



(Illustration from *Daily Graphic*, 1892, which envisions what universal suffrage for women would look like)

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SAYINGS OF SUFFRAGE WEEK

Of 1867 and 1910.

The Conciliation Bill is the natural complement of the Reform Bill of 1867, which recognised the household as the unit to be represented. [1]

Of Progress.

This is a progressive age; it is only those who stand still who obstruct

Sir Edward Grey's opinion. [2]

The debates on the Conciliation Bill have secured that no Reform Bill and no extension of the franchise to men will be passed without extending the franchise to women.

Of Ignorance in Governments.

We have to deal with a Government which—until women have the vote—is necessarily ignorant of their wants.

Of the Position of the Conciliation Bill.

It is exasperating because it shows the helplessness in a democratic country of persons without a vote.

Of Patience.

We must have patience, but not the patience which refuses conflict.

Of Political Extremists.

Supporters of Women's Suffrage are becoming constantly more moderate; it is their opponents who are going to extremes.

Of the Bill as a Magic Mirror.

Mr. Asquith stood revealed as a high old Tory; Balfour as a Liberal; Winston Churchill as a wobbler; and Lloyd George as a lawyer. [3]

Of Conciliation.

Talk of conciliation and compromise is a sign of strength, not of weakness. When a man talks of dying in the last ditch, you may be sure that a ditch is his normal habitation.

Of an Imperfect Bill.

I would rather have all women over six feet high and all those who bear the name of Amelia Jane enfranchised than that they should get nothing at all.

Of the Vote for One Woman.

But the enfranchisement of even one woman would be more politically momentous than the passage of any of these gentlemen's projects. That single vote would for ever sweep away sex as a barrier against suffrage. .

Of a Women's Council.

The main objection to the idea of a women's advisory Council is that there are no women's questions, though there is a woman's point of view.

Of Indirect Representation for Women.

It is absurd to say that working women are adequately represented by the men who are their rivals in industry.

Of Women's Sphere.

When men reproach women with going out of their homes, they should remember that it was under men's legislation that they were forced to do so.

Of Ruling the World.

The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world, but it is the hand that drops the ballot-paper into the box that rules the State.

Of 'The same terms as Men.'

Those who do not like the Conciliation Bill should remember that man's foolish Franchise arrangements are not the women's fault.

Of a Democratic Franchise.

A Democratic Franchise is not a numerical Franchise, but one which represents all classes.

Of the Basis of Government

Governments rest not upon force, but upon the consent of the governed.

Of Amending the Bill

If Messrs. Lloyd George and Churchill can find a way of broadening our Bill without narrowing its chances, so much the better.

Of Government by Majority.

We men have our elected representatives in the House of Commons, and they have decided by a bigger majority than can be obtained against the veto of the House of Lords, in favour of the Bill, and we are demanding that it shall be carried into law.

Of Narrow Interests.

The more women care about other things than the vote, the more they want the vote to get these things.

Of Neglecting Home.

Apparently a woman is not neglecting her home when she is dragging half-drunken men out of public-houses to vote, but she does neglect it if she votes herself

Of Staying at Home.

Fortunate women will not go back to their happy homes till they know that their less fortunate sisters have homes fit to live in.

Of Work.

In so far as any woman proves herself to be a good worker, she is working for Women's Suffrage.

Of Lord Cromer.

Lord Cromer knows that he has come too late; he should have left Egypt ten years ago. [4]

Of Votes and Wages.

Women's wages are largely fixed by custom, and may be slowly raised without an economic revolution by the aid of the vote.

Of Rights

The only right in the world is the right of men and women to do their duty.

Of Political Abilities.

If eight women ministers and ex-ministers engaged in a conference holding twenty-one meetings, yet coming to no earthly conclusion, what kind of criticism would they have received from the opposite sex?

Of Women's Unpracticality.

Women are less fired than men, by immediate profit, and are apt for wide generalisations and ideals, without which politics is a shabby game of beggar-my-neighbour.

Of Intelligence.

Some people think that the less intelligence a woman has, the easier it is to convince her that her husband is intelligent, and that if a woman thinks at all, there will be trouble in the family.

Of Effeminacy.

Effeminacy is a bad imitation by men of women's natural qualities, best curable by being brought face to face with the real thing. Politics would be less effeminate if they were more feminine.

Of Suffrage and Work for Party.

Do not allow yourselves to be used in this way by men who are at the same time denying to you the most elementary sign and symbol of citizenship.

Of Chivalry.

What kind of chivalry is that which requires women to enter the industrial arena while denying them the weapons which men find necessary?

Of Depression.

It is a sin for a Suffragist to be depressed.

[1] In 1867 Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881, leader of House of Commons from 1858 and responsible for reforming the parliament) introduced a bill that would extend the franchise to male adult householder living in a borough constituency and to male lodgers who paid £10 for their board. The Reform Bill of 1867 thus gave the vote to 1.5 million more men. In 1910 the Conciliation Bill was proposed in order to extend the vote to women. It was not passed, and spurred renewed unrest and militant opposition.

[2] Sir Edward Grey (1862-1933), member of Liberal Party and Foreign secretary from 1905-

1916 under Campbell-Bannerman and Herbert Asquith.

[3] Arthur James Balfour, Conservative. Prime Minister 1902-5, fierce opponent to Irish home-rule (Bloody Balfour), Foreign secr. Under Lloyd George (see below), and responsible for the statement in 1917 declaring government support for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine, which led to the founding of Israel in 1948. Lloyd George, Liberal. Foreign secretary under Asquith 1905-16, and ousting Asquith from office in 1916. Prime minister from 1916 to 1922. Winston Churchill was at this point (1910) Home secretary.

[4] Lord Cromer (the Earl of Cromer) was responsible for consolidating absolute rule in Cairo. He was the British Agent in Egypt from 1883 and ruled until he returned to England in 1907.