

Morning Post.
June 27. 1907.

A2/289

THE MORNING

PADDINGTON AND TARIFF REFORM.

FORMATION OF WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

As a result of a successful meeting held yesterday afternoon at the house of Mrs. Arthur Strauss, Carn Brae, Kensington Palace-gardens, presided over by Lady Hardman, and addressed by the Hon. Mrs. Ivor Maxse, a North Paddington branch of the Women's Unionist and Tariff Reform Association has been formed with the Marchioness of Donegall as President. The gathering was a crowded one, and included, beside the ladies already mentioned, Lady Ellis, Lady Georgiana Mure, Lady Purvis, Lady Lowe, Mrs. Lidiard, Mrs. Webster Glynes, Mrs. Joseph Strauss, Mrs. Kenyon, Mrs. Sutton, Mrs. Hodgkinson, Mrs. Goldsmith, and Mr. Arthur Strauss.

Lady HARDMAN, in opening the meeting, stated that letters of regret for unavoidable absence had been received from Miss Balfour, President of the Executive Committee of the Ladies' Grand Council of the Primrose League; Lord Llangattock, Chancellor of the Primrose League; Mrs. Fletcher, and Miss Meresia Nevill, hon. secretary of the Ladies' Grand Council. After speaking of the national calamity of Mr. Chamberlain's illness caused by the continual strain of fighting against prejudice, ignorance, and jealousy, Lady Hardman said that she came to that meeting with great pleasure as a member of the Primrose League, for those that belonged to that body were now able to take part in the Tariff Reform movement. It was high time that the members of the Primrose League were active in support of a movement which was for the welfare of the British Empire. The late Lord Salisbury, addressing a meeting at Hastings, said, "A very few years will pass before you must take into consideration a modification of your fiscal policy," and Mr. Balfour had declared that fiscal reform would and must remain the first constructive work of the Unionist Party. It therefore behoved all Unionist women to work for Tariff Reform.

The Hon. Mrs. IVOR MAXSE, in the course of an address, said that many people thought women ought to have nothing to do with politics, but should stop at home. As the mother of a family she endorsed the suggestion that the hand that rocked the cradle ruled the world, but if the cradle contained a future citizen of the Empire surely it was women's duty to understand the questions affecting the future of the Empire. The Women's Unionist and Tariff Reform Association did not concern itself about votes for women. There was a vast amount of political work to do without possessing what to her mind was the doubtful privilege of a vote. The whole object of political propaganda was to form that mysterious force called public opinion which none could fathom or gauge, which everybody had to reckon with, and which won elections. Women had as much to do with forming public opinion as men, and for the work of educating the electors were better fitted than men. The objects of the association, of which there was to be a branch in North Paddington, were the maintenance of the legislative union of Great Britain and Ireland and the suppression of the Imperial Parliament, the promotion

of Fiscal Reform as the first constructive work of the Unionist Party, the objects of such reform being to secure more equal terms of competition for British trade and closer commercial union with the Colonies, promotion of social reforms and the improvement of the conditions of employment and labour, and the furtherance of political education and of the fuller realisation of the responsibilities of Imperial citizenship. If they were to win their way back to the confidence of the country they must not stand on the defensive alone. They must have a constructive policy which would meet the needs of the nation, and that was the policy of Tariff Reform. This was a trading nation, and so long as the wretched system of sixty years ago was adhered to the competition of the nation's rivals would be disastrous for Great Britain. In a recent article by a man who had given much thoughtful study to Germany it was stated that Germany could absorb a hundred thousand fresh workmen next week and find employment for them all. In England the Board of Trade returns showed that there was one skilled workman in every four permanently out of work. In Germany there were two jobs running after every man; in England there were two men running after every job. The curse of unemployment would remain in spite of farm colonies and relief works so long as the system of sixty years ago was maintained, a system under which the British market was free to everybody, and there was not a single market free to British goods. A duty on manufactured articles would give the British workmen every chance in the British market, and would provide a weapon with which commercial treaties could be made. It was said that social reforms were the solution of the problem, but social reforms could not be carried out until the basis of taxation was broadened. The Empire could not be developed without some system of commercial union, and in order to get that the people of the country must be educated to understand what the Empire was and what were the responsibilities of the people towards it. The Colonies would not wait for ever. As women and mothers, therefore, they had to consider the future of the children to whom the Empire would, or would not as the case might be, be handed on. (Cheers.)

On the proposition of the Marchioness of DONEGALL, seconded by Mrs. SUTTON, the following resolution was unanimously carried: "That this meeting heartily thanks the Hon. Mrs. Maxse for her address, and pledges itself to do everything to further the cause of Tariff Reform and closer commercial relations with our Colonies on a preferential basis, and with this object in view this meeting hereby resolves itself into the North Paddington Branch of the Women's Unionist and Tariff Reform Association."

Lady Donegall was elected President, Mrs. Strauss chairman, and Mrs. Kenyon secretary, and an influential committee was appointed.

Votes of thanks were passed to Lady Hardman for presiding and Mrs. Strauss for the loan of her house for the meeting, and Lady HARDMAN and Mr. STRAUSS having replied the proceedings ended.

PADDINGTON AND TARIFF REFORM.

FORMATION OF WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

As a result of a successful meeting held yesterday afternoon at the house of Mrs. Arthur Strauss, Carn Brae, Kensington Palace-gardens, presided over by Lady Hardman, and addressed by the Hon. Mrs. Ivor Maxse, a North Paddington branch of the Women's Unionist and Tariff Reform Association has been formed with the Marchioness of Donegall as President. The gathering was a crowded one, and included, beside the ladies already mentioned, Lady Ellis, Lady Georgiana Mure, Lady Purvis, Lady Lowe, Mrs. Lidiard, Mrs. Webster Glynes, Mrs. Joseph Strauss, Mrs. Kenyon, Mrs. Sutton, Mrs. Hodgkinson, Mrs. Goldsmith, and Mr. Arthur Strauss.

Lady HARDMAN, in opening the meeting, stated that letters of regret for unavoidable absence had been received from Miss Balfour, President of the Executive Committee of the Ladies' Grand Council of the Primrose League; Lord Llangattock, Chancellor of the Primrose League; Mrs. Fletcher, and Miss Meresia Nevill, hon. secretary of the Ladies' Grand Council. After speaking of the national calamity of Mr. Chamberlain's illness caused by the continual strain of fighting against prejudice, ignorance, and jealousy, Lady Hardman said that she came to that meeting with great pleasure as a member of the Primrose League, for those that belonged to that body were now able to take part in the Tariff Reform movement. It was high time that the members of the Primrose League were active in support of a movement which was for the welfare of the British Empire. The late Lord Salisbury, addressing a meeting at Hastings, said, "A very few years will pass before you must take into consideration a modification of your fiscal policy," and Mr. Balfour had declared that fiscal reform would and must remain the first constructive work of the Unionist Party. It therefore behoved all Unionist women to work for Tariff Reform.

The Hon. Mrs. IVOR MAXSE, in the course of an address, said that many people thought women ought to have nothing to do with politics, but should stop at home. As the mother of a family she endorsed the suggestion that the hand that rocked the cradle ruled the world, but if the cradle contained a future citizen of the Empire surely it was women's duty to understand the questions affecting the future of the Empire. The Women's Unionist and Tariff Reform Association did not concern itself about votes for women. There was a vast amount of political work to do without possessing what to her mind was the doubtful privilege of a vote. The whole object of political propaganda was to form that mysterious force called public opinion which none could fathom or gauge, which everybody had to reckon with, and which won elections. Women had as much to do with forming public opinion as men, and for the work of educating the electors were better fitted than men. The objects of the association, of which there was to be a branch in North Paddington, were the maintenance of the legislative union of Great Britain and Ireland and the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament, the promotion of Fiscal Reform as the first constructive work of the Unionist Party, the objects of such reform being to secure more equal terms of competition for British trade and closer commercial union with the Colonies, promotion of social reforms and the improvement of the conditions of employment and labour, and the furtherance of political education and of the fuller realisation of the responsibilities of Imperial citizenship. If they were to win their way back to the confidence of the country they must not stand on the defensive alone. They must have a constructive policy which would meet the needs of the nation, and that was the policy of Tariff Reform. This was a trading nation, and so long as the wretched system of sixty years ago was adhered to the competition of the nation's rivals would be disastrous for Great Britain. In a recent article by a man who had given much thoughtful study to Germany it was stated that Germany could absorb a hundred thousand fresh workmen next week and find employment for them all. In England the Board of Trade returns showed that there was one skilled workman in every four permanently out of work. In Germany there were two jobs running after every man; in England there were two men running after every job. The curse of unemployment would remain in spite of farm colonies and relief works so long as the system of sixty years ago was maintained, a system under which the British market was free to everybody, and there was not a single market free to British goods. A duty on manufactured articles would give the British workmen every chance in the British market, and would provide a weapon with which commercial treaties could be made. It was said that social reforms were the solution of the problem, but social reforms could not be carried out until the basis of taxation was broadened. The Empire could not be developed without some system of commercial union, and in order to get that the people of the country must be educated to understand what the Empire was and what were the responsibilities of the people towards it. The Colonies would not wait for ever. As women and mothers, therefore, they had to consider the future of the children to whom the Empire would, or would not as the case might be, be handed on. (Cheers.)

On the proposition of the Marchioness of DONEGALL, seconded by Mrs. SUTTON, the following resolution was unanimously carried: "That this meeting heartily thanks the Hon. Mrs. Maxse for her address, and pledges itself to do everything to further the cause of Tariff Reform and closer commercial relations with our Colonies on a preferential basis, and with this object in view this meeting hereby resolves itself into the North Paddington Branch of the Women's Unionist and Tariff Reform Association."

Lady Donegall was elected President, Mrs. Strauss chairman, and Mrs. Kenyon secretary, and an influential committee was appointed.

Votes of thanks were passed to Lady Hardman for presiding and Mrs. Strauss for the loan of her house for the meeting, and Lady HARDMAN and Mr. STRAUSS having replied the proceedings ended.