

bending his energies either to help King or to hinder him—but it was always King that was under discussion. . . . Men who had been considered exactly honest and exceptionally intelligent were rallying with King, whose campaign was evidently a network of intrigue, and many of whose henchmen were branded as venal and notoriously corrupt. . . . King looked like the foreman of a ditch gang in Sunday togery."

King inquires of Myton, the hero of the story, if he has "lit yet," meaning, of course, if he has decided to which candidate he will give his support. "For King as chairman of the State Central Committee, Myton had the utmost respect. For King, if he had chosen to become warden of the state penitentiary, Myton would have worked with efficient enthusiasm. But for King in the United States' senate, Myton felt an irritating moral revulsion which he could not define, and which was put in the shadow by the disquieting sense that it would be impracticable to an important degree to make an enemy of King. King needs the 'Ladies' Auxiliary' and offers to make Myton a congressman if in return he will convince the composition of the Ladies' Auxiliary that he, King is impeccable. Myton told the 'alumni' that King was a good fellow and a friend of his but no more fit to represent that state in the senate than Captain Kidd is to act as recording angel."

"The effect of Myton's rebuff of King was not perceptible on the surface. Yet King felt that Myton had hurt him. A political boss is a hypnotist. He holds his power by a constant repetition, in a thousand ways, of the declaration that his power exists. Every denial of this direct suggestion weakens his influence. Sam King was not a psychologist; but he knew human nature—which amounts to the same thing in the long run. He felt in his bones that Myton's action would cripple him. He knew instinctively, that if one man could rebuke him publicly, others might cease to fear him. That night the rumor gained some corridor credence that King had lost two votes—whose they were the rumor did not specify. The rumor was really the premonitory sign of the decay of King's prestige. A man had insulted the bass-wood joss. The man still lived. Was the joss a joss, or only a basswood image? Thus worked the logic of the crowd in the hotel lobby."

CLUBS.

Several of the Nebraska clubs have sent copies of their year books to this office. We would be glad to receive year books from the other clubs in the state. New ideas of value to each club may be gained from familiarity with the work of other clubs, and for this reason we would be pleased to print in this department an outline of the season's work of every club in the state federation.

President's Address.

In the history of the Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs this is the seventh chapter, and to me is given the privilege of enumerating the distinctive features which have marked this year's administration, and, might I add, a few stray suggestions for the future.

The leaflet sent each club last March contained the same hopes and ambitions. The Courier's Easter edition reiterated them, but such is the faith within me,

I am pleased once more to have the opportunity of presenting them to you.

For the benefit of the many clubs that have since entered our fold, you will pardon a little retrospection. Seven years ago this coming December the Omaha Woman's club, through the state chairman of correspondence, issued invitations to every club then existing in the state to attend the convention to be held in Omaha for the purpose of organizing a state federation to be auxiliary to the general federation. Thirty-six delegates, representing as many clubs, responded. At this meeting a letter urging a federation was read from Mrs. Henrotin. An encouraging talk was given by Mrs. Scammon, president of the Kansas and Missouri federation. After listening to three addresses, "State Federation as an Educational Factor," "The Moral Utility of Federation," "Benefit of Federation to Isolated Clubs," the enthusiasm could no longer be restrained—the motion prevailed "that we proceed to organize." Ten clubs became charter members. Our year book furnishes the names of the officers elected, as well as those of each succeeding year, who have assisted in laying the substantial foundation upon which we now are building. The records of the intervening years show a gradual advancement, until now we find ourselves requiring the services of eight standing and four special committees. There is yet a much-needed civic section for the purpose of improving and beautifying our towns, and for the purpose of public sanitation and municipal legislation, to improve the physical and moral condition of the community. All committees are now prepared to report; you may judge of their activity.

In anticipating the report of the special library committee which you authorized at your last meeting, I would say that the Nebraska club women have reason to feel exultant, not alone over their successes, that their introduction to legislation was in the interest of two such magnificent measures as the traveling library and compulsory education bills. But thirty school days have elapsed since the latter went into effect, and already we are hearing of its beneficial results. Our work on the new school law is by no means completed. We can assist by reporting to the truant officers all cases that come under our observation, also by having a watchful eye that the law is wisely and judiciously enforced.

In our efforts to develop better citizenship, I wish the federation might express its sentiment on the subject of manual training for both boys and girls in the public schools. Professor Beardshear, president of the National Educational Association, had this to say to the women of Iowa last May: "Children's intellectual imagination is appealed to over and over in books and elementary sciences, but the constructive imagination is too largely ignored. This does not mean that the youth must make perfect products. It is remarkable what a vast amount of strength and utility will come out of an uncouth structure and mechanism. The contriving and constructive abilities of a pupil are the most valuable to himself and, therefore, to civilization. * * * The sweetest whistle a boy ever blew is that made by his own knife; the keenest joy a man ever experiences in material affairs is that arising from the creation of his own hand. Both boy and girl should have a greater interchange of education in the elementary stages of a manual training. The girl can do much of elementary work in wood, and the boy would be better off to know more of the elementary work in domestic science, not including that of cooking."

With this all must agree, and much more might be added.

Last July for the first time in its history the American Library Associ-

ation formally recognized the value of women's clubs, and Nebraska was honored by having a representative in its national program. They appreciated this fact, that the great impulses given to the libraries in their extended usefulness came from the club movement. All clubs are asked to interest themselves, this coming year, in the pure food law. Every woman should see to it that the provisions of this law are extended and made more effective by providing better means of enforcement.

Now from the State Charities and Corrections' Association comes the request for assistance in bringing about the passage of a juvenile court law to supplement the provision of the new compulsory school law for parental schools. We are asked to investigate the workings of a similar one in Chicago and elsewhere. After our children's bodies have been provided for, their hand and their minds properly trained, we may turn our attention to women's welfare and use our influence to the end that at the next session of the legislature there shall be passed a women's rights law.

The Courier's Easter edition, of which a copy was sent to every club president, contained a report of the Louisiana Purchase conference held in Kansas City last January. This report included fifteen proposed projects for the permanent memorial to be erected by the women of the general federation. An expression upon a suitable memorial, and the amount of Nebraska's contribution to the same, can only be determined by the clubs. I trust each president has come authorized to speak definitely on both questions. The Mothers' Congress asked our moral and financial support in the education of one southern woman to fit herself for the position of a kindergarten teacher for colored children in the south. The good this will accomplish you will hear about later, as all of these subjects will be discussed during this session.

For four successive years the invitation of a state teachers' association to hold a joint session during the holidays has been accepted, until last winter, when, through a misunderstanding, the meeting was omitted. In consequence the executive board unanimously expressed its approval of each club holding at least one patrons' meeting during the year to which patrons, school board and teachers should be invited. The wide-spread influence of this you will readily see.

You are familiar with the story of the board's struggle with the question of finance and to them the very satisfactory solution of the same, Club Extension. Your last president, foreseeing the helpfulness of such a committee, accordingly formed one, appointing one member from each judicial district. Reports received from the various districts were identical—"No money with which to conduct campaign." This year the omission of the manual gave us the necessary funds to start the work, and now the further responsibility rests with you. Two items of information I confidently expect to hear repeated oftentimes tomorrow, and then not become monotonous: namely, that each club has reserved on its program this coming year one meeting to be devoted entirely to state federation interests, and the appointment by each club of a live extension committee. If I am not to be disappointed in this, the question of our future is answered.

I beg to acknowledge my grateful appreciation of the efficient corps of workers with which you surrounded me. In their selection not once did your judgment err. Each an expert in her particular field, your best interests have been hers. In addition to the duties for which they were elected, graciously have they performed arduous labor upon important committees. To your treas-

urer's gentle but effective solicitation you are indebted for the fund which makes possible this meeting. I should be remiss in my duty if I did not make mention of the program committee, whose good work must be apparent. All committees have been zealous in the pursuance of their special lines.

These annual meetings are the time-keepers of our federations. They record our advance or our retrogression. In our general summary of the year just closing we consider the growth most satisfactory, both in membership and achievements. The federation now numbers 107 clubs, aggregating 3,500 members. All must recognize in the program the enlarged scope of our work, and we hope every woman present may be moved to greater effort in her own and the state's advancement.

At this session the constitution committee will ask you to consider several radical changes, the most important, perhaps, will be the election of a vice president from each congressional district, and the holding of biennial meetings. The combination will give a larger working force and materially reduce expenses. The convention and the printing of the manual coming only once in two years, will allow the necessary means for committee work. Letters, no matter how explicit, are unsatisfactory messengers and not until the executive board and the chairman of committees can meet at least annually to consider matters of importance, can anything like gratifying results be obtained. The forming of district federations would result in a friendly rivalry which gives impetus to any movement and inspiration to higher and nobler endeavor.

To recapitulate: We have gleaned subjects for consideration for our "State Day" program:

The Constitutional Amendments.
How to Create Interest in Our New Traveling Library.
Southern Kindergartens.
Manual Training in Our Public Schools.
Holding of a Patrons' Meeting.
A Juvenile Court Law.
A Woman's Property Rights Law.

Quite enough material for one meeting, you will agree with me.

That experience may count, I would ask the retiring officers and chairmen of committees to formulate for their successors such suggestions as would facilitate the work in the future.

We come together today with feelings of mingled joy and sorrow. Important to our progress as are the subjects referred to, each and every one sinks into insignificance in comparison with woman's responsibility in connection with the great tragedy for which a whole nation is humiliated and mourns. Three years ago the 12th day of the month President McKinley was the guest of this organization. In a few choice words to over three thousand women he extended greetings and good wishes to our continued success. Today the flowers are yet fresh on the casket which contains his mortal remains, slain by the hand of a warped, misguided being, wholly lost in his infancy to every noble impulse.

In President McKinley's death womanhood has sustained an irreparable loss. His life an example of equal standard of virtue, his death a monument to woman's strongest weapons—purity of home, law and order. Let this common sorrow bind us closer together, and out of the gloom come a unification of high purpose. To me the chief tribute we can pay to his memory is to dedicate ourselves to renewed vigor in the gravest responsibility which rests upon us: the intelligent understanding of child nature and their early mental and moral training. This is the mission of women's clubs. Believing that the object of education is the foundation of character, we say with Reverend Charles Parkhurst,