

Would YOU rather have a VOTE than a HUSBAND?

YES says Mrs. Belle Squire

Wherein Lies Woman's Greatest
Chance for Happiness and
Advancement?
Does It Depend Upon the Man
or Is the Ballot Box the Answer?

NO says Miss Helena Bingham



"Mrs." Squire's
Opinions

With a vote a woman's wages, dignity and position are raised; with a husband they may be lowered. . . . A vote is easier to handle than a husband. . . . A vote does not change in value; frequently a husband does. . . . With a good husband a woman, deprived of responsibility, often becomes a parasite.



Miss Bingham's
Argument

A woman who wants a vote more than anything else needs a husband more than the woman who doesn't care about the ballot. For the men give the women votes. . . . Why not have both? . . . Get a husband and persuade him to help you get a vote.



WANT a vote; it is more dependable than a husband.

A vote is always a valuable asset, for it represents dignity and power.

A husband often robs a woman of these. A vote is a permanent asset unless one has the misfortune to become a criminal or insane, while a woman may be made husbandless at any moment. The "other woman," the divorce court, death, or any of the hundred and one other causes that take a man away from his home may deprive a wife of her husband.

It is impossible to insure happiness in human relations, whereas in political relations it is possible.

A vote is more necessary to a woman than a husband; it raises her wages, her dignity, and her position in the political world as well as in society. It makes her a formidable power to be reckoned with.

On the other hand, when a woman acquires a husband her wages may be considerably lessened and her position in the world appreciably lowered.

The responsibility of a vote is not so great as the responsibility of a husband.

I am sure I could manage a vote much easier than I could a husband. When I see the trouble some women have in trying to get along comfortably with a husband it seems it would be much easier to learn to vote intelligently, even though it entailed a thorough knowledge of tariff and banking laws.

The vote is always a good thing to have; it does not deteriorate in value, while a husband frequently changes so radically in fifteen or twenty years that he and his wife are no longer suited to each other.

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Husband or Wife May Deteriorate.

Not long ago a friend of mine took a photograph from the mantel over the fireplace in her beautiful little home, and, holding it up for me to look at, said: "This is the man I married." Then she laughed. Her laugh was not pleasant to hear, for it was hard and

mirthless; it was more heartbreaking than a sob.

We were silent. I knew that she was thinking of the change that has come over that fine young face. The clear, bright eyes that looked out upon the world in such a fearless manner when the man was young are now narrow and shifting. The generous mouth has been replaced by a thin, hard line, with lips so close and tight that it is hard for them to smile.

This man's face now tells only a tale of money grubbing; it has lost all traces of kindness and generosity.

Yet the world would say he is the man this woman married. In her heart she knows he bears not the slightest resemblance to the man she adored in the old honeymoon days.

This is the tragedy thousands of women have looked in their hearts. Contact with the business world and the money getting vice which has attacked so many of our men frequently works such a change in a husband his wife feels she knows him less and less as the years go by. His business becomes his ruling passion. He shuts his wife out of his life.

A woman frequently deteriorates with a good husband. He lifts all responsibility from her shoulders and she becomes indolent, both mentally and physically, a human parasite. He shields her from the world. In her home she is sheltered from the hard knocks which inevitably fall upon the woman who is forced out into the world.

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Marriage Ideals Must Change.

Many men think they would be eternally disgraced if their wives carried on the business or profession they had adopted before marriage. The majority of men think woman's place is the home, where she may dust and cook and sweep and wash and sew to her heart's content. This, in their eyes, is her only womanly and proper work. Other talents, such as singing, or dancing, or playing on the piano, must take second place.

Many a young woman with the great gift of an inspiring singing voice or some other mar-

velous talent is forced to choose between domestic happiness and an artistic success. If she chooses matrimony she generally regrets it. If she chooses to go on with her career at some time in her life she bemoans the fact that she had not married and had children.

A man is not satisfied to allow a woman to carry on her work as well as to make him a home. He insists she make a choice.

Our ideals of marriage must change. When it is considered right for a woman to continue her work after marriage, providing it does not interfere with her domestic duties, then there will be more happy marriages. Work is a great source of happiness. Coupled with domestic harmony, it constitutes the basis for a well rounded, successful life.

At the present time marriage is considered too much from its romantic side. People often say to me, "You will be lonesome some day; you will need some one to take care of you. You will be sorry you never married." I have seen so many lonesome married women that the argument does not make a strong appeal to me.

I am not a man hater; I am a man admirer. My father was a splendid man, and I have four fine brothers.

Rather than force myself into a marriage with any man less fine than they, I prefer to take the title "Mrs." without the man. It gives me the privileges of a married woman without imposing on me the responsibilities and duties of a wife.

ly convinces him the women will be of assistance in expending the money of the state.

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Husband and Vote Both Necessary.

Acts ever speak louder than words. The wife who performs her duties in the home intelligently drives the conviction home that women are entitled to the ballot more surely than the woman who wins him with a flow of oratory.

It is the aim of the suffragists to work with the men.

There is a popular impression that the suffragists want to take the vote away from the men and to run the government themselves. This is entirely wrong. We do not want to curtail the power of the men; we simply want to give our aid in solving some of the problems which confront them. We want to lift some of the burden from their shoulders.

There are certain phases of governmental work, such as the care of the children, the aged, the sick, and the poor, duties that have comparatively recently been taken over by the state, in which the women could be of assistance to the men. Woman is familiar with these duties, for they have been considered a part of her work for centuries; she has been trained in their performance for hundreds of years.

It has been such a long time since women have had a share in political matters the majority of them have ceased to take an active interest in the great questions of the day. The men have ceased to discuss such things with the women, for their opinion really counts for little; it cannot be backed up by the power of the ballot.

Many women are woefully ignorant of involved political issues; they need the contact with a fine progressive man to broaden their point of view.

While the vote may be necessary for a woman's political happiness, a husband is equally necessary to insure her happiness in human relations.

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Would Give Her Broad Viewpoint.

The vote insures her power and protection, while a husband widens her experience and understanding.

The daily contact with a manly man will

have the effect of broadening woman's comprehension of the rights and privileges of the ballot; she will use her vote to better advantage in consequence.

At the present time I should find an ideal husband more satisfying than the vote. He would not only do everything in his power to get the vote for me, but he would also instruct me in using it correctly.

I should have the advantages of getting an insight into man's viewpoint of the political situation. My understanding of public questions would be better than if I gained my information from one sex—or one-half of the people.

Since the laws must be enforced for the benefit of both sexes, so they should be formed by men and women. Both should have a voice in their making.

We never shall have well balanced laws until the women are recognized as a political power.

And the fine husbands in this broad country of ours are the ones who are preparing the women to take their place in the political world with the men.

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A False Impression Corrected.

Many men—and women, too, for that matter—labor under the unfortunate impression that the suffrage movement is promoted by a group of spinsters. They picture a suffragist as a sour old maid, who, because she has never been so fortunate as to acquire a husband, is bent on getting a vote. It is thought that women work to get the ballot simply because their time is not healthily occupied with husband and children.

I heard a disdainful man once say the terms old maid and suffragist are synonymous. He could not possibly conceive the idea that a woman could be happily married and want to have a vote.

The woman who argues for the extension of the franchise to her sex generally carries more conviction with her argument if she has "Mrs." tacked to her name, especially if it is known that the husband is a sane, level headed man and a suffragist. If a woman can convince her husband that her point of view is right, then other men will yield more readily to her convictions.