

# Aberdeen Daily Journal

CHIEF OFFICE—BROAD STREET, ABERDEEN

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TELEGRAMS—"JOURNAL," ABERDEEN.

TELEPHONE—No. 27.

ABERDEEN, SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1907.

In the House of Commons yesterday, Mr Dickinson moved the second reading of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill. He contended that men and women should have a right to vote for the laws they had to obey, and said that experience in the colonies showed that the measure would not revolutionise the relationship of the sexes. He asked the House to abolish the last link with savagedom which compelled a woman, because of marriage, to abandon her rights to citizenship. This was not a bill for adult suffrage, because it would be unfair to complicate the question whether women should have a vote with that larger subject. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman stated that the Government left the question to the free decision of the House. Personally he was in favour of the inclusion of women in the suffrage, but as to this particular bill he said frankly that he was not enamoured of it. It would enfranchise a small number of well-to-do, propertied, single women, but would not touch, to the necessary degree, the mass of the working-class women and working men's wives. It was right, however, so far as it went, and, therefore, he should vote for it as a declaration of the opinion that the exclusion of women from the franchise was not expedient, justifiable, or politically right. Mr Whitehead moved the rejection of the bill, for which, he said, there was no public demand, and he contended that an organic change of this kind should be undertaken by the Government alone. The Government, however, had no mandate for it, and to take it up now would block the progress of social reform. He further argued that this bill would decrease the voting power of the working classes, and the introduction of women into Parliament would prevent frank discussion. On three occasions during the debate Mr Dickinson claimed the closure, but the Speaker refused it. At 5 o'clock Mr Rees was speaking, and talked the bill out.