

SOURCE 3

Report from the Times newspaper of a debate 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:

- What was Mr Evans saying when he was interrupted?
- How did Mr Evans claim that the interruption proved his point?
- What criticisms did Mr Evans make of the supporters of women's suffrage?

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Mr. EVANS said if women had the vote they ought to have imposed upon them all the duties of citizens, and was developing this argument when he was interrupted by persistent voices from the Ladies' Gallery. Among the cries heard were "We will not have this talk any longer," "Divide, divide" ;

Mr. EVANS, continuing, asked whether there could be any argument in his favour stronger than what had just occurred. (Cheers.) Did hon. members desire that what had taken place in the gallery should be repeated on the floor of the House? Did they suppose that such exhibitions were approved of by the mass of the women in this country? (Cheers.) There had never been a vote of women in favour of the motion of his hon. friend, though it was true that the proposal had been supported at men's meetings at which some women were present; but was it to be supposed that when a mere handful of women assisted by some men adopted a resolution they voiced the feeling of the women of the country?