

Richland Center, Wis.

December 13 1912

Dear Comrades:-

This is to be a partnership letter, as I can not find the time to write to you all as fully as I should like to. (So please consider that this letter includes Miss James, Miss Swart, Mrs. Hooper and yourself.)

There is so much to tell you I hardly knew where to begin. December 4th I went to Madison to confer with Miss Stearns and see if she was in favor of calling a convention next month of all the suffragi in the state. This is what we decided to do :- Issue a call for a convention to be held in Madison, January 22 and 23. Mrs. Chynoweth will see about securing the Woman's Building for the day sessions and the Assembly chamber for the evening. We have written to Brand Whittleck to secure him if possible for the evening. Of course we are hoping he will attract our Legislators. The call will be signed by Miss Heide, Miss Stearns, Mr. H. A. J. Upham and myself. ~~xMiss~~

Miss Stearns is opposed to having any branch organizations whatsoever, even county organizations, she is also opposed to any salaried officers with the exception of stenographers. She says she was elected on this platform, I have written her that I think all this must be determined at the convention and by the convention.

Personally I am heartily in favor of hiring competent women and not turning any fanatic and crank into the field if she chances to have some time or money. They do more harm than good. It ought to be women of experience and ability. I think we ought to have a salaried executive secretary and president possibly, and as many qualified organizers as we can afford. I appreciate the privilege of being at home as never before and I am willing to pay for the privilege by doing my housework and making a monthly contribution to the campaign fund. I do wish Mrs. Youmans might be elected president and induced to take it. I should very much prefer her to Miss Stearns for many reasons, In the first place she has not the time to give it, aside from her regular work. she is president of the Downtown Club and does

some kind of field work for the Federation. Then she is bitterly opposed to the automobile campaign. She is also opposed to introducing a bill in the legislature this winter.

I have sent out over a hundred letters to county chairmen, and local chairmen enclosing two copies like the enclosed. The replies are intensely interesting. Every letter favors trying to get another bill through and of pushing the work. There never was as much enthusiasm.

Miss Stearns desires to have several eloquent speakers from outside the state to arouse enthusiasm, but the women have heard the best the country affords on WHY WOMEN SHOULD VOTE what they are most interested is how to get the ballot. She is not in favor of having reports and suggestions from the county chairmen. I suppose we will compromise. I should like to see the convention made a sort of conference.

We propose to have the Normals and Colleges represented and have a dinner under the auspices of these Wednesday night, I wish we might have Fela LaFollette make the principle address and then have toasts from each institution represented. Afterwards they ought to be connected up for state work.

I have expressed myself very freely, please consider these as family secrets. Miss Stearns and I agreed on Mrs. Chynoweth as the proper one to call the convention to order, then she wishes Miss Sabin appointed chairman, I am in favor of retaining Mrs. Chynoweth, as she has been in the work and Miss Sabin has not, furthermore Miss Sabin is opposed to outdoor speaking and I am afraid the advocates would not be given a fair chance.

Please express yourselves as freely to me.

Yours for a coming victory, I love you, this has been a glorious fight and I am glad we were in it aren't you?