



Learning Resources

Key Stage 3 & 4 -

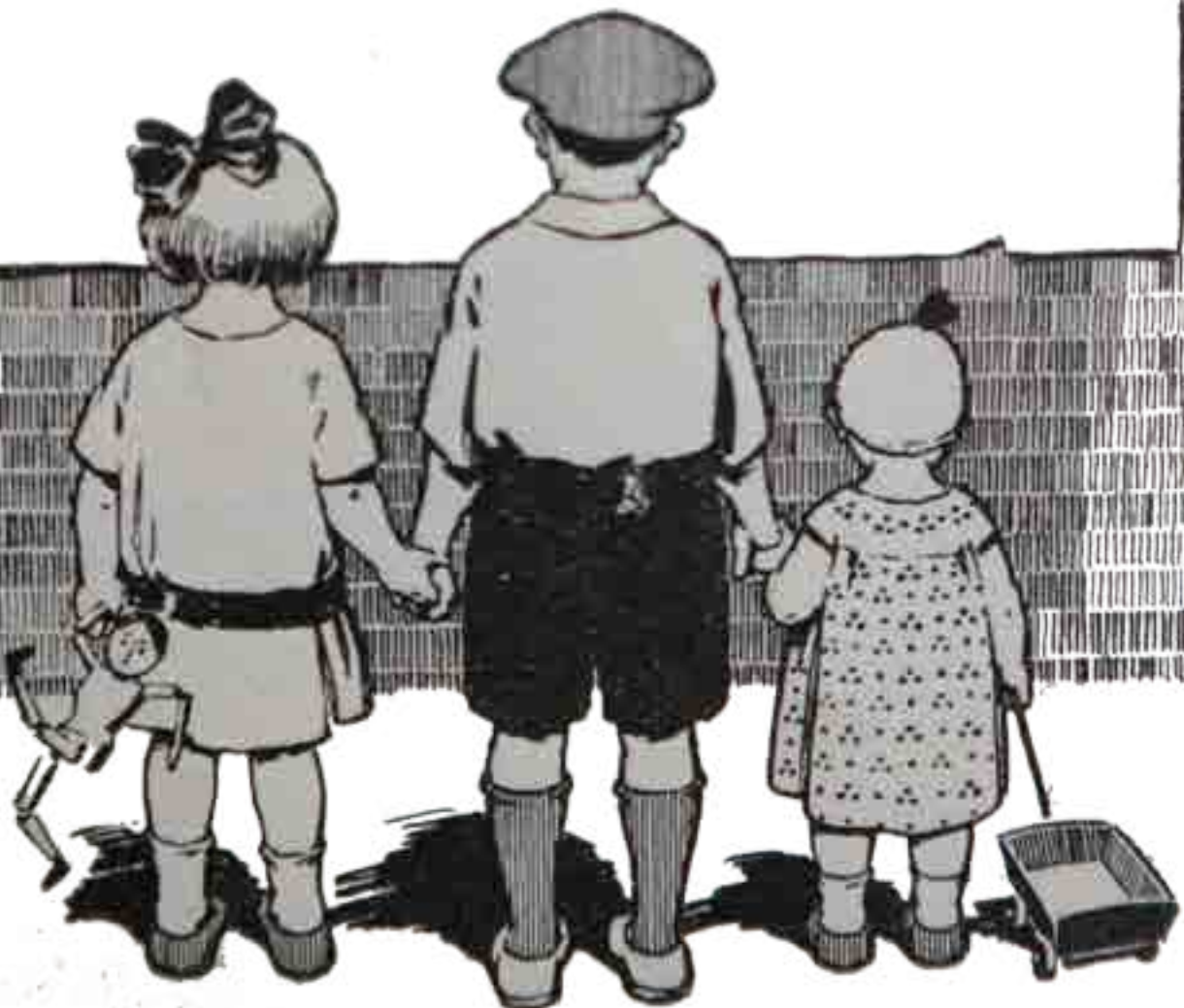
SUFFRAGE RALLY

Character Cards - Long Version :: page 4 - 38

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Fictional Role-Play Scenarios :: page 74 - 76





KS3/4 Resources to Support the Suffrage Rally at Beamish Museum

Differentiated Character Cards

- Cards are intended to be starting points from which pupils may develop fictional characters, based on the history of the suffrage movement.
- Each set of cards will tell the pupil which faction they belong to: Suffragette, Suffragist or Anti.

Long Version – Writing in Role

If using this set of cards, each pupil will receive a letter, a diary entry or a scrapbook page written by their character.

This piece of writing includes information regarding their character's life and personal circumstances, a relevant photograph and details that could be used during the role-play/ debate.

Short Version

If using this set of cards, each pupil will receive information regarding their character's life and a relevant photograph.

Character Profile Sheet

This sheet can be used as a prompt to help pupils flesh out their fictional character. This should be blown up to form an A3 sheet that can be folded into files.

DVD – Calling all Campaigners

We have filmed six fictional characters from each faction talking about the suffrage movement, rehearsing arguments they might use during a debate. Pupils can use these arguments during role-play activities. Footage can also be used to consider the public speaking skills they will use at the Museum – our characters represent people from the Beamish community and so both strengths and weaknesses in 'presentations' can be discussed.



Historical Scenarios – Freeze Frames and Role-Play

With this resource, role-play and drama can be used to help pupils explore the history of the movement and prepare for the visit to Beamish.

Each scenario refers to a range of issues in the suffrage movement, for example: stereotypes, gender roles, methods of political protests, response of those in authority – police, government, force feeding etc.

This is a chance to flesh out characters, rehearse political arguments and practice role-play skills.

Preparation:

- Distribute character cards.
- Pupils should consider what their character might be like, the A3 profile sheet can help with this.

Task

- Pupils should be split into groups (about five pupils in each). Groups should include all factions – suffragettes, suffragists and antis.
- Distribute fictional scenarios, one per group. Read through and discuss the issues as a group.
- Pupils must decide, in their group, how each fictional character would react in that situation.
- Freeze frames should be created to show the moment in time described in the scenario.
- Pupils then develop this further by adding:
 - A sentence to express how their character is feeling/what they are saying
 - A full scene to show what happens and how the situation unravels
- Pupils should watch each group in turn, discuss the issues explored and discuss how dramatic performances could be improved (louder speech, physical movements etc).





My Husband is a very wonderful Solicitor! He has just been made partner at his firm. This is a photograph of our family having tea on the lawn to celebrate!

I have learnt that our maid (in the background) has become the object of rumour and speculation in Town. She has become involved with those criminals, the so-called Suffragettes! I think I am going to have to replace her.

I think that women should definitely not be able to vote. That is a man's duty and proper role. He is best suited to public life.

A woman should be refined, respectable and should concern herself with the welfare of her husband and family. Women are not suited to the unpleasantness and conflict involved with politics. We must remain above all that.

I will show my support for the proper womanly virtues by wearing a small tasteful badge on my coat during the Rally.



Tea on the Lawn - Summer 1913



I passed some women in the street campaigning for the vote. They said I was letting my children down by subjugating myself to my husband! I disagreed with them and went across the road to sign the other petition, the one saying women should not vote. They gave me a badge!

My husband is a miner and I work hard to look after him and our little ones.

The behaviour of the Suffragettes is shocking. Breaking windows, destroying property, arson and being arrested - where will it end? I have seen pictures of riots. I have read accounts of women disrupting political meetings and heckling respectable politicians. These women cannot be respectable. Where are their morals?

And to go on hunger strike, not once but time and time again knowing they will be force-fed! How can any sensible, sane woman do this? It is madness - and they are proving all their critics right who accuse them of instability and hysteria.

I will not associate myself with these women and their 'cause'.

Summer 1913

- This is my family and I am proud to be a mother and a wife.



No Votes For Women!

Dear Margaret,

Congratulations on your news, Tom is a nice man and I am sure you will both be very happily married for at least 100 years!! Will your Father be living with you? I hope he gets better soon.

I am still working hard at the Co-op as an assistant behind the counter.

There are a lot of things happening at Beamish at the moment - the mad Suffragettes want to hold a March and Rally here, which has everyone arguing! There is a lot of talk in the Co-op about this. Can't imagine ever getting a husband if I am marching up and down yelling at people, if I chain myself to the park fence or hit some poor policeman with my umbrella!

I have a photo of some friends who work in another shop in Lamesley, and one of them has joined the WSPU (on the far right of the photo). Two other assistants there are members of the peaceful lot, the NUWSS (on the left), and they are trying to convert us all here at the Beamish store. We think their 'debates' are very funny to listen to!

I think the men do a good job looking after us all anyway. I am not sure what their problem is to be honest! I have sent you a badge to wear at the Rally.

See you soon,

p.s. Does Tom have any brothers?



No Votes For Women!

Dear Ella,

You are welcome to come and stay with us for a little while. Since my husband's death in the mine I have been earning extra money by taking in washing and making quilts. My sons of course were not caught in the accident and so we are still in our house and they are still bringing in money. It is hard now Henry is gone but we are managing and it would be good to see you.

I must say some words about your sister now. She is being influenced by the wrong people I feel. You must be firm with her.

Young women today have no morals and do not know how to behave. There is enough to do just looking after your family without wasting your time and money going to rallies and meetings. Neglecting your household duties is wrong. Women who break the law and are arrested are shameful! They do not behave as Christian women should!

Guide her so she does not follow the wrong path. If you bring her here I can help you with this task.

I was given a badge in Town yesterday. I thought you might appreciate it!

Perhaps you could secretly pin it to your sister's coat and her friends might refuse to see her again!

Here I am with my youngest. He is full of mischief and fun!

Yours sincerely,

Your dearest friend.



No Votes For Women!

Elizabeth,

A quick note - are you going to this 'Suffrage Rally' in Town that everyone is talking about - if it happens at all that is? I am not sure I have the time to waste on such things!

Politics is for those people who can afford it! Travelling to meetings, buying publications, joining organizations and paying membership fees ... And the time! Who has the time to do all this in between washing, cleaning and feeding the family? My husband works hard down the mine, and I work hard to make sure he is fed and his children are cared for.

Rich women in big hats - that's who have the time! Dabbling in politics is just a bit of fun for that lot.

I think women should not be able to vote. Most of us don't want to anyway! We have more important things to do with our time.

If you do go to town, would you pick up some things for me from the Co-op - carbolic soap, flour, butter, if you don't mind. Here is a picture of us all for Mother's mantelpiece, could you give it to her?

Thanks.

Your Sister.



Dear Mary,

My Husband and I were so pleased to hear from you and Harry. Do you like the photograph - haven't the children grown so much!

I have some news - our dear friend has become involved in the women's suffrage movement and I am worried about her. I keep trying to tell her that men have always made the political decisions and there is no need to undermine an 'arrangement' that works perfectly well. Social upheaval should be avoided at all costs in my opinion. We are a calm rational country and that is why we are great in the World.

People fear that the Empire and the economy will be destabilized if women get the vote. I fear for our Farm, it has been in my husband's family for generations and what will happen to us all if there is turmoil in the country? If they get the vote what will they demand next? Our land?

Things are as they should be.
Women should not be given the vote!

Will you write to Ivy and talk some sense into her?

If she persists in this folly we cannot remain friends.

My family must come first.

I look forward to your next letter.

Your friend always.

No Votes For Women!



WSPU
Votes for Women!
Deeds Not Words

Dear Mother,

In answer to your question, yes I am still a Suffragette and I will be marching in the colours of the WSPU if there is a rally at Beamish.

I am sorry that you and the family are so embarrassed by me and I hope that one day you will understand why I broke the law and went to prison.

Women must be able to vote. We must make this happen. I will continue to damage property to make people listen.

I have sent a picture so you will remember I am still your daughter even though you disagree with me now. My friend and I work hard as servants at Home Farm - but there must be more to life than this! I don't mean getting married, I want to do more than that some day!

Mother, I don't want to be bossed around by men and wealthy people for the rest of my life and if women got the vote I might be able to do something different with my life. I would be equal to other people. I would have rights.

Don't you want a better life for me than you have had? To get this better life I must take action.

I wish you and Dad could be proud of me. Come to the rally if it takes place and watch me march. There will be speeches and you will understand me better.

Your loving daughter.



RALLY TO DEMAND THE VOTE FOR WOMEN



Members of the Beamish Community,

Friends, you all know me, and I am sure you know my views on the issue of Women's Suffrage. In a modern democracy it is an obscene injustice that educated, propertied, respectable women cannot vote.

I campaign on many issues for example child poverty, employment rights for women, improved educational opportunities, healthcare provision and sanitation. My colleagues and I work tirelessly in this regard but real change will only happen if we obtain the vote and use that vote to make change happen.

The vote is vital if we are to improve the lives of women in this country.

My husband as Editor of the Beamish Courant supports me in this.

My colleagues in the WSPU are arranging a Rally at Beamish to demand the vote.

I have been brutalized by the police, arrested, imprisoned and force fed whilst campaigning. I do not ask this of you.

I ask you to add your voice to ours.

Support us in our call for justice, and the vote.

WSPU
Votes for Women!
Deeds Not Words



WSPU
Votes for Women!
Deeds Not Words

Summer 1913

Dear Diary,

I was in Town today helping persuade people to join us in the Rally we are organising. My brother-in-law passed me and pretended not to know me! I was shocked, but thought to myself: I have a new family now, the WSPU, so I shall not mind him!

I think that Thomas would have found his brother's reaction quite amusing if he were still alive. As my husband, he would have supported me, I am sure.

He was proud of my training as a teacher, even though I had to give it up when I had our children. He would have wanted better opportunities for our daughters too I think.

Thomas has left enough money to support our family financially, now he is gone, so I

must make do with that and be thankful I suppose.

Joining the WSPU has been wonderful for me.

I do have to admit, I find political campaigning extremely fulfilling, and I am able to use my education and talents once again for something useful.

I have also made lots of new friends and that has helped me now I am without Thomas. Life is not so lonely!

My brother-in-law has a lot to learn from women – women would raise politics out of the 'gutter' to a higher, more moral, more common-sense level. I must write and tell him so!

WSPU
Votes for Women!
Deeds Not Words

Summer 1913

Dear Agnes,

I have just been released from prison. I am back at home with my husband and he is doing a wonderful job looking after me. I feel quite weak and unwell I must say. I refused food again whilst in prison and so of course they forced it into me. They are barbaric. This is torture, nothing less than torture. They will not stop me though, they make me more determined to fight for our rights!

My husband has had to endure many insults from his so-called friends at the mine. They say I am a criminal and 'deserve all I get'. He takes this very badly I am afraid. But he still goes to work every day, putting up with it, killing himself down there to keep a roof over our heads and food in our bellies! Some of the other women in the WSPU don't realise how we struggle to find the money to campaign as we do.

But if we are ever to have a better life we must make people sit up and listen. My husband understands this.

If I am well enough for the Rally, I will attend as you ask, and I will join you in your latest plan! You always think of ingenious ways of protesting!

They will have to sit up and take notice of us I have no doubt!

I think we will be seeing the Constable again!



Summer 1913

Dear Mother,

I am glad to hear you and dad are both well. I am working hard and my new job in Lamesley is not bad at all.

You have asked me not to go to the Rally in Beamish, but I cannot agree to that Mother. You say politics is not for women, but it is, it must be, and it is for me!

Men do not understand what we women need to improve our lives and the lives of our children. They have proved this by failing to act time and time again. Government legislation helps sick and unemployed working men, but they have left women and children without enough protection.

Women need the vote so that lives will be improved - now, not next year, or in ten years time. We need it now.

I will march Mother, and if I need to break the law again I will. And if no man ever wants to marry me because of this, as you fear, I do not care.

I love you and Dad, and miss you both.

I hope to see you soon,

Your loving Daughter.

WSPU
Votes for Women!
Deeds Not Words



SUFFRAGE RALLY: LONG CHARACTER CARD

WSPU
Votes for Women!
Deeds Not Words



Dear Diary,

My father is the Station Master here at Beamish. He is an honest man and takes pride in his work. My friends in the WSPU asked me what he does the other day and I told them: he is responsible for the daily running of the station and he is in charge of the booking office clerk, the station signaller and the porters.

I know what they are thinking - a bomb or a fire at the station would be a perfect demonstration of our dedication to winning the vote.

I do not know if I can support them in this though.

My father would be distraught if anything bad happened there and especially if he knew I was involved, that I had helped

them perform what he calls a 'crime'. If I gave them information about schedules, gave them keys, or actually set the place alight myself, he would never forgive me.

When people found out I had a hand in the damage his reputation would be destroyed. I can imagine the headlines in the Beamish Courant now: 'Suffragette Daughter Destroys Station - was Station Master Involved?'

He has been a good and loving father to me.

Should I give them information about my father and his staff? Should I give them information about the layout and the buildings?

They say I will have to choose what is most important to me: my family or the vote ...



SUFFRAGE RALLY: LONG CHARACTER CARD

Dear Diary,

I am a miners wife. My sons will go down the pit. My daughters will become wives themselves, but there has to be something more for them...doesn't there?

I want a better life for them than the one I am living.

I am encouraging them all to think for themselves and the girls are just beginning to accompany me to political meetings.

I want them to be safe however, and I hate the thought of any harm coming to them (arrest and force feeding - it is unthinkable that this should happen to my girls)

I believe that women should be able to vote but we must use legal methods to further this cause.

The suffragettes undermine our arguments by breaking the law. They make people afraid by their actions. I am part of the NUWSS and by peaceful campaigning, with petitions, persuasion and blameless conduct - we will achieve our aims.

I will win a better life for my family. There may be a Rally at Beamish. Our arguments will impress the community I am sure.

My beautiful daughters.

Summer 1913.

NUWSS
VOTES FOR WOMEN!
PEACEFUL PROTEST!



Dear Sister,

Have you heard about the Suffrage Rally they are trying to organize here in Beamish? If it is on, are you coming? I think it is about time we women got a better deal in this life!

Some of the men who work here at the Co-op are laughing at me because I say I am able to understand politics. I may be just an apprentice shop assistant on 16s. 10d. per week but that does not mean I am stupid! I thought that Alf would have stood up for me when they were laughing at me, but he joined in. He said women should not vote and if they could the whole country would be in trouble!

I've gone right off Alf now! I told him I won't catch the tram with him to work any more, I am going to ride my bike to work - alone!

I don't support the Suffragettes though.

I don't think it is ever OK to break the law. I don't want to be arrested.

People here at the Co-op are worried the Suffragettes will break all our windows during the rally. (I am a bit scared of what might happen to be honest!)

I am thinking of joining the NUWSS if they do hold a Rally here. - Peaceful protest - that's the way! Do come to the rally, we could join up together!

Your loving sister.

NUWSS
VOTES FOR WOMEN!
PEACEFUL PROTEST!



Dear Editor,

I am a Suffragist - member of the NUWSS.

I believe women should be able to vote and I want to pass on a message to the readers of your newspaper.

I am the wife of a coal miner. I have six children and I take my responsibilities towards them all very seriously. If our homes are not well organized and happy how can the nation as a whole be well organized and happy?

Involvement in politics does not stop me being a good mother and a good wife. Women have to be good organizers, we work hard and have to make difficult decisions every day. We are used to bearing great responsibility. It is a natural progression to use our God-given talents to benefit the political realm as well as the private realm.

I do want to reassure you however that we do not support the lawbreaking activities of the Suffragettes. Such criminal actions are a bad example to our children.

The NUWSS respects the law of this great country and we will continue to campaign at Beamish through legal methods, petitioning, persuading and marching for our cause. We are no threat to the peace!

Respect for the law and the family, as well as for democracy drives us all on. Join your voices with ours as we call "Votes for Women!"

Yours faithfully, a devoted mother, wife and member of the NUWSS.

NUWSS
VOTES FOR WOMEN!
PEACEFUL PROTEST!



SUFFRAGE RALLY: LONG CHARACTER CARD

Note to the School Board Members,

We have received a complaint that the class teacher has been involved in marches etc. She has been asked to account for her actions. This is her response to us. She has maintained that she will march if there is a Rally at Beamish. Should she remain a teacher at the school? Please advise us.

To the School Board,

Dear Sirs,

I am aware that some people have expressed concerns about my political views and my membership of the NUWSS.

I am a Suffragist and I do believe that women should be able to vote.

Having said this I do not support the lawbreaking activities of the Suffragettes and I feel that it is unfair to suggest I am a bad example who might encourage certain pupils to break the law!

I have always worked hard as a teacher and I have always put the interests of my pupils first. It is my concern for them that has led me to the view that women should be able to vote.

Every day I teach girls who have the same skills and abilities as their brothers. I want them to fulfill that potential, now and throughout their whole lives. To do this they need new opportunities and new political rights. This is 1913. We are a great Empire and we lead the World in so much - can we not also lead the world in political reform and democracy?

I assure you all that the welfare of my pupils remains the most important thing to me and membership of the NUWSS is no threat to their wellbeing.



This is my class

NUWSS
VOTES FOR WOMEN!
PEACEFUL PROTEST!

SUFFRAGE RALLY: LONG CHARACTER CARD



NUWSS
VOTES FOR WOMEN!
PEACEFUL PROTEST!

Dear Diary,
Our latest photographic portrait.
It will hang in the parlour where my husband's patients wait before having dental work done. His practice is doing very well these days!
I have to say we do look very grand!
The photographer was a supporter of the Suffragettes and we had quite an entertaining time discussing the issue of Women's Suffrage.
My husband and I are of course members of the NUWSS, so we felt it our duty to point out to him the error of his ways – supporting criminal behaviour that simply encourages people to oppose reform! It is quite ridiculous to suppose burning down a building will prove that the perpetrators

are reliable, logical and intelligent enough to vote!
Britain needs to move with the times and recognise the skills that women could bring to national politics. People are slow to change however, so we need to keep chipping away at their ignorance and fear with reasoned arguments and dedication. How can our children thrive and our country move forward when its most ardent activists are shut away in prison? Destabilising the whole country with a wave of crime will achieve nothing!
The photographer would not accept this, no matter how hard we tried. I invited him to our next meeting, so he can hear more about the peaceful approach to political protest. I hope he will come. I am determined to make him abandon the misguided Suffragettes!

Dear Sister,
Don't worry about your first day of work. I have found a very good position here as maid and companion to Mrs Smith and I am sure your job will work out well too. I really like Mrs Smith. I am very lucky to work here.
Now, I get paid five shillings per week which includes board and lodging, and Mrs Smith is training me to run the household. That means I could one day be a housekeeper in a big house! My duties include laundry, cleaning and cooking which is what you will probably be doing as well. Mrs. Smith charges 6d for her music lessons; she teaches people in the front room and I can hear them all as I work in the kitchen.

Mrs Smith is a Suffragist, I have been talking to her a lot about women getting the vote and I think she is right. Actually, I went with her to an NUWSS meeting last week and ended up joining myself! She is looking forward to a Rally at Beamish because she thinks that more people will join up when they hear about the issues.

Before I came to Ravensworth Terrace to work I was a maid for a short time at Home Farm, but I didn't like it there and moved to Mrs. Smith's. This is a picture of me and my friend there. She is a Suffragette and wants me to join up with them, but I don't agree with breaking the law and I certainly don't want to end up in prison!
Good luck with the new job, and I hope I will see you at the Rally. I will be marching with Mrs. Smith, maybe you could join us too!



NUWSS
VOTES FOR WOMEN!
PEACEFUL PROTEST!

No Votes For Women!

MEN AGAINST WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Dear Sir,

I am the Head of the Co-op at Beamish. I have heard about the proposed Suffrage Rally and I am extremely concerned. I have heard that shops are often deliberately damaged during such protests by militant Suffragettes, women who think it acceptable to break windows and deface private property in the name of their misguided cause.

I fear that similar behaviour may occur here and threaten our store. I also fear for the safety of our employees. I earn 30 shillings per week and this is not enough money to put myself or my staff in danger for!

I believe that women should not be able to vote. They have proved by their criminal actions that they have no respect for the law and cannot be trusted.

Firstly I ask that you should oppose this rally. If it does go ahead I ask that you ensure no damage is done to the Co-op by assigning a police officer to guard the property.

Yours Sincerely,

Head of the Co-op, Beamish.



This is a picture of our store.

No Votes For Women!

MEN AGAINST WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Dear Editor,

I am a Miner, a Shot Firer. I have been told that militant Suffragettes have attempted to persuade some miners to give them explosives and detonators to use during protests. I know how dangerous such explosives are and protecting life is more important than making some ridiculous political point. I do not want innocent people hurt by dangerous criminal actions. These women should not be trusted to organize a public Rally!

Come to the mine, talk to some of the men and take photographs. I think people will be interested to read in your paper just what these women are doing.

Clearly women should not be able to vote. Such behaviour shows that they are hysterical and have no common sense!

This is what I do for 38s per week. It is dangerous work. I have seen men die down here.

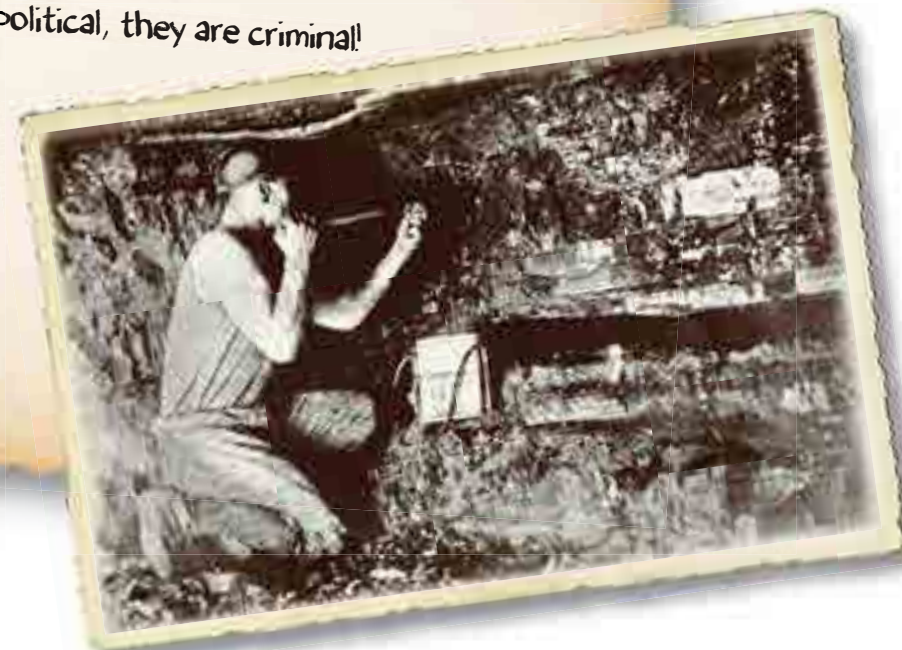
The vote is not worth dying for!

I want my family protected from these Suffragette women!

Their methods are not political, they are criminal!

Yours Sincerely,

A concerned member of
the Community.



No Votes For Women!

MEN AGAINST WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Dear Harry,

I hope you are all well and have settled into your new home. We are expecting a good harvest this summer at Home Farm, the weather has been good to us so far! In fact this is the best year I can remember since taking over from Father - you know of course that the farm has been in our family for generations. The children are all well. I have sent a photograph of us all for Mary.

There is some nonsense upsetting everyone in town at the moment, you would find it quite amusing no doubt. Women are trying to get the vote here, and a Rally may be held in Beamish to discuss this. I have joined a political group and I will attend to put our point across. (You will see I am using their stationery!)

Men have always made the political decisions and there is no need to undermine an 'arrangement' that works perfectly well. Social upheaval should be avoided at all costs. Things work perfectly well the way they are. My wife of course agrees with me.

Are the women all going mad in your new country also?

I hope to hear from you soon and I will write again shortly.

Your brother and friend ...



SUFFRAGE RALLY: LONG CHARACTER CARD

No Votes For Women!

MEN AGAINST WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Dear Diary

It has been very busy in the hardware dept. - I have certainly earned my 24s this week! People have all been talking about the Rally that the Criminal Suffragette is trying to arrange in the Park.

Women say they want the vote - where will this end? They are already filling jobs that should be taken by men. Some women even want to be Doctors! I would never go to see a woman Doctor, it is just ridiculous! Women should be looking after their children and husbands - that is their rightful role. They

do not understand finance or the workings of industry. I don't want a fiancé who neglects her duty and acts like a man! I hope Sarah does not get caught up in this stupidity.

Women should not be able to vote. I was talking to some people about this. They were handing out badges so I took one!

I am working the day of the Rally but I will make sure I tell them what I think of them as they march past!

We have been practicing our heckles already!



NO VOTES FOR WOMEN!

WOMEN CAN'T THINK! GO BACK TO THE KITCHEN SINK!

WE WON'T SUFFER THE SUFFRAGETTES!

SUFFRAGE RALLY: LONG CHARACTER CARD

Note to Editor.

One of our apprentice printers would like to write a short piece about women's suffrage in the next issue. He is a hardworking lad and has given me this quick outline to show you. Let me know if he should go ahead and write it.

George

I am an Apprentice Printer - I work at the Beamish Courant and earn 10s per week. I am a respectable, law-abiding member of Beamish like most of the readers of the paper. I speak for them.

Women should not be able to vote. I believe that a woman's place is in the home.

My mother and father are examples of how men and women should behave. They support each other. They have different roles and talents in life. My father could not comfort me or feed me, and my mother could not earn a living and involve herself in the politics of the nation. I want to describe them and their life together for the readers. I am proud of them.

I want what my parents have and I am working hard to get it. I want a wife who will behave in the proper manner putting her children and family before foolish notions and selfish demands. These Suffragettes are immoral and should not reject the proper role women have had since Adam and Eve.

How can mothers set a good example to their children if they are burning down property? How can they teach them right from wrong if they are away from home and in prison?

I have a lot more than this to say on the matter!

**No Votes
For Women!**
MEN AGAINST WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE



SUFFRAGE RALLY: LONG CHARACTER CARD

**No Votes
For Women!**
MEN AGAINST WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Dear Jack,

I am glad to hear you are all well. In answer to your question I am earning 6s, 6d per shift, it is good pay no doubt compared to what a farm worker such as yourself is earning for a hard days back-breaking graft!

That is as a deputy though. I am now responsible for the safety of 14 Hewers in the Mine. My role is to carry out safety checks and report to the Colliery Manager. If you came here you would be on a bit less. Think about it and let me know.

Yes our sister does think women should vote. You know her! I don't pay much attention to her rubbish though, don't have time. Too busy getting food for the family to worry about silly women and their silly gripes! I am a man with responsibilities!

Those rich women in London are only making such a fuss because they cannot find a husband! Proper women know their role - they should look after their men-folk and make sure they are fit and fed for work.

If the men are not fed and looked after properly they would soon get ill. Then who would dig out the coal - not those pretty women in their pretty dresses!

I have to admit, I can't help thinking it is all a bit of a joke really, women like our sister running the country! It is causing some trouble in the family though. Our parents are ashamed and upset by her antics.

Yours Sincerely, Your Brother.



SUFFRAGE RALLY: LONG CHARACTER CARD



OPEN LETTER to the Readers of the Newspaper

As the Editor of the Beamish Courant I feel I must state, for the record, my political views on the subject of women's suffrage.

I believe that women should be able to vote - and I think the Suffragettes are right to use militant tactics to further their cause.

The newspaper will however continue to present fair and unbiased reports concerning this issue (as with any other political issue), and our readers may rest assured that they will find only the facts and not propaganda of any kind in this publication.

On a more commercial level - I am aware of the issues and the campaign, and think that this 'social conflict' is great for selling papers!

If you want to be informed, buy the Beamish Courant!

WSPU
Votes for Women!
Deeds Not Words

I will now take this opportunity to explain why I support the Suffragettes.

My wife is a Suffragette (a member of the WSPU) and has been arrested on a number of occasions. She has also been force fed whilst in prison (having gone on hunger strike) and I am outraged by this policy. I have for a long time (even before I met my wife) had some sympathy for these women. I hate the restrictions placed upon us all by 'polite society' and would rather not have to follow these 'rules' all of the time. I am very glad not to have been born a woman!

I may from time to time express my views in Editorials, as is proper and expected, but we will always report the facts, first and foremost.



WSPU
Votes for Women!
Deeds Not Words

To the Editor,

Dear Sir,

You wanted to know what people thought about the proposed Rally at Beamish. If these women want to march and campaign, then good for them, that's what I say!

I am not a wealthy man. I'm a miner, a hewer. It's hard work and all I get for it is 35 shillings a week, a roof over my head and coal in my fire.

Life is hard for me and my family and if I could change things I would.

I admire these WSPU women, standing up and fighting for what they believe in. If you want things to change you have to do something about it yourself - no one else will do it for you! It is good to see them shaking things up a bit, no one was listening to them before they started burning buildings and slashing paintings - keep on going, that's what I say! The newspapers are listening now, the general public are listening now and the government is listening now!

Women should have the vote. Everybody in this country should have the vote. Keep shaking the government up - they are a good example for us miners to follow.

Dear Michael,

Our sister has been asking how easy it would be for me to get her some explosives from the mine! I think she has a grand idea of blowing something up to prove women should vote!

Now that Dad is gone, I am the last one working down the mine. If they sack me we will all be evicted!

I may only be a Shot Firer on 38s per week, with nothing else to my name, but I don't want to be arrested and lose what I do have because she tried to blow up Beamish!

I was encouraging her work with the WSPU - we all think women should be able to vote and all men as well! I have even gone on marches with her to prove that. I didn't mind when she broke all those windows in London; I congratulated her when she slashed the cushions in the train carriage last month; I even cheered when she poured acid on the golf course! But explosives - that is going too far!

She is your sister too, can't you persuade her out of this latest plan, it is too risky for the whole family!

Tell her to let her mad friend Emily Davison carry out the risky stuff!

Your Brother,

Daniel

WSPU
Votes for Women!
Deeds Not Words



SUFFRAGE RALLY: LONG CHARACTER CARD

IN SUPPORT OF THE WOMEN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UNION



I am a landowner local to Beamish and I have investments in mines around the North East. I need an effective, stable, trustworthy government to rule our Nation if my businesses are to survive and the men I employ are to remain in work.

I urge you all to support the Women's Social Political Union in their call for the female suffrage.

I have seen the valuable work that women can do first hand, while serving on our local School Board. I feel that if women can serve on town councils and school boards, become factory inspectors and vote in select regional elections (if they have enough property of course), and become Mayors - then they should have the right to vote in Parliamentary elections.

Women pay taxes. Clearly they should be able to vote to say how those taxes are spent.

A stronger democracy will bring about a stronger government and a more stable economy.

I urge you again - Support the WSPU!
Support Votes for Women!

WSPU
Votes for Women!
Deeds Not Words

SUFFRAGE RALLY: LONG CHARACTER CARD

To the Editor of the Beamish Courant,

Dear Sir,

I am a photographer by profession and I have heard that your paper might be sympathetic to the cause of the Suffragettes, or at least would be interested in publishing material about them. I have collected a number of photographs over the past few years of various events: demonstrations, rallies, speeches - both in London and in this region. These photos would make a very interesting special edition for your readers, especially since the suffrage debate is being brought to your very doorstep in the form of a Rally.

Your readers may be interested to read about the political issues in the run up to the Rally, and the pictures I have will certainly relay the determination and the passion which motivates these women. They will also show the abuse they receive when campaigning, from the general public and from police alike. I think your readers should be made aware of what happens in a so-called civilised country when women make their voices heard

I have included a couple of photographs to show you my work. After talking to the WSPU activists and following their campaigns I have to say I do support them and I have great admiration for the hardships they endure (imprisonment, ridicule, assault, force feeding).

If you are interested in publishing some of my photographs I will bring a selection to show you and we can discuss financial arrangements then.

WSPU
Votes for Women!
Deeds Not Words



A Rally at Redcar



The Funeral of Emily Davison



**MEN FOR WOMEN'S
SUFFRAGE**
—★—
Peaceful Protest

Dear Diary

The Suffragettes are trying to arrange a Rally at Beamish. If they can convince the community to allow this, it would be a good thing I think. People need to enter the debate. I believe that women should be able to vote - but they should use legal methods to further their cause.

I campaign with the other peaceful 'Suffragists' for political reform (not with the militant Suffragettes). If there is to be a Rally, we Suffragists must take part and put our views across.

I strongly feel that the Government (and the nation as a whole) should be more forward-looking and keep up with the times. Progress cannot be avoided - new professions, new industries, new medical inventions... this is 1913 and Britain leads the way in so much! New political rights for women must follow.

I fear that if the Suffragettes are involved in criminal activities during the Rally here they will alienate the ordinary man and turn him away from much needed reform.

The Suffragettes must follow our example, they must use logic and reason to influence policy. Nothing else will work.

Those of us who campaign peacefully must work with even more determination to gather supporters to our cause. I will be holding a meeting in my own home for like-minded people. We will plan our campaign strategy for the Rally.

My wife and I are both educated. I use the most modern equipment and treatments in my dental surgery. I am a forward thinking man, you can see this in everything I do as well as in my politics.

MEN FOR WOMEN'S
SUFFRAGE
—★—
Peaceful Protest

Dear Rose,

I am very glad you have agreed to marry me.

We will have to wait a few years of course. We are both still 16yrs old and as a Putter I only earn about 35s per week. I am paid by the score you see - I receive money for every 20 tubs of coal I push from the face to the main roadway during my shift.

A press photographer was here recently taking photographs of us all working. This shows what I do.

I do not mind that you are part of the NUWSS. You have opinions and ambitions and that is what I like about you! I may even join the men's campaigning group you suggest to support you! Let me think about it a bit more. A lot of the men I work with would not understand and would give me a hard time.

If it had been up to my Mother I would not have gone to work in the mine, don't know if I told you that before. She would have liked me to stay on at school but we couldn't afford it. I think that perhaps some women have more sense and intelligence than some men! I wonder sometimes if the world would be a different place if women could vote and it might be interesting to see what would happen. I could not be much worse off! I hate working down the mine.

I believe that women should be able to vote - and I think they should use legal methods to further their cause. I support the actions of the peaceful 'Suffragists', not the militant Suffragettes.



SUFFRAGE RALLY: LONG CHARACTER CARD

Dear Sister

I knew you would want me to come to the rally with you!

As always you know you have my support. I understand why you are so interested in politics, why you feel so strongly about the conditions women have to endure. I am not sure I agree with everything you say but as far as I am concerned if women want to vote I don't see what the problem is. I don't want to stop you!

If you are afraid that the Suffragettes are going to cause trouble I had best come along - I know it means a lot to you and I promised Mam I would look out for you.

Thanks for the badge, I will remember to wear it so everyone knows I do not support the other lot!

Do you think my wife Emily is badly off though? As a miner, a hewer, I earn about 36s per week. Emily and I live rent-free in our house and we receive free coal. She keeps the house, looks after our children and I work eleven days in a fortnight. Is that so bad? Do you think she is 'enduring' hardship?

This is all we know? What other way is there to live? I don't know if she feels the same as you but if she wants to vote that is fine by me. I myself am not much interested in politics.

Your loving brother.



SUFFRAGE RALLY: LONG CHARACTER CARD

Dear Diary

My daughters want to attend the Suffrage Rally if it goes ahead. I think I will take them. It does concern them after all, this will affect their future.

My dear wife has been gone for 3 years now, but the girls grow more like her every day. Katy would have wanted her daughters to have the vote. Women seem quite capable of debating and campaigning just like any man would and I know my daughters are clever enough to take part in national politics.

I am glad that the girls can talk to me about the way the world works - and not just about clothes, babies and boys! If that was all they talked about they would be very boring! If the vote will give them more chances in life I am all for that! Mary wants to be a Doctor like me,

and she has enough dedication to do it. Emma has announced that she has no liking for dolls and much prefers to play with her male cousins. I cannot see her content with needlework and housekeeping as she grows.

Their grandmother is afraid they will associate with criminals - but I think they are sensible enough to stay away from the so-called Suffragettes. My daughters respect law and order. They know also that a Doctor's family cannot be associated with any questionable or criminal activity.

I am encouraging them to support the NUWSS. I am impressed by this organisation. It is well run and has a sound strategy for achieving their aims. I am intending to find out more about them at the Rally.



MESSAGE TO THE MEN OF BEAMISH

I HAVE RECENTLY JOINED THE MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND I URGE YOU ALL TO DO THE SAME.

My wife has long campaigned for the vote and I feel that now, amidst the sensationalist publicity generated by the Suffragettes, the law abiding women of our country need our support and encouragement.

You all know that my wife Laura is an active member of the NUWSS.

Her approach is one of intellectual persuasion and selfless dedication to the cause of female suffrage. Her arguments are based on sound logic:

- Women own land, own wealth from industry, are householders and taxpayers - yet cannot vote. This is hypocrisy.
- The rights of non-voters are disregarded by Parliament and unequal rights have been enshrined in law. Women need the vote so that they are represented and treated fairly by Government.



FRIENDS,

LAURA DOES NOT BREAK OUR LAWS.

LAURA DOES NOT BURN DOWN BUILDINGS.

LAURA DOES NOT DAMAGE PUBLIC PROPERTY.

SHE WILL USE THE VOTE WISELY MY FRIENDS,
TO IMPROVE THE LAWS THAT GOVERN US.

I am a teacher, a respected member of our community. I support her demand for democracy and fair treatment. I will march with her, petition parliament and campaign with her until the laws of this land are changed.

Join us in this fight for justice. Join us at the Rally.

Stay informed, read the monthly paper:
Men's League for Women's Suffrage
(1d, including postage)



Dear Sarah,

I will ask the Minister if you can hold a NUWSS meeting to discuss women's suffrage in the Chapel. He is not keen to encourage the Suffragettes in any way however, and as the Chapel Steward I am responsible for the upkeep of the Chapel and so I don't want any damage happening either.

As you know, I support your organisation and the cause of women's suffrage, so I will put a good word in for you. My wife thinks it is a good idea also, and as she points out, the Wesley Guild often has speakers talking on a range of subjects at the Chapel.

You know the philosophy of the Wesleyan Methodists fits in well with the suffragist movement - hard work, independence, self-improvement. We are for peaceful, orderly, change - not radical upheaval! Coal owners often support the Methodist movement because they think it is a stabilizing influence amongst the workforce! Many Methodists are involved in the Trade Union Movement, campaigning for better work conditions and pay. Peaceful campaigning mind, not lawbreaking like the suffragettes.

The Methodist Chapel is very important to our community.

If the Rally goes well perhaps that will prove to the Minister that a meeting will be a good idea.

I will see you at the Rally to talk about this a bit more.



MEN FOR WOMEN'S
SUFFRAGE
—★—
Peaceful Protest

SUFFRAGE RALLY: LONG CHARACTER CARD

FEMALE ANTI 1

You do not agree with votes for women.

You are the wife of a solicitor. Your family is wealthy.

You believe that the ideal for women in Great Britain is to maintain a composed facade, a delicate and demure manner. You have a distaste for all things violent. The Suffragettes are going against all that is ladylike.

You will not act in an unladylike manner.



SUFFRAGE RALLY: SHORT CHARACTER CARDS

FEMALE ANTI 2

You believe that women should not be able to vote. You are a Miner's wife.
You look after your family and husband.

You think that the behaviour of the suffragettes is shocking. Breaking windows, destroying property, arson and being arrested – where will it end? You have seen pictures of riots. You have read accounts of women disrupting political meetings and heckling respectable politicians. These women cannot be respectable. Where are their morals?

And to go on hunger strike, not once but time and time again knowing you will be force-fed! How can any sensible, sane woman do this? You will not associate yourself with these women and their 'cause'.



FEMALE ANTI 3

You believe women should not have the vote.

You work in a shop in Beamish Town. You are not married.

You think that the actions of the Suffragettes are giving women a bad name. You overhear talk in the shop about the things they do and feel strongly opposed to their actions. You feel that women have enough rights as it is.



FEMALE ANTI 4

You believe that women should not be able to vote.

You are a miner's widow. You are able to live in your house still because your sons are miners also. You earn extra money by taking in washing and making quilts. Your husband was against women voting and so are you.

Young women today have no morals and do not know how to behave. There is enough to do just looking after your family without wasting your time and money going to rallies and meetings. Neglecting your household duties is wrong. Women who break the law and are arrested are shameful! They do not behave as Christian women should!



SUFFRAGE RALLY: SHORT CHARACTER CARDS



FEMALE ANTI 5

You believe that women should not be able to vote. They don't want to anyway! More important things to do with their time.

You are a miner's wife. You look after your house and family.

Politics is for those people who can afford it! Travelling to meetings, paying entrance fees, buying publications, joining organisations ... and the time! Who has the time in between washing, cleaning and feeding the family? Rich women in big hats with time to fill!



SUFFRAGE RALLY: SHORT CHARACTER CARDS



FEMALE ANTI 6

You believe that women should not be able to vote. You are the wife of a wealthy landowner – Home Farm has been in your Husband’s family for generations.

Men have always made the political decisions and there is no need to undermine an ‘arrangement’ that works perfectly well. Social upheaval should be avoided at all costs. You like things just the way they are. Your husband agrees with you.



FEMALE SUFFRAGETTE 1

You believe that women should be able to vote – and you think the Suffragettes are right to use militant tactics to further their cause.

You are married to the Editor of the Beamish Courant. You are active in the WSPU. You have the time and money to become involved in Politics. In fact you campaign about many issues – e.g. child poverty, employment conditions for women. You have had a good education and intend to use it.

You have been arrested a number of times and you have been force fed in prison (having gone on hunger strike). This has made you even more determined to campaign for change.

You believe that women should be able to vote – and you think the Suffragettes are right to use militant tactics to further their cause.



FEMALE SUFFRAGETTE 2

You are a Widow. You used to be a Teacher. You have been well provided for by your Father and Husband (now deceased).

You are of an age where you feel that no man should tell you what to do and think. You want better conditions for your daughter. Political campaigning is extremely interesting and you are able to put your talents (writing and debate) to good use. You have made a lot of good friends in the WSPU and secretly think protesting is very exciting!

Men have a lot to learn from women – women would raise politics out of the ‘gutter’ to a higher, more moral level.



FEMALE SUFFRAGETTE 3

You believe that women should be able to vote – and you think the Suffragettes are right to use militant tactics to further their cause.

You work as a servant at Home Farm and you probably will do so until you marry and have children. You resent being bossed around by your wealthy employers and see women’s enfranchisement as one more step towards your own freedom – someday.

Some of your relatives are embarrassed by your political views, whilst others support you, and this has caused a rift in the family.



FEMALE SUFFRAGETTE 4

You believe that women should be able to vote – and you think the Suffragettes are right to use militant tactics to further their cause.

You are a miner’s wife.

Both you and your husband are politically active and believe in universal suffrage. The upper classes will never accept change unless they are ‘forced’ to so you feel justified in breaking the law.



FEMALE SUFFRAGETTE 5

You believe that women should have the vote and are prepared to fight for your beliefs.

You work in a shop in Beamish Town. You are not married.

You see that government measures helped sick and unemployed working men, but have left women and children without protection. You believe that votes for women are the only way to change this.



FEMALE SUFFRAGIST 1

You are a miner's wife.

You want a better life for your daughters than the one you are living. You are encouraging your daughters to think for themselves and they are just beginning to accompany you to political meetings. You want them to be safe however, and hate the thought of any harm coming to them (i.e. arrest and force feeding).

You believe that women should be able to vote – and you think they should use legal methods to further their cause.



FEMALE SUFFRAGIST 2

You support the actions of the peaceful 'suffragists', not the militant suffragettes.

You are an apprentice shop assistant at the Co-op. You are not married.

You earn: 16s. 10d. per week.

You believe that women should be able to vote – and you think they should use legal methods to further their cause.

You support the actions of the peaceful 'suffragists', not the militant suffragettes.



FEMALE SUFFRAGIST 3

You support the actions of the peaceful Suffragists, not the militant Suffragettes.

You are the wife of a coal miner. You have six children.

You believe that women should continue to be good wives and mothers but that the right to vote would not change this. Women are natural organisers and know their minds. You do not want your children to be set a bad example by the violent Suffragettes, however, so you support the peaceful Suffragists.



FEMALE SUFFRAGIST 4

You support the actions of the peaceful Suffragists, not the militant Suffragettes.

You work in Beamish Board School as a teacher.

You see every day that girls have the same skills and abilities as boys. You want the children you teach to be able to make decisions about their lives and use all of their skills, without the vote, girls will not be able to do this.



FEMALE SUFFRAGIST 5

You support the actions of the peaceful ‘suffragists’, not the militant suffragettes.

You are married to a Dentist.

You think that the country needs to move with the times and recognise the skills and attributes women could bring to national politics. You understand that people are slow to accept change, but if you keep chipping away at the status quo, you will eventually achieve the franchise.



MALE ANTI 1

You are the Head of the Drapery Dept. in the Co-op. You earn 30s per week.

You have heard of the damage done to shops during protests by militant suffragettes (window-smashing, graffiti etc.) and you fear that this behaviour may spread and threaten the Co-op in Town.

You believe that women should not be able to vote.



MALE ANTI 2

You are a Miner, a Shot Firer. You earn 38s per week. This is a dangerous job!

You have heard that militant suffragettes have attempted to persuade some miners to give them explosives and detonators to use during protests. You know how dangerous such explosives are and think that protecting life is more important than making some ridiculous political point. Such behaviour shows that women are hysterical and have no common sense!

You believe that women should not be able to vote.



MALE ANTI 3

You are a wealthy landowner – Home Farm has been in your family for generations.

Men have always made the political decisions and there is no need to undermine an 'arrangement' that works perfectly well. Social upheaval should be avoided at all costs. You like things just the way they are. Your wife agrees with you.

You believe that women should not be able to vote.



MALE ANTI 4

You are a Hardware Counter Assistant at the Co-op. You earn 24s per week.

Women want the vote – and where will this end? They are already filling jobs that should be taken by men. Women should be looking after their children and husbands – that is their rightful role.

You believe that women should not be able to vote.



MALE ANTI 5

You are an Apprentice Printer – you work at the Beamish Courant. You earn 10s per week.

Just like your father, you believe that a woman's place is in the home. That was good enough for your mother!

You believe that women should not be able to vote.



MALE ANTI 6

You are a Miner – a Deputy. You are paid by the shift at 6s, 6d.

You are responsible for the safety of 14 Hewers in the Mine. Your role is to carry out safety checks and report to the Colliery Manager. You focus upon your job and looking after your family – you don't have time to waste thinking about silly women and their gripes. You are a man with responsibilities!

These are only making such a fuss because they cannot find a husband! Proper women know their role – they should look after their men-folk and make sure they are fit and fed for work.

You believe that women should not be able to vote.



MALE ANTI 7

You are against votes for women.

You work in the Garage in Beamish Town.

You see politics as a hard and dirty business, and you genuinely want to keep women out of this arena.



MALE SUFFRAGETTE SUPPORTER 1

You believe that women should be able to vote – and you think the Suffragettes are right to use militant tactics to further their cause.

You are a Miner (a Hewer). You earn 35s per week, live rent-free and receive free coal. You like to see the ‘Establishment’ (the rich upper classes who own businesses and property and the Government) shaken up a bit. You like to see the ‘status quo’ challenged!



MALE SUFFRAGETTE SUPPORTER 2

You believe that women should be able to vote – and you think the Suffragettes are right to use militant tactics to further their cause.

You are a Miner (a Shot Firer). You earn 38s per week, live rent-free and receive free coal.

You would like to see conditions improve for your family and community – one aspect of this is for women to gain political rights. Improved rights should be extended to men as well as women though!



MALE SUFFRAGETTE SUPPORTER 3

You believe that women should be able to vote – and you think the Suffragettes are right to use militant tactics to further their cause.

You are a wealthy man. You are the Editor of the Beamish Courant and you are often involved with the printing process (you are a bit eccentric!)

You earn: £8 per week.

Your wife is a Suffragette and has been arrested on a number of occasions. She has also been force fed whilst in prison (having gone on hunger strike) and you are outraged by this policy. You have for a long time (even before you met your wife) had some sympathy for these women. You hate the restrictions placed upon you by 'polite society' and would rather not have to follow the 'rules' all of the time. You are very glad not to have been born a woman! On a more commercial level – you are aware of the issues and the campaign, and think that this 'social conflict' is great for selling papers!

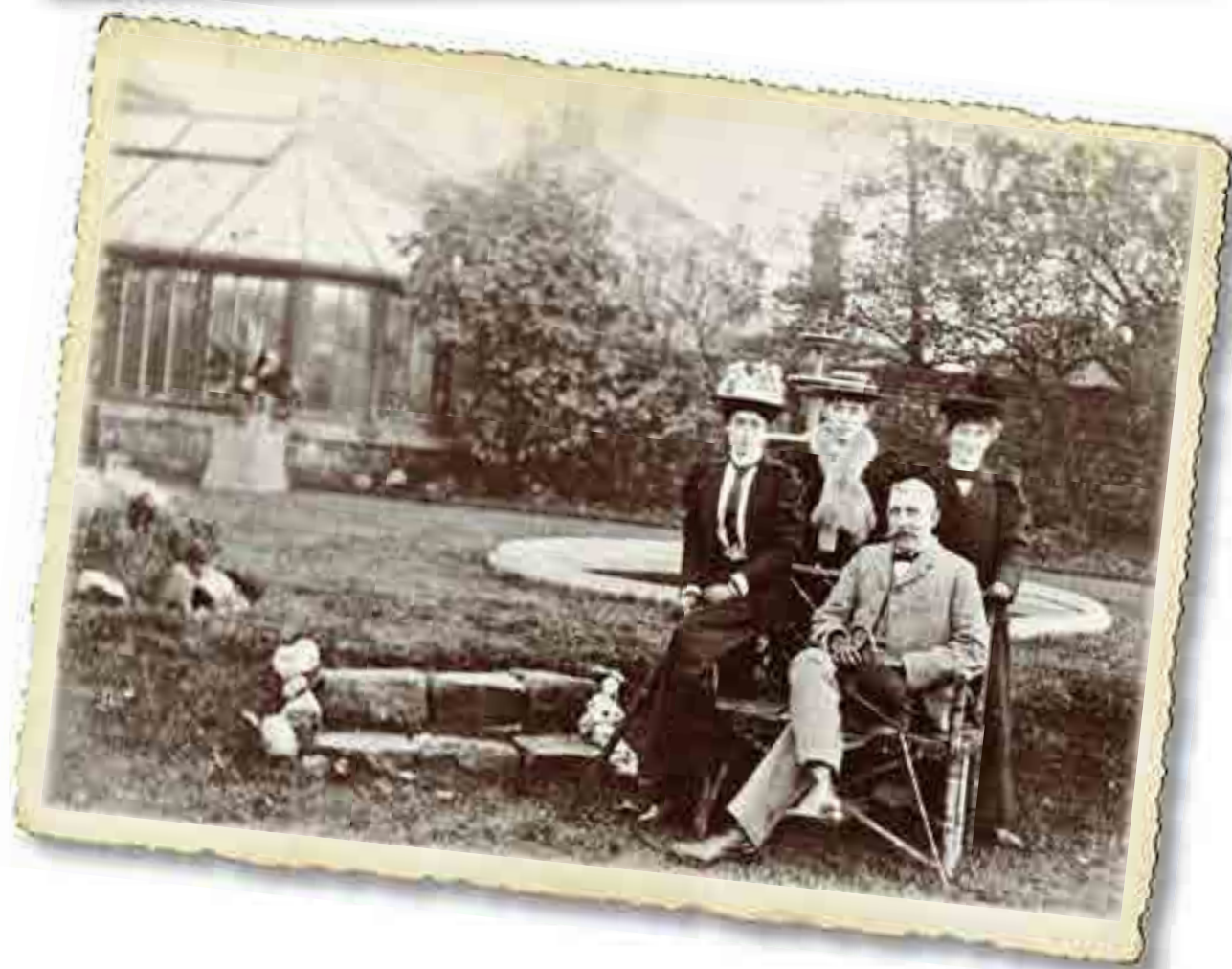


MALE SUFFRAGETTE SUPPORTER 4

You support votes for women.

You are a landowner and have investments in mines around the North East.

You have seen the work that women can do first hand while serving on the local school board. You feel that if women can serve on town councils and school boards, become factory inspectors and vote in select regional elections (if they have enough property), and become mayors – then they should have the right to vote for Parliament.



MALE SUFFRAGETTE SUPPORTER 5

You believe that women should be able to vote – and you think the Suffragettes are right to use militant tactics to further their cause.

You are a Teacher – an Assistant Schoolmaster. You earn: 25s per week. You work with female teachers and know them to be sensible and intelligent. You often think it unfair that the girls in your classes have less chance of gaining a good education than the boys you teach.

You are a socialist and your political beliefs would be considered to be quite radical by most.



MALE SUFFRAGIST SUPPORTER 1

You are a wealthy man. You are a Dentist.

You believe that the Country and the Government should be more forward-looking and keep up with the times. Progress cannot be avoided – new professions, new industries, new inventions ... and new political rights for women.

You believe that women should be able to vote – and you think they should use legal methods to further their cause.

You support the actions of the peaceful 'suffragists', not the militant suffragettes.



MALE SUFFRAGIST SUPPORTER 2

You are a young Miner, a Putter (16 yrs old). You earn about 35s per week, you are paid by the score – your receive money for every 20 tubs of coal you push from the face to the main roadway during your shift.

If it had been up to your Mother you would not have gone to work in the mine. You think that perhaps some women have more sense and intelligence than some men! You wonder if the world would be a different place if women could vote and it might be interesting to see what would happen. You could not be much worse off!

You believe that women should be able to vote – and you think they should use legal methods to further their cause. You support the actions of the peaceful ‘suffragists’, not the militant suffragettes.



MALE SUFFRAGIST SUPPORTER 3

You are a Miner, a Hewer. You earn about 36s per week, live rent-free and receive free coal. You work eleven days in a fortnight.

You are not much interested in politics yourself, but your sister is. She feels very strongly about the conditions women endure, and if she wants the vote that is OK with you!

You believe that women should be able to vote if they want to – and you think they should use legal methods to further their cause. You support the actions of the peaceful ‘suffragists’, not the militant suffragettes.



MALE SUFFRAGIST SUPPORTER 4

You are a Shop Assistant; you work in the Co-op Grocery. You earn 24 s per week. If women want to vote – let them vote. They seem to be able to debate and campaign just like any man would.

You have all daughters, and you know that they are intelligent. You are glad that they can talk to you about the way the world works – and not just about clothes, babies and boys! If that was all they talked about they would be very boring! You wish they had more chances in life.

You believe that women should be able to vote – and you think they should use legal methods to further their cause. You support the actions of the peaceful ‘suffragists’, not the militant suffragettes.



SUFFRAGE RALLY: SHORT CHARACTER CARDS



MALE SUFFRAGIST SUPPORTER 5

You think women should have the right to vote.

You are a coal miner in the Drift Mine at Beamish.

You support their cause and think their arguments are justified. When you hear people say that a woman’s place is in the home, you disagree because you can clearly see many women doing good work outside the home – many women are teachers, nurses and some have trained to be doctors. The evidence speaks for itself.



SUFFRAGE RALLY: SHORT CHARACTER CARDS



Character Profile

This is the character you will be during the Suffrage Rally at Beamish.
 What kind of person is your character?
 What is his or her life like?

Name of Character
 Date of Birth Age in 1913.....
 Occupation

Campaigning – What have you done to further your cause?

Views regarding the Suffrage Campaign – should women be able to vote?
 (Why? You can use these arguments during the debate).

Life Experience – What has happened in your character's life to make him or her think this way? Outline a few key events that have helped form your character's beliefs.

Describe your character's personality – What is he/she like? How does he/she behave?

Husband/Wife – Do you agree?

Children – How are they affected?

Friends – What do they think?

Fictional Role-Play Scenarios

You are all at the races and a woman runs out in front of the Kings horse. She tumbles head over heels and is badly injured. It soon becomes clear that she is a Suffragette attempting to protest. How do you react?

A suffragette recently burnt down a local building in support of her cause. She has just been released from prison and is returning home to her family. What happens when you all see her in the street?

A group of people are in the Co-op shopping. Some of the women (members of the mining community) have controversially been attending local WSPU meetings and this has caused comment amongst the others. What is happening?

A group of people march to the local MP's house to hand over a petition supporting extension of the Franchise to women. There is a large police presence and it looks like there may be trouble. Previous marches have ended in riots and, it has been said, police brutality. What happens at the march and how are you involved?

A group of militant WSPU suffragettes are discussing what their next act of protest should be – and are trying to persuade some new members to become actively involved. You overhear them. What is happening?

A WSPU activist is addressing a small gathering of people, trying to attract new members and promote the cause of female suffrage. How does everyone react?

You are waiting at a train station with a group of other people. You all see a poster on the ground showing the force-feeding of an imprisoned suffragette. In the poster, she is being held down by prison guards whilst the doctor feeds her through a tube and funnel. She will be speaking at a forthcoming Rally.

Do you think she should be allowed to address a gathering of law-abiding people? Perhaps you think she is not the criminal in this situation at all – the criminals are actually the prison guards, the doctors and the state itself.

Someone tries to pin the poster back up. How do the other people react?

A husband and his wife are arguing on the street about the campaign for women's suffrage. The man's sister supports his views – that women should not vote. People standing near them are being drawn into the argument. What should you say to his wife – should she support her husbands views regardless of her own and cause a family split?

A new shop has opened on the busy high street in Town, selling WSPU merchandise to support the cause of Women's Suffrage. People seem to be going in to have a look around so you go in as well. There seems to be a disturbance inside – what is happening?

A number of WSPU members are campaigning, holding placards and trying to sign up new members. They are also chalking the date of the next Rally on the pavement for people to see. They notice that a man across the street is taking photographs of them. A passer-by tells them that he is a policeman – and that they must be under police surveillance. What are the reactions?

A group of WSPU members are posing for a photo – holding a broken window in it's frame. You are passing by and notice how proud they look of themselves. What do you say to them?

A WSPU campaigner is walking along the road carrying a placard demanding that women be given the vote. A policeman has noticed her and is approaching. If she were walking on the pavement she could be arrested for obstruction, however she remains on the road and continues on. A government minister is about to leave the constituency meeting he has just attended and the policeman is anxious to avoid an incident. What happens next?