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Antis Stand for Good Government; Not Against It

Mrs. Bolmer Writes Interest Letter to Veterans' Journal on Aims of Those Opposed to Suffrage

The following communication has been received:

Editor of the Veterans' Journal:

Sir: -- The Connecticut State Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage stands for **good** government more than **against** votes for women, and good government is found to prevail in many suffrage states more than in equal suffrage states. Take the result of the recent election in Chicago,

where “Big Bill” Thompson has been re-elected and where women have voted since **1913**.

The only thing votes for women has done for that city has been to keep the decent men and women away from the polls, thus increasing the indifferent vote, and to keep in power the political machine which controls the radical element; doubtless many Socialists cast their votes for Thompson this year. Then, too, in New York state, when the women voted in **1918** for the first time, they elected two Socialists to the General Assembly in Albany, both of whom voted last week **against** the bill to investigate bolshevism in New York state.

Seven Socialistic aldermen were also elected to the New York city board of aldermen, one of whom, Beckerman by the name, from the 6th district, is quoted as saying the following in the *New York Sun* editorial of April 3, 1919:

“I regard the present Russian government as the highest form of democracy that the world has ever seen. In the soviet government no exploiter, no graft can exist. I am proud to be classed as a Bolshevist, one who favors that kind of government.” This man lives in New York city and represents the East Side, where Dr. Simons, who recently returned from Russia (Petrograd), stated that Bolshevism originated. Still more proof that

suffrage and socialism approves of Bolshevism is found as far back as April 1918, when the New York Woman's Peace Party, made up of suffragists and socialists, cabled the following to the Bolsheviks: "Please express to the Bolsheviki government our firm belief in their courage, wisdom and ultimate triumph. Be assured that **we will use all our strength** toward bringing about official recognition of the Bolsheviki government by **our own.**" Some of us are wondering today if that is why President Wilson delays action in the great crisis now existing in Europe!

Women have had equal suffrage in some parts of our country for fifty years, representing two generations, and yet at their golden jubilee, which they recently held in St. Louis, the following topics had to be presented for discussion and action:

"What may women voters do to further the welfare of women in industry?" Chairman, Mrs. Raymond Robins.

"How may women conserve the welfare of the nation's children?"

"How many women voters assist the movement toward improved social morality and social hygiene?"

The answer to the above is that the **best** laws for women in industry are in Massachusetts and other male suffrage states; that the **worst** waste of childhood is in Colorado, Illinois, and other equal-suffrage states; that the

lowest **depths** of morality exist in Chicago today, where minors are allowed to drink in dance halls and where immorality is rampant.

With the above results accruing from votes for women what reason have we to believe that women in politics will restrain the radical elements, or in any way better our government? As far as one can see, the only **sure** results are increase in election expenses, as witness in New York, where it cost the state \$2,500,000 extra to allow 515,000 women out of 2,400,000 eligibles to vote, and out of which 400,000 polled votes for Tammany and socialists, increase in taxes and immorality in an alarming way.

Equal suffrage also stands for exploitation of women in politics as is being evidenced every day with the result, that their votes do **not** elect men to whom they have promised to give their full support, nor does it defeat others whom they threaten to defeat. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt has been urging our national legislators to “catch up with “Russia” and the other European countries which have enfranchised their women; if American women were so “emancipated” they might have to perform the same kind of “state duty” as required of the Russian women, i.e., to act the part of nationalized propagator of the human race. Why should we American women be so forcibly lowered from the high pedestal upon which the American men have placed us in order to become emancipated?

Evidently the one hope we anti-suffragists have is the return of our brave boys from over there who have been eye-witnesses to the ravages of women, the brutalities to men, and who know what woman suffrage has produced in those European countries which have adopted it. These men will advise our own men what they will be stirring up by endorsing woman suffrage; and let us hope that our men will lay aside sentiment and gallantry long enough to weigh the pros and cons of woman suffrage before taking any action to “emancipate” their mothers, wives, sisters, or daughters, the great majority of whom do not want to vote.

Signed,

Mrs. Clarence B. Bolmer

State Chairman Press Committee, Antis

New Haven, Conn. April 3rd, 1919.