



THE WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE
COLUMBUS, OHIO

July 31, 1917

To Hon Mayor,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir: Aug. 14, our city votes
on woman suffrage. Will you please
give me your opinion as to whether
or not woman suffrage has been
a success in your state.

Thanking you for your kindness

I am,
Yours,

H. Anna Quinby

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GEO. L. BAKER
MAYOR

August 6, 1917.

H. Anna Quinby,
c/o Woman's Association of Commerce,
Columbus, Ohio.

Dear Madam:

Replying to your letter of July 31st, in reference to whether woman suffrage has been successful in our State, I will say that at the time suffrage was first proposed in this section of the country, a large number of people doubted the wisdom of allowing women to vote, feeling that they would not give the proper consideration to measures and men. At that time, conditions in general, and especially the saloon problem, were very bad in the State. Since women have been allowed the same privilege as men, which, by the way, they are entitled to, the State and the City of Portland has been cleaned up, and it is safe to say that our State and the City of Portland have ideal conditions for home life.

Women have a refining influence and the people of Oregon recognize this fact. The women show fine discrimination in their judgment on men and measures; they are not easily misled, and they look very carefully into all matters, and especially are economic questions given very careful consideration.

There are a large number of women's organizations in the City of Portland, and their good influence is felt. Women are appreciative of the efforts of their officials, and, if an official tries to do the right thing, the women will stand behind him, but if he tries to do the wrong thing, he might just as well retire from public life.

I have made a very careful study of political conditions and the value of women in politics, and I can heartily endorse woman suffrage, and will say to the people of your section that they can do no better thing than to permit woman to have the same rights as man. The right kind of a man admires his mother and his wife; he has a high regard and reverence for them, and why should not woman's influence be applied over the affairs of State? A man wants the respect of his wife and mother, and why should not an official want the respect of the womanhood of the country?

You will find some men who will say women should not be permitted to vote. The only reason I can see for this, would be they have not been doing the right thing. If they had done so they would not fear woman's judgment. I have no quarrel with any man or woman who thinks that woman suffrage should not be granted, because there are some who honestly believe that it should not, but if they will study the results of suffrage in Oregon, and they are open to conviction, they would think as I do, that women are fully qualified to cast their vote the same as men, and in many cases are much more qualified than many men.

Yours very truly,

MAYOR