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BUCKHANNON, W. VA.

June 3d, 1918

Hon. Howard Sutherland,

Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 23d, and have been intending to write you further in relation to this matter but on account of the press of other matters have not been able to do so until now.

I note particularly what you say with reference to your own feeling and attitude as to the suffrage amendment, and also note what you say as to being confronted with the fact that a vote of the people of West Virginia show a majority of 98,000 against suffrage.

I want to submit to you that this 98,000 votes does not represent the intelligence of West Virginia, but rather the people who are prejudiced against women, and I submit further that this 98,000 majority represents largely the more ignorant class of our vote.

I call your attention to another amendment which was defeated by an over-whelming majority, and yet absolutely no reasons could be assigned for it. A few years ago you will recall, and not very long since either, an amendment to our Constitution was submitted giving the right to commission women as Notary Public, and yet that amendment, in face of the crying need and demand for it and convenience to the public, was over-whelmingly defeated, out of prejudice, I submit, and out of lack of proper consideration and thought upon

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the part of the people. To my mind, the only question to determine is what is right. People are not always right on these matters.

You will recall that in 1888, the Prohibition Amendment in West Virginia was defeated by an over-whelmingly majority, and yet, I submit, that in the face of the right of this matter, no one would hesitate when the question was up to vote in favor of submitting the question again, or in favor of an absolute Constitutional Amendment to the United States Constitution to be submitted to the people.

To my mind, the only question for you to determine is whether or not your views are right, and if they are, regardless of the vote of the people in relation thereto, their expressed views by their vote, I would unhesitatingly say that it would be the right thing for you to support the submission of this Amendment. I hope, therefore that you can see your way clear to stand by the submission of this Amendment to the States for their ratification.

I take this further view about it, that you are not, by voting to submit the matter, voting this Amendment upon the people, but it is merely a question for the people themselves to determine whether or not they will ratify it, and if three-fourths of the States of the Union do ratify it, the other one-fourth ought to submit cheerfully and willingly to the action of the three-fourths. I cannot see any reason why you should not vote for the submission of this Amendment to the States for their ratification, regardless of the

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fact that the people of the State did vote against the Amendment when it was submitted upon a State provision to our own Constitution.

With best wishes and kindest regards, I am

Yours cordially,

UGY/J

U. G. Young.

Suffrage

June 11, 1918.

Hon. U. G. Young,
Buckhannon, West Va.

My dear Senator:-

I have your favor of the 3d instant with further reference to the suffrage question, and I appreciate very much indeed your views in this connection. I assure you that I am giving this matter my most serious consideration.

Thanking you for your letter, and hoping to hear from you whenever you are interested in any matters pending here, or whenever you have any suggestions to offer, I am,

Yours very truly,