Mabel Lee Writes About Suffrage

**Document Text**

It is a fact that no matter where we go we cannot escape hearing about woman suffrage. Yet there is hardly a question more misunderstood or that has more misapplications. So manifold are its misconceptions that it has come to be a by-word suitable for every occasion. For instance, if when in company one should wish to scramble out of an embarrassing situation, or his more fortunate brother should wish to be considered witty, all that either would have to do would be to mention woman suffrage, and they may be sure of laughter and merriment in response.

The reason for this is that the idea of woman suffrage at first stood for something abnormal, strange and extraordinary, and so has finally become the word for anything ridiculous. The idea that women should ever wish to have or be anything more than their primitive mothers appears at first thought to be indeed tragic enough to be comic; but if we sit down and really think it over, throwing aside all sentimentalism, we find that it is nothing more than a wider application of our ideas of

**Summary**

Everyone these days is talking about women voting. But many are laughing at it, as if it’s a joke.

Why are people laughing? Because the idea seems so weird to them. They don’t understand that women could want more opportunities than their mothers had. But the vote is just democracy being applied to women.
justice and equality. We all believe in the idea of democracy; woman suffrage . . . is the application of democracy to women. . . .

The opponents of democracy [are] . . . saying that the feminists wish to make women like men; whereas the feminists want nothing more than the equality of opportunity for women to prove their merits and what they are best suited to do. . . . It was not so long ago that even Western people thought that woman was not capable of being taught even the three R's. . . . It is only a short time since she gained the victory of admission to college, and there are still many schools too conservative to open their doors for her instruction. At present there is still the cry that though woman has gone so far, she can go no further, that she cannot succeed in the professions. But this again is being refuted by the success of pioneers of today.

People opposed to women’s rights say feminists want women to be like men. But women just want equal opportunities. They want an education. They want to go as far as they can in life. Some people say women have reached their limit, but they are wrong.