

SOURCE 2

Extracts from an article in *The Times* newspaper on women's suffrage, April 1906

(PRO ref: [HO 45/10338/139199](#))

HOW TO USE THIS SOURCE TO HELP YOU ANSWER THE BIG QUESTION :

Study this source carefully and consider what it tells you about why people thought women should get the vote. You should consider:

ASK YOURSELF:

- Why does the Labour MP Keir Hardie believe female suffrage is right?
- How convincing is Mr Wason?
- Why does Mr Redmond believe female suffrage is a good idea?
- What reservations does Mr Bottomley have?

SOURCE 2

ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) moved :—
“ That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that sex should cease to be a bar to the exercise of the Parliamentary franchise.” He traced the history of the question since 1832, and invited the decision of the House on the one question that sex should not be a barrier to the possession of the Parliamentary franchise.

Mr. E. WASON seconded the motion as one who had persistently and consistently advocated the rights of women in this matter.

Mr. W. REDMOND (Clare, E.) supported the motion because he was against slavery in every shape or form. He held that any of God's creatures who were denied the right of exercising influence in the government of the country in which they lived were slaves. It was supremely ridiculous to hold that the sex which gave many Sovereigns to England was not qualified to vote for a member of Parliament. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.) supported the motion, and maintained that women would take an intelligent interest in politics if they were granted the franchise. He should resist any proposal to allow women to sit in that House.