

THE WAR AND SUFFRAGE.

If there is one opinion on which all the allied nations are agreed it is that the issue of the present conflict is DEMOCRACY VERSUS AUTOCRACY. "The world must be made safe for Democracy" is one of the great Wilsonian epigrams called forth by the War. And no matter how bloody nor how long the conflict rages, our interest in suffrage can not lag. For suffrage is the greatest weapon of Democracy, and the War is being fought for Democracy.

Already in the allied nations, strides towards a more perfect Democracy have been made. In Russia the climax was reached in the revolution, which brought about in a week what under other conditions might have taken a century. One of the most important changes which the revolution has brought is the extension of the suffrage to all Russian manhood. And many papers believe that there is promise of the early enfranchisement of Russian women as a result of the revolution. In England, both the former Premier, Mr. Asquith, and Premier Lloyd George have spoken in Parliament in favor of Woman Suffrage. In Canada, excepting the one Province of Quebec, the women have the ballot. The War, so far from detracting from, has been the accelerator of the Woman Suffrage Drive.

Even in Germany, the last stronghold of Autocracy, what little news we have shows that fundamental changes are being slowly wrought out tending toward the reformation of the Suffrage in such a way as to make it more direct and effective.

Truly the Battle Ground of Democracy is the Battle Ground of Suffrage. Every advance, every step forward in the enfranchisement of the people, is an advance and a step forward for Democracy. The right to vote, to be heard, is fundamental. Without that right no person can correctly be called a citizen, and no people a Democracy people. To believe in Democracy and not to believe in Woman Suffrage is a contradiction.

Woman Suffrage is not the whole of Democracy. Democracy is a bigger and greater than than Woman Suffrage, just like Christianity is a greater thing than kindness. Woman Suffrage, however, is just as essential to Democracy as kindness is to Christianity. It is one of the steps which the world must take in its onward march toward freedom, justice and brotherhood. It is simply one, altho an important one, of the many issues which accrue to the one great issue of the War. And so far from detracting from interest in Suffrage, the War has only served to heighten that interest and to accelerate its extension.

For these reasons the Men's Woman Suffrage League of Georgetown feels it not only reasonable, but altogether timely and essential to continue its untiring interest in the furtherance of the cause of Woman Suffrage in Texas, America and the World.

The Executive Committee,
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