

A SEX REBELLION

MAN values the rare. If diamonds were as plentiful as granite, they would sell by the ton and be used for common purposes. Where women are scarce, they are treasured.

Consider the West of pioneer days. There were from one to ten men for every woman, and women were treasured and courted. This was also true of the white women in the South. We have been the treasured women of the world. We live in most cases easily and comfortably. There are at least enough homes to go around.

Where the number of females exceeds that of males, life is difficult for women. So it has been in China for many generations. So it is now in England.

There are too many women in England for the comfort of women. Even before the war they felt the shortage of men. Lord Northcliffe was recently quoted as saying: "There are now two million more women than men in England. That means a sex problem in England which, reduced to its final form, means an economic problem."

A large part of that surplus two million women are denied family life. A vast army of women is thrown on its own resources. Simultaneously there has grown up a feminist movement not comparable with that in any other country in the world.

Many publicists and moralists and wiseacres have pointed to Russia as the great laboratory of the world. But Russia is not in a position to prove anything but the failure of the hope for perfection in imperfect human beings.

England is the great human laboratory of our generation—England with her surplus of two million women, her restless, well-equipped, unsatisfied women.

They are women of a ruling nation. All of them have some education, they have a common tongue and an accepted code of life and law. They did their part in the war, a more active part than the women of any other nation. They did the work of men. Then came peace. Suddenly English women were confronted with an appalling fact.

England was short two million men! Women taxi-drivers were the first to rebel against the slogan, "Give the jobs back to the men!" They refused.

There are two million women struggling to adjust the world to their needs, a great potential army of feminists. They stand together for the laws which will protect women. They have undertaken to change the position of women. They are fighting for laws to protect mothers and children and working women. They are demanding a new moral code.

It looks like a sex revolution.

THE DEBILITATOR

NUMBER FOUR

NOVEMBER 1921

VOLUME XCIX