

women and children had to spin and weave, spin and weave eternally.

Investigator: "Where did they do this work?"

Citizen: "At home, every home was a regular factory. It's different now."

Investigator: "Yes, for some of us. Some, owning mines, forests, lands, banks and railroads, live in palaces and keep steam yachts. Others ride in automobiles, keep servants and are very comfortable indeed.

"Did you ever look into the family life of the unskilled workers in the city?"

Citizen: "Oh, labor is better off than it ever was."

Investigator: "Some are, but the unskilled laborer?"

Citizen: "Well, what about the unskilled laborer?"

Investigator: "Today, as a hundred years ago, the wife must help and the children must help. Mark one great difference! Today she is a wage wife and goes out to a factory, and the wage children go out to another factory. The home is half broken up—nearly a million such today in the United States."

Citizen: "Is that why the little children die so fast?"

Investigator: "In this land of wealth, too. Can you stand pat while this remains?"

J. RUSSELL SMITH.



UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE AS A NATURAL LAW.

George Hughes in a Three-Minute Speech at
Topeka, September 24.

There are a number of good reasons in favor of universal suffrage which compel the thinking mind to favor it and to work for it. Not the least of them is the readiness with which women instinctively see the absurdity of raising the funds for sustaining government by taxing things we want to have more of, and things which can run away and hide, which hiding increases the number of lies which are told during a year. There is, however, a fundamental reason which lies at the root of the question, and this I will make an effort to express, hoping that some of its splendor may shine through my cloudy and human expression.

The goal of Progress to the Christian mind, and to every thinking mind, is complete harmony at last between the Creative power and the whole of the creation, animate and inanimate, as we classify in our incomplete and halting method. Dimly we note the glorious laws and powers wrapt up in this storehouse, God's creation, which is at once our only means of sustaining life and our great inspiration. When this sinks into the thinking, sincere mind, the next thing is to turn to the analysis of social civilization and con-

ditions. There it becomes apparent that Progress today brings with it increased suffering, increased ignorance and increased injustice; and surrounding all is gruesome waste and strife. We note that though the comprehension of the joy and satisfaction in constructive effort is increasing hourly, together with skill in construction, still destructive force is with us in the shape of armies and navies, and death and hatred-dealing machinery. If our thinking is worth while we do not lose faith that life will attain that goal of perfect harmony with the Creator of life; no, with even greater faith we repeat that glorious prayer, "Thy kingdom come upon earth as it is in heaven." What the thinking mind does do is to realize the stupendous task it is to harmonize the laws that govern human action and progress with those "Great Originals," as Blackstone calls the natural laws of God.

Now, whenever a thing is hard to do, it is not wise to build a wall between half of the working force and the job to be done. That is, however, our present position. We have forced women to climb over a wall in order to get to work on social progress. We have done this; and until quite recently, though we realize how stupendous is the task and how incompetent we are, we have criticized those women who have climbed over the wall, driven by their desire to speed up the arrival at the desired goal. Yes, we have said it was indelicate for ladies to climb walls, even to assist in the thing we pray for. If we pull down the wall and allow women to directly influence social movements we shall double the force which is engaged in filling up the hole in the world's sidewalk, and we shall get that useless and stupid hole filled up the sooner. As it is now the usual vocation in social business of women is to pull the people who fall into this hole in the sidewalk out, and to doctor their wounds and comfort their hearts.

I favor universal suffrage because I know it will double the force and intelligence which are engaged in filling up that hole and extinguishing the need of all the beautiful but wasted labor which has mostly been done by women. I advocate that direct power to influence and serve in social business shall become universal. I favor and advocate universal suffrage because my intelligence tells me indisputably that this will speed up the consummation which is, even to so profane and ignorant a mind as mine, the chief sustaining power in life; that some day the whole creation will live under the natural laws which the Creator set up, and which render part of his creation so perfect and inspire to betterment the greater part of humanity in spite of the economic injustice and waste in which they exist. I do believe His kingdom will come on earth; and I know that it cannot come until all life is free to express itself completely and directly.