

Calif. State Council ...

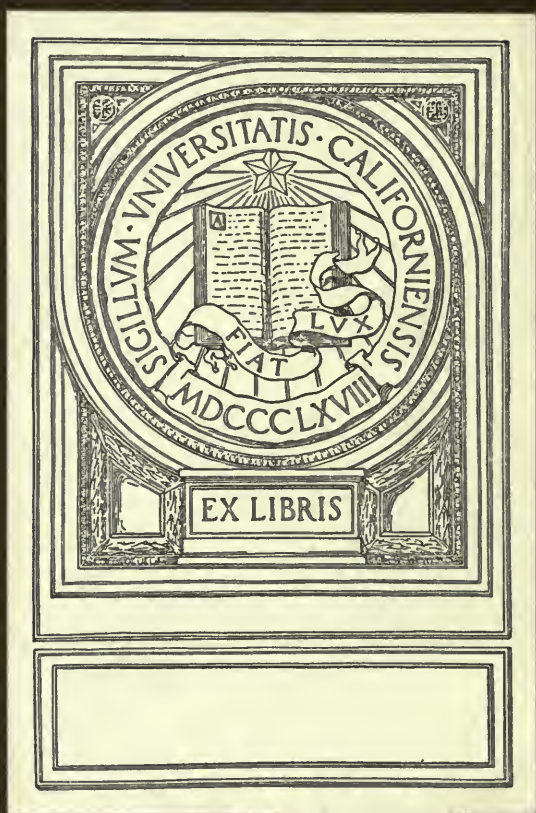
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**RECONSTRUCTION  
PROGRAM**

GIFT  
MAY 25 1927

**Women's Committee**  
of the  
**State Council of Defense**  
of  
**California**



**Headquarters**  
**719 South Hill Street**  
**Los Angeles**

**December, 1918**

## WOMEN'S COMMITTEE OF THE STATE COUNCIL OF DEFENSE OF CALIFORNIA

### SUGGESTIONS FOR RECONSTRUCTION

The Women's Committee of the State Council of Defense of California was organized at the direction of the National Government, in order that machinery might be provided to convey to the women of the State instructions and messages from Federal Agencies, indicating the manner in which the women of the State could help the Government in the crisis created by the war. In addition to this machinery for special campaigns, the Women's Committee has dealt constantly with social welfare problems intensified by the war.

As the work has gone on from day to day, carried out by the various Departments under which the Committee's work was programmed at Washington, the Committee have come to certain conclusions about the problems which confront the State of California, as definitely and distinctly in times of peace as in time of war.

It has been possible, through these various departments, to carry on education throughout the State with regard to these problems and it is hoped that, in making plans for reconstruction, the suggestions embodied here, formulated after the study of a year and a half of conditions in California, may be included.

The Committee offers them, believing that they are constructive for all time and are in line with the progressive development and permanent welfare of the State.

### WOMEN IN INDUSTRY

Industrial conditions in California were not so disturbed as in some other States during the war period, and it was not necessary to call into unusual occupations as many women as the war industries demanded in other localities. However, there have been women filling men's places in industrial, commercial and professional positions. There has been a demand that these women should be required to retire from these positions, leaving them free for the returning soldiers.

1. Wherever women are retained in the positions they now hold, the Women's Committee of the State Council of Defense of California believes that if they can fill the positions satisfactorily, they should be given a similar wage to that which a man would receive in the same position, thus safeguarding industry against unfair competition by under-bidding.

2. The Eight-hour law should be rigidly enforced:
3. There should be an extension of the minimum wage to embrace all classes of women in industry and a sufficient number of inspectors employed to enforce the law.

In all considerations of women in industry, they must be considered as part of a conservation program, for they are the mothers of future citizens and on their health and welfare depend the future strength of the State.

In order to safeguard the conditions for women, we urge that:

1. A woman be appointed to the State Labor Bureau.
2. A more equitable distribution of the employees of the Labor Bureau in its service throughout the State.
3. A woman be named as Assistant-Director of Women's work on the United States Employment Service, according to Federal provision.

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### CHILD WELFARE

The necessity for consideration of "Child Welfare" has been amply demonstrated during the period of the war, by the large number of men who were rejected for military service because of physical defects, most of which could have been remedied in childhood. The Program of "The Children's Year" Committee has made possible the education of large numbers of people throughout the State in this subject.

The work of "The Children's Year" Committee should be continued and made permanent by:

1. A well-equipped Child Hygiene Bureau under the State Board of Health.
2. Public Health Nurses established in every County of the State.
3. The establishment of Children's Health Centers where the weighing and measuring of children, the guidance of their diet, and advice to the mothers can be carried on steadily and permanently throughout the year.
4. Under the University of California there should be a College of "Home Economics" to give education and training in home-making and the care of children. There should also be complete courses for teachers in order to furnish practical teaching for the Public Schools. These courses should include training in hygienic living and diet as well as thrift and economy in household matters; education for motherhood should be provided by extension courses and lectures.

### Child Labor:

1. An earnest effort should be made to take out of labor and industry, the children who, on account of war conditions,

have gone into work. These children should be returned to their schools to complete their education and training, in order that they may take a better place in the world. This would release their jobs for adult workers.

2. Legislation regarding raising the age of children in street trades should be passed. At present, the children in California may enter into street trades at the age of 10. This age should be raised to 14, and no child should be allowed to sell papers, or other merchandise, on the streets, without a license and badge from the School Department. This is done in the State and City of New York and could be done in California.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH

### Tuberculosis:

There should be:

1. Increased provision made for taking care of tuberculosis, not only among the returning soldiers, but in the civil population of California. The epidemic of Influenza, with its accompanying pneumonia, will, undoubtedly, be productive of many cases of tuberculosis, which, added to the already large number in California, is bound seriously to affect the prosperity and welfare of the State. Every County should have free provision for the care of the tubercular, if the disease is to be controlled and finally eradicated from this State.)

### Under the State Board of Health:

There should be:

1. A Bureau for venereal diseases which would be a continuation of the work of the Military Welfare Commission which has been in existence during the period of the war, as a part of a National policy. Probably every effort will be made by commercialized vice to restore red light districts and wide-open vice conditions.
2. Free clinics for education and treatment.
3. Supervision of men and women suffering from these social diseases, to continue the work which has been begun during the war period.

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## EDUCATION

The Federal Board of Vocational Education proposes to rehabilitate the men injured in the war. As a reflex and a side issue of such education, it would be beneficial to the State of California if those injured in industry (which number annually far exceeds the number of injured soldiers), could also be given an opportunity to

learn a trade or occupation to take the place of the one to which they cannot return after accident.

1. Normal and Technical Schools, also a large number of High Schools and Junior Colleges, should be prepared to furnish education for returning soldiers who have previously had no skilled occupation, in order that they may become efficient in a trade or profession to improve their prospects.
2. Agricultural education in High and Normal Schools and Colleges should be developed and freely afforded to returning soldiers. In the event of the development of idle lands, they cannot be used to their full extent for the benefit of the soldiers unless these men have some understanding of scientific cultivation of land.
3. There should be compulsory education of illiterates, both children and adults.
4. Home and School Gardens should be maintained and encouraged.
5. Young people under 21 should be registered that they may be located and their educational status ascertained. (There is no census of the school population of the State.)
6. Provision should be made by which the child who takes out a permit to work under the age for which the school authorities are legally responsible for him, could be followed up. There is now no adequate provision for keeping in touch with a child who has been granted a work permit and knowing his physical and mental progress from that time on, no follow-up work and no advice from educational authorities.
7. A re-organization of the educational curriculum should be made in order that the training the children receive in the schools may be more practical.
8. Both boys and girls should be equipped and trained for some skilled occupation. A Pre-nursing course, covering the scientific study which would lead to six months' credit in accredited schools of Nursing, is recommended, to be added to the High School curriculum, wherever possible.
9. Vocational education should be developed to the full extent under the Smith-Lever and Smith-Hughes Laws, for the benefit of both girls and boys.
10. The development of Continuation Schools should be hastened during the reconstruction period, for the children and youths who cannot return to School: these should be provided in a way to afford real educational advancement. Legislation is needed to push the further development of Continuation and part-time schools.
11. There should be a systematic education in patriotic citizenship, in American history and in American institutions and ideals.

Ways and means should be devised to continue the community interest and community service which has been developed during the war by the Nation's problems. One of the methods which is receiving increasing recognition is that of Community Singing. The power of song to encourage and cheer the boys has been recognized; it can perform the same mission for the whole people if properly organized and directed. The time calls for Community Choruses and some way should be devised to organize them throughout the State.

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## AMERICANIZATION

We are deeply interested in Americanization and recommend as basic to the assimilation of the immigrant now here and to come:

First:

- a. Opportunity to settle on the land with proper State assistance in choosing and securing that land, and with additional assistance from the County Farm Advisor in the farming methods necessary in a new country.
- b. Industrial justice in wages, hours and sanitary surroundings, and safety conditions in shops and camps.
- c. Proper housing.

Second:

### **Educational Opportunity:**

- a. In schools and libraries.
- b. In shops, manufactories and camps.
- c. In homes and neighborhood centers.

This educational opportunity should recognize the helplessness of adults who do not know our language and prepare them for practical life. This will require a new educational scheme, new hours, and above all, new and practical methods; all of which requires knowledge of the psychology of the immigrant.

Unless the basic recommendations (First, A. B. C.), are met, there will be failure in assimilation, as it is impossible to secure loyalty and love of country in people who are social discontents. No amount of English education will overcome un-American conditions offered by employers. American standards in industry are the swiftest possible Americanizers.

The Women's Committee is especially interested in the Americanization of the homes of California and for that reason recommends that all possible effort be made to reach the foreign-speaking women.

- a. In their homes by home teachers.
- b. In groups in schools, clubs, libraries, neighborhood centers for general education and by Community singing and pageants.

















