

SOURCE 5

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

(PRO ref: CAB 37/136/10)

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

Look carefully at this source and consider what it tells you about why conscription was introduced and how people were affected by it. You should consider:

ASK YOURSELF:

- What is the attitude of the writer towards conscription?
- What does the following phrase mean: 'This question is one of fact, and ought not to be approached from the party or political points of view'?
- How does this source show that conscription was an issue which divided the members of the government?
- What solutions did William Long put forward?

SOURCE 5

THE RECRUITING PROBLEM.

1. ALTHOUGH I am fully aware of the difficulties, it is my sincere belief that compulsion is necessary to enable us to get and keep up even fifty divisions.

The real question before us is :—

Can we under the voluntary system get the men we want ?

This question is one of fact, and ought not to be approached from the party or political points of view. The safety of the country is at stake, and one of the worst things that could happen to us now would be disunion in the Government.

4. It seems to me that this will be the inevitable result of forcing a decision on the present lines. But is there no alternative ?

Personally, I have some doubts whether we could get all the men we want even by means of compulsion. The financial situation is not free from anxiety. My suggestion is that we should avoid a direct issue on the question of compulsion; now, and proceed on other lines. I would suggest that—

- (1.) We should communicate at once with our Allies,
- (2.) We should allow Lord Derby and his Recruiting Committee a definite time, say by the end of November, to obtain the necessary recruits.
- (3.) If it appears that sufficient recruits are not forthcoming, we ought all to be willing to accept a measure of compulsion as the *only means* by which the country can do her duty and save her position. One of the Ministers should be entrusted with the duty of preparing the necessary Bill.

5. This I suggest should be the definite policy of the whole Government. The scheme suggested would—

- (a.) Give us time to ascertain the possibilities of the voluntary system ;
- (b.) Enable us to obtain the views of our Allies on the part we must play ; and
- (c.) Secure among us, what is of the greatest importance, unity of purpose and a definite policy.