

'to lay de burden of de franchise on our delicate shoulders.'

"'Hump,' spon I, 'hit looks to me dat hit would be easier to make laws dan hit is to keep 'em; an' as long as bein' a woman don't excuse us from committin' murder, or doin' a little shopliftin', or from payin' our taxes, we ought to have a little say so 'bout sayin' what ought to be done wid folks dat commits dem offences. . . .

"'Maybe so, Sis Mirandy, maybe so,' 'spon Sis Tempy wid a sigh, 'but hit's awful to think of frail women havin' to mix up wid thugs an' roughs at de polls.'

"'Well,' says I, 'long as you've got to vote in de neighborhood where you lives, an' is got to meet up at de polls wid de folks dat you lives amongst all de balance of de year, an' dat you visit wid, an' dat you invites to you house for a fish fry an' you goes to deirs for a 'possum dinner, hit don't seem to me dat you'se in any very great danger. Besides, you can always scream for de police.

"'As for me I never has been able to see why Brer Eben, an' Brer Jake, an' Brer Simon, what treats me mighty gallant all de balance of de year, is g'wine to turn round and slug me on election day.'

"'Let woman use her sacred influence wid men to do what dey want done in politics,' says Sis Tempy. 'A woman can always git around a man if she'll fix herself up real pretty, an' feed him up, an' roll her eyes at him, an' jolly him.'

"'Does you think dat kind of conduct is mo' ladylike an' honeste dan droppin' in a box a little piece of paper dats got yo' wishes on hit?' inquires I.

"'To be sure,' respon's Sis Tempy. . . . 'I tell you, I'se against woman's suffrage, Sis Mirandy; I'se got ev'ry thing dat I wants, an' I don't want no change.'

"'But how about dem women what ain't had de luck to marry Brer Eben, an' dat ain't rich an' fat like you is, Sis Tempy?' I axes her.

"'Sis Mirandy,' says she, abridlin' up, 'dem po' creeters ought to be humble an' meek an' bear de misfortunes dat is sent upon 'em wid a lowly spirit, an' hit certainly does shock me de fuss dey is makin' about things. Hit shows dey ain't ladies. You never hear me raisin' my voice in public. Besides, deir affairs ain't my business. I'se comfortable an' satisfied wid things as dey is.'

"'Sis Tempy,' spon I, 'you shorely has got all de earmarks of a Anti.'"

* * *

PROGRESS OF EQUAL SUFFARGE

It is sometimes said that while the movement for women's education and property rights has advanced rapidly, the movement for suffrage has made little or no progress. On this point let the "hard facts" speak for themselves.

Eighty years ago women could not vote anywhere, except to a very limited extent in Sweden and a few other places in the old world.

In 1838 Kentucky gave school suffrage to widows with children of school age. In 1850 Ontario gave it to women, both married and single. In 1861 Kansas gave it to all women. In 1867 New South Wales gave women municipal suffrage. In 1869 England gave municipal suffrage to single women and widows. Victoria gave it to women, both married and single, and Wyoming gave full suffrage to all women.

In 1871 West Australia gave municipal suffrage to women. School suffrage was granted in 1875 by Michigan and Minnesota, in 1876 by Colorado, in 1877 by New Zealand, in 1878 by New Hampshire and Oregon, in 1879 by Massachusetts, in 1880 by New York and Vermont.

In 1880 South Australia gave municipal suffrage to women.

In 1881 municipal suffrage was extended to the single women and widows of Scotland, and Parliamentary suffrage to the women of the Isle of Man. Nebraska gave women school suffrage in 1883. Municipal suffrage was given by Ontario and Tasmania in 1884, and by New Zealand and New Brunswick in 1886.

In 1887 municipal suffrage was granted in Kansas, Nova Scotia and Manitoba, and school suffrage in North and South Dakota, Montana, Arizona and New Jersey. In the same year Montana gave tax-paying women the right to vote upon all questions submitted to the taxpayers.

In 1888 England gave women county suffrage and British Columbia and the Northwest Territory gave them municipal suffrage. In 1889 county suffrage was given to the women of Scotland, and municipal suffrage to single women and widows in the Province of Quebec. In 1891 school suffrage was granted in Illinois.

In 1893 school suffrage was granted in Connecticut, and full suffrage in Colorado and New Zealand. In 1894 school suffrage was granted in Ohio, bond suffrage in Iowa, and parish and district suffrage in England to women, both married and single. In 1895 full state suffrage was granted in South Australia to women, both married and single. In 1896 full suffrage was granted in Utah and Idaho.

In 1898 the women of Ireland were given the right to vote for all offices except members of Parliament; Minnesota gave women the right to vote for library trustees; Delaware gave school suffrage to tax-paying women; France gave women engaged in commerce the right to vote for judges of the tribunal of commerce; and Louisiana gave tax-paying women the right to vote upon all questions submitted to the taxpayers. In 1900 Wisconsin gave women school suffrage, and West Aus-

tralia granted full state suffrage to women, both married and single.

In 1901 New York gave tax-paying women in all towns and villages of the State the right to vote on questions of local taxation. Norway gave them municipal suffrage, and the Kansas legislature voted down almost unanimously and "amid a ripple of amusement" a proposal to repeal municipal suffrage.

In 1902 full national suffrage was granted to all the women of federated Australia, and full state suffrage to the women of New South Wales.

In 1903 bond suffrage was granted to the women of Kansas, and Tasmania gave women full state suffrage.

In 1905 Queensland gave women full state suffrage.

In 1906 Finland gave full national suffrage to women, and made them eligible to all offices from members of Parliament down.

In 1907 Norway gave full parliamentary suffrage to the 300,000 women who already had municipal suffrage, Sweden made women eligible to municipal offices, Denmark gave women the right to vote for members of boards of public charities, and to serve on such boards, and England, with only fifteen dissenting votes out of the 670 members of the House of Commons, made women eligible as mayors, aldermen and county and town councillors. The new State of Oklahoma continued school suffrage for women.

In 1908 Michigan gave all women who pay taxes the right to vote upon questions of local taxation and the granting of franchises; Denmark gave women who are taxpayers or the wives of taxpayers a vote for all offices except members of Parliament, and Victoria gave full state suffrage to all women.

Years ago, when equal suffrage was much more unpopular than it is now, somebody asked Bishop Gilbert Haven if it were true that he had been speaking at a suffrage meeting.

"Yes," answered the bishop; "I don't want to fall in at the rear of this reform; I mean to march with the procession!"

There can be no doubt as to which way the procession is moving.

—Alice Stone Blackwell.

+ + +

NATURAL TAXATION.

From an Article by E. W. Grabill, of South Dakota University, in Plain Talk, Vermillion, South Dakota, January 14.

The single tax is based on the law of equal freedom, upon individual rights and a denial of all privilege, most of all privilege and advantage in the use of the earth without compensation to society. It implies the absolute right of a man to all that he earns, subject not even to taxation by government. For governmental and social

needs have a source of revenue which is natural, which is not subversive of individual property, but which arises out of the very protection of individual production—the price of privilege, in the use of the earth.

For the price of land (unimproved) is nothing but the measure of the advantage which its possession confers in production (including manufacture, commerce and all means of satisfying wants). And the price of land where population is sparse is (unless influenced by the future) nothing, because possession confers no advantage. In such a state of population, too, there is little need for governmental revenues. But as population grows denser, as land in its midst becomes capable of satisfying more and greater needs, its price correspondingly rises. So at the same time arise needs for public funds. These needs and the price of land grow together. They are both caused by the same thing, advance in population and civilization. The price of land is the measure of the privilege of possessing it. Society has the means of satisfying governmental and social needs by charging the possessor of land the value of the privilege, as measured by the price.

In so doing, society infringes upon the rightful property of no man, but takes what itself produces—and what, through present society, past social progress, past discoveries and past thought have added to a man's productive power. For every invention, every new machine, every economic improvement, makes land in the centers of population capable of greater production, therefore, the advantage of using it, and its consequent price, worth more. If society takes this self-created value, it prevents some individual taking it who did not create it, but who, under the present system, is allowed to take the earnings of society, by means of land ownership. In other words, we now pay the single tax, and can no more keep from doing so than we can escape the law of gravitation. But we now pay it in addition to other taxes, and into private pockets instead of into a public fund. Indeed, we pay a much greater sum at present, as land rental, or interest on land purchase price, than we would as the single tax. For wherever land is increasing in value, the expectation of that increase causes land to be held at a speculative price far in advance of what it is worth for present use. This is now the case all over America. Capital and labor, therefore, which are the humanly produced factors in production as land is the natural factor, must pay now for the use of land a much heavier price than if there were no expectation of profit from future advance in value. This constitutes a heavy burden on manufacture, trade, and all production. During good times the rise in the price of land outstrips its worth for present use so rapidly that land users cannot meet the obligation