

Full Emancipation

In 1920 the males in the United States decided it was time to grant suffrage to their mates, and so they amended the constitution to give women the right to vote.

Then for another 20 years or so congress debated the question: Shall women be guaranteed equal pay for equal work insofar as federal jurisdiction goes? Several years ago congress decided this should prevail, and so equal pay for equal work was guaranteed.

The two illustrations are cited only to give a brief review of how far women have come in their campaigns for equal rights in any and all situations of the national life.

The woman's contribution toward the national wealth can be grasped additionally when it is realized she constitutes a greater percentage of the working force than ever before.

In 1940, for example, the ratio of women working was one in four; today, the nation's work force includes one woman for every two men employed.

To add statistic to statistic, the percentage of married women employed is going up, up, up. In the yesteryears a woman's payroll job ended at the altar nine times out of 10. Today one out of every three married women is working outside her home.

The distaff side of American life, then, is taking on a new look. Woman has emancipated herself. For all of this she remains the enigma, bless her, of creation and conjures up the lines by Lord Byron:

What a strange thing is
man! And what a
stranger is woman.

What a whirlwind is
her head, and what a
whirlpool of depth
and danger is all the
rest of her.