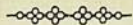


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A CHILD'S APPEAL



BIBLIOTHÈQUE de la
VILLE de MONTRÉAL
SALLE GAGNON

Child—Where are you going now, Papa?

Father—I am going to vote; to cast my ballot, my dear.

Child—Why isn't Mamma going, too?

Father—Because she isn't allowed to vote in the Province of Quebec.

Child—Why not Isn't she as good as you, Papa?

Father—Oh, yes! But here only men can vote.

Child—By voting, you choose the ones who make the laws, don't you?

Father—Yes, my dear.

Child—Laws about and for children, eh?

Father—Yes.

Child—Well, doesn't Mamma know more about children than you do? Doesn't she look after us, and feed us, and nurse us when we're sick, and everything like that, more than you do? Shouldn't she know as well, or better, than you, whom to choose to make laws, and what laws should be, to protect children.

Father (rubbing his chin)—Well, yes, my dear; I really hadn't thought of it in that way before. But probably your Mamma wouldn't like politics.

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Child—If you mean by that, she wouldn't like to vote, I know that you are mistaken. I heard Mamma say that if mothers had the vote, the ones chosen to make the laws would be afraid to make bad laws, or keep bad laws on the books, but would busy themselves in making laws to guard children's lives.

Father—Tell me what you mean. Are children's lives not safe here?

Child—No! Any doctor will tell you that the laws regarding the sale and care of milk, for instance, which is the only food for babies, are so loose, that hundreds die from milk-poisoning alone. Then children are taken from school at an early age because in this Province we have no law to compel school attendance up to a proper age, and so, being put to work in factories too young, they never grow to be strong men and women. If mothers had the vote they would see that laws are made and kept that would mend these wrongs to children.

Father—Very likely. But cannot men make these laws?

Child—Yes, they can; but they either have not, or having made them, they have not put them into force properly. Give Mamma and other women the vote, and those who make the laws will listen when they come asking for justice.

Father—True. I am beginning to believe you are right. But have you any other argument to make?

Child—Let me say just this: If Mamma is good enough to care for and bring up children, she is good enough, and wise enough, to know what is best for them. Let her vote,

and all other women, too, and laws regarding health, sanitation and morals, will be made, because those who make them, cannot refuse to listen to the demand for good laws when it comes from Women—when they have votes.

Father—You have convinced ME, and I shall ask the member of my division how he stands on the Women's Vote question to-day. From now on I shall work to see that Mamma, and other women in the PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, have the VOTE.

S. B. N.



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