

5

FABIAN SOCIETY

MEETINGS

MINUTES

From 11th October, 1907
To 23rd April, 1920

c/2/A/5

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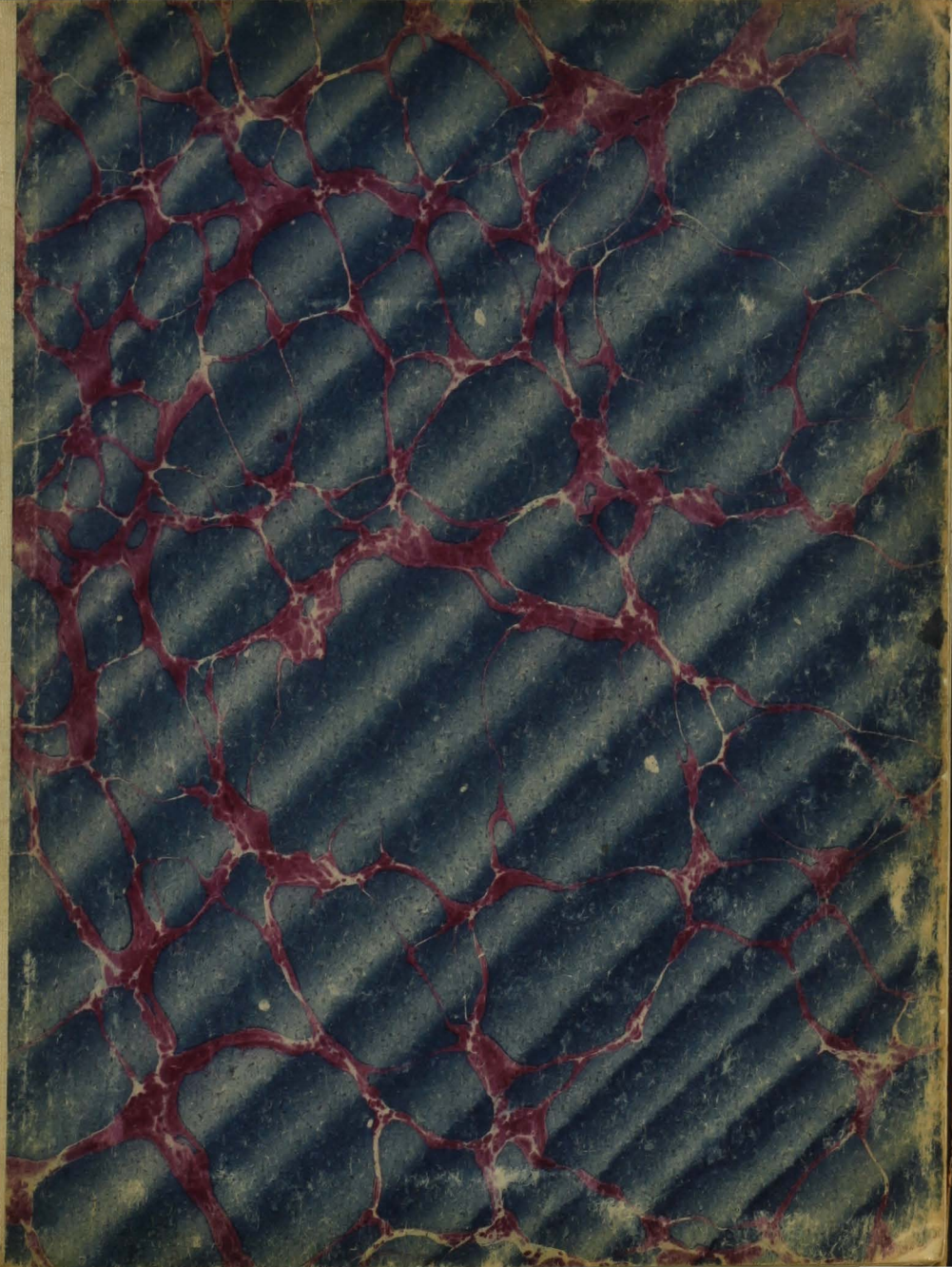
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The Fabian Society

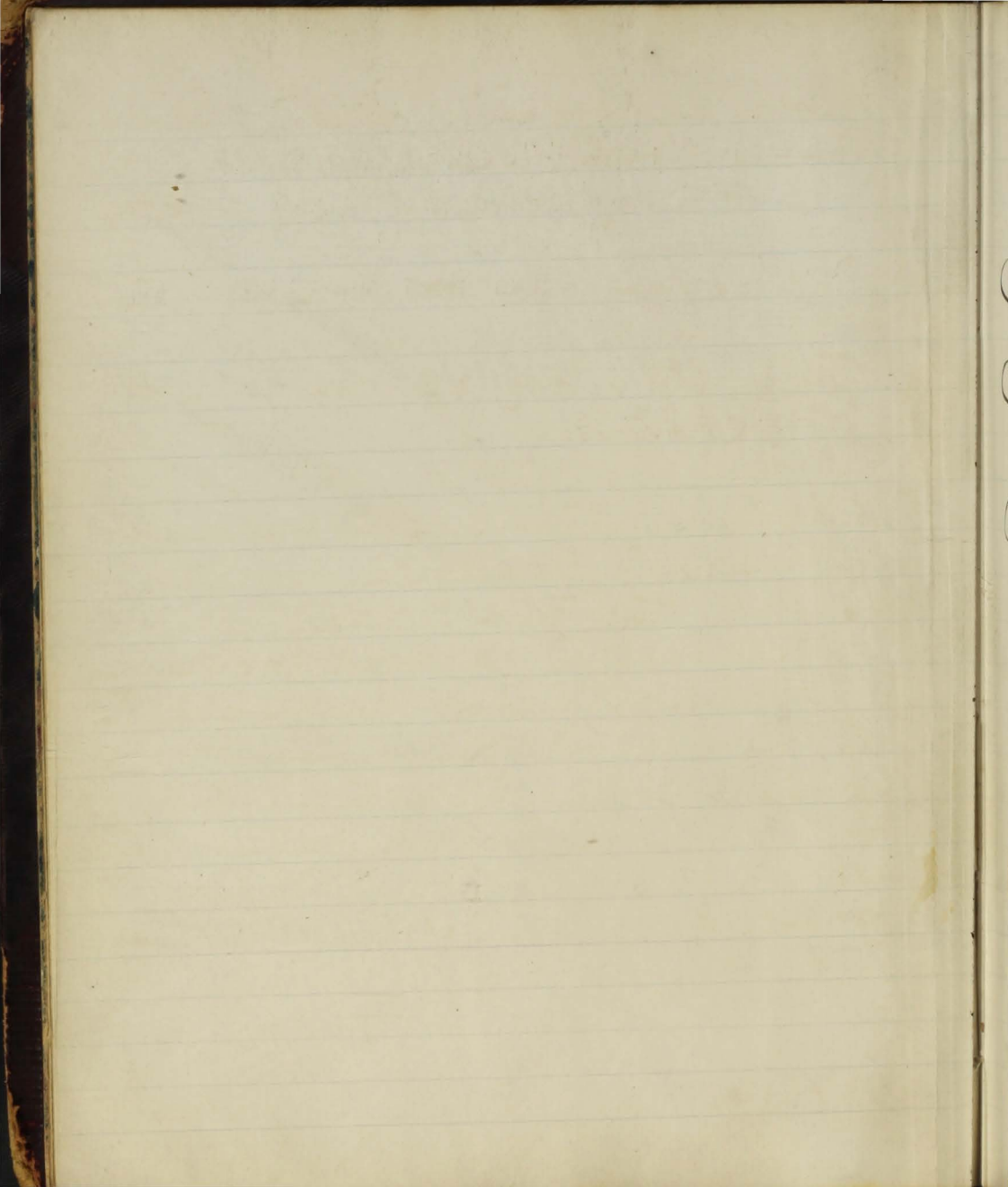
3 Clements Lane

Strand

London W.C.

11 October 1907
to

23 April 1920.



Meeting for Members, Associates & Subscribers
 at Essex Hall, Essex St. Strand on
 Friday October 11th 1907 at 8 pm.

① Mrs Pember Reeves ~~was~~ took the chair.

② The minutes of July 12th were read & confirmed.

③ Mrs Sidney Webb gave the first of the series of lectures on
 "The Faith I hold."

After questions, a debate took place in which Aylmer Maude, H. T. Muggidge, Dr. Guest, Ald. Sanders, Sidney Herbert, Harry Snell, Sidney Webb, Bernard Shaw, & others spoke.

25 Oct. '07

Aylmer Maude

Members Meeting at Essex Hall
on Friday Oct. 18th 1909 at 8pm.

1. Sidney Webb was elected chairman
2. The Minutes of the last business meeting were read & confirmed.
3. The chairman moved that the amendment to the Basis, adopted on February 22nd last, which by rule required confirmation after an interval of six months, be confirmed viz:-

In the last line but one after the words
consequent hereon to insert "including
the establishment of equal citizenship for
men + women" and in the same line
to insert in place of the words "promote these"
the words "achieve these ends".

The resolution was put without debate, and
carried, only two votes to the contrary being
given. -

(4) Sidney Webb as chairman of the Finance & General Purposes committee made a report of the work of the Society coming within the cognizance of his Committee, dealing specially with the increase of membership, the substantial result of the appeal for increased subscriptions, the increased expenditure, the proposed new Offices, the Book Boxes, the Summer School, the re-organization of the Executive &c. Questions followed.

(5) G. Bernard Shaw as chairman of the Publishing Committee reported on the satisfactory increase in the sale of tracts, the new tracts in preparation, the enlargement of Fabian News, &c. -

(6) New Tract on Small Holdings. He announced that the old leaflet on allotments had been revised to bring it into accord with the new Small Holdings & allotments act, & as it was desirable to give it a new name & number, it became

(6) Small Holdings Tract (cont^d)

technically a new tract. He moved therefore a vote of urgency to allow its discussion, & this being agreed to be moved that this tract be authorised. This also was agreed to nem. con. -

(7) Hubert Bland as chairman of the Propaganda Committee reported on the work of that Committee, dealing with the Byelaws adopted, after a Conference of Secretaries, for Local Societies & Groups; the Local Societies now numbering 16, University Societies (5), Local Groups (London) (8) & Subject Groups (4); the Lecturers List (200), the lectures arranged, the Suburban lecture courses, the appointment & work of the organising Secretary, & the series of Educational Lectures in Fabian principles arranged for young members who held at 17 Fleet St. -

(8) After questions, a number of suggestions

(8) cont^d,

were made, for increasing the funds by collections at meetings, for advertisements in the press, exchange advertisements, coloured covers for Tracts, a Demonstration at Queens Hall, & other points, all of which the chairman concerned undertook to consider. -

9. The Railway Strike. It was announced that ~~the~~ a manifesto on behalf of the Society on this matter was in preparation, & the proposal was cordially approved.

10. A general discussion then took place in which H. D. Pearsall, H. T. Muggerridge Cecil Chesterton, S. G. Hobson, Harry Snell, Bernard Shaw & the chairman took part.

H.B. Wooding
23/11/07.

Meeting of Members Associates & Subscribers
at Essex Hall, on Friday Oct. 25th 1907.

1. The chair was taken by Aylmer Maude.
2. The minutes were confirmed.
3. The Rev. R. J. Campbell gave the second lecture
of the autumn course on
The Faith of Holy

and after questions a debate followed
in which Miss Brown, the Rev. Vernon
Herford, J. Archibald, W. H. Seed, C. G. Ball,
J. Mc Nicholl, Montague Fordham,
W. S. Sanders, S. K. Ratcliffe,
& Aylmer Maude took part. —

W. S. Sanders

Meeting at Essex Hall on
Friday 12th November 1907.

- (1) The Chair was taken by alderman Sanders
- (2) The Minutes were confirmed
- (3) Dr. Südekum, Member of the German Reichstag gave a lecture on

Municipal Socialism in Germany
+ after a long series of questions
Bernard Shaw, J. Mc Nicholl &
the Chairman spoke in debate.

C. J. Shaw

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
8th November 1907.

1. Mrs Bernard Shaw took the chair

2. The Minutes were confirmed

3. S. G. Hobson read a paper on
The Faith I hold

& after questions a debate followed
in which Ald. Sanders, W. Catmur,
Mrs Haden Guest, Rev S. G. Mappin,
Sidney Herbert, Miss Murby, Mr. Davis,
Mrs O'Brien Harris, & Bernard Shaw
took part

Alexis Bland

No 22.7

Meeting at Essex Hall on
Friday 22 November 1907.

1. Hubert Bland ~~was elected~~ took the chair.
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. Dr. Stanton Coit gave his lecture on
The Faith I hold
+ after questions a debate followed
in which Aylmer Maude, Wm
Sanders, R. G. K. Eusor Bernard
Shaw + others took part. —

J. W. Pettick Lawrence
Dec 6. 07.

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
8th December 1907.

- (1) F.W. Peckish Lawrence took the chair
- (2) The minutes were confirmed
- (3) H. G. Wells then gave his lecture in
"The Faith I Hold" series & after
discussion, a debate followed
in which Cecil Chesterton, Aylmer
Maude, Haden Guest, W^m Sanders
Howard Swan took part.

J. Bernard Shaw
20/12/07.

Meeting at Essex Hall
20th December 1907. -

- (1.) G. Bernard Shaw took the chair
- (2.) The minutes were confirmed
- (3.) Hubert Bland gave his lecture on
The Faith I hold,
& a discussion followed in which
Percy Braby, W^m Sanders, Aylmer Maude,
Mrs Pember Reeves, Cecil Chesterton, Sidney
Herbert, Sidney Webb, Stewart Headlam, &
A. K. Constantine took part. -

Aylmer Maude

10/I/08.

of members only

Meeting at Essex Hall, called in response
to a Requisition of 53 members, held on
Monday December 23rd 1907. -

1. H. Bond Holding was unanimously elected
chairman
2. The Minutes of the last business meeting
(October 18th) were confirmed
3. The Secretary having obtained a vote of
Urgency, adopted new con., moved
that the Exec. Comm^{ee} be empowered to
issue as a new Tract the revised version
of Tract 105, Five Years Fruits of the Parish
Council act. This was agreed to.
4. Cecil E. Chesterton then moved the resolution
which the meeting was called to consider
viz: -- "That the Fabian Society repudiates
the Manifesto issued by the Executive
Committee in regard to the settlement of
the Railway dispute arrived at by the intervention

(4) cont^d of Mr Lloyd George & expresses the view that the settlement is decidedly disadvantageous to the cause of Socialism & to the interests of organised Labour". This was formally recorded by Sidney Herbert. -

(5) Sidney Webb replied for the Executive Com^{ee} & a debate followed in which Sidney Herbert, William Piggott, H. T. Murgferidge, W. Johnson & A. R. Orage supported the resolution, & Wm Sanders, S. G. Hobson, Theodore Harris, John Cash, & Hubert Bland spoke against it. Cecil Chesterton closed the debate with a reply. -

(6) A division was then taken, when 56 members voted for the resolution, & the rest of the meeting, estimated at 150 to 200 voted against it. - The resolution was therefore declared to be lost. -

over

Hanson odd

Maulsby's Report -
in Study Sum Weekly Sum
26/1/08.

THE FABIAN SOCIETY
AND PARLIAMENT.
AN IMPORTANT DEVELOP-
MENT.

(Special to the SUNDAY SUN.)
Evidently the Fabian Society Executive do not take much heed of the Socialist resolution passed by the Labour Parliamentary Conference; indeed, as Mr. Bernard Shaw said on Friday night, the Labour Party is not a Socialist Party, and it is useless to rely on it to push Socialism. The Fabians are, therefore, about to make a fresh start, and their first need is money.

The meeting of the society, on Friday last, was held at Essex Hall, when over 300 members were present, and the recommendations of the Executive Committee (consisting of 25 of the best-known and most enthusiastic Socialists) were carried practically without dissent. Recognising that the Labour Party need as much "permeation" (to use the favourite phrase of the Fabians) as any other political party, the Executive recommended that the society should give its active support to any candidates who were in sympathy with its objects, and should proceed to organise a fund for that purpose, £5,000 being the figure mentioned as the minimum for a start. The members are to be circulated as to their willingness to subscribe, and if the response is favourable the society will at once take steps to support certain candidates.

This is an entirely new departure, for hitherto the Fabians have confined themselves to purely educational work, and have declined to support candidates for Parliament, whilst encouraging individuals who are members of the society to seek election to all local bodies. The choice of candidates will be a difficult

FABIAN SOCIETY.

THE SECRETARY having received a requisition under Rule 8, signed by more than fifty members, calling for a Members' Meeting to discuss the resolution annexed, has fixed it for **Monday, December 23rd, at 8 p.m., at Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand.** AGENDA—To consider the following:

"That the Fabian Society repudiates the Manifesto issued by the Executive Committee in regard to the settlement of the Railway Dispute arrived at by the intervention of Mr. Lloyd George, and expresses the view that the settlement is decidedly disadvantageous to the cause of Socialism and to the interests of organized Labor."

In view of the possible inconvenience to members of the date fixed for this meeting, the Secretary desires to explain that the delivery of the requisition to him on the 11th instant leaves him, under the rule, no practicable alternative.

Your attendance is requested.

EDW. R. PEASE,
Secretary.

FABIAN OFFICE, 3 CLEMENT'S INN,
STRAND, W.C.—13 December, 1907.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY.

This card must be presented at the door as an admission ticket.

Remembered at the next General Election.
It will be remembered that Sir John Cookburn's

Meeting at Swan Hall on Friday
10th Jan'y 1908.

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1. Orymer made the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. The Secy announced that a Fabian meeting had been fixed for Swan Hall on Tuesday March 24th at 8pm. -
4. The Hon. Sir John Cockburn then gave an address on Social Progress & his surprise at after many questions a debate followed in which F. R. [unclear] & [unclear] [unclear] and Shaw

The choice of candidates will be difficult.
Reformer at the next General Election. It will be remembered that Sir John Cockburn's candidature two years ago in Wales was a remarkable combination of Tariff Reform, Home Rule and Collectivism, and although he is not a Fabian, he may be considered a type of politician whom the Fabian Society would support.

During the discussion (which was made interesting by an amendment moved with the object of getting the society to declare that it would not support any candidate associated with either of the two great political parties, an amendment which was hopelessly defeated) it was pointed out that the Hitchin Division of Hertfordshire would be a suitable constituency for a candidate of the kind that the society would support. It includes the growing district of the Garden City at Letchworth, where Fabianism is well understood, and the sitting member, Mr. Julius Bertram, (who won the seat from Mr. G. B. Hudson at the General Election), has declared himself as likely to be out of sympathy with the Liberal Party's future developments as he sees them, and will not stand at the next election. The radicals have their eye on Hitchin as likely to suit their propaganda. They will not put forward a candidate in their own name, but if a Liberal candidate of the advanced section comes forward whom they can support they will do so. And their support would be worth something, for they are quite removed from the Red Flaggers who are so disturbing to the political doves just now.

This dramatic change of policy by the Fabian Society, based as it is on the unlikelihood of the Labour Party proving itself definitely Socialist for many years to come, was accepted by the meeting of the members on Friday last without hesitation, thanks in great part to Mr. Bernard Shaw's able speech, when on behalf of the Executive he moved the adoption of the committee's recommendations. G. B. S. was in excellent form, and it is clear that the present political situation has many possibilities of sudden development in unexpected directions.

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FABIAN OFFICE, 3 CLEMENT'S INN,
STRAND, W.C.—13 December, 1907.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY.

This card must be presented at the door as an admission ticket.

let this go no farther," said the boy, not knowing in the least what it was he must let go no farther.
"Oh, p-p-p-p-p, s-s-s-s-s," said the boy, "you say 'sir' to me again I shall smack your head, and I shall smack it hard. This is the third time today I have warned you. Pull yourself together. You are not now with your Aunt Pritchell at Beaconsfield Villa, Hither Green. You are in the counting-house of your predecessor and have to be on your feet and in your senses. I shall not show you how to tie a double knot any more. The next time I shall put my hand round your ears, and it will hurt. If I had not been the best-dressed chap that ever swaggered round the second circle at the Empire on a Saturday night, you would have got the boot this very afternoon. Pa wanted to report you to Octavius. But I stood firm. 'No, Father,' I said, 'the youth is off his fibert, but so was Blair Athol when he won the Derby.' There, over goes the paste! Don't stand gazing at it, you linnatic, but get some back numbers of 'The Athenaeum' and mop it up."

Mr. Dodson, however, has his own way to make. His great rival both in love and in business is a fellow-clerk, Percy Davis, who wins promotion from Mr. Crumppet by calling himself George Eliot Davis. Dodson determines to undermine his position, and opens his campaign as follows:

These preliminaries accomplished, Mr. Dodson walked very slowly and erectly up to the second story. He entered the small ante-chamber at the head of the stairs, which was dedicated to the sole use of the vigilant guardian of these Olympian altitudes, one G. Eliot Davis.

"Davis," said Mr. Dodson, peering within, "if Mr. Octavius is in his room?"

"Yes, Dodson, he is," said Mr. Davis.

"Alone, Dodson?"

"Alone, Dodson."

"Thank you, Davis."

"Don't mention it, Dodson."
Upon the conclusion of this exchange of courtesies, which an impartial observer might have considered as a trifle elaborated on both sides, Mr. Dodson knocked smartly and boldly, yet without respectfulness, upon the portals of Mr. Octavius Crumppet. Mr. Dodson entered the august presence briskly, but closed the door after him with delicacy and with self-possession.

Mr. Octavius Crumppet was seated at the table in close proximity to the fire. Every letter and document, every book, every small article was arranged upon it with scrupulous nicety. The head of the firm was enjoying the academic pleasure of running a paper-knife through the close-pressed leaves, within a chase and stationary binding, of his personal translation of the Odyssey, which was to be issued to an expectant world upon the following Monday.

"Well, Mr. Dodson?" said Mr. Octavius Crumppet, in that tone and manner, which were ever the despair and admiration of his staff.
Mr. Mr. A. Dodson, who had after his chief to consummate breeding by waiting for his chief to speak first, as though he were a really incarnate, bowed slightly from the full height, which was hardly more than a foot ten inches, and said in a very carefully modulated voice, "I apologise—"

Members Meeting at Essex Hall
on Friday Jan 7 24th 1908
at 7.30 pm. -

1. Dr. F. Lawson Dodd was unanimously elected chairman.
2. The minutes of the members meeting on Dec: 23rd were confirmed.
3. In response to a request, the Secretary gave a short report of the proceedings at the Labour Party Conference at Hull which he attended as delegate of the Society. -
4. In the absence of Webb through illness, Shaw introduced the Report of the Special Committee on Political Policy & moved its adoption.
5. Haden Guest moved the following amendment

5 cont^d.

94 11

That the Report be referred back, with instructions to add that no member of the Fabian Society shall publicly support any candidates of a party not entitled to affiliation with the Labor Party, or work to promote the interests of any party not entitled to this affiliation."

Dr. Eder formally recorded & a debate followed in which E. H. Gell Gelobter, Rev. E. Swan, S. G. Tolson, J. Archibald & Aylmer Maude & R. C. K. Enzor opposed the amendment, whilst Sidney Herbert & Dr. Eder supported it. A. T. Hinggeridge also spoke, & Bernard Shaw replied. The amendment was then put: 35 voted for it, & a large majority - the meeting numbered some 300 - against.

6. Bernard Shaw's resolution for the adoption of the report was then adopted with one or two dissentients. -
7. The resolutions on the Report were then considered, & nos. 1 & 2 were agreed to without amendment. -

8. On resolution 3, H. T. Muggridge moved an additional clause "(c)", which was accepted, & the resolution as amended was agreed to. -
9. On resolution 4, J. W. Buttery moved to substitute the word "desirable" for "necessary" & to delete the words "of £500." After discussion, the amendment was put & defeated. Cecil Chesterton moved a further amendment to alter "necessary" into "desirable". About 10 voted for his & the amendment was defeated. J. Andrews moved to insert the words "at least" before "£5000". Shaw accepted his, & it was voted for & about 100, & carried. The resolution thus amended was agreed to. -

10. On Resolution 5, F. W. Galton moved

to delete the words after "That" and insert "the question of candidates and constituencies be referred back to the Executive, with instructions to submit a list of names and constituencies to which it is proposed that the funds raised should be devoted."

10 (cont?) Only 5 voted for this, & it was defeated.
 A further amendment, the terms of wh. were not handed in, to the effect that a compulsory levy be made on each member on behalf of the Fund was moved by L. Lesserlis, & rejected by about 130 votes to 80. An amendment to insert "giving names of the probable trustees" was accepted, & the resolution as amended was agreed to.

11. On Resolution 6 a motion to delete E. H. Harley was put & lost. An amendment by E. H. Gelbster, to add "but that such candidate should run only as a socialist" was also defeated, as also was a motion to adjourn the debate. No count was made in these cases. Resolution 6 was then put & adopted, & the meeting concluded.

The resolutions as amended are annexed: -

1. That it is desirable to promote the establishment of local Fabian Societies in the various towns of the United Kingdom.
2. That the members living in or near the principal urban centres in which no local Fabian Society yet exists, be invited to consider how such a society can best be formed there; and that they be assisted to take steps for that purpose.
3. That the activities of the local Fabian Societies can best be stimulated and assisted by (a) frequent lecturers from the London Society; (b) periodical conferences of local societies of both national and district scope; (c) the publication of Fabian Tracts applying Socialist principles to the particular local government circumstances of the different towns; (d) constant correspondence with the London office; and (e) by judicious participation in municipal elections, either by promoting direct Fabian candidatures, or assisting to return other candidates promoted by other Socialist or Labor bodies.
4. That if any effective action is to be taken by the Society to get increased Socialist representation in Parliament, so far as its own members are concerned, it would be necessary to raise a Parliamentary Fund of at least £5,000.
5. That in order to test the willingness of members to contribute to such a fund, all the members be asked by a circular, giving the names of the probable trustees (1) whether they think that such a fund ought to be at once started; (2) what amount (to be spread over five years) they would be able to contribute to such a fund, if sufficient promises were received to warrant its establishment.
6. That the particular candidatures to be assisted by such a fund, and the exact method of such candidatures, would, in view of the necessity of securing local support, necessarily have to be decided in each case according to circumstances.

L. Haden East
21.5.08

(4/13)
Meeting at Essex Hall on
14 Feb. 1908.

1. Sidney Webb took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. After summary notices given by the Secretary, ~~Dr.~~ The Hon W. Pember Reeves, High Commissioner of New Zealand lectured on Old Age Pensions & a debate followed in which J. A. McNeill, Sanders, S. Herbert, Dr. Haden Guest, & G. B. Shaw took part.

R. C. K. Enson

Meeting at Essex Hall Shroud
on Friday Feb 28.

1. R. C. K. Emsor took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. Raymond Unwin lectured on
Town Planning.

He showed a number of lantern
slides to illustrate the principles
he propounded. After many
questions, a discussion followed
in which Ald. Sanders, A. J.
Penty & others took part.

Arthur Sanders
Feb 28.

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
13th March 1908.

1. Albert Bland took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. L. G. Chiozza-Money M.P. gave
a ~~lecture~~ ~~lecture~~ lecture on
The Waste of Capital
+ after questions a debate followed
in which Aylmer Maude,
S. G. Hobson R.C.K. Emson,
H. T. Muggidge + Dr. Guest
took part.

Henry W. Macrosty
10/4/8



Meeting at Essex Hall on
Friday 10th April '08.

1. H. W. Macrost took the chair
2. On the motion of the Secretary
L. E. V. Tiffin & V. Serebriakoff
were elected scrutineers for the
Executive Election.
3. The Secy announced that £50 had
been promised for the Book Box
fund if £300 were subscribed by Mar
4th & that £75 was wanted for this
sum. -
4. Theodore Mouson, late principal of the
Mahomedan College of Aicgarh ~~was~~
gave his lecture on
The Collectivism of the Indian Government,
& a debate followed in which Sir Donald
Robertson, Pandit Bhaywan Din Dube took
part.

W. W. Macrost
10/4/08.

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
24th April 1908.

1. The minutes were confirmed -
2. The Secretary made some announcements & read out the results of the election of the Executive Committee.
3. Miss Murby read her lecture on
The Woman Question,
and after questions a debate followed
in which S. G. Hobson, Mrs Pember
Reeves, Mrs O'Brien Harris, Mrs Guest
S. D. Shallard & Dr. Haden Guest
took part.

Sidney Webb

Meeting at Essex Hall
on Friday 8th May 1908.

(1) Sidney Webb took the chair

(2) The minutes were confirmed

(3) Sir Sydney Olivier lectured on
The Faith I hold

After questions a debate followed
in which Lawson Dodd, W^m Sanders
& K. Ratchiffe, Aylmer Maude
Haden Guest, & Howard Swan took part.

Lawson Dodd
Chairman
June 19th 08.

C41B

Members Annual Meeting at Essex
Hall on Friday 22nd May 1908
at 7.30 pm. -

1. Gerald Bishop nominated by the Secretary, & Dr. Haden Guest nominated by (A. W.) Colegate were proposed as Chairman, & on a show of hands the latter was elected.
2. The Minutes of the members meeting of Jan^y 24 were read & confirmed.
3. The Secretary moved the adoption of the Annual Report which was considered page by page. a few minor alterations were agreed to. - On the question of membership a discussion arose & a resolution was moved That in the opinion of this meeting the Executive Committee should print a list of members. On a division the resolution was defeated by a large majority, & the Report was adopted.

(4) Sidney Webb reported on the Parliamentary fund, & said that in view of the small number of ~~men~~ replies to the circular (about 400 out of 2000) although the substantial sum of about £2300 had been promised, the Executive had decided before taking further action, to circularise the members again on the subject.

(5) Sidney Herbert drew attention to the action of H. G. Wells in issuing a public letter in the Daily News urging the electors of N. W. Manchester to vote not for Dan Loring of the S.D.F., but for the Liberal Candidate. - H. G. Wells defended his action, & S. G. Hobson criticised it

(6) G. B. Simmons asked leave to move a vote of urgency, in order that he might propose a motion dissociating the Society from the action of Mr. Wells. On a division 181 voted for urgency & 108 against, & the motion (which

required a 3/4 majority) was therefore lost.

(7) The discussion of the political policy of the Society, especially in reference to the N. W. Manchester incident was continued by F. B. Simmons, Mrs Van Radhe, Sidney Webb, Julius Wilkinson, & J. A. Mc Nicol, & ultimately the report made by Sidney Webb was adopted with 7 dissentients.

8. Aylmer Maude for the Executive proposed that the Tract on Municipalisation issued in proof to the members be approved. A. K. Constantine criticised details of the tract, & it was agreed to embody any improvements he could send in. Subject to this it was agreed that the Tract be issued.

H. D. Muggers

8/1/09

Meeting at Essex Hall on
Friday June 19. 1908.

1. Dr. Lawson Dodd took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed.
3. After notices of Lectures Demonstrations &c,
Mr. W. Watson Rutherford M.P.
gave a lecture on
Toy Democracy,
& a discussion followed in
which Cecil Chesterton, S. G. Hobson,
Wm Sanders, Rev. Vernon Herford,
G. L. Chozza M.P., H. Schlessen,
& Bernard Shaw took part. —
D. H. Hill

C. C. C.

Meeting at Essex Hall on
Friday Oct. 9th 1908.

①. The Rev. S. D. Headlam took the chair

②. The Minutes were confirmed.

③. After sundry notices by the Secretary
Bernard Shaw gave the first
of the Course of Lectures on the Basis,
an address dealing with the words:-

"The Fabian Society consists of
Socialists who work for the spread of
Socialism." - after many questions
a debate followed in which

Wm Sanders, Mrs Pember Reeves,
Sydney Herbert, Aylmer Maude
& H F. Murgess took part.

By Bernard Shaw.
29/10/08.

Momy Lealitz.

GOSPEL OF EQUALITY.

MR. G. B. SHAW ON SIR CHRISTOPHER FURNESS'S SCHEME.

Mr. G. B. Shaw last night delivered the first of a series of lectures to be given by well-known Socialists on "the Fabian basis."

Mr. Shaw declared that if Charles Dickens and Geo. Meredith had only understood Socialism technically one feels they would have proclaimed themselves Socialists. Ruskin and Carlyle had the materials of Socialism in them to a very much greater richness than many in the Socialist ranks. Yet they were not Socialists! Walt Whitman, Beethoven, Mahomet, and Jesus Christ were not Socialists, and finally there was themselves before they were Socialists. (Laughter.)

"At the present time," said Mr. Shaw, "the only thing which is found to work practically is equality. You do not give a drummer boy what you give Lord Kitchener, but think of Lords Kitchener and Roberts coming before the country and quarrelling about their salary.

"Think of Kitchener saying, 'I was 20 minutes longer under fire at Paardeburg than Roberts. I think I ought to have 15s. 6d. for that.' (Loud laughter.)

"I think Kitchener would feel he would make a cad of himself to a perfectly incredible extent in imagining that things could be measured in that way; but Sir Christopher Furness is not ashamed to come forward and say that because he perhaps manages a larger building yard than another man he ought to be paid more. (Applause.)

"The fact of the matter is that you have to teach these tradesmen to be gentlemen," declared Mr. Shaw.

MR. G. B. SHAW.

His Criticism of Sir C. Furness' Proposal.

Mr. G. Bernard Shaw addressed the Fabian Society last evening with the primary purpose of answering Mr. H. G. Wells, who has resigned his position upon the executive of the society and become a subscriber on the ground that he has found himself "in disagreement with the basis which forms the Confession of Faith of the society, and discontented with the general form of our activities."

Mr. Wells had resigned said Mr. Shaw, because, as he put it, "a scheme which proposes to leave mother and child economically dependent upon the father is to me not Socialism at all, but a miserable perversion of Socialism."

This question of the family, Mr. Shaw declared, was not one for Socialism at all, for Socialism had to deal with the substitution of private property by public property in land, capital and labour, and ultimately in personal ability.

The last statement led Mr. Shaw into a criticism of Sir Christopher Furness's proposal for avoiding industrial disputes. His profit-sharing proposal had been tried with some success at the South Metropolitan Gasworks, but in that case a given number of gasmen were employed to answer a steady demand for gas. Sir Christopher Furness was proposing to apply this principle to shipbuilding, which depended for its commercial success on the power of the shipbuilder to take on a large body of men when he had a large contract and discharge them when the contract was finished and he had not another on hand.

How was he going to deal with the shares of these discharged men? He had given no explanation. Not to socialise organising ability was to put the whole control of the country into the hands of men like Sir Christopher Furness, with his way of looking at things. "How," exclaimed Mr. Shaw, "can you teach these tradesmen to be gentlemen?"

Handwritten: Daily Review 6/10/08

"A REVOLUTION MACHINE."

Mr. George Bernard Shaw is very hopeful of the Fabian Society. In a lecture last night at the Essex Hall, Essex-street, on the society's basis "that it consists of Socialists and works for the spread of Socialism," he declared that it was "one of the best revolutionary machines in England."

"Everybody who wants to upset society" was his description of the kind of people who join the Fabian Society, and he lamented the fact that Mr. H. G. Wells had ceased to be a member, but had joined the subscribers who were not Socialists.

Mr. Shaw made a kindly reference to Sir Christopher Furness' proposals to his workmen, declaring that all they were meant to do was "to show the workmen how utterly helpless they are," and characterising them as "Bapdoodle."

Handwritten: Daily Review

44/19

Daily News

TOBER 10, 1908.

THE FABIAN BASIS.

MR. G. B. SHAW ON THE SECESSION OF MR. WELLS.

Last night, at the Essex Hall, Essex-street, Strand, Mr. G. Bernard Shaw delivered the first of a series of lectures on "The Fabian Basis," which are to be given during the next few months by well-known Socialists. The Rev. Stewart D. Headlam presided.

Mr. Shaw alluded to the case of Mr. H. G. Wells, whom he described as a man of very distinguished genius, who had only just now disclaimed Socialism in the curiously formal way of transferring his name from the list of members of the Society who were avowed Socialists to the list of subscribers who were not Socialists. That meant either that Mr. Wells was not a Socialist or that the members of the Fabian Society were not. Mr. Wells said: "A scheme which proposes to leave mother and child economically dependent upon the father is to me not Socialism at all, but a miserable perversion of Socialism."

They might sympathise very warmly with Mr. Wells, but suppose he (Mr. Shaw) were to say "a scheme which proposes to leave a child in the hands of the public vaccinator to have his blood corrupted is to me not Socialism, but a miserable perversion—(laughter)—and that the system which allowed thousands of unfortunate animals to be driven to Deptford to be miserably slaughtered to make unwholesome food for the people of the country was a miserable perversion!"

In this way they could make the scheme of the Fabian Society include every reform. As a matter of fact, the question of the family was not really a part of Socialism.

MR. BERNARD SHAW ON SOCIALISM.

The first of a series of lectures on elementary Socialism, in the form of an exposition of the Fabian basis, was given last night by Mr. G. Bernard Shaw, under the auspices of the Fabian Society, at Essex-hall, Strand. The Rev. Stewart D. Headlam presided, and there was a crowded attendance. Mr. SHAW, referring to the recently-published letter of Mr. H. G. Wells, said Mr. Wells had practically disclaimed Socialism, and the curiously formal way in which he had done so was by transferring his name from the list of members of the society, who were avowed Socialists, to the list of subscribers, who were not, but who gave their money because they thought the society meant well. (Laughter.) In his letter of resignation Mr. Wells said—"A scheme which proposes to leave mother and child economically dependent upon the father is to me not Socialism at all, but a miserable perversion of Socialism." Those who felt very strongly, as Mr. Wells did, on the subject of the present constitution of the family, might sympathize warmly with him in that utterance. They might make the claim that the Fabian Society should include every possible reform, and say that if it did not it was a miserable perversion of Socialism; but this question of the family was not a part of Socialism at all. Mr. Shaw proceeded to speak of the confusion which prevailed with regard to Socialism, and said there was a great danger, if the confusion continued too long, of Socialist societies being completely captured by people who were not Socialists at all. For instance, Mr. Wells admitted that he practically joined the society because he hoped to make it an instrument to carry certain reforms which he regarded as of great importance. A great many important movements had been captured in this way. Christianity, for example, had been entirely captured by commercialism. At the present time there was nothing in the world less Christian than Christianity. It would be fairer to confine the term Socialist to people who advocated a specific method of Socialism—the complete substitution of public property for private property, the abolition of private property root and branch. Any person who did not believe that had better not call himself a Socialist.

Times 10/10/08

Meeting at Essex Hall
Friday Oct. 23rd 1908.

1. G. Bernard Shaw took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed.
3. The ~~Executive Committee~~ Chairman made an appeal to members & others to contribute to the Bail Fund for Mr. Nicholas Tchaykovsky & invited the deposit of £100.00. — In the ~~the~~ end the sum of £278.4/- was subscribed.
4. The Rev. S. D. Headlam lectured on The Emancipation of Land from Individual & Class ownership & a debate followed in which Sydney Herbert, Josiah Wedgwood M.P., S. G. Holson, H. H. Schloesser, Cyril Maude, J. W. Hinchley, A. W. Colegate & J. Andrews, took part. —

S. G. Holson.
27/10/1908.

(4/70)

Meeting at Essex Hall

Friday ~~Oct~~ Nov. 13. 1908.

1. S. G. Hobson took the chair.
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. Mrs C. M. Wilson obtained leave of the chairman to move urgency, which was carried by a large majority & hereupon moved the following resolution:-

" That as a distinction is made in prison practice
"in England between first and second division prisoners,
"which makes it possible to discriminate between ordinary
"criminals and persons, who, as social reformers, are in
"conscientious conflict with the law, this meeting is of
"opinion that the benefit of the distinction should be
"accorded to the women now voluntarily undergoing
"imprisonment for taking part in the agitation for the
"extension of the suffrage."

This was carried by a very large majority.

4. Edward R. Pease then gave his lecture on the Emancipation of Industrial Capital, & a debate followed in which Dr. G. B. Clarke, Bernard

Shaw, & Mrs Stanley Moore took part.

(5)

Immediately after the Lecture ~~by R. H. Blanco White!~~^{Sir James Herbert}
asked leave to move another vote of Urgency.
On the refusal of the Chairman ~~he~~^{Sir James Herbert} moved ~~that~~^{that}
that the Chairman do leave the chair.
The motion being put, only 4 voted for
it & the incident terminated. —

Sydney Maude

(41/21)

Meeting at Essex Hall on
Friday 27th November 1908.

1. Aylmer Maude took the chair
2. The minutes were amended & confirmed
3. S. G. Hobson gave his address
on Industrial Inventions
& a debate followed in which
Blanco White, Sydney Herbert,
H. H. Schloesser, Miss Studwick,
Bernard Shaw, & another took
part. —

m. S. Trevelyan.
Dec. 11. 1908.

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
Dec. 11th 1908.

- (1) Mrs. Fember Reeves took the chair
- (2) The Minutes were confirmed
- (3) Sidney Webb lectured on the phrase Without Compensation, in the course on the Basis & after questions a debate followed in which A. J. Penty, W. Bell, S. L. Salzedo, Es. Palin Percy Brabey & others took part.

A. J. Penty

9/1/22

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
Dec. 18th 1908. -

1. Miss Murdy took the chair.
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. R. C. K. Insoz lectured on Interference with Individual Liberty, concluding the Course on the Basis, & a discussion followed in which W. Sanders, S. G. Holson, S. Herbert, Aylmer Maude, W. S. Murphy, H. H. Schlosser, & G. B. Shaw took part. -

H. H. Sodd

Members Meeting at Essex Hall on
Friday 8th Jan. 7 1909
at 7.30 pm.

1. H. T. Muggersidge was unanimously elected
Chairman
2. The minutes of the Annual Meeting were
read & confirmed
3. The Secretary made a statement indicating
that the Executive Com^{ee} proposed
to take the Memorial Hall, Faringdon
St. for future meetings. A brief dis-
cussion followed. -
4. Hubert Bland on behalf of the Executive
asked for a vote of urgency in order
to propose an amendment to the Rules.
The vote was agreed to nem con. -
- (5) He then proposed that the Rule ~~clause~~ 3,
(Executive Committee) should be altered

5. (cont^d.)

By the addition of the following words (which differed verbally from those given in the notice in the news) :-

" Any member absent from ~~the~~ four consecutive meetings of the Committee or ^{of its} standing sub-Committees without obtaining leave of absence, shall be deemed to have vacated his seat on the Committee or subcommittee."

This was agreed to nem con - -

(b) Clifford Sharp then moved, & H.H. Schlosser seconded the following resolution :-

That in view of the present primitive methods of conducting the business of the Fabian Society through general meetings of London members, it is desirable that the rules and bye-laws of the Society be modified so as to give effect to the following proposals :-

1. An Annual Conference shall be summoned in place of the May Annual Meeting.
2. The Conference and the Conference only shall have power to change the rules of the Society. All resolutions passed by the Conference shall be binding upon the central Executive Committee and upon the executive committees of local societies and groups. Due notice shall be given of all resolutions.
3. The Conference shall consist of the Executive Committee, together with a number of delegates elected by the London Society and the provincial groups and societies in proportion to their membership.
4. The existing relations between local societies and the central society shall be so re-organized that all members of local societies shall pay their subscriptions direct to the local society, and that the local societies shall contribute an annual fee of so much per member to the central funds; and Bye-law III.A (1) shall be so altered that it shall be no longer possible for a person to become a member of a local Fabian Society by signing some other than the Fabian Basis. All members of Fabian Societies on whose behalf such fees have been paid shall enjoy the privileges of membership of the central society during the ensuing year.

7. Ald. W. Sanders on behalf of the Executive moved & W. G. Brooke of the Lechlworth Fabram Society seconded,

That Resolution 3 be referred to a Committee to be appointed by the Executive & to include the ~~the~~ proposers of the resolution which shall prepare a report thereon to be submitted to the Society & the Executive Committee.

The amendment was put & carried by a very large majority. -

(8) On the amendment being put as a substantive resolution, Clifford Sharpe moved a further amendment to make it read

That this meeting recognising the inadequate representation of provincial Fabrians in the Government of the Society & recognising further the primitive & inefficient character of the existing system of Government by mass meeting desires Resolution 3 to be referred to a Committee to be

(8) cont^d.

appointed by the Executive & to include the proposers of the resolution which shall prepare a report thereon & upon any other remedial proposals, to be submitted to the Society & the Executive Committee.

After a ~~somewhat confused~~^{as it is} discussion, the vote was taken, & the amendment was carried by 203 to 181. The amendment as thus amended was not put as a substantive resolution but was understood & he agreed to.

9. In the absence of R.L. Blanco. White on business for the Society, W.A. Colegate on his behalf withdrew the resolution standing in his name, in order that it might be referred to the Committee ~~to~~^{who} appointed ~~in~~ ~~steps~~ as provided above. -

10. S. G. Hobson then moved the following resolution:

That this meeting requests the Executive to withdraw the Fabian Society from affiliation with the Labor Party, so that, in conformity with previous declarations, the political

energies of the Society may be devoted to the upbuilding of a definite and avowed Socialist Party. It also urges the Executive to lend its aid in forming Socialist Representation Committees wherever practicable, as a first step towards the realization of a Socialist Party.

11. The resolution having been formally seconded, Bernard Shaw on behalf of the Executive moved the following amendment :-

Amendment by BERNARD SHAW. To substitute :-

That this meeting, whilst approving the affiliation of the Fabian Society to the Labor Party; congratulating the Party on the accession of half a million members to its ranks during the year just ended; and recalling with undiminished satisfaction the active part taken by the Society in the formation of the Party, is of opinion that the time has come for the Party to give immediate consideration to the following propositions, namely:

1. That parliamentary parties in England no longer depend for support on the strength of their names or of the class from which their members are drawn, but stand or fall by their programs.
2. That a party without a program may influence legislation in the House of Commons but can do nothing to influence public opinion in the country.
3. That a Labor Party, in order to justify its detachment from the two Capitalist parties, and its calls upon the funds of the Trade Unions, must put forward a Labor program which not only differs from the programs of the Capitalist parties, but consists mainly of measures which cannot conceivably be added to those programs.
4. That until these conditions are recognized and complied with by the Labor Party, it will be increasingly difficult for the Fabian and other definitely Socialist societies to secure the unanimous support of their recruits for continued affiliation with the Labor Party, and to combat that tendency to break away and form new sections which has impaired the solidarity of the Labor movement in France, and may easily do so in this country if the views of the Labor Party in parliament remain indistinguishable from those of the left wing of the Capitalist parties.

12. A debate followed in which Mrs Snowden, E. R. Geese, W. A. Colegate, Miss Bondfield,

12. (cont?)

Rev. G. Swan, T. B. Simmons opposed the resolution, whilst Cecil Chesterton, Sydney Herbert & C. N. L. Shaw supported it.

- (13) A vote was then taken in which 58 voted against the amendment, & the rest of the meeting, estimated at 500, more or less, for it.
- (14) S. G. Hobson moved the adjournment of the debate which was voted on & negatived by an overwhelming majority.
- (15) S. G. Hobson then said he should demand a poll. The Previous Question was put & lost.
- (16) The amendment moved by Bernard Shaw was put as a substantive resolution & carried by a very large majority.
17. A. D. Macpherson then moved the resolution standing in his name,

17 (contd)

That in better witness of our common humanity, simple courtesy titles be accorded by the Society to men and women generally, and not alone as has up to the present been the case, to women and some men.

but in view of the very late hour, it was not recorded or discussed.

18. Montague Fordham adjourned his resolution - -

That this meeting of the Fabian Society recommends the Executive Committee to give special attention to the political and social changes at present taking place in the country districts, with a view of utilizing the opportunities now arising for the spread of Socialism in the villages.

& asked that it be put down for the next business meeting. -

W. J. W. W. W.
14 Dec. 09

191/26

Aus der Partei.

Die Mitgliederversammlung der Fabian Society.

London, 10. Januar. (Eig. Ber.)

Die Versammlung der Mitglieder der Fabian Society am 8. d. M. war zahlreich besucht. Genosse S. G. Hobson sprach für die Resolution, in der die Fabian Society aufgefordert wurde, aus der Arbeiterpartei auszutreten, um eine entschiedene und ausgesprochene sozialistische Partei gründen zu können. Er meinte, die beste aufbauende Arbeit für den Sozialismus in Großbritannien sei die Zerstörung der Arbeiterpartei, die dem Aufbau einer sozialistischen Partei im Wege stehe. Pease, der Sekretär der Fabier, sprach gegen die Resolution. Er verlas die Erklärung Sauters in der letzten Sitzung des Internationalen Bureaus betreffens die Arbeiterpartei und wies auf die parlamentarische Tätigkeit der Arbeiterpartei hin, die im Geiste des Sozialismus gehalten sei. Shaw sprach ebenfalls gegen die Resolution. Er stieß zwar der Arbeiterpartei kritisch gegenüber und verlangte von ihr ein kühneres Vorgehen, aber eine selbständige Arbeiterpartei müsse früher oder später zum Sozialismus gelangen. Man dürfe nicht an Worte glauben, sondern an Taten. Er schlug sodann folgendes Amendement vor:

„Indem diese Versammlung den Anschluß der Fabian Society an die Arbeiterpartei billigt und letztere zum Beitritt von einer halben Million Vergleute beglückwünscht, ist sie der Ansicht, daß die Zeit gekommen sei, folgende Erwägungen zu beachten:

1. Parlamentarische Parteien in England können nur dann auf Unterstützung rechnen, wenn sie ein festes Programm haben.

2. Eine Partei ohne Programm kann wohl einen Einfluß auf die Gesetzgebung im Parlament ausüben, aber kann nichts tun, um die öffentliche Meinung zu beeinflussen.

3. Eine Arbeiterpartei kann nur dann ihren Anspruch auf Unabhängigkeit von den beiden kapitalistischen Parteien begründen und auf die finanzielle Unterstützung durch die Gewerkschaften Anspruch machen, wenn sie ein Arbeiterprogramm aufstellt, das sich nicht nur von dem der kapitalistischen Parteien unterscheidet, sondern von diesem gar nicht angenommen werden kann.

4. Solange diese Bedingungen nicht erfüllt sind, wird es für die Fabian Society und die anderen sozialistischen Organisationen immer schwieriger werden, ihre Mitglieder zur Unterstützung der Arbeiterpartei anzuhalten, wodurch die Solidarität der britischen Arbeiterbewegung ebenso geschwächt würde wie die der französischen. Es könnte dies auch in England passieren, wenn die Arbeiterfraktion sich in nichts von dem linken Flügel der kapitalistischen Parteien unterscheidet.“

Dieses Amendement wurde mit ungefähr 500 gegen 62 Stimmen angenommen und Hobsons Resolution abgelehnt.

Zu Delegierten für den Kongreß der Arbeiterpartei wurden Shaw, Sanders und Pease gewählt.

Meeting at Essex Hall
Feb 12th 1909. -

1. F. Lawson Dodd took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. Emil Davies lectured on a
Workable Scheme for Railway
Nationalisation, & a discussion
followed in which Sidney Herbert,
Wm Sanders, W. Bell, Haden Guest,
Aylmer Maude, F. W. Salton,
Percy Braby & L. Leserlie took
part.

Arthur Maude

1917

Meeting for Members & Associates ~~at~~ in the Library
at the Memorial Hall on Friday April 2nd 09.

1. Aubert Bland took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. On the motion of the Secretary Frederick Keeling
& L. E. V. Tiffen were appointed Scrutineers
- H. Clifford Sharp delivered his lecture on
Revolutionary Fabianism,
& a debate followed in which Sydney
Herbert, H. H. Schlessner, Rev. Egerton Swan
W. Sanders, & R. C. K. Ensor took part.

Hanson Dr

Meeting at the Memorial Hall, Large
Hall on Friday April 23rd 1909.

1. F. Lawson Dodd took the chair
2. The Minutes of the last meeting were
conformed
3. The Secy announced the result of the
Executive Election.
4. Mr. Sidney Webb, & George Lansbury
gave addresses on the
The Royal ~~Co~~ Commission
on the Poor Laws
which were followed by questions.

Stewart Heakam

(91/78)

Meeting on May 7th 1909 at the Memorial Hall.
~~on Friday~~

1. The Rev. S. D. Headlam took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed.
3. Three addresses were given on the Taxation of Land Values, under the Title "Not a Remedy for, but the Prevention of Unemployment," by Joseph Fels, Lewis H. Behrens, (in place of Frederick Verinder, absent through illness) & Josiah Wedgwood M.P., & after ~~discussion~~ questions, a debate followed in which Sidney Webb, Aylmer Maude, & L. G. Chiozza Money, M.P. took part, & on which the three speakers replied. -

Doubt Christ
8/5/09

FABIAN M.P.'S ON LAND VALUES.

Mr. Joseph Fels and Mr. Wedgwood, M.P. opened a Fabian Society debate in the Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, last night, on the taxation of land values. The Fabian Liberal M.P. urged that the tax would cause an immediate rise in all branches of trade throughout the country without the intervention of any new organisation.

Mr. Sidney Webb and Mr. Chiozza Money, M.P. replied on the opposite side. Mr. Webb urged that only by the overthrow of private ownership and the efficient organisation of all the forces of distribution would such a result as that promised by Mr. Wedgwood be realised. The discussion that followed indicated a leaning among a few Fabians to the new proposals, and the questions asked clearly revealed the keen interest that is being taken in the subject.

Sidney Webb

Members Meeting (Annual) at
Memorial Hall, (Library)
on Friday 14th May 1909.

1. W. J. Brooks was elected chairman.

(of meetings on Jan 7th)

2. The Minutes were read, amended as indicated by the omission of the words "somewhat confused", on a resolution to that effect moved & adopted, and then confirmed as amended.

3. Treasurer on behalf of the Executive Committee submitted the Annual Report.

4. On the first paragraph A. D. Macpherson moved an amendment, & after some discussion it was agreed that the amendment be to omit the last 6 lines of the paragraph & substitute a brief ending to the paragraph. After a discussion in which H. Snell, S. Webb, S. Herbert, J. Andrews, W. J. Read & H. H. Schweser took part, the amend-

ment was put, & declared by the Chairman on a show of hands to be lost. -

5. Brief discussions arose on other paragraphs of the report, but no amendments were moved, or alterations, other than verbal, proposed, & the Report was finally adopted substantially as submitted.

6. On the accounts the Hon Treasurer, Sidney Webb & others made a few remarks, & subject to audit, they were adopted. -

7. The Secretary moved the following amendments to the rules on behalf of the Executive :-

Rule 3. Present Rule, lines 5 and 6: "Two Scrutineers shall be appointed by the Society . . . to count the votes"

Amendment: To delete the word "Two" (in order to allow the larger number now required).

Rule 18. Present Rule: "The Executive Committee may at any time refer any question to the decision of the whole Society, the voting to be by letter."

"Any mover of a resolution which, at a meeting of the Society, has been supported by not less than fifty members, may claim a poll of the whole Society, the voting to be by letter."

Amendment: Line 4, delete "fifty" and insert "one hundred."

Add at end: "If an amendment is carried, and the original resolution is therefore not put, the mover thereof shall have the right to demand before the next business that the chairman take a count of the members who support the resolution, and if this number is not less than one hundred, the mover may claim a referendum as aforesaid."

These were adopted, nem. con., without discussion.

8. Montague Fordham moved

"That this meeting recommends the Executive Committee to assist and support the Land Club League, and in any other way to promote the interests of rural labor, by means of small holdings and better housing, and so to prepare the way for the spread of Socialism in the villages."

A. P. Greiffel seconded, & Mr. Hodgkinson, Ald Sanders, Bernard Shaw, & E. R. Pease supported. The resolution was then adopted unanimously.

9. A. D. Macpherson moved

"That it be an instruction to the Executive Committee to consider and report what changes, if any, are, in their opinion, in the interests of progress, required in the present practice of the Society of according forms of address, or titles, to some men and women while not to others."

H. Chapman seconded & a discussion followed in which E. B. D'Auvergne, S. Herbert, & the Secretary took part.

10. E. W. Nicholls moved as an amendment that the Society adopt the term Comrade. This was seconded but on a division only two supported it.

11. After further discussion in which E. B. Shaw, Miss Rose Gardner, M.

11 (contd) Fordham, & H. H. Schlosser took part.
Sidney Weht moved "The Previous Question".
On a division this was adopted & the
meeting terminated. -

J. Theodore Harris

12. XI. 1909.

Meeting in the Memorial Hall
(Great Hall) on Friday May 21st
1909. -

1. Hubert Bland took the chair
2. The Minutes of May 7th were confirmed
3. Mr. Spenser Wilkinson gave an address on
Compulsory Training for National Defence
and a debate followed in
which Arthur Maude, Dr.
Lawson Dodd, Ald. W. Sanders
& Bernard Shaw took part.

Clifford Sharp

C91/31

Meeting in the Library of the Memorial
Hall, Farmington Street
on June 11th 1909.

1. Clifford Sharp took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. Mrs Charlotte Mary Wilson read a paper
on The Economic Disintegration
of the Family, & a discussion
followed in which Mrs Polkinghorne
H. H. Schloesser G. Bernard Shaw
Miss Murby R. C. K. Ensor & Ald
Sanders took part. -

L. F. Shaw
26 June 1909.

Meeting at the Memorial Hall, Library
on Friday June 25th 1909.

1. Mr. Bernard Shaw took the chair

2. The Minutes were confirmed

3. The Secretary on behalf of the Executive
Committee moved urgency which was
agreed to, & hereupon moved

That this meeting of the Fabian Society
regrets that it has been decided to
offer to the Czar of Russia on the occasion
of his visit to the Isle of Wight any
official reception or public recognition
calculated to obscure or disguise the
the feelings of abhorrence with which
the cruel & tyrannical action of the
Russian autocracy is regarded in
his country. -

The resolution was adopted
unanimously & with acclamation.

1911/32

(4) Miss Mabel Atkinson then ~~was~~ gave
a lecture on

The Household & the Community: a
plea for new Relations & a discussion
followed in which H. C. Lander
Mrs. A. Howard of Garden City, Edward
R. Pease & Mrs. T. Wilson took part.

(Charlotte J. Shaw.)

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on
Friday 8th October 1909.

1. Mrs. Bernard Shaw took the chair.
2. The minutes were confirmed.
3. On ~~the~~ behalf of the Exec. the Secy moved
urgency, which was agreed to, & then moved
That this meeting of the Fabian Society
enters its protest against the decision to
by Senor Ferrer for alleged complicity
in the Barcelona riots by Court Martial
instead of the ordinary courts. -
This was adopted nem. con. -
4. H. D. Harben then read his paper on "Maternity
Pensions & the Endowment of Motherhood"
& a discussion followed in which S. L. Salgado,
Erwinville Barker, Dr. Helen Guest, P. Vaughan,
W. A. Colegate, Miss Atkinson, Mrs. Tomshend,
Mrs. B. Baker, Mrs. O. B. Harris, & F. H. Spencer took
part.

Julius Ward

Meeting at the Memorial Hall Library
on Friday 22 Oct. '09.

1. Hubert Bland took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. The Secretary made announcements about
Parliamentary + Bow Council Elections etc.
4. Mr. Haden Guest lectured on
A Year's Work in a Slum Dispensary
a debate followed in which Mrs. Hodgkinson,
A. J. Pentz, Rev. S. D. Headlam, W. Bell,
S. L. Salgado, Dr. Bentham - ~~R. A.~~ Percy Braby
G. B. Shaw, E. R. Pease, + B. Dube' took
part.

L. Haden Guest

Members Business Meeting ~~at~~ held in the
Library of the Memorial Hall
on Friday 12th November 1909.

1. J. Theodore Harris was elected chairman.
2. The Minutes of the Annual Meeting were read + confirmed.
3. ~~Announcements~~ Regulations for the Annual Conference
The amended regulations, circulated to the members in advance were submitted by Sidney Welch on behalf of the Executive - Questions were asked + answered on a few points. The Regulations were then formally put to the meeting + in all cases adopted, as printed, subject to the correction of a misprint.
4. A. D. Macpherson then moved the resolution of which he had given notice :-

That the simple forms of address—Miss, Mrs., and Mr.—be accorded by the Society to women and men respectively.

John Andrews seconded, and a discussion

C41/37

C41/38

The Fabian Society.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS to the Constitution in relation to Local Societies, submitted by the Executive Committee; with Report on the reasons for their adoption.

THE resolution of the members' meeting of January 8th, 1909, and the enquiries set on foot by the committee may be taken to indicate the existence of a feeling that it would be desirable to bring the local Fabian Societies in other towns into closer and more constant touch with the London members; to secure to their members more adequate representation; and especially to provide more systematically than at present for the interchange of opinions and discussion of Fabian methods.

We think that experience has shown that the existing organization has both advantages and drawbacks. At present, the local societies accepting the name and basis of the Fabian Society are wholly autonomous. As local organizations they contribute nothing to the funds of the Fabian Society of London; nor do they bear any share of what may be called the national expenses of the movement, such as the work of the central office, the printing of tracts, the issue of FABIAN NEWS, and the organization of lecturing and other propaganda. None of their members need necessarily be members of the parent Society, though they are encouraged to join; and those who wish to join are admitted to full membership at the low minimum subscription of half-a-crown a year, which very inadequately represents the average expenditure per head of membership. Such national conferences as have been held have been arranged and the collective expenses met by the London Society. But whatever may be the advantages of this loose connection, which allows the local society complete freedom of action and control of all its funds, it has the disadvantage that the members of the local societies come very little into contact with the national movement, have few opportunities of expressing effectively their views on matters of common concern, and seldom have opportunities of meeting the members of the Fabian Societies outside their own towns. The London members and the Executive Committee of the parent Society thus lose the stimulus and advantage of meeting the members of the local societies.

Among various proposals to which the desire for closer association has led is one for the setting up of a national organization with a single membership, of which such Fabian Societies as agreed to come

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in would become parts, with branch subscriptions for local expenses which would be under local control, together with a capitation fee to a national fund under the control of a conference of representatives empowered to legislate on matters of national concern. To this plan some members have expressed the objection that the creation of a national conference with legislative powers could hardly fail, even if those powers were limited to so-called national questions, to diminish the complete autonomy now possessed by the local societies; that the local societies would become, in effect, branches; and that there would be no compensating gain in an annual conference of representatives. Moreover, as the expenditure not specially connected with any one locality now exceeds, however calculated, £1,000 per annum, and amounts, as some say, to much more, the affiliation fee that would be required to meet this expenditure if assessed equally on the whole membership of about 3,000, would involve a heavy drain on the funds at present available for expenditure by the local societies. Indeed, proposals have been under consideration for raising the present minimum subscription.

It has, therefore, been suggested that while the constitution of the several societies should remain as at present, the arrangements for the national conference should be definitely settled and made more effective. The main purpose of the conference should be to exchange ideas, discuss methods of action with the object of learning from each other's experience, and generally to enable the several societies to stimulate each other's activities and to realize that they are an integral and effective part of a national organization. At the same time the conference might assume an authoritative position, and be entitled definitely to be consulted before any action were taken by any society in the nature of affiliation or formal alliance with any political or other organization, or the termination of any such affiliation or formal alliance. Moreover, it is suggested that there would be great advantage in the local secretaries being put in a position to supply every one of their members, as a matter of course, with FABIAN NEWS monthly and with all tracts as issued. In order to meet the cost of this, and of the correspondence conducted by the Central Office, it is suggested that a capitation fee of one shilling per member a year should be paid by each local society on its members who are not members of the parent Society. In order to equalize the cost to societies in all parts of the kingdom, the travelling and other expenses of representatives attending the conference should, it is suggested, be paid by the Treasurer of the parent Society, and covered by an equal conference fee for each representative, to be paid by the society sending him or her.

With a view to carry into effect the suggestions that have been made in such a way as to preserve the advantages of the present organization, whilst remedying its defects as far as pecuniary and other circumstances will permit, the following proposals were drafted and laid before the conference of Fabian Societies and groups in July last by which, with some amendments, they were approved.

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PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE FABIAN SOCIETIES AS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE IN JULY, 1909.

S. Webb,
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I.

With the object of stimulating and promoting the work of the local societies and groups, and for conferring upon questions of common concern, the Executive Committee shall, at least once in each year, convene a conference of duly elected representatives of groups and local Fabian Societies.

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II.

The conference shall consist of (a) one representative of each group or local society having a membership as hereinafter defined of not more than fifty, together with an additional representative for every fifty additional members or part thereof; (b) the members of the Executive Committee of the parent Society, together with (if not members of the Executive Committee) the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Organizing Secretary, and the Trustees of the Parliamentary Fund.

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The membership for this purpose shall be reckoned as including (a) all the members of each group and such members of each local society as are also members of the parent Society, and (b) members of the local Fabian Societies who are not members of the parent Society on whose behalf the local society has remitted to the Treasurer a capitation fee of one shilling.

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III.

To every member of the conference residing more than twenty miles from the place of meeting the Treasurer of the parent Society shall pay the amount of third class railway fare there and back, and (unless hospitality can be arranged) a sum of seven shillings and sixpence per night spent away from home for other expenses. A conference fee, sufficient to cover the total of these and the other necessary expenses of the conference (which ought, if possible, not to exceed one pound per representative) shall be payable to the Treasurer of the parent Society by the group or society sending the representative.

following

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IV.

There shall be laid before each conference for discussion and such resolutions as may be decided on by the members present:

- (a) A report by the Executive Committee upon the progress of the work of the several societies and groups since the last conference.
- (b) Any suggestions sent in for consideration by the conference or prepared by the Executive Committee as to the work of the several societies and groups, such as:

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- (1) Methods of propaganda.
- (2) Organization of lecturing.
- (3) Literature.
- (4) Education of members and investigations or study.
- (5) The political activities within the reach of each society.
- (6) Any other subject that may be deemed within the scope of the conference.

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(c) The arrangements for the conference itself.

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On any of the above matters (a), (b), (c), any resolutions arrived at by the conference should take the form of recommendations to the Executive or to the several groups or local societies.

If it should be deemed necessary at any time to take action on any of the following matters, such action shall not be taken by the parent Society or by any of the local societies until the proposal has been brought before the conference for discussion and (if so decided) ordered for referendum :

3. ~~tee~~

- (d) Any alteration in the Basis of the Fabian Society.
- (e) Any union, affiliation or formal alliance with any other society, or with any political party, whereby the freedom of action of any society or group, or of the officers or members thereof, is in any way limited, or any termination of such a union, affiliation, or formal alliance already entered into.
- (f) Any change in the constitution of the conference, or of these regulations, or in the amount of the capitation fee.

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On any of the above matters (d), (e), (f), the conference may pass resolutions, either in terms of recommendation or else mandatory. In the latter case they shall be binding on the Executive Committee, the groups and the local societies, unless the conference itself, the Executive Committee, or local societies containing not less than one-tenth of the ~~societies~~ entitled to be represented at the conference, ask that a referendum of such members be taken.

membership

There shall be supplied free of charge to the Secretaries of local Fabian Societies (the cost being deemed to be covered by the capitation fee) a sufficient number of copies of FABIAN NEWS, and of all tracts supplied gratuitously to members, to enable every member or associate on whose behalf a capitation fee has been paid to receive a copy; and the local societies shall be bound to place such copies without delay in the hands of all their members, by post or otherwise.

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4 (contd.) took place in which C. B. Wheeler, S. Webb, G. B. Shaw, E. R. Pease & Mrs. T. Wilson took part. The closure was then moved & carried, & with the consent of the proposers the motion was put in the following amended form: -

That the Fabian Society adopt the conventional usage in addressing the members from the office & otherwise.

On a show of hands the Chairman declared the resolution lost, apparently by a small majority.

5 Henry H. Schloesser then moved the following motion,

That at any members' meeting after the adoption of the minutes, an opportunity shall be given for questions (of which one day's notice in writing has been given) to be put to any Executive officer on the work of his department; but the time occupied by such questions shall not exceed twenty minutes.

but by consent in ~~an~~ altered form, to read the Chairman of any Standing Committee on the work of his Committee. Sidney Webb accepted on behalf of the Executive, & the motion, as amended, was agreed to.

5. Dr. Ethel Bentham moved

That this meeting protests against the forced feeding of the prisoners on the ground that artificial feeding, when resisted by the person fed, is attended by grave dangers to health.

Mrs Gallician seconded + Mrs Broves opposed.

b. Ashley Duke moved + Mrs F. Wilson seconded an amendment to insert the word Suffragist before the word Prisoners. W. A. Colegate + H. H. Schloesser opposed. The amendment was put + lost.

7. Miss Atkinson moved + Mrs Bernard Shaw seconded the following amendment; +

That in view of the surrender of the Home Office to Lady Constance Lytton on the evident ground that forcible feeding is an outrage too disgusting to be offered to a woman of rank this meeting assures the Government that public opinion makes no such class distinction and is equally revolted when the same outrage is offered to poorer women. Also, that the meeting recognises that the discontinuance of

7 (cont.)

forcible feeding will compel the Government to choose between allowing the prisoners to starve to death and allowing the law to be defeated. It therefore invites the Government to avoid this intolerable situation by giving the Suffragists the assurances they demand and giving them the benefit of any distinctions that may be in use between different classes of prisoners.

8. Dr. Bentham withdrew her motion in favour of the amendment and the discussion was continued, Miss Grant & S. Herbert opposing, Miss Seymour & Bernard Shaw supporting the motion.
9. The "Previous Question" was moved & lost: the closure was moved & carried, & the Resolution, as proposed by Miss Atkinson was put & carried by a large majority.

J. Theodore Harris.
15. IV. 1910.

Home Office, Whitehall.

22nd. November, 1909.

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State to say that his attention has been drawn to a Resolution on the subject of forcible feeding which is said in the "Times" of the 19th. instant and other newspapers to have been passed "by a large majority at a Meeting of members of the Fabian Society", and which contains falsehoods and misrepresentations of such a character that he does not think it would be right to pass them over in silence. He has not received a copy of the Resolution from yourself or from any official of the Fabian Society, and he trusts that the association of the Resolution with the name of the Fabian Society is unauthorised.

The Resolution in the first place contains a statement to the effect that the reason why Lady Constance Lytton was released from Prison was that forcible feeding is "an outrage too disgusting to be offered to a woman of rank".

In view of the repeated statements which the Secretary of State has made in Parliament, he can only regard the statement that Lady Constance Lytton's release had anything to do with her rank or social position as a wilful and deliberate misrepresentation. She was released solely because she was suffering from serious heart disease, and because violent resistance on her part to the medical treatment appropriate to her case would have involved some risk to her life. It was on this ground, and this ground alone, that she and three other prisoners who were confined at the same time in Newcastle Prison, were released from custody.

The statement that forcible feeding is a "disgusting outrage" is a further misrepresentation, though possibly one proceeding merely from ignorance. Forcible feeding by tube is a regular form of medical treatment which is constantly applied in appropriate cases in hospitals, asylums and prisons: and the fact that in most cases it has to be applied to persons who are insane or of weak mind does not affect its character. In no sense can the process be described as torture or an outrage. The brief discomfort it involves is nothing compared to the self-inflicted torture of starvation.

The Resolution concludes by calling on the Government to give the suffragists "the benefit of any distinctions that may be in use between different classes of prisoners." Here again there is a grave misrepresentation implied if not expressly stated. It is absolutely untrue to say that the suffragists have not received the full benefit of the distinctions made between different classes of prisoners. At first they were generally committed by the Magistrates to the First Division - an order to that effect was made in no less than 132 cases - and it was only when they abused the privileges of the First Division that the Magistrates felt themselves compelled to commit them to the Second Division where the discipline is more strict, but where they have still the advantage of not associating with ordinary criminals. In recent cases where acts of grave violence to property or acts involving danger to life have been perpetrated, the prisoners have in a few instances been sentenced to imprisonment in the Third Division, or to imprisonment with hard labour; but this has only been done when their offences had degenerated into mere acts of hooliganism, which in the case of male prisoners would have been even more severely punished.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
Edward Troup.

(Signed)

Times 25.11.04.

THE HOME SECRETARY AND FORCIBLE FEEDING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—The Fabian Society may congratulate itself on the success with which it has drawn the Home Secretary on the above subject. The letter of Mr. Troup implies some doubt as to whether the resolution so pathetically complained of was actually passed by so responsible a body. As one of those who were present and voted for it I can assure Mr. Gladstone that it is only too true. It was carried by a large majority; and it was voted for by persons of conflicting opinions, on the ground that it was so exactly accurate in every phrase that it became a matter of conscience not to vote in the negative.

It seems, however, to have been misunderstood by the Home Office. Mr. Gladstone is apparently under the impression that the members of the Fabian Society desired to reproach him for not forcibly feeding Lady Constance Lytton. On the contrary, they regarded it as quite a redeeming feature in his campaign; and the resolution expressly urged him to take the same decent and sensible view of all other cases. And though Mr. Gladstone, through Mr. Troup, would seem to protest that he feels no repugnance to the forcible feeding of a woman of Lady Constance's rank, and, in fact, assures us that nothing but the strongest medical remonstrances restrained him, I prefer to think that the right hon. gentleman is doing himself some injustice in the matter, or else that he has been misled by the statements which he has received and repeated as to the extremely enjoyable nature of a meal administered by the methods practised on Mrs. Leigh and other prisoners.

It may be that Mr. Gladstone is right on this point. I will, therefore, undertake to procure the co-operation of the Fabian Society in providing for Mr. Gladstone a banquet which Sardanapalus would have regarded as an exceptional treat. The rarest wines and delicacies shall be provided absolutely regardless of expense. The only condition we shall make is that Mr. Herbert Gladstone shall partake through the nose; and that a cinematographic machine shall be at work all the time registering for the public satisfaction the waterings of his mouth, the smackings of his lips, and the other unmistakable symptoms of luxurious delight with which he will finally convince us all of the truth of his repeated assurances to us that the forcibly-fed Suffragist is enjoying an indulgence rather than suffering martyrdom.

I must not conclude this letter without an expression of my sincere concern for the unexpected revelation of the dangerous state of Lady Constance Lytton's health. It only shows how little we can trust to appearances. But yesterday we regarded Lady Constance as one of the most energetic members of a family noted for its genius, its public spirit, its good looks, and its enviable health and longevity. To-day we learn that all this was a mere mask for the

kind resorted to by suffragists. Their resistance to the process is offered in a spirit of disregard for self-welfare and maintained with a strength of determination that could only exist if backed by some altruistic ideal. Such resistance may be called hysteria, mania, or fanaticism, but it has to be faced as an essential part of the hunger strike of the suffragists.

The basis of the punitive system by imprisonment may be said to rest on four points—protection of the public, deterrence to other criminals, punishment of the offender, reform of the offender. The Government in its most sanguine moments can scarcely hope to reform the suffragist through imprisonment; if it is safe to the public to release her un-reformed in a few weeks or months, it is equally safe to do so after a few days. With regard to deterrence and punishment, a hunger strike, though self-imposed, is described by the Home Secretary himself as "torture"; it is therefore fully punitive and thereby safeguarded from imitation by ordinary criminals undergoing similar sentences.

Yours, &c.,

CONSTANCE LYTTON.

November 24.

THE MURDER OF MR.

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But I will harrow Mr. Gladstone's feelings no more. Africa stretches out her arms to him; and we should all be sorry to see his parting from his native land embittered by reflections on the condition of the noble lady whose health he has so sympathetically spared. Let him go in peace to the land of the Congo: his talent for taking a pleasant view of extremely unpleasant facts will find opportunities there which even the Suffragists cannot provide in our more fastidious civilization.

Yours truly,

G. BERNARD SHAW.

10, Adelphi-terrace, W.C., Nov. 23.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—The letter published in your columns of November 23 addressed by the Home Secretary to the Fabian Society contains allusions to myself which I should be glad to answer.

The Home Secretary regards "the statement that Lady Constance Lytton's release had anything to do with her rank or social position as a wilful and deliberate misrepresentation." But for my personal experience in the matter I should not have believed possible the preferential treatment meted out to Mrs. Brailsford and myself as compared to our fellow-demonstrators. I do not suppose that either the magistrates or Home Office officials put the matter before their own consciences in these words:—"Socially well-known prisoners to be treated leniently; others otherwise." But facts invite the inevitable conclusion that both our offences and conditions of release were judged in a quite different spirit from that brought to bear on other suffrage prisoners, and since on that occasion ours were the gravest offences, we could but assume that our social position had influenced the authorities. The facts are these. Four of our companions had been tried on Saturday, October 9, and sentenced for window breaking to varying terms of imprisonment in the third division with hard labour. I had thrown a stone in a crowded public place at the motor-car which had conveyed Mr. Lloyd-George to his meeting. When arrested for this act on Saturday, October 9, my name was unknown, and the charges brought against me were—(1) Assault on Sir Walter Runciman (who was in the car); (2) wilful damage to the car value £4; (3) disorderly behaviour in a public place. On the following Monday when charged in Court I was, of course, by that time identified; I was judged innocent of all but the last charge, although confessedly guilty of the second charge as well. On the third charge I was sentenced to a month in the second division with the option of being bound over—the same sentence as I had received in February for refusing to be turned back by the police as one of a deputation to the Prime Minister. On that occasion I had done no violence whatever. Mrs. Brailsford had used a hatchet to try and break down a wooden barricade. This was her first offence; she received the same sentence as myself. Our actions with some show of reason might have been interpreted as endangering the public. Our five companions, who were judged with us, had thrown stones only at the windows of empty Government buildings when no crowd was near. Several of them were first offenders, one had not even broken the glass with her stone, and this was admitted by the prosecution. They were all charged with wilful damage, values varying from 15s. to £3 17s. 6d., and sentenced to the third division with hard labour, and without the alternative of being bound over, sentences varying from 14 days to one month; so much for the impartiality of the police court.

As for the orders for release which concern the Home Office more especially, Mrs. Brailsford and I, after undergoing the hunger strike for two and a half days, were told by the doctors that they had orders to release us "on medical grounds." It is true I have a chronic heart weakness, opinions differ as to the degree of its seriousness; it had not developed into any symptoms such as fainting or vomiting as has been the case with other suffrage prisoners before they were released. Mrs. Brailsford is free of heart disease, and she has shown no temporary symptoms of a serious nature. I fully admit, however, that a hunger strike, even of two and a half days, is no light matter, and that feeding by force would have entailed risks of various kinds, amongst others "some risk to life." But how does this admission on the part of the Home Secretary coincide with his assertion that "forcible feeding by tube" involves only "brief discomfort"? The resistance and its result, which was feared for Mrs. Brailsford and me, have to be taken into account in the case of every other protester who hunger-strikes in the suffrage cause.

Our companions were kept in prison—two of them for another 24 hours, the rest for the whole term of their sentences, during which time they were fed by force.

Feeding "by force" is unknown in hospitals, where food is administered artificially, but always with the consent of the patients and solely for their good. Patients are treated daily by doctors, surgeons, dentists, and nurses in a way which would certainly constitute "torture and outrage" if done without consent of the patient. Nor can the feeding by force of lunatics or demented criminals be compared to such a process when inflicted on women who are fighting for the freedom of other women and whose "crimes" and "violence" are of the

Meeting at Memorial Hall Library
on Friday 26th Nov 1909.

1. Dr. L. Haden Guest took the chair
2. The minutes of the last lecture were confirmed
3. After announcements by the Secretary W. A. Colegate gave the first of the series of lectures ~~on~~ on Socialism in the future, his subject being "The Heart of Socialism"; ~~after~~ in the debate which followed H. H. Schlessler, Sidney Herbert, S. D. Shallard, Ashley Dukes, Emil Davis & A. W. Bacon took part.

Aymel Claude

Meeting at the Memorial Hall Library
on Friday ~~20th~~ 31st Dec 1909.

1. Aylmer Maude took the chair

2. The minutes were confirmed

3. Mrs Vera Figner gave a lecture on
Twenty Years in Schlüsselburg;
a number of questions were asked
& answered, by G. Bernard Shaw - Mrs
Garnett spoke on the lessons of the lecture.

Stewart Heale

Westminster Gazette, 6 Dec '09

RUSSIAN PRISONS.

A PERSONAL NARRATIVE OF THEIR HORRORS.

At a meeting of the Fabian Society at the Memorial Hall on Friday evening, Madame Vera Figner addressed a large audience, with Mr. Aylmer Maude in the chair. Madame Figner delivered her speech in English, and she asked the audience to excuse her imperfect pronunciation, as she had only studied the language unaided in a cell of the Fortress of Schlüsselburg. She went on to describe how, as quite a young girl, she had been touched by the exceeding misery of the peasants upon her father's estate, and how, having studied medicine in Switzerland with the desire to alleviate their sufferings, she returned to Russia and settled among them as a doctor. At that time her only ideal was to devote her life to helping the people by peaceful methods. But the Russian Government, jealous of every effort towards the enlightenment of the peasants, placed every obstacle in the way of her work amongst them, and at length forced her on the revolutionary path. After less than a year of medical activity she had to leave that part of the country to avoid imprisonment.

Madame Figner eventually joined the revolutionary party called the "Will of the People," which soon became the most powerful organisation in Russia. But one by one the leaders were arrested, until Vera Figner, at the age of twenty-five, was sold to the Government by a traitor for the sum of £1,000.

She was kept for two years in solitary confinement in the fortress of St. Peter and Paul, waiting her trial, at which she was condemned to death. The sentence was afterwards commuted to life-long imprisonment in the fortress of Schlüsselburg, from which she was finally released by the general amnesty of 1905—after twenty-two years of solitary confinement. After that for two years she was exiled to the shores of the Arctic Ocean.

"I have often been asked," said Madame Figner, "what life in Schlüsselburg was like. I can tell you it was such that twenty-eight of the forty prisoners kept there perished from madness, disease, or suicide, during the first five years." For twenty-two years the prisoners never saw a creature from the outside world, for twelve years they never spoke to a living being, nor read any book but the Bible. Three prisoners were shot for protesting against this régime, and it was only after the horrible suicide of Grachevsky, who burnt himself alive in his cell, the conditions were slightly ameliorated. The horror of the situation was augmented by the fact that the mad and the dying were left absolutely unattended.

Madame Figner concluded her speech by saying that the present condition of things in Russia is worse than it had ever been before.

In answer to a question asked by one of the audience, Dr. Soskice explained that the reason that the death sentence was commuted to life-long imprisonment was that the Czar Alexander III. was anxious to impress the world at large with his humane behaviour, so that at that time it was a frequent occurrence to pass death sentences only in order that they should be afterwards commuted.

During the discussion one of the audience asked in what way the British people could best help Russia. The answer to this was a speech by Mr. George Bernard Shaw, in the course of which he said: "It is time that public opinion in England should be made forcibly clear, and should be listened to by the statesmen who guide our foreign policy. They speak of non-interference. As a matter of fact they do interfere in Russian affairs, but on the wrong side, by lending the Czar British capital. It is now," said Mr. Shaw, "an avowed policy of our statesmen that British capital should flow into the coffers of the Russian Government. The Anglo-Russian agreement, which is practically a division of Persia into two parts, has been the means of giving British capital, which, as our upper classes loudly proclaim, it is essentially necessary for the welfare of our nation to keep at home, a strong impetus to enter Russia."

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Meeting at the Memorial Hall Library
on Friday 17 Dec: 1909.

1. The Rev. S. D. Headlam took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. Clifford Sharp read his paper
on Socialism in the Future II
The Future of Industry & a dis-
cussion followed in which
Haden Guest, Theodore Wright, A. S. Davis,
A. J. Perry, H. W. Macrosty, & H.
Mahany took part.

L Haden Guest

Meeting at the Memorial Hall Library
on Friday 14th Jan. 1910.

1. Dr. Haden Guest took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. Mrs. Townshend read a paper on
Care Committees & their work
& after questions, a discussion
followed in which Messrs S.D.
Headlam, S. L. Salgado, Miss Olive
Steele, the Chairman & others
took part -

Phyllis D. Sharp

Meeting at Memorial Hall Library on
Friday 28th Jan. 7 1910. -

1. Clifford D. Sharp took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. The Sec'y on behalf of the Exec. Comtee moved
urgency, which was agreed to, & then moved
that the Exec. be authorized to publish
a Society Tract entitled "What a Health
Committee can do." - This was agreed to.
4. G. R. Blanco White read a paper on "Socialism
of the Future III. The Future of National
Finance. In the discussion which
followed S. D. Shallard, E. R. Pease
J. Gibson, P. N. Gardner, S. Herbert,
Ashley Dukes, A. W. Bacht, B. James
Ald. W. S. Sanders, & Bernard Shaw
took part.

J. Theodore Harris.

11. II. 1910.

Meeting at the Memorial Hall
on Friday Feb 11th 1910.

1. J. Theodore Harris took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. Sydney Herbert lectured on
Socialism in the Future IV. The New
Environment, & in the debate
which followed Clifford Sharp,
Bernard Shaw, Miss Murby,
Ashley Dukes & H. T. Muggerridge
took part.

Mabel Atkinson

(91/93)

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on Friday 25th Feb. 7'10

1. Miss Mabel Atkinson took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. H. H. Schloesser read his paper on Socialism in the Future, & The Political Future, & a discussion followed in which Miss Gardner, Silas Wybrew, Emil Davies, Miss Atkinson, Clifford Sharp, F. W. Hayes & Mrs Van Raalte took part.

Clifford Sharp.

Meeting at the Memorial Hall Library
on Friday 4th March 1910.

1. Clifford Sharp took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. Dr. Veidl of Vienna lectured on
Social Municipalism in Vienna
and after a large number of
questions, a short discussion took
place, in which W. J. Read &
Miss Murray took part.

W. J. Read

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Meeting at the Memorial Hall Library on
Friday 18th March 1910.

1. Hubert Bland took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. Miss Bondfield gave a lecture on
- Wage-Earning Mothers
+ a debate followed in which Henry H.
Schloesser, H. W. Macrotz, Miss Gardner
Robert Jones, Miss Atkinson, Dr. Bentham,
Miss Murly + W. S. Sanders took part.

Hubert Bland

Meeting at Memorial Hall, (Large Hall),
on Friday 8th April 1910.

1. Aglmer Maude took the chair
2. Ten Minutes were conformed
3. Will Crookes gave an address on
The Colonies as they struck me,
which was followed by a number of
questions.

Allen Blund

Meeting of members, called by requisition was held at Memorial Hall on Friday 15 April 1910. -

1. J. Theodore Harris was elected chairman
2. The minutes were confirmed.
3. The following scrutineers were elected viz:

Lieut Talbot Crosbie	a. Freeman
S. D. Shallard	Arnold Maude.
a. D. Lewis	
4. S. D. Shallard in accordance with notice moved: -

That in the opinion of this meeting the approval of the Society should be obtained before the Executive Committee issues a manifesto on electoral policy other than an appeal urging all members to do their utmost as speakers or workers on behalf of Socialist and Labor Party candidates.

The motion was formally seconded.

5. The "Advice to members" published in the Farming News was read by the Secretary.

b. Sidney Webb on behalf of the Executive moved the following amendment :-

To omit all words after the word "before" in line 2, and insert

"any manifesto on Electoral policy is published
"by the Society, and this meeting endorses the
"advice given to the members by the Executive
"Committee before the last General Election to
"vote for Labour and Socialist Candidates and
"against the House of Lords."

7. W. S. Sanders seconded & in the debate which followed F. H. Gore & Miss Atkinson supported the resolution, & Haden Guest, John Andrews, H. Davidson, Jack Gibson, & Miss Murby the amendment.

8. The amendment was then put & carried & by a very large majority & this was repeated when it was put as a substantive resolution.

Henry H. Gibson

Meeting in the Memorial Hall on Friday
22 April 1910. -

1. Hubert Bland took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. The Secy read out the results of the Executive Committee election.
4. Hilaire Belloc M.P. read a paper on
The failure of Socialism, & after
a large number of questions a debate
followed in which W. S. Sanders,
Aylmer Maude, H. H. Schlessler, Miss
Murby & others took part.

~~Henry Schlessler~~

L. Haden Guest

Annual Meeting at the Memorial Hall,
Farringdon Street on Friday 13th May 1910.

1. H. H. Schloesser was elected Chairman
2. The Minutes of the Members Meeting of April 15th were read + confirmed
3. The Annual Report was submitted by the Chairman + considered page by page. After very little discussion the resolution that the Report + accounts be adopted was put + agreed to. —
4. The Sec. on behalf of the Executive reported on arrangements made for supporting Will Crooks as parliamentary candidate for Woolwich, Harry Snell for Huddersfield, + F. W. Goldstone probably for Sunderland, the last who paid for the National Union of Teachers. Harry Snell spoke on the position of affairs at Huddersfield. After a short discussion, in wh. the proposals of the Exec.

were favourably dealt with, the next business was proceeded with. -

5. Treasurer for the Exec. moved the following amendments to the rules: -

(a) Rule 6. Present rule (part):
 Resolutions of which due notice has been given shall be placed on the agenda of the first private meeting of the Society after such notice has been published.
 Amendment: To add:
 Provided that when any resolution has been discussed and voted on, and within twelve months of the date thereof notice is given of a resolution on the same subject, the Executive Committee shall be authorized, if they think fit, to defer placing the resolution on the agenda for any meeting until the expiration of the said twelve months.

~~after~~ This was agreed to.

(b) Rule 8. Present rule:
 When a requisition, signed by not less than twenty-five members, is presented to the General Secretary, calling for a private meeting to discuss any resolution, the Executive Committee shall order the resolution to be printed in FABIAN NEWS, and shall appoint for the meeting the earliest convenient date thereafter.
 amend: - 4, line 1: To delete the word "twenty-five" and insert "fifty."

After a brief debate this was adopted with 4 dissentients

(c) When a requisition of urgency, signed by not less than fifty members, is presented to the General Secretary, calling for a private meeting to discuss a specific notice of motion, he shall summon such a meeting for a date within fourteen days from the receipt thereof, and shall within seven days notify the same to all members, by circular or otherwise.
 amend: line 1: To delete the word "fifty" and insert "one hundred."

This was opposed by H. T. Muggersidge, & S. L. Salzedo, & supported by Bernard Shaw, & W. S. Sanders. -
 An amendment to substitute 75 for 100 was put & lost, & the amendment to the rule was carried by a large majority.

6. The following resolution was then moved by Sidney Herbert

That the Executive Committee be requested to consider and report on the advisability of limiting by rule the liberty of members to support, or stand as candidates of, political parties or organizations other than Labor or Socialist.

It was seconded & a debate followed in which H. G. Bernard, J. Gibson, Harry Snell Arnold, Maude, H. T. Muggerridge, F. W. Hayes & others spoke. R. C. K. Ineson on behalf of the Exec. said the Committee was prepared to issue a report on the subject.

The resolution was then agreed to with one or two dissentients.

(7.) Dr. A. S. Macpherson asked for & obtained leave to withdraw the resolution of which he had given notice & to move instead:

That, having regard to the increasing injustice of the exclusion of women from full political citizenship, in the opinion of this meeting it is the duty of the Government to give urgency to a measure removing the sex-disability of women in parliamentary elections.

1940/10

(8.) Miss Atkinson seconded the resolution after a brief debate was carried by a large majority. - The Sec. was ordered to send the resolution to the press etc, on or about June 15th and before.

9. The remaining resolution of wh. Dr. A. D. Macpherson had given notice, was not formally moved, & it was agreed that it be referred to the Exec. Com^{ee} to deal with.

Walter Blair

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on
Friday May 27th 1910.

1. Dr. Haden Guest took the chair
2. The minutes of April 22nd were confirmed
3. Dr. Rodolphe Broda of Paris lectured on
Cooperative Societies in France

A debate followed Miss Atkinson A.S.
Reitlinger, ^{J. F. Harris} Arnold Maude, Miss Murby
& others took part.

Arthur Blain

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on
Friday 10th June 1910.

1. Hubert Bland took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. Miss Millicent Murby gave an address on
Bergson & future Social Philosophy
& a debate followed in which
H. H. Schloesser, M. R. N. Aiyangar,
H. S. Reitlinger, Miss Atkinson, &
H. J. B. Golding took part.

J. Lawson Dodd.

Meeting at the Memorial
Hall Library on Friday 14th Oct-
ober 1910

1. Lawson Dodd took the
Chair.
2. The Minutes were confirmed.
3. Aylmer Maude gave the first
of the series of lectures on
"Some Open Questions of Socialism"
his subject being "The Change
of Heart". In the debate
which followed J. A. Mc Nicol,
H. J. Barnard, H. John G. Swine,
Emil Davies, G. Bernard Shaw,
Mr Blake, Harry Chapman,
Arnold Maude, H. H. Schlosser,
and C. M. Lloyd took part

S. Heallam

Meeting at the Memorial Hall Library
on Friday 21st October 1910.

1. The Rev. S. D. Headlam took the chair.
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. Cyril Jackson L.C.C. Chairman of the London Education Committee lectured on Education as a preparation for life, & a debate followed in which Mrs. Cornell, J. Gibson, Mrs. Pember Reeves, Mrs. Polkinghorne, W. J. Read, Halliday Sparling, & Bernard Shaw took part.

Mabel Atkinson

Nov. 25th 1910.

Members Meeting at the Memorial Hall Library
on Friday Nov 4th 1910.

1. Hubert Bland was elected chairman
2. The minutes of the last annual meeting were confirmed.
3. R. C. W. Emsor on behalf of the Executive read a paper in response to the resolution adopted at the Annual meeting requesting the Executive to report to the Society on the advisability of limiting the right of members to support or stand as candidates of political organisations or parties other than Socialist or Labour.
4. Sydney Herbert opened the debate on the paper, & expressed general concurrence with the Report. The discussion was continued by Clifford Sharp, Dr. Waden Guest, Halliday Sparling, Graham Thompson,

Calls

H. H. Schloesser, Dr. Stratton, W. S. Sanders
Jack Gibson & Bernard Shaw, the majority
of whom devoted their remarks more to the
general state of the society than to the subject
of the paper. No resolution was proposed
& the discussion was closed by a reply
from the reader of the paper.

Melrose, Mass

10/5/11

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
25th November 1910

1. Miss Atkinson took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. The Secy made announcements relating the General Election & the Fabian Parliamentary Fund.
4. Paul Hyacinthe Loyson of Paris gave a lecture on Syndicalism in France & a discussion followed in which Sydney Herbert, Bernard Shaw, Halliday Sparling & Clifford Sharp took part.

A. J. M. H. H. H.
7 Dec 9. 1910

1910/12

Meeting for Members, Associates & Subscribers
at the Memorial Large Hall
on Friday Dec. 9th 1910.

1. H. Granville Barker took the chair
2. The Minutes of last meeting were confirmed
3. G. Bernard Shaw lectured on
Equality

A discussion followed
in which H. H. Schloesser, W. Catmur,
S. L. Salzedo, Arnold Mande, W. Bell
& others took part.

L. Haden Guest

Meeting for Members Associates & Subscribers
 at the Memorial Hall Library
 on Friday Dec. 16th 1910.

1. Dr. Haden Guest took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. Dr. C. W. Salkety lectured on
 The Methods of Eugenics
 & a discussion followed in which
 J. J. Dodd, W. S. Sanders, G. B. Shaw,
 & the Chairman took part.

Bymer Hand

13. 1. '11

COPY.

notice that he is a dangerous actor. It would not be surprising in these circumstances if he were to drive to degradation. Such an individual should take care. I have said, however, it is impossible to say. Whitehall Place, S. W. January 7th. 1911.

Can/S4

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of yesterday's date, asking if the Fabian Society could do anything usefully for the benefit of the Japanese Socialists now being tried in Tokyo for conspiracy, I think much good might be done by the passing of a resolution protesting against the methods now being employed to crush Socialism in Japan, as the Japanese Government is always greatly influenced by criticism in England.

Like yourselves, I have no sympathy whatever with political crime, and I agree that those who embark on political crime cannot complain if the State retaliates. The difficulty is to discover what evidence of criminal intentions there is against these 25 men and 1 woman who stand accused of a dynamite plot in Tokyo. As I stated in the letter to the "Times", when the arrests took place the newspapers received peremptory instructions that no mention of the reasons for the arrest should be made. This did not prevent the police authorities some weeks later from issuing a statement, while the persons who still were still under secret trial in Tokyo, declaring that they were guilty of complicity in an atrocious dynamite plot. No particulars were given - even the subsequent allegation that the plot was directed against the Emperor was not then mentioned - and the nature of the evidence against the accused was not given, or at least was extremely vague. After being adjudged guilty by the Preliminary Court the men are now being tried, again in secret, by the Court of Cassation. No opportunity has been afforded of learning the nature of their defence, and if that defence were to leak out in any way a newspaper giving publicity to it would be prosecuted. It is against such methods that I have protested, not as a Socialist, for I am an Individualist, but simply in the interest of elementary justice.

The very word Socialism appears to drive the Japanese Government authorities into a state of abject terror. When the small band of Socialists in Japan asked for permission, according to law, to organise into a political party, it was refused. When they endeavoured to hold a meeting, it was prohibited, the meeting was broken up by the police. When, on several occasions, they endeavoured to publish a newspaper, it was suppressed. A person who is believed to be a Socialist becomes a marked man; his goings out and his comings in are watched; he is shadowed wherever he goes; his friends or acquaintances are noted and become subjects of enquiry by the police; he is prevented by the police from obtaining any employment, for his would-be employer at once receives

ca/55

notice that he is a dangerous character. It would not be surprising in these circumstances, if, driven to desperation, such an individual should take to criminal courses. As I have said, however, it is impossible to say whether the persons accused in this case have really been guilty of any criminal practices or not, as every endeavour has been made to prevent their defence from becoming known.

There is a strong belief in Japan that the accused are the victims of a police plot devised with the object of extirpating Socialism. In an article published recently in one of the most important Japanese reviews, Mr. Inukai, a leader of the Nationalist party (corresponding in some measure to our Radical party) ventured to suggest that the Government secret service was trying to investigate instigate Socialists to some drastic measure by means of its detectives and political spies, who skilfully disguised themselves as Socialists and thus accelerated the explosion from inside, thus bringing the Socialists within the grip of the law. Mr. Inukai says that he had several such experiences in the earlier days of his political party, when it was looked upon by the Government with somewhat the same feelings as is the case now with Socialism.

A protest by the Fabian Society, directed especially against the secrecy with which the trial is being held, would doubtless have some effect on the Japanese Government.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

Robert Young

E. R. Pease, Esq.,
Secretary, Fabian Society.

to which the government objects, and not because they have conspired to use violence.

This meeting further begs the Japanese Government to... usually resulted in... the party...

Resolution on the Japanese Political Trial.

That this meeting of the Fabian Society respectfully reminds the Japanese Government that in England political trials have been held in public for the past ^{two} ~~three~~ ^{of fifty} hundred years, and that no small share of the political stability of this country has been due to this practice, and the accompanying freedom generally allowed for the expression of political and social opinions, ~~of~~ ^{of} whatever character.

Further that this meeting cannot but regard the ^{concealment of the indictment of the} secrecy of the trial of the twenty six ^{Political Prisoners} ~~Socialists~~ for an alleged plot against the Emperor as some indication that the evidence for the plot would not if disclosed appear convincing to the public; and that ^{it} ~~it~~ ^{has} lends colour to the allegation that the prisoners are being prosecuted because they advocate political opinions to which the government objects, and not because they have conspired to use violence.

This meeting further begs the Japanese Government to remember that in self-governing countries attempts to suppress by force the proper expression of political opinions have usually resulted in disaster to the party and the nation undertaking them.

Call 56

submits

C9d/7

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on Friday
December 13th 1911.

1. Aglmer Maude took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. The Secretary, on behalf of the Executive read a letter, annexed, on the trial of the Japanese Socialists, & moved a vote of urgency, which was agreed to. He then moved the resolution, annexed, which was unanimously adopted.
4. Sidney Webb gave an address on
Trade Unions & Politics
& a debate followed in which H. H. Schloesser, Walter J. Read, & Harry Snell took part.

G. Bernard Shaw
27th Jan. 1911.

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on
Friday Jan 27th 1911

1. G. Bernard Shaw took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. Lady Meyer lectured on
Public School Education for boys &
girls & a discussion followed
in which Miss Atkinson, J. Gibson,
Miss Weaver, ~~Emil Davies~~ Emil Davies,
E. R. Pease, S. L. Salzedo, Wm. Poel,
Dr. Bentham, Gerald Bishop, J. Cash
& the chairman took part.

R. C. K. Enson
10 Feb. 1911

Meeting 10th February 1911 at the Memorial Hall.

1. R.C.K. Ensor took the chair

2. The Minutes were confirmed

3. Clifford Sharp lectured on

Representative v. Direct Government

The case against the Referendum

A debate followed in which

Mr. Cecil Chesterton, Sydney Herbert

Mr. Walter Weyl of U.S.A. & Bernard Shaw
took part.

Minutes Meeting.

Meeting at Memorial Hall 24th Feb. 1911

1. Miss Murby took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. Emil Davies lectured on
The Collectivist State in the making
A debate followed in which the Rev.
Ejerton Swan, E. F. Carrington, W. J. Read
Aylmer Maude, Gardner Harding B. L. Salzedo,
& R. C. K. Sutor took part.

Geo. Handring
Mar. 24/11

C91/29

Members Meeting at the Memorial Hall on Friday
March 10th 1911. -

1. Hubert Bland was elected chairman
2. The Minutes of the members Meeting on Nov 4th were confirmed.
3. Aylmer Maude on behalf of the Exec. moved the following resolutions

1. That the Society expresses its warm appreciation of the work and devotion which has been thrown into the administration of the Summer School during the past four years, during which it has been of so much value to the Society; and that it gratefully accepts the proffered transfer of the property to the Society.

2. That the management of the Fabian Summer School be entrusted to a separate Summer School Committee, to be appointed in December of each year by the Executive Committee as follows:

Four members chosen by the Executive Committee, not necessarily from among its own members.

Two members nominated by the Executive Committee to represent the London members after considering names suggested by the Fabian Nursery and the various London and Subject Groups, as reported not later than November 30th by the secretaries thereof.

Two members nominated by the Executive Committee to represent the various University and other Fabian Societies, after considering names suggested by such societies as reported not later than November 30th in each year by the secretaries thereof.

The Secretary and Organizing Secretary as ex-officio members.

The Summer School Committee so appointed may add to its number by co-option not more than two other persons at any time during its year of office.

3. That the Summer School Committee shall obtain the approval of the Executive Committee for (a) its annual estimate of expenditure; (b) any supplementary estimates that may become necessary; and (c) the person whom it is proposed to appoint as Director, together with the general scheme of lectures to be arranged; but shall, subject to these limitations, itself exercise the whole executive management of the School.

4. That the invitation and admission of guests at any meeting of the School, the duration of their stay, the arrangements for lectures and other proceedings at the School, the appointment of the necessary staff, and all housekeeping and other details of management shall be entrusted entirely to the discretion of the Summer School Committee.

5. That separate accounts be kept for the School, which shall be presented by the Executive Committee to the annual meeting of the Society, together with a brief general report on its progress. Such accounts and report, and any matter of administration for which the Executive Committee is responsible, shall be open to question or discussion at the annual meeting, or by due notice at any other business meeting of the Society.

6. That in the present year the Summer School Committee shall be appointed before Easter, 1911, and the names suggested from the Fabian Nursery, the London Groups, and the various University and other Fabian Societies shall be sent in before March 31st, 1911.

7. That resolutions 2 to 5 above be recorded as by-laws for the Fabian Summer School.

all were adopted, nem con, after in some cases brief discussions. —

3. F. Lawson Todd on behalf of the Executive reported that the Exec. proposed to hold the summer school this year in Switzerland. The subject was briefly discussed & no resolution was proposed. —

4. Bernard Shaw, on behalf of the Executive, announced that certain of the older members, including Bland, Headlam, & himself, wd. not seek re-election, in order to make room for younger men. He stated that the Exec. would propose that old members might be co-opted, without a vote, for consultative purposes. Agnes Maude F. W. Hayes, E. F. Errington, & S. L. Salzedo took part in a discussion. H. H. Schlessler opposed the cooption plan. Bernard Shaw replied, & the discussion came to an end.

5. Dr. A. D. Macpherson moved

"That the present practice of the Society as to forms of address be discontinued and the conventional forms of address be used."

Mrs. Bland seconded.

F. W. Hayes moved as an amendment, to insert after the word "that", "in case of members who so desire it." Mrs. Bland seconded.

Bernard Shaw opposed any change.

A vote was taken when 16 voted for the amendment, & a large majority against,

5 (cont'd) whilst only 5 voted for the resolution,
7 a very large number against. -

b. James J. Dodd moved

"That the Executive
be asked to consider whether any changes in
policy, organization, and method would tend to
increase the social fellowship of members, the
promulgation of Fabian teaching, and the quicker
seizure of political opportunities."

He explained his proposals at considerable
length. A. D. Macpherson seconded.
Miss Alkinson & W. S. Sanders spoke
briefly. The Chairman said the
Executive Com^{ee} were willing to
accept the Resolution, & it was
thereupon agreed to. -

J. Theodore Harris
12. V. 1911

Meeting at the Memorial Hall

24th March. 1911

1. George Standing took the chair
2. The minutes of Feb 24th were confirmed
3. The Secy proposed that J. McKillop & Robt Jones be appointed scrutineers, & asked for further nominations. None being made, he asked permission to add to his resolution that he be given authority to appoint other scrutineers. The resolution as amended was agreed to nem.con.
4. Mrs Pember Reeves lectured on Housekeeping on a pound a week, & after questions a discussion followed in which W. S. Sanders, Walter J. Read, Mrs Mabel Atkinson & Dr. H. H. Mills took part.

R. C. K. Inson
7 April 1911.

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on Friday
7th April 1911.

1. R.P.K. Ensor took the chair
2. The minutes of last meeting were confirmed
3. Dr. Haden Guest lectured on
Socialism & Subject Races
& a discussion, following questions, was
participated in by Wm Sanders, Walter
J. Read, B. Dubé, J.C. Squire & others.

Henry H. Schlosser.

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on
Friday 28th April 1911.

1. H. H. Schloesser took the chair
2. The Minutes were read + confirmed
3. The Secy read the results of the Executive Election.
4. Edward R. Pease lectured on
State Banking + Finance
+ after questions a debate followed in
which F. W. Hayes, E. T. Scott, Emil Davis,
Allymer Mauds, Walter J. Reed + G. B. Shaw
+ others took part.

For you

Annual Meeting at the Memorial Hall on 12 May 1911. -

- (1) J. Theodore Harris was elected chairman
- (2) The Minutes of the Members Meeting of March 10th were read & confirmed.
- (3.) The Secretary moved the adoption of the annual report which was considered page by page. Lawrence Tiffen called attention to the London Groups & proposed a Conference of Group Secs. which was agreed to. F. H. Goble criticised the action of the Fabian Delegates to the British Section of the International Socialist Bureau, & Miss Low & others criticised the Tract on Education ~~reported~~ prepared by the Education Group. No Amendments to the Report or Accounts were proposed & both were agreed to nem. con. -
- (4.) Sidney Webb on behalf of the Executive

Proposed the following new rule:-

CONSULTATIVE MEMBERS.

Any member who has served on the Executive for ten years and who has resigned his seat or completed a year of office without seeking re-election, may be appointed by the Executive Committee a Consultative Member thereof for the current year.

Consultative Members shall be entitled to attend the meetings of the Executive Committee and to act as members thereof in all respects except by voting.

5. Henry H. Schloesser moved as an amendment:-

That the Society is opposed to any departure from the existing democratic method of government by a directly elected and solely responsible Executive, free from any advisory members.

St John Ervine seconded. Mr Reeves & Aymer Maude opposed the amendment whilst F. James Matheson & Sydney Herbert supported it.

b. A division was then taken. The chairman counted the votes which gave 86 for the amendment & 93 against. He did not however announce the figures, but said the vote was so close that tellers must be appointed. But Sidney Webb stated that in view of the opposition it was useless to press the proposal, & he therefore withdrew it. The meeting then terminated.

Frank Paine Jan. 19. 1912

Meeting at the Memorial Lays
Hall on May 26th 1911.

1. Mrs. Sidney Webb took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. Mrs. Annie Besant lectured
on England + India,
+ after questions S. K. Ratcliffe
B. Duke', + F. James Makesson
took part in the discussion.

G. Bernard Shaw
15/6/11.

(41/67)

Meeting at the Memorial Hall (Library)
on Friday 16th June 1911

1. Bernard Shaw took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. H. Granville Barker lectured on
A. Necessary Theatre,
→ a discussion followed in which
A. Baedt, Emil Dares, C. B. Wheeler,
St John Ervine Gibson H. H. Schlessen,
Miss Mury & the Chairman took
part.

B. B. Gray

On Friday ~~Jan~~ Oct 13, 1911 a joint meeting
was held with the L.S.P. J. Bruce Glasier
lectured on the L.S.P. & its work. —
It was decided that no minutes be read or taken.

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on
Friday 27th October 1911.

1. R.A. Bray Lee took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. The chairman explained that Prof^r Jenks was unable to give the lecture announced owing to sudden illness, Mr Maude had kindly taken his place at short notice.

4. Aylmer Maude lectured on
Leo Tolstoy & his teachings,
& a discussion followed in which
Miss Mury, J.F. Dodd, Wm Bell,
& B. Dube took part.

R. C. K. Eason
Nov. 17. 1911.

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on
Friday 17 Nov: 1911

21/11/11

1. R.C.K. Emsor took the chair
2. True minutes were confirmed
3. Treas. asked for help for W. Stephen Sanders, Labour Candidate for the L.C., Woolwich By Election.
4. R.S. Hyams moved & permission,

That this Meeting of the Fabian Society thanks the Government for its proposal to grant a sum of money for the provision of school clinics.

That it further thanks the Government for the Education (School and Continuation Class Attendance) Bill introduced last session and hopes that the non-contentious clauses raising the age for partial exemption from 12 to 13 will be immediately realised, and all exemptions under the age of 14 abolished as soon after as possible.

4 (cont'd) This was adopted with two dissentients.

5. Prof: Edw. Jenks then gave the first of
the lectures on
Social & Economic Equality,
entitled

The Principles of Equality: traces in primitive
Society, & a discussion followed
in which Prof: L. T. Hobhouse,
Dr. Seligmann, S. L. Salzedo & L.
Deerlin took part.

M. S. Rivers
Nov. 21 1911

On Nov. 10th the second of the L.L.P. Joint
Lectures was held at the Memorial Hall.
J.R. Clynes M.P. lectured on the Labour
Party, with W.S. Sanders in the chair.

09/1/66

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday
Nov. 21st 1911.

1. Mrs Pember Reeves took the chair.
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. Kenneth H. Vickers gave the second lecture of
the Equality series, entitled
"The principles of Equality: Traces in Mediaeval
England" + a discussion followed
in which Gerald Hankin, Mrs C. M. Wilson
St John Ervine, G. R. Pease, Jack Gibson
+ A. D. Lewis took part.

R B May
8/12/11

Meeting at Cliffords Inn on Friday
8th Dec^r 1911. -

1. R. A. Bray took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. Prof. A. F. Pollard gave the 3rd Lecture in the "Equality" Series on Specialisation + Inequality in Modern History, & a discussion followed in which W. S. Sanders, Miss Murr, Bernard Shaw + R. C. K. Enso took part.

Mabel H. Kenyon,

Jan. 26. 1911.

On Dec. 15. The ^{third} ~~second~~ of the L. L. P. Joint Series lecture took place. W. S. Sanders gave an address on England & Germany, factors for Peace & War, in place of H. D. Harben whose lecture was deferred. H. Sulberry presided.

C9067

On Jan 12, 1912 the fourth of the I.O.P.
Joint meetings was held at the Large
Memorial Hall.

Henry D. Harben presided, &
Philip Snowden lectured on
The abolition of the Lolle Rich.
A very large audience filled the
Hall to overflowing.

Joint
meeting
for
the

Members Meeting at the Memorial
Hall on 19 Jan'y 1912. —

1. Gordon Palin was elected chairman
2. The Minutes of 12th May was confirmed.
3. H. D. Harben moved for the Executive:

That the following amendments to resolutions to be moved on behalf of the Society at the next Labor Party Annual Conference be approved, viz.:

NATIONAL INSURANCE BILL.

On a resolution deprecating Labor Party action in supporting the Government on the Insurance Bill, to omit all words after "That" in the first line and insert:

This Conference urges the Parliamentary Labor Party to continue to demand from Parliament the reduction of the contributions payable under the National Insurance Bill by workers and by employers with a view to their ultimate extinction.

The Resolution was agreed to.

4. Miss Atkinson moved a similar resolution in respect of the following resolution & amendment:

SUFFRAGE.

Resolution.—That this Conference is of opinion that the enfranchisement of all adult men and women should be included in the next Electoral Reform Bill (and urges that the Party should lose no opportunity of pressing this upon the Government).

Amendment.—To omit all words after "Bill" and insert, "and declares that no Bill can be acceptable to the Labor Party which does not include women."

A discussion followed, the resolution being criticised or supported by Lewis, Herbert, Maynard Barnard, Macrosty, Harben & Miss Murly.
The resolution was then carried by a large majority.

5. In the absence from town of Clifford Allen, H.H. Schlessner was allowed to move the next resolution on his behalf.

That in view of the statements in the letter of the Joint Committee of the Fabian Society and the N.A.C. which appeared in the *Labor Leader* of Dec. 8th, 1911, this meeting regrets that the Fabian members of that Committee did not reveal to their colleague of the I.L.P. the course of events that preceded the issue of the Manifesto of the Fabian Reform Committee.

He said the resolution was put down to allow explanation to be made, that he made no charge of bad faith, & desired permission to withdraw the resolution. St John Ervine seconded. Sharp, Sanders & Pease, the members concerned having replied, it was agreed, after a few remarks from Dr. Bentham, that the resolution be withdrawn.

6. St. John G. Ervine moved:-

That this meeting calls upon the Executive Committee to lay before it forthwith the Agenda of the Labor Party Conference to be held at Birmingham this month, in order that the meeting may give such instructions to the Society's delegates as it may deem fit.

Jack Gibson seconded. W^m Sanders for the Exec. opposed. Sydney Herbert supported. Walter J. Read moved the next business which was carried by a large majority

over

7. Mrs F.C. Beutrich for the Womens Group moved:-

That in view of the Prime Minister's pronouncement in regard to the proposed Reform Bill, this meeting of the Fabian Society declares that no measure will be acceptable which does not include both men and women, and urges the Government to introduce a genuine measure of Adult Suffrage, establishing political equality between the sexes. It points out that as the majority of the male workers is already enfranchised, and as this majority is also a majority of our adult males, the introduction of manhood suffrage will make little change in anything except the machinery of elections and the number of names on the register; and can, therefore, be taken only as a formal and emphatic denial of the suffrage to women in reply to their recent agitation. Under these circumstances the meeting pledges itself to support the campaign throughout the country in favor of complete adult suffrage

without distinction of sex, and to do its utmost to discredit and protest against the form in which the forthcoming Government Bill has been forecast by the Prime Minister.

W. S. Sanders moved an ~~amendment~~ addition condemning the Referendum, especially in respect of Womens Suffrage. Miss Atkinson seconded. In response to an appeal from several who could not agree to a general condemnation of the Referendum, he omitted certain words, & the addition was then agreed to as follows:-

"This meeting further declares that the suggestion put forward by certain sections of the Liberal Press that Woman's Suffrage should be made the subject of a Referendum should be strongly opposed on the ground that Woman's Suffrage is a question on which it is impossible to take a poll of the persons who are most vitally concerned therein."

The Resolution as amended was carried unanmously.

8. Dr. Marion Phillips moved & Mrs Boyd

Catko

Dawson seconded

- That this meeting approves of the appointment by the Executive of a committee to consider the following proposals of the Fabian Reform Committee viz., that:
1. At least three members' meetings (including the annual meeting) be held every session, one before Christmas, the annual meeting, and one in July. The attention of members should be definitely called in the News preceding the members' meeting to the fact that members can and are invited to move resolutions and ask questions of chairmen of the standing committees at such meetings. Questions should be allowed to be asked without notice, but the Executive should have the right to ask for delay in order to answer the question.
 2. The Fabian Conference should meet before the Labor Party Conference. The agenda of that Conference should be laid before it and the delegates thereto then elected.
 3. The FABIAN NEWS should devote space for the correspondence of members (with a space limit).
 4. The Executive should as a matter of routine submit every question involving policy other than pure domestic to the members at the members' meetings.
 5. Members standing for the Executive should have the right to make a statement of their policy in the News, and on payment of the net costs should have the right to issue short manifestoes or policy with the News, or alternatively that a special election number of the FABIAN NEWS should be issued for this purpose.
 6. A summary of the decisions of the Executive, with the names of dissenting members to a particular action, should be published in the News.
 7. Members wishing to circularize their fellow members on questions affecting the policy of the Society should have the list of members and their addresses given them if they desire it.
 8. Members of the Executive should be permitted to give lectures on policy to the Society. The standing order placing secrecy on members should be repealed and secrecy, when necessary, specially imposed for the occasion.
 9. In order that the Society may be governed by its full complement of Executive members, on a vacancy occurring on the Executive a bye-election should thereupon be held.

Cyril Kelsey & H. H. Schloesser spoke. Alban Gordon moved to omit the words in lines 2 + 3, "of the Reform Com. e." H. H. Schloesser seconded, & the ~~amendment~~ amendment was adopted by a large majority. Clifford Sharp in a few words outlined an alternative proposal to the resolution as amended was agreed to. The meeting then terminated.

For. Sec. Putw
 726. 9. 1912

Meeting at Memorial Hall on
26th Jan. 7 1912. -

1. Miss Atkinson took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. The Hon. W. Pember Reeves lectured on
The Idea of Equality in earlier
Topics

A discussion followed in which
Miss Atkinson, T. G. Tibbey, R. C. K. Innes,
E. R. Pease & Bernard Shaw
took part.

G. Bernard Shaw
28th Feb. 1912.

(91/70)

Members Meeting at the Memorial Hall on
Friday 9th Feb. 1912 -

1. Gordon Palm was elected chairman
2. The minutes ^{of Jan 19th} were confirmed
3. After some notices, ~~Henry H. Schloesser moved~~
~~St. John G. Ervine~~ St. John G. Ervine asked a question
of which he had given notice as to the action the
Executive Com^{ee} proposed to take on the Resolution
of the Labour Party Conference urging affiliated Societies
to get their members to support the Labour Party.
Aylmer Maude, as Chairman of the General Purposes
Com^{ee}, read a reply on behalf of the Executive
explaining ~~the~~ what the Society had done in
the past, & that the Executive proposed to
continue to work on the same lines. -
4. Henry H. Schloesser then moved to Mrs Boyd-
Danson seconded

5. Clifford Sharp, on behalf of the Executive
Comtee moved as an amendment :-

That this meeting declines to support
any proposal to limit the right of the
Society to choose its Executive Committee
freely from amongst the whole body of
the members, considering that such a
limitation would be contrary to the most
elementary principles of democracy.

6. a debate followed in which the
amendment was supported by
W.C. Anderson, Miss Atkinson
Mrs Lawson Dodd, W. Stephen Sanders
Bernard Shaw, & Granville Barker.

On the other side the Resolution was
advocated by Sydney Herbert, ~~the~~ Miss
Lawrence ~~Thomas~~, St. John Ervine, A.C. Thomas,
Dr. Marion Phillips, & Dr. Bentham.

7. After a reply from H. H. Schloesser, a division was
taken, & the amendment was carried
by 156 votes to 85.

Meeting at Memorial Hall on
Friday Feb 23rd 1912

1. G. Bernard Shaw took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. Miss Millicent Murly read a paper on Equality in the Doctrines of Modern Socialists & after questions a discussion followed in which F. G. Osborn, G. R. Pease, J. R. Milnes, C. B. Wheeler, Emil Davis, W. J. Reed, L. J. Leserlis, J. W. Hinchley & the Chairman took part.

H. Spencer

Meeting at the Memorial Hall
on 22 March 1912.

1. Miss Murby took the Chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. C. M. Lloyd gave the 6th lecture in the Equality Series on Equality in Relation to Individual Freedom, & a debate followed in which S. L. Zalzedo, L. J. Dasserlis, B. Dubé & Emil Davies took part.

Hyman Claude
19. 4. 12

C4172

Meeting 19th April 1912 at the Memorial
Hall

1. Aylmer Maude took the Chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. Lawson Dodd reported on arrangements for the Summer School Weekweek session, & the Org. Sec. on the Webb Dinner & Reception.
4. J. W. Shaw & Miss Fernor were elected Scrutineers.
5. Richard Higg lectured on the Case for Municipal & State Farming & a discussion followed in which S. L. Salzedo, W. S. Sanders, H. T. Gillespie, A. P. Greenfell, J. Gibson & H. G. Lewis took part.

Therence T. (under)

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on
26th April 1912

1. Miss Murby took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed.
3. The Secy announced the result of the Executive Committee Election.
4. R. C. K. Emson L.C.C. gave the last lecture in the course on the History & Implications of ~~Democracy~~ Equality, entitled "Limits to the application of ~~Democracy~~ Equality in the Social & Economic Spheres" & a discussion followed in which H. T. Gillespie, W. S. Sanders, Mrs. O'Brien Harris, Julius West, F. G. Osborne, R. R. Martin & L. J. Isserlis took part.

R. C. K. Emson
26/4/1912

Annual Meeting 17th May 1912 at the Memorial Hall Library at 8pm.

1. F. H. Spencer was unanimously elected chairman
2. The Minutes of Feb. 7th 9th were read + confirmed.
3. a vote of urgency proposed by the Secy having been agreed to, H. D. Harben for the Executive Com^o moved:-

That this meeting protests against the sentence of penal servitude and exile to Siberia passed by the Russian courts on Miss Malecka, a British subject, solely because of her political opinions, and calls on the British Government to demand her immediate release.

The motion was agreed to unanimously & it was ordered to be sent to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the Russian ambassador, & the press.

4. Questions of which notice had been given were then taken:-

(a) By F. J. Osborn, to the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee (Ensor).

Whether one of the Society's delegates to the Labour Party Conference on the National Insurance Bill last year was a person who had been a Liberal parliamentary candidate and who was then prominently associated with the Liberal party, and whether, in view of the fact that such a circumstance is calculated to confuse the popular mind, he can give any assurance that the Society shall in future be represented at Labour Party Conferences by supporters of the Labour Party only.

4. Questions cont? -

R. C. K. Ensor replied for the Executive

The answer to the first part of the question is yes and to the second part no.

By Jack Gibson:-

Why was no action taken by the Executive in connection with the Miners' Strike.

R. C. K. Ensor replied for the Executive :-

Because no proposals for action by the Society likely to benefit the miners were submitted to the Executive by any member of the Society, official or other.

5. In reply to St John Irvine the Secy stated that a resolution of which notice had been given did not appear on the Agenda paper because the Executive Com^{ee} had ruled it out of order. The Chairman ruled that a resolution could not be discussed unless it appeared on the agenda paper, (except after a vote of urgency) although it had been received by the Secretary in accordance with the terms of Rule 1. -

b. A vote of urgency was then proposed, but the chairman ruled that it was not in order under the terms of rule 7 because the resolution

6 (cont^d.)

to be proposed affected the constitution of the Society.

7. A resolution that the chairman do leave the chair was then moved, seconded, & put & the chairman without discussion, & defeated by 41 votes for to 69 against.
8. The Secretary submitted the Annual Report which was considered page & page, & in parts discussed. No amendments were moved or alterations suggested.
9. The Hon. Treasurer moved the adoption of the Annual Report & Accounts as a whole. A general discussion followed in which Clifford Allen, H. D. Harben, R. C. K. Smed, Lawson Dodd, Cyril Nelsey, F. Gode & the Organizing Secy spoke, & the Report was then adopted, with 12 dissentients who were understood to object, not to the Report, but to the action of the Executive Com^{tee} in making a resolution out of order.

10. Walter J Read moved

Seeing that the Fabian Society is linked up with trade unionism in the Labor Party, that it be a standing instruction to the Executive of the Society, when appointing new members of the staff, to see: (i) That they are, or on appointment immediately become and remain members of their trade union; (ii) that their salary is at least 35s. per week for adult clerks, whether male or female; (iii) that the other conditions of service are at least as good as the minimum called for by their trade union.

See next page
below. x

Ernie Davies for the Executive accepted the motion.

F. G. Osborne moved as a rider:

And that all persons who are at present employed by the Society shall be paid trade union rates.

After some discussion the rider was carried by a majority & the resolution as amended was agreed to.

11. New Rule. H. H. Schloesser for the Executive moved: -

In addition to the Annual Meeting, two private meetings shall be held, one in the first and one in the last quarter of each calendar year.

This was agreed to

12. Mr Marion Phillips moved & A. C. Thomas seconded:

That this meeting instructs the Executive to arrange that on all publications, and on the official stationery of the Society, the words "affiliated to the Labor Party" be added after the title "Fabian Society."

R. C. K. Innes opposed, & on a division the resolution was defeated by 52 votes to 40.

H. B. Mordant
12/11/12

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on
7th June 1912

1. R.C.K. Enzor took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. Herbert Trench lectured on
The Basis of Civilisation,
+ a discussion followed in which
Silas Weybrew, B. Duke & B. Shaw took
part.

Thos. Bodd
21.6.12

[By direction of the Meeting, before confirmation of the Minutes on 12th July '12, the following (wh. occurred after the Secy had left) was added to minute 10.]

"J. Theodore Harris moved to delete the clause

1) "That they are &c." J. F. Shore seconded,
& on a division the amendment was supported
& about 35 votes, but was defeated."

Meeting 21st June 1912 at the Memorial
Hall.

1. Lawson Dodd took the chair
2. The minutes were conformed
3. St John G. Ervine lectured on
Walter and Home Rule
+ a discussion followed in which
Miss Houston, Jack Gibson
H. H. Schlosser, Aylmer Maude,
G. B. Shaw R. C. K. Emsor &
W. S. Sanders took part.

Sitanywell

5/7/12

Meeting of Members & Associates at
The Memorial Hall on Friday
5 July 1912

1. Sidney Webb took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. Hubert Bland lectured on
Fabra Policy
+ a debate followed in which
R. L. K. Emsw., Dr. M. Phillips, St John Irvine,
H. Chapman, Gerald Gould, J. J. Dodd,
Miss Wood, Jack Gibson & the Chairman
took part.

Mabel Atkinson.

25. Oct. 1912.

Members Business Meeting at
the Memorial Hall Library on
Friday 12 July 1912.

1. H. Bond Holding was unanimously elected chairman
2. After the Minutes had been read J. Theodore ~~to~~ Harris drew attention to an amendment he had moved, of which there was no record. The Secy said it occurred after his departure. It was agreed that the Minutes be amended in the sense indicated, & on this understanding they were adopted. -
3. St John Ervine moved & Dr Bentham seconded

That this meeting regrets that the Executive Committee should have broken the rules of the Society by refusing to call a special meeting to discuss a specific resolution, duly demanded by upwards of fifty members, in direct violation of Rule 8 (a) which provides that "When a requisition signed by not less than fifty members is presented to the General Secretary calling for a private meeting to discuss any resolution, the Executive Committee shall order the resolution to be printed in FABIAN NEWS, and shall appoint for the meeting the earliest convenient date thereafter."

4. R. C. K. Enzor on behalf of the Executive

(91/77)

Committee moved as an amendment:-

That this meeting is of opinion that some authority must have power to decide whether a notice of motion (a) comes within the scope of the society's work, (b) avoids attacking individuals by name in any way not sanctioned by the Society's rules or practice, and (c) is otherwise in order; that such authority must therefore be empowered to refuse to insert in FABIAN NEWS (pending a decision by the Society on any principle involved) notices of motion of which the publication might be libellous or improper; and that the Executive Committee, elected by the votes of the whole body of members is the right authority to exercise this power.

5. H. H. Schloesser & Bernard Shaw supported the Resolution, whilst E. R. Pease spoke for the amendment.

6. On a division 67 voted for the amendment & 93 against it. The amendment was therefore defeated, & the resolution was put & agreed to.

7. Sidney Webb for the Executive moved

That this meeting endorses the constitutional practice of the Society which accords complete toleration to its members; and, whilst reaffirming its loyalty to the Labor Party, to which party alone it as a society has given support, it declines to interfere, except as provided by Rule 12 (which regulates the expulsion of members), with the right of each member to decide on the manner in which he can best work for Socialism in accordance with his individual opportunities and circumstances.

8. Clifford Allen moved as an amendment:-

Leave out all words after "meeting" in line one to "and" in line two, and after "support" in line four insert "considers that such loyalty requires that the members of the Society should abstain from openly supporting the Conservative and Liberal parties," and leave out all the rest.

9. The amendment was formally seconded a
debate followed in which H. D. ^{III}
Harben, J. F. Shone, Harry Snell,
Harry Davis, Miss Mary + Mrs. Sidney
Wells spoke for the resolution whilst
St. John Irvine, H. H. Schloesser, &
Jack Gibson advocated the amendment

10. On admission the amendment was
defeated by 122 to 27 and
the resolution was agreed to.

J. H. Stone

Meeting at the Memorial Hall (Library)
on Friday Oct. 25th 1912

1. Miss Atkinson took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. The Organising Secy asked help for various Fabian Candidates for the Borough Council Elections
4. Vernon Hartshorn lectured on
Wheat-Labour Unrest - amounts to
illustrated by South Wales,
+ after many questions a discussion
followed in which J. McMillon
W. S. Sanders, Robert Williams
Harry Jones & R. Pease, the
Chairman + others took part.

Snowy Webb

Meeting in the Memorial Hall Library
on Friday 8th Nov^r 1912.

1. Sidney Webb took the chair.
2. The minutes were confirmed.
3. George H. Wood lectured on
The Rise in the Cost of Living,
& a discussion followed in which
J. G. Dodd, H. H. Schloesser, E. R. Pease,
Julius West, Harry Jones, W. S.
Munpely, E. B. Shaw & the Chairman
took part.

Henry Schloesser.

Meeting in the Memorial Hall
Library 22nd Nov. 1912

1. Henry H-Schlaesser took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. Councillor J. Beard of Birmingham lectured on
"The workman's resentment ~~over~~
of control over his working life",
+ a discussion followed in which
Aylmer Maude, Harry ~~Jones~~
Davis, W. S. Sanders &
Bernard Shaw took part. —

Hansford.

Members Meeting Dec. 6th 1912
at the Memorial Hall.

1. G.R. Blanco White was elected chairman
nem con.

2. The minutes of July 12th were read
& confirmed.

3. Miss Atkinson for the Executive moved
the following resolution:—

1. That the following resolutions, already placed on
the agenda for the Labor Party Conference, be approved,
viz :

(a) That in view of the previous declaration of the Conference that
no extension of the franchise from which women are excluded will
be acceptable to the Labor Party, the Conference calls upon the
Parliamentary Labor Party to press for the inclusion in any Franchise
Bill of women on the widest terms possible, and to make known to
the Government that they will vote against the third reading of any
such Bill if women are altogether excluded.

A. D. Macpherson moved ~~an~~ an amendment
~~to the first resolution on the paper,~~
which was not recorded. — The resolution
was then adopted with one dissentient.

A Miss Atkinson for the Executive moved
the second resolution covered by the
same preamble as above viz:

4 (cont'd)

91/80

(b) That this Conference declares that no electoral Reform Bill which does not make one local government franchise uniform throughout the United Kingdom for men and for women, married and single, will be acceptable to the Labor Party.

This was agreed to.

5. R. M. Lloyd for the Executive moved the kind resolution covered by the same preamble,

(c) That this Conference urges the Parliamentary Labor Party to press upon the Government the resolution adopted at the Albert Hall meeting of the War against Poverty, demanding legislation next session to secure to every person a national minimum of civilized life, by measures providing for a legal minimum wage, the reduction of the hours of labor, complete provision for sickness, the guarantee of a national minimum of child nurture, the prevention of unemployment, the building of healthy homes for all, and the abolition of the poor law.

A. D. Macpherson moved an amendment on the lines of his resolution on the paper advocating Women's Suffrage as a means of War against Poverty. This move seconded, & on a division only 2 voted for it: the resolution was then agreed to.

6. Harry Chapman & permission moved the following amendment to the preamble, viz:
To add, "but this meeting is of opinion that in future resolutions ~~to~~ for the Labor Party Agenda should if possible be submitted to a members' meeting before being sent in."

7. A long discussion followed. The Secy^r stated that the course proposed would be difficult (but he believed practicable), owing to the dates. It was explained that the course adopted was a compromise agreed on in consultation with the Fabian Reform Com^{tee}. Lawson Dodd & many others supported the amendment. H. H. Schuesser moved a further amendment that the resolution be submitted to the Annual Conference, but found no seconder. Another amendment to delete the words "if possible" was defeated. - Ultimately the ~~resolution~~ amendment first moved by W. Chapman was put, & on a count, was carried by 57 votes to 46.

8. J. J. Dodd then moved together two resolutions in his name: -

(a) That the time has arrived when the Fabian Society should (irrespective of the exigencies of any Parliamentary Party) embark on frank and outspoken propaganda of Socialism in the constituencies, as the only effective answer to Labor unrest; that the Executive Committee be therefore invited to organize a campaign to explain to the electorate what Socialism really is; that tracts be prepared indicating sane and immediately practicable measures of nationalization and municipalization (with accompanying proposals for taxation of unearned incomes and accumulated wealth).

8 J. J. Dodd (cont?)

(b) That Fabians be given every encouragement by the Society to stand for Parliament as Fabian Socialists in constituencies for which no Labor candidate has been or is likely to be nominated.

W. S. Sanders speaking on the first for the Executive said the Executive did not oppose it. The Resolution was carried by a small majority.

9. On the second resolution Sidney Webb for the Executive moved as an amendment :-

That the time is not opportune for the Fabian Society to adopt a new election policy. - H. H. Schloesser seconded.

Alban Gordon moved an amendment which was ruled out of order. -

after further debate both resolution & amendment were by consent withdrawn

C. C. M. Floyd on behalf of the Hon. Treasurer, who had left owing to the late hours, made a statement on the financial position of the Society.

119. Sidney Webb in accordance with notice reported on the Work of the Research Department. -

12. The following resolution, in the name of A. D. Macpherson, viz

That this meeting regrets that the resolution put forward at the Albert Hall on Oct. 11th, under the auspices of the Executive Committee, contained no reference to adult suffrage for women and men as a means with which to war against poverty.

was not moved, as the subject had been already discussed on another item on the agenda.

H. J. Muggill

14/3/13

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on
20th Dec: 1912.

1. F. Lawson Dodd took the chair
2. The Minutes were conformed
3. Mr. Sidney Webb lectured on
The Legal Minimum Wage
& a discussion followed in which
Harry Chapman, Dr. S. B. Clarke,
W. S. Sanders, Rev Egerton Swann
& Sidney Webb took part.

Sidney Webb
10/1/13

Meeting at the Memorial Hall,
(the Large Hall) on January
10th 1913. -

1. Sidney Webb took the chair.
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. J. Keir Hardie M.P. lectured on
Strikes and Political action,
+ a debate followed in which
H. H. Schloesser, Spencer Hill,
Geo. J. Dodd, Harry Davis
Ernie Davies, Walter J. Read
& Bernard Shaw + the
Chairman took part.

M. S. Rees
Jan 24 1913

Meeting 24th Jan 7 1913 at the Memorial
Hall, Library.

1. Mr. Pember Reeves took the chair
2. The minutes were conformed
3. Henry H. Schlessel lectured on
The Nationalisation of mines,
+ a discussion followed in which
Messrs Eckford, Pease, Kelsey,
McKillop + the Chairman
took part.

Mabel Atkinson
Feb. 14. 1913.

Meeting on Feb ¹⁹¹³ 14th at the Memorial Hall.

1. Mrs Mabel Atkinson took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. Edward R. Pease lectured on
Profiteering & Copartnership
a fraud & a failure?
and a discussion followed in which
Messrs Harrison, Chapman, W.S.
Sanders & Braville Barker took part.

Emil Pease
24 2/13

Meeting at the Memorial Hall
on Friday 28th Feby 1913

1. Emil Davis took the chair
2. The Minutes were conformed
3. Henry D. Harben lectured on
Land Problems

A discussion ensued in
which Mr. A. J. Marriott,
Harry Davis, Walter Read,
James Jonas Dodd, & Bernard
Shaw, Edw. R. Pease & others
took part.

F. Hammond

Members Meeting at the Memorial
Hall on Friday 14th March 1913

1. H. T. Mugggeridge was elected chairman
2. The minutes of the Members Meeting of Dec: 6th were read & confirmed.
3. On the nomination of the Secy J. McVilloe was appointed scrutiner with power to appoint assistants.
4. Miss Atkinson for the Womens Group moved:-

That this meeting expresses its indignation at the Parliamentary tactics which resulted in the withdrawal of the Franchise Bill and nullified the Prime Minister's pledge to Suffragists, and is of opinion that it is now incontrovertible that Woman Suffrage can only be obtained by a Government measure. This meeting therefore calls upon the Labor Party to put pressure on the Government by opposing any extension or alteration of the franchise which does not include women.

The resolution was seconded, & Gerald Gould moved as an amendment

to omit the word following Government in the sixth line, and add: "by voting relentlessly against the Government on every occasion until it introduces a Government measure for Women's Suffrage."

J. McVilloe seconded, & a discussion followed in which Sydney Herbert supported the amend^t, whilst W. S. Sanders, Dr Fairfield, & W. C. Anderson

opposed it. On a division the amendment was defeated by 92 votes to 42, & the resolution was then put & carried by a very large majority, the minority numbering 23. The resolution was ordered to be sent to the press. -

5. Mrs C. M. Wilson on behalf of the Womens Group Right to Work Com^{ee} obtained leave to alter the form of her resolution & then moved:-

That this meeting cordially welcomes the movement of the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress—endorsed by the Labor Party Conference—to extend the legal limitation of hours to all workers, male and female, and calls upon the Labor Party in the House to press the demand for a forty-eight hours week, and also the passing into law of the amendments of the Factory and Workshop Acts (already passed by the House of Lords), repealing the section exempting men's workshops from its operation, and prohibiting uncertified underground workshops for men and women alike.

Mrs Boyd Dawson seconded & the resolution was agreed to.

6. H. J. Gillespie moved:-

That the Fabian Society disaffiliate from the Labor Party forthwith.

G. D. N. Cole seconded. W. S. Sanders on behalf of the Exec. opposed. H. J. Laski, W. Mellor & Sydney Herbert supported the

resolution, whilst Jack Gibson &
Sidney Welch opposed it. -

7. a proposal to close the debate was
put to the vote & defeated, & the
debate continued: Hubert Beaumont
opposed the resolution, & W. C. Anderson
& H. H. Schlosser spoke to the same
effect, whilst F. H. Goble & A. B. Harrison
were for the resolution.

8. a division was then taken &
the resolution was defeated
by 48 votes against 92.
A. J. Thorogood.

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on
Friday 4th April 1913.

1. Dr. Lawson Dodd took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. W. Stephen Sanders lectured on
Industrial Organisation in Germany,
+ after many questions, Jack Gibson
began a debate + the Lecturer replied.

G. Bernard Shaw.

18/4/13.

Meeting at the Memorial Hall
on Friday 18th April 1913.

1. Bernard Shaw was elected chairman
2. The Minutes were read & confirmed
3. Graham Wallas lectured on
Social Motives

A discussion followed in which
H. H. Schloesser, S. K. Radcliffe,
J. Mc Killop, Mr. Van Raalte,
W. Stephen Sanders, T. W. McCormack,
B. Duke, & A. J. Sweeney
took part

Am. U.S.A.

04/07

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on
2nd May 1913.

C. M.

1. #. S. Lloyd took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. Sh. John S. Ervine, having obtained a vote of urgency moved

"That this meeting of the Fabian Society protests against the degradation of British public life involved in the denial of free speech, the suppression of newspapers without definite charge, and the arrest of persons on the ground that they may commit a crime."

This was adopted nem. con.

4. Dr. Marion Phillips lectured on "The General Strike against War," & a discussion followed in which R. C. K. Euser, Jack Gibson, Dr. Fairfield, Sh. John Ervine & W. S. Sanders took part.

C. F. Shaw

5 June 1913.

Annual Meeting of Members
at the Memorial Hall
on 23rd May 1913

1. A. J. Thoroughgood was elected
Chairman
2. The Minutes of the Members Meeting of
March 14th were read & confirmed
3. The Secretary submitted the annual report
which was considered paragraph by
paragraph. — A few verbal alterations
proposed for the Executive were accepted
& the first discussion arose on the
paragraph dealing with the L.C.C. Election.
4. G.C. Armon, unsuccessful Labour Candidate
for Bermondsey moved to refer his par.
back in order to call attention to the
Bermondsey Election where another member
stood as a Progressive. The motion was

seconded, & was opposed by Sidney Webb who suggested that the Paragraph in Fabian News ~~at~~ on such cases be added to the report. -

5. A long discussion followed: H. H. Schlosser considered Webb's suggestion ^{wd. met the} case. Clifford Allen, St John ^{H. Morrison} Ervine, H. J. Gillaspie & Jack Gibson supported the motion. J. Spencer Hill, H. J. Barnard, & Bernard Shaw opposed. After a reply by the mover, a division was taken & the motion was defeated by 57 to 49.

b. Sidney Webb then moved the addition of the Paragraph above named, & this was agreed to nem con.

7. Further paragraphs were agreed to, & two Reeves on the Women's Group Report gave further particulars of the Right to Work Sub-Committee Enquiry. A reference to the Hampstead Group was ~~so~~ ordered to be omitted on a suggestion of a Group member.

8. after a brief discussion on the proposed joint action with the Labour Party, in which Sidney Webb, Jack Gibson & H. H. Schloesser participated, the Report as amended was agreed to, & on the motion of the Treasurer, the accounts as submitted were adopted.

9. Sidney Webb for the Executive moved:—

That it is desirable that arrangements should be made to enable all the members to take an active part in the work of the Society, in one or other of its branches; and that members be requested to indicate in which direction this work can be done.

The motion was agreed to without discussion.

10. In the absence of F. H. Cole, & in view of the late hour, it was decided not to take the ~~resolution~~ ~~in~~ ~~his~~ ~~name~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~paper~~, & the proceedings terminated.

Bymer Claude
5.12.'13

(41/89)

Meeting at the Memorial Great Hall
on Friday 6th June 1913

1. Mrs. Bernard Shaw took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Gilman lectured
on the Economic Independence of Women
& a discussion followed in which
~~the~~ Mrs. Van Raddle, Miss Mabel Atkinson
& Bernard Shaw took part.

St John G. Brown
20.6.13

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on
Friday 20th June 1913.

1. St. John Ervine took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
- 3 Jack Gibson lectured on
Socialism + Sport
+ a discussion followed in which
C. B. Wheeler, E. R. Peace, Emil Davies
+ Bernard Shaw took part.

Emil Davies
17/10/13

9/1/90

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on
Friday October 17th 1913

1. Ernie Davies took the chair,
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. R. C. K. Emsor lectured on
Socialism + Foreign Policy,
+ a discussion followed in which
Aylmer Maude, W. S. Sanders &
Others took part.

Bull

Meeting at the Large Memorial
Hall on Friday 14th
November 1913. —

1. Mrs. Sidney Webb took the
chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. A vote of urgency having been
agreed to, James J. Dodd moved
"That this meeting calls on the
Government to release the persons
committed to prison in connection
with the Dublin Strike without further
delay". This was seconded &
adopted
4. Lord Russell gave an address on
the Minority Report of the Divorce
Commission & a discussion
followed in which Dr. Bischoff &
Bernard Shaw took part
S. Webb

Callan

Members Meeting at the Memorial
Hall on Friday Dec: 5th 1913

1. Aylmer Maude was elected chairman
2. The Minutes of May 23rd were read & confirmed.
3. Sidney Webb for the Executive moved the following resolutions. They were put separately, & each was adopted without discussion, amendment, or dissent:

THE ATTACK ON FREEDOM OF COMBINATION.

A. That the Fabian Society, recognizing the enforced suspension of something like a quarter of the whole industrial activity of Dublin as a national calamity, condemns those employers who have revived the old weapon of making it a condition of employment that a particular trade union should be given up; declares that whatever may have been the conduct of the Irish Transport Workers Union, no such attack on freedom of combination can be allowed to be successful in 1913, any more than it was in 1834, 1852, 1860, and at other periods of trade union history; and calls upon the Government to intervene by formulating just and honorable terms of settlement of the dispute.

THE CONDITIONS OF PEACE.

B. That in the opinion of the Fabian Society it is not in the public interest that any terms of settlement should be proposed or accepted which do not

- (i) maintain the full rights of all persons to belong to whatever organizations they please, with whatever leaders they choose to elect, and under whatever titles they prefer;
- (ii) prescribe minimum conditions only (not maximum) in respect of wages, hours, and amenity of employment;
- (iii) secure at least a decent standard of life to the humblest adult worker whom an employer engages.

A NATIONAL LEVY.

C. That in view of the fact that it is the employers who are refusing to agree to any settlement incorporating the foregoing fundamental conditions, the Fabian Society calls upon its members to continue to subscribe funds for the maintenance of the locked-out laborers and the women and children; and respectfully suggests to the British trade unions the desirability of proclaiming a national levy at the rate of a penny per member per week until a settlement is reached.

A PLAN OF SETTLEMENT.

D. That the Fabian Society suggests that the best settlement immediately practicable would be to adopt, for all occupations in Dublin in which the normal wage is under thirty shillings per week, the principle of the Trade Boards Act, 1909, as follows:

(i) A joint board to be created for all such low paid occupations in Dublin which are still outside the Trade Boards Act;

(ii) representatives of employers and employed to be at once elected for each trade, with provisions ensuring that each occupation is adequately represented when its case is dealt with;

(iii) the fullest recognition, without any exclusions, of all trade unions and employers' associations to represent their members;

(iv) the prompt determination by such a joint board, as from 1st January next, of minimum conditions of employment (not maximum) for each occupation;

(v) a definite instruction to the board that every such determination shall secure, on the basis of equal rates for equal work, without distinction of sex or creed or union, a decent standard of life for every adult worker employed, and proportionate rates for young persons;

(vi) the introduction in Parliament, at the very opening of next session, of a Bill to ratify the action thus taken, and to give to the determinations of the Dublin board, as from 1st January, 1914, the same legal force as those under the Trade Boards Act.

The Fabian Society respectfully suggests to the Prime Minister the immediate proposal of such a settlement, coupled with a promise by the Government to see it through with the least possible delay, the withdrawal of all attempted proscriptions of particular organizations or persons, and a general agreement for the instant reinstatement of the workers without victimization or obstruction.

"STRIKEBREAKING" A CRIME.

E. That the Fabian Society declares that, whilst employers and employed are, in any industrial dispute, equally entitled to obtain financial assistance from outside sympathizers, the organized importation of "strike-breakers" into an area troubled by such a dispute is a violation of public decency, and ought to be made a criminal offence as conduct calculated to provoke a breach of the peace; and that in the meantime the Government should intimate (as it did in the Newport case, with the subsequent approval of the House of Commons) that no expense will be incurred for police or troops to give special protection to those who so wantonly provoke public disorder.

THE GOVERNMENT'S TRUMP CARD.

F. That if there is any obstruction to a just and honorable settlement the Fabian Society respectfully reminds the Lord Lieutenant and Chief Secretary for Ireland that it is their duty under the law to see to it that no person in Ireland dies from insufficient food; and that if the employers persist in refusing just and honorable terms of settlement, it might be significantly explained to them that it will be the duty of the Government to take steps to ensure the grant of adequate outdoor relief to all the destitute women and children in the North and South Dublin Unions, so long as the dispute lasts, and by a short Act of Parliament to prevent such exceptional relief disfranchising the men.

4. Miss Atkinson moved for the Executive

That the Fabian Society draws attention to the fact that the long drawn out misery of the Dublin dispute is due, in no small degree, to Parliament not being in session; the South African Government may set India aflame, because Parliament is not in session; all sorts of minor oppressions under the Insurance Act are going on unchecked because Parliament is not in session; the forcible feeding of women in prison has been resumed because Parliament is not in session. The Fabian Society suggests to the public, now that Members of the House of Commons are paid salaries month by month throughout the whole year, and are constitutionally responsible for supervising and controlling a greatly extended executive government, as well as for remedial legislation long overdue, that these Members of Parliament must be invited, whatever their party, to give up all inconsistent engagements, and devote themselves regularly to an annual parliamentary session ten months long.

Mrs. Schloesser moved to omit the phrase

4. (cont'd) (underlined in red) relating to payment of salaries to members of Parliament. Jack Gibson seconded. In the debate which followed W.S. Sanders, Miss Atkinson, Emil Davis, Lawson Dodd & Sidney Webb opposed the amendment, whilst T. W. Mc.Cormack, S. L. Salcedo, A. N. Schlosser & Julius West supported it. On a division the amendment was defeated by 73 votes to 49.

5. The debate on the resolution was resumed; a verbal amendment (as indicated) was agreed to ~~on the~~ deleting the words "month by month" because salaries are not so paid. The resolution was opposed by Lawson Dodd, Jas. J. Dodd, R. C. K. Enser & Jack Gibson, & was supported by Sidney Webb. On a division it was carried by 77 to 33. -

6 Edward R. Peare for the Exec. moved the following resolution which was

6 (cont.) agreed to without discussion:-

That the following amendments to resolutions at the Labor Party Conference be approved:

A. Motion by the Executive Committee:

In a resolution on Housing, advocating State aid to local authorities, to omit the words "in a similar manner to the Laborers Act (Ireland), 1880," and insert in place thereof "in the form of an annual grant equivalent to the greater part of any loss on housing schemes"; and to omit the last clause, which is "and giving power to working class tenants to recover damages from a local authority for failure to provide houses after request."

7. The Chairman announced that Miss Atkinson had obtained consent of those concerned to interpose a vote of urgency at this point, and Miss Atkinson having explained the purpose of the vote, Urgency was adopted by 101 votes to 24.

8. Miss Atkinson then moved:-

That this meeting of the Fabian Society calls attention to the differentiation in the treatment of women suffragists convicted of conspiracy and incitement and that given to men guilty of similar offences. It points out that whereas Sir Edward Carson has not been even arrested for unlawful training and drilling of armed men and open incitement to set the laws of the realm at defiance; that whereas Mr. Lansbury, sent to prison for incitement to crime, was released after two days imprisonment under the Cat and Mouse Act and has not been rearrested; that whereas Mr. Larkin, sentenced for sedition, was released after a few days; yet a vindictive policy of insisting on the full term of punishment is being pursued towards suffragist prisoners. It points out that Mrs. Pankhurst, after serving four successive terms of imprisonment, amounting to twenty-one days, hunger striking all the time, was rearrested before she set foot on English soil; that Mrs. Sanders, for no worse offence than being bookkeeper of the W.S.P.U., was sentenced to fifteen months imprisonment, and has been released and rearrested three times. The Fabian Society assures the Government that no clearer demonstration could be given of the dangers of differential treatment entailed on women by their present voteless condition, and suggests the desirability of pursuing in their case the policy adopted towards Sir E. Carson, Mr. Larkin, and Mr. Lansbury; and calls on the Government to pardon Mrs. Pankhurst and the other suffragist prisoners convicted of conspiracy or incitement.

8 (cont^d). The resolution was not discussed & was adopted with one or two dissentients.

9. H. D. Harben ~~text~~ moved the following resolution, verbally altered & consent,

That the following amendment to a resolution at the Labor Party Conference be approved:

In a resolution on Women's Suffrage beginning "That this conference reiterates its demand that the Labor Party shall oppose any Franchise Bill which does not include women," to add after the word "women" the words "and declares that this shall apply to the Plural Voting Bill."

H. H. Schloesser seconded & W. S. Sanders, Clifford Allen, & Walter J. Read supported, whilst Jack Gibson, J. S. Middleton, Jas. J. Dodd, F. Lawson Dodd & R. C. K. Eason opposed. The mover having replied, the resolution was adopted by a large majority.

10. H. J. Gillespie moved:-

That for the future no parliamentary candidate be nominated by the Executive, except in cases of extreme urgency, without the sanction of the members of the Society first obtained by means of a postal vote.

H. D. Harben seconded, & R. C. K. Eason on behalf of the Exec. said they accepted the motion in principle, but desired that it should be referred to them to reconsider

(21/99

10. (cont) the terms. The mover having expressed his consent to this, the resolution on this understanding, was agreed to.

11. Sidney Webb on behalf of the Executive in accordance with notice, introduced the question of the lectures, & asked expression of opinion on methods of obtaining better attendances. - He suggested as subjects for discussion whether the hall shd. be changed, whether tickets could be sold, or lectures by opponents arranged. In the discussion preference for Essex Hall was indicated, & on a vote a large majority favoured the change. It was also proposed that cards of the lectures for giving away be sent to London members. -

The meeting then concluded.

A. Thorogood.

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on Friday
Dec ~~Jan~~ 7 12th 1913

1. Sidney Webb took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. H. J. Gillespie ~~introduced~~ gave the first of the series of lectures on "What Socialism means to me" & a discussion followed in which Miss L. Moore, W. Mellor, R. C. K. Enzor, G. D. H. Cole, Miss Mabel Atkinson, A. D. Lewis, Emil^d Davies, W. S. Sanders & the Chairman took part.

Emil Davies
9/1/14

Coles

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on
Friday January 9th 1914.

- (1) Emil Davies took the chair.
- (2) The Minutes were confirmed.
- (3) A. Clutton Brock gave the second of a series of lectures on "What Socialism Means to Me", and a discussion followed in which S. Sabredo, Aylmer Maude, D. Gaddick, J. W. Sydenham, W. Mellor, Roger Fry & Bernard Shaw, took part.

M. S. Reeves

March 6 1914

Meeting at the Memorial Hall Friday
January 23rd 1914.

(1) Mr^s Pember Reeves took the chair.

(2) The Minutes were confirmed

(3) Miss Mabel Atkinson lectured on

"The Economic Foundation of the Women's
Movement."

and a discussion followed in which Miss Gwore,
St. Lawson Doad, Mr^s Doad, J. G. Doad, Mr^s Webb,
and Mr^s Eder took part.

Mabel Atkinson
Chairman.

Call 96

Meeting at the Memorial Hall Friday
February 6th 1914

- (1) Miss Mabel Atkinson took the chair.
- (2) The Minutes were confirmed.
- (3) A. D. Lindsey lectured on "What Socialism means to me", this being the third lecture of the series on that subject. A discussion followed in which Mr. Webb, O'Caddick, W. Mellor, R. C. J. Emson & Miss Atkinson took part.

Edw. R. Pease

Chairman
6 March '14

Meeting at the Library, Memorial Hall
on Friday February 20th 1914.

- (1) A. J. Thorogood took the chair.
- (2) Minutes of December 5th 1913 were read and confirmed.
- (3) G. D. Cole moved the following resolution:-

That the Society, realizing that its function is primarily to undertake research and thereby make available for propaganda the most recent developments of industrial and Socialist theory and practice, urges all its members, who are in a position to do so, to join the Fabian Research Department, to give it their whole-hearted support, both in time and in money, and to make full use of the material collected by it.

H. Gillespie seconded.
Stanley Webb on behalf of the Executive Committee moved the following amendment:-

That the words "its function is primarily" in the first line be deleted, and the following, "one of its primary functions is," be substituted therefor.

Bernard Shaw supported the motion; G. P. Blyard, R. C. K. Innes and St. Lawson Dodd supported the amendment. W. Mellor & G. D. Cole spoke against the amendment, and J. J. Dodd and

J Gibson spoke against both resolution and amendment. On a vote being taken there were for the amendment 41, against 40, and it was declared carried.

On the motion as amended being put as the substantive motion there were for 43, against 44. The motion was therefore lost.

(4) Report on Labour Party Conference at Glasgow was given by E. B. Pease and supplemented by W. Stephen Sanders and C. M. Lloyd.

(5) Report on the work of the Socialist Unity Demonstrations Committee was given by W. Stephen Sanders. Victor Fisher spoke in support of the Unity proposals.

(6) Report on the Speakers Class was given by W. Stephen Sanders.

Geo. P. Blizard

~~_____~~ _____

Meeting at the Memorial Hall on Friday
March 6th 1914.

- (1) Edward R Pease took the chair.
- (2) The Minutes were conformed
- (3) St. Lawson Dodd lectured on "What Socialism means to me"; this being the ~~the~~ fourth lecture of the series on that subject. A discussion followed in which H Gillespie, W. J. Sanders, W. Mellor, Bernard Shaw, Arthur Claude, E. J. Dixon, & A. Lewis, took part.

St John G. Evans

History of the ...

...

...

...

Robert ...

(1)
(2)
(3)

211

Meeting, Memorial Hall, Friday March 20th 1914

- (1) St. John Irvine took the chair.
- (2) The Minutes were confirmed
- (3) Mr. Wm Poel lectured on "Theatres for the People" and a discussion followed in which
 W. Stephen Sanders, Mabel Atkinson, G. H. Ellis,
 M. Lloyd, - Murphy, Miss F McCallum, & the chairman
 took part

Emil Davies
 3/4/14

Meeting at Essex Hall on
Friday April 3rd 1914.

1. Emil Davies took the Chair
2. The Minutes were read & confirmed
3. Mrs Pember Reeves gave the fifth
lecture in the series on
What Socialism means to me
& a discussion followed in
which Mrs Sidney Webb, A. D. Lewis,
Jack Gibson, J. G. Dodd, Bernard
Shaw & C. M. Lloyd took part.
Sidney Webb

Meeting at Essex Hall on
Friday April 24th 1914.

- (1) Sidney Webb took the Chair.
- (2) The Minutes were read & confirmed.
- (3) St. John G. Purvis gave the sixth lecture in the series on
"What Socialism means to me,"
and a discussion followed in which H.weeney;
R. L. K. Gosport; Gibson; H. Davies - McLaren;
- Simpson; A. L. Bacharach & Miss Lyones took part.

?

Ch. Lloyd

Meeting at Essex Hall on
Friday May 8th 1914.

- (1) G. M. Lloyd took the chair.
- (2) The Minutes were read & confirmed.
- (3) Mr. R. H. Lawney lectured on "The Working and Effect of the Trade Board Act of 1909" and a discussion followed in which J. J. Mallow, J. McKillop, J. W. Hayes, - Coleman + Louis Hall took part.

S. W. Webb

Annual Meeting of Members
at Essex Hall on
Friday May 22nd 1914.

(1) G. P. Blizard was elected to the chair.

(2) The Minutes of meeting of members of February 20th
were read and confirmed.

(3) The General Secretary submitted the Annual Report
which was considered paragraph by paragraph &
adopted after discussion on minor points.

(4) Parliamentary Candidates. Sidney Webb on behalf
of the Executive Committee moved the following new
rule:

" PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES.—Except in cases of
emergency, the Executive Committee shall not under-
take responsibility to the Labor Party for any parlia-
mentary candidate without the sanction of the majority
of the members voting, ascertained by a postal vote."
The resolution was carried unanimously.

(5) Reports by Members of the Executive Committee.
The following reports were made and

(5) Reports by Members of the Executive Committee (cont^d)

discussed:

Mrs. Sidney Webb reported on the work that had been done in connection with Socialist unity, and announced that the British Socialist Party had decided to affiliate with the Labor Party. Following on this decision, a United Socialist Council would be formed, representing the I.L.P., the B.S.P. and the Fabian Society, for the purpose of carrying on combined activities and co-ordinating propaganda. W. Stephen Sanders gave an account of the arrangements for the International Socialist Congress to be held at Vienna during the last week of August next. He stated that as 1914 was the fiftieth year since the founding of the International, which took place in London at St. Martin's Town Hall in 1864, special preparations were being made by the Austrian Socialist Party in order to make the Conference an impressive one. The Fabian Society had been allotted twelve delegates, but it

would be possible to secure a larger number should more than a dozen members of the Society wish to attend.

H. D. Harben reported on the new offices which had been secured at 25 Tothill St. Westminster and a description of the facilities for new activities which would be provided.

C. M. Lloyd & Bernard Shaw, Gibson & other spoke in the discussion on the various reports.

(6) Tract Circulation A discussion on Tract Circulation was opened by Sidney Webb & Lloyd, Morrison, Dodd, & Sanders took part.

The Meeting then closed.

W. B. B. B. B.

Meeting at Essex Hall
Friday October 9th 1914

- (1) Sidney Webb took the chair.
- (2) The Minutes were read & confirmed.
- (3) R. G. K. Ensor opened a discussion on

"International Socialism and
the War."

Clifford Allen, Aylmer Maude, W^m Stephen Sanders,
C. E. M. Joad, A. J. Harriot, Dr. Clarke, S. Sabido,
Dr. O'Brien Harris, W^m Samuel, J. Gibson, Graham
Wallas + J. Squire took part. R. G. K. Ensor
replied.

Clifford Allen

Meeting at Essex Hall
Friday October 23rd 1914.

- (1) Clifford Allen took the chair
- (2) The Minutes were read & confirmed.
- (3) G. D. H. Cole lectured on
Guild Socialism
and a discussion followed in which
E. Davies, W. Mellor, Miss S. Lawrence,
W. A. Colegate & A. D. Lewis took part.

Thoson Board

Meeting at Essex Hall.
Friday Nov. 13th 1914.

(1) Lawson Dodd took the chair.

(2) Minutes were read & confirmed.

(3) Mr. C. W. Seton Watson lectured on
"The Austro-Serbian Dispute and the
Future of the Southern Slavs"
and a discussion followed in which
S. Lopes Salgado, Bernard Shaw, Miss Denzler
took part.

Emil Davies
8/1/15

Members Meeting at Essex Hall, Friday
December 11th 1914.

(1) G. P. Hoizard was elected to the chair.

(2) Minutes of the Annual Meeting, ¹⁹¹⁴ were read and confirmed.

(3)

2. The following was submitted to the consideration of the meeting by the Executive Committee:

The following resolution was passed at the Conference of the Executives of the I.L.P., the B.S.P., and the Fabian Society, held on December 13th, 1913, at the request of the International Socialist Bureau: "That in view of the desirability of securing Socialist unity on the basis of common action with the Labor Party, this Conference requests the representatives of the three bodies to lay before their members the question of putting forward a proposal to the Labor Party Conference in 1915, permitting any candidate who may wish it to describe himself as a Labor and Socialist candidate."

Mr Stephen Sanders explained the origin of the resolution.

Miss Susan Lawrence moved that no action be taken. Mr. Sidney Webb seconded.

Bernard Shaw, W. Mellor, G. H. Cole
Mr. Van Raalte opposed. A. J. Bacharach
Spencer Hill, C. R. Keaser, Clifford Allen
supported no action

On the vote being taken there were; for the motion "no action" 25: against, 20. The motion was therefore carried.

(4) G. D. H. Cole moved the following motion:
Summer School;

That bye-law I. be deleted, and the following substituted:

The management of the Fabian Summer School shall be entrusted to a separate Summer School Committee, to be appointed in December of each year as follows:

Four members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee from its own number, and one member by each of the following bodies: the Women's Group, the Nursery, the Research Department, the Education Group, and the University Socialist Federation.

One member shall be elected by the representatives of the other local Fabian Societies at the Annual Conference in July, and shall become a member of the Committee in the ensuing January.

The General Secretary of the Society shall be a member of the Committee ex officio and shall be the secretary of the Committee.

The Manager of the School shall be appointed annually by the Summer School Committee, and shall be a member of the Committee ex officio.

The Committee shall elect a chairman from its own number, and shall have power to co-opt not more than three consultative members, being members of the Society, or of a local society, who shall have no vote.

M. B. Reckett seconded.

In the first paragraph the word January was altered by consent to January. On the second paragraph J. Gibson moved that the words "from its own number" be deleted. Miss Hankinson seconded. The amendment was lost.

A. L. Bacharach moved that ^{after} the words "Education Group" the paragraph should read "and the University Fabian Societies affiliated to the University Socialist Federation". This was duly seconded & agreed to.

Miss Hankinson moved that the following words be added to the first paragraph "as far as possible from persons who have attended during a session

of the Summer School" This was duly seconded and agreed to. On the fourth paragraph J. Gibson moved that the words "and shall be secretary of the Committee be deleted". Miss Hankinson seconded. On being put to the vote the amendment was lost. On paragraph six Jack Lubson moved that the words "consultative" and "who shall have no vote" be deleted. This was duly seconded & agreed to. W. Mellor moved

That Byelaw (11) (c) from "the person" to lectures to be arranged" be deleted and the following be added to byelaw 1. "The Directors of the School shall be appointed by the Summer School Committee."

To this an amendment was moved that after the word "Director" in byelaw 11, the following words be added, "who shall be responsible to the Summer School Committee". On a vote being taken the amendment was carried.

- (5) Amendment to the Rule 12 of the Society.
J. J. C. Brown moved the following motion.

That after the words "Basis of the Society" he added
 "or some Basis adopted by a local Fabian Society,
 and accepted by the Executive Committee of the
 London Society."

W. Mellor seconded the motion.

Mrs. Sidney Webb, W. Stephen Landers, Bernard Shaw,
 opposed & A. L. Bacharach & M. B. Reckett
 supported the motion.

On the ^{vote} ~~motion~~ being taken, there were: for, 13;
 against 34. The motion was therefore lost.

It being too late for further business the
 last item on the Agenda (Report on the Work
 done by the War Emergency: Workers National
 Committee) was held over.

A. J. Thoro good

Meeting at Essex Hall
Friday January 8th 1912.

- (1) Emil Davies took the chair.
- (2) The Minutes were read and confirmed.
- (3) Sidney Webb lectured on

"Finance of the War."

and a discussion followed in which E.R.
Pease, J. Spencer Hill, the chairman and
another took part.

W.D.M.

Atkinson's Case No. 101

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Atkinson's Case No. 101

Atkinson's Case No. 101

Atkinson's Case No. 101

Meeting at Essex Hall

Friday January 22nd 1915.

- (1) Mrs Sidney Webb took the chair.
- (2) The Minutes were read and confirmed.
- (3) Miss Mabel Atkinson opened a discussion
on
The Conditions of Peace.

Aylmer Rose, R. E. K. Benson, Sir Sydney
Olivier, Dr. Letitia Fairfield, H. F. Woods,
J. C. Squire & Mrs Webb took part. Miss
Atkinson replied.

M. J. J. J.

Meeting at Essex Hall.

Friday, February 12th 1915.

(1) J.C. Squire occupied the chair.

(2) The Minutes were read & confirmed.

(3) Julius West lectured on

"Russia in Time of War"

and a discussion followed in which

Aylmer Maude, B. Grad, St. John Ervine,

D. Soskice, N. Klishto, L. Lopes-Salredo,

& W. Stephen Sanders took part.

Hanson ^{grad}
26.2.15

Meeting at Essex Hall

Friday, February 26th, 1915.

- (1) St. Lawson Wodd occupied the chair.
- (2) The Minutes were confirmed
- (2) Sir Edwin Pears lectured on
"The Problem of Turkey in Europe and
in Asia Minor"
and a discussion followed in which

A. Field, J. C. Squire, - Hodge Bernard Shaw
took part.

B. V. M.

Members Meeting at Essex Hall
Friday, March 12th, 1915.

(1) A. J. Thorogood was elected to the chair.

(2) Minutes of the previous meeting held on December 11th
were read & confirmed.

(3) W. Mellor moved the following motion:

That this meeting welcomes the announcement of the formation of a joint committee between the Fabian Research Department and the Labor Party for the publication of a Labor Annual as a development of that work by which the Society can be most valuable to the Labor and Socialist movement.

and the parliamentary Committee of the Trades
Union Congress.

J. Gibson seconded & W. Stephen Sanders supported
the motion which was agreed to.

(4) A. L. Baeharack moved the following motion:

That this meeting, recognizing the valuable work accomplished by the Women's Group and the Research Department, recommends the formation of a joint committee of the two bodies for the purpose of preparing a report on the problem, "Labor after the War," with special reference to:

- (a) the return to industrial life of men with the colors;
- (b) the consequent displacement of emergency labor;
- (c) the value of social and industrial experiments initiated during the war.

Miss Atkinson ^{seconded} & J. G. Tibbey supported the motion which
was agreed to.

Asplmer Rose moved the following motion:

That this meeting calls upon the Executive of the Fabian Society forthwith to invite the co-operation of other Socialist bodies, both in this country and abroad, and of such other democratic bodies as are in agreement as to the ultimate futility of war, in organizing at the earliest opportune moment a campaign, national and international, to stop the war and to secure a peace on a basis of compromise which will be agreeable to the principles of international Socialism; seeing that no results to be expected from the decisive victory of either side can justify the crime against humanity necessarily involved in the prolonged continuance of the present struggle.

Herbert Morrison seconded. E. E. M. Joad, Theodore Harris, supported the motion.

Miss Atkinson moved the following amendment on behalf of the Executive Committee:

That, in view of all the circumstances of the case, the present is not a suitable moment for initiating any international campaign to stop the war.

Bernard Shaw opposed both the motion and the amendment.

W. Stephen Sanders supported the amendment & opposed the motion. N. John Ervine, J. Gibson & M. Melloe also opposed the motion.

The amendment was put to the vote. There were for, 50; against, 50. The amendment was therefore not carried. The ~~amendment~~ ^{motion} was then put to the vote and lost by a large majority.

S. Khatcelik
viny 14/1/1915

(5) Owing to the late hour Sidney Webb & Miss M. Atkinson

requested that the meeting should be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned to the following day. The names.

1. The document must be free from personalities and from denunciations of any group or section, within the Society or without, and must not exceed in length 2,000 words.
2. The document, together with notice of the resolutions which it is proposed to move, must be received in the office before February 28rd (for this year only the date of March 15th is substituted). In order to permit opportunity for notice to be given of amendments, it will normally be issued with Fabian News for April.
3. It will be open for any member to give notice before April 28rd.

Meeting at Essex Hall.
Friday, March 26th 1915.

- (1) M^{rs} Sidney Webb occupied the chair.
- (2) The Minutes were read & confirmed.
- (3) Miss Susan Lawrence L. L. and
W^m Stephen Sanders gave an
account of the activities of the
War Emergency Workers National Com.

Questions followed, and there was no
discussion.

Sidney Webb

91/10

Meeting at Essex Hall:

Friday, April 16th, 1915.

- (1) Sidney Webb occupied the chair.
- (2) The Minutes were read & confirmed.
- (3) A. M. Hyndman lectured on

"International Socialism
after the War"

and a discussion followed in which.

- Marriott, W. Sanders, Dr Clark, - Jacoby
& Mrs Bridges Adams took part.

Letitia D. Fairfield

Meeting at Essex Hall
Friday April 30th 1915.

- (1) Dr. Fairfield occupied the chair.
- (2) The Minutes were read & confirmed.
- (3) S. J. Ratcliffe lectured on

"America in the Crisis"

and a discussion followed in which
Dr. Clark, J. G. Libbey, W. Stephen Sanders &
Litchfield Woods took part.

J. Hanson Secy

C. H. Cole

Annual Meeting of Members
at Essex Hall on
Friday, May 14th 1915.

- (1) G. F. Ratcliffe was elected to the chair.
- (2) Minutes of the Meeting held on March 12th 1915
were read and confirmed.
- (3) The General Secretary submitted the Annual Report
paragraph by paragraph and it was adopted.
- (4) Clifford Allen moved the following motion, as a
new Rule;

In view of the political and industrial activities of other sections of the Socialist and Labor movement, and of the need for a distinct organization which shall undertake the study of contemporary Socialist and Trade Union problems, both practical and theoretical, the object of the Fabian Society shall be to carry out such research and propaganda based upon it.

Doot Brown seconded & C. H. Cole & W. Mellor supported & Stanley Webb, Bernard Shaw, & Stephen Sanders opposed the motion.
Eric N. Makeham moved the following amendment:

That the word "special" be inserted between the words "the" and "object" in line 5.

~~John~~
8/11

Alan Tringmar seconded & J. S. Middleton
supported & R. C. K. Ensor, J. G. Tibbey, L. Isserlis
& H. A. Slesser opposed the amendment.

On a vote being taken on the amendment it
was lost by a large majority.

The motion was then put to the vote, and it
was lost by a large majority 29 only voting
for it.

(5) W. Mellor moved the following motion as an
amendment to the Basis:

That the Basis be abolished, and the following new Rule be
adopted:—

The Fabian Society consists of Socialists, and forms part of the
national and international movement for the emancipation of the
community from the capitalist system.

R. Page Arnot seconded the motion. Sidney
Webb opposed & Mrs. Townshend supported.

The motion was put to the vote. There were
for 54, against 133, & it was therefore lost.

(6) J. W. Haages moved the following amendment
to the Basis:

(6) cont^d

Cell 112

That the fifth paragraph of the Basis, which runs as follows, "If these measures be carried out, without compensation (though not without such relief to expropriated individuals as may seem fit to the community), Rent and Interest will be added to the reward of labor, the idle class now living on the labor of others will necessarily disappear, and practical equality of opportunity will be maintained by the spontaneous action of economic forces with much less interference with personal liberty than the present system entails," be omitted.

The Rev. E. Swan seconded.

On a vote being taken the amendment was lost by a large majority.

(7) H. Morrison moved the following motion, as an amendment to Rule 12:

W. Mellor seconded & Clifford Allen & J. Middleton supported & the Rev. Stewart D. Headlam, Bernard Shaw & R. C. F. Eneor opposed the motion.

On a vote being taken there were for H.B. and against, a large majority. The motion was therefore lost.

That the first paragraph of Rule 12 be deleted, and the following substituted:—

Every candidate must sign a statement that he accepts and is in agreement with the rules of the Society.

A Fabian shall not be a member of, or publicly support the Liberal or Conservative parties, and shall stand for Parliament only under the auspices of some section of that movement of which the Society has declared itself a part.

John West

Meeting at Essex Hall

Friday, October 8th, 1915.

- (1.) J. Lawson Dodd occupied the chair.
- (2.) The Minutes were read and confirmed.
- (3.) Charles Roden Buxton lectured on

"Bulgaria,"

and a discussion followed in which
D^r. Clark, J. Lopez Calzado, Lawrence Hodgson, &
W. Stephen Sanders took part.

Emil Davies

12/11/15

Meeting at Essex Hall

Friday, November 12th, 1915.

(1) Emil Davies occupied the chair

(2) The Minutes were read and confirmed.

(3) J. Wedgwood M.P. lectured on

The Dardanelles.

and a discussion followed in which R. C. K. Enoot,

H. Stephen Sanders & Bernard Shaw took part.

J. C. Sumner

Meeting at Essex Hall on
Friday Dec. 10th 1915

1. J. C. Samire took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. Mr. Israel Zangwill lectured on
The Jewish Factor in the War &
The Settlement
& a discussion followed in which
~~Mr~~ Cecil Chesterton, Bernard Shaw
H. M. Hyndman, Mr. Bridges Adams
& B. Grad took part.

Sincerely,
J. C. Samire

Members Meeting at the Fabian Hall on
Friday 17th Dec: 1915

1. Julius West was elected chairman
2. The Minutes of the Annual Meeting were read
+ confirmed
3. Mrs Pember Reeves made a report on the recent
work of the Women's Group, + a short
discussion followed.
4. R. Page Arnold made a report on the recent
work of the Research Department, +
a discussion followed.
5. Sidney Webb made a report on the disappearance
of the cashier, + questions followed.
6. Emil Davis + Sidney Webb gave addresses on how
to pay for the War, + a short discussion
followed.

12.5.1916

A. Thorogood

Meeting at Essex Hall
14 January 1916

1. Sidney Webb took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. Mr. G. Loves Dickinson lectured on Proposals for the Prevention of War by International Agreement, & a discussion followed in which A. D. Lewis, Bernard Shaw, F. J. Dodd, Spencer Hill, Harry Chapman, & W. E. Bell took part.

Emil Davies
28th Jan. 1916.

Meeting at Essex Hall
28 January, 1916.

1. Emil Davies took the Chair.
2. The Minutes were confirmed.
3. Mr Joseph Burgess, Coal Buyer to the C.W.S. lectured on The Problem of the Coal Supply. A discussion followed in which Dr Marie Stopes, A. Turnbull, Roberts, and W. C. K. Ensor took part.

A. V. L.

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday 11th Feb 1916.

1. Mrs. Sydney Webb took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. W. C. Anderson M.P. lectured on
Rebuilding the International
& a discussion followed in which
Harry Snell, Julius West, R. C. K. Emor,
J. Jacoby, S. L. Saleels, D. W. Caddick, J. S.
~~W.~~ Middleton & W. Haddew, & Bernard
Shaw took part.

L. D. Fairfield

6/7 1916.

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday 25th Feb. 1916

1. Dr. L. D. Fairfield took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. Lieut W. S. Sanders gave a lecture on
Germany
+ a discussion followed in which
Aylmer Rose, S. L. Salcedo, Miss Burger,
Mrs Sanders, Dr. Fairfield, Mr. Hadden
Mr. Murphy + others took part.

Emil Davies

Meeting at Essex Hall on 24th March 1916.

1. Emil Davis took the chair
2. The Minutes were conformed
3. The Hon W. Pember Reeves lectured on
The Turks & their system of Government
& a short debate followed.

W. June

Meeting April 7th 1916 at Essex Hall.

1. J. C. Squire took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. Mr. William Rothenskin lectured on
Civil Art + the War,
+ a discussion followed in which
H. J. Sweeney, J. J. Dodd, A. D. Lewis
Mr. Corder, the Chairman, S. L. Salcedo
+ Lieut W. S. Sanders took part.

Sidney Webb

The Annual Meeting was held at the Fabron Hall on Friday 12th May 1916.

1. A. J. Throogood was ~~sel~~ elected chairman
2. The Minutes of Dec. 17th were read & confirmed
3. The Annual Report was submitted & the Secretary & the several paragraphs were discussed. In some cases verbal alterations were agreed to.
4. On the paragraph relating to University Fabron Societies, H.H. Slesser moved "That this meeting desires the Executive Committee to ~~endeavour~~ endeavour to re-establish relations with the Oxford & Cambridge Societies, with a view to a re-affiliation of those bodies to the parent society". The resolution was briefly discussed, & receiving only 4 votes was rejected.
5. The Report as amended & the Balance Sheet

1911/118

were then submitted & unanimously adopted.

- b. Sidney Webb moved That this meeting agrees with the opinion of the Executive that the Fabian Conference be not held during the present year.

This was agreed to without debate.

A. J. Theogood

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
26th May 1916.

1. Sidney Webb took the chair
2. The minutes of April 7th were confirmed
3. Lieut. Paul Hyacinthe Loysen lectured on
The French View of the War,
+ a discussion followed in which
W. S. Sanders, Bernard Shaw - Mayor
Hicks H. M. Hyndman + others took part.

Sidney Webb

20119

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday Oct. 13 1916.

1. Sidney Webb took the chair
2. The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed
3. Sir Harry Johnston G. C. M. S., K. C. B. lectured on

The map of Europe after the War,
I submitted a map prepared to illustrate
the lecture. A discussion followed in
which Dr. Haden Guest, & G. Bernard
Shaw took part.

Emil Davies
12/1/17

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday ~~at 8.15~~
12 Jan 7 1917. -

1. Emil Davis took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. R. C. K. Inso gave the first of the course of three lectures on War Lights on Free Trade & Protection, entitled, "Precautions against Future Submarine Blockade" & a discussion followed in which ~~E. C. Tenny~~ Alfred Ticker, Harry Chapman, Bernard Shaw & Lt. W. S. Sanders took part.

W. S. Sanders

911120

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday 26th Jan 7 1917

1. G. P. Blizard took the chair

2. The minutes were confirmed

3. Dr. G. B. Clark lectured on

Half a Century of the Socialist Movement,
+ after questions a discussion followed
in which J. J. Dodd, Julius West,
Mr Flewker (of the Individualist),
Mrs Samuel, Emil Davies, + Mrs Corner
took part.

Sidney Webb

Meeting at Essex Hall
9th February 1917.

1. Sister Webb took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. Lord Haldane delivered a lecture on The Future of Education, & after questions a discussion followed in which Lieut. W. S. Sanders, Mrs Webb, Mrs Corner, A. D. Lewis H. J. Sweeney, Guy Kendall, Harry Chapman, Prof. Edith Morley, T. S. Tilley W. E. Sinnett, & the Chairman took part.

F. Lambton

LORD HALDANE ON EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.

Lord HALDANE, addressing members of the Fabian Society at the Essex Hall last night, said the war was going to make a profound change in this country. It had not yet been realised what it would mean to have to pay interest on what might be a debt of four thousand millions. We should be a changed people. Life would have to be much simpler. We should not have great accumulations in capital or the tremendous goodwill of our business intact. We should have in a way to begin the world again, and we had not equipped ourselves for a start. We had been trading on our position, and we were going to be put to the test as never before. He felt like Christian urging his neighbours to fly from the City of Destruction because he thought it was a city of destruction if we remained indifferent to educational needs. If we were to get out of it we must behave better to our teachers. He would like to see them encouraged to take very high qualifications and paid according to them.

C11721

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
23rd Feb. 1917.

1. Dr. F. Lawson Dodd took the chair.
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. Sidney Webb delivered the second of the series of lectures on War Lights on Free Trade + Protection, entitled "The Key Industries", & after questions a discussion followed in which J. W. Huchley, Emil Davis, & J. C. L. Zorn took part.

for P. Benard

Members Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
9th March 1917.

1. A. J. Turogood was elected Chairman
2. The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of
May 12th were confirmed.
3. Bernard Shaw moved :-

"That the Executive Committee be instructed to appoint a Committee to consider and report on the Political Constitution of the British Empire and incidentally of modern Empires generally, as instruments of the social reforms advocated by the Fabian Society, including the proposals in its recent reports on International Government, and dealing specifically with the question of hereditary as opposed to electoral qualifications for public office, and with the merits of the various forms of republican government which are superseding the monarchical forms. The reference to the Committee shall include further the form of government which should be imposed on or offered to the free choice of any new States set up as a result of the war, and the question whether such a State, in the event of its declaring for a monarchy, should be restricted in its choice of a sovereign."

^{After the meeting}
Miss Atkinson recorded, & the proposal
was discussed by A. J. Scott, Mrs. Corner,
S. L. Salcedo, Sidney Webb, H. D. Hall &
others. There was no opposition & after a
reply by the opener, the resolution was agreed to.

Alymer Blaudé

In the Chair

H. V. '17

(91/122)

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday 23rd March 1917

1. G.P. Blizard took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. E.F. Errington asked leave to move urgency which was informally agreed to, & subsequently moved

That this meeting of the Fabian Society, which from its foundation has lost no opportunity of assisting the revolutionary movement in Russia, cordially congratulates the Russian people on its attainment of political freedom, and especially on the unanimity with which the revolution has been accepted by all parts of the Empire and all classes of the people; it expresses its confidence that the new government will, in due and proper course, use its unrivalled opportunity for improving the economic, social, and educational position of the working people, — thus guiding the country towards that economic ideal which is the common aspiration of the best thinkers of all nations.

Aylmer Maude seconded; the resolution was agreed to unanimously & it was also agreed that it be sent to the President of the Duma.

4. Emil Davies ~~is~~ lectured on Raw Materials,
being the 3rd lecture in the course on
War Lights on Free Trade + Protection,
& a discussion followed in which
D. W. Caddick, W. S. Sanders, R. O. K. Guss,
G. B. Shaw, J. Spencer Hill, F. Katz, & the
Chairman took part.

Julius West
9/11/17

Meeting 20th April 1917 at Essex Hall.

1. Julius West took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. Mr. A. E. Zimmern, of the Round Table, lectured on

Socialism & Nationality

↳ after questions a discussion followed in which Mrs. Samuel, Miss Atkinson, Miss Groves, S. S. Salcedo, A. E. Corner, Dr. Fairfield, Bernard Shaw & others took part.

L.D. Fairfield

Annual Meeting at the Fabron Hall
on Friday May 11th 1917.

1. Aylmer Maude was elected chairman
2. The Minutes of the Business Meeting of March 9th were confirmed
3. The Annual Report was submitted by the Chairman. An amendment to delete the passage on p. 1 relating to the position of Mr. Arthur Henderson in the Government was supported by 7 votes & was defeated. One or two verbal amendments were agreed to, & the legacy of the late Lieut. W. Tulloch was discussed. Ultimately the Report & balance sheet were unanimously adopted & the meeting terminated.
L. D. Fairfield

Meeting May 25th 1917 at Essex Hall.

1. Dr. Fairfield took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed.
3. Lieut W. Stephen Sanders who had arrived that morning from Russia & lectured on Russia,
 & a discussion followed in which
 Aymer Maude, Julius West, a. s.
 Walkden, Rev S. S. Headlam, J. S. T. Filby
 & Mr John Arnot took part.

Wm Stephen Sanders

What next?

Members Meeting at the Fabrian Hall
on Friday Oct. 12. 1917.

1. Dr. Fairfield was elected chairman
2. The minutes of the Annual Meeting on May 11th were confirmed.
3. Sidney Webb delegate of the Labour Party to the Allied International Socialist Conference held in London in August, gave a long report of the proceedings & in particular of the preparation of the terms of Peace submitted by the Labour Party. Edw. P. Pease one of the Fabrian Delegates to the Conference added a few remarks. In a discussion which followed Dr. G.B. Clark, Sir Sidney Olivier, T.W. McCormick, Fred Hughes, & Harry Chapman took part.

S. Webb

C91178

Members Meeting at Essex Hall
on Friday 14th December 1917.-

1. Sidney Webb was elected chairman
2. The Minutes of October 12th were read & confirmed.
3. After a short speech of the chairman, the Rt Hon. Arthur Henderson M.P. Secretary of the Labour Party, gave an address on the proposed new constitution of the Labour Party & on the probable future of the Party - After questions, a discussion followed in which Capt. Haden Guest, Miss Mabel Lawrence, & Captain W. S. Sanders took part.
4. After a vote of urgency had been agreed to, Mr Sidney Webb moved for the Executive Com^{ee} & J. Spencer Hill seconded the following resolution which was unanimously agreed to:-

4. (contd.)

That this meeting of the Fabian Society regards as inadequate the concessions announced by the Government in their regulations under the Defence of the Realm Act for censoring leaflets relating to the war, and protests against the measures taken to restrict or suppress the expression of opinions concerning the present war or the future peace with which the Government may disagree. It further records its conviction that, since the Allies are fighting against coercive methods in Germany, proposals for limiting the expression of free opinion in this country are illogical, and must be resisted by all who believe in liberty.

5. A vote of urgency was moved for the purpose of proposing a resolution relating to Lord Lansdowne's letter on the subject of the terms of Peace; but on a division it was defeated by a large majority.

A. Macot
14 June '18

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday January
11th 1918. -

1. Capn. W. S. Sanders took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. Capn. L. Haden Guest, M.C., R.A.M.C.,
gave a lecture on
Three years of the War, a personal narrative,
and after a number of questions a brief
discussion concluded the meeting.

W. S. Sanders. Jan. 25th 1918

Meeting at Essex Hall on
Friday Jan 25th 1918

1. C. B. Wheeler took the chair
2. The minutes of last meeting were read & confirmed
3. In the absence through illness of Percy Alden M.P., his lecture on America & the War was read by Capt. W. S. Sanders. & a discussion followed in which S. L. Salcedo, T. G. Tibbey, Capt. Sanders, S. de Madariaga, Aldo Cassuto, G. B. Shaw and Harry Chapman & others took part.

Thompson

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
8th February 1918.

1. Dr. Lawson Dodd took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. S. de Madariaga read a paper on
Spain + the World War
which was followed by numerous questions
but was not formally debated.

Walter J. Read

such
lers,
Shaw
etc

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
Feb 22nd 1918.

1. Walter J. Read took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. Prof: Paul Mantoux delivered
a lecture on
Alsace-Lorraine
which was followed by
questions, but not by a
formal discussion.

Geo. P. Beizant

04/128

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday March 8th, 19.

1. G. P. Blizard took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. Signor Aldo Cassuto read a lecture on
Italy & the War
After ~~the~~ questions a discussion
followed in which Bernard Shaw
R. C. K. Inso & an Italian visitor
took part.

L. Haden Guest

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
22nd March 1918.

1. Cap^{tn} L. Haden Guest took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed.
3. The Secy announced that the syllabus of the Kings Hall lectures was ready & orders for tickets could be taken.
4. Henry S. L. Polak lectured on
India & the War
& a discussion followed in which
S. L. Salcedo, Bernard Shaw, Dr S.
B. Clarke, & Lady, & several
Indian visitors took part.

Emil Davies
12/4/18

1918

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
April 12, 1918.

1. Emil Davies took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. R.C. Hawkin, late Secretary of
the Right Club lectured on

Central Africa & the War

A discussion followed in which
H. Duncan Hall, Emil Davies, Bernard
Shaw, Dr. S. B. Clarke & Harry Snell
took part.

for T. B. and

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
17th May 1918.

1. G.P. Blizard took the chair
2. The minutes were read & confirmed
3. Julius West lectured on
Petrograd under the Bolsheviks
& after questions a discussion
followed in which Mrs Corner, Bruce
Walker, Aylmer Maude & Bernard
Shaw took part.

Henry D. Harben
18/10/18

2

217. 23

191/130

Annual Meeting at the Fabian Hall
on Friday June 14th 1918.

1. A. Bacht was elected chairman.
2. The Minutes of the Members' Meeting on
14 Dec: were read + confirmed.
3. The Annual Report + Accounts were submitted
paragraph by paragraph by the Hon. Sec. -
Sidney Webb amplified the paragraphs dealing
with the Labour Party, International Socialism,
+ General Policy. Brief discussions on various
other points ensued. No amendments were
moved, + only a few verbal alterations
were suggested.
Finally the Report + accounts were
agreed to unanimously.

E. H. Davies

23 Aug 1918

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
18 October 1918.

1. Henry D. Harben took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. F. W. Peckrich Lawrence lectured on
A Levy on Capital
+ a discussion followed in which
Edward R. Pease, Sidney Webb,
J. Potbury & Cyril Davis took part.

H. Donald Shaw
10/1/19.

(41/151)

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday 10 Jan. 1919

1. G. Bernard Shaw took the Chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. Michael S. Pease lectured on Four Years in Germany,
 & a large number of questions followed,
 but there was no discussion.

L. D. Fairfield
 24.1.19.

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
24th Jan. 7 1919.

1. Dr. Letitia Fairfield, took the chair
2. The Minutes were confirmed
3. Capⁿ: L. Haden Guest R.A.M.S., M.C.
Lectured on
Egypt, Palestine + Arabia
and after many questions a short discussion
followed in which Mr. Arnall, A.D. Lewis
+ G.B. Shaw took part.

A. E. Milburn
14/2/19

Meeting at Essex Hall, 14 Feb'y 1919.

1. Emil Davies took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. Sir Leo Chiozza Money lectured on
 "National Factories + Reconstruction"
 + a discussion followed in which
 Sidney Webb, Bernard Shaw, +
 several others took part
4. In the course of the debate a vote of
 urgency was agreed to unanmously, +
 hereafter the following resolution was
 also agreed to unanmously:-
 "That this meeting of the Fabian Society
 protests against the sale of national Factories
 + assets + the uneconomic disbandment
 of workers who could immediately find em-
 ployment therein + demands that these factories
 + assets shall be held + worked by the nation
 for the national benefit"

S. Shaw
 25 Feb'y '19

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
28th Feby 1919.

1. G. W. Shaw took the chair.
2. These minutes were confirmed.
3. The Rev. H. Carter lectured on
New Light on the Drink Problem
& a discussion followed in which
E. R. Pease & Bernard Shaw
took part

Wm Stephen Sanders
March 14th 1919

C41/33

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday March 14. 1919.

1. Capt. W. S. Sanders took the chair
2. The minutes were confirmed
3. Lord Henry Bentinck M.P. lectured on
Labour + Social Reconstruction,
+ a discussion followed in which
G.P. Blizard, Dr. G.B. Clarke, T. S. Tibbey,
G.B. Shaw + others took part.

Edw. R. Pease
— 28/3/19.

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
March 28th 1919.

- (1) C. R. Pease took the chair
- (2) The Minutes were confirmed
- (3) Miss Edith Morley made an appeal on behalf
of the Womens Group.
- (4) Sidney Webb lectured on "The Industrial
Situation" & a discussion followed in
which Dr. G. B. Clarke, G. B. Shaw and
W. A. Sanders, took part
- (5) Miss L. Dawson & Mr. A. G. Edwards were appointed
scrutineers for the Executive Com: election.

E. J. Morley.
April 11/19.

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
April 11th 1919.

- (1.) Professor Edith Morley took the chair.
- (2.) The Minutes were confirmed.
- (3.) A. Emil Davies lectured on 'Nationalization and the Problem of Bureaucracy', and a discussion followed in which Mr. Cousins, D. Hayward, Capt. St. John, G. P. Blyard, Miss Mackenzie, J. J. Oulet & W. S. Sanders took part.

G. Bernard Shaw
9/5/19.

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
May 9th 1919.

(1) G. Bernard Shaw took the chair

(2) The Minutes were confirmed.

(3) G. S. Lilak lectured on 'Indian Constitutional
Reforms' and a discussion
followed in which S. K. Ratcliffe, Messrs Parek,
Secodia, Lall & Com: Kenworthy M.P. took part.

Edw. R. Pease

17.10.19

The Annual Meeting, 1919.

This was held at Essex Hall on Friday, May 23rd Sir Sydney Olivier was elected to the chair.

The adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts was moved by the Hon. Sec., and after a discussion on paragraphs relating to the L.C.C. elections, and the preparation, sale and distribution of literature, the motion was agreed to unanimously. Sidney Webb, on behalf of the Executive, moved the following motion:

That the Society's Rules and Byelaws be amended as follows:

Rules.

Rule 3. (Members of the Executive to vacate seats after four absences.)

Last line but one, insert after "deemed," "upon a resolution to that effect being passed by the Executive Committee."

Rule 5. (Two business meetings to be held.)

At end add: "Provided that if due notice of any proposal is not given for any such private meeting, it need not be held."

Rule 11. (Sanction of members' meeting to undertaking responsibility for parliamentary candidates.)

After "emergency" insert: "And apart from any action in connection with any specially subscribed Parliamentary Fund."

Rule 17. (Members in London areas shall be divided into groups.)

Line 1, omit the first word (the). For "shall," substitute "may."

Byelaws for Local Societies, etc.

III. A. (The Provinces.)

Omit No. 4. (Requiring periodical Conferences.)

III. B. (Local Groups.)

1. (Executive to form Groups.)

Line 2, omit "shall endeavour to," and substitute "may."

Line 3, "and such groups may be formed."

Regulations for Annual Conference.

Omit the whole.

Summer School Byelaws.

I. (Delegates from the Executive Committee.)

Omit "four" and substitute "seven."

Omit "the Nursery, the Research Department . . . and the University Societies affiliated to the University Socialist Federation."

Omit "One member shall be elected by the representatives of the other local Fabian Societies at the Annual Conference in July, and shall become a member of the Committee in the ensuing January."

The items were put separately to the meeting, discussed and carried without opposition.

Sidney Webb, on behalf of the Executive, moved:

That the following be substituted for the existing Basis of the Society:

BASIS.

The Fabian Society consists of Socialists.

It therefore aims at the reorganisation of

Minutes of the various Annual Meetings were read & approved
(21/155)

Capital from individual ownership, and the vesting of them in the community for the general benefit. In this way only can the natural and acquired advantages of the country be equitably shared by the whole people.

The Society accordingly works for the extinction of private property in land, with equitable consideration of established expectations, and due provision as to the tenure of the home and homestead; for the transfer to the community, by constitutional methods, of all such industries as can be conducted socially; and for the establishment, as the governing consideration in the regulation of production, distribution and service of the common good instead of private profit.

The Society is a constituent of the Labour Party and of the International Socialist Congress; but it takes part freely in all constitutional movements, social, economic and political which can be guided towards its own objects. Its direct business is (a) the propaganda of Socialism in its application to current problems; (b) investigation and discovery in social, industrial, political and economic relations; (c) the working out of Socialist principles in legislation and administrative reconstruction; and (d) the publication of the results of its investigations and their practical lessons.

The Society, believing in equal citizenship of men and women in the fullest sense, is open to persons irrespective of sex, race or creed, who commit themselves to its aims and purposes as stated above, and undertake to promote its work.

The mover explained that the existing Basis contained phrases which were out of date and no longer accurate, and that it was necessary to have a clearer and more precise statement of principles, aims and methods of the Society.

The Rev. N. E. Egerton Swan moved the following amendment:

To insert in line 15 after "as can be conducted socially," the following words: "for a steadily increasing participation of the organised workers in the management, both central and local, of such industries."

He stated that unless the Basis contained a declaration on these lines, it would not reflect the newest and deepest aspirations of the workers, who were now resolved to secure, above all else, a definite share in the control of the industries in which they were engaged.

The amendment was seconded by Fred Hughes, supported by Walter J. Read, and opposed by Bernard Shaw and H. Snell.

The amendment was then put to the meeting and was lost, 13 voting for and 34 against.

The motion was then discussed paragraph by paragraph, and a discussion followed, in which J. Katz, the Rev. Stewart D. Headlam, Miss Hankinson, Mrs. Boyd Dawson and others took part. Sidney Webb replied, and the motion was then put to the meeting and carried, three only voting against it.

It then being ten o'clock, the last item on the agenda, a discussion on the Future Activities of the Society, was held at the members' meeting.

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
October 17th 1919

- (1) E. R. Pease took the chair.
- (2) The Minutes were confirmed.
- (3) Sidney Webb lectured on "Fabian Essays in Socialism: Thirty Years After" and a discussion followed in which Bernard Shaw & W^m L. Sanders & others took part.

C. W. Lloyd
9/1/20

9/11/36

Business Meeting.

This was held at Essex Hall on Friday, December 12th.
E. W. GALTON was elected to the chair.

*The Minutes of the Meeting held on May 23rd 1919 were
read and confirmed.*

The confirmation of the New Basis adopted on May 23rd, 1919, was moved by E. R. Pease. The New Basis is as follows:—

The Fabian Society consists of Socialists.

It therefore aims at the reorganisation of Society by the emancipation of Land and Industrial Capital from individual ownership, and the vesting of them in the community for the general benefit. In this way only can the natural and acquired advantages of the country be equitably shared by the whole people.

The Society accordingly works for the extinction of private property in land, with equitable consideration of established expectations, and due provision as to the tenure of the home and the homestead; for the transfer to the community, by constitutional methods, of all such industries as can be conducted socially; and for the establishment, as the governing consideration in the regulation of production, distribution and service, of the common good instead of private profit.

The Society is a constituent of the Labour Party and of the International Socialist Congress; but it takes part freely in all constitutional movements, social, economic and political, which can be guided towards its own objects. Its direct business is (a) the propaganda of Socialism in its application to current problems; (b) investigation and discovery in social, industrial, political and economic relations; (c) the working out of Socialist principles in legislation and administrative reconstruction; (d) the publication of the results of its investigations and their practical lessons.

The Society, believing in equal citizenship of men and women in the fullest sense, is open to persons irrespective of sex, race, or creed, who commit themselves to its aims and purposes as stated above, and undertake to promote its work.

The mover explained that the meeting could confirm or reject the new Basis, but could not amend it. The Rev. N. E. Egerton Swan, J. Katz and Basil C. Bunting opposed the motion to confirm, which was supported by Bernard Shaw, Sidney Webb and Wm. Stephen Sanders. The motion was then put to the meeting and carried by 34 votes to 7. As the necessary majority was in favour the new Basis was confirmed.

The Common Room.—Dr. Lawson Dodd moved, on behalf of the Executive: "That the Common Room be enlarged and throw open to all members of the Society, and that a Common Room Fund be raised to meet the annual cost." The mover stated that it was proposed to add another large room to the present Common Room accommodation, and it was hoped that this would make it not only more useful to the London members but also the country members of the Society. Funds would still be

required to maintain the institution, and the present members of the Common Room would be asked to continue their subscriptions as contributions to the Fund to be raised, and all members using the Room would be invited to make an annual contribution in addition to their subscription to the Society. After discussion the proposal was unanimously approved.

The International Socialist Congress.—Sidney Webb gave an account of the present position of the Socialist International, in which he stated that it was proposed to hold an International Congress at Geneva in February next. This might, however, be postponed until the following July. The position was complicated by the fact that the Italian Socialists had decided to join the Third International founded at Moscow. The attitude of the Socialists in several other countries was uncertain. But in any case the Geneva Congress, when held, would be an important gathering, at which the Socialists of the chief western nations would be represented. The Fabian Society would be entitled to three delegates. Reports were being prepared for the Congress on political machinery of Socialism and on Socialisation. The speaker also referred to the terrible conditions prevailing in Central Europe, especially in what was left of Austria.

The Activities of the Society.—The General Secretary gave a short report of the work of the Society since March 31st last. He stated that the most striking development had been in connection with the Bookshop, the sales of which had increased by more than 50 per cent. above those of the same period of 1918. The King's Hall lectures, just concluded, had established a new record in public interest and in the sale of tickets. The circulation of Book Boxes for the past eight months was three times larger than from March to December, 1918, and was already considerably above that of any complete year since the Book Box scheme had been instituted. The demand for the Hutchinson Trust Lecture Courses was far greater than could be supplied. On the other hand, although the membership of the Society was increasing, the growth was not in proportion to the development of the activities of the Society. He suggested that the members might endeavour to recruit members. There was a shortage of voluntary lecturers. Single lecturers were constantly asked for by all kinds of organisations, and the request could not always be complied with. A Speakers' Class would be opened in the New Year, with the object of training members to become lecturers.

After questions on the report had been dealt with the meeting closed.

*H. D. Maynard
14.5.20*

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday

January 9th 1919.^{20mo.}

(1) C. M. Lloyd took the chair.

(2) The Minutes were confirmed

(3) Ald. A. Emile Davies L.C.C. lectured on
"The Nationalisation of the Land",
and a discussion followed in which
W. Clark, E. R. Pease, Graham Pease,
Jesse Hawkes, J. J. Dodd, & - Maslow
took part.

Edw. R. Pease

23/1/20

Meeting at Essex Hall, on Friday
January 23rd 1920.

(1) E. R. Pease took the chair.

(2) The Minutes were confirmed.

(3) Richard Reiss lectured on
"Nationalisation of Housing"
and a discussion followed in which
N. Macleod, F. W. Galton, W. S. Sanders, others took
part.

L. A. Pease
Feb 13. 1920

Meeting at Essex Hall.

February 13th 1920.

(1) Walter Baker took the chair.

(2) The Minutes were confirmed.

(3) Arthur Greenwood lectured on

"The Nationalization of the Drink
Traffic"

and a discussion followed in which E. R. Pease,
W. S. Sanders & another took part.

H. Snell

Meeting at Essex Hall.

February 27th 1920.

(1) H. Snell took the chair.

(2) The Minutes were confirmed.

(3) S. F. Perry lectured on

"Cooperation & Nationalization"

and a discussion followed in which Sidney Webb,
Harold Sanderson, W. Sanders, Mr. Dayles, Mr. Simpson,
Bernard Shaw, H. W. Haylehurst took part.

Sidney Webb

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday
March 12th 1920

- (1) Sidney Webb took the chair.
- (2) The Minutes were confirmed.
- (3) A lecture on "Nationalization of Ports and Docks: the Problem of the Port of London" written by Miss Susan Lawrence was read by Wm Stephen Sanders and a discussion followed in which Bernard Shaw, F. W. Galton, A. L. Simpson, E. P. Wilkinson & C. A. Muller & the chairman took part.

L. Stairfield.

By

C4/139

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday

March 26th 1920

(1) W. Fairfield took the chair.

(2) The Minutes were confirmed

(3) A lecture on "Labour & Politics in America" was given by E. K. Ratcliffe & a discussion followed in which Bernard Shaw and W^m Stephen Sanders took part.

J. Bernard Shaw
23/4/20

(41) 140

Meeting at Essex Hall on Friday

April 23rd 1920.

- (1) Bernard Shaw took the chair.
- (2) The Minutes were confirmed.
- (3) The chairman announced that W^m Stephen Sanders had resigned the general secretaryship and that F. W. Galton had been appointed in his place.
- (4) F. W. Galton lectured on "The Nationalization of the Railways", and a discussion followed in which E. R. Pease, W^m Stephen Sanders, W. Graham Pease, A. Emil Davies, & Bernard Shaw took part.

Edna Davies

Chair

16 July 1920

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