

FROM THE NATIONAL AMERICAN
WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, JANUARY 29th.

Washington, Jan. 29. -- At last political oil and water have mixed. Although President Wilson and Senator Borah do not agree on foreign policies, and the President and Senator Sheppard do not agree on the unit which shall regulate the liquor traffic, and Senators Curtis and Clapp do not agree on the policy of the Republican party, they all agree in endorsing the constructive work being done for suffrage by the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

Letters of congratulation on the passage of a presidential and municipal suffrage bill in North Dakota, addressed to Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, by four members of the Senate were made public here today. The congratulatory notes were written by Senators Borah, Sheppard, Curtis and Clapp.

These letters, from prominent members of both political parties, taken together with President Wilson's letter of congratulation to Mrs. Catt, exhibit, from the viewpoint of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, a gratifying unanimity of opinion on the desirability of equal presidential suffrage, among political leaders holding opinions of marked difference on other issues.

Congratulations from these various sources, according to officers of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, vindicate and uphold the Association's traditional policy of making equal suffrage a non-partisan issue.

In this connection, it is stated as a matter of historic interest that President Wilson's letter to Mrs. Catt is the first instance in the annals of the United States in which a president has congratulated a suffrage leader on a specific triumph of woman suffrage, and that there are few precedents for the congratulatory notes from senators which were made public today.

Presidential and municipal suffrage bills have been introduced through the efforts of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in the legislature of every state in which the suffrage issue is not about to be dealt with by referendum. The enactment of the equal suffrage statute in North Dakota is the initial success of the campaign.

The text of the congratulatory letters to Mrs. Catt follows:

Congratulation - 2.

January 25, 1917.

My dear Mrs. Catt:-

I am greatly pleased to hear that the legislature of North Dakota has passed a bill granting to the women of that state the right of suffrage the same as the women of Illinois enjoy. I should of course have been pleased to learn that they had granted suffrage in full but this is splendid, nevertheless. I feel sure that you and your organization are making the right kind of a fight in these states and I think all in all considered you are achieving great success.

The more states which grant woman suffrage, the more conclusive will be the argument in the other states, because a state once giving this privilege will never take it away. It undoubtedly contributes most substantially and effectively to cleaner and more wholesome politics. I hope to see the movement continue state by state until we shall have it throughout the Union.

Very respectfully,
(Signed) Wm. E. Borah.

January 24, 1917.

My dear Mrs. Catt:-

I wish most heartily to congratulate you and all others interested in the great movement for equal suffrage on the act of the legislature of North Dakota, granting the women of that state the same suffrage privileges which they possess in Illinois.

I understand that similar measures are pending in the legislatures of other states, such as Tennessee, Indiana, New Hampshire, Nebraska, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Ohio, Minnesota, Rhode Island, etc., and I wish to express the hope that these states will follow in the footsteps of North Dakota and Illinois.

I wish further to congratulate you on the wonderful and inspiring fact that both the great political parties put unqualified endorsements of the principles of woman suffrage in their national platforms last year. This is an unquestioned tribute to the unconquerable vitality of the woman suffrage movement. A movement based on fundamental truths and rights such as lie at the foundation of equal suffrage will inevitably succeed.

With all good wishes, I am,

Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) Morris Sheppard.

January 24, 1917.

My dear Mrs. Catt:-

I have read, with great pleasure, of the action of the legislature of North Dakota in passing the bill granting to the women of that state the same suffrage privileges they have in the State of Illinois. I only regret they did not go further, and I do hope the Governor will sign the measure.

I hope the legislatures of the different states before which the question is now pending will extend the right to women, and I would like to see the Constitutional amendment go through before Congress adjourns.

I wish to congratulate you and your co-workers on the success you have accomplished, and assure you of my best wishes for National Suffrage.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Charles Curtis.

January 23, 1917.

Dear Mrs. Catt:-

Allow me to congratulate you and the cause you represent upon the recent action of the North Dakota legislature in enlarging woman's right to vote, as well as the recent action of one house of the Tennessee legislature. This shows that the movement for equal suffrage retains its vitality. As I have often said: "No power can prevent a free people from sooner or later making this government a government by all the people; a democracy in fact as well as in name."

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Moses E. Clapp.
