

Austin, Texas.

It is largely an educational campaign that the Texas Equal Suffrage Association proposes to conduct from their headquarters in Austin during the present session of the Legislature. It has been found in Texas, as well as other states, that when the full meaning, purposes and the results to be accomplished by means of the votes of women are presented and understood by the average citizen, he is converted to the cause. Acting upon this knowledge, the members of the Legislature are to be made thoroughly acquainted with every possible phase of the question which is now of such vital interest to not only the women, but to the masses of the people of this State.

There is the greatest interest being taken by the supporters of Equal Suffrage throughout the State and Union in the possibility, and perhaps probability, of the Legislature of Texas submitting at its present session to vote of the people an amendment to the Constitution that will give to the women equal suffrage rights with those which the men now possess. While it is too early in the campaign to determine with exactness the number of supporters which the proposed amendment has in the House and Senate, the situation is most encouraging and it is believed that by proper effort and understanding on the part of the suffrage workers and those to whom they desire to give enlightenment on the subject, the submission of the amendment will be accomplished.

The earnestness of the officers and co-workers of the Texas Equal Suffrage Association is already exemplified by the activity that is to be witnessed in and around the legislative headquarters that they have established here.

Mrs. Minnie Fisher Cunningham, State President, who opened the headquarters several days ago, will remain constantly on the ground throughout the session or until the subject of ~~the~~ submitting the amendment is entirely disposed of.

Upon the walls of the headquarters room of the organization are banners and pennants which portray in terse sentences some of the things for which the women, by granting them their right to vote,

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.