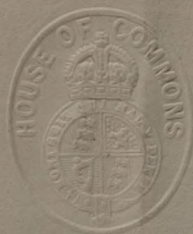


Sydney Buxton



AL/150

Dec 12 1876

Dear Mr Poodhuse

ow

Convenant Tory was

I presume, private - a

free & part talk.

was certainly trusting

is a private, as for

and all see

one of the

Press People here ()



that the Press
Association) asked me
about the reputation -
+ I said that
quite understood it
was not a public
affair in any way
In any case

if it is so desired
to publish anything
about it, the proposed
report will of course
be first submitted to
me

~~Just~~ I am very
glad to meet the
deputation & have a friendly
talk. You may write
I should

Report re Deputation to Mr. Sydney Busclon.
Dec. 12th. 1906.

Two petitions were presented to Mr. Busclon, one signed by 465 women householders in the Poplar constituency, and the other signed by 1,406 men and women residents. In reply to a Memorial read by Miss Woodhouse, the Chairwoman of the Cubitt Town Women's Liberal Association, asking Mr. Busclon to present the Petitions to the House of Commons, Mr. Busclon said,

It appeared to him there were so many views as to what the basis should be for qualification for women's suffrage, and as far as he was concerned, if he voted for women's suffrage, it would be on the basis of all women having a vote; he agreed it ought to be given on exactly the same basis as the men have it; and, as that is practically manhood suffrage, we should claim the suffrage for all women. He had never really considered the question until recently and had never voted on it; he was not actuated by any feeling of hostility in the matter, and personally he would advocate adult suffrage. It is a question which is not acute in the House of Commons, but he confessed that within the last two or three years it has become more active and interesting. Women were thinking more and more about it themselves and there were certainly a larger number in favour of it to-day, but he was still in great doubt as to how far the general feeling of women is in favour of the franchise, and it depends on the views of the women themselves as to how men should regard it.

He thought he should not oppose it if it could be proved that a large body of working women shewed themselves in favour of it; and with regard to this side of the question, he was very much struck and greatly impressed with the arguments put forward by

a deputation from the Women's Textile Workers, which waited upon him a short time ago. He considered they made out a very strong case, stronger than he ever thought they had, with regard to the rise in wages which would accrue through the women's vote, and agreed with them that women's suffrage would be a benefit to them in regard to the cases which they brought to his notice. Apart from this, he did not quite know what particular advantage would be gained. He would like to see a little more clearly what particular sort of question would be settled by a House of Commons where women had votes. From reports he had received with regard to the working of the women's vote in New Zealand, it was admitted that, while there had been no disadvantage arising from it; no particular advantage had been gained in any way, so far.

If he could see that women would benefit by it, he would give it consideration. He was prepared to give his whole-hearted support to any measure that would entitle women to sit on the London County Council and all local Bodies.

On being asked if he was prepared to support any measure which might be brought before the House, Mr. Buxton replied that he "could not pledge himself to do so, but he would go so far as to promise not to vote against it." In his opinion no logical Bill had as yet been brought forward.

The deputation then withdrew.