

3932

T. B. C. - wrote first Vote leader - & continued
Debate with Mr. St. Joe Strachey (editor of the
spectator) in Oct-1908.

Debate with A. C. C. of the Daily News - date

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON Teresa Billington-Greig

3932

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Born in Preston Lancashire in 1877 of ~~Lancashire yeoman stock~~, Lancashire yeoman stock drawn into towns by industrial revolution and becoming shopkeepers, clerks and craftsmen... Catholic in religion... schooled at convents.

Born BILLINGTON added GREIG at Marriage.

Placed by parents in drapery trade from which she broke away at seventeen years and made her own way, by taking the necessary examinations, into teaching.

While a student-teacher in Manchester became a worker at the Manchester University Settlement and was three years the Women's Associate's Secretary. Shared in social work of the Settlement, such as Country Guest House, Housing Enquiry, and local Committee of the Manchester Garden City Association. Also during this period assisted in organising school girls into Holiday Walking parties, and older girls into Clubs and Trade-unions.

Began to lecture and open debates on Education, Moral Teaching in Schools, Equality, and Industrial Conditions. Joined the I.L.P., then a socialist missionary society, and was appointed their first national woman organiser, 1904, and formed the Manchester Branch of the Equal Pay League before leaving M/c, ~~and~~ ^{joined} the W.S.P.U, Mrs Pankhurst's association, during 1903.

Shared in the first vigorous efforts to get the coming Labour Party to pledge itself to give women votes in its first terms of office, which failing, the movement began its publicity and

anti-government campaign. The questioning of Sir Edward Grey in Manchester led to the first imprisonments..Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney in Strangeways gaol. T.B. organized a series of protest meetings while they were in prison and welcome meetings to hear them when they were released.

Now appointed ^{as} Organiser of the W.S.P.U. she, with Annie Kenney ran the London Campaign from February to June 1905, covering the first House of Commons protests, Cabinet Minister questioning, hundreds of public - mostly open-air meetings. Was arrested in June leading deputation to house of Chancellor of Exchequer (Mr. Asquith) and thus became the first suffragette sent to Holloway prison. Was imprisoned again in October, with eleven others of the leading members; and thereafter conducted many election campaigns, propaganda tours, and wrote extensively.

Married in 1907. a Scotsman keen in support of women's claims, and continued campaigning as before.

At the first "Split" in autumn of 1907, upon the question of a self-governing constitution for the movement, T.B.-G co-operated with Mrs Despard and Mrs How Martyn and others to form the democratic wing of the militant movement, and became its National Honorary Organising Secretary. It differed from Mrs Pankhurst's association in being democratic and basing its methods of protest on principle rather than expediency and avoided injury to property or other persons.

T.B.-G. retired from active membership of all societies in 1911 and worked individually as lecturer and writer on general feminist interests.

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The first World War intervened, during which T.B.G. took over her husband's position in business while he was on ^{work} of national importance, and continued with his firm about fifteen years, during which time she also founded the Sports Fellowship ^{an organisation} of games and sports players and supporters for Social Service 6 and The Women's Billiards Association - to open this recreation to women.

She assisted also in running ^{on an honorary basis} three Guest Houses to encourage week-ending and country holidays and to extend opportunities of fellowship.

During the Second World War she was an Escort Officer for the Evacuation of Children in to safer areas and worked with Women's groups for the children displaced by war conditions. These activities were undertaken in association with her daughter who was by this time a qualified Social Service Worker.

About 1930 ^{she} formed the ^{more} ~~Men~~ Women In Parliament Committee ^{Dane} with ~~the~~ Maria Ogilvie-Gordon as Chairman, and in the 40ties co-operated with the Women for Westminster Movement in which she became in turn Hon. Sec; Hon Director; and Chairman.

She has always remained a Writer for the Women's Cause ... and has contributed to the Fortnightly, English, and Contemporary Reviews, the Nineteenth Century, The Manchester Guardian, The New Statesman, the Glasgow Herald, the Yorkshire Post, and many other publications chiefly of the left and definitely democratic policy.

She is now engaged in writing almost entirely.

NOTES

Mrs. T. Billington-Greig

Manchester.-

- 1) Manchester University Settlement.
Worker - 4 years
Women Associates Secretary - 3 years.
- 2) Country Cottage Holiday Scheme
- Committee Member -
- 3) Manchester Garden City Association
Committee Member
- 4) Took part in organising working girls, clubs and trade unions
and recreations.
- 5) Lectured for Ethical Society.
- 6) Took part in Manchester Housing Enquiry.
- 7) Founded Equal pay League among Women Teachers (~~of~~ ^{now} ~~the~~ ^{now} National Union of Women Teachers) ~~forced~~
- 8) Worked also among Women Civil Servants and Nurses.

& continuing into 20

Political Works and

Suffrage agitation followed: Lecturing, debating, organising and writing.

National Hon Organising Secretary for Womens Freedom League; also Scottish Hon. Secretary, controlling up to seventeen organisers and many voluntary workers. Organised election and national campaigns.

Wrote for **Forthightly**, English and Contemporary Reviews, weekly reviews and magazines, and daily press including Manchester Guardian, Glasgow Herald, D. News, Chronicle, Yorkshire Post, People's Journal etc. etc.

Chiefly on economic, social, political and feminist topics. Critical Writings on later militant tendencies, and on the exaggerated "white slave" agitation which followed.

Undertook investigations into "consumer" problems and wrote book and articles thereon.

Mrs. T. Billington-Greig.
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Worked for Glasgow Women's Private Hospital (now Redlands) special efforts; also Scottish Lassie Ambulance Funds, Belgian Refugees, etc.

Ran ~~the~~ Country Guest House Scheme.

In Business seven years, with Messrs. Burroughes & Watts Ltd.,

London Concerts Acting Hon. Secretary Glasgow Orpheus Choir (3 years.)