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Suffrage in the United States

Wednesday, Aug. 18, will in years to come be remembered as a great day in the history of the women's suffrage movement in the United States. In that country the suffrage question has until recently been one for consideration and action by the Legislatures of the several States. The franchise as fixed for State purposes was the franchise also for a Federal election. A number of the States adopted women suffrage years ago. But a number of the States did not. Consequently in a Presidential election the women were eligible to vote in some of the States, while in others only the men had the right to vote. The advocates of women suffrage endeavoured to meet this condition by obtaining an amendment of the constitution of the United States, giving women everywhere the right to vote in Federal elections. After a long fight such an amendment was carried through both branches of Congress at Washington. Before the amendment could take effect it required the approval of the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States, that is, thirty-six of the forty-eight States of the Union. As a result of the persistent fight of the women the approval of thirty-five States was obtained. One more State in support of the movement was needed. It fell to the lot of the State of Tennessee to give the decisive vote. The Tennessee Senate voted favorably last week. The assent of the Tennessee House of Representatives was all that was now needed. That there would be a close vote in the House was expected, and the prospect was that the vote would be adverse. But on Wednesday last, in a scene of wild excitement, a House majority declared for the ratification of the constitutional amendment. Unless a vote for reconsideration is obtained, the action of the House at Nashville ends the long war for women suffrage in the Republic. The women have won.

It is estimated that as a result of the vote in the Tennessee House no less than twenty-three million women have become electors qualified to vote in the Presidential election which is now pending. Naturally, the political leaders are now much concerned as to the effect of this new condition on the contest which is in full blast.

Both Presidential candidates, Mr. Harding and Mr. Cox, made bids for the favor of women by urging their friends in the Tennessee Legislature to vote for ratification of the amendment. In this respect they stand on even terms. Neither the Republicans nor the Democrats can lay a special claim to the support of the women. What is likely to happen is that the women, like the men, will divide on other issues, and in most cases the women will be found voting in harmony with the male members of their families. When they do not, when the wife exercises the liberty of neutralizing her husband's vote by casting her ballot for the party which he opposes, what then? Of course, sweet reasonableness should prevail, and each voter recognize the right of the other to a free choice. In Canada, where a high state of civilization exists, such no doubt will be the case. But what may happen in countries not so favored will be an interesting subject for study.

The Tariff in the U.S. Election

The tariff is one of the questions which the Presidential candidates have been disposed to approach gingerly. In neither of the party platforms is the subject given prominence. Senator Harding, the Republican candidate, in a recent speech mentioned it as one of the issues to be considered. A day later Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Democratic candidate for Vice-President, spoke as follows:

"The Republican nominee for the Presidency was reported yesterday as thinking of the tariff issue as a prominent feature of his campaign. I can only remark in passing that he must be much put to it to unearth topics for his 'front porch campaign.' The tariff was indeed at one time in our history a local issue. It later became a national issue—but seven or eight years ago it was, to everybody's satisfaction, taken out of politics, and by a law, supported not only by Democratic but Republican votes, placed under a non-partisan tariff commission, along sound lines. Senator Harding has evidently forgotten that this event took place."

Mr. Roosevelt's remarks indicate that the Democratic party prefer to have a campaign