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File
1626 Rhode Island Avenue
Washington, D.C.,
December 21, 1916.

Mrs. Helen Moore,
Texas City, Texas.

My Dear Mrs. Moore:

A very significant thing happened yesterday at the Capitol in connection with the vote of the Senate on the question of eliminating the word "male" from the qualifications for the franchise should the District of Columbia prohibition bill be submitted by referendum to the residents of the District. By the overwhelming majority of 53 to 15, the Senate voted to permit women citizens of the District a voice on the question of prohibition!

An interesting thing is that many southern senators, namely; Senators Gore of Oklahoma, Kirby of Arkansas, Lee of Maryland, Tillman of South Carolina, and Vardaman and Williams of Mississippi, voted for this amendment, and this vote gives invaluable material for use in combating the arguments advanced against a federal amendment.

As you know, one of the invariable arguments against the Amendment is that the suffrage qualifications must be decided by the individual states, and that suffrage must not be forced upon the women of the South. Of course, it is not only the South that has used this argument, but you will see what good ammunition it gives to us suffragists.

Of course, the senators will say that having control of the District of Columbia, they have a perfect right to confer suffrage upon the women of the District, just as the legislature might confer it upon the state, but the fact remains that if they are sincere in saying that they do not wish to force it upon women unless they desire it, they

12/21/16

should not have voted for this amendment. In any event, it gives us an opportunity to write to these men thanking them for their vote, and expressing the hope that it bodes well for the Federal Amendment. If you cannot go so far as that, I think at any rate a note of thanks for the support of even this small measure of woman suffrage without mention of the Federal Amendment might be a good thing.

Very cordially yours,

Helen Guthrie Miller

(Mrs. Walter McNab Miller)

HGM/MHH