

SOURCE 8

Extract from the Report of the Board of Agriculture, October 1918

(PRO ref: MAF 59/2)

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 women's work in the Great War helped to achieve the vote for women in 1918. You should consider:

ASK YOURSELF:

- Who is the author of the report?
- What have been the main contributions made by women?
- How important were those contributions?
- Would this type of report be effective in influencing political views on women's suffrage?

SOURCE 8

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE DURING WAR-TIME.

MISS MERIEL L. TALBOT, C.B.E.,
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The members of the Women's County Committees have at much cost to themselves, both of time and money, given constant oversight to the work with all its many details and difficulties. In several counties to-day the Women's Committee has realised the importance of getting a corporate feeling among all the workers, from the Village Registrars to the County President, and has adopted a regular system of election by ballot. The county is divided into districts resembling Rural Districts. Each District Committee is elected by the Village Registrars of the area. The District Committee elects representatives for the Central Executive Committee. Thus the County Executive is not merely a body nominated by a few individuals, but it is appointed by the wish of all those concerned in the work throughout the county. It is representative in fact as well as in name.

Since the War, women have been called not only to do men's work in field and factory, but also in many unexpected places in the public service. Experience has already proved that their shortcomings—which women are the first to recognise—are the result of want of training rather than of zeal or capacity. On the War Agricultural Committees women, while giving so generously of their time and interest, are realising the responsibilities of public service, and gaining generally from the experience.