

The Observer.

MORO, OREGON:
FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1906

Personal Talk With You.

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WHAT WOULD THEY DO WITH IT?

What Part of the Work of Government Would Women Do Any Better Than Men?—Taxation Without Representation—An Argument Dangerous to its Advocates.

The one argument upon which the advocates of woman suffrage fall back as being unanswerable is that women are taxed without representation. This would seem to mean that whoever is taxed should have a vote, and the only conclusion of this reasoning is that whoever is not taxed should not vote. If the argument is worth anything it must mean that.

"I own property," says a woman who seeks to be a voter, "and I pay taxes on it, and I cannot think that taxation without representation is just."

This plea has been repeated so often that it is time to point out its fallacy. There are two kinds of taxes—a money tax and a service tax. The money tax is levied on property, men's and women's alike, pro rata. The service tax is levied on men alone. It calls for jury service, police service, military service, and every man takes his share of it.

Sometimes one goes through his seventy years without suffering from it at all. Again, he spends weary hours in the jury room, or he is sworn in as a special constable to

Quell a Riot and Fight a Mob, or he is called to camp and battlefield, where he may lose a limb or an eye or his life.

Representation goes with this kind of taxation and not with the other. Property is protected by the government, as women are. But no representation, whether man's or woman's, has no representation.

If it had, it must necessarily be in some degree proportional. Mr. Astor would have hundreds of times as many votes as the man that sweeps out his office. Instead of that, Mr. Astor has one vote, the sweeper has one vote.

And the reason is plain and unanswerable; it is because Mr. Astor can carry one musket. All are equal on what the ballot represents.

Mr. Astor enjoys his great property because the sweeper is ready to shoulder a musket and protect him in it; the sweeper is secure in his little earnings because Mr. Astor is ready to stand by him with his musket; we find it worth while to be industrious because Mr. Astor and the sweeper make it dangerous for anybody to molest

Without this protection our possessions would be of no value. This protection we contribute in equal measure, man for man, and this same protection we extend to our sisters, our cousins and our sons.

Frequently an election is for the purpose of determining under what laws and in what manner this protection shall be exercised, and those who furnish the protection rightfully claim the privilege of dictating its form.

The woman suffragist, so far from suffering taxation without representation, are asking to be represented where they are not taxed. Property speaking.

No Women Is Taxed. and no property is represented. The woman's property is taxed, and for that money it and she get exactly what the man and his property get—police protection, fire service, lighting and cleaning of streets, maintenance of courts, etc.

Every man is taxed, even if he owns no property—a tax that is laid upon his life, his strength and often upon his life. He bears this tax for the protection of all the lives in the community, no matter whose, and to this tax the women contribute nothing and are not asked to contribute.

The suffragists appear to think they dispose of this consideration when they speak of men who are "exempt" from military service and still vote. The immediate answer is that there is no real exemption.

All the men are liable, but when it happens that the government in an emergency does not need all at once it takes its pick and speaks of the others as "exempt." It may at first call only for the men under twenty-five, but when more are wanted it does not hesitate to call for men as old as thirty-five, and so on. Many men living in states called out every man, of whatever age, who could shoulder a musket at all.

But even this is not the root of the question. For regular service in a war campaign the government would not take a man forty-five years of age with weak lungs if it could get as many as it wanted who were but twenty-five and had strong lungs. It would suppose the weak lungs man of forty-five is

"Aging the Government" and disposed to wait in an attempt to overthrow it, will be "exempt" himself? Will he refrain from joining an insurgent force on the ground that he is over age and not in robust health?

Youth or age, large or no lungs, that is a matter to be reckoned with; and this is why he is allowed to vote, in order that when the ballots are counted he may see that he and his kind are in the minority and it would be hopeless for them to attempt an overthrow of the government.

When the good Prince Albert in 1851 invented world's fairs and organized the first one, it was hoped that the brotherhood of man had been discovered and the era of universal peace begun, but in three years there was a bloody war that involved more than half of Europe, in which the only thing contained for was commercial supremacy.

And many who read this have seen in our forest of all free countries a million men fighting to the death and spending their last dollar.

Suffrage Is Not a Right, as so many times has been claimed. It is at once a privilege and a burden, and no one has reason for asking for the privilege without being willing and able to assume the burden.

It is said that the casting of a vote is a slight duty, quickly performed. But to cast a vote ought to mean to cast it intelligently and responsibly, and how can women gain that adequate intelligence except by attending conventions, primaries, nominating conventions and supplementing general knowledge as far as possible of personal acquaintance with candidates?

Even if women were to have not and ability for each work more have not, and even if they all had the time is it desirable that the presence and co-work of uneducated and ignorant women should be added to the already jarring factions of political life?

Strong women know that all women cannot win politics, and if a good woman can vote,

So Can a Bad Woman!

But when it is asked precisely what are some of the wrongs under which women suffer in town and city government as at present conducted, at precisely what points the bylaws of towns or the ordinances of cities bear

adversely upon women as women and in precisely what ways women are to gain from being permitted to vote at town and city elections there is silence.

But how about the interests of the community? In what particulars would cities and towns be benefited by the bestowal of the ballot on women?

The question cannot be answered by contrasting the best and most intelligent women with the worst or least intelligent men. The ballot, if it is given to women, will be used by all sorts of men, and if, as must be confessed with shame, it is usually more difficult to bring out and concentrate the votes of the best sort of men than those of the baser sort, somewhat the same difficulty may be anticipated with regard to women.

The practical question is, Will the average woman vote more steadily, more intelligently, with a clearer knowledge of men and affairs and with a wiser selection of means to ends, than the average man?

Effective. "What do you regard as the best protection from burglars?"

"Well, I have found that being independently poor is effective."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Backed of the Scalpel. An extraordinary event had Lassone, physician to Louis XVI. of France, to abandon his anatomical studies. While selecting from among some dead bodies a suitable subject for dissection he imagined that one of them showed doubtful signs of death and sought to revive a life which was perhaps not extinguished. His efforts were crowned with success. He cured the man, and as he was poor nourished and supported him, but the idea of having been on the point of committing a crime so affected Lassone that he felt himself unable to pursue his accustomed labor, and from that time forward the study of natural history and chemistry took the place of that of anatomy.

Finger Tricks. Sit in a chair and rest the tip of the first finger of either hand on the top of your head. Ask a person to raise the hand by grasping your wrist. Sandow, with all his strength, could not lift the hand of a child. He would raise the child from the floor, but its finger would not be moved from his head.

Another trick shows how easily the strength in the fingers of any ordinary person's hand can set the feet of a strong man. Place your feet together at arm's length, let another person strike simultaneously your left leg with one finger in a downward direction and your right leg with one finger in an upward direction. No matter how hard you press your feet together, they will fly apart.

Why "O" Is Second. As every one knows, the letter "o" is the fifteenth in the English alphabet. It has four sounds, one of which, as we go, is probably one of the oldest and helped to fix its shape. The letter in the Hebrew and Phoenician alphabet that corresponded to the long o was called ayn or eye and was represented by a circle with a dot in the middle. The time limit is placed at the end of the word, and at last it became the custom to omit the dot, which gave us merely a circle, the present form of the letter.

Strength of Ice. Winter brings ice, and ice brings strength of ice a subject of interest. A conservative estimate is as follows: A man, four inches, a man on horse back, five inches, a eighty pounder gun; eight inches, a battery of artillery with carriages and horses attached; ten inches, an invulnerable multitude.

A Bad Condition. "I'll be sure," said little Vin. And cure the family to quick. She dressed an apron long and white. And tied a kerchief on tight. But then, "Oh, dear," cried little Vin. "There isn't anybody sick!"

—Youth's Companion.

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