Political Cartoons: Text and Explanation

These suffrage cartoons have been selected from national publications. North Dakota newspapers published few political cartoons that argued for or against woman suffrage.

These cartoons present a powerful, quickly absorbed message because they are visual. Most readers could understand the cartoonist’s point of view without reading the words.

Below is the text taken from each cartoon.

A. My wife's joined the Suffrage Movement. (I've suffered ever since!)
B. I want to vote, but My Wife Won't Let Me. (copyright 1909) [On wall]: Everybody works but Mother: She's a Suffragette
C. Votes for Women. While in the act of voting Mrs. Jones remembers that she has left a cake in the oven!
D. “We shall fight for the things we have always carried nearest our hearts, for Democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments.” W.W. [at bottom of page] Insulting the President? (August 1917.) [W.W. is President Woodrow Wilson. The words are from one of his speeches.]
E. “I did not raise my girl to be a voter.” Soprano solo with vociferous supporting chorus of male voices. [Background]: Procurer, Dive-keeper, Child Labor Emb. . ., Grafter, Cadet, Sweatshop Owner, Political Boss, Anti.
F. Vote for Our Mothers. Our food, our health, our home, our schools, our play are all regulated by men’s votes – Isn’t it a funny thing when father when father cannot see why mother ought to have a vote on how these things should be? I’m a girl baby and I’m going to be taxed without representation. To be obtained as post cards from the National Woman Suffrage Association, Inc, on 5th Avenue, New York City.
G. A Nut She Doesn't Try to Crack! [Under woman’s feet]: Anti. [on nut]: No equal suffrage state or county EVER repealed its suffrage law. [Artist]: Lou Rogers
H. Votes for Women. Did I Save my Country for this! [Artist]: Mary
I. The Dignity of the Franchise. Qualified Voter, “Ah, you may pay rates and taxes, an’ you may ‘ave responserbilities an all, but when it comes to votin’, you must leave it to us men! [background]: To the Polling Stati. . . [Artist] Bernard Partridge.
J. What a Woman may be, and yet not have the Vote. Mayor Nurse Mother Doctor or Teacher Factory Hand. What a Man may have been, & yet not lose the Vote. Convict Lunatic Proprietor of White Slaves Unfit for Service Drunkard
My wife’s joined the Suffrage Movement. (I’ve suffered ever since!)
Everybody works but
Mother — She's a Suffrageet

I want to vote, but
My wife won't let me

Copyrighted 1909 by Dunston-Weiler Lithograph Co.
Votes for Women

While in the act of voting, Mrs Jones remembers that she has left a cake in the oven!
"We shall fight for the things we have always carried nearest our hearts, for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments."

W.W.
"I DID NOT RAISE MY GIRL TO BE A VOTER"
SOPRANO SOLO WITH VOCIFEROUS SUPPORTING CHORUS OF MALE VOICES
Our food, our health, our home, our schools, our play are all regulated by men's votes—
Isn't it a funny thing
When father cannot see
Why mother ought to have a vote
On how these things should be?

"I'm a girl baby and I'm going to be taxed without representation."

Cartoon F
Cartoon G

A NUT SHE DOESN'T TRY TO CRACK!
VOTES FOR WOMEN

Did I Save my Country for this!

Cartoon H
THE DIGNITY OF THE FRANCHISE.

QUALIFIED VOTER. "AH, YOU MAY PAY RATES AN’ TAXES, AN’ YOU MAY ’AVE RESPONSIBILITYS AN’ ALL; BUT WHEN IT COMES TO VOTIN’, YOU MUST LEAVE IT TO US MEN!"
What a Woman may be, and yet not have the Vote

Mayor  Nurse  Mother  Doctor  Teacher  Factory Hand

What a Man may have been, & yet not lose the Vote

Convict  Lunatic  Proprietor of white Slaves  Unfit for Service  Drunkard