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Description: George Allan letter in support of suffrage

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Portland, Maine Sept. 22 1916

Miss. Alice Wood,
Secretary Maine Association
Opposed to Women Suffrage,
206 State St. Portland, Me.

Dear Madam;

Replying to your favor of the 19th relative to the question of Equal Suffrage in our coming Legislature and the opposition of your association to the same permit me to say that I am sorry indeed not to be able to accept the views of your association and especially since so many of your members are personal acquaintances of mine.

As many of you know I have for years given much thought and special study to this question and have come to feel, though I shall take little or no part in the matter if brought before the legislature, that full citizenship should be conferred upon the women of Maine at the earliest possible moment.

I believe that the women of Maine should have opportunity to do what ever they are capable of doing in order to become a real productive factor in community life. As I see it the sharp competitive conditions of the day demands it, not only in governmental functions but in social and economic conditions as well.

I feel that not only will it not detract from the full conservation of woman's best service in the family and society but will direct her efforts into more effective relations with greater practical results.

That the great majority of the women of Maine are adverse to having the franchise I cannot conceive and do not admit, that many are adverse to political activity may be true. Voting is not regarded in this City as political activity. Entering into political life is not necessary to full citizenship but the right of suffrage is. The use of the ballot is another question.

Inas much as I believe full suffrage should be inherent to full citizenship I fail to see why those wishing to have the ballot should be debarred therefrom because others equally entitled do not want to. This is not fair because under present laws no one is commanded to vote.

Very Truly Yours.

Geo. H. Allen