

Alabama Male Association Opposed to Woman's Suffrage

Jas. B. Ellis, President,
Selma, Ala.

Martin L. Calhoun, Sect'y.-Treas.
Selma, Ala.

Hon. W. B. Craig, 2nd Vice-President
Selma, Ala.

(Address all communications to the Secretary.)

PLATFORM:--THE ALABAMA MALE ASSOCIATION OPPOSED TO WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE--

Stands for HOME and NATIONAL DEFENSE against Woman's Suffrage, Feminism and Socialism. For MAN-POWER in Government, believing that Democracy must be STRONG to be SAFE. For the PRESERVATION of the established foundations of the American Republic as a Model for the World. For the RECOGNITION and ENFORCEMENT of the INHERENT RIGHT of EACH STATE to control the question of Woman's Suffrage for ITSELF. For EFFICIENCY and PROGRESS without Waste and Duplication in Government. For the CONSERVATION of the BEST WOMANHOOD of all conditions and stations in life, along NON-PARTISAN lines, so that the interests of Womanhood, Childhood and Civilization may be advanced FREE from the strife and division of politics, factions and parties. For the retention of the BEST IDEALS of the past, adapted to the advantages and opportunities given women under modern conditions, so that the FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES of Morality, of Patriotism and of World Progress may be more firmly established in the present and future generations.

Selma, Ala. March 31st 1919

Mr. R. M. Dudley
El Paso, Texas.

Dear Sir:--

I am in receipt of yours of 28th instant.

Probably a just solution of woman suffrage would be to let the women themselves decide the issue, by a direct expression from them in each state, letting those states in favor grant it and those opposed decline, but under no circumstances should the question be controlled by the Federal Government. As a conservative estimate, statistics do not establish that over fifteen percent of the women are in favor of securing suffrage. Personally I am opposed to granting women the ballot, believing it will not prove conducive to the best interests of womanhood and I further believe their entrance into politics will tend to destroy the home, which is the very foundation of wholesome life and living. The South is normally democratic and if the women voted as the males it would only produce two democratic votes instead of one and if they dissented from the males it would mean dissension in the home. It is contended that those women owning property should be permitted to vote, this being true it would tend to establish a plutocratic government, which in itself is contrary to American ideals. Statistics show that seven-eighths of the property is owned by males, so in any contention that our taxation laws are unjust the males who made the laws are most affected. The Supreme Court has concluded that the ballot is not a right but a privilege and it is a question of expediency as to whom it shall be granted, so when we hear the argument- taxation without representation (which applied to the Colonies which were taxed by the English Government without representation in Parliament) -the right of suffrage (if the latter were true every person, both male and female should exercise their rights) we reckon without reason. I cannot persuade myself that politics will be elevated by the entrance of the women into its arena, as a man I have never found politics very elevating, for such is not the house of politics and the women to be successful politicians will have to play the game by established rules. I can no more reason that the Creator in his allwise creation intended the women to take mens places, than

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Mr.R.M.D.#2

the men to take the women' places, if so He would have naturally created only one sex. I am not opposed to granting women the ballot simply as dealing with one of the so called 'isms, but I bespeak the best interests of womanhood in general when I oppose woman suffrage, for too often we fail to recognize the distinction between a so called privilege and a burden. Suffrage carries the latter- the responsibility or burden being to exercise the ballot with proper care and caution and thus give to your state or government the best possible helpmate in clean and proficient administration. Now understand, I could not contend that a high ideal does not exist among some women, but there are naturally bad among the women just as we find among the men and just what control present day politics will assume over the political women I cannot fathom.

I believe your State would play safe should the women be thoroughly informed on all sides of the issue and be made to fully realize the responsibility carried with the franchise, this in order that it may not be looked upon as a novelty for the time being, but a serious responsibility for them ALL, for the future. The world is facing a menace today in Socialism and Feminism and in many states of our country Woman Suffrage is working hand in hand with the two former, a fact the National Woman Suffrage Association does not deny and I can only reiterate my previous statement, that this issue of granting women suffrage has its serious sides and each state should weigh well the responsibility before taxing snap judgement and be willing to accept the responsibility be it good or bad in result. I can only leave the decision to the good judgement of the women and men of your State.

Thanking you for your candid expression,

Very truly yours,

Martin L. Calhoun
Sect'y-Treas.