

children out of the schools and into the factory. Through taking men's places, she enables employers to dilute labour and destroy trade unionism.

Through long hours and bad sanitary conditions, health and morals must suffer. All this she does but unknowingly, and from this point of view, experience and fear of losing her job, is a load on the back of the labour movement. Labour cannot shake off this load. It must be borne until women are organised and politically represented. Women are in industry to stay. The question is, how much longer are men going to keep closed their organisations and allow employers to use women against them. This is the question labour organisations must help to solve.

Politically war has thrown woman helter skelter into politics. Politicians have played upon her emotions rather than on her intellect. No matter how she votes, she is bound to be cursed and ridiculed by the losing party. It would be unjust to judge her under these circumstances and in time of war, when few can think clearly or see straight. Yesterday she voted from sentiment or for party; to-morrow she will use her intelligence and dearly bought experience and vote for principles, not party. Woman is naturally politically minded; for this reason she will quickly develop a genius for reforms and legislation tending towards human betterment. This is but natural, since at the risk of her own life and sacrifices she perpetuates the race. She will make her blunders, but she will not continue to do so. Where would the workingmen be without his woman folk? Could he run a home and family as his wife does on his wages? Public financing is but child's play as compared with feeding, clothing, education, and maintaining the standards of health and decency on a workingman's wages in these days of exorbitant prices. The waste and corruption in public financing is appalling. If women run their homes with as little sense and as poor economy as men do the nation's business, where would the nation be? After all, broadly speaking, women bear, rear, and keep the nation going. She does not bear arms, but she bears the armies. If the workingman's wife makes such a good job of running his home (and she does), why not ask her advice and help in the larger home keeping trades unions and

politics? War is hitting her from all angles. She realises the power of legislation as never before. The State can now commandeer the lives of her husband, son, and brother, and the labour of her daughters. The babe at her breast is no longer hers, the State can dictate the quality and quantity of food she shall give her family, the clothing and education of her children without asking her leave. She realises, as never before, the power that rests in Governments, the meaning of an order-in-council, its effect on her home, and her loved ones, and is determined to have her say in these important matters in the problems of home, food, shelter, and health. She has suffered severely and will continue to suffer long after the cannons cease to roar and drums cease to call to battle.

Labour must awaken to the place and power of women. Too long they have been used against them industrially. Labour must see to it that woman's new-found weapon, the Ballot, is not likewise used to further enslave them. This is a mighty power and will be coveted by all parties. The vote of the working man and woman are in the overwhelming majority. It depends how it is cast, where Labour will stand after the war, and under what conditions they and theirs shall live, or if they shall live at all. There is no use telling woman home is her place. She is put out of it, and like Humpty-Dumpty, all the king's horses and all the king's men cannot put her back again until this system is changed and home is a very different thing from what it is to-day.

Woman is the weak link in the industrial chain, the millstone which will not allow Labour to rise. When Labour realises this fact, and not until then, will labour organisations progress and attain political supremacy now that women have the vote.

Labour must open wide the industrial and political doors and invite woman to enter as an equal. She is half the human race and mother of the other half. The moral force lying dormant within her and anxious for expression is tremendous. A force which the world of men must reckon with. The war has left this force loose and is using it. In a short while it will seek new worlds to conquer. If harnessed on the side of the masses together, men and women will usher in a world fit for the children of man, made in the image of God.

ALCOHOLISM AND SOCIAL VICE.

Social measures to diminish sexual temptation divide themselves into two sort of activities: (1) Repression of prostitution and of the liquor traffic; (2) promotion of proper social surroundings, and of opportunities for recreation and diversion.

However unjust it may seem to some, the repression of prostitution, and of the liquor traffic are logically classed together. The liquor traffic in numerous ways is the fosterer of prostitution. And the effect of the alcohol traffic is a factor that cannot be overlooked in the diffusion of venereal diseases, because of the inhibition it produces in the restraining influences that under ordinary conditions prevent man's giving way to his impulses. It has been recognised by the army that keeping liquor away from the soldiers is of fundamental importance in the progress of the attack on venereal diseases. It is not necessary to go into the measures which the Government has enacted to keep alcoholic liquors from soldiers. It may be said, however, that these measures are being enforced and that the amount of alcohol consumed by the present army of the United States is negligible. There is an occasional bootlegger, and a small amount of liquor gets to the soldier in devious way, but it is in the total inappreciable. For all practical purposes the United States Army at the present time is a body of total abstainers. This fact is undoubtedly a very great factor in keeping down in the Army the incidence of venereal diseases.

The above extract is from an article appearing in the Journal of the American Medical Association, September 28, 1918.

Laws against alcohol, it is now understood, rest on the same basis as laws against morphine and other habit-forming drugs, for modern science has conclusively demonstrated that even in small quantities the use of alcohol is injurious. We have actual statistics of 43 life insurance companies which show that the moderate drinker, not beyond admittance to life insurance, has a mortality of 86 per cent. above the average, while the extremely moderate drinker, representing the minimum class in the four classes distinguished in these statistics, has a mortality 18 per cent. above. —Irving Fisher, of Yale University.