SOURCE 7

Report from the Daily Express on the coroner's inquest into the death of Emily Davison, June 1913
(PRO ref: HO 144/1150/210.696)

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

Look carefully at this source and consider what it tells you about how the Suffragettes helped to achieve the vote for women in 1918. You should consider:

ASK YOURSELF:

- What events are described in this report in relation to Emily Davison's death?
- Is the report sympathetic towards Miss Davison?
- Is it sympathetic towards her cause?
- How does the report suggest Miss Davison was a strange figure?
- What evidence are the suggestions based on?
- Is this report more useful to an historian than a report of the actual race and Emily Davison's death?

SOURCE 7

BLIGHTED BY MILITANCY.

TRAGEDY OF THE DERBY SUFFRAGETTE.

RUINED CAREER.

The story of a brilliant career marred, with an ignominious death as its conclusion, was unfolded in the little red-brick police court at Epsom yesterday during the inquest on Miss Emily Wilding Davison, the suffragette who stopped the King's horse during the Derby.

A verdict of "Death by Misadventure" was returned after Captain H. Jocelyn Davison, Miss Davison's half-brother, had given evidence showing how his sister's great attainments and brilliant record had withered like Dead Sea fruit under the malignant influence of militancy.

The pathetic loneliness to which Miss Davison's career of militancy had brought her was illustrated by the evidence of a police sergeant named Frank Bunn. Describing his efforts to render assistance to the unconscious woman as she lay on the course after the accident, he said:—

"I called out among the crowd, 'Does any one know this woman?' But there was no reply."

An Epsom doctor described the death as having been due to a fracture of the base of the skull, and in summing up the coroner said:—

"It is exceedingly sad—so it seems to me—that an educated lady should sacrifice her life in such a way."