

*N. U. Federation
West Riding Fed
Ann. Rep. '14-'15*

NATIONAL UNION
OF
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.
WEST RIDING FEDERATION.

ANNUAL REPORT
AND
BALANCE-SHEET.

P PAMPHLET

Presented at the Annual Meeting
held April 29th, 1915.

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FAWCETT COLLECTION

WEST RIDING FEDERATION.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

President : Miss SIDDON, Honley House, Huddersfield.

Chairman : Miss I. O. FORD, Adel Grange, Leeds.

Hon. Secretary : Mrs. G. FOSTER, Greenbank, Myddelton, Ilkley.

Hon. Treasurer : Miss BEAUMONT, Hatfeild Hall, Wakefield.

ACKWORTH—Miss ANDREWS.

BARNSELY—Miss WRAY.

BINGLEY { Miss MORTON,
Miss COOKE.

BRADFORD { Mrs. BERNHEIM,
Mrs. POLLARD,
Mrs. ROBINSON,
Miss PATTINSON.

DEWSBURY—Miss PICKERSGILL.

DONCASTER—Miss HUBBARD.

GOOLE—Mrs. GREAVES.

HALIFAX—Mrs. QUILTER.

HOLMFIRTH—Miss WRIGHT.

HUDDERSFIELD { Mrs. STUDDARD,
Miss M. JOHNSTON.

HARROGATE { Mrs. THOMAS,
Miss MITCHELL.

ILKLEY—Mrs. RABAGLIATI.

KEIGHLEY—Miss ROBINSON.

LEEDS { Miss FOSTER, Miss MERCIER,
Mrs. SIMPSON,
Mrs. GROSVENOR TALBOT.

NORMANTON—Miss DUTTON.

ROTHERHAM—Mrs. FOSTER.

SETTLE—Mrs. HYSLOP.

SHEFFIELD—Mrs. GILL, Mrs. HALL.

SHIPLEY—Mrs. BRUNTON.

SOWERBY BRIDGE—Mrs. JOHNSON.

WAKEFIELD { Miss GILDERDALE,
Miss SPENCER.

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES.

SOCIETY.	HON. SECRETARY.
ACKWORTH	Miss ANDREWS, Ackworth School, near Pontefract.
BARNSELY	Miss WRAY, Fairfield House, Barnsley.
BINGLEY	Mrs. WALKER, 33, Church Street, Bingley.
BRADFORD	Miss NACHBAR, 136a, Manningham Lane, Bradford.
DEWSBURY	Misses LAW and PICKERSGILL, Wheelwright Grammar School, Dewsbury.
DONCASTER	Miss HUBBARD, Institution for the Deaf, Doncaster.
GOOLE	Mrs. GREAVES, Clifton House, Salisbury Avenue, Goole.
HALIFAX	Mrs. QUILTER, 54, Free School Lane, Halifax.
HARROGATE	Mrs. THOMAS, 19, Beech Grove, Harrogate.
HOLMFIRTH	Miss WRIGHT, Scholes, near Huddersfield.
HUDDERSFIELD	Mrs. STUDDARD, 44, Springwood Street, Huddersfield.
ILKLEY	Mrs. G. FOSTER, Greenbank, Myddelton, Ilkley.
KEIGHLEY	Miss ROBINSON, Cote House, Crosshills, Keighley.
LEEDS	Miss I. O. FORD, 35, Park Square, Leeds.
NORMANTON	Miss DUTTON, 111, King Street, Normanton.
ROTHERHAM	Mrs. FOSTER, Jesmond Dene, Broom Road, Rotherham.
SETTLE	Mrs. HYSLOP.
SHEFFIELD	Mrs. GILL, 19, Southgrove Road, Sheffield.
SHIPLEY	Mrs. BRUNTON, 12, Park Mount Avenue, Baildon, Shipley.
SOWERBY BRIDGE	Miss STEVENSON, 6, Dunkirk Lane, Halifax.
WAKEFIELD	Miss BEAUMONT, Hatfeild Hall, Wakefield.

RULES.

1 The name of the Federation shall be the "WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES."

2 The area of the Federation shall consist of the constituencies of—

Barkston Ash,	Keighley,	Rotherham,
Barnsley,	Leeds (5),	Sheffield (5),
Bradford (3),	Morley,	Shipley,
Doncaster,	Normanton,	Skipton,
Dewsbury,	Otley,	Sowerby Bridge,
Elland,	Osgoldcross,	Spen Valley,
Holmfirth,	Pontefract,	Wakefield.
Halifax (2),	Pudsey.	
Hallamshire,	Ripon,	

3 Federation is open to all Women's Suffrage Societies in this area which are affiliated to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. Federated Societies shall pay 10% of the amount of their Annual Subscriptions, except in such cases as where the income is less than £10, when a Society shall pay a minimum Federation Fee of 10s.

4 There shall be a Committee consisting of one Member of the Executive of the National Union, and of representatives of all Women's Suffrage Societies contained within the area, and affiliated to the National Union.

5 The Representative Members shall be appointed annually by the Societies on the following basis:—For the first fifty members there shall be one Representative, and one more for every additional one hundred members.

6 The Federation Committee shall meet once a quarter, and more often if required.

7 The Accounts shall be audited annually by an Auditor or Auditors appointed by the Committee.

8 The Financial Year shall begin in April.

9 The work of the Federation shall be—

- (a) To promote the formation of New Societies in its area ;
- (b) To perfect existing organisation ;
- (c) To arrange joint meetings, and generally to secure co-operation among Societies in its area.

ANNUAL REPORT.

THE four months from April 1st to August 1st, 1914, was a period of very marked activity in the Federation, and there is every reason to be satisfied with the work done and the fresh interest shown by the Societies—this last was pleasingly demonstrated by the large attendance and the enthusiasm of the audience at the Annual Meeting on April 29th, when our President, Miss Siddon, very generously entertained the Federation, and we had the pleasure of hearing an excellent address on the political situation, and an explanation of the National Union policy from Miss Courtney.

HON. SECRETARY.

Mrs. Foster, Hon. Sec. of the Ilkley Society, has very kindly acted as Hon. Sec. of the Federation during the last ten months. In December Mrs. Renton went away on sick leave, and since then the entire secretarial work of the Federation has been admirably carried out by Mrs. Foster.

ACTIVE SERVICE LEAGUE AND PRESS WORK.

In May last we had a visit from Mrs. Harley, who spoke first on the work of the Active Service League in connection with which scheme our Miniature Pilgrimage was organised, and, secondly, on Press work. We have to announce with regret the resignation of Miss Foster as Press Secretary of the Federation—a post to which she gave a great deal of time and energy, and for which the thanks of the Federation are due to her. Up to the present it has not been found possible to secure anyone to take Miss Foster's place; this is regrettable, as the Press work is among the most important of the many activities of the Federation.

ORGANISATION.

Shortly after the last Annual Meeting, Miss Brandebourg, one of the Assistant Organisers in the Federation, was summoned home on urgent family business, and later resigned from the National Union. Another Organiser was offered in her place, but this offer had reluctantly to be refused, owing to lack of funds. Miss Loughnan was therefore the only Assistant Organiser on the General Staff, and during the months she was with us she did some excellent work. She began her duties with work at Horsforth. A very successful Public Meeting was organised,

at which Miss I. O. Ford spoke. A considerable number of members were enrolled, amounting to over 30, but when later Mrs. Renton addressed a meeting of members, it was decided not to form a separate Society at once, but to ask the Leeds Committee to accept Horsforth as a branch of the Leeds Society for a time, and this they agreed to do.

Later Miss Loughnan spent some weeks in the Skipton Division, making arrangements for the Miniature Pilgrimage, to be held in July. She organised a meeting at Settle, at which Mrs. Renton spoke, and a Society was formed there. Miss Loughnan also organised a deputation to Mr. Brigg, the prospective Liberal Candidate for the Division. She was fortunate in securing as members of the deputation some of the leading Liberal women. Mrs. Renton acted as spokeswoman for the Federation. Mr. Brigg promised to vote for any Franchise Bill—no matter whether it was even a limited one introduced by a Conservative Government. Arrangements were to be made for a deputation to the Conservative Candidate in the early autumn.

MINIATURE PILGRIMAGE.

This was one of the most noteworthy achievements ever carried through by the Federation. The preliminary organisation involved an immense amount of time and thought, but those who took part in the Pilgrimage felt that this humble copy of the great National Union Pilgrimage was a signal success. Meetings were addressed in small towns and villages which had never heard a Suffrage speaker before, and the audiences were not only invariably sympathetic, but in many cases remarkably enthusiastic, as was shown by the hundreds of friends' cards that were signed and the excellent collections taken.

Members of various Societies met at Bolton Abbey on July 20th. Meetings were held *en route* during the day, and a very large one at Grassington in the evening. After spending the night there, the route was continued to Kettlewell and Buckden on Tuesday; Skipton, Wednesday; Barnoldswick, Thursday; Hellifield, Friday, and Settle, Saturday. At this last-mentioned place the newly-formed Society had hurriedly taken a hall, as the weather was bad, and the packed audience welcomed the speakers—Miss I. O. Ford and Mrs. Earp—with great enthusiasm. The Pilgrims were entertained over Sunday by members of the Settle Society, and on Monday they proceeded to Ingleton, where the night was spent, and on Tuesday walked to Low Bentham. An excellent meeting was held there, and the Pilgrimage ended on Wednesday with a mid-day market meeting at High Bentham. Members of the Bradford, Doncaster, Huddersfield, Ilkley, Keighley, Settle, Rotherham, and Leeds and Wakefield Societies joined in the Pilgrimage. Miss I. O. Ford gave up many days, and roused great enthusiasm by her speeches.

Mrs. Lockwood, of Huddersfield, helped by acting as Chairman on several occasions, and the other speakers were Miss Muriel Matters, Mrs. Earp, Miss Wilkinson, of Manchester (who was in the district for a holiday, and very kindly spoke twice for us), and Mrs. Renton. The only matter for regret was that more of our members did not take advantage of this opportunity of showing their devotion to the cause, and so swell the numbers of Pilgrims. Those who did take part were enthusiastic in their appreciation of the scheme, and, we believe, thoroughly enjoyed this Miniature Pilgrimage.

E.F.F. WORK.

Until the outbreak of war the E.F.F. work in the Federation had been making great strides. Miss Hilston, in charge of East Leeds and West Bradford, had done admirable work; also Mrs. Oldham, in Rotherham. In the last place a candidate had been chosen, and the prospects of a successful campaign were rosy. The E.F.F. Committee had undoubtedly got into closer touch with the work in the Federation, and a visit from Miss Marshall stimulated effort. The E.F.F. work in the Federation was under Mrs. Renton's direction, and as this meant attendance at Committees in the different constituencies, it took up a considerable amount of time. In May Mrs. Renton went to the North-East Derbyshire E.F.F. Bye-Election, and later to the North-East Federation to visit their E.F.F. constituencies, as it was felt this added experience would be helpful.

WAR RELIEF WORK.

When war was declared the National Union decided to suspend political activities, and use its organisation for the help of sufferers from the economic and industrial dislocation caused by the outbreak of hostilities.

The Societies within the Federation responded at once to this new call on them, and have done admirable work on the lines suggested by the National Union.

It is impossible within the limits of this report to give a detailed account of their activities, but your Committee regards with pride the number of members who are placed in positions of importance on the various local Relief Committees.

Our President, Miss Siddon, is not only a prominent member of Committees in Huddersfield, but she and our Chairman, Miss I. O. Ford, were chosen as members of the West Riding Committee. Our Federation can, indeed, consider itself honoured, as there are only four women members of this Committee.

The Organisers who were in the field at the beginning of August were all lent for relief work by the National Union. Mrs. Renton acting as joint Hon. Sec. of the Lady Mayoress's Committee

in Leeds, and later as Secretary for the Sub-Committee on Women's Employment. Miss Hilston in Bradford helped to organise the Maternity Scheme, which has been started on such admirable lines, and later acted as Joint Secretary for the Women's Employment Committee. Mrs. Oldham in Rotherham has done excellent work in connection with various schemes.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

In presenting our financial report for the year 1914-15, there is no need to remind our Societies of the exceptional character of the year just concluded. The Bazaar, which had been arranged to take place in Wakefield in October, and upon which we were relying to place our Federation on a sound financial basis, and to which nearly all the Societies had promised contributions, had of necessity to be abandoned.

Since the outbreak of the war our expenses have been chiefly those incurred in keeping our organisation going; and in response to a special appeal for this purpose, in order that we might retain the valued services of Mrs. Renton, a sum of £14 8s. was subscribed, including a generous gift of £10 from our President. We have thus been enabled to keep in touch with all our Societies, so that when the time comes that we can again bring forward our claim to citizenship we may be ready and able to do effective work. An unexpected and very welcome addition to our funds came from the Annual Meeting of the National Union, namely £8 7s., earmarked by the kind donors for our Federation.

Our hearty thanks are due to all those who by their generosity are enabling our Federation to live through this difficult time. We would urge our Societies to support their Federation by every means in their power; by making, when possible, a local effort to raise funds, and by prompt payment of their affiliation fees. Unless we can have immediate financial support from our members and Societies, our work—and theirs—must of necessity be hampered. The Federation work is most important in two directions, namely, in keeping our Societies in touch with one another, and in giving them assistance when required with their relief work. We again earnestly beg everyone in our Societies to contribute to our funds at once as much as lies in their power, so that our Federation can be kept strong and active until this black shadow of war is lifted from our country.

FLORENCE M. BEAUMONT,
Hon. Treasurer.

BALANCE-SHEET, 1914-15.

		£	s.	d.
RECEIPTS.				
To	Balance forward ..	73	4	5
"	Affiliation Fees ..	20	8	6
"	Subscriptions ..	6	10	0
"	Donations to General Fund ..	3	19	0
"	Repayment of Loans ..	7	0	0
"	Returned by Organisers ..	5	13	3
"	Pilgrimage Fund ..	22	7	4
"	Special Appeal after declaration of war ..	13	18	0
"	Money paid by Societies for Speakers and Organisers ..	14	19	8
"	Sale of Literature ..	3	17	4
"	Collections ..	6	15	2
"	Interest on Loans and Bank Interest ..	0	9	0
"	National Union Active Service Appeal ..	8	7	0
"	Returned by G.N.R. Co. ..	0	1	2
		£187	9	10
PAYMENTS.				
By	Organisers and Speakers ..	93	11	0
"	Organising Secretary's Petty Cash ..	22	3	4
"	Literature purchased ..	6	16	4
"	Office Rent and Furniture ..	16	12	6
"	Printing, Advertising, and Stationery ..	8	8	0
"	Donation to National Union Active Service League, towards salary of Organising Secretary ..	12	0	0
"	Delegates' Expenses to Provincial Council ..	1	15	6
"	Expenses of Office Removal ..	1	6	4
"	Auditors' Fee ..	1	11	6
"	Hon. Secretary, Petty Cash ..	1	17	9
"	Hon. Treasurer, Petty Cash ..	2	7	9
"	Carriage Federation Banner ..	0	6	0
"	Cheque Book and Bank Charges ..	0	6	1
"	Cash in hand ..	18	7	9
		£187	9	10

Audited and found correct, 7th June, 1915,

JOSEPH H. GLOVER,

Incorporated Accountant.

FLORENCE M. BEAUMONT,

Hon. Treasurer, West Riding Federation.

WEST RIDING FEDERATION ELECTION FIGHTING FUND.

October 23rd, 1913, to December 31st, 1914.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
To Grants from National Union	..	132	17	6
" Subscriptions	..	1	19	6
" Rotherham Trades and Labour Council, for Registration Work	..	1	0	0
" Collections	..	1	5	0
" Money returned by Organiser	..	2	8	5
" Interest	..	0	9	9
		<hr/>		
		£140	0	2

Examined and found correct, July 1st, 1915.

THOS. BALDWIN.

PAYMENTS.		£	s.	d.
By Organisers and Speakers	..	75	8	8
" Secretary, Petty Cash	..	13	0	4
" Delegate's Expenses	..	1	9	4
" Printing	..	1	15	3
" Cheque Books	..	0	5	0
" Balance in Bank	..	48	1	7
		<hr/>		
		£140	0	2

CELIA WRAY,
ALICE L. EMBLETON,
Hon. Treasurers.

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REPORTS FROM AFFILIATED SOCIETIES.

ACKWORTH. *President:* Mrs. BOUCH; *Hon. Sec.:* Miss ANDREWS; *Hon. Treasurer:* Miss WILLIAMSON. Membership, 30. Income, £3.

Meetings: One Drawing-room Meeting. War Relief Work: All members very active.

BARNESLEY. *President:* Lady WALTON, Rushpool, Saltburn-by-the-Sea; *Vice-President:* Mrs. ALEXANDER, Keir House; *Hon. Treasurer:* T. BALDWIN, Esq., Oakworth House, Barnsley; *Hon. Secretaries:* Miss WRAY, Fairfield House, Barnsley, and Miss WHITE, 11, Victoria Road, Barnsley. Membership, 92. Money collected, £27 9s. 8d.

BINGLEY. *President:* Miss MORTON; *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. WALKER; *Hon. Treasurer:* Miss WEBB.

Since the outbreak of war this Society has raised a considerable sum of money in aid of the local Belgian Fund.

BRADFORD. *Office:* 136a, Manningham Lane. *President:* Mrs. A. ILLINGWORTH (resigned); *Chairman of Committee:* Mrs. BERNHEIM; *Hon. Sec.:* Miss NACHBAR (*pro tem.*); *Org. Sec.:* Miss ASHBY (till last December); *Hon. Treasurers:* Miss NACHBAR, Miss REYNARD; *Common Cause Sec.:* Mrs. G. LAND; *Sec. Friends of Suffrage:* Miss SMEATON. Membership, 373. Amount raised for General Fund from May, 1914, to middle of March, 1915, £138 5s. 6d.; for Special Relief Fund, £29 9s. 1d.; for Suffrage Hospitals, £17; for Belgian House, £60.

During April, 1914, various Trade Union meetings were addressed, at which suffrage resolutions were passed. May 1st, Public Meeting; Speaker, Mrs. Rackham. May 25th, Annual Meeting; Speaker, Mrs. Renton.

Three Garden Parties in June and July, at which addresses on work of Active Service League were given, two Drawing-room Meetings in June, and four Open-air Meetings. Speakers included Misses I. O. Ford, Muriel Matters, and Mrs. Earp.

On the outbreak of war relief work was immediately organised. Miss Ashby was lent as Secretary to the Lady Mayoress's War Guild, where she remained till end of December, when her engagement with us terminated. The Suffrage Office was lent for bandage-rolling, and weekly sewing meetings were held for the poor of Bradford, at which some of our members were employed. Addresses were given at these meetings on the "War," "Work of the Guardians," "Rescue Work," "The Work of the Women's Employment Committee," and similar subjects connected with women's work.

A Public Meeting was held in October, at which Miss Royden spoke on "Women and War."

A Maternity Care Committee was organised in conjunction with other women's organisations, and the work of feeding and nursing of expectant mothers was undertaken by the Committee. The Society is represented on the Women's Employment Committee organised by the National Union of Women Workers, and will be represented on the newly-organised Soldiers' and Sailors' Dependents Committee as organised by the city.

A small beginning has been made, with the help of the junior members, on the lines of the Active Service Cadet Corps, and a Girls' Club has been formed.

A house has been taken and furnished by the members for fifteen Belgian refugees. There are four men who speak and understand English. They have already attended a suffrage meeting at the office; and there are four girls, who come to the Girls' Club on Monday evenings.

DEWSBURY. *President*: Mr. W. B. CRAWSHAW; *Hon. Treasurer*: Miss WALKER; *Hon. Secretaries*: Miss FROST, Miss LAW, Miss PICKERSGILL. Money raised, £21 0s. 7d.

Like all other Suffrage Associations, our Society has made no attempt to advance the Suffrage cause during the period of the war; therefore, the report we now bring before you deals with the Society's efforts up to the end of July. During the spring we held a number of small meetings in the Café, with the object of providing an opportunity for members to discuss different aspects of Suffrage work.

On March 16th, Mr. Parkinson, the Town Missioner, read a very interesting Paper on "Women and the Temperance Question." Mrs. S. Gill and Mrs. Barraclough kindly came, as representatives of the B.W.T.A., to help with the discussion.

On April 2nd the subject, "Women and Poor Law," was introduced by Mr. J. H. Dyson. Several lady Guardians were present and spoke.

On April 23rd Mrs. Holden very kindly read a Paper on "Women and the Divorce Laws."

An attempt was made to do propaganda work by holding a Public Meeting in the Exchange Hall on April 30th. Mrs. Rackham made a splendid speech, but, unfortunately, the attendance was small, so it was decided to have no more indoor meetings for some time.

However, an Open-Air Meeting was held on June 18th. Mr. W. Morgan presided, and Mrs. Earp (Rotherham) was the speaker. This was one of our most satisfactory meetings; we had a good crowd, quite interested and favourably inclined. Forty friends' cards were signed.

A Jumble Sale to raise funds for the Society's work was organised for May 8th. This resulted in a net profit of £6 15s. 6d.

It is somewhat difficult to estimate the progress of the Society during the past year, as we have only the first seven months to take into consideration. During that time 88 members paid subscriptions; of these 40 are new members.

As we began the year with a membership of 128, and we have now a total of 110 friends, we trust that we shall find strong support in the town when it shall be possible to take up the work again. Members active in relief work.

DONCASTER. *President*: Lady NICHOLSON; *Hon. Sec.*: Miss HUBBARD; *Hon. Treasurer*: Miss LYND. Membership, 68. Money raised: General Fund, £8 11s. 4d.; Work for Women, £15 16s. 8d.

Meetings: Three Committee, four Members', two Open-Air.

War relief work: Members very active, several of them acting as "Patrols."

GOOLE. *President*: Mrs. C. I. MATTHEWS; *Hon. Secretary*: Mrs. GREAVES; *Hon. Treasurer*: Mrs. C. I. MATTHEWS. Membership, 40. Money raised, £15.

Committee Meetings, six; Drawing-room, none; Public, one; Open-air, none. Chief piece of work was organising Jumble Sale, which realised £10; proceeds spent in providing necessitous children with boots (forty in number).

HALIFAX. *President*: Rev. Prebendary A. E. BURN, D.D., The Vicarage; *Hon. Treasurer*: Miss ELLIS, Hill Crest, Burnley Road; *Hon. Secretary*: Mrs. QUILTER, 54, Free School Lane; *Common Cause Correspondent and Press Secretary*: Miss LAVENA SALTONSTALL. Membership, 59. Money raised by subscriptions, £5 16s.

Meetings, three: The inaugural meeting on May 4th, 1914, at which Mrs. Renton expounded the aims and methods of the National Union, and when the Committee was formed.

A Public Meeting on May 15th, 1914. Miss Ford principal speaker. Satisfactory meeting; many members enrolled.

Open-Air Meeting, July 2nd, 1914. Mrs. Earp principal speaker. Weather poor, but meeting quite good, considering.

An excellent autumn programme had been arranged, including a meeting in Elland. When the war broke out all was cancelled. The Committee decided to offer the services of the Society to the Citizens' Guild of Help, the help given to take the form of the providing of garments for necessitous children. The Committee went into the matter carefully, and was averse to urging its members to make shirts or anything which might deprive workers of their livelihood, but they felt that the same objection could not be raised against providing clothes for little children, who probably seldom knew the luxury of a new, clean garment. All the members were called upon or written to, and the response has been good. Many parcels of useful clothes have been sent by the Hon. Sec. to the Guild (members were asked to send their contributions to me), and many cordial and grateful acknowledgments have been received from the Guild. The Secretary asked the official of the Guild for names and addresses of women wanting work, as the Society would have tried to employ them to do some of the sewing (only one name has been forthcoming up to now). Paragraphs have been put in the local papers about our work.

HARROGATE. *Hon. Sec.*: Mrs. FRANK THOMAS, 19, Beech Grove, Harrogate. Membership, 122. Amount raised during the year for all purposes, £36 15s.

During the months preceding the war three Public Meetings were held, which were addressed by Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Geraldine Cooke, Miss I. O. Ford, Mrs. Parrish, Dr. Laura Veale, and Professor A. J. Grieve, M.A., D.D. Also during June and July a Stall was held in the Knaresborough Market every Wednesday, which aroused much interest, and afforded an excellent opportunity for conversation with frequenters of the market, and for the sale and free distribution of Suffrage literature.

On the outbreak of war, the usual work being suspended, the Society subscribed £10 to the Mayor's Fund for the relief of local distress, and all active members have since been at work in the many organisations for the mitigation of suffering arising from the war. The Society is at present engaged in an effort to raise a fund for the endowment of beds in the Scottish Women's Hospital in Serbia.

HOLMFIRTH. *Hon. Secretary*: Miss WRIGHT; *Hon. Treasurer*: Mrs. WOOD. Membership, 24.

Six Committee Meetings; two Public Meetings. Members active in Red Cross work.

HUDDERSFIELD. *President*: Miss SIDDON, J.P.; *Hon. Treasurer*: Miss M. JOHNSTON; *Hon. Secretary*: Mrs. STUDDARD, 44, Springwood Street; *Common Cause Secretary*: Miss PYRAH; *Friends of Women's Suffrage*: Miss W. Willans. Membership, 250. Income, £32 5s. 2½d.

Ten Committee Meetings have been held. The principal feature of the year was the visit of Miss Rosina Schwimmer, who spoke at the Annual Garden Party, three short weeks before the outbreak of war. Miss Siddon, the Mayoress,

and all our principal workers were at once absorbed in the local relief and Red Cross work. Subscriptions have been sent to headquarters to help in the work there, and a collection was made from our members for the Prince of Wales' Fund.

ILKLEY. *President:* Mrs. RABAGLIATI, Whinbrae, Ben Rhydding; *Chairman of Committee:* Mrs. LOMAX, Old Bank House, Ilkley; *Hon. Treasurer:* Mrs. ATKINSON, Grammar School, Ilkley; *Hon. Secretary:* Mrs. FOSTER, Greenbank, Ilkley; *Federation Representative:* Mrs. RABAGLIATI. Membership, 135. Money raised during year, £37 4s. 1d. Meetings: Nine Committee, one Open-Air, one Garden Party.

A Women's Employment Committee was formed in September to help to alleviate distress caused by the war, and has done good work amongst women employed in sewing trades.

A Hospital Workroom was opened, with the double object of helping the N.U.W.S.S. Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service and keeping the members of the Society together. It has, however, attracted workers outside the Society, and is doing very good work.

KEIGHLEY. *President:* Miss S. CLOUGH, Haincliffe, Keighley; *Vice-Presidents:* Miss COCKSHOTT, Wildfell, Oakworth; Miss McKECHNIR, 3, Albert Street; Rev. A. R. LIGHT, Vicarage, Sutton-in-Craven; *Hon. Treasurer:* Mrs. GRINDROD, 13, Holder Street, Keighley; *Hon. Secretary:* Miss W. ROBINSON, Cote House, Crosshills; *Minutes Secretary:* Mrs. HAGGAS, Oakworth Manor. Membership, 90.

LEEDS. *President:* Mrs. CONNON; *Hon. Secretary:* Miss I. O. FORD; *Hon. Treasurer:* Miss FORD; *Hon. Friends' W.S. Secretary:* Miss FOSTER. Membership, 405. Income, roughly about £200; but, of course, the war has made a great difference.

"At Homes" and other meetings.

Several "At Homes" were held during April and May of last year, and five have been held this year during June and July, at which we have had various speakers. Five successful Drawing-room Meetings and Garden Parties were held. Miss I. O. Ford, Mrs. Renton, and Miss Rogers, our late Organising Secretary, addressed several Co-operative Guilds. Our Society organised a meeting during the great Wesleyan Conference in July. Miss Muriel Matters gave a fine address at a Mass Meeting held during the Conference, and the Bishop of Oxford spoke on two claims for freedom, *i.e.* "The Women's Claim" and the "Claim of Labour," which made a great impression.

Since the war broke out we have lent our Office to the Lady Mayoress's Committee for bandage making. We also raised £103 10s. 5d., all of which, with the exception of £10 which was given to the bandage work, was given to the Sub-Committee of the local Relief Committee, to enable them to open a Workroom for the unemployed women in the city. This prompt action on our part has gained much gratitude both from the workers and the Employment Committee.

Miss Margaret Ashton gave an inspiring address on "Schemes of Patrol Work, etc.," on 22nd October, in the Priestley Hall, and the collection was sent to the Queen's Work for Women Fund. We are hoping to have a campaign in the autumn for the Scottish Hospitals.

NORMANTON. *President:* Mrs. JOHNSON; *Hon. Secretary:* Miss J. D. DUTTON; *Hon. Treasurer:* Miss CUMBERBIRCH. Membership, 40. Meetings: One (June 30th).

ROTHERHAM. *President:* Mrs. ARTHUR HABERSON; *Vice-Presidents:* Rev. J. S. DRUMMOND, Miss HIRST, Mrs. EARP; *Committee of Twelve:* *Hon. Auditor:* Mr. MACLAGAN; *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:* Mrs. W. H. FOSTER. Membership, 82. Amount of money raised, £19 8s. 0½d.

The members meet every month, in the Temperance Hall. The Committee meet ten days before this.

June 23rd. Our President, Mrs. Habershon, gave an "At Home" at her house. Mrs. Renton and Mrs. Oldham were the speakers.

July 25th. Had a Jumble Sale, and raised over £5.

August. Secretary wrote Mayor after war declared offering our help in relief work, etc. Accepted, and each of Committee and other members have been working all the time on this relief work.

December. Held Public Meeting for Queen's Work for Women Fund (all the proceeds sent to Queen's Work for Women Fund). Lady Rochdale and Miss Fielden (Secretary to Lady Roxburgh, Queen's Fund), speakers. Previously to this, Mrs. MacLagan and Mrs. Oldham collected and sent £6 (house-to-house visitation).

Large number of Open-Air Meetings held.

The Labour Suffrage Club met weekly until the war. Members went a tramp into Derbyshire, giving out Suffrage leaflets on their way.

OTHER WORK DONE.—In the summer months 3 dozen *Common Causes* on an average were sold in the streets.

The Women's Co-operative Guild approached us *re* Maternity Scheme, and we promised to help them in the development of this scheme.

A Club for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives has been started, Mrs. Oldham having organised it, and spends some of her time there, taking turns with members of Committee and some outsiders. Mrs. MacLagan, the Treasurer of this Club, spends a lot of time there, especially during Mrs. Oldham's three weeks' holiday. Altogether, a lot of hard work is put into this, as there is a membership of 92, each member paying one penny weekly.

SETTLE. *President:* Mrs. ATKINSON; *Hon. Secretaries:* Mrs. HYSLOP and Mrs. DOUGLAS; *Hon. Treasurer:* Mrs. MIDDLEMISS. Membership, 30.

Society only formed in July, 1914. Large meeting held during Miniature Pilgrimage Meeting in August. Members busy with relief work.

SHEFFIELD. *President:* Mrs. H. A. L. FISHER; *Hon. Secretary:* Mrs. GILL; *Hon. Treasurer:* Mrs. HELLIWELL. Income, £80 12s. 6d.

WAR WORK.—A War Register was started at the Office, also a Clearing House for voluntary workers, men and women.

Meetings were held both afternoon and evening at the Nether Chapel Schoolroom, when Miss Ann Macbeth spoke on "Needlework as an Educational Craft."

A Members' Meeting was held at the Office on February 26th. Miss Maxfield presided, and Mrs. Fisher spoke on "Women's Work in War-time."

Working Parties met weekly for some time for several months.

A Whist Drive in aid of our funds was held in February, and proved very successful.

SHIPLEY. *President:* Mrs. MILLER; *Vice-Presidents:* Rev. R. WHINCUP, Rev. P. D. PRINGLE, Rev. W. BOWKER, Sir ELLIS DENBY, R. LINDLEY, Esq., W. HANDLEY, Esq.; *Hon. Treasurer:* A. H. ELGEY, Esq.; *Hon. Secretaries:* Mrs. BRUNTON and Miss BEST. Membership, 67. Money raised since April, 1913:—Jumble Sale, £6 2s. 7d.; War Relief Fund, £5 11s. 6d.; New Year Tea Party, £12 12s. 3d. Total amount raised, £24 6s. 4d.

Number of Committee Meetings, 9. Number of General Meetings, 3.

A Jumble Sale was held on Friday evening, April 24th, 1914, and after expenses were paid, the sum of £4 6s. was added to the Society's Funds.

The Annual Meeting of the Shipley Branch was held at Saltaire Institute on June 25th.

In September the sum of £5 11s. 6d. was collected by members of the Committee for the War Relief Fund. This sum was sent to the Ladies Committee of the Shipley War Relief Fund, to be used in giving work to women who were unemployed through the war.

In January a New Year Tea Party was given to children of Shipley soldiers and sailors in the Parish Church Schools. About 320 children attended, and had a very happy Tea Party. Shipley residents contributed very generously towards the effort of the Society.

SOWERBY BRIDGE. *President*: Rev. J. B. COVENTRY, Beech Villa, Sowerby Bridge; *Vice-President*: Miss BLACK, Peel Street, Sowerby Bridge; *Hon. Treasurer*: Mrs. JOHNSON, School House, Sowerby Bridge; *Hon. Secretary*: Miss STEVENSON, 6, Dunkirk Lane, Halifax. Membership, 35.

Number of Committee Meetings, 4; Public Meeting, 1; Open-Air Meeting, 1.

We had a most successful Open-Air Meeting last June, when Mrs. Earp was the speaker. Rev. H. R. Barry was in the chair.

At the Public Meeting Miss Bewley gave an historical account of the Suffrage movement, and Miss Matthias gave a dramatic reading, "A Chat with Mrs. Chickey."

Several of our members are serving on the various Relief Committees in the district.

WAKEFIELD. *Hon. Secretary*: Miss BEAUMONT, Hatfeild Hall; *Hon. Treasurer*: Mrs. HINDMARSH, Manygates Lane, Sandal.

Money raised, April 1st, 1914-15:—For Society, £25 0s. 10½d.; for Wakefield Relief Fund, £21 1s. 6d. Total amount raised, £46 2s. 4½d.

Meetings: Committee, 7; Garden, 1; Drawing-room and Sale, 1. Total, 9.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.—Members are actively engaged in various forms of relief work, including serving on War Relief Committees, City Clothing Bureau, Soup Kitchen, helping with Belgian refugee work, local V.A.D., and Clubs for wives of men on active service.

PAMPHLET