

AL/631

QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE

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We have once more to report a time of great activity and growth. There are now 96 societies affiliated to the National Union and four more will be formally accepted by the Executive at the next Meeting. We will then number 100 self-governing societies in addition to the many branches indirectly affiliated through some of our large societies.

During the summer months there have been two caravan tours, one, lasting over six weeks, in Scotland and another of shorter duration in Wales. The one in Scotland in charge of Miss Helen Fraser was a great success and did much to bring the suffrage cause sympathy and workers. In Wales the difficulties were very great both geographically and socially, but we believe that we have made a good beginning there and our Suffrage leaflets, printed in Welsh, correspondence in the local papers and many talks by the wayside as well as at meetings have given the country folk a new idea of the Suffragists we represent.

An Organisation Committee has been formed representing nearly all the Societies of Surrey, Sussex and Hants. The National Union will pay the salary of an Organiser to work under the Committee's direction and the committee will guarantee her expenses.

It is hoped that in a few weeks similar organisation schemes will be in force in the West Country, in Herts, Bucks and surrounding districts and in Notts.

A scheme is also on foot for a Joint Committee of the National Union Executive and the London Society to organise great public meetings in London.

Few bye-elections have taken place since the last Quarterly Council met at Nottingham. In Mid-Derby and Cleveland elections were then proceeding and at these Voters' Petitions were obtained at Mid-Derby with 3,266 signatures, at Cleveland with 2,730.

Since then an election has been fought at High Peak, where the North of England Society took the responsibility of organisation, though the National Union sent two workers to help them. The Candidates were Mr. Partington (liberal) whose answers were unfavourable, and Mr. Profumo, (Unionist) who was mildly in favour. We did propaganda work and secured 3,846 signatures to the Voters' Petition.

At Dumfries we supported Mr. Gulland the Liberal Candidate, against the Conservative, Mr. Duncan, who was not unfavourable. Mr. Gulland, however, has a fine Suffrage record, answered all our questions in the affirmative and gave public pledges of the strongest kind. Our work throughout kept

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suffrage in a prominent place and our organiser, Miss Fraser, was called upon to speak after the candidates at the declaration of the poll. The signatures to the Petition here numbered 1,332.

In accordance with the instructions of the last Council Meeting, a deputation was appointed on July 15th to present a Memorial to Mr. Asquith. After much correspondence Mr. Asquith finally declined on September 27th to receive this deputation, though consenting to give consideration to any written statement. Such a statement has now been sent to him and the whole correspondence been placed in the hands of the press.

At the last Council meeting it was agreed that the minutes of the Executive Committee should be sent to all societies paying therefor. We have now to report that 24 societies have availed themselves of this advantage which enables them to watch the actions of their representatives and keep in touch with the whole of the Union's work.

The Executive Committee have further to report upon a Special meeting held to consider the policy of the National Union in the event of a General Election.