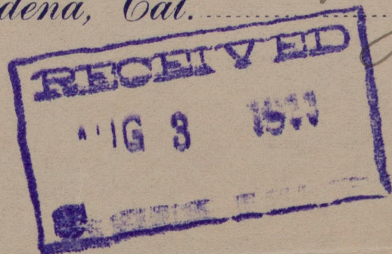


Pasadena, Cal.

Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1911.

Hon. Frank C. Jordan  
Secy. of State



My dear Frank

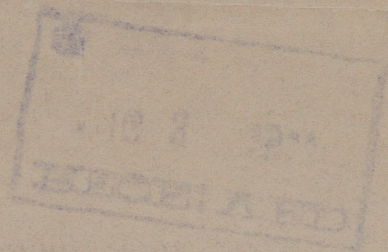
I returned last night from a two weeks sailing trip where no communication could reach me, I am returning the proof sent me <sup>and</sup> have cut out several paragraphs, although when I asked you about space, you wrote me that there would be no limit, I prepared the matter carefully <sup>and</sup> it is hard work to cut it but I have taken out considerably matter. In regard to the heading, your long experience and splendid judgment I am sure will carry out the idea. I will however suggest this heading and it is surely brief enough "Equality for Women" however I expect you to add to the same. Again thanking you for many favors and with kind regards & best wishes I am

Very truly yours

Chas W Bell



Mr. Byrnes please  
return this letter





6/18/80  
cep

Reasons why Senators Constitutional Amendment No. 8  
should be adopted.

S. C. A. # 8

222

1/2  
28

Women have the intelligence, the perserverance, and the honesty of purpose to assist in the uplifting of the State. They have a strength which should not be ~~passed~~ <sup>Cast</sup> aside in the struggle for better things. They are the complement of men and in the purest sense their co-workers. In this belief I earnestly ask the consideration of the following reasons why the proposed amendment granting equal suffrage to women should be adopted: 1

The reasons why women should vote are the same as the reasons why men should vote, the same as the reasons for having a republic rather than a monarchy. To vote is simply to express one's opinion. A ballot is the instrument used. Speaking generally the only real qualification governing its use is intelligence, for without intelligence one's opinion on any subject is worthless.

Equal suffrage would increase the proportion of educated voters. The high schools of every state in the Union are graduating more girls than boys - often twice or three times as many.

There are, in the schools of California, over 10,000 teachers, of whom 85 per cent are women. The teaching of civics is obligatory. Is it fair to expect a woman, without that last sign of civic responsibility, the ballot, to possess such comprehending and practical knowledge of public affairs and machinery as would make her an inspiring



teacher of civics for boys who already feel their importance as future voters and officeholders? Is she in a dignified position to do so? How can she teach the great truths of democracy - that it derives its authority from the eternal rights of nature; that a nation includes all its social elements and forces; that a true national representation, therefore, must include all these; that if one of these forces is neglected, the desire of this neglected force to be represented will inevitably lead to the necessity for a radical change; that the very purpose of the existence of the nation is the progressive development, happiness, and activity of all its social elements and forces - how can she teach these truths and explain the non-representation of women to clear sighted boys and girls?

Women are conscientious, and it would create a large reserve vote for civic righteousness. Those elements of the community who are least controlled by the dictates of conscience are always found among the opponents of equal suffrage.

She is interested directly in good government, bad laws and the non-enforcement of good laws, directly affect her in all of her relations, as home-keeper, wage-earner, and man's co-worker. Property rights should be represented on the same basis for men and women. It is fair and right that those who must pay taxes should have a voice as to the size of the tax and the way it shall be spent.



The inalienable rights of person as they are effected by legislation must be preserved to women and no one can fully represent her in framing laws which deal with them.

Representative democracy without equal suffrage is impossible, beacuse it is only through this form of government that people who are subject to laws may have a voice in making them. Restriction of the franchise tends to encourage aristocracy, while equal suffrage will encourage democracy.

#### INDIRECT INFLUENCE.

Women all over the United States have accomplished much civic work without the ballot. Many of the laws and reforms of the present day relative to the wellfare of the child, the protection of women, and of public health and morals have been inspired and secured by women, but they have had to arrive at this result by getting someone else to do the work for them. That is what an appeal to a City Council or a State Legislature means to a woman without a vote. She must get someone to adopt her views and do the work for her.

Women should have the right to express their opinions on public matters in a straightforward, simple, direct manner, and they should receive such consideration as every citizen desires. Woman can take part in public affairs in a womanly way, and it is because she is a woman that her counsel and opinions are valuable.



25a

WOMAN'S PLACE IS THE HOME.

She is the happiest among women who is blessed with a home and a family. If women vote it will not destroy the home. It only means a short time once or twice a year to go to the poles and deposit a marked piece of paper, and during these few minutes she wields a power that is doing more to protect her home and all other homes than any other possible influence, and she need not neglect her household nor her children in order to do it. Almost any woman has enough time to go to the poles, and enough time to inform herself so she can vote intelligently. It has been said that to enter the political arena woman must give up her home interests. This fear is only imaginable<sup>ary</sup>. On the contrary, she will stick closer to her home after having reached the goal of her ambition. She will beautify it, make it more attractive. She will embrace the vast dominions of life, its pains and duties. She will love it and defend it with devotion and zeal. Her personality, enlarged by the proofs of her extended activity, will raise the standard of home higher than ever. Having become an individuality herself, she will respect the individuality of her husband and children.

The feeling of responsibility will develop her mind, and woman who carries on her shoulders human destiny, will <sup>rise</sup> to <sup>greater</sup> unsuspected heights.

There will be fewer misunderstand~~ed~~ husbands and more



5

262

understanding wives. The home, far from suffering, will gain by woman's extended sphere of activity/

Governor Bryant B. Brooks of Wyoming said: "In the first place, let me say that nothing can be so far from the truth as the idea that woman suffrage has the slightest tendency to disrupt the home. Indeed, it has the very opposite effect." Gov. Francis E. Warren of Wyoming testified: "I have seen much of the working of woman suffrage. I have yet to hear of the first case of domestic discord therefrom." Chief Justice Joseph W. Fisher testified: "I have seen the effect of woman suffrage. Instead of encouraging fraud and corruption it tends greatly to purify elections."

Theodore Roosevelt, says: "I believe in the rights of woman just as much as I do in those of man, and indeed a little more. She can do the best work in her home if she has healthy outside interests and occupations ~~and~~ in addition."

<sup>2/</sup>  
<sub>1</sub> Women in their homes are responsible for the health, cleanliness, and the comfort of their families. Many of the industries which women formerly controlled in their own homes have become matters of City and State Administration, so it is not fair to hold woman responsible for the cleanliness and healthfulness of food, and the prevention of disease unless she has a right to an opinion about these matters, now that they are public questions. The solution of the problem of Cities which involve unsanitary housing, poisonous sewage, infant mortality, impure milk, juvenile crime,



6 272

prostitution and drunkenness should have the help of minds which have in the past attempted to care for children, clean homes, to prepare foods, and isolate the family from moral dangers.

However much all California women would like to stay in their homes they cannot do so. Economic conditions have forced women to support themselves and others. They have been carried by necessity into all the professions and industries. These relations are constantly affected by restraining or remedial legislation in which women have a right to be heard.

#### WOMAN SUFFRAGE A SUCCESS.

Woman suffrage never has failed where it has been granted. No state or nation has ever repealed it when once conferred.

#### WOMAN SUFFRAGE NOT AN INNOVATION.

Suffrage cannot now, when considered in its broad aspect, be called an innovation.

In more than half the states in the Union women have the school ballot, and their votes occasionally turn the scales in a school election. In England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, Kansas, Sweden, and elsewhere, women have the municipal ballot, and their votes have effectively influenced such elections. In Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Washington, Finland, Norway, Australia, and New Zealand thousands of women vote for all elective officers, including the highest.



7

280

Statistics show that where women have equal suffrage with men, as large a proportion of women vote as men, and a recent census in New Zealand showed that in the last general election a trifle larger percentage of women voted than did the men.

New Zealand gave women the ballot in 1893, and sociologists declare that all the magnificent reforms which have put New Zealand in the foremost rank of civilization, have had the support of women often in opposition to the timid conservatism of men. The other Australian<sup>Asian</sup> states have given suffrage to women, and recently the senate of Federated Australia adopted resolutions expressing satisfaction at the beneficial workings of women suffrage, and urging that all nations enjoying a representative government would be well advised in granting votes to women.

#### JULIA WARD HOWE'S CANVASS.

All people ought to be willing to trust the fairness of Julia Ward Howe. Mrs. Howe wrote to the ministers and editors of the enfranchised States, asking <sup>them</sup> ~~time~~ impartially whether the results of equal suffrage had been good or bad. She received 624 answers, 62 opposed, 46 on the fence, and 516 in favor.

#### COLORADO.

Judge Lindsey writes in the February Delineator:  
"It, woman suffrage, has been one of the great bells that



has aroused Colorado to ~~the~~ <sup>faith</sup> work of flushing ~~flith~~ from its politics, bettering economic conditions, mitigating the cruelties of industrialism, promoting equal and exact justice, and making a more wholesome and expansive environment. To these ends, in the short space of seventeen years, it has aided in placing a score of needed laws on the statute books -- it has raised new standards of public service, of political morality and of official honesty."

#### THE SEATTLE ELECTION.

The ~~State~~ of Washington is on our own coast, with a heterogeneous population in character much like that of California; Seattle has its municipal problems akin to those of San Francisco and Los Angeles. A mayor elected on a liberal platform, a wide-open town, creating a moral atmosphere that was contrary both to good government and good homes was subject to the provisions of the recall. An ideal candidate, Dilling, opposed the incumbent, Gill, whom the interest favored, and who ~~was~~ a favorite in the election forecasts. The early returns showed Gill far in the lead -- they were from the lower precincts of the ~~City~~ where vice and privilege rule, and where few women lived or voted. As the polling proceeded towards the residential districts the tide began to turn until Gill was engulfed in the adverse vote of the home districts, where 20,000 out of 23,000 registered women voted.



9

(30c)

In the elimination primary for the ensuing councilmanic election more women proportionally than men voted and chose the best municipal ticket presented to Seattle. A careful scrutiny of these elections does not reveal hysteria, deserted homes or the predominating influence of the ignorant and non-respectable women. But it does show that the women of Seattle were sensible of the fact that the moral atmosphere of the community is the best protection that the home can have.

REFORM WORKERS FAVOR SUFFRAGE.

It is highly significant that the women who are doing either volunteer or paid social work all over this country, are almost unanimous in their belief that they could do their work better if they could vote. The women who are doing valiant service on civic committees and playground commissions, those working for a proper milk supervision, the probation officers, those on the housing commissions, all the noble women who are giving time and consideration to philanthropic work, these women know actual conditions, they come in contact with realities. Jane Addams feels that she could do her work better with the ballot. So does Florence Kelley, Ella Flag Young, and the other hosts of women who are devoting their lives to the welfare of women and children, and the uplift of the race.



All the arguments against woman suffrage have been answered by the operation of equal suffrage in New Zealand, Australia, Finland, Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho and Utah. Hon. W. P. Reeves, agent general for New Zealand, after commending the good influence of woman suffrage in that country said: "And this widens women's lives, brightens their intellects, makes their lives fuller and more useful to the country and none the less charming in the domestic circle." Charles Edward Russel said: "I have seen a great many New Zealand households and they seemed exactly as well ordered, as bright, cheerful and happy as any other households anywhere on this celestial globe." J. B. Connally, United States Consul at Auckland, New Zealand, wrote: "The late election refutes the charges made by the opponents of female suffrage that women are incapable, owing to their inexperience in political affairs, to exercise the privilege intelligently; they have fully demonstrated their unmistakable capacity in this respect beyond the possibility of a doubt, by their keen appreciation of the issues involved and the sensible discrimination they have displayed in the selection of candidates." The Right Honorable Sir Joseph Ward, Premier of New Zealand, said: "In my opinion the results of enfranchising the women of New Zealand have been wholly beneficial. The statement that the power to vote renders a woman less attractive or less <sup>on</sup>companionable is utter nonsense. ~~XXX~~ It enlarges their mental horizon and inculcates tolerance. ~~XXX~~ A proposal



to establish a sex line in politics would now be laughed at."

Mr. Louis Brandeis is an eminent publicist, whose devotion to the common welfare has brought him fame for many years past, he is also a keen lawyer and a practical man of affairs. That is proved by his brilliant handling of the Pinchot<sup>1</sup>Ballinger case, and by his remarkably successful presentation of the claims of the Eastern shippers in the recent much discussed investigation of railway rates before the Interstate Commerce Commission. When, therefore, Mr. Brandeis, after frankly admitting that he used to be opposed to equal suffrage, ~~went on to say~~, "My change of opinion has been the result of my own experience in various movements with which I have been connected, in endeavoring to solve the social, economic and political problems which have presented themselves from time to time," His words ought to carry conviction.

Dr. Edward Devine, Editor of the "Survey", General Secretary of the New York Charity Organization Society, and Schiff Professor of Political Economy at Columbia, who is admittedly our best authority on charity work, said: "What appeals to me is the substantial value, for the advancement of all the specific causes in which I am interest, of the active participation of women in the tasks of citizenship; and the ballot seems to me an ultimate and material expression of all other means of influence on public affairs."

In courts of law "expert evidence" is regarded as



strong proof. Hereafter, when "expediency" of woman suffrage is in question, the experience of these men and women whose public services have made them known all over the country cannot be overlooked.

CALIFORNIA WOMEN WANT TO VOTE.

That many thousands of women in this state do want the ballot, and want it very much, is shown by that activity of the suffrage organization~~s~~. There are fifty of them in this state working hard for this reform. Many other clubs and organizations of women in California have endorsed the suffrage movement, among them the State Federation of Women's Clubs, representing 30,000 women, the Women's Parliament, representing nearly 8,000 members; the Mother's Congress, representing 7,500 women; The State Federation of Nurses, and the Federation of College Women's Clubs. These are only a few of the organizations which have formerly signified their desire for the ballot. There are many others so that the statement that only a minority of women want to vote, is shown to be unsubstantiated. In fact, more women are asking for the ballot than have any disfranchised class of men in the history of the world.

I have heard it contended that woman suffrage would bring to the polls a mass of unreasoning voters who would become the prey of unscrupulous politicians. But unscrupulous politicians, however bad, are not fools. They have given a higher estimate of the ability and virtue of women voters than many good men and women. Almost to a man they do not want women to vote. And who ever heard unscrupulous politicians complaining



#4 23

342

that ignorance<sup>to</sup> or vicious people are allowed to vote? Unscrupulous politicians are more concerned lest women will vote for morality and decency than that they will vote <sup>at</sup> the bidding of bribers, tricksters, and grafters. Conceding, as we must do, that the ballot is a moral force - that morality has entered our politics, the moral force of women is crippled by the denial of the ballot and hence that denail<sup>ial</sup> retards the advancement of truth and justice.

It is only after strenuous efforts that California bids fair to restore the government of this State to the people. But in these conditions I find a reply to <sup>many</sup> ~~my~~ opponents of woman suffrage who affect to distrust the ability and integrity of women in the exercise of the franchise, and assert that women are sufficiently represented by men and that women can rely upon men to right their wrongs! I think it is notorious that the most persistent objections to woman suffrage have come from that element which has given public utility corporations power over the people.

It has been urged against equal suffrage that women should not vote because they cannot fight. If that argument were carried to its logical conclusion many of our brightest men would be disfranchised, and we would make political heroes<sup>e</sup> of such men as Jack Johnson; but we are living in a country where the law abiding citizen<sup>y</sup>, however poor or humble, has a vote equal to that of a Rockefeller<sup>er</sup> or



350

<sup>Barely</sup>  
or a Morgan. Where a man who can ~~barely~~ read or write his name has a vote equal to that of a University President; where the cigarette fiend, who cannot pass an examination to enter the army has a vote equal to that of Theodore Roosevelt; where the lame and the blind have a vote equal to that of the most noted athlete. In other words, voting in this country does not depend upon position, wealth, superior education, of physical strength. And so when men learn that the race is not always to the swift, or the battle to the strong, and that even men do not monopolize courage, strength or patriotism, an incentive is inspired to recognize the political status of women as being upon as broad and just a foundation as that of man.

SUMMARY:

Summing up the matter, if there were no question of manhood suffrage or womanhood suffrage, if all citizens of this republic were confronted with the task of government, and the suffrage had not as yet been conferred on any of them, would there be any hesitancy in awarding the privilege to men and women upon some basis of equal qualification?

The world needs women's influence in public affairs, and women need the influence of a larger world, a larger responsibility than they have been allowed to feel. Only with men and women developing and progressing side by side  
ca



16 15

362

can we expect an approximation of that splendid destiny which awaits the arousing of all citizens to the exercise of the privilege and responsibility of co<sup>y</sup>o<sup>n</sup>peation in a government for all the people by all the people.

Chas. W. Bell  
~~36th Senatorial District~~  
36th Senatorial District