

WOMAN'S WAGES.

THE question as to whether a woman should receive the pay of a man when she fills a man's position has thus far had no practical solution. The general opinion on the subject is quite settled, but there is a diversity of thought which arises mainly from those who pay the wages. As the controversy is not fully closed, a few random observations from an intelligent and highly reliable source will be hailed with joy by the reading public.

I am not in the least prejudiced against the fair sex, and nothing could be farther from my mind than to say anything disparaging to the Nineteenth century additions to Eve. Woman has held a striking position in my family and among my ancestors as far back as I can remember—striking, that explains it exactly. I have been taught to love and respect her—particularly to respect. In what way it happened remains one of the sweetest memories of childhood, about which cluster visions of hickory wreaths shorn of all their garniture—a picture too sacred for public scrutiny. But in the face of all this I must take a side glance at the question here considered.

Let us take an example, not a woman who was raised in the ball room with a beau on her arm; who subsists mainly on love stories, seasoned with bon bons; who has been to London to swell her verbosity that she may converse learnedly when she takes her lap dog out for exercise. No, let us take an honest, everyday, hearty woman, who darns her own stockings and eats three square meals a day; who holds a position as bookkeeper, clerk or stenographer; who attends to her duties and never flirts during business hours.

Can this woman afford to work for less pay than a man? I unhesitatingly answer, yes; and the reasons are obvious. A woman can live cheaper than a man. She does not have to pay for six shaves and a hair cut every two weeks; she does not smoke nor find it necessary to patronize the side door of the "Bald Eagle", she does not have to pay any poll tax;

**B. WILLIAMS & CO.,**

**THE LATEST** Fine line of FANCY SUMMER VESTS just to hand.

50 DOZ. REGATTA and PRINT SHIRTS reduced to 75 cts each

**B. WILLIAMS & CO., CLOTHIERS AND HATTERS,**  
97 JOHNSON STREET.

she goes dead head to the circus and the opera; she stays with an old aunt, perhaps, who takes out her board in chin music. If she is endowed with good looks or a proportionate amount of "cheek," all avenues from the ice cream saloon to the altar are open to her and free of charge. And then if she does get married, contrary to the remonstrances of her old friend, who has acted as aunt for three generations and has had 50 years' experience as old maid, nobody asks, "Can she afford to get married? Has she means to support a family?"

In contrast to this let us take a man who also holds a position as bookkeeper, clerk or stenographer. How different the picture becomes. Besides his incidentals, which never enter a woman's account book, he must, if he wants to be a "gallant young man," shoulder two-ply expenses and often more. Or, if he be a married man, with many hungry mouths to feed, with spectral visions of little feet that have perforated the brass tips of their shoes and tiny knees that have made a bee line for the outer world; with thoughts of doctor bills and paragoric and thousand other ills that married men are heir to, then the picture becomes still darker. While we look in vain for the silver lining to relieve the oppressive darkness, who will say that a woman cannot afford to work for less than a man?

It matters little, however, whether women can afford to hold down a job at cut rates. One thing is certain, that we cannot afford to agitate this question so as to get on bad terms with them. The result would be awful to contemplate if all women should go out on a strike.

There would be nobody to sew on our buttons with deft fingers and six-cord spool cotton, and

**C. W. Rogers**

FINE CONFECTIONERY  
ICE CREAM AND  
ICE CREAM SODA.

The San Francisco  
Candy Factory,  
29 GOVERNMENT STREET.

**S. F. McINTOSH,**  
ROCK BAY

**Coal and Wood Yard**  
Telephones 470 and 512.

after awhile we should be obliged to carry our wearing apparel about on a stick or in a valise. There would be nobody to invite us for tea and give us chocolate and cake, and nobody to wait for at church after the sermon. There would be nobody to supervise the temple of domestic happiness and run the clothes wringer and our neighbors' business; nobody to do any little acts of love and duty.

Give woman the wages she wants, even though she does possess the magic power of striking a last year's hen nest with a club and turning it into a reasonable hat. If she wants the earth let her have it. She will tie a silk ribbon about it and put it on the mantelpiece beside her valentines and other knick-knacks.

If any one asks me whether women should receive as good pay as men I unhesitatingly answer yes.

JENS KRISTIAN GRONDAHL.

Lottie Collins will head a company of her own the coming season.

K O D A K S A F E T Y