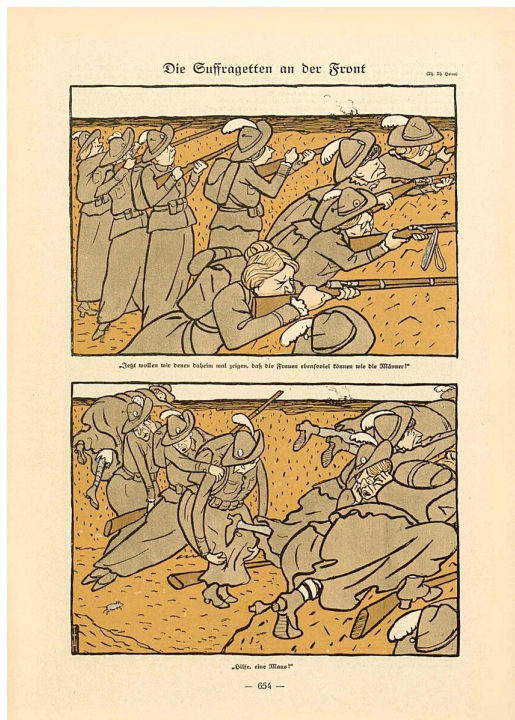


“The Suffragettes at the Front” (1915)

Abstract

The artist Thomas Theodor Heine was known for his sharp critiques of the German imperial government and upper-class social order before the war. Here in wartime, his humor takes on changing gender roles and the demand for women's suffrage. While the cartoon certainly depicts women as the “weaker” sex by showing they are terrified of mice, the context of the joke nonetheless grapples with bewilderment of rapidly shifting gender roles: as men were conscripted for front-line military duty, women took on more jobs and roles that had previously been the domain of men. The logical conclusion of this transformation would be to begin conscripting women as front-line soldiers... which this cartoon dismisses, but only after raising the issue in the first place. The caption for the first image reads: “Now we'll show those at home that women can do just as much as men!” and the second one reads: “Eek! A mouse!”

Source



Source: *Simplicissimus* Jg. 19 Heft 40 (1915), p. 654.

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