

## WILL WOMEN MAKE GOOD IN POLITICS?

### Not The Sort Who Wear Tight Skirts, Says Mrs O'Sullivan

*But Most Women  
Will Vote For  
Men Who Stand For  
Principle, She Thinks*



MRS MARY K. O'SULLIVAN

(Today the Globe prints another contribution to its recent symposium which has created so much interest among the "almost voters" of New England—Will Women Make Good in Politics?)

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Our work has just begun. We are partners in the greatest of all firms—the body politic, which either conserves or destroys life according to the acts, wisdom and judgment of the representatives serving and the responsibility of the people choosing representatives to serve.

Many chosen have furthered their personal ambition and "played the game."

Women must learn that knowledge is power. We must know when we elect, whether the weak or the strong is served, never what "they say" but what we know. Ten million children die annually. Why? And who's responsible? This problem has not been answered. We, mothers must place the responsibility where it belongs.

If there is a basic reason for "deporting" any creatures, it ought to be the representatives who betray their sacred trusts and whose acts are responsible for the present state of chaos. Unchecked power, greed and base selfishness of leaders at the top, was the cause of the World War, which we paid for with blood. Women voters must take their lesson from this fact, and their chief duty should be to elect only those who know and care about the needs of the human family from a conservation standpoint.

#### "Yes—In Time"

The employer or his representative, with only one thought, and that production, is another cause for creating discontent. A manager was recently asked by an official of the Federal Government "what vestibule training do your employes receive when first put to work on dangerous machinery?" and the answer was, "None." This condition creates and perpetuates the human scrap heap and it is an indictment against civilization and is the basis of self-interest.

Will women make good in politics? Yes, in time. Many individuals will make good if the opportunity is given them to do their duty. Many women are unselfish and have a social conscience. Generations must pass before women as a whole will make good, owing to the evil of alcohol. I have inspected restaurants and hotels at midnight and know that more and more women were drinking. We associate subnormals (who are poor subjects at best) with these unfortunate drinking men and women. They are the result of the sins of their parents. This human waste and suffering is also another curse of being badly governed.

Women as individuals have proven their worth in public life. May I tell a fact? A woman in Illinois was appointed on a board of five as Labor Commissioner, the work of the commission required knowledge of all industrial questions, especially mining, where ignorance meant disaster to the very life and safety of the workers. This woman knew more about industries than the other members, except one, but she resigned to make a further study of the work. The other members of the board thought it insanity to give up such a "good job." Again, when the first Labor Board of Illinois was instituted to enforce labor laws, this woman was appointed chief of the department by Gov Altgeld. She declined in favor of Florence Kelley, now National secretary of the Consumers' League, accepting a subordinate position, believing that the best interests of the employe and employer would be served.

#### "Don't Want to Vote"

There is reason to have faith in the woman in her home and the business woman. They are practical and keen when facts are presented to them and quick to grasp the value of the vote in its relation to the basic life of the home and welfare of the children. For instance, a member of the Legislature refused to vote for suffrage, claiming the women in his district didn't believe in voting. Only two days were left to find out if this was true or not. The writer undertook the job. The wind was blowing dust at a terrible gale, making extra work for the housekeeper—imagine talking theories to these busy mothers!

"Too bad the city doesn't clean

the streets," was remarked, "you wouldn't have all this dirt blowing in. Men don't have to clean the house. If they did they would elect the man who would keep the streets clean." The truth beamed in her eyes. "Have you any rice in the house?" She produced what she thought was rice, but in fact only a by-product of rice. The story of rice was told to her as to the investigation made by the United States. Also the record of the pure milk bill and its annual death. Not a woman refused to sign her name, and the larger the family the more anxious they seemed to want to help change things.

June of this year a member of the Federal Relations Committee refused to ratify the suffrage for the same reason as given. Mothers in his district were also told many facts about food as a by-product, and the business women and the day workers were told among other things how a few unjust employers took advantage of a 30-minute law for lunchtime, not providing space for their women to eat in the store and a fine was imposed every time the women couldn't "make it" in 30 minutes. Safe to say the member ratified suffrage.

#### No Woman's Party

Women will not form a woman's party, it would be a great mistake. The city, State and Nations' housekeeping must be done together with the men. The need is very great and the time now. Many wives and sisters will vote with their husbands and brothers and sons. Some women may vote with their employers, but few.

Most women will vote for men who stand for principle, probably not so many, at first, but eventually the larger part will so do. The established parties will have to be more progressive with more of the best type of leadership. Many a fine impulse has been destroyed by the established parties placing a square peg in a round hole not because the men in high position wished it, but the party forced it. The future will help men to do their duty in our State and National housekeeping.

Many suffragists and club leaders haven't struck bottom from the standpoint of knowing the basic problems of life. They were unselfish in working to give all women the opportunity of helping themselves. They are better women for the doing. Why not "finish the job" and learn the basic fundamental principles of life. Have their schools and gatherings which is chiefly on the highway, but come into the by way where time is life to us working women.

If dead in earnest find out the cause and pass the word along and we will, I think, do our part.

#### Old-Fashioned Best

There is one kind of woman who cannot teach the working woman and that is the so-called intellectual, who parades a social conscience on the pretense of liberty, but who is a destroyer of the home and family, not wanting a freedom, but a license to be a soulmate to some good woman's husband. Only the woman who stands for the old-fashioned home can teach us women who endure and endure in our daily lives often hardships with a hope to inculcate character, purpose and honor with the basic responsibility of life.

Another kind of woman who cannot teach better citizenship is the woman whose dress is the same width at the bottom as it is at the neck with alluring opportunities.