



Correspondents to the MARYLAND SUFFRAGE NEWS are requested to address all communications for the Letter Box to Mrs. F. P. Mall, 1514 Bolton St.; to use one side of paper only, to leave space for heading, write legibly, and have letter in such condition that it can be forwarded immediately to the printer.—Ed.

We Hope That the Desired Information Will Be Forthcoming From Our Democratic Readers.

Dear Editors:

I am writing to the NEWS as a medium through which I may gather information. I was much pleased with the declaration from the meeting of suffragists who met at Mrs. Belmont's residence.

It seems that this body of women have pledged themselves to work for a Federal amendment to the Constitution and for the Bristow-Mondell amendment. As a Southern woman I have considered very carefully the Federal amendment and have been rather opposed to it as interfering with States' rights, but I have always been open to conviction.

I am now convinced that those who desire suffrage for women within a reasonable time must advocate the Federal amendment. For each State to have to fight for suffrage and overcome all kinds of ignorance and narrow prejudice is a tedious and a costly business. As women and men become more educated to the justice of the cause and to its importance as a factor for good, they readily become its warm supporters, and so we make converts. But there are others. There are those whose prejudice will never change; there are those who for entirely selfish reasons will never work for the success of suffrage; and while these are steadily decreasing, they are still numerous enough to block legislation and to use their influence against it.

Why should each State have to go through the same experience with this element, spend money on literature, meetings and speakers and all the other endless work entailed, when by a Federal amendment we can get suffrage for all the States at one stroke, and so let the prejudiced and the narrow learn gradually, but not at the sacrifice of the liberty of thousands of citizens while they are learning?

I am anxious to get information from the Democrats whose idea of States' rights is such that to them

it comes before anything else. I should like to hear from them why they think it better for each State to have to fight for a right that can be conferred at much less cost of time and money by Congress.

SALLY M.—

**INQUIRY COLUMN**

"Discussion is the greatest of all reformers. It rationalizes everything it touches. It robs principles of all false sanctity and throws them back on their reasonableness. If they have no reasonableness, it ruthlessly crushes them out of existence and sets up its own conclusions in their stead."—Woodrow Wilson.

*Inquiry:*

Have you any statistics dealing with war and the cost of war? If so, will you please publish them?

A. M. R.

*Answer:*

We take pleasure in reprinting herewith an extract from a recent issue of the *Maryland Progressive*:

**THE COST OF A GREAT WAR.**

Dr. Carl Richet, a statistician of the University of Paris, is quoted as estimating the cost of a war involving England, France, Germany, Russia, Austria and Servia at nearly \$55,000,000 per day. He assumes that 20,000,000 men would be called to arms, of whom one-half would be sent to the front. His calculation follows:

Provisioning of troops.....	\$12,500,000
Feeding of horses.....	1,000,000
Pay .....	4,250,000
Wages, arsenals and harbors .....	1,000,000
Mobilization .....	2,000,000
Transport of foodstuffs, weapons, etc.....	4,000,000
Ammunition—	
Infantry .....	4,000,000
Artillery .....	1,250,000
Ship artillery .....	375,000
Fitting out of army....	4,000,000
Ambulance service.....	500,000
Movement of ships....	500,000
Deficit in taxes.....	10,000,000
Support for population without means.....	6,750,000
Requisitions, damage to towns, bridges, etc....	2,000,000
Total .....	\$54,125,000

This estimate apparently does not include all naval expenses of the indirect loss and waste of war, such as depreciation of stocks; nor does it take into consideration the very appreciable injury to the business and commerce of neutral nations. That the world's wealth is being wasted by the present European war at the rate of \$100,000,000 a day is by no means an extravagant estimate.

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