

1924.

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No. 5. *172*

National Union of Societies for
Equal Citizenship.

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1923-24.

Presented at the ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING,
King George's Hall, Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court
Road, W.C.1, March 26th, 27th and 28th, 1924.

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PRICE 3d.

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ANNUAL REPORT, 1923.

OBJECT.

To obtain all such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women, and also such reforms as are necessary to make it possible for women adequately to discharge their functions as citizens.

THE IMMEDIATE PROGRAMME.

1. The enfranchisement of women on the same terms as men.
2. An Equal Moral Standard between men and women.
3. More Women in Parliament.
4. Equal Pay for Equal Work and Equality in Industry and the Professions as between men and women.
5. (a) Equal Guardianship of Children.
(b) State Pensions for Widows with dependent Children.
(c) Improvement in the Law regarding Separation and Maintenance Orders.
(d) Improvement of the status of Illegitimate Children.
6. The League of Nations and the practical application of the principle of Equal Opportunity for men and women within it.

The year 1923 shows a chequered history of triumphs and disappointments. The triumphs consist of two actual legislative achievements in the shape of the Matrimonial Causes Act and the Bastardy Act, and the successful return of eight women to Parliament. The disappointments were once again due to the unexpected curtailment of the Session by the General Election, which exactly repeated the experience of the previous year, and left Bills which your Committee was either promoting or supporting, stranded and incomplete. The past year has been a year of almost record activity with regard to Parliamentary Measures dealing with reforms on the N.U.S.E.C. programme, and at one time no fewer than four Bills actually drafted by the National Union, and four supported by it, were before the Houses of Parliament. The outstanding success of the year was the Matrimonial Causes Act, which passed through all its stages, and found its place on the Statute Book on July 18th.

During the year the National Union, either through its Societies, or direct from Headquarters, took part in seven by-elections, and by a fortunate combination of circumstances, was able to give some form of help to men candidates of all three parties who had rendered distinguished service to the cause for which the Union stands—Mr. Arthur Henderson, Major Hills and Mr. F. D. Acland. In spite of the strain imposed both on our headquarters and on our societies of another General Election following so soon after the last, it is gratifying to be able to report that the activities of the National Union at the 1923 Election were equally, if not more strenuous than those of the preceding year. However undesirable elections may be from other points of view, they certainly appear to have the effect of a powerful tonic on the Societies of the Union.

Apart from political events, the successful Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, held in Rome in May, was the outstanding feature of a memorable year. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who has served the National Union for many years as a member of its Executive, and lately as Vice-Chairman, was elected President to fill the place left vacant by the resignation of Mrs. Chapman Catt, the distinguished founder and first President of the Alliance.

The summary of the year would be incomplete without some allusion to the fact that after five years of exile from its natural home, the Headquarters Offices of the National Union returned to Westminster.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Council was held on March 7th, 8th and 9th, on which occasion over 80 Societies were represented. The three Honorary Officers remained the same and Mrs. Hanna, of Petersfield, who has given a long life of devotion to the causes for which the Union stands, was added to the list of Vice-Presidents. Mrs. Abbott, Mr. J. R. Cross, Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher, Major Hills, Miss O'Malley, Mrs. Paisley and Miss Reynard found themselves unable to stand for re-election, for various reasons. The remaining members were re-elected with the addition of Mrs. Arthur Browne, Miss Agnes Conway, Mrs. Walter Layton, Lady Lloyd-Greame, Miss McLeod, Mrs. Robie Uniacke and Mrs. Wrightson. Your Committee wishes to place on record its regret at the loss of the retiring members. Mrs. Fisher and Miss O'Malley had served on the Committee for many years. Mrs. Fisher is well known to the Societies, and has given valuable help as President of the Yorkshire Council, and as a willing and able speaker. Miss O'Malley was formerly Editor of the *Woman's Leader*. Mr. J. R. Cross, of Leeds, gave much time and interest to the work of the Union, and Mrs. Paisley, of Glasgow, attended Committees with great regularity, and gave valuable help with regard to Scottish matters. Mrs. Abbott has for many years been connected with the National Union, and Miss Reynard did useful work in connection with the Yorkshire Council. Major Hills, who retired on becoming a Member of the Government, was one of the best friends of the Union in the House of Commons. As a result of the Council the Immediate Programme of the Union remained the same. Additional interest was given to the proceedings by the fact that several questions of special interest to women were actually before the House of Commons, and much useful lobbying was carried on during the week. At the usual public luncheon the guests of honour were Captain Wedgwood Benn, M.P., Lord Robert Cecil, M.P., Major Entwistle, M.P., Sir John Simon, M.P., and Mrs. Philip Snowden, who took her husband's place.

ELECTION WORK.

Elections for Local Authorities.

The work of the Elections Sub-Committee is naturally divided under four headings: Elections for Local Authorities,

By-Elections, Preliminary Work for Women for Parliament, and the General Election.

Questions dealing with reforms on the Programme of the Union were revised and reprinted for use at the Borough Council and County Council Elections, and were widely circulated.

Newcastle East, Jan. 12th, 1923.—In view of Mr. Arthur Henderson's record with regard to the causes for which the National Union stands, your Committee decided to give him its support. A mass meeting, attended by nearly 2,000 women, was addressed by Mr. Henderson, Miss Picton-Turberville, O.B.E., and Dr. Ethel Williams. The National Union workers also took part in open-air and small women's meetings, and a large quantity of literature was distributed. This by-election gave an excellent opportunity for active propaganda in Newcastle East.

Edge Hill, Liverpool, March 17th.—The candidature of Major Hills, who for several years was an unfailing friend of the National Union in the House of Commons, for the Edge Hill Division of Liverpool, gave the Committee an opportunity of supporting a candidate of a different political colour. Help was offered, but except for information sent to the Press with regard to Major Hills' record of service to women, was not required.

Tiverton, June 20th.—The by-election contested by Mr. F. D. Acland, who has for many years been a consistent supporter of the Women's Movement, provided an opportune occasion for offering support to a "tried friend," belonging to the remaining party, and with the help of the Exeter and District S.E.C., a successful campaign was organised.

A deputation of representative women voters was organised at Mitcham, and a meeting to hear the views of candidates was held at Whitechapel. At by-elections in Central Leeds and Ludlow our Societies in Leeds and in Church Stretton took action respectively.

THE GENERAL ELECTION: GENERAL WORK AT HEAD- QUARTERS AND IN THE SOCIETIES.

Much of last year's report of election activities in December 1922 might be repeated in describing the work of the National Union both at Headquarters and in the constituencies. An additional temporary staff was engaged at Headquarters, reinforced by voluntary workers, to cope with the influx of Press enquiries, demands for publications, requests for information, speakers and workers, which was

even heavier than last year. Much Election literature, prepared for the previous year, was fortunately still suitable. Other publications were revised, and new leaflets were prepared. The demand for literature was greater than on any previous occasion. One woman candidate ordered 24,000 copies of our single page leaflets, and many others, men as well as women, of all parties, used our pamphlets and leaflets in considerable numbers for broadcasting purposes.

A new feature was the demand for speakers at meetings of men as well as women candidates, and to a limited extent these were supplied in the case of several men who had given outstanding service to our Cause, both in and out of Parliament. Sixty-six Societies responded to the Election call with their customary alacrity, and meetings addressed by candidates were organised, some on a very large scale, at Birkenhead, Bolton, Bradford, Cardiff Central, Cardiff East, Cardiff South, Carlisle, Chester, Croydon, Ealing, Exeter, Hastings, Ilkley, Kensington, Norwich, Petersfield, Preston, Reading and Tunbridge Wells. Deputations were held at Cambridge, Oxford, Crieff and elsewhere. In addition to this many Societies sent questionnaires to candidates, in some cases, through their members reaching adjoining constituencies, as well as that in which the Society is situated. The Eastern and Western Scottish Federations undertook the Scottish constituencies, the North Western Group of Societies and the Yorkshire Council covered a large number of constituencies within their area.

CANDIDATURE OF WOMEN FOR PARLIAMENT.

A Conference on Women Candidates for Parliament, organised by the National Union was held during the Council, when the large drawing room of the Y.M.C.A. was filled to overflowing with representatives of Women's and Party Organisations. The speakers included Miss Eleanor Rathbone (Chairman), Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, Lady Terrington, Miss Mary Grant, and others. During the year, after the efforts of the General Election (1922), comparatively little work was done on behalf of women prospective candidates, but shortly before the General Election of 1923, help was asked and provided for Mrs. Dimsdale, candidate for Cambridge County. During the election a bureau of voluntary workers was organised and help was given to Lady Astor, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Miss Helen Fraser and Mrs. Wintringham (all members or officers of the Executive Committee), Lady Terrington, Miss Margaret Bondfield and Miss Susan Lawrence. Our Societies in

Glasgow, Cambridge, Church Stretton, Kensington, Plymouth and Canning Town, sent help to individual candidates.

THE EFFECT OF THE GENERAL ELECTION ON WOMEN'S QUESTIONS.

As the new House of Commons had not assembled during the year covered by this report, it is only necessary at this point to state that the results of the work carried on during the Election indicate that, quite apart from party politics, the new House of Commons contains a larger number of members committed to the reforms on our Programme than any previous House. Many of our most conspicuously persistent opponents, including Lt.-Col. Archer-Shee, Lt.-Col. du Pré, and Sir George Hamilton, failed to secure re-election, and the elevation to the Peerage of Sir Frederick Banbury, disposed of our most astute and determined adversary so far as the House of Commons was concerned. But the main features of the new House are, of course, the successful return of eight women, and the fact that for the first time a Government pledged to equality between men and women is in office. It remains for time to show what they will accomplish.

THE PROGRAMME.

Before the opening of the 1923 Session the Prime Minister was asked by your Committee to place the extension of the Franchise to Women on the same terms as to Men in the King's Speech. No mention of the matter was made, however, in the Speech, and, in view of the opinion of the then Prime Minister (Mr. Bonar Law) that the subject was a contentious one, this was not an unexpected decision on the part of a Government whose watchword was tranquility. **Equal Franchise.**

EQUAL FRANCHISE DEMONSTRATION.

It was decided, therefore, that in order to bring the matter before the public, a large meeting should be held at the time of the Annual Council Meeting. On March 17th, this meeting was held in the Central Hall, Westminster, where a large and enthusiastic audience composed of representatives of both Men's and Women's Organisations were present. We were glad to welcome a large number of women from the National Federation of Women Workers and the Women's Co-operative Guild. The Speakers were: Miss Eleanor Rathbone (Chairman), Lady Astor, Mrs. Wintringham, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Miss Helen Fraser, Mrs.

Stocks and Miss Daisy Richardson. Short speeches were also given by Mr. Hodge, M.P., Sir Robert Newman, M.P., and Sir Willoughby Dickinson. Not the least successful feature of this meeting was its national, as well as its representative character. Societies affiliated to the National Union were represented from all parts of the United Kingdom, and it was good to see the familiar banners of pre-war days, adapted to modern use, side by side with the banners of sister organisations of women.

EQUAL FRANCHISE MEMORIAL.

During the Session the efforts of your Committee were directed to collecting the largest possible number of signatures of Members of Parliament to a Memorial to Mr. Bonar Law, asking for immediate legislation on Equal Franchise. By the end of July 213 Members had signed the Memorial, which would have been presented before the Autumn Session, had not the shadow of an imminent General Election made such action futile.

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL, 1923.

In the meantime, on April 25th, Mr. Foot (Bodmin, Lib.), introduced the Women's Enfranchisement Bill, 1923 (your Committee being asked to provide the draft) under the ten minutes' rule. The Bill was favourably received, and no division was asked for; needless to say no time was allowed for its later stages. At the time of the General Election, both Liberal and Labour Parties placed Equal Political Rights for Men and Women on their Party Manifestoes, and a number of Unionists gave pledges in its favour.

Equal Moral Standard.

The Equal Moral Standard Committee was appointed and consisted of the following members: Miss Beaumont, Mrs. Bethune-Baker, Mrs. Arthur Browne, Miss Verrall, Mrs. Wrightson, and the Honorary Officers. The chief work of the Committee was in connection with the Matrimonial Causes Bill (England and Wales). This Bill had been drafted by your Committee in November 1922, and before the Private Members' Ballot was held, many promises had been obtained from Members to introduce it if they obtained a favourable place. It provided that the chief ground for divorce (*viz.* adultery) should be the same for men as women. Major Entwistle (Lib., Kingston-upon-Hull) won a place in the Ballot and agreed, at the request of your Officers, to introduce this Bill. From the first it was assured of a favourable reception. The Prime

Minister, in a letter written to your Committee at the time of the General Election of 1922 stated that in his opinion the granting of Equal Grounds for Divorce was a matter of "right and wrong," while both the Liberal and Labour Parties stood for complete legal equality between men and women. Any criticism was to be expected, therefore, not from the opponents of Divorce Law Reform, but rather from those who wanted too large a measure, and who looked upon this Bill as containing too small an instalment. Nevertheless, the progress of the Bill was nothing short of triumphant. On its Second Reading it received a majority of 204, and on its Third Reading 231. In the House of Lords it was in the capable hands of Lord Buckmaster; Lord Birkenhead withdrew his threatened opposition and the Bill reached the Statute Book after a very little discussion.

THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILD.

Two Bills dealing with this subject were before the House in 1923. (1) The Legitimacy Bill (England and Wales). (2) The Bastardy Act (England and Wales).

The Legitimacy Bill, introduced by Mr. Betterton, came up for its Second Reading in charge of Captain Bowyer (Mr. Betterton having in the meantime become Under Secretary of the Board of Trade). The Bill was very similar to that introduced by the Government in 1922. It provided amongst other matters, for the legitimation of children by the subsequent marriage of their parents, though for purposes of intestate inheritance, the age of an illegitimate child was to rank as dating from its legitimation. The chief controversy centred round the proviso excluding from the benefits of the Act, children who were the result of adulterous intercourse. This proviso appeared to play hide and seek during the successive stages of the Bill. Having been inserted in the first place, it was deleted in the Committee stage on the motion of the then Solicitor-General, and at the Report stage was re-inserted once again, on the motion of the same member. In charge of Lord Muir Mackenzie, it passed its Second Reading in the House of Lords before the Summer Recess, but the coming of the General Election prevented its later stages being taken.

THE BASTARDY ACT contains many useful clauses incorporated from the Children of Unmarried Parents Bills (promoted by the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child) of earlier Sessions; the most important of which (1) raised the maximum amount which can be

given under an affiliation order from 10s. to 20s. (2) made it possible to transfer an affiliation order made on the application of the Guardians to the Mother, without the case having to be re-heard. This Bill was introduced after 11 p.m., and being of a non-contentious character, passed easily enough. Its various stages in the House of Lords, where it was in charge of Lord Astor, were equally successful.

AFFILIATION ORDERS: (FACILITIES FOR ENFORCEMENT OVERSEAS).

Your Committee approached the Home Office with the request that the question of legislation with regard to the enforcement throughout the Dominions, of Affiliation Orders made in one part, should be placed on the Agenda of the Imperial Conference. This request was put forward in view of the large number of men, against whom affiliation orders are made, who evade their responsibility by going to another part of the Empire. The Home Office refused to comply with the request, on the ground that it considered it necessary to obtain more evidence as to the working of the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Act 1920, before promoting further legislation of the same character.

FOREIGN WOMEN IN LICENSED HOUSES (BROTHELS).

Your Committee disapproved emphatically of the resolution brought before the Advisory Committee of the League of Nations on the Traffic in Women and Children, by M. Sokal, prohibiting the Employment of Foreign Women in Licensed Houses. It sent in protests to the British Delegates on the Council of the League of Nations, and at a special Meeting of the National Council of Women, supported an amendment moved by Mrs. Fawcett on behalf of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, setting forth the reasons against the original "Sokal" Resolution. No further action was necessary, as in the meantime the Council of the League of Nations had not accepted the recommendation of its Advisory Committee, but had merely circularised Governments of Member States asking for their opinions on the matter.

The Status of Wives and Mothers Committee was appointed, and consisted of the following members:—Mrs. Bethune-Baker, Miss Fraser, Miss Macmillan, Mrs. Wrightson, Mrs. Robie Uniacke, and the Honorary Officers. It met four times during the year, and considered the following matters:

Status of Wives and Mothers.

GUARDIANSHIP OF INFANTS BILL.

On the Government's refusal to introduce this hardy annual as a Government Measure, it was re-drafted with respect to certain technical points which had been criticised by the Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament in 1922. Lord Askwith introduced it again into the House of Lords in 1923. He secured a successful Second Reading, and once again a Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament was established. The same members of the House of Lords were appointed as last time, namely:—The Duke of Northumberland, The Earl of Onslow, The Earl of Wemyss, Lord Macdonnell, Lord Terrington and Lord Askwith, and the following members were appointed from the Commons:—Mr. Murray, M.P. (Lab.), Mrs. Hilton Philipson, M.P. (U.), Mr. Hurst, K.C., M.P. (U.), Mr. Nesbit, M.P. (U.), Mr. R. Richardson, M.P. (Lab.), and Mrs. Wintringham M.P. (Lib.)

The Committee met regularly during June and July, and much evidence was given both for and against the Bill. Your Committee was regularly consulted as to the summoning of favourable witnesses. The President and the Parliamentary Secretary gave evidence on its behalf. Your Committee showed themselves willing to meet certain of the difficulties, but the dissolution of Parliament prevented any report of the Committee's being issued.

WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

In the Spring your Committee felt that the time had arrived when this reform could once more be considered as having reached the realm of practical politics. The National Union worked on behalf of the motion moved in the House of Commons by Mr. Rhys Davies (Westhoughton, Lab.), on March 6th, 1923, which was defeated by a majority of 64. owing to the Government Whips being put on against the motion on financial grounds. On November 12th, a Conference of affiliated Societies and other organisations interested, was called by your Committee in order (1) to inaugurate a special campaign in favour of Pensions for Civilian Widows with Dependent Children; (2) to work out a scheme which would be less costly than that originally put forward by the National Union. It was agreed that the new scheme should be as little controversial as possible, and should, therefore, be limited to Civilian Widows with Dependent Children only, and should provide for pensions on the same scale as the Statutory minimum for War Pensions.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION (SEPARATION AND MAINTENANCE)
BILL, 1924 (ENGLAND AND WALES).

No place was won in the Private Members' Ballot for this Bill, and it was, therefore, only possible for Sir Robert Newman to introduce, at your Committee's request, a very small and non-contentious measure, which was in fact drafted by the Home Office in the hope that the National Union would be able to provide for its successful piloting through Parliament. The most important clauses of this Bill provide (1) That it shall no longer be necessary for a woman to leave her husband first, when applying for a Separation Order on the grounds of persistent cruelty or failure to maintain; (2) That if, after separation, a wife commits adultery, and the Court still considers her fit to retain the custody of her children, the Maintenance Order made on her behalf shall be rescinded, but that those made on behalf of the children may be retained; (3) That the term "Habitual Drunkenness," as a ground for separation for both men and women, shall be deemed to include habitual drug-taking. Second and Third Readings of this Bill were taken unopposed after 11 o'clock, and with Government assistance its Committee Stage only lasted ten minutes. Lord Astor took charge of the Bill in the House of Lords, but the coming of the General Election prevented its being passed into law.

INEQUALITIES IN THE LAW BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE.

In October the following new members with special legal knowledge were co-opted on to the Status of Wives and Mothers Committee: Miss Ashworth, Miss Geikie Cobb, Mrs. Crofts, Miss Leadley Brown, Miss Reiss and Miss Tata, in order that the Committee might have assistance in drafting Bills and preparing a report on the resolutions in the National Union programme relating to Domicile, the Rights of Inheritance of Spouses and Children, the Right of a Wife to a Share of her Husband's Income, etc. The Committee also set itself to consider how to equalise the law between husband and wife relating to torts, crimes and contract. The draft of a Bill to equalise the law with regard to domicile was prepared.

THE USE OF THE WORDS "TO OBEY" IN THE MARRIAGE SERVICE.

In February your Committee approached the National Assembly of the Church of England to ask that in considering the revision of the Prayer Book, the vow of obedience on the part of a wife in the Marriage Service should be abolished,

in order to equalise the Status of husband and wife. A Resolution to this effect, moved by Miss Royden at the National Assembly was, however, lost. At the suggestion of Mrs. Vatcher, who generously offered to defray the cost, your Committee arranged a Conference in the Central Hall, Westminster, on November 12th, just before the autumn meeting of the National Assembly, in order to draw public attention to the matter. At this Conference, Miss Rathbone was in the Chair, and the following were the speakers:—Miss Maude Royden, Lady Selborne, Lady Barrett and Canon Hay Aitken. The principal Resolution moved was as follows:

"That this meeting of Men and Women calls upon
"the National Assembly to recommend the revision of
"the Marriage Service of the Established Church of
"England in accordance with the principle implicit in the
"teaching of the Gospels, based on equality of position
"and obligation between husband and wife."

MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS AND THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL. **Equal opportunities in Industry and the Professions and Equal Pay for Equal Work.**

Although for some time past Local Education Authorities all over the country were, contrary to the spirit, if not, according to legal experts, to the letter of the Sex Disqualifications Removal Act, dismissing and refusing to appoint married women teachers, the L.C.C. had always been a brilliant exception in raising no objection to having married women teachers in its service. In January, however, a resolution appeared on the agenda of its Education Committee to the effect that women teachers entering its service should be forced to resign on marriage. A deputation consisting of representatives of the N.U.S.E.C. and of the London Society for Women's Service, waited on the General Purposes Subcommittee of the Education Committee, to put the case in favour of the retention of such teachers. The deputation was in vain, however, and the original resolution was carried.

REPORT BY MRS. ABBOTT AND MRS. STOCKS ON PROPAGANDA FOR EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

This was prepared early in the year, and circulated to Societies in February.

ADMISSION OF WOMEN TO MEMBERSHIP OF CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.

Great efforts were made to insert in the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Bill (which set up a Statutory Commission for each University to make the status and regula-

tions for each University "in general accordance with the recommendations contained in the Report of the Royal Commission on the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.") a clause providing explicitly for the admission of women to membership of Cambridge University. A Joint Parliamentary Committee was set up, of which your Parliamentary Secretary was Honorary Secretary. In spite of the practical unanimity of both Houses that the admission of women to membership, in the words of the Hon. E. L. Woods, was both "inevitable and right," the amendments moved by Mr. J. R. M. Butler to provide for this specifically, and to impose on the Cambridge Commission the duty of carrying out the recommendations of the Cambridge Committee of the Royal Commission relating to the admission of women, was defeated on the plea put forward by the Government, that Parliament should not interfere with the affairs of the University—and this in a Bill set up for that very purpose! It is satisfactory to note that by an amendment promoted by your Committee, put forward by Mrs. Wintringham, and carried, two women, Miss Phillpotts, O.B.E., D.Litt. (Mistress of Girton), and Miss Penrose, O.B.E., M.A. (Principal of Somerville) have been placed on the Statutory Commissions for Cambridge and Oxford University respectively.

WOMEN IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

The position of women in the Civil Service has not shown much change during the last year. With regard to pay, the principle of equality was recognised in a narrow field by the Southborough Committee, which decided that the bonus of the "Lytton Entrants" should be the same for men and women. The principle was also recognised in the Report of the Anderson Committee, which sat to consider the pay and conditions of work of State Servants, compared with other workers, but alongside of their nominal adherence to the principle of equality was a recommendation for the abolition of the equal starting rates which are the only vestiges of equal pay in the whole Civil Service. The special competition for the higher posts for women was held last November, but the results were disappointing, as the number and importance of the appointments was less than had been hoped, but in July last an open examination was held for Assistant Inspectors of Taxes in the Inland Revenue Department, when men and women competed on equal terms for the first time. This is a very real step forward.

METROPOLITAN WOMEN POLICE.

In February, the Home Office issued an announcement with regard to Women Patrols in the London Police District.

It stated that the twenty patrols retained, according to the Home Secretary's promise of the previous Session, as a nucleus for a larger force in the future, were to be sworn as constables, so that they would have the same status and powers of arrest as men members of the Force. The pay was however, to be unequal, and it is still a cause for regret that their number has not been increased.

MARRIED WOMEN'S INCOME TAX.

In order to inaugurate a campaign in favour of a demand for the separate taxation of the incomes of married persons in the next Finance Act, a Conference of Women's Organisations was organised on November 12th, in the Caxton Hall, Westminster, at which the following resolution was passed:

"That this Meeting calls upon the Government to provide in the next Finance Act: (a) The automatic separate assessment and separate taxation of the incomes of married persons, so that in no case shall the fact of marriage involve the payment of a higher income tax, or super tax, or necessitate a special application to make such separate assessment or separate taxation effective; (b) The repayment of returnable deductions taxed at the source from their respective incomes directly to the husband and/or wife respectively."

Your Committee was further asked to appoint a special Committee to enquire into the desirability, or otherwise, of maintaining the marriage rebate of husband and wife when assessed separately. This Committee was duly appointed and consisted of Miss Courtney, Miss Elkin, Mrs. Heitland, Dr. Knowles, Miss Merrifield, Miss Macmillan and the Officers.

SCOTTISH LEGISLATION.

**Scottish
Legislation.**

In July it was agreed to pay special attention during the next Session to legislation affecting Scotland, and to ask Scottish Federations to organise a Conference to consider which reforms were ripe for legislation. At this Conference, held in October, Committees were set up to meet in Edinburgh to consider the drafting of Bills dealing with Intestate Inheritance, Women Magistrates, and one in Glasgow to consider drafting a Bill with regard to the Illegitimate Child.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

**League of
Nations.**

This year marks no advance in the Representation of Women, though we welcomed Dame Edith Lytton's appointment as substitute Delegate for Great Britain at the

Assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva, and that of Miss Bondfield as Adviser at the International Labour Conference in October.

CONVENTION OF TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN
BRITISH MANDATED TERRITORIES.

In March, information was received that the above convention which Great Britain had applied to herself, and to certain of her mandated territories, such as Palestine, was considered by their respective Governments unnecessary, if not absolutely undesirable, for the British Cameroons, Togoland and Tanganyika.

Protests were sent to the Foreign Office, and in June representatives of the N.U.S.E.C. were invited to meet the Governors of these Territories in order to discuss the matter. Nothing further was, however, done during the year.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

A small Committee was set up in July to enquire into the possibilities of your Committee having a Stall at the Exhibition, and of organising Conferences on Women's Social and Political Activities. As, however, the British Overseas Committee of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance decided to undertake this work, your Sub-Committee was dissolved and representatives of the N.U.S.E.C. appointed on the I.W.S.A. Committee.

The National Union has been represented by the Honorary Secretary and Miss Beaumont on the British Overseas Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and plans are in progress for a pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition, to be opened at Wembley, in April, 1924. The great event of the year, in connection with the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, was the Congress held at Rome in May, when Mrs. Corbett Ashby was elected President, in succession to Mrs. Chapman Catt. Your Committee would like to take this opportunity of expressing its great appreciation of all Mrs. Catt's remarkable services to the Woman's Movement throughout the world, and its satisfaction that she has consented to remain Honorary President of the Alliance. The election of Mrs. Corbett Ashby, long connected with the National Union, as her successor, has not only given much gratification to our members, but should greatly stimulate interest in the work of the Alliance in Great Britain.

**British
Empire
Exhibition.**

**The
International
Woman
Suffrage
Alliance.**

The British delegates, in addition to the representatives of the National Union, included four members of the Women's Freedom League, and two of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society (now the St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance). The following is a list of delegates: Miss Buchanan, Miss Clegg, Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., Miss d'Alberti, Miss Fletcher, Miss Helen Fraser, Miss E. Macadam, Miss Pressley Smith, Miss Snodgrass, Mrs. Thornton, Miss Underwood, Dr. Helen Wilson.

The following is a list of alternate delegates: Mrs. Stewart Brown, Miss Alison Garland, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. G. Lloyd, Miss Milton, Mrs. Sanderson, Mrs. Spiller, Miss C. Thompson, Mrs. S. B. Wilson, Mrs. Yates.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Chrystal Macmillan, and Miss Eleanor Rathbone, were also present as members of the Board of Directors.

At a reception, held shortly after the return of the Overseas Delegates, at the house of Dr. Jane Walker, short addresses were given on the work of the Congress by Miss H. Fraser, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, Miss Macmillan, Miss E. F. Rathbone, Mrs. Rischbeth (Australia), Mrs. Tata (India), with short speeches from Mrs. Fawcett, Miss I. O. Ford and Dr. Jane Walker.

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES.

Organisation.

At the time of compiling this Report, six new Societies have been affiliated during the year ending with the Council Meeting. Your Committee extends a special welcome to the Rotherhithe Guild of Citizens, composed almost wholly of working women, and to a society recently started in the City of London, as an outcome of the by-election succeeding Lord Banbury's welcome elevation to the Peerage. Five additional local correspondents have been secured for districts in which the Union has hitherto been unrepresented, including the remote Isle of Skye. Two National Headquarters Societies have affiliated under the terms of our Constitution: the Professional Union of Trained Nurses and the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child.

Unfortunately two Societies, which have been inactive for some time, have now lapsed altogether—Norwood and Winchester.

The unusual circumstances of the year—the Rome Congress, the search for new offices and the removal, and finally another General Election, made any effective work

among the weaker Societies, or any organisation of new Societies on a large scale, impossible. But the great interest that is shown in the programme of the Union, and particularly in its active Parliamentary work, encourage your Committee to make a considerable development of the Societies throughout the constituencies one of its main objects in the coming year.

Once again your Committee wishes it could describe in detail the admirable work carried on by many of the Societies of the Union. Their Election activities have already been alluded to, and a tribute to their generosity appears in the Treasurer's statement. The practice of arranging meetings between the Honorary Officers of the Union and Local Executive Committees, has been continued so far as circumstances permitted during the year, and is of the utmost value to the work at Headquarters. Your Committee acknowledges with much gratitude the help received from the Scottish Federation, both the Western Area and the Eastern Area and the North Western Area Group, also the Edinburgh S.E.C., for organising a week-end school in October, and individual members of the Keswick W.C.A., particularly Mrs. Marshall and Miss Greta Ward, for help with the organisation of the Portinscale Summer School.

REPORT OF THE SCOTTISH FEDERATION. EASTERN AREA.

In May, the Joint Annual Meeting of the Eastern and Western Areas was held in Glasgow, and in October a Week-end School was organised by the Edinburgh S.E.C., at Dunblane Hydro. Mrs. Hubback spoke on the Parliamentary Work of the N.U., and other subjects discussed included Points on the N.U. Programme, Problems of Population, Women Police and the Constructive Work of the League of Nations.

At the General Election all candidates in the North and East of Scotland were approached either by the local Societies or by the Committee in Edinburgh, and a large and mostly favourable response was made by them. Work was done at Berwick, at the request of Headquarters, for the Guardianship of Infants Bill. The Church Organisations gave assistance, and in a few days a petition with over 1,100 signatures was forwarded to Mrs. Philipson, M.P., asking her to support the Bill. A Conference of the Societies in Scotland was held in the autumn, to consider the drafting of certain Bills specially for Scotland. Mrs. Hubback and Miss Fraser represented Headquarters. A Bill to improve the status of

the Illegitimate Child was undertaken by the Western Sub-Committee, and the Eastern Sub-Committee began work on two Bills: (1) for the appointment of Women Magistrates in Children's Courts; (2) to make equal the Laws of Intestate Inheritance. This Sub-Committee is also engaged with a Scottish Bill for the Guardianship of Infants.

The Organising Secretary has visited all the affiliated Societies in the area, and some of the Women Citizens' Associations. These have shown great interest in the special legislation for Scotland, and a desire to co-operate. Speakers are frequently sent out to the Co-operative Women's Guilds and Women's Rural Institutes for lectures on Citizenship and Laws affecting Women and Children.

SCOTTISH FEDERATION: WESTERN AREA.

A great deal of work was undertaken in connection with all the candidates of the different political parties who stood for the constituencies in the Western Area—the replies being tabulated for reference. Ayr, Dumbarton and Paisley Societies received the questionnaires, and sent them direct to their own candidates. The Members of Parliament in the Western Area were all approached in connection with the Representation of the People Act (1918) Amendment (4) Bill, asking them to be in their places and vote for the Equal Franchise Clauses of the Bill. In addition to the work, in the Western Area, in connection with the General Election and with legislative reforms, speakers have been supplied in answer to an ever-increasing demand, to Equal Citizenship Societies, Women Citizen Associations, Rural Institutes, Girls' Clubs, Y.W.C.A., Church Meetings for women, and also Church Meetings for men, and to Debating Societies all over the Western Area.

STAFF.

Your Committee has, as usual, to record changes in its Staff, owing to the customary marriage mortality. Miss Margaret Anderson, after winning the affection of all in her comparatively short time as Assistant Secretary, left in January, and was married shortly after. As Mrs. Cogan, now living in Burmah, she keeps in close touch with our work. Miss Tooke, after seven years of service, has also resigned for the same reason, and your Committee wishes to express its gratitude for her devoted work, and the satisfaction that she will continue for some time at least to give occasional help. Miss Smith, who had grown up in the service of the Union, after many years as a junior clerk, left owing to

office reconstruction, due to the new premises, and your Committee wishes to express its thanks for her work, and regret at the loss of a faithful and interested worker. Miss Sylvia Myers (London University) has been appointed as Assistant Secretary, and Miss Taylor as Head Clerk and Accountant in place of Miss Tooke. The Committee wishes again to express its thanks to Miss Dorothy Auld, Hon. Sec. of the Lewisham W.C.A., for her remarkably successful help as part-time organiser, both at Elections and in the Societies, and to repeat its full sense of the high quality of Mrs. Hubback's invaluable work.

Voluntary Workers.

The National Union is singularly fortunate in the amount and quality of the voluntary work which is offered, and only the limitations of space prevent its much fuller use, to the great advantage of its work. Throughout the year the special thanks of the Union are due to the following for valuable and regular help at Headquarters: Miss Alston, Miss Beaumont, Miss Elkin, Miss Hoc, Mrs. Wrightson. In addition to these we acknowledge gratefully help given by Miss J. Cameron, Mrs. F. Matthews, Mrs. Bruce Richmond, Mrs. S. B. Wilson, and others, at the time of the General Election.

Lectures and Meetings.

The demand for speakers, particularly on the Parliamentary Work of the Union, continues with unabated vigour, and steps must immediately be taken to increase the supply. Three public lectures in aid of the funds of the Union were generously given by Mr. J. C. Squire, at 1, St. James's Terrace, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Beresford; by Sir Martin Conway at 3, Great College Street, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Caroe; and Mr. Michael Sadleir at 8, Wetherby Place, by kind permission of Sir Philip and Lady Lloyd Greame. These lectures also provided an opportunity for a brief statement of the work of the Union.

Conferences. OFFICERS' CONFERENCE.

A well-attended Conference was held at the Y.M.C.A., after the close of the Council Meetings in March, when short reports were presented from the different Societies represented.

NORTH WESTERN GROUP CONFERENCE.

A Conference was held at Preston by the North Western Group, attended by delegates from Ashton-under-Lyne, Birkenhead, Bolton, Farnworth, Liverpool, Preston and

Rochdale. Mrs. Abraham (Birkenhead), presided. Miss Beaumont represented the Executive Committee, gave an account of the Parliamentary work of the Union.

CONFERENCE AT PORTINSCALE, KESWICK.

A Conference of secretaries was held on the occasion of the Summer School, at which twelve northern societies were represented. Mrs. Hubback and Mrs. Walter Layton represented the Executive Committee. So much interest was aroused that a second conference was asked for during the week of the School.

PLYMOUTH W.C.A.

A successful Conference, organised by the Plymouth Women Citizen Association, took place on May 3rd and 9th, when delegates were present from different parts of Devon and Cornwall, Bristol and South Wales, Miss Beaumont represented the Executive Committee.

PORTINSCALE SUMMER SCHOOL.

A successful Summer School, on a small scale, at Portinscale, Keswick, from Friday, September 21st to September 28th, was attended by 39 students. The Executive Committee was represented by Miss Beaumont, Mrs. Walter Layton, Mrs. Hubback (Director), and Mrs. Stocks. The lecturers included Miss Ashley, Miss Morton, Mrs. Hubback, Mr. and Mrs. Stocks, and Mrs. Walter Layton. A successful public meeting was held in Keswick, when Mr. J. L. Stocks, the Chairman, was supported by many local residents. The thanks of the Committee are due to Lady Rochdale and Mrs. Marshall for their hospitality, and to others too numerous to mention, for help with the organising.

Summer School.

THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT.

This department has been kept very busy during the year. Not a day passes without inquiries on some aspect of our work. Inquiries on outside subjects are sent on to appropriate organisations. A new development with regard to this department, since the Office moved to Dean's Yard, is that the Information Bureau has been made considerable use of by Members of Parliament.

Information Department.

This department of the National Union has been very active during the year. The demand for literature on our reforms and on different aspects of organisation come from all quarters. During the General Election we had an un-

Literature Department.

precedented demand for literature, more especially from women candidates. A new leaflet entitled "The Matrimonial Causes Bill, 1923," was printed, and the following leaflets were revised and brought up-to-date:—

"A Vindication of Canvassing," Miss Macadam.

"Guardianship, Maintenance and Custody of Infants Bill, 1923," Mrs. Hubback.

"What the Vote has done," Mrs. Henry Fawcett, J.P., LL.D.

"How to Conduct a Non-Party Campaign," Miss Macadam.

"Women Voters."

"Women in Parliament."

"To Women Voters."

"Why?"

"The Objects of the N.U.S.E.C."

**Woman's
Year Book.**

THE WOMAN'S YEAR BOOK.

A very big piece of work which was undertaken by your Committee during the year, was the compilation of the *Woman's Year Book*, which was edited and published by the Women Publishers, Ltd. A Special Committee was appointed consisting of the following members of the Executive Committee: Miss A. E. Conway, M.B.E., Hon. Sec., Miss Elizabeth Macadam, M.A., Miss Chrystal Macmillan, M.A., B.Sc., Miss E. F. Rathbone, J.P., M.A., C.C., Mrs. J. L. Stocks, B.Sc. (Chairman), Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Miss Marian Verrall, and the Parliamentary Secretary; and the following member was co-opted: Mrs. Barbara Wootton. A special compiler, Miss E. M. L. Scott, was appointed for seven months to carry out the work. Your Committee's thanks are due for the devoted manner in which she collected and prepared the matter for the Editor in a very short space of time. The *Year Book* was published in November, and events proved that it fulfilled a very real need.

**Press and
Women's
Leader.**

Thanks are again due to journalists of both sexes who give us constant help, which makes the publicity work of the National Union a comparatively easy task. A satisfactory improvement in the local Press secured by individual Societies must be recorded; in some cases lengthy correspondence between the Officers of the Society and the Member of Parliament has been published in full, and in other cases articles on equality reforms have been accepted. The relations with the *Woman's Leader* are, if anything, closer than before, though the paper is still directed by an independent Board, of which Mrs. Henry Fawcett is Chairman. The

Woman's Leader is an invaluable medium of broadcasting the most recent information about Bills before Parliament on the reforms for which the National Union stands, and it is not difficult to trace the extent of its influence in Press cuttings from different parts of the country received at Headquarters.

A considerable number of individual subscribers have also made full use of the facilities offered. Many new books have been added. The Library Committee would like to record its very grateful thanks to Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck for a number of books she has given, and for her untiring work in connection with the historical section; and also to Miss Elkin for having undertaken the very arduous work of re-arranging and numbering the sections of the Library. Most especially the thanks of the National Union are due, as they have been for many years, to Miss Beaumont, for her constant help in her capacity as Honorary Librarian.

**Edward
Wright and
Cavendish-
Bentinck
Library.**

During the year the National Union and the Cause which it represents, has lost some life-long supporters.

Obituary.

Mr. Bonar Law was at one time a member of the Glasgow Society, and was always a good friend of the Woman's Movement. It was largely due to his approval of the principles of an equal moral standard in marriage, that the Matrimonial Causes Act, promoted by the National Union, secured such a cordial reception. And his death brought with it a sense of real personal loss. *Dr. Clifford* has for many years been one of the Vice-Presidents of the Union, and one of the earliest supporters of the enfranchisement of women. *Mr. Samuel Garrett*, of Aldeburgh, Mrs. Fawcett's brother, was not only a warm supporter and life-long advocate of woman suffrage, but he carried out his convictions in his own profession, and laboured hard and successfully for equal opportunities for women in the legal profession. *Mr. Ralph Thicknesse* was an acknowledged authority on the law relating to husband and wife, and gave the National Union invaluable help in connection with its Bills for the Equal Guardianship of Children. *Mr. W. I. Mirlees*, who died at Buenos Ayres in January, was a prominent figure in the Suffrage Movement. His greatest and most chivalrous effort was his coming forward as a Parliamentary Candidate for the Camlachie Division of Glasgow at the General Election of December, 1910, on behalf of Women's Suffrage alone. *Mr. J. P. Cairns*, late Labour Member for Morpeth, was member of the first Joint Select Committee of Both Houses of Parliament on the Guardianship of Infants Bill, and was an un-

failing supporter of all questions before Parliament of interest to women. It is the glory of the Woman's Movement that it has always attracted help from many men distinguished in political public life, and your Committee wishes to express its sense of indebtedness to these six supporters whose loss they can ill afford.

We have also to record with regret the loss of the women who though not directly associated with the National Union, won the respect and admiration of all—*Lady Constance Lytton* and *Dr. Flora Murray*. Lady Constance sacrificed time, money, social connection, health and indeed, life itself to the cause of the women's enfranchisement. Dr. Flora Murray's record of war service, not less than her active advocacy of Woman's Suffrage, did much to forward the cause of women. *Mrs. Ormiston Chant*, who died early in the year, was a champion of many causes, and at one time did much effective public speaking on Woman's Suffrage. *Mrs. Alfred Booth*, a true friend of all good causes, and a notable worker for women, died in November in her 85th year, and in *Mrs. Margaret Macadam Ross*, who was for many years associated with the National Union, both in Reigate and Hendon, and *Miss Siddon*, for many years President and Founder of the Huddersfield Society, the National Union has suffered an irreparable loss. *Miss Mabel Brinson*, who died suddenly while organising work for the Women's Freedom League in Glasgow, was for a short time Head Clerk at the Headquarters Office. The National Union has had many devoted officers, but few have had the causes for which we stand so much at heart as Miss Brinson.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND SUMMARY OF TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

The Financial Report covers the period from Nov. 1st, 1922 to Oct. 31st, 1923.

The total receipts for the year were £3,265 0s. 0d., and the total expenditure £2,854 14s. 9d., leaving a balance of £410 5s. 3d. To this sum must be added the balance of £694 1s. 10d. with which the year was started, making a total balance in hand of £1,104 7s. 1d.

The expenditure for the year was £486 6s. 11d. less than last year. This saving is due mainly to cutting down organisation expenses, the Annual Council expenses (through not having a verbatim report), Parliamentary printing, and to a reduction in the office staff.

The receipts for the year were £461 10s. 4d. more than last year. There was an increase in donations of about £150, a legacy of £63 6s. 8d., and a grant of £200 from the Election Fighting Fund.

Again the most cheering feature of the Report is the splendid help received from the Societies. Throughout the year 38 Societies sent donations, and eight of these sent more than one donation. The largest amount received was £20 10s.

In the *Literature Department* the expenditure exceeded the sales by £5 17s. 10d. This is caused, no doubt, by a very great deal of free literature being used during the Election.

The amount in the *Election Fighting Fund* is £287 15s. 7d. The *Finance Committee* during the year consisted of the officers, Miss Beaumont, Mrs. Arthur Browne, Miss Verrall and Mrs. Wrightson.

I am very sorry to report that Miss Tooke, our valued accountant, who has been with us for over seven years, and who has been such a loyal helper through all our ups and downs, is shortly going to leave us. She is going to marry, and I am sure she will take with her our very heartiest good wishes.

I have to report that the removal into new offices has been satisfactorily accomplished, and although the rent is not as low as could have been wished, there is no doubt that the actual expenses of upkeep will be very much less than formerly. I hope next year's balance sheet will show this.

We have now got at Headquarters an *Entertainments Committee*. It consists of Miss Deakin as chairman, Mrs. S. B. Wilson as hon. sec., the officers, one or two members of Executive Committee, and a number of representative and influential ladies. It has not been in existence for very long, but last year it organised a Jumble Sale and a series of lectures. This year its activities are more varied, and I hope to be able to report at the next Council Meeting how very successful it has been in raising money.

You all know how much the success of the National Union depends upon funds to enable it to carry on its work and for these funds how we have to depend more and more upon the help the Societies can give us. I cannot say how grateful we are to all the 38 Societies who have helped us so splendidly this year, and I earnestly hope they may all be able and willing to do it again.

May I appeal also to all the other Societies, who have not yet been able to help us, to make a very great effort to do so during this year.

WINIFRED M. SODDY.

ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET.

MRS. W. M. SODDY,
THE NATIONAL UNION OF
FOR THE YEAR ENDED

Dr.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1922.							
Oct. 31.	To BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD:						
	Cash at Bank—						
	On Current Account	270	0	9			
	On Deposit Account	350	0	0			
	Cash in hand	47	19	1			
		667	19	10			
	Literature Current Account ...	26	2	0			
					694	1	10
1923.							
Oct. 31.	To Subscriptions	373	6	6			
	Donations	2,087	7	0			
	Legacies	63	6	8			
		2,524	0	2			
	Grants from Election Fighting Fund		200	6	6		
	Sale of Literature		82	10	7		
	Affiliation Fees		109	6	0		
	RECEIPTS—						
	Speakers' Fees		8	4	6		
	Lectures		21	14	2		
	Equal Franchise Demonstration		76	18	10		
	"Obey" Demonstration		14	10	0		
	Interest on Deposits and Investments		27	5	0		
	Amount withdrawn from Reserve		200	4	3		
					£3,959	1	10
	To Balance carried down		£1,104	7	1		

We have examined the above Statement with the Books, Accounts therewith.

Spencer House, South Place, E.C.2.
March 6th, 1924.

HON. TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH
SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.
OCTOBER 31ST, 1923.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1923.							
Oct. 31.	By Rent and Rates of Offices ...	654	8	11			
	Less Receipts from sub-letting	295	1	3			
					359	7	8
	GENERAL AND OFFICE EXPENSES:						
	Stationery	92	17	3			
	Postage and Telegrams	149	2	10			
	Office Expenses	489	11	1			
	Bank Charges	1	2	10			
	Printing	143	18	6			
	Affiliation Fees	10	13	0			
	Propaganda Leaflets	3	8	6			
	Insurances	23	0	2			
					913	14	2
	Salaries of Office Staff				1,112	1	3
	Organization Expenses				16	9	8
	Annual Council Expenses				38	7	9
	Press Department and Information Bureau Expenses					2	6
	Literature Dept. Expenses					88	8
	Parliamentary Printing					20	13
	Election Expenses					167	9
	Summer School					14	0
	Library Expenditure	62	5	9			
	Less Receipts	28	5	1			
					34	0	8
	Woman's Year Book					74	12
	Legal Advice					11	11
	Receptions, etc.					1	11
	BALANCE CARRIED DOWN:						
	Cash at Bank on Current a/c	1,030	16	2			
	Cash in Hand	64	6	9			
					1,095	2	11
	Literature Current Account	9	4	2			
					1,104	7	1
					£3,959	1	10

and Vouchers relating thereto and certify the same to be in accordance

KNOX, CROPPER & Co.,
Chartered Accountants.

MRS. M. W. SODDY, HON. TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH
THE NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31ST, 1923.

Dr.	ELECTION FIGHTING FUND.				Cr.
1922.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Oct. 31.	To BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD:—				
	£402 12s. 6d. 5% War Loan at 95 ...	382	10 5		
	Cash at Bank:				
	Deposit Account	70	0 0		
	Current Account	24	7 10		
				476	18 3
1923.					
Oct. 31.	,, INTEREST ON DEPOSIT ...		0 17 4		
				477	15 7
	To Balance carried down ...			287	15 7

We have examined the above Statement with the Books, Accounts and Vouchers relating thereto and certify the same to be in accordance therewith.

Spencer House, South Place, E.C.2.
March 6th, 1924.

KNOX, CROPPER & Co.,
Chartered Accountants.

THE NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.
BALANCE SHEET, OCTOBER 31ST, 1923.

		£	s. d.	£	s. d.			£	s. d.	£	s. d.
N.U.S.E.C. CAPITAL FUND:						FURNITURE AND FITTINGS:					
	General Fund ...	1,321	2 6			As per last Balance Sheet ...		92	17 0		
	Election Fighting Fund ...	311	10 1			SUNDRY DEBTORS, LITERATURE ...		76	0 9		
				1,632	12 7	LOAN TO SCOTTISH FEDERATION ...		25	0 0		
RESERVE FUND:						RESERVE FUND INVESTMENTS:					
	As per last Balance Sheet ...	655	17 11			As per last Balance Sheet ...	655	17 11			
	Less Realized £200 4 3					Less Realized £200 4 3					
	Less Profit on sale of War Loan 10 4 3					Less Profit on Sale 10 4 3		190	0 0		
		190	0 0							465	17 11
SUNDRY CREDITORS LITERATURE				465	17 11	Invested in 5% War Loan, 1929/47 £458 11s. 9d.					
				3	7 10	Invested in 5% War Bonds, 1927 £50 0s. 0d.					
						"COMMON CAUSE" SHARES, COST £1,638 12s. 0d., valued at		50	0 0		31
						ELECTION FIGHTING FUND INVESTMENTS:					
						As per last Balance Sheet ...	382	10 5			
						Less Realized £200 6 6					
						Less Profit on Sale 10 6 6		190	0 0		
										192	10 5
						Invested in £212 12s. 6d. War Loan, 1929/47.					
						CASH AT BANK:					
						General Account ...	1,095	2 11			
						Literature Account ...	9	4 2			
						Election Fighting Fund ...	95	5 2			
									1,199	12 3	
										2,101	18 4

We have examined the above Statement with the Books, Accounts and Vouchers relating thereto and certify the same to be in accordance therewith. We have verified the Bank Balances and the Investments.

Spencer House, South Place, E.C.2.
March 6th, 1924.

KNOX, CROPPER & Co.,
Chartered Accountants.

AFFILIATION FEES.

NOVEMBER 1st, 1922, TO OCTOBER 31st, 1923.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Abertillery W.C.A.	1	0	0	Falkirk W.C.A.	10	0	
Altrincham Local Correspondent ...	2	6		Farnworth W.C.A.	10	0	
1922 ...	1	0	0	Federation of Women Civil Servants	3	3	0
Association of Assistant Mistresses	10	0		Fulham and Hammersmith S.E.C.	5	0	
Ashton-u-Lyne & Dist. W.C.A.	1	0	0				
Association for Moral and Social Hygiene ...	1	1	0	Gateshead Group for E.C.	5	0	
Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, 1922 ...	6	0	0	Glasgow S.E.C.	6	0	0
Ayr and District S.E.C.	10	0		Gloucester S.E.C.	5	0	
				Godalming Local Correspondent ...	2	6	
Barnes, Mortlake and E. Sheen W.C.A., 1922 ...	10	0		Golders Green and Hendon S.E.C.	5	0	
Barnsley S.E.C.	10	0		Great Yarmouth S.E.C.	5	0	
Bebington and District W.C.A. 1922 ...	1	0	0				
1923 ...	1	0	0	Haddington Group for E.C.	5	0	
Birkenhead and District W.C.A. ...	4	0	0	Hampstead S.E.C.	5	0	
Birmingham N.C.W. Citizenship Sub-Section ...	1	0	0	Harrogate S.E.C.	5	0	
Blackpool Local Correspondent ...	2	6		Hastings and St. Leonards Local Correspondent ...	5	0	
Bolton W.C.A.	2	0	0	Heathfield W.C.A.	1	0	0
Bradford Local Correspondent ...	2	6		Holt W.C.A.	5	0	
Bridport Local Correspondent ...	2	6		Hornsey Group for E.C.	5	0	
Brighton and Hove Standing Committee for E.C.	5	0		Horsham W.C.A.	1	0	0
Bristol S.E.C.	10	0		Huddersfield S.E.C.	10	0	
Camberley and District S.E.C. ...	7	6		Ilkley S.E.C.	10	0	
Cambridge Standing Committee ...	5	0					
Canning Town C.A.	5	0		Kensington S.E.C.	1	0	0
Cardiff W.C.A.	5	0					
Carlisle W.C.A.	1	0	0	Largs S.E.C.	5	0	
Chester W.C.A.	4	0	0	League of Church Militant ...	1	1	0
Chingford W.C.A.	10	0		Leicester S.E.C.	5	0	
Chinley W.C.A.	5	0		Leominster W.C.A.—			
Church Stretton S.E.C.	5	0		1922 ...	5	0	
Crieff C.A.	10	0		1923 ...	10	0	
Croydon W.C.A.	2	0	0	Lewes Local Correspondent, 1921	2	6	
Croydon (N. Ward) W.C.A.	10	0		Lewisham W.C.A., 1922 ...	2	6	
Croydon (W. Ward) W.C.A. 1922 ...	5	0		Lincoln W.C.A.	1	10	0
1923 ...	5	0		Liverpool W.C.A.	6	0	0
				London S.W.S.	6	0	0
Dartmouth W.C.A.	5	0					
Doncaster S.E.C.	5	0		Maidenhead W.C.A.	10	0	
Dunfermline S.E.C.	5	0		Maidstone Local Correspondent—			
Durham S.E.C.—				1923 ...	2	6	
1922 ...	1	0	0	1924 ...	2	6	
1923 ...	1	0	0	Malvern S.E.C.	10	0	
				Merthyr Local Correspondent, 1922	2	6	
Ealing and Acton W.C.A.	2	0	0	Montrose Citizens' Association ...	5	0	
Ebbw Vale W.C.A.	1	0	0				
Edinburgh W.C.A.	6	0	0	New Brighton B.W.T.A.	1	0	0
Edinburgh S.E.C.	2	0	0	Newnham College S.E.C.	5	0	
Exeter S.E.C.	5	0		Newport (Essex) S.E.C.	5	0	
				Newport (Mon.) W.C.A.	4	0	0
				Norwich Local Correspondent ...	2	6	
				Nottingham S.E.C.	5	0	

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Oswestry Local Correspondent ...	2	6		Scarborough W.C.A.	10	0	
Oxford S.E.C.	5	0		Shanklin S.E.C.	5	0	
Oxford Women's Liberal and Progressive Club ...	1	0	0	Sheffield W.C.A.—			
				1921 ...	1	0	0
				1922 ...	1	0	0
				1923 ...	1	0	0
Paddington Women's Municipal Party ...	10	0		Solihull Women's Village Council	2	6	
Petersfield S.E.C.	10	0		Southall Women's Liberal Assn. ...	10	0	
Porstmouth W.C.A.	10	0		Stafford W.C.A.	10	0	
Preston W.C.A.	1	0	0	Stroud Group for E.C.	5	0	
Professional Union of Trained Nurses	1	1	0	Sunderland W.C.A.	1	0	0
Purley W.C.A.	1	0	0	Sutton Coldfield W.C.A.	1	0	0
Reading Group for E.C.	5	0		Tunbridge Wells S.E.C.	5	0	
Reigate and Redhill W.C.A.	2	0	0				
Redhill and Reigate Standing Committee for E.C.	5	0		Union of Jewish Women ...	1	0	0
Retford Local Correspondent ...	2	6					
Rochdale W.C.A.	1	0	0	Wakefield W.C.A.	1	0	0
Rotherhithe Guild of Women Citizens	1	0	0	Warwick and Leamington Group for E.C.	5	0	
Rotherfield Local Correspondent ...	2	6		West Bromwich S.E.C.	1	0	0
Rotherham S.E.C.	5	0					
Rotherham W.C.A.	5	0		York W.C.A.	1	0	0
				Total ...	£109	6	0

	£	s.	d.
Paisley, Mrs.	10	0	0
Park, Mrs.	1	11	6
Paul, Miss Rose M.	10	0	0
Pearson, Miss E. C.	2	6	0
Pearson, Miss M.	10	6	0
Pease, The Hon. Miriam	10	0	0
Peel, Miss Eileen	5	0	0
Pendered, Miss M. L.	1	11	0
People's Discussion Circle	3	9	0
Petersfield S.E.C.	15	0	0
Pierce, Miss R.	1	0	0
Pilcher, Mr. and Mrs.	1	19	6
Pirret, Dr. Mary	1	1	0
Pirret, Miss Ruth	10	6	0
Pollock, Mrs.	1	1	0
Pott, Mr. R. H.	1	0	0
Powell, Miss Rosanna	2	6	0
Prankherd, Miss	2	6	0
Prestwich, Miss I. P.	1	11	6
Price, Mrs.	5	0	0
Proctor, Miss Edith M.	10	0	0
Purley, W.C.A.	2	2	0
Rackham, Mrs.	2	2	0
Raleigh, Mrs.	2	12	6
Rammell, Miss	5	0	0
Rathbone, Miss E. F.	10	0	0
Rathbone, Mrs. Herbert	10	0	0
Rathbone, Miss M.	5	0	0
Ray, Mrs. K.	1	1	0
Rea, Miss	1	1	0
Reading S.E.C.	11	5	6
Redhill and Reigate Standing Com- mittee for E.C.	3	3	0
Rendels, Miss E. T.	5	0	0
Reid, Mrs. J. K.	1	0	0
Richards, Mrs.	1	1	0
Richardson, Mrs. M. K.	1	6	0
Richmond, Mrs. Bruce	10	0	0
Ridding, the Lady Laura	10	0	0
Ritchie, Mrs. James	10	6	0
Robertson, Mrs. F. C.	5	0	0
Robinson, Miss E.	1	1	0
Robinson, Miss S. M.	17	6	0
Rotherham W.C.A.	2	0	0
Russell, Hon. Mrs. Alys	5	0	0
Rutherford, Mrs. B.	4	0	0
Salter, Miss Emma Curvey	2	6	0
Sanderson, Miss Evelyn	2	2	0
Satchell, Mrs.	1	1	0
Savery, Mrs.	5	0	0
Sale, per Mrs. Soddy and Miss Sutherland	45	0	0
Sanderson, Miss M. E.	5	0	0
St. Hilda's Hall (Oxford) W.S.S.	1	10	0
Schofield, Mrs. D.	6	0	0
Schuster, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest	13	3	0
Scott, Lady Moncrieff	10	0	0
Seyd, Mrs.	10	0	0
S.H.	10	0	0
Sharpe, Miss L.	1	0	0
Sibby, Miss	10	0	0
Sikes, Mrs.	2	6	0
Slater, Mrs. E.	5	0	0
Sloane, Miss E. J.	3	3	0
Small, Miss Belle	10	0	0
Smee, Alderman Miss	1	1	0
Smith, The Misses	1	5	0
Smyth, Miss Mary	10	0	0
Soddy, Mrs.	3	3	0
Soulsby, Mrs.	10	0	0
Sparkes, Miss M. A.	5	0	0
Spicer, Miss Charlotte	3	2	0
Spicer, Miss Harriet	10	6	0

	£	s.	d.
Spielman, Miss	10	6	0
Spielman, Mrs. M. A.	5	5	0
Stafford W.C.A.	1	1	0
Stein, Mrs.	1	1	0
Sterling, Miss Evangeline	2	6	0
Sterling, Miss Frances	3	0	0
Stevenson, Miss A.	2	6	0
Stockport W.S.S.	2	13	6
Stocks, Mrs.	5	0	0
Stoehr, Miss C. H.	2	0	0
Strachey, Miss J. P.	25	0	0
Streatfield, Mrs. E. F.	2	2	0
Styer, Miss Mabel	2	11	0
Sunderland, S.E.C.	1	10	0
Sutherland, Miss	3	3	0
Sutton Coldfield W.C.A.	2	0	0
Taylor, Miss C.	1	1	0
Taylor, Mrs. Helen B.	1	1	0
Taylor, Mrs. James	2	2	0
Taylor, Miss M.	1	1	0
Temperley, Miss	10	0	0
Tennant, Dr. and Mrs.	1	10	0
Terrington, Lady, M.P.	1	1	0
Thackrah, Mr. James R.	10	0	0
Thomasson, Mrs. J. P.	10	0	0
Thompson, Mrs.	2	6	0
Thompson, Mrs. Charles	1	1	0
Thompson, Mrs. H. M.	1	1	0
Thomas, Miss Isabel	5	0	0
Tipper, Mrs. M.	5	0	0
Tod, Miss	1	0	0
Todhunter, Miss D. L.	5	0	0
Tucker, Mrs.	1	1	0
Uniacke, Mrs. Robie	5	0	0
Unwin, Mrs. Cobden	1	0	0
Unwin, Mrs. G.	10	0	0
Vangruisen, Mrs.	15	15	0
Vatcher, Mrs.	1	1	0
Verrall, Miss M. E.	3	0	0
Vickery, Dr. Alice Drysdale	1	0	0
Wade, Miss Mary I.	2	6	0
Wainwright, Miss	2	6	0
Walker, Dr. Jane	2	2	0
Walrond, Miss F. Ella	5	10	0
Wakefield W.C.A.	2	2	0
Ward, Miss A. Helen	10	0	0
Ward, Mrs. James	6	0	0
Watson, Mrs. W.	12	2	0
Welch, Mrs. Courtney	2	6	0
West Bromwich S.E.C.	5	0	0
Wilkinson, Miss F. R.	10	6	0
Willis, Miss Edith	7	6	0
Wilson, Miss Edith	6	0	0
Wilson, Dr. Helen	2	0	0
Wilson, Mrs. S. B., C.B.E.	3	3	0
Woburn Sands W.S.S.	1	8	0
Wood, Miss Mary H.	5	0	0
Wootton, Mrs.	10	0	0
Worcester S.E.C.	4	11	11
Wray, Miss Celia	3	3	0
Wright, Lady	2	0	0
Wrightson, Mrs.	10	6	0
Wynch, Mrs.	2	12	0
Young, Miss Jessie	10	0	0
Yovell, Miss	1	0	0
Yovell, Miss G.	1	0	0
Zimmern, Miss Alice	5	0	0
Total	£2460	13	6

RULES.

As amended 1924.

I.

TITLE.

The title of the Union shall be the NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

II.

OBJECT.

To obtain all such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women, and also such reforms as are necessary to make it possible for women adequately to discharge their functions as citizens.

III.

PROGRAMME.

The Council shall from time to time determine which reforms shall be included in its programme.

IV.

METHODS.

- (a) To affiliate and organise Societies under the conditions of affiliation of the Union, and to appoint Standing Committees and Local Correspondents in localities where there are no Societies.
- (b) To initiate and support such legislation as will promote the Programme of the Union.
- (c) To bring the pressure of united action to bear on Parliament.
- (d) To conduct constitutional agitation throughout the country in support of the object of the Union.
- (e) To maintain at Headquarters an Information Bureau, which shall collect and distribute information of feminist interest.
- (f) To promote the education and self-determination of women as citizens.

V. AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS.

1. The following Associations shall be eligible for affiliation:

- (a) Societies of not less than ten persons.
- (b) Groups of not less than ten persons within any unaffiliated Society.
- (c) Standing Committees of not less than ten persons; provided that these Associations have as one of their objects the object of the Union.

N.B.—This provision shall not be held to exclude an affiliated Association which supports *one aspect* of the Union's object.

2. The fees for affiliation shall be:—

For Associations with from	10—50	members	5/-
„ „ „ „	51—75	„	7/6
„ „ „ „	76—100	„	10/-
„ „ „ „	101—250	„	£1
„ „ „ „	251—500	„	£2
„ „ „ „	501—1000	„	£4
„ „ „ „	1001—1500	„	£5
„ „ „ „	1501—2000	„	£6
„ „ „ „	2001—2500	„	£7

and for every 500 extra members, £1 extra.

This fee must be paid at the time of affiliation, and subsequently in January each year. Associations affiliating after June 30th will only be required in the following January to pay on the membership subsequent to the payment of the first fee, but must pay on their full membership in January of each succeeding year.

Nationally organised Societies whose objects include all or any part of the object of the National Union, and who do not desire affiliation on the ordinary terms, may be admitted to affiliation on payment of a fee of £1, which will entitle them to two representatives to the Council irrespective of their membership.

3. The Executive Committee shall have power:

- (a) To admit Associations to affiliation, subject to the ratification of the next Council Meeting; and
- (b) To refuse or terminate the affiliation of any Association, pending appeal to the Council, if in their

opinion the affiliation of that Association would be injurious to the object of the Union or is for other reasons undesirable.

VI. LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS.

1. Where in the opinion of a Federation Committee (or, where there is no Federation, of the Executive Committee) the work of the Union is not sufficiently represented, the Federation Committee (or, where there is no Federation, the Executive Committee) shall appoint a Local Correspondent to promote the object of the Union.

2. Local Correspondents shall pay an annual fee of 2s. 6d.

3. Local Correspondents shall be required to state in writing (1) that they agree with the object of the Union, (2) that they will undertake to carry out the work in their constituencies in the name of the N.U.S.E.C., (3) that they will send quarterly reports to Headquarters, and (4) that they will aim at forming a Society or Group or at securing the affiliation of an existing Society.

VII. COUNCIL.

1. The Council shall be the governing body of the Union. Its duties shall be:

- (a) To direct the affairs of the Union.
- (b) To lay down general rules for the guidance of the Executive Committee as to the policy and methods by which the work of the Union shall be carried out.
- (c) To determine which reforms shall be included in the Programme.
- (d) To determine which of these reforms, not exceeding six in number, shall be included in the Immediate Programme of the Union.

2. The Council shall consist of the members of the Executive Committee for the time being, of the Honorary Secretary of each Federation, the duly elected representatives of the Associations which are affiliated to the Union, and the Local Correspondents. Members of affiliated Associations

may be admitted as visitors, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, without the right to speak or vote.

3. An Annual Meeting of the Council shall be held in February or March, of which at least six weeks' notice shall be given to the affiliated Associations.

4. Representatives of Associations at the Council must be members of one of the Associations within the Union. No one may attend the Council as sole representative of an Association to which he or she does not belong without written guidance from the Association represented.

5. Each affiliated Association shall be entitled to send representatives to the Council relative to the number of members covered by the affiliation fee, as follows:—

Associations of	10 to 50 members	paying 5/-	...	1 delegate.
"	" 51 to 75 members	paying 7/6	...	2 delegates.
"	" 76 to 100	" " 10/-	...	3 "
"	" 101 to 250	" " £1	...	4 "
"	" 251 to 500	" " £2	...	5 "
"	" 501 to 1000	" " £4	...	6 "
"	" 1001 to 1500	" " £5	...	7 "
"	" 1501 to 2000	" " £6	...	8 "
"	" 2001 to 2500	" " £7	...	9 "

and for every 500 extra members £1 extra and one extra delegate up to a maximum of 20 delegates.

6. One delegate may cast the whole vote to which his or her Association is entitled for the election of the Honorary Officers and Executive Committee.

7. Associations sending representatives to the Council Meeting shall pay a fee of 2s. (two shillings) for each card of admission applied for, and when visitors are admitted a charge of 3s. (three shillings) for each visitor shall be made.

8. The Annual Meeting, in addition to general business, shall:

- (a) Receive and adopt, if approved, the report and balance sheet for the year.
- (b) Elect by Ballot the Officers and Executive Committee of the Union for the ensuing year.
- (c) Elect the Vice-Presidents for the ensuing year.

9. Copies of resolutions and amendments to be proposed at Council Meetings shall be:

- (a) Sent to the Secretary of the Union at least thirty clear days before the date of the Council Meeting, and by her circulated to the Secretaries of Associa-

tions at least twenty-one clear days before that date. Resolutions not so circulated may be also proposed if urgency be voted by the Council.

- (b) Placed upon the printed agenda in the name of an affiliated Association, or of the Executive Committee, or of a member of the Executive Committee.

10. Special Meetings of the Council may be called by the Executive Committee, and shall be called at any time at the request in writing of not less than one-twentieth of the Associations affiliated to the Union. A meeting called on requisition shall be held within twenty-one days of the date of the receipt of the requisition by the Secretary of the Union, and Rule 9 (a) shall be suspended.

11. At special meetings no other business shall be taken except that specified in the notice convening the meeting, unless urgency be voted.

12. In the event of a Special Council to consider policy to be followed at a General Election, the notice required for resolutions and amendments shall be decided by the Executive Committee and specified by them when convening the Meeting, provided that the number of the Societies which shall be used as the basis from which one-twentieth is to be calculated for the purpose of summoning a Special Council Meeting shall be the number of Societies reported as being the total number at the preceding Annual Council Meeting.

VIII. NOMINATIONS.

1. All candidates for election or re-election as Honorary Officers of the Union, or as members of the Executive Committee, must be nominated by an Affiliated Association in the Union.

2. Each candidate for election as an Honorary Officer or as a member of the Executive Committee shall be required to supply to the Secretary for circulation to the Affiliated Associations the following particulars about herself or himself:

- (a) Occupation or special social work.
- (b) Name of the Affiliated Association to which she, or he, belongs, and official position, if any, in that Association.

- (c) Official position, if any, in the Party Organisation to which she or he belongs.

3. Nominations for the Officers of the Union, the Executive Committee, and the Vice-Presidents, in the case of the Officers and the Executive Committee with the written consent of the candidates nominated, shall be sent to the Secretary at least thirty days before the Annual Council Meeting.

4. A list of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee standing for re-election shall be sent out with the notices summoning the Annual Council, and a full list of the candidates for election shall be sent to each Association at least twenty-one clear days before the date of the Annual Meeting; this list shall show:

- (a) The names and addresses of all candidates for election, with the name of the Association nominating them.
- (b) In the case of Officers and other members of the retiring Executive Committee standing for re-election, the attendance at the meetings of the Executive Committee made by them respectively during the previous year.

IX. OFFICERS.

The Honorary Officers of the Union shall be President, Treasurer, Secretary or Secretaries; they shall hold office until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting next after that at which they were elected.

X. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Secretary, and twenty-one other members; it shall hold office until the close of the Annual Meeting next after that at which it was elected.

2. At its first meeting after election the Executive Committee shall elect a Chairman for the year.

3. The Executive Committee shall conduct the business of the Union in accordance with the resolutions passed by the Council.

4. The Executive Committee shall, from time to time, make its own bye-laws, and shall have power to appoint members of affiliated Associations to fill any vacancy either

among the officers or on the Executive Committee which may occur during its time of office.

5. The Executive Committee shall have power to co-opt two members in addition to those co-opted to fill vacancies.

6. The Executive Committee shall appoint the paid officers of the Union.

7. The Executive Committee shall administer the funds of the Union, raise funds for its general work, and authorise the raising of funds by the Special Committees.

8. In the event of any difference of opinion arising in the Union as to the correct interpretation of resolutions passed by the Council, the interpretation of the Executive Committee for the time being shall be binding pending the decision of the Council at its next meeting.

9. The Executive Committee shall give special attention to the reforms selected by the Council as requiring immediate attention.

10. The Executive Committee shall carry on the Information Bureau at Headquarters.

11. The Executive Committee shall take action upon any general matter coming clearly within the object of the Union which has not been referred to a Special Committee and which becomes unexpectedly ripe for action in the interval between Councils.

12. Members who have absented themselves from more than one-half of the meetings of the Executive Committee during the year, except for reasons accepted by the Executive Committee as exceptional and unavoidable, will not be eligible for re-election the following year.

XI. ELECTION POLICY.

1. Every election shall so far as practicable be made the occasion for propaganda in the constituency on the reforms for which the Union is working.

2. Every candidate at a Parliamentary election shall be asked to put in his election address that he stands for Equal Suffrage, and shall be questioned as to his views on the reforms for which the N.U.S.E.C. is working, either in writing or personally at a Deputation or Meeting, and the replies given shall, as far as practicable, be made known to the electorate through the Press.

3. The Executive Committee of the N.U.S.E.C. may give the official support of the Union to the Parliamentary candidature of :

- (a) Women candidates of any Party, or Independent, provided that they are willing to support the object of the Union, and are, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, likely to render service to the cause for which the Union stands.
- (b) Men candidates of any Party, or Independent, who have in the past rendered distinguished service to the cause for which the Union stands and are willing to support its object.
- (c) Men candidates of any Party, or Independent, who are willing to support the object of the Union, and who are opposed by candidates not so willing ; provided that where a candidate otherwise satisfying the Union's conditions enters a constituency to oppose another candidate also satisfying the conditions, who was first in the field, the Union shall not, except in very special circumstances, support such second candidature.

Provided that in each case :—

- (a) The support be given only with the consent of the candidate.
- (b) The support take all or any of the following forms :—
 - 1. To make known to the Electorate the Candidate's special claim to the support of voters on the above grounds.
 - 2. During the Election to arrange for the sending of workers to the Constituency to work on non-party lines in co-operation with, and subject to the approval of the Candidate and his or her agent.
 - 3. To form special Committees, where desirable, to carry out this work.

And in the case of women Candidates only :—

- 4. To carry on preliminary propaganda in the constituency on the reforms for which women are asking, and the need for women in Parliament to promote such reforms.
- (c) That no meeting shall be arranged by the N.U.S.E.C. in support of a candidate unless :—
 - 1. It be stated on the bills (a) that the N.U.S.E.C. is organising the meeting, (b) that the N.U.S.E.C.

is supporting the candidate because, if a man, he is a tried and trusted friend, or a new candidate known to be a strong supporter who is standing against a known opponent or an unsatisfactory candidate, and if a woman, because she is standing for the object of the N.U.S.E.C.

2. All speakers are invited by the N.U.S.E.C.

No work shall be undertaken by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Union in any constituency without consulting with the Affiliated Society (if any) in the area, and arranging, if possible, to carry on the work through or in co-operation with the Society, according to which may be the more effective ; nor shall work be undertaken by any Society in the name of the N.U.S.E.C. except with the consent of the Executive Committee.

SPECIAL ELECTION COUNCIL.

In order to avoid unnecessary expense and the diversion of energies which ought to be devoted to work in the constituencies at the time of a General Election, the policy pursued at the General Election shall be that laid down at the Annual Council Meeting, unless any change of circumstance shall have occurred in the interval, which, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, renders necessary the calling of a Special Election Council.

XII. SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

1. Special Committees may be formed by the Executive Committee on the following basis of membership to deal with the reforms selected by the Council to be placed on the immediate Programme :

- (a) Not less than three members of the Executive Committee.
- (b) Persons appointed by the Executive Committee.
- (c) Representatives of any Society interested in that special subject and invited by the Executive Committee to appoint representatives.
- (d) Co-opted members.

The Chairman shall be chosen from among the members of the Executive Committee.

2. Such other Special Committees as are necessary for carrying on the work of the Union may also be formed by the Executive Committee.

XIII. ORGANISATION.

1. Federations may be formed of the affiliated Associations in defined areas, such areas to be arranged by the local Associations with the approval of the Executive Committee.

2. Each Federation shall appoint a Committee which should include representatives from each Affiliated Association within its area, and at least one member of the Executive Committee of the National Union, such member or members to have no vote on the Federation Committee unless representing an Association or Associations in the area. Every member of such a Committee must be a member of an Association affiliated to the National Union.

3. The work of each Federation shall be :

- (a) To promote the formation of new Associations in its area, and appoint Local Correspondents in places where no Affiliated Association exists.
- (b) To promote the affiliation of existing organisations.
- (c) To arrange joint meetings and generally secure co-operation among Societies in its area.
- (d) To initiate and conduct political work in its own area, if it desires to do so, in support of the programme of the National Union, the Executive Committee to be the arbiter as to whether this political work is in accordance with the programme and general policy of the Union as laid down by the Council.

4. Associations and Federations shall initiate and carry out the ordinary work of the Union in their own areas, and the National Union Executive Committee shall initiate and carry out work of a national character in any area, provided that when it is proposed to undertake work in the area of any Association, that Association shall be consulted before any decision is arrived at, and shall be invited to take an official part and to share the financial responsibilities and advantages.

5. No Association or Federation shall use the name or funds of the Union to support any reform which does not come within the objects of the Union.

XIV. ACCOUNTS.

The Accounts of the Union shall be audited annually by an Auditor or Auditors appointed by the Council.

XV. ALTERATION OF RULES.

No alteration shall be made in the rules except at the Annual Meeting or at a Special Meeting of the Council, to which due notice of any proposed alteration has been given.

RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO PROGRAMME PASSED
AT RECENT COUNCIL MEETINGS.

I.—EQUAL FRANCHISE.

(1) "That this Council of the N.U.S.E.C. calls upon the Government to show itself true to its pre-election pledge, by making itself responsible for a measure giving Equal Franchise rights to men and women, and so enabling women workers, who are disqualified under the present law, to exercise their full weight in the Councils of the Nation." (Urgency 1924).

(2) *Representation of the People Act (1918) Amendment Bill.*

"That this Council of the N.U.S.E.C. notes with indignation and alarm that the only measure so far before Parliament dealing with Equal Franchise is a Private Member's Bill—The Representation of the People Act (1918) Amendment Bill—and that there appears no immediate prospect of giving this measure a share of Parliamentary time in proportion to its importance. It calls upon the Government either to replace this measure by one of its own, giving equal franchise rights to men and women, uncomplicated by other provisions for Electoral Reform, or to give such facilities to the above Bill, as shall secure its passage into law this session.

The Council further urges the members of the Standing Committee, before which the Bill comes, to vote for the deletion of those clauses in the Bill which deal with other matters, so that those which give equal political franchise to women may be ensured an early passage into law." (Urgency 1924).

(3) *Registration of Voters.*

"That this Council protests against the action of certain Registration Officers up and down the country in refusing to place on the Parliamentary Register women lodgers in unfurnished rooms in relatives' houses, and urges women so refused to appeal from such decisions to the Revising Barrister, especially as for years it has been the practice to register as 'lodge electors' men living in the houses of relatives." (1922).

II.—CANDIDATURE OF WOMEN FOR PARLIAMENT.

"That this Council believes that it is urgently necessary to secure the election of women to Parliament so that the special experience of women may be placed at the service of the State, and that the interests of women where they appear to conflict with those of men may be safeguarded." (1921).

III.—WOMEN AND POLITICAL PARTIES.

(1) "That this Council recommends members of the N.U.S.E.C. who belong to the political parties :

"(a) To promote the adoption by the party of the programme of the N.U.S.E.C.

"(b) To promote the return by the Party of Women to Parliament.

"(c) To ensure the nomination by party organisations of candidates of either sex who are in sympathy with the programme of the N.U.S.E.C. (1922).

IV.—WOMEN IN THE SECOND CHAMBER.

"That this Council urges that any proposals for the reconstruction of the House of Lords should make provision for the inclusion in the Reformed Chamber of an adequate number of women, by adopting methods of selection which take into consideration the distribution and position of women in the community as well as the distribution and position of men.

"In particular it demands that the re-construction should at least include provisions to secure :—

(a) That if any members are to be chosen by election, women should be qualified to vote and to be elected on the same terms as men.

(b) That if any members are to be nominated, an adequate proportion of such members should be women.

"(c) That if any sections of the community are to be given the right to elect or the right to appoint, such sections shall be selected with due regard to the possibility of women being represented and chosen.

“(d) That peeresses in their own right should have the same rights as peers.” (1922).

V.—EQUAL MORAL STANDARD.

(1) *Solicitation Laws.*

(a) “That this Council, believing that the administration of the laws relating to solicitation encourages the disastrous idea of a double standard of morals, calls upon the Government to repeal or to amend these laws, especially by removing all special penalties attaching solely to ‘common prostitutes.’” (1924).

(b) “That this Council recommends its affiliated Societies to study the administration of the laws relating to Solicitation in their Local Government Areas respectively, with a view to educating public opinion to demand their abolition.” (1924).

(2) *Venereal Disease.*

“That this Council (while not expressing any opinion on various minor suggestions made in the Report), approves the following findings of the Trevethin Report:—That

(1) It rejects as methods for fighting venereal disease in a civil community the introduction of any system or measures for affording to the general public facilities either for self-disinfection or for skilled disinfection given at provided ablution centres;

(2) It refuses to recommend any form whatever of notification or compulsory treatment.

This Council welcomes this rejection of methods which in its opinion tended to confuse the moral issues involved, to foster promiscuous intercourse and to encourage the double moral standard; and further welcomes the recommendation of the Report that the present system of clinics for the treatment of Venereal Disease be extended and improved in many respects, and that an improvement ‘in medical education in regard to Venereal Disease is necessary,’ while advocating also improved measures of education and the betterment of social conditions.” (1924).

(3) *Age of Consent.*

“That this Council affirms its belief that the age of consent to criminal assault should be raised to 18 for girls, and that equal protection should be given to boys.” (1922).

(4) *Maisons Tolérées.*

“Whereas official toleration of brothel-keeping and recognised vice areas involves connivance at the exploitation of women and the degradation of men, and makes the Government an accomplice of procurers, the N.U.S.E.C. in Annual Council assembled calls upon all responsible Governments and Municipalities within the British Empire to adopt and vigorously enforce the policy of suppressing all known brothels within the areas of their respective administrations. It further asks that brothels and disorderly houses should be put out of bounds for British troops wherever they are stationed.” (1920).

(5) *Prostitution in Crown Colonies.*

“That this Council calls upon the Government to bring the Crown Colonies into line with the British law in regard to the penalties for brothels and disorderly houses, and, particularly in the case of Hong Kong, the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States, to break up and abolish all existing vice areas or streets where brothel keeping is at present allowed. This Council further condemns the action of the British Government in continuing to issue licences to prostitutes to practise in tolerated brothels, with the consequent compulsory examination of woman prostitutes in the supposed interests of their male companions.” (1924).

(6) *Compulsory Detention of Prostitutes.*

“This Council, while in favour of substituting probation for fines or imprisonment, records its disapproval of any attempt to use the provisions of the Probation of Offenders Act, or the Criminal Justice Administration Act, as a means of enforcing long periods of *compulsory detention* upon offenders when the legal punishment for their offence is a fine or short term of imprisonment. In particular this Council objects to the provisions of these Acts being used, at the discretion of magistrates, to send girls

convicted of solicitation into compulsory detention in approved Homes for six months, the expense of such detention being defrayed out of rates and taxes." (1924).

VI.—EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY IN INDUSTRY AND THE PROFESSIONS.

- (1) "This Council declares that the only interpretation of the expression 'Equal Pay for Equal Work' which is acceptable to it, is that men and women shall be paid at the same rate, whether this be computed by time or by piece in the same occupation or grade. (1921).
- (2) "Further, this Council holds that it is imperative in the interests both of men and women that equal opportunity should be given to women in industry and in the professions, that restrictions based on sex alone should be abolished, and that the Government, Municipalities, Trade Unions, Industrial Councils, Employers and all other authorities concerned should be urged to adopt this view and to put it into practice. (1921).
- (3) "Further, this Council considers that the adoption of Equal Pay for Equal Work as defined above, combined with the opening of equal opportunities to women, should be immediately pressed forward, especially in connection with the employees of the Central and Local Governments and in connection with all employees falling under official wage awards." (1921).
- (4) *Special Propaganda on Equal Pay, etc.*
"That the N.U.S.E.C. in Annual Council assembled re-affirms its resolution passed at the Council Meeting in 1922, instructing the Executive Committee to carry on special propaganda throughout the country in support of the Union's policy on Equal Pay, Equal Opportunities and Equal Right to Work, including especially the resolutions opposing restrictions on women's work, and on the occupational rate, and pregnancy, and urges the Executive Committee to carry this work out on the general lines suggested in the Memorandum circulated to affiliated Societies." (1923).

(5) *Unemployment Among Women.*

"That in view of the amount of unemployment among women, and the fact that large sums of money are being allocated to relieve unemployment among men this Annual Council of the N.U.S.E.C. strongly urges the Government to provide further funds for women's training and employment." (1924).

(6) *Unemployment Insurance for Dependents.*

"That this Council, feeling strongly that the present allowances for wives and children of unemployed persons are grossly inadequate, is of opinion that the Unemployment Insurance Acts should be amended to secure an adequate allowance for wives and children. The Council also believes that self-respecting unemployed wage-earners should not be driven to the distasteful necessity of applying for Poor Relief. (1924).

(7) *Unemployment Insurance Scheme.*

"That this Council urges on Parliament the necessity of basing any Unemployment Insurance Scheme upon the type of work and not on the sex of the worker, and that any such scheme should cover all wage-earners, both men and women." (1920).

(8) *Provision of Education for Unemployed Juveniles.*

"That this Council, in view of the waste and serious evils arising from unemployment among boys and girls leaving our Elementary Schools, begs to direct the attention of His Majesty's Government to the immediate necessity of providing facilities for children, who have reached school-leaving age and are unable to obtain employment, to continue their education by staying on at school, where the accommodation is adequate and the conditions suitable, or by the provision of special classes." (1924.)

(9) *Employment of Married Women.*

"That this Council maintains its unshaken support of the right of women to decide for themselves whether or not they should carry on paid work after marriage; it demands that the regulations of National and Local Authorities which debar Married Women, as such, from employment should

be repealed, holding that these regulations constitute an unjust interference with individual liberty, and are contrary to the best interests of the public." (1924).

(10) *Women in the Civil Service.*

(a) "That the N.U.S.E.C. in Annual Council assembled calls upon the Government to undertake at once the review of the question of the remuneration of women as compared with men in the Civil Service, promised by resolution of the House of Commons in 1921, with a view to carrying out among the Government's own direct employees its principle of Equal Pay for Equal Work." (1924).

(b) "That this Council protests against the continued obstruction of the Treasury to the plain meaning of the resolutions passed by the House of Commons to give women equal status and opportunity in the Civil Service; and calls upon the Government to insist upon the immediate carrying out of these resolutions by the rectification of the present re-grading arrangements and the abolition of the double establishment lists.

"It further records its opinion that Equal Pay should be granted, and its determination to work for this object until it is secured." (1922).

(11) *Industrial Legislation.*

"That this Council urges that legislation with regard to pregnancy should be on the lines not of forbidding women to select their own work but of providing for them such economic conditions as should make it possible to give birth to their children without facing either ill-health or starvation." (1920).

(12) *Night Work of Women.*

"That this Council strongly condemns the recommendations of the Washington Labour Conference, proposing restrictions on the night work of women not placed on the night work of men, and re-affirms its resolution that regulations concerning night work should be based on the type of work and not on the sex of the workers." (1920).

(13) *Amendment to Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919.*

"That the N.U.S.E.C. in Annual Council assembled calls upon the Government to amend the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act so as to insure that in practice it will really be effective in giving to women, whether married or unmarried, equality of liberty, status and opportunity with regard to public functions, dignity, honour, civil or judicial offices, posts or professions, and in particular that it will: (1) admit women to the House of Lords on equal terms with men, (2) admit women to the civil and diplomatic service at home and abroad, (3) make illegal (a) any order in Council or regulation of a Government Department, (b) any resolution or other action of a local governing body, (c) any contract or undertaking, which requires a woman to retire on marriage; (3) prevent any judge, chairman of the Quarter Sessions, Recorder, or other person before whom a case is heard, making an order that the jury shall be composed of men only or of women only, or exempting a woman from service on a jury by reason of the nature of the evidence to be given." (1923).

(14) *Women Jurors.*

"That the N.U.S.E.C. in Annual Council assembled considers it essential that the law as regards juries shall be amended to provide:—

"(1) That no Judge, Chairman of Quarter Sessions, Recorder, or other person before whom a case is heard, shall have power:

"(a) To declare that a jury shall consist of men only or of women only; or

"(b) To excuse a woman because of the nature of the evidence or the type of the case.

"(2) That when a juror is removed because of a challenge, he or she shall be replaced by another juror of the same sex.

"(3) A married woman shall, unless exempt, be liable to serve if her husband is qualified to serve, and shall not be exempt on the ground that her husband is exempt." (1922).

(15) *Women Police.*

"That this Council urges the Committee to be appointed by the Home Office to give special consideration

to the recommendations of the Committee on the Employment of Women on Police Duties, 1920, and to instruct Police Authorities in Great Britain with regard to: (a) Standardising the conditions of service of Police Women; (b) The attestation of Police Women with powers of arrest. (Para. 53, 54, 55, 58, 74 and 36). And further this Council urges the Home Secretary and the Secretary for Scotland to make regulations that Police Women be appointed on the strength of all Police Forces." (1924).

(16) *Training of Women Police.*

"That this Council urges the new Home Office Committee on Women Police to give special attention to the adequate training of Police Women." (1924).

(17) *Women Prisoners in Police Cells.*

"That this Annual Council of the N.U.S.E.C. urges the Home Secretary and the Secretary for Scotland to provide that the custody of women in police cells and the searching and conducting of women prisoners shall be in the hands of women officers." (1924).

(18) *Women Prison Commissioners.*

"That a woman be appointed on both the English and Scottish Prison Commissions." (1922).

(19) *Training of Teachers in Scotland.*

"That this Council protests against the proposed establishment by the Scottish Education Department of a new regulation for the training of teachers, whereby women are to have less training than men." (Urgency 1924).

(20) *Salaries of Public Health Workers.*

"That in view of the importance to the nation of the maintenance of a high standard of training and efficiency amongst Public Health Workers, this Council protests against the wholly inadequate salaries offered these workers by many Local Authorities, and records its regret that the Ministry of Health should have given its support to the policy of false economy pursued by these Authorities." (1924).

(21) *Women on Hospital Boards.*

"That this Council urges the affiliated Societies of the Union to use their influence to secure the appoint-

ment of an adequate number of women on the governing bodies of all hospitals, and where this is refused, they recommend women to transfer their subscriptions to those hospitals which have such representation." (1922).

VII.—STATUS OF WIVES AND MOTHERS.

(1) *Guardianship of Infants Bill.*

(a) "That the N.U.S.E.C. in Annual Council assembled welcomes the intention of the Government to consult with the promoters of the Guardianship of Infants Bill, in order to arrive at an agreed measure, and expresses the earnest hope that the Government will itself introduce and pass through all its stages, this Session legislation on the lines of the Guardianship of Infants Bill, 1923." (1924).

(b) "That this Council declares it to be essential that any guardianship measure promoted by the N.U.S.E.C. should include not only the granting to both parents of equal rights of custody, but also the explicit enactment of the equal rights and responsibilities of parents as guardians, but it leaves to the Executive Committee to decide whether any support be given to a truncated Bill." (1924).

(2) *Widows' Pensions.*

"That the N.U.S.E.C. in Annual Council assembled welcomes the recognition by the Government of the 'obligation to translate the principle of giving pensions to Civilian Widows with Dependent Children into a practical legislative measure,' and calls upon the Government to make provision in the forthcoming Budget for the giving of such pensions." (1924).

(3) *Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill.*

"That the N.U.S.E.C. in Annual Council assembled calls upon the Government to give facilities for the later stages of the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill." (1924).

(4) *Legitimacy Bill.*

"That the N.U.S.E.C. in Annual Council assembled welcomes the announcement that the Government

intends to give facilities this Session for legislation to render legitimate illegitimate children on the subsequent marriage of their parents, and desires to support a proviso excepting from the benefits of the Bill those children whose parents were, at the time of their birth, legally unable to marry. It further urges Members of Parliament to support the principles in the Bills before Parliament in the Upper and Lower Chambers respectively." (1924).

(5) *Illegitimacy (Scotland) Amendment Bill.*

"That this Annual Council of the N.U.S.E.C. calls upon the Government to introduce and pass through all its stages an Illegitimacy (Scotland) Amendment Bill, to include the following clauses:—

- (1) That aliment should in all cases be payable until two years after the expiry of statutory school age.
- (2) That the present right of the father to claim custody of the child at 7 or 10 years shall cease.
- (3) The custody of the child should be decided at any time by the Court having regard to the best interests of the child.
- (4) That the Courts shall have power to appoint an Officer of the Court as collecting officer, when decree is granted against a father for aliment. (1924).

(6) *Enforcement of the Payment of Affiliation Orders.*

"That the N.U.S.E.C. in Annual Council assembled calls upon the Government to promote legislation to provide facilities for the enforcement in any part of His Majesty's Dominions, of Affiliation Orders made in any other part." (1924).

(7) *Wife's Share in Husband's Income.*

"That the N.U.S.E.C. in Annual Council assembled calls upon the Executive Committee to promote legislation to provide that a wife or husband shall have the right to a certain proportion of the income of the other." (1923).

(8) *Abolition of Disinheritance of Wives and Husbands (England and Wales).*

"That the N.U.S.E.C. in Annual Council assembled calls upon the Executive Committee to promote legislation in England and Wales to provide that a husband or wife shall no longer be able to will away everything from his or her surviving spouse, but that, of the estate of a husband or wife, half shall of necessity go to the survivor where there are no children, or one-third to the survivor where there are children." (1923).

(9) *Abolition of Disinheritance of Children (England and Wales).*

"That the N.U.S.E.C. in Annual Council assembled calls upon the Executive Committee to promote legislation in England and Wales to provide that a father or mother shall no longer be able to will away everything from his or her surviving children, but that, of the estate of the father or mother, half shall of necessity go to the children where there is no surviving spouse, or one-third to the children where there is a surviving spouse." (1923).

(10) *Equal Intestate Inheritance in Scotland.*

"That the Executive Committee shall promote legislation to provide that in Scotland the laws of intestacy shall be equal between men and women, and in particular (a) that males shall not be preferred to females in the inheritance of land; (b) that fathers and mothers shall inherit equally from intestate descendants; (c) that husbands and wives shall inherit equally from each other." (1923).

(11) *Nationality of Married Women.*

(a) "That this Council, while regretting that the Select Committee on the Nationality of married women came to no decision, welcomes the unanimous recommendations of its House of Commons Members: (1) 'That a British woman should not lose her nationality on marriage with an alien unless she makes a declaration of alienage,' and (2) 'That marriage with a British subject shall not of itself confer upon an alien woman British nationality.'

(b) "The Council condemns the action of the previous British Government in supporting without consulting the House of Commons a resolution in the Nationality Committee of the Imperial Conference declaring that a married woman should not have the

right to her own nationality, and urges the Government in reporting the resolution to the House of Commons to recommend that a woman should be given the same right as a man to retain or to change her nationality." (1924).

(12) *Separate Taxation of the Incomes of Married Persons.*

- (a) "That the income of married persons should be separately taxed on the basis of single persons, and that they should be automatically assessed separately, and not as at present, only on demand. That is, that each spouse should have the right to the following abatements:—(a) £135 personal allowance, (b) 10 per cent. of earned income, (c) Taxation at the half rate on the first £225 of taxable income, but that they should not have the marriage abatement of £90.

"Or alternatively, that in such cases as would be more advantageous, the couple may jointly claim to be taxed at the same rate as under the present system, with the marriage abatement of £90.

"Provided that in this latter case also the husband and wife shall be separately assessed, and whose tax repayments shall be made to each spouse in proportion to their separate income, the requisite figures to be supplied by the Inland Revenue where either party desires to check the repayments as made.

- (b) "That where the couple do not request to be taxed jointly, each spouse should have the right to half of the children's abatements, the balance not required by either to be transferred to the other spouse." (1924).

(13) *Married Women's Domicile.*

"That the Union shall promote legislation as opportunity offers providing that a married woman shall have the same right to acquire a domicile as a man and that her domicile shall legally be of equal importance with that of her husband." (1920).

(14) *Family Endowment.*

- (a) "That this Council calls upon the Government to appoint a Committee or Commission to investigate the question of the provision for Maternity and

Childhood, and meanwhile urges the Executive Committee and the Societies of the Union to promote discussion and accumulate information on the subject." (1922).

- (b) "That Resolution I. (1) on page 57 of the Annual Report, 1922, be considered as neither passed nor rejected in view of the fact that the vote was challenged and no recount was possible, and the opinion of the Council is therefore not known. Societies are, however, urged to continue to study the question in all its aspects."

Note.—Resolution I. (1) runs as follows:—"This Council holds that the existing wage system fails to make satisfactory provision for motherhood and childhood:—

"(a) Because it makes no distinction between the needs of single men and those of dependents, and is therefore either wasteful of national resources or fails to secure a living wage for the family;

"(b) Because it makes the efficient discharge of the service of motherhood dependent upon conditions over which the mother has no control;

"(c) Because it places children at the mercy of every vicissitude in industrial well-being." (1923).

(15) *Birth Control.*

"That Birth Control being a subject now widely discussed and one which very specially affects women, as well as the general welfare of the Community, the N.U.S.E.C. resolves to promote the study of this question and recommends such study to its Societies." (1923).

VIII.—LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

(1) *International Situation.*

"That this Council of the N.U.S.E.C. welcomes the Government's strong declaration in favour of conducting its foreign policy in close co-operation with the League of Nations, and urges it to put this declaration into immediate practical effect, and to sign the compulsory clause of the International Court of Justice." (Urgency 1924).

(2) "This Council urges upon the British representatives on the League of Nations that they take active steps:—

(a) To ensure the carrying into effect of the principle of equality between men and women laid down in Article 7 of the Covenant of the League, and that in particular they support the immediate appointment of women on the Disarmament Commission, by co-option or otherwise, and upon the Health Commission.

(b) The Council further urges upon the Societies within the N.U.S.E.C. to ascertain from time to time, and give wide publicity to, every instance of neglect to carry out the principle of Equal Pay and Opportunity for men and women in the Secretariat and the Labour Office.

(c) The Council finally urges upon the N.U.S.E.C. Societies that watchfulness be exercised, and all necessary publicity and political pressure secured to ensure that in all Conferences, such as that just over at Washington, and that at Genoa, and similar ones which may be arranged in the future, the Equal Opportunity of Women with Men be secured. (1922)."

(3) *Slavery in the British Empire.*

"Having in view that the subject of slavery is to be discussed at the forthcoming Assembly of the League of Nations, that under any system of slavery the position of women tends to be specially low; that slavery has now been abolished in the British territory of Hong Kong; and that slavery is officially recognised in British Mandatory territory; this Congress urges the Government immediately to set up a Royal Commission or Committee of Investigation of equal numbers of men and women to inquire into the various forms of slavery or quasi-slavery, (including the selling of women into marriage and the physical or economic control of wives by their husbands or of women by their other male relatives), within the British Empire and the territories under its protection or subject to its mandates, with a view to its publishing a report in

time for the public to express an opinion before the meeting of the Assembly of the League."

Note.—Extract from the British Mandate for the Cameroons, Article IV. (1): "Shall provide for the eventual emancipation of all slaves and for as speedy an elimination of domestic and other slavery as social conditions will allow." (1923).

IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

(1) *Housing.*

"That this Council urge upon its affiliated Societies the necessity for actively interesting themselves in local Housing conditions." (1924).

(2) *Education.*

"That this Council welcomes with deep satisfaction the 'reverse the engines' policy of the Minister for Education, and asks that progressive steps be taken to extend the School age of all children in order that gradually the Education Act of 1918 may be brought into full operation." (1924).

LIST OF SOCIETIES AFFILIATED TO THE N.U.S.E.C.

APRIL, 1924.

Aberdeen W.C.A.	<i>Hon. Sec.</i> , Miss H. E. G. Smith, 62, Clifton Road, Aberdeen.
Abertillery W.C.A.	" " Miss L. Gregory, Highfield, Duke Street, Abertillery.
Aldershot	See page 72, Local Correspondents.
Aldridge Women's Council ..	" " Mrs. Jones, The Manor House, Aldridge, Stafford.
Ambleside W.C.A.	" " Mrs. Hargrave, Glenthorn, Ambleside, Westmoreland.
Ashton-under-Lyne W.C.A. ..	" " Mrs. Ashton, Rosy Bank, Eaton Terrace, Ashton- under-Lyne, Lancs.
Ayr S.E.C.	" " Miss A. J. McCulloch, 23, Bellevue Crescent, Ayr.
Bangor S.E.C.	" " Mrs. Price White, Rockleigh, Bangor.
Barnes, Mortlake and East Sheen W.C.A.	" " Mrs. Phillips, 57, East Sheen Avenue, S.W.14.
Barnsley S.E.C.	" " Mrs. Davies, Olive Mount, Pollitt St., Barnsley, and Miss A. England, 43, Victoria Road, Barnsley. See page 72, Local Correspondents.
Batley	" " Mrs. Simister, 1, Bolton Road, Port Sunlight.
Bebington W.C.A.	" " Miss Perfect, Beck Houses, Bingley.
Bingley W.C.A.	" " Mrs. Abraham, 23, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead.
Birkenhead and District W.C.A.	" " Miss Retallack, 5, Edmund Street, Birmingham.
Birmingham N.C.W. Citizenship Sub-Section	See page 72, Local Correspondents.
Blackpool	" " Mrs. Blincoe, 2, Fold Street, Bolton, Lancs.
Bolton W.C.A.	" " Mrs. Burnham, Brantnook, Myddleton, Ilkley, Yorks. See page 72, Local Correspondents.
Bradford S.E.C.	" " Miss F. de G. Merrifield, 14, Clifton Terrace, Brighton, (after June, 1924, 6, Royal Cres.)
Bridlington	" " Miss Maud Leonard, 12, Worcester Terrace, Clifton, Bristol, and Mrs. Satchell, St. Werburgh's Rectory, Bristol.
Bridport	
Brighton and Hove Standing Committee for E.C.	
Bristol S.E.C.	

Bury W.C.A.	<i>Hon. Sec.</i> Miss Ashworth, Hazeldene, Walmersley Road, Bury, Lancs.
Camberley and District S.E.C. ..	" " Miss E. Atkinson, Portesbery Hill, Camberley, Surrey.
Cambridge Standing Com- mittee for E.C.	" " Miss G. M. Johnson, 82, St. Barnabas Road, Cambridge.
Canning Town Citizens' Association	" " Miss Mabel Styer, Varden Cottage, Grange Hill, Chig- well, Essex.
Cardiff W.C.A.	" " Mrs. A. Thomas, 17, Quay Street, Cardiff.
Carlisle W.C.A.	" " Mrs. Reay, 16, Mulcaster Crescent, Stanwix, Carlisle.
Castleford Women's Local Government Society	" " Mrs. Dickinson, Staveley, Leake Street, Castleford, Yorks.
Chelsea Standing Committee for E.C.	" " Mrs. Sedgwick, 11, Mores Crescent, Chelsea, and Miss Naylor, 50, Oakley Street, Chelsea.
Chester W.C.A.	" " Miss Patterson, 82, Watergate Street, Chester.
Chingford W.C.A.	" " Miss Mathieson, 7, Crescent Road, Chingford, E.4.
Chinley and Chapel En-le-Frith W.C.A.	" " Mrs. Vernon Hansford, Hill Crest, Lower Lane, Chinley.
Church Stretton S.E.C.	" " Mrs. Whitwell, Belmont, Church Stretton, Salop.
City of London S.E.C.	" " Miss Dunwoody, St. Stephen's Chas., Telegraph Street, E.C.2.
Colchester W.C.A.	" " Dr. Estcourt Oswald, Pinkney House, Colchester.
Colwyn Bay Standing Committee for E.C.	" " Miss Edith Bates, Brooklands, Old Colwyn.
Coulsden, Kenley, Purley, Sandersted and Woodcote W.C.A.	" " Mrs. Hinks, 160, Foxley Lane, Purley, Surrey.
Coventry W.C.A.	" " Miss A. W. Baker and Miss H. Allen, 14, Lydgate Road, Coventry.
Crieff C.A.	" " Mrs. Wilkie Brown, Barbarg Hill, Doleerie Terrace, Crieff, N.B.
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Miss Froud, 39, Gordon Square, W.C.2.

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Miss M. MacCallum, 17, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W.1.

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Miss Gilbey, 4, Upper Gloucester Place, N.W.

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**Scottish Federation (Eastern
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