# National Union of WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

REDHILL, REIGATE AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

(Surrey, Sussex and Hants Federation.)

Annual Report, 1914-15,

ANI

Balance Sheet.

Organising Secretary:

Miss AMY KLEIN, Hatherlow, Reigate.

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**PAMPHLET** 

## NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

NON-PARTY. NON-MILITANT.

President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

REDHILL, REIGATE AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.

President: Mrs. Auerbach.

### Vice-Presidents:

Mrs. R. B. Lemon, Mrs. James Powell,

Miss E. Sargant,

Mrs. Culme-Seymour,

Mrs. Shaen,

Lady Katherine Somerset

Mrs. Arthur Thompson.

Arer:
dersyde, Reigate.

Arry:
croft, Reigate.

Hon. Treasurer:

Miss Hilda Powell, Aldersyde, Reigate.

Hon. Secretary:

Miss Crosfield, Undercroft, Reigate.

Organising Secretary:

Miss Amy Klein, Hatherlow, Raglan Road, Reigate.

#### Committee.

Miss Barnard,

Miss Bates, Mrs. Flügel,

Mrs. Gunning-Keen,

Mrs. Morris,

Mrs. W. Morrison,

Miss E. Nevinson,

Miss Scott,

Mrs. Staniland,

Mrs. Uloth.

### NINTH ANNUAL REPORT.

Your Committee have pleasure in presenting to the Redhill, Reigate and District Women's Suffrage Society, their Report of the work of the Society during the past year.

Across the middle of their record falls a dividing line. During the three months before August 4th, our Suffrage work was carried on as usual, but after that momentous date, your Committee, following the course marked out for the general direction of the Societies by the Council of the N.U.W.S.S., putting on one side temporarily the more political aspects of its work, called upon its Members, in the circular issued in August, to direct their energies to help their fellow-citizens and to serve their country in the present crisis. Our Society has given help in various important ways as the following Report indicates.

Political Situation.—Before the war, the position of Women's Suffrage was full of promise. It is satisfactory to recall that three Bills were introduced into the House of Commons which included provision for the extension of the Suffrage to Women. These were:—

- (1) The Labour Party's Representation of the People Bill;
- (2) The Welsh Home Rule Bill;
- (3) The Scottish Home Rule Bill;

and an important Bill affecting the position of Women as Citizens was passed. This Bill based eligibility for all Local Councils on a residential qualification, and thus very largely increased the number of women who are eligible for these bodies, and married women, and daughters living at home, whether paying rates or not, can now stand for election.

What result the Great War will have on the enfranchisement of women no one can foretell, but there are many indications which lead women to regard the future of their cause hopefully. Within the last few weeks the Government has definitely appealed to women to offer their services to their country; when an appeal to do the work of citizens is made publicly to women, their full recognition as citizens can surely hardly fail to follow ere long.

Before the War.—Our Annual Meetings fall in due course near the end of the winter season, consequently there are only a few Meetings to record which were held before the War broke out.

Jumble Sale.—On Wednesday, May 27th, a Jumble Sale was held at the Cecil Hall, Redhill, and the sum of £13 11s. 2d. was realised. We are glad to avail ourselves of this opportunity to thank those of our members who rendered help in various ways. Our thanks are specially due to Mrs. Buckland and Mrs. Faulkner.

Garden Meeting.—On June 8th, Mr. and Mrs. J. Auerbach invited members and friends to an "At Home" to meet \*Mrs. Harley, who kindly came to speak on the Active Service League (within the National Union) of which she is the founder, and Miss M. Bussé gave great pleasure by her delightful recitations. The Meeting was very well attended and several new Members joined. There was also a large demand for 'The Common Cause.'

Drawing-room Meeting.—By the kind invitation of Mrs. Faulkner, who lent her drawing-room for the purpose, a meeting was held on July 18th, when Miss N. O'Shea gave an interesting address. The chair was taken by Mrs. Arthur Buckland, and a number of new Members were enrolled.

International Women's Suffrage Alliance.—The President and Officers of the Alliance met in London early in July for a business conference, and on the 12th July, Mr. and Mrs. J. Auerbach entertained the party at Reigate, and invited representative local suffragists to meet them. Short speeches were given by Mrs. Chapman Catt, President of the I.W.S.A., Mrs. Fawcett and others, and Delegates from most European countries were present on this interesting occasion.

After the War began.—At the commencement of the War the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies announced its decision to suspend political work for the time being, and to devote its entire organisation to the relief of distress caused by the War.

Mrs. Henry Fawcett issued an Appeal to all Societies in the Union to band themselves together for the purpose of rendering the greatest possible aid to their country at this momentous epoch.

<sup>\*</sup>Mrs. Harley (who is a sister of Sir John French) is now Administrator of the Scottish Women's Hospital at Royaumont, which is one of the Hospitals organised, equipped and maintained by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

Redhill and Reigate Women's Suffrage Society prepared immediately to respond to this appeal, and a letter was addressed to the Mayor of Reigate, offering any assistance that might be required to any local Distress Committee that might be formed.

A canvass was taken among the members of the Society to ascertain the amount of work which each Member was prepared to do, and a register was made of all who were willing to give any kind of assistance.

The services of the Organising Secretary, Miss Klein, were offered and accepted by the Town Clerk shortly after the commencement of the War to assist the work of the Distress Fund Committee, and for many months Miss Klein has been working at the Municipal Buildings. In enabling Miss Klein to give war service to the community of this Borough the Society felt that it was making a very valuable contribution to the Distress Fund, by bearing the cost of the professional help it was giving, and letters have been received from the Town Clerk expressing appreciation of the valuable services that Miss Klein has rendered. She is also acting as Secretary to the Moat House Sub-committee of the War Refugee Committee.

Relief Work for Unemployed Women.—As soon as it became known that a number of girls and women in the district were thrown out of work, either directly or indirectly on account of the War, the Society devoted special attention to the question of Relief Employment, and appointed a special Sub-committee to deal with this subject. A Fund was raised and offers were collected from all who were willing to give orders for needlework to be executed by unemployed women. This Fund has enabled the Society to give employment to twenty-six women and girls since last August, and of these applicants thirteen were introduced by the Labour Exchange, to whom they had applied for work. The Society has also been instrumental in finding both permanent and temporary situations for girls and women. The eagerness shown to obtain employment has been a proof that the great need felt by the women was for work and not charity, and the Society is glad that their organisation of Relief Employment has been able to meet this want.

All materials supplied were bought at local shops, and in order in no way to interfere with local trade, the garments made by the unemployed needlewomen have been distributed to those families who would not have been able to purchase them themselves. In this way women's and children's clothing has been distributed to many families on the recommendation of investigators of the Distress

Fund Committee, besides which many useful garments have been made and sent to the Hospitals organised by the Scottish Federation of the N.U.W.S.S. and other Red Cross Hospitals, the Belgian Refugees, the Local Clothing Depot, and to other agencies distributing comforts to soldiers and sailors.

Maternity Outfits have also been made by means of the Women's Employment Fund, and these are given to the War Babies born in the Borough. The mothers have been most grateful for the outfits, and in many cases the fathers have written also to say how much they appreciated the help given to their wives during their absence.

Although many of those whom the Society has assisted have now obtained situations, there are still a number of highly skilled, as well as less skilled needle-women in want of work, who for various reasons are unable to leave their homes to seek work in other districts; the Society hopes that funds will enable them to carry on this work as long as the need exists. Further contributions to the Women's Employment Fund will be gratefully received, and should be addressed to Miss Hilda Powell, Aldersyde, Reigate.

Work Parties.—The Society also organised weekly work parties in Reigate, and in Redhill Miss Woodward (of Esperance), a member of the Committee of the Society, gathered together a most successful group of workers, under the name of "The Willing Helpers' Band." The Willing Helpers consisted, for the most part, of skilled working men and women who met weekly, and with the very simplest materials have made large quantities of children's clothing, and useful articles for the comfort of the men serving at the Front, and in Hospitals, and gifts of toys and clothing for the Belgian Refugees, also for necessitous children in the Borough. They have provided over 400 articles for distribution. Many useful garments were also contributed by the working party at Clears, organised by Mrs. W. Taylor.

A most successful Sale of Work was organised by Mrs. Klein, a member of the Women's Employment Sub-committee. The proceeds of the sale, amounting to over £57, were divided between the Women's Employment Fund of this Society, the Reigate Red Cross Hospital and the Reigate War Refugee Fund.

Maternity and Infant Welfare.—Important work connected with mothers and children has been undertaken by the N.U.W.S.S., in co-operation with the Women's Co-operative Guild, and all local Societies were urged to devote a large part of their activities to the same enterprise.

Your Committee were of the opinion that in this district also a need existed for stimulating Infant Welfare Work, and that good results would be obtained by the establishment of a Maternity Centre. Representatives of your Committee in co-operation with others interested in the subject, assisted in organising a Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare, at which the Mayor of Reigate presided, and the following resolution was carried:—

"This Conference wishes to draw attention to the importance of providing an adequate public service for Maternity and Child Welfare, and urges the Town Council to consider the desirability of establishing a Maternity Centre in the Borough, and of taking such other steps as may be practicable in accordance with the schemes recommended by the Local Government Board for promoting the health of Mothers and Infants."

Your Committee also distributed a considerable amount of educational literature, dealing with this question, and they hope that results productive of lasting benefit will be the outcome of these efforts.

General Activities.—Many individual members of the Society are engaged in various forms of useful activity: a member of the Committee, Mrs. G. Keen, is commandant of the Reigate Red Cross Hospital; one member is a nursing sister in a hospital for wounded soldiers near Folkestone; three members of the Society were appointed to the Reigate Distress Fund Committee, and several members are assisting in the organisation of Women Patrols and the Girls' League of Honour, and Invalid Kitchens; also they are giving help in the care of Belgian Refugees and soldiers' canteens.

Early in June Miss Crossfield left England to attend the Meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in Australia, and was absent till November. Shortly after her return she invited all members and friends to tea at the Public Hall, Reigate, to meet Mrs. Rackham, P.L.G., who gave a description of some of the work undertaken by women since the commencement of the war.

Your Committee hopes shortly to organise educational courses for the purpose of encouraging the study of the causes which lead to war, the consequences of war on the economic, intellectual and moral aspects of life, and the consideration of what means can be taken to prevent war in the future. Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire Federation.—Changes in the organisation of the Federation, owing to its increasing size, have recently been made. Miss M. O'Shea, who has served the Federation as Hon. Secretary from the very commencement—and to whom its great development is largely due—has resigned, and the Federation Committee has decided that the time has come to divide the work, and in consequence three Honorary Secretaries have been appointed: Miss M. O'Shea, for Hampshire; Miss M. E. Verrall, for Sussex; and Miss Noeline Baker, of Guildford, for Surrey.

Miss Helen Wright has been appointed as Organising Secretary for the whole Federation. Your Delegates to the Federation Committee have recently been Miss Barnard and Miss Klein.

We cannot let this occasion pass without expressing the cordial thanks of our Society to Miss O'Shea for her untiring and invaluable work for the Federation during so many years.

Local Organisation.—In June Miss Amy Klein undertook the work of Organising Secretary; this post had been vacant since the resignation of Miss Powell, in the previous November, and owing to the absence of Miss Crosfield the Hon. Secretary, the secretarial work passed entirely into Miss Klein's hands.

In October the Committee was greatly strengthened by the addition of Miss Hilda Powell, who also became Hon. Treasurer, a post which had become vacant when Mrs. Charlton left the neighbourhood, some months previously.

Your Committee congratulate the Society that its finances are again in such competent hands.

The following ladies have resigned from the Committee in the course of the year:—Miss Kensett, Mrs. Morris, but we are glad to say that Mrs. Morris has consented to be nominated for re-election. The following members are retiring, and do not seek re-election:—Miss C. Hooper (co-opted during the year), Mrs. Hughes, Miss Woodward. We offer them our warmest thanks for the interest they have taken in our work and their active co-operation.

We regret to record that death has removed from our ranks two of our valued members, Mrs. Hobson and Mrs. Ellis.

Several of our members have been serving at the front, and one of these, Mr. Kenneth Powell, is among the honoured dead. We share in the very widespread regret which is felt at his loss. Others of our members have been called to give up their sons for their country. To these, and all who suffer bereavement we offer our deepest sympathy.

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The 'Common Cause.'—The new activities of the N.U.W.S.S. have been very fully dealt with in the Organ of the Union, which has maintained its high level, and has often contained articles of great interest. Many of our members take in the 'Common Cause,' but we should be glad if it were still more widely known and read.

In conclusion we want to draw the attention of our members to the fact that at a time when the thought and energy of men are concentrated on war, and on providing the munitions of war, domestic and social questions are liable to be neglected or overlooked, and women who naturally realize the importance of these questions even more than men, should be more than ever on the watch to safeguard the vital forces of the nation in these matters. Many new questions also are arising, and will continue to arise, out of the war, in the solution of which the help of women will be needed.

Since the war began many examples have occurred of restrictions and indignities which have been put on women, and the need for constant watchfulness to protect the liberties and interests of women has been made very clear.

Finally, on every ground of justice, utility and of common sense, the war has served rather to emphasise than to lessen the need for the enfranchisement of women.

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ending December 31st, 1914.

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payments made and consider that the above correctly STUART STEPHENS. I have examined the books of the Society and vouchers for represents the state of the Society's finances.

## WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT FUND.

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DONATIONS.	EXPENDITURE.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Lemon, Mr. R. B 20 0 0	Wages 15 6 8
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Klein 20 0 0	Balance at Bank Dec.
Flügel, Mrs 5 0 0	31st, 1914 40 2 $9\frac{3}{4}$
Auerbach, Mrs 5 0 0	
Gibb, Mrs. James 3 3 0	
Taylor, Mrs. W 3 0 0	
Woodward, Miss 2 5 0	
Crowley, Miss 2 0 0	
Davidson, Mrs 2 2 0	
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Zealand 2 0 0	
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Earle, Mrs. and Miss I O O	
Sewill, Mrs I O O	
Mason, Mrs 10 6	
Uloth, Mrs 10 0	
Finlayson, Miss L 10 0	
Keeling, Mrs 10 0	
Perrin, Mrs 10 0	
Nevinson, Miss 10 0	
Faulkner, Mrs 5 0	
Porter, Miss 2 6	
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Allen, Miss		•••	•••		I	0					
Ashby, Mr. J. W.			•••		I	0					
Ashby Mrs. J. W.			•••		I	0					
Ashby, Miss A. K.			•••		I	0					
Ashby, Mr. C. L.		•••	•••		I	0					
Ashby, Dr. Elizabeth			•••		I	0					
Auerbach, Mrs.			•••	10	0	0					
Banks, Miss (paid in 1	(913)		•••								
Barnard, Miss			•••		5	0			7	6	
Bates, Miss E.			•••		I	0					
Bates, Miss M.					I	0					
Bindten, Miss Keil vo	n				2	6					
Bonner, Miss			•••		I	0					
Briggs, Miss					I	0					
Brown, Miss M.					I	0					
Chapman, Miss					2	6					
Charlton, Mr. J. W.	***				2	6					
Charlton, Mrs.					5	0			I	0	
Cloudsley, Mrs.					2	0					
Cook, Mrs.					I	0					
Cornish, Miss					1	0			I	0	
Crosfield, Miss				7	0	0		I	5	8	
Crosfield, Mrs. H.					I	0					
Crowley, Miss E.					2	6					
Croucher, Mrs.					I	0					
Croucher, Miss					I	0					
Davies, Rev. F. C.					I	0					
Day, Miss A. M.					I	0					
Drew, Mr.					5	0					
Drew, Mrs.					5	0					
Drew, Mrs. G.					2						
Duncan, Miss M. F.					I	0					
Earle, Mrs.					2	-					
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Evans, Hon. Mrs. W	albrand	•••			5	100					
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Foster, Miss H. M.	•••										
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Garratt, Mrs.			•••		1						
Gayford, Mrs.	•••		•••		1						
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Gough, Dr. and Mrs.	A. B.			10	6		0
Green, Mrs				IO	0	5 5	0
Gunning-Keen, Mrs.				2	0	5	0
Harman, Miss				I	0		
Headley, Mrs.				2	6		
Hewett, Mrs.		•••		I	0		
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Hinks, Miss E. H.	•••	•••	•••				
Hinks, Miss K. J.		•••		I	0		
Hinks, Miss F. A.	•••	•••	•••	I	0		
Hoad, Mrs.	•••			2	6		
Hobson, Mrs.		•••	•••	I	0		
Hobson, Miss				I	0		
Hood, Miss				I	0		
Hooper, Mrs. V.				I	0		
Hooper, Miss C.				I	0	I	0
Hooper, Miss M.				I	0	I	0
Hawkins, Miss M.				I	0		
Hughes, Mrs.				3	0		
Hughes, Mrs. K.				3	0		
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James, Mrs.				2			
Jameson, Mrs.	•••	•••	•••	2	6		
Johns, Miss				I	0		
Johnson, Mrs.	•••	•••	•••	I	0		
Jones, Mrs. Balfour				2	0		
Judd, Miss				I	0		
Keeling, Mrs.				I 0	0		
Kenrick, Miss				I	0		
Kidd, Miss				I	0	I	0
King, Mrs. G.				I	0		
King, Mr. Geoffrey				I	0		
Kingsbury, Miss				I	4		
Klein, Mrs.		•••	•••		0		
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Klein, Mr. S. B.		•••		I	0		
Knight, Mrs. F.				I	0		
Latham, Mrs.				I	0		
Lemon, Mrs.				10	6		
Lewis, Miss H. E.				I	0		
Linsell, Mrs.				I	0		
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Marriage, Miss				I	0		
Mills, Miss C.				I	0		
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Stainland, Mr. J.				I	0			
Stainland, Mrs. J.				I	0			
Stephens, Mrs.				2	6			
Tenscher, Miss E. M.				2	0			
Thompson, Mrs.				5	0			
Thorpe, Miss				I	0			
Tickner, Miss				I	0			
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Uloth, Mrs.				5	0			
Walker, Miss R.				5	0			
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#### RULES.

#### I.—TITLE.

The title shall be "The Redhill, Reigate and District Women's Suffrage Society."

#### II.—OBJECT.

The object of the Society shall be to obtain the Parliamentary Franchise for women, on the same terms as it is, or may be granted to men.

#### III.—METHODS.

The Society shall be conducted on a non-party basis, and the object promoted by all constitutional means, such as: (1) Holding meetings, distributing literature, canvassing, etc.; (2) organizing branches in adjoining towns or villages.

#### IV.—MEMBERS.

The Society shall consist of all members who have signified in writing their approval of its object, and their desire to join.

(A) Annual subscribers of any amount not less than I/- shall be members and entitled to vote.

(B) Non-subscribers can be enrolled as "Friends."

#### V.—OFFICERS.

The Executive Officers of the Society shall be: a President, Treasurer, and Secretary, who shall be elected at each Annual Meeting of the Society. Any person may be proposed for election or re-election as President, Treasurer or Secretary on the nomination of two members of the Society, to whom the candidate is personally known, such nominations to reach the Secretary at least 21 days before the Annual Meeting. (a) Lists of nominations of officers, together with the names of the proposers and seconders, shall be sent to each member of the Society, at least 14 days before the Annual Meeting.

#### VI.—COMMITTEE.

The affairs of the Society shall be managed by an Executive Committee, which shall consist of the Executive Officers, and such other members as shall be elected at each Annual Meeting of the Society.

#### VII.-FINANCE.

The financial affairs of the Society shall be under the control of the Executive Committee.

#### VIII.—VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Subscribers of 10/- and upwards shall be eligible for election as Vice-Presidents, at any meeting of the Executive Committee.

#### IX.—ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in April or May.

#### X.—RULES.

The Rules shall not be altered except at a General Meeting of members of the Society. The nature of the proposed alteration must be stated in the notice calling the meeting.

#### XI.—SPECIAL MEETINGS.

Special General Meetings of the Society may be called at any time by the Executive Committee, and shall be called by the Secretary within 28 days on the requisition of not less than twenty-five members of the Society. Fourteen days' notice shall be given of General Meetings to all members.

#### XII.—ACCOUNTS.

The accounts shall be audited annually by an Auditor or Auditors appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

## APPENDIX.

Among the Resolutions passed at the last Annual Council Meeting of the N.U.W.S.S., in February last, were the following:—

- 1. This Council of the N.U.W.S.S. expresses its undying admiration for the heroism of those who are now serving this country in the defence of the Empire.
- 2. This Council of the N.U.W.S.S. accepts as a fundamental consideration which should govern the settlement after the war, the principle laid down by the Prime Minister in his speech in Dublin, on September 26th, 1914, viz.:—
  - 'The idea of public right as the governing idea in International politics, meaning by public right, first and foremost, the clearing of the ground by the definite repudiation of militarism as the governing factor in the relation of States, and of the future moulding of the world; next that room must be found and kept for the independent existence and free development of smaller nationalities, each with a corporate consciousness of its own; and finally, perhaps by a slow and gradual process, the substitution for force, for the clash of competing ambitions, for groupings and alliances and a precarious equipoise, of a real International partnership, based on the recognition of equal right, and established and enforced by a common will.'
- 3. Since the Woman's Suffrage Movement is based on the principle that social relations should be governed, not by physical force, but by recognition of mutual rights, this Council of the N.U.W.S.S. declares its belief in Arbitration as opposed to War, and urges the Government to do its utmost to ensure that in the future, International disputes shall be submitted to arbitration or conciliation before recourse is had to military force, and that the nations shall bind themselves to unite against any country which breaks the peace without observing these conditions.

- Further, this Council calls upon the organised women of the world to press the same policy on their respective Governments, and to combine in working for enfranchisement in order that their demand may be supported by political power.
- 4. This Council of the N.U.W.S.S., believing that no changes in political machinery can by themselves secure a lasting peace, calls upon the Societies and members of the Union to take every means open to them for promoting mutual understanding and good-will between nations, and for resisting any tendency towards a spirit of hatred and revenge.
  - Further, this Council sends friendly greeting to the women of all nations who are striving for the uplifting of their sex, assuring them of its profound sympathy in present suffering and anxiety, and its ardent hope that when peace is attained renewed efforts for the enfranchisement and progress of the whole sex, irrespective of race and nationality, may be unitedly undertaken.

# National Union of WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is an association of over 52,000 men and women banded together for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.

At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time being suspended their political activities, in order to put themselves and their Union at the service of those who are organising the relief of distress caused by the war. They desire to help in the most effective way by work rather than by doles; to preserve the life of the race for the future by special care of mothers and young children; and generally to illustrate in their own lives the truth that the Suffragists' demand is for duties rather than for rights, and their ideal is the service of humanity.