

N. U. Societies

With the Hon. Secretary's  
compliments.

**NATIONAL UNION OF  
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES**

**(North-Western Federation).**

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**SIXTH  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**May 1st, 1915, to April 30th, 1916.**

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**PRESENTED at THE ANNUAL MEETING,  
JUNE 3rd, 1916.**

**Non-Militant.            ::            Non-Party.**

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1916.



## NORTH-WESTERN FEDERATION.

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### OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

<i>President</i> ...	...	Mrs. F. E. MARSHALL, Hawse End, Keswick.
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	...	Miss M. B. DICKENS, Yealand Redmayne, Carnforth ; Miss C. E. MARSHALL, 27, Catherine Street, Westminster.
<i>Hon. Treasurer</i> ...	...	Miss SOPHIA GRAHAM, Arthuret, Longtown, Cumberland.
<i>Hon. Press Sec.</i> ...	...	Mrs. F. E. MARSHALL.
<i>Hon. Sec. and Common Cause Correspondent—</i>		Miss N. WALKER-JONES, Watermill House, Milnthorpe, 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-in-Furness</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 Street.
<i>Carnforth</i> ...	...	Miss MARGT. B. DICKENS, Yealand Redmayne.
<i>Cockermouth</i> ...	...	Miss R. M. IRWIN, Shatton Hall. Mrs. RILEY, Fell View.
<i>Kendal</i> ...	...	Miss E. L. HARRISON, Hill Cote.
<i>Keswick</i> ...	...	Miss DOVER, 13, Southey Street. Miss HIGHTON, Craig House.
<i>Lancaster</i> ...	...	Mrs. CROFT HELME, The Knoll. 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 Road. 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> ...	...	Mrs. CUNLIFFE, Croft.
<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>Kendal</i> ...	...	Miss E. L. HARRISON, Hill Cote.
<i>Keswick</i> ...	...	Mrs. F. E. MARSHALL, Hawse End
<i>Lancaster</i> ...	...	Mrs. CROFT HELME, The Knoll.
<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> ...	...	Miss 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.

<i>County.</i>	<i>Name of Constituency.</i>	<i>Member of Parliament.</i>
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 Right Honourable the Speaker.
„	Cockermouth ...	J. Bliss, Esq. (L.)
„	W. Cumberland or Egremont	J. A. Grant, Esq. (U.)
Westmorland	N. Westmorland or Appleby	Br.-Gen. H. C. Lowther, C.V.O. (U.)
„	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.)



## REPORT.

The sixth Annual Meeting was held at the Station Hotel, Carnforth, on May 29th. Many changes were made among the officers of the Federation, Mrs. Cunliffe resigning the post of president and Miss Millington that of secretary. Great regret was expressed at parting with these valuable officers, and it was unanimously agreed that a testimonial should be given to Miss Millington by the Federation and the Societies.

Educational Courses were recommended to the Societies, and Miss Lilian Graham, of Kendal, was proposed as lecturer. In the holiday months *The Common Cause* and *Jus Suffragii* were widely circulated at hotels and libraries, and continued during the winter at working men's clubs and reading rooms. It is hoped that Societies will reap the benefit in increased interest and new members.

The Coniston and Torver W.S.S. has ceased to exist: the Secretary reports that it is impossible to collect subscriptions or keep up interest among the members.

War work of various descriptions is still absorbing the energies of all Suffragists, but it is hoped that when the time comes to press our cause that members will take up the work with increased experience and a firm conviction of the immediate necessity of the enfranchisement of women.

## PRESS REPORT.

In reply to a circular from the Hon. Press Secretary last summer, Secretaries report that newspapers all report local activities, but apparently do not take interest in other items of Suffrage news. The experience of the Keswick Secretary seems exceptional. The *Mid-Cumberland Herald* not only takes what is sent by the Secretary but constantly reports news of interest in the Women's movement generally, on its own account. The *West Cumberland Times* takes any news sent, and the *Westmorland Mercury and Times* is equally good. No reports have been received from any Press Secretaries except Keswick. It is urged that this is a favourable time for getting in news of what work is being done by women and for pointing the conclusion from a Suffrage point of view. Especially is it important, now that the change in the National Register is under consideration, to quote opinions from daily and weekly newspapers favourable to our claims. The *Common Cause*, among others, supplies these quotations, also many items of interest for use in the local Press.

## ACTIVITIES OF SOCIETIES.

**Ambleside.**—The Society has been unfortunate in losing the services of Mr. C. G. Boullen, the secretary. Owing to ill health he has been obliged to retire from active work, but has accepted the post of vice-president and continues to take the warmest interest in the Society and the whole Suffrage movement. Mrs. Cunliffe has undertaken the work of secretary. A well-attended drawing-room meeting, in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, was held at Croft, by Mrs. Cunliffe's invitation, on the 17th May, when Dr. Alice Hutchinson gave an intensely interesting account of the work and adventures of the unit she was in charge of in Serbia. Her audience was delighted with her account and with the charming way in which it was given. A collection was made after the meeting, and £17 was sent to the Scottish Hospitals Fund.

**Barrow-in-Furness.**—Most of the members are engaged in connection with different War Relief Societies helping in the nation's need. The meetings held have been in relation to this work. Five committee meetings and four general meetings have been held. Special work has been done in connection with the Scottish Women's Hospitals. A "One Day" Sale of Work, for which the committee and members and many outside friends worked hard, resulted in a sum over £170. With £150 of this six beds were endowed for six months in Corsica, and £20 was sent as an extra donation for hospital comforts. The public generally and the Press helped materially in making the Sale of Work a success, and indirectly making known the activities of the National Union.

**Carlisle.**—Little work of a definitely Suffrage nature has been done during the past year. In June, 1915, three delegates from the Carlisle W.S.S. attended the Special Council Meeting at Birmingham. In November the Society organised a Patriotic Housekeeping Exhibition. They invited and secured the co-operation of the British Women's Temperance Society, the Co-operative Women's Society, the Babies' Welcome, and the Workers' Educational Association. A joint committee was formed, with Mrs. Buchanan (chairman of the Carlisle W.S.S.) as organising hon. secretary, and the success of the Exhibition was largely due to her enthusiasm and untiring energy. The Exhibition, which lasted three days, was opened by the Countess of Carlisle. The Mayor of the City presided, and was supported by the High Sheriff of the County. The Temperance stall showed articles of clothing and their equivalent price in alcohol. The Babies' Welcome had models of baby clothing, feeding bottles, &c., and their helpers explained their objects to all interested. A popular exhibit was a table arranged by Mrs. Chance,



president of the Carlisle W.S.S., who had taken a great interest in the Exhibition. This showed various samples of food classified as "bone-forming," "body-building," "heat and energy producing," with examples of model daily rations. Lectures were given on various subjects. There was a literature stall, and Mrs. Steel gave excellent demonstrations on the use of the hay-box in cooking and laundry work. On the first four Fridays in March a course of lectures, on "The Causes of the War," was given by Miss Lilian Graham, of Kendal. Last September, Miss Bardsley collected a further £26 13s. 6d. for the second six months for the "Carlisle" bed (Serbia).

**Carnforth.**—Six committee meetings were held during the year and were fairly well attended. A course of four lectures on "The Causes and Effects of the War" were held during the winter—Miss L. Graham lecturing at the following centres: Carnforth twice, Borwick once, Yealand Redmayne once. The lectures were well attended and greatly enjoyed, and just paid expenses. The supply of the *Common Cause* at seven different centres has been undertaken by individual members of the Society. The membership decreased at the beginning of the war but new members are now joining.

**Cockermouth.**—Little has been done during the past year by our Branch as a whole. The Committee has met three times and subscriptions have been collected, but all our members have not subscribed and our numbers are fewer. We had one lecture from Miss Lilian Graham, on Nov. 22nd, attended by 19 persons. It was extremely interesting, and we could not but wish that more had been there. When Mr. Bliss was chosen as Liberal candidate for the Cockermouth Division, the Secretary wrote to enquire his views, and received a courteous reply to the effect that he was entirely in favour of extending the suffrage to women, but could not promise to vote against any extension of the franchise to men unless women were included. In response to a request from Headquarters, the Secretary made enquiries at four elementary schools in the district concerning the employment of children on the land. The result was most satisfactory: scarcely an instance could be found of a boy being taken from school to work before his time was up.

**Kendal and District.**—We have about 100 members in our South Westmorland district, but since the war began have not been in touch with each other as we would like. In Kendal an active sewing meeting has been held to provide garments for the Scottish Women's Hospitals, and almost all our members are busy over various kinds of work arising out of the war.

**Keswick.**—Two lectures by Miss L. Graham, of Kendal, were given on Oct. 15th and Nov. 12th. The first on "Germany and England contrasted," and the second on the "Effects of War on Women." There were good attendances and discussion followed the lectures. The study circles were unfortunately not a success. The President and Hon. Secretary attended the Council of the National Union in February, the report of which has been circulated. Miss Dover has been co-opted a member of the Urban District Council. The Florence Nightingale Lamp Day, which was held on Saturday, May 15th, was initiated by the local Suffragists; but, as the object was a National one—for British Women's Hospital for Disabled Soldiers and Sailors—many other helpers gave valuable assistance. The thanks of the Committee are given to Mr. Hayes for the kind gift of white heather, and to all who helped to make the day such a conspicuous success. The collectors were—Mrs. W. Bromley, Mrs. Grainger, Mrs. T. R. Hayes, Mrs. F. Marshall, Mrs. Temple, Mrs. L. Usher, Mrs. White, Misses Atkinson, Barrow, D. Barrow, D. Brown, Birkbeck, Crowthwaite, Dumble, Dover, E. Dent, T. Dent, Freeman, Greenwood (2), R. Highton, N. Hogarth, Johnstone, S. Knight, J. Lupton, Moss, Milburn, O. Stanley, E. Stanley, Weightman, D. Wilkinson, Williams, usual small flags, and white and pink heather were distributed to the Youdale, and Messrs. Garstang. Little lamp badges took the place of the silver subscribers. The day was fine, and so helped the efforts of the collectors. The Town Hall was made the headquarters for the day, and the counting of the boxes showed a total of £31 2s. 6d. At the close, Mrs. T. R. Hayes, who, with Miss R. Highton, had organised the effort, thanked all present for the ready response and willing help they had so cheerfully given, and congratulated the collectors on their success. 150 numbers of the Florence Nightingale *Common Cause* were sold by Suffragist members of the Keswick Society. A profit was made on the sale, which was included in the total amount raised.

**Lancaster.**—The Lancaster Branch organised a very successful afternoon meeting in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, on March 6th. After a very good concert, arranged by Miss Norah Cassidy, Miss Gertrude Pares gave a deeply-interesting account of her experiences in Serbia, and, although the hall only held 300 people, the collection amounted to over £24, and with the sale of tickets and donations over £35 was realised. Mrs. Paley, the president, was in the chair and made a very good Suffrage speech, which was supported by Miss Mellor and Mrs. Ford (Yealand). Mrs. George Barrow acted as hon. secretary for this meeting, and a large number of the Com-



mittee and others helped in the organisation. The local literary society organised an evening meeting for Miss Pares, and as a result of the joint efforts, after expenses were deducted, £42 16s. 11d. was sent to Edinburgh.

**Morecambe.**—There has been little chance of doing anything as a Society, as many members are so busily engaged on War Relief work that their time is almost fully occupied. Nevertheless, with great difficulty, our Society managed to hold a Jumble Sale in aid of our hospitals and the Serbian Refugees. About the same time our president Mrs. Downham, interested members of her Church in the Serbian cause, and a substantial sum and some clothing was sent to London. The ladies of the town, and some of our members also, are helping to get money for a Munition Girl Workers' Club, and other efforts are being made to warn and protect girls from evil influences. It is felt that the law falls far short in the matter of care and protection of girls, and it behoves women to see that there should be very drastic amendment in this respect as soon as possible. The Suffrage cause, however, though at present in abeyance, will emerge from present conditions with renewed vigour we firmly believe.

**Wigton.**—Mrs. G. A. Watson undertook the work of Press Correspondent, and has often had notes in the local paper. The members have taken and circulated *Jus Suffragii*.

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*No reports of meetings have been received from the following Societies, but the membership mostly remains the same, and all are hoping to resume active Suffrage work in the near future:—Appleby with Murton, Maryport, Penrith, Silverdale, Silloth, Whitehaven, Workington.*

## NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

### NORTH-WESTERN FEDERATION.

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 30th April, 1916.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
<b>INCOME.</b>				<b>EXPENDITURE.</b>			
To Balance per last account	...	...	51 0 6	By Secretarial Expenses	...	...	12 18 3
„ Affiliation Fees	...	...	3 13 5	„ Special Expenses—			
„ Donations	...	...	0 17 3	Testimonial to Miss Millington			10 0 0
„ Bank Interest...	...	...	0 8 0	„ Printing, Stationery, and Postages	...	...	7 16 10
				„ Cheque Book	...	...	0 4 0
				„ Balance in Bank	...	...	25 0 1
			<u>£55 19 2</u>				<u>£55 19 2</u>

Examined and found correct,  
JOHN DIXON.

Bank House, Longtown.

SOPHIA GRAHAM,  
*Hon. Treasurer.*



