

The Victory
our own Gov-
Women in War
Civil Service

AL/1649

Please return to
M.G.F.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE,
58, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER,
LONDON, S.W. 1,
TELEPHONE : VICTORIA 9542.

PRESIDENT - MISS PHILIPPA FAWCETT
TREASURER - MRS. GORDON MCARTHUR
SECRETARY - MISS PHILIPPA STRACHEY

received in Scotland August 1921

My dear Mrs. Fawcett

It was a great pleasure to get your letter. We are pleased - we are delighted. We are not troubled about the 3 years of waiting because it will take that time to absorb the temporary clerks & the ex-service men, & we had ourselves suggested two years. We have not got equal pay, but we have made a step towards it as the relative payment of men & women is to be reviewed within three years. We have not saved the married women but they are no longer absolutely debarred as exceptions may henceforward be made to the rule which up to now has ^{not} been the case. In every respect except these two the equality will be complete so far as the Home Service is concerned, & we feel that we have won $\frac{9}{10}$ of ~~the battle~~ what we were out for. With real equality in ^{the} work the equal pay must come. The most delightful part of it all was that

it was a real VOTERS' victory. The House of Commons for once rose in its might & the Treasury officials were swept out of sight. The Government at the beginning declined to give us an inch - they produced an amendment which kept things exactly where they were & flatly refused to alter a word. We of course said we'd fight to the death but our hearts were in our boots as we had very little hope of getting an effective attendance of M.P.s on a Friday afternoon especially as they had been up hill three o'clock that morning, & we thought our only hope had lain in "doing a deal".

You can imagine our excitement when we saw the benches getting fuller & fuller - the Opposition turning up splendidly & the speeches & applause coming from the Government's own supporters. Both the front benches were full, Mr. Lloyd George himself appeared, & presently it became obvious that they were

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AZ / 1649
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getting very uncomfortable. Then we saw
Austin Chamberlain walk across to Lord
Robert & then negotiations began. Lord Robert
was very much on the spot & completely grasped
the whole thing, but he ~~was~~ told them he
couldn't do anything without us, & he & Jack
Hills & Sir Donald Mackean made journeys
up to the Speaker's Gallery where Ray & I and
Lady Emmott had scraped ourselves in with
some difficulty. It was most thrilling. Fortunately
we were all agreed as to the points we must
stick out for & we could hardly ~~as we~~ believe
that ~~they~~ we really had won them. Besides
the actual motion, they got promised a good
many details verbally as you will see from
the Debate. Sir Robert Horne said he could
not understand why we were so suspicious
& Lord Robert replied that if he'd been through
the Suffrage struggle he'd have no difficulty

about that. Lord R. was very good in
pointing out the result of our having votes.

Of course everything is due to that

& so everything is due to you, dear dear

M^{rs}. Fawcett. You were the person we
wished & longed to have there when we

felt so triumphant & you are the person

who ~~would~~ have made the happiness &

the value of all these young lives in
the future.

How much more crushing
the results of the war would have been
to these girls ~~if~~ who can never have husbands
if your work had not come to its
culmination just in time.

Ever dear M^{rs}. Fawcett

Your faithful & affectionate

Philippa Strachey