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Mrs Despard

President of W.F.L from Sept 1907
to 1933? —

Leader writing - Speaking -
Stimulating Social Service Action -
at Nine Elms & the Despard Arms
& in general —

President of the Vegetarian Society 1918

Mrs Despard

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1920. Visits Hungary after speaking at

the Geneva ^{W.} Int. Congress - 1920
Repeating her tour made in 1911 when
the W. I. C. met at Buda-Pesth - she
found everywhere most dreadful
evidence of the aftermath of war.

Hungary had never desired to fight -
on Germany's side - but had been overruled
by Austria. Great parts of her territory
had been taken away from her -
the University of Pressburg, her coal fields,
her factories. - She visited the hospitals,
the children's shelter, the women's prisons
into which she sent baths.

Miss Despard

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Nov 19 20

Made an Alderman of Battersea

Goes to Ireland in Jan 1921 to investigate the conditions of women & children during the struggle & to plan measures of relief

Mrs Despard's Work

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when in London is at the office on Monday
Wednesday & Friday mornings.

She speaks (March 1910) Castle Hill - Hampstead

Belfast, Bangor Coleraine, Londonderry

Formed new branches on East Coast -
& in Ireland -

Sunderland - South Shields -

Wrote articles for The Vote & for the public

Press - Cardiff - I.L.P. Conference

April - led proposed deputation to

Labour Party - April 12 1910

Mrs Bennett, Amy S., Mrs Menzies, Mrs Cobden S.

Mr Parker said no such bill would have any
chance at present. Mr Barnes said "We, in this
room are all in your favour. If the Party is
disposed to make a declaration it would be
in favour of adopting the removal of the
sec disability as a present measure with
complete adult suffrage in the future -

The request will be reported to the Party meeting
on Thursday.

The Woman's Charter 1910

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Lady McLaren - Daily Chronicle publishing articles on some of the proposals -

Mrs Despard writes me -

(Lady McLaren suggests that there should be payment to the "wife-mother-housekeeper" at the same rate as the employed housekeeper gets -

much protest "paid motherhood" - "marriage as a profession"

Mrs Despard's article contains -

"I am specially impressed with those parts of the Women's Charter that deal with the wife or mother. My long varied experience as a Poor Law Guardian and as a manager of elementary schools makes me feel the immense importance of giving economic independence to the women, who as a fact, work more unremittently and perform more valuable duties than any other class in the community. There should be a settlement on all mothers, and no man who has property should be permitted by law to leave the woman who has administered his house and brought up his children to the mercy of the world."

Mrs Despard.

Records
1906

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South London - Nine Elms -
one of very early
Poor Law Guardians

Clubs for workmen & boys
one of first

Child Welfare Centres
in Nine Elms

Mothers' Afternoon.

Joined S.D.F. later I.L.P.

Became a Roman Catholic -
Then a Theosophist.

Born 1844 - died 1939
aged 95. —

Polled 5,634 votes in 1918
Battersea / e

Spent last years in Ireland
Came annually to London for
W.F.L. celebration of her birthday