

So far we have been dealing with the results of the present Suffragist proposals in England. But any study of this question must lead to a discussion of the broader issues of a national suffrage for women. And here it may be useful to observe the experience of other countries. In Finland it has been found that the women neglect their homes and families to squabble over politics, and the husband of a member of the Legislative recently applied for poor relief, stating that he and his children were starving and their home in a disgraceful condition. In Australia the addition of the uneducated female vote has resulted in Socialistic laws, a huge National Debt, and a tariff on certain articles of 100 per cent., resulting in a rise in the cost of living. One of the principal dangers of Female Suffrage is the increased ignorant vote that it creates. It is quite true that there is no educational qualifications for the male voter, but is that a reason for increasing the danger which the male vote already entails? Then again nobody can deny that women are more likely than men to be influenced by priests and yellow journals. The latter, as the writer knows, played a very large part in bringing out the female vote in the last elections of the London County Council. The argument that the law deals more leniently with men than women can not be borne out by facts. The death penalty is imposed much more seldom in the case of women than of men, and magistrates often discriminate in

favour of female offenders. But supposing that women were given the vote, what would be the results of their influence on the problems which face Parliament and the great Government Departments? The Treasury? It is admitted that the weaker sex are not so competent as men to grasp intricate matters of Finance. The War and Marine Offices? The country would be in danger of its very existence if women—not understanding such matters—were to decide the strength of the army and the ship-building programme of the navy. The India Office? A weak, yielding policy would plunge India into a bloody revolution. The Foreign Office? A tactless and impulsive foreign policy would land all Europe in a war. The Colonial Office? Would the Empire like to see women interfering in its affairs? In every one of these cases the risk is too great and outweighs all other considerations. No comparison can be made with meetings of the Parish Council to discuss the Parish Pump.

From the foregoing list the work of these departments has been omitted, viz.: the Home Office, Local Government Board, and Education Office. Here there is certainly a large field for women's work. But it must be remembered that these departments deal more especially with home life and social conditions, and that they work hand in hand with the County Councils, for which women have the right to vote and to stand as candidates. The same is true of the Bor-

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