

SHALL WOMAN BE GIVEN THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP

The Economic Reason for the Struggle of Woman to Gain Recognition As a Human Being, With the Same Political Rights and Privileges as Man.

The woman suffrage question has agitated the public a great deal in late years all over the world. There has been a good deal said both for and against. The one says it is only right and just that woman should have the franchise, because they compose half the human race and should have the same right as men to vote. "No!" says the opponent, "she should keep out of politics altogether, attend to her household duties, rear children, and be a good wife to her husband." "Amen!" says the pulpiteer; "God in His wisdom has so destined her for that purpose only."

Nobody seems to be able, however, to give the reason why women are making an effort to get the suffrage. Now everybody knows, or should know, that there can be no effect without a cause. Hence we must analyze it, find out why women all at once try to have a say in the law-making power, and why they did not want it before. Therefore I think it opportune to make clear the cause of their present activity on that line. This being purely an economic question, it must be treated from that viewpoint to find out why women force themselves to the front, seek to attain greater recognition and more respect from their fellow-men in our age than ever before.

From a humanitarian point of view I am in favor of women having the same privilege in the voting power with men, but for certain reasons given below I am against extending the franchise to women.

When first man enslaved his fellow-man woman became the property of the master, and had to work alongside her fellow-man in the field. However, as woman is destined by nature to give birth to and rear children, the household became naturally the field for her operations. From that time on woman really became the property of man, was considered inferior and is so held up to this time. When woman took possession of the household the man had to furnish the necessities for the family, and consequently he became the supporter. As time passed on marriage laws came into existence, and as women were now dependent on men for support the female child was naturally taught by its parent to look attractive, for the purpose, when old enough, of finding a supporter for life.

This system was all right as long as humanity lived principally by agriculture (land production), and even a few centuries after the factory system followed, when everything was produced on a small scale by hand tools, no change was yet noticed.

When, however, machinery made its appearance and society commenced to produce for a world's market the worker was gradually separated from his hand tools and became a factory worker.

This has developed to such a gigantic scale that our present industries are managed by large corporations, or so-called trusts, because it requires such an enormous capital that no individual could handle it alone. In order to keep pace with an ever-increasing demand new and ever-larger machinery came into existence to cope with the new situation under which society found itself.

Today most all the physical strength necessary to production is concentrated in the iron monster, and even that which formerly required the greatest of human skill is now done by simple machinery.

In consequence we see in every nation a great army of unemployed who have to compete with their fellow-men who are at work and jeopardize their jobs, or in other words their very exist-

ence. The result of this struggle is that they refuse to enter into a family bond and rear children, hence the tendency of the most highly developed countries to become depopulated. This in turn leaves the woman without a supporter, and she is forced by circumstances to live on her own merits. Therefore she has to enter the field in competition with man in every line of industry.

This has developed her intellect to the point where she has become conscious of the fact of her inferiority. She is not even conceded the same remuneration as men where equal services are performed. If she complains in many instances she has been told to look for a "gentleman friend," for no other purpose than to make up for the difference between her wages and her needs. A great insult, indeed, to women and motherhood in our so-called highly civilized age.

As conditions become more and more unbearable, existence more and more uncertain, the mind more and more developed, and women have not yet a say in man-made laws, but are compelled to live under them, will you blame them if they make an effort to remedy where it is lacking?

But, as I well recognize, to gain the only practical knowledge worth knowing by hard and bitter experience, it must be produced from within and not from without—that is, anything can only have a permanent result when a certain desire becomes necessary to have it established. Without this desire or want it will become a detriment rather than a benefit to anyone to whom anything is given before-hand, because its value cannot be appreciated and its application will be misused.

For this reason I am against extending the franchise to women until a pronounced majority of her sex demand it.

When, however, the majority of women have ripened to the consciousness, through economic necessity, that their sex should have the same civic rights as men now exercise, it becomes entirely unnecessary to give that right to them, because they will then have the power to back up their demand and take it, whether man likes it or not.

C. F. S.

The System is rotten. Push it over.

The Vancouver city authorities are making preparations for the accommodation of a big chain gang for the winter.

Our object is to change the present system and instead of having commodities made for profit as at present, we will have them made for use.

"Tell me whose tools you use and I'll tell you whose slave you are. Tell me whose bread you eat and I'll tell you whose song you sing."—Oscar Ameringer.

Every time you vote for the Liberal or the Conservative you vote for the low wages paid by the big departmental stores to their girl employees which has driven many a girl to the red light district.

Say, you free-born British object, don't you know that the boss does not pay you for working for him? If you don't, it's time you got wise to the proposition that you pay the boss for the privilege of letting you work for him.

A free speech fight is on in Chicago. The latest report states that fifteen have been arrested. The police charged the crowd with drawn batons, some of them even drawing their revolvers. Several of the Socialists arrested were refused bail.

The Chicago newspaper strike is still on, the circulation of the trust newspapers is almost at the vanishing point and the Chicago Daily World (Socialist) is publishing two papers daily and getting the support of the wage workers of that city.

If you haven't got any of the property that is so easily obtained in this country, it's because you have to work for a master who gets all the prosperity after you have produced it. Get wise and vote for the Collective Ownership of the means of wealth production.

TO NEW READERS

If you get this paper sent you, it is paid for.

All we wish you to do is to study it, and if you find anything in it that you object to, write to the office of publication and let us know to what you disagree.

This paper is published in the interests of the working class, therefore if you are a wage worker it is to your interest to study it.

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