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January 31, 1918.

Mrs. Minnie Fisher Cunningham,
503 Trust Building,
Galveston, Texas.

My dear Mrs. Cunningham:-

I have wired you "Go ahead Suggestions follow by letter Blessings on you".

I permitted Mrs. Potter to read your letter and was then able to ask her some questions for additional information. She tells me that the present Governor was elected as Lieutenant Governor with Ferguson on a liquor ticket, but that he is not so bad as he might be. I asked her whether she thought he was likely to run for re-election. She thought he probably would. It seems to me that the crux of the matter is right there.

I want to give you the suggestion that Canada found that it had a good many aliens in the country whom it could not conscript as soldiers, but who had votes. Even though the states provide for the soldier vote, it is not possible to take it completely. The soldier vote in the State of New York was taken at great expense and with great care. A commission was sent to France and one to England and other men went to all the camps in this country where New York soldiers were stationed. We had 130,000 all told in camps in various places, but the New Yorks are not in one camp, they are scattered throughout all the camps and in consequence, the total vote which was secured was 29,000 only.

Now, for every one of these soldiers who are absent, Canada argues that there would be one or more women at home who would be loyal to the war, to the extent at least of wanting the soldiers to be backed up with plenty of clothes, munitions, food, care, etc.

Canada can grant the vote by act of its National Parliament, so it has given the full suffrage to the Mothers, daughters, sisters and wives of soldiers. That, in one sense, is a very unjust discrimination against such other women who may not happen to have any males in the war, but it was a good, patriotic move.

Mrs. Minnie Fisher Cunningham,

January 31, 1918.

It occurs to me that the Texas legislature could do something of that kind and in that way make good the absent soldier vote and at the same time secure itself against the German and the Mexican vote. I do not know whether the Mexican vote is loyal, but I should imagine not. The Texas legislature could actually vote that only native born women should have the vote. They could even discriminate against alien enemy countries or make any other restrictions they wished in the primary vote. They would, in that way, get the benefit of all the best element of women in Texas in the primary and when the nominations were in, the vote would be a mere form.

If the Governor is desirous of re-election, he may think it worth while to make such an appeal to patriotism and to the women of Texas. It would give you a tremendous advantage, but it would also entirely block the Ferguson game. I suggest that you present this to him and also to the legislature. I believe you would succeed.

Most cordially,

Carrie Chapman Catt

President

Not read

May be foolish to send Spl. Del, but thought you may wish to discuss with someone there in Austin