

COPY

May 12, 1919.

Mrs. J. J. Hardin,
1219 $\frac{1}{2}$ Main Street,
Dallas, Texas.

My dear Mrs. Hardin:-

I have received your note and enclosed bulletin as edited and circulated by James E. Ferguson.

It is difficult for me to believe that such a sheet can have any other effect than to help the campaign for the enfranchisement of Texas women. It reminds me of the time when the suffrage of Boston, many years ago, (when Wyoming was our only suffrage state) were disconcerted by the appearance in the city of a man who gave out interviews to the press announcing that woman suffrage in Wyoming had nearly brought the state to the verge of ruin. He declared the women did not vote and did not want the vote in one sentence, and in the next he pronounced lists of evils which had been brought about by the women's votes.

The suffragists of Massachusetts wired the Governor of Wyoming to ask who the man was. The Governor replied that he was a horse thief who had been convicted by a jury half of whom were women. The wonders ceased that he considered woman suffrage a failure!

So with the impeached Governor of Texas who declares in this pronouncement that all the women who voted voted against him. It is no wonder that he issues his thunders now against the continuation of their enfranchisement. In one sentence he says that the women of Texas did not want the vote, but in another he declares that more women than men voted in the last primaries and that so many women voted in some precincts that it was impossible for the men to get to the polls at all!

It is difficult for me to believe that there are people in Texas of so little intelligence as not to realize that the struggle for the enfranchisement of the Texas women is a clearly drawn battle between the forces of crooked politics and those which stand for progress and right. The charges which he makes are so absurd ~~in~~ as to require no response. It is a despairing cause which compels a man to distort and misrepresent statements concerning leaders of a movement, instead of presenting arguments against the movement itself.

The Texas legislature has given the men of Texas a man's chance to decide this question; who are the men leaders of this question? The best and greatest Democrats of Texas, both Senators in Washington, most of the Texas Congressmen, the President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, and every member of his Cabinet. Would such men as these advocate the cause of the enfranchisement of women, if such blasphemous facts were true as this discredited ex-Governor of Texas states?

Surely the Ferguson forum is a boomerang which can only strike a deadly blow at itself.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Carrie Chapman Catt

president