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EDITORIAL

VOTES AND BABES.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE right of way should be allowed in respectful reverence, and hats off, to the following letter from a woman, Maud Schwartz, in the New York *Evening Post* on the subject of the suffrage for women:

“Two of the stock arguments of man against woman suffrage are that it will inevitably ‘earthquake’ the home and as inevitably lower the birthrate. Women entertain no such fears. None of the countries or the States where women vote are complaining of loss of homes or declining birthrate. Women of intelligence know (and men ought to) that homes and babies do not depend on men and women voting or not voting, but chiefly on industrial conditions. If a country is prosperous and the laws relating to marriage are favorable, homes and the birthrate tend to increase and vice versa. France appears to be the exception to this rule—a very prosperous country, its birthrate is perhaps the lowest of civilized countries. But France has unfavorable marriage laws which it is at present trying to rid itself of, and there are other reasons, such is the dot system for girls, which tend to reduce appreciably the birthrate. More than two girls in a French family are a calamity, as each one must be provided with a dowry, even among people of modest circumstances; with us, girls are as much an asset as boys. As long as men provide the wherewithal, homes will be made, and if they are so anxious about the future of the race, let them help make this world a better, cleaner, healthier, and saner place for babies to come to—and watch the birthrate rise!”

This is well said—

It is the poetic expression of the matter-of-fact truth: “Tell me the price of wheat, and I shall tell you the number of marriages and births.”

That was well said—

It is the wisdom of the Ages that, in a score of different manners, in Science, in Poetry, in Painting and in Sculpture, has given expression to the experience that Laughter and Sunshine, radiating from the hearth at which Woman, even at the

degraded status to which Capitalism chains her, is the Priestess, have their foundation and pedestal in the possibilities for material well being.

Fitting it is that the Sublime Truth—all Truth is Sublime—should leap from a woman's heart and head.

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