

20 A MAN-AND-WOMAN-MADE WORLD

There has appeared in "Pictorial Review," during the past eight months, the most complete and comprehensive series of articles on Equal Suffrage ever presented to the American public. They were built on facts, not theories. They pictured truthfully, graphically, what Equal Suffrage has accomplished in states where it has been adopted, not prophecies of what it might or might not do in communities where it has never been tested. They were written by careful investigators who entered upon their task without prejudice for or against Equal Suffrage. And they established three important, unassailable facts: First, that women of the better class, intelligent, earnest, useful women, are interested in government. Second, that the vote has not made these women unduly aggressive nor unfeminine; nor has it unfitted them for their duties as home-makers and mothers. Third, that suffrage for women does not mean a woman-ridden nation, but rather a nation ruled by men and women equally.

The third and last fact is by all means the most significant and important. With a million voices crying hoarsely, "Votes for Women," we miss the still, small, potent voice with its insistent demand for "Equal Suffrage for men and women."

Upon perfect equality of the sexes in government, not on "votes for women," will the future greatness of this nation be built. On the interdependence of the sexes in the making and the execution of laws, not on the independence of women, rests our hope of purifying politics.

Woman suffrage alone would prove as ineffectual as man suffrage has demonstrated itself to be. A woman-ridden, woman-governed nation would be as weak as the man-ridden, man-governed nation is now politically corrupt. Woman, with her innate passion for detail, would probably neglect the broader, bigger needs of the governmental machinery, just as man, with

his wider political outlook, now neglects details that make for what might be termed clean national housekeeping. The man sees international, interstate, interurban questions as pressing. The woman sees the purely local political questions which press close to her front gate, endanger the health of her family or even pollute her doorstep.

When the man and the woman walk to the voting booth, shoulder to shoulder, their combined vote will amalgamate or balance the big interests and the little, and will solve both foreign and domestic problems.

Three institutions which represent the best phases of our national life maintain their high standard because there is interdependence of the two sexes in their plan and execution. They are the home, the school and the church. In each of these the man is the complement of the woman, and, vice versa, the woman complements the man. Let either man or woman withdraw support and activity from home, school or church and the institution must totter and fall.

In the home, which is unquestionably our most successful institution, you find men and women most dependent upon each other, most closely allied in a common interest—raising a family. In this progressive age, when husband and wife are of average efficiency, the government of the home takes the form of a partnership. The husband is the source of supplies and the wife the dispenser of supplies. Good order and prosperity are maintained by the ballot of both husband and wife. When for any reason one or the other withdraws from the partnership or the cabinet, the government, also, disintegrates.—Pictorial Review.

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"Why are so many marriages unhappy?"

"Because we use no judgment. For instance, a young man marries a girl because she swims beautifully, and then houses her in a flat instead of a glass tank."