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WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The following excerpts are taken directly from the Parliament of Australia Hansard records and have not been altered. In using Hansard, please be aware that the standardised style may have changed over time.

SENATOR EDWARD PULSFORD, ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, 1902

Source: Parliament of Australia

So far as I feel my heart-strings pulled at all, I may say that both my heart and brain act together in antagonism to the principle of women's suffrage. I am not prepared to describe women's suffrage as a blessing. I would rather describe it as an attempt to throw a portion of the white man's burden upon the white woman.

SENATOR THOMAS GLASSEY, ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, 1902

Source: Parliament of Australia

I could never see the justice of withholding the franchise from women simply on the ground that they are women. If it be right that males should have the privilege of voting for men to make the laws of their country, then it is only justice that women should enjoy the same privilege. I know of nothing in the decalogue, or in any moral law, which says that women, because they are women, should be denied the right of a voice in the making of the laws of the country in which they live. I should like some honorable senator who is opposed to the principle of womanhood suffrage – if there are any honorable senators who object to it they are exceedingly few who oppose it on the ground that it is not just – to tell us where we can find any evidence of injustice so far as the enfranchisement of women is concerned.

JOSEPH COOK MP, ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, 1902

Source: Parliament of Australia

The last speaker informed honorable members that in his opinion a woman's place, whether she be wife, daughter, mother, or sister, is her home. May I remind the honorable member – and I do it in all sincerity – that there are thousands of women who are not so fortunately circumstanced as those dependent upon him, and it is on their behalf that we plead for some greater measure of liberality in the laws of the country, so that they may be enabled to help themselves in a way they have not done before.

Mr Sawers – Cannot we be trusted to help them?

Mr Cook – I am sorry to say that I cannot trust the honorable member to help them, particularly after having heard his opinions upon the franchise question as a whole. I would not care to commit the economic and social condition of women to one who does not believe in the great principle of manhood suffrage, and who is opposed to proportional votin

SIR WILLIAM LYNE MP, ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, 1902

Source: Parliament of Australia

Some years ago, when I was very young in politics and probably my thoughts were less matured, I was hostile to the proposal. Gradually, however, as the result of my reading, and in consequence of the advance of thought which has taken place upon this question, not only in Australia, but throughout the world, I was induced to take an opposite view of the matter. Thus it came about that some ten or twelve years ago I formed the conclusion that not only was it just to accord women the vote, but that it was in the best interests of the entire community.

I am surprised to hear the honorable member for South Sydney say that there are as many bad women as bad men. My opinion is that in proportion to their numbers women are much better than men, and those who are bad have been made so by men.

SENATOR ALBERT GOULD, ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, 1902

Source: Parliament of Australia

Has it been shown, on behalf of the women of the Commonwealth as a whole, that there is any demand for the extension of the franchise? I admit that a large number of ladies have been very energetic and persistent in advocating the extension of the suffrage to women. They have argued it as a matter of abstract justice and right, contending that it would make Parliaments better and purer, and that better men would be returned to Parliament. Such advantages have been pointed out as a probable result of the extension of the suffrage. But there has never yet been a movement by a large section of the women of the Commonwealth in favour of the principle. I admit at once that if it were shown that there were a large number of women in the community who were desirous of having the suffrage extended to them it would be only a matter of right and justice that it should be extended. But I do not think that the Legislature is bound to extend the franchise to a large section of the community unless that section indicates that a majority of it desires to be enfranchised. In any community it will be found that until there is a large section desirous of some course of legislation being pursued that legislation is not enacted. If it can be shown that a majority of the women are desirous of having the franchise extended to them, give it to them by all means. I have no fear that the extension of the suffrage would do the slightest injury to our legislation. I believe that the women would cast their votes honestly and with integrity, and with a desire to do justice. But I know that there are a large number of women who say, 'We do not want the franchise, and would rather be without it.'

SENATOR DOROTHY TANGNEY, FIRST SPEECH IN PARLIAMENT, 1943

Source: Parliament of Australia

I realise the great honour which has been done to me in affording me the opportunity to move this Address-in-Reply. I also realise my great honour in being the first woman to be elected to the Senate. But it is not as a woman that I have been elected to this chamber. It is as a citizen of the Commonwealth; and I take my place here with the full privileges and rights of all honorable senators, and, what is still more important, with the full responsibilities which such a high office entails. I trust that I shall carry out my duties in this chamber with every regard for the dignity and honour of the Senate, and also of the party to which I have the honour to belong.

DAME ENID LYONS MP, FIRST SPEECH, 1943

Source: Parliament of Australia

It would be strange indeed were I not tonight deeply conscious of the fact, if not a little awed by the knowledge, that my shoulders rests a great weight of responsibility; because this is the first occasion upon which a woman has addressed this house. For that reason it is an occasion which, for every woman in the Commonwealth, marks in some degree a turning point in history. I am well aware that, as I acquit myself in the work that I have undertaken for the next three years, so shall I either prejudice or enhance the prospects of those women who may wish to follow me in public service in the years to come. I know that many honorable members have viewed the advent of women to the legislative halls with something approaching alarm; they have feared, I have no doubt, the somewhat too vigorous use of a new broom. I wish.

SENATOR IVY WEDGWOOD, ON THE REMOVAL OF THE MARRIAGE BAR, 1966

Source: Parliament of Australia

Briefly, the legislation will do three things, all of which I consider to be most desirable. It means that women will be able to retain their positions in the Public Service after marriage. This will be of benefit to some women — perhaps not to a great number of women — but to the women who desire to carry on their careers. It will be exceptionally beneficial to the professional women who, instead of having to resign and perhaps accept a position in another area of work altogether, will be entitled now to carry on their professional work. By this change, the Public Service and the nation will have the benefit of their professional training and ability.

SENATOR DOROTHY TANGNEY, ON THE REMOVAL OF THE MARRIAGE BAR, 1966

Source: Parliament of Australia

I think much more could have been accomplished for the female members of the Public Service if the Government, instead of introducing this measure, had agreed to the proposal we advanced recently for equal pay. It seems to me to be rather ironical that fulsome praise should have been lavished on women in the Public Service and that their achievements and ability should have been acknowledged. It seems that women are entitled to everything but equal pay. All this talk about the manner in which this legislation will benefit female members of the Public Service is rather ironical. I doubt whether a very big proportion of women in the Public Service will take advantage of the legislation. I think that most women who leave to get married have the maternal instinct; they wish to make a home and have children. A home in which the mother goes out to work is not a complete entity. In saying that I hope I shall not be regarded as being a traitor to the feminist cause. I have never believed in the feminist cause as such.

SENATOR JOHN GORTON, ON THE REMOVAL OF THE MARRIAGE BAR, 1966

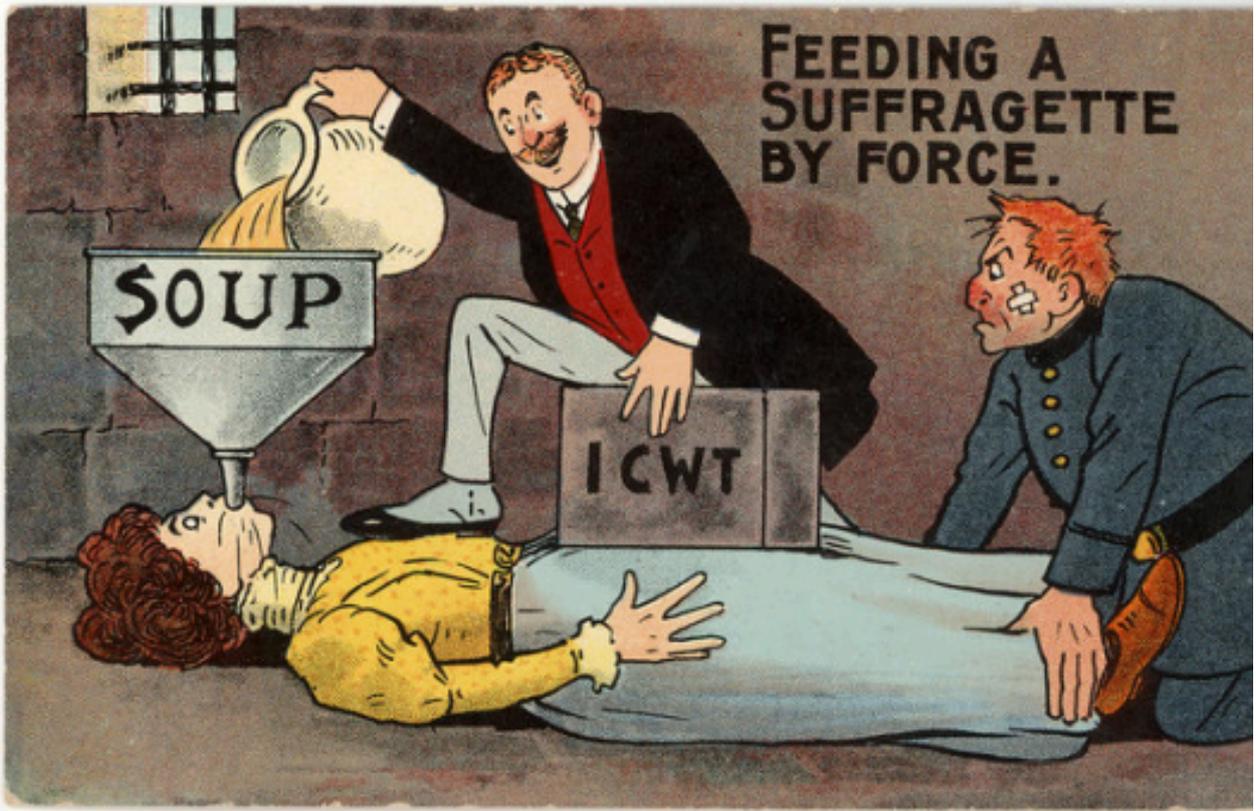
Source: Parliament of Australia

The Bill removes an element of discrimination against one section of our work force, or potential work force – an element deriving from social attitudes of another era. It must not be thought that when the Bill becomes law, married women will for the first time be eligible for employment in the Commonwealth Public Service. Nothing could be further from the truth. Married women are employed in the Public Service now. In fact they presently comprise about one third of all temporary female employees. But henceforth the Commonwealth will be permitted to retain on its permanent staff trained and experienced female officers who marry, and to recruit qualified married women. Thus, this group of women will not be denied the opportunity to pursue a full and satisfying career in the Commonwealth Public Service.

JULIA GILLARD MP, 'MISOGYNY SPEECH', 2012

Source: Parliament of Australia

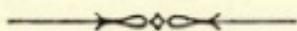
I rise to oppose the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition, and in so doing I say to the Leader of the Opposition: I will not be lectured about sexism and misogyny by this man. I will not. The government will not be lectured about sexism and misogyny by this man – not now, not ever. The Leader of the Opposition says that people who hold sexist views and who are misogynists are not appropriate for high office. Well, I hope the Leader of the Opposition has a piece of paper and he is writing out his resignation, because if he wants to know what misogyny looks like in modern Australia he does not need a motion in the House of Representatives; he needs a mirror. That is what he needs.







Australian Women's National League
KEW BRANCH



A Women's Rally

KEW TOWN HALL

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

November 13th, at 3 p.m.

Chair : Mrs. JOHN ^MWILLS

SPEAKER :

The Federal Attorney General

HON.

J. G. LATHAM

K.C.

ALL WOMEN WELCOME

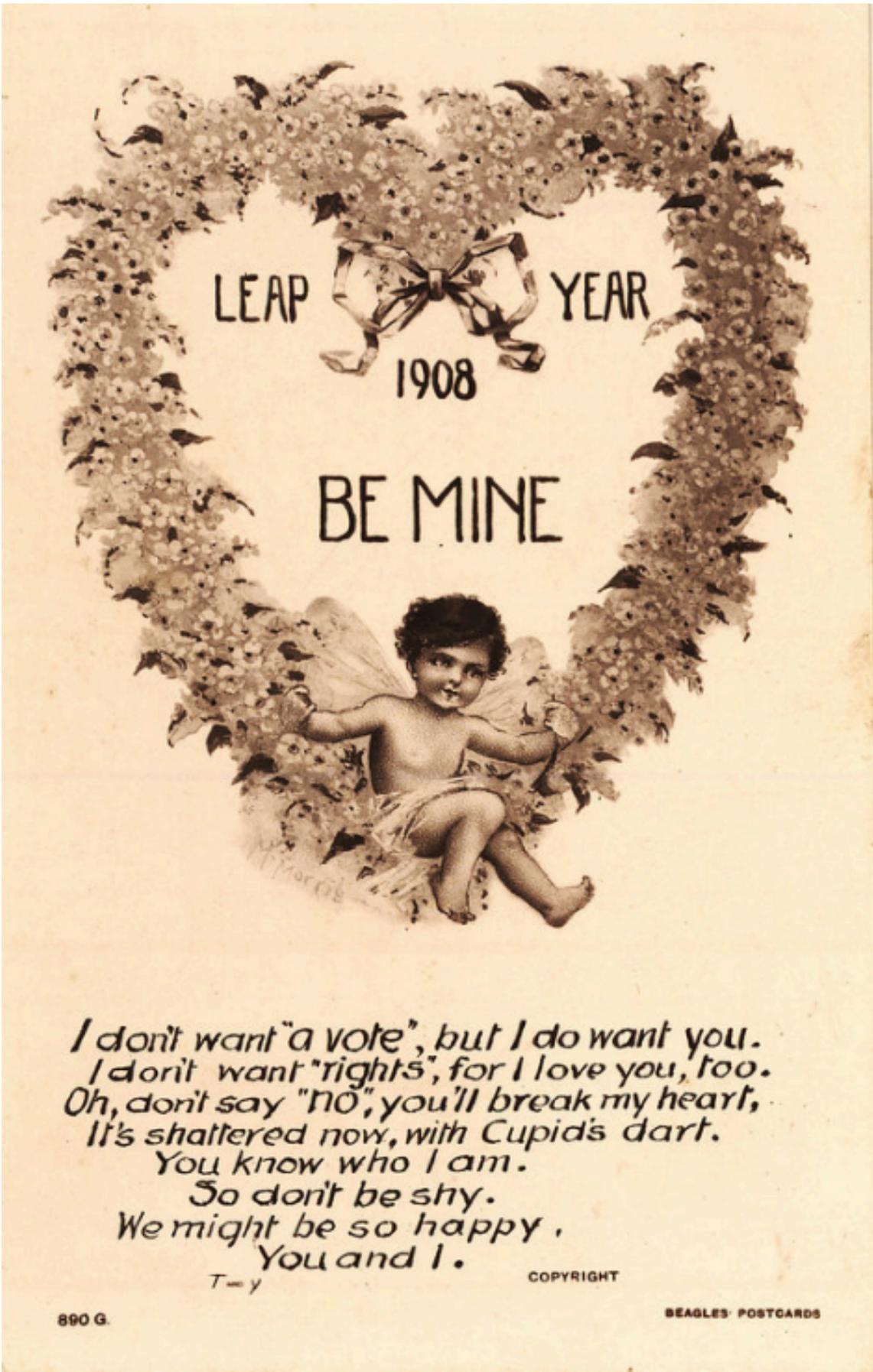
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INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S YEAR 1975



AUSTRALIA 10



*I don't want "a vote", but I do want you.
I don't want "rights", for I love you, too.
Oh, don't say "NO", you'll break my heart,
It's shattered now, with Cupid's dart.
You know who I am.
So don't be shy.
We might be so happy,
You and I.*

T=y

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890 G.

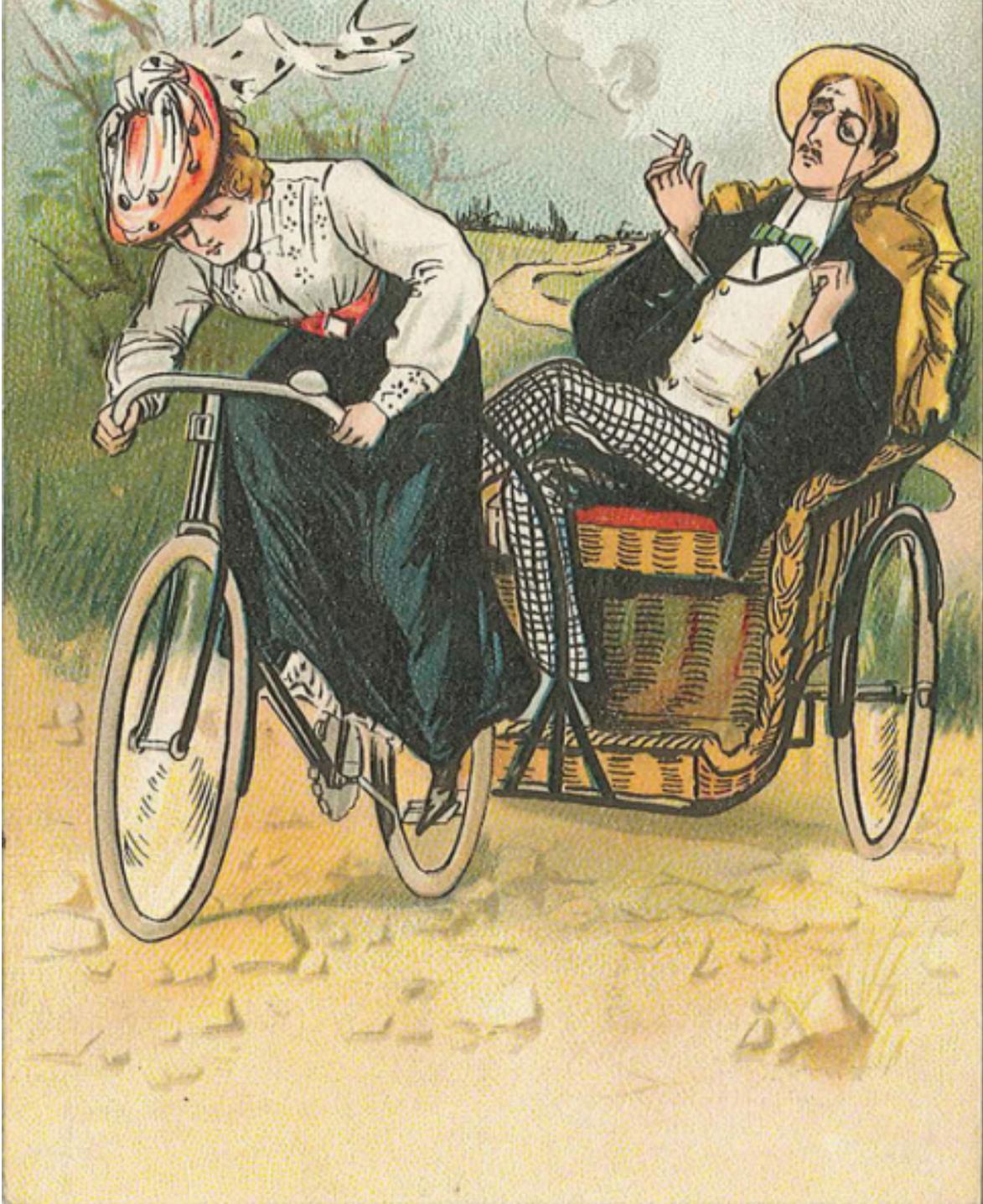
BEAGLES POSTCARDS

**JULIA GILLARD WANTS TO TURN
ALL OUR ASSETTS TO STONE**



AND ALLOW CHINA TO TAKE OVER

*"Just by way
of a Change"*



WOMAN SUFFRAGE SERIES.



FELLOW WOMEN, OUR DAY DAWNS AT LAST.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

THE CONCILIATION BILL EXPLAINED.

What is the Conciliation Bill?

An attempt to bring all political parties together in support of a **moderate and practical** plan for giving votes to women. The Bill was drafted by a committee of fifty M.P.'s representing all four parties in the House.

It has succeeded so well that, on July 12th, it was carried on the second reading by a **majority of 110**—a larger majority than the Budget got.

Among those who voted for it were:

Mr. Birrell	Mr. Balfour	Mr. Barnes	Mr. Devlin
Mr. John Burns	Mr. Bonar Law	Mr. Keir Hardie	Mr. Healy
Sir Edward Grey	Mr. Lyttelton	Mr. Shackleton	Mr. Kettle
Mr. Haldane	Mr. Wyndham	Mr. Snowden	Mr. W. Redmond

Will it give Votes to all Women?

No! It will give votes only to **women who pay rates and taxes** (whether directly or as part of the rent). The women who already have votes for Town and County Councils will by this Bill have them for Parliament. There is no dangerous innovation here. It is common sense that a woman who can choose a County Councillor can also choose an M.P.

What Women will get the Vote?

Chiefly **Women Householders**. A Householder is a woman who occupies a dwelling house, or part of a house over which she has full control, however small it may be, and **however low its value**. A duchess may get a vote for her palace, and a charwoman for her cottage, or even (if she has full control), for a single room. The few business women who occupy shops or offices worth £10 a year will also get the vote, precisely as men do.

Why are these Women chosen?

Because they are **heads of households** which at present are unrepresented. Every man who is the head of a house may qualify as a voter. These women have the same responsibilities as men householders. Most of them are widows, and many have children dependent on them. The rest are chiefly single women earning their own living.

What about Married Women?

A wife will not get the vote unless the house is rented in her name. But a woman will not be disqualified simply because she is married. This means that a sailor, a fisherman, or a commercial traveller, who is often away from home when the election comes on, may arrange to register his house in his wife's name, and so give her the vote. Thus **every household will be represented**.

How many Women will get the Vote?

About **One Million** in the three Kingdoms

Will it stop there?

That depends on men. They will still be the vast majority of the electors. There are seven and a half millions of men voters.

ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN.

AN APPEAL TO ELECTORS.

At the Election now before you, the women who may not record a single vote, although they are equally qualified with yourselves to exercise the Franchise, ask you to consider their position.

The first Woman's Suffrage society in England was founded in 1867, forty-two years ago. By the year 1900 it included, as the *National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies*, branches in all parts of the United Kingdom, and had favourably influenced public opinion, as was shown by the expressed approval of numerous organizations of workers and other bodies. This Society also obtained the support of many private members of the House of Commons—in the last Parliament over 400 members had declared themselves in favour of the measure. During these years, also, several Bills to enfranchise women were brought forward by private members; but the party Government in office on each occasion allowed none of them to pass.

This undoubtedly was the case because no party could be certain which would get the benefit of the women's votes, not because of just or constitutional objections.

SUFFRAGIST METHODS.

Women Suffragists' methods of advocating their cause were, from 1867 to 1903, entirely law-abiding, constitutional, and non-party; and the *National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies* always pursues these methods. But in 1903 the *Women's Social and Political Union* was founded, to carry out more active measures, in despair of the success of the old ways. This society, followed later by the *Women's Freedom League*, began a campaign against the Government, as the real power refusing to enfranchise women. These militant Suffragists faced the risks of law-breaking for the sake of their cause, the political freedom of women; and have suffered courageously heavy sentences and treatment which it would have been considered impolitic to inflict upon men and voters.

WHY WOMEN SHOULD HAVE THE VOTE.

Electors in the United Kingdom, you, the power behind all Governments, are asked to consider this matter. You are asked to declare that this injustice to the women who are taxed without representation, whose industries are legislated upon without representation, shall not

FAWCETT LIBRARY
27, WILFRED STREET,
WESTMINSTER, S.W.1

The Women's Library

WITHDRAWN

Six-point charter

for women at work

The political rights of women are now taken for granted in Britain. Women vote and stand as candidates in Parliamentary and Local Government elections and many women give valuable service in these spheres. Whenever there is a political decision to be taken, women's political equality is accepted without question; so much so that most women, as well as men, have forgotten that this equality was only won after a long and bitter struggle.

But there is another kind of equality—that which covers all aspects of the employment of women. This can be called economic equality and it seems to be even more difficult to attain than its political counterpart.

In certain professions there are a few women who have managed to achieve recognition of their abilities but, in general, women who want to "go out to work" are still handicapped. A minority of women have at long last obtained equal pay but many others are still exploited as cheaper labour.

The urgency of the claim for economic equality gave rise to the call by women trade unionists within the TUC for a **Charter for Women** which sets out some of the ways in which women want full and equal partnership with men in modern industry.

Going out to work

The working population in Britain is about 25 million and, of these, about one-third are women and girls.

Today over eight million—or two in every five women and girls above school-leaving age—go out to work. Almost all single women are in paid employment unless they have elderly or sick relatives to care for and, of course, many single women in employment also have domestic responsibilities.

However, the biggest change in the pattern of women at work in recent years has been the increase in the number of married women who do two jobs. During the past ten years the proportion of married women who "go out to work" in addition to looking after their homes has risen from one-quarter to one-third. Nowadays, well over half the women employees in Britain are married and the statisticians tell us that this figure is likely to increase still further. It is accelerated because people are marrying at much younger ages and newly married women remain at work to help furnish the home.

Other important changes have been the increase in the numbers of older married women who are returning to industry when their families become less dependent and of women who work part-time, i.e. not more than 30 hours a week.

331-4



MEMO

To Legislators, Women's Organizations,
Trade Unions, the Public

From
Women's Bureau

The Women's Bureau, in response to many requests, has revised its DRAFT STATE EQUAL-PAY BILL. It is hoped that this will be useful to you in drawing up your own State bills to abolish discriminatory wage practices directed at women.

SUMMARY of the Bill

Section 1

Prohibits wage discrimination against women on the basis of sex.

Section 2

Defines such basic terms as employer, employee, occupation.

Section 3

Establishes enforcement powers of the State commissioner of labor.

Section 4

Provides for the collection of unpaid wages.

Section 5

Provides for the maintenance of records and for reporting by employers.

Section 6

Establishes penalties for violations.

Section 7

Preserves the remainder of the law if one section is held invalid.

For Copies of the Draft Bill, Write to

WOMEN'S BUREAU
United States Department of Labor
Washington 25, D. C.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE - 15-22152

331-2-396-1 (73)

Equal pay

for WOMEN

● *means*

A Rate Based on the
Job—Not on the Sex
of the Worker

WOMEN'S BUREAU
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

LEAFLET No. 2, 1947 (Revised 1948)

Equal Opportunities Housing, Goods, Facilities and Services

Sex Discrimination Act 1975

This leaflet outlines the provisions of the law on sex discrimination as it relates to the provision of housing, goods, facilities and services.

It describes the role of the Equal Opportunities Commission in eliminating sex discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity generally between men and women.

343.072



Equal
Opportunities
Commission



Equal
Opportunities
Commission

votes. I do not think that the vote affects much—if at all—the strength of parties. . . . On most questions, however, the main result will be to give increased weight and strength to the family; it will thereby give proper prominence to what is, I believe, the most stable and responsible electoral unit."

TASMANIA, VICTORIA AND QUEENSLAND.

In Tasmania the Parliamentary vote was granted to women in 1904, and in Queensland in 1905. In the State of Victoria it is as yet withheld, but the Suffrage for the Federal Parliament, representing all the States of the Australian Commonwealth, was held by women from the outset, in 1902.

The advocates of the Parliamentary enfranchisement of women in the United Kingdom venture to claim that the foregoing statements, based on experience, justify and encourage unflagging effort in furtherance of this much-needed reform.

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Women's Suffrage IN NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIA.

MANY inquiries having been made as to the effects of the Parliamentary enfranchisement of women in British Colonies, it is believed that the subjoined testimonies, received from trustworthy sources, will be of interest.

NEW ZEALAND.

The Parliamentary Suffrage was granted to women in New Zealand in 1893.

The Hon. R. Oliver

(late Member of the Legislative Council of New Zealand and Postmaster-General) writes as follows:—

"The result in New Zealand of the grant to women of the right to vote has falsified every prediction of its opponents. They said that the women cared nothing for it, and would not use it if it were granted. But the proportion of women voters who have voted is noticeably large.* It was predicted that it would breed discord in families, but since it has been granted, nothing has been heard of such discord, and former opponents are silent on the subject.

* According to statistics just published (1907) the proportion of electors who voted in the last General Election (1905) was as follows:—Males, 85.2 per cent.; females, 82.2 per cent. The elections are triennial.