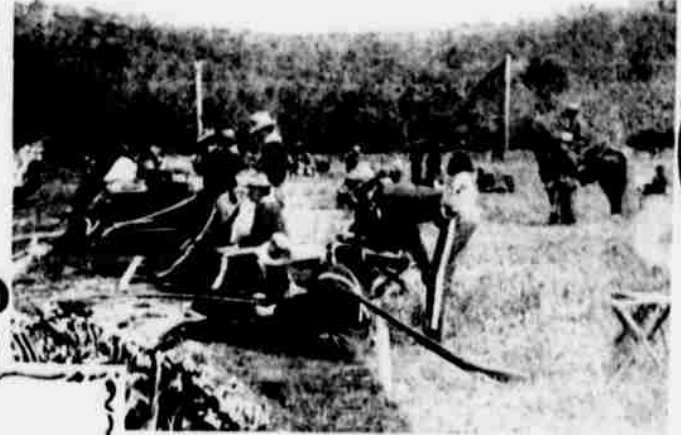


200 yd. Firing line - morning view



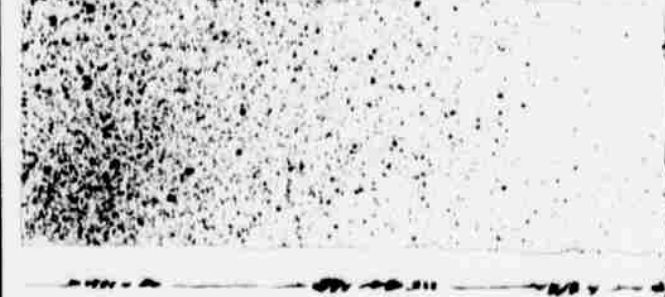
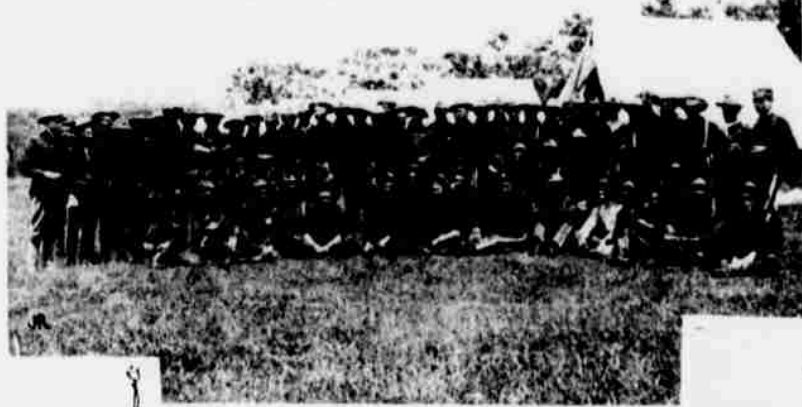
Views at State Rifle Shoot of the IOWA NATIONAL GUARD near Cedar Rapids

West end - firing line



Rifle Teams

IOWA STATE SHOOT AT CEDAR RAPIDS



The call to mess - 6 o'clock pm



West end - firing line



Why Many Marriages Prove Failures

WHILE I have breath to express an opinion on this subject I shall declare that the first and foremost reason is because of the subject position of the wife. When we speak of the subjection of woman we mean always of a married woman. It was not to free the unmarried from legal bondage that the long, hard fight was made in this country, for the laws did not discriminate against the spinster with especial injustice, whatever social custom might have done. Practically all of the beneficent changes in the statutes relating to women in the last half century have been made to protect the wife from the husband. Most of the inequalities which still remain affect only married women. The one who remains single has little to fear.

There is not a business partnership of any kind that could survive under conditions which placed one member of the firm under the absolute domination and control of the other. By what logic, then, can we expect it in a partnership where the conditions are far more intimate, exacting and delicate than are possible in any other? But, it may be urged, "there is a vast difference between marriage and other contracts. In this the woman yields her freedom and individuality to one who is a sworn protector, whose interests are identical with her own, and who is deeply concerned in seeing that she receives exact justice." If this be the case, why is it that men themselves, for the last fifty years, have been repealing the old laws regarding the wife and replacing them with new enactments which would enable her to protect herself against her protector? But, notwithstanding all that has been done, the majority of wives are still in subjection to the husbands while they continue to live with them in the holy bonds of matrimony, and so long as this is the case we never can have, as a rule, the happiest and most exalted form of marriage.

Wives Have Advantages.

The wives of today have innumerable advantages over those of past generations, but the most important of all is still denied, viz., an equal right to the joint earnings of the marriage partnership. The law has yielded so far, in most of the states, as to permit a wife to retain possession of the property she brought into the firm and that which becomes hers by will or gift. If she go outside of the home to work her wages are her own, but if she confine her labors to the demands of her household she

is legally entitled only to board, shelter and clothes, and the husband decides as to the quality of these. Whatever she gets in addition is not by legal right, but simply through the influence she can bring to bear upon him. If she dies first she cannot dispose by will of a dollar's worth of all they have accumulated together, but at his death he can deprive her of at least two-thirds, and in many states more, of their joint earnings. The law, however, secures to her unconditionally a certain amount, presupposing that if this were not done the husband would be likely to deprive her of all.

The man who is penniless has the world before him with all of its opportunities for making a living. Modern innovations in a large degree have placed the unmarried woman in the same position, but the wife has no such freedom. By statute she owes her services to her husband, and her own sense of duty compels her to devote them to her household; therefore she is excluded from the wage-earning occupations, and, although performing her regular day's labor, is not entitled to handle a dollar of her earnings. I place above all other causes for unhappiness in marriage the absolute financial dependence of the wife, and I firmly believe that three-fourths of the friction would be removed if a fair share of the family income were placed at her unrestricted disposal, just as now the husband controls all of it. There is not space here to go into an argument on this proposition. Nothing takes the independence, the self-respect and the contentment out of a man's life so completely as pauperism, and, stripped of all subterfuge, this is the condition of the vast majority of wives. They smart under the injustice; they rebel at the cajolery, deceit and sometimes intimidation with which they must practice to get what ought to be theirs by right, while they are often irritated beyond endurance to see the husband using money in ways which they wholly disapprove. If I were a husband I never would admit that my marriage was a failure until I had tried the profit-sharing plan with my wife.

Where the Wonder Lies.

The wonder is not that so many marriages are a failure, but that so many are a success. Members of the same family, parents and children, brothers and sisters who have had years to study one another's idiosyncrasies and are bound together by the strong tie of blood-relationship, often find it extremely difficult to dwell in harmony under the same roof. How much more difficult then must it be for those who know but little of each other's inheritance

of peculiarities, who are married, far too often, on a brief and imperfect acquaintance; who are suddenly thrown into the most intimate relationship, without the power of getting away from it, and who occupy a position not of interdependence, but of authority on one side and often unwilling dependence on the other—how infinitely more difficult must it be for them to bring their lives into harmonious adjustment? The marvel lies in the fact that so many succeed in doing this, for the immense majority of marriages are fairly satisfactory to the contracting parties. It is only those that prove to be mistakes which challenge attention. The one whose troubles are carried into the courts attracts so much notice that the 999 which are being passed in comparative peace and happiness are entirely lost sight of, and people cry out, "Why are so many marriages a failure?"

The census of 1890 showed about 121,000 divorced persons in the United States out of a population of over 62,500,000. A small fraction of 1 per cent is hardly appreciable in so vast a number and certainly does not justify the slightest alarm or the conclusion that marriage as an institution is discredited. Our recent census doubtless will somewhat increase this percentage, but even should this be the case there is no necessity for a panic. There was never in the history of the world such a period of transition as the one through which we are now passing and it is natural that the institution of marriage should be included in the general shaking up. This means simply that it must be more carefully studied with a view to placing it on a broader and firmer basis.

While modern conditions of life afford men and women innumerable opportunities of meeting, these are of the most superficial character and do not permit the long and thorough acquaintance which always should precede marriage. The latter brings many disillusionments even to those who believed they had the most absolute knowledge of one another and they often repent at leisure to as great a degree as those who married in haste. Society in the so-called middle and upper classes permits the unmarried to meet only under artificial conditions, at balls, receptions, dinners, teas—devoted to small talk with the accompaniment of music, flowers, gala attire and crowds of people—all attractive and delightful in a way, but affording no chance for a study of character, temperament, tastes and ideas. Yet on such acquaintance as this the young folks marry and set about to face the great problems of real

life. That, under such circumstances, more than 29 per cent of marriages proves so enduring at least that the parties make no effort to have them annulled is greatly to the credit of human nature and a splendid testimony to the sacrament itself.

How Education Helps.

It is claimed that the marriages which result from co-education in our colleges are almost universally happy. A very wide observation leads me to believe that this is the case. Those years of companionship in the classroom and on the campus have given that mutual knowledge which should be the foundation and have developed that similarity of tastes and pursuits which is essential to a congenial union. This rule holds good where men and women in the same profession marry, as physicians, lawyers, ministers, writers, teachers. I have known of scarcely an instance where such a marriage turned out unhappily, and this must be because of the congeniality of disposition which leads both into the same line of work and prompts them to continue it together. Society is apt to condemn marriage between an employer and his book-keeper or stenographer, and yet their daily companionship has given each an insight of the habits and disposition of the other and shown their ability to work together harmoniously. Where such marriages are founded on mutual respect and affection the chances ought to be in favor of their proving satisfactory, if we accept the premise that a thorough acquaintance is a prime requisite for a successful union.

A prominent reason why many marriages are failures is found in the imperfect development of men and women. While neither would expect to succeed in any kind of business without a special training, they rush blindly and recklessly into this most complex and exacting of all life's relations and are amazed when bankruptcy stares them in the face. It is not possible to take up in detail the numerous causes which lead to this result, the infirmities of temper, the lack of self-control and forbearance, the business incapacity of the husband, the domestic ineptitude of the wife, the total want of an equilibrium which will enable them to meet their inevitable difficulties with calmness and fortitude. The vices of youth prove too strong for the man to lay aside, and, carried into married life, produce the usual wreck. The frivolous superficial attractions which rendered the girl so charming prove wholly inadequate to retain the husband's love, and she has nothing more enduring to offer. The foundation of a perfect marriage cannot be laid upon a deficient manhood and womanhood.

Foundation of Happiness.

This brings us back to our original proposition that the ideal marriage must be founded on that mutual respect which is possible only between equals, and out of this will grow the only love which is unchangeable. John Stuart Mill is often quoted as having said, "No ordinary man is willing to find at his own breast an equal in the person he calls wife." This may have been true when it was written, but a new generation of women have come into existence since that time and they have revolutionized the old ideals. Even the "ordinary" man expects far more of "the person he calls wife" now than in days past, while the most progressive men are demanding, if not their equals, certainly a more advanced womanhood than the world ever before has seen. Although the women of the United States stand more nearly on an equality with the men than do those of any other nation, yet a larger proportion of men here marry than in any other country. Such statistics prove that, while increased opportunities in life may make some women so exacting in the choice of a husband as to prevent marriage altogether, they do not deter a constantly increasing number of men from marrying. Men themselves are continually raising the standard for wives, and women are striving to reach it, but no sooner has this been done than they themselves fix a nobler standard for husbands. Thus each assists the other to rise, and both attain a higher level; while the nearer that of a woman approaches that of the man the greater becomes his respect for her. In the realm of education she has gained a hundredfold in his regard since he has learned that her mental powers are not inferior to his own. This is equally true in the business world, since she has demonstrated her capacity in its many and varied departments. The logical conclusion, therefore, cannot be evaded that there must be a corresponding increase of respect when she takes her rightful place in affairs of government.

This evolution is developing not only women but men and it is producing a greater mutual regard than ever has existed in the history of the race. Eventually this attitude must extend to the relations between husbands and wives, with the inevitable result that, in the fulness of time, there will be no necessity to inquire why so many marriages are failures.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY.