience in various university towns I have often helped college women who were marrying instructors to furnish their little homes, and college girls to make homelike places in which to live while going to school. Then, too, when we were abroad I was often interested in little temporary homes in the American colony, and while taste and inclination cries out for just such artistic and beautiful belonging, the pocketbook, on small incomes, does not warrant the expenditure."

Trouble in the Future.

Mrs. Miller was asked if, with a limited education along esthetic lines, people find taste and inclination at outs with the income, there might not be trouble and extravagance in the future when this movement for estheticism has grown and thrived and come to bloom.

"No, it will mean fewer belongings and more beautiful ones. Careful grouping and studied composition rather than crowding as many beautiful things as possible into a given space."

Mrs. Sarah Platt-Decker says she is proud of the work of the household economic committee in arranging the model flat. "Of course we must expect criticism from a first experiment, and criticism is just what we need. It is my hope that we may have a model flat equipped just as we would have it as the property of the general federation."

MRS. WILLIAM THAYER BROWN
of East Orange, N. J., Chairman of the Literature Committee.

Best Ideal Expressed.

Mrs. Mary Moody Pugh thinks that in this model flat the best ideal is expressed. The straight lines, the simplicity, the lack of useless ornaments, are all along the right lines, and with training and taste the same general effect must be obtained with less expense. She thinks the seeming extravagance is due to the generosity of the St. Paul merchants who loaned the furniture.

Miss Anna Burrows of Boston said that, while the furniture of the flat seemed beyond the means of the average young couple when they first started to make a home, there was no reason, if the young woman was trained in domestic art and science as carefully as the young man was trained in business, why all these beautiful things might not come in time.

HOLD SUNDAY MEETING

Vesper Program Will Be Given This Afternoon in People's Church.

For the first time in the history of the federation, a meeting will be held on Sunday. A delightful program has been prepared for the vesper service in the People's church at 3:30 o'clock. Mrs. L. A. Coonley Ward of Chicago will speak and there will be some good music.

Professor S. H. Clark of the Chicago university will give a reading this evening of the Book of Job. Professor Clark was to have read "Ulysses," by Stephen Phillips last evening, but it was thought that the reception at the capitol would prove too big a rival and that few women would attend both.

CROOKED COPPER TRIES SUICIDE.

New York, June 2.—Following his arrest yesterday on a charge of extortion, John W. Bryan, a policeman detailed to the Charles street station, broke away from Deputy Commissioner Mathot, who had taken him into custody, and tried to end his life by throwing himself across the third rail in the subway at the Bleeker street station.

SUFFRAGE QUESTION STUDIOUSLY AVOIDED

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE REPORT WILL OMIT MENTION.

Mrs. Rheta Childe Dorr, Head of Committee, Explains that Delegates Are Probably Mostly Suffragists, but for Reasons of Harmony No Mention of Matter Will Be Made.

The suffrage question will not be brought before the biennial as a clause in the report of the industrial committee tomorrow. Mrs. Rheta Childe Dorr of New York says so and Mrs. Dorr is chairman of the committee and will read the report.

"The industrial committee never intended to bring it before the convention," said Mrs. Dorr, yesterday, "altho I think all the members of the committee are suffragists. Indeed, I believe that the majority of the women in the general federation are at heart suffragists.

"But the industrial committee will not bring the question before the convention for two reasons. If it was lost it would hurt the cause of suffrage and if it was won it would disrupt the convention. The circular letter sent out by the advisory committee was only to start the women to thinking. It has unwittingly roused a tempest, but a tempest only in a teapot."

MRS. DECKER A BLARNEY

Genial President Has Right Word for All at All Times.

"Monday will be champagne day," announced Mrs. Decker when she closed the session yesterday with a plea for an early attendance tomorrow. Mrs. Decker's expressions are always to the point and not a delegate left the hall in doubt as to her regard for tomorrow's program.

Mrs. Decker has a wonderful personality, magnetic, broad in sympathy and in heart, a keen intelligence, a real interest in everything and everybody and a tongue that must have touched the Blarney stone for she always has a felicitous word for everyone who approaches her. She opens each session with praise for the delegates and sends them away at the close with a word of commendation, not fulsome commendation, but as a mother would reward her children for good behavior.

"Are you comfortable and happy?" she asks solicitously, every morning.

The exhibition of women's work at the old capitol has given Mrs. Decker a big idea for the next biennial and if it is carried out it will be one of the important enterprises of the period for it is nothing more nor less than an exposition of women's work.

"Think what it would mean," she said, with warm enthusiasm, "to be able to gather under one roof exhibits of everything that women have done! It would be an inspiration for the future and a glory for the past."

Mrs. Decker has with her in St. Paul her daughter, Miss Harriet Platt, who is enjoying her second biennial. When the general federation went to Denver Miss Platt attended many of the meetings altho she was a mere slip of a girl. She has come, she laughingly asserts, to prove that her mother has domestic interests. Miss Platt has the proud title of "official hooker" and it is her duty, in this day of buttoned-up-the-back waists, to see that the officers are neatly hooked together.

Clark Russell, who may almost be credited with having created the sea novel, has about decided to stop writing. For years he has been an invalid, suffering severely from rheumatic afflictions.

Defective Page