

ernment in a way that will be of incalculable good to the country.

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## WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN COLORADO.

Marie Jenney Howe in *La Follette's* of December 18.

The chief gain to the State of Colorado in the enfranchisement of its women, has been the development of the women themselves. Never have a body of voters so humbly and earnestly prepared themselves for the privilege of citizenship. Study clubs, discussions, an awakened interest in civic and political questions, are the natural response to responsibility. An increased self-respect and a growing political consciousness are marked characteristics of Colorado women. A majority of women were indifferent and many were opposed to their own enfranchisement, but it is difficult to find a Colorado woman today who does not approve of her own enfranchisement now that it is an accomplished fact. Larger interests shared in common with husband and son, unite men and women in closer companionship, uplift the home, and help to redeem women from the personal and petty qualities which we as a sex are supposed to possess.

The second gain to the State of Colorado in the enfranchisement of its women is an increased humanitarian spirit as shown in legislation and in the establishment of new institutions.

The power of Colorado women in creating institutions is shown by the establishment of industrial schools for boys and girls, a school for deaf and blind children, the first kindergarten for blind children in the United States, provision for feeble minded children, juvenile courts, probation officers, truancy officers, houses of detention, and a State home for dependent children.

A Bureau of Protection for animals and children has been made a State department with offices at the capitol and with funds and officials provided by the State. This bureau commands the services of 600 agents throughout the State. These agents are given power above the sheriff, so that any abused or neglected animal or child may be restored to safety and comfort without delay.

The establishment of this bureau alone ought to justify woman suffrage in Colorado.

The power of Colorado women in legislation is shown by the passage of some twenty laws affecting the welfare of children. According to Ellis Meredith of Denver: "We have the best child labor law in the world, and no child is abused or neglected for more than a few days at the longest. We have the strictest laws for the prevention of the abuse, moral, mental or physical, of children, of any country in the world and the best enforced, not merely in our cities but throughout the entire State. We have the strongest compulsory school law and the most enlightened laws concerning delinquent children of any section in the world, save where our laws have been copied."

Women have secured the enactment of laws protecting the home. Colorado has no dower or community law, while on the other hand the wife's property is hers absolutely. There is also a law forbidding the selling or mortgaging of a home-stead without the signature of both husband and wife. Mothers are now co-equal guardians of their children, and the age of consent for girls is eighteen.

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It is true that these results might have been accomplished without the ballot. But in other States where woman's influence is used as a substitute for power, her work is accomplished at a tremendous cost of time and strength. It is to the self interest of a State to encourage and not discourage the service of its citizens; to help and not hinder the purposes of the public spirited few; to render their efforts easy instead of difficult. In New York, Massachusetts, or Illinois, the efforts of the most valuable and sensible women too often result in discouragement, exhaustion and delay. The saving of their time and strength would be a saving to the State itself, and an increase in its efficiency.

In measuring the political influence of women, two things must be borne in mind. It must always be realized that they do not seek big offices. No woman has ever served in the Senate or in any important State office which means political control. It must also be recognized that women do not represent big business. They do not stand for or command large commercial interests. These two facts weigh against their influence for certain kinds of political reform, and give them in politics, as in the home, a woman's point of view. Freed from political ambition and from commercialism, they contribute to the State or city a class of voters who regard all subjects from the viewpoint of humanity and education, a valuable offset to the over-commercialized standpoint of the average man, who is apt to decide all public questions according to the interests of business alone.

A third gain to the State of Colorado, therefore, in the enfranchisement of its women is in the possession by the State of a latent moral force backed by power. The mere fact that the woman's point of view is backed by power makes that point of view prevail. On most occasions women, like men, are divided in party allegiance; but they may be roused *en masse* by their own leaders at especial times and for especial purposes. The mere existence of this latent tendency exercises a restraining influence upon legislation. That women have raised the standard of moral character for political candidates is undeniable. At political caucuses when a man of questionable character is suggested for nomination, the man is often turned down with the explanation, "The women won't stand for him."

Colorado women were enfranchised in 1893. Since that time, State education has been literally turned over to women and all State superintendents of education have been women. Mrs. Helen N. Grenfell, who served three terms from 1899-1904, deserves the credit of building up the department. The Mosely Commission, sent from England to investigate school conditions, published a report in which Colorado was praised for the best system of education in the United States. It may be of interest to teachers to know that throughout the State of Colorado the school law of "equal pay for equal work" prevails. Women teachers, therefore, universally receive the same wages as men. A large majority of county superintendents are women.

One question frequently asked as a test of the woman's right to the ballot is: Does the woman's vote purify politics?

This is a question which cannot be answered for some time to come. An experiment cannot be recorded before it has been tried. And woman's influence as a political purifier has not yet been given a chance to operate. There are directions in which woman's vote together with man's vote is not allowed to follow the line of natural law. It is met by an obstruction in the ownership of the State by private interests which determine State elections and court decisions to such an extent that these private interests, not the will of the people, dictate who shall serve as mayor of a city, or governor of a State. These interests constitute sovereignty in the State of Colorado. When a man undesirable to this sovereign is elected to important office, a lot of registered votes are produced in favor of a candidate who is ready to serve the sovereign interest and do the royal will.

The power of woman's vote to purify politics cannot be estimated until votes are honestly counted at the polls, and until elections are fairly upheld by the courts. It cannot be estimated until women are given the confidence and the encouragement that are given to men, and it cannot be estimated in any State until the privilege of citizenship has been enjoyed by all the women of all the States for at least a hundred years.

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## BOOKS

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### TROPICAL LAND.

**Agriculture in the Tropics; an Elementary Treatise.**  
By J. C. Willis, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Ceylon, Organizing Vice-President Ceylon Agricultural Society, Editor of The Tropical Agriculturist. Published by the University Press, Cambridge, England. Price, \$2.50.

Not only will students of tropical agriculture welcome this book as the work of a master, but

those also who are interested in general questions of agricultural advance and the economics of land will find here a treasury of fact and rare wisdom. The book deals primarily with the underlying political and theoretical aspects of the subject, yet treats also of various tropical products with special reference to the history of their cultivation and their possible improvement. No student of government, especially of colonial policies, can afford to neglect the matters here presented.

Beginning with a discussion of such preliminaries to agriculture as Land and Soil, Climate, Population and Labor, Transport and Capital, Drainage and Irrigation, Tools, Tillage, etc., the author proceeds in a Second Part to deal with various important products, including Rice, Sugar, Teas, Coffee, Cocoa, Coconuts, Spices, Cinchona, Rubber and Live Stock, and then in Parts III and IV to consider methods of Peasant and Capitalist Agriculture, actual and possible, questions of Financing and Marketing, Schemes of Education and Co-operation, and finally the Organization of Agricultural Societies and Departments of Agriculture. Many admirable photographs are instructively introduced among the 222 pages of the book.

Dr. Willis has had exceptionally fine opportunities for studying tropical agriculture at first hand, and has approached the problems in a truly broad and scientific spirit. Much of the present treatise is based upon a comprehensive report on the Agriculture of the Federated Malay States prepared by him for the British Government under whose protection they are. While lecturing recently at Harvard University Dr. Willis referred to these Malay States as showing the best that tropical agriculture had to offer both in achievement and in promise. There is thus especial significance in the following account he gives of the land situation in that region: "In the Federated Malay States land is regarded as entirely the property of the government; in fact, 'land nationalization' so much discussed in Europe is already an accomplished fact in this country. Any one may buy land from the government on payment of a premium of one dollar or so an acre, and an annual quit-rent of one or more dollars an acre. Should he cease to pay the rent, or abandon the land for three consecutive years, the government steps in and resumes possession of it. The original grant of the land from the government is for 999 years, so that there is no fear of the possessor being disturbed, so long as he continues to work the land properly, but the government is entitled to revise the rate of quit-rent every 30 years. In many ways this is perhaps the best system of alienating land from the government, for the latter derive an annual income from it, and resume it if abandoned, while the original buyer does not need to expend so much capital on the original purchase as he does, for in-