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FOR RELEASE SUNDAY? JANUARY 21, OR THEREAFTER.

Austin, Texas.

It may be said that Senator O. S. Lattimore of Fort Worth struck the keynote, so far as hosts of thinking Democrats of Texas are concerned, the other day when he made the remark upon the floor of the higher branch of the law-making body, in response to the question as to his attitude on equal suffrage, that until the result of the last general election offered to him the convincing proof that it was by the votes of women that Woodrow Wilson was re-elected president, he had always been opposed to giving that sex the right to vote. The voice of the democracy of the Western States, where equal suffrage prevails, was of such far-reaching effect that the adoption of the principle by Texas and other Southern States can no longer be ignored. Mr. Lattimore's conversation is probably based on the broad standpoint that Texas owes something to her women for the faithfulness that their co-workers displayed in the matter of determining the national election in the States to the north and west of here.

Jess Baker of Granbury, who is known as the original equal ~~rights~~ ~~suffrage~~ advocate and consistent worker on behalf of that cause in the Legislature, expressed himself a few days ago to the effect that the democracy of Texas through its law making body as the primary agent, could not afford to longer ignore the great and growing importance and demand for equal suffrage for woman. He said that if no other question than that of party expediency entered into the proposition, the proposed amendment to the Constitution should be submitted by the Legislature and its adoption made by vote of the Democrats of the State. He pointed to the fact that with the additions that have been and are in prospect of States to the equal suffrage column in the West and North, Texas and other Southern States must, as a matter of self protection, fall into line. The doubling of the vote in those states is a tremendous political power and should it be thrown in favor of the Republican party, it would mean the perpetuation for an indefinite time of that political rule in the nation.

These are some of the things that the more sober minded and less radical of the anti-suffrage members of the House and Senate are now giving consideration. The same analysis of the situation that Mr. Lattimore and Mr. Baker have applied, and which probably many other members of the Legislature have also reasoned out for themselves and arrived at a similar conclusion, has brought about in Texas a great change in sentiment toward this question. The reasons why the women of Texas should be given the right to vote and especially why the men of the State should be permitted to vote upon the proposition are so many that aside from the political phase of the pending proposition to go into detail would perhaps be burdensome to the reader. The issue has been thought out so thoroughly and is so well understood in its relation to public welfare to the homes and to the general good of the whole people, that no one dares raise this argument against it except as a species of political clap-trap which is proved spurious upon sober thought or investigation.

The officials and members of the Texas Equal Franchise Association who are maintaining headquarters here during the period of the Legislature, or at least until the submission of the proposed equal suffrage amendment is disposed of, feel very much gratified for the many expressions of support and the courteous treatment that they have received from members of both the House and Senate. In waging this campaign for recognition of what they deem only their just rights, the women of Texas are not putting themselves on the plane of an ordinary legislative lobbyist. They are actuated thoroughly by the sincere belief that what they are seeking is theirs by the law of natural right and justice. They are not politicians in the sense that that word usually implies; they are not begging for recognition as a political factor, but they believe honestly and with all their heart that it is for the good of the great and growing State of Texas and its magnificent people that they be given a voice in its public welfare.

The granting of equal suffrage has never proved a mistake in any State or Commonwealth where it has been placed into effect. The results prove this beyond question. Take the case of the far off dominion of New Zealand where in 1884 the noble-minded men, with a benevolence and insight into the future, granted, without the asking, the right of the women to vote. New Zealand stands in a class by itself in the matter of laws relating to the public welfare of its people and in the standard of their morality and high degree of efforts and accomplishments for the good of its little more than one million inhabitants. In these far off islands poverty does not exist, the dominion's educational progress has been little short of marvelous, and in various other respects the people there show the splendid effects of a benign government.