

National American Woman Suffrage Association.

MEMBER NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

July 23, 1904 p 3

Honorary President, SUSAN B. ANTHONY, 17 Madison Street, Rochester, N. Y.

President, REV. ANNA HOWARD SHAW,
7443 Devon Street, Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pa.

Vice President at Large, CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT,
205 West 57th Street, New York City.

Corresponding Secretary, KATE M. GORDON,
1800 Prytania Street, New Orleans, La.

Recording Secretary, ALICE STONE BLACKWELL, 3 Park Street, Boston, Mass.

Treasurer, HARRIET TAYLOR UPTON, Warren, Ohio.

Auditors: LAURA CLAY, Lexington, Ky.
CORA SMITH EATON, M. D., Masonic Temple, Minneapolis, Minn.

National Press Committee, ELNORA M. BABCOCK, Dunkirk, N. Y.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, WARREN, OHIO.



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, MT. AIRY, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Edinburgh Scotland

July 29th 1904

My dear Miss Clay,

A letter just received this morning, from Mrs Upton tells us of the great loss Kentucky has had in the death of Miss Bruce.

I realize also what her going must mean to you for she was your great helper and friend in Annapolis. To you her death will seem more than to any one else I judge from your close friendship and sympathetic helpfulness, and I sincerely sympathize with you in it all, and trust you may receive that help which your splendid faith in God and his goodness, alone can give.

When one is so much needed as all loyal suffragists are in these days and when the loss of one is so much felt as will be that of Miss Bruce it is hard sometimes to feel that there is any hope. I think however I know you well enough to realize that when you recover from the first feeling of great personal loss it will only strengthen your hold upon the work and your desire to finish it the best service of your life. So dear friend accept my heart-

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felt sympathy and affection in which Mrs Anthony wishes me to say she so earnestly unites.

I shall always remember Mrs Bruce's kind care and thoughtfulness for me when your wife called array at the time of your Chataugua meeting a year ago. She did every thing she could to make up for your inability to be at the meeting and was very kind.

We will miss her at Washington too. As the ranks of the older workers thin out we will feel a greater tenderness for those who remain.

Mrs Upton mentioned Mrs Bruce's thought for the work in her request. I feel deeply grateful to her memory, and particularly glad that she named you as trustee, for I am sure every dollar will be spent in accord with her wishes as you will understand them better than any one else can, and I certainly hope the South may be greatly helped by it.

I hope you will be present at Warren the last of Sept. at the B. C. meeting to be

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These.

Miss Anthony Lucy & I sail for home Aug 13th arriving about the 22^d D.V. That will give us time to gather ourselves together before the meeting, where I hope all the members may be present.

Mr Catt arrived in London last week and Mrs Catt who has been travelling with us, since the meeting in Berlin joined him. They are now in Oxford, will come to Scotland next week and then I think will have a few days in Ireland before sailing on July 20th for home.

Mrs Catt some days seems very well and on others looks fearfully and the pain in her head is severe. I do not understand what is the real cause of her troubles, but I do wish she were well. She has so many splendid ideas and is such a good worker so it is a pity to lose even a few of her life now when she is so much needed, and I hope she may soon find relief from her troubles, head. Miss Anthony joins me in kind regards and sincere sympathy. Faithfully yours, [Signature]

J

Jan. 19th, 1905.

Rev. Anna H. Shaw, Phila. Penn.

My dear Miss Shaw,

Your letter from Wheeling to Mrs. Upton has just come, and as soon as I think I have thoroughly mastered your position I am writing, in order to do what I can to put the California matter before you as it appears to me. I am sure you will agree with me - that before one does a judicial action one ought to be in a judicial frame of mind and do judicial justice by hearing both sides of the question. I am impressed by this by seeing that you have taken for granted one or two things about the view of Mrs. Upton and me that are quite foreign to us; how easy it would be therefore to take a wrong view of people in California when we have not heard a word of explanation from them. I am supposing that the letter to you from Miss Laughlin was essentially the same she wrote to Mrs. Upton, as she said it would be. In that she tells us that the women claimed that every thing was fair and above board; she does not repeat their reasons for this conclusion, though she does tell the doubts she expressed. There must have been some force in what they claimed or surely Miss Laughlin would have expressed herself with more decision than she represents herself as doing. Coming to us with remarks only on one side, we all saw the error without the need of a moment's reflection. I hold that it is highly improbable that a whole board, who surely have some advisers outside of the board, would commit themselves to a course of action rendering them liable to a criminal prosecution with such unanimity as they did, if there is nothing at all in their claim. I wish

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also to call attention to the fact that Miss Laughlin did not ask advice, as it seemed to us, to enable her to escape from complicity in a dishonorable situation, but as to how she should act if, as she anticipated, she should be asked to try to save a forlorn hope after her advice had been overruled when it might have done some good.

Now as to why Mrs. Upton held the views we hold (it will not be amiss to premise it is not what you seem to suppose).

I started this paragraph with the word we, but I believe I will speak only for myself, as I know Mrs. Upton will write. I do hold that the National has no authority over the actions of their auxiliaries; all it can do is to give advice when it can do good; and give assistance to those objects which its officers approve. It may relieve your mind to say at once that we came to the same conclusion that you did, - if the situation was as it now appears, we would not involve the National by giving assistance in the campaign brought about by dishonorable means. As to the assistance we have already given by sending Miss Laughlin, her remonstrance set us in the right. As to advice, I would gladly have given that a month ago, before any action had been taken; and would have given warning that the National would not support unrighteous methods. But it seemed to me it would complicate the situation to write a letter saying that we thought their action was dishonorable when we knew so little about it. It might easily happen that the tables would be turned upon us by the question how we came by even the meagre information we had. Miss Laughlin was charged to keep a confidence placed in her; she

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communicated it for a purpose different from the one to which we would be putting it; and unless the occasion was imperative, we could have no right to use it for that purpose. In the second place, what would be the effect of such advice given at this late date, if the situation was as we supposed it to be? (a very large if) Should it be taken, it could only be taken after the reprehensible action was an accomplished fact, and would not clear the California suffragists of culpability. As we had known nothing of it, we had no culpability, and would only make ourselves appear to have, by assuming an authority bought by threats of withholding money. For the California people to turn back after they had commenced this course would be to proclaim it to the world and that without in the slightest degree retrieving their error, as it would necessarily appear that they had done it from the fear of losing money. If they did not take the advice, (and they would be wonderfully humble if they did) then the National would precipitate a faction without ever giving a careful and reasonable consideration to the situation, - in fact, by acting upon information acquired in at least a manner open to grave questioning.

We had learned by newspaper clippings that the legislative work was in full swing; the time had passed when any change of plan could be made, even if those women should desire to make one. We therefore thought it best to wait till we had information from the point of view we were looking at it, and not Miss Laughlin: for it appears to me that she is thinking if it will be to her credit as a capable woman to take up the legislative work after this incapable man has made a muddle of it.

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In the meantime, we are hourly expecting another letter from Miss Laughlin, from which we may understand things better. If the situation does not clear up, we talked of advising Miss Laughlin in as plain terms as we thought our authority permitted that it would be to her credit to have nothing to do with legislative work, and charge her explicitly to take care that the National's name was not involved. In our consultation we had gone as far as you, in anticipating that she might lose her engagement in California, and in that case we were going to advise the Board to transfer her without loss to Oregon or elsewhere.

You write that you intend in your private capacity to make your position understood by Mrs. Sperry; I think you clearly have a right to do so, if you think you have a right to use Miss Laughlin's letter to you for that purpose. Of that you are the sole judge; but on the wisdom of writing at all at this time it may be you would like my opinion, as one equally interested in the honor of the Association as yourself, and also as a friend to whom your welfare is dear. Without further premise I will say I fear you are in danger of hasty action which will stir up strife as a foregone conclusion while the good it will do is not evident. It is a serious matter to imply to a woman on insufficient information that you believe she has done an action that you must repudiate in such haste that you can not take time to inquire about it. Such a letter must pain and humiliate her and the members of the executive committee to whom she reads it, and I do not think it is apparent that it would be the act of a friend, as the time is past when it could save her from the action. You

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Your official position does not require it of you, because before you have official duty you must have suitable information. As purely a personal matter it is more painful to you than to others of the Board only because you may have to encounter it publicly often-er than others. All the more need that you should keep your skirts clear by not assuming responsibility where none is now attaching to you. I trust it will prove that we have had a fright about not-thing. If the bill does not pass, it may not be necessary to notice^{ing} it except as a warning :if it is what we fear, the situation is se-rious enough, (especially if the bill passes) to demand the careful thought of the whole Board, and individual action might make it harded to deal with.

Very cordially yours,

Garnett, Kansas, July 21, 1905.

Dear Miss Shaw:-

I received your letter of the 10th inst. several days ago and I have delayed in replying for a few days because I wanted to take a few days to consider the matter.

Now I want to say in the first place, that I am loyally and cheerrfully at the command of the Business Committee and will willingly do whatever you decide is best, whether it agrees with my views or not; but at the same time, I am going to state my views to you; for last year I suppressed my own opinions about the work and many months afterwards I wrote to Mrs. Upton, how I had felt at the beginning of the year and she said that it was very wrong of me to have ^{not} told the Business Committee frankly how I had felt in the beginng. So this time I will state them, and I hope you will not feel that I am presumptuous in doing so, for you only need count them for what they are worth.

In the first place, I think the position taken by Dr. Woods about our work in the Territories is perfectly correct. It is true that we have made pledges to the Territories, which we are under the solemn obligation of keeping. You know that when I went to Oklahoma there were weeks and weeks elapsed before I could get hold of anything, or get anybody interested; for they said; "It is the same old story---The National comes in here and whoops up things for a while and gets us all enlisted, and then it leaves us, and everything drops,

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and we are tired of being made a laughing stock by other organizations." And it was not until I had given the people the solemn obligation of the National that we were going to hold on to Oklahoma this time until its statehood was assured, that I could get any sort of organization started. You remember that the whole thing was so difficult and so unpromising that I stopped right in the midst of the work and laid the whole matter before the Business Committee, and asked again if under the circumstances they wanted to go on with the fray and keep it up until statehood came, with all the uncertainty of its speedy coming. The unanimous reply of the Business Committee was to go ahead. I then went before the people and said that the National was in the field this time to stay until statehood came, and it is upon that basis, and with that promise, that we got our organizations started.

Then, last spring, when I was arranging my campaign, the question was, whether I was coming back in the fall or not; I wanted to do seed sowing in the spring in order that I might go back over the same ground in the fall and effect organizations. Nobody could tell whether I would be wanted in Oregon or not; I waited for several weeks to see if the Oregon people could tell us anything definite, and at last came the answer that nothing could be decided until after the convention. It seemed to me that if it could not be known whether there would be a campaign in Oregon until after the convention, the probabilities were that there would not be one and if there were, it would not be a campaign that would amount to very much, and would not be worth disturbing to the work in the territories over. In the meantime, I had to lay plans for the future, and in order to have something to work upon in the fall, I had to tell the Oklahoma people that I expected to come back, as I certainly did expect to do and I have prosed a great many meetings for the fall and have a great many plans laid as just how I expect to reach certain localities and I think

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it will disturb the Oklahoma and Indian territories; work very much to make any changes in either field at this time. I think Dr. Wood's idea that she cannot do my work and that I cannot do hers is perfectly correct; and while we work together in the most perfect harmony and dearly love to get together, and exchange ideas, yet we work just as differently as can be imagined and I could no more do Dr. Wood's work or take it up where she leaves off, than I could fly to the moon. And it has seemed to me and I have thought of it so many times, that we each got just the field for which we were best adapted. And it does seem to me that it is a very serious thing to disturb the work in the territories at this time, and that there can be only one good reason for doing so, and that is, that there is a mighty good chance for a victory in Oregon. I realize that a victory in Oregon would mean more to Oklahoma, and to every other state in the Union than anything else that could happen at this time; we are sorely in need of a victory to quicken the work everywhere; and if you all really feel that there is a good strong possibility of victory in Oregon, then I should feel that it was worth the while to disturb the work in Oklahoma to make the effort. But if the Oregon campaign is simply to be one of education, as our campaigns have been in the last few years, I feel that these campaigns are most profitable and I do not underestimate their value by any means, but I do not feel that Oklahoma, with its possibilities, ought to be disturbed for a campaign of education anywhere.

But if there is a good fighting chance in Oregon, then I think that the work ought to be suspended everywhere else, and that we ought to say to Oklahoma that an emergency exists and that we must have all our fighting force in Oregon for a few months, and then we will come back to Oklahoma with increased force and make up for lost time. If we are going in to Oregon with the

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with the hope of winning and if I am to be Assistant manager of the campaign, I hope that by all means you would give me Miss Laughlin, Dr. Woods, Miss Chase, and Mrs. Woodworth, at the very beginning of the campaign. I have felt very keenly that the reason why we have lost certain states in recent years, is because we have not concentrated sufficient force upon them; and if I go into Oregon, I tell you, I am going in to win, and I shall simply live and breathe in that campaign, and I do trust that the B.C. will give us sufficient force to make it possible to win and give us that force early enough so that we can reach every country school house in the state. I tell you the country people are the bone and sinew of our cause and it is a great mistake to work the towns, where the Liquor power with its money undoes so much of our work, and leave the country people, who will stick when we once get them converted, without any work among them. It is my experience that we get larger audiences in the country school houses than we do in the towns, and dear Miss Shaw, I do feel, oh so strongly that if we are going in to Oregon in earnest, we ought to have all our practical field organizers in the field from the beginning.

The Portland people may not like Gail's dress but the country people are not going to be disturbed by it and surely the Oregon women could not have any objection to her remaining in the state to do county work. Then I should judge that there is a good deal of Labor Union work to be done in Portland and none of us can reach Labor Unions as Gail can. Then there will be some towns that cannot be reached in any other way than through an advance agent, as there are always these towns in every state; and I have never seen anybody yet who can do nearly as good advance work as Mrs. Woodworth, and there is certainly a crying need for her. Dr. Woods is the best hand at getting up her own meetings of any body that I ever saw and we cannot afford to have Dr. Woods anywhere else if we are going in to win. So it seems to me that the whole thing ought to

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hinge upon whether there is a good fighting chance in Oregon or not; and if there is, I think every other field ought to suspend, and give Oregon the right of way; and if I go in to that field, I will go in with such determination and consecration, as I have never given to the cause before; and I do hope and pray that the National will give me force enough to make victory possible; and if it cannot do this, then I do feel that it would be a very grave mistake to upset the work in Oklahoma by taking either Dr. Woods or myself away from it.

Now, if I really am to go to Oregon, it seems to me that the best thing to do would be to send Mrs. Bradford to Oklahoma for a month or six weeks and let her visit all the old clubs, which will need a visit from somebody early in the fall, to get them started for their winter's work and then let Mrs. Bradford and Mrs. Woodworth together visit those towns that I visited this spring and let Mrs. Woodworth hold parlor meetings in the afternoons and go out and drum up audiences for the evening meetings, and help in the organizing. Mrs. Woodworth might go to some of the country points by herself, and hold informal meetings, if Mrs. Bradford would not have time for all; and by all means she ought to be there to help in the state convention. Poor Mrs. Biggars has been so afraid all spring that I would not be there to help her out in that convention, that she fairly shudders when she thinks of it. She wrote me that it was a real relief to her, when she heard that I had not gone to Portland--she was so afraid that I would stay out there, and not be at the convention; and we really must not leave her alone in that. She is a most valuable woman for the leadership in Oklahoma and she must be developed. She lacks self-confidence but she has wonderful reserve power and with some one to help her find out her own value, she will be of inestimable service to our cause, and she is very popular with all classes of people.

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Now I have suggested Mrs. Bradford in preference to any one else, first because she would be most valuable to Oklahoma for a short period, and not especially valuable to Oregon for preliminary work; while Gail and Dr. Woods would be of so much value to Oregon right in the beginning; then I do not suppose that Mrs. Bradford could remain away from her home work more than six weeks, and I think that after the convention in Oklahoma then all work there ought to be suspended and everything concentrated in Oregon. I do not believe that the statehood bill will come any nearer passage at the hands of the next Congress than it did last year and I base my belief upon the maneuvers of the Oklahoma politicians and office holders whom I have studied very closely. And so, while the work ought to go right on there until statehood does come, still we must have the force in Oregon if we are going to win there; and I would hope that after the Oregon campaign is won, that we might concentrate our forces in Oklahoma in the same way.

Then I think after the convention in Oklahoma is over, we ought to take Mrs. Woodworth to Oregon and by that time we shall have found out what towns in Oregon must have an advance worker and we could put her right in there.

Now in all that I have just written, I have not forgotten that Mrs. Catt is to be the manager of the Oregon campaign, and that she may have entirely different views, but this is the way the situation looks to me, and it really does seem that there would not be much to manage in Oregon if our very best field workers are going into other fields. I have long had this idea of early concentration of work in campaigns, and I do hope that we may try it in Oregon.

Yours to command,

(Sgd) LAURA A. GREGG

375 Yamhill, Portland, Oregon.

Sept. 14th, 1905.

Rev. Anna H. Shaw,

7443 Devon St. Mt. Airy, Phil., Pa.

My dear Miss Shaw,

I received your telegram yesterday and thank you and the others of the Business Committee for their vote. I shall be glad to stay and help with this great campaign.

I hope you will soon be able to send Miss Laughlin, for we have failed in our effort to have the objections withdrawn to Dr. Woods' coming. As I wrote you Monday, Mrs. Coe promised to see Dr. Jeffreys and form her opinion of her objections. I thought this better than seeing them both together, as Mrs. Coe knows Dr. Woods well, she having been in Dr. Coe's employ for months as his medical assistant in his Sanitarium. After I had found Dr. Jeffreys' objected to her I mentioned her coming to Mrs. Coe, but she manifested no surprise or objection at all. So I believed those ladies would come to a clearer understanding of whether the objections could be removed by a conference between themselves than if they had me and Miss Gregg present. Yesterday morning I telephoned Mrs. Coe, saying the decision ought not to be delayed and asking her to remember in their decision that workers were few and we thought the Dr. was a valuable one. Yesterday afternoon Mrs. Coe called and saw Miss Gregg and me. She corroborates the result of Mrs. Catt's investigation and says the difficulty is one which does not necessarily impair Dr. Woods' usefulness in other states but in her opinion

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does do so in Oregon. It appears that in this difficulty Dr. Woods has said the "meanest things one woman can say of another" about Mrs. McBride, and that Dr. Jeffries think they were so hard as to expose Dr. Woods to serious trouble if the McBrides chose to give it to her, which would involve the suffragists. Without injustice to Dr. Woods I suppose we may doubt, since she had not the discretion to keep out of this quarrel in the first place, whether she has the self-control not to say things which might renew it, if she were here where she would be exposed to irritation and temptations to do so. Dr. Jeffreys thinks she has reason for such doubts; for she says that while Dr. Woods was her guest during the convention she made remarks about people in a circle of several persons under no obligations of confidence which might have caused a great deal of trouble if carried by a tale-bearer. You understand I did not press for details of any of these unpleasant speeches or whether they were just or not, because I think the only question now before us is whether the leaders among the suffrage women desire her coming. We knew there had been trouble and we were satisfied that it did not injure her usefulness in other states.

Dr. Jeffreys understands that the McBrides are opposed to our amendment, and to provoke his active opposition would be injurious. Mrs. Coe judged from a conversation recently held with the McBrides that the senator is not opposed but his wife is. She agrees that they have a grievance against Dr. Woods, and that their enmity will nullify her usefulness. She is not sure whether she might not come in the spring, when there are many others in the field, but doubts

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it. In the meantime, she agrees entirely, after hearing Dr. Jeffreys' objections, that Dr. Woods ought not to come here now.

As I say, I did not push the inquiry further than to find out their conclusions; and it is my wish that we shall not do so as I think such an inquiry is unprofitable. If we leave the matter alone and do not send Dr. Woods we shall be following our custom of not sending speakers who are not acceptable to the state officers. If we depart from that custom in this case it must be only after an investigation which convinces the majority of the Board that the difficulty is not of such a nature as to impair her usefulness in Oregon. For myself I admit that if the investigation satisfied my judgment that she might be useful here, it requires more reliance on my own judgment than I possess to bring her into a state against the remonstrances of the two leading women of the suffragists, who understand the circumstances far better than I ever can, and where she has enemies in the McBrides, and where we must depend only upon her own discretion not to have a revival of the quarrel.

On the other hand, if the majority are convinced that Dr. Jeffreys and Mrs. Coe are justified in their opposition, what shall we have gained but a raking up of old scores that we have been content to let die?

There is, however, the very important question of what is just to Dr. Woods and what she may consider is her due from the Business Committee. I think she might be told that we have changed the plan about sending her in accordance with our custom of not sending a speaker where the state officers object; and it seems to me

she ought not to be surprised or greatly pained to find that Dr. Jeffreys and Mrs. Coe take the same view of the effect of this difficulty which she herself expressed a year or so ago. If she desires the Business Committee, notwithstanding, to inform themselves so as to make an independent decision, I will not shrink from any such investigation as the majority of the Board desire me to make. While I speak of justice, however, I want to say one distinct word as to what is justice to the Business Committee in this matter. I think Dr. Woods should reflect very carefully before she insists upon placing upon the Board an uncongenial, difficult and painful task on account of this matter. She got into this quarrel years before any of the members of the Board knew her, and when none of them had the opportunity to guide her with advice or to know the circumstances from personal observation or immediate information. Now if it turns out that the consequences are disagreeable she ought to bear them herself and not to ask the Business Committee to incur the risk of injecting contention and faction into this important campaign. The Board is loyal to her for the valuable services she has rendered since she has worked for the Association by showing her confidence in her by placing her in charge of the most important work and employer whenever she desires employment. If this incident had come up since our relations with her were established, I might think our responsibility was greater. As it is, I think she ought to be considered not to involve us in it more than is absolutely necessary. That is my opinion, but I am willing to do at my end of the line what the majority decide.

[Sept 24, 1905]

I do not wish to lose time by not writing what I think ought to be done in case Dr. Woods does not come to Oregon.

It was with extreme reluctance I gave my vote to interrupt the work in the Territories by withdrawing Miss Gregg. I have not confidence in the stability of any political situation to be easy in the expectation that Congress will take no steps to admit those territories to statehood this winter. Therefore I desire that Dr. Woods shall be retained at work where she is till the Baltimore convention. Let her plan to go right on with organization and watching the situation as we designed when first we sent Miss Gregg there. Something might come up that would require quick action and find us off our guard. I feel that Dr. Woods would be as equal to the occasion as any worker we have, or at least as we can spare. If she is not employed here, it is my judgment we should not risk all I fear we are risking by leaving the territories unlooked after during a Congressional season.

I hope this question will come to a vote and you need not wait to get my answer to know that I shall approve any proposition to go on steadily with work in Oklahoma and Indian Territories.

Miss Gregg desires that Mrs. Woodworth should come to Oregon as soon as practicable; and she says if Dr. Woods needs an assistant there Dr. Woods did have an eye upon an Indian Ter. woman whom she ~~th~~ she thought could be trained into a good worker. Miss Gregg also has one or two new workers to suggest. I am making this letter too long to write about them more fully.

I wrote to Miss Chase yesterday asking her to subordinate her state work to that in Oregon and write you that she would come imme-

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diately. If she does so, please speed her coming. Miss Gregg longs for arrival .

We are pleasantly settled in our little headquarters, with a stenographer and work going on.

Please remember me to Miss Lucy, and with much regard to yourself, I am

Very cordially yours,

National American Woman Suffrage Association

MEMBER NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Honorary President, SUSAN B. ANTHONY, 17 Madison Street, Rochester, N. Y.

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Chairman Press Committee, ELENORA M. BABCOCK, Dunkirk, N. Y.

OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, WARREN, OHIO



Wianno, Barnstable Co., Mass., Sept. 15, 1905.

My dear Miss Clay,-

Just before leaving home I sent you a hasty note telling you of the unanimous desire of the members of the Board that you should remain in Oregon just as long as you can make it convenient to yourself to do so. The longer you stay the better it will suit the Board. Miss Anthony was particularly delighted, and wrote a very enthusiastic letter in regard to it, saying that she did not at all get it into her head when she was in Portland that you would be willing to remain at present.

Now, the question is, upon the conditions on which you are to remain, and the terms which you would like to make with the Association. I wish you would write me as soon as you can and let me put the vote out in a formal way, for I know that that is the way you would like to have it done. I wish to assure you that it is a source of very great gratification to me to think of your being there. I am sure that it will be of the greatest possible help to Miss Gregg, for she will feel so much more confidence in what she is doing if she has some member of the official board where she can counsel with her, and I am delighted at the prospect of your being that one.

I wish especially to ask you to write me anything you think I ought to know, or any counsel I ought to give to the Oregon women. Being on the spot you will see many things that I cannot know so far away, and in my letters I will try to keep your name out of the matter whenever you wish me to do so, but I am very desirous of doing just exactly the right thing in the work there, and I want to be advised when you see anything that will be of help.

[Sept 15, 1905]

#2, Miss C.

If you remain there will you hold your State Convention, or will you let it go over until another year? Just what would you like to do about it? It would be perfectly satisfactory to me, of course, whatever your plans in regard to it may be.

Mr. and Mrs. Garrison called on us yesterday and were very much interested to hear about the Convention and about the campaign, and when I told them that you were still there in the work they seemed to be very much pleased about it.

As soon as I receive your letter in regard to Dr. Woods we will have to make up our minds what disposition it is best to make of her until the Convention, in February. My own feeling about it is to let her remain in Oklahoma, unless some better plan can be devised.

I asked Miss Laughlin to telegraph me immediately on receipt of my letter as to whether or not she would go to Oregon, but I have not yet heard from her. I hope I will hear before the day is over, however, and that I will be able to send the word in a letter which I shall write Miss Gregg this afternoon.

What is your advice in regard to securing a house, such as was suggested by Dr. Jeffries, in which you could all have your rooms and the headquarters, and then when more and more of the speakers come there would always be a place for them to stay in the headquarters with the rest of you? Dr. Jeffries stated she knew an admirable woman who would make an excellent matron for the place, and that she thought, taking all things into consideration, it was very desirable. What do you think of it? Please let us know in your next letter your views in regard to headquarters, for now that you are to be there with Miss Gregg I think it is very desirable that some place should be secured, - and yet it may be that the Amendment will not be submitted. If it is

[Sept 15, 1905]

#3, Miss C.

not, of course it would not be desirable to have a house,- but you will know better than I whether there is any chance of a slip on that score.

With sincere gratitude for your splendid service, and in the hope that all will go well with you, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Amos H. Shaw

National American Woman Suffrage Association

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OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, WARREN, OHIO



Wianno, Barnstable Co., Mass., 9-20-1905.

My dear Miss Clay,-

Your letter explaining the situation in Oregon has just been received, and I agree with you in every particular,- that it is not wise for Dr. Woods to go there at present. I am sending a copy of your letter to the Business Committee and asking them for a vote upon the question.

I shall feel that it is all right for Dr. Woods to remain in the Territories and keep her eye on things; but I just do not see where we are going to get organizers enough to do the work in Portland this winter. I have at Mt. Airy the address of that grange woman who spoke at our Convention. I think it would be a good thing if we could secure her to work for us during the coming winter. Now, it may be that she would not wish to give up her grange work entirely, but she might do our work in connection with it. She is one of the brightest women I saw in Oregon, and I think would do splendid work if she were sent out to do it for us. You can find out her address from Dr. Jeffries, and perhaps be able to learn something in regard to her, and what she would be willing to do for us. Perhaps you will remember that country doctor who responded to the toasts at the banquet. I wonder if it would be possible to get her interested to do something in her circuit. I do not know either her name or her address, but the doctor who had charge of the banquet would know who she is, and how to reach her. I am sure that Dr. Jeffreys could find out for you, and I know she would be interested if she were asked; and if she were requested, would do a good deal among the country patients. I am writing these suggestions to you instead of to Miss Gregg, because you were there and saw the women and could give your opinion of them to Miss Gregg.

It is a great relief to me to know that you are going to remain

#2, Miss C.

Sept 20, 1905

in Oregon. I am sure that your counsel will be invaluable to Miss Gregg and she will feel that she has a great pillar of strength by her side continually. Do let me know of anything that you think I ought to do which I am not doing. I, as well as Miss Gregg, will be grateful for your counsel and advice, and shall depend very largely upon same.

Faithfully yours,

Anna N. Shaw.

Sept. 20th. [1905]

Rev. Anna H. Shaw,

Phil. Pa.

My dear Miss Shaw,

Miss Gregg and I went this morning to the county convention of the Multnomah Grange. We were pleasantly received, Miss Gregg made a fifteen minute speech; and the Grange passed the following resolution:

Whereas, It is a fundamental principle among the Patrons of Husbandry that the rights of its members are equal, irrespective of sex; and

Whereas, We have found this principle to result in good in our organization and believe it would be beneficial in the larger organization of the state; therefore

Be it resolved, That we welcome the opportunity to show loyalty to this principle afforded by the Referendum vote to be taken next June upon the question of extending the elective franchise to women.

We walked back some miles to the trolley station, as we did not wish to trouble our new friends and we wanted to walk. We enjoyed the walk, but it leaves us somewhat tired tonight. But when I found your letter of the 15th inst., I determined to answer it and mail it tonight, as it takes so long for an exchange of letters. So I write under heads:

1st. I thought I had made an offer to stay here at the convention; and that Miss Gordon and Miss Hauser objected, and the rest were silent; hence, while I grew more interested all the time I stayed, I had no idea of remaining after Miss Gregg got here, beyond the few days it took me to give her the information I had. At once, however, she wished me to stay,

I told her I was willing to stay; but repeated the occurrence at the convention, which precluded the idea of my thinking of doing so. She thought there was a mistake somewhere, and asked me to let her write about it, to which I assented. She asked on what terms I would stay, and I said, what I repeat now,- the authorization of the Business committee, and my expenses when travelling in the state. I am gratified to find there was some misunderstanding about the matter at the convention, and that the Bus. Com/ think I can be of use here. I want to stay, and I am pleased that they have voted authorizing me to do so.

2nd. We feel that all are working harmoniously here. Mrs. Duniway seems to me to feel relieved not to have work and responsibility; and if she is given honor before the public, is in no mood to harass the workers. I have heard that Mrs. Colby intends to go about the state on her own responsibility and lecture. Do you think that will do us any harm? Do you advise that under any circumstances Miss Gregg should employ her,-, say, when we are short of speakers; or do you think our best policy is to leave her severely alone?

3rd. I have written to my Ky. E. R. A. officers and asked them to go right on with our convention; but have not yet had time for an answer. I hope a convention will be held in Covington or Ashland; for that reason I had not written to you. In any case, I shall wish the dates for you of which I wrote Miss Lucy; for there are some places which wish very much to have you and to which I wish you to go when you are on your fall rounds. Therefore, unless you yourself decide not to make a fall tour, please keep those dates for Ky. I do not wish the year to go by without some lecturing in the state.

4th. It is impossible for me to give an opinion about permanent headquarters till the fair is over. The rents are abnormally high and we have no means of knowing what they will be after the fair and we cannot judge. I will write as soon as I am in a position to judge. Remember me to Miss Lucy.

Sept. 26th. [1905]

Rev. A. H. Shaw,

Phil., Pa.

My dear Miss Shaw,

I wrote you a long letter yesterday; but as I have just received yours of the 20th from Wianno, I will write a few lines this morning. Miss Gregg is sending off her Plan of Campaign this morning. You will learn that she has succeeded in having the objection to Dr. Woods at least partially withdrawn. I have not seen Dr. Jeffreys since and do not know what influenced her to change her mind. My own misgivings are not wholly removed. But the matter will be placed before all the B.C., and I do not care to press my doubts.

I remember our Grange woman, and she is the Mrs. Waldo whose name is at the head of this paper as one of the vice-presidents. All think she is a very fine woman. I remember that bright country doctor and will inquire her name and what she can do for us.

Would it be worth while to try again to get Harriet M. Mills for Oregon or the Territories?

I got a letter from my sister, Mary, Richmond, Ky.; and she writes saying that if Covington ^{or} Ashland do not have our state convention they will have it in Richmond; so my mind is at rest about that important state work. When the time approaches please write to Mrs. Mary B. Clay rather than to me about anything of which you are not informed, for the time it takes to exchange letters out here is positively oppressive.

We are working at the top notch here. Our regular Stenographer is getting out the Plan of Campaign and Miss Gregg has another upstairs for special work, while I am using the machine myself for this. By-the-by, I noticed in reading over my letter yesterday that, in my effort to be brief, in some instances my letter seemed to me almost curt; but I was so tired and have so much to write, and am so slow an operator, that I could not rewrite it; and I am going to ask once for all your indulgence. I do not know how a thing is going to sound; and after I once have it down it must stay, or I shall have to leave off something I would like to write. The prospect of getting canvassers is a little brighter this morning, as I have received one or two pleasant letters, and a visitor and another expected. I do not want you to feel burdened about the petition, as I feel equal to all its demands; but in reporting I like to be explicit.

I am glad to know you are intending to come out as soon after the convention as practicable.

Remember me to Miss Lucy.

Very cordially yours,

Laura Clay.

Sept. 25th. [1905]

Rev. A. H. Shaw,

Phil., Pa.

My dear Miss Shaw,

Yours of the 15th and 18th- two enclosures- is just at hand. I will answer the personal letter first.

Dr. WOODS. You have received my letter ere this. Miss Gregg will write this morning how far she thinks the objections expressed may be withdrawn. I wish to reiterate what I said before- that it is with misgivings that I contemplate work ceasing in the Territories. A few days ago we met an Oklahoma friend of Miss Gregg's, Mrs. Homrighous, who says she believes Oklahoma and In. Ter. will be admitted as a state this Congress. She mentioned certain work which was to be done to effect it. Miss Gregg says she is an influential woman, but continues to think she is mistaken in this hope. For myself, I wish we might keep a worker in those territories; and if a vote is taken to do so, you know how I will vote and need not lose time to wait to hear from me. I fear in our eagerness about Oregon we may let slip an equal chance there.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE. Mrs. Coe was elected Chairman of the Central Committee Saturday, to the entire satisfaction of Miss Gregg and me. Miss Gregg believes she is going to prove most valuable; and I think now that responsibility is thrown on her she will respond finely. I find I have not conveyed the right impression about her part in the petition. She is not reluctant to report the petition work; in fact, it has been done in my hearing every Saturday; but it is hard to say exactly how it stands in

[Sept 25, 1905]

2.

numbers because the members do not hand in the sheets till they are full, but do mention how many they have on them, and are likely to overlap from week to week in their report. I want to re-assure you about all the Oregon women. They are showing the most agreeable spirit, - they are willing to do what Miss Gregg asks and to make suggestions, but defer to her decision in everything. Miss Gregg assumed the petition work in the state outside of Portland several days before she assumed it in Portland, because she thought the time is not so pressing in the city as in the outlying counties. This division has been regarded all along since I have advised Dr. Jeffreys. Miss Gregg has put the petition work in my hands and as fast as I can I am employing canvassers. It is slower work than I like to have it, but I have never had a despondent moment about it; and I tell Miss Gregg that I feel able to grapple with all its difficulties. The voluntary work has almost entirely stopped, and altogether we have about 3500 signatures. The paid canvassers have not yet commenced to report; in fact, I have not yet succeeded in employing but two. I wish you would see that Miss Gregg has money on hand to pay them promptly. I am making contracts to cease Oct. 15th, thinking it better to renew them, if necessary, than to allow the ^Ipetition to stay out too long.

You need not be afraid that the Oregon women do not understand that the National is to conduct the campaign. I have been telling them in season and out of season, that it is the Oregon women who are asking for this amendment and that they must stand to the front"; but that campaigning is a business, like other vocations, and that they must leave the work to those who have the knowledge and training to do it best. They all seem willing to help all they can, but without dictating in the least, - even Mrs. Duniway is not disturbing the peace. Miss Gregg and I think she

[Sept 25, 1905]

should have an honorary place on the Central Committee, and think as representative of the Pioneers' Association she would be recognized, without interfering any with the practical work. Nothing was done in the Executive Committee last Saturday but to elect Mrs. Coe ^{chairman} ~~president~~ and appoint her, Mrs. French and Miss Gottshall a committee to act to fill out the Central and Advisory Committees. We had to adjourn to attend the W.C.T.U. reception on the fair grounds to the Temperance Congress. The W.C.T.U. are acting in the most fraternal way possible and really helping, without aspiring to leadership at all. I have been telling them, also, that it is best this way; and they say they agree. Of course, they will have a representative on the Central Committee.

Ex) Gov. St. John made a strong suffrage speech to a large audience of women at the White Temple yesterday afternoon. You know that at Mrs. Coe's suggestion they have gotten strong endorsement of the amendment from the ministers of the Congregational and Baptist churches last Monday and will get others from other denominations, as time admits.

I feel very much gratified at your expressions of pleasure that I am on the ground. I am glad to be here, and I shall try to make my stay count for good to the campaign. I shall not, however, allow my name to appear in the Central Committee, because I think Dr. Jeffreys and Miss Gregg are the ones to represent the National to the Oregon public, and all the advice I can give will readily be considered by the Committee without my having a place on it.

I am very sorry to hear of Mr. Catt's illness. Do mention what you hear of him when you write. I am sorry that Mrs. Catt does not expect to come in the spring; but I had already resigned much hope of her doing so.

I trust that you yourself are feeling refreshed by your stay at Wi-
anno. Cordially yours,

Sept. 25th. 1905

Rev. A. H. Shaw,

Phil., Pa.

Dear Madam President,

Your letter to the Bus. Com. of Sept. 15th is at hand, which I answer under heads.

Chairman of Letter Writers' Committee. I am willing to give my vote to the nominations made by Mrs. Upton in the order she mentions. I have no nomination to make.

MISS BLACKWELL & LETTER WRITERS. I wrote Miss Blackwell that I had no objection to her making the request she did of Mrs. Boyer. I told her my judgment was formed on what I knew of her writings, as I had not seen any of the editorials in question. That I considered it a misfortune that her editorial had been republished in Lucifer, as in the few stray copies I had seen there was at least one article indecent and subversive of good morals; that I was sorry her defence of free speech was to be called out on account of anything which appeared in it; that ~~nothing would be done~~ "With the knowledge I have of Lucifer I would greatly regret to have the woman suffragists appear in any other light than reprobating it and being perfectly willing to let it suffer the condemnation I think in general it justly deserves".

You do not enclose the voting slip of which you speak; but as it takes so long for an exchange of letters I will say that I would not be willing for every body to make requests for letters/ and that, according to my often expressed opinion, we have all we can manage to look after

[Sept 25, 1905]

2.

woman suffrage pure and simple; and that if there is any chance of our being drawn into defence of free speech and other debates on subjects on which there is difference of opinion in our own ranks, I am in favor of limiting our letter writers to suffrage and the rights of women when they are attacked in a manner in which men's are not. I would rather leave out the latter half of the clause than make it possible for us to enter into a defense of Lucifer or anything of that kind. TYPEWRITER. Please do not take any further care about that month's rent; for in any case I am willing that it should be an offering to the Oregon campaign .

Report of Petitions. On last Saturday about 800 all told were in Mrs. Coe's hands. In the last week Dr. Jeffreys had received 187. My last report gave 2540. Hence it is now 2727. I have engaged, at the suggestion of Mrs. Coe and Miss Gregg, a Mr. ~~Hans~~ James I. Himrod, of California, for Multnomah Co. Inquiries have led me to think it a mistake, but it is only till Oct. 10th, so no great harm is done. You may have met him. For Union and Baker counties I have engaged Mrs. M. H. Eaton, who you will observe is one of the vice-presidents of the Oregon E. S. A. I have written letters to most of the counties and few have replied; and all of those declinations. However, I am not at all discouraged, and I trust that my literal reports will not discourage you. I ~~do~~ feel equal to all difficulties on this line; and nothing has occurred to shake my confidence of a victory at the polls next June. If so, I would notify you promptly. The petition is merely a question of more time and expense than we calculated upon. And the inexperience of all concerned is sufficient excuse to my mind.

Very cordially yours,

National American Woman Suffrage Association

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OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, WARREN, OHIO



Wianno, Barnstable Co., Mass., 9-18-1905

My dear Miss Clay,-

I am anxiously waiting for your letter in regard to Dr. Woods, because the sooner we get it, the sooner will they be able to arrange the matters in Oklahoma so as to give work to Dr. Woods later in the season, if she is to remain there,- and I can see no better place to put her if she is not to go to Oregon.

It seems to me that it would be better for Miss Laughlin to go somewhere outside Portland for a time, to some of the larger cities in the State, and begin the precinct work,- for the sooner that work is begun the better, but of course I do not for a moment assume to dictate to Miss Gregg, for, being upon the ground, you will know better what should be done than I possibly can here, and I have the fullest confidence in both you and Miss Gregg, while I must confess that I have very little confidence in the judgment of the Oregon people themselves.

I have received an intimation that Mrs. Coe desires to be Chairman of the Central Committee. Now certainly if she is that means failure as far as the Central Committee's work is concerned, for she has no more idea of work than a baby, and I certainly think the first thing should be a meeting of Mrs. Coe, Dr. Jeffries, yourself and Miss Gregg, and that Mrs. Coe should be made to understand that the report of the names collected in the city ought to be returned to headquarters every week; for how can you know just how many more names you have to get, and how much effort you have to put forth to get them if you do not know the number which is already collected? The very fact that she does not seem to realize that, shows how little she is able to grasp the work. If you do not

[Sept 18, 1905]

Miss C. #2

know what is being done, how can you possibly tell what still remains to be done? We have a signed statement from all the officers of the State asking us to take charge of the work. Now, then, since our Manager is there, she must take charge of the work, and the Oregon people must be subject to the National Association. They may co-operate with it, but they must be subject to it, because if we are not going to have the control of the Oregon campaign, I should, personally, be in favor of immediately withdrawing from the State. The work must be planned in the National headquarters and the State must assist in executing it, that was the definite understanding under which we consented to go to Oregon; they thoroughly understood it too, because we have their signed letter agreeing to it.

It is a source of great gratification to me that you are to continue to remain in the State, and I hope you will feel that it is really worth your while to spend your time in the work there. I am very sure there are a thousand and one ways in which you will be of immense help to Miss Gregg, and particularly when she needs advice, and some one to council with. We all know how much easier it is to do even the thing we know is right and best to do, after we have talked it over with some one, - even though that one differs from us. I have the greatest longing to be on the spot with the rest of you, but some of us must stay here and work up the National Convention in Baltimore, but as soon as that is over, I shall, at least, immediately start for Oregon. I think there is no prospect of Mrs. Catt going to Oregon at all; I think her mind is quite made up not to do so, and I am not going to worry her about it any more. If at the Baltimore Convention she should show any enthusiasm, the subject may be broached to her again there, but certainly if Mr. Catt is very seriously ill it may probably be many months before she would be able to do anything.

I do not think there is an hour in the day when my thoughts are not with you all in Oregon, and certainly if earnest wishes and prayers will help, you have our's.

Faithfully yours,

Anna H. Shaw

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September 12th, 1905.



My dear Miss Clay,

Your telegram arrived at midnight last night, and it greatly rejoiced my heart.

I have sent the enclosed Business Committee letter this morning, and have also written Miss Laughlin and urged upon her the importance of being ready to start immediately for Oregon. I do not at all know whether she will go or not, but she is to telegraph me at Cape Cod as soon as she gets my letter.

I have only time for a line, but I wish to say to you that every member of the Business Committee has urged most emphatically that you be invited to remain in Portland just as long as you can stay. Miss Anthony is particularly emphatic; she says she did not dream you would do so, or she would have urged it while she was there; and I hope that if you can stay no longer you will at least remain until Miss Gregg gets established, or Miss Laughlin arrives.

I will write you further just as soon as I get to the Cape. Earnestly hoping that you will find it possible to remain,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

Anna H. Shaw

Portland, Oregon.

Sept. 11th, 1905.

Rev. Anna H. Shaw, Phil. Pa.

My dear Miss Shaw,

The letter you telegraphed me to wait for reached me this morning, and was very satisfactory both to Miss Gregg and me; for you had understood me aright. I would like very much to stay through this campaign if the Business Committee authorizes me to do so. Miss Gregg had previously written to Headquarters about it; so I need make no further statement about it now, as it is very late and I must finish quickly, because I leave the Hesperian tonight and we take up our headquarters at Mrs. Morehead's, 375 Yamhill, at the corner of West Park. Miss Gregg will write fully tomorrow, and tonight I will tell you only about Miss Laughlin. We received your letter regarding it this morning, but had been prepared by a letter from Mrs. Upton, which came one day earlier. I judged it best to see if Mrs. Coe's objections could not be removed before asking a consultation with the Myers'. Accordingly Miss Gregg and I saw Mrs. Coe this afternoon, I told her we were short of workers, now that Mrs. Catt had declined to come and Miss Chase would be so late in getting here. In short, I presented the case as best I could and was greatly relieved to find her objections were not so deeply rooted that she was not willing to waive them. She has given her entire consent to Miss Laughlin's coming at once, and I speedily telegraphed you to that effect.

Now about Dr. Woods: Mrs. Coe thought that Dr. Jeffreys' fear that Dr. Woods was persona non grata to Senator McBride and we might lose some political influence was worth considering; and she said she would see Dr. Jeffreys about it. There we left it for today, as we had no more time. We will see that she does see Dr. Jeffreys, and if the Myers' objections

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OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, WARREN, OHIO

September 12th, 1905.

Dear Member of the Business Committee,-

I wrote you a few days ago of my correspondence with Misses Clay and Gregg, Mrs. Coe and Dr. Jeffreys, asking them to hold a conference as soon as possible in regard to the speakers who are to be sent to Oregon, and I asked Miss Clay to telegraph their decision. Last night about midnight I received the following telegram,- "All agree to Miss Laughlin immediately; will write about Dr. Woods." That means that the objection to Miss Laughlin was not serious, and I have written her this morning telling her that all objections to her going to Oregon are removed, and that it is desirable that she should go as soon as possible. I have done what I could to make her feel all right about the first refusal of Dr. and Mrs. Coe, and hope she will go in a good spirit, as I think she will. She certainly showed a most generous and kindly manner in regard to the matter while she was in Portland, and I do not think she will disappoint us now.

The telegram also means that the objections to Miss Woods are more serious, but until Miss Clay's letter arrived we cannot know just how serious. In the meantime I wish you would be considering what will be the best work Dr. Woods can do for the Association. We have agreed to employ her until the next Convention. She will have work enough in Oklahoma to keep her busy until this coming ^{Thanksgiving} ~~convention~~, even if she does not begin to do new organization work.

My own thought would be to have her remain in the Territories and keep the work up there. The difficulty is this,- at least it seems like a difficulty to me,- if she remains in the Territories to do the preliminary work for a campaign, she might feel that if there is one she should be the one selected to carry it through. I do not think she is a person to do that; in fact, I should greatly object to be-

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ing in any way so related to the work that I would be held responsible for Dr. Woods management of a campaign. I think her methods are not exactly what some of us would agree to;- not that they are not honorable enough, but they are not the way we think the work should be done. But I will write at greater length in regard to this when we decide what it is best for Dr. Woods to do. My own thought in the matter would be to tell Dr. Woods plainly that the old trouble in Oregon, of which she wrote us, has arisen to the surface again, and that it is considered better, both for her own and for the work's sake, that she should not go there to work during the campaign, and then to offer her work in the Territories.

I agree with Mrs. Kelley that it is unwise to send a speaker to a state if the people object at all to her; it is better to send one whom they like a little at the first and long for afterwards; but there are really none of us to whom some one would not object, and unless the objection were more than a mere personal feeling, I think it ought not to be considered, since our number of speakers is limited. Frankly, I wish to say I would be glad if we did not need to send Miss Laughlin, for, while I admire her in many ways immensely, I do feel that the almost universal objection to her clothes and manners, to my mind disqualifies her largely for our kind of work, but if the Oregon people are willing to have her, and we have not other speakers to send,- and certainly the need is pressing,- I am in favor of her going, and going immediately.

If Mrs. Catt, or some one else who could do so, were in the headquarters to manage the campaign, and Miss Gregg were free to go into the field and look after the signatures and the work, it would be different, but as it is, I think we must send Miss Laughlin.

I leave today at noon for Cape Cod, where I hope the sea air will put me in a little better shape for awhile, but I think it would be well to address all letters directly here. If you need to telegraph me within the next two weeks, for any purpose, address me at Wiamo, Barnstable Co., Mass. My stenographer will go with me, and we will keep up with the work.

Faithfully yours,

Anna H. Shaw

Philadelphia, Pa., September 8th, 1908.

Dear Member of the Business Committee,

I sent you the votes,- which have not been received so far, in regard to the typewriter for the headquarters in Portland, and Dr. Woods salary.

I am going to urge all the members of the Committee to be prompt in returning the votes. Some of the subjects voted upon have to be acted on at once, in order to be of any value, and unless you reply by return mail, when the Committee is so largely scattered as it is now, it cannot be done to any very great advantage,- and therefore I am going to urge you all to keep an envelope on hand addressed to me so that when you get your vote you may cast it at once and drop it right into the mail. And be sure to answer on the slips which are enclosed for votes, because they are always kept on file, and it saves trouble.

Some of the members have been sending their votes to headquarters. That is perhaps because ^{they} at least one who has done so,- are new to the work. All votes are sent out by the President, and unless requested to send them to headquarters, all replies should be returned to us.

As soon as I hear from Miss Gregg in regard to the conference she holds with the Coes, Dr. Jeffreys and Miss Clay in regard to whether she will be able to remain in Oregon or not, I shall let you know.

Faithfully yours,

Anna H. Shaw

Sept 8, 1905

Replies to votes sent out from the Presidents Office Aug 8th and 20th 1905.

For the purchase of typewriter for Oregon work.

Yes--Anthony , Kelley, Upton, Gordon, Blackwell, Jeffries and Shaw. Clay.

For the payment of \$100. per month for Dr. Woods salary,

Yes-- Anthony, Kelley, Upton, Gordon ,Blackwell, Shaw. Clay.

No --- Dr. Jeffries

September 6th, 1935.

Dear Member of the Business Committee,-

I received a letter from Miss Clay yesterday in which she makes the following statement, in speaking of her work in Oregon.- " You know I was more than willing to stay and help with the campaign throughout, if the Business Committee had deemed it advisable to accept my services, so what I have been able to do has been a labor of love, and my only regret is that it is to end with Miss Gregg's coming."

I do not know how the other members of the Committee understood Miss Clay in regard to her willingness to remain in Oregon throughout the campaign, but I must confess that I did not grasp that fact. It was probably due to my fatigue and over-anxiety at the time of the Convention, and that I was not quite in a condition to grasp matters as I should have done, but it had not occurred to me that Miss Clay would be willing to remain in Portland. It may have been due also to the fact that as Mrs. Catt was to have control of the campaign, and if so she was to decide who her helpers should be,- that it did not occur to me that we could make any arrangement whatever with Miss Clay. However, I am very sure that the ~~Executive~~ Committee will all agree with me that if Miss Clay is willing to remain in Oregon, her presence there will be of the greatest service to Miss Gregg, and her council will be exceedingly helpful. On receiving her letter I immediately telegraphed her asking her to remain until she heard from me. I then wrote her that personally it would be the means of great satisfaction and comfort if I knew she were where Miss Gregg could consult with her in regard to the Oregon work, for there are many things continually arising which, by a word of council from some one else, we may be able to control much better than when we

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have to decide for ourselves, especially when we are responsible to other people for our decisions, and that I would be delighted if she could make her arrangements so she could remain in the State, or even return to it later. I am, therefore, sending out a vote to the Committee, asking your decision in the matter in advance of hearing from Miss Clay as to whether or not she can now remain, because if I wait until I hear from her, it will make it so late that it will be impossible for ~~us~~ ^{her} to wait for ^{an decision,} it. I am going to ask you to send your replies by return mail, - and by the way, I want to say of our new Vice-President that she is the best voter in the whole Committee; her votes come back immediately and there is no waiting for them. As soon as I get a majority vote from the Committee I shall telegraph it to Miss Clay, hoping that she will decide to remain, if not during the whole winter, at least a month or two, to help Miss Gregg get settled.

A new difficulty has arisen in Oregon, which I might as well place before you at once, that is, that objection has been raised to Dr. Woods being sent there as a speaker. Then we consider how few speakers we have, and how much work there is to be done and how little has been done by the people of Oregon themselves, it is going to be a very difficult task to carry on the campaign, if continual objection is being made ^{to} our workers. I have therefore urged Dr. Jeffries and Mrs. Coe to meet with Miss Clay, - if she is still in Portland, - and Miss Gregg, and talk over the matter of Miss Laughlin and Dr. Woods, and see if some sort of compromise cannot be made by which one or both of these splendid young workers may be employed during the entire campaign. Unless the speakers whom we can furnish, and whom we know to be able to do good work, are acceptable to the people of Oregon, I do not see how we can carry on the campaign. I know it is important that we should be exceedingly careful, and do nothing which will endanger carrying the amendment, but we certainly cannot carry it unless we do a great deal of work, and we cannot do work unless we have the workers. I would

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not have troubled you with this matter until after I had heard from Mrs. Gos and Dr. Jeffries, but I thought it was best that you should know exactly how conditions stand, in order that you may not feel that I am responsible for not bringing matters to a decision in regard to our speakers more promptly.

As soon as I hear from Dr. Jeffries I will advise you.

Faithfully yours,

Anna H. Shaw

National American Woman Suffrage Association

MEMBER NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Honorary President, SUSAN B. ANTHONY, 17 Madison Street, Rochester, N. Y.

President, REV. ANNA HOWARD SHAW,
7443 Devon Street, Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pa.

Vice President at Large, FLORENCE KELLEY,
105 East 22nd Street, New York City.

Corresponding Secretary, KATE M. GORDON,
1800 Prytania Street, New Orleans, La.

Recording Secretary, ALICE STONE BLACKWELL, 3 Park Street, Boston, Mass
Treasurer, HARRIET TAYLOR UPTON, Warren, Ohio.

Auditors: (LAURA CLAY, Lexington, Ky.
DR. ANNICE JEFFREY MYERS, 375 East 12th St., N., Portland, Ore.
Chairman Press Committee, ELNORA M. BABCOCK, Dunkirk, N. Y.

OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, WARREN, OHIO



September 6th, 1905

My dear Miss Clay,-

I have just received a letter from Mrs. Upton, and in the hope that you are still in Oregon I write to you in regard to it.

The particular point in Mrs. Upton's letter which I wish to discuss with you is in regard to Dr. Jeffries objection to Dr. Woods' going to the State.

I quote here what Dr. Jeffries says.-

Now, if some one's personal objection to a speaker or an organizer is to be considered, we simply would not have anybody at work in the State, because there is no one to whom some one would not raise an objection, and while it is our custom not to send a speaker or an organizer in the State without the consent of the State Officers, yet, while we are held responsible for a campaign, we ought not to be hampered by the whims or notions of people in regard to our ~~we~~ workers. If we allowed it we would simply have our hands tied from the beginning to the end of the campaign, With so few workers as we have, and their objections to two of our best, I do not see how we are going to carry on the work. The only thing to do, if you are still in Portland, is to ask the Coes, Dr. Jeffries and Mr. Meyers to meet with you and Miss Gregg and talk over their objections to both Miss Laughlin and DR. Woods, and see if there is really any ground for them, and if there is, to let us know exactly what they are, and just exactly the reasons why they object.

Certainly the inability of these women to do anything themselves has been manifested by the lack of system in the collection of the names, and if they cannot do anything themselves they certainly ought not to be continually raising objections to the women who can. Now, it may be that there are very

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#2, Miss C.

good reasons in the minds of both Dr. Jeffries and Mrs. Coe against having Miss Laughlin or Dr. Woods, but if there are we have not yet heard them, and the only way to get at the root of the matter is to have a conference. Now, will you and Miss Gregg ask Dr. Jeffries and Mr. Meyers to meet with Dr. and Mrs. Coe and talk the matter over?— and do it at once, because we have already told Miss Laughlin she was not to go to Oregon, and Dr. Woods that she was. It is not yet too late to change the plan and keep Dr. Woods in Oklahoma, but it will very soon be too late to engage Miss Laughlin, or even Dr. Woods for Oregon. If neither of them can go to Oregon, then the force at Miss Gregg's command will be very small, and inadequate ^{for} to the work to be done.

I am going to send a copy of this to Miss Gregg, for fear you may have left the State. I shall ask her to hold a conference with the parties mentioned, even if you are not there. I certainly hope, even if you cannot remain there long, you will be able to stay for a week or two, to help Laura to get some of these tangles straightened out; it is so hard for any one to decide such matters alone, and poor Laura is so far away from us all.

Faithfully yours,

Anna H. Shaw