

'Phone: REGENT 5090.

AL/1620

# MEN'S SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

## Vice-Presidents.

W. CHATTERTON COUPLAND, ESQ., D.Sc.  
WALTER H. DIXON, ESQ., M.A.  
REV. R. B. LAWSON EXTON.  
ALBERT FLEMING, ESQ.  
CECIL F. KING, ESQ.  
COLONEL J. D. MACPHERSON.  
DOCTOR JOSIAH OLDFIELD, M.A., D.C.L.  
H. SCHUTZE, ESQ., M.D.  
REV. JAMES SILVESTER.

65, AVENUE CHAMBERS,

SOUTHAMPTON ROW,

LONDON, W.C.

24 February 1915

Hon. Meetings Secretary:  
FRED. A. RICHARDS, ESQ.

Finance Secretary:  
MISS M. PEARSE.

Hon. Political Secretary:  
FRED. G. THREADGOLD, ESQ.

Relief Secretary:  
MISS MARGARET KENDALL.

Hon. Treasurer:  
A. W. G. JAMRACH, ESQ.

Secretary:  
MISS PREECE.

Dear Mr. Corbett

Will you help us with the following case sent up to us by  
Mrs. Wild for immediate assistance.

Mrs. King whose husband died in Middlesex hospital lately has  
been left penniless with a daughter of 16 - We find there is a  
bill of sale on the furniture & a number of tradesmen's bills  
unpaid - One of her sons got killed last December in the  
war & the other goes to the front in March, with Kitchener's army.

We have to raise a quick fund to purchase the mother &  
daughter a new set of clothes & to keep them in food & lodging  
until we find the mother a berth as housekeeper.

The daughter we can take into our office next month.

The finances of our Society are awful owing to this war. Everyone  
seems to send money to foreigner's funds forgetting the immediate  
necessities of their own countrywomen - Their position was bad enough

before the war as we all know & have heard from every Suffrage platform, it is a hundred times worse now.

For instance, yesterday we had six sisters call here as a last straw for financial assistance, they had tried everywhere else without success.

These girls, all employed by one firm as Milliners, got the sack 9 weeks ago - they have been living for some weeks past on oatmeal alone & if it had not been for their landlady's kindness they would have also been turned out of their rooms.

Luckily I had £3 on me so I went to their lodgings to verify their statements & finding all correct I gave them the cash.

What they will do when this is gone good men alone know unless we can find them better.

And people wonder why girls go wrong!

Yours very truly

~~And. J. J. J. J. J.~~ Hon. Secy

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65, AVENUE CHAMBERS,

SOUTHAMPTON ROW,

LONDON, W.C.

26 Feb 1915.

Hon. Meetings Secretary:  
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Hon. Political Secretary:  
FRED. G. THREADGOLD, ESQ.

Hon. Treasurer:  
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Finance Secretary:  
MISS M. PEARSE.

Relief Secretary:  
MISS MARGARET KENDALL.

Secretary:  
MISS PREECE.

Dear Mrs Corbett

Excuse my saying so but you are a thundering good sort  
& I should be honored to make you personal acquaintance.

Your letter is right in a good many points but I have found  
from twenty years experience that those who want help benefit  
more by instant succour than by promise of finding them work etc.

I am sorry to say that all funds raised in gigantic sums by  
Societies for the relief of the distressed are so bound round with red  
tape & officialism that it is impossible to give immediate help.

Our such huge Society <sup>I know</sup> will help no woman with any cash unless  
she can show a heap of pawn tickets!

The main point with our Society has always been that any woman  
who applies for monetary aid gets it at once -



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# MEN'S SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

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65, AVENUE CHAMBERS,

SOUTHAMPTON ROW,

LONDON, W.C.

12 March 1915.

Hon. Meetings Secretary:  
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Hon. Political Secretary:  
FRED. G. THREADGOLD, ESQ.

Hon. Treasurer:  
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Finance Secretary:  
MISS M. PEARSE.

Relief Secretary:  
MISS MARGARET KENDALL.

Secretary:  
MISS PREECE.

Dear Mr. Leabart

You are a jolly good sort for having worried little you have over getting up a bazaar for our Vases - I've just heard from Mrs. Spicer of Hayward Heath - She kindly sent us three precious donations. What we are going to do with the good sale is to have a printed letter sent out to everyone we know asking them to purchase as much of the stock as they conveniently can - We can guarantee all the vases china etc as being at least 100 years old. Of course this is not really old for China but it is old for Japanese China.

We have four beautiful Chinese China figures I am told they belong to the Ming period & these have been valued by an expert at £10 each. We have also some very fine bronzes at £16 a pair. I think it better to raffle all these up quickly as we may not find buyers for this expensive stuff - There are a few coats of mail armour at £5 a suit as well, but the majority of the stuff will run out on an average to £1 a piece.

We would hold a bazaar in Town here but I am afraid of letting the Society in for a heavy loss because firstly the stall would be expensive & secondly the advertising would have to be very great in order to collect people there & then probably it might turn out a wet day & few people come - This would then result in about £50 loss besides the cost of removing & packing such an assemblage of goods.

This cost would all fall back on my own shoulders & I should have to pay because it would be a wicked thing to let the Society bear the responsibility of expense - Besides the Society has not got it.

You would be astonished at the number of people who have written to us saying they cannot afford at present to send us their usual Annual subscription or donation - People in the Shipping - Coal - Publishing & Insurance trades - people who have really sub rosa made extra piles of money up to now over the war but who are afraid to spend any money because they are thinking that Lloyd George will be on their track for extra taxation.

Our total annual income for the year ending September 1914 comes to the haltry amount of £430 - 14/- . of this sum I gave personally £50 & £20 & I guarantee the office rent here also salaries of the lady keepers - Apart from the Relief department, the biggest expenditure as shown by the Chartered accountants report & balance sheet is in Postage & Indoor meeting expenses - Of course postage is a vital expenditure & the Collections from meetings never cover the out of pockets. It has come to a point now that speakers require their travelling expenses paid

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Hon. Solicitor:  
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Meetings Secretary:  
FRED. A. RICHARDS, ESQ.

Secretary:  
MISS PREECE.

The best meeting we held last year was at Leicester (I believe  
Cuttin) the hall was fairly packed about 400 people & the  
collection came to £1.3.7!

And the ironical thing about the whole business is that I dare  
not publish these facts in our monthly paper or "plate" our  
sympathisers for sending up 2/6<sup>d</sup> p. orders when they can afford  
£10 notes because one never knows whose hands the paper gets into.

As I think I told you before, the anti-Suffrage crowd would only  
be too glad to know that we live from hand to mouth.

Here is another example of easy goingness: About three years  
ago I arranged a raid on a brothel in St. Pancras - With great  
difficulty I got together six of our members to help us break the  
place up & wrote round with confidences to a few people whom I  
knew would not give the game away beforehand, for donations to help  
pay our police constable expenses & fines - We smashed the place up  
in fine style - furniture - looking glasses - chandeliers etc & had this

"Abode of Convenience" closed - but - the donations sent to us by those I wrote to amounted to the grand total of £6 odd

Many letters of admiration mark you, came to us but nearly everyone forgot why of keeping financially in case they might be hauled up as accessories before the event!

Our legal expenses again which we have to pay when we take up cases of injustice to women total to a grand bill by the end of the year.

One such, a member of the N.W.S. came to over £100. This woman Mrs Lewis had been married for 10 years & her husband had the cool impertinence at the end of that time to apply to the Courts for a nullity of marriage because he said his wife was not formed properly!

(Excuse my bluntness) - The wife, a very shy woman, refused to be examined by a man doctor so we got two lady doctors certificates to say she was all right but the judge refused to take their evidence.

This was at Birmingham - We had then to bring the case to London & after delays amounting to over a year, the case was heard & the husband never put in an appearance! We however made the man pay her a respectable income.

This was one of the largest cases we had to tackle & it was brought to us when we had about £1000 in the Bank. To make it worse the wife had already run up £60 debt with the Birmingham solicitors & they refused to hand over the papers to our solicitor until the bill was paid.

Another case we had was a Roman Catholic divorce, always a difficulty to manipulate - You may remember it because of the Ridgway



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Secretary:  
MISS PREECE.

of a letter box of 4 -

The mother & father were separated by the Courts, there being three children - 2 girls & one boy.

The order of the Court was that these children were to be put into different homes - the girls at Redhill & the boy at Brighton.

The husband was to see them once a month & the mother once a week - The judge knew the husband was a brute but would not let the mother keep the children because he said she was not "a fit subject to do so, she shortly becoming a mother again."

The husband did not care about the two little girls but he did care about the 4 year old boy because he wanted to bring the child into his own business later on - He therefore broke the order of the Court & took the boy to him with him in London here.

The wife knowing the father's influence was not good for the child came & asked us what to do in the matter, she having no money to employ counsel to make an application in the High Court, although her husband had £1500 a year of his own. She gave us

the father's address & we watched the place for several days  
& one morning two of us followed the child & nurse from the  
home & followed them into Regent Street close by.

We had a motor car waiting & kidnaped the child, leaving the  
nurse on the pavement.

It was reported in the papers as the "Regent Street Kidnapping  
Case outside the Polytechnic."

We had to kidnap the child in order to free the father's hands.

We paid over to Mr. Lamanthe Yates over £50 for the case.  
He was our solicitor then & a lady we know financed the case  
to over £100 before we won it.

Out of all the official societies for Relief & Distress I know of  
none who will take up such cases as these & it makes me bitter to  
think that the enormous subscriptions sent to these recognised Societies  
go mostly to help those people who are "Carney" & know how to turn  
the tide & are also spent on huge offices & salaries appointments.

Pardon my long letter but my blood boils when I think of what I know  
of the wastage of public money now going on.

Look at the food thrown away in our military camps.

£5000 at a time thrown in the dusthole when an aeroplane  
trial accident happens through a novice manipulating the machine.

This happens on an average about twice a week.

Yours very sincerely  
Andrew J. J. J.  
Hon. Secy.

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AL/1623

# MEN'S SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

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65, AVENUE CHAMBERS,

SOUTHAMPTON ROW,

LONDON, W.C. 6 April 1915.

Hon. Solicitor:  
GEOFFREY B. GUSH, ESQ.

Hon. Political Secretary:  
FRED. G. THREADGOLD, ESQ.

Hon. Treasurer:  
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Meetings Secretary:  
FRED. A. RICHARDS, ESQ.

Secretary:  
MISS PREECE.

Dear Mr. Leabart

Your very kind letter to hand - I am afraid the Suffrage Shop would charge too much commission for the sale of any stuff they sold - I employed them to sell the Awareness when I was Editor of the paper - not only did they charge if I remember rightly 2/6<sup>d</sup> per week for a contents bill-board but they wanted a lower price for the papers than even the arch-rascals W. H. Smith got them at. Besides I don't think the S. Shop would care to give up the whole of their ground floor to displaying articles of vertu, in fact I am sure they would not because they would get into trouble with those people whose literature & books they have to sell weekly.

Again I think the S. Shop charges 25% Commission on all stuff sold - That would mean £100 we should have to pay them if they sold all our China which comes to over £400 worth.

This £100<sup>Commission</sup> together with the necessary £25 for advertising in the papers mentioned in my last letter to you (which would have to be done whoever sold the goods) would come to over a hundred

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**Secretary:**  
MISS PREECE.

per cent more than if we sold direct from our own  
shop.

Opening our own place is only a means to an end - We can  
keep the shop going once started & use it in place of these offices.  
There is very little difference in the rent if taken on an agreement.  
Passers by would <sup>buy</sup> our literature & pamphlets where now they don't  
because they do not know we are here on the third floor -  
With many apologies for having bothered you

Believe us  
Yours very truly

*A. W. G. Jamrach*

*H. Richards*