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(National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.)

REPORT

OF THE

NORTH-EASTERN SOCIETY

FOR

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE,

Presented at the Annual Meeting, held in the Drawing Room Café, Northumberland Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 8th February, 1909.

PRESIDENT. EARL GREY.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

L. ATHERLEY JONES, Esq., M.P. (North-West Durham). Right Hon. THOMAS BURT, MP. (Morpeth). ROBERT CAMERON, Esq., M.P. (Houghton-le-Spring). CHARLES FENWICK, Esq., M.P. (Wansbeck). Right Hon. Sir EDWARD GREY, Bart., M.P. (Berwick-on-Tweed). WALTER HUDSON, Esq., M.P. (Newcastle-on-Tyne). JOHN JOHNSON, Esq., M.P. (Gateshead). JOHN M. ROBERTSON, Esq., M.P. (Tyneside). GEORGE RENWICK, Esq., M.P. (Tyneside). GEORGE RENWICK, Esq., M.P. (Sunderland). THOMAS SUMMERBELL, Esq., M.P. (Sunderland). JOHN W. TAYLOR, Esq., M.P. (Chester-le-Street). JOHN WILSON, Esq., M.P. (Mid-Durham). A. B. LEMON, Esq. Mrs. CAIRNS, DUNIFA. Mrs. KITCHIN, The Deanery, Durham, Lady OWEN, Brandling Park, Newcastle. Mrs. NEWCOMBE, Invermore, Low Fell. Mrs. RENWICK, 1, Henshelwood Terrace.

> FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND TREASURER. Mrs. WILKINSON, 6, Grosvenor Place.

HON SECRETARIES, Mrs. HARRISON BELL, 6, Hotspur Street. Miss MARGARET MEIN, B.Litt., Adderstone Crescent, Newcastle.

> BANKERS. LLOYDS BANK, LTD.—LAMBTON'S BRANCH.

OBJECT.

To obtain the Parliamentary Franchise for Women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men.

REPORT FOR 1908.

During the year 1908 the work for the cause of Women's Suffrage has been carried on with renewed vigour.

On February 28th, Mr. Stanger, M.P. (North Kensington), introduced a Bill removing the disability of sex and marriage, and enfranchising women on the same terms as men. On the second reading 271 voted for the measure and 92 against. Every Member of Parliament in the area covered by this Society, except Sir W. S. Robson, Mr. Hill, and Mr. Craig, and one supporter who was absent through serious illness, voted for the second reading. The reference of the Bill to a Committee of the whole House blocked its further progress for that session.

In May the Co-operative Congress declared in favour of Women's Suffrage.

On January 30th, Mr. Asquith, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, received a deputation of the National Union, and admitted that he was personally opposed to the extension of the franchise to women, and said that the Government could do nothing until assured that there was a "genuine and wide-spread demand" for this reform amongst women themselves and in the country generally.

On May 20th, as Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith received a deputation of Liberal M.P.'s on the subject. He then said he would not oppose an amendment, including women, to the measure of electoral reform that was part of the Government programme, and admitted that two-thirds of the Cabinet were in favour of this reform. The amendment must, however, be of a democratic character and backed by the overwhelming support of the men and women of the country.

On October 20th, the Prime Minister refused to receive a deputation of persons who had recently acted as chairmen of meetings in favour of Women's Suffrage who desired to inform him of the "serious and widespread" support underlying the movement. He declared, however, that "he was always

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Mrs. WALDIE CAIRNS, B.Sc., B.Litt, 20, Osborne Avenue, Gosforth
Mrs. DUNN, 20, Woodbine Avenue, Gosforth
Miss MARGARET M. DICKINSON, Langholm House, Jarrow
Mrs. HALL, 241, Wingrove Avenue, Newcastle
Mrs. ELIOT HARRISON, 14, Bristol Terrace, Newcastle
Miss NEWBEGIN GREENBAT, Fenham, Newcastle
Mrs. Wells Patterson, 26, Ellison Place, Newcastle
Miss Rowell, 30, Osborne Road, Newcastle
Mrs. Simm, 15, Oakfield Terrace, Gosforth
Mrs. Watson, 20, Oxford Street, Newcastle
Mrs. Weddell, 11, Devonshire Place, Newcastle
Dr. Ethel Williams, 19, Ellison Place, Newcastle
and Hon. Secs. and Treasurer, ex-officio.

prepared to take note of any indication of public opinion on the question, and was aware from numerous communications of the facts of which they spoke."

He replied similarly to the Registered Medical Women, of whom only 15 out of 553 had refrained from signing the manifesto.

The year's work has therefore to be regarded as satisfactory from the point of view of the change in attitude of the person who at present is of primary importance.

This Society's contribution to the work is a fairly large and representative one. The Annual Meeting was held on February 20th, in the Drawing Room Café, Northumberland Street. Mrs. Taylor occupied the chair, and the reports were presented by Mrs. Atkinson and Dr. Ethel Bentham. The latter made an appeal for funds to wipe off a deficit of $\neq 33$, $\neq 20$ of which had been carried over from the previous year. In a few minutes $\pounds 40$ was subscribed in the room. A letter was read from Mrs. Harrison Bell resigning the position of Organiser. The resolution "That this Annual Meeting of the North-Eastern Society for Women's Suffrage calls upon His Majesty's Government to afford facilities for passing into law Mr. Stanger's Bill for the enfranchisement of women during the present session," was moved by Mrs. Taylor. Miss Mabel Atkinson, M.A., seconded in a speech provocative of fresh thought, and it was carried unanimously.

Thirteen Executive Meetings have been held during the year. On July 29th, a Special Meeting of the Society was held at the Drawing Room Café, at 3.30 p.m., to consider the following resolution: —

"That as the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has twice rejected this Society's Resolution—'That the time has now come to oppose the Government Candidates at Bye-Elections,' this Society withdraws its affiliation to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and affiliates with the National Women's Social and Political Union."

Dr. Ethel Bentham was voted to the chair, and read the notice convening the meeting. The resolution was moved by Mrs. Taylor and seconded by Mrs. Atkinson, and debated keenly for an hour and a half, when the vote was taken, 13 voted for the resolution and 19 against. The thirteen ladies, two of whom were the Hon. Secs. of the Society, then withdrew from membership, but before they left the meeting a vote of thanks to the retiring officers for past services was moved by Mrs. Dunn, seconded by Mrs. Wilkinson, and carried. This vote included thanks to Dr. Bentham for presiding over the meeting. The ladies resigning their membership then withdrew. Dr. Bentham intimated that as she would be absent from Newcastle for at least six months she desired to vacate the treasurership, which post was accepted by Mrs. Wilkinson, L.L.A. Mrs. Harrison Bell was elected Hon. Sec., and the following ladies to fill the vacancies on the Executive :-- Mrs. Hall, Miss Newbegin, Mrs. Weddell, and Mrs. Watson.

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Delegates have attended each of the Quarterly Council Meetings. The following ladies also took part in the procession and meeting in the Albert Hall on 13th June, Dr. Ethel Bentham, Dr. Marion Phillips, Misses Mary Longman, Brett (2) M. Hall, and Mabəl Atkinson, M.A., also Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Wilkinson, LL.A., Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Eliot Harrison, and Mrs. Harrison Bell. A Newcastle lady (name formerly Miss Rankin) also came to walk under our banner. Mrs. Taylor presented a bouquet to Mrs. Fawcett at the great meeting.

THE BYE-ELECTION.

The National Union undertook the responsibility for the work, and sent down Miss Helen Fraser as Organiser during its progress. Two crowded meetings were held in the Town Hall, four in schools, and about 120 out of doors. One of the Town Hall meetings was presided over by Dr. Ethel Williams and the other by Mrs. Harrison Bell. Several new speakers, Miss Mein, B.Litt.,

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Miss Mail, B.Litt., Miss Dunn, Miss Dickinson, and Miss Hall began their work then, and more than one hundred members of the Society took part in the work. One of our Executive Members, Mrs. Eliot Harrison, acted as the Chief Office Official for the National Union. The hire of a shop in Blackett Street made the work of the National Union one of the chief centres of political activity during the contest. On Election Day for the first time, a petition, signed only by electors, was inaugurated, and fifteen hundred signatures were received in two days. The petition contained 5,625 signatures, and was presented in the House of Commons by Mr. Walter Hudson, M.P., as the first business of the Autumn Session. It was photographed, and is on sale as a post card at 1d. each.

PROPAGANDA.

During the Spring, while a Trades Dispute was in progress, circular letters were sent round to Trade Union Branches asking if they would receive a speaker on the subject of Women's Suffrage. The workers in wood either declined or sent no reply, except in the case of Wallsend where the meetings were of the allied trades, the workers in metal were pleased to receive speakers. The meetings were usually held at 10.30 or 11 a.m. Thirty-one crowded meetings were held, at many of which there was a most interesting discussion, and at 30 of which the usual "afford facilities" resolution was passed and sent up, these being part of the "numerous communications" mentioned in another place. At Wallsend the allied trades meeting numbered over 600, and after Miss Daisy Weddell, B.Litt., and Mrs. Harrison Bell had spoken at it, an invitation to address another meeting was received, and Mrs. Atkinson and Mrs. Shaw attended upon another occasion. In addition to the four before mentioned, Dr. Ethel Williams, Dr. Ethel Bentham, Mrs. Wilkinson, L.L.A., and Miss Mabel Atkinson, M.A., were the speakers at these Trade Union Meetings.

This year it has been found impossible to get a correct record of the number of speeches made by members of the Society on the invitations of other Societies, but they have been more numerous than ever before.

Since the Bye-election the Society has held fourteen Drawing Room Meetings, Miss Fraser, and Mrs. Waldie Cairns, B.Sc., B.Litt., and several of the ladies already mentioned being the speakers. The Society is much indebted to the following ladies who were so good as to act as hostesses :--Mrs. Wells Patterson, Mrs. Wilkinson, Mrs. Mein, Mrs. Weddell, Miss Davies, Mrs. Reed, Miss Yate Lee, Miss Temperley, Miss Ericsson, Mrs. Shaw, Dr. Williams, Mrs. Dickinson, Mrs. Robson. In addition to these Mrs. Dunn has kindly arranged one early in the year.

Public Meetings have been held fortnightly during the winter, on Mondays, at 7.30 p.m., in the Drawing Room Café. Some of these have been very well attended, others not so numerously. These are being continued till March. That on March 8th being at 3 p.m., and on March 22nd, at 7.30, a debate with an Anti-Suffragist.

Public Meetings have been held at Gateshead (2), Jarrow, North Shields, Wallsend (2), Durham, and Whitley Bay, Miss Fraser speaking at all except Whitley Bay. From these meetings also the usual resolution was sent to the Prime Minister.

Fifty-nine new members have been added to the Society since July.

As this is the time when there should be no slackening of effort, the Committee appeal very strongly to members to increase their subscriptions, to give donations, and to volunteer for work, of which there is still an enormous quantity to be done in the area covered by the Society. Helpers are needed to address envelopes, to take charge of literature, collect money, and to address meetings, a regular course of which should be held in every Tyneside town weekly, and could be, if all who can, will help.

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In the country places, if any member will help either by holding a drawing room meeting, or a garden party, or by arranging an outdoor public meeting, speakers will be arranged for by the Executive. The names and addresses of those willing to help should be sent to the Hon. Sec., and subscriptions and donations to the Hon. Treasurer. Suggestions will also be gladly welcomed by the Executive Committee, who will be pleased to undertake work for the cause which will counteract the work begun by our anti-suffrage opponents, and go to making evident what we already know, that the country is ready for this long-delayed act of justice.

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F. N. HARRISON BELL, Hon. Secretary.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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Mrs. Atkinson, 2, Devonshire Terrace, Newca J. B. Atkinson, Esq., ,, ,, Miss Atkinson, M.A., 26, Denning Road, Lon Mrs. Atkinson, Wellbank, Morpeth .. A.B.C. Mrs. Armstrong, 27, Patterdale Terrace, Gate Miss Andrews, 11, Claremont Place, Newcast Miss Atkinson, 12, Northumberland Street, Miss Ayre, 1, Howard Terrace, Morpeth ... Mrs. Adam, 10, Kenilworth Road, Newcastle Miss S. A. Atkinson, 21, Windsor Terrace, Ne Mrs. Allan, The Grove, Benton ... Miss J. Armstrong, 87, Glenthorn Road, Nev Mrs. Alexander, 4, Dawson Square, Tynemov Miss Brett, 14, Portland Road, Newcastle Mrs. Brett, ,, ,, • • Miss L. Brett, .. ,, .. Miss H. Brett, ••• ,, ,, Mrs. Brown, Wentworth Place, Newcastle Mrs. Boag, 14, Avondale Terrace, Gateshead Miss Bunting, 165, Helmsley Road, Newcast Miss Bowman, Cramlington Village . . Mrs. Harrison Bell, 6, Hotspur Street, Heato J. N. Bell, Esq., J.P. ,, ,, Mrs. Bunting, Scotswood, Newcastle . . Miss Barclay, "Gazette" Office, South Shi Dr. Ethel Bentham, 23, Hogarth Road, Ear Miss Florence Bell, 12, Saville Row, Newcas Mrs. Bell, 5, Highbury, Newcastle . . Mrs. Blechynden, 56, Highbury, Newcastle Mrs. Brewis, 2, Eskdale Terrace, Newcastle Miss Brewis, ,, ,,

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Mrs. Blacklock, 13, Highfield Road, Gateshead	••	• •
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Miss Buchanan, 13, Osborne Avenue, Newcastle	••	• •
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Miss F. Catnach, 33, Grosvenor Place, Newcastle	•••	•••
Mrs. Cooper, 2, Sydenham Terrace, Newcastle	••	•••
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Miss May Crossley, Barnburgh Grange, Doncaster		
Mrs. Clarke, Grove Lodge, Gosforth	••	
Mrs. Crawford, 10, Haldane Terrace, Newcastle		•••
Mrs. Conway, 10, Bede Burn Road, Jarrow	••	••
Miss Cochrane, Low Gosforth House, Gosforth	••	
Miss Crombie, 47, Rothbury Terrace, Heaton		
Mrs. Detchon, 45, Fern Avenue, Newcastle		
Mrs. Dickinson, 56, Manor House Road, Newcastle		
Miss J. Dinning, Schoolhouse, Humshaugh		
Miss Dippie, 60, Warrington Road, Newcastle		•••
Miss Dodds, Beacon Villa, Low Fell		
Mrs. Dunn, 20, Woodbine Avenue, Gosforth		•••
Miss Dunn, ,, ,,		
Mrs. Eliot, 13, Bristol Terrace, Newcastle		
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Miss Emley, 9, Carlton Terrace, Low Fell		
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Mrs. Eyres, 5, Carlton Terrace, Low Fell		
Mrs. A. Emery, 13, Lovaine Place, Newcastle		
Miss E. English, 9, Warrington Road, Newcastle		
Miss E. Ericsson, Mayfield, Newcastle		
Miss Foley, 14, Neville Street, Newcastle		
Mrs. Forster, 1, Devonshire Terrace, Newcastle		
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Mrs. Weddell, 11, Devonshire Place, Newcastle
Miss M. Weddell, B.Litt., 11, Devonshire Place, Newcastle
Miss Wood, Special School, Bentinck, Newcastle
Miss C. Walton Wilson, Shotley Hall, Northumberland
Mrs. Watt, Bede House, Jarrow
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DONATIONS.

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L. W. Adamson, Esq., South Villa, Regent's Park, London		1	1	0
Mrs. Harrison Bell, 6, Hotspur Street, Newcastle		0	15	0
Mrs. Dunn, 20, Woodbine Avenue, Gosforth	•••	2	2	0
Mrs. Marshall, Akenside Lodge, Newcastle		1	0	0
Miss Harper, Ladies' Club, Newcastle		0	5	0
Mrs. Newcombe, Invermore, Low Fell		2	0	0
Mrs. Pease, Pendower, Newcastle		2	0	0
Mrs. Pumphrey, Minsteracres, Riding Mill		5	0	0
Mrs. Wells Patterson, 26, Ellison Place, Newcastle		2	2	0
Mrs. Renwick, 1, Henschelwood Terrace, Newcastle	•••	2	2	0
Mrs. Taylor, Chipchase Castle, Wark		25	0	0
Miss V. Taylor, ,, ,,		2	2	0
Dr. Ethel Williams, 19, Ellison Place, Newcastle		2	9	0
J. R. Blanco White, Esq		2	5	0
Mrs. Wilkinson, 6, Grosvenor Place, Newcastle		2	4	6
National Union		36	0	0
X.Y.Z		5	0	0
	•	609		
		£93	9	6

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SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. Account of Receipts and Payments for Year ending 31st December, 1908. NORTH-EASTERN

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48	33	32	<i>с</i> р,	21	10	5	22	Ч	4	ά
PAYMENTS.	By Balance due Treasurer from 1907	,, Printing and Advertisements	" Expenses of Meetings, Halls, &c	" Organiser's Salary and Expenses, Speakers' Fees	" Postage, Block, and Check Book	" Delegates' Expenses	"Affiliation Fee	" Auditor's Fee	,, Purchase of Literature and Badges	,, Grant towards Newcastle Election Expenses (as
RECEIPTS. £ s. d. £ s. d.	To Subscriptions (as per printed list) 35 17 0	", Special Donations (as per printed list)-	National Union —	Grant £18 0 0	Grant towards New-		Expenses $18 0 0$ 36 0 0	Mamhars 57 9 6		" Collections at Drawing Room Café

14

	rawing Room Meet- 		£156 15 11 £156 15 11	
,, Collections at Sundry Meetings	" Collections at Drawing Room Meet- ings	"Literature Sold …		

opinion, it is correct. JOHN G. BENSON & SONS, Chartered Accountants. Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 4th February, 1909. ano We have examined the

NORTH-EASTERN

SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

RULES.

1. An Annual Subscription of 1/- and upwards shall constitute Membership of the Society, and 10/- a Member of the Council. Associates and Supporters are not required to pay anything.

2. The Subscriptions are due on the first day of January of the current year.

3. A General Meeting of the Society shall be held once a year to receive the Report and Statement of Accounts, to appoint the Executive Committee and Officers, and to transact any other business which may arise.

4. The Executive Committee shall have power to add to its number at any time.

5. A Special General Meeting of the Society may be called at any time by the Executive Committee, or at the written request of not less than five Members of the Society. At such time no subjects shall be discussed but those mentioned in the notice of the Meeting.

6. Eight days' notice shall be given of all General Meetings.

Any Members or Associates changing their address should inform the Secretary of the change.

Literature on the subject of Women's Suffrage will be supplied gratis by the Hon. Secretary.