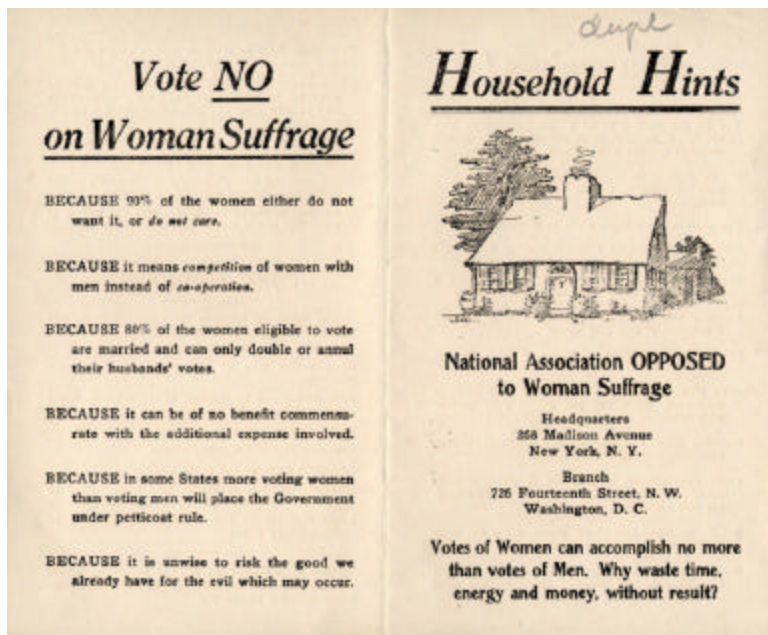


Document Study Sheet: Pamphlet from the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage

Pamphlet from the National Association OPPOSED to Woman Suffrage, c. 1910s

TYPE: Organizational Record **TOPICS:** Health, Education & Welfare
TIME: 1900-1949 Law & Politics
LEVEL: Middle School and above Women's Activism & Rights



TRANSCRIPTION

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Household Hints

National Association OPPOSED to Woman Suffrage
 Headquarters
 268 Madison Avenue
 New York, N.Y.

Branch
 725 Fourteenth Street, N.W.
 Washington, D.C.

Votes of Women can accomplish no more than votes of Men. Why waste time

energy and money, without result?

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Housewives!

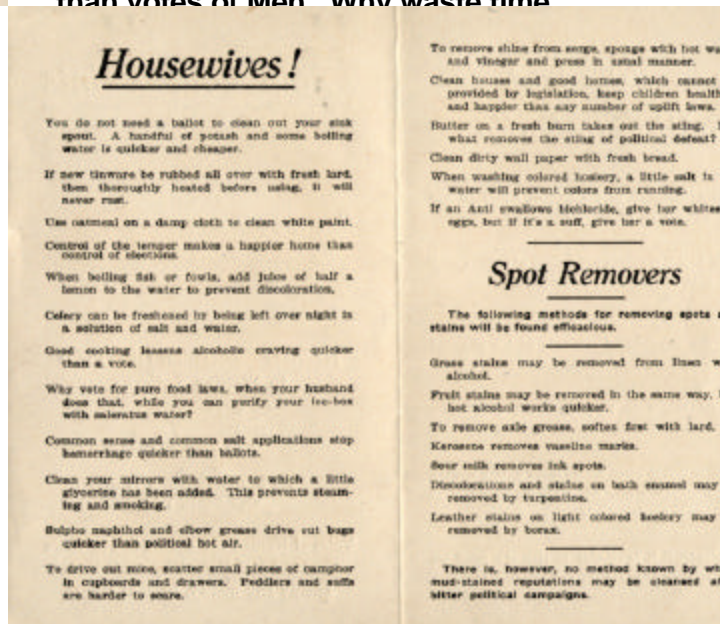
You do not need a ballot to clean out your sink spout. A handful of potash and some boiling water is quicker and cheaper.

If new tinware be rubbed all over with fresh lard, then thoroughly heated before using, it will never rust.

Use oatmeal on a damp cloth to clean white paint.

Control of the temper makes a happier home than control of elections.

When boiling fish or fowls, add juice of half a lemon to the water to prevent discolorations.



Celery can be freshened by being left over night in a solution of salt and water.

Good cooking lessons alcoholic cravings quicker than a vote.

Why vote for pure food laws, when your husband does that, while you can purify your Ice-box with saleratus water?

Common sense and common salt applications stop hemorrhage quicker than ballots.

Clean your mirrors with water to which a little glycerine has been added. This prevents steaming and smoking.

Sulpho naphthol and elbow grease drive out bugs quicker than political hot air.

To drive out mice, scatter small pieces of camphor in cupboards and drawers. Peddlers and suffs are harder to scare.

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To remove shine from serge, sponge with hot water and vinegar and press in usual manner.

Clean houses and good homes, which cannot be provided by legislation, keep children healthier and happier than any number of uplift laws.

Butter on a fresh burn takes out the sting. But what removes the sting of political defeat?

Clean dirty wall paper with fresh bread.

When washing colored hosiery, a little salt in the water will prevent colors from running.

If an Anti swallows bichloride, give her whites of eggs, but if it's a suff, give her a vote.

Spot Removers

The following methods for removing spots and stains will be found efficacious.

Grass stains may be removed from linen with alcohol.

Fruit stains may be removed in the same way, but hot alcohol works quicker.

To remove axle grease, soften first with lard.

Kerosene removes vaseline marks.

Sour milk removes ink spots.

Discolorations and stains on bath enamel may be removed by turpentine.

Leather stains on light colored hosiery may be removed by borax.

There is, however, no method known by which mud-stained reputation may be cleaned after bitter political campaigns.

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Vote NO on Woman Suffrage

BECAUSE 90% of the women either do not want it, or *do not care*.

BECAUSE it means *competition* of women with men instead of *co-operation*.

BECAUSE 80% of the women eligible to vote are married and can only double or annul their husband's votes.

BECAUSE it can be of no benefit commensurate with the additional expense involved.

BECAUSE in some States more voting women than voting men will place the Government under petticoat rule.

BECAUSE it is unwise to risk the good we already have for the evil which may occur.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Despite early differences with respect to strategy, after 1900 most advocates for women's rights pursued a unified and coordinated effort to gain the vote, suffrage. The majority agreed that a Constitutional amendment was the best approach, and they integrated activities on local, state, and federal levels.

Opposition to the goal of women's suffrage came from many arenas. Some objected because they believed that women would only duplicate the voting of their husbands, while others believed that women were unable to exert the rational thought that voting required. Many also argued that women were morally superior to the American political system and that voting would violate the special position they held as society's caregivers. Still others maintained that husbands, fathers, and sons were best able to represent the interests of the women in their lives.

This pamphlet conveys these many varied concerns. It also reflects another aspect of American life in the early twentieth century -- literature aimed at a female audience. The period witnessed a rapid increase women's magazines, advice columns, and other media. By portraying their arguments as "helpful hints," this Association emphasized women's domestic sphere and conveyed the opposition of many to the contemporary reality of increased female participation in affairs outside of the home.

For more on the efforts for and against suffrage, go to JWA's *Women of Valor* exhibit at <http://www.jwa.org/exhibits/wov/weil/>.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Identify the major arguments this pamphlet presents against giving women the vote. Are these points ideologically consistent with one another?
2. About what do those opposed to giving women the vote seem most afraid?
3. Identify the connection made here between the vote and household activities. Why did the Association make these connections?
4. Why have some hints been placed in the Housewives! category and others in Spot Removers?
5. Do you think this pamphlet helped or hurt the cause of those who opposed women's suffrage?
6. Why do you think pamphlet's author chose to put a house on its front cover?