

Richland Center, Wis.

Dec.13, 1912

Dear Miss Strarns:-

As far as the union plan is concerned, with or without independent branches, it seems to me that this will have to be settled at the convention by the convention. We could have a discussion followed by a vote. In regard to dues each branch could pay a % into state fund, just as the Federated Clubs do.

The name and constitution will also be determined at the convention.

I am heartily in favor of putting the work on a business bases. Securing a competent secretary, one with ability and experience. Also paid and experienced organizers, not just anyone who is willing to give a little time. It seems to me the only way to conduct a systematic campaign. The Political equality League had eight women giving their entire time to the work the last six months and the work will increase or at least it ought to. Aside from these eight women there were many who devoted their leisure time, and then there were all these splendid women from Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois.

The work done by the state societies ought to be reviewed by an officer from each state organization. There are only a very few women in the state who realize how much work has been done and they have a right to know. They contributed liberally and a report ought to be made.

Personally I don't think the fact there were four state organizations had anything to do with our defeat, we worked in perfect harmony with the Association members with only four or five exceptions, and these members were out of harmony with the association. The friction was greatly exaggerated. <sup>by a few</sup> Since the election I have received beautiful letters from the old association members with not a hint of criticism.

I agree with you about omitting the first paragraph of my form letter. I am in favor of using your letter except I would add MEN'S EQUAL SUFFRAGE LEAGUE, and have it signed By Mr. H.A.J. Upham, as well as by the rest of us.

Now about the program; Several have written to know how to

Later--  
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 but they all say "What next". This is the great question that must be  
 Campaign By Men, For Men" only I should be in favor of having it given  
 by Mr. Upham, or Mr. Richard Lloyd Jones and discussed by Senator Marsh,  
 Mr. Randolph and Mr. Ludlow, these men campaigned and their experience  
 and advice ought to be valuable. Then I think it would be splendid  
 if we can get Fela LaFollette to talk at the college dinner, there are  
 six or eight college societies and they ought to be connected up. Each  
 society ought to be represented and have a voice.

As to the enemy, I think as you do that Senator LaFollette's  
 plan of omitting the personal is commendable, but he did not omit the  
 principle which was threatening Democracy nor must we.

What do you think of this revised program? I think we ought  
 to call to order at ten in the morning and go through with the preliminary  
 work, to enable us to get down to the actual work. When women come from  
 Superior they desire to get a great deal out of the convention.

Cordially Yours

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 if we undertake to give them reasons why women should vote instead of  
 how to secure the vote, they are going to be disappointed. They have  
 had the best the country affords on why women should vote.

As you say we must look forward to the future, but the future  
 should be built on knowledge derived from the past.

Later---

The tone of my letters does not suggest the need of inspiration but they all say "What next". This is the great question that must be answered. They will need to vote upon the advisability of introducing a bill this winter, the replies to my questions thus far have all been in favor of introducing a bill.

Richard Lloyd Jones, I would suggest to talk on a Campaign by Men, as he is a member of the men's league. The criticism all over is that conventions are given over to propaganda and not enough to the practical methods of securing the ballot; this is where the Mississippi Valley Conference filled a long felt want. Wisconsin women were well represented there and they derived much help, as well as inspiration, in knowing how people did things.

The plan of county organization we shall have to leave to a vote, but my opinion is they will vote two to one for county organization.

Each county seems best to understand its needs. Our experience was that county organization did not separate us but did divide responsibility. Douglass county as well as several others did excellent work and I think we ought to have the benefit of their experience.

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