Emma Miller (1839–1917)

Emma Caldeywood was born on 26 June 1839 at Chesterfield, Derbyshire, England, daughter of Daniel Holmes, a Unitarian cordwainer, and his wife Martha, an English lady. When Emma was eight, her family moved to Manchester, Lancashire, where they lived in a working-class environment that clearly impressed on the young girl the hardships endured by women in a male-dominated society. The early influence of Chartism influenced her to live and die a rebel. In 1857 Emma eloped with her first husband, Jabez Silcock in 1857. The marriage was安排ed by Emma's mother, her father to political meetings up to ten miles (16 km) away; he influenced her to rebel against the existing social order. On 15 September 1857 at twenty-eight, she gave birth to her first child, a son, Andrew. After Andrew's birth, the family moved to Liverpool, where Emma opened a dressmaking business. She operated the business successfully and eventually supported in Manchester by sewing twelve hours a day for six years. When the family moved to Manchester, two of her children followed. Emma and Jabez separated after four years and eventually divorced. In 1863, Emma married a bookkeeper with whom she had eloped. They had four children whom she brought up on her own.

Emma became the first woman member and a life member of the Brisbane Women's Political Organisation. She and her husband moved to Brisbane in 1874, and Emma opened a dressmaking business. She was later employed as a seamstress and eventually supported in Manchester by sewing twelve hours a day for six years. When the family moved to Manchester, two of her children followed. Emma and Jabez separated after four years and eventually divorced. In 1863, Emma married a bookkeeper with whom she had eloped. They had four children whom she brought up on her own.

In 1879, Emma married William Caldeywood in 1874, and they eventually settled in Brisbane where she was employed as a seamstress making men's shirts. She was instrumental in the formation of a female workers' union, the Association of Women's Clothing Workers, and was its first president. During the 1890s, she was active in supporting the 1891 Meat Employees' Union conference and the 1891 Sugar Millers' Union conference. Emma also became a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union often worked together on suffrage issues.

Glasson was supported politically by her friend and fellow activist, John Glasson, an anti-slavery activist, who introduced her to trade unionism. Emma Glasson was a member of the Brisbane Workers' Political Organization, a forerunner of the Australian Labor Party in Queensland. She became the first woman member of the Brisbane Workers' Political Organization and a life member of the Brisbane Women's Political Organization. Emma was a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and often worked together on suffrage issues.

During the First World War, Emma preached equal pay to those fearing unemployment. She was also involved in anti-conscription activism over the course of World War I. In 1916, Emma attended the Peace Alliance Conference in Melbourne in support of the Women's Peace Army, and the following year she was a delegate to the Woman's Equal Franchise Association. Emma led a group of female workers on a protest march to Parliament House, avoiding police with fixed bayonets. The women were later met with a wall of police, blocking their way. Emma was buried at the Registry Office on 21 October 1886.

In 1903, Emma was sixty-six, and she was elected to Parliament as a women's candidate for the Labor Party. She was a delegate to the Woman's Equal Franchise Association and the Labour Party Conference. Emma was a delegate to the Woman's Equal Franchise Association and the Labour Party Conference. In 1903, she was also a delegate to the Federation to capture the women's vote for labor at the 1903 Federal election. At the age of 65, Emma declared: 'I am only beginning to live'. The vote for women in State elections was foundation president of the Woman's Equal Franchise Association and life member of the Brisbane Workers Political Organization. Emma remained active in the labor movement which could hinder women's enfranchisement. Miller almost immediately suffered a split with Leontine Cooper leaving to form the Australian Women's Political Organisation, a forerunner of the Australian Labor Party in Queensland. She became colloquially known as Mother Miller as the most dominant female unionist and women's rights activist in Australia. Emma was active in supporting the 1891 Meat Employees' Union conference and the 1891 Sugar Millers' Union conference. Emma also became a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union often worked together on suffrage issues.

In 1888, Emma founded a local Free-thought Association, which was a predecessor of the Australian Workers' Federation. The association between 1894 and 1905. The vote for women in State elections was one adult, one vote; although its policy was similar to Labor's principle of one adult one vote. Emma was a delegate to the Woman's Equal Franchise Association and the Labour Party Conference. In 1908 she was second time a woman was a delegate. She was also involved in anti-conscription activism over the course of World War I. In 1916, Emma attended the Peace Alliance Conference in Melbourne in support of the Women's Peace Army, and the following year she was a delegate to the Woman's Equal Franchise Association. Emma led a group of female workers on a protest march to Parliament House, avoiding police with fixed bayonets. The women were later met with a wall of police, blocking their way.

During the 1912 Brisbane General Strike for the right to organise trade unions, Miller thrust her hatpin into the Police Commissioner's horse causing him to be thrown off. He later walked with a limp.

The flag on the Brisbane Trades Hall flew at half-mast and the Australian Meat Employees' Union conference was adjourned. Emma was buried at the Registry Office on 21 October 1886.

With the great strikes of the 1890s, Miller was active in supporting the 1891 Meat Employees' Union conference and the 1891 Sugar Millers' Union conference. She also actively canvassed for the women's vote for the December 1903 Federal election. The close of the 1890s, Miller embarked on a tour of western Queensland under the auspices of the Trades Hall Women's Committee. She gained much support and firm backing for the Labour Party in the 1910 and 1912 Queensland General Elections. The vote for women and the cessation of multiple votes for squatters was the great issue of the 1910 election. Emma was a delegate to the Woman's Equal Franchise Association and the Labour Party Conference. In 1908 she was second time a woman was a delegate. She was also involved in anti-conscription activism over the course of World War I. In 1916, Emma attended the Peace Alliance Conference in Melbourne in support of the Women's Peace Army, and the following year she was a delegate to the Woman's Equal Franchise Association. Emma led a group of female workers on a protest march to Parliament House, avoiding police with fixed bayonets. The women were later met with a wall of police, blocking their way.

Emma Miller, pictured below, emigrated to Australia from England in 1879. Her husband, William, died in 1880. Emma then worked as a seamstress and eventually supported in Manchester by sewing twelve hours a day for six years. When her husband died, Emma decided to move to Australia with her children. She settled in Brisbane where she was employed as a seamstress making men's shirts. She was instrumental in the formation of a female workers' union, the Association of Women's Clothing Workers, and was its first president. During the 1890s, she was active in supporting the 1891 Meat Employees' Union conference and the 1891 Sugar Millers' Union conference. Emma also became a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and often worked together on suffrage issues.

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