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Declaration of Principles of the Ohio Woman Suffrage Association

Ohio Woman Suffrage Association

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DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

OF THE OHIO WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

(1) Realizing that the gains of war accrue only to those who feed upon human suffering, that wars are made not to save nations, but to make money for the few; and that behind the pretext of patriotism the reason for the present world struggle is greed of land, commerce and power; and knowing that the horrors of increased taxation, massacre and rapine fall heaviest upon women and children, we protest against the hideous death-struggle of Europe.

(2) As the comparative peace which these United States have enjoyed results partly from the larger influence of the people upon our foreign relations; we affirm our conviction that giving the war-power to the European peoples, in stead of to the rulers, would restrain such conflicts.

(3) With this blood-stained proof before us we call upon our members to combat the sophistry of the doctrine that preparation for war spells peace; we denounce any further national expenditure for war purposes, maintaining that national strength lies not in armies and navies, but in national right-doing.

(4) We protest against child-labor, believing that it is a potent factor in race suicide, both in causing the premature death of workers and in injuring those who survive, reducing their vitality, interfering with their proper education and otherwise preventing their proper development and preparation for parenthood.

(5) We protest against the legal interpretation which has exempted the newsboy and street vendor from the beneficent operation of the Child

Labor Law in Ohio and against the legislative lethargy which has failed to fill up this gap in our code.

(6) We protest against the conduct of certain court cases relating to immorality, which, because of their publicity and the free nature of questions put to young girls is one of the degrading influences in our public moral life.

(7) Asking for justice and not blandishment, we maintain that while their property rights are protected, the personal rights of women are not now equally protected with those of men in Ohio courts. We maintain that they never will be equally protected so long as judges and officials are man-elected and man-appointed.

(8) As any uniform divorce law now passed would be voted upon by only one-fifth of the women in the country, we recommend that approval of such a law be withheld until such time as all American citizens are able to approve of it by their votes. We declare that in all public conferences and commissions appointed to consider this subject women should have an equal voice with men.

(9) Understanding that the traffic in women has been uncovered only with the advance of the woman movement, we consider attempts to prove that no such traffic exists as being in some measure attempts to combat the woman movement. We re-affirm our belief that this traffic does exist, as shown by legal records, and we re-emphasize our belief in the single standard of morality and the economic independence of women as the logical cures for this evil.

(10) We are opposed to capital punishment.

(11) We favor and demand a law establishing the State registration of nurses.

(12) Believing that the childhood of defectives is the period in which they require especial care, we deplore the fact that in this State there is no adequate provision for supervision and protection of feeble-minded children, nor even for investigation of their number and condition.

(13) We believe in the economic independence of women.

(14) We affirm the right of all wage-earning women to organize for the purpose of protecting their industrial interests.

(15) We deplore the fact that the wage-earning women of Ohio are not organized to the same degree as the wage-earning men. We express our sympathy with any movement looking towards such organization.

(16) We declare for equal pay for equal work irrespective of sex.

(17) We proclaim the right of women to work in all trades and at all professions limited by no bound but that of their own capacity. In order that teaching, factory work and office work may be relieved of their over-crowding by women, we urge that vocational conferences be held in all our schools and colleges explaining to women how many kinds of work are open to them.

(18) We advocate emphasizing to girls the significance of current history, the personal value to them of free speech and independence of action, and the nature of our fundamental legal rights. Most of all we advocate teaching them the meaning of democracy, of self reliance and self government, that they may be worthy to inherit the privileges won for them in the women movement, this world-old struggle between prejudice and freedom.

Adopted December 3, 1914.

Whereas, One of the most urgent questions before Congress, demanding solution in the near future, is

the necessity of providing some form of retirement for aged and infirm civil service employees, and,

Whereas, It has been proposed to establish such retirement by a system of deductions from the salaries which are, at most, only sufficient for the needs of the employee and in many cases are inadequate, and

Whereas, We believe that such a system of retirement would defeat the very purpose of the measure by driving from the service the younger workers of greatest capability and leave remaining the aged and infirm, and

Whereas, There is now pending in Congress a measure known as the Hamill bill, which, if enacted into law, will provide a moderate retirement for the aged and infirm by replacing old men with young men at lower grades of salary, will effect a saving in two ways which, together, will equal if not exceed the cost of such retirement.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, That we the members of the Ohio Woman Suffrage Association, in Convention at Columbus, Dec. 3, 1914, do hereby endorse the Hamill bill as a welfare movement worthy of the support of all people who believe in human welfare or human progress;

Resolved, That we call upon the general public to investigate the merits of the Hamill bill as it applies to a faithful class of public servants and to give their support to it,

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Congressmen and Senators from this State, and to the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission of the United States.

