

Castle Howard. York. Feb 3. 04 AL/3898

Dear Mrs Hawey, The more I think about all that has come to light about the provisions made for the coming meetings at Bridlington, when the Co^y Union will be started, the more profoundly troubled am I. I assume you the matter is not viewed by me from the personal point of view, altho those who differ from me might endeavour to prove that it was so. I do not want power, nor even opportunity, for I have more of both than I can utilize & power & official prominence have no attraction for me: so when I resent the holding of County Exec^{ts} meet^{gs} without notifying them to each member thereof, it is because it is so dangerously, so incredibly unconstitutional, & it makes one realize at last why the Yorks. branches, on all sides, have complained so loudly of the Co^y sec^y. It is believed, & now I think it is rightly believed, that

She wants to keep control in her own individual hands, & to compass this end, she does many things which prejudice our work. She wishes to keep effective persons like Miss Slack out of our County work & she wishes me not to be at the Committee. She wrote a month ago that it was desirable to have an acting V.P. as I should not be able to be present at Com^{tee} meet^{gs}, if the Committees were held at fixed dates & with proper time allotted to them, I would gladly have attended them, but she summoned them in the middle of our N.E.C. meetings, a most unworkable method.

Then observe this arrangement about Miss Williamson; have the branches had an indication by circular that they sh. send nominations for the election of a new officer. (we have had no recording see so far). Miss Williamson is an excellent British woman, but is it

wise, is it fair to their large country that
out of 5 officers, one sh. be told that she is not
expected to be present (myself) & that the other 4
should all belong to one District Union. You
say, & Mr Emmett says, that District Unions
are a means of spreading the work & the interest
in it, all over the Country, but if after years
of District Union methods, all your officers are
to be elected ^{from} ~~for~~ one district, the centralization
seems to be complete. Of course you are invaluable
^{are} & the most obviously prominent Yorkshire British
Woman, & Mr Stubley all must love & admire,
& Mr Emmett has done much work & we should
show gratitude to energetic workers even when
their mistakes have provoked wide-spread
dissatisfaction, but why, when you were
amongst yourselves creating a Constitution

Why did you not realize that the other two great Ridings, not to speak of other District Unions in the West Riding, had a right to be considered. You might have had 3 U.P.'s instead of one; you might have tried to get many nominations for the new post of recording sec^y, instead of assuming that the informally app^d late minute sec, shall as a matter of course be the new rec^y sec^y. - It is true that in spite of all the many objections one has heard raised during these past 3 yrs against the present hon. sec, ~~that~~ it is right to keep her services, but it is also necessary & right to check her arbitrary ways & her dangerous tongue (if you ^{only} knew how sickened I have been by her malicious stories against her Yorks. fellow workers) by electing a capable & thoroughly independent sec. to work along side with her. Then those secs of Yorks branches who will not co-operate with the present sec, would have some alternative open to them, & a way would have been found for

Keeping Mrs E. at her old work, yet definitely making her understand that Yorks won't be 'run' by one woman, but intends to manage its own affairs. She has been jealous at anyone organizing except herself & therefore she has hindered as much as she has helped. She has finally driven me out, & she will drive away many more, now that the new scheme leaves her unchecked. There is no mention on the agenda of the nomination ballot, but at our national Council, there is always the opportunity of nominating an officer at the last moment: Why is this rule not observed at the coming Co? meeting? Why again must delegates be appointed 3 wks beforehand when at head quarters delegates can be registered a week or less before the Council. Dorothy cannot under this ruling of Mrs Emmett's be a delegate, as she has assumed that there was time to get appointed now. She has done real good work at Scarbro' following on the excellent Mrs Glendon

& Floona Embleton, yet tho' she is their President she
 cannot go & represent their wishes at the Co. meeting.
 At Scarbro' they wouldn't have mo E. to organize,
 & kept the matter from her lest she should come, yet
 she complains of our having gone & done the work.
 Still she is to remain ^(virtually) sole sec^r. You will never
 make Yorks vital in this work, as it should be,
 till we have a paid office sec & an office. At
 present Yorks compares poorly with other countries
 as to its membership, & with the newly inaugurated
 regime of unconstitutional methods, born of
 the ^{country} sec's self seeking, it will remain so.
 You told me at my 1st Co. meetⁿ ^{at Leeds (1904)} what was the
 general opinion of the hon sec, yet I have
never once till now, when the seriousness
 of affairs compels me to do it, listened to
 adverse comment, but have stood by her.
 Now, public interest demands that I

I should make known her methods of procedure, at
 a critical moment in the history of our Country
 life. You know that differences of opinion, such
 as you & I have had, never make friction with me,
 but underground methods, a vain self assertion
 will block the way of our work & spoil its tone,
 make me determined to struggle to get clear. We
 cannot prosper in an atmosphere of calumny, such
 for instance as saying that Mrs Mitchell was never a
 teetotaler &c &c - This is the sort of thing I hinted at
 in my first letter to you. Of course A. Slack has
 very obvious superficial faults, but she has also
 grand qualities, a straight nature & a royal heart,
 yet Mrs E. sent me a long & spiteful attack on her,
 just because I had said she w^{ld} prove a valuable
 help in our Co^y work. As to Mrs E.'s present
 trouble, how can I write to her in face of the long stories she
 has told me of her married misery; surely it will be a release
 for her. I feel I can say anything to you, because you
 are so true & good & kind, but - you don't really care for
 the new Union & believe in its possibilities with fervour as I do.
 And why have you let York join the T.A.U. that is a poignant
 disappointment to me. York is so near my home & I should

I like to have worked with them & both in the Women's Lib. Fed. & now in
 the Temperance Women's work, they have decided to belong to the rival organization. W.F. R.C.