

Issue: Women's Suffrage

Reform Leaders & Organizations: Carrie Chapman Catt, Alice Paul, National Women's Party, National American Woman Suffrage Association, Woman's Anti-Suffrage Association, National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage

Source: Carrie Chapman Catt, *Woman Suffrage by Federal Constitutional Amendment*

"Among the enfranchised there are vast groups of totally illiterates, and others of gross ignorance, groups of men of all nations of Europe, uneducated Indians and Negroes. Among the unenfranchised are the owners of millions of dollars worth of property, college presidents and college graduates, thousands of teachers in universities, colleges and public schools, physicians, lawyers, dentists, journalists, heads of businesses, representatives of every trade and occupation and thousands of the nation's homekeepers. The former group secured its vote without the asking; the latter appeals in vain to Congress for the removal of the stigma this inexplicable contrast puts upon their sex. It is hoped this little book may gain attention where other means have failed."

Source: Senator Robert Owen, speech before Congress, 1910

Over seven million women are so employed and the remainder of the sex are employed largely in domestic services. A full half of the work of the world is done by women. A careful study of the matter has demonstrated the vital fact that these working women receive a smaller wage for equal work than men do and that the smaller wage and harder conditions imposed on the woman worker are due to the lack of the ballot. . . .

The great doctrine of the American Republic that "*all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed*," justifies the plea of one-half of the people, the women, to exercise the suffrage. The doctrine of the American Revolutionary War that taxation without representation is unendurable [intolerable], justifies women in exercising the suffrage. One great advantage, however, of the suffrage is in raising women to a position of greater honor and dignity so that the children of the land shall show and feel greater reverence and honor for their mothers, and that the mothers may teach the elementary principles of good government while they are teaching them good manners, morality and religion. . . .

Source: Article from an anti-suffrage newspaper, *The Woman's Protest Against Woman's Suffrage*, published in *New York by the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage*, in October 1912.

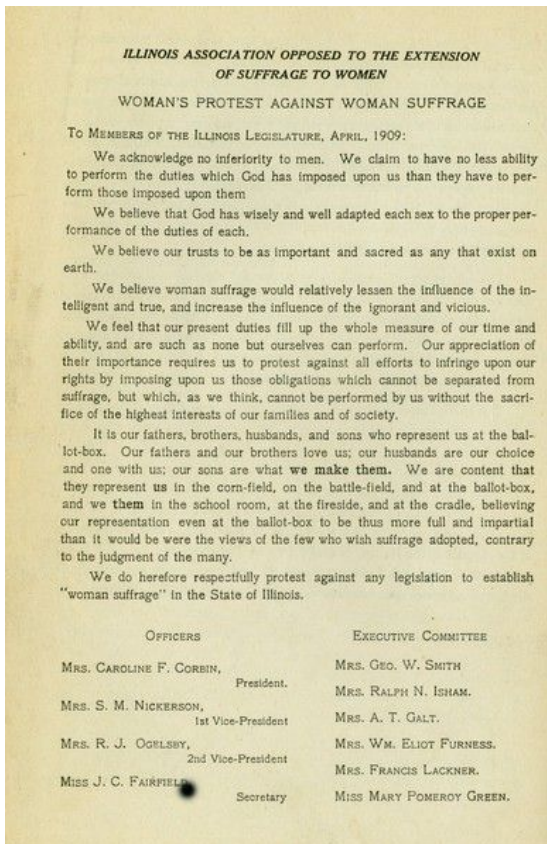
"The Suffragists* teach women to revolt against the daily task of tending child and house, and we sadly see the results in the nation's poor health and lowered physique. It is the Suffragist theory that women's sphere in life should be the same as the man's. Is it not clear how this hideous feminism is sapping our vitality as a nation? As long as a working woman keeps her home clean and well tended, she enjoys the high regard of her neighbors. Yet, now the more weak-minded have been influenced by the Suffragists' snobbish preaching. Such feminism is destroying our national character and warping the natural impulses and beliefs that make a woman's life such a beautiful work of art."

*Suffragists were women who fought for the right to vote.

Source: Representative John A. Moon of Tennessee, speech in House of Representatives, January 10, 1918, on the issue of women's suffrage

"In those Southern States where the colored population outnumbers the white, to double the number of ignorant voters by giving the colored woman the right to vote would produce a condition that would be absolutely intolerable. We owe something to the wishes and the sentiments of the people of our sister States struggling to maintain law and order and white supremacy....We are engaged now in a great foreign war. It is not the proper time to change the whole electoral system."

A letter from an Illinois women's association to the state legislature arguing against women's suffrage, 1909



Anti-Suffragette Cartoon, 1918

TWELVE REASONS

WHY WOMEN SHOULD VOTE

1. BECAUSE it is the foundation of all political liberty that those who obey the Law should have a voice in choosing those who make the Law.
2. BECAUSE most Laws affect women as much as men, and some Laws affect women more than they do men.
3. BECAUSE the Laws which affect women are now passed without consulting them.
4. BECAUSE Laws affecting children should be regarded from the woman's point of view as well as the man's.
5. BECAUSE questions affecting the home come up for consideration in every session of the Legislature and of Congress.
6. BECAUSE women have experience which should be helpfully brought to bear on legislation.
7. BECAUSE to deprive women of the vote is to lower their position in common estimation.
8. BECAUSE the possession of the vote would increase the sense of responsibility among women toward questions of public importance.
9. BECAUSE public-spirited mothers mean public-spirited sons.
10. BECAUSE large numbers of intelligent, thoughtful, hard-working women desire the franchise.
11. BECAUSE the objections raised against their having the franchise are based on sentiment, not on reason.
12. BECAUSE to sum up all reasons in one—IT IS FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF ALL.

WOMEN SUFFRAGE PARTY

27 Lafayette Avenue



Brooklyn, N. Y.

Vote NO on Woman Suffrage

BECAUSE 90% of the women either do not want it, or *do not care*.

BECAUSE it means *competition* of women with men instead of *co-operation*.

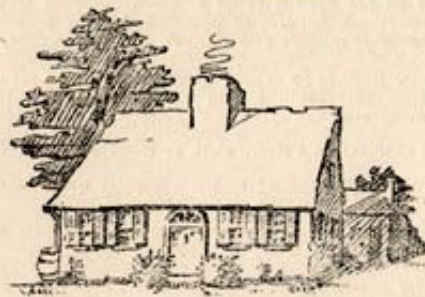
BECAUSE 80% of the women eligible to vote are married and can only double or annul their husbands' votes.

BECAUSE it can be of no benefit commensurate with the additional expense involved.

BECAUSE in some States more voting women than voting men will place the Government under petticoat rule.

BECAUSE it is unwise to risk the good we already have for the evil which may occur.

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Household Hints



National Association OPPOSED to Woman Suffrage

Headquarters
268 Madison Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Branch
726 Fourteenth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Votes of Women can accomplish no more than votes of Men. Why waste time, energy and money, without result?