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The Red Behind the Yellow Socialism in the Wake of Suffrage

This must be returned to
Mrs. H. C. Sumney,
3307 Poppleton Ave.,
Omaha, Nebr.



This early 20th century pamphlet was collected by suffragists Katherine Sumney and Grace Richardson of Omaha. They preserved it along with other examples of contemporary anti-suffragist literature. It is part of the Grace Richardson Collection, RG1073.AM, at History Nebraska. history.nebraska.gov

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The Nebraska Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage
536 Bee Building, Omaha, Nebraska

The Real Danger of Woman Suffrage

The writer stood on Fifth Avenue one night last November watching the Woman's Suffrage parade. It moved past him a giddy, fluttering mass of yellow, its bands playing popular airs, while the marchers kept time with their yellow jack o' lanterns hoisted on sticks. Their faces were wreathed in smiles, and now and again they broke into song as this or that popular tune caught their fancy. It was a veritable fairyland of dancing yellow.

Suddenly, the scene changed. The yellow was gone, and in its place was red—red sashes, red banners, red hat-bands, red dresses. The light, gay music had died away, and there burst on the night air the solemn, stirring strains of the "Marseillaise," the famous revolutionary anthem. Men and women were marching past now, hundreds of them in close ranks, with firm, steady tread, determination written on their grim, set faces. All was red, red, red, and, as the writer gazed stunned by the sudden, weird transformation, he saw displayed on their red banner the inscription—**EVERY SOCIALIST IS A WOMAN SUFFRAGIST.**

Behind that giddy body of yellow suffragists came the compact mass of red-clad Socialists. Just so in our whole nation today. Socialists are behind Woman Suffrage and, if they should succeed in getting it, as the red suddenly flashed out in place of the yellow before the writer's eyes in the parade that November night, so will the Socialist Republic and the Co-operative Commonwealth burst forth close in the wake of Woman Suffrage.

Do you realize what this would mean? Do you appreciate what Socialism stands for?

In the Economic Revolution, the Socialists propose to do away with private productive property. The State will then own everything, and every one will work for the State for a living.

The Socialists call our present marriage ceremony "useless and ridiculous," and they intend to substitute for it "a mutual understanding" that can be terminated by "quick, easy divorce at the will of either party." People will then "live like birds." In the place of our homes of today, they will give us one kitchen, one laundry, etc., for many so-called families. They will even have State nurseries to

take care of the children after they are a year old, while their mothers are out working for a living under the State.

Karl Marx, the Father of Socialism, speaks thus of the family and home life in "The Communist Manifesto":

"On what foundation is the present family based? On capital, on private gain. In its completely developed form, this family exists only among the bourgeoisie. But this state of things finds its complement in the practical absence of family among the proletarians (working class) and in public prostitution. The bourgeois family will vanish as a matter of course when its complement vanishes, and both will vanish with the vanishing of capital."

Already the Woman's Suffrage Party of Cook County, Illinois, of which Mrs. Charlotte Rhodus is President, have officially declared that "the sanctity of marriage is meaningless." They have addressed an open letter to the Illinois Legislature which states: "Under the regime of sanctity, ninety per cent of the race have become weaklings. Under sanctity white slavery has grown to astonishing proportions. The Church should cease to enforce its designs by means of a civil law"; and this same organization has made "easy divorce" its slogan.

The increasing Socialist vote in the suffrage States shows that the Socialists are right in identifying suffrage with socialism. And this is in pioneer communities, where Socialism makes a less powerful appeal than in the manufacturing districts and crowded cities of the East, where the Socialist gains would be even more rapid and startling, if women were given the vote. The Socialists have already opened naturalization bureaus in New York City for the purpose of making citizens of foreign-born women so they can vote for Socialism if they get the ballot. They are conducting an extensive campaign among women to educate them in Socialism.

Miss Jessie Ashley, who was Treasurer last year of the National Woman Suffrage Association, discussing the question "Who are the White Slaves?" in the April number of *The Progressive Woman*, a Socialist paper published in Chicago, says:

"By its (society's) false standards of morality, its cruel mandates of 'virtue,' its harsh rules of ostracism for the girl who is not chaste, its wage system and its marriage system, and its system of male supremacy, it is itself the criminal. It holds its women, rich and poor alike, in sex slavery, and its working class, men and women, alike, in wage slavery, and this the whole world over.

The *Progressive Woman* has this to say editorially:

"GET SOMETHING DONE. Bring Socialism to the attention of women voters and suffragists. They are fighting for justice. And by fighting for justice they are fighting the capitalist system, which exists by injustice alone. **ACT! MOVE! HUSTLE!** for the realization of our

slogan: A HALF MILLION SOCIALIST WOMEN VOTERS IN 1916, and a 50 PER CENT WOMAN MEMBERSHIP in the Socialist party."

Daniel De Leon, one of the most prominent American Socialists, says: "All the facts, all the reasoning, focus into one conclusion. **WOMAN SUFFRAGE** must take its place as **AN INTEGRAL SPLINTER** in the torch that lights the path of the **SOCIAL REVOLUTION.**"

✕ There is no getting away from the fact that Woman Suffrage and Socialism are indissolubly linked. It is a state of affairs recognized by every serious student of political and social conditions today. Socialists like Inez Milholland, Mrs. Harriet Stanton Blatch, Alice Stone Blackwell and Jessie Ashley are prominent leaders in the Woman Suffrage party. All Socialists favor Woman Suffrage because they know what it means to their cause. We are indeed threatened by a red peril in a yellow cloak.

✕ Where do YOU stand? Are YOU in favor of it? Do YOU care to see private property abolished? Do YOU agree with Miss Ashley that wifehood is slavery? Do YOU think that the marriage ceremony is "useless and ridiculous?" Do YOU wish to have it done away with for "a mutual understanding" to be broken at the will of either party?

If you want these things, then work for Woman Suffrage with the Socialists. But, if you hold your family relations, your home, your religion, as sacred and inviolate, if you desire to preserve them for yourself and for your children for all time, then work with all your might against the companion, the handmaid, the forerunner of Socialism—Woman Suffrage.

G. M.