

# BIG MEETING FOR SUFFRAGE

Mrs. Philip Snowden One of  
Speakers

Congressman Keating of  
Colorado Told of Con-  
ditions There

The "votes-for-women" campaign closed last evening with a large mass meeting in the assembly room of the First Methodist church. The speakers were Mrs. Philip Snowden, a prominent English suffragist, and Congressman Edward Keating of Colorado. A band concert was given outside of the church for a half hour before the meeting opened. The platform for the speakers was made artistic and homelike with palms, yellow banners and pennants and bouquets of yellow marigolds. Willow chairs were placed there for the speakers. Mrs. A. G. Lewis, the leader for this Assembly District, introduced Henry B. Graves, president of the Ontario County Men's League, who in turn made a few remarks fittingly introducing Mrs. Snowden.

Mrs. Snowden is not only attractive in appearance, but is one of the best speakers for the cause that has ever been in Geneva. Her familiarity with conditions on this side of the water and in England, made her a most interesting and convincing speaker. After a few preliminary remarks on the fitness of her presence in New York state as a helper to the cause of woman suffrage, she said that one of the criticisms that she had heard of the movement in New York is this: "that of all the times in the history of the state, the nation and the world in which to make a change, this time was the least suitable, when part of the civilized world was busy destroying itself." In answer to this criticism Mrs. Snowden cited Denmark, "which lies nearer the great danger than

women to fight. They want her preserved. But they are fought, especially in war time in the most disastrous way. Women are never safe in time of war and are fought as men never were fought. After the war and the bread winner is dead, then women have to fight a terrible battle for sustenance for their little ones. War is doing more to convert the men of England today to suffrage than all our talk."

"The one remaining hope of England," Mrs. Snowden said, "is the coming into public life of the women." This she quoted as the saying of a prominent military man in that country. He also said that the saddest thing on the battle field is not the sight of piles of dead or the groans of the wounded, but it is the cry of the wounded boys of 15 years or so for their mothers; boys who are more sinned against than sinning. "and it is our business," Mrs. Snowden said, "to save them. We are an important fighting force through our sufferings. Votes for women will come speedily and together with men we will work out our salvation. If you would have a perfect state, as you have perfect homes, it must be by the men and women working together to make a perfect state as they work together to make the perfect home."

A woman voter, Miss Jane Thompson of Chicago, was next introduced and asked in an expert manner for a collection, which proved to be the largest collection ever taken by the Geneva organization.

Congressman Keating of Colorado was the final speaker of the meeting. He said that he had lived in Colorado all the twenty-two years that suffrage had been effective there. He felt when it was adopted that it would be a good thing; now he knows it has been a good thing. Women, he continued, in Colorado, have not been unsexed, and the home still survives, no worse than before women were enfranchised and perhaps a lot better.

The first things the women of Colorado did after getting the vote, he stated, was to organize clubs to study citizenship and New York women, if enfranchised, will do likewise, he believed. Women voters and legislators in Colorado have not

lies nearer the great danger than the United States and is far less able to cope with it," she said. "Denmark, within touch of the example of the Belgians, does not fear, but chose the wise thing and enfranchised their women in the midst of danger." She also added that in a short time Holland would remove all obstacles to the enfranchisement of women, as well as other countries, so she came to plead for a world-wide cause, for men to do the fair and square thing for the women of New York state and vote for suffrage. Mrs. Snowdon said she was not arguing the justice of the case, for most men are thinkers and admit the justice of it, but many desire a practical reason, not a theory, so, she had come to give a practical reason for suffrage.

In giving her reasons she spoke first of the change in the character of politics in the recent years and the change in the lives of women.

In referring to the change in the lives of women she said she was sorry to see so many women in society that have forsaken the idea that the home is the highest and best sphere for women, but not in a narrow sense. "Woman's sphere is the home; no one wants to take her away for any other reason except in service for the home," she said, "but I want you to face facts. Enormous numbers of women would have no homes if they did not make them for themselves. They have been driven out by economic necessity to earn their homes. Look what is happening now in Europe." Mrs. Snowdon then told of the work of men taken up by the women of England. She said, "Face this and the fact that 25,000 innocent men are slaughtered every day; that before the war broke out there were a million more women than men, and now it will be worse. If women are stealing men's work they are stealing from thieves, for the work now done in the factories was formerly done by our grandmothers in the home. So, women are forced out of their homes to work in the factories beside men. It is only reasonable that working men should find necessary protection; women should have the same protection. Another fact, a majority of the homes are not fit

and legislators in Colorado have not proven emotional but have proven themselves capable of seeing clearly and hewing straight to a given line. Graft, he said, has been eliminated in some boards and departments entirely through the efforts of women.

The best argument for suffrage, said Congressman Keating, lies in the fact that after all the other states watched Colorado, Utah, Idaho and Wyoming from 1896 to 1910, while these four states worked out the problems of women voting, practically all the other western states fell in line in one year.

He closed by appealing to the Republicans because Lincoln was for suffrage, the Progressives because Roosevelt is for suffrage and the Democrats because Jefferson was for suffrage and Wilson is. And he appealed to all Americans to vote for enfranchisement of women because it is American.

## IMPROVEMENTS FOR PULTENEY PARK

Mayor R. H. Gu'vin has made arrangements for the beautification of Pulteney Park by the planting of shrubs and by the making of other improvements. A planting plan has been prepared by Robert M. Broadfoot, superintendent of Glenwood Cemetery Commission, which will be followed in making the improvement.

It is proposed to grade back the bank on the east side of the park and set sod which will stop the washing of the ground. The fence and unsightly road sign on the west side will be removed and some other arrangement made for the direction of traffic to the right in going around the park. Some of the old trees will be trimmed and decayed places will be filled with concrete, while the new plantings will include clumps of shrubbery at the intersections of paths and the setting of pyramid arbor vitae to relieve the barrenness of the park during the winter months.

It is said that somewhat similar plans for the adornment of the armory grounds are also under consideration.

The newest millinery, moderately

majority of the homes are not fit to be called by the name of home. In the large cities more than one-third of the working people do not comply with the laws of sanitation. Because of this women are asking for the opportunity to make better homes."

In answer to the argument that women do not want the vote Mrs. Snowden stated that one million women in New York state have declared that they do want it and of those that do not want it, or are indifferent, it is because they have been trained not to want it, because men don't approve or because they have been appealed to by the men through their affections, which appeal Mrs. Snowden branded as the meanest, lowest reason a man can present, a reason which throttles the spirit of the woman.

Against the statement that women can't fight she said, "That reason is illogical for you would be obliged also to cut out all the splendid old men, the sick and all of the men who wouldn't fight. Women can fight if trained to fight. Warfare is a test of endurance and when it comes to that test men have nothing on the women. If trained they could fight, but no nation would want it."

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## Ethel Snowden

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Ethel Snowden

**Ethel Snowden, Viscountess Snowden**, born **Ethel Annakin** (8 September 1881 – 22 February 1951), was a British socialist, human rights activist, and [feminist](#) politician. From a middle-class background, she became a [Christian Socialist](#) through a radical preacher and initially promoted [temperance](#) and [teetotalism](#) in the slums of Liverpool. She aligned to the [Fabian Society](#) and later the [Independent Labour Party](#), earning an income by lecturing in Britain and abroad. Snowden was one of the leading campaigners for [women's suffrage](#) before the First World War, then founding [The Women's Peace Crusade](#) to oppose the war and call for a negotiated peace. After a visit to the [Soviet Union](#) she developed a strong criticism of its system, which made her unpopular when relayed to the left-wing in Britain.

Snowden married the prominent [Labour Party](#) politician and future [Chancellor of the Exchequer](#), [Philip Snowden](#). She rose up the social scale in the 1920s, much to her pleasure, and she welcomed appointment as a Governor of the [BBC](#) and as a Director of the [Royal Opera House](#). Although her husband received a Viscountcy, money became tight and she led the way in caring for him; after his death, she resumed temperance campaigning as well as journalism. She tended to be a controversial public speaker, who would fill with enthusiasm for a project and pursue it to the disregard of anything that stood in her way; it was said of her that "tact or discretion were foreign to her nature".<sup>[1]</sup>

## Woman's suffrage

After 1906 Snowden became increasingly active in supporting women's suffrage, being one of the national speakers for the [National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies](#); she decried the concentration on such things as dresses, jewels and cake recipes and wrote a book called "The Woman Socialist" in 1907 which advocated state control of marriage, joint title by women to the

housekeeping money, and a state salary for mothers; she also wanted housekeeping organised collectively in each street and declared that under socialism women would have "no need to paint face and tint hair".<sup>[12]</sup> Her strong views seemed to influence her husband,<sup>[13]</sup> although Snowden was always a 'suffragist' and never endorsed the violent tactics of the suffragettes.<sup>[14]</sup> In 1914 she was speaking at 200 public meetings a year on the subject, and temporarily resigned from the Independent Labour Party in order that her political allegiance did not cause problems with her campaigning on the issue.<sup>[15]</sup>