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The Women's Election Committee

OBJECT : To assist or run Women Parliamentary Candidates of all the recognised Political Parties in Parliament and suitable women standing independently, provided that all candidates thus assisted (a) Stand for the equality of men and women in the State. (b) Have a reasonable amount of support in the constituencies they desire to represent

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT 1925

FAMNET COLLECTION



P PAMPHLET

36 Gordon Square
London, W.C.1
Phone: Museum 7203

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MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE
At date of Annual Meeting
8th February, 1926

President: Dr. CHRISTINE M. MURRELL.
Founders & Vice-Presidents: Miss C. NINA BOYLE.
Mrs. E. HOW MARTYN, M.Sc.
Miss MARIE LAWSON.
Hon. Treasurer: Miss CICELY HAMILTON.
Hon. Financial Secretary: Miss M. E. ALLWORK.

Mrs. HELEN ARCHDALE.
Mrs. F. EARENCEY, J.P.
Mrs. GASK.
Miss CICELY B. HALE.
Mrs. WHITTAM.
Miss STELLA WOLFE MURRAY.

Associates:

Miss MARY S. ALLEN, O.B.E.,
Commandant, Women's Auxiliary Service.
Miss LILIAN BARKER, C.B.E., J.P.
Professor WINIFRED CULLIS, O.B.E., D.Sc.
Miss A. GERTRUDE HEWITT, LL.A.,
Ex. President National Union of Women Teachers.

CONSTITUTION

The Committee.

The Committee shall consist of not more than 15 members. One-third of the Committee, or the number nearest to one-third, shall retire at each General Meeting and be eligible for re-election. The members shall retire in order of seniority, but, as between persons who became members on the same day, those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot.

Officers.

The Officers of the Committee shall be appointed annually by the Committee, namely: a Chairman and a Treasurer, who shall be unpaid, and a Secretary, who may be paid.

The Committee may also appoint such other Officers as may be deemed necessary for carrying on its work.

General Meetings.

A General Meeting of Subscribers will be convened at least once in each year:

- (a) To consider the report of the Committee on the previous year's work;
- (b) To consider the audited accounts to be submitted by the Committee; and
- (c) To elect members of the Committee in place of those retiring by rotation.

Every person who has subscribed 10/- or more during the preceding twelve months shall be entitled to be present and vote.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

This Report covers the year ended December 31st, 1925.

The Committee holding office since the last Annual General Meeting, held in February, 1925, includes the following members :—

Dr. Christine Murrell, *President*.

Miss Marie Lawson,

Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc., A.R.C.Sc., } *Founders and*

Miss Nina Boyle, } *Vice-Presidents.*

Miss Cicely Hamilton, *Hon. Treasurer*.

Miss Mabel Allwork, *Hon. Financial Secretary*.

Mrs. Archdale.

Mrs. F. Earengy, J.P.

Mrs. Gask.

Miss Cicely B. Hale.

Mrs. Mansel.

Miss Stella Wolfe Murray.

Mrs. Marjorie Verden.

Mrs. Whittam.

Mrs. Whittam was elected to the Committee during the course of the year, having given much valuable assistance at the weekly working meetings.

Resignations.

The Committee records with much regret the resignations of Miss M. B. George and Mrs. Marjorie Verden, and towards the end of the year Mrs. Mansel, owing to lack of time to devote themselves to the work of the Committee.

Officers.

Dr. Christine Murrell continues to hold office as President, Miss Cicely Hamilton as Hon. Treasurer, and Miss Mabel Allwork as Hon. Financial Secretary. On the much regretted resignation of Miss George from the post of Hon. Secretary, the duties of that office were temporarily carried on by Miss Marie Lawson.

The Committee's warmest thanks were recorded to Miss George for her hard work during a strenuous period, and to Miss Lawson for so gallantly filling the breach for several months. Until a suitable successor to the office could be found, a scheme was formulated whereby the office was put in commission temporarily. At the first business meeting of the Committee after the last General Meeting, it was resolved: "That a Committee of Management, consisting of six members, be appointed to exercise the functions of the Hon. Officers—with the exception of the Treasurer—to go fully into the question of the Committee's future activities and to report to the Committee," the object being to form a sub-committee of workers who would meet once a week for associated work as well as discussion.

This idea has been successfully carried out during the year under review. By the kindness of Miss Lawson and Miss Allwork, the Sub-Committee have been able to meet on Tuesday afternoons at 36, Gordon Square, where they have been responsible jointly for correspondence and secretarial work, appeals, schemes for future activity, overhauling the files, and obtaining new support. To Mrs. F. Earengy, J.P., who undertook to attend regularly and

admit the workers; to Mrs. Whittam, who has now undertaken that duty; the Committee tenders its sincere thanks. The heartiest thanks are also due to Miss Lawson and Miss Allwork for continued hospitality.

Elections.

For the first time since the foundation of the W.E.C., this year contained no General Election; neither has any woman been a candidate at a bye-election. This has given the Committee time and opportunity to consider various new ideas in regard to organisation, and it is now at work on schemes:—

- (a) To secure a reliable guaranteed income;
- (b) To raise funds by the issue of a special propaganda stamp;
- (c) To issue an appeal to all women Parliamentary voters, pointing out that a subscription of 5/- annually from one-eighth of the women voters would give an income of £250,000 a year.

The W.E.C. Dinners.

Early in the year the Committee inaugurated a series of dinners, which have proved to be both socially and financially successful. The first was held during last February at the Chantecler Restaurant in Frith Street, with Dr. Murrell in the chair. It was limited to members and ex-members of the Committee. The second, at the same restaurant, with Miss Marie Lawson presiding, included a number of friends and supporters. The third gave an opportunity of meeting Miss Ellen Wilkinson, the new woman M.P. for East Middlesbrough, who was the guest of the evening. There was a large number of applications for tickets, and the evening was a great success. Mrs. Earengy, J.P., presided, and speeches were made by Miss

Wilkinson, M.P., Miss Decima Moore, C.B.E. (Lady Guggisburg), Lady Barrett, C.B.E., M.D., M.S., Mrs. Dreschfield, F.R.G.S., Dr. Christine Murrell, Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc., and Miss Marie Lawson.

These dinners have proved so popular an item of the Committee's propaganda, and so useful a manner of collecting friends and supporters and keeping them in touch with each other, that it is probable they will be carried on throughout the coming year.

Finance.

The Committee's financial policy has aimed at securing promises of definite annual contributions at specified periods of the year, so that a Fund may be created for the benefit of the Women Candidates at the next Election.

Prospective Candidates.

A list of Prospective Women Parliamentary Candidates will shortly be compiled, and the Committee will be glad to hear from women

- (a) who have been approached by parties or by constituencies,
- (b) who have been accepted by parties or by constituencies,
- (c) who offer themselves independently as Parliamentary candidates for Borough or County divisions.

Other Organisations.

The Committee maintains cordial relations with other Women's Organisations, and has co-operated when possible with societies working for the equality of the sexes. Mrs. How Martyn attended as the Committee's delegate at the Conference called by the Six Point Group to discuss the

necessity for the appointment of more women police, and she was also a member of the deputation which waited on the Chairman of the L.C.C. Education Committee, to protest against the dismissal of women on the ground of marriage. Miss Nina Boyle has represented the Committee on the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations, the subjects discussed covering a wide area. The Committee's delegate, although pledging the Committee to no decisions save those in conformity with its recognised aims, has given invariable support to those societies which stand for equality of treatment *as opposed to so-called protective legislation* for women. The Committee's support was pledged to the following measures :—

Equal Franchise, on the resolution of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

Protest to Municipal Electors against dismissal of women employees on marriage by L.C.C., on the resolution of the Six-Point Group.

Equal Guardianship of Infants, on the resolution of the Federation of Women Civil Servants, with amendment by the Six-Point Group.

Equal Rights of Peeresses in their own right to sit in House of Lords, on the resolution of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

Equal Pay for Equal Work for Women and Men in the Civil Service, on the resolution of the Federation of Women Civil Servants.

Separate Taxation, *i.e.*, equal, on incomes of married persons.

Women Candidates : Calling on political party organisations to allot to women candidates a larger share of constituencies where such candidate would have a fair chance of success, on the resolution of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

Lead Paint Factory Legislation : Protest against imposing restrictive legislation on women employed which is not equally imposed on men, on the resolution proposed by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

Protest against women in Health Ministry being shut out from chances of preferment and from qualifying for higher posts, on the resolution by the London Society for Women's Service.

As a matter of humanitarianism, on which there could be little controversy, the Committee's delegate gave support to the N.S.P.C.A. in their efforts to secure the prohibition of the exportation of worn-out horses to the Continent.

Special Acknowledgements.

An old and valued supporter of the Woman's Movement, who wishes to assist the Fund for Women Parliamentary Candidates, has notified his intention to bequeath a sum of money to the Women's Election Committee, and has so advised the Executive in the hope that others may be inclined to assist its work in a similar way. The Committee records its sincere appreciation and thanks for this practical form of sympathy.

Special thanks are also due to Miss Mildred Ransom for valuable services rendered.

The clerical work, so free and generously given by those who have attended the Weekly Working Meetings, has enabled the organising to be continued on an entirely voluntary basis, and for this assistance the Committee is particularly grateful.

W.E.C. Poster Stamps (Special Issue)



This illustration shows the design adopted for the W.E.C. PROPAGANDA STAMPS, which are now on sale. These Stamps are printed in an attractive shade of brown and are reproduced from the finest "Nickeloid" Half-tone Blocks; they are gummed and perforated ready for use. Please send 1/6 for a book of 24 Stamps, and help to disseminate our demand for

"MORE WOMEN M.P.'s."

The proceeds will be devoted to the MILLION SHILLING FUND for the support of Women Parliamentary Candidates.

Obtainable from—

THE WOMEN'S ELECTION COMMITTEE,
36, GORDON SQUARE, LONDON, W.C. 1.

See How They Grow!

FOUR General Elections have occurred since women became legally qualified to stand as Parliamentary Candidates. In these elections 124 women appealed to the electorate and received in all

1,457,175 VOTES

The Women Candidates Polled

	an average of	3462	in 1918
"	"	6934	in 1922
"	"	8345	in 1923
"	"	9750	in 1924

Success at the Polls depends largely on Organisation. Organisation depends upon Money. THE WOMEN'S ELECTION COMMITTEE depends on Your Donations.

Address---The Hon. Secretary
WOMEN'S ELECTION COMMITTEE
36 Gordon Square, London, W.C.1

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PAMPHLET