

Women and the Vote

October 6, 1920

We desire to call the attention of that fairly large group of women who are readers of this paper, to the new responsibility that has been thrust upon them. After long years of agitation for woman's suffrage, and on that wave of sentiment that has carried other reforms to a successful issue, the amendment to the Federal Constitution, granting the full voting franchise to all women who are American citizens, was adopted by two-thirds of the States, and the same has been proclaimed by the Secretary of State at Washington.

This brings to the women of the United States a new and a grave responsibility. They are now privileged to vote, not merely on school questions, but theirs is a full franchise for local, State and national questions. Where men vote, the American woman can now vote.

If the giving of the franchise to American women was wise – and we have no doubt of this – then it is incumbent on the women to assume the responsibility and prepare to fully meet it. In view of great moral issues that are destined to call out the marshaled forces of evil in coming months, it is all important that the women of America shall at once throw their great influence into the scale. While all women cannot be counted on to side right on great questions, we believe the great preponderance of women's votes will be for the right.

It is certain that the organized forces of the saloon were ever against the granting of woman suffrage. And the reason for this is evident. The American woman is not in favor of the saloon, and her influence and vote were not at all welcomed by the liquor interests.

Nor is it safe for the women of these States to assume that the saloon question is once and forever settled. There are men in almost every walk of life who would reverse the amendment or nullify its enforcement, and some of these have had seats in the cabinet at Washington. In view of this, and of the fact that many leading papers, together with the whole bevy of liquor organization, would bring wine, beer and the saloon back, there is every reason why every American woman should prepare to take her stand.

These lines are to suggest that women who read this paper shall at once REGISTER. Find out where to go, and be sure your name is on the voting list. You cannot vote unless you are on the list, and this part of it is up to you! With your name there, your ballot on some great issue may count as much as the vote of the Governor or the President.

It is a great and long deserved honor now bestowed on American womanhood. It merits, and the rising moral issues of the future demand, that our women accept the challenge, and prepare to rightly exert their enormous influence at the American ballot box.