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Sept 17-15

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Annual Report  
1914-1915

NATIONAL UNION OF  
**Women's Suffrage Societies**  
(North-Western Federation)

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FIFTH  
**ANNUAL REPORT & RULES**

May 1st, 1914, to April 30th, 1915

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*PRESENTED at the ANNUAL MEETING,  
MAY 29th, 1915*

NON-MILITANT

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NON-PARTY

KENDAL:  
PRINTED BY TITUS WILSON, 28, HIGHGATE

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**NORTH WESTERN FEDERATION.**

**OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.**

- President* - - Mrs. F. E. MARSHALL, Hawse End, Keswick.  
*Vice-President* - Miss M. B. DICKENS, Yealand Redmayne, Carnforth.  
*Hon. Treasurer* - Miss SOPHIA GRAHAM, Arthuret, Longtown, Cumberland.  
*Hon. Press Sec.* - Mrs. F. E. MARSHALL.  
*Hon. Sec. and Common Cause Correspondent*—  
Miss N. WALKER-JONES, The Manor House, Burton, Westmorland.

**ELECTIVE MEMBERS :**

- Mrs. G. BARROW, High Bank, Lancaster.  
Mrs. WARWICK BELL, 13, Hill Road, Barrow-in-Furness.  
Mrs. BENSON, Hyning, Milnthorpe.  
Mrs. CHANCE, Morton, Carlisle.  
Mrs. GANDY, Heaves, Kendal.  
Mrs. SLEIGH, The Vicarage, Silverdale.

**PROVINCIAL COUNCILLORS.**

- Mrs. F. E. MARSHALL, Hawse End, Keswick.  
Miss WATSON, 28, Lincoln Street, Barrow-in-Furness.  
Mrs. ALLISON, 21, Hill Road, Barrow-in-Furness.



### REPRESENTATIVES OF SOCIETIES.

<i>Ambleside</i>	.. .. .	C. G. BOULLEN, Esq., Roselands.
<i>Appleby with Murton</i>	.. .. .	Mrs. BAKER, Battlebarrow.
<i>Barrow</i>	.. .. .	Miss WATSON, 28, Lincoln Street. Miss SHAW, 12, West View Road.
<i>Carlisle</i>	.. .. .	Mrs. CAMPBELL, 22, Warwick Square. Mrs. NIGEL BUCHANAN, 29a, Aglionby St.
<i>Carnforth</i>	.. .. .	Miss MARGT. B. DICKENS, Yealand Redmayne.
<i>Cockermouth</i>	.. .. .	Miss R. M. IRWIN, Shatton Hall. Mrs. RILEY, Fell View.
<i>Coniston and Torver</i>	.. .. .	Miss M. DIXON, Prince's Street, Broughton- -in-Furness.
<i>Kendal</i>	.. .. .	Miss E. L. HARRISON, Hill Cote.
<i>Keswick</i>	.. .. .	Miss DOVER, 13, Southey Road. Miss HIGHTON, Craig House.
<i>Lancaster</i>	.. .. .	Mrs. CROFT HELME, Castramont. Miss MELLOR, Elmside.
<i>Maryport</i>	.. .. .	Miss RITSON, Ridgemount. Mrs. KENNEDY, 11, Curzon Street.
<i>Morecambe</i>	.. .. .	Miss WOLSTENHOLME, Westbourne. Mrs. DOWNHAM, Highfield Crescent.
<i>Penrith</i>	.. .. .	Mrs. BROADHURST, Waterfoot.
<i>Silloth</i>	.. .. .	Miss WILSON, 4, Hilton Terrace.
<i>Silverdale</i>	.. .. .	Mrs. SLEIGH, The Vicarage. Miss INCHBOARD, Arnside House, Arnside, Carnforth.
<i>Whitehaven</i>	.. .. .	Mrs. WALKER, Hillside, Hensingham Rd. Miss COWIE, 83, Scotch Street.
<i>Wigton</i>	.. .. .	Miss A. WILLIAMSON, South Bank.
<i>Workington</i>	.. .. .	Mrs. W. V. CURREY, 36, Mason Street. Mrs. H. OLDFIELD, Windy Nook, Banklands.

### FEDERATED SOCIETIES.

#### Hon. Secretaries—

<i>Ambleside</i>	.. .. .	C. G. BOULLEN, Esq., Roselands.
<i>Appleby with Murton</i>	.. .. .	Mrs. BAKER, Battlebarrow.
<i>Barrow-in-Furness</i>	.. .. .	Miss WATSON, 28, Lincoln Street. Miss SHAW, 12, West View Road.
<i>Carlisle</i>	.. .. .	Mrs. CAMPBELL, 22, Warwick Square. Miss Bardsley, Stanwix.
<i>Carnforth</i>	.. .. .	Miss M. B. DICKENS, Yealand Redmayne.
<i>Cockermouth</i>	.. .. .	Miss R. M. IRWIN, Ellerfeld, Brigham in Cockermouth. Mrs. RILEY, Fell View.
<i>Coniston and Torver</i>	.. .. .	Miss M. DIXON, Prince's Street, Broughton- in-Furness.
<i>Kendal</i>	.. .. .	Miss E. L. HARRISON, Hill Cote.
<i>Keswick</i>	.. .. .	Mrs. F. E. MARSHALL, Hawse End.
<i>Lancaster</i>	.. .. .	Mrs. CROFT HELME, Castramont.
<i>Maryport</i>	.. .. .	Miss RITSON, Ridgemount. Miss MAUGHAN, Hayborough.
<i>Morecambe</i>	.. .. .	Miss WOLSTENHOLME, Westbourne.
<i>Penrith</i>	.. .. .	Miss ALTHAM, 22, Brunswick Square.
<i>Silverdale</i>	.. .. .	Mrs. SLEIGH, The Vicarage.
<i>Whitehaven</i>	.. .. .	Mrs. COWIE, 83, Scotch Street.
<i>Workington</i>	.. .. .	Mrs. W. V. CURREY, 36, Mason Street.

#### BRANCHES OF CARLISLE

<i>Silloth</i>	.. .. .	Miss WILSON, 4, Hilton Terrace.
<i>Wigton</i>	.. .. .	Miss A. WILLIAMSON, South Bank.

### The Area covered by the Federation includes 3 Parliamentary Boroughs and 8 County Divisions.

County.	Name of Constituency.	Member of Parliament.
Cumberland	Carlisle (Borough) .. ..	Hon. R. D. Denman (L.).
"	Whitehaven (Borough) .. ..	T. Richardson, Esq. (Lab.)
"	N. Cumberland or Eskdale .. ..	C. W. H. Lowther, Esq. (U.)
"	Mid Cumberland or Penrith .. ..	The Rt. Honourable the Speaker.
"	Cockermouth .. ..	Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart. (L.)
"	W. Cumberland & Egremont .. ..	J. A. Grant, Esq. (U.)
Westmorland	N. Westmorland or Appleby .. ..	L. Sanderson, Esq. (C.)
"	S. Westmorland or Kendal .. ..	Col. Weston (C.).
Lancashire	Barrow-in-Furness (Borough) .. ..	C. Duncan, Esq. (Lab.)
"	N. Lonsdale .. ..	G. B. Haddock, Esq. (C.)
"	Lancaster .. ..	Sir Norval Helme, (L.).



# CONSTITUTION.

## OBJECTS.

- 1.—To obtain the Parliamentary Franchise for Women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to Men.
- 2.—To promote co-operation amongst Local Branches of the N.U.W.S.S.
- 3.—To be responsible for organization work within the Federation area.

## METHODS.

### Law-abiding and Non-Party.

## RULES.

- I. **Title.**—The Federation shall be called the North-Western Federation of the N.U.W.S.S.
- II. **Area.**—The Federation area shall include the six Parliamentary Divisions of Cumberland, the two Parliamentary Divisions of Westmorland, and three Parliamentary Divisions of Lancashire (Barrow, North Lonsdale, and Lancaster).
- III. **Membership.**—Any Society of the N.U.W.S.S. within the prescribed area may join the Federation on payment of the prescribed annual subscription. (See Rule XI., 1).  
N.B.—It is a Rule of the N.U.W.S.S. that no Society shall be affiliated to it which enrolls members who are members of a Society that adopts a policy of violence or who publicly supports militant tactics.
- IV. **Constitution.**—1. The affairs of the Federation shall be managed by a Committee consisting of :—
  - (a) The Officers of the Federation—*President, two Vice-Presidents, Chairman of Committee, Hon. Secretary or Secretaries and Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Press Secretary*, elected at the Annual General Meeting. (See Rule VI., 1.)
  - (b) Two representatives appointed annually by each Federated Society. A Society unable to send either or both of its representatives to a Committee Meeting may send a proxy or proxies, with an accrediting letter signed by the Secretary of the Society.

- (c) Six additional Members elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee shall have power to fill vacancies in this section by co-option.
- (d) A Member of the Executive Committee of the N.U.W.S.S. to be co-opted annually by the Federation Committee immediately after its election.
- (e) Divisional Secretaries in the Federation.
  2. An attendance of one-third of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.
  3. The Officers and all the Members of the Committee shall retire at the end of each year, but shall be eligible for re-election.
- V. **Committee Meetings.**—1. The Committee shall meet twice a year, before the Provincial Council Meetings, and oftener if necessary. The meetings shall be held in the most convenient centre.
  2. *Three Weeks' Notice* shall be given to all the members of the Committee.
  3. Notice of any business to be discussed must reach the Hon. Sec. *a fortnight before the date of meeting*.
  4. The Agenda shall be sent out *a week before the meeting*.
- VI. **Annual General Meeting.**—1. A General Meeting shall be held in the month of May every year, at which a General Report and an audited Statement of Accounts shall be presented; the Officers, six members of Committees (see Rule IV., 1c), and the three Provincial Councillors (see Rule X.) shall be elected by ballot; an Auditor shall be appointed (see Rule XI., 3); and each Federated Society shall be invited to report on its year's work.
  2. The Annual General Meeting shall be held at different centres in turn, and shall always be on Saturday if possible.
  3. *A Month's Notice* shall be given to the Secretaries of all the Federated Societies.
  4. Resolutions (moved in the name of one of the Federated Societies, see Standing Order I.) and nominated for election (proposed and seconded by two members of Federated Societies, see Standing Order III.) must reach the Hon. Sec. *three weeks before the date of meeting*.



5. The Agenda shall be sent out a *fortnight before the meeting*.

VII. **Special General Meetings.**—I. A Special General Meeting shall be called by the Hon. Sec. at any time at the request of not less than five of the Federated Societies, made in writing, with notice of any resolution to be moved. The meeting shall be held as soon as convenient after receiving such request, but *at least a fortnight's notice* shall be given to the Secretaries of all the Federated Societies.

2. No other business shall be taken except that specified in the notice calling the meeting, unless urgency be voted.

VIII. **Representation.**—I. Each Federated Society shall be entitled to send one Delegate to a General Meeting for every 25 members (in addition to its representatives on the Committee).

2. Any member of a Federated Society may attend a General Meeting as a visitor, but only the Delegates shall speak or vote.

IX. **Voting.**—I. At Committee Meetings and General Meetings a representative may vote on behalf of an absent representative of the same Society who is not represented by a proxy, but shall not vote on behalf of more than one absentee.

2. The Chairman shall only vote in case of an even division.

X. **Provincial Councillors.**—The three representatives of the Federation on the Provincial Council of the N.U.W.S.S. shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. (According to the Rules of the N.U.W.S.S. one at least of these must be an officer of the Federation).

XI. **Finance.**—I. Each Federated Society shall pay a Federation fee of one penny per member, for ordinary expenses.

Societies federating after December 31st may be excused their Federation Fee for the current year if they so desire.

2. The Provincial Councillors' railway fares shall be paid to and from the Provincial Council Meetings. *The Hon. Secretary's railway fare shall be paid to and from General Council Meetings.* A special contribution from members shall be asked for for this purpose, any surplus to go towards an Organization Fund.

3. The accounts shall be audited annually by an Hon. Auditor appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

4. The financial year shall terminate on April 30th.

XII. **Alteration of Rules and Standing Orders.**—No alteration shall be made in the Rules or Standing Orders except at a General Meeting.

### STANDING ORDERS.

I. **Resolutions.**—All Resolutions at General Meetings must be moved in the name of one of the Federated Societies or of the Federation Committee. The mover and seconder may both be members of the same Society.

II. **Amendments.**—I. Amendments may be moved by individual Delegates or members of Committee on their own responsibility.

2. No amendment shall be discussed or put to the meeting until it has been formally moved and seconded.

III. **Nomination of Officers, the six elective Members of Committee, and the Provincial Councillors.**—I. Candidates may be proposed and seconded by individual members of any Federated Society.

2. Candidates standing for re-election at the end of a year of office need not be nominated again.

IV. **Voting.**—I. The Officers, the six elective Members of Committee, and the Provincial Councillors shall be elected by ballot.

2. For election or co-option to the six elective places on the Committee candidates must receive more than half the total number of votes it is possible to obtain.

3. On ordinary business the vote shall be taken by show of hands.

4. *A delegate or Member of Committee authorized to cast a double vote (see Rule IX., 1) shall do so by means of a voting card obtainable through the Secretary of the Society which he or she represents.*

5. Members attending a General Meeting as visitors (see Rule VIII., 2) must sit apart from the Delegates.



- V. **Limitation of Debate.**—The Chairman may at any time limit the length of speeches and apply the closure to discussions by consent of a majority of the meeting.

#### DIVISIONAL SECRETARIES.

That a Divisional Secretary be appointed in each Constituency in the Federation Area, by agreement between the Societies in that Constituency, immediately after the Federation Annual Meeting each year.

The function of a Divisional Secretary shall be :—

- (a) To receive and deal with all correspondence relating to the local member, candidates, and party organizations.
- (b) To collect and record all available information under these heads, and keep the Federation Secretary and the Secretaries of Societies in the Constituency informed of any important events.
- (c) To act as local organizer in case of an Election.

N.B.—A Divisional Secretary shall have no power to act independently of the Societies in the Constituency. His or her function shall be to co-ordinate rather than to initiate work, and to promote co-operation between the local societies.

## REPORT.

The outbreak of war on August 4th, 1914, has of necessity given an entirely new course to Suffrage propaganda. Up to that date work was going on steadily, the dominant feature of the year promising to be the work of the Active Service League. This was inaugurated in the North-Western Federation at the Annual General Meeting on May 16th, 1914, under the happiest auspices, namely the presence and personal encouragement of its founder, Mrs. Harley: it was taken up by eight Societies with good results.

When War was declared and the National Union so promptly suspended ordinary political work, diverting its energies to national relief, the North-Western Federation responded to the call; its members having since that time worked untiringly to serve their country. It is earnestly to be hoped that their country will remember these things when peace returns, and will learn much from such proof of the contention of Suffragists that the will to serve is chief among their motives for claiming political freedom and power.

**Press Work.**—Owing to a combination of unfortunate circumstances it has not been possible to do much in this direction during the year. In October, Mrs. Baker's resignation of the Hon. Federation Press Secretaryship was received with regret. Mrs. Cunliffe kindly volunteered to undertake the work for six months and has found that the papers are, on the whole, favourably inclined towards the new Suffrage activities.

**Trade Union Work.**—Suffrage resolutions were passed in the spring of 1914 by the newly-formed Trades and Labour Council at Maryport and the Workington branch of the Painters' and Glaziers' Association. In Barrow, branches of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and the Women's Co-operative Guild respectively had invited a speaker for their Autumn Sessions, but these arrangements had to be postponed owing to the War.

**Division of the Federation.**—As it is thought by some of the Southern Societies that so large an area as the present Federation could be better worked in two parts, a resolution to divide it was brought forward at the Annual General Meeting in May. This was not carried, but in accordance with a second resolution passed at this meeting a conference between Officers of the Federation and representatives of Societies took place at Carnforth on June 4th, 1914, Miss Margaret Ashton presiding, to discuss the matter further. It was eventually decided that the Federation should remain undivided.

#### ACTIVITIES OF SOCIETIES.

**Ambleside.**—Meetings were arranged for Miss Muriel Matters in June, at Elterwater, Ambleside and Bowness-on-Windermere. When War broke out the services of the Society were offered to the local authorities; as there has been no distress in the neighbourhood, and no camp near, however, members have not been called upon for local work: they have worked for and given freely to other organizations.

**Appleby with Murton.**—This is also a district where little local Relief work has been necessary, and members accordingly have worked privately for other bodies. There is a flourishing V.A.D. of which most members are Suffragists.

**Barrow-in-Furness.**—Work on A.S.L. lines was begun in June; the village of Leece was canvassed and literature distributed there, at Biggar Bank, and at Cemetery Cottages, while a whole day was given to this very valuable work outside the polling station at a municipal election. Four meetings for members were addressed by Miss Shaw, Miss Rees, Rev. S. Liberty and Miss Millington respectively.



Some canvassing among Suffrage members and Trade Union officials was done by the Federation Secretary, who spent six weeks in Barrow during June and July. Invitations for speakers at autumn meetings were obtained from branches of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and the Women's Co-operative Guild respectively. A meeting had also been arranged for Miss Matters for September, but these plans had to be abandoned on the outbreak of War. Mrs. Warwick Bell, Mrs. Pass and Mrs. Ward were elected to the Town Relief and other Committees. Efforts were made, in conjunction with the Women's Co-operative Guild, to obtain the support of the authorities for the establishment of a Babies' Welcome; this, unfortunately, was found to be impossible. £1 15s. 6d. was given to the local Belgian Relief Fund by the Society. Woollen comforts were supplied to the troops stationed in Barrow, and a good parcel sent to the Fleet. Miss Watson organized the provision of Christmas fare for the Border F. Company, then in the town, while Miss Shaw undertook work in connection with her school.

**Carlisle.**—A branch of the A.S.L. was formed in May, with Mrs. C. E. Crompton as leader. Meetings were held during June and July at Carlisle, Houghton, Aspatria and Brampton, Thursby also being canvassed. 99 F.W.S. were enrolled. In August Relief work was taken up and the Society placed its services at the disposal of the local authorities. Mrs. Chance was elected to represent the W.S.S. on the Town Relief Committee, and serves also on the Women's Work Committee. Miss Bardsley and Miss Chance were appointed Joint Hon. Secs. of the Cumberland County Relief Committee, Miss Bardsley and Mrs. Campbell to represent the W.S.S. on the Committee of a club for Sailors' and Soldiers' Wives, and 29 other members to serve on one Relief organization or another in the town. No special relief work has been taken up by the W.S.S. as a body. Attempts made in co-operation with other organizations to establish a maternity centre having failed as the authorities considered it unnecessary. Unofficial patrolling was done before Christmas, four or five members of the W.S.S. assisting in the work. Much help has been given to Belgian refugees. 17 members (including 2 commandants and 2 superintendent nurses) are doing Red Cross or V.A.D. work, some members are visiting under Relief Committees, and many have sent gifts of clothing to the soldiers or the local distress fund. At the Annual Meeting in November it was agreed to raise £25 to name a "Carlisle" bed for six months in the Scottish Women's Serbian Hospital. Miss Bardsley undertook to raise the money, and had done so by the end of January. In March,

1915, a lantern lecture, organized by the W.S.S., was given by Mr. H. K. Campbell, and a further appeal for help for the Serbian Hospital made by Miss Bardsley.

**Carnforth.**—A Meeting was held in June of representatives of Lancaster, Morecambe, Silverdale and Carnforth, and a Sub-Committee formed to promote Suffrage work in the district. Work was taken up on A.S.L. lines under the leadership of Mrs. Sleigh. Saturday afternoon meetings were held on Morecambe sands until War broke out. A garden-party and sale at Red Court on June 26th, with Miss Muriel Matters as speaker, was a great success, and £4 10s. od. profit made. An open-air Meeting was held the same evening on the Market Ground, Miss Matters again speaking to an enthusiastic audience. At an impromptu gathering round the Village Pump in Yealand Redmayne, Miss I. O. Ford made 10 members and nine Friends of Women's Suffrage out of the 40 persons present. In August Relief Work became the order of the day. The President, Mrs. Barton, was elected to the Citizens' Committee and serves also as Chairman of the Carnforth Nursing and Sewing League. Six members are serving on Relief Committees. The Society gave £3 3s. od. to the Nursing and Sewing League, and has provided several maternity outfits. All members are contributing to the upkeep of 18 Belgians at Kendal, Carnforth being in a prohibited area. Much needlework has been done, a parcel of over 100 garments has been sent to Eccles and another of 30 to Headquarters for relief purposes. At the annual meeting in February, 1915, a good gathering listened with interest to an account of the National Union Council Meeting given by Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Sleigh. Four new members were enrolled.

**Cockermouth.**—Canvassing was undertaken by A.S.L. workers during the early summer in the villages of Brigham, Great and Little Broughton, Lorton and Embleton. Sixty-three F. W. S. were enrolled. When War put an end to this work, the Society offered its services to the District Council; they were not called upon, so members have done what they could as individuals. They were prominent in helping to establish a Babies' Welcome and School for Mothers, the idea having been taken from the *Common Cause* and Miss Irwin acting as Hon. Sec., in addition to the assistance rendered by other members. Much other work has been done, such as helping refugees, preparing for Ambulance Work and Nursing, collecting and distributing clothes. Some members have specially interested themselves in the spiritual needs of the time; one member leads a study-circle, of which most members are suffragists; one speaks where he suitably can; and a



third has distributed literature and hopes to bring a speaker on the future settlement so soon as the time seems ripe.

**Coniston and Torver.**—This is a small and scattered Society, but useful work has been done since War broke out. Many members have helped in caring for Belgian refugees at Coniston; the W.S.S. has given to the Red Cross Society 5/- and a number of useful garments, made by members from material provided out of the funds. A member laid up for six weeks by an accident knitted a dozen pairs of socks, while another made and sent comforts to the front through the medium of the *Daily Sketch*.

**Kendal.**—A Meeting was addressed by Miss Muriel Matters in June. In August Relief Work was taken up with great energy. Thirty members serve on Relief Committees. 100 Belgians are housed and cared for by a Committee largely composed of suffragists and work has been found for them, whenever possible, by members. £10 has been given by the W.S.S. to the Belgian Relief Fund. A large parcel of baby-clothes was sent to Manchester. Miss Harrison, Hon. Sec., has assisted in registering Sailors' and Soldiers' families and widows. Members have worked vigorously in various ways, helping in making arrangements for a hospital, which is now being used, in running clubs and in providing clothing. In consideration of the presence of a number of recruits billeted in the town, special meetings have been held for girls, with the object of encouraging them in self-control and good conduct. One Kendal W.S. member is on the Belgian Committee and her knowledge of Flemish has proved invaluable. Another member collected £150 in South Westmorland towards a bed at the Red Cross hospital at Netley. A group of suffragists have organized lectures on First Aid and Sick Nursing, which have been well attended, and have also offered a small convalescent home for soldiers of four beds at their own expense.

**Keswick.**—A branch of the A.S.L. was formed with 20 volunteers, under the leadership of Mrs. R. Slack. Groups of canvassers visited the villages around, and ensured the success of the 11 meetings held in them a few days later. 111 F.W.S. were enrolled, and Miss Dover sold 25 dozen of the *Common Cause* in two months. Much attention had been given to the distribution of literature, with valuable results of good meetings. During the Convention week the leaflets of the Church League for Women's Suffrage and of the Free Church League were distributed. When the War broke out the services of the Society as a body were offered to the Local Authority when appointing its Committee for the Prevention and Relief of Distress. The offer was

unfortunately not accepted. Individual members of the Society did useful work on the various Committees. Mrs. Slack was elected Chairman of the Relief Committee. Five other members served on other bodies. Many members are helping in St. John Ambulance, Red Cross, in the National Service League and in other Work. The President, Mrs. F. E. Marshall, served on the Agricultural Committee, which distributed some thousands of seedlings for Winter cultivation and preserved and bottled a large quantity of fruit. Much has been done for Belgian refugees, and members are serving on the Committee for their relief and on that of the S. & S.F.A., Miss Broatch being Hon. Sec. for the latter. Hospitality has also been extended to invalid workwomen and to other people in difficulties through the War. £5 has been given by the Society to the *Common Cause* and £10 to the A.S.L., while money and personal work have been given freely to numerous Relief Funds, local and otherwise. Miss M. Matters spoke to an attentive audience of over 500 in the Market Place on August 1st. A dialogue by Mrs. Slack and Miss S. Knight was given at every meeting to the great delight and enlightenment of the audience.

**Lancaster** took part in the A.S.L. meetings at Morecambe during the summer until the War brought them to an abrupt close. Since then everyone has been very busy with relief work. The President, Mrs. Paley, and Hon. Treasurer, Miss Mellor, are doing V.A.D. work and the Hon. Sec., Mrs. Croft Helme, is Hon. Sec. for the Ladies' Relief Committee, serves on the Belgian Relief Committee, and manages the Relief Workrooms, where 120 out-of-work girls are kept going weaving halters. Most other members are serving on Committees, visiting, or doing relief work of some kind.

**Maryport.**—A garden-party and sale were held at Hayborough in July, when Miss Bardsley spoke to a very appreciative audience. The sale realized £11 7s. 8d. When Relief work became the chief activity of Suffragists, three members were elected to the Town Relief Committee, Mrs. Maughan, President of the Society, representing it. £5 was contributed to the Town Relief Fund and £5 to the Scottish Women's Hospital Fund. Seven members belong to a V.A. Detachment and six others serve on a Sewing Committee.

**Morecambe.**—Meetings arranged by the A.S.L. under Mrs. Sleigh were being held on the sands on Saturday afternoons until War put a stop to them. The services of the Society were offered to the Mayor, and it was decided that the ladies of the town should work for the Red Cross Society. Clothing has also been made and given to soldiers, Belgians and the needy, while bales of things have been sent



away. Refugees have been cared for, and soldiers billeted in the town nursed in sickness. Some members have prepared for ambulance work, others have organized entertainments and teas for sailors' and soldiers' mothers, wives and children. Mrs. Lupton has a Girls' Club. About 10 members are serving on various Committees in Morecambe, while several are also serving on, and Miss Wolstenholme is Hon. Sec. for, the Heysham Relief Committee. Some patrolling has been done, but workers have come to the conclusion that little can be done unless police-women are paid and given full powers. Their report is the usual one of very young girls, unbalanced by excitement, frequently in the company of much older men—and too little provision, both for their social needs and for wise police supervision.

**Penrith.**—A meeting arranged for Miss Margaret Ashton in September had to be postponed owing to the War. £9 9s. 4d. has been given by the Society to the Queen's Work for Women Fund. Six members belong to the local V.A.D. and a batch of wounded soldiers have been efficiently nursed by their detachment. Seven are engaged in looking after Belgian refugees, two undertook the bottling and preserving of fruit in the summer for winter needs, and four others have taken a leading part in establishing refreshment and recreation rooms for soldiers. Miss Altham is acting as Hon. Sec. for a branch of the League of Honour, which has been formed in the town. The Federation Half-yearly Committee Meeting was held at St. Andrew's Parish Room in October, 1914.

**Silverdale.**—In May, June and July propaganda work was done on A.S.L. lines at Arnside and Grange, and meetings were held on the sands at Morecambe every Saturday afternoon until war broke out. 200 copies of the *Common Cause* were sold, about 600 leaflets distributed, F.W.S. cards were signed, and many interesting conversations held with visitors and trippers, most of whom seemed very favourable to the Cause. At the outbreak of War the Committee met and drew up a resolution offering their services to the Local Authority—the Parish Council—in any relief or other work that might be organized. This resolution was sent to the Chairman of the Parish Council, and was acknowledged with thanks. A report of this was sent to the local paper. The Society being small, started no special work of its own, but joined in the work of the War Aid Organisation, making quantities of shirts, caps, mufflers, gloves, etc., for the soldiers and sailors, Belgian refugees, and the Red Cross Society. They also supported liberally the local War Relief Fund, Red Cross Collections, and Egg collections. Two Suffrage members serve on the Relief Committee, Mrs. Sleight

organized an Ambulance and Nursing Class, which was carried through successfully. Other members undertake visiting soldiers' relatives, which has been much appreciated, and Suffragists were instrumental in obtaining payments to a mother whose son had joined the colours. Plans are under consideration for small meetings to discuss women's questions.

**Whitehaven.**—A meeting was arranged on August 1st for Mr. Tom Richardson, M.P. for the Borough, and Mr. J. T. Gale (Australia), but owing to bad weather was poorly attended. War Relief Work then became a pressing need. Four members serve on local committees, two are preparing for nursing, and all members are working in some way or other. £8 has been raised by the Society for the Scottish Women's Hospital Fund.

**Wigton.**—A vigorous distribution of literature was carried out in preparation for a meeting held at the Fountain on July 1st. The chair was taken by Rev. J. Sharp, and the speakers were Miss Sidney Knight and F. E. Marshall, Esq., of Keswick. 42 F.W.S. and two new members were enrolled. Since Relief work has absorbed all energies, although it has been impossible for so small a Society to organize any special piece of work, every member has given and worked ungrudgingly for the relief of distress at home and the comfort of our men abroad. One member serves on the Belgian Relief Committee in the town. Miss Matravers of Carlisle addressed a meeting of the Girls' Friendly and the Young British Women's Temperance Association.

**Workington.**—The A.S.L. was taken up with energy under Miss Florence Atkinson as leader. House-to-house visiting was carried out in Seaton, Siddick, Stainburn, Clifton, Harrington and Distington. 50 F.W.S. were enrolled and 76 *Common Cause's* sold. A meeting at Hagg Hill on July 31 was addressed by Miss Muriel Matters. Alderman Patrick Walls (now Mayor of the town) took the chair. Since that time the energies of members have been occupied with relief work, though no special piece of work has been undertaken by the Society as a whole. Three members are working hard for the Red Cross Society, two being Red Cross Nurses. Two serve on the Belgian Relief Committee, and all are working hard in some way for the relief of suffering.

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It is impossible to see what the future development of Suffrage work may be, but it can at least safely be predicted that where there is need for devoted service of King and Country, there Suffragists will



be found ready and willing to render it. Although through this time of anxiety and horror, personal sorrow must come to most, we believe that it will act only as a fresh incentive and that the grand courage of our sailors and soldiers abroad will be equalled by the steady purpose and earnest work at home of those for whom they fight.

That work and purpose must be varied and diverse, according to individual convictions and powers, but all will be at one in the hope that the silver lining to the cloud now so heavy about us may be the awakening of the whole world to higher ideals and a greater humanity. Let us not be content with hoping, but strive intelligently in all we do and say to make this possible; by so doing we shall hasten the fulfilment of all good causes, and in particular that great common cause of humanity we have so much at heart, the enfranchisement of women.

Society.	Total Receipts during year.	Members.	Friends of Women's Suffrage.	F.W.S. Visitors.
Ambleside .. .. .	£15 11 6	135	583	10
Appleby with Murton .. .. .	8 0 0	88	—	—
Barrow .. .. .	12 11 0	50	10	—
Carlisle .. .. .	21 8 5½	203	622	1
Carnforth .. .. .	15 7 2	87	36	—
Cockermouth .. .. .	5 1 0	48	150	—
Coniston and Torver .. .. .	0 6 6	18	—	—
Kendal .. .. .	19 14 6	100	400	—
Keswick .. .. .	10 2 10	205	450	21
Lancaster .. .. .	—	72	69	—
Maryport .. .. .	13 10 8	43	—	—
Morecambe .. .. .	—	48	—	—
Penrith .. .. .	18 2 3	50	2	—
Silloth .. .. .	0 5 0	20	—	—
Silverdale .. .. .	0 15 0	42	61	4
Whitehaven .. .. .	0 16 6	24	54	—
Wigton .. .. .	1 2 0	14	55	5
Workington .. .. .	5 12 0	30	80	—
Other districts .. .. .	—	—	200	—
	£148 6 4½	1,277	2,772	—

#### Donations to Federation—1914-15.

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. BENSON .. .. .	10	0	0
Mrs. CUNLIFFE .. .. .	25	0	0
Miss ROME .. .. .	1	1	0

## NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

### NORTH-WESTERN FEDERATION.

#### Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 30th April, 1915.

INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
To Balance per last Account .. .. .	£93 5 2	By Secretary's Salary .. .. .	£30 0 0
Donations .. .. .	37 3 1	Expenses .. .. .	14 8 10
Contributions towards Railway Fares .. .. .	1 10 0	Speaker's Expenses—Miss Matters .. .. .	11 13 5
Affiliation Fees .. .. .	1 3 3	Railway Fares .. .. .	1 16 1
Subscriptions to Miss Matters' Expenses .. .. .	11 13 5	Touring Expenses—Mrs. Harley's .. .. .	2 14 6
Sundry Receipts .. .. .	0 4 0	Special Grant to N.U.W.S.S. .. .. .	25 0 0
Bank Interest .. .. .	0 18 5	Printing, Stationery and Postages .. .. .	9 2 0
		Cheque Book .. .. .	0 2 0
		Balance in Bank .. .. .	51 0 6
	£145 17 4		£145 17 4

I CERTIFY that the Treasurer has submitted to me Vouchers for the various items of income and expenditure, and that I have examined them, together with the Bank Pass Book and Cheque Books, and the same are correct.

BANK HOUSE,  
LONGTOWN, 28th May, 1915.

SOPHIA A. GRAHAM, *Hon. Treasurer.*

JOHN DIXON, *Hon. Auditor.*



