

The Change in the Status of Women Makes Votes for Women the Next Natural Step.

The Only Reason for not enfranchising any class of people in a democracy is because they are mentally or morally incompetent to vote.

The reason why women are not enfranchised is because, when our Constitution was made a hundred and twenty-five years ago, women were considered mentally incompetent to vote.

One Hundred and Twenty-five Years Ago, girls were not admitted to the public grammar schools; women were not admitted to the colleges; women were not admitted to many of the trades and professions; married women could not own property; and married women did not own their own children.

During the Past Hundred and Twenty-five Years the Status of Women has Completely Changed.

At the Present Time our high schools are graduating more girls than boys; forty thousand women are in our colleges; six million women are working in the trades and professions; married women can own property; and, in sixteen states, married women are equal guardians of their children, with the father.

The mental competence of women is now recognized in all phases of social responsibility—except that of the franchise.

The Revolution in Women's Work Makes Votes for Women a practical necessity.

A Hundred Years Ago women in their own homes spun the cloth, made the clothes for the family, cured the meat, preserved and canned the fruits and vegetables, oaked the bread, made the butter, made the soap and candles, had charge of the entire education of girls and the early education of boys, and took care of all the sick.

To-day Industrial Conditions have completely changed. The cloth is now spun not in the home, but in the factory. The clothes are made not in the home, but in the sweat shop. The meat is cured not in the home, but by the beef trust. The fruits and vegetables are canned not in the home, but in the factory. The bread is baked not in the home, but in the bake shop. The butter is made not in the home, but in the creamery. The soap, candles, etc., are made not in the home, but in the factory. The girls and boys are educated not in the home, but in the public schools. The sick are cared for not in the home, but in the hospitals.

The hours of labor of women and their conditions of work, both moral and sanitary, depend upon the laws, and yet the women have no voice in the making or enforcing of the laws. For this reason Votes for Women is a natural and necessary result of present day conditions.

Women Need Votes Now in Order to do the Work which Women Have Always Done.

In the Entire English-Speaking Portion of the World there are just fifteen Commonwealths in which no women vote for anything whatever, and those are fifteen States in the United States of America, of which Virginia is one.

In Virginia, Women Have No Voice in the Government. They cannot even serve on school boards. The State makes no provision for their higher education, nor as teachers do they receive from the State equal pay for equal work with men. Moreover, married women are not equal guardians of their children with the father. How much longer shall Virginia lag behind other States in according the dignity and power of citizenship to women?

EQUAL SUFFRAGE LEAGUE OF VIRGINIA

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RICHMOND, VIRGINIA



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