

ECONOMIC WAR AFTER THIS WAR

Mrs. Ralph Smith Speaks to Political Education League

GIVE SOLDIERS CHANCE

"Industrially and economically, we are going to have a war when the war in Europe is over," said Mrs. Ralph Smith of Vancouver, speaking before the Political Education League in the Conservatory of Music last evening. Since the war began, she said, women have had to go into all kinds of work. The basic idea with many has been the rendering of national service. Nevertheless, women are not going back to where they were before the war.

In Vancouver they have a Woman's Forum, which is really a women's civic ratepayers' association, and this association has three planks in its platform. The first is equal suffrage. "Provincially we have it already—yes," said Mrs. Smith; "Federally—no. And we're not going to stop until we get it."

The second plank is equal pay for equal work. The women are not going to abandon that plank. When the war is over they are going to see that women get paid according to the service they render.

Equal Moral Standard.

An equal moral standard for men and women is the third plank in the platform. Not one of the women, Mrs. Smith says, believes that either sex has a monopoly of the virtues. There are good and bad in both, and both must be judged on a basis of equality.

Another matter of keenest moment to the women of Canada is the problem of the returned soldier, of the soldier's wife, the soldier's widow and the soldier's orphan. As to the men themselves, Mrs. Smith said:—

"We women want to see that these men are placed when they come home, and that there are as few as possible of square pegs in round holes. We owe them a great duty for the wondrous sacrifices they have made."

"No charity," she cautioned, "but the right to take their place in life, the opportunity to make good, and if they don't, we as citizens must take the blame and share the responsibilities."

The War-time Franchise.

"We women in the West are very much stirred up over the war-time franchise bill," the speaker declared. "We have women whose mothers and grandmothers and great-grandmothers were born under the British flag classed with enemy aliens. We have women who have sacrificed and worked told that they have not the brains to vote at the coming elections."

The women of Vancouver wired—"and in plain English, too," Mrs. Smith explains—protesting to the Premier against the passage of the franchise bill. The reply they received said: "Do not think women appreciate Government's difficulties." "So much," said Mrs. Smith, "for woman's intelligence!"

The speaker also made a strong plea for the foreigner, who is invited to come to our shores, to take possession of the land, to cultivate it—to be offered the opportunity to become a citizen—and then if a big question comes up, to have that citizenship withdrawn. She spoke of the foreigner as a producer—and an immediate producer, while the educa-