

SOURCE 2

Views of anti-suffrage MP William Cremer reported in *The Times*, 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 do you think Mr Cremer was so concerned about female suffrage?
- How did Mr Cremer use the figures in the census to support his views?
- Why did he feel women did not belong in the political arena?
- Do any other sources support his views?
- According to Mr Cremer, did most women support women's suffrage?

SOURCE 2

Mr. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston),

opposed the motion. He asserted that, if they once admitted any section of females to the right to the Parliamentary vote, it must ultimately lead to adult suffrage. (Hear, hear.) As, according to the last census, there were three-quarters of a million more female than male adults, and as, to that number, must be added perhaps a quarter of a million of men who were always unable to record their votes by reason of the nature of their occupations, adult suffrage meant handing the government of the country over to a majority of the electorate who would not be men but women. (Laughter.) He had too great a respect for women to drag them into the political arena and to ask them to undertake obligations and discharge duties that they did not understand, and, what was more, that they did not care for. If the women of the country were polled on this question, he believed that the majority would either not vote or would record their vote against it.