

Now Is the Time—

Actions Speak Louder Than Feminist Propaganda
As Women Prove Worth in War of Production

By Patricia Grady

FEMINISTS attention!

You've come a long way in a short time, accomplished more in a quarter of a century than your pioneering leaders dared dream, and done it through the catalyst of tragedy—two terrible wars.



PATRICIA GRADY

To the welding, riveting, plant-managing woman of World War II, the days when women were fighting for a place in the economic sun seem to belong to the historic ages. It's easy to forget that feminine suffrage didn't come until after women had proved their worth in the labor-shortage months of the First World War. And it's easy to overlook the channels that have been opened to women workers during our present all-out production effort.

A BOOKLET calculated to remind the reader of the past and present occupational history of women in this country has been recently put out by Civil Service Commissioner Lucille Foster McMillin. Titled, "The Second Year—A Study of Women's Participation in War Activities of the Federal Government," this Government-printed story of a democracy's women at war draws some interesting comparisons between "then and now."



Sketched from a Parbrach portrait

Portrait Photographers
Since 1868

GENIE • DUPONT 4470

PORTSWEAR

A Bright Outlook
for Rainy Days

"Double Duty"

RAINCOATS

5.95 to 19.75

Name your favorite Raincoat style . . . We have it . . . Officer's styles, Trench Coats, Boxy Raincoats . . . In Gabardine, Satin Twill, Poplins, and Reversibles . . . Your favorite color . . . Red, Green, Military Tan, or Blue . . . Sizes 10 to 20. Shop us First for Raincoats.

IRVING'S

Tenth and E Sts.

EVERY EVENING TILL 9 P. M.

Natural Wild Mink
Jacket . . . Radiant
Gown . . . from
Rizik's brilliant col-
lection.

Coat 1500⁰⁰
plus tax
Dress 125⁰⁰

Rizik Bros.
1110 CONN. AVE.

Writes Mrs. McMillin, "In the First World War the work of women in industry, particularly in the Government's industrial establishment, was concerned primarily with jobs which could easily be divided into simple, repetitive operations, requiring only those techniques which were adaptable to their quick, nimble fingers. Highly skilled jobs, under this system, were so divided that they could be performed entirely by unskilled labor."

In this war, she points out, women have been called "to fill jobs in plants where 'men only' had been used before—jobs in the skilled trades which were being vacated by skilled manpower on its way into military services—jobs which had to be filled and the work continued in order to build the implements of war."

HERE are excerpts from the story of American women at war work, as told by the able commissioner, who has herself proved the capabilities of workers in skirts. "When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, production became the grand strategy of America. Production, now, was not a matter of preparedness, or of defense. Production, now, was vital—vital in the literal meaning of the word, for production must be ever greater, ever faster, to save America's life, to save the lives of America's men, who were fighting to save that life."

As the men left in steadily growing numbers for the fighting services, women took their places at the machines, whether those machines were in Government or private war factories. As new machines were installed in Government and private war plant expansion, women came to fill the new jobs. As peacetime industry was converted to war production, yet more women took their stations on the production line.

"ALMOST without exception, officials in Government agencies speak in laudatory terms of the work performed by women in the various mechanical trades. At first, some appointing officers did not think much of the idea of hiring women for manual occupations. They were by no means enthusiastic about employing women in jobs usually held by men."

From reports from the field during our almost two years of war, Mrs. McMillin has culled the facts that women receiving the same pay as men for the same work try harder and put out more work; that the spirit and morale of men is lifted by the infiltration of women workers; that women are above the average in patriotism, in interest manifested on the job and in zeal displayed in performing assigned tasks; that they are more stable, dependable, accurate, more attentive to detail, equal to men in many positions and even more proficient than men in some lines.

ON THE debit side, Mrs. McMillin finds that women are inferior at bench work, slower at using a hammer and chisel, at least skillfully, unable to fill positions requiring the physical strength of a man and not so competent as men in analyzing situations, such as procedures necessary in determining the repairs needed on a damaged instrument in an airplane and the method in making such repairs.

So, feminists, just stick to your war jobs. No more propaganda is needed to convince America that their women are capable of standing side by side with their masculine compatriots in waging the greatest of all wars of production.

Miss Chickering Becomes Bride Of John King

At the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church in Grosse Pointe, Mich., yesterday, Miss Elizabeth Sladen Chickering became the bride of John Swinton King of Detroit.

The bride is the daughter of Col. and Mrs. William E. Chickering, formerly of this city, and was graduated from Mount Holyoke in August of this year. Mr. King received his degree from Princeton in 1942 and is a member of the Elm Club.

After a short wedding trip, the couple will make their home in Comptone, Md.