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Clapham
Women's Social and Political
Union.



SECOND
ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE
Year ending 30th November, 1913.

Office :
84, Elspeth Road, Lavender Hill, S.W.

Price 2d.

Committee :

<i>Hon. Sec.</i>	-	Mrs. STRONG
<i>Hon. Asst. Sec.</i>	-	Miss M. STRONG
<i>Treasurer</i>	-	Miss SWANN
<i>Lit. Sec.</i>	-	Miss V. HUNT
<i>Speakers' Sec.</i>	-	Mrs. BATEMAN
<i>Press Sec.</i>	-	Mrs. BARRON
		Miss G. HARDING.

Office—

84, ELSPETH ROAD, LAVENDER HILL, S.W.

ANNUAL REPORT.

ANNUAL MEETING.—This meeting was held on January 9th at 84, Elspeth Road, and was splendidly attended. All the existing Committee stood for re-election and the following were unanimously elected to serve for the year ending November 30th, 1913:—Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Strong; Hon. Assistant Secretary, Miss M. Strong; Hon. Treasurer, Miss Swann; Literature Secretary, Miss Hunt; Speaker's Secretary, Mrs. Bateman; Press Secretary, Mrs. Barron. Miss G. Harding was also duly elected as a member of the Committee.

Each officer read her report for the year and a copy was given to each member. Copies were also sent to the National W.S.P.U., and to the local and daily press. Mrs. Drummond kindly addressed the members present.

IMPRISONMENTS.—On April 3rd Miss Elsie Duval was arrested on a charge of attempted arson and was remanded for a week, bail being refused. She was brought up for trial on April 12th and was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment, although seriously ill, the effect of forcible feeding while on remand. She was released from Holloway, under the "Cat and Mouse" Act, on April 28th in a most dangerous condition, and has since been missing. Her teeth were all spoilt, one tooth being knocked out entirely by the brutality used during the torture of forcible feeding.

Miss Annie Bell has endured many hunger and thirst strikes during the year. On *April 9th* she was arrested outside Holloway whilst awaiting the release of Mrs. Pankhurst. Charged with obstruction and sentenced to three weeks. Released on licence under the "Cat and Mouse" Act after eight days' hunger and thirst strike. *May 18th*, re-arrested at Brighton. Released after 24 hours, fine being paid without her knowledge. *July 14th*, arrested outside the "Pavilion," whilst protesting against the arrest of Miss Annie Kenney. Sentenced to three weeks and released on licence after

four days' hunger and thirst strike. *July 27th*, arrested in Smith Square and sentenced to three weeks for breaking Mr. McKenna's window as a protest against the "Cat and Mouse" Act. Released after five days' hunger and thirst strike. *September 6th*, re-arrested in male attire and taken to Pentonville by accident. Released from Holloway after an eight days' strike. *September 13th*, broke the windows of the Home Office as a protest against the confiscation of personal property. Sentenced to two months' hard labour. Released on licence after four days, and still missing.

DEPUTATION.—A deputation of working women was arranged in January by General Drummond, to interview Mr. Lloyd George and Sir Edward Grey. The women came from every part of the country; the local contingent numbered thirty-five. Clapham also provided hospitality for two delegates from the north of England.

SELF-DENIAL.—The week of self-denial, March 1st—8th, consisted of ceaseless activity for the Union. Street collections, which amounted to £1 1s. 6d., were taken at Clapham Junction and the "Plough." A whist drive produced £1 8s. and a cake and candy sale £5. Collecting cards and subscriptions amounted to £19 0s. 6d., making a total of £26 10s., the whole of which was presented to National Funds.

JUMBLE SALES.—Two jumble sales have been held during the year—on May 26th at Morris Hall and on November 11th at St. Anne's Hall, resulting in a profit of £5 10s. 6d. for local funds.

VICTORIA PARK DEMONSTRATION.—An East End campaign, ending in a big procession and demonstration in Victoria Park, in the early summer, was splendidly attended by local members, who carried their own banner from Poplar to Victoria Park.

FUNERAL OF MISS EMILY WILDING DAVISON.—Beside the official representative of the Union, who carried a laurel wreath as a token of the heroic protest made by Miss Davison, every member who found it possible walked in the funeral procession from Victoria to King's Cross.

WOMEN'S OUTING.—An excursion to Wimbledon Common took place on July 28th. It consisted of working women who had regularly attended the meetings held at Morris Hall throughout the winter and spring. Hearty thanks are due to Mrs. Lamartine Yates, who kindly welcomed us to Wimbledon.

CAKE AND CANDY SALE.—A second cake and candy sale took place on September 27th, which brought £2 16s. 9d. to the local funds.

CANVASS OF LOCAL DOCTORS.—Forcible feeding being again resorted to by the Government, it was decided to make a canvass of the local doctors, to point out the torture this process caused. Several signed a petition to the Home Office against forcible feeding and others promised to inquire into the matter by writing to the Medical Council and the Holloway doctors, who carried out the abominable operation.

SO-CALLED HELP OF THE CLAPHAM I.L.P.—Towards the end of the year the Clapham Independent Labour Party, while professing to help the cause of woman suffrage, refused to allow us the use of Morris Hall for our working women's meetings, although we paid the usual rent and did no damage to their premises. Their reason was an objection to the labour policy of the National W.S.P.U.

OUTSIDE WORK.—Beside all the propaganda work carried out locally, the Union has helped headquarters in many ways. Part has been taken in all the processions and demonstrations organised by them; we have also provided poster paraders, speakers and paper sellers on many occasions.

MEETINGS.—Many meetings have been held during the year, all of which have been most successful. They may easily be classified as follows:—

- (1) Street-corner meetings, which were held on Friday evenings throughout the months of January and February up to Easter. The main object of these was to work up the women's deputation. They were held mainly at the "Triangle," Clapham, and also at Venn Street.

- (2) Women's meetings, held at Morris Hall every Tuesday afternoon throughout January, to work up for the deputation. Afterwards held every alternate week throughout the spring and autumn, and lately removed to the Oriental Café. These meetings have made wonderful progress, and if the numbers continue to grow so rapidly, larger premises will have to be obtained. A small charge has been made, the money thus obtained being used to defray the cost of refreshments and hire of room. Most of the women who have made regular attendance have expressed the wish that they should contribute in this small way to the funds of the Cause which they have learned to understand so well.
- (3) Clapham Common meetings. As was the case last year, the meetings held on Sunday afternoons throughout the summer and autumn have been most successful. The speakers have invariably had a quiet hearing and the greatest interest has been shown. By the time the meetings were closed for the winter we were able to congratulate ourselves that we had many more advocates for the cause of Votes for Women. The collections taken on these occasions have been sufficiently large to defray the cost of the meetings. Among the speakers have been—Miss Naylor, Miss Nancy Lightman, Miss Glidewell, and Miss Elsa Myers. Many others showing equal ability have also spoken from our platform.

LITERATURE.—A great deal of work has been done during the year in connection with the *Suffragette*. Practically every newsagent in the constituency has been canvassed with a view to showing the poster. The result has been most encouraging. Many newsagents now show the poster every week in a prominent position, free of charge. Great thanks are due to the Misses Smith, who undertook and so successfully carried out this part of the work. Posters are also being shown on the bookstalls at Clapham Common Tube Station and at the L. and S.W. Entrance at Clapham Junction. The total amount needed for these two posters is £2 12s. per annum, all of which is contributed in small sums by members.

The sale of the *Suffragette* has risen tremendously during the year, receiving its greatest impetus at the time

of the Raid on Lincoln's Inn House. The total number of copies sold amounts to 4,100, being quite double the number sold during the previous year.

Copies of the paper have been supplied regularly every week to the cab shelter at the "Plough." The men always welcome the paper and evidently appreciate it. *Suffragettes* have also been sent to local clergymen and doctors, when containing articles likely to have a special interest for them.

Ratepayers will regret to hear that the Clapham Public Library refuse to place a free copy of the *Suffragette* in the reading room, and also refuse to receive a deputation upon the matter.

PRESS AND ADVERTISEMENT.—Throughout the past year the cause of Woman Suffrage in general, and the work of the Clapham W.S.P.U. in particular, has been constantly brought to the notice of the public through the medium of the local press and also in the columns of the *Suffragette* and the *Daily Herald*. Reports and notices of meetings have been sent to the *Clapham Observer* and the *South Western Star*, and we hope during the year that is before us to spare no effort in demonstrating to the local public that there is a thriving militant suffrage union in their midst. During the past year the Cause has been well advertised by the distribution of thousands of handbills and also by poster-parades. A very good advertisement consisted of a drive through the constituency in vehicles decorated in the colours.

BALANCE SHEET

For Year ending November 30th, 1913.

DR.	£ s. d.	CR.
To Balance brought forward ..	13 11 11	
" General Subscriptions ..	7 5 7	By Hire of Halls ..
" Self-denial ..	19 0 6	" " Vans ..
" Donations and Fees ..	3 9 1½	" Travelling ..
" Collections ..	4 17 10½	" Stamps and Stationery ..
" Self-denial Collections ..	1 1 6	" Meeting Expenses ..
" Profit on Sales and Receipts ..	11 16 9	" Organising Expenses ..
" Self-denial Cake Sale ..	5 0 0	" Gifts to Headquarters ..
" Profit on Literature ..	2 14 6	" Press and Advertisements ..
" Interest ..	0 6 9	" Demonstrations ..
		" Sundry Expenses ..
		" Literature Expenses ..
		" Cash in hand, November 30th, 1913 ..
	£69 4 6	
		£69 4 6

Examined and found correct, A. P. KELSEY, Hon. Auditor to Clapham W.S.P.U.