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REPORT
OF THE
✓ BATH BRANCH
OF THE
NATIONAL SOCIETY
FOR
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

1872.

*OBJECT.—To recover for Women Householders or Owners
of Property the ancient right of Voting for
Members of Parliament.*



Bath :
WILLIAM LEWIS,
"EXPRESS AND COUNTY HERALD" OFFICE, 12, NORTHGATE STREET.
MDCCCLXXIII.



REPORT.

The Bath Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was formed in December, 1871. For some time past much interest had been taken in the question by many persons in this city, and it was felt that the time had come to establish an active organisation for carrying on the movement. The first meeting of those ladies who form the Executive Committee was held at 1, Argyle Street, on January 2nd, 1872, the Lady Anna Gore Langton kindly consented to become President of the Society, Miss Le Geyt was elected Treasurer, Miss Spender Hon. Secretary of the Society. During the past year the number of members has been constantly increasing, so that now the Bath Society may fairly claim to be very numerously supported. The Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage which meets at 9, Berners Street, London, having at once invited the co-operation of the Bath Committee, the Lady Anna Gore Langton was unanimously appointed delegate to represent the latter at the meetings of the Central Committee.

According to a resolution passed by the Bath Committee the Hon. Secretary wrote to each member of the Municipal Corporation an invitation to join the Society. Of these seven only acceded to the request, but many others have expressed themselves in favour of the cause of Women's Suffrage. At the meeting of the Town Council in April last, Mr. W. Hunt gave notice of a motion to adopt a petition to Parliament in support of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill to remove the Electoral Disabilities of Women. Owing, however, to the defeat of the Bill upon its second reading the question of the petition was postponed. On the other hand, many members and friends of the Society exerted themselves in gaining signatures to petitions. During last Session six petitions, containing in all 5,441 signatures, were presented from Bath; a petition also was presented from each of the villages of Corston, Saltford, Newton St. Loe, and Keynsham, the signatures to which, numbering in all 484, were collected under the auspices of the Bath Society.

At the municipal elections last November, the Hon. Secretary took steps to ascertain the opinions upon Women's Suffrage of each of the candidates in the contested wards. In these wards placards were posted, requesting the women burgesses to vote for those candidates who had pledged themselves to support the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women. Your Committee have pleasure in reporting that four new members of the Town Council are in favour of this question, and of these Major-General Turner and Mr. Heywood have become members of the Association. On the other hand, it is with deep regret that your Committee have to report the loss, by death, of the late Mr. J. M. Shum, one of their most valued friends and supporters in the Town Council.

Two meetings of the women burgesses were held in the

Council Chamber of the Guildhall, in the month of March. At the first meeting Miss Ashworth occupied the chair; at the second the Lady Anna Gore Langton presided. Addresses were given by Miss L. S. Ashworth, Mrs. Bright Clark, Mrs. Layton, Mrs. E. Lynch, Miss Le Geyt, and Miss Spender, and resolutions in favour of petitioning Parliament to remove the electoral disabilities of women were carried unanimously. On the 23rd of January, 1873, a very crowded and influential public meeting was held in the Banqueting Room of the Guildhall. Mr. Hulbert, the ex-Mayor, presided, and resolutions in support of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill were moved and seconded by the Lady Anna Gore Langton, the Misses Rhoda Garrett, Agnes Garrett, Ashworth, L. S. Ashworth, and Spender, and Messrs. W. Hunt and Gore; and were carried by a large majority.

The second reading of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill is fixed for April 30th. In the meantime your Committee hope to send very numerous signed petitions to Parliament in its support.

The hearty thanks of your Committee are due to the members and friends of the Society who in many ways have aided in making the question of Women's Suffrage an important one in this city. Your Committee earnestly appeal to all who sympathise with them to manifest their sympathy by personal co-operation, and by subscriptions towards defraying the necessary expenses of the Society. In so doing, they will hasten that day, which cannot be far distant, when, for the first time in the history of our country, men and women will meet with even-handed justice, and will be considered equal before the law.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS

For 1872.

The Lady Anna Gore Langton ...	£5 0 0
Miss Ashworth ...	1 0 0
Miss L. S. Ashworth ...	1 0 0
Mr. Bourn ...	0 1 0
Mrs. Breeze ...	0 1 0
Major Brickmann ...	0 1 0
Mr. Carey ...	0 1 0
Miss Collins ...	0 1 0
Mr. Coningham ...	0 1 0
Rev. W. H. Dyer ...	0 1 0
Miss Fenwick ...	0 1 0
Miss Gallwey ...	0 1 0
Mrs. Glover ...	0 1 0
Miss Gould ...	0 1 0
Mr. Thomas R. Gore ...	0 2 6
Mr. Gregory ...	0 2 6
Miss Hamilton ...	0 1 0
Mr. R. O. Heywood ...	0 2 6
Mr. Hill ...	0 2 6
Mrs. Hill ...	0 2 0
Miss M. A. Hill ...	0 1 0
Mrs. Julia Hill ...	0 1 0
Mr. Hulbert ...	1 0 0
Mrs. Hulbert ...	0 1 0
Mr. W. Hunt ...	0 10 0
Mr. Johnston ...	0 1 0
Mrs. Layton ...	1 10 0
Mr. V. Lean ...	0 1 0
Miss Le Geyt ...	0 2 6
Mrs. Lynch ...	0 1 0
Mr. Medrington ...	0 2 6
Mr. Milsom ...	0 1 0
Mrs. Trevor Morris ...	0 2 6

BATH COMMITTEE OF SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Receipts and Payments from December, 1871, to December, 1872.

<i>Receipts.</i>		<i>Payments.</i>
From Donations and Subscriptions ...	£15 0 6	By Printing Circulars ...
		„ Ditto Paper ...
		„ Ditto Bill Receipts ...
		„ Account Books, Wrappers and Leaflets ...
		„ Stationery (Envelopes) ...
		„ Postage ...
		„ Canvassers ...
		Balance in hand ...
	£15 0 6	£3 4 6
		0 17 6
		0 6 6
		0 7 1
		0 1 4
		3 5 2
		6 0 3
		£14 12 4
		0 8 2
	£15 0 6	£15 0 6

21st February, 1873.

Audited by P. PRICE, Cashier at Tugwell & Co., Bath.

Miss Nicholls	...	...	...	...	... £0 1 0
Mr. Peach	...	...	...	...	... 0 1 0
Mr. Prendergast	...	...	...	...	... 0 5 0
Mrs. Pringle	...	...	...	...	... 0 2 0
Mrs. Rooke	...	...	...	...	... 0 1 0
Mr. Routley	...	...	...	...	... 0 1 0
Mrs. Scott	...	...	...	...	... 0 5 0
Miss Scott	...	...	...	...	... 0 5 0
Mr. P. C. Sheppard	...	...	...	...	... 0 5 0
Mr. Shum	...	...	...	...	... 0 1 0
Miss Solly	...	...	...	...	... 0 5 0
Mrs. Spender	...	...	...	...	... 0 2 6
Miss Spender	...	...	...	...	... 0 2 6
Mr. Stafford	...	...	...	...	... 0 1 0
Lady Style	...	...	...	...	... 0 5 0
Mr. Theobald	...	...	...	...	... 0 2 6
Mrs. Theobald	...	...	...	...	... 0 2 6
Rev. W. Williamson	...	...	...	...	... 0 1 0
Mrs. Williamson	...	...	...	...	... 0 1 0
Mrs. Williams	...	...	...	...	... 0 1 0
Mrs. Winzar	...	...	...	...	... 0 1 0
Mr. Edmund White	...	...	...	...	... 0 10 0

