

WOMAN'S ENTERPRISE

Published in the Interest of the Club Women of
Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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WOMEN REGISTER AND VOTE.

At the risk of being considered tiresome Woman's Enterprise will continue to urge the ladies of East Baton Rouge to register at the very first opportunity and to vote at every election, municipal, parish and state.

It is learned from sections where women have exercised the right of suffrage freely that their votes had a wonderful influence in the moral uplift of their communities; that every municipal department had become efficient, that the political atmosphere had been purified and crime and misdemeanors considerably reduced.

For more than a half century progressive women have been demanding a voice in public affairs and now that they enjoy that privilege they should not be lukewarm or careless in the discharge of that important civic duty.

It is learned, too, that where women have actively entered political fields their influence has tended to suppress crime and vice, to a more economical administration of public affairs and to bring about better conditions generally.

That a woman should have a place upon the city commission of Baton Rouge is a sentiment rapidly crystalizing in this community and should the women qualify as voters in greater number than at present it does not take a prophet to predict that one will have a voice in the management of city affairs after the next city election.

A woman will not dread loss of popularity by a strict enforcement of laws and ordinances nor will she close her eyes to violations of the moral code. She will see to it that the gambler, the bootlegger, the lewd and abandoned will seek new fields in which to carry on their nefarious occupations. True, all the undesirables of the city would align against a woman but in a community such as this an element composed of such characters have but slight weight politically and their votes would be swamped by an overwhelming majority cast by those who wish to raise their offspring where moral and virtuous surroundings are prevailing characteristics.

Women do your duty; a duty you owe to yourselves and to the rising generation. Register, pay your poll tax and vote when opportunity offers.

WOMEN TO PETITION THE LEGISLATURE.

The New Orleans Federation of Clubs has prepared an act known as the Bill of Rights which will be submitted to the State Legislature during this special session and it is expected that the local Federation will actively assist in securing its passage.

Under present laws a wife cannot dispose of her separate property or paraphernalia without the consent of her husband or the authority of the Judge of the District Court, while the husband who may illy provide for his family may sell his own private property or the community at will and the wife cannot prevent his doing so. He may sell his home and set his family adrift or mortgage it if a dissolute character to pay gambling or other debts or spend it in idle dissipation.

The demand of the Federation should go further and provide that the family homestead, at least, could not be legally disposed of without the consent of the wife, whether separate or community property.

Up to the time of the Civil War and for some years thereafter the rights of the wife were much better guarded than now as her signature was required to legalize acts of sale or of mortgage and a notary public before such acts were passed was required to explain to the wife her rights in and to the property about to be conveyed "aside and out of the presence and hearing of her husband."

Of course the method then prevailing was cumbersome and inconvenient, as at times the wife was compelled to travel long distances to reach a notary and all this could be obviated by the wife giving written consent signed by her in presence of subscribing witnesses. While woman's rights were more carefully guarded under older Constitutions there should be wisdom enough in the Legislature to provide safeguards to the wife and family without undue inconvenience.

However, as women exercise considerable influence there is no reason to doubt that at this special session, or if not during the time at the next regular session they will be successful in obtaining all the rights and privileges enjoyed by the male sex. Nevertheless women must be vigilant and not sit supinely back and expect to succeed without effort and it is expected that the local Federation of Clubs will be among the most active of the proponents of the Bill of Rights.

SHOULD BE PRESERVED.

As the question of the disposition of the grounds and buildings of the University, upon the completion of the Greater Agricultural College, is being fully discussed it is in order to give a brief outline of the old place, the history of which goes back to earliest days of settlement by persons of the white race.

It is a spot around which cluster many events of state as well as local historical value; of tragedies, of romance and of valor. It was upon these grounds the French encountered the Indian Chief Istrouma and raised aloft the Lilly banner of France and it was here after the transfer of this territory was made by the French to the English in 1762 that the latter substituted the flag of their King for that of France, and upon this same site the English commander, Colonel Dixon, surrendered the fort with its garrison of four hundred regulars and one hundred militia to the Spanish General Galvez and it was here too that a number of inhabitants of the Felicianas and the upper portion of this parish surrounded and captured the Fort and garrison from the Spaniards and established the short-lived republic of West Florida.

It was upon the grounds of the University that the Stars and Stripes appeared for the first time in Baton Rouge to remain until superceded by the flag of Louisiana just previous to the breaking out of the Civil War and a few months previous to the adoption of the cession ordinance by a Constitutional Convention when the Confederate flag replaced it.

During the war the starry banner of the Union was once more given to the breeze to remain forever more.

Thus it will be seen that seven emblems of sovereignty have flown over the lovely grounds embraced within the bounds of the Louisiana State University, namely: French, English, Spanish, West Florida, American, State of Louisiana, Confederate and then again the Stars and Stripes. Surely a place identified with so many mementoes of the past, should not be permitted to grow up in weeds or to be converted to commercial uses.

Just think too of the great Americans who have garrisoned here. The footsteps of the most renowned warriors of the United States army have pressed the soil of the parade ground and campus, names one will find adorning the brightest pages of American history; Generals Taylor, Scott, Lee, Johnston, Grant, Stonewall Jackson, Sherman, Harney and a host of other illustrious soldiers of the past.

It was in one of the pentagon buildings the ball in honor of Lafayette during his visit in 1824 was given; a ball spoken of years after as the grandest affair attended by the most gallant men and loveliest women of far and near, and it was in the barracks of that distinguished Frenchman to whom we owe undying gratitude was quartered.

Yes indeed, the history of the grounds of the University is one filled with romance, tragedies and heroic deeds and it certainly would be a pity were iconoclastic hands to destroy so much that is historical, beautiful and useful and we do not indulge in the fear that all these historical monuments of the past will be removed or the grounds left bare to become the prey of the realtor and speculator.

There are among the present population descendants of those who contributed in large measure to making history connected with the University

grounds, and while it appears that in this day of sordid self interest but slight regard is held for things of the past, there are still many sentimental enough to grieve over the destruction of the historic old grounds should such take place.

So far as we are concerned we do not believe there is the least intention on the part of the authorities to destroy millions of dollars' worth of valuable property and we believe that when the Greater Agricultural College buildings are completed our friends will find the University grounds are as lovely as at present.

THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

To Woman's Enterprise:

As you are a mouth piece, if I may use the term, of Federation of Clubs, I wish to call the attention of those favoring the Bill of Rights to the incalculable injury that may result to realtors should your demands be incorporated among the laws of Louisiana.

There is not a village, town or city, in the State that is not undergoing most remarkable development or I might say spreading out beyond their municipal limits and real estate transfers are being made in enormous volume and should that section of the bill of rights demanding that wives signatures be attached to sales of community property become a law the utmost confusion will result, transfers of property reduced to minimum proportions and growth of communities seriously retarded.

Take Baton Rouge, for instance, where many suburbs are being developed and hundreds of lots sold daily, nine-tenths of which were purchased as community property, and think of the annoyance and inconvenience of all concerned if wives must sign each and every transfer.

Again, as a vast majority of land transfers are made on a bases of monthly payments covering two, three or four years, how many home-seekers may be found willing to purchase and after making payment in full be unable to secure title through a wife's refusal to sign same, or should death intervene, be compelled to seek justice through the court?

Now, I believe that where property is bought and sold for speculative purposes the husband should be as free to sell the same as a merchant is to sell a suit of clothes and that the wife should not by law be permitted to interfere with the exception of the family homestead. The husband should not sell the family home without the free, full and uninfluenced consent of the wife.

Just imagine the inconvenience and annoyance to a wife to be called upon four or five times a day to appear before a Notary to sign sales and there are in Baton Rouge several realtors who sell as many.

I favor the bestowal of all rights and privilege enjoyed by the male sex upon women except the privilege of interfering lawfully with a husband's business affairs.

Pass laws requiring wives' signatures to sales and suburban lots will long remain in the hands of those who develop such properties. Then there will be few transactions based upon monthly payments and only those requiring large cash payments with mortgage attachments will be in order.

Under a former constitution a sale of community property could not be legally made without the wife's consent and such was the inconvenience and confusion to vendor and vendee a later adopted constitution relieved real estate of this annoying requirement.

To return to such conditions is a retrograde to the past when transfers were few; to deaden the energies of realtors and retard civic growth and this too when the best minds of the land are confronted with housing problems that well nigh defy solution.

With the section complained of eliminated no serious objection can be advanced against the adoption of the Bill of Rights.

A REAL ESTATE DEALER.

ENTERPRISE SELECTED.

The Woman's Enterprise has received the following letter:

"We have selected your paper as one of Louisiana's leading publications and ask your co-operation in the publicity work of this Bill of Rights drafted by the New Orleans Federation of Clubs. The bill will be presented to the Legislature at its special session in September. This department realizes the power of the press in the advancement of a good cause.

"We trust we will receive the same affirmative reply from you as we have from the public and the press in general.

Cordially,
TINETTE LICHTENSTEIN,
Chairman Publicity Department New Orleans Federation of Clubs.

Those enterprising Western youngsters are at it again. According to a Missouri newspaper: "Cape Girardeau was the scene of a real kid wedding the other day. The bride was 16, the groom 18, the best man 16, the bridesmaid 17, the flower girl 6 and the minister 19. If there is anything in this marry young and be happy idea these young people have taken every precaution."

"LEST YE FORGET."

Editor Woman's Enterprise:

As women have a much finer developed sense of propriety and a keener perception of sentiment underlying most motives, it may be proper that the newspaper operated in the interest of the women, be the organ through which an appeal be made to the powers that be to the citizenship generally, in a matter that deserves attention.

As we all know, the people of Baton Rouge voted a bond issue to erect some memorial of the soldiers of the World War and this culminated in the institution of Victory Park which is often referred to as a thing of beauty, especially as it has succeeded to the old State Prison, changing the aspect of those grounds from gloom to glamour.

To a person visiting the city the Park forms a place of attraction and as a place for the people of Baton Rouge to seek recreation, it is filling a long felt want, but if there is anything in or about the Park that connects it with the purpose for which it was instituted, or in other words if there is anything by which the most careful observer, and especially in the case of strangers in the city, could deduct that it was erected as a memorial to the soldiers of the World War, it has not so far been discovered.

In constructing the park all attention was paid to its beautification and no provision was made for an arch or other similar construction on which one might read that the park was dedicated to the soldiers and not to the amusement and recreation of the men, women and children of Baton Rouge as is usually the case in the preparation of such places.

If it is the fear of offending the modesty of the survivors of the World War to designate the place to their memory as was the intention of those who voted the bond issue, it might at least be appropriate to erect some testimonial to those who lost their lives during the war, and this testimonial would not be amiss for the sake of the parents of the boys that did not return and for the morals of

the public generally, who are too apt to forget after the danger is past.

Finally, if for not other reason than to carry out the intents and purposes for which the bond issue was voted and comply with legal requirements, some step should be taken to designate the park as being what it was intended to be and not allow it to remain as it is today apparently a mere civic improvement and only erected for the selfish purpose of amusing the citizens of Baton Rouge.

TAX PAYER.

A HOTEL NEWSPAPER.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Solon Farnbacher we have received a copy of the Pennsylvania Register, which is published at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York.

This spicy little paper is edited by Miss Grace Crawley Oakley and contains the register of guests, amusements, personals and other notes of interest. It is published every day but Sunday and is eagerly looked forward to by guests of the Hotel.



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