

National American Woman Suffrage Association

MEMBER NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Oklahoma City Oct. 14, 1908.

I left Chickasha on Friday afternoon. I think the work at the Fair was a great success. We had the only "rest room" on the grounds and were crowded most of the time. Distributed nearly all of our literature and had personal talks with innumerable visitors, whom we could not have reached in any other way. It was a bigger and finer Fair by far than that of Muskogee. The first day Mrs. Biggers rode with the Sorosis club and I drove by my lone self. It was funny. Want to tell you about that procession sometime.

Mrs. Stephens did not get letter in time to meet me at the train. But I phoned her early in the morning after my arrival and she notified several of the club members. They called in the afternoon. Mrs. Stephens is scarcely able to be about. Had blood poisoning or something similar in her leg. She is a mild, sweet faced gentle woman. Mrs. Lankey lives in the country ten miles out, but wants to come in a day or two each week and assist in office work if we have anything she can do. Dr. Johnson dresses well and seems businesslike. Mrs. Woodworth has been electioneering for Judge Brown for the past ten days. He was defeated. They all regret this defeat as he is a good, sincere suffragist.

We discussed the question of an office. Dr. Johnson said there was a highly desirable suite in the heart of the business section, immediately opposite or nearly so to the Democratic Headquarters. It consists of two fair sized rooms and one very little room. Second floor and on corner. Would give us windows on two streets and afford opportunity for lettering or advertising our Headquarters. Price of suite \$32.00 per month. Includes heat and running water she thinks. Every member present was enthusiastic over the location. I don't know where it is but the others seemed to think this suite just the thing, and the rent very reasonable. Please wire if I am to engage them, as we cannot get option on them for more than a day or two. If there is to be much sending out of literature, two rooms will be essential at least, for volunteer workers could not crowd into one room. For press work alone, one room is ample. This suite cannot detach a room, however. You see I haven't any idea of the scope of this campaign and so hesitate to go very far.

The Guthrie club has gone practically to pieces. This on authority of Mrs. Stephens.

Mrs. Stephens and Mrs. Lankey seem to make an effort to curb Mrs. Woodworth, but the latter is just a little too much for them. She is very assertive. As a member of the State Board, as well as the local, Woodworth "gits in" everywhere. I am trying to ascertain how she stands with other clubs, but of course this will take a little time and observation. Mrs. Stephens tells me the Suffrage Club has never had recognition by the other clubs. I trust it has federated. As to be at a meeting of the local club on Monday evening. There must be some way of reaching the various organizations of women. As soon as list of delegates is announced, have suggested that Mrs. Biggers have each one interviewed by home people as possible. Also that she send a letter from State to each. This is to be done. Please do not think me unduly. Press Work is my task, yet there is much pressing at

National American Woman Suffrage Association

MEMBER NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

this time and every day is precious. I eagerly await what you have to say in reference to the decision of the Business Committee and do hope they have decided to send workers here, and some one to take charge at this critical time.

Am staying at a little hotel, comfortable and clean. Room and board \$10.50 per week. Shall remain here until I get definite instructions from you as to place for office or Headquarters. Hotel is The Kasbach.

One thing struck me in conversation with Mrs. Biggers and with the four women who were here yesterday. They all say the same thing, viz. "The National has no money. It looks on Oklahoma as a forlorn hope and has lost enthusiasm since the Oregon defeat". This seems to have taken seal out of Oklahoma women. They appear to think the National will make but a half hearted attempt.

Received a package of articles last night. Remember me to your father, husband and the various office members.

Lovingly yours,
Ira Porter Boyer.

Equal Suffrage Association of Oklahoma and Indian Territory

President, Mrs. Kate H. Biggers, - - - Chickasha, Indian Territory
First Vice President, Mrs. Julia L. Woodworth, - Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Second Vice President, Mrs. Minnie K. Bailey, - - - Enid, Oklahoma
Recording Secretary, Mrs. Ida Ward Norvell - Wynnewood, Indian Territory
Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Cleo Ikar Harris. - Chickasha, Indian Territory

Treasurer, Miss Margaret Rees, - - - - Guthrie, Oklahoma
Auditor, Mrs. Mary B. Green, - - - - Chandler, Oklahoma
Second Auditor, Mrs. Jessie Livingston Parks, - - - Enid, Oklahoma
Third Auditor, Mrs. Hattie Sherman, - - - - McLoud, Oklahoma
National Organizer, Dr. Frances Woods, - - - Chickasha, Indian Territory

Headquarters, Room 9 India Temple, Second and Broadway Sts.

Oklahoma City,



Nov. 15th 1906

Dear Miss Clay:—

The enclosed clipping is from Monday's paper. Aw sorry for the reference to Mrs Woodworth's Oregon trip. It is quite impossible to have her prominent in any work here, and I am trying in every way to represent her, but she is as most irreparable done. Its bad that we must contend with such difficulties. Wasn't the Oregon election of officers a lively one?

Affectionately Yours
Ida Porter. Bay,

Equal Suffrage Association of Oklahoma and Indian Territory

NOV 15, 1906

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Headquarters, Room 9 India Temple, Second and Broadway Sts.

Oklahoma City,

Dear Miss Clay:-

I must add a second sheet,
Report is that the Democrats (they are 100 to
12 Rep. in Convention) purpose endorsing the
Initiative and Referendum, a few days after
assembling, and this will enable them to
refer all Reform and other measures to the
people. The Prohibitionists are much alarmed!

The total vote was:

Oklahoma	94,600
Indian Ter.	101,000
	<hr/>
	195,600

This is about double the number of Oregon voters,
think what a vast number of signatures will
be required if we get out petitions!! However
we know how to work now.

J. P. B.

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Territorial Headquarters, Chickasha, Indian Territory.

Oklahoma City, Nov. 10th 1906
 (India Temple)

Dear Miss Clay:-
 If your ears have burned lately with an unmistakable inflammation, I am the guilty party. Have tried to write to you several times, and once got as far as "Dear Miss Clay," when other duties clamored.

I have cherished a secret hope that you might be able to come to Oklahoma and help with your counsel as well as in other directions. The State needs help. You will be disappointed to know that the women in the local club here do not possess the push or ability that the Portland women possessed, even the few of the early days of the campaign.!!
 The "hustle" and "get up" of the western woman is a myth, - at least in this section. It is difficult to arouse them to a sense of individual importance or responsibility.

The time for work was in the three months just passed. Mrs. Biggers is by far the most desirable and intelligent suffragist I have met, but she has neither time nor strength

to seize the opportunities. Her greatest drawback is diffidence and reserve. When I suggested several things to her that were of the nature of personal interviews, she shrank from such action and positively refused to go to see influential people, or to public gatherings unless accompanied. She was willing to go if I went with her. I wrote Miss Shaw to this effect, and her answer was that as economy was necessary, it would be impossible for the National to provide a "Companion" for Mrs Biggers. When I expressed most readily my willingness to go with Mrs Biggers it meant that whenever I helped her for a day or two, that my own work must be done at night-time, so that I would in no sense be skylarking. It makes me sick to think of the opportunities that have been allowed to pass. The State Federation of Women's Clubs met at Lawton; Mrs Biggers could not attend it and we were "not in it." The Indian Territory Federation also met last week, and we were unrepresented and unvoiced. It seemed criminal not to try to make some impression on the Club women of the territories. Every delegate should be interviewed in his home district and by his home women before he starts for the Constitutional Convention. Some of this could be investigated by correspondence with the respective home women, and in

[NOV. 11, 1906]

Cases where we cannot stir up the women it would have been policy to send an emissary. It is too late to accomplish much in this line now. Have done what I could, but it has been chiefly by correspondence and letter-writing is not always effective.

I hope I am not giving you a wrong impression of Mrs. Biggers. She is really a fine woman, and means to do all she can, but she is of a shrinking type. It is positive pain to her to call on any one in reference to our work. I am trying to urge her to call on Mrs. Threadgill, President of the Federation, and on Mrs. Kelley of the City Federation and enlist their influence if possible. Suggested that Mrs. Stephens go with her, as she is president of our local club. That was several weeks ago, and the visit has not yet been made, although Mrs. Biggers means to do so.

We go to the Constitutional Convention with only a shadowy support and little sentiment. Last week we sent out a letter to all the Clubs asking that delegates be present at our annual meeting. Nearly every answer contains the unvarying report that the Clubs

have died. Guthrie never held a meeting after Miss Gregg left. Fine vital club that! Norman, too is dead. So are half a dozen others. We may stir them up at the Annual meeting 22" & 23 inst.

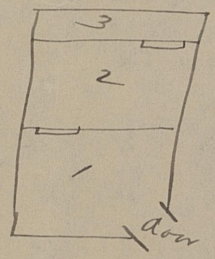
In a letter to Mrs. Biggers, Miss Shaw directs that Miss Gregg, who is to come here, proceed at once to Guthrie and select Headquarters there. Miss Shaw has evidently been much displeased that Headquarters were opened here. It was the judgment of all, that Oklahoma City was the best place for Headquarters, as this is pre-eminently the Con-ventive city, and the opportunities greater for reaching people and organization. During the two months of the Constitutional Convention it is well to have Headquarters in Guthrie, or at least to have a Committee of workers there. But in my judgment, after the Convention, the Headquarters should return here. This is the plan contemplated by other ^{political} parties.

I think I have seriously displeased Miss Shaw by occupying three rooms for Headquarters. I am to blame perhaps for giving her a wrong idea of the rooms and I seem to be unable to correct it. I am not hurt at her criticism, please do not think so, for I know if she were here, she

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would agree that it was all right. The three rooms are not so large as the one room in Portland. They are an inseparable suite; - that is there is but one door of entrance. It has been one room divided into three.

The third room is but a fair-sized closet, containing a window. The three rooms



cost \$30. - precisely what was asked for one room in a different locality. Rooms are

very, very scarce here. It is not a question of what you want, but what you can get. Anticipating a change to Luthrie the rooms are not leased for a term, but we can surrender them at the end of the month. Save the typewriter, we did not rent a piece of furniture. Some odds and ends were loaned to us. We have a rag carpet that has seen better days; two couches, one with its innards protruding, and one with a broken back; two kitchen chairs; two squeaky rockers (wooden and worn); one warped and split kitchen table that does duty as my desk; (when I have an assistant she uses it and I write on a box lid.) one rickety stand for the

typewriter; (I brace it with my knee so that the machine will not "jump" too much); a set of shelves that were formerly in a cellar. This completes the inventory. I have worked

every evening, and sometimes very late, in order to save expense of a stenographer.

Now please don't preach economy to me. I have engaged a stenographer to come on Wednesday and remain until Dec. 1" — two weeks as there will be an unusual amount of work attendant on the annual meeting and I must anticipate some contingent on the morning, so as to keep the papers going.

The newspaper response has not been so general as I hoped for. It has been too strenuous politically. Not an editor has refused me, when I have interviewed him personally, but the return postal cards are slow in coming in. I have about fifty favorable, and 10 opposed or short of space. Must keep at them and try to "line them up" before the anti's intrude.

Where I get no reply, shall try to find a woman in that town to enlist ye editor.

Please do not infer that I am finding fault with Miss Shaw. I merely want to give you the situation here.

[Nov 11, 1906]

Miss Shaw's last letter really sums up the whole thing. Her opening sentence, as I recall it is: "I have been on the road for seven weeks." It has been impossible to reach her and get a reply in time for most decisions. I trust you will not think I have been over-zealous or usurping authority, but when I saw how much others, who were interested in ^{some reform for} the new state conditions, were doing I felt as though the very utmost one could do was necessary.

Of one thing I am convinced, that in future efforts in every state, a National officer should be present to advise as well as execute. The ordinary worker may arouse the aspersion of "imported women," but a National official is conceded the customary representative of every organization, and adds dignity. That is why I wanted you here, for I presumed Miss Shaw could not come until later.

This letter is already too long and full of repetitions, but I can't refrain from discussing Mrs Woodworth. I have been more than tried with her, but have successfully frozen her out of running the office. It hasn't been an easy

task for she had the advantage of being "on her native heath," but the freezing process has been complete. She knows absolutely nothing of the office affairs, and gets no information of plans until the other members are likewise informed. She made several attempts to encroach on liberties, but I checkmated her so promptly and quietly that they have not been repeated. Don't know how much leeway she will obtain when Miss Flegg arrives, but the press department will be sealed. Locally she occupies a peculiar position. She is into everything by self-election, except the Club movement. She is energetic and never shirks when others do; but in the whole, I have concluded she does us more harm than good. Mrs Stephens tells me the other suffrajists will not work with Mrs Woodworth. If they are put on a committee with her, they are afraid she will compromise them by her indiscreet accusations. So they do no work. From a limited observation, it is my judgment that she gets along more harmoniously with the U. C. W. than with us, so I have suggested that she work through them in the Franchise Dept. That will relieve the tension in the Suffrage Club.

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Then too her officious meddling in affairs outside of Suffrage is calculated to react on us. For instance, there is here a relief association known as the Provident Assn. Its various committees and Board of Directors are composed of the leading merchants, clergymen and philanthropic women. The matron is Miss Kate Barnard. (Rumor says Mrs W. wanted the position which makes interference on her part a subject open to criticism) I never met Miss Barnard, but notice she has a series of articles in child-labor legislation, running in the Sunday papers. She has not written these articles but has been influential enough to secure them from prominent sources. Mrs Woodworth openly, in conversations, charges Miss Barnard with having been a "bad woman"; that clothing sent to the Assn for the poor, is sold to second-hand dealers; of cruelty and imposition on those who apply for relief; etc. On her own responsibility, Mrs W. went to a detective and employed or instructed him to watch Miss Barnard! Mrs Colt (detective's wife) told Mrs Stephens that Mr Colt said he never heard a more violent tirade than Mrs W. made on Miss Barnard. Her remarks on Miss B's character were outrageously impudicious. He doesn't intend to do any

detective work unless proper members of the
A.S.W. engage him.

Another case was that of Mrs. Pepper's son
who is a chronic jail-bird. On his
recent incarceration, Mrs. Pepper complained
of the unsanitary condition of the jail (Mrs. P. is
one of our members!) Whereas Mrs. W. made it
her business to go to the jail authorities
and "give them a tearing out" Now these
and like instances are not so much
altruistic as they are meddling. Then too,
her manner is so offensive that while
she means well, and works harder than
any one else, she injures herself and
the cause she champions.

Of course, if the local members can
put up with her, certainly I cannot quarrel
with her. But she must stick to local
work and not dictate mine. She has
had a hard and unlovely life; it has soured
and embittered her. She is infinitely more
vituperative and vindictive here than when
in Oregon, for here she knows the people
and they are all bad, bad!

Now that's enough unkind comment and
gossip for to-day, — Sunday too!

Sincerely yours

Law Porter-Bayer.

**Woman Suffrage Association,
OF OKLAHOMA,**

President, Mrs. Kate H. Biggers, Chickasha, Ind. Ter,
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Treasurer, Mrs. Anna Laskey, R.F.D. No 8. Oklahoma City, Ok.
Auditors { Mrs. Adelia C. Stephens, Oklahoma City, Okla.
 { Mrs. M. Taylor, Perry, Okla.



**Indian Women's Woman Suffrage League,
OF INDIAN TERRITORY,**

President, Mrs. J. R. Harris, Chickasha, Ind. Ter.
First Vice President, Mrs. Narcissa Owen, Muskogee, Ind. Ter.
Second Vice President, Mrs. H. L. Cloud, Wellston, Ind. Ter.
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Auditors { Mrs. Mamie Porter Farnsworth
 { Mrs. John Brown, Chickasha, Ind. Ter.

Headquarters: 115 1-2 West Oklahoma Ave.,
Guthrie, Okla.

Mar 23 1907

Dear Miss Clay;-

This isn't a letter, for I mean to write you one that shall be newsy, but what I want now is material for a leaflet for the Farmers' Unions. You advanced such a fine argument on the advantage of suffrage for farmers and their wives. It established a mutual topic for discussion, and of identical interests, etc.

Do you remember what I am trying to get hold of?

Another point I want to incorporate in this same leaflet is a fact that Doctor Woods heard a man at Altus, present, at a meeting there. He stated that the value of the cotton crop in one district he visited, was about one million dollars. Of this crop the women and children had "chopped" 66 2/3 %, and picked 75%. Making the total value of the women's labor an important item. This is a fine and practical ^{economic} ~~economic~~ argument. Your idea and the Doctor's will make a good leaflet. May I hope that you can send me your immediat~~ely~~? we are wholly out of literature, and am getting a supply ready for the printer's hands now.

Hope to write you in a day or two.

Sincerely Yours,

Ida Porter-Boyer

Ans. Apr. 9.

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HEADQUARTERS: 124-6 WEST MAIN STREET
ROOM 407, FOURTH FLOOR
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.,



May 22 1907

Dear Mrs. Upton:-

This is in reply to the personal part of the letter you wrote last week and which affects me only, - not the work here. First place, you will note that I did not get to Doctor Gay's until yesterday. When I reached Oklahoma City April 1st, the Doctor said the room was not ready; it needed plastering and later would be painted. This would take about a week. So I went temporarily to a cottage hotel, as few private houses would care to take me for a week only. Next the Doctor said there had been some difficulty about the plastering, a strike I think among the workmen. I waited another week. Then the painting caused a delay. Lastly her mother was taken ill and was in bed for nearly two weeks. So for one reason and another I could not go out to her home until yesterday, although I sent my baggage out there last week, when I went to S. McAlester, so as to avoid paying for my room at the hotel during the time I was away, and I presumed the room would be ready for me on Monday last.

Dr. Gay lives on the outskirts of the city. There is but one house beyond hers, and then comes the open country. There is quite a walk from the street-car terminus, and it may be necessary to take a room in town occasionally when there is a night meeting. There are not late night cars, and on a rainy or dark night, it would be almost impossible to walk from the cars to her house. There will be the steady item of carfare at least once a day.

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There are no commutation tickets.

I have been making inquiry relative to private boarding houses, in hope of securing lower rates. The result is not very encouraging. This is so different from cities in the East. I have the address of two private houses, but both would necessitate taking the street cars, and this would be no advantage pecuniarily, and would be a great loss of time. My board costs me about \$ 1.40 to \$ 1.50 per day. I have been entering it on the accounts at \$ 1.00. If I could form a combination with some one, we could divide the orders, and so reduce expenses, but I have not been able to do this.

In reference to a janitor, you will notice the expense is one dollar per month. This is for carrying away the waste paper, as I take care of the room myself. But the disposal of the contents of the waste baskets needs a garbage man, and so I compromised with the janitor for 25¢ per week.

The electric light will cost about one dollar per month. Miss Evans will take the back portion of the room June 1st, and this will reduce the room rent to \$ 10. This is cheaper than I can get a room in a private house, and we are now in the central portion. This is a great advantage, since we have a great many people who "drop in" now, but who would not go out of the way to visit us.

The type-writer costs us \$ 3.00 per month. This seems like a big price, and will soon represent the cost of a new machine. I wish we could have had one of these from Oregon.

Now in reference to my salary. It is quite impossible for me to accept your offer of \$ 120. per month to cover salary and ex-

penses. I think I made it clear that I could not work for less than one hundred dollars per month. The twenty dollars would not begin to cover the expenses, even now when I do not have room rent to consider. The item of carfare and board will amount to more than thirty dollars. Miss Shaw's point is well taken, that, "no officer or traveling man has his salary free of all expense, for instance, when a traveling man is on the road he has his expenses paid, but when permanently located he has his salary only." I can scarcely regard Oklahoma City as a permanent location. In the few weeks I have been here it has been necessary to out to Blaine County to the west, and half way across the state to the east. There are numerous engagements awaiting me, or some one, among the clubs, and the third week in August, we have promised to help the Guthrie women to conduct the Suffrage headquarters at their Chautauqua. If Dr. Woods cannot go to the barbecue in Kiowa Co. in July, that date must be supplied.

My personal expenses are much more than when at home. The laundry bills alone are three times greater than I can have the same done at home. Then there is the question of subscriptions to various public affairs that I have sustained wholly alone. And in every case I have made such as a Suffrage contribution. However this has no bearing on the case.

Please do not misunderstand me Mrs Upton. I do not desire to be unkind or harsh in this matter. I think you are doing just right and that you know better than anyone else what the exchequer is warranted in paying. Now I am going to relieve you of embarrassment and suggest that you send some other worker here to look after the Headquarters. I will have everything in such smooth order

[May 22, 1907]

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that it will be easy for her to take hold, and the information will be so get-at-able that a few days will suffice to grasp all the points. I am truly and honestly sorry from the very bottom of my heart that I can not stay right here on your terms, for I would rather do this suffrage work than anything else. It has been a source of regret to me that I could not offer myself gratuitously. My own affairs are such that I have assumed financial obligations that require exertion to meet. That is the whole story in a nutshell.

Will you think me unduly officious if I suggest that whoever you decide upon to take my place that it be one who will not be antagonistic at this crisis. We are angling for friends, not digging our enemies. I have a very especial reason for suggesting this.

We have had a tremendous correspondence with friends known and unknown all over the territories. If necessary to retrench, this can be curtailed, although it will be a pity to fail to enlist such sympathizers. Our lists of names is highly gratifying. We have written scores of letters to nearly every section asking that suffragists interview candidates. Some of the candidates are amazed at the liveness of the suffrage question.

I shall peg away until I hear from you. Please advise me as soon as your arrangements are ready. While it does not make much difference to me where I am located, yet it is necessary to me to know in time to effect my personal plans, in order that I do not waste time.

Sincerely yours,

Ida Porter Boyer

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HEADQUARTERS: 124-6 WEST MAIN STREET
ROOM 407, FOURTH FLOOR



OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.,

May 17 1907

Dear Mrs. Upton:-

This letter is intended to give you a partial report of the past week, as well as to answer some of the points in your letter of 6 th inst.

Friday 11th I attended the Press Convention at South We. Alester. I think I met every newspaper man and woman present and had an interesting chat with nearly every one, as I stayed at the hotel where Headquarters were. Got along so well with some of them, that I was asked to represent them as one of the Press delegates to Jamestown. I could not honestly accept the nomination for I knew it would be impossible to attend. But I felt pleased however that the nomination was offered to us. Nearly broke my heart to decline. Saturday I left for Shawnee, where I wanted to do some interviewing. Arrived Saturday evening too late to see any one, but I did find some of those I wanted to see on Sunday. First was Mr. Daws. He is lecturer and organizer for the Farmers' Unions. He is our friend, and will do what he can for us along his routes. I think he means well, but he is not a very aggressive man. There has been bitter dissension among the farmers' Union directors, just at present they are to re-unite the two disaffected branches, and arrange for a Mass Meeting. My errand at Shawnee was to find out how we stood with the various men personally, and to arrange for a place on their program at the mass meeting. Mr. J.A. West, president pledged himself to do all he can for us. Then I saw Hansen,

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the Sec'y. Got his promise to present a resolution making woman suffrage one of the demands in their platform. I believe he will do this, but we must be on the ground to urge him. All these Union men need constant prodding. Later in the day Mr. West brought Mr. Henchin to call on me. He is another lecturer, and West instructed him to put in a plea for woman suffrage in his lectures. That was very gratifying.

Then I went to the Labor headquarters. Here Mr. Lynch was ready to do all he could. He wants our help to organize Teachers' Unions and I assured him we would assist wherever we could do so along our routes. His difficulty is to get women of intelligence for this work. He will line up the labor organizations to co-operate with the Farmers Unions at the Mass meeting.

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least a dozen paid-up members from these stray folk. Two came in today. One a Kansas woman who is a suffragist, but did not know we had any organization here. I took her name and will ask Mrs. Stephens to call on her. These are all drift wood that we would not reach if we were in the suburbs. Really this central location is a fine business stroke. Then too, the men will come here when they would not go to a place less accessible. Hanraty was here this afternoon. A Mr. Bowerman, labor union lecturer dropped in yesterday. There has not been a week that some of the politicians have not popped in for a moment's visit. This means considerable to us I have been fortunate in getting a friend to rent the back part of the room. We can divide it by curtains. She will take possession June 1st, and will pay ten dollars per month. She intends to teach cutting and designing to private classes. She will also pay one-half the telephone rent.

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By the way how does the new Governor of New Mexico, Capt. Curry stand on woman suffrage?

You authorize two local workers. I fear it will be difficult to get these. Everyone seems to object to doing any work during August and September, and at the present the crops demand the attention of the farmers, and teachers do not think they can forgo vacation.

The present outlook for Statehood is very uncertain, but it is a great opportunity to crystalize sentiment. If a new Enabling Act should be passed, would it not be POSSIBLE, in view of the vast support we can roll up, to have suffrage embodied in it. It would mean pressure at Washington, and I believe the Republicans would make it a party measure here. I do not say that it would be the best thing to do, but I believe we can pull some big strings here. We have Congressman McGuire, and some influential men locally.

The Republicans will probably hold their Convention June 6th at Tulsa. If we could make them see that we have backing, and would turn in and work, they might consider us.

The Democrats had the opportunity, but did not accept it. If we want anything politically, we must turn in for politics.

Now don't be afraid that I contemplate anything rash, for

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this is merely a suggestion, and not within my province to decide.

Sincerely Yours,

Ira Porter - Boyer

Oklahoma City, Okla. May 9, 1907.

Rev. Anna H. Shaw,

Swarthmore, Penna.

Dear Miss Shaw & Miss Upton;

I have been waiting for a long time for some definite instruction from the Business Committee, in reply to my letter written in March.

POLITICAL SITUATIONS here in Oklahoma are very complex, and no one can do any thing other than merely guess as to the outcome. It is a great question whether the Constitution will be ratified by the people or not. It is very unpopular among the Democrats, as well as the Republicans. It is essentially a machine document, and general dissatisfaction is very freely expressed. The gerrymander in the legislative apportionments, has been so flagrant that it places the State under Democratic control for the next twenty-five years. This has thoroughly aroused the Republicans. They held a mass meeting last week regarding the advisability of putting out a State ticket. This mass meeting was largely attended and it was agreed to call a Convention, June 6th, at which over 1500 delegates are to be present, to decide what attitude the Republican Party will take. The Democrats are divided among themselves on the Gubernatorial candidate. Mr. Haskell is clever and wily, a politician to the finger tips, and a born demagogue. He owns several large papers, - the New State Tribune and Times Democrat, - in Muskogee. These are his campaign organs, but he has a formidable opponent in the largest paper, in the Territory, the Daily Oklahoman, which has championed Cruce, the Democratic Gubernatorial candidate from Ardmore. The Oklahoma side is Republican, with a majority of its population former Kansans. Indian Territory, while pronouncedly Democratic, Texans, Missourians, Arkansans, - is divided against itself. The Western section Democrats with their center at Ardmore, are always at enmity with the Eastern section Democrats, with Muskogee as a center. It is the most appalling political mix-up that any one can conceive. Allied with the Democrats are the Prohibitionists, while the liquor dealers are lined up with the Republicans. All parties irrespective of factional fights, are catering to the Labor Unions & Farmers' Unions. It would take a great many pages to explain the wiles adopted to catch the F. & L. Unions. The most recent development is that the Governor may refuse to issue an election proclamation. Mr. Murray, President of the Constitutional Convention, refuses to file the original engrossed copy of the Constitution, with the Sec. of State. Murray claims that as President of the Convention, he is entitled to the custody of the sheep skin copy, and refuses to

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surrender the same. He has offered to Sec. Filson & Gov. France, a typewritten copy which has been rejected by the two gentlemen. Murray threatens to call an election himself. The Enabling Act clearly authorizes the Governor to perform this duty. The Governor maintains that he will not call the election until he first has the original copy; and until he does receive it, the people are not in a position to know what they are voting upon or about. The Constitutional Convention has not adjourned sine die, therefore, it is within Murray's province to reassemble the members as often and whenever he chooses. They reassembled two weeks ago, and fixed their date of meeting for August 5th, the day preceding the election. This means that on the 5th day of August, they could reconsider or amend certain sections of the Constitution, and there would not be time to give the people an opportunity to learn of the changes. It has been a great political game, and let me tell you that for unscrupulous machine methods, this infant State of Oklahoma can give Penna. cards and spades and beat her in the end. I am sending you a number of clippings from the leading news papers, which are interesting political reading. The State Capital, The Post and the Phoenix are the leading Republican papers. The Oklahoma and the Times Democrat are the chief Democratic papers. You will be able to compare political opinions.

FARMERS' UNION- This is another situation in which there has been a family difficulty. Some time ago, there was a dissension among these Unions, which resulted in a split. The seceded Unions were lead by, or had as a member Mr. Murray, of Convention notoriety. Their chief organ is the Indianhema Signal. The opposing organ is the Oklahoma Union Messenger. This has Mr. J. Harvey Lynch for it's chief adherent. There is now on foot, a movement to reunite these two factions which promises success. I mention this attitude that you may understand the extremely hazardous position in which we suffragists are working, how very careful we must be in order to avoid a tangle. The Farmers' Unions thus far, are our very good friends. We are getting resolutions nearly every day from the various Locals. I wrote to every secretary in Caddo Co., 89 in all, and have arranged a route through that Co. for Mrs. Laskey. She is valuable to us, not especially as a speaker, as because she is a Farmers Union member, with their grip, pass word, & etc. that gives her access to the Local meetings. In reply to our requests for a hearing the responses have been so many, and there were so many duplicate dates, that I wrote to day to Mrs. Toothman of Caddo Co (Mrs. Lankey's sister) asked if she could not fill some of the dates. We must fill these dates on the regular meeting nights of the Locals, otherwise we cannot get the resolutions officially. Mrs. Toothman has been described to me as a very attractive and intellectual kind of a woman. I have asked her to take the dates of Locals in her immediate neighborhood, so that the traveling expenses would not be great. These resolutions of endorsement are clinchers, and if we can roll up a list of several hundred Locals, we will have done a great work. The numerous candidates are making frantic efforts to get before these Locals for personal endorsement, but the Unions are very suspicious. Our advantage lies in the fact that we are absolutely nonpartisan. I think some of the candidates would give a great deal to be able to get endorsements such as we have secured. We are not publishing a single one of them, and trust that our political enemies will not find out that we are working among the Unions, for if Murray or any of his coherents were to send around a circular it would bar us of any thing further in

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

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this line. These resolutions are not the only ones we are securing. We have quite a number signed by citizens and taxpayers, when ever we hold meetings at school houses or meetings of any kind; and the W.C.T.U. women are sending us some from their organizations, and we are trying to secure them from womans' Clubs, & etc. You will no doubt be interested in the report of the work as far as returns have come in.

DR. WOODS FIELD-, was chiefly in Kiowa & Blaine Counties. Miss Campbell went also to render assistance to the Dr. Together they secured the adoption of resolutions from four F.Unions, secured signatures to 129 enrollment cards, and three paid up members. One F.U. Local sent back a resolution marked rejected; this is the only one of its kind that has been refused. I think no doubt the Dr. was in a hard field.

MISS GREGG- Miss Gregg spent a short time in Logan Co. in the vicinity of Guthrie, and I have no F.U. Resolutions from her. She seems to have been holding school house meetings generally, and she has sent in resolutions from 13 District meetings with a total of signature appended 249, endorsing woman suffrage. In Logan, Garfield and Kingfisher Counties, she has rounded up 40 new members.

Mrs. LASKEY,-has secured four endorsements from school District meetings with 57 signatures, and 12 paid up members, and a few enrolled members.

Mrs. BRANSTETTER,- Last week I noticed a little piece in the news paper that the Cleveland F.U. would meet near Norman, this next morning. I immediately called Mrs. Branstetter over the telephone, and asked her if she would not attend and try to get a resolution through the Co. meeting. Her letter explains what an interesting time she had. She came to Oklahoma City, last Sunday and spent the day with me, and has promised to undertake to work among the Locals in Cleveland Co. She will do this for her traveling expenses. Now, you will see that I have had to go ahead pending instructions from the Business Committee. The opportunities were pressing, and too valuable to lose. Mrs. Laskey expects to go to Canada in a very short time. Her husband has written for her. He is up there on a claim. That is why I asked Mrs. Toothman to fill some of the dates, for Mrs. Laskey is such an impulsive person that it would not surprise me, at any minute, to have her pop in here, cheerfully and smilingly tell me that she was on her way to Canada. We are trying to fill in dates among the F.U. Locals.

Last week I spoke in the El Reno Church; on Monday night before the Oklahoma City Club.

On the 10th and the 11th, I am going to South Mc Alister to the Convention of State Editorial Association. On Sunday or Monday (I will have a little conference at the Labor Headquarters in Shawnee.

LABOR UNIONS- If we can get the Labor Unions to make woman suffrage one of their first demands from the legislature, we will have accomplished a great deal in the way of creating sentiment and agitation. We were told by Mr. Lynch and Mr. Hanraty that this might have been accomplished before the past election, if they had been assured that we would have been on the ground to put up a campaign

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among the working people with the positive endorsement of the Farmers' and Labor Unions, such as we are now securing. We have substantial support to show to politicians who have been afraid to favor us. The present work among the Unions is by far the most practical, we have done. We are getting woman suffrage on a political basis, in our work among the Unions. If the Constitution should be defeated, we are in a fine position to make a good showing.

I wish you would consider the field and the amount of work to be done. There are 75 Counties in the new State. Of these Dr. Wood, partially worked Kiowa and Baline, neither have been exhaustively done, but she will return to work for us. I think her idea is to go back to these counties and finish them.

Miss Gregg did a few days work in Logan Co., outside of Guthrie. She is now in Garfield Co., and will continue work in Woods and Grant for the month of June.

Mrs. Laskey is in Caddo Co. Mrs. Branstetter, in Cleveland Co. Mrs. Branstetter's work will be very limited, as she has two babies, and can by no means give her entire time to us. This means six Counties out of 75, with the whole of Indian Territory untouched. It is doubtful that we can depend on Dr. Woods to do any work for us this summer. She has reiterated this to me, so frequently, that we are not to depend on her; and while she has not positively told me, she has had an offer made to her to go in partnership, in the real estate business. I am inclined to think it is a very tempting offer. The business opportunities for a capable woman are most unusual out here. I presume if the Dr. decides upon taking this step, she will advise you of it. I think her reason would be purely financial, for there is no discounting her suffrage principles. One of the great opportunities during the summer, will be the picnics and barbecues that are universally the fashion. Every little community seems to have them.

So far as the chances of victory are concerned, between Oklahoma and Oregon, (and I think these are the only two States which I feel competent to pass judgment upon,) there is three times the opportunity for woman suffrage in Oklahoma that we ever had in Oregon.

The managers of the Chautauquas at Guthrie and Oklahoma City have both asked for Miss Shaw. We wrote to Miss Shaw about coming to Guthrie, and I presume she will hear from Okla. City in a day or two. Rev. Harger asked about Miss Shaw, and I suggested that he write her- while privately I didn't think she could accept, I thought it would do her and the Board good to find out how much she was in demand. I wish that one of the National Officers could be here in Headquarters to understand the great opportunities there are here, and the kind of work the Headquarters is called upon to do. The volume of correspondence is very much greater here than it ever was at Oregon. While, of course, we do not have the mailing of the literature which formed a tremendous labor, but the personal letters, the daily mail is very much greater indeed. The making of routes among the various Unions, entails a great deal of correspondence-as many as six, eight or ten letters even being required to secure and then adjust a date, in order to get them in sequence as well as to save mileage. Last week and this, has necessitated a good bit of

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writing to Caddo Co., several hundred letters having gone there. The result has been that we have filled in a route which takes every date, from the 6 to 29. What makes it difficult is that we cannot make a route arbitrarily, and must make the different dates fit the Local Unions, and when the Union in one part of the country has its meetings, the same night that another Union in the Southern portion of the County has its', it is difficult to get every thing smoothed out.

LITERATURE- We are very much hampered for literature? I wrote some time ago for copies of "Do you know", "Five Mayors" and other leaflets at National Headquarters, but these have not yet arrived. We should have a special leaflet for Farmers' Unions, one for Labor Unions. I outlined these in a former letter, but have not been authorized to go ahead and have any printed; neither has anything been said in reference to the typewriter, which is costing us \$3.00 per month. I have already paid 8 months rent for it.

ENROLLMENT- I hope some solution has been reached relative to the standing of enrolled members. This is rather a vexing question from several standpoints, and I trust some means may be devised, whereby we will not only have a revenue from the enrollment, but some thing to offer the enrolled.

PLEGGED- I think there will be no difficulty whatever in collecting \$500 which Miss Gregg pledged at the National Convention. The Guthrie Club will raise \$100, and in fact already has \$56 subscribed on this pledge. The Chickasha Club has promised \$1.00, and I think the Oklahoma City Club will do the same.

It is just fine to see how the subject of woman suffrage crops out, at so many of the mass meetings, and the various candidates who give it publicity. I wish Miss Clay or Miss Gordon could be here in Headquarters. Mrs. Biggers is living on her claim, near Marlowe. It will be impossible for her to do any thing in the way of help at the office. My anxiety is that she may refuse reelection as State President, for I think she would gladly give the place to some one else. This would be a very serious thing, because there is no one whose name seems to be so well known or who stands as she does in this Section. Her name is signed to every letter that goes out from the office, and she is very tactful about all the relations. It made a very great difference when she dropped out of the office at Guthrie, besides she attended to much of the Club and other correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

Ira Porter - Boyer

WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION
OF OKLAHOMA

President, Mrs. Kate H. Biggers, Chickasha, Ind. Ter.
First Vice President, Mrs. Minnie Keith Bailey, Enid, Okla.
Second Vice President, Mrs. N. M. Carter, Cuthrie, Okla.
Recording Secretary, Mrs. Ida Wood Norvell Wynnewood, I. T.
Corresponding Sec'y, Mrs. Jessie Livingston Parks, Enid Okla.
Treasurer, Mrs. Anna Laskey, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Auditors } Mrs. Adella C. Stephens, Oklahoma City, Okla.
 } Mrs. M. Taylor, Perry, Okla.

INDIAN WOMEN'S
WOMAN SUFFRAGE LEAGUE
OF INDIAN TERRITORY

President, Mrs. J. R. Harris, Chickasha, Ind. Ter.
First Vice President, Mrs. Narcissa Owen, Muskogee, Ind. Ter.
Second Vice President, Mrs. H. L. Cloud, Wellston, Ind. Ter.
Recording Secretary, Mrs. Minnie Randolph, Wynnewood, I. T.
Cor. Sec'y, Mrs. Martha Phillips Atkinson, Chickasha, I. T.
Treasurer, Mrs. A. K. McKellop, Muskogee, I. T.
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 } Mrs. John Brown, Chickasha, I. T.

HEADQUARTERS: 124-6 WEST MAIN STREET
ROOM 407, FOURTH FLOOR
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.,



Oklahoma City, Okla. May 9, 1907.

Miss Laura Clay,
Lexington, Kentucky.

Dear Miss Clay;

I am sending a duplicate of enclosed letter to Miss Shaw,
also to Miss Gordon and Mrs. Upton. I have not touched on the Press
work in this because I want to make an analysis of our papers for
you, according to their political complexion.

I am rushing through things to day, and expect to leave
on the early morning train for the State Press Convention.

Sincerely yours,

Ida Porter-Bayer

May 27, 1907
Oklahoma, May 17, 1907

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Dear Mrs. Upton:-

"This letter is intended to give you a partial report of the past week, as well as to answer some of the points in your letter of the 6th inst..

Friday, 11th, I attended the Press Convention at South McAlester. I think I met every newspaper man and woman present, and had an interesting chat with nearly every one, as I stayed at the hotel where Headquarters were. Got along so well with some of them, that I was asked to represent them as one of the Press delegates to Jamestown. I could not honestly accept the nomination, for I knew it would be impossible to attend. But I felt pleased, however, that the nomination was offered me to us. Nearly broke my heart to decline. Saturday I left for Shawnee, where I wanted to do some interviewing. Arrived Saturday evening, too late to see anyone, but I did find some of those I wanted to see on Sunday. First was Mr. Daws. He is lecturer and organizer for the Farmers' Unions. He is our friend, and will do what he can for us along his routes. I think he means well, but he is not a very aggressive man. There has been bitter dissension among the Farmers' Union directors. Just at present they are to re-unite the two disaffected branches, and arrange for a mass meeting. My errand at Shawnee was to find out how we stood with the various men personally, and to arrange for a place on their program at the mass meeting. Mr. J. A. West, President, pledged himself to do all he can for us. Then I saw Hansen, the secretary. Got his promise to present a resolution making woman suffrage one of the demands in their platform. I believe he will do this, but we must be on the ground to urge him. All these Union men need constant prodding. Later in the day Mr. West brought Mr. Henchin to call on me. He is another lecturer, and West instructed him to put in a plea for woman suffrage in his lectures. That was very gratifying.

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[May 27, 1907]

a party measure. I do not say that it would be the best thing to do, but I believe we can pull some big strings here. We have Congressmen McGuire and some influential men locally. The Republicans will probably hold their Convention June 6 at Tulsa. If we could make them see that we have backing, and would turn in and work, they might consider us. The Democrats had the opportunity, but did not accept it. If we want anything politically, we must turn in for politics.

Now don't be afraid that I contemplate anything rash, for this is merely a suggestion, and not within my province to decide.

Sincerely yours "

(Signed)

IDA PORTER BOYER

May 27, 1907 8

(COPY)

Oklahoma City, Okla., May 22ⁿ. 1907.

Dear Mrs. Upton,

This is in reply to the personal part of the letter you wrote last week and which affects me only- not the work here. First place, you will note that I did not get to Dr. Gay's until yesterday. When I reached Oklahoma City April 1st. the Doctor said the room was not ready; it needed plastering and later would be painted. This would take about a week. So I went temporarily to a cottage hotel, as few private houses would care to take me for a week only. Next the Doctor said there ~~was~~ had been some difficulty about the plastering, a strike I think among the workmen. I waited another week. Then the painting caused a delay. Lastly her mother was taken ill and was in bed for nearly two weeks. So for one reason and another, I could not go out to her home until yesterday, although I sent my baggage out there last week when I went to S. McAlester, so as to avoid paying for my room at the hotel during the time I was away, and I presumed the room would be ready for me on Monday last. Dr. Gay lives on the outskirts of the city. There is but one house beyond hers, and then comes the open country. There is quite a walk from the street car terminus, and it may be necessary to take a room in town occasionally when there is a night meeting. There are not late night cars, and on a rainy or dark night, it would be almost impossible to walk from the cars to her house. There will be a steady item of car fare at least once a day. There are no commutation tickets.

I have been making inquiry relative to private boarding houses, in hope of securing lower rates. The result is not very encouraging. This is so different from cities in the east. I have the addresses of two private houses, but both would necessitate taking the street cars, and this would be no advantage pecuniarily, and would be a great loss of time. My board costs me about \$1 40 to \$1 50 a day. I have been entering it on the accounts at \$1 00. If I could form a combination with some one, we could divide the

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orders and so reduce expenses, but I have not been able to do this.

In reference to a janitor, you will notice the expense is one dollar a month. This is for carrying away the waste paper, as I take care of the room myself. But the disposal of the contents of the waste baskets needs a garbage man, and so I compromised with the janitor for 25¢ per week.

The electric light will cost about one dollar per month. Miss Evans will take the back portion of the room June 1st. and this will reduce the room rent to \$10. This is cheaper than I can get a room in a private house, and we are now in the central portion. This is a great advantage since we have a great many people who "drop in" now but who would not go out of the way to visit us.

The type-writer costs us \$3 00 per month. This seems like a big price, and will soon represent the cost of a new machine. I wish we could have had one of those from Oregon.

Now in reference to my salary. It is quite impossible for me to accept your offer of \$120 per month to cover salary and expenses. I think I made it clear that I could not work for less than one hundred dollars per month. The twenty dollars would not begin to cover the expenses, even now when I do not have room rent to consider. The item of car fare and board will amount to more than thirty dollars. Miss Shaw's point is well taken, that "no officer or traveling man has his salary free of all expense; for instance, when a traveling man is on the road, he has his expenses paid, but when permanently located he has his salary only." I can scarcely regard Oklahoma City as a permanent location. In the few weeks I have been here, it has been necessary to go out to Blaine County to the west, and half way across the state to the east. There are numerous engagements awaiting me, or someone, among the clubs and the third week in August, we have promised to help the Guthrie women to conduct the Suffrage headquarters at their Chautauqua. If Dr. Woods

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cannot go to the barbecue in Kiowa County in July, that date must be supplied.

My personal expenses are much more than when at home. The laundry bills alone are three times greater than I can have the same done at home. Then there is the question of subscriptions to various public affairs that I have sustained wholly alone. And in every case I have made such as a suffrage contribution. However, this has no bearing on the case.

Please do not misunderstand me Mrs. Upton, I do not desire to be unkind or harsh in this matter. I think ^{you} we are doing just right and that you know better than anyone else what the exchequer is warranted in paying. Now I am going to relieve you of embarrassment and suggest that you send some other worker here to look after the Headquarters., I will have everything in such smooth order that it will be easy for her to take hold and the information will be so get-atable that a few days will suffice to grasp all the points. I am truly and honestly sorry from the very bottom of my heart that I cannot stay right here on your terms, for I would rather do this suffrage work than anything else. It has been a source of regret to me that I could not offer myself gratuitously. My own affairs are such that I have assumed financial obligations that require exertion to meet. That is the whole story in a nutshell.

Will you think me unduly officious if I suggest that whoever you decide upon to take my place, that it be one who will not be antagonistic at this crisis. We are angling for friends, not digging our enemies. I have a very especial reason for suggesting this.

We have had a tremendous correspondence with friends known and unknown all over the territories. If necessary to retrench, this can be curtailed, although it will be a pity to fail to enlist such sympathizers. Our lists of names are highly gratifying. We have written scores of letters to nearly every section asking that suffragists interview candidates. Some of the candidates are amazed at the liveness of the suffrage question.

I shall peg away until I hear from you. Please advise me as soon as your arrangements are ready. While it does not make much difference to me where I am located, yet it is necessary to me to know in time to effect my personal plans, in order that I do not waste time.

Sincerely yours,
Ida Porter Boyer.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION
OF OKLAHOMA

President, Mrs. Kate H. Biggers, Chickasha, Ind. Ter.
First Vice President, Mrs. Minnie Keith Bailey, Enid, Okla.
Second Vice President, Mrs. N. M. Carter, Guthrie, Okla.
Recording Secretary, Mrs. Ida Wood Norvell, Wynnewood, I. T.
Corresponding Sec'y, Mrs. Jessie Livingston Parks, Enid, Okla.
Treasurer, Mrs. Anna Laskey, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Auditors { Mrs. Adella C. Stephens, Oklahoma City, Okla.
 Mrs. M. Taylor, Perry, Okla.

INDIAN WOMEN'S
WOMAN SUFFRAGE LEAGUE
OF INDIAN TERRITORY

President, Mrs. J. R. Harris, Chickasha, Ind. Ter.
First Vice President, Mrs. Narcissa Owen, Muskogee, Ind. Ter.
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 Mrs. John Brown, Chickasha, Ind. Ter.

HEADQUARTERS: 124-6 WEST MAIN STREET

ROOM 407, FOURTH FLOOR

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. Aug. 27, 1907.

Headquarters Secretary, Mrs. Ida Porter Boyer, Oklahoma City, Okla.
State Lecturers { Dr. Frances Woods, Chickasha, Ind. Ter.
 Miss Laura Gregg, Guthrie, Okla.



Miss Laura Clay,

Richmond, Ky.

My dear Miss Clay;

I am chagrined to note that your letter bears the date of July 31st, and should have received an earlier reply, but as you know I have had a great deal of outside work in connection with the office. The opportunities open out and grow greater each week; by comparison, the Guthrie work of last winter seems very limited. We are right in with the politicians, and both Democrats and Republicans are showing us appreciation that is almost unexpected in volume. Mrs. Biggers enjoyed very much a little bit of gossip brought here by Mrs. Cora Hamilton, of Chickasha. Texas people and Texas news papers are deeply interested in everything pertaining to Okla. This is a very natural interest, since many of the Oklahomans have come from Texas. Mrs. Hamilton was visiting down in Texas, and on her return spent a few days with Mrs. Biggers. Mrs. Hamilton knew very little of the recent politics of Oklahoma, save what she gleaned from the Texas news papers, but she ~~said~~ ^{heard} that it was current report that the Woman Suffrage Association was very active, and it was wholly owing to its influence that Robert L. Owen was nominated for the U. S. Senate, so you see we are getting all the credit (and it does not belong to us) for what is conceded as ~~the~~ ^{the} very best nomination on the Democratic ticket. We are endeavoring to ascertain the attitude of candidates before their election, and the replies that are coming in to our letters of inquiry are very gratifying. In these answers we are justified in attributing more sincerity than when protestations of sympathy are given after election; furthermore, many of the candidates are politely requesting our support. I have heard a peculiar report recently. It first came from Mrs. Branstetter of Cleveland Co., who wrote to Headquarters asking if it was true that Haskell was endorsing woman suffrage. This was right after Owen's nomination. Mrs. Branstetter said that she had several times heard that Mr. Haskell had stated his belief in woman suffrage while he made his campaign in Cleveland Co. Of course, we place no ~~precedence~~ ^{precedence} in this rumor and pay little attention to it. The last came from Mrs. Norvell of Wynnewood. She was here in the Headquarters on Saturday, and said that she understood that Haskell stated in Wynnewood that he believed they had made a mistake in opposing woman suffrage. Mrs. Norvell is intensely Republican, and so did not hear him make his statement. Now, it is not probable that Haskell actually believes what he ~~says~~ ^{says}, even if these statements are true, but it is probable that he thinks it expedient to reckon with the influence of the woman suffragists, and that is a very comforting thought. Furthermore, Mr. Norman Prueitt is one of the leading Democrats of the

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State. Miss Kate Bernard was in our Headquarters recently and says that Mr. Prueitt is making ardent speeches in favor of woman suffrage; that his arguments are some of the finest she has ever heard. Some weeks ago, I met Mr. Haskell's private stenographers, Mrs. Jarrell and Miss Seaman. I invited them to call at our Headquarters, and they made me a nice little visit last week. Mrs. Jarrell said that one of the most discussed topics at Democratic Headquarters was that of woman suffrage, and she over-heard some of the Democratic leaders say that if they could have carried the load they would have made woman suffrage a party endorsement, but that prohibition and woman suffrage was too big a load to carry at one time; and then Mrs. Jarrell intimated that woman suffrage would be a future party measure. It is quite significant that Mr. Humbarger of the Oklahoman, who is now Press Agent for Haskell, said what is tantamount to the same thing.

Republican gossip runs along the same lines, in fact, I am confident we could have had endorsement from the Republican Convention, at Tulsa if we had asked for it, for I have been told by several of the candidates that this matter was very favorably discussed in the Republican Headquarters. I presume you know that Mrs. Biggers was urged to accept the nomination for State Commissioner of Charities. This was no doubt as much recognition for woman suffrage, as it was a tribute to her personally, so you see, My National Lady, we can camp in the tents of both parties, and we haven't an enemy in either camp. Really, it is delightful at the Democratic and Republican Headquarters, the chivalry and courtesy is so thick that it could not be cut with a knife, and it is just lovely to go to a County picnic and be a speaker with any of the politicians. They throw so many bouquets and compliments that I have to re-adjust my hat pins when my head begins to swell in my pride at being a suffragist. We are concentrating on the legislative candidates, and we will have a goodly number of friends in the coming legislature, those who have committed themselves to us before the election, so that it will be an easy matter from the present outlook to get a 16th Amendment Resolution from the legislature.

The Labor Unions would make your heart glow with comfort. They gave us a fine endorsement at their State Convention, and invited me to be a guest of honor at the Labor banquet, and we had such a good time that I have since had an invitation from the Federated Trades Council, Oklahoma City; from the Secretary of the Trades Council of Chant, I.T. to make an address before each of them, and I have accepted an invitation to make an address at Labor Hall, Oklahoma City, on the first Thursday in October. The Secretary of the Trades Council in Ardmore has put me on the program with John I. Mitchell for an address at their Labor Day celebration. This latter is a very appalling honor, since the candidates for State offices covet such opportunities and are bringing much pressure to get on programs, so that it seems almost too good to be true that we receive an invitation unsolicited. I wish Miss Gregg were here to fill the engagement, for I do not feel big enough to size up to the task, but I shall go and do my very best. The Federation of Labor is Democratic in its conduct, and rotation in office makes Mr. E. A. Bowerman, the successor of Mr. Hanratty, and Mr. J. Harvey Lynch's successor is Mr. J. Luther Langston. Mr. Bowerman is with us most heartily, and Mr. Langston is a recent convert and in his enthusiasm is very chummy and friendly. He and Mr. Hanratty were my body-guard for Mrs. Biggers and myself, while at Shawnee. I have an invitation to take supper with Mrs. Langston at their home here in Oklahoma City, so you see we are very good friends.

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Mr. Cobb was defeated for the Congressional nomination, but has been nominated as a representative from Creek and Tulsa Counties. Mr. Cloud is a candidate for State Senator from Lincoln and Pottawatomie Counties. It is probable that both will secure election.

Did I tell you that a Committee, consisting of Mrs. Biggers, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Bennett and myself called on Governor Frantz, and the Governor has assured us that while he has not advocated suffrage, he believes in its arguments of justice and he will in no way oppose it, and those Republicans are watching us like cats. Hugh Scott, the private stenographer of Gov. Frantz, told a friend of mine that Owen's nomination was due entirely to the Woman suffrage Association.

Do you know that the new Constitution which has just come from the press on day before yesterday has received another final twist? The Initiative and Referendum will require a majority of the voters voting at the election to carry any amendment. This emasculates the whole thing. Mrs. Biggers intends to write to Mr. Owen and ask him whether in his opinion we can get a Constitutional Amendment by Legislative Referendum, under this final re-vision of the Constitution. Legislative Amendments require only a majority of voters voting on the Amendment. Mr. Owen was right when he said that if woman suffrage had been written in the Constitution, the women could vote at this coming election.

We have received a letter from Miss Shaw, in which she states that I shall close the Headquarters, Sept. 15th. Of course, I shall obey instructions, but I can not help but feel that it is a very serious error to close before the election. The Constitutional Convention will reconvene Sept. 16th, the election will be Sept. 17th, and it is quite possible that there will be changes made in the Initiative & Referendum as well as along several other lines not important to us, but the Initiative is. Then, too, our Headquarters have been very popular and grow more so each day, so it would seem to us as though they should be kept open that we can give information to our many callers during the exciting time of the election. I had made dates for picnics, Labor Unions, & etc. to October 10th, but of course I can cancel these or Miss Gregg *may* be sent into the Territory and can fill these.

Dr. Woods leaves here next Saturday for a short stay in Kansas, and meditates a future residence in Arizona. She is very much shattered physically, has been in bed with neuralgic, nervous attacks five times within the past two months. She is unable to keep up her office work in the real estate business, and will positively rest for the coming six months of the year. In this she is very wise, for she is very much broken since you saw her. She thinks the winds have been too strong and the extremes too trying. It really has been quite warm; the day I came up from the Marlow picnic, the thermometer was 106 in the car. I think that was about as warm a day as any we have had.

Mrs. Biggers has a very pleasant home and a beautiful farm three miles from Marlow. Her health is much improved, and during the part of the day that I spent there I was privileged to chop a row of cotton-- great fun-- and it really ought to make me eligible to the Farmers' Union. Major & Mrs. Biggers have sent in their application to the Farmers' Union at Marlow, and this will be quite an advantage in Mrs. Biggers' future work.

I have grown quite home-sick, literally count the days intervening before I reach home, but of course, I would not sacrifice any of the work to gratify any of my own yearnings, while I am unexpressably glad to be able to go home, yet it reduces me almost to desperation to think that the work has attained such a development here and to fear that it will not be continued. Will it not be possible for you to come out and take advantage of the numberless opportunities? It seems almost a suffrage crime that Indian Territory should be left un-worked, and it ill becomes me to make further suggestions to the National, when I know what a great expense has been incurred here at Headquarters, but indeed, Miss Clay, it just meant that we could not let the opportunity slide. I am very confident that if you had been here and seen the amount of work that we did, you would be assured that we got more than sufficient return from the outlay. Of course, we have not had the work that was attendant on the mailing of literature at Oregon, but I do know that the general correspondence fully equals that of the Oregon campaign, and when you think that this has been with but one assistant in the office, since we left Guthrie, I am confident that the Business Committee will eliminate any thought of extravagance.

The land-lord is not here at present, but I have asked his clerk to endeavor to release us for the rent Sept. 15th. She thinks that this will be done if we can get a tenant to take up the balance of the month, otherwise, we will be obliged to pay rent up to October 1st. Meanwhile, I shall try and may be able to secure a tenant.

I may possibly go home via of Memphis and Louisville and if so, it will not take more than a day or two of my time to stop off and see you. My first thought was to stop at Warren and have a little chat with Mrs. Upton and report Oklahoma conditions to her, but I am hoping that you will be able to come out to Oklahoma City, therefore, perhaps it would be better for me to report the situation here directly to you.

Sincerely Yours,

Law Porter - Bayer

Richmond, Ky.

July 31st, 1907.

My dear Mrs. Boyer,

I have been so long answering your good letter of July 8th that I shall not easily convince you of how much I appreciate it and the other communications you have sent me from time to time. You observe that I am now in Madison Co., and you may know that I now have farming business on hand; I have just finished my wheat stacking, and as there have been frequent showers, I had great worry in getting it out and stacked. But just now I have a little respite from farming.

I note what you say about disagreeable comments made at the convention. I am quite sure you were not the offending party, and alas! I am equally sure that there was some cause for offense. Our excitable friend from Col. I know, made some criticisms on grammar, etc. in an audible tone which startled me. I trust you may be able to smooth matters over.

I am glad you are managing to keep Mrs. Woodworth in hand. She is by no means a woman of Mrs. Duniway's ability; but it is certain that any woman "on her native heath" is a power to be reckoned with; and that is a fact that you as well as I, I am sure ~~was not recognized as it should have been~~ ~~in the Oregon campaign.~~ You have seen the newspaper extracts, I suppose, which show what attacks Mrs. Duniway is now making on the National officers and their policy. I hope you are seeing them, for they serve to impress upon us the lesson that we must let the home women take the leading part in campaigns in their own state. There always must be business objections to this plan, since our own trained workers are much better fitted to do work of all kinds in the best manner. But campaigns are not simply business matters, - sentiment, of various sorts, indeed, but still sentiment, plays the part. I am glad to know that you see this; and, if you will let me say so, you are so tactful and gentle in your methods, that I know you will escape all the entanglements which surround you, if any one can. I am so thankful that Mrs. Biggers is the woman she is; please keep her up to the notch, and tell her from me that I extreat her still to "keep to the front".

I learn from Miss Shaw's letters that she will probably see you in Indian Territory. She will talk over business affairs with you, and she will give you some idea of what her policy will be in the campaign hereafter. I do not know how things will impress her, but I hear from Mrs. Upton that Mrs. Marie Jenney Howe, and some others are greatly impressed with the hopefulness of the situation in Oklahoma. If we only have the money and the nerve to continue the campaign for the length of time it may be necessary! But it seems to me we loosen our grip too soon to obtain the rewards of our efforts.

Mr. Owen is a tower of strength to us. As far as I know, we have never had such an ally. It is a grand thing for us that you in Oklahoma have succeeded in making his suffrage principles a help, rather than a detriment, to his political ambitions. I believe he is disinterested enough to remain loyal, even if it had been otherwise; but the ordinary politician is not, and it is with the ordinary politician we shall have to deal with more and more. I am growing stringer all the time in the conviction that politicians will give us the ballot when they see

that it is to their interest to do so, and not before. Men and women from principle may work up our cause to a prominent place, but self-interest will finally make it a practical question, I think. In my opinion, you can scarcely value Mr. Owen too highly. All the more, because he is a Democrat. When we have such fine men as Mr. Asp and Rev. Mr. Cobb, Republicans, we have a great temptation to think that these men are our hope. But if I know anything of my native south, and the political feeling which dominates the people among whom I was born and have lived always, any such idea in Oklahoma is a delusion and a snare. Any appearance of an alliance with the Republican party is certain to put an end to all our hopes. Every southern state hates and fears the negro vote. It may seem strange to you, but I sincerely believe the southern Republicans themselves would abjure their own party if they had any apprehension that their success would bring these poor people into power. As long as there is no real danger of it, they are willing to allow all the opposition to come from the Democrats, but the objection is as strong in them as in the Democrats. So don't be misled into too close touch with Republicans. I am all the more in this adjuration because so many of our B.C. are northern women, and Republicans, and they cannot be inspired with distrust of both the power and the goodwill of the party of "moral ideas". Did you see Mrs. Harper's sharp cut about our "blind (stupid) trust and confidence in Mr. Roosevelt's good will towards us"? I was rather surprised by her plain talk; and I hope it will do us good.

I went to see Mrs. King's friends when I returned home and wrote her about them. I had a nice letter from her in return, but she says her husband is still firm against us. But she also says he has no political aspirations; so his influence does not harm us so much.

I thank you for wishing I was in Oklahoma. Certainly I enjoyed my stay there with such congenial co-workers; and if it was not so hot, I might be glad to be there now. I do hope you are laying in a store of heat for next winter. They say there is such a physiological possibility; and if so, I want you to benefit by it, so as to be ready for a prolonged campaign, which I sincerely hope Miss Shaw will determine upon.

I am delighted to know you are coming out so strongly as a speaker. You always have made a good speech when I have heard you; though I suppose you think, and that really your strongest work is done with your pen. I trust you will write me again soon one of your good letters. Since you are to see Miss Shaw, and you do see the papers, I have really no news to write, and am just running on as if I were talking to you.

Please give my love to Mrs. Biggers, Miss Gregg and Dr. Woods, and any "inquiring friends", and with much to yourself, I am

Your friend,

WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION
OF OKLAHOMA

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HEADQUARTERS: 124-6 WEST MAIN STREET
ROOM 407, FOURTH FLOOR
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.

Headquarters Secretary, Mrs. Ida Porter Boyer, Oklahoma City, Okla.
State Lecturers } Dr. Frances Woods, Chickasha, Ind. Ter.
 } Miss Laura Gregg, Guthrie, Okla.



July 8th 1907

Dear Miss Clay: -

Am taking it for granted that Mrs. Upton circulates my letters and so you are informed on the bewildering changes which take place in Oklahoma. By the time I write making one statement, I find the next day reverses dates and actions. The Convention will re-assemble at Guthrie on Wednesday and admits its purpose to greatly modify the Constitution. Of course, we do not hope for any thing that will benefit us, but we want them to see that we are still "in the game". Also it will afford us (Mrs. Biggers and self) an opportunity to interview some of the candidates who will be present.

Dear friend and confidante, I learned something this morning which makes me sick at heart. Mrs. Flick called on me to invite me to be one of the

judges in the art Exhibit, at the coming
State Fair. She and I are both members

of the League of American Pen Women, - the only two
in Oklahoma. She has just returned from

Authrie where she met Mrs. Lucas. You may
remember Mrs. Lucas, pretty woman, with

dimples, and runs the Clipping Bureau. Mrs.
Lucas is very chummy with Mrs. Haskell.
Spends much time in Muskogee with Mrs.
Haskell.

Mrs. Lucas told Mrs. Flick
that the reason why Mrs. Haskell opposed
woman suffrage was that some of the
lobbyists for the women made such unpleasant
remarks about the delegates during the
Convention. That she (Mrs. H.) was much
annoyed at the frequent and loud criticism
we made when members were speaking; -
that we ridiculed them outrageously!

I am in despair over this report, because
I am afraid, when I recall some of the
incidents, that Mrs. Haskell may not be
without reason for her assertions. I sincerely
hope she does not condemn all of us. Shall
make it a point to go to Mrs. Lucas when I
reach Authrie and also to meet Mrs.
Haskell and learn if she feels unkindly
to all of us. She smiled very pleasantly
on me when the Democratic Convention met
here June 18". If I had but known
her feeling then I could possibly have
created an opportunity to relieve some of the

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unpleasantness. Am loath to believe that she includes me among the offenders. But if she does, will truly try to make reparation. It is a dreadful charge, for we were all old enough to know better. Indeed, Miss Clay, the hardest part of this campaign is the personality that enters into it, - the vindictiveness and the spirit of retribution, or rather retaliation.

Crow isn't so unpalatable if you bolt it quickly and then forget all about it.

We are too weak to put up schemes to fight our enemies. We want to concentrate on helping our friends.

Went to Kiowa County to help celebrate the Fourth. Stopped at Hobart on the 3rd and addressed the Federated Clubs. Mrs Allen arranged an interesting meeting in the Presbyterian Church. Took 6:30 train next morning for Mountain Park. It was a County pic-nic and about 6000 people attended. The speakers were C. C. Morrall, Attorney-general Freeling, Robt. L. Owen and myself. All the men were very courteous and I quite enjoyed the day. Made three addresses! How's that for industry? Was sorry there was no one with me to help pass Enrollment Cards. I did the best I could, but couldn't make much headway as friends wanted to tell me how glad they

were etc.

If it is decided to Campaign during the coming year, indeed, indeed I hope you can arrange to come here. I have held on, but it has not been all sunshine.

First, there was Woodworth. Woodworth is a power on her native heath, and just as much to be reckoned with as Abigail in Oregon. Well, Woodworth has grown so tame she will almost eat out of my hand! Candidly, she does the major part of the Club work. She knows everybody and is about the only one in the Club who does know people. She has a host of friends and a host of enemies. My principal object is to keep a grip on her so as to find out what she is going to do next. If you please, she (recently) submits her plans to me and then I try to dissuade or encourage her. Last week we averted what might have caused an explosion in the W.C.T.U. But after a talk with Woodworth she promised to relinquish her plan. It was but one instance out of several that might have reflected on us as sycophants. On the other hand she can do things and influence people that the other members

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cannot touch.

I went out to stay with Dr. Gay but found it very inconvenient, so I am "making the rounds". Divide time with Woodworth, Miss Church, Mrs. Flick, and expect to permanently stay in the back office as soon as the present tenant vacates. Dr. Woods has offered a room at \$10 or \$15 per month, but she will be in the house but two months. I shall have my trunk placed here in the office and avoid expense of regular rent, if it is decided I am to go into the field to interview candidates. The election has been postponed until Sept. 17". That is the date given in this morning's paper. Tomorrow may change it.

Expect Mrs. Biggers this afternoon or in the morning. She has a beautiful place in the Wood Reserve, Marlow. I. J.

Mr. Owen and I returned from Hobart to Oklahoma City together. He had a 7-hour talk. He suggests that if he is elected to the U.S. senate, that we memorialize Congress. Include our Justice Memorial and any additional matter. He volunteers to present it to the Senate, and

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have it made an official document which will be sent all over the U. S. under his frank. By paying for the mere paper any additional number (exceeding that granted by Senate) can be secured. (I think he will pay for the paper) Another thing he promised was to make a speaking tour for us through the territories, if we could arrange it. That filled me with joy. Now I do wish you or Miss Shaw could "double team" with him and make a stirring tour. Owen would draw the men, and you would draw the women. (Sounds like Uncle Tom and Little Eva doesn't it) Really Owen is a big card. And he is tremendously in earnest.

Should the Constitution fail and a new Enabling Act be granted, do let us try to get suffrage ~~in~~ it. We could get the four Rocky Mtn States to make such a recommendation to Congress, and they are all republican. Besides we could get the women from the Southern States to petition their senators and Congressmen that this distinctively Southern State recognize women as a "Solution of

the Race Problem.

[July 8, 1907]

Sincerely and lovingly yours
Laa Porter-Bayer