

45 Arlington St. Winnipeg, Sep. 17th.

Dear Mrs McNaughton-

Your letter was a great pleasure to me, for I find too few interested in the great international problems that it appears to me we as women must face now, as well as after the war. No, I have not read the speeches you referred to but will try and get them. I have been greatly stirred up lately over a body of women here, who never helped in the least to secure the franchise for women, but are now very anxious to limit it. Some women are such todies.

You are doing a great work out there. I have been following you as best I could, and I have been delighted. You women are the life of the province. If it had not been for you, I do not know what would have become of the woman's cause. I would be glad to know just what you have accomplished in the hospital aid campaign sometime when you have time to tell me. I know you must be dreadfully busy.

In regard to the Dominion suffrage campaign, I am not prepared to speak officially. Personally I doubt the advisability of the provinces, having the franchise, making common cause with the eastern provinces that have not even put up campaigns for the provincial franchise. It appears to me that by taking them on we are adding a dead weight to our load. I cannot see what right provinces that do not really desire the provincial right have to the federal right: The more I see of life, the more strongly I am convinced, that people and countries pretty generally get what is their due. Those eastern provinces will not be able to use the franchise right until they have had the education that securing the franchise gives. I believe in a federation of the provinces that already have the franchise, to secure for themselves the full rights. When we have fought the fight we will be able to use it wisely. But the women who have not fought have no vision.

I am sure you will be away a lot and I imagine it will not ~~break~~
break your heart to be away from cooking and dish washing and such like
things, although they are supposed to be so womanly.

The only name I have on my list now is that of Mrs Fitzgerald
The Vicarage, Mayne Island, B.C. This woman is working for these English
people and finds them very exacting. She heard that she could get
twenty-five dollars a month on the prairie and wrote to know about it.
I think she is fifty-five years of age, but maybe it was forty-five, I
cannot be sure. Help is very hard to get just now.

I hope you will be very successful in your temperance
campaign. It is very encouraging the results from putting the bars out
of business here. There has been some talk of giving up our project of
buying a prison farm, as the amount of crime has been so greatly lessened.
Isn't it astonishing that we have put up with the awful stuff for so long?

With very best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Ellen 13 Thomas.

Battleford. Sask.

May 11th. 1914

Dear Mrs McCaughton,

Your letter reached me yesterday and I may say that already Mrs McClung had suggested that I go to Yorkton but unfortunately you know what is said of one starting out in his own country. However, I appreciate very much your kind remarks re my work in Hanley.

Funds are such a consideration or else it had been proposed to send me with Mrs McClung as a Saskatchewan Representative and explain that as we were unorganized as yet we were not sufficiently familiar with the work to present our claim alone. Mrs McClung's prestige would demand her a hearing now where one of us would only be listened to with courtesy. We had a meeting yesterday. The executive decided to write again to Mrs McClung asking her to arrange to go and as soon as she replies with the amount of expenses I will let you know. Our meeting to settle matters is called for the evening of the 19th.

Mrs Cawthroe is the delegate to the Homemakers' Convention from our club, but still I am planning to go on my own hook and was wondering if you would be there. I am acquainted with Miss Mary Ann McKenzie and interested in the district nurse question. It would also be an advantage to our League to talk it over with Mrs Thomas. The way you spoke of working together and having speakers represent the matter for the Auxillary and League is just what our members think is needed so I am sure that if we had a talk we could arrive at some feasible plan.

Mrs Cawthroe is very ambitious to start out in the work but she does not realize the necessity of having the men help us. She is more in favor of a WOMAN'S movement and of course I

do not agree with her there. At present she is our President and is very nervous but time will doubtless remedy that.

This is just a confidential letter from myself and as soon as I receive word will write the official one from the Club.

We have Dr. Sparling, who is a good speaker, and Dr. Millar an enthusiastic worker, a lawyer and Rev. Mr. Seeley who are splendid thinkers and will give us weight. So that I feel we have a better start than I expected. Unfortunately Mrs Cawthrope says she does not give a button whether the ministers help or are indifferent, but that is not the feeling of the rest of the League, All feel that every one is one more, and the ministers are the ones to help because so many will be influenced by their minister's views. Of course she is not airing her views too much only we the executive feel that she is not with us in our eagerness to obtain a speaker for the Conference. Too me it would appear to be money well invested by incurring that expense. And even if we do not succeed at present in gaining an expression from them we have made the effort and time will surely prove it was not altogether useless, and we will have the sense of having tried at least

Your long letters are just what I want. There seems to be so much to be done and said that it cannot be limited to a few lines.

Thanking you for your frankness and assuring you that we will feel at a pleasure to work with you, yours sincerely,

E. J. Miller

(E. J. H.)

REASONS WHY WOMEN

SHOULD BE ENFRANCHISED.

- (A) Because the ballot adds to the number of mutual interests that should create true friendship between men and women.
- (B) Because women own much property which is taxed and "taxation without representation is tyranny".
- (C) Women who are fortunate and happy in their domestic and social relations and in their pecuniary circumstances and who have no need or wish to improve their individual conditions, have the right and duty of trying to better the conditions of life for the multitudes of women who have no leisure and few comforts. The needs of these latter are best understood by women and women should have political power to aid their sisters.
- (D) Women as well as men have ideas and ideals of good government. Without the franchise they are disabled from doing, at first hand, anything that will improve the political conditions under which they and their children live, or from effectually promoting any reform in their City, state or national government. Thus they are so truly oppressed as are the subjects of the Russian Czar.
- (E) The country is full of educated, capable women. It may be safely asserted that every man's wife or sister is his intellectual peer. For such women to be classed with the insane, the idiotic and the criminal and with them shut out from the polls on election day, is an affront to thoughtful, self-respecting women.
- (F) Male immigrants to this country outnumber the female two to one. The enfranchisement of women would increase the proportion of native-born electors. It is proportions not numbers that determine results in elections.
- (G) Women are generally law-abiding citizens. They approximately equal men in number, and their wages are lower while their personal expenses are greater in proportion to their earning power. Yet they form only six percent of the convicts in our prisons and penitentiaries. Those who best observe the law should surely share in the selection of law-makers.

- (H) Psychologists say that the use of any narcotic or stimulant endangers the nervous equilibrium and warps the judgment. Women use but a small proportion of the millions on millions of dollars worth of tobacco and alcoholic liquors that are consumed in this country annually. The brains of women are normal on election day.
- (I) The interests of women are affected by every law that is made. Women also are "people". The fundamental principles of democracy are violated wherever women are deprived of the right to vote.
- (J) The right to vote stimulates the sense of responsibility concerning public affairs, and it is best for our country that all its people should feel the responsibility concerning its affairs.
- (K) Many a woman has a talent for true statesmanship. The country-suffers suffers loss when the genius of such women is not utilized.
- (L) To associate constantly with either superiors or inferiors is detrimental to character. To make woman politically the equal of man elevates family relationship, enabling women to become less strategic and impelling man to greater self - mastery.
- (M) Soldiers do not always incur danger during a war, But for every soldier in the field a woman has gone down into the valley and a shadow of death and has brought back a man - child. Women are the producers of the army and navy. In any war ever raged women have taken the greater risks. Their obscure and perilous service as defenders of their country deserves just recognition.
- (N) Motherhood is no more sacred than fatherhood but it is more self - sacrificing. One sex should not undertake to make all the laws for another sex, of whose functions they are incapable, and in whose ordeals they are necessarily inexperienced. This is class legislation of the most arrogant kind.
- (O) Laws are made for average men and women, and each class, section, vocation and sex best knows what is good for itself. Those who are most affected by a question are those who take greatest interest in the voting upon it. That those who know the most about the matter should be the ones to decide it conduces to the general welfare. That enfranchised women do not always vote upon all questions submitted is an evidence of their wisdom rather than of their indifference to the common weal. To vote is to express an opinion and to hold an opinion about that of which one knows nothing is a sort of immortality. Women's alleged abstention from the polls should encourage men to enfranchise her.



Regina, February 16th, 1916.

Dear Mrs. McNaughton:-

I would ask you to convey to the members of the Convention of the Women Grain Growers of Saskatchewan my sincere thanks for the courtesy of their Resolution expressing gratification at the reception given by myself and the Members of the Legislature to the Petition recently presented praying for the granting of Equal Franchise to the women of Saskatchewan. I was very pleased indeed to be in position to give a favorable reply to the delegation who presented the petition. The women of Saskatchewan have helped and are helping to build up this Province of which we are so justly proud and I am very glad indeed that it is my good fortune to occupy the position of Premier in a Legislature which is extending to our women, through the franchise, further and fuller powers of assistance and service in the development of Saskatchewan.

Believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. H. Ross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Mrs. John McNaughton,

Pres. Convention of W. G. G. of Sask.,

Saskatoon, Sask.

Regina, Sask. June 28th 1916

Dear Madam.-

At the Dominion W.C.T.U. Convention, assembled here in Regina, we have suffrage workers from every Province, (except P.E.I.), and at a meeting called by the President of the Franchise Board of Saskatchewan, we have discussed the advisability of linking together all the suffrage forces from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

We thought that this was an opportune time to discuss the suffrage situation in Canada when so many of the representative women were able to get together.

Perhaps it may seem to you that this is not a favorable time to prosecute franchise work, when the great problem which confronts us all is the winning of the war, and when it would be unfortunate to distract any one from their patriotic duty.

We realize this, but are impressed also with the fact that until we are given our full rights as citizens, we shall be seriously handicapped in dealing with the many serious problems arising from the war.

The call of the Empire has come to our best men, who have, and are, responding in large numbers. It has not been heard by many of our foreign born men, nor by the careless, indifferent or the selfish among our own people, and as a consequence the moral standard of the electorate of the Dominion is being seriously lowered, and in order to offset this deterioration in a measure at least, we feel that the time has come for the full enfranchisement of our own Canadian women.

We suggest that your society will confer with other suffrage societies in your Province, and also with the Franchise Department of the W.C.T.U. with the object of choosing or electing two women to represent your Province on a Dominion Franchise Board, whose object will be to bring the matter of the full enfranchisement of women before the Dominion Government at its first session; to give assistance to the provinces whose women have not yet provincial rights, and to endeavor by all means to stimulate the interest and enlist the services of every woman who loves her country.

We hope that this suggestion will meet with your approval and that you will act without delay. The committee who were selected to prepare this letter was composed of the following women:-

Mrs. McNaughton, Pichie, Sask; Mrs. Haight, Keeler Sask; Mrs. A.B. Ormsby, Toronto; Mrs. Stevens, Toronto; Mrs. Gordon Wright, London; Mrs. C.O. Davidson, Regina, Sask; Mrs. John Scott, Montreal; Mrs. A.E. McClung, Winnipeg, Man; Mrs. Luddington, Montreal; Mrs. L.C. McKinney, Claresholm, Alta; Mrs. Dr. Andrews, Regina, Sask; Mrs. A.L. Powers, Nova Scotia;

Mrs. Powell, Grenfell, Sask; Mrs. Wesley Howard, Edmonton, Alta;
Mrs. Carroll, Brier Crest, Sask; Mrs. Hetherington, New Brunswick;
Mrs. Forrester, Toronto; Miss Ida Sifton, Moose Jaw, Sask;

You will see from this list that we had a
representative gathering of suffrage workers.

Yours sincerely,

M. A. Lawton

Yakelm Sask

Secretary

Nellie L. McBlung

Edmonton

Chairman.

Confidential

Ans Dec 30

45 Arlington St. Winnipeg, Dec. 21st. 16.

Dear Mrs McNaughton-

I suppose you are just as busy as you can be and here I come to bring another matter before you. But I think it important enough even to disturb your holiday season with it.

You will have seen that Mrs McClung while in Winnipeg had an interview with Premier Borden, and asked him to give the federal franchise to all the British born women in the Dominion. Mrs McClung made this request without consulting anyone, and she gave it to the press, but it was merely her opinion, and the organized suffragists of this province are opposed to any limitation of the federal franchise. In fact we will not hesitate to put up a fight against any such proposition. We have all the time waged our campaign along democratic lines, and if democracy is no use in a crisis, I am inclined to think it is no use any time.

Another matter on which we differ is the matter of going to the Dominion Government this year and asking that the federal franchise be given to all the women of the Dominion. We are prepared to stand behind any organization of women that will appeal to the Dominion Government to give to the women who have the provincial franchise, the federal franchise, and to ask that such franchise be given to any women automatically who have the provincial franchise. But we are not prepared to ask that a new franchise act be passed, giving to women, who only in a very small minority, have worked for it, the full federal franchise. It is our opinion, that the best education for the franchise, is the work necessary to get it. So long as the

great body of women in a province consider it beneath them to work for the franchise and be called suffragists, just so long are they not educated to the point where they will wisely use the franchise they may have. Of course this is hard on the few women, who have worked, ~~but~~ there are some in every province, but the best education they ^{majority} can get will be to realize that the women of the west are exercising a privilege that is not theirs.

Do you know anything about the Dominion Franchise Board, of which Mrs McClung is provisional Chairman. ? We have been asked to appoint two representatives, but have not done so, as on these points, we are afraid we cannot stand with the great majority of the Board. I understand that all the provinces except Manitoba have appointed representatives.

I am more sorry than I can say, about this difference of opinion among the women who have worked for the same thing. It is however, I suppose to be expected, for our old political parties are based on a very real difference of outlook on life.

I wonder could you do anything about this at your convention? Also I wonder could ~~we~~ ^{be done} anything about an educational campaign among women on the question of trade. I am more and more coming to the conclusion that we must have free trade and more free trade, as a first step to prevent war. I am going to write to Mrs Parlby and Mrs Wood here, to see if the women cannot be interested in the matter to the point of helping in the farmers campaign for the federal parliament. If we could make them see the importance, they would no doubt be elected. Feeling in the west must be stirred up as never before.

I suppose it would be impossible to bring in any suggestion about

asking the Government of Great Britain, to consider peace , as soon as at all possible. What do you think of the latest swing in the government over there? It does not look hopeful.

Of course you understand, this letter is from me, and not from the organized women of the province. Of course on the matters re-the franchise I have the support of all the leading workers in the suffrage cause. You may have seen my editorial on that matter. You will understand I do not wish to have any personal feeling in this matter. It is not Mrs McClung that we are opposing, but her ideas. We all realize the splendid work she has done and is doing, but this is too fundamental a matter to be passed over.

I hope you will have a splendid holiday, and a rest, for I am sure you need it.

If you have time let me know your views on these matters.

Yours in the work,

Lillian B. Thomas.

P. S. On second thought, I will not write to Mrs Parlby, but will leave the matter to you to discuss with her. I do not know her, and you will be able to explain the situation to her , as I could not in a letter.

L. B. T.