**WOMEN VOTING 1901-1904**

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 1 June 1901, page 6**

THE RYDE ELECTION.

Mr. Terry’s Candidature.

FEMALE FRANCHISE. With regard to extending the franchise to females, as they would have noticed from his speech in Hansard, he strongly favoured the proposal, holding that women were often shrewd in business and they had that power of intuition which enabled them to quickly discern the genuine article from the sham. They would never be taken in by the same fraud twice, and their advent to political life would have the effect of raising the honour, tone and integrity of it. No one worthy the name of a man would misbehave himself in the presence of ladies.

**Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Thursday 28 August 1902, page 5**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27.

REDUCTION OF MEMBERS AND WOMEN'S FRANCHISE

Mr COHEN asked the Premier if the Government really intended to take any action in with respect to the reduction in the number of members of Parliament, and if so, when if not, would the Government take immediate action with respect to the rearrangement of electoral boundaries, especially now that women were entitled to vote.

The PREMIER made the following answer: This matter is still under the consideration of the Government After the Municipal Bill and other important matters have been disposed of the Government will have more time to deal with this very important matter in regard to the third part of the honourable members question, I may say that until we collect the roll in connection with women of franchise it will be impossible for the Government or for the Commissioners appointed under the law to define the boundaries of the electoral districts. I am sure that my honourable friend will see that that is the proper course to take. We do not know yet where the ladies are located who will be entitled to vote, and until we get that information it will be impossible to deal with the question.

**Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate (NSW: 1876 - 1954), Wednesday 22 October 1902, page 6**

WHY WOMEN SHOULD VOTE.

(by “S.C.”)

Happily, we are no longer obliged to discuss the question as to whether women should have a vote, for a liberal and enlightened Parliament has now decided that matter by extending the franchise to all adults, male and female alike. The next step now is to direct the attention of women generally to their new responsibilities as electors, and to induce them to avail themselves of the privileges of the franchise. There are many reasons why all women should vote, some of which may be given briefly as follows: -

Women should vote to show that they want the franchise, and to disprove the statement that they, as a majority, are indifferent or opposed to the privilege. Argued from the standpoint of common justice, women, as intelligent and responsible beings, are as much entitled to vote as men. They should help to make the laws under which they have to live. It is simply the custom of centuries which has given all the power of voting to men. Women, as a matter of right and justice, should have had the vote all through. Among men, only criminal and insane persons are disfranchised, and no woman, by rejecting the right to vote, need place herself politically on the level of either of these classes.

They should vote also to see that all laws relating to women, children, and domestic matters generally, are put on sounder and firmer bases than at present. Later on, when women have given other subjects more thought, when their political education has advanced, they will be just as interested as men in all subjects brought forward. At present two matters urgently calling for reform - the higher education of women, and the payment to them of equal wages for equal work done - should occupy the serious attention of women, and be insisted on.

In homes where the woman's vote is exercised the influence will at any rate be double that of homes where it is not used, or in which only single men live. It appears only right that respectable parents, carefully training children to become an honour and credit to the State, should, by virtue of the mother's vote, have more power in the making of the laws than the tramp, or the irresponsible larrikin in the street, who has no alims or interests beyond his own self-gratification. Every woman who hesitates to vote should remember that the vote of one good woman will nullify that of one bad man.

Women should vote as the most-sincere mode of expressing the thanks due to the band of untiring workers, who have at last succeeded in gaining the privilege for them. Long have they laboured ungrudgingly and incessantly in the good cause. and at times have suffered almost a martyrdom of sneers, reproaches; and disappointments. They have won for the women of this State a privilege that many of the best and noblest women of England sigh for as yet in vain, and it would be more than ungracious not to take up such a gift and use it. Years have passed over the heads of those earnest toilers in the vineyards of humanity, and many of them cannot hope to behold the fruits of their labour. But women can at least show them the blossom and the promise of it.

The eyes of all the world will watch critically the results of this innovation, and every woman who votes conscientiously and judiciously adds her share to the success of a great forward movement; every woman, too indifferent or too prejudiced to vote, acts as a drag upon the wheel of reform. If every good woman would rouse herself and throw the weight of her vote into the scale of political reform, all pernicious voting would be more than counterbalanced.

It may be safely predicted, too, that should some deadly or insidious foe threaten the welfare of the State, should there come a time of grave national peril, then, even the men who have opposed the enfranchisement of women will, in their necessity, gladly and gratefully seek the votes of despised womenkind. Let women then be ready to voluntarily give their aid to a good cause.

We would therefore urge all women who have the welfare of women, of children, or of the future of their country at heart, to obtain their elector's rights, and to use them when opportunity offers. It is the simplest thing in the world to obtain an elector's right. (We got ours without the slightest difficulty a few days ago, so. we know.) It Involves less time and trouble than going into a shop to buy a yard of calico. A woman has simply to go to the courthouse between the hours of ten in the morning and four in the afternoon, ask the clerk of petty sessions for her elector's right, and she will receive it, provided, of course, she is over twenty-one years of age and a resident of the district. It is better not to delay in the matter; many a dissolution of Parliament has come about in a manner and at a time, most unexpected, and it is well to be prepared for such an emergency.

And until such an emergency arises some of women's leisure - scan though it be - may be profitably spent in studying the best methods of voting, in learning the way in which our State is governed, and in mastering other details of political. life. With such objects in view the indefatigable workers in the women's suffrage movement in Sydney have formed themselves into the Women's Electoral and Political Educational League. There are rumours about that efforts are being made to establish a branch league In Maitland - one is already in existence in Goulburn, we believe. If the women of Newcastle, therefore, desire to be in the van of reform, they must make similar efforts: and, as a last word, let us remind them that one of the first and soundest political maxims to commit to memory is that united and organised effort is always the most economical and effective.

**Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 13 December 1902, page 10**

Beecroft.

Women Voters. — The Beecroft women were quite enthusiastic over the privilege afforded them of having their names placed on the roll, and all without exception availed themselves of the opportunity when Constable Wade went round with his book and that agreeable smile of his. There were no refusals in Beecroft, where the names of 140 women have been enrolled. One or two would not admit they were 21, so their names had to be left off, much as they desired to have them on.

**Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney, NSW: 1870 - 1919), Wednesday 14 January 1903, page 13**

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The following return has been issued showing the number of women who refused to have their names recorded on the franchise roll in the undermentioned electorates: Gipps 11, Warringah (Manly) 15, Willoughby 6, Canterbury 19, Annandale 233, Ashfield 80, Leichhardt 48, Petersham 50; total, 517.

**Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Saturday 21 February 1903, page 10**

WOMEN'S LIBERAL LEAGUE OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

A league under the name of Beecroft Women s Liberal League was formed at Beecroft on February 18. The president of the Women’s Liberal League of New South Wales (Mrs Molyneux Parkes) addressed the meeting. Mrs. Melbourne Green was in the chair. Mrs M. E. Swift, vice-president W. S. L. also spoke. It was resolved that the league should affiliate with the W. L. L. [Women’s Liberal League] and adopt its butter and methods of work. The following officers were elected: - Mrs Melbourne Green, president; Mrs. Perry, vice-president; Miss Ogden, hon. secretary; Mrs. Lyons, hon. treasurer; and three other members of the committee.

**Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Monday 23 February 1903, page 9**

WOMEN'S LIBERAL LEAGUE.

A well-attended meeting of ladies was held in the Cleveland-street Methodist Church last week under the auspices of the Women's Liberal League. Mrs. M. E, Swift was in the chair. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Messrs S. T. Whiddon and Daniel Levy, M. L. A. Mrs. Swift opened the meeting with a brief address, and advised her audience to join the W. L. L. Mrs. Molyneux Parkes (president of the Women's Liberal League) emphasised in her speech the necessity for women organising extensively if they wished to influence the next election. Mr. T. A. Rogers. M.L.A., who was the principal speaker of the evening, delivered an address, in the course of which he remarked that women were not as ignorant of politics as men were at the time responsible government was granted to them. He thanked those who had started the league, and hoped that it would accomplish much good work.

**Newsletter: an Australian Paper for Australian People (Sydney, NSW: 1900 - 1919), Saturday 28 February 1903, page 18**

A new league, under the name of the Beecroft Women's Liberal League, was formed at Beecroft on the 18th inst. The president of the Women's Liberal League of New South Wales (Mrs. Molyneux Parkes), at the invitation of some of the lady residents, addressed the meeting, Mrs Melbourne Green being in the chair. Mrs. M. E. Swift, vice-president W. L. L., also spoke. It was decided that the league affiliate with the Women's Liberal League, and adopt its platform and methods of work. The following officers were then elected: — Mrs. Melbourne Green, president; Mrs. Perry, vice-president; Miss Ogden, hon. secretary; Mrs. Lyons, hon. treasurer; and three others members of the committee. Meetings will be held monthly, and a vigorous propaganda work is to be carried on. A vote of thanks to the speakers terminated a very successful meeting.

**Cobar Herald (NSW: 1899 - 1914), Saturday 12 September 1903, page 5**

Sydney Day by Day.

The Labor Party has begun to quietly organise his forces for the forthcoming elections. Great attention is being paid by propagandists to the working woman voter, who is bound to go solidly for the Labor candidate every time. Many middle-class and upper-crust women decline to go to the polls, but the labourer's wife will do as she is told. Hence it is more than likely that the outcome of the female franchise will be an overwhelming majority for the Democracy.

**Evening News (Sydney, NSW: 1869 - 1931), Saturday 17 October 1903, page 3**

BREVITIES.

The women of this country are requested by the W.C.T.U. [Women’s Christian Temperance Union] to exercise their votes, as a duty to God and humanity.

**Windsor and Richmond Gazette (NSW: 1888 - 1961), Saturday 25 June 1904, page 9**

A meeting of the Beecroft branch of the Women's Liberal League was held at Beecroft on Friday afternoon last week, Mrs. Green, the president of the league, being in the chair. The meeting was addressed by Mrs H. Lee and Mrs Molyneaux Parkes, and also by Mr B. B. O'Conor, the selected Liberal and Reform candidate for Sherbrooke. A strong committee was formed to secure the return of Mr O'Conor for that electorate.