

Should American Women be Enfranchised?

Read what statesmen of nations at war say:

Premier Lloyd George of Great Britain, March 29th, 1917:

"Women's work in the war has been vital to our success. It would have been impossible to produce that overwhelming mass of ammunition at the Somme had it not been for the work of women. Are you going to fling them out without a voice in determining the new conditions? It would be an outrage. That is why the woman question has become very largely a war question."

Ex-Premier Asquith, March 28th, 1917:

"The house will not be unprepared to hear that I myself, and I believe many others, no longer regard this question (of woman suffrage) from the standpoint which we occupied before the war. I think some years ago I ventured to use the expression, 'Let the women work out their own salvation.' That is what they have done during this war. How could we have carried on the war without them?"

"What moves me still more is the problem of reconstruction after the war. Questions which will necessarily arise in regard to women's labor and women's functions—are questions in regard to which I for my part feel it impossible consistently with either justice or expediency to withhold from women the power and the right of making their voices distinctly heard."

Sir Wilfred Laurier, Ex-Premier of Canada, February, 1917:

"Today, as we see the glorious part that noble woman is taking in service and sacrifice for the highest and best in civilization, my own belief is that there is no reason why she should be denied the right of the ballot."

Premier Hearst of Ontario, Canada, February, 1917:

"Having taken our women into partnership with us in our tremendous undertaking, I ask, can we justly deny them a share in the government of the country, the right to have a say about the making of the laws they have been so heroically trying to defend? My answer is, I think not."

Premier Bosselli of Italy, May 15th, 1917:

"As far as the woman vote for municipal elections is concerned, I do not think there can be either doubt or delay in giving it on the same conditions as it is given to men."

In February, 1917, Signor Sacchi, Italian Minister of Justice, presenting to the Italian Chamber a bill for the abrogation of every law by which, in the field of civil and commercial rights, the capacities of women are at present curtailed, called it: "An act of justice—of reparation almost—to which women have now more right than ever."

Said M. Pierre Etienne Flandin, deputy of the Yonne, the reporter to the chamber of deputies, of the municipal suffrage bill for French women:

"What French women have done to keep up the courage of the nation during the dark days can not be measured in words. They have been the backbone of the national defense. They should have the right to vote, first of all, as an act of justice, and, secondly, as a move dictated by public interest."

President Woodrow Wilson, January 9th, 1918:

A delegation of leading democrats who had waited on the President issued the following statement:

"When we sought his advice he very frankly and earnestly advised us to vote for the amendment as an act of right and justice to the women of the country and of the world."—National Woman Suffrage Publishing Company, Inc., 171 Madison Avenue, New York:

After looking over the splendid record of achievement in the matter of preparation for war and the movement of men and supplies that has been shown by Secretary Baker, it will be necessary for the republican paragraphers to hunt up somebody else as the butt of their jokes. First it was Daniels and then Baker. Both have made good, overwhelmingly good. The fact that both of them are progressive democrats may

have been the inspiration for many of the jibes, but it is also the reason for the success they have achieved.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT NEBRASKA STATE CONVENTION OF NON-PARTISAN LEAGUE

[From the Lincoln Star, July 11.]

The resolutions adopted at the state convention of the Nonpartisan league in Nebraska at the Tuesday afternoon session pledge support to President Wilson in the prosecution of the war; approve the country's war aims as outlined in the President's speeches and recommend economic measures which the league claims will eliminate profiteering.

The resolutions were introduced by H. Aden of Sherman county, who was chairman of the resolutions committee. They follow:

"We, the delegates of the Non-partisan league of Nebraska, in convention assembled at Lincoln, on July 9, do hereby adopt the following resolutions, platform and declaration of principles:

"We declare that the winning of the war to make the world safe for democracy is of paramount importance, and to this end we pledge our lives and our fortunes to our country and to President Wilson in his noble stand for liberty and human rights.

"We heartily and unequivocally endorse the high and noble purposes of President Wilson as expressed in all his messages and in his declaration of war aims and terms of peace.

"The Nonpartisan league has from the time of our entry into the war contended for the conscription of men to fight the war and the conscription of wealth to finance the war, therefore, we can and do consistently and wholeheartedly endorse the declaration of President Wilson for higher taxes upon incomes, excess war profits and luxuries.

"Realizing as we do that the winning of the war depends as much upon food and materials as it does upon soldiers, we pledge ourselves to do everything in our power in the production and conservation of foodstuffs and materials to support our allies and our boys in the trenches.

"We further urge that the farmers continue their splendid efforts in the support of increased food production and conservation of food supplies, subscription to liberty bonds, Red Cross and other war activities. Patriotism demands service of all according to their capacity.

"We hereby declare that we as farmers and producers will cheerfully acquiesce in whatever rules the President, the congress and the food administration may deem wise in the regulation and price fixing of our wheat and other products, and we earnestly and respectfully petition the President and congress to also fix a reasonable price upon the things which we must buy, by regulating the products of the steel trust, the packers, the millers and other industries in which it has recently been shown by the federal trade commission that profiteering 'still runs impudently rampant.'

"We fully realize that the task confronting the American people today is the defeat of German military autocracy and the preservation of democracy, and we desire to do everything possible to assist in the great task.

CONDEMN MOB SPIRIT.

"We condemn all efforts of mobs and irresponsible persons, or of anyone else, to suppress free speech and peaceable assembly, and declare that all persons who thus resort to lawlessness, under whatever pretext, are themselves guilty of interfering with the prosecution of the war and with peaceable and orderly government. We agree with President Wilson when he says that such high-handed outrages, if continued, 'will place us on a level with the very people we are fighting, and affecting to despise.' We therefore call upon all good citizens, and public officials, to see to it that all cases of alleged crime and sedition be dealt with according to the rules of law and order, and thus set a worthy example to all the world that we are in reality a democracy—a self-governing nation of law and justice.

"Agriculture is the greatest and most important industry in the state, and the number of persons engaged in it is greater than all other classes combined, but in spite of these facts the last legislature of the state was composed of only thirty-eight farmers out of a total of 100 members, and the senate contained only five farmers out of a total of thirty-three members. Therefore we urge all farmers to organize as other industries have organized in order that

they may secure proportional representation in the law-making body of the state.

"Labor has practically no representation in the law-making body of the state, therefore we invite them to co-operate with the farmers in a political way to the end that combined producers of the state may secure proportional representation for the purpose of securing such legislation as will eliminate the unnecessary middleman and profiteers who stand between the producer on the farm and the city consumer. The real producers of wealth constitute the majority of the voting population and they can and will control the conditions for political action.

"We extend the hand of fellowship to organized labor and welcome their co-operation and pledge our candidates to the faithful service of the workers on the farm, in the shop, the railroads, the mines and the forests.

"Nebraska has sufficient water power to supply every inhabitant with electric light and power at cost. We favor the development of this by the state and are opposed to having this mighty resource get into private hands.

"We ask a more workable initiative and referendum and demand the recall so unfaithful public servants may be quickly shorn of their power.

"We favor a strict enforcement of the child labor law and recommend a practical and workable minimum wage law with strict enforcement.

"Legislation should be quickly enacted making our educational system more practical and encouraging development of the rural school system.

"In the interests of national efficiency during the war we especially urge the importance of the adoption by state and nation of the policy of the elimination of all unnecessary middlemen profits and labor of handling of the necessities of life and war supplies to the end that all waste may be eliminated.

"We favor government ownership of railroads, telegraph and telephone lines and all public utilities which are monopolistic in this nature, all other corporations should be under government control by the system of licensing, in which a possible revocation of license would insure proper regulation and control by the government, to the end that extortion and profiteering might be eliminated.

"In conclusion we urge all Nonpartisan league members and all good citizens to stand squarely behind President Wilson, the greatest exponent of real democracy, to win the war and make the world safe for democracy and also to preserve a democracy in the United States.

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