

FABIAN SOCIETY'S MEETINGS

MINUTES.

FROM 24.10.1883

TO 6.7.1888

C/8/A/10

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tay

No. 40450-52 British Museum this 20

Received for the use of the B

Fabian Tracts No 1

in 3 sheets dated 1884-85 printed  
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on behalf of 17 Osunaburgh  
the Publisher thereof

By authority of the Trustees

day of *Nov* 18 *83*

BRITISH MUSEUM a copy of

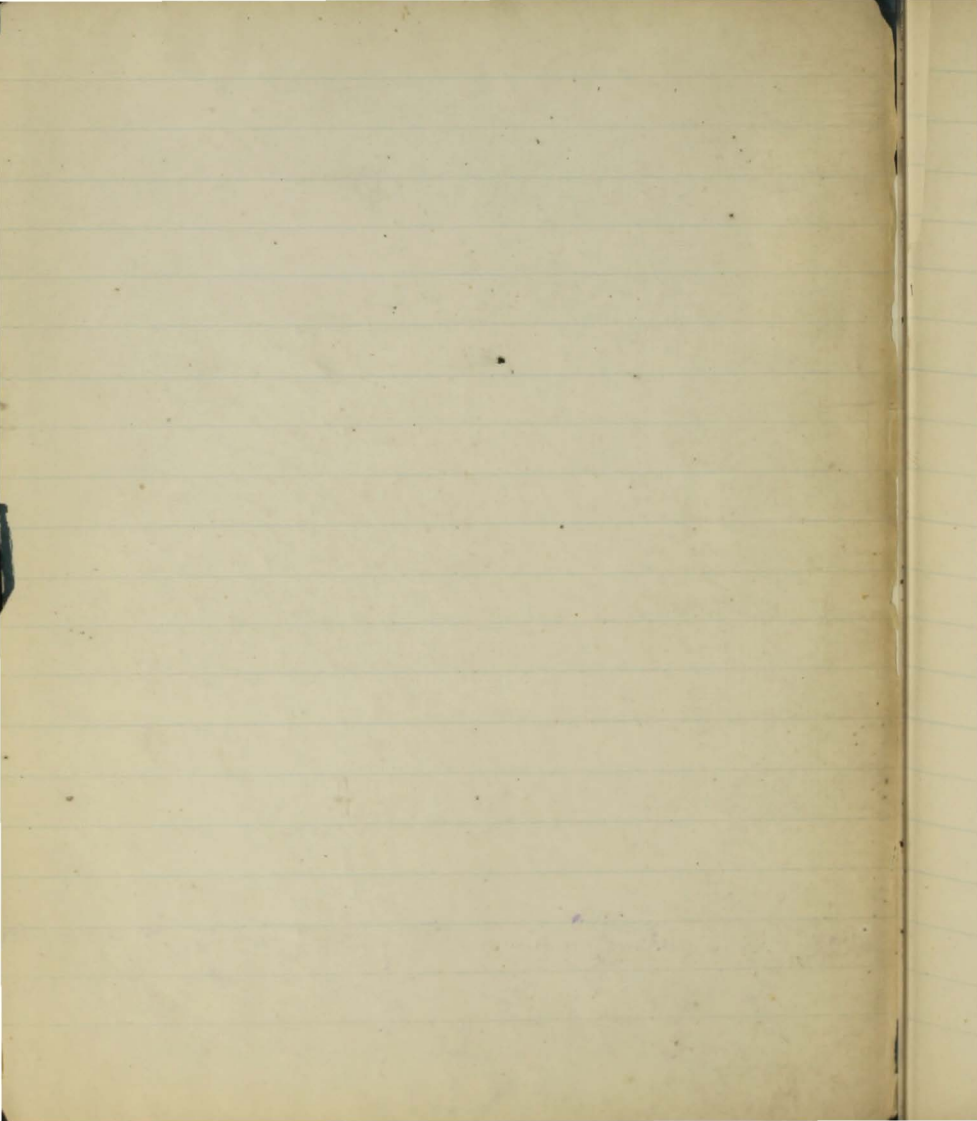
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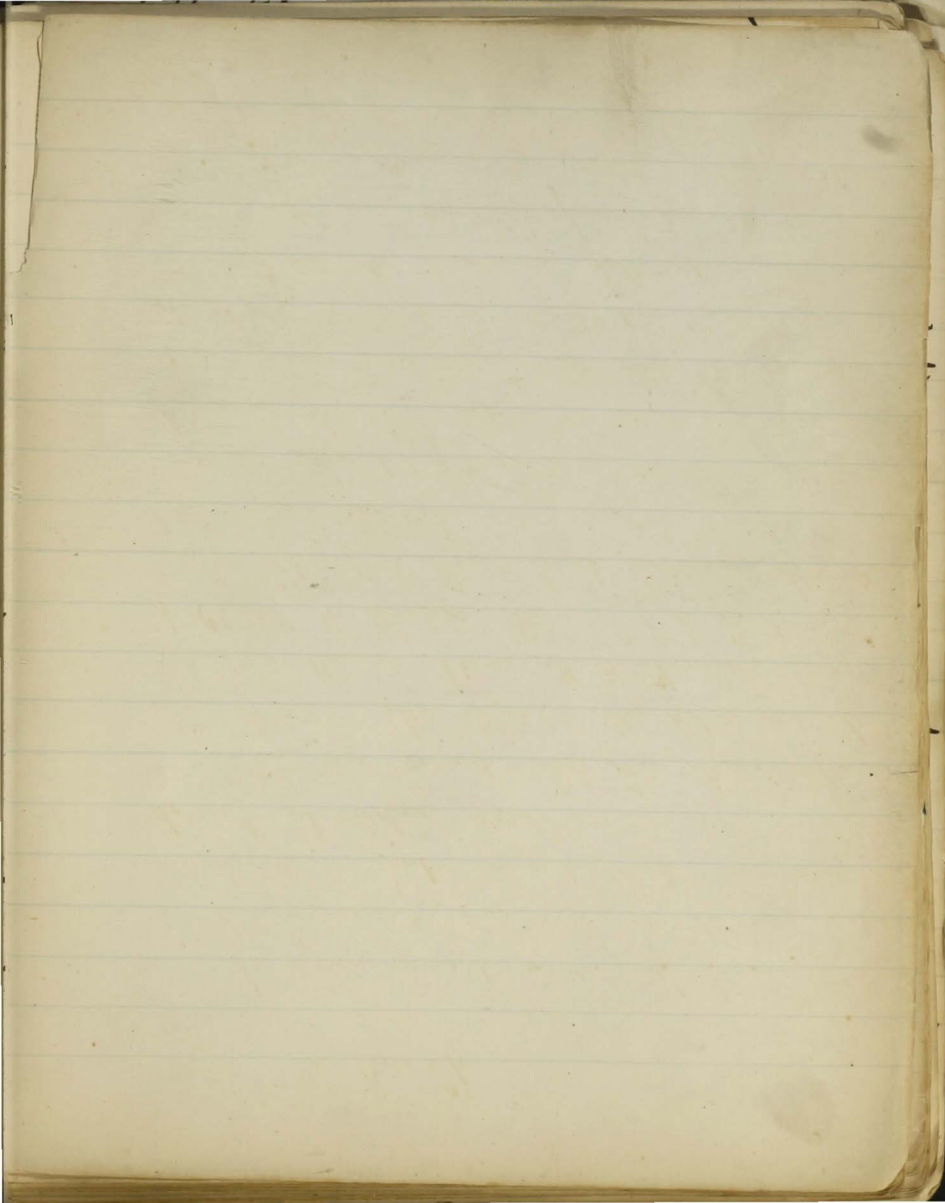
*London*  
and delivered here

*St*  
*to Park*  
*Trustees. W.*

*John Bullen*







Will you, for the credit of human nature, point out that the ~~the~~ remuneration  
now taken by the average doctor in excess of the average labour  
is no more Proof of ability than the excess of money paid for  
a locomotive over a wheelbarrow.

## The New Life.

The first general meeting of persons interested in this movement was held at Mr. Pease's rooms, 17, Osbornburgh Street, Regents' Park, on Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, 1883.

There were present Miss Ford, Miss Isabella Ford, Miss Haddon, Mrs Hinton, Mrs Robins and Miss Robins; Maurice Adams, H. H. Champion, Percival A. Chubb, H. Havelock Ellis, R. P. B. Frost, J. L. Joyces, Edward R. Pease, Frank Podmore, Hamilton Pullen, and Mr. Robins.

The proceedings were begun by the reading of Mr. Thomas Davidson's paper - "The New Life" - read by him at a former assemblage, and, after it, of the draft of a proposed Constitution (Sketch No. 2).

A general discussion followed on the question as to what was possible of achievement in the way of founding a communistic society whose members should lead the new higher life foreshadowed in the

This record fills me with compunction that my  
own conceit of superior common sense should  
have withheld me from attending a meeting which  
arrived at so temperate a conclusion. —

The meeting it appears was more diffident  
than those individuals with whom I had previously  
been in contact. —

Meeting, 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1883, cont.

paper just read. The idea of founding a Community abroad was generally discredited, and it was generally recognized that it would not be possible to establish here in England any independent Community. What could be done perhaps would be for a number of persons in sympathy with the main idea to unite for the purpose of common living as far as possible on a communistic basis, realizing among themselves the higher life, and making it a primary care to provide a worthy education for the young. The members would pursue their present calling in the world, but they would always aim to make the Community as far as practicable self-contained and self-supporting, combining perhaps to carry on some common business or businesses.

It was eventually agreed to further discuss the matter at another meeting, which was fixed for a fortnight hence (Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Nov). Mr. Bodmer

Alvares

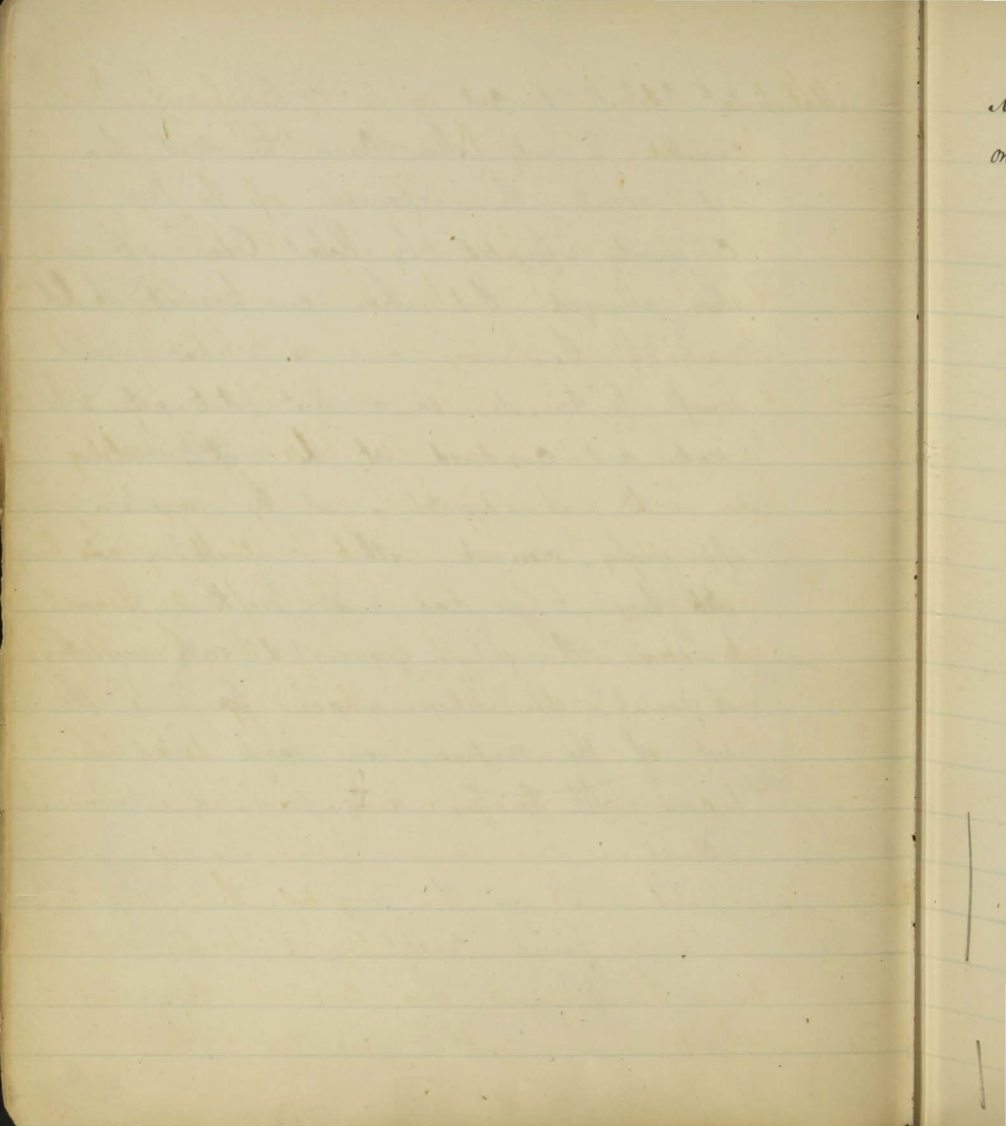
Mrs. Lawrence Alvares



Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1883. cont.

consented to ask Miss Owen to attend then and narrate the experience of the "New Harmony" Community founded by Robert Owen. It was also arranged that those now present should embody their own views as to what should hereafter be done, etc., in short statements to be read and considered at the next meeting.

It was suggested - and the suggestion was approvingly received - that undoubtedly ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> first ~~step~~ thing to be done was for those present to become thoroughly acquainted with each other. A general introduction of each person to the rest of the company was made, and the business after meeting being concluded, conversation followed.



Meeting at Mr Pease's rooms, 17 Edinburgh Street,  
on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> of November, 1883.

There were present Miss Gladstone, Miss  
Haddon, Mrs. Robins, Miss Robins, Miss Taylor;  
Maurice Adams, H. Bland, Percival A. Chubb; H.  
Hawlock Ellis, F. J. Hughes, W. J. Jupp, Edward R.  
Pease, Frank Podmore, Hamilton Pullen, J. G. Stapleton  
Barth. Smith, Howard Swan.

Miss Owen was unable to attend. The proceedings  
were begun by the reading of a draft constitution  
representing the views of several of those present who  
had met together <sup>during the optional</sup> between the <sup>last</sup> meetings.

A question was then raised as to the mode  
of conducting the proceedings. The appointment of  
a chairman was proposed; and Mr Pease was  
appointed. It was then suggested that resolutions  
should be passed constituting a Society and, as  
far as those present were concerned, designating its  
objects. Some objection was taken to the course.

This, with the little rift within the lute. In shall  
learn more of their beginnings of typography, a  
Charman and a code. —

Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> November, 1883. Cont.

|| as being an undesirable formality, not in harmony with the true spirit of our the ~~the~~ undertaking; but meeting with general approval, it was followed.

After some discussion as to the form of the first resolution should take; whether it was not advisable to express in it the distinctive aim of the Society, that whereby it became differentiated from other projects of reform (that is that it was an effort to carry out the true social ideal in practice), the following resolution was proposed and agreed to:

|| "That an association be formed whose ultimate aim shall be the reconstruction of Society in accordance with the highest moral possibilities."

It was proposed to follow this by a second resolution stating the special way in which the end was to be effected by the Society. As, however, some difference of opinion prevailed it was considered

See



Meeting 7 November, 1883. Cont.

desirable to appoint a Committee to draw up and submit proposals to the next meeting. A Committee of four (with the Secretary pro tem.) - consisting of Messrs Champion, Ellis, Jupp and Podmore - was appointed accordingly (or, failing Mr. Champion, Mr. Lewis, who kindly withdrew in favour of Mr. Champion)

It was found that Friday was the day of the week on which it would be most convenient for the majority of those present to meet; and the next meeting was fixed for Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov., provided the Committee were able to agree upon proposals by that time, or, if not, Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Con

has

Committee meeting at the "Modern Press" office, 14 Paternoster Row, on Thursday, 16 November, 1883.

There were present H. H. Champion, H. H. Ellis, W. J. Jupp, E. R. Pease, F. Podmore, with the Secretary, pt.

After some discussions the following proposals were framed and agreed to

"1. That the association be called "The Fellowship of the New Life".

"2. That the members of the ~~assn~~ Fellowship recognize "that the Competitive System has broken down, and that "Society must be reconstructed in accordance with the "highest moral possibilities".

It was also agreed to submit the ensuing recommendations for ~~the~~ consideration at the next meeting:

"That there shall be regular fortnightly meetings of the Fellowship (2 on Fridays)."

"That there be no fixed subscription, but that collection be made when funds are needed."

"That at each meeting the subject for discussion for the following meeting be announced."

M  
N

Meeting at Mr. Pease's room, 17 Osaburgh Street. on  
 Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1883.

Here were present Miss Ford and Miss Isabella Ford,  
 Miss Geddstone, Miss Haddon, Mrs. Hinton, Miss Jones, Miss  
 Dale Owen, Mrs. Robin, Miss Robins, Miss Mansfield (?) and  
 Miss Taylor; and Missie Adams, Geo. W. Allen, Hubert Bland, J.  
 Dunn Gibson, H. H. Champion, Lewis A. Clark, William Clarke, H. H.  
 Ellis, Louisa Petronit, J. C. Souper, W. J. Sapp, Frederick Roddell, - McMillin  
 E. Pease, Frank Pordmore, <sup>Hamilton</sup> Robins - Stapleton & Howard Swan.

Mr. Champion introduced the proposals of  
 the Committee, commenting upon and explaining them.  
 Proposal No. 2 was first considered. After some  
 criticism and discussion the following resolution  
 was proposed in place of No. 2, and was carried:

"The members of the <sup>Society</sup> Fellowship assert that  
 the Competitive System ~~has~~ assures the happiness  
 and <sup>comfort</sup> ~~welfare~~ of the few, at the expense of the  
 suffering of the many, and that Society must be  
 restructured in such a manner as to secure the

regarded as his material



Meeting 23 November, 1888.

"general welfare and happiness."

As the resolution referred hitherto to the material or economic aims of the ~~Fellowship~~<sup>Society</sup> and not to its primary spiritual aim it was agreed that the resolution should stand as No. 3, and that another resolution setting forth the spiritual basis of the Fellowship should be passed which should stand as No. 2.

The following resolution was proposed & seconded for the paper:-

"That the ~~Fellowship~~<sup>Society</sup> consist of those alone who are willing to devote themselves to the best of their abilities to the amelioration of the condition of all men, and who will work together for mutual benefit and help towards the eradication of selfishness and the introduction of the New Life."

As an amendment it was proposed and seconded:-

"That we should recognize as the only and

(Following subsequent page)

\* Motion votes were recorded for the first resolution, six for the second and ten for the third.

The name of the society was next considered: It was agreed by the majority that the name should be "The Fellowship of the New Life".

Further meetings were fixed for the 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Friday in each month at 7.30 p.m.

It was also arranged that there should be no fixed subscription, but that a collection should be made when funds were required.

\* New proposals follow here.

Meeting 23 November, 1883.

"sufficient ground of the possibility of any social reconstruction the presence and prevalence of the spirit of brotherly love, of justice & of equality."

The following further amendment was proposed and seconded:-

"That with a view to the promotion of the ultimate aim of the <sup>Walden</sup> Hall, its members unite to sustain in each other the Ideal life, which they desire to see existing among men, and to which they themselves are enthusiastically devoted, for which they are prepared to make any personal sacrifice."

Considerable discussion ensued, and it was ultimately agreed to appoint the three <sup>framers</sup> <sup>(Messrs. Keed, Bury-Gibson & Ruff)</sup> promoters of the resolution, as a Committee to draw up a resolution embodying their several views. Meantime a pro forma vote on the resolutions was taken. \*

Michael Beaud  
Chairman

\* This was not the case.

R.

Committee meeting at Dr Burns-Gibson's residence, 5  
Grankill Park, Harleaden, on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 1883.

Mr. Keddell did not arrive until Mr. Jupp was  
leaving; the Committee did not in fact meet together therefore.

Dr Burns-Gibson explained to Mr. Keddell that he in  
company with several others (some of whom <sup>were</sup> Messrs. Adams, Puller and  
the Secretary), including Mr. Jupp, were not quite satisfied with the  
results of former meetings. They felt that the resolutions hitherto passed  
and proposed did not go far enough and did not express the  
original intentions of the initiators of the movement. They therefore  
proposed at the next meeting to ~~propose~~ <sup>propose</sup> a series of fresh  
resolutions as a basis of the Fellowship which they would  
stand by. These might be recommended by the Committee as the result of the <sup>Committee's</sup> ~~next~~ <sup>liberation</sup> day.

Mr. Keddell said he concurred in the new proposals with  
slight modification; but he thought that the Committee should  
perform their appointed task & select a resolution <sup>from the 3 or frame question</sup> to be presented  
to the next meeting. Dr Burns-Gibson said he thought they might  
present the new proposals in place of the resolution. However, it was agreed that  
the Committee should discharge their duty by presenting <sup>the</sup> first of the 3 resolutions.  
\* The new proposals might be submitted as an amendment.



The historical scene emerging details in the <sup>Channing</sup> ~~appointment~~ <sup>at points</sup> of ~~Channing~~ at their meeting the materialistic eucros  
she was to effect the dispersal of the Harrisonian  
bloss of spiritual arising birds.



Meeting at Mr. Pease's room. 17 Osningh Street, on Friday. 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1883.

There were present Mrs Burns-Gibson, Miss Haddon, Mrs Lyon, and Miss Oak Owen; and Messrs ~~Mr~~ <sup>J. Burns-Gibson,</sup> Bland, Percival A. Chubb, William Clarke, Rowland Etcourt, W. J. Jupp, J. Reddell, Edward R. Pease, Frank Podmore, Hamilton Pullen and Howard Swan.

Mr Bland presided. The record of the last meeting was read by the Secretary and approved.

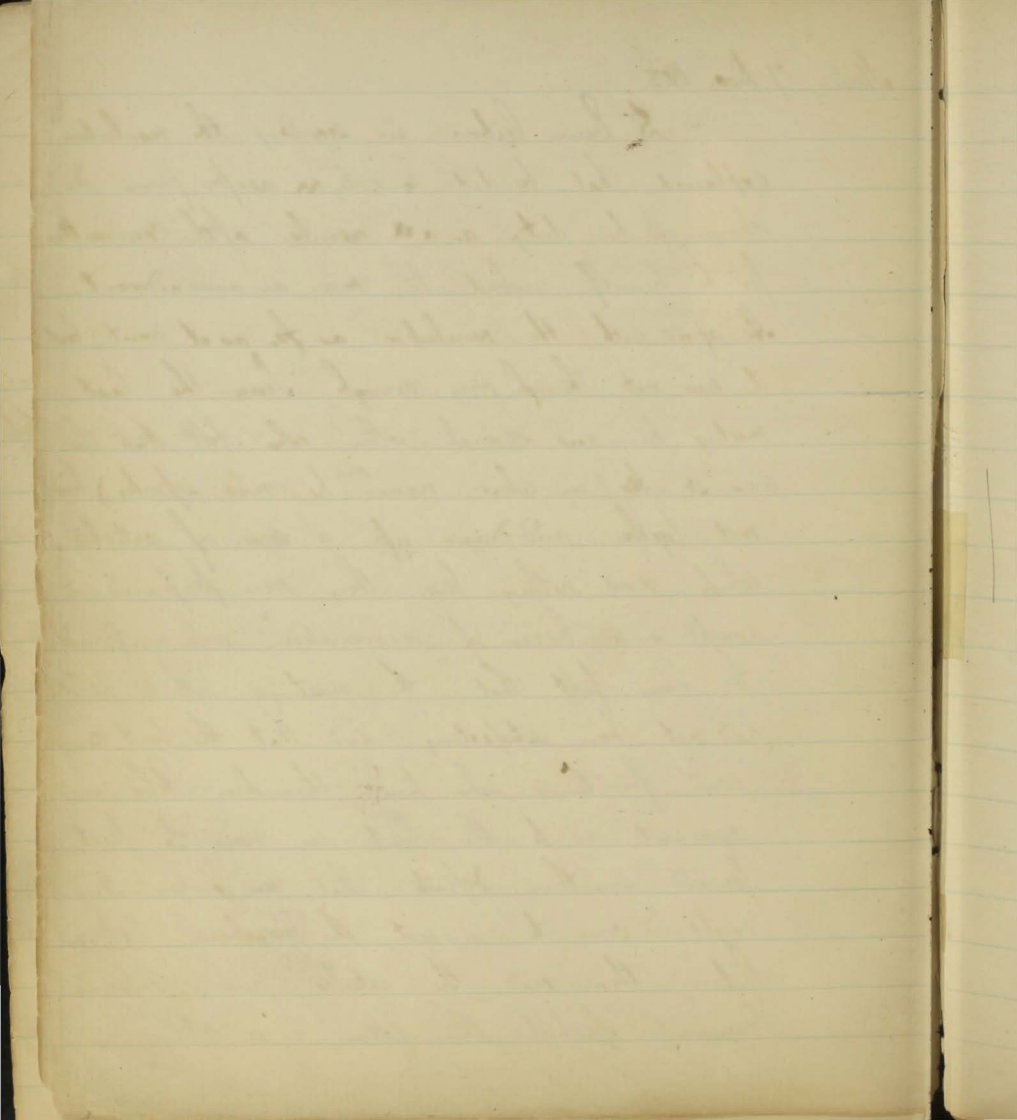
Mr Reddell <sup>introduced</sup> presented on behalf of the Committee the resolution which it had been agreed should be submitted, that is to say the first of the three proposed at the previous meeting, as follows:-

"That members of the Fellowship consent that  
"consist of those alone who are willing to devote  
"themselves to the best of their abilities to the amelioration  
"ation of the condition of Japan and who will work  
"together for mutual benefit & help towards the eradication  
"of selfishness & the introduction of the New Life."

History

Meeting, 7 Dec. 183.

Dr. James Gibson in sending the resolution, explained that he did so only ~~as~~ *as pro forma* discharge of his duty as a member of the Committee; for he himself wished to move an amendment. He agreed with the resolution as far as it went, but it was not thorough going enough. Since the last meeting he and several others who felt that there was so ~~no~~ (in whose name <sup>also</sup> he now spoke) had met together and drawn up a series of articles which, and nothing less, they were prepared to accept as a basis of association, and would adhere to. They felt that the meetings hitherto held had not been satisfactory, and that the best course was for those who knew themselves to be in agreement as to the object in view to put forward something definite, that an understanding might be come to amongst the members. Dr. James Gibson then read the articles from a substantiated document of which the following is a copy:



## Fellowship of the New Life.

## Object:

The cultivation of a perfect character in each soul.

## Principle:

The subordination of material things to spiritual things.

## Fellowship:

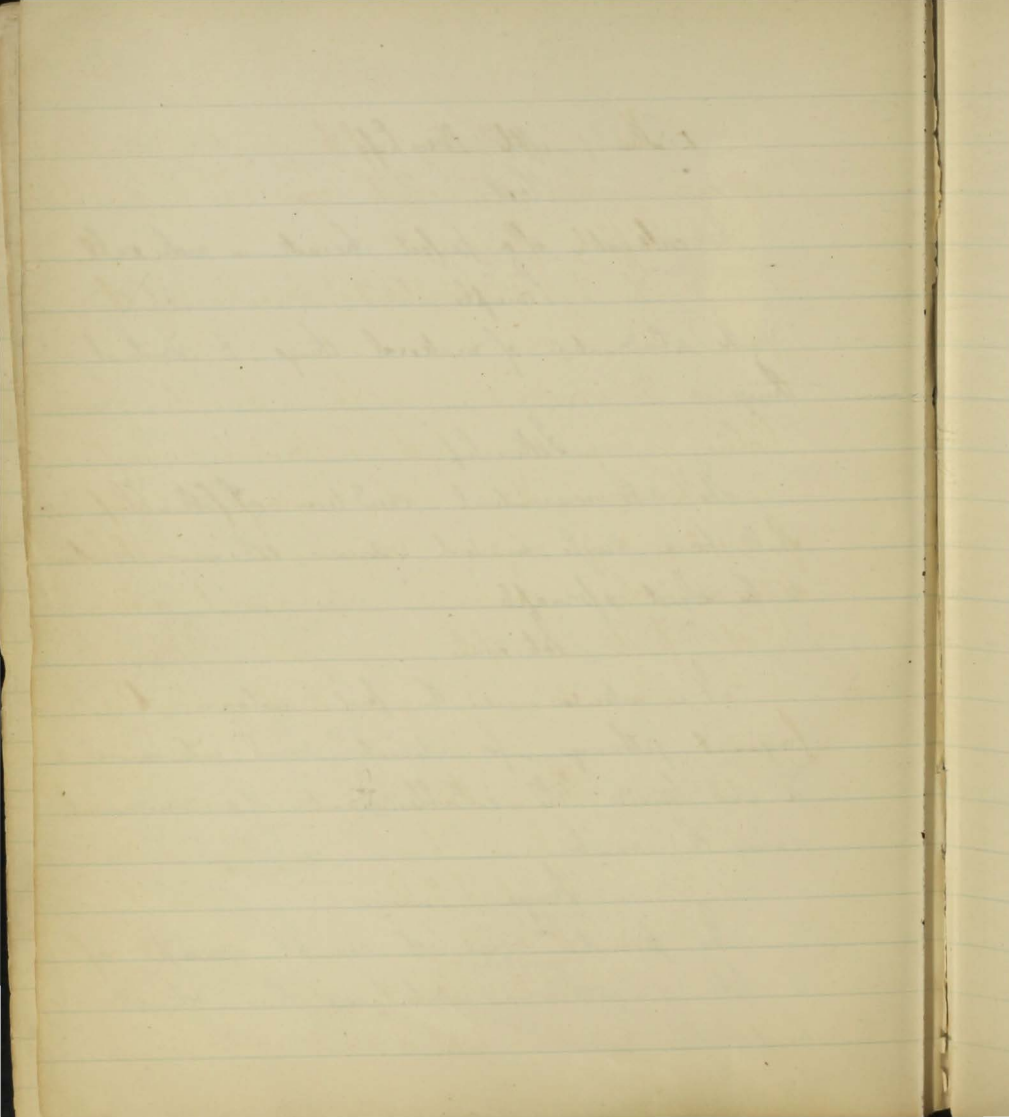
The sole essential condition of fellowship shall be a single minded, sincere, strenuous devotion to the object & principle.

## Intercourse:

It is intended, in the first instance, to hold frequent gatherings for intimate social intercourse as a step toward the establishment of a community among the members.

## Design:

The promotion by both example & precept of the following methods as contributing toward the attainment of the end:



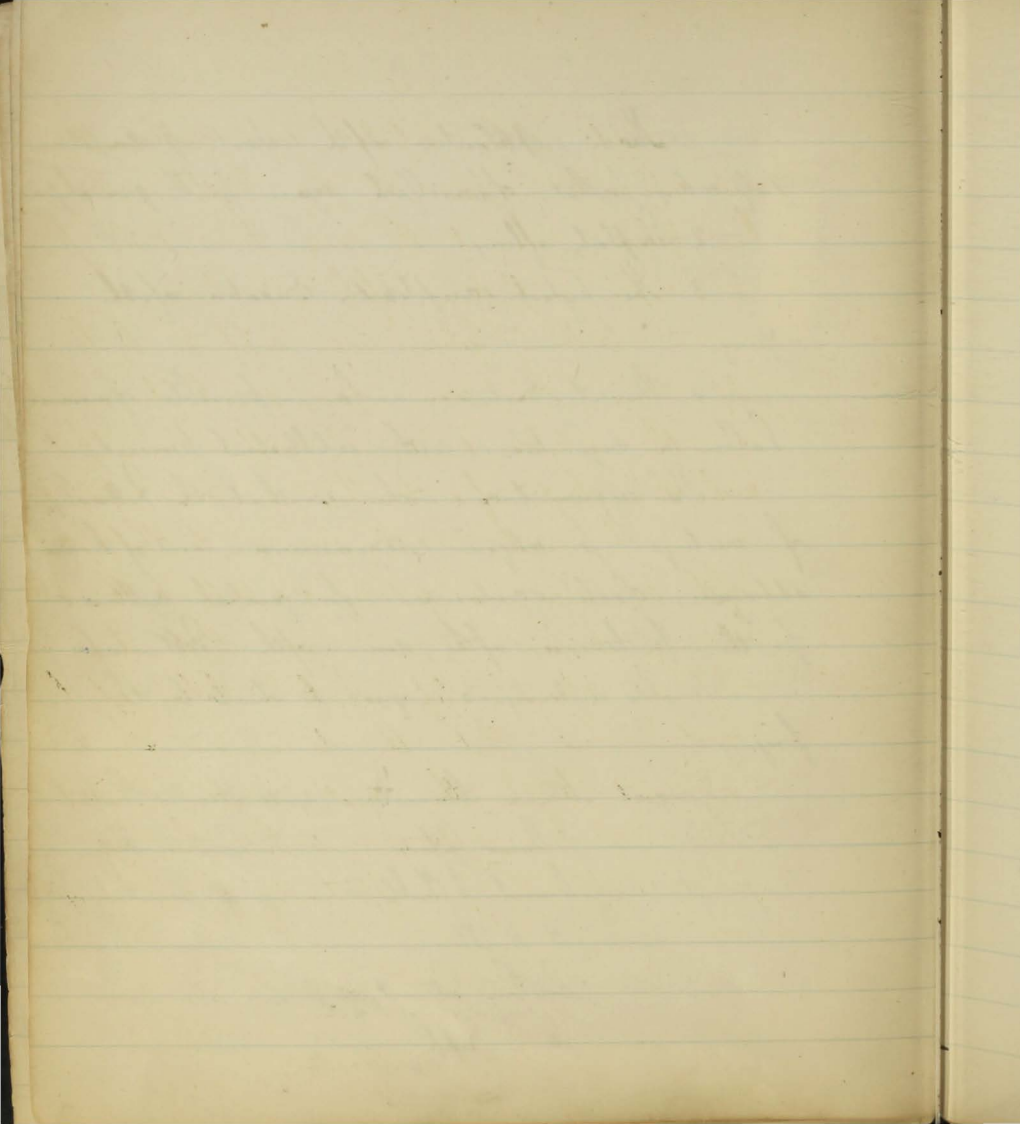


1. The supplanting of the spirit of competition  
 & self seeking by that of unselfish regard for the general good
2. Simplified living.
3. The highest & completed education of the  
 young.
4. The introduction, as far as possible, of manual  
 labour in conjunction with intellectual pursuits.

The organization, within & without the Fellowship  
 of meetings for religious communion, and of lectures,  
 addresses, classes & conferences for general culture &  
 for the furtherance of the aims of the Fellowship.

The undersigned agree to stand by the  
 foregoing:

signed	Maurice Adams	(signed)	Hamilton Puller
"	J. Burns Gibson	"	George W. Allen
"	Louisa A. Church	"	(per authority. etc)
"	A. H. Ellis	"	William Clarke
"	Rowland Latham		
"	W. J. Jupp		



Each of the articles was explained and commented upon at some length by Dr. Burn Gibson, who at the same time dwelt upon the motive intentions of the signatories.

Dr. Burn Gibson was supported by Mr. Jeff & others. There was some general discussion of the articles, & several questions were put ~~with the object of~~ as to their more precise significance.

The question next arose as to the relation of the signatories, as a body, ~~constituted~~ to the Fellowship proper. It was agreed that no definite official step should be taken at that meeting but that the discussion should be adjourned until the next meeting (fixed for Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> January, 1854.), so that those not present might have an opportunity of expressing their views.

Robert M. Bland  
 Chairman

Of the members who had signed this memorandum only four appeared at the succeeding meeting of the Fellowship. The remainder had succumbed, either to the incongruity of the aspect the Chairman's expectations with the Romanian doctrine that every thing that is, feels, or to his persistent demands that they should abandon metaphors when they were expressing with studied simplicity their most intimate spiritual convictions. Then were present -

But the long dark evenings of the winter holiday had covered the maturing of a plot by the carnal opposition.

Meeting held at 17 Cornhill St on Friday  
4<sup>th</sup> January 1884.

Present, Mr Robin, Mrs Robin, Miss Hadda,  
Miss C. Haddon, Miss Watts, Hayes, Bland,  
Keddell, Pease, Stapleton, Chubb, Burns-Gibson, Swan,  
Podmore, Stout, &c

Mr Bland took the chair at 8.10 Pm.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had  
been read and confirmed, St. Gibson moved  
the series of resolutions which had been read to  
Society at the previous meeting.

Mr Podmore moved as an amendment a series of  
resolutions, copies of which had been circulated  
amongst the members a few days previously.

The amendment was carried 8 votes to 4.

Mr Podmore's proposals were then put forward as  
substantive resolutions, & considered separately.

That the Society asserts that the  
 Competitive system assesses the Happiness &  
 comfort of the few at the expense of  
 the sufferings of the many & that  
 Society must be reconstituted in such  
 a manner as to secure the  
 general welfare & happiness.



Resolution I "That the Society be called 'the Fabian Society' (as Mr. Padmore explained, in allusion to the Victorian policy of Fabianism). was carried by 9 votes to 2.

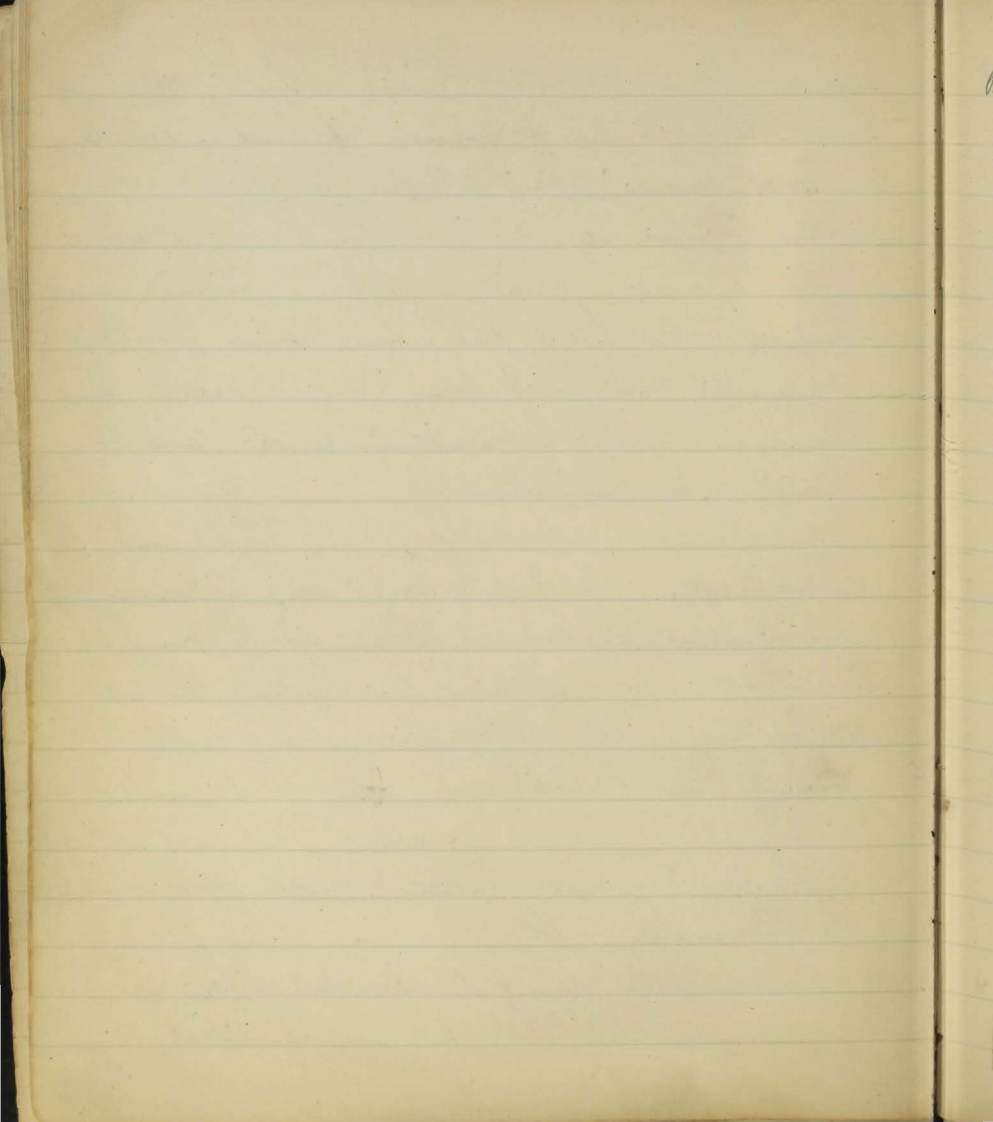
Resolution II. "That the Society shall not at present pledge its members to any more definite basis of agreement than that contained in the Resolution of the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1883."

Carried unanimously.

Resolution III. In place of Mr. Padmore's <sup>first</sup> proposal, it was eventually decided, to modify the Resolution of the 7<sup>th</sup> November 1883, by inserting the words "to help on" between ~~and~~ the words "shall be" & the words "the reconstruction".

Resolution IV. with certain omission was agreed to unanimously: viz:

"That with the view of learning what practical measures to take in this direction the Society



## Board

- (a) hold meeting for discussion, the reading of papers, hearing of reports &c.
- (b) delegate some of its members to attend meetings held on social questions, debates at Workers' Clubs, in order that such members may, in the first place, report to the Society on the Proceedings, & in the second place, put forward, as occasion serves, the views of the Society.
- (c) take measures in other ways, as for example, the collection of articles from current literature, to obtain information on all contemporary social movements & social needs.

Mr Brand, Mr Keddell & Mr Poole  
 were provisionally appointed as an executive  
 Committee, <sup>to serve for three months</sup> in the interim of Mr Pease

A collection of funds was made to provide funds for past expenses: the sum collected

Here in Law the Fabian Society fully responds  
- all. We have forwarded its meetings, its  
discussions, its reports its delegations to  
the British Association and elsewhere, its 771  
lectures to workmen's Clubs, its undisciplined  
but liberal finance.

amounting to  $13\frac{5}{9}$  d.

It was agreed that the next meeting should be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> January at 8 pm, in Mr. Pease's room.

Robert Bead

25<sup>th</sup> Jan '94

Minutes of meeting held at 8 Marlboro Road  
St Johns Wood on 25 January 1884

Mr. Bland took the Chair.

The minutes of the former meeting were read  
& confirmed. Mr. Chubb was thanked by the Society  
for ~~his~~ his assistance as Secretary during the formation of the  
The rules with the revisions and additions as <sup>suggested</sup>  
proposed by the Executive Committee were  
read and adopted.

Reports on Mr. Henry George's lecture at St. James's  
Hall were read by Messrs Podmore Watts &  
Bland.

A report on a Conference of the Democratic  
Federation held at Anderson's Hotel was  
read by Mr. Kedwell

A paper entitled "a glance at the present  
"Social condition of England with a view to  
"social reconstruction or development" was  
read by Mr. J. Elude Stapelton. A discussion  
followed. It was agreed that the next meeting  
should be held on 15 Feb'y at 8 p.m.

M. M. M.



Minutes of meeting held at 17 Ornatburgh St NW 15 Feb 184

W. F. Keddell in the Chair

The minutes of the former meeting were read & confirmed

W. Chubb offered the wishes of the Fellowship of the  
New Life for the success of the Fabian Society

W. Podmore read a paper on the aims of the  
Fabian Society

a long discussion followed

Edw. P. Pease

The Society however, immediately  
embarked upon its practical hand to  
another activity. At the first meeting upon  
to. At the second Mr Podmore, and  
I am sorry I have not had by me for reference

Minutes of meeting held at 17 Osnaburgh St: on  
29 Feb<sup>r</sup> 1884 W. R. Pease in the chair  
The ~~minutes~~ minutes of the previous meeting were  
read and confirmed.

A collection to defray expenses was made - the  
amount placed in the Treasurers hands being £1.12/6.

A paper on the Democratic Federation was read by  
the Rev<sup>d</sup> W. A. Macdonald

A discussion followed

That Mr. H. Bland should be requested to move as a  
resolution ~~the~~ amendment of which he had given  
provisional notice" was moved & seconded & passed  
by 9 to 0.

Mr. Bland then moved: That whilst not entirely in  
"with all the statements & phrases used in the pamphlet of the  
"Demo. Feder. and in the speeches of Mr. Hyndman his  
"Society considers that the D.F. is doing a good &  
"useful work and is worthy of sympathy & support"  
"The resolution ~~was~~ seconded & ~~was~~ passed nem: con:

Edw. R. Pease

Minutes of meeting held at 17 Osunaburgh St. on

7 March 1884 W. E. R. Pease in the chair:

The minutes of the previous meeting were read & confirmed  
a letter from Mrs. Hutton was read and her name added  
to the list of members

A paper was read by W. E. Keddell

A resolution was proposed seconded and passed  
relating to the Executive the appointment of  
Delegates under Rule IV Section B & Rule V

The following were nominated Members of the Pamphlets  
Committee viz: Miss R. Dale Owen, Mrs. Bland  
and Messrs Bland Estcourt Keddell Phillips &  
Stapleton to prepare and submit to the  
Society as approved Pamphlets to be issued  
by the Fabian as occasion might arise

W. E. R. Pease  
Chairman

This Committee produced the first part of  
which remains in my opinion one of the most  
important publications of the Society

Minutes of meeting 21 March 1884

at 17 Osnaburgh St.

W. Blandin in the Chair

The executive committee resigned, their 3 mos  
of office expiring on 4<sup>th</sup> April next, and were  
on motion of W. Pease seconded by W. H  
Bellingham Smith re-elected for 12 mos  
from that date viz 4 April 1884 to 4 Apr. 1885  
A report of the meeting attended at Man-  
chester by W. J. Hunter Watts was  
submitted. <sup>also</sup> a report of the Census by  
W. Podmore and one of the Progressive by  
W. Pease.

§ a paper on the Two Socialisms written by  
Miss Hadden was read by W. Podmore  
A discussion followed

Edw. R. Pease

[ This paper is stated to have been devoted to a compar-  
-ison between the Socialism of the Fabian Society and  
that of the S.D.F. ]

Minutes of Meeting held 4 April 1884

17 Clarendon St

Mr. Pease in the Chair

Minutes of previous meeting were read and  
sanctioned.

The Pamphlet submitted by the T. F. E. was  
read first as a whole and then sentence by  
sentence. *Why*

After a long discussion it was decided to  
print the pamphlet - the number <sup>limited to</sup> 2000  
It was also decided that the title should be  
*Why are the many poor.*

J. Goods Stapleton



Minutes of meeting held 18 Apr. 1884

at 4 Drane Yard Warrminster

The minutes of the former meeting were read  
and confirmed. The rule as to corresponding members was passed

D<sup>r</sup> Davode Lang Margellen Strasse Cologne

& Miss Nora Robertson Vienna were proposed  
as corresponding members

M<sup>r</sup> Stapelton of Lee Kent was proposed  
as an ordinary member.

A book on X<sup>th</sup> Localism was loaned to the  
Fabian by a friend of M. Podmore's

It was ordered that 3 copies of Pamphlet  
No 1 should be sent to each member

A report on the Hyndman Bradlaugh dis-  
-cussion was submitted

Submitted

Total of additional rule:

- Persons resident in the County or Abroad may be elected
- as corresponding members on the proposal of one member or
- several acquaintances the election proceeding as provided in
- the case of members



Minutes of meeting held 2 May 1884  
at 1) Osnatburgh St.

The minutes of former meeting were read and  
confirmed.

Mr Stapleton was elected an ordinary member

Miss M. Robertson ————— a correspondent

Mr. David de Laing —————

The resolutions standing in Mr. Bland's name  
here withdrawn

Reports on the <sup>What Resolutions</sup> ~~discussions~~ <sup>What further progress has Mr B?</sup> on Socialism ~~at~~  
South Place Finsbury were read by Mr Bland. Please

It was ordered that 3000 of Pamphlet No 1  
should be printed.

A paper was read by Mr. Estcourt. What on  
a discussion followed

John Reay  
I wish, Sunday  
something  
with recording  
was asked to  
for had another in

John was a mass of figures of the ally by the Moral Reform Association

Minutes of meeting held 16 May 1884  
at 17 Osmaburgh St.

The minutes of the former meeting were read & confirmed  
The Secretary was instructed to draw up & submit  
to the next meetg a card setting forth the objects  
of the Society

It was agreed that the next meetg should be held  
on Friday 30 May

[ W. Postland Esq. read a paper & memorandum  
on the figures of Mr. Mallock

Frank Osborne

This meeting was made memorable  
by the first appearance of Bernard Shaw

Minutes of meeting held 30 May 1884  
at 14 Deans Yard Westminster

The minutes of the former meeting were read & confirmed.

The card as submitted by the Secretary was read & approved and further was referred to Mr Podmore & Keddell to add a final paragraph.

The Secretary was instructed to ~~order~~ print 250 copies of a paper on Professor Th. Ross's *Spent micell of Work* <sup>by Ross.</sup> was read by W. S. Hunter Watts

Edw. R. Pease

Minutes of meeting held 20 June 1884  
at 17 Osnaaburg St. Regent Park

The minutes of the former meeting were  
read and confirmed.

M<sup>r</sup>. C. Cisterter was proposed as a member  
A paper was read by the Secretary  
on Surplus Value

a general discussion followed

Edw. R. Peake  

---

Minutes of meeting held 4 July 1887

at 14 D'Arcy's Lane Westminster

The minutes of the former meeting were read & confirmed  
Letter from E. S. Gray & H. T. Deakins were read  
The Secy's were authorized to reply to H. T. Deakins  
respecting the book sent by him

Mr. Curwen's report was read & declared a matter  
The three resolutions moved by Mr. Deakins were

considered.

The 2nd one was amended & passed viz

That no resolution should be put to the vote of the society  
whether office has not been sent round to all the  
members on the Monday preceding the meeting & that the  
resolution is moved; and no resolution proposing the  
issue of a pamphlet shall be put to the vote of which  
office has not been sent round to all the members  
at least nine days before the meeting at which  
the resolution is moved

The first resolution was withdrawn

The 3<sup>rd</sup> resolution was referred to the Executive  
for modification

a paper was read by W. E. F. Tomkins on  
English Voluntary Socialism

Robert Bland  
Chairman



Minutes of meeting held Friday 6 July

14 Drums Yard

The minutes of the former meeting were read and confirmed.

The following rule was passed

That all members nominated to serve on any Committee must be proposed & seconded at the meeting next preceding that at which the Election takes place & the names of members so nominated must be sent round to all the members on the notice convening such meeting

Any member unable to attend the meeting may send his vote in writing to the Secretary at least 2 days before the meeting, but no member shall give his vote in writing who has been absent from three consecutive meetings next before the meeting at which the vote is to be taken.

[ a paper <sup>on Social Reconstruction</sup> was read by J. Glasse Stapleton  
 a discussion followed  
 Frank Poindexter

Minutes of meeting held 5 Sept 1884

at 17 Osna borough St. Regents Park

The minutes of the former meeting were read & confirmed

J B Shear

E F Tomkins

A Howara

proposed for election as members  
and duly elected.

[ a address on the First Steps in Socialism was  
given by J Etude Stapleton.

A discussion followed.

Edw. R. Pease

Minutes of meeting 19 Sept 1884

1) Cranburgh St. Regents Park

Minutes of preceding meeting were read & confirmed  
The letter of the Secy to William Cunningham  
Hon Sec to Labor Remuneration Enquiry & the  
answer thereto ~~and~~ as also two printed  
statements of scope & particulars of the  
proposed Enquiry Conference were read.

The question of Propaganda ~~and~~ by Lectures  
& addresses and by distribution of Pamphlets  
during the winter was introduced by M Bland.

The following members engaged to give lectures  
& addresses.

Sister Sara Bland Shaw Staddon Howard  
Tomkins Phillips

The Secy was instructed to write to those members  
not present at the meeting on this subject

Pamphlet No 2 was read.

Miss Houston was duly elected a member.

Mabel Bland  
Chairman

Minutes of meeting held 3 Dec 1884 at 14 Deans Yard.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read & confirmed

Mr Taylor was elected a Member

It was decided <sup>the list of</sup> that the Lectures & addresses which certain members of the Union had agreed to deliver should be sent round to all suitable Societies including branches of the Essex Federation.

Pamphlet No 2 was then considered.

of the clauses of the said Pamphlet it was decided that

No 18 should be taken as No 1.

Clause No 1 was passed viz: That under existing circumstances wealth cannot be enjoyed without dishonor or poverty without misery

Clause No 2 was passed viz: That it is the duty of each member of the State to provide for his or her wants by his or her own labor

Clause No 3 was referred for further consideration the word may being inserted before the word of kindred

Clause No 4 was passed viz: That a share in the Land Capital of the Nation is the birthright of every individual born within its confines and that access to this birthright should not depend on the will of any private person other than the person seeking it.

Clause No 5 } That the most striking result of our present system of taxing  
 was passed viz } out the national fund of capital to private individuals has been  
 the division of Society into hostile classes, with large appetites  
 and incomes at one extreme, and large distress & no appetites  
 at the other.

Clause No 6 was passed viz That the practice of entrusting the fund of the  
 Nation to private persons in the hope that they will make the best  
 of it has been discredited by the course taken with regard to the  
 Revenue the worst of it & that the Nationality of the fund  
 in some form is a public duty.

Clause No 7 was passed viz That the practice of (capitalism) to  
 encourage invention and to distribute its benefits in the  
 furthest attainable manner discredited by the  
 experience of the 19th Century.

Clause No 8 was referred for further consideration.

Clause No 9 was passed viz That under the existing system of leaving the  
 National Economy to manage itself Constitution has the effect of  
 making adulteration dishonest robbery, and inhumanity compulsory.

Clause No 10 That in proportion as any producer admittedly measures to  
 his public the most satisfactory products, the State should contribute



with all its might in any department of production.

Clause No 11 was passed; That such restraints upon Free Competition as the penalties for infringing the Postal monopoly and the withdrawal of workhouse & prison labor from the market should be abolished.

Clause No 12 was passed; That no Branch of Industry should be carried on at a profit by the central administration.

Clause No 13 was passed; That the Public Revenue should be raised by a direct Tax; and that the central administration should have sole power to hold back for the replenishment of the Public Treasury any portion of the proceeds of the Industries administered by them.

Clause No 14 was passed; That the State should compete with private individuals especially with capitalists & provide happy homes for children, rather than shield any home a refuge to the typhannous or neglect of its natural custodians.

Clause No 15 was passed; That men not employed need special political privileges to protect the aged women and that <sup>the</sup> State <sup>should</sup> henceforth enjoy equal political rights

Clause No 16 was referred for further consideration



Bill No 17 was passed in that the State should secure a liberal education and encourage the National Industry to each of its units.

Bill No 18<sup>19</sup> was passed in that the established Govt has no more right to call itself the State than the smoke of London has to call itself the weather.

Bill No 19<sup>20</sup> was passed in that we had within five or six years the such another century of suffering as the American has been.

Robert Pland  
Secy Chairman

~~Mr Wilson of the Lodge is prepared as a member~~

Minutes of meeting held 17 Oct 1884 at  
16 Drans Yard Westminster.

The minutes of the previous meeting were  
read and confirmed.

Mr Wilson of Elm Lodge Hempstead was  
only elected a member.

The consideration of Draft No 2 was then  
proceeded with.

Clause No 3 was discussed & rejected

Clause No 8 —————

————— " 16 ————— & passed

————— " 20 ————— & rejected

The instruction was issued to the Pd  
Committee to prepare <sup>& add</sup> a clause to Draft No 2  
condemning the principle of hereditary property.  
to

An instruction was also issued to alter  
in Clause 4 the words "a share" to "a life  
interest".

It was agreed that 10,000 of No 2

should be printed 2 10000 of 10/1 be  
reprinted.

Hubert Board  
Chairman

(only 5000 of each seem to have been  
printed)

Minutes of meeting held 7 Nov. at 17 Osneyburgh St.

(read at the meeting of 5 Dec.)

The minutes of the previous meeting were read & confirmed

The substance of a letter from the Scottish Land and Labor League ~~in~~ asking for a supply of Fabian Tracts Nos 1 & 2 was stated and it was reported that 500 of each had been forwarded.

Mr. G. Pearce reported that a large number of the Fabian Tracts Nos 1 & 2 had been distributed at the Hyde Park meeting.

Mr. Wilson read a paper on Anarchism  
a discussion followed.

Meeting of meeting 5 Dec. 1864

Miss Edwards 1 Observatory Avenue New York

Mr Smyth 61 Blunt St. Tulsa

was duly elected

Miss R. Dale presented a paper on New Harmony

and discussion followed

W. S. Taylor

Minutes of meeting held 19 Dec: 1884  
at 17 Cornhill St.

J. Gladstone proposed Mr. Hubert Bland  
that the Executive consist of five members  
to wit: Mr. Wilson, H. Bland, Ed. Pease,  
E. Pemburn Shaw & Maddox.

This proposal was seconded by W. F. Phillips.  
~~Hubert Bland~~ The proposer thro' H. Bland and  
the seconder added that the Executive  
be elected for 1885

Mr. Wilson read proposals relating to  
the work of the Society

Ed. Pease made — do — do  
— do — do.

The proposals of E. B. Shaw re — do —  
— do — do — were read.

The proposals were referred to the Executive  
J. Gladstone



Minutes of meeting held 2 January 1885 at 17 Osunaburgh Street. I Glode Stuppellan in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Executive resigned.

Mrs Wilson, Hubert Bland, Ed. Pease, G. B. Shaw & Kraddele were elected as the Executive Committee from 2 Jan/85 to 4 Apr. 1885 and from 4 April 1885 to 4 April 1886.

Secy of the

The self was instructed to write to Industrial Remuneration Enquiry respecting the application made that a representative of the Society be allowed to attend the Conference

I Hunter Watts notified he would move that a monthly subscription be made to Justice.

a plan for the ~~regulation~~ initiation and regulation of discussion in future was laid before the S<sup>y</sup> by H. Bland.

On Paper entitled Revolutionary Prospects was read by H. Bland

Hubert Bland  
Chairman

Minutes of meeting held at Deane Yard 16 Jan<sup>y</sup>/85

Hubert Bland in the chair.

The Sec<sup>y</sup> was instructed to send to the Sec<sup>y</sup> of the Industrial Remuneration Conference the information required by him.

A letter from J. Hunter Watts was read, and it was decided that the donation by the Society to the funds of Justice as proposed by him should not be made

The manner in which it is proposed to work the lending of books among the members was described by W<sup>o</sup> Wilson

G. Glode Stapelton read a paper on Social Recon-  
-struction. A discussion followed

Frank Podmore.

Minutes of meeting held at Green Yard  
6 Feb. 1885

Frank Podmore in the Chair

The minutes of the previous meeting were read  
and confirmed.

The Fabian delegates to the Industrial  
Remuneration made reports.

Mr. Wilson read a paper dealing with  
certain points raised in the paper  
on Social Reconstruction.

Hubert Bead  
Chairman  
2

Minutes of:

Meeting held at Green's Yard 20 Feb. 1885

Hubert Bland in the Chair

Leonard & Jesson were duly elected  
members

A paper on the proposed abolition of the  
currency was read by E. B. Shaw

A discussion followed

Hubert Bland

minutes of meeting held at 14 Deans Yard Westminster  
on 6 March 1885

Hubert Blandin ~~The~~ Chair

Minutes of the former meeting were read and con-  
firmed

The question of an examination into and report  
upon the working of <sup>the</sup> Poor Law ~~was~~ discussed.

It was decided that Mr Wilson Miss Edwards  
Rowland Estcourt should be requested to collect  
report to the Pamphlet Committee facts and  
figures concerning the working of the Poor Law  
referring generally to the whole question and in  
particular to the figures & assertions of recently  
cited and made by the Gov<sup>t</sup> officials to dis-  
prove the allegation of great distress among  
the workers. The reports to take the forms first of  
of a general & detailed report to the Fabian  
~~and~~ second of a shorter sharper report to  
the Pamphlet Committee to be issued if  
approved as <sup>provided by a</sup> Pamphlet.

Hubert Blandin  
Chairman 21/3/85



Minutes of meeting held 14 Drans Yard Westminster

20 March 1885

Hubert Bland in the chair.

a paper on the way out was read by Mr  
Sydney Webb

a discussion followed.

Hubert Bland

Secy



Minutes of meeting held 17 April 1885 at 2 Maulbars Road S John's Wk

Hubert Bland in the Chair.

(S.O. present)

The Secretary reported that the Executive proposed to send a delegate to South Yorkshire to examine ~~into~~ and report upon the the South Yorkshire Miners.

It was resolved to send J. Hunter Watts as delegate

----- -- pay the railway fare of such delegate.

A report as to the proposed *Conversazione* was made by the Treasurer; said *Conversazione* to be held early in May, 2 tickets to be issued to each member; 5/- p/ces required by members in excess of such number to be issued at 1/- each; invitations to be issued by the Executive.

A financial statement was made by the Treasurer showing £1.4.8. in his hands

A paper by W.K. Burton & Bolas was read by W.K. Burton and printed copies of the same handed to the members

A discussion followed

The Chairman announced that the *Converg<sup>e</sup>* would be held on the 6 May next.

M. W. 11/12/85

Minutes of meeting held 1 May 1885

14 Deans Yard Westminster

Hubert Bland in the Chair

Messrs T Bolas W K Burton Sidney Webb

Sydney Olivier were duly elected  
members.

A paper "and no man shall build and  
"another inhabit" was read by Leonard  
Hill

A discussion ensued.

Edw. R. Pease

Minute of meeting held 15 May 1885

Edward R Pease in the chair

The minutes of the former meeting were read & confirmed.

Leonard Hill & Harold Cox were duly elected members.

A Telegram was read from J. Hunter Watts

that he would be at Dunalby Main the following day

Tract N<sup>o</sup> 3 was then read for the first time and discussed at length.

J. Glode Stratfulth  
clm.

Minutes of meeting held 5 June 1885

14 Deans Yard Westminster

The minutes of the former meeting were read & confirmed  
Henry Seymour & Walter H Colpin were duly  
elected members.

A report ~~was~~ read by J. Hunter Watts ~~was read~~  
on his visit to the Drinaby Miners

The report was adopted and the thanks of  
the Society <sup>to J. H. Watts</sup> voted on the motion of G. Bernard  
Shaw seconded by Heddele.

Tract No 3 was read and voted upon clause  
by clause.

For the preamble 13 voted; - against it 4 voted

" Clause 1 13 " ; - - - - - 1 - - -

Nine voted that clause 2 be amended as proposed

by W. H. Burton against four

For Clause 2 as amended eight voted, against it ~~six~~ ~~six~~

" " 3 nine - ; - - - - - 3 -

" " 4 twelve - ; - - - - - 0 -

" " 5 - - - - - ; - - - - - 0 -

" " 6 - - - - - ; - - - - - 2 -

• The Colophon eleven - ; - - - - - 1 -

That Ebenezer Shaw I Elode Stapleton and  
Sidney Webb be appointed to modify where  
necessary the Draft generally and Clause  
two in particular was passed by 13 votes  
to no vote.

Frank Bidwell

she may soon be restored to perfect health

a paper was read by Rev. W. H. Solly on Industrial Villages

a discussion ensued.

W. H. Solly



Minutes of meeting held 19 June 85 at 14 Dean  
Yard Westminster Frank Dodson in the Chair  
The minutes of the former meeting were read & confirmed  
W. Besant & J. C. Foulger were duly elected members  
The Treasurer's report on the Society was read and  
adopted. It was moved and carried that the  
balance of the £13.6. in hands of the Treasurer,  
be transferred to the General Ac.

The thanks of the Fabian Society were ~~moved~~  
given to the Sub-committee who made the  
arrangements for the musical *Conversazione*  
The resignation of Miss Robins on account of ill  
health of the office of Assistant Secretary was  
announced as also that Miss Houghton had  
undertaken the duties of that office.

It was moved and carried that the Fabian  
Society thank Miss Robins for the services  
she has rendered as Assistant Secretary &  
much regret her indisposition and trust

minutes of public debate held 18 July 1885  
1 adam Street Adelphi

a paper on the Ethics of Socialism was  
read by W. E. R. Pease.

a discussion followed.

The following resolution was moved by  
Hubert Bland and seconded by W.  
Wilson:

The members and friends of the Fabian  
Society on the occasion of their first  
meeting since the publication of the terrible  
revelation of the Pall Mall Gazette pass  
a vote of sincere thanks to that courageous  
journal for exposing one of the many ways  
in which the wealthy & idle classes of this  
nation prey upon their fellow citizens. at  
the same time the Fabians desire to ac-  
-cuse their conviction that this is but one  
form of and one result of the exploitati-

Minutes of meeting held 4 July 1885

14 Deans Yard Westminster

The minutes of the former meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter from the residents at Lambeth Hall was read by the Secretary declining to take part in a debate as requested by the Fabian Society.

The amendment as moved by Mr. Wilson to be made in the Card was carried & in the first paragraph in the Card the following words 'competitive system' were expunged & the following substituted 'the system of production for profit instead of for use'

A paper was read by Mr. Eronlund  
a discussion followed

Arthur Plead

Minutes of meeting held 4 Sept 1885 at 1) Osunaburg St.

The minutes of the former meeting were read & confirmed.

Miss Elchric & Mr. W. D. Bell were duly elected as members.

The election of Mrs. K. Davis & of A. Smith was postponed as the proposer & seconder of the former were absent & the latter had not attended two meetings according to rule.

The following additions to the rules proposed by the Executive were carried viz.

That it be the duty of the Executive Committee from time to time to write, or cause to be written pamphlets, tracts etc, and submit them to the Society in accordance with rule.

That any resolution of which the Terms have been sent to the Secretary 10 days before any ordinary meeting shall be put upon the notice concerning that meeting and at that meeting such resolutions and any amendment thereof shall take precedence of all other business.

The following resolution proposed by the

- Fiction of man by man which is the curse  
of our modern Society.

This resolution was carried nem: con:



Minutes of meeting held 2 October 1885  
at Dr Williams's Library Grafton Street  
Sower St:

W R Burcon in the chair

The minutes were read and confirmed as amended.

The following were duly elected members

Mr Kate Davis

Wm Ashman

Miss Brooke.

The following list of members of the Committee  
to consider the question of holding a Conference  
on the aims & methods of Democracy was  
submitted by the Secretary and passed by  
the Society viz:

Miss Besant T Bolas W R Burcon

H. Foulger J. S. Stepelton.

a report was made by S. B. Shaw and  
by Mr Miss Besant on meeting of the  
Vigilance Committee in defence of Free Speech  
a paper was read by the Revd L. L. Marson



Executive was carried viz:

That a Committee be appointed to consider  
the question of holding a conference on the aims  
& methods of Democracy and to report thereon  
and it was also <sup>announced</sup> resolved that a list of  
the members to serve on said Committee  
be prepared by the Sec: ~~to read~~ and be sub-  
mitted at the next meeting.

A Paper was read by Madame de Sales ~~was~~  
~~read~~ on the Master Key of Social Reform  
a discussion ensued.

W. V. Burton

Minutes of meeting held 6 Nov. 1885

at 94 Cromwell Gardens South Kensington  
Frank Podmore in the chair

The minutes of the former meeting were read  
and confirmed.

The following were duly elected members.

J. M. Bradwick (J. M. S.)

John Brailsford Bright

W. E. Debenham

Rev. C. F. Marson

C. Downing

Miss Edith M. Simcox read a paper on  
Socialism & Political Liberty.

A discussion ensued.

J. Gladst. St. Paul's  
- chair

on Christian Socialism. a discussion  
ensued.

Frank Osborne

- on the motion about to be proposed, he resigned his place on that body, & his office as Secretary.
6. The Report of the Conference Comtee was considered & approved. The following is the text.

The Committee appointed to consider the question of a conference report

- (1) To hold a Conference
- (2) Object: To discuss the best means of utilising Land & Capital for the general good.
- (3) That a circular be issued shortly after the General Election to all progressive associations asking for their co-operation.
- (4) That the Conference be held in London at the end of May, or the beginning of June, on three consecutive evenings.
- (5) Subject - First Evening: The Utilisation of Capital Land.  
Second Evening: The Utilisation of Capital.  
Third Evening: The Democratic Policy
- (6) That the Treasurer be directed to form a Guarantee Fund of not less than £100
- (7) That if possible the proceedings of the Conference be printed & circulated.

Minutes of Meeting held Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> 1885 at  
14 Deans Yard Westminster, J. G. Shapleton in  
the Chair -

1. The minutes of the last meeting were read & confirmed.
2. The following members were elected members,  
Walter Crane, Edw. Easton, H. Holms Gore.
4. On the subject of the next minute being raised, "Urgency" was proposed, & carried against a minority of 2.
5. Moved by H. Bland on behalf of the Exec. Com<sup>ee</sup> That this Society records its opinion that the conduct of the Council of the Social Democratic Federation in accepting money from the Tory party in payment of the election expenses of the Socialist candidates is calculated to disgrace the Socialist movement in England. Carried by 15 to 4.
3. F. Kedwell announced that in consequence of his disagreement with the rest of the Executive



Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on the 1st January 1886 at  
94 Roswell Gardens S.W. Robert Bland in the chair.

The minutes of the former meeting were read and confirmed.

The Chairman gave notice that at the next meeting Mr Sidney Webb would be proposed as a member of the executive in place of J. Keddell, resigned.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Society.

J. Stuart Gilmour

C. J. Burton

S. Ball

Charles Poole

Edward Carpenter read a paper on Private Property. A discussion ensued, in which J. P. Stapleton, James Leely, Rev. C. D. Mason, Andrew Lohm, J. Bradford Wright, Sidney Webb, J. Culwick, A. Howard, and G. Bernard Shaw took part. The lecturer replied; and the meeting concluded.

Robert Bland



7. The following resolutions were carried

- (a) That the same Comtee be authorised to organise a Conference
- (b) That the Treasurer be authorised to form a guarantee fund of not less than £100.
- (c) That the Comtee have power to add to their numbers. —

Julia Board

Public Meeting Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> 1885, at South Place  
Chapel, Finsbury, opened by  
Mrs. Annie Besant. Subject: "How can we  
nationalise accumulated wealth". —

Ordinary private meeting held 5 Feb. 7 1886  
at 17 Canalburgh St. H. Bland in chair.

1. Minutes of two previous meetings read & passed.
2. The following were elected members, viz:  
 Wm Luck  
 Wm Clarke
3. The following were elected members of the  
 Conference Com<sup>ee</sup>, viz:  
 Wm Bland, F. Postmore, W. L. Phillips, F. Keddell.
4. Wm Besant brought forward the subject of  
 extending the work of the Society in the  
 provinces & forming branches, or affiliated  
 societies, & after discussion H. Bland  
 intimated that the Exec. wd confer with  
 Wm Besant, & lay proposals before  
 the Society.

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> 1886  
at 94 Cornwall Gardens.

Frank Podmore in the chair

It was moved by Hubert Bland on behalf  
of the Executive Committee <sup>& carried unanimously</sup> that Sidney Webb  
be elected to that Committee *vice* F. Reddell  
resigned.

~~Sidney Webb was unanimously elected.~~

Sidney Webb read a paper on  
The Economics of a Positivist Community  
A discussion ensued in which W. K. Burton,  
Hubert Bland, C. L. Fitzgerald, Frank Podmore,  
J. G. Stapleton, W. S. Stapleton, James Machure  
& St. George Lane-Fox took part.

Hubert Bland

amended  
by omission by vote 6 to 2.  
S.W.

C36/48

That ~~(the preface of)~~ the proposed pamphlet be referred back to the executive, with the addition of other members<sup>elected</sup>, for this purpose only, for reconsideration, & that they be requested to receive & consider written criticisms & amendments, from any member who may desire to offer such.

8. The proposal to vote "urgency" for the election of the additional members at once was negatived by 6 to 9. -

Sidney Webb

N.B. - In the original draft of the resolution, as carried, the words "the preface of" occurred!!!!

S.W.P.



5. Resolved "That any resolution not affecting the constitution of the Society, duly moved & recorded at any ordinary meeting may be discussed & put to the vote after being declared "Urgent" by a majority of  $\frac{3}{4}$  <sup>ths</sup> of the members present in a meeting of not less than twelve members."
6. Tract No. 4 ~~to~~ as prepared by the Exec. having been read, & discussed, it was moved by J. G. Stapleton, & resolved, That the pamphlet should consist of an account of Collectivism & a Collectivist & one of Anarchism by an Anarchist, with a preface setting out the general views of this Society on socialist evolution.
7. After further discussion it was moved by S. Webb & resolved

work is progressing satisfactorily,

b. It was reported that the Executive had in accordance with Minute 4 of last meeting, conferred with Mrs Besant, & the following proposal was read:—

(a) Fabian Societies may be formed in any town or district by not less than 10 persons, each such Society prefixing to the name "Fabian Society" the name of its town or district & using such localised title in all its publications & notices.

(b) Each such Fabian Society shall fix its own rate of subscription, shall have complete control over its own funds, & shall make its own rules, subject to the proviso that no rule shall be made which conflicts with the basis & aim of the central Society.

(c) It shall appoint one of its members as Corresponding Secretary, & communicate



Ordinary Meeting on Feb 19<sup>th</sup> at 1 Adam St. Adelphi  
Sidney Webb in the chair.

1. The minutes of last meeting were read & confirmed, as amended. —
2. The following was elected a member, viz:  
C. I. Fraser.  
S. E.
3. Resolved That the number of members to be added to the executive for the purpose of re-considering tract No. 4 be four. —
4. The following were elected in accordance with the preceding minute, viz:  
F. Pochmore, Mrs Bland, Mrs Besant, J. S. Stapleton.
5. A report from the Secretaries of the Conference Comtee was read, to the effect that their

8. A report from the delegate appointed to attend the Committee summoned by the Socialist League for making arrangements for celebrating the anniversary of the Paris Commune, was read. ~~approved.~~
9. The Secretary (on behalf of the Treasurer) reported a deficiency of £12 in the funds for general purposes, & £3.5/- was collected from members & others. —
10. A paper on "The Crofters' Revolt in its relation to the General Land Question" was read by Mr J. S. Stuart Glennie, and in the debate that followed Messrs Gower, Wallas, Burns, McClure, Murray, Jamieson, Weir, & others, took part, besides members. —

Sydney Oliver

5 March 86.

The name & address of the member so chosen to the executive of the Fabian Society, thus providing facilities for intercommunication for the circulation of literature, & for the exchange of lecturers.

(1) A General Meeting of members shall be held once in every year, & no change in the basis & aim of the Fabian Society shall be made, except at such General Meeting by a majority of votes.

(2) All members of local Societies shall enjoy the right of admission to the meetings of the central Fabian Society, & may take part in all debates, but they shall not vote on matters of business. —

7. A proposal to defer consideration of the above having fallen thro' for want of a seconder, the above report was unanimously approved.

appoint a delegate, in addition to Mr. W. L. Phillips  
 to attend the meeting for the celebration of  
 the Commune. - It was understood that  
 Mr. Adolphe Smith would <sup>be asked</sup> in the first place.

5. Mr. Besant gave notice that at the next meeting  
 she wd. move that two members be added to the  
 Executive at the next election, & that at the  
 following meeting she wd. move the re-election  
 of the present members.

6. F. Podmore gave an address on American  
 Socialistic Communes, & in the debate that  
 followed Dr. Chapman, Stephens & others,  
 besides members, took part.

Frank Podmore



Ordinary Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1886  
at 19 Avenue Rd, St John Wood.  
Sidney Olivier in the chair.

#.

1. The minutes of the last meeting were read & signed as correct.
2. The following were elected members, viz:  
Adolphe Smith  
St Geo. Lane-Fox.
3. Resolved, That a committee be appointed to draw up a practicable scheme for the State or Municipal employment of unemployed labourers, & that the Com<sup>ee</sup> consist of Messrs Podmore, Stapleton & Webb, with power to add to their number.

It Resolved. That the Executive be instructed to



(v. minute 3) to the extent of £2. -

5. Resolved, That the number of the Executive to be elected in April be seven.

6. The following were nominated as candidates for election to the Executive,

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
F. Poolemore	Mrs. Besant	T. Bolas
Mrs. Besant	H. Bland	G. B. Shaw
The five present members,	J. G. Stapleton	W. L. Phillips.

7. J. G. Stapleton read a paper on "Relief works for the Unemployed", & in the debate that followed, Arnold White, Culwick, Stewart Headlam, & others took part, as well as members. -

S. Oliver

Ordinary Meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> March  
at 94 Cornwall Gardens  
Frank Podmore in the chair.

1. The Minutes of the last meeting were read & confirmed.
2. The following were elected members,  
viz: Robert Dryhurst  
S. Ward  
T. P. Gower
3. W. L. Phillips reported that he & Adolphe Smith were present at the Commune Celebration as Fabian delegates.
4. Resolved, after discussion, That our delegate W. L. Phillips be authorised to subscribe on behalf of the Society to the expenses of the above-mentioned meeting

year, viz: Annie Besant, Hubert Bland, Edward  
 R. Pease, Frank Poole, G. Bernard Shaw, Sydney  
 Webb, + Charlotte M. Wilson. -

6. Resolved That Hubert Bland be appointed  
 Treasurer, + Edw. R. Pease Secretary for the  
 ensuing year.
7. The conduct of the Society was discussed, +  
 suggestions were made for future action.
8. Tract No. 4, as amended by the Com<sup>ee</sup> appointed  
 on Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, was laid before the meeting by <sup>Annie</sup> Besant.  
 The Preface, Collectivism + anarchism were  
 successively amended + passed, and it was  
Resolved, That Tract No. 4 as read, with  
 any verbal alterations necessary, be printed.

*Hubert Bland*

Chairman to business mtg. -

Ordinary Meeting (members only) on 2<sup>nd</sup> April  
1886 at 14 Deans Yard, S. Oliver in the chair.

1. The minutes of the last meeting were read  
& confirmed
2. The following were elected members, viz:  
Graham Wallas, & Rob<sup>t</sup>: G. Stevens.
3. The Treasurer's report, showing Receipts amounting  
to  $\pounds 35.19$  - <sup>for year to date,</sup> Expenditure  $\pounds 27.6.6$ , & Balance  
in hand  $\pounds 8.12.6$  was read & adopted.
4. Resolved That the thanks of the Society are due  
to Alice M. Hoatson for the efficient manner  
in which the arduous duties of assistant secretary  
<sup>have been</sup> ~~are~~ discharged by her. -
5. Resolved That the following members duly  
nominated, be the Executive for the ensuing



- (2) Executive Com<sup>ee</sup>. It is the duty of the Executive to conduct the General Business of the Socy, To prepare pamphlets & Tracts, & to appoint delegates to represent the Society.
- (3) Election of Committees Members nominated to serve on the Executive Com<sup>ee</sup> must be proposed at the meeting next preceeding that for their election. Nominations for other Committees must be sent to the Secretary 10 days before the meeting for the election, & the names in both cases must be given on the notice convening the meeting.
- (4) Want of Confidence. Notice of motion to remove a member from any Com<sup>ee</sup> must be given as provided in Rule 3. for election of Committees.
- (5) Business. Any resolution, the subject of which has been notified to the Secretary 10 days before any ordinary meeting shall be announced by him on the notice convening that meeting, & shall, together with any amendments thereto, take precedence of all other business. Notice of any proposal to issue a pamphlet must be sent to members 19 days before a vote can be taken.



Meeting (Ordinary) on April 16<sup>th</sup> 1886 at 1 Adam Street.  
H. Bland in chair for business, J. H. Watts during debate.

1. The Minutes of the last meeting were read & confirmed.

2. The following were elected members, viz<sup>t</sup>:

Rob<sup>t</sup>. McAllan  
Miss Jessie Taylor  
W. Jamieson.

3. The revised list of Rules, was read, the alteration in the mode of election discussed, & it was Resolved, That the following be the rules of the Society, viz<sup>t</sup>:-

(1) Officers. At the first meeting in April in each year the Society shall elect an Executive Com<sup>ee</sup> which shall hold office for one year, unless removed by vote of the Society. The number of the Exec. shall not be changed except by vote of the Socy with due notice given. A Secretary & Treasurer shall be appointed at the same mtg.

(10) Branches. Branch Societies may be formed in accordance with such regulations as may be made from time to time.

H. T. Mann, delegate from the Social Democratic Federation opened a debate on "An Eight Hours working day"; in the discussion which followed Messrs. Burns, Champion, Hyndman, Rossiter, Burrows, Greening, & others, besides members, took part. -

Edney Street

6) Urgency. Any resolution not affecting the constitution of the Society may be declared urgent by a majority of  $\frac{3}{4}$ <sup>ths</sup> of the members present in a meeting of not less than twelve members.

7) Finance. The Treasurer shall from time to time apply to the Society for such sums as are required.

8) Elections. Candidates must signify acceptance of the "Basis" of the Society, must attend two meetings as visitors, & must be proposed & seconded by members from personal knowledge. The names of candidates shall be sent to all members before each meeting. Voting shall be by ballot, & one black ball in 5 shall exclude. The names of members who do not attend any meeting for 6 months may be struck off the list at the discretion of the Executive.

9) Corresponding members. Residents in the provinces or abroad may be elected as corresponding members on the proposal of one member & on personal acquaintance, the election proceeding as in the case of town members.

Ordinary Meeting at 94 Cornwall Gardens on  
May 7<sup>th</sup> 1886, Walter H. Coffin in the chair.

1. The Minutes of the last meeting were read & confirmed
2. The following were elected members, viz:
  - C. C. Massey
  - Jas. R. Macdonald
  - Miss Mary Groves
  - A. C. Varley
  - Dr. A. S. Kennedy
3. Mr. Besant delivered an address on Interest, & moved,
 

"That Interest is an unfair charge upon Labour,  
that it ensures the perpetuation of an idle &  
therefore mischievous class, & that recognising these  
facts, all Socialists should work towards its abolition."
4. Sidney Webb moved <sup>as an amendment</sup> that the words "for the benefit  
of individuals" be inserted after the word "Interest".



Ordinary Meeting at 1 Adam St, Adelphi,  
on May 7<sup>th</sup> 1886, S. Oliver in the chair.

1. The Minutes of the last meeting were read (except the rules as printed) & were signed as correct.
2. The following were elected members by ballot:  
Arthur Wilson  
Mrs. Cotton.
3. The formation of a branch at Edinburgh was notified.
4. Sidney Webb delivered an address entitled "What Socialism means, a call to the Unconverted," & in the debate that followed Henry Ellis, Esq. Standing, & J. H. Levy, besides members took part. -

Walter J. Coffin.



Meeting at 19 Avenue Road on Friday  
 4<sup>th</sup> June 1886. "Members only". S. Olivier in  
 the Chair. -

1. The minutes of the last meeting were read & confirmed.
2. The following were elected members, viz:  
 Miss Jackson  
 P. Balshaw  
 Arthur P. Lawrie.
3. A report on the progress of the Conference ar-  
 rangements was made by the Secretaries.
4. F. Podmore read the report prepared by the  
 Com<sup>tee</sup> appointed on 5 March 1886, ~~was read~~,  
<sup>it was</sup> and discussed. X
5. On the motion of Mr. Besant, it was resolved  
 that the words "printed for the information

5. After an animated discussion, in which Messrs. Burns, Prentice, & Mann, took part, as well as members, the ~~an~~ amendment was put & negatived by 13 votes to 4, & the resolution was then carried by 15 votes to 4. - Members only voted. -

Sydney Oliver  
4 June 86.

Ordinary Meeting at 94 Cornwall  
Gardens, on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 1886.

(J. G. Stapleton in the Chair)

(Sydney Oliver assumed the duties of Secretary during the absence from London of E. R. Pease.)

1. Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed.
2. Miss Hull and T. Mann were elected Members of the Society. The election of W. D. Crawford was deferred in the absence of the persons proposing and seconding him, as there appeared to be no record of their names.
3. Graham Wallas read a paper on "Personal Duty under the present system."

of members" be added to the title, and  
it was intimated by the Com<sup>ee</sup> that modifications  
on various points would be made, wherever  
practicable.

6. On this understanding it was resolved,  
by 15 votes to 5, that the Report be printed.

J. Eldz Stapleton

Public Meeting at South Place  
Chapel, Finsbury, on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July '86

Walter Crane in the Chair.  
William Morris read a paper on  
"The Aims of Art" *Walter Crane spoke on the discussion.*

J. Podmore in the Chair

Ordinary Meeting at 19 Avenue Road  
on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> July. — 1886.

W. D. Crawford, R. W. Anderson, and  
J. Lecky were proposed for election.

On a ballot being taken for the  
three together the election was negative.  
The balloting for the three, severally,  
was deferred until the close of the  
proceedings.

It was <sup>resolved, on the motion of Blaud. Shaw,</sup> ~~agreed~~ that ~~the~~ a Committee  
~~proposed~~ consisting of the Executive, the  
Acting Secretary, and Fraser, Phillips



4. A ~~series~~<sup>number</sup> of questions from Fabians more or less in trouble about their souls were answered ex cathedra by Mr. Wallas, after which, ~~the~~ the Society was given to understand <sup>by G. B. Shaw,</sup> that Joseph, the Fifth Monarchy man, could show them a more excellent way. Joseph addressed the meeting for five minutes, on the subject of a community about to be established in British North America, under the presidency of the Son of God. S<sup>r</sup> Webb, G. B. Shaw, Annie Besant, C. Masson and Adolphe Smith discussed the subject of the paper with especial reference to the question of buying cheap goods, and of the employment of the surplus income of ~~the~~ pensioners, after which, Graham Wallas replied and the meeting dispersed. -

Frank B. Shaw

Public Meeting at ~~South Place~~  
Anderson's Hotel  
Fleet St on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 1886.

Chair taken at 7.35 by F. Podman,  
for Private Business.

G. Bernard Shaw moved, and Annie  
Besant Seconded a Resolution

That in Rule 8. for the words "The names of candidates shall be sent to all members before each meeting. Voting shall be by ballot, and one black ball in five shall exclude.", there shall be substituted the words "The names of candidates shall be announced to the Society at the meeting next previous to that at which the voting takes place. Voting shall be by show of hands, and one adverse vote in five shall exclude".

Hubert Bland moved ~~an amendment~~  
"That Rule 8 not having been long  
" enough in operation for the Society to  
" judge of its working, the discussion and

Bales and Kaddell, be appointed to consider the question of Metropolitan Fabian Branches and their relation to the parent Society, and to report to the Society at the first meeting in September."

Mr Balfour Ban read a paper on "Universal History, from a Socialistic point of view" — Some questions followed, but time did not allow of any discussion.

On Ballots being taken,

Mr W. D. Crawford was elected a member of the Society

Mr. R. W. Anderson and Mr. J. Lecky were not elected.

It was decided that the next meeting should be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September.

Frank Baines

"distribution of wealth."

Hubert Bland seconded the motion.

William Morris moved that the following words be added as a Rides to the Resolution -

"But whereas the first duty of Socialists is to educate the people to understand what their present position is, and what their future might be, and to keep the principles of Socialism steadily before them; and whereas no Parliament any party can exist without compromise and concession, which would hinder that education and obscure those principles it would be a false step for Socialists to attempt to take part in the Parliament any context. -

Then spoke to the amendment



A. H. J. Hall  
Jan 27. 1881  
The meeting was postponed

" dinner on Mr Shaw's resolution be  
" adjourned to this day three months "

The amendment was carried, against the  
original <sup>Resolution</sup> -  
The consideration of the Report of  
the "Branches" Committee was postponed.

Miss Ellis, and J. M. Fells were  
elected members of the Society.

In public Business, Mrs A. Bessant  
spoke on the subject of Socialism  
and Political Action, and proposed  
a Resolution.

" That it is advisable that ~~the~~ Socialists  
" should organise themselves as a  
" political Party, for the purpose of  
" transferring into the hands of the whole  
" working community full control over  
" the soil and the means of production  
" as well as over the production and



C36/62

7  
21

for  
Davis,

C. M. Wilson  
Tocatti

against

H. Bland,  
W. K. Donald,

G. B. Shaw

W. Rossiter

J. Burns

and W. Morris and Mrs. Besant  
opposed -

On the Resolution being put to  
the vote it was carried by 47 to 19.  
The <sup>addition of the</sup> Aids was negatived by 40 to 27.

Sidney Webb

Subsequently to this meeting the Secretary  
received notice from the ~~prop~~ Managers  
of Anderson's Hotel that the Society

could not be accommodated there  
 for any future meetings.

This was because the  
 location, a town with a  
 somewhat full of houses  
 can't stand a repeated building  
 with unusual heat.

Ordinary Meeting at 19 Avenue Road  
 on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 1886.

Chair taken at 7.45 p.m. by Sidney Webb.

The ~~first~~ Report of the Committee  
 appointed to consider the question of  
 Metropolitan Fabian Branches and their  
 relation to the parent Society was read  
 by the Secretary. (Copy of Report amended, appended)  
 Notice was given by G. Waller that  
 on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of November he would formally  
 propose that the recommendations of the Branches  
 Committee be accepted by the Society. F. G. Stapleton  
 as second of the motion.  
 The Acting Secretary appealed for assistance in  
 sending out Circulars. A. H. Easton volunteered to  
 be Assistant Secy pro. tem.

## Fabian Society Branches.

The "Branches" Committee have drawn up the following recommendations for the constitution of Branches.

- " 1. The Secretary and Treasurer of each Branch to be, *ex officio*, members of the Central Society, with full rights.
- " 2. Members of all Branches to have the right to attend ordinary meetings of the Central Society, but not of voting, and members of the Central Society to have similar rights with regard to the Branches.
- " 3. Each Branch to furnish the Central Society with a list of its members every three months, and to keep the Central Society informed of its times and places of meeting.
- " 4. A General Council to be formed, consisting of the Central Executive, and of Delegates appointed by the Branches; the Council to meet once a quarter and to be convenable on any emergency. One Delegate to be elected for every ten members of a Branch."

could not be accommodated there  
for any future meetings.

*This was because the  
Hall, a tenement was  
broken up for a time  
and the people of the  
area had a complete  
with necessary work.*

Ordinary Meeting at 19 Avenue Road  
on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 1886.

Chair taken at 7.45 p.m. by Sidney Webb.

The ~~first~~ Report of the Committee  
appointed to consider the question of  
Metropolitan Fabian Branches and their  
relation to the parent Society was read  
by the Secretary. (Copy of Report annexed, appended)

Notice was given by G. Waller that  
on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of November he would formally  
move that the recommendations of the Branches  
Committee be accepted by the Society. F. J. Stapleton  
rose as seconder of the motion.

The Acting Secretary appealed for assistance in  
sending out Circulars. A. H. Easton volunteered to  
act as Assistant Secy pro tem.



P. Balshaw gave notice that he would at the next meeting but one ask the Executive what practical steps if any they intend to take with regard to the Resolution moved by Mrs Besant and passed at the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September.

In the absence of Dr Burns Gibson, who was prevented from attending by

the Discussion on Socialism and the Family was opened by a paper from Perival A. Chubb followed by one from G. B. Shaw. These spoke subsequently C. Mason, G. Wallis, P. Balshaw, W. L. Phillips, ~~Hubert~~ <sup>Mrs</sup> Bland, Mrs Stapleton, F. Rodman, W. H. Donald, Hubert Bland, Miss Brooke, J. G. Stapleton, S. Ouire, ~~and~~ W. A. Utley, and the Chairman, after which Chubb and Shaw replied.

W. H. Burton

Public Meeting at Wardour Hall  
on Friday October 15<sup>th</sup> 1886.

(Adapted, say well  
and let it to us)

Chair taken at 8.0. p.m. by Hubert Bland.

Private Business was adjourned until the next meeting of the Society.

H. H. Champion gave an address on the subject of "The Unemployed."

Discussion followed. W. H. Buxton

✓ W. H. Utley's nomination for membership passed  
by Thomas A. Bland.  
unchallenged. He was elected by the Exec. Com. on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct.

S.O.      Sec.

## Private Business Meeting

Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 1886. 219 Avenue Rd.  
(W. K. Buxton in the Chair)

i. W. H. Utley, T. W. McCormick,  
T. Blandford and Manning Printice  
were elected Members of the Society

ii On the motion by G. Wallis and  
J. G. Stapelton "that the recommenda-  
tions of the Branches Committee be  
accepted by the Society"

the proposed rules for defining the  
relations of Metropolitan Branches to  
the Central Society were read, and  
on their being put to the meeting  
in order, the first and second were  
accepted without modification, the  
third was amended, on the suggestion  
of Mrs Bland, by the insertion of the  
word "the names and addresses of" between

the words "list of" and "its members", and  
 the fourth, on the motion of Hubert Bland  
 for the Executive, was amended so as to  
 run "A General <sup>Council</sup> ~~Committee~~ to be  
 "formed, & consisting of the Central  
 "Executive and of delegates appointed  
 "by the Branches, the Council to  
 "meet once a quarter and to be  
 "convenable on any emergency. The  
 "General Council to act only as an  
 "Executive Committee ~~of the Branches~~  
 "requiring common action <sup>in</sup> by the  
 "Branches which it represents. A Branch  
 "of ten members to return one delegate,  
 "one of fifty members, two delegates,  
 "and one of a hundred members or  
 "more, three delegates."

iii. Mrs Annie Besant moved, on behalf  
 of the Executive, the following Resolution. P.T.O.



"That the Members of the Fabian Society who are in  
"favour of Parliamentary Action form an association under  
"the title of the Fabian Parliamentary League. That the League  
"select its own Council and Officers and that all publications issued by  
"it bear the name of the Fabian Parliamentary League only. He said  
"for out of funds raised for the purpose. That members of the Fabian  
"Society & its branches be alone eligible to the Parliamentary League "

Mr. Besant explained shortly the  
considerations which had led to the  
proposal of the Resolution, and expressed  
her conviction that the ~~the~~ formation of  
the contemplated League would furnish  
an instrument whereby the forces of  
Radicalism and Socialism might be united  
in the criticism and initiation of practical  
steps towards their common goal.

Hubert Bland formally seconded the  
motion

Sidney Webb explained that the  
Resolution was the result of a compromise



between two schools of opinion in the Society and that it was worked so as not to commit the Society at large to political propaganda, but yet to allow those who desired to do more active work as Socialists than the Fabian Society had hitherto aimed at doing, to utilise their present connection without secession and the formation of a totally distinct organisation.

A. Stuart Glennie supported the Resolution followed by E. R. Pease.

A letter was read from Walter Crane deprecating its adoption.

Mr. Varley raised the question whether the League should be confined to members of the Fabian Society, and expressed an opinion that such a League might more usefully work by enrolling directly the members of Working Men's Clubs and similar organisations.

Hubert Bland explained the views of the Executive Committee on these two points —

Graham Wallas pointed out that "Parliamentary" must be taken to include Municipal and Educational public work.

Alfred Howard supported the resolution. Walter Coffin moved as an amendment "That the principles and programme of the League be always subject to the approval of the Fabian Society and that members of the Council of the League be also members of the Fabian Society" -

G. Bernard Shaw opposed the amendment saying that the League must be either within or without the Society. If within its principles are provided for, if without they cannot be controlled and it will compete with and break up the Society.

Hubert Bland gave further explanation on behalf of the Executive Committee -

H. Smythe recommended that the proposed

organisation should rather be of the form  
of a Political Committee of the Fabian  
Society. A. Stuart Glennie acquiesced

Annie Besant opposed the ~~resolution~~, ~~on~~  
~~the~~ recommendation, explaining her reasons.

W. H. Utley seconded by E. R. Pease, moved  
that the name be altered to "The Fabian  
Political League. Curwen Sisterson supported.

Hubert Bland explained that this was not  
done owing to the recognition that all social  
work may be considered Political.

The proposed amendment was put to the  
meeting and lost.

Walter Coffins amendment was put, and lost.

Edward R. Pease moved

"That the Fabian Parliamentary League control  
the election of its own members". This motion  
was lost.

The original Resolution was then put, and  
carried, with one dissentient.

Hubert Bland  
Chairman

Ordinary Meeting  
at Willis' Rooms, on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

Hubert Bland in the Chair.

The election of proposed members  
was postponed.

Sydney Oliver read a paper  
on the Rent of Ability, which was  
discussed by T. Bodas, S. Webb, W. H.  
Briston, <sup>Erskine Willis, Mrs. Wilson,</sup> G. B. Shaw, John Robertson  
J. Simmonds, W. L. Phillips, Annie  
Bisant, R. G. Kember, W. H. Uttley,  
and J. Rigg.

Sydney Webb



Ordinary Meeting

At Willis' Rooms, on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

Sidney Webb in the Chair.

W. R. Chambers and A. Podmore were elected Members of the Society.

The discussion of J. G. Stapelton's motion for the amendment of Rule 8 was adjourned on the Motion of H. Bland and T. B. Des until the next private Business meeting of the Socy.

Mrs Annie Besant addressed the Society on "The Economic Position of Women."

Hubert Bland, H. M. Hyndman, W. Jamison, - Wright, C. J. Preston, Mrs Hatherley, S. Ward, F. Podmore, A. E. Thickness, Mrs Bland, G. Wallas, G. W. Johnson, W. L. Phillips, W. H. Utley, Mrs Hyndman, Miss Balgarnie, G. B. Shaw, R. G. Stevens and the Chairman took part in the discussion.

Walter H. Coffin. 17-12-86.



Ordinary Meeting  
At Willis' Rooms on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> December

Walter Coffin in the Chair.

H. C. Donovan and S. D. Hadlam  
were elected members of the Society.

The Revd Stoford Brooke, who had  
been announced to read a paper on  
"Socialism and Individual Liberty,"  
was prevented by illness from attending.  
G. B. Shaw lectured on  
"Why we do not act up to  
our Principles."

Criticism was contributed by  
T. B. Las, Herbert Bland, Sydney Davies,  
Edith Bland, Hunter Watts, G. Wells,  
L. L. Phillips, H. Swan, Dr. William  
H. Van Swastwout, T. W. McCormick

Stranger Stutchborough, W. J. Clark &  
Miss Florence Balgarnie.

The Chairman asked Mr Hunter  
Watts to explain the meaning of some  
remarks <sup>of his</sup> which had been criticised by  
Miss Balgarnie, and after Miss Balgarnie  
had replied, and the discussion had been  
closed by the Chairman, G. B. Shaw  
replied to previous speaker.

Miss Bland  
Chairman

## Private Meeting.

At 13 Stratton St. Piccadilly, on Friday January 7<sup>th</sup> 1887.

Hubert Bland in the Chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read & confirmed. On the adjourned debate upon the motion of J. G. Stapelton and A. S. Kennedy for the amendment of Rule 8. T. Bland spoke in opposition and made suggestions for the adoption of an improved ballot box, whereby the necessity of altering the present mode of election would be removed.

Sydney Davies, Sidney Webb, G. B. Shaw & Mrs Cotton dismissed the motion and the objections thereto. Walter Coffin suggested an alteration in the method of taking the votes at the ballot.

The amendment of the rule was ultimately carried without opposition <sup>the motion being</sup> thus ordered to stand as follows.

" Candidates must signify acceptance of the  
 " Basis of the Society, must attend two meetings  
 " as visitors, and must be proposed and seconded  
 " by members from personal knowledge. The  
 " names of candidates shall be sent to all  
 " members before each meeting. Candidates shall  
 " be elected by an unanimous vote of the Executive  
 " Committee. If a Candidate be rejected his  
 " proposer shall have a right of appeal to  
 " the Society, in which case a ballot shall be  
 " taken, when one black ball in five shall  
 " exclude" — the remainder as at present.

On the motion of T. B. Bar it was resolved  
 that it be an instruction to the Secretary — on  
 any notice giving the names of a candidate  
 for election — to notify that any member  
 objecting to the election should communicate  
 in confidence with the Executive or any  
 member thereof —



The Acting Secretary reported the proceedings taken at a preliminary meeting of the Fabian Parliamentary League on the 20th of December previous, at which J. Braithwaite Bright had been appointed to act as Secretary to the League.

The Acting Secy also reported that at the request of the Secy of the Socialist League he had communicated with the Executive with a view to the selection of two delegates to represent this Society and to act in concert with delegates from other Societies in taking steps for the holding of a public meeting or other measures for expressing sympathy with or giving assistance to the Irish people in their present struggle, and that the Executive had appointed Annie Besant and Sidney Webb to be delegates for this purpose.

W. H. Utley throws some light on the



nature of the action proposed to be taken,  
in reply to some observations by Mr. Bryant,  
and after a discussion as to the decision  
to be left to the delegates, and their position  
as representatives of the Society, they were left  
to act as they thought best.

A tract giving figures and statistics  
for the use of Sonatists were read by  
Sidney Webb, and discussed by the  
Society. The Committee ~~were~~ received  
the tract for  $\frac{1}{2}$  revision and amendment.

J. Gladys Stapleton  
chairman

Private Meeting.

at the Drains Yard Westminister, on Friday  
January 21<sup>st</sup> 1887.

J. Glode Stapleton in the Chair

The Minutes of the previous meeting were  
read and confirmed.

The Revd W. E. Mell was accepted as  
a member of the Society.

S. Webb reported that the delegates  
appointed by the Society had acquiesced  
in the proposals of the Committee of  
Socialists and Radicals for the holding of  
a meeting to express sympathy with  
the Irish people.

The tract, "Fights for Socialists" was  
discussed, amended, and approved by the  
Society.

Frank Rodmore  
? This must be Fights for Socialists

Ordinary Meeting

at 19 Avenue Road, N.W. on Friday  
~~January 2<sup>nd</sup>~~ <sup>January 4<sup>th</sup></sup> 1887.

Frank Podmore in the Chair.

E. Belfort Bax read a Paper on  
"The New Ethic"

Questions and discussion followed.

Public Reading

Ordinary Meeting

at the Freemasons Tavern, St. Queen St., W.C.  
on Friday Dec: 18<sup>th</sup> 1887.

Herbert Bland in the Chair.

Mr H. M. Hyndman read a paper on Karl Marx, his  
life and work, which was discussed by the following  
speakers. Stuart Glennie, Webb, Annie Besant,  
Shaw, Waserholz, Donald, and Oliver. Mr Hyndman  
replied at some length. Annie Besant  
in the Chair

Ordinary Meeting

at 19 Avenue Road, N.W. on Friday Nov 4<sup>th</sup>  
1887.

Annie Besant in the Chair.

G. B. Shaw opened a Discussion on  
Surplus Value, with especial reference  
to the Rent of Ability. Messrs Phillips,  
Foulger, Bright, Stuart Glennie, Bolas  
Owens, Webb, Saddy, Podmore, Lawrie  
and Johns contributed criticism, and  
Shaw summed up and replied

J. S. Stuart Glennie

Ordinary Meeting

at ~~the~~ Willis' Rooms, S.W. on Friday March 18<sup>th</sup> 1887.

Stuart Glennie in the Chair.

Herbert Burrows read a paper on "Socialism  
and Malthusianism."

J. H. Leary, Annie Besant, & Griffiths Evans,  
Stanley Little, George Standing, J. Hicks, &  
Sidney Webb discussed the paper.

J. Glode Stapelton  
- Chairman

Ordinary Meeting

at Willis' Rooms, on Friday ~~March~~ April 1<sup>st</sup> 1887.

J. Glode Stapelton in the Chair



i. Private Business, commenced at 7.30. p.m.

1. The Treasurer reported upon the Receipts and Expenditure of the Society for the past year, and stated that the liabilities on this date were £8.13.6, with no realisable Assets.
2. The Acting Secretary reported on the stock of literature belonging to the Society still in his hand.
3. The Acting Secretary reported on Lectures given by the members of the Society in the past year.
4. A ballot was taken for the election of an Executive Committee for the next twelve months.

Annie Bryant, Hubert Bland, Sydney Davis, W. L. Phillips, Frank Podmore, G. B. Shaw and Sidney Webb were declared elected.

5. Sydney Davis and Hubert Bland were

respectively

appointed Secretary and Treasurer for the forthcoming Northampton

ii. Public Business.

J. Stuart Glennie read a paper on "Socialism as a Law of Economic Progress"

Annie Besant, Graham Wallas, Herbert Bland, Ladley Taylor, Sidney Webb, Sydney Olivier, G. Bernard Shaw and W. H. Utley discussed the subject, upon Stuart Glennie replied.

Tract No 5 was distributed at this meeting at 1<sup>2</sup> the copy

composed J. Glode Stapel  
May 6/84

Ordinary Meeting

at Willis Rooms, on Friday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 8.0. p. m.

Hubert Bland in the Chair.

a poor attendance.

Mrs J. L. Shadwell of the Liberty and Property  
Defense League read a paper on the question

"What is Robbery"

which was criticised by J. M. Fells,  
W. J. Phillips, Rodney Webb, Annie Bryant,  
and G. Bernard Shaw — after which  
Mrs Shadwell replied.

empimus f. Glode Stapelto  
May 6 /89

Meeting for Members only

at 14 Dean's Yard, Westminster at 8.0 pm on Friday

May 6<sup>th</sup> 1887.

J. G. Stapleton in the Chair

This meeting was ~~set apart~~ <sup>set apart</sup> by the Executive Committee for a general discussion of the work of the Society, in connection with a circular issued by the Executive complaining of apathy among the members. (The Circular in question is attached) <sup>(i.e. with)</sup>

After the minutes of the previous two meetings had been read,

Sidney Webb moved a Resolution, on behalf of the Executive Committee -

"That a Committee be appointed to amend the printed statement of the Basis, Aims, etc of the Society, and that such Committee shall consist of the Executive Committee and six other members".

Seconded by S. Pines.

Annie Besant opened the general discussion as to the best means for developing the activity of the

Society, and placed before the meeting the following suggestions on behalf of the Executive Committee.

i. that the meetings of the Society for the discussion of papers read before them, should be arranged to alternate with meetings designed for the spreading of Socialism, <sup>among</sup> ~~unconverted~~ the unconverted, which should be held once a month in different districts of London.

ii. that the members of the Society should be divided into local groups, according to the districts in which they live, each local group appointing a Secretary. It was proposed that these groups should make it their care to spread Socialism in their respective districts, that they should take halls and arrange business details for the monthly propagandist meetings of the Society, acquaint themselves with the condition of the Socialist movement in their neighbourhood and keep the Society informed thereof, that they should so far



as possible attend local clubs, lecturing or giving literature, and should report on any promising openings then found for the spread of Socialism, and that they should cooperate with the Fabian Party League in municipal work, write to the local newspapers and otherwise permeate their respective neighbourhoods.

iii. That small meetings be held at private houses, to which any person might be invited whose accession would be a gain to the Socialist cause. That at these meetings friendly and informal conversation on questions of Socialism should be combined with such light refreshment as might be procurable.

iv. That members should be more active in bringing friends to meetings.

J. Brailsford Bright deprecated the constant adherence to Willis' Rooms as the meeting place

of the Society. He recommended more practical  
-action in the work attempted, and practical  
assistance in cooperative enterprises and individual  
communes. He suggested that the falling off  
in subscription was due to the expense of the  
Conference held in May 1886.

Mrs. Cotton recommended educational work,  
and deprecated an alteration of the Basis, sug-  
-gesting her personal position with regard  
to the work of the Society. ~~Her~~

Mr. Stabelton concurred.

Mr. Brand recommended the holding of  
-a class in Political Economy as a development  
of the Society's work.

Miss Ellis, was followed by T. B. Deas,  
who criticized some habits of the Executive  
and the Secretary as having a discouraging  
effect on the rest of the Society. He agreed that  
the Basis should be made a test to ~~intending~~  
~~member~~ person intending to join

S. Shires, S. W. Headlam, and S. Webb  
spoke on the subject of the altitude of the members  
as expressed in their Circular.

Miss Hoaton asked whether any suggestions  
had been received, and on the request of  
T. B. Deas letter was read which had been  
received from Dr. A. S. Kennedy, W. M. Ashman,  
(who suggested a fixed minimum of subscription)  
and subsequently one from Miss Jackson  
& F. Dodman, recommending the same  
rule, and that ~~there should be~~ a register  
of attendances kept, and the ~~minutes~~ <sup>be</sup> papers  
read to the Society be printed for sale.

<sup>After some remarks by G. Waller,</sup>  
Hubert Bland called the attention of the  
Chairman to the order of the despatch, and  
moved that the Resolution moved by S. Webb  
be <sup>put</sup> and cleared out of the way. This was  
agreed to by the meeting. An amendment <sup>suggested</sup>  
by T. B. Deas was accepted by S. Webb, and  
another by G. Waller, raising the number

of members to be elected to the Committee from  
6 to 8. <sup>an amendment moved by S. Ward found no opposer,</sup> The Resolutions were then put in  
the following form

"That a Committee be appointed to make  
suggestions for amending the printed statement  
of the basis, aims etc, of the Society, and that  
such Committee shall consist of the Executive  
Committee and eight other members"

G. Waller recommended more definiteness  
in the basis, and that if no fixed minimum  
of subscription be adopted, each member should  
be asked to state definitely on joining, how much  
he would be prepared to subscribe.

Sidney Ward recommended greater  
definiteness in the basis, but suggested that  
the scope of the discussion be extended,  
and less restricted than at present to  
purely economic questions.

W. H. Utley recommended that printed  
suggestions for methods of working be circulated



to members.

Revised Club, after endorsing some previous suggestions added that overtures might be made for discussion with the Liberty Club and other bodies, that statistics should be collected, and the possibility of starting a journal considered.

Further suggestions were made by W. L. Phillips, G. Waller, L. E. Fraser, S. Ward, G. B. Shaw, W. B. Jameson, F. W. M. Cornish, P. Church, S. D. Headlam, H. C. Donovan, J. B. Bright, R. Proutie, and C. Eiteman, which were noted on behalf of the Executive with a view to bringing them before the Society for consideration at an early date.

Graham Waller



Ordinary Meeting  
at the Drans Yard Westminster on  
Friday May 26<sup>th</sup>

G. Wallis in the Chair.

Eight members were elected to  
serve with the Executive as a  
Committee to make suggestions for  
amending the printed statement  
of the Board, Annals etc of the Society,  
namely G. Wallis, S. D.  
Headlam, ~~W. Bland~~ Bland, Mrs.  
C. M. Wilson, T. Bolas, Walter  
Crane, J. C. Fowler and  
E. H. Utley.

Miss Brooke read a paper  
on "Women and their Sphere"

which was followed by discussion  
 to which contribution was made by  
 Shaw, Donovan, Dyhurst, Lobb,  
 Mrs Cotton, Ward, Bright, Phillips,  
~~Anna Bland~~, Utley, Mrs Bland,  
 Hubert Bland, and Mrs Stapelton.

Edw. R. Pease

Meeting for members only  
 at the Dean's Yard, Westminster,  
 on Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1887.

Edward R. Pease in the Chair.

The Society considered and adopted  
 certain recommendations made by  
 the Executive for the future conduct  
 of the business of the Society, founded  
 upon the suggestions contributed at the

Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May previous,  
namely,

1. That ~~the~~ a new list of the members of the Society be prepared, divided into local groups and that a local Secretary be appointed for each group for the purpose of arranging for such local work as may be decided by the Society from time to time
2. That ~~the local groups be~~ requested to send in reports to the Executive Committee as to the position of the Socialist propaganda in their districts, and especially on the following points

Socialist Societies or Branches at work with particulars of meetings, address of Secretary, literature, attendance, &c

Working Men's Clubs, with similar particulars stating whether any members are Socialists, &c

Political Organisations - similar particulars, and when are the Executive elected -

Local newspapers, newsagents selling  
 Socialist literature, Halls available for  
 meetings (Address, price, capacity, Secretary &c)  
 Suggestions for local propaganda.

3 That the local Secretaries be invited to induce  
 these members of their groups

i To report approaching lectures and debates  
 on Socialist matters, and to arrange that some  
 member attends them.

ii To induce local newsmen to sell literature

iii To write to the local press.

iv To distribute the Society's publications (asking  
 each how many tracts, etc she can dispose of)

v To act in concert with the local Secretary  
 of the Fabian Parliamentary League.

4. That the Society's meetings be divided into two  
 classes, Educational and Propagandist, that  
 those of the latter class be held monthly in the  
 various districts of London in turn, the arrange-  
 -ments for each such meeting being entrusted

go on to 6<sup>th</sup> page follow



Meeting at Willis' Rooms  
on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June  
at 8.0. p.m.

E. Radford in the Chair

H. H. Spashing addresses the Society on  
" Propaganda by Compromise "  
attacking the advocates of Parliamentary ~~and~~ <sup>methods</sup>  
for the furtherance of Socialism.

After questions by Messrs Burns  
Wallas, Headlam, Morris, Crane and  
Howard then spoke on the subject of  
discussion Messrs Utley, Allan,  
Blundell, Headlam, Bland, Besant  
Morris, Burns, Donald, Shaw and  
Wean - after which H. H. Spashing  
replied -

J. Woods Stapleton



Meeting at 31 Upper Bedford Place  
on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July  
at 8.0. p.m.

Frank Podmore in the Chair.

Sydney Oliver read a paper on  
"Collectivism and Commerce"  
which was followed by a general discussion  
of an informal character, chiefly upon  
the question whether Collectivist communities  
should or would tolerate free immigration  
from less favoured countries

J. Woods & Tappin

Meeting at 14 Dean's Yard  
on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July  
at 8.0. p.m.

J. Gode Stapelton in the Chair  
J. Oakshott was reported elected to the Society  
Rev. S. D. Headlam read a paper  
on "The Land for the People"  
which was followed by discussion  
of an informal and conversational  
character

Frank Bodense

Meeting at Willis' Rooms  
on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> September  
at 8.0. p.m.

Frank Podmore in the Chair.

George Grant, W. Tucker, Miss Davidson were  
declared elected members of the Society.

Hubert Bland read a paper on  
"The Need for a new Departure."

There spoke on the subject - G. Wallas;

A. C. Varley; Tarn; W. H. ~~Atley~~; T. W.

McCormick; H. C. Donovan; Macdonald; A. K.

Donald; John Burns; Annie Besant; R. Banner;

Sidney Webb.

W. Jameson

Public Meeting at Elms Club, Chelsea.

on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October

at 8.0. p.m.

Annie Besant lectured on "Why we work  
for Socialism" -

Meeting at Willis' Rooms.  
on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October  
at 8.15. p.m.

W. Jameson in the Chair

Capt. Duncan, Mrs Gostling, Mrs Gros,  
(Compt.)  
A. Carlisle

were declared elected to the Society.

Mr W. Saunders spoke on the subject  
of Ground Rents, which was  
discussed by Sidney Webb, S. M. Butcher,  
T. B. Das. G. B. Shaw. W. B. Jameson.  
to J. C. Durant, G. Wallis, and others.

G. Bernard Shaw  
25/11/87.

(Continued from June 3<sup>rd</sup> 6 pages <sup>236/83</sup> back.)

to a Committee consisting of the Local Group of Members with such members of the Executive Committee as may be delegated for that purpose: and that special efforts be made in each case for inviting representatives of the leading local organisations.

That at the educational meetings of the Society the Chairman be elected by the meeting, which should usually terminate not later than 10.15. p.m., that a register of attendance be kept, that the subjects for discussion be chosen from the various aspects of Socialism in theory or practice, economics being not exclusively dealt with.

It is probable that the Basis Com<sup>ee</sup> report was adopted at this meeting. This is my recollection. ER Pease  
30/11/1908.



Public Meeting at Hampstead  
Vestry Hall

on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Mrs C. E. Maurice in the Chair

G. Bernard Shaw lectured on  
"The Illusions that Blind us to Socialism"

G. Bernard Shaw

Ordinary Meeting at Hillis' Rooms  
on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November

G. Bernard Shaw in the Chair

Miss Mary Foster ~~declined~~ elected to the Society

H. H. Champion addressed the Society on  
the subject "How to make Converts"

Walter Crane, Graham Wallis, William Clarke,  
Sidney Webb, Harold Cox, Hubert Bland, Mrs Dryhurst  
J. M. Fells, T. W. McCormick, J. G. Stapleton, G. Stacey,  
G. B. Shaw, debated the subject, H. H. Champion replied

Archie Besant

Ordinary Meeting at Wills' Rooms  
on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. 87

Annie Besant in the Chair

Dr. C. Bradlaugh opened a discussion  
on "The Limits of Legislative Duty"

Then spoke

G. Bernard Shaw, J. H. Leary, Sidney Webb,  
Graham Wallas, Miss Morant, Rev. S. D. Hadlam,  
Harold Cox, Mrs Besant summed up the on  
questions at issue & Mr Bradlaugh explained his  
views

Walter Black  
Chairman

6<sup>th</sup> January 1888.

Ordinary Meeting at 9° 31 Upper Bedford Place W.C.

Hubert Bland in the Chair.

Mr. Annie Besant moved, on behalf of the Executive,  
"That this Society be affiliated to the Law & Liberty League  
and pay an annual subscription of One Guinea"

The resolution was carried without discussion.

\* In the absence of the Secretary G. B. Shaw announced that  
Miss Helen Greeting, Miss Mary Greeting, A. W. Fry, and James  
Billson (corresponding member) had been proposed for election to the  
Society by Graham Wallas.

Sidney Webb addressed the Society on "The Economics of Interest".  
An informal discussion was carried on by Harold Cox,  
G. Bernard Shaw, Professor Symes of Nottingham, J. G. Hodgkeworth,  
D. ~~Ballou~~ <sup>Ballou</sup> Mr. Besant, Mr. Greeting, Emilie Garcke and Stewart  
Headlam.  
Graham Wallas.

\* Confirmed by Sec. Committee 12 Jan 5.0.

c 36/85

20<sup>th</sup> January 1888

Private Meeting at 94 Cornwall Gardens  
The draft of a new chart was read  
<sup>Graham Weller in the Chair</sup>  
by the Secretary and discussed by  
the Society

Sidney Webb

3/2/88

3<sup>rd</sup> February 1888

Ordinary Meeting at Willis' Rooms

Sidney Webb in the Chair

(The minutes of the meeting were read)

W. Clark ~~read~~ addressed the Society on the  
subject "The Growth of Capitalist Rule in  
America". Questions and discussion followed  
in which part was taken by an American  
visitor, the Secretary, Graham Weller, G. B.  
Shaw, Miss Morant, and the Chairman.  
Stewart & Hallam

19<sup>th</sup> February 1890.

The Society met at 19 Avenue Road,  
Rev. Stuart D. Bradlam took the chair

Mr. Wilson read paper on  
"The Politics of Socialism"

which was followed by discussion of  
an informal character, in which  
Sidney Webb, G. Bernard Shaw, Anne Besant  
Sydney Olivier & J. M. Wells took part

J. Gladys Stapleton



2<sup>nd</sup> March 1888

The Society met at Willis' Rooms

J. S. Stapelton in the Chair

Rev H. C. Shuttleworth ~~and~~ addressed the Society on the subject of

"The Christian Church and the

Society of the Antislavery"  
Mrs Stapelton

Anne Besant, S. Waller, G. B. Shaw

Capt C. P. F. Jones, Mrs. Guthrie, J. B. Bright,

W. S. Hoarford dismissed the address.

Mr Shuttleworth replied -

Miss P. Clark

Chairman

16<sup>th</sup> March 1852.

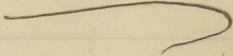
The Society met at Willis' Rooms.

Hubert Bland in the Chair.

R. B. Haldane M.P. discoursed to the Society on "Radical Remedies for Economic Evils."

Sidney Webb, G. Bernard Shaw, Annie Besant, Graham Wallas, William Clark contributed to the debate, and Mr Haldane replied -

Annie Besant  
in the Chair



6<sup>th</sup> April 1888.

Private General Meeting of the Society at  
14 Avenue Road N.W.

Mr. Bessant in the chair.

The Executive Committee presented their Report on the work of the Society during the foregoing year, and the Treasurer made a statement as to the finances of the Society.

In the discussion arising out of the Report suggestions were made that a library of works on social questions should be formed for the use of members of the Society. It was mentioned that an attempt had been made in the early days of the Society to found such a library, but had been abandoned, and that there was a library of the kind intended at the office of the Guild of St. Matthew, which might

perhaps be made available to members of  
the Society desiring of having access to special  
works. In special reference to the  
Thomson's Report, suggestions were made  
for placing the finances of the Society in  
a more satisfactory position, among others,  
that members should be asked to promise  
a small weekly subscription, that a  
circular should be sent out calling attention  
to the opportunities of all members for  
settling the debts of the Society, that  
a special subscription should be asked  
for to wipe off the existing deficit, and  
that members should be reminded  
that they cost the society at least 2/6  
a year each, <sup>for gravels and postage</sup> and that this should be  
the minimum of their contribution to its  
funds.

The Report was ~~decided to be~~ accepted by  
the Society and directed to be entered in the  
minute book. —

The Executive for the current year was then elected, to consist of the members nominated, viz Annie Besant, Hubert Bland, William Clarke, Sydney Oliver, J. Bernard Shaw, Graham Waller, and Sidney Webb. The motion that there never be appointed was made by Alfred Howard, and seconded by W. L. Phillips, who retired from the Executive owing to causes beyond his <sup>as a volunteer he could not attend the meetings</sup> own control. Regret was expressed that ill health should have prevented F. Podmore from attending the meetings of the Executive.

Mrs Besant expressed to Miss Hoatum the thanks of the Executive Committee and of the Society for her work as Assistant Secretary. On the motion of S. Webb and J. Waller, Hubert Bland was reappointed Hon. Treasurer, and Sydney



Misses Hon. Secretary to the Society.  
Miss Weston expressed her willingness  
to continue to act as Assistant Secretary.

The Secretary moved that a Lectures  
Committee be appointed. A. Howard  
seconded the motion, which after a short  
discussion was accepted.

Sidney Webb moved that ~~a~~ Committee  
for promoting the work of the Society in  
the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge  
be appointed. The motion was seconded  
by the Secretary and accepted.

G. Wallas proposed that the Fabian  
Parliamentary League should be merged in  
the Fabian Society as the Political Com-  
mittee of the Society. The motion was  
discussed and accepted without opposition.

G. Wallas expressed his sense of the obligations  
of the League to Miss Fowler, who had acted  
as Assistant Secretary during the period of its

activity

Robert Bland moved that it should be the duty of all committees to make a report to the Society at each meeting.

On the motion of the Secretary it was voted that the tract "Land and Capital" be published <sup>at the expense of</sup> the Society, and that two thousand copies of part No 1 be ~~printed~~ printed.

The Secretary announced the arrangements which had been made for the <sup>meetings</sup> ~~work~~ of the Society during the summer.

After some discussion of the functions of the Political Committee, the business of the meeting terminated.

Graham Wallas -

Meeting at Willis' Rooms  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Graham Waller in the Chair -

B. F. C. Costelloe read a paper on  
"The Socialism of Rights and the Socialism of Duties"  
which was discussed by  
Messrs Phillips & O'Dell, Annie Besant  
Sidney Webb, G. Bernard Shaw, Sydney  
Oliver and the Chairman. -

Agenda

Nomination for membership passed unchallenged  
Alia Cotton, by H. Bland & S. Bland  
Confirmed by Exec. Committee 26<sup>th</sup> Apr.

S.O.

Meeting at 19 Avenue Road N.W.  
 Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May.

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Frank Podmore in the chair

In private business the Committees  
 previously nominated, for the two  
 Universities, for Lectures, and for  
 Political work were formally appointed.  
 (Names on Fly Leaf Opposite)

Miss Corthorn was announced as  
 elected a member of the Society

Harold Cox read a paper on

"The Unit of Government"

Graham Waller, Mr. Gosling, Annie  
 Besant, G. Bernard Shaw, Sydney Olivier  
 and Mr. Gregory took part in the  
 ensuing discussion.

Arthur Bland

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Meeting at Willis Rooms. (Large room)

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May

Herbert Bland in the Chair.

Sidney Webb reported on the work of the Lecture Committee  
Sydney Olivier reported a meeting of the Universities Committee  
and Graham Wallas as to the Political Committee.

Ernest Radford was announced as nominated for  
membership, by Edith Bland, Herbert Bland.

Mrs D. G. Ritchie read a paper on

The Education of Society \*

which was discussed by Graham Wallas,  
Herbert Burrows, J. C. Member, G. B. Shaw  
& Annie Besant. Mrs Ritchie replied  
at length.

Sydney Olivier

\* "Darwinism & Politics" see Report-(4<sup>th</sup>) 1889.



Meeting at 19 Avenue Road

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June

Sydney Oliver in the Chair

Reports were made on the work of  
the Committee in the foregoing fortnight  
C. G. Higginson ~~and paper as detailed~~  
a Positive Criticism of Socialism  
which was discussed by Sidney Webb,  
Herbert Burman, Hubert Mand, Annie  
Bessant, R. G. Humber, H. W. Just,  
and G. Bernard Shaw.

Sarah J. Gostling

Meeting at  
31 Upper Bedford Place W.C.  
on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

Mr Gostling in the Chair

Miss Clementina Black read a paper  
on "Female Labour"

Discussion followed, in which Mr Oppen-  
heim, Miss Oppenheim, G. B. Shaw, Sidney  
Webb, H. H. Champion, Annie Besant  
Graham Waller, Mr Cotton, Mr Fox and  
Herbert Burgess took part.

At the close of the proceedings H. H. Champion  
moved the following Resolution "That this meeting  
understanding that the shareholders of Messrs  
"Bryant and May Limited are receiving a  
"dividend of over twenty percent, while paying  
"women at the rate of two pence farthing per  
"gross for the manufacture of matches, in

C36/92/1888

"thes word, starvation wages, those present hereby  
 "pledge themselves not to buy or purchase any  
 "matches sold by that firm until better wages  
 "are paid by them and call to urge a similar  
 "course upon all friends of labour."

The Resolution was seconded by Herbert  
 Burrows, and after some fragmentary  
 discussion was adopted without opposition.

A. Wildon Carr

Meeting at Willis' Rooms Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July. (In my room)

A. Wildon Carr in the Chair.

G. Wallas and Sydney Webb reported on the  
 work of the Political and Lecture Committees.

G. Wallas called attention to the  
 strike of the women and girls at Bryant  
 and May's Match works, and Fred Henderson  
 gave the Society some particulars with regard  
 to the strike, reporting that twelve or thirteen  
 hundred girls were out, and without means

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report.  
The Chairman announced that a collection would immediately be made, and £6.12.8 was subscribed at once; the amount being raised to £7.7..8 by the close of the meeting.

Mr. Besant gave the meeting a clear account of the circumstances of the strike.

Walter Crane read a paper on "The Prospects of art under Socialism", in the course of which he urged, incidentally, that some action should be taken for more closely uniting the several ~~local~~ associations of Socialists in England.

The paper was discussed by Sydney Olivier, Graham Wallas, J. Glode Stapelton, Oscar Wilde, Annie Besant, Herbert Burrows, Mrs Stapelton and G. Bernard Shaw.

Sidney Webb



c36/93

On Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> July,  
the Society met at Willis' Rooms,  
Sidney Webb in the Chair;

Graham Wallas read a paper on  
"The Cooperative Movement"

which was criticised by Benjamin Jones, of  
the Cooperative Wholesale Society, and  
further discussed by J. Brailsford Bright,  
John Burns, J. Hay, G. Bernard Shaw,  
Gregson, Annie Besant and, T. B. Jones  
and the Chairman.

Graham Wallas replied -

Erivald Althub . 33 Oakley Crescent, Chelsea. N.W.

Burns-Gibson 58 Lombard St

Howard Swan 110 Cannon St E

Frank Podmore 16 Southampton A. Elyon Square

Rowland Estwood (partner of Estwood) <sup>8 Union Road, Caledon Rd</sup> Inverell Park  
N

Thomas Davidson, Rome, Italy (through a  
letter to Mr. Podmore)

Mrs Rosamund Dale Owen

25 Alma Square

St John's Wood N.W.

Aspellingham Smith 11 Bromley Road  
Lee S.E.

H. Havelock Ellis, 24 Hornsett Road, South Kensington  
S.E.

