



Robert: How can such women possibly leave an abusive situation? They also don't have the right to vote, so they have very little influence on Canadian politicians who could actually change the laws.

Nellie: We desperately need women to get the vote. Suffrage is necessary for real reform! There are suffragettes who are leading the way, such as Susan B. Anthony in the United States and Emmeline Pankhurst in Britain.

Robert: You realize that many people are concerned that women's suffrage will lead to the breakdown of the family.

Nellie: The real spirit of the women's suffrage movement is sympathy and interest in the other woman and the desire to make the world a more homelike place to live in. Women's suffrage will not lead to the breakdown of the family.

Narrator: Nellie continued to spend a great deal of time writing and speaking out about prohibition and women's rights. Over the course of twenty years, she spoke at more than four hundred public meetings. Sometimes she even spoke three times a day! She traveled across Canada, Great Britain and the United States.

In 1911, Nellie took her concern for women's rights to the Premier of Manitoba, Sir Rodmond Roblin. She convinced him to visit the places where women worked so that he could see their terrible working conditions and recognize the need for change.

Roblin: Well, Mrs. McClung, you have me at your mercy today. What are you going to show me?



Nellie: Premier Roblin, today we will tour the sweatshops of Winnipeg. You will see what horrible working conditions women are faced with in these factories.

Roblin: Really, Mrs. McClung, you and your ladies should not be involved in this nasty world.

Nellie: Why, pray tell? Is it nasty for women to have to work from 8:30 in the morning to 6:00 in the evening to support their families? These women work six days a week with no sick leave to fall back on if they become ill.

Roblin: No doubt they get used to their situation. They want the extra money, and if they're sick they can always quit.

Narrator: The Premier toured the sweatshops with Nellie. He saw appalling working conditions, such as: slippery floors, unheated basements, garbage, few toilets and terrible smells. He was very disturbed by what he saw.

Roblin (agitated): For God's sake, let me out of here! I'm choking! I never knew such horrible places existed!

Nellie: You are able to leave, Premier Roblin. These women who work here are not. I hope you are finally convinced that women must have more power over their lives. They need to have the right to vote.

Roblin: Nice women should not be involved in politics!