

The Equal Suffrage League

OF MALHEUR COUNTY

VALE, OREGON

November 26, 1912

Dear Ada,

Cheer up Honey, the worst is yet to come. Two years from now men of Wisconsin will be echoing the November number of Life "This innovation is now getting pretty near home and with no appropriate reduction in the cost of passage to Europe." But aren't you glad that I am a person now - ahh, by - - transmigration and migration. I had my money on Wisconsin tho and in Wisconsin too and Oregon I thought was farther in the distance. But never mind, bigger men than I am, built hopes on this election. Mother writes rather enviously of my elevated status and I write dolefully of the heathens (not feminine by any means) that can congregate on 64,040 sq miles of territory. Or is that the area of Wisconsin - I've most forgotten. But now, down to business. Did you go to New York and to Philadelphia and were the thrills old ones or new ones 'entirely'? I did want to go and so did Bruce but we have a vocation as well as an avocation and the time was valuable

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to say nothing of other expenses. We watched every days Associated Press reports to see Wisconsin right herself but the majority she turned against it exonerates us from all share in her wilfulness. I know there weren't 92 000 men in Wisconsin who were unconvinced and goodness knows we were too young to "begin their education with their grandparents" as we are told to do.

You did splendid work - the whole force worked with the regularity and precision and genius of generals but, human force couldn't have won if this year with all the counter currents that were tangling themselves with our cause. But what a splendid organization to work another campaign upon. - skill in leadership, diplomacy, knowledge of the state and all that.

We worked in this county. There hadn't been anything done until we organized and then our work had to be by circulation thru the mails. We held one big mass meeting and Bruce and I went over to Boise and secured Judge Richards for the evening. He made a splendid address telling of the change in Idaho since suffrage was adopted. If I can find an old paper telling of it, I'll send it. We came out frankly against the liquor question. He

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treated it so, too because in that issue the women have done nobly in Idaho. We couldn't use diplomacy with it here, or ignore it - it was too paramount an issue itself and liquor in this country rings a man's knell quicker and louder than it does back there. They violated the Corrupt Practices Act by circulating unsigned leaflets and the Anti had many women back of them who have influence thru wealth and position. But thank the fine men and the less complex situation in the state, we did win and Mrs. Dunaway sees her life's hope realized at last.

Ada, who is the woman in this to write to regarding the Minimum Wage Issue and Consumers League work? We have a bill in this state coming up before the next Legislature and I want to investigate thoroughly. Is Mrs. Gudden yet an officer? Is she at Oakkosh yet? and are you planning to do any work along that line before you get the ballot?

Bruce says to send you a ballot so you may see what you are coming to. We have popular government in Oregon but if you read the text of some of the proposed laws you will see that the voters don't dare sleep at their posts.

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Do you correspond with the Oregon
Suffrage League? I have been in touch
with them since we began work here, and tho
I haven't been able to attend their rallies and
banquets and report on the campaign,
here in this county, they have seemed near.

Here is one of their letter heads containing
officers that you may like to see. And
now I shall end this epistle. Do write Ada,
so you know you haven't written since
I came west and I haven't been able
to get my woman's journal either. I wrote
Miss Ryan enclosing the year subscription
and asking her to send ~~out~~ here and
to that or a card of inquiry I haven't
received an answer. Have they dis-
continued?

Am going to write to the girls
next, now that Election is over and Thanks-
giving so soon, I shall have time to
write. Doesn't it seem good to be at
home?

Very lovingly yours

Mabel Kester

Have begun to study law
Somebody thoughtfully send me the R.C. Democrat
(Election news)