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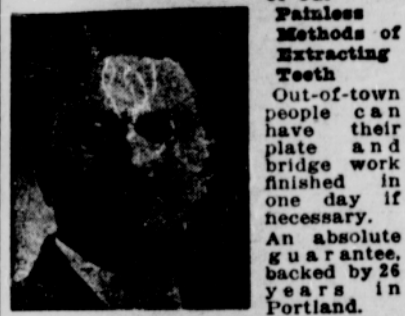
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SHOULD WOMEN BE HANGED?

In Connecticut a young woman is under sentence of death for murder. A strong protest, led by some of the suffragists, is being made against her execution. Without going into the special circumstances which may call for clemency in this particular case, it may be said that there is a manifest inconsistency in treating a woman as totally irresponsible when it is a question of making the laws, but as fully and fatally responsible when it is a question of breaking them. Those who think that women ought to be classed with insane persons and idiots in the matter of suffrage should in logic allow them some of the irresponsibility of insane persons and idiots in the matter of crime. Yet some of the most prominent opponents of suffrage are among the loudest in their demand for equal rights for women to the gallows and the electric chair.

The question whether a woman ought to be hanged brings in its wake the broader question whether anybody ought to be hanged. The main aim of punishment used to be vengeance on the criminal. Now it is recognized to be the protection of society from a repetition of the crime. In cases of murder this can be accomplished by imprisonment for life, without the brutalizing effect upon the public inevitably produced by the cold-blooded slaughter of a human being. To lessen this effect as much as possible, executions are now carried out in private; but all the details are scattered broadcast in the press; everybody talks about them, and we have the gruesome spectacle of little boys playing at execution, and putting up a gallows to hang a dog.

The great variety of offenses formerly punished with death have been steadily narrowed down, and it is only a question of time when capital punishment will be abolished. In some states it is already abolished, and its wiping out has led to no increase of murder.

The protest raised against the execution of a woman—of almost any woman—is only a forerunner of the protest that is bound to grow stronger and stronger against capital punishment as a whole. In regard to many things, society has got its eyes open first in the case of women. Drunkenness was recognized as disgraceful in women centuries before it came to be looked upon as socially creditable in men. Today unchastity is recognized by everyone as sad and shameful in a woman. Some day it will be recognized as sad and shameful for anyone to put noble powers to base uses. We recognize already that women ought not to be worked in factories beyond a certain number of hours. Some time we shall come to see (as Josephine Goldmark says in "Fatigue and Efficiency") that men ought to be protected against hours of labor which involve excessive overstrain and damage to health. Anything brutal is first seen to be brutal in the case of women and children; but with the advance of civilization the world will learn that brutal methods ought not to be applied to anybody. Capital punishment is bound to go, and the sooner it goes the better.—The Woman's Journal.

IF WOMEN WILL ONLY VOTE.

Politicians in different quarters of the country are striving to determine, on the basis of known facts connected with woman's employment of the ballot so far, what will be the probable effect of her general political enfranchisement upon the present system of

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government by party. It is noticeable that, in some instances, what appears to be a studied effort is made to minimize woman's activity and her influence; that care is taken to make it appear, for instance, that since the incentive and excitement attending the initial stages of her entrance into citizenship have disappeared, she is practically indifferent as to the exercise of her political rights. This deceives nobody. It is only necessary to go over the votes of states long since past the initial period in woman suffrage to discover that her political interest is as well sustained as that of her brother man.

Political managers who have more regard for their reputation as correct readers of signs of the times than for any temporary gain that might accrue to them in their circles, by treating popular phenomena with supercilious optimism, are not making the mistake of misrepresenting woman's attitude, on the one hand, or on the other, of misinterpreting it. Thus Mr. Barnes, of New York, one of the keenest political observers in the United States, does not hesitate to give it as his opinion that woman's influence will change the entire political system of the United States.

Mr. Barnes is not one of those who believe that women will tire of the ballot as children soon tire of a new toy. And there are many other political leaders who agree with him, and who think it much the wiser plan to take steps toward directing the votes of women than to decry their reliability or stability as voters.

If women, when enfranchised fully and everywhere in the United States, will only vote as they think, there can be no question that the complexion of United States politics will undergo a complete change. This need not come through sex division, nor by the arraying of women on the side of any particular party, but rather through the infusion into politics of the cleaner thought which woman brings to her environment everywhere. She may well take the atmosphere of the home to the polling booth with the result that men shall cease to recognize two planes of morals, two standards of conduct, and shall see only, as woman does, one ideal in private and public life.

NOTABLE GATHERING OF WOMEN

Perhaps the most notable, because the most representative, convention of women engaged in the suffrage movement that has ever assembled in the United States will be that called to meet in Washington, D. C., during the first week of December. Whether it is part of the plan to make it so, or whether the movement has simply progressed to this point, it appears that the various state delegations will be composed of women of the highest standing socially as well as intellectually. So far as the personnel of the delegations has been made known, it embraces women entitled to rank among the most influential in the country. Many of these are women who have won distinction in various walks; many more of them are connected with distinguished families. Incidentally, the convention will contain a very large sprinkling of the women, wives or relatives of the men who have been or are now occupying high political positions.

The meaning of all this seems clear. It cannot very well be claimed any longer that the women of the United States whose opinions are entitled to respect and whose convictions should carry weight, are holding aloof from the equal suffrage movement. Many women of consequence are still unreconciled to it, of course; but contrasted with the general character of the suffrage rank and file of say 25 years ago, that of today shows to decided advantage. The cause has always had leaders of the highest ability and respectability; they have not always, however, been able to command such a following as that which may now be mustered.

One of the hoped-for achievements of the Washington gathering will be the recognition by Congress and by the national government of the changed aspect of the suffrage movement. It is seen to be necessary that Congress and the government must be thoroughly disabused of any erroneous ideas they may entertain with regard to the character of the movement and with relation to the influence those engaged in it may exert in determining the future of the political parties.

In other words, the Washington convention is to be largely a demonstration of the strength of the suffrage movement as a political factor, and in shaping it to this end the leaders have exhibited an admirable insight into the forces that move statesmen and legislators.

Not As Black As Painted.

"I don't believe," said the woman to the man who was asking for a piece of pie, "that you ever did an honest day's work in your life."
"Lady, you wrong me," he replied.
"Once I chopped enough kindling to start a furnace fire."—Washington Star.

DO CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EARLY

By Dorothy Dix

Don't realize, beloved sisters, that the Christmas tide is almost upon us, and the joyous season hath arrived wherein we must grapple once more again yet with the Christmas gift problem? In former times Christmas came but once a year, but now, with all the rest of modern improvements, it comes three or four times a year. Or at any rate it seems to; but that is beside the question. The main point is that it has rolled around again, and before you can say cat it will be Christmas again.

Hence I am writing these few lines to urge you to go and do your Christmas shopping right away. Don't put it off. Begin on it today, while the shops are comparatively empty, before the salesgirls are worn and harried until they are reduced to bundles of nerves and temper, and while you are still in command of your own sane senses.

Don't put off buying your Christmas gifts until the week before Christmas when you, and a million other women, will be afflicted with Dementia Christmasana, and go running around in circles in the department stores, beating your head against the counters, and crying out, "What shall I get for my husband, and my son, and my daughter, and my mother, and my father, and my sister, and my brother, and my in-laws—drat 'em, they won't like what I give them, anyway—and for Uncle John, and Aunt Sally, and Cousin Sue, and the people across the street who will send me something, and whom I've got to send something to?"

And you won't be able to remember a single fad or fancy or taste or inclination or habit or occupation of a single human being you know. And you'll go home and nervous prostration and give it to the clerks and wish you had joined the Spugs and saved your money and your clothes and your time and the wear and tear on your disposition. Now, I am one of those who believe in Christmas giving. It is a joy to the generous to give, and it is salutary for the stingy to be made to give up at least once a year. But the thing that makes Christmas a season of torment and woe and that leaves us feeling as if we had been up through a stone-crusher is because we don't begin our preparations in time and because we don't bring any common sense to bear on the proposition.

Wherefore, I urge, entreat, implore and otherwise request you to bear in mind your own comfort and the good of that brave little army of working women, the salesgirls, and do your shopping early. It's a time to show that you are a real big sister who feels for the little sister behind the counter.

Then about the Christmas gift itself. Unless you are making a present to someone who is very rich, the one best bet for an acceptable Christmas present money. Don't be afraid of anybody being offended by a check, or even a few dimes. They won't, and everyone of us could use a little money so handily and get something we secretly pine for and can't afford, if only you would send us a little money instead of the fool thing you do send.

Say, beloved, didn't you ever, on a Christmas morning, sit down among the junk that your kind friends and family have bestowed upon you, and figure out what it all cost, and wish that you had all of that money to put into something that would do you some good and that you would rejoice in as long as you lived?

But if you won't give money, for heaven's sake give something practical and useful. In these days of the high cost of living, practically everybody has to economize and do without things that they need and want.

Finally, beloved, remember this: If you want a happy Christmas and to make others have a happy Christmas, begin your preparations in time. Buy sensible things. And don't spend any more than you can afford. Remember the 1st of January, when the bills come in!

Child Labor and Illiteracy.

Child labor is the bulwark of the illiterate vote. More than one in ten of all the native white American voters in seven states cannot read their ballots according to the latest census figures. The National Child Labor Committee points out that ten years ago nearly one-third of all the native white American working boys under 16 were found in these seven states that lead the country today in illiteracy of native whites.

Barefoot Boy is Vanishing.

The value of the output of the 1734 hosiery and knit-goods mills in 1909 was more than \$200,000. A census report shows that in the decade ending with 1909 the output of socks and stockings and like articles more than doubled in value.

Eugenics Study Spreading.

Eugenics has been taken up as a study by a government commission composed of prominent jurists representing Denmark, Norway and Sweden, with the object of introducing a mutual law regulating marriages and family rights.

The first baby is always a howling success from some point of view.

**SCHOOL FOR WOMEN
WORKERS IN UNIONISM**

Mrs. Raymond Robins Tells of Practical Work Being Done to Aid in Organizing Women and Children Factory Hands.

A school for the training of women wage earners in methods of organization and for the preparation of women organizers of women for field and classroom work has been established in St. Louis. The purposes of this school were outlined before the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor at Seattle by Mrs. Raymond Robins, president of the Women's Trade Union League of America.

Mrs. Robins stated that the school has been established to supply the need of women organizers properly trained to intelligently operate among the working women for the betterment of their conditions of labor.

The work of the new school will be divided into two sections, one known as field work and the other classroom work. In the field work division the women will be given practical training in the working machinery of trade unions and in the best methods of organization to be followed.

SPENDING THE FAMILY INCOME

After all, it is no simple problem that the wife faces, whose husband has enough faith in her to empty his earnings into her lap. It is a pretty bit of a domestic drama, signifying, no doubt, their complete union in all things, even to participation in what he earns, but it is not exactly true, writes a contributor to Woman's World. Surely it does not mean that the wife is to solve all the problems, or that she alone is to be held responsible if their money affairs do not work out satisfactorily?

Rather would it seem to be a symbolical act, showing the mutual recognition of their partnership. Indeed, if the family is to prosper as it ought, if the home is to pay as it should, both husband and wife will sit down calmly, pencil in hand, and dispassionately discuss the situation.

From the very nature of things, it is possible that most of the problem will fall upon the wife. She is the one who usually makes the final choice in most matters. She has to choose the food, decide how to buy, when and what price to pay. She looks after the home expenditures. The multitude of little things that cut so deeply into the family finances are mostly entrusted to her care.

Upon her business ability, her foresight and her economy, therefore, depends mainly the success of the home and the home today, like everything else, can be expressed in terms of money, some way, or there is likely to be but a questionable happiness, or misery and sorrow that may end either in discomfort or disaster.

It will take but a few weeks of bookkeeping attempts to prove that the woman's task is no simple one. Many a woman and many a man has tried to keep track of expenditures and given it up in despair as not being worth the trouble. "The money comes, the money goes; that's all there is to it. Life is too short for such a grind." Such is the burden of their complaints.

The money income should be looked upon as a bundle of funds, and each fund in turn should be looked upon as a smaller bundle of funds. The whole idea in keeping accounts of expenditures should be to put the expenses together and to determine their relative importance with regard to size and importance. It resolves itself into a matter of proportion, good taste and common sense.

To make it practical and useful the character or nature of each expenditure must be analyzed. Perhaps this is the reason so many fail. When this money income must buy all things, it is difficult indeed to classify them. Shelter, food, clothes, service, there are easily classified, but what of the thousand and one things that make up life outside of these primary wants, the things that make it agreeable? How shall the expenses of a family be classified when there are so many different needs, so many wants and individual tastes, such varying ages?

We must provide for companionship. Therefore every family should make provisions for entertaining friends occasionally at least. It is also imperative to keep abreast the times, and for this purpose we must buy books and magazines, hear lecture courses and plays.

Now, the problem that every family must face is to decide how the family income shall be divided among these various needs and wants and what proportion each fund shall have and why. Naturally, the proportion will vary in different families, as some will prefer to spend more for shelter, some less for shelter and more for clothes and books. Another family will wish a more generous allowance for food or for the society of their friends, or they may be willing to deny themselves many things in order to swell a building fund or to invest in some new undertaking.

Every man may have his price, but mighty few of them are worth it.