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AL/1336

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XXXXXXXXXXXX NU

Tel 404 Wantage

H. Parkway Place
Wantage
Berke

July 7th
1954

Dear Madam

I have been trying for some time to come see you since I saw the Fawcett Society was so wisely founded to unite women societies in one.

But I was ^{too} busy on urgent family matters to come last November when I was staying in London & may not be able to come for some time now.

So I write to suggest - as I have long wished it possible - that it would be a graceful act if we could show some token of our gratitude to Sir Cyril Radcliffe - as I always felt he has never had any public token of our thanks for giving us his own in the private members' ballot for the enfranchisement of women Act (1912) I think - which passed its second reading

1923 - Matrimonial Causes Act, private bill
Member for Bolton. talk 1945 -
P.C. lives in London.

X owing to the outbreak of the war in 1914

2.

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in the House of Commons of that time - It was only stopped in its passage by the 1914-18 War.

It was such a generous act that all we suffragists felt deeply grateful - It was the sky-sign that so many men supported our cause was a great help for our propaganda at the time.

Living as I did then here in one of the strong holds of the "Centre" we had to work hard together. Afooting - But I did much formal "infiltration" work at last formed a branch of the "Constitutional Suffragist Union" here. For as you will know there were both schools of thought - whether to "take the Kingdom of Heaven by violence" or by continued Constitutional methods.

We both respected each other & did mutual help where possible. But many of us like myself with tiny children could not fight physically. Much as we admired the wonderful courage of those who braved prison work for the cause.

I have never met Sir Cyril though I have once seen him at the House of Commons but have for some time wondered if we could not make some happy gesture of thanks to him.

You will all be able to suggest ways - a presentation - a dinner or luncheon at the House of Commons or some new & delightful way ~~at~~ which women societies seem happy in planning.

I will only add that my dear father was a friend of Disraeli & upheld him at the very end with Lord Barington - though I must ask you to believe before I was born. My father always gave the suffrage his blessing & interest - I have always felt that Disraeli would have been a great help to us if he had lived with his understanding of the notable part women might play in any country - I would have been touched like all of us at Sir Cyril's grief.

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practical gift & help at the very
height of the crisis.

Will you kindly hand this letter to
your President for the Committee's
consideration.

I am - dear Madam
yours very truly
Hazel Birch

P.S.

I was living in Westminster all through
the war & had my home bombed - so am
here for a time - as I cannot find any
suitable flat in London at present -
so the above address will find me
at present.

Women's Suffrage.

1885

2nd Rd passed without division

1892

Sir Alfred Rollins

2nd Rd defeated Maj. 23.

1897 -

MS Fairfull Beers

C^d 2nd Rd 228 - 157

1904

Res. Sir Ch. McLaren

2nd Rd C^d by 114

Ch. stop talked out.

1905

Sir Ch. McLaren

1906 Apr.

Res. Keir Hardie

Talked out (WSPU mo)

1907

MS. ~~Stranger~~ talked out

1908

MS. Dickinson Stranger

C^d by 179

1910 July

Constitutional Bill - MS Shackleton

2nd Rd 110

Part. divided No.

1911 May

Constitutional Bill Sir George Kempf

2nd Rd C^d 167

1912. March

(Introduced by Sir Francis Bell
and Bill) - 2nd Rd lost by 14 majority

(C^d 1st Place,

2nd + 3rd places also desired by
suffragettes - names unknown.)

1913 Jan.

Got Franchise Bill turned down by
Speaker.

(With)

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Isabel Birk

1954.

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