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Shall Woman have the Ballot?

THE CASE DISCUSSED FROM A FEMININE POINT OF VIEW.

The right of women to vote is a question which has long since attained the proportions of a problem.

In no country has it been considered so seriously as in the United States. In several States women have the suffrage in school board elections, while in Kansas, notably, they have the full suffrage. The result of this in the charming personality of Mrs. Lease has occasioned grim laughter throughout the country.

Whether woman suffrage will become national is a question which an attempt will be made to answer in the Congress of Women, which opens to-day. To the keen observer the chief obstruction to the movement lie with women themselves. However alluring the right to vote may seem to the male, however much blood has been shed to extend that right, it must be confessed that all women are not anxious to obtain the privilege of voting.

There are some who even think that a woman's best place is at home, like the Roman matron, training good citizens for the republic. In fact, all over the country women are divided on the question. A canvass of some of the leading ladies of San Francisco shows that the local branch of the gentler sex, like their sisters of other localities, are not a unit in the cause.

They all betray a great interest in the delegates of the coming congress, but they don't all advocate women's suffrage. Some of them, with the high sense of duty so characteristic of the sex, declare they would vote as a duty, but they are not especially desirous of having that duty placed upon their shoulders. Indeed, the feeling is about evenly divided, as it always proves to be, when inquiry is made on the subject.

One lady well known here took the position that the Pacific Coast is not yet ready for the question and that it would be better suited to the Eastern States. She thought the shock would be too great for that coast.

Should or no shock the Woman's Congress will take the matter up at its meetings, which from all indications will be well attended. In the meantime the views of a number of prominent ladies, as given to a representative of THE CALL, will be read with interest.

THINKS IT A BENEFIT.

Why Mrs. Horace Wilson Favors the Granting of Female Suffrage.

I am willing to be quoted as being in favor of women's suffrage. I am not prepared to give a dissertation on the subject other than I feel it would be a benefit to women. I believe that a culmination of the question will be reached sooner than many think for. It is gaining strength rapidly, and it undoubtedly will soon demand a settlement.

Mary Lyon Wilson

NOT AS IT NOW EXISTS.

What Mrs. Caroline Brown Hopes to See.

As suffrage now exists I certainly am not in favor of it for women. It it could be modified to the extent of permitting only those who could read and write at least their own language and prove the possession of property to even a small amount, then I think suffrage for both sexes beneficial. But that is only an ideal state of affairs which, I suppose, will never exist.

I do believe, though, in spite of all objections the influence brought to bear in favor of the question will be so strong that we shall see universal suffrage in a short space of time. But as to interesting myself in the question under the present existing circumstances I would not do so and would not take a step to help the matter, as I am firmly convinced of its inadequacy. I should vote if it became the law as a matter of duty.

MRS. C. B. BROWN.

FAVORS THE SUFFRAGE.

Mrs. Cheney Thinks It Would Benefit Man as Well as Woman.

I am decidedly in favor of the ballot for women, feeling sure that the advantage accruing to her from absolute liberty of choice would benefit not only women, but man, relieving from him the responsible for one-half the country to speak for the other half.

If the mental powers of woman had not become known she would not have been willing to remain for centuries what Moses made her—the property of man. Had men turned his earnest attention to this subject he would long ago and without solicitation have given woman equal opportunities with himself for education and equal compensation for the work of her hands and brain. This possession would make woman an equal and thinker. The vitalization that is the result of mental activity would greatly increase woman's usefulness in the world. She does not and would not willingly abandon the lowest-specialized duties of home and motherhood. That is something no condition of life can change. The mental occupations and activities that have developed man's acuteness for organization would work the same result in the brain of woman. The power the majority of women would choose to use in her home, which certainly would be a benefit to man. For the healthy, breezy wife, who, after organizing the household economy, has had time to go to her club, to chat with women who have a life work, must be a better dinner and after-dinner companion than the tired woman who has mechanically dragged through a day of nonsite, and at the close of which has a sense of accomplishing nothing. If women have special education, equal compensation and equal voice in the making of the laws that now, without their consent, can punish them and tax them, there will be not only well directed thought in the place of mechanical drudgery in the household, but improvement in all things, not the least of which will be an equal standard of morality among men and women.

Jane John Dixon Craig

AN EARNEST ADVOCATE.

Mrs. A. A. Sargent Thinks Women Should Have Equality.

I am a confirmed woman suffragist, and have been for the last twenty years or more, and I really think one of the reasons why I became so was of the ridicule that was made of women voting, such as "they would vote for the best-looking man," and sell their vote for a yard of ribbon. What I want is equality. I think women should have the same right in the government of the country as men. I do not think a great amount of good would come at once in granting the franchise to women, but all true reforms are related to one another, and this is certainly a step in the right direction.

I think women do themselves an injustice when they say they say they do not want to vote, and encourage men in the injustice of depriving them of what should be their rights.

As to women holding public office, I do not think they could be much more corrupt in their government than men have been and are. When patriots of true love have been given their have proven worthy.

I should feel no hesitancy about going to the polls and voting among a mixed assembling of men. I feel more fear every time where I go. I live in the same house with them, ride in the cars with them and meet them everywhere. I believe the same courtesy that men are inclined to show women would prevail at voting places. But all that would regulate itself with the privilege, if it came. At any event, I am not in the least afraid of the time supposed to be in the way. I do not think that home interests will suffer any in the event of women's suffrage. The women who waste time in ballot box stuffing would do so any way. They are a very little moment. There certainly would be no discredit in the possible neglect if women was doing a duty of honor and trust.

MRS. J. A. SARGENT.

RIGHT VS. EXPEDIENCY.

How Mrs. Ralph C. Harrison Would Favor Women's Suffrage.

As a matter of absolute right I see no reason why a woman should not have as much voice as a man in adopting the laws by which society is to be governed, but as a matter of expediency and of social policy I think it better for her to leave these matters to men and devote herself to those duties to which she is better qualified.

If the right of suffrage could be limited to those who are fitted to exercise it there might be an advantage in extending it to women, but the effect of giving it to all women would multiply the intelligent vote and increase the existing objection to universal suffrage.

Ella Reid Mantley

A RECENT CONVERT.

Mrs. Dr. Gibbons Is Heartily in Favor of Suffrage.

I have only recently become a convert, so to speak, to the idea of female suffrage. I have always had, and do have, great interest in the politics of the country, but to engage personally in the matter of voting or to give the subject any more than passing notice I have not done until lately, but I believe now it would be to the best interests of the country if women were granted the franchise. Of course, if education could be made the basis or standard of voting, then there would be no doubt of it, but as that has not been done on one side, it could not be expected on the other.

The fact is to be deplored that so many intelligent men stay away from the polls. But if those men's wives had the same right, two intelligent votes no doubt would be cast instead of one.

The question of woman's suffrage is one that has a great many sides, and I do not pretend to know much about it. But if granted the right I should certainly vote, and I certainly advocate the movement. I notice, too, that other women are gradually taking more interest in the question. In meetings where these questions are apt to be discussed, it is natural to be with more attention than formerly, and the sentiment is received with much favor. I am heartily in favor of it. MRS. HENRY GIBBONS.

IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS.

The Views Expressed by Mrs. A. L. Bancroft.

Do I believe in universal suffrage? As a young girl and a young married woman I was an enthusiastic follower of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. For some years, however my views have been undergoing a gradual change, and I now feel that no greater disaster could overtake the country than that of granting the franchise to women.

Think of the thousands of women in the United States who cannot speak English. Think of the thousands of colored women in the South. I have been told often that there are thousands of men in the United States whose votes can be bought for $1 each, and that sum would no doubt be pocketed by the men. These women would vote as their husbands or sons dictated, and in no way would their vote be of any benefit to the sex or to the country. It would simply be adding to the ignorant male vote, and the two together would be large enough to create chaos at the first election.

I think property-owners who pay taxes should have a vote. The law now favors taxation without representation, and to that I am opposed.

I do not believe that the franchise would elevate woman. It does not seem to elevate man, and this is not in age of miracles. It is very true that the body politic is in a bad way, and that corruption and bribery sit in high places. Then how could the ignorant vote of woman help matters, with all their knowledge and experience, have not been able to prevent?

If men would do their duty there would be no need for the purifying influence of women. It is men who have, do and will make the nations what they are, and it is for them to see that right and justice prevail.

I do not consider the educated American woman even qualified to vote. She has five generations been the most protected, cherished and privileged creature in the civilized world, and in order to vote intelligently she would have to become a different kind of a woman, and I should be sorry to see her changed. She has put right as she is, to my thinking. Should I vote if the franchise was granted women? Oh, yes, certainly, it would then become a duty, but I think no greater harm could come to the country than that of granting universal suffrage.

Jerome N. Bancroft

WHY SHE FAVORS IT.

Miss Agnes Tanning Thinks the Suffrage Would Elevate Woman.

If there is any good in the ballot, why, I think decidedly women ought to have it, and if there is not any good in it, why have men fought and clamored so much over it? I think that the proposition that granting the franchise to woman would increase the ignorant vote is a very fallacious argument against it. I know that question is always asked and used in an argument.

If it should increase the ignorant vote then it ought to be increased. Because if that class of men have been interested with the importance of a vote and a say in the laws of this great country then their wives and daughters should have the same right.

I do not think though that the ignorant vote is the worst thing to contend against. It is the vicious voting. Give us high civil service reform and do away with this demagogism, and in another generation our public schools will solve the problem of ignorant voting.

A good argument in favor of woman's suffrage is, that since 1869, for twenty-five years in Wyoming, women have enjoyed the privilege of franchise, and the Chief Justice of that State stated in his last report that there have been fewer murders, robberies and crimes committed in that State than in any other in the Union, and also stated that the social evil fled from Wyoming, where the first woman sat upon a jury.

If I did not earnestly and sincerely believe it would elevate and educate woman I would not advocate it. Woman suffrage has woman to thank for the advancement she enjoys to-day. I certainly favor anything which will be of advantage to woman. AGNES MANNING.

TOO INDIFFERENT.

What Mrs. Cooper Considers the Great Obstacle to Female Suffrage.

If all good women would recognize the right of franchise I believe that woman's suffrage would ameliorate the condition of woman. But in point of fact, a large majority of women manifest little interest in the question of suffrage. This palpable indifference in regard to securing the privilege is evidence of the absence of any very extended discussion with the more present position.

Female suffragists find their most formidable opponents are among their own sex. The ballot can never regulate our bad work. Look at the thousands of men who are out of employment to-day. If the ballot could ameliorate their condition their votes would not lack for bread. I believe the ballot in the hands of woman, provided every good and true woman would vote, would do much toward solving the problem of labor and capital and other ills of the community.

Would it make men less chivalrous? True manhood always hails with gladness the advent of any movement to ameliorate or ennoble effects of love and service in the home, but when love for power and influence outside the charmed circle, for purposes of personal aggrandizement, usurps the first statement said: "It is your intellectual dress, your ignorance, who is too indolent to conquer knowledge for himself, but who is content to remain ignorant because he dislikes to appear to disadvantage before her."

Would it make woman less womanly? Some of the noblest women of the world I met at the Woman's Congress in Chicago in the Women's Parliament of Religions. Wives and mothers from nearly every nation, and they were the strongest advocates of suffrage. The way to make a better man, is to make better wives and mothers by expanding the sympathy and broadening the intellect and energy of woman of the world. The woman who is nothing else than a wife and mother is no more the highest type of wife and mother than a man who is nothing else than husband and father is the highest type of a husband and father. It is a mistake to suppose that a woman can bring no efficiency for the world's benefit by uniting in the world. Through our local clubs and throughout the country I foresee an era upon which the world is entering, in which mankind will have a loftier idea than it has ever known in the larger life of woman.

Caroline B. Cooper

NOT APPRECIATED.

Mrs. Mackenzie Thinks Women Do Not Give the Question Thought.

I have given the matter of female suffrage no thought whatever; my time has been so taken up with other questions. I think we women who have no responsibility do not appreciate the importance of the question. When one has property or a business to manage I think the ballot would be a privilege of great advantage.

If granted the right to vote I certainly should do so without fear or sentiment, or being influenced by the opinions of any one.

Mrs. R. Mackenzie

PERFECTLY SATISFIED.

Mrs. Horace Davis Is Not Anxious for the Ballot.

I am perfectly well satisfied with my privileges. I have never had occasion to feel otherwise.

I do not think franchise to women would ameliorate their condition or help us, as I think just as many would be influenced to vote injudiciously as men are.

If women were granted suffrage I would vote as a matter of duty and practice; I think it is every man's duty to vote.

MRS. HORACE DAVIS.

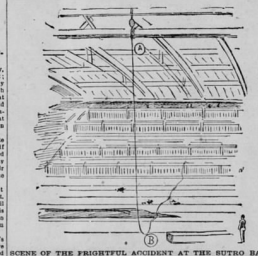
WOMEN TO MEET.

The Congress Will Begin This Morning.

Topics Which Will Come Up for Discussion by Delegates at the Convention.

The Woman's Congress will begin its meeting in Golden Gate Hall to-day. This convention bids fair to prove one of the most interesting held in this city.

Nothing need be said in this day and generation of the wide usefulness and power of such gatherings, and to one



SCENE OF THE FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT AT THE SUTRO BATHS.

(A indicates the place whence the unfortunate men were dashed down upon the stone floor (B) below.)

of citizens are they more necessary than to women.

Moreover, on this coast, in the comparatively recent and still widely scattered settlements, women need to meet and talk together even more than do their Eastern sisters.

The scope of this congress is very wide, being held wiser to give a general view of many phases of woman's usefulness on the coast and in the world at large than to give more time to any special topic.

It is recognized, however, that the question of most practical importance before the women of to-day is that of household economics, and much interest is manifested in this subject. Current dress and physical culture will also be considered with much attention, lyrics, as they do, as close to the primal needs of life.

The work of sundries three seven days of intellectual exchange has been very great, and much praise is due both to the social workers and the large body of women who have so ably seconded their efforts. Financial help and personal sympathy and assistance made the work prosper.

The recording secretary of the board of managers, when presenting their report at the last regular business meeting, made the statement that the members of the board had given nearly a hundred years' experience of associate work she had never belonged to any organization which accomplished more work in less time and with less friction.

In all the twenty-eight regular meetings there had been but one absentee, and in the twenty-eight meetings there had been but seven absentees. Of these seven absentees had been very high, usually some absolute necessity.

The congress, beginning to-day, will last for six days, with three sessions each day, namely, at 10 A. M., at 2:30 P. M. and a third at 7:30 P. M.

The topic for discussion to-day is education. The programme is as follows:

Morning session, elementary education—10 A. M.—Devotional exercises. Mrs. Phebe Apperson Hearst, president of the board of managers; introductory remarks, "The Relation of the Kindergarten to Manual Training," Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper, president of the Golden Gate Kindergarten Association; "Child Study," Miss Alice Rees Fitch, principal of the California Kindergarten Training School.

Afternoon session, "Secondary Education"—2:30 P. M.—"Science Before the Public Schools," Mrs. Georgia A. Maxfield, San Diego; "Physical Culture," Miss Anna Moscrip Wheeler, Stanford University; "Manual Training in Secondary Schools," Miss Mary Roberts Smith, Santa Barbara; "Domestic Science," Miss Mary Sheldon Barnes, Berkeley, Cal.

Evening session, "Higher Education," Call-fornia Branch Association of Collegiate Alumnæ—7:30 P. M.—Introductory remarks, Mrs. Jane Stanford, president of the association; "Co-education," Miss Alice Freeman Palmer, president of Wellesley College; "Co-education in Colleges Women in Secondary Schools," Miss Ellen Hyde Nichols, Oakland; "Co-education," Miss Lillie J. Martin, "Women in College Faculties and on Managing Boards," Mrs. Mary Roberts Smith.

On Wednesday the topic of civil reform will be discussed, and Miss Sarah Severance of College Park will read an essay upon the "Relations of Californian Women to Politics," and at the afternoon session Mrs. Noble B. Eyster, State superintendent of prisons, will speak. At 7:30 P. M. will occur the "Singer of a Woman's party."

Henry on the Jesuits.

There was a large audience at the meeting held in Cote Fellers' Hall yesterday afternoon to hear Rev. J. Q. A. Henry on his "Allegiance of Jesuitism." The speaker criticised the Jesuits in a very severe manner. The meeting several songs were rendered by a volunteer choir.

DOWN FIFTY FEET.

Frightful Fall of Two Workingmen.

DEATH AT SUTRO'S BATHS.

The Skulls of Both Laborers Were Crushed.

ONE OF THEM DIED INSTANTLY.

They Had Been Sitting on an Unsound Timber, Which Was Broken by Their Weight.

There was a frightful accident at Sutro Heights yesterday which resulted in the death of two mechanics who were removing some timbers that had been used by the builders of the roof.

The workmen, Charles Underwood and Gustav Harkinson, were selected for the difficult task which had to be done, on account of their peculiar fitness for the job. Harkinson had been a sailor and Underwood was a builder of bridges.

The timbers which had to be removed were under the roof facing the bay above the stone floor of the house. A rude platform consisting of a single plank, very thick and heavy, with supports at each end, had been constructed for the men to work on. The two men took their position under the roof and worked steadily and silently for about an hour. There were a few spectators in and around the building, who occasionally turned their eyes toward the two men on the elevated platform or watched the progress of the detached timbers that were removed by them.

At 9:30 o'clock there was a loud snap-

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150 Dress Patterns at $3.50 each.
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100 Dress Patterns at $6.00 each.
75 Dress Patterns at $10.00 each.
50 Dress Patterns at $12.00 each.

The particular attention of our customers is respectfully directed to these goods.

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$5.00 $4.00 $3.50 $2.50 $2.25 $2.00 $1.75
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$3.00 $2.50 $2.00 $1.75
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COLLECTION AND CREMATION OF GARBAGE

CLERK'S OFFICE, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, SAN FRANCISCO, April 27, 1894.
Public notice is hereby given to all parties interested that the Committee on Health and Police will meet in the Committee Room, City Hall, on FRIDAY AFTERNOON, May 4, 1894, at 1:30 o'clock, for the purpose of hearing and considering the proposition of the Board of Health for the collection of garbage and house refuse of the city and county by contract. JNO. A. RUSSELL, Clerk.
1052-3

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