

tions under the sun will carry any weight with them against the refusal of it at this juncture.

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Political Opportunity

These facts have to be taken into account by Suffragists in determining their immediate policy and line of action. There are two alternatives open to the Government in the event of their deciding that it would be to their interest to conciliate the women of the Province and frame a Bill for their enfranchisement. The Bill might be a simple measure providing that women should be given the Vote on the same terms as men, or it might be drawn up on the Norwegian lines, giving the Vote to married women and those over 25. To us, it would make very little difference which alternative were adopted, for the establishment of the **principle** is the essential and immediate goal of our endeavour; but the Government would see in these alternatives quite different prospects for themselves and for the future of the country. They would probably be of the opinion that the former arrangement would add considerably to the Liberal and Socialist Vote, and would so endanger their own existence, whereas, considering the two hypotheses (1) that the majority of men voters in the Province are conservative, and (2) that married women would almost invariably simply duplicate their husband's vote, they would expect the Norwegian system to strengthen their hands in the party fight which lies before them.

Our policy should, therefore, be to call the attention of the Government to the fact that the issue of Votes for Women is one of extremely practical import to themselves, and that it will do their party no good to ignore it or to leave it still unsettled. And there is this also to be said—that although the votes of women are not to be bought by any system of bribery, either direct or indirect; and though we disagree personally with the view that married women will necessarily hold the same political opinions as their husbands, and with the equally naive view that most

married men in this Province are sincere supporters of the present Government, yet—women are very loyal creatures, and, while they will probably vote generally for principle rather than for party, there are, of course, a number of them in this country whose political opinions are not yet definitely formed, and who will in consequence be inclined to vote, at any rate at first, for the party that gives them their freedom, as a mark of gratitude and a recognition of its public spirit and generosity.

The Government, therefore, would do well to bear in mind the significance of the present moment, and the public of B. C. should concentrate on such efficient political work as will leave it in no doubt as to the discretion of valour where progressive innovation is contemplated.

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Suffrage Vitality

There is no surer sign of life in any organism or in any society than a tendency to push forth new roots or new branches, to venture upon new developments, to blaze new trails. Just as in the world of nature fresh life is manifested by the amalgamation or by the splitting of cells, so in the world of politics and in the social world every fresh move in the formation of associations representing a new kind of activity or a different point of view is proof of healthy and vigorous growth. Division is not by any means always dissension, much less rivalry; it implies rather the quickening of individual faith and of a sense of individual responsibility.

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New Suffrage Societies

This is particularly the case with regard to any movement such as the Cause of Votes for Women. Suffragists are not all moulded according to one pattern. The grounds of their faith are many and yet one. Their points of view vary greatly, and are influenced by nationality, by religious opinion, by temperament, by personality, and by mental and moral and even physical characteristics. And this is where their fundamental unity and