

National American Woman Suffrage Association

(Member National Council of Women and International Woman Suffrage Alliance)

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May 15, 1909.

My dear Mrs. Clay-

As I am expected to make a report of the work of the Church Work Committee, I am asking each member to send me a brief statement of what has been done in her state in that line, or, any suggestion to incorporate in the report would be helpful in carrying on our efforts another year.

Kindly let me hear from you regarding this, if possible, by June 15, at King Edward Hotel, Toronto, Canada, and greatly oblige,

Yours very sincerely,
Mary E. Craigie

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Chicago, May 17, 1909.

Dear Member of the Business Committee:--

I fear that you will consider me very tardy in reporting the result of my investigation and work in South Dakota. As a matter of fact, however, there was absolutely no time to write letters in South Dakota. The distances are so great there, and the trains run so inconveniently that I was either traveling or closeted with some of the people there all the time.

I reached home Saturday, very much fatigued and used up by the whole trip, but I am very much encouraged as to the final outcome of everything in South Dakota. Perhaps it will be just as well to begin at the beginning and retrace my trip, giving the gist of the interviews with the various people, as I went along, because as it turned out, the whole thing developed and reached a climax the last two places I visited-- that is, Faulkton and Pierre.

I arrived in Sioux Falls Wednesday afternoon, May 5th, and spent the afternoon and until late at night with Miss Gregg, getting her impressions of the whole thing, and going over time tables and deciding upon the people whom it would be necessary to see. She felt it was not worth while to go clear to South Dakota just to see the four or five people that Mrs. Avery had mentioned, so, following her advice, I planned to go to Aberdeen to see Mrs. Curtis and others up there, with a view to finding some timber for future officials who would be neutral and at the same time strong and capable.

W.C.T.U. SITUATION.

On telephoning to Hurley to make an appointment with Mrs. Fitch, I found that she was attending a W.C.T.U. convention at Hudson, and by going on Thursday to Canton I would meet her and Mrs. Ramsey, the State President of the W.C.T.U., and would have an hour's talk with Mrs. Ramsey before leaving the ~~stream~~ with Mrs. Fitch to go to her home. The interview with Mrs. Ramsey I considered very important, because I found that she was the one who principally wished the National Suffrage ^{to} keep out of South Dakota, and allow South Dakota to "run the campaign" as she expressed it. She was connected in some way with the trouble during the first campaign. She also said that she felt that the

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W.C.T.U. was the strongest organization, and had practically done all the suffrage work since the last campaign, and had the machinery to carry on a successful campaign. She assured me that I would find out before I made the rounds, that the W.C.T.U. women were the ones who were the most capable.

I talked very plainly to her, because the time was short, and I wished her to know exactly our position. In answer to the charge that the Equal Suffrage Association is so small, of course I reminded her that it was not large because W.C.T.U. women had accepted the office and ~~has~~ then laid down, doing nothing to build up the organization for which they had taken the responsibility. As to the National Association keeping out, I told her that we considered that this was in no sense a local affair; that success in South Dakota meant success for other states without doubt, for what we needed more than anything else now was a great, positive victory, and that defeat in South Dakota would set the cause back; so for my part I felt that the National Association had a responsibility in this matter which would probably lead them to do all they could for South Dakota. However, I assured her that I felt sure that the National Association would seek to work largely through South Dakota people; that in all probability they would seek to have a large campaign committee of management, with an equal number of representatives from all the state organizations of women, and possibly also of friendly men's organizations, and that the W.C.T.U. would have equal opportunity with all these other state organizations; but I showed her that the W.C.T.U. could not draw all these organizations together, because perhaps some of them would be antagonistic to the temperance principles of the W.C.T.U., but that all organizations could come together under an organization that stands alone for woman suffrage.

I also warned her against South Dakota setting a precedent for such conflicts, for the franchise department of the W.C.T.U. and the Equal Suffrage Association have hitherto worked in harmony without this squabble over authority. I told her that a campaign managed ~~appointed~~ by the W.C.T.U. of course could not receive the support of the National Woman Suffrage Association, and I had my doubts that the National W.C.T.U. would finance their campaign and take the place of a sister organization with whom they have been on friendly terms, and so many of

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whose workers were the same in both organizations.

From other prominent W.C.T.U. people I found out that there is a division in the W.C.T.U. and that Mrs. Ramsey is considered the unprogressive and narrow one of the leaders, and she is not to be re-elected. (She told me this herself also.) She has served for fourteen years. She was absolutely the only W.C.T.U. person that I met who voiced this demand that we have heard hinted at; and while I am on this subject I might as well say here as later on, that this whole fight over the W.C.T.U. between these two factions, is certainly a rock comedy (or rock tragedy, whichever way you look at it) for I found that the bolting faction is composed entirely of W.C.T.U. women, with one exception, Mrs. Breedon. Mrs. Jeffries is *the* District President.

Mrs. Pettigrew has done all her public work outside the ministry in the W.C.T.U., the Anti-Saloon League, and the Prohibition party. I may be anticipating my report on these women a little if I say what, after seeing them and hearing their talk, I wondered if this great concern of theirs over delivering the Equal Suffrage Association into the W.C.T.U. hands, was because of some disappointment that they have not risen in W.C.T.U. circles to the position of the others. The W.C.T.U. women at Evanston assured me again and again that they have no desire for the W.C.T.U. organization to manage the campaign. That, while they are W.C.T.U. women, they realize the necessity of a separate organization, and are opposed to Mrs. Ramsey's narrow policy. They insisted that they wanted the National to help in the campaign, and did not see how they could win without the help of the National, etc.

doubts their honesty in these statements. I do not know. Miss Gregg

I am quite convinced that that ultimatum that was handed out from the W.C.T.U. convention at Madison, would never have been in such terms had it not been for the result of the Evanston conference, when the Pierre women came in and rushed their program and slate right through, in a manner which angered Mrs. Pickler and her friends; and so they felt that between the W.C.T.U. and the management being in the hands of such women as this Pierre contingent, the first was the lesser of two evils. I feel it is only fair to them to put this charitable construction upon it.

ORGANIZATION.

I found that the W.C.T.U. has over one hundred local

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unions; I think it is nearly 150, while the Federation of Women's Clubs has only 55 clubs, and the Equal Suffrage Association seems to have five or six; but Miss Gregg informed me that she did not feel there was a single suffrage club in South Dakota, that is, a club as we understand it, with meetings, programs, etc. She says that she feels sure that just as Mrs. Jefferies has gone around and collected 25¢ from women in Pierre, so Mrs. Pickler has done in Faulkton, and Mrs. Philena Johnson in Highmore, etc. So the W.C.T.U. has, of course, some ground to claim that they can reach more communities than any other organization.

In order to meet this claim, I simply urged the theory that the campaign must be conducted on the broadest possible lines. To every man and woman with whom I talked, I outlined a plan of campaign modeled after our Chicago and Illinois campaign, where every influential club and organization was represented on the campaign committee, and from this splendid group of allied organizations we selected the most capable for officers, using as the first name on the list the most influential woman we could find.

I want to say that every man with whom I talked said that this was absolutely the only way to conduct a winning campaign, and that this would meet the question that would be sure to be asked: "Is the W.C.T.U. running the campaign?" The answer would be, only as far as every other organization of women is doing so.

I gave this large vision, or tried to, to every one that I met, for two purposes: One was, because I really felt that it is the only proper way to conduct the campaign and receive the largest amount of support; but the secondary purpose, which I concealed, of course, was to give those quarrelling factions something positive and big to think of, to inspire them with the hope that they would overcome this factional quarrel and elect neutral people, under whom both sides could work, they could have a most tremendous and successful campaign. I made it my policy to listen first to all the grievances, to sympathize where I could, and explain or correct false impressions, and then to give this positive plan.

But to proceed with my itinerary: Mrs. Fitch and I reached Hurley at four o'clock, and for two hours I had a conference with Senator Andrews, who got our bill through the Senate. He is

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a very fine man and a true friend of the cause. He gave me good advice on the political situation, and felt that this plan I outlined was the only one that would lift them out of the difficulty. He was very bitter, in a gentlemanly way, against Mrs. Jeffries and some of the women he had seen at Pierre. He said he never had heard a woman use more unwomanly language and storm about more than Mrs. Jeffries did one day in the Senate Chamber, and he said that she was "talking about other ladies too". He said that when he asked Senators to vote for his bill, a number of them said they would do so only on condition that he kept Mrs. Jeffries away from them; that they all cordially hated her.

He gave me some good suggestions about getting hold of the press, for it seems that there is a sort of syndicate of thirty five or more papers, and they are of the "insurgent" type, and the ~~Government~~ really controls their editorial policy. *(anti machine)*

I am sorry that I had failed, as I find every other of the National officers, except Mrs. Avery, had failed, to send a note of appreciation to Senator Andrews and Mr. Fitch.

From dinner time to 2:45 the next morning, when my train came along, except for about an hour when I spoke to the Rebeccas, I went over the situation with Mr. and Mrs. Fitch, and I must say I was most favorably impressed with both of these young people, for their devotion to woman suffrage, and the practical notions they have for conducting things. Mrs. Fitch has felt battered by both sides, as she has received criticism of Miss Shaw, and a very mean attack by Mrs. Jeffries, on account of the tax paying mis-slip, and of course she has stood opposed to Mrs. Pickler's autocratic way of running things, and does not stand in good grace there. But she is a very bright and noble little woman, I think, and if it were not for their extreme poverty and their family of little children they would be of great help. As it is, I do not see how she can do much more than local and county work, but I am sure that she and her husband will do all of that they possibly can, and he seems to be quite prominent in political affairs in his county, as he helped the "insurgents" to their success.

I asked Senator Andrews whom, of all the women he had seen at Pierre or elsewhere, he felt would be the best harmonizing

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leader, and he told me that he had felt that Mrs. Curtis, the wife of one of the Senators who voted for the bill, was the most attractive woman that he had met. Miss Gregg had previously told me that she had taken the lead in starting a new suffrage Club at Aberdeen, so that made me more anxious to see her, so I took the train at 8:45 for Aberdeen, arriving there at noon the next day. I spent two afternoons in conference with Mrs. Curtis, and the next morning met the editors of two papers, the congregational minister, Dr. Dent, and a prominent physician who was in the suffrage campaign in Colorado. I was delighted to find that Mrs. Curtis was all that Miss Gregg, Senator Andrews and Mrs. Fitch had said. She is a modern, up-to-date, intelligent woman, with beautiful manners and personality, and I think great depth and reserve power. She was a teacher before she was married, and is a South Dakota product. She was the finest looking and best dressed woman I saw in South Dakota. She told me that she was willing to do anything in the world that she could to advance the suffrage movement, and to heal the breach. She is diffident in estimating her own power. She says she has never done public work. I doubt if she would develop into a breaker, but she certainly would be a woman that all could respect and unite under, and I think that she is so practical that she would be a good executive. Her husband is a lawyer and a land owner. He voted for the bill, but I think perhaps it was to please her more than from any ardent conviction in the matter. I did not meet him.

The Congregational Minister, Dr. Dent, said he felt that Mrs. Curtis would be fine for such work, as she had no enemies and no family to take her time. She is boarding at present, or living with her sister.

These gentlemen with whom I talked in Aberdeen were very much impressed with the idea of a men's league for woman suffrage, and felt they could start a good one in Aberdeen, so I am sending the form letter which I used here in Chicago, and various suggestions. They thought it would be fine to form a state league, and then a county and local leagues as far as possible. They, and the Governor also, endorsed this plan, and felt that a splendid first campaign document would be to have the signatures of the most prominent public men in South Dakota, such as those in professions, business, teachers, etc.

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From Aberdeen I went to Paulkton, arriving there about one o'clock Sunday morning. By this time I felt that I had something very definite and positive to present, although I kept it up my sleeve until after Mrs. Pickler, Mrs. Simmons and Mrs. Johnson of Highmore had given me their version of the trouble. Of course they excused themselves as much as possible, as is natural, and really, while I still must condemn Mrs. Pickler's high-handed proceeding in appointing this one and that one to offices without consulting the executive committee, and these various things she has done, at the same time I cannot help feeling that as far as her sins of omission are concerned, she should be dealt with rather lightly. For I fancy that any of our State Presidents who hold the job without salary, having no local support to amount to anything, having a husband helpless for over a year, and having all the business to attend to etc., would have fallen about as far short as she has. Her husband cannot get up or into his chair without her assistance, and cannot walk without her support. He practically is as much care as a baby, and they seem to have a farm, and hired man, and various things which ^{she} has to direct entirely alone. She is not young, and so I must say that I sympathize with her, and assured her that I felt that her personal burdens were too great for her to continue as state president; but this is getting ahead of the story a little bit.

After they had given their side of the case, and told how badly treated they felt about that Paulkton conference, and also made the point that Mrs. Pettigrew as campaign manager had no right to send out that call or take the vote on the state convention, which they felt was out of her province; and Mrs. Pickler said when Miss Anthony was there she had called a mass convention and that furnished her precedent, I agreed with her that I did not think that Mrs. Pettigrew had a right to take the initiative in state convention matters, but at the same time I felt that Mrs. Pickler was very wrong in deciding they should have a mass meeting. I pointed out to her how unjust this would be, not only in this organization but any other, and that the principle is altogether unfair. I finally got her to a point where she agreed to call a convention on the delegate basis, and concede that whole point; and so I wrote out a call for a convention which is as nearly like the Illinois basis of representation as I could remember, and when I lost she and Mrs. Strons and Mrs. Johnson had signed this call.

(I don't know yet - couldn't find out - why this most important convention matter wasn't decided at the Paulkton conference.)

Now, this really was a tremendous concession for her to

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make, because when she told me that Mrs. Pettigrew had sent out for those votes, she said she would never give up on that point, and yet she did so finally, graciously, and apparently without any feeling whatever, because I think I had proved to her that it was not fair; and that she would stand an equal chance with the other side in selecting the officers and policies of the new regime. I had also, of course, all the time plainly told them how disastrous this division was, and had all the time been talking big and positive things.

I must say that I believe that these women are as much devoted to the suffrage cause, and as desirous for the enfranchisement of women, as any I have ever met.

been poor officers of the E.S.A. - even if they have since last campaign.

After I had got her to concede this point, then I broached the other; that since there was this division that seemed to be irreconcilable, and since they were all honest and splendid women on both sides who simply were divided on these questions, it would be unfair for one side to force the other one to yield simply by power of numbers; that it would be best all round, and certainly best for the work, if all the present officers would step aside and elect new ones who would be as satisfactory as possible to both sides, neutral people like Mrs. Curtis and Mrs. Johnson, (the President of the State Federation,) and others they might find between now and convention time.

They said that while they did not want to hold the offices, it would be suicidal to the cause to turn Equal Suffrage over to such women as those at Pierre; still if I could get the Pierre women to agree to the same thing, they would not stand for re-election, and they told me to hold out this olive branch to the other side. *asin*

I must say that in making these concessions, these three women at Faulkton did it in a very beautiful spirit; and I must also say for them that, while their failure to perform their official duties properly resulted in this trouble, personally they are pleasant and well-bred women, and I believe women who would inspire confidence in the public. They all said they would work just as hard as they could any way, and they did not want to stand in the way of the success of the campaign, but they would not

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promise to eliminate themselves unless the others would do so.

The other point which was settled here was in calling a state convention before the National. I was impressed from the moment I got into South Dakota and heard Miss Gregg's story, that unless this trouble was settled before the National, we would be as much up in the air then as we are now, so I conceived the plan which I talked up to every one, that they should have a re-organizing state convention before the National, and then during the summer pursue the policy of getting the co-operation of other state organizations, and by September have a great "whoop-la" campaign convention. My object in this too was two-fold. In the first place, it would be very disastrous to invite to this first reorganizing convention, people who have not known anything about this trouble. I felt that it ought to be settled as secretly among the real suffragists themselves as possible, and then I wanted to gain time and have a larger number of people from whom to select the campaign committee of management. I certainly should feel very dubious about selecting such a committee from the forces now working for suffrage in South Dakota. If we must eliminate the W.C.T.U. war horses, and I think it is necessary especially since this trouble has come up, then there is no one left with the proper personality and influence and power to stand as public representatives of this work.

I have urged right along that the state convention at Huron June 18th do not select a campaign committee or campaign manager, but all they should do is to adopt a constitution, select their departments and officers. It is to be just a one-day convention, and not advertised in Huron at all except perhaps for the evening, if some National officer is present. Mrs. Pickler and her friends agreed to this without hesitation, so I included this early date in the call for the convention.

PIERRE:

I staid in Faulkton until 4:40 Monday afternoon, and during my spare moments wrote down for Mrs. Pickler in detail the plan of the two conventions and a great many of the campaign plans which I had mentioned, and the things which I thought she ought to do

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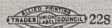
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between now and the Huron convention. She had so many interruptions during our conference that I was not sure she would remember them all.

I arrived at Pierre at 1:45 Tuesday morning. I had previously telegraphed Mrs. Pettigrew to come to Pierre, as it would cost no more for her to come and return than for me to go to her, and it seemed best to have her at Pierre together with the other Pierre women. At Pierre was the first time that I had struck any snag in my whole work in South Dakota. I think that may be explained largely by the fact that Mrs. Avery's letter had reached them just that morning, letting them know the result of the vote of the board with reference to their Political Equality Association. So naturally they felt cast down, and their whole attitude during the day in which I struggled with them was one of very much abusedness. Here I came with the call for this delegate convention, which was the very thing that they were willing to fight and bleed and die for, but instead of feeling victorious and joyous about it, they were inclined to attribute all sorts of ulterior motives. I had to say to them again and again that I myself had written the call, and there was no hidden trap, etc. Some of them hesitated a long time before they would put their names to this call for a convention, which was entirely on their own terms. They apparently hate Mrs. Pickler so much that they could not even do her justice for conceding their point; and when it came to the other proposition that they resign their offices in the interest of harmony, they fought hard. They wanted to force me and the other National officers to agree that there was a great principle at stake, and that they are entirely right and Mrs. Pickler and her forces entirely wrong, and apparently that we should force Mrs. Pickler to resign, but not exact the same requirement from them.

I staid with the proposition that this was the only fair way to settle the matter, and that if they loved the cause more than their own personal wishes in the matter, that this was a way to prove it. Finally they agreed to do this; but a few hours later I met Mrs. Jeffries at Fort Pierre where I was having dinner with Mrs. Johnson, the President of the Federated Clubs, and she came up and delivered a very angry speech, in which she said that she could not see that any good could come of it, and she did not like the whole thing, etc.

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Mrs. Waldron also called me up and asked me to take her name off the call for the convention. I told her that I would do so if she wished, but reminded her that this was the very thing which she had been demanding all the time, and later in the evening she called up again and told me to leave her name on.

So while both parties agreed to these propositions, the Pierre women did it with much less resignation than the Paulkton crowd. I can appreciate that they thought they were put in a position where they had to, and that it was not so much an act of grace as if they had been the first consulted and so had the privilege of extending the olive branch. That may be said in extenuation, but as far as personality and fitness to direct a suffrage association is concerned, I must say that Mrs. Pickler and her friends seem to me to far outclass these women at Pierre.

I realize that I differ from Miss Gregg in this matter, as she insists that these Pierre women are very strong women, but the impression which they made upon me, even before they used such violent expressions and "chewed the rag" so persistently, was distinctly unfavorable, and I am sure that they would impress the average person and the public just as they did me. I do not deny their strength of intellect, or their ability to stand for what they want, but they all look and act like the old, stereotyped idea of rampant woman suffragists. There was not one of them that had any magnetism, or made any appeal from the finer things of character. I felt that if I had such women prominent in the work in Illinois, I should almost be glad if they would get mad and get out.

They insisted that in splitting off, they were following Miss Shaw's advice; that she had been writing them that they must throw the W.C.T.U. out, (note they are W.C.T.U. women also themselves) and they must get a machine ^{with} which the National ^{could} work. I insisted that I felt sure they had misinterpreted Miss Shaw's letters; that she would give such advice only to be followed out in a legal way, and this was what they would have an opportunity of doing at the Huron convention if they could find other suitable officers.

I think that after the shock of their disappointment on hearing the decision of the National board, and after the shock of my unexpected demands have worn away, they will get down to work and

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feel that this after all was the only fair and the best way of adjustment, and now each side up to the Huron convention will be in splendid rivalry and hope to increase their number of clubs and representatives at the Huron convention. They will *have* some positive building work to do, and I hope that they will get so busy at it that they will forget past differences and disappointments.

Mrs. Pettigrew

I perhaps ought to exclude Mrs. Pettigrew from many of these general statements about the Pierre women. She was the first to see the justice of the convention proposition, and also that they must meet the other people halfway in regard to giving up the offices. I think that she was very much wounded and when I told her (this was privately) that I doubted if she was the woman for campaign manager; that that ought to be left until the strongest women of the state could be brought together in the fall. She, I think, feels that she has been a victim in the matter quite a good deal, and she regrets that on getting into the work she should have gotten into this trouble at the outset. The Pierre women pushed her forward as the only available leader in their program of dissent.

I thought that I would save Mrs. Avery a disagreeable duty by telling her frankly this early that she had better confine her work entirely to the field instead of trying to do both, and she certainly would be better for organizing than as the head of a South Dakota committee, for to me she has no magnetism whatever, and among club women and up-to-date women she assuredly would be ranked as third or fourth class. (*perhaps second*)

So to sum up as the matter now stands, all have agreed to the state convention at Huron June 18th to adopt a constitution and organize, and all present state officers are to step aside and elect entirely new ones. (Except Mrs. Smart and Mrs. Taylor, to whom I have written, and I feel sure they will not dissent.)

I felt that it was useless to spend \$95.00, which the trip cost (including the \$18.00 which I paid Mrs. Pettigrew which it would have cost me to go to her) just to go there and listen to their squabbles and tales of woe. I must have something definite

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to propose as to the way out of it, and the more I thought of it the more illuminating this plan became, and you see it has worked so far, and I believe that you will all feel that it has been fair to all sides. So it seems to me that we have something to hope for, and with almost any new officers who have not been parties to this strife, the National Committee can come in and pick out the strongest women and men in the state, and build up for its support in the campaign the very best and most helpful elements.

If no harmony can come after the Huron convention, I think I should be in favor, since this Equal Suffrage Association is so infinitesimal anyway, of the National coming in and building up a new one as it proceeds with its work.

meetings at Sioux Falls, S.D. approx. I got over a dozen names of fine looking women - as millions of club which Miss Gregg will complete -

I have not time to go into the political prospects of the campaign which I heard from the Governor and the friends of the cause, but it seems to me there is a splendid chance to win South Dakota for suffrage. I had an hour's conference with the Governor, and he was as agreeable as any one could possibly be. He was delighted to hear that I had succeeded in getting these two factions to agree on this policy, and he felt that it would surely come out all right.

I had hoped that Mrs. Avery would be able to attend this Huron convention June 18th, because she is to be in the field afterwards, and it would be well if she could help just now; but she writes that she is to be in Toronto, and in that case, unless Miss Clay or some of the other officers attend the convention, I really feel as if I should. I dislike the thought of it I can assure you, because this last trip has been so hard, but at the same time I see in it one *advantage*, inasmuch as I have talked with all these people, and have received the promises which I better than any one else could tell whether or not were being fulfilled.

This is a very long and I fear tedious report, and yet I can assure you that it is very brief in comparison with what I learned, and what I might tell you if this were a personal conference instead of a report by letter.

I shall rely upon every member of the board to keep sacred these apparently unkind comments which I have made upon some of our workers. I might have said these things and more in a committee

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May 17, 1909

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meeting, and you would have seen no objection, and there would have been no possibility of its reaching the ears of the persons criticised. I am always very careful about putting such criticisms upon paper, because they may finally reach the people for whom they are not intended.

I just received this morning from Mrs. Pickler, the letter which Mrs. Avery wrote to me at Pierre, Faulkton and several other places, giving the result of the vote of the board. I received it at Pierre the same time the other women there received theirs. Mrs. Breeden opened my letter by mistake at Pierre, but as it was the same which the others received, it made no difference; but this morning I have the same letter forwarded by Mrs. Pickler, opened, and on the envelope "opened by mistake. I had two other letters from National officers, and did not notice your name until I saw it on the inside. Hope you arrived safely home. A.M.A.P."

Now, she did not say whether she read the letter or not. I did not breathe a hint to her of the action of the Pierre women in forming a new organization. If in the future she apparently knows anything about it, I shall be forced to suspect that she read this letter. I hope that she did not.

Yours most cordially,

Ella S. Stewart

*I am willing to answer
 any questions.*

National American Woman Suffrage Association

(Member National Council of Women and International Woman Suffrage Alliance)

President, Rev. Anna Howard Shaw, Moylan, Pa.
First Vice President, Rachel Foster Avery, Swarthmore, Pa.
Second Vice President, Florence Kelley,
105 East 22nd Street, New York City.
Corresponding Secretary, Kate M. Gordon,
1800 Prytania Street, New Orleans, La.



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Warren, Ohio

Recording Secretary, Alice Stone Blackwell,
6 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.
Treasurer, Harriet Taylor Upton, Warren, Ohio.
Auditors: { Laura Clay, 189 N. Mill St., Lexington, Ky.
 { Ella S. Stewart, 5464 Jefferson Ave., Chicago, Ill.

May 20, 1909

Miss Laura Clay,
Lexington, Ky.

My dear Miss Clay,

Enclosed find a statement of the money that has been received from Kentucky since the Buffalo convention.

The thirty dollars was credited on Oklahoma and I presume the error was mine, Miss Clay in crediting this on the Kentucky pledge of one hundred dollars, as I thought you intended this to apply on the state pledge. The entry on the Journal designates the thirty dollars for Oklahoma. The enclosed statement shows all the money that has been received from Kentucky since the convention to date.

We expressed the treasurer's books to Chicago to Mrs. Stewart, yesterday.

Yours very truly,

National American Woman Suffrage Assn

M. C. A.

MRS. FRANCES W. MUNDS,
420 SHELTON STREET, PRESCOTT.
MRS. HARRIET L. FOX, PRESCOTT.
MRS. MARY S. McCORMICK, PHOENIX.
MRS. E. ST. CHARLES, KINGMAN
MRS. L. C. HUGHES, TUCSON.



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Equal Suffrage Campaign
Committee

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MRS. PAULINE M. O'NEILL, PHOENIX.
MRS. REBECCA G. PHILLIPS,
325 N. FOURTH AVENUE, PHOENIX.
MRS. KATHERINE B. AKERS,
329 WEST FRANKLIN ST., TUCSON.

Prescott, Arizona

May 20, 1909

My dear Miss Clay:

If you knew how often I have
thought of you, you would forgive my long
delay in answering your letter.

I was sorry not to see you before you left
Arizona. I received your letter about five
minutes before the train came, and as I
was not dressed, I had not time to get
ready and go down to see you. I was sorry
indeed as I should have liked to talk
matters over with you. You never told
me whether men were to be enrolled by
state membership cards, or women only.

If I had gone to the train I should have
made you stay over in Prescott a few days
to meet the ladies here, and give me some
direction about the work.

On reading over your letter written from your
home, I note that you say men may be
enrolled as well as women, so I shall proceed

May 20, 1909

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to enroll as many men as possible.
I note what you said about the men in
the council who voted against our measure
but believed in suffrage, and I agree that
nothing can be done unless a concerted
movement is made and a membership
enrollment is a good plan to work on.
I think Miss Penfield is the way me to
organize our work for the next fall
and I should suggest that she come as
early as September, any way. I will give
what time I can this summer to getting
the work in shape for her to commence.
I believe we can do something if we are
well organized, and things look now as
though I am going to be able to take
up the work and if I do, I believe we
can carry it through.

My dear Miss Clay, I am grateful to you
for the interest you are taking in us,
and I hope we may have you with us
next winter during our campaign.

You may use the five dollar
to pay on the stationary bill.
I am thinking of going to Seattle for the
suppage convention and hope to see
you there.

Hope to hear from you
soon again.

Frankly,

Francis H. Woods.

Received by

Answered by

EGA Cooney Wm Ky
May 18-09

Progress

Supplies

Mrs Elizabeth J. Hauser

MAY 20 1909

Dear Miss Hauser;

I have learned that Mr Obenchain has given up the Poet work for the Equal Sup Assn in Ky.

Will you kindly tell me something of the nature of the work.

I thought possibly I might find the time to do it if not too exacting.

Are papers and journals furnished out of which to make clippings reviews &c for the paper?

To whom should I apply, if I should determine it possible to

~~2~~

May 20, 1909

for me to take up the
work?

Very Truly Yours
Louise Southgate M.D.
124 Garbrand St
Covington Ky.

Miss Laura Clay Lexington Ky

May 24 1909

My Dear Miss Clay

Your rec'd & in answer
will say we will take Miss Penfield
on the same terms as we proposed before
which was "five dollars & entertainment"
Our Union promised this which I know
they will stand by yet - though I have
not consulted them this time. we
will have to arrange her dates so as not
to conflict - with Mr Fannings as he
comes sometime in June you can find
out from Mrs Beauchamp when he will
be in this part of the State & before
knowing anything about - Miss Penfield
I arranged to have Mr H as the speaker

May 24, 1909

for our Co Convention would very
much have preferred a lady speaker -
I will consult - Dawson Springs
& Strong Mills and let you know
about them. Henderson might
take her but I doubt it as their
Union is only about a month old
& of course not in very good working
order. I will also try to get Greenville
& let you know as soon as possible
as we have but little time to arrange
matters will you please confer with
Mrs Beouchamp about Mr Fowling's
Dates.?

Sincerely yours

Virginia Franaway

Lexington, Ky.
May 24th, 1909.

My dear Mrs. Stewart,

I want to express to you how much I appreciate your efforts in S. Dakota towards making peace. I do not see how any one could have acted with more tact; and your great legislative campaign in Illinois supplied ~~with~~ just the plan upon which all could unite, if they choose to do so. Now I am very desirous that you should go to the Huron convention on June 18th, and complete the work you have begun so ably.

Miss Gregg, I note, doubts the absolute openness of the women at Faulkton about the management of the campaign. I comment on this point because I share in her misgivings, unless the management of the campaign is left wholly in the hands of South Dakotans. At the risk of repeating myself, I want to state again that I am definitely opposed to the National's having a manager representing itself in this campaign. Whilst I have given my vote that Mrs. Avery shall help in the management, if the National decides to send one, I expressed fully my opinion that I think it would be very bad policy. We have never had a state which was grateful for this kind of help; and we have had several which harbored a deep feeling of disapproval for it. How many more lessons do we need? I confess frankly that if the National conditions its help on its having the management of the campaign, I shall expect defeat and bad feeling as the result. You remember that Gov. Vessey gave a pretty sharp hint that he would not advise such a policy, in the letter which Miss Shaw sent to each of the B.C. It is not the women principally who will object, though I doubt not Mrs. Ramsey's discourteous remarks to you about the previous campaign are but echoes of a general feeling; but men have helped largely in putting this campaign on foot, and I am convinced they will not like to have the management in any hands but their own or in those of women of whom they are practically the choosers. With the best intention of sincerity, the women of Faulkton will not be able to maintain their attitude of indifference to the management when they come to talk and consult with the men without whose help the campaign is hopeless. If the National does not show a willingness to stand aside and give financial help without out a controlling voice in the management, I believe it will be an almost impossible task to prevent the W.C.T.U. from taking the foremost place, with the best men and women ~~in~~ their leadership; for state pride will dictate that course, not to say political expediency among the men, who will have more to lose by siding with outsiders than they will have by losing the campaign, which we all believe will be the result of dividing the suffrage forces. I see you still speak of Mrs. Avery's being in the field, so I suppose you consider it a foregone conclusion that she will be in the S. Dakota headquarters. I had hoped the plan of putting Mrs. Pettigrew as Manager had taken the place of Miss Shaw's proposition. I have previously written to Miss Shaw about this as plainly as I am writing to you now; and with the expectation that she should show my letters to Mrs. Avery, so that nothing which I am saying on this point is any way new to either of them. I wish before the 18th of June this point could be cleared up; for I think before you go to Huron you should know whether or not you could promise that if the factions will consent to form a cam-

paiga committee on the plan which you outlined the National will help with money; and speakers, if desired, yet it will leave the management entirely in the hands of the home people, on this approved plan. I really believe Miss Shaw will be greatly pleased with that suggestion of yours, for she knows how splendidly it worked in Minnesota; and now has done so again in Illinois. If men and women, chosen as you suggest, from responsible and recognized organizations, are not able to conduct their own campaign on reasonable and economical lines, why should any one imagine that outsiders can do so; or that the suggestion that the home people are not equal to the task will not be offensive to their self-love? You see that I am discussing the subject pretty fully; for I think now is the time to speak. If your plan can be carried out, (and I see no reason why it cannot be) I believe S. Dakota offers a hopeful field. With unwise outside influence, my hopes will go down to the minimum. I am so constituted that I never lose hope; but I wish my optimism may not have a very severe trial in this case.

I wish to thank you for your very kind invitation to visit you at your home and go over the auditing of the books. As I wrote to Miss Hauser, who promised to convey my answer when you returned from S. Da., I did not think it practicable to make a special trip to Chicago, as you could get Mrs. McCulloch's help, if you desired it; and the books would be that far on the road to Seattle. If you can carry them so as to be accessible on the road I could go over all the points on which you wished to consult me; and such points as I wished to familiarize myself with on the road. If the books are too bulky for this, I must take my chances of a few hours with you in Seattle. I have found by experience that the work is entirely too much to attempt to crowd into the spare hours at the convention.

Very cordially yours,

BRONDA
MOTILION

Marlow Okla. R. R. 2 - May 24-'09

Dear Miss Clay:

I had a card from Dr. Gay by our last-mail saying that the petitions were coming in much more satisfactorily. She did not say how many had been received, however. She is so very busy, having her practice to attend to as well as this work, that I can not find fault for not-keeping me better posted. Quite a number of people were still out-stirring up the workers - Mrs. Stephens, Mrs. Lasky, Miss Davis and others.

Sincerely yours

Kate D. Biggers

a young man about 20

One of the graduates from Marlow High School delivered an oration at Commencement - which a neighbor of mine told me was "the best thing of the sort he ever heard."

National American Woman Suffrage Association.

HEADQUARTERS, WARREN, OHIO.

May 24, 1909.

Miss Laura Clay,
189 N. Mill Street,
Lexington, Ky.

My dear Miss Clay,

We are in receipt of your two letters of the 22 with enclosures of \$58.50 for which we wish to thank you. We are enclosing receipts for \$53.50 also a duplicate of the one we are mailing to Mrs. John L. Munds, Prescott, Arizona.

Yours most sincerely,

National American Woman Suff. Ass'n

(Enclosure)

M. C. A.

Pennsylvania Woman Suffrage Association

ORGANIZED 1869.

Auxiliary to the National American Woman Suffrage Association

President, Rachel Foster Avery, Swarthmore, Pa.
Vice President, Mary B. Luckie,
333 E. Broad Street, Chester, Pa.
Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Mary R. Newell,
938 N. 63rd St., Philadelphia, Pa.
State Member of Executive Committee of the National
American Woman Suffrage Association,
JANE CAMPBELL, 413 School House Lane, Germantown.

Recording Secretary, Mary C. Morgan,
4418 Osage Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.
Treasurer, Matilda Orr Hays,
705 Pitt Street, Wilkinsburg, Pa.
Auditors: { Minora F. Phillis,
P. O. Box 484, Sheridanville, Pa.
Rebie Van Artsdalen, Ivyland, Pa.

4418 Osage Ave.,

938 N. 63rd St., Phila., May 24, 1909.

Miss Laura Clay,
Lexington, Ky.

My dear Miss Laura:-

Your letter reached me after a brief forwarding delay, and should have received attention before this. Yes, the Kentucky obligations are fully paid up and the \$.60 surplus was to apply on Pennsylvania expenses. Then Mrs. Avery I learned that my services were again offered to you for June, and I hoped that such an arrangement would be made, but, as you have of course been told, it has been decided to send me down into Delaware and New Jersey. This seems a bad time of year for city work, and they cannot use my time to full advantage.

Most of the work so far has been with labor unions and social settlements, so I have not had a good opportunity to study organization.

methods here. We have merely been speaking before the unions, and having them pass a resolution endorsing suffrage, and circulate the petition among the members. No where have they refused to do either of these things. I have really come at the end of their winter campaign, Mrs. Orme has held nearly sixty such meetings with Mrs. Lvery as the usual speaker. It has been intensely interesting to me, I feel that it has put me in touch with the vital side of the question.

Mrs. Newell tried to hold a meeting in her home to affect a ward branch organization of the Phila. county association, but not enough came to make it possible. Saturday night I spoke before a meeting of such a ward branch of about thirty-five members, men and women, organized by Miss Sida Stokes Adams. It was a good meeting, but discouragingly in the nature of a love-feast of believers. The great difficulty here among the ordinary club members is to leave anything for them to do, or to get them beyond merely standing for it; and their requirements of meetings and dues makes such a condition destructive of club usefulness. Mrs. Morgan, a recording secretary and my present hostess,

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938 N. 63rd St., Phila., May 24, 1909 190 P. 2

and Mrs. Orme, State-chairman on Industrial Conditions among Women and Children, who handled the work among the unions, have both discussed the Kentucky plan with me with great interest. They agree that the usual club system is not what is needed now, that it really cramps the work, that an organization more flexible and universal must be achieved. The Ky. plan meets with their approval and Mrs. Orme intends to try at least to use it in her industrial league to be formed next fall. I recommend the plan strongly as I am more and more convinced that we must approach a party method of organization and leave behind the limitations of methods and memberships of women's clubs.

I shall hope to meet you at Seattle but since learning that I am not to speak college evening, a main reason for going is removed. For the

sake of next year's work I want to go,
but the expense looks pretty large, it
will take every cent saved this year.
I have not fully decided yet.

Wishing all success to you and to
Kentucky. I remain

With love and respect

Perle Penfield.

Burling Green. Ky.

May 25th 1909.

My Dear Miss Clay,

I did send
directions about the
press work and also
note to Mrs. Upton
telling her to send the
articles to you every
week. I also sent
my worn, ragged
list of papers and
I hope it is not
lost, for I kept no

copy of it.

The only directions I
have to give are :
I send the articles &
one half the papers
one week end &
the other half the
next. If the name
of a paper is crossed
out it means that
is discontinued or
that the editor refuses
to publish on matter.
I used to have 100 papers
- 50 to supply with

and the press work was
the only thing I could
do. I can't stop being
a mother, or a house-
keeper and I must write
and support the family.
For awhile after dropping
the press work I felt much
better, but all my old
symptoms have come
back of late and I am
living on the brink of
a nervous break-down. But
I have stood so much I
suppose I can worry thro
the summer, and when the

suppfrage matter each week -
but I have lost some papers.

May 29th

The trouble, as I have always
said in my reports is to find out
whether the articles sent are
published. You will notice a
cross mark at some of the
names. This means that
the editor is likely to publish
what we send.

I am awfully sorry to
fail you at this time, but I
want to live a little longer

royalties from my ^{May 25, 1909} ~~new~~ book come in. I am going to rest.

This letter ^{I mean yours,} is one of fifteen that ought to have been answered ~~weeks~~ ago. There are times when I can't do anything. One thing that increases all my difficulties is that I have no room of my own, and writing in the confusion of family life is one of the things that has worn my nerves out.

I hope you are keeping
well.

My big boy will be home
in a few weeks. He is
charmed with Sepington
and its people. I told
him he must call
on you before leaving
Sepington. But you
know how unreliable
boys are in such
matters.

With best wishes

Your friend

L. C. Overchain.

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 MRS. ELLA S. STEWART, 6464 JEFFERSON AVE., CHICAGO

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 DR. ANNA E. BLOUNT, OAK PARK

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 MRS. CAROLINE M. HILL, 5728 MADISON AVE. CHICAGO

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 Equal Suffrage
 Association

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LECTURE BUREAU
 MISS ADA MAY KRECKER
 SUNDAY TRIBUNE
 CHICAGO



Chicago, May 25, 1909.

Miss Laura Clay,
 Lexington, Kentucky.
 My dear Miss Clay:--

At the Chicago University the other night there was a session of a mock senate and a discussion of the admission of Arizona. There was a debate upon the admission of Arizona with a woman suffrage clause in the constitution. One of the students who had a part in it has forwarded me the outline of his speech. I wondered if this would be interesting to any of the Arizona papers that you are in touch with. If you think it would be of any interest, you would be at liberty so far as this young man is concerned, to send send it on. At least a news item that the question was debated in Chicago University, might be of some local interest.

I have received the books of the National Treasurer, and I shall audit them before I leave June 15th. What do you think I had best do with them after I am through with them? Ship them to you, or send them back to Warren?

I do not know of any Chicago women just now who are going to Seattle, so I do not know with whom I could leave them safely to see that they are put upon the train. If you come to Chicago I might leave them here at my home, and let you get them here; or I could have some of the family, probably, deliver them to your hotel. I am not quite sure who of the family will be in the house at that time, but probably my sister will be.

Yours sincerely,

Ella S. Stewart.

Dear Miss Clay -
 your letter came after I had
 dictated this from my talks with
 outsiders - like Senator Andrews. Dr
 Dent - & others at Aberdeen - & in
 other places I don't think the
 suffragists in So. Dakota outside these

organizations have this narrow
state-wide feeling at all. They all
said they would need all the help
they could get - & then might need
more. It's only a few quarrelling
people who happen to be in these
little organizations - all told only
a handful in the state.

They have no woman at present
in the E.S.A. who could manage
anything. Mrs. Pettigrew could not
manage a county campaign - in my
estimation. They've got to get hold
of bigger women than I saw (with
the exception perhaps of Mrs. Curtis of
Aberdeen & Mrs. Julius Johnson state
Federation president) or they cannot
draw active support - from the most-
influential people. The weakness now
is that the present officers are not the
stamp to go to these state organizations
& influential bodies & command
attention & pull things off." Mrs. Avery
or some one like her is needed for
that purpose - to enlist the So. Dakota
people that are needed to make that
fall convention. If she or some
one else can do that work - ^{at least its public aspect} they
I should turn the management over
to this representative committee.

But if such a committee is formed
I feel sure they will ask national
assistance; but then we could supply
it, without compromise or loss of self-
respect. The critical work is the organ-
ization of that committee - & that must
be done this summer & fall.

Ella S. Stewart

May 25, 1909

MR. PRESIDENT, HONORABLE SENATORS:

The first bill before us for our consideration at this session is one of preeminent importance. It is a bill for an act to provide for the admission of the territory of Arizona into the sisterhood of states upon the condition, that the women of this territory shall be guaranteed under its constitution, the same rights of suffrage as those to be enjoyed by the male citizens of that state. That congress has the power to determine the conditions upon which a territory may become a member of this union is fully established and does not admit of further discussion. That section of the bill which provides for the ratification of the proposed constitution by a vote of the people of the territory affords to them ample opportunities to accept or reject according to the will of the majority.

But the question of preeminent importance remains. Shall we require the constitution of Arizona to guarantee the right of equal suffrage to the women of that state? Honorable Senators, this is not a new question. Nor are we ignorant of the facts which demand that the right of equal suffrage should be extended to the women of an American Commonwealth. What are the conditions which exist in society today which demand that one element of a great people should be wholly subservient to the wishes and control of another? If the fundamental principals upon which this great nation is founded, be right. If it be true that no man has a just and equitable claim to govern a fellow man except to the extent that his fellow man has a right to govern him then there can be no logical reasons advanced which deny to women the right of suffrage. If suffrage is given to man to protect him in his life liberty and property, do not the same reasons demand that women be permitted to exercise this privilege? That the women of this nation possess a right to the same life liberty and property is not denied. Therefore to refuse them the power to protect thier interests cannot appear other than grossly illogical and unfounded

May 25, 1909

upon any principles save perhaps that which grants to the barbaric chief-tan in the jungles of Africa the right to carry the spear. If it be urged that a womans interest be so intimately connected with those of man that they will be amply protected without the suffrage, the answer is that the same argument was advanced with a greater degree of justice in regard to merging in the husband the property rights of the wife, and the judgment of mankind pronounced this doctrine fallacious both in practice and principle.

The constitution of the state of Arizona should guarantee to the women of the state the same rights of suffrage as are granted to its male citizens, because it is equitable and just that those who must obey the laws should have a voice in making them and that those who must pay taxes should have a voice in determining the size of the tax and the purpose for which the revenue shall be expended.

The lack of direct political influence constitutes a powerful reason for the inequality which exists in the most of the states today, in the wage received by men and women for their services, not only in similiar occupations, but for the same work. Such a glaring injustice cannot escape ~~xxx~~ even the most casual investigation. Who can account for this unjust discrimination against the women bread winners of today upon any other ground than that of political inequality? Who will deny that the ballot is the easiest, quickest, most dignified, and least conspicuous way of influencing economic conditions and public affairs? We admit that women without the ballot are not devoid of political influence but it is an influence which is unguarded by responsibility, and this condition ~~xxxx~~ constitutes one of the primary reasons why they should be granted the right of suffrage.

Give to the women of Arizona the right to exercise the power of the ballot and you will not only elevate them to a position of equality, but you will unchain a mighty power for the dissemination of morality, justice, and civil purity. I call your attention, Honorable Senators, to the fact that the most powerful antagonistic forces arrayed against the granting

[May 25, 1909]

of equal suffrage to women have their origin principally among the basest elements of society.

The questions of what woman is going to do or has done with the ballot ~~has done with the ballot~~ are all sufficiently answered by the laws which they have been instrumental in placing upon the Statute books of Col, ^{Wyoming} Nevada, Idaho, and Utah. Granting to the women of Arizona, therefore, the right of equal suffrage is strictly a matter of justice. If the women are to be subject to the laws of that state and if they are to be taxed either as property owners or in a less direct way, as wage earners and consumers, then it is in accord with the fundamental principals upon which this and every civilized nation is founded, that they should have a voice in the making of these laws and in the impositions of these taxes.

(Speech delivered before the U.S. Senate on April 28 '09 by the Honorable Senator from Illinois.)

W.C.T.U.
Lexington, Ky.

May 26th, 1909.

My dear Mrs. Franceway,

Some days after my letter to you I heard from Mrs. Avery that she thought she would send Miss Penfield to Delaware and possibly to New Jersey, instead of to Ky. for June. However, it was still possible that she might come to Ky. for two weeks. So I did not write to you of the change of prospective plan, as I still hoped she might come for two weeks. However, this morning I received a letter from Miss Penfield in which she tells me she is not to come to Ky. I am sorry not to have this chance for some organization in Western Ky., but I hope something may be done later.

I thank you for your kindness in trying to make appointments. I want to organize separately from the W.C.T.U.;, for while our work correlated, it has different aspects which require different treatment for their success. If you have secured any new addresses in the towns you mention, I would be glad to have them for future reference.

Mrs. Beauchamp gave us a delightful account of the recent victory at Dawson Springs at the last W.C.T.U. meeting. Certainly we all have occasion for rejoicing at the progress of temperance sentiment and local option.

Cordially yours,

W.C.T.U.

Lexington, Ky.

May 26th, 1909.

My dear Miss Penfield,

I have just received your letter, and learned that it has been definitely decided that you are not to come to Ky. again this season. I am sorry; but it is better, no doubt, that you should go into nearer states.

I regret that you are doubtful about going to Seattle. The letter I wrote to the Business Committee, which I read to you, has been favorably considered by several of the members, though I have not heard from all of them, and of course not from Miss Shaw. I hope you will have an opportunity of talking with her before you leave Pennsylvania, as she is expected home by June 1st. Yesterday I received a letter from Mrs. John L. Munds, of Prescott, Arizona, in which she expresses herself much pleased at the plan I have suggested, and in which she says she thinks you would exactly suit the situation. So I hope it can be arranged that you shall go to Seattle, work some time in Washington, and then in September go at once to Arizona.

I am interested in what you say of the work in Penn. I shall be glad to know of it as a whole, and I suppose a report will be given at Seattle.

Warfield Crenshaw returned home about ten days ago. She had the sad news that her aunt, Miss Margaret Crenshaw, had had a dreadful accident, overturning a lamp over her bed and herself. She was horribly burned, and in two days died of the shock and the burns. Warfield did not return for the funeral, but rather prolonged her visit in Ky., as this misfortune changed some of her plans for the early summer.

2.

I have given up Miss Redd for a time, as my correspondence is not so great as it was in the winter season. It leaves me a little lonesome, as Miss Redd was a great deal of company for me.

Please remember me to Mrs. Avery. I shall be glad to hear from you when you have leisure to write. I shall still hope to see you in Seattle.

Cordially yours,

WOMAN'S CLUB
OF JACKSONVILLE

Oak & Stockton St.

Jacksonville, Fla.
May 27th 1909.

My dear Miss Lonsari:

In making up the Year Book of the Woman's Club of Jacksonville for 1909 & 10 it has been thought advisable to give some attention to Civil Service Reform, and remembering your interest in this subject and your fine address before the Louisiana State Federation at Lynchburg, a few years ago, it occurred to me that we might induce you to come to Jacksonville this next Winter and give us a talk on this subject - at one of the open meetings.

If you would consider coming,
I should be glad if you would
write me as soon as possible
the date that would suit you
best, since it is desired to
put the year book in the hands
of the printer by the last of
June. The Jacksonville Club
has a membership of 275, and is
progressive and wide awake. It
is conducted along the lines of
the Sorority Woman's Club, and
we have quite an attractive Club
House. Should you care
to make this address, I should
be happy to have you as my
guest during your stay -
Cordially yours.

(Mrs Frank E. Jennings)

Minerva Phelps Russell Jennings

Printed for the Club.

500 E. Winchester Ave.

Ashland Ky. May 28th 19

My dear Miss Clay

Miss Morse has at last written me to say that she and her sister Mrs. Runyon can not give the time necessary for another suffrage meeting. She gave the name of a lady who she thought might attend to it, and suggested that they were not much interested in her church and that

perhaps another church would be better. which all means to me that they do not think that it would be worth while to have Miss Penfield come again, now.

I advertised her lecture here well, better than we have ever advertised, and could not get out an audience. and I believe that she will do more good at a new place, and where there has not already been a little organization. I believe that if the vote could be taken in

Ashland today, men and women both
voting or only men, that at least one
third of the vote and possibly a majority
would vote for woman suffrage, but they
do not want to join the organization,
or at least the organization that
now exists. I think that it is true
elsewhere. If I were a good talker, I
might make it different. But I am not.
I am trying to improve, but it will take
time, and for the present, I believe we
would not do good to try to force the
subject. I would be glad to entertain Miss
Penfield, if I thought that we could even get
an audience there but I can not do that.

Yours truly
Laura R. White

Friday Evening

EMay 1909

Dear Mrs Biggs

Will it seem that I will again disappoint myself by not getting down to your place. We have only gotten the first half of Mrs Boyce's letter to Dr Gay, the rest was to be sent to me. But it seems that she approves of our keeping right on. I do want to have a talk with you but I think now that I ought not to spend the money for that. And Dr Gay thinks so too. We are out of money, and still Dr doesn't want to give up, and I don't know what to think. I don't know what Dr has written you, but we have had Armstrong out on \$30 a week, doing the encampment. Yes I know she wrote you of it. Well he has been sick, and is now in here. He was quite sure that he could raise funds too, as he went along, but found that it would interfere with getting names. He thinks that he left petitions with those who will work, but he himself averaged

only 100 names daily. We had hoped that he would do better than that at encampments, besides raising some money. I don't know where to turn for any more money. There is a little yet to be collected. I think now that I can go to the Elk Lily encampment, then to Almie, and several others. I think I can stay out six or seven weeks, and will pay my own expenses, if it gets cooler. Mrs. Burt will go at her own expense. But she says she cannot work in this heat, and I am almost afraid that I can't do enough to make it pay, unless I can do considerable springing. But I am pretty good at that. I can not feel quite sure that I will get away, - there are so many things that might prevent. Grandpa might not be well, or Mr. Stephens may not improve any and have to come home. But I have rented the house to a woman who will take care of Grandpa, and now it seems as though I can go. Mr. S. felt the heat very much and went to Delaware for a week and is now in Arkansas, & fears he did not go far enough north. He said he'd be back soon, if it didn't seem to be doing him any good.

So I presume it will be best for me to forgo the pleasure and satisfaction of a long talk with you. But do write me freely, just what you think. Way down deep in my head I don't believe we will ever get the names without more money. But I am willing to keep my fears to myself, play I never said it, and go right on working just as though I knew we could do it. And we could if there were only a few workers through the state. The names are waiting for us, if we can only go after them. The socialists have given us 4,000 names,

And yet Mr Armstrong says they keep
telling him they have signed, and the
fact makes his work less successful. He
thinks they have neglected to send them in.
But where I went, they simply hadn't worked.
But I thought I got them nicely started.
Thru - Alva, Alina and Mrs Redfield of
Boyan Leo, give a little bit of encouragement
that maybe they can do something more but
another one has responded. Clarke's of Pounce
and Lees of Watings, who promised everything,
didn't want me to do the work, haven't done
a thing and do not write a word. And I staid
in both places long enough to get the work
nicely started. And they assured me, I would
not need to do any thing more. I have just a
little bit of hope that when it gets cooler
they will do something. Now really there is no
getting round it, it is too beastly hot to ask
any one to work. It seems to me all I can
do, to keep my little house work done.

E. Manly 1909

Miss Burt is just as earnest as any one
can be. She says we must have the
cranes. But she says she simply cannot
work now. She lies around under the
electric fan, and is almost prostrated. She
says she never saw such heat in Okla.
and that's the way it seems to me.
Mr. Siskey says I would be a fool to
go out now. He wouldn't try it again for
any money. And now I don't want to complain,
but as one who has not done it knows what
it means to do this work day after day,
One day or two is rather interesting, but
it is only by the most dogged persistence,
that one can keep up a pace that pays.
One has to be on the alert every minute
and when you strike a stupid backwoods
town, how it does sap the very life. My
throat dries up, my voice shrinks far away,
and doesn't seem to have the least meaning.
Many times I actually reeled if the sun was
hot. And I wouldn't think of trying stick

work for any consecutive days in this heat & do not believe that any one could work under more torture than I did when I tried to make a full long day. Some times I would get started at six. Then I'd take about 1 1/2 hours at noon and by four o'clock I should have stopped, but didn't feel that I could afford to. But punics will be different, I think and I count on finding help. And still Armstrong didn't get name any faster than I did, when I worked, and he says a hundred a day is a very hard days work for him - he gets sick every time and Siskey says it made him sick. Mrs. Baskin and Dr. rather laugh at that, but they have not tried many consecutive days. Dr. not any whole days. Now I am saying all this to try to explain what it means for a few to do it, while it would be easy for the many. And that's what I tried to impress on the women and they seemed to realize it. They would do just what was planned while I was there - that is try more or less ^{more or less} - but that was all. Even those who seemed just as much alive to the case as we are. If we could keep Miss Gregg or Mrs. Boyce in the field all the time, I think we might have a state suffrage society. Mrs. Morrison's work is nil, I think and if you were to spend one night in her home, as I did, you would expect nothing. She has no executive ability whatever. That is my think, but I never have laid any claims to being able to size people up. And I'm sorry to admit this, but feel compelled to. She didn't get one name that we know of. Just said that she left petitions in good hands, and I know from my experience what that means. Although some of mine have responded quite well.

Enough Dr says to make my crams far
cheaper than any others that have been gotten.
And if they hadn't undertaken to manage
me here at headquarters, I would have
made it many dollars less. Dr thought that
by smiling and making dates, the women could
be ready to help me. She sent me to little
bits of town at great expense for instance
to make one I had to hire a rig ~~at~~ Sunday
at just double week-day fare. And in not
one case did it do any good except with
Mrs Bailey, and she was working any way.
Oh if there were only Mrs Baileys all over
the state, it would all be done so easily.
But she told me she would not work when
it got ~~some~~ warm. Did that sound like
criticizing Dr, I don't mean to. She couldn't
tell how the plan would work until she tried
it. In all this work I have taken much
comfort in that saying about the people

EMay 1909

3) In the cemeteries being the only ones who do not make mistakes, and if by mistakes you can measure life, then surely I am not a "dead one". I have, see me pat myself on the back. I tell you, I used often to think from four to six in the afternoon - those women don't know what this means, when every step was misery. I don't mind working until I am clear tired out, but it seems almost insane to keep on after that.

I am writing at such length that I believe I will ask you to send it to Mrs Boyer. I have the idea that it pays even though we never get enough names. I seem to me it is stirring up the question beautifully. Both the Oklahoman & Times have had

read nice editorials in the Smelter, showing how perfectly reasonable it is to grant woman the ballot. The Times ^{item} was this week and I thought I had it saved to send in this, but can't find it.

It is half past ten, and I must stop. I am trying to get a black laundry snack before I go.

I believe I must tell you something of my experience in renting the house. Mrs. Baker will say - all we could expect of those crude Oldshamans. God so be it. Women are in a dim vague way finding themselves, & believe it all hinges largely on the relative standing of the sexes.

First time we rented to a couple - Mr. B had known the man and thought him all right. Got him work here in the store, and rooms near by. Finally they came in with us. He flew insanely jealous of some young men in the house, and acted as a jealous man can. Then she told me she had seen waiting for the opportunity - to leave him with the child. And leave she did, for the opportunity came. Then I rented to a woman who never came back. Then another nice looking little thing wanted it for herself and husband. But failed to come the next day as she promised, and the next she came to tell me that her husband left her that morning. But she still wants to come. She and her sister, and I've concluded to let her. She is left with a three months old baby and not a cent of money. While this was going on, Mrs. Davis, where you found me one time, phoned me to come right out there, her

husband had come home drunk, and she didn't feel safe then, they are away off from every one and she might have premature confinement from excitement.

If she did^{not} already have three little ones, and I don't know where she could go, I would help her leave him.

That's the way my time goes for I made changes in the house for all these parties, but the last one, I wouldn't.

But such a lot of calamity.

I think these things helped to make Mr S so shaky & weak. That is the first man, his friend, as the other man says, that we sold a place to a negro though a real estate man didn't know it, until the bargain was all finished up, and the neighbors jumped on him rough shod, as though he had done it purposely. The man is white - as any one. And then Mother S has had one of her periodical dissatisfied spells and is not easily adjusted. There has been actual swooping over this negro question, and may be none, but Mr S was away and I was glad. A. G. S.