



The extension of suffrage

A virtual museum by:
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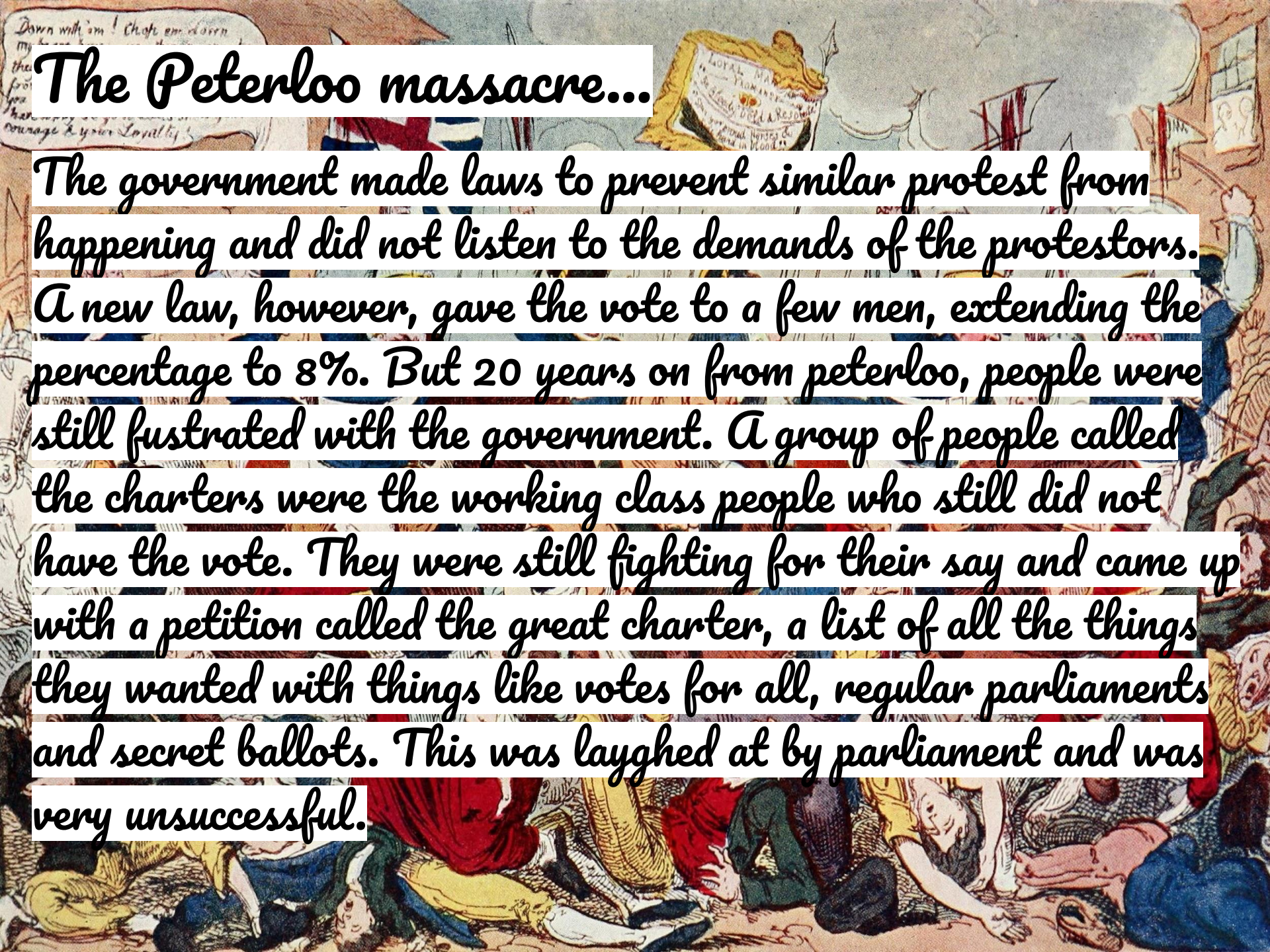
Welcome to the museum of suffrage...

this is the virtual museum of the extension of suffrage where you can find out about how people fought for the chance to vote. You will find out about protests and suffrage and how people argued for their say in parliament. I hope you enjoy it!



The Peterloo massacre

The Peterloo massacre happened on the 16th august 1819 in Manchester on St Peter's Field. It was a gathering of over 60,000 men, women and children who were demanding a reform for parliamentary representation for men. This was because at that time, only 3% of the population had the vote. A man called Henry Hunt was leading the protests and not long into the campaign, the magistrates had ordered their soldiers to arrest Hunt and break up the protest, for they saw the campaigners as being a dirty, angry lot! The soldiers came to the protestors and attacked them with their swords and horses, injuring over 600 and killing about 18 people.



The Peterloo massacre...

The government made laws to prevent similar protest from happening and did not listen to the demands of the protestors. A new law, however, gave the vote to a few men, extending the percentage to 8%. But 20 years on from peterloo, people were still frustrated with the government. A group of people called the charters were the working class people who still did not have the vote. They were still fighting for their say and came up with a petition called the great charter, a list of all the things they wanted with things like votes for all, regular parliaments and secret ballots. This was layghed at by parliament and was very unsuccessful.

The Peterloo massacre...

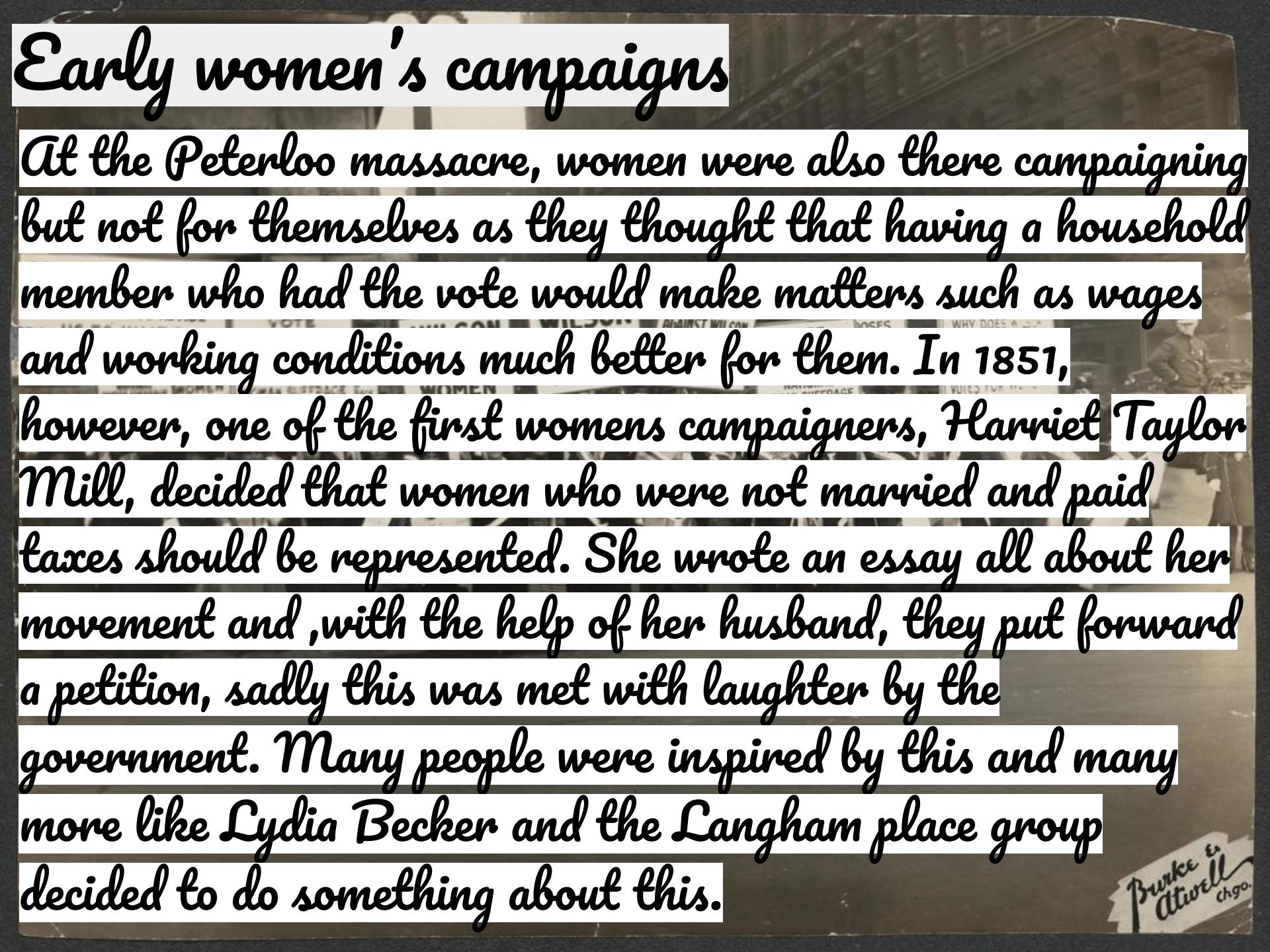


This tells us that campaigning for something is going to take a long time to get what is demanded and takes a lot of hard work.

This image shows people protesting. They had flags and liberty caps and were shouting to get their voices heard. Despite the failures of this event, people still were fighting for parliamentary rights and eventually, some changes did happen- the vote was given to all men with property worth more than £10 a year. This still excluded 6 out of 7 men and all women but it was a step in the right direction. This shows that people fought hard for the vote.

Early women's campaigns

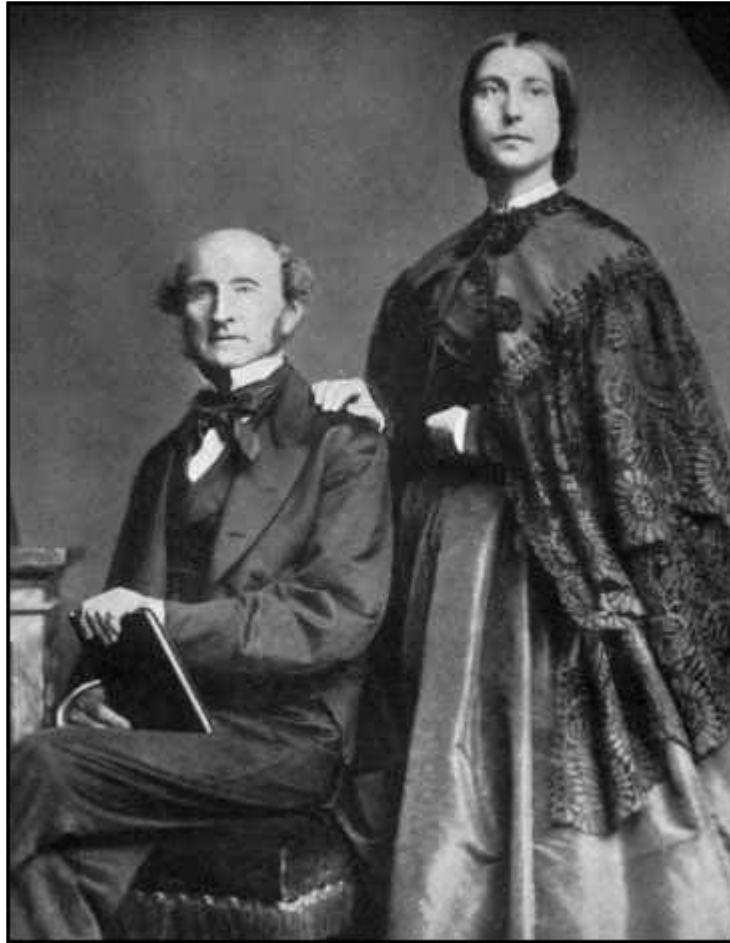
At the Peterloo massacre, women were also there campaigning but not for themselves as they thought that having a household member who had the vote would make matters such as wages and working conditions much better for them. In 1851, however, one of the first womens campaigners, Harriet Taylor Mill, decided that women who were not married and paid taxes should be represented. She wrote an essay all about her movement and, with the help of her husband, they put forward a petition, sadly this was met with laughter by the government. Many people were inspired by this and many more like Lydia Becker and the Langham place group decided to do something about this.



Early women's campaigns

The Langham Place group was founded in 1857 by Barbara Bodichon to campaign for issues that affected women including the right to vote. The group was made up of middle class women who were successful and the group tried to find work for women as well as publishing articles such as the English Woman's Journal that affected women. Barbara Bodichon began to work with John Stuart Mill (Harriet Taylor Mill's husband) and kept trying to make petitions. Though all of these were unsuccessful, they kept making them when many people joined the newly founded NUWSS in 1896. Another important group is the Manchester Suffrage Society which frequently held public meetings and increasingly tried to recruit working women.

Early woman's campaigns...



Here is a picture of John Stuart Mill and his wife Harriet Taylor Mill. They were one of the first people to campaign for women's rights in the 19th century. They wanted women who paid taxes to be represented and to be equal to men. They wanted the vote because by having this it would make women have equality in all areas of life. They made many petitions asking for women's suffrage but were unsuccessful because it was laughed at by parliament.

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Later womens campaigns...

Harriet Taylor Mill and her husband had influenced many others to campaign for womans rights in the twentieth century. By this time, woman had still not been granted the vote and as they were seen as the weaker sex- people thought that by having a male in the family that could vote, women didn't need it. This was a problem for many women who were not married as they had no husbands to vote for them. Despite having many petitions made, the government still wouldn't give them the vote, so many people turned to more violent methods of persuasion: women burned down houses, planted bombs, destroyed buildings and even went on hunger strikes in prison. These were all done by the suffragettes.

Later women's campaigns

The suffragists were also campaigning in the early 20th century but with more peaceful protest than the suffragettes. The NUWSS was the largest group for campaigning for women's rights and they believed that calm, peaceful ways of protesting such as petitions was the best way to persuade the government that women should have the vote. But some organisations wanted different things such as the radical suffragists who wanted adult suffrage where everyone gets the vote and some wanted women to have better working conditions but people agreed that getting the vote was a step in the right direction to get what they were achieving.

Later woman's campaigns

The suffragettes directly wanted the vote and had very different ways of trying to get it compared to the suffragists. Unlike their peaceful protests, these women would go to extreme lengths to get what they want and deliberately break the law to get noticed such as chaining themselves to gates, setting off bombs and smashing windows! The WSPU was the group involved with all of this and was lead by Emmeline Pankhurst. This method put many people off the suffragettes and made it less likely for them to get the vote. A huge amount of women were arrested for their actions and many women in prison went on hunger strikes leading to force feeding and the cat and mouse act.

Later woman's campaigns



Here is a picture of Mary Richardson who was part of the WSPU and was arrested many times. She is well known for when she slashed the Rokeby Venus painting in the National Gallery using an axe she had smuggled in and was one of the first to be forcibly fed after going on a hunger strike. Force feeding was a abuse of womans bodies as a pipe was inserted through the nose and liquid food was poured through the body.

World War I- Outcomes.

When world war I had started women immediately stopped their campaigns and a very peaceful march was held in which women demanded the right to serve. Many women joined the WAAC (Women's Army Auxiliary Corps) freeing up men to fight in the front lines. The WSPU turned their attention on encouraging women to support the war effort and considerably improved their image in the public's and parliament's eye. When the war was over, the government were looking at arrangements for holding an election and Millicent Fawcett (one of the leaders for women's suffrage) got in touch with some MPs and told them women must be included in the vote. Thanks to women's effort in the war, and all their campaigning MPs considered changing their minds.

Outcomes



The Representation of the people act in 1918 gave the vote to any woman who had property and was over the age of 30 (men could vote over the age of 21). Finally, in 1928, women were finally given the thing they had been fighting for for so long- the vote at an equal basis to men. Women could now vote from the age of 21 with no restrictions of property!!!

The museum of the extension of suffrage.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about my virtual museum and have learned a lot about how people fought for their say in parliament. I think we should be very grateful that these people fought for their rights as we are very lucky that we are able to vote regardless of property or gender.





The End

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