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with additions.

Women's Suffrage Associate Scheme.

WITHIN the last twelve months a new scheme of work has been inaugurated by the Central and East of England SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE which appears so far to promise well, and which may lead to considerable results in more than one direction. Some account of the scheme may therefore be of practical use and interest to friends of the cause.

As has been already stated in this REVIEW, at the Birmingham Conference of October, 1896, definite geographical areas were laid down for the work of the various Suffrage Societies. The Central and East of England Society felt that it had now become necessary to perfect the organisation within their area, and particularly important to gain a foothold in every constituency. It was also desirable to keep in touch with the countless friends who from time to time had shown some active sympathy (such as signing petitions, distributing tickets for meetings, &c.), but who were constantly lost sight of from their not being subscribers.

Such undertakings would clearly throw an enormous additional burden of work on the office, which it could not effectually grapple with even were the Society's funds indefinitely increased; therefore some kind of local machinery became necessary which should be simple and easily set in motion.

To this end the Committee propose to appoint a Local Hon. Secretary in each constituency, who

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should work directly under the central office and be responsible for a complete record of all friends of the cause living in her constituency, and for the distribution of literature and information as to local work. To enable her to keep an exact and reliable list of supporters, all friends who are not already members (*i.e.*, subscribers) are asked to become associates, by signing their names and addresses in a book kept specially for the purpose by the Local Hon. Secretary.

The rules for associates are extremely simple. They are as follows:—

(1) Any person who has attained the age of 18 years, and who is in favour of any extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to women, may become an associate of the Central and East of England Society for Women's Suffrage.

(2) No money contribution is required from any associate, but annual subscriptions or donations being necessary for the carrying on of the work, may be sent, if desired, to the Secretary of the Suffrage Society, 20, Great College Street, Westminster.

(3) Any associates changing their address should inform the Local Hon. Secretary of the change. If they remove into a different constituency the Local Hon. Secretary will forward their name and address to the Local Hon. Secretary of the new constituency.

The first Local Hon. Secretary was appointed in May, 1897, in South Kensington (London).

The names of all existing subscribers resident in the Division formed the nucleus of her list. In order quickly to reach a large number of supporters a paid worker was employed to call upon all those in South Kensington, who had signed the great "Appeal from Women to the House of Commons" of 1896, to explain the Associate Scheme, and to invite them to enrol themselves. One or two members of the Society, residing in the district, assisted in this work, and in the first three months about 240 associates were obtained. In October a drawing-room meeting was held to give the associates an opportunity of hearing details of the present position and immediate prospects of the movement. A considerable number of them became full members on the occasion. Local Hon. Secretaries have since been appointed and the Scheme inaugurated in Hampstead and West Marylebone, and

active steps are being taken in several other Divisions. The experience in South Kensington has been repeated in other places; many new friends have been found, and it is hoped that in future not only will the work of collecting signatures to petitions or audiences for meetings—not to mention election work—be much simplified, but that sympathisers will be kept more in touch with the progress of the work than has hitherto been possible.

It will be seen that this Associate Scheme is of such a nature that it can be set to work in any and every constituency where Local Hon. Secretaries are to be found. It provides a means by which, in process of time, every sympathiser in the country might be included in the national organisation as an associate, while it opens opportunity to those able to give active work to render valuable service in the enrolment of associates.

The area of work of the Central and East of England Society consists of the following metropolitan constituencies:—

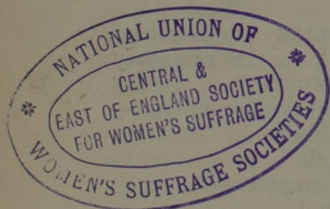
BATTERSEA and CLAPHAM CHELSEA	{ Battersea Clapham	LAMBETH	{ North Kennington Brixton Norwood
FINSBURY	{ Holborn Central East	MARYLEBONE	{ East West West Walworth
FULHAM HAMMERSMITH HAMPSTEAD		NEWINGTON STRAND	{ West Rotherhithe Bermondsey
KENSINGTON	{ North South	SOUTHWARK	
		WANDSWORTH	

and all the constituencies in the following counties:—

Bedfordshire	Middlesex
Buckinghamshire	Norfolk
Cambridge	Northamptonshire
Essex	Rutland
Hertfordshire	Suffolk
Huntingdonshire	Surrey
Kent	Sussex
Lincolnshire	

All who are able to suggest the names of possible Local Hon. Secretaries, or give other help in starting work in constituencies not yet organised, are earnestly invited to communicate with Miss Palliser, Secretary of the Central and East of England Society, 20, Great College Street, Westminster.

It is to the wishes of their constituents that M.P.'s look; the Associate Scheme will give ample opportunity to all who would work, for it has the merit of being practicable in every locality, large or small, central or remote. The scheme should therefore commend itself to the careful attention of all who would strengthen the movement at its roots.



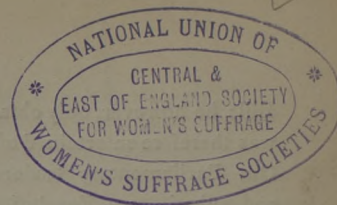
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1898

ANNUAL REPORT.

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The following ladies, representing the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, were present:—Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Blackburn (Central and East of England Society for Women's Suffrage), Mrs. Russell Cooke, Mrs. Broadley-Reid (Central and Western Society), Miss Roper (North of England Society), Mrs. Arthur Francis Bristol and West of England Society), Miss J. McLea (Cheltenham), Mrs. Enfield Dowson (Nottingham and District), Mrs. Gray Heald (Leeds), Miss Louisa Stevenson and Miss S. E. S. Mair (Edinburgh), Mrs. Charles Baxter and Miss Edith Palliser (Secretaries of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies).

Mr. Joseph T. Firbank (M.P. for Hull, East), was the most successful of those who balloted for a Women's Suffrage

Bill; he however, only obtained twenty-sixth place, and no hope was therefore entertained of the Bill being reached this Session. Our Parliamentary leaders purposed to withdraw the Bill and substitute a Resolution, but were prevented from taking this action by the presence of two other Bills on the Order Book dealing with the same subject, set down by Mr. Ernest Spencer (M.P. for West Bromwich) and Sir Charles Dilke, Bt., (M.P. for Gloucester, Forest of Dean).

It is a matter of regret to your Committee that Mr. Ernest Spencer should not have acted in conjunction with the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, because his Bill was one to which they could have given their hearty support.

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The text of the Bill was the same as that introduced by Mr. Faithfull Begg last Session,* and was backed by Mr. J. T. Firbank, Mr. Faithfull Begg, Mr. George Wyndham, Sir John Maclure, Bt., Mr. Griffith Boscawen, Mr. William Johnston, Mr. Jebb, Mr. Courtney, Mr. McLaren, Sir James Rankin, Bt., Mr. Atherley Jones, Mr. Justin McCarthy, Sir William Arrol and Sir Albert Rollit.

* (1) This Act may be cited as the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Act, 1897.

(2) On and after the *passing of this Act* every woman who is the inhabitant occupier, as owner or tenant, of any dwelling-house, tenement or building within the borough or county where such occupation exists, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter in the list of voters for such borough or county in which she is so qualified as aforesaid, and, when registered, to vote for a member or members to serve in Parliament.

Provided always that such woman is not subject to any legal incapacity which would disqualify a male voter.

Your Committee are now glad to be able to state that the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, of which preliminary mention was made in last year's Report, is now fully established.

The arrangement has led to changes in the names of some of the old societies, in order that the title should the better indicate the geographical area undertaken by the Societies respectively. Thus the Central Committee, at 20, Great College Street, has become the Central and Eastern Society; the Central National Society, at 39, Victoria Street, has become the Central and Western Society; and the Manchester Society has become the North of England Society.

The Executive of the Union will pursue the policy of promoting a Bill in the House of Commons, until such time as the Government of the day will make the question a part of one of their own measures, in accordance with the policy announced by the Executive of the National Union in November of last year.

Although the Women's Suffrage Bill was not debated in Parliament, your Committee have satisfaction in recording that the question has not been without public discussion. At the Meeting of the National Liberal Federation at Derby, a Resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage was carried by a majority of 58, thus re-affirming, on the part of the Liberal Party, the Resolution passed at the Parliamentary Reform Conference at Leeds in 1883.

Your Committee have also pleasure in stating that the scheme for local work which aims at more widely extending the influence of this Society and the interest in its work, to which a brief allusion was made in our last Annual Report, has now passed beyond the initial stage, and made most satisfactory progress: and they are glad to be able to announce that it has been adopted by nearly all the Societies represented on the National Union.

The necessity for this work arose from the importance of gaining a foothold in every constituency within your Society's area, and from the desirability of keeping in touch with the countless friends, who, from time to time, had shown some active sympathy (such as signing petitions, distributing tickets for meetings, &c.), but who were constantly lost sight of from their not being subscribers.

Such undertakings would clearly throw a great additional burden of work on the office, which it could not effectually carry out, even were the necessary funds available. Some kind of local machinery was, therefore, required, which should be simple and easily set in motion.

The plan adopted is for your Committee to appoint a Local Hon. Secretary in each constituency, who shall work directly under the central office and be responsible for a complete record of all friends of the cause living in her constituency, and for the distribution of literature and information as to local work. To enable her to keep an exact and reliable list of supporters, all friends who are not already members (*i.e.*, subscribers) are asked to become associates, by signing their names and addresses in a book kept specially for the purpose by the Local Hon. Secretary.

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- (3) Any associates changing their address should inform

the Local Hon. Secretary of the change. If they remove into a different constituency, the Local Hon. Secretary will forward their name and address to the Local Hon. Secretary of the new constituency.

Though the main object of the local associates' scheme has been to unite all friends with your Society, whether they could give pecuniary help or not, yet, in the present low state of the exchequer, and particularly in view of the very small steady income (in the shape of annual subscriptions) on which your Committee can rely, it has been a source of great satisfaction to find that the scheme, from a financial point of view, yields satisfactory results.

In the last twelve months £45 9s. has been spent in the work of organisation, while £28 of fresh *annual subscriptions* have been already obtained directly through the work of the scheme. Seven hundred and sixty-seven supporters have been enrolled in the three constituencies where work has been carried on. In these constituencies we had formerly considerably less than fifty members. Drawing room meetings in furtherance of the scheme have been held by Mrs. Sterling, 18, Sheffield Terrace, Kensington, Mrs. Scott, 18, Church Row, Hampstead, Mrs. Annan Bryce, 35, Bryanston Square, Mrs. Murray Macdonald, 15, Thurlow Road, Hampstead, and by Mrs. Russell Scott, Lyndhurst Gardens, Hampstead. The speakers at these meetings have been Mr. Faithfull Begg, M.P., Mr. Brynmôr Jones, Q.C., M.P., Sir W. Wedderburn, Bt., M.P., Mr. Murray Macdonald, M.L.S.B., Miss Davenport Hill, Miss Florence Davenport Hill, Hon. John Wallop, Mr. Fletcher, L.C.C., Mrs. Arthur Francis, Lady Cecilia Roberts, Mr. C. E. Maurice, Mrs. Percy Boulnois and the Rev. Henry Rawlings, M.A.

Your Committee would like to call attention to the fact that they have been enabled to start this scheme solely through the kind generosity of a few members of your Society, and that the results obtained represent the work of one paid worker, supported by a voluntary organiser, with most efficient

volunteer help. With more funds available the results would have been far greater, and your Committee hope, therefore, that contributions will be sent in to this fund which is carrying out work of the utmost value to your Society.

They would here like to call to your recollection that last year's balance sheet, although showing a balance in hand of £55 18s. 1d., also showed that accounts were at the time due and unpaid amounting to £95 8s. 5d. Therefore, instead of there being a balance of £55 18s., there was in reality a deficit of £39 19s. 5d., with which your Committee had to begin the year's work. The Committee wish to point out with the greatest gratitude that Mrs. Fawcett came forward and lectured twice, giving the proceeds of these lectures, amounting to £48 7s. 2d., to your Society's funds. In addition, there were other donations from members and friends amounting to £60 12s. 6d. With this timely help your society has been able to free itself from debt, and to show this year a genuine balance of £38 16s. 3d. They would also like to call special attention to the fact that the recurrence of such help cannot be relied upon in the future.

General Meetings to further the objects of your Society have been held in different parts of the country, and were addressed by Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Arthur Francis, and Miss Edith Palliser.

At the invitation of the Political Committee of the Junior Constitutional Club, Mrs. Fawcett gave an address at that Club, in November last, on Women's Suffrage.

This year your Committee have with great regret to record the loss of many old and valued supporters of the Women's Suffrage movement. By the death of the Rt. Hon. C. P. Villiers (Wolverhampton), Mr. George Dixon (Birmingham, Edgbaston), Sir Frank Lockwood (York) and Mr. Abel Smith (Herts, E.) your Committee have lost constant and steady supporters in Parliament of measures for the enfranchisement of women. The Rt. Hon. C. P. Villiers voted for the measure from

1870 to 1892, and Mr. George Dixon also voted constantly for the Bill, though not so frequently, owing to his absence from the House. They have also lost, through the resignation of their seats, the support in Parliament of Mr. Dampier Palmer (Gravesend) and of the Hon. Harold Finch-Hatton (Notts, Newark).

Among their supporters outside Parliament, your Committee have further to record the loss of an old and valued friend in Sir James Stansfeld. Sir James Stansfeld voted with Mr. John Stuart Mill in 1867, and backed Bills for the enfranchisement of women through a long series of years.

The following resolution was forwarded to Lady Stansfeld by your Committee :—

Resolution—

“That this Committee is very sensible of the steadfast, self-sacrificing support given throughout his life by Sir James Stansfeld to further the claim of women to political enfranchisement. They desire to express their sympathy to Lady Stansfeld in this heavy loss.”

Our Society has also met with the loss of an old member and former supporter in the House of Commons in Baron Dimsdale, of Essendon, Herts.

The following Resolution was forwarded by this Committee to Baron Dimsdale's family :—

“That this Committee remember with gratitude the steady support and many services rendered to the cause of Women's Suffrage by Baron Dimsdale, both in and out of Parliament, through a long series of years. They deeply deplore the loss they have sustained by his death, and they desire to tender their sincere sympathy to the members of his family.”

Your Committee have satisfaction in recording that at the bye-elections which have taken place since our last Annual Report was presented, ten of the successful candidates are known to be friends of Women's Suffrage. These are :—

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National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

SESSIONAL NOTES.

February, 1899.

- Section 1. Change of Leadership in the House of Commons.*
- Section 2. Conference of Parliamentary Friends.*
- Section 3. The result of the Ballot.*

I.—CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In consequence of his acceptance of office as Under Secretary for War, Mr. Wyndham, M.P., retires from the leadership of the Women's Suffrage question in the House of Commons.

The letter in which Mr. Wyndham intimated his retirement to the Executive of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Society, contained also a strong recommendation that Mr. Faithfull Begg should be asked to take the position, as one who had already rendered the cause most efficient service. This letter was communicated to all the Committees forming the Union. All sent in replies unanimously desiring that Mr. Faithfull Begg should be approached.

The following resolutions were accordingly passed at the Executive of the Union at their meeting on January 19.

(1) Moved by Mrs. Fawcett from the chair, seconded by Mrs. Russell Cooke and carried unanimously.

“That the Executive Committee of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies desire to heartily congratulate Mr. Wyndham on his accession to office; at the same time they deeply regret on their own account that such accession involves for them

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the loss of his assistance as leader of their question in the House of Commons.

"The Committee beg Mr. Wyndham to accept the expression of sincere gratitude, which they offer on behalf of the Union, for the services he has rendered them by his leadership during the past four years, and trust that whatever political distinctions may await Mr. Wyndham in the future, they may still have his advice and support on critical occasions."

(2) *Moved by Mrs. Fawcett, seconded by Mrs. Russell Cooke and carried unanimously.*

"That in consequence of the retirement of Mr. Wyndham, on the occasion of his taking office, from the leadership of the Women's Suffrage Question, on the Conservative side of the House of Commons, the Executive of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies hereby resolve to convey to Mr. Faithfull Begg their earnest request that he will take the position thus rendered vacant.

"That in doing this the Executive assure Mr. Faithfull Begg that they are expressing the unanimous feeling of the societies forming the Union. All are of one mind that the steady, practical help he has already given, inspires them with confidence in his leadership, and the earnest hope that he will accede to their united request."

A further resolution was then passed asking Mr. Faithfull Begg to receive a deputation from the National Union. This he appointed to do at his residence in Earl's Court Square, on January 31.

The Deputation consisted of Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Blackburn, Mrs. Russell Cooke, Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Arthur Francis, Miss S. E. Hall, and Mrs. Charles Baxter, Miss Edith Palliser, Miss E. G. Roper, Secretaries to the Union.

Mr. Faithfull Begg gave the Deputation a most cordial assurance of his willingness to do them the service they sought at his hands, and entered at once with them into consideration of arrangements for summoning a Conference of Parliamentary friends of the movement, on the first day of the Session, in conjunction with Sir Edward Grey.

This is the third occasion on which acceptance of office has necessitated a change of leadership in the

Women's Suffrage movement, the first occasion being when Mr. Courtney took office in 1881, and the second when Mr. Woodall took office in 1886, Mr. Wyndham himself taking the leadership in 1895 on Lord Wolmer's succeeding to the Earldom of Selborne.

II.—CONFERENCE OF PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDS.

Letters summoning a Conference of the supporters of the movement in the House of Commons were issued immediately, signed on the Unionist side by Mr. Faithfull Begg, and on the Liberal side by Mr. Charles McLaren, owing to Sir Edward Grey's inability to be present on the first day of the Session.

The Conference met in Committee Room 12, at 2.40, on Tuesday 7th, Mr. Faithfull Begg presiding. The following M.P.'s were present:—Col. Cotton-Jodrell, Mr. B. L. Cohen, Mr. H. S. Foster, Mr. Hazell, Mr. Wm. Johnston, Mr. Charles McLaren, Col. Mellor, Mr. E. P. Monckton, Mr. Morrell, Captain Norton, Mr. Skewes-Cox, Sir Wm. Wedderburn, Mr. J. Wilson (Govan), Sir James Woodhouse, Capt. Young.

Those attending on behalf of the National Union were:—Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Beddoe, Miss Blackburn, Mrs. Russell Cooke, Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Arthur Francis, Miss E. Gore-Booth, Mrs. Gray Heald, Miss Louisa Stevenson, and Mrs. Charles Baxter, Miss Edith Palliser, Miss E. G. Roper, Secretaries to the Union. Dr. Beddoe and Mrs. Charles McLaren were also present.

It was understood that twenty-five M.P.'s were prepared to ballot for the Bill. A general agreement was arrived at on various points of procedure.

III.—THE RESULT OF THE BALLOT.

On the following day no less than 354 M.P.'s set down their names to ballot for days.

Only those members who are so fortunate as to come out in the ten or twelve first places have any

clear chance for their Bills. The chances for any particular Bill, under such a pressure of numbers, are, therefore, very small. Mr. Faithful Begg came out best amongst the Women's Suffrage friends and he stood thirty-sixth.

It is possible that, as the Session advances, other opportunities may be found to introduce the question in the House of Commons. Our Parliamentary leaders know best how to advise on this matter, and in their earnestness and their discretion the Executive of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies have complete and well-grounded confidence.

A rumour is afloat that an attempt will be made to introduce the question in the House of Lords. It seems well, therefore, to state that the Executive of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies contemplate no such step. As Lord Salisbury pointed out repeatedly, on the occasions when the late Lord Denman pursued this policy some years ago, to introduce a question affecting the constitution of the Commons in the House of Lords is contrary to Parliamentary practice.

Day or no day it must not be forgotten that the Women's Suffrage question has now entered the stage when its supporters look to its becoming part of a Government measure, and much as a debate and division in the House of Commons should conduce to that end, work in the Constituencies has a not less important part to perform in bringing about the desired result.

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The necessity for this work arose from the importance of gaining a foothold in every constituency within your Society's area, and from the desirability of keeping in touch with the countless friends, who, from time to time, had shown some active sympathy (such as signing petitions, distributing tickets for meetings, &c.), but who were constantly lost sight of from their not being subscribers.

Such undertakings would clearly throw a great additional burden of work on the office, which it could not effectually carry out, even were the necessary funds available. Some kind of local machinery was, therefore, required, which should be simple and easily set in motion.

The plan adopted is for your Committee to appoint a Local Hon. Secretary in each constituency, who shall work directly under the central office and be responsible for a complete record of all friends of the cause living in her constituency, and for the distribution of literature and information as to local work. To enable her to keep an exact and reliable list of supporters, all friends who are not already members (*i.e.*, subscribers) are asked to become associates, by signing their names and addresses in a book kept specially for the purpose by the Local Hon. Secretary.

The rules for associates are extremely simple. They are as follows:—

- (1) Any person who has attained the age of 18 years, and who is in favour of any extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to women, may become an associate of the Central and East of England Society for Women's Suffrage.
- (2) No money contribution is required from any associate, but annual subscriptions or donations being necessary for the carrying on of the work, may be sent, if desired, to the Secretary of the Suffrage Society, 20, Great College Street, Westminster.
- (3) Any associates changing their address should inform

the Local Hon. Secretary of the change. If they remove into a different constituency, the Local Hon. Secretary will forward their name and address to the Local Hon. Secretary of the new constituency.

Though the main object of the local associates' scheme has been to unite all friends with your Society, whether they could give pecuniary help or not, yet, in the present low state of the exchequer, and particularly in view of the very small steady income (in the shape of annual subscriptions) on which your Committee can rely, it has been a source of great satisfaction to find that the scheme, from a financial point of view, yields satisfactory results.

In the last twelve months £45 9s. has been spent in the work of organisation, while £28 of fresh *annual subscriptions* have been already obtained directly through the work of the scheme. Seven hundred and sixty-seven supporters have been enrolled in the three constituencies where work has been carried on. In these constituencies we had formerly considerably less than fifty members. Drawing room meetings in furtherance of the scheme have been held by Mrs. Sterling, 18, Sheffield Terrace, Kensington, Mrs. Scott, 18, Church Row, Hampstead, Mrs. Annan Bryce, 35, Bryanston Square, Mrs. Murray Macdonald, 15, Thurlow Road, Hampstead, and by Mrs. Russell Scott, Lyndhurst Gardens, Hampstead. The speakers at these meetings have been Mr. Faithfull Begg, M.P., Mr. Brynmôr Jones, Q.C., M.P., Sir W. Wedderburn, Bt., M.P., Mr. Murray Macdonald, M.L.S.B., Miss Davenport Hill, Miss Florence Davenport Hill, Hon. John Wallop, Mr. Fletcher, L.C.C., Mrs. Arthur Francis, Lady Cecilia Roberts, Mr. C. E. Maurice, Mrs. Percy Boulnois and the Rev. Henry Rawlings, M.A.

Your Committee would like to call attention to the fact that they have been enabled to start this scheme solely through the kind generosity of a few members of your Society, and that the results obtained represent the work of one paid worker, supported by a voluntary organiser, with most efficient

volunteer help. With more funds available the results would have been far greater, and your Committee hope, therefore, that contributions will be sent in to this fund which is carrying out work of the utmost value to your Society.

They would here like to call to your recollection that last year's balance sheet, although showing a balance in hand of £55 18s. 1d., also showed that accounts were at the time due and unpaid amounting to £95 8s. 5d. Therefore, instead of there being a balance of £55 18s., there was in reality a deficit of £39 19s. 5d., with which your Committee had to begin the year's work. The Committee wish to point out with the greatest gratitude that Mrs. Fawcett came forward and lectured twice, giving the proceeds of these lectures, amounting to £48 7s. 2d., to your Society's funds. In addition, there were other donations from members and friends amounting to £60 12s. 6d. With this timely help your society has been able to free itself from debt, and to show this year a genuine balance of £38 16s. 3d. They would also like to call special attention to the fact that the recurrence of such help cannot be relied upon in the future.

General Meetings to further the objects of your Society have been held in different parts of the country, and were addressed by Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Arthur Francis, and Miss Edith Palliser.

At the invitation of the Political Committée of the Junior Constitutional Club, Mrs. Fawcett gave an address at that Club, in November last, on Women's Suffrage.

This year your Committee have with great regret to record the loss of many old and valued supporters of the Women's Suffrage movement. By the death of the Rt. Hon. C. P. Villiers (Wolverhampton), Mr. George Dixon (Birmingham, Edgbaston), Sir Frank Lockwood (York) and Mr. Abel Smith (Herts, E.) your Committee have lost constant and steady supporters in Parliament of measures for the enfranchisement of women. The Rt. Hon. C. P. Villiers voted for the measure from

1870 to 1892; and Mr. George Dixon also voted constantly for the Bill, though not so frequently, owing to his absence from the House. They have also lost, through the resignation of their seats, the support in Parliament of Mr. Dampier Palmer (Gravesend) and of the Hon. Harold Finch-Hatton (Notts, Newark).

Among their supporters outside Parliament, your Committee have further to record the loss of an old and valued friend in Sir James Stansfeld. Sir James Stansfeld voted with Mr. John Stuart Mill in 1867, and backed Bills for the enfranchisement of women through a long series of years.

The following resolution was forwarded to Lady Stansfeld by your Committee :—

Resolution—

“That this Committee is very sensible of the steadfast, self-sacrificing support given throughout his life by Sir James Stansfeld to further the claim of women to political enfranchisement. They desire to express their sympathy to Lady Stansfeld in this heavy loss.”

Our Society has also met with the loss of an old member and former supporter in the House of Commons in Baron Dimsdale, of Essendon, Herts.

The following Resolution was forwarded by this Committee to Baron Dimsdale's family :—

“That this Committee remember with gratitude the steady support and many services rendered to the cause of Women's Suffrage by Baron Dimsdale, both in and out of Parliament, through a long series of years. They deeply deplore the loss they have sustained by his death, and they desire to tender their sincere sympathy to the members of his family.”

Your Committee have satisfaction in recording that at the bye-elections which have taken place since our last Annual Report was presented, ten of the successful candidates are known to be friends of Women's Suffrage. These are :—

Mr. Mendl (Plymouth), Mr. Wynford Philipps (Pembroke), an old supporter, Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice (Wiltshire, Cricklade), President of the Bristol Women's Suffrage Society, Captain Oliver Young (Berkshire, Wokingham), Mr. Steadman (Stepney), Mr. A. H. Morton (Deptford), Mr. Joseph Walton (Yorkshire, Barnsley), Mr. MacArthur (Liverpool, Exchange), Mr. Moss (Denbigh, E.), and Alderman Duckworth (Lancashire, Middleton).

Your Committee look forward with every hope to the prospects of an active and vigorous campaign of work in the autumn throughout the country. No efforts will be spared to increase interest and spread the knowledge of the aims of this Society by means of the Local Scheme, and by work at election times, when the claims of duly qualified women to the Parliamentary franchise can be most effectually brought before the electorate of this country. They feel, however, that success in carrying on such work will greatly depend on the amount of the funds at the disposal of your Society. They would, therefore, earnestly beg that all who look forward to the advancement of the claims of women to political enfranchisement will contribute to the funds of your Society.

STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE from July 1st, 1897, to June 30th, 1898.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.			
£	s. d.	£	s. d.		
To Balance brought forward, July 1st, 1897...	55	18	0		
Subscriptions ...	254	18	6		
Donations ...	61	3	0		
Sale of Publications and Tickets ...	4	13	6		
Bristol W. S. Society's Share of Expenses, Queen's Hall Meeting...	16	9	0		
North of England W. S. Society ditto ...	16	9	2		
Ditto, ditto, Printing Expenses	5	1	8		
Collection at Meetings ...	3	13	6		
Proceeds of Mrs. Fawcett's Lecture ...	48	7	2		
		37	19	10	
		52	0	8	
		£466	13	6	
		By Rent ...	60	0	0
		Office Cleaning, Fuel, Lighting	10	5	11
		Salaries, &c. ...	147	11	6
		Meetings and Advertisements ...	80	3	5
		Stationery, &c. ...	5	10	9
		Printing and Publications	82	0	9
		Postage and Telegrams	24	10	9
		Newspapers and Parliamentary Papers ...	11	6	9
		Bank Charges ...	1	0	4
		Travelling Expenses in connection with Election work ...	4	2	5
			426	12	7
		Balance at Bankers ...	38	16	3
		Cash in Hand ...	1	4	8
			40	0	11
			£466	13	6

13, Victoria Street, Westminster,
London, 6th July, 1898.

Examined, compared with the books and vouchers, and found correct.

M. HARRIS SMITH, Auditor.
(Public Accountant.)

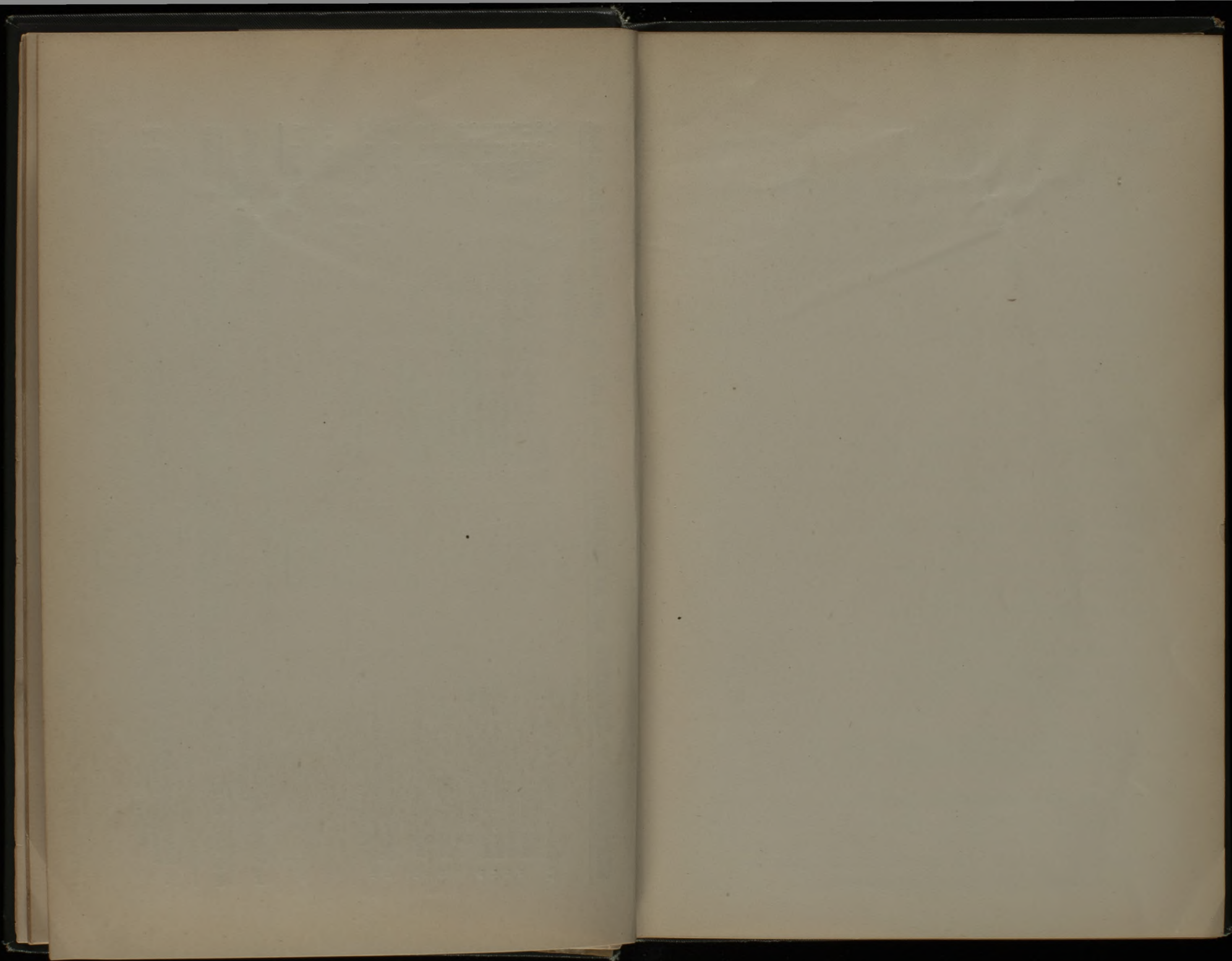
SPECIAL FUND FOR ENROLLING LOCAL ASSOCIATES OF THE CENTRAL AND EAST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, 30th JUNE, 1898.

£	s. d.	£	s. d.		
To Balance brought forward, July 1st, 1897 ...	24	7	0		
Donations, Subscriptions and Collection at Meetings ...	39	12	3		
	£63	19	3		
		By Organising Expenses ...	45	9	3
		Cash at Bankers ...	18	10	0
			£63	19	3

13, Victoria Street, Westminster,
London, 6th July, 1898.

Examined, compared with the books and vouchers, and found correct.

M. HARRIS SMITH, Auditor.
(Public Accountant.)



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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE
OF THE
NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

YOUR Committee have this year the satisfaction of recording a debate and division on the second reading of a Women's Suffrage Bill, for the first time in the life of the present Parliament. The result has indicated a marked advance in the growing force of the movement.

The steps which led up to this debate may be briefly stated. In anticipation of the important Conference of the National Union of Conservative Associations, which was held in Birmingham last November, your Committee in the autumn took counsel with some of the influential Conservative supporters of Women's Suffrage with a view to the inclusion of Women's Suffrage in the questions for deliberation at the Conference: as a result of these negotiations Viscount Feilding (now Lord Denbigh) introduced the following Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Rankin, M.P. :—

" That this Conference is of opinion that when the question of representation of the people is re-opened in Parliament, serious consideration should be given to the claims of women to be admitted to the franchise when entitled by ownership or occupation."

An invitation was conveyed by the Chairman to Mrs. Fawcett from the Conference of Delegates asking her to address a few words to them on the question. The Resolution when put to the meeting was carried by a very large majority amid much enthusiasm. In the afternoon of the same day a ladies' confer-

ence in connection with the National Union of Conservative Societies was held, presided over by Lady Windsor, and attended among others by the Marchioness of Salisbury and Lady Gwendolen Cecil. Mrs. Fawcett and Mr. Dixon Hartland, M.P., addressed this meeting on the importance of extending the Parliamentary Franchise to women.

In December a deputation from your Committee waited on Sir A. Borthwick to lay before him an earnest request that he would undertake to introduce a Bill into Parliament this session for extending the Franchise to those women who already possess the various local franchises. After carefully considering the request of your Committee, Sir Algernon Borthwick most kindly promised to take charge of the Bill and do all in his power to get it passed.

On the opening of Parliament a considerable number of M.P.'s balloted for a day for the second reading of the Bill. Sir Albert Rollit was fortunate in securing the earliest place, and according to the custom of Parliament, the Bill was then passed to his charge. April 27th was secured for the second reading, being the first Wednesday after the Easter recess.

Notice of opposition was immediately given by Mr. Samuel Smith, also by Mr. De Lisle, Mr. Radcliffe Cooke, and Mr. John Kelly.

The text of the Bill was prepared, after much careful consideration and consultation with experienced parliamentary draughtsmen, in a form which your Committee could heartily support, and immediately after it was printed,* they began

* Text of the Women's Franchise Bill [55 Vict.] Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women).

A Bill to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to Women. Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—1. This Act may be cited as the Parliamentary Franchise (Women) Act, 1892. 2. Every woman who—(1) In Great Britain is registered or entitled to be registered as an elector for any town council or county council; or (2) In Ireland is a ratepayer entitled to vote at an election for guardians of the poor; shall be entitled to be registered as a parliamentary elector, and when registered to vote at any parliamentary election for the county, borough, or division wherein the qualifying property is situate.

(Prepared and brought in by Sir Albert Rollit, Sir A. Borthwick, Viscount

active preparation in its support. In addition to the whip sent out by the Parliamentary Leaders, a joint whip, signed by the officers of your Committee and the Committees of the Central National, Manchester, Bristol, Birmingham, Nottingham, Leeds, Edinburgh, Dublin, and Belfast Societies, was sent to all Members of Parliament not known to be opponents. A letter, written by Mrs. Fawcett in reply to Mr. Samuel Smith's pamphlet, was sent to the newspapers immediately on the rising of Parliament for the Easter recess. This letter appeared in full in the *Morning Post*, *Morning Advertiser*, *Manchester Examiner*, *Leicester Post*, and several other papers, while many more gave extracts or comments.

Meantime the opponents were exerting themselves to a quite unprecedented extent against the Bill. First an attempt was made to prolong the Easter recess over the 27th. This, however, met with no encouragement from the Leader of the House of Commons. An adverse whip* was then issued, signed by twenty members drawn equally from each side of the House. Finally, the week before the day fixed for second reading, Mr. Gladstone addressed a letter to Mr. Samuel Smith, which was widely circulated in pamphlet form, and which urged Parliament to decline giving a second reading to the Bill.

This action on the part of the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition doubtless determined the action of many wavering Liberals against the Bill, while the speech of the Leader of the House in its support may have determined some waverers on the Conservative side to vote in its favour. All shades of party are represented amongst both the ayes and the noes.

Wolmer, Mr. W. M'Laren, Mr. Penrose Fitzgerald, Mr. T. D. Sullivan, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Burt and Mr. Ernest Spencer.) Notice of opposition, that the Bill be read this day six months, has been given by Mr. Samuel Smith, by Mr. John Kelly, and by Mr. Radcliffe Cooke.

* The whip issued against the Bill was as follows:—Women's Suffrage Bill. The second reading of this Bill will be moved on April 27th. You are earnestly requested to be present in the House of Commons, not later than 4.30, for the purpose of opposing the motion. H. H. Asquith, W. B. Barttelot, M. Hicks-Beach, J. L. Carew, J. Chamberlain, H. Chaplin, R. Churchill, Geo. N. Curzon, T. G. Esmonde, H. H. Fowler, Geo. Hamilton, W. G. V. Harcourt, Henry James, H. Labouchere, J. R. Mowbray, A. J. Mundella, J. W. Pease, J. A. Picton, Edward J. Reed, M. W. Ridley.

The second reading of the Bill was moved by Sir Albert Rollit in a speech of unusual force and value. Its rejection was moved by Mr. Samuel Smith, and the debate was continued by Mr. Woodall, Mr. Wyndham, Mr. Courtney, and Mr. Balfour, who spoke in its support; whilst Col. Barttelot, Professor Bryce, Mr. Asquith and Sir Henry James spoke in opposition. The debate was marked by an unusually high standard of excellence both in the power and the tone of the speeches, so that the question may be said to have been raised by the debate of 1892 to a higher level than it had ever before reached. The extremely important speech of the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour has given the question a distinct place amongst the practical measures of the near future.

The division showed 152 for, 175 against—majority against, 23; there were 25 pairs. A full report of the speeches and the division list has been issued by your Committee and circulated to their subscribers. Of the members who voted there were (including tellers and pairs):—

	For.	Against.
English,	133	164
Welsh,	8	6
Scotch,	20	23
Irish,	18	9
	<hr/> 179	<hr/> 202

The evening before the debate a conversazione of those interested in the Woman's Suffrage Bill was held at the Galleries of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours, Piccadilly, and brought together a numerous and influential company. The following ladies formed the Committee of Reception:—The Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Leonard Courtney, Miss Courtenay, Mrs. Culme Seymour, Miss Davenport-Hill, Mrs. Fawcett, Lady Matheson, Mrs. Penrose Fitzgerald, The Lady Rayleigh, Mrs. Henry Sidgwick, Mrs. Temple, Mrs. Westlake, The Lady Maude Wolmer.

Short addresses were given during the evening by Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Tod.

Successful drawing-room meetings have been held this spring, by the kind invitation of Captain and Mrs. James, in Lexham Gardens; of Miss Bell, in Bayswater, the Rev. J. C. Ridgway presiding; of Misses Gurney in Kensington, Mr. Lafone, M.P., presiding; and of Mrs. Shillington, in Wandsworth. In February Miss Reid kindly arranged a meeting in Hammersmith, Prebendary Snowden in the Chair.

Mrs. Fawcett, in November, addressed a meeting at Coventry, by invitation of the Coventry Primrose League, Mr. C. H. Richards presiding; and in February at Southend-on-Sea, by invitation of the Conservative Association of that town, Major Rasch, M.P., presiding. Mrs. Fawcett has also addressed meetings at Birmingham and Southport, in connection with the Women's Suffrage Societies of the respective districts. She has spoken on the political work of women at Liverpool, Manchester, Cambridge, and Thrapstone, and has addressed debating societies in Lewisham, Norwood, and Bloomsbury, and at Toynbee Hall. She also addressed a meeting at Bradford-on-Avon, Wilts, presided over by the Hon. Canon Meade, which meeting was also addressed by Mrs. Beddoe and Mrs. Hallett.

Miss Mordan has addressed debating societies at Wandsworth, Woodbury Down, and a Primrose League meeting at Ingham.

The thanks of your Committee are due to Miss Petrie, B.A., Mrs. Benjamin Clarke and Mrs. Stopes for speaking at Debates.

Periodical meetings of friends actively helping the work have been held at the Society's office during the winter, which your Committee believe have been useful in suggesting and extending work, especially in regard to private discussion parties and circulation of literature.

The requests for literature which have been received at your office during the past year have been much more numerous than in any preceding year, which in itself is an indication of growing interest in the subject.

Your Committee have to record with sorrow the death of Miss A. J. Clough, which removes from their General Com-

mittee an ever ready sympathizer in all their efforts. The death of Mrs. Charles Holland has taken one of their earliest and most generous supporters—the list of donations in this report includes her name as a donor of £100. Yet another valued member has passed away in Miss Amelia B. Edwards. They also regret to record the death of Miss Lucy Wilson, one of the early band of workers in the cause of women's progress. Miss E. L. Browne, Mrs. Hall Anderson, Mrs. Sims, all workers of early days, have also passed away.

Your Committee received the following letter in acknowledgment of a resolution of condolence sent to their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales on the occasion of the lamented death of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale :—

Sandringham, Norfolk.

" Sir Francis Knollys is desired to convey to the Members of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage the sincere thanks of the Prince and Princess of Wales for the warm sympathy they have expressed on the occasion of the Royal Highnesses' bereavement."

A letter was also received from the Duchess of Teck in reply to a resolution of a similar character addressed to herself and the Princess May.

Turning now to future action—a General Election is at hand and all political parties are inviting the active participation of women in the contest, as canvassers or speakers. It is earnestly hoped that all women who are thus asked to undertake political work will question the candidate they are invited to support as to his views on Women's Suffrage. The old prejudice, that women have nothing to do with politics, has been completely broken down in the face of the political work which women are encouraged to do. This is in itself a great gain for the cause of their political enfranchisement. If women are fitted to canvass and to influence the votes of others by political argument, they cannot be unfit to vote themselves. All candidates should be pressed to define the ground on which they stand upon the question of Women's Suffrage; and members and friends of this society are requested to report to this office the opinion of the candidates whom they have questioned on the subject of the

admission of the women householders and ratepayers to the Parliamentary Franchise.

In conclusion, your Committee make an earnest appeal to all friends of Women's Suffrage to come forward and help them with funds. Money is always a necessity for the successful carrying on of the work, but the increased activity called for by the approach of the General Election makes the question of finance even more important than in an ordinary year. A special fund has been opened for donations for electioneering work. Some of the old friends of the Society have once more come forward, and it is hoped that a considerable sum will be entrusted to the Committee to enable them to carry on active work during the next four months.

The following sums have already been promised :—

E. A. G.	-	-	£100
A Friend	-	-	25
Mrs. Sterling	-	-	10
Mrs. Fawcett	-	-	10

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE,
CENTRAL COMMITTEE, 10, GREAT COLLEGE STREET, WESTMINSTER.

Receipts and Payments from July 1st 1891, to May 30th, 1892.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
By Balance	-	By Rent	40 0 0
" Donations	-	" Office Expenses	15 16 7
" Subscriptions	-	" Salaries	136 13 4
" Sale of Publications	-	" Meetings and Advertisements	64 12 8
	-	" Stationery	17 12 5
	-	" Printing and Publications	63 17 3
	-	" Postage	68 13 3
	-	" Secretary's Travelling Expenses	6 18 5
	-	" Newspapers and Parliamentary Papers	15 14 2
	-	" Fee for Legal Opinion	11 11 0
	-		441 9 1
Liabilities	19 0 0	Balance in Bank on General Fund	29 8 8
	-	" " on Three years Fund	86 0 0
	-	Cash in hand	115 8 8
	-		4 5 8
	-		£ 561 3 5

Examined, compared with the books and vouchers, and found correct,
M. HARRIS SMITH, Auditor.

30th May, 1892.

13, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., and

(Public Accountant)
Royal Bank Buildings, 25, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C.

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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE EXTRACTS.—No. I.
The Late MISS LYDIA E. BECKER.

The General distribution of political power necessitates the giving of a share to women, because every extension of the franchise to classes hitherto excluded lowers and weakens the status of the classes which remain out of the pale. Agricultural labourers in counties, and women householders everywhere, are now excluded from influence over the Government. They possess none of those "little bits" of political power which those who would govern the country need to sweep into a heap by means of persuasion and offers of just measures and legislative protection. The larger the body of unrepresented persons in the country, the stronger is that body. If the unrepresented body consists of two distinct classes having interests not always in common, and sometimes apparently antagonistic, as in the classes of employers and employed, it is evident that if one class is admitted to the safeguards of representation, the one left out is in a worse position than before. It has obtained another master in place of a fellow-sufferer, and its interests will have less chance than ever of being considered, as they will have to withstand the rivalry of those belonging to the class just admitted to a share of those magical and all-potent "bits" of power.

It is because each "bit" is so small that it is safe to assign a bit even to the uneducated and indifferent elector. No man or woman, however stupid or silly, could do much mischief with the infinitesimal share of power comprised in his or her particular "bit." It is perhaps for this reason that so many intelligent women and men are slow to appreciate the value of a vote. Because the mere possession and occasional exercise of a vote seems a small thing in itself, is actually an infinitesimal factor in the sum of most people's experience, they imagine it is an equally unimportant matter to the interests of a class. One drop is an infinitesimal item in a shower, yet it would not be safe to say that the shower is unimportant because each drop composing it is a very small thing. It matters little or nothing personally to any individual woman whether she has a vote or not. It is of vital consequence to the interests of women as a class that they should have representative government.

Extract from "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," 1874.

duplicate of W1546572X

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

OF THE

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

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The steps which led up to this debate may be briefly stated. In anticipation of the important Conference of the National Union of Conservative Associations, which was held in Birmingham last November, your Committee in the autumn took counsel with some of the influential Conservative supporters of Women's Suffrage with a view to the inclusion of Women's Suffrage in the questions for deliberation at the Conference: as a result of these negotiations Viscount Feilding (now Lord Denbigh) introduced the following Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Rankin, M.P. :—

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An invitation was conveyed by the Chairman to Mrs. Fawcett from the Conference of Delegates asking her to address a few words to them on the question. The Resolution when put to the meeting was carried by a very large majority amid much enthusiasm. In the afternoon of the same day a ladies' confer-

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The text of the Bill was prepared, after much careful consideration and consultation with experienced parliamentary draughtsmen, in a form which your Committee could heartily support, and immediately after it was printed,* they began

* Text of the Women's Franchise Bill [55 Vict.] Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women).

A Bill to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to Women. Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—1. This Act may be cited as the Parliamentary Franchise (Women) Act, 1892. 2. Every woman who—(1) In Great Britain is registered or entitled to be registered as an elector for any town council or county council; or (2) In Ireland is a ratepayer entitled to vote at an election for guardians of the poor; shall be entitled to be registered as a parliamentary elector, and when registered to vote at any parliamentary election for the county, borough, or division wherein the qualifying property is situate.

(Prepared and brought in by Sir Albert Rollit, Sir A. Borthwick, Viscount

active preparation in its support. In addition to the whip sent out by the Parliamentary Leaders, a joint whip, signed by the officers of your Committee and the Committees of the Central National, Manchester, Bristol, Birmingham, Nottingham, Leeds, Edinburgh, Dublin, and Belfast Societies, was sent to all Members of Parliament not known to be opponents. A letter, written by Mrs. Fawcett in reply to Mr. Samuel Smith's pamphlet, was sent to the newspapers immediately on the rising of Parliament for the Easter recess. This letter appeared in full in the *Morning Post*, *Morning Advertiser*, *Manchester Examiner*, *Leicester Post*, and several other papers, while many more gave extracts or comments.

Meantime the opponents were exerting themselves to a quite unprecedented extent against the Bill. First an attempt was made to prolong the Easter recess over the 27th. This, however, met with no encouragement from the Leader of the House of Commons. An adverse whip* was then issued, signed by twenty members drawn equally from each side of the House. Finally, the week before the day fixed for second reading, Mr. Gladstone addressed a letter to Mr. Samuel Smith, which was widely circulated in pamphlet form, and which urged Parliament to decline giving a second reading to the Bill.

This action on the part of the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition doubtless determined the action of many wavering Liberals against the Bill, while the speech of the Leader of the House in its support may have determined some waverers on the Conservative side to vote in its favour. All shades of party are represented amongst both the ayes and the noes.

Wolmer, Mr. W. M'Laren, Mr. Penrose Fitzgerald, Mr. T. D. Sullivan, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Burt and Mr. Ernest Spencer.) Notice of opposition, that the Bill be read this day six months, has been given by Mr. Samuel Smith, by Mr. John Kelly, and by Mr. Radcliffe Cooke.

* The whip issued against the Bill was as follows:—Women's Suffrage Bill. The second reading of this Bill will be moved on April 27th. You are earnestly requested to be present in the House of Commons, not later than 4.30, for the purpose of opposing the motion. H. H. Asquith, W. B. Barttelot, M. Hicks-Beach, J. L. Carew, J. Chamberlain, H. Chaplin, R. Churchill, Geo. N. Curzon, T. G. Esmonde, H. H. Fowler, Geo. Hamilton, W. G. V. Harcourt, Henry James, H. Labouchere, J. R. Mowbray, A. J. Mundella, J. W. Pease, J. A. Picton, Edward J. Reed, M. W. Ridley.

The second reading of the Bill was moved by Sir Albert Rollit in a speech of unusual force and value. Its rejection was moved by Mr. Samuel Smith, and the debate was continued by Mr. Woodall, Mr. Wyndham, Mr. Courtney, and Mr. Balfour, who spoke in its support; whilst Col. Barttelot, Professor Bryce, Mr. Asquith and Sir Henry James spoke in opposition. The debate was marked by an unusually high standard of excellence both in the power and the tone of the speeches, so that the question may be said to have been raised by the debate of 1892 to a higher level than it had ever before reached. The extremely important speech of the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour has given the question a distinct place amongst the practical measures of the near future.

The division showed 152 for, 175 against—majority against, 23; there were 25 pairs. A full report of the speeches and the division list has been issued by your Committee and circulated to their subscribers. Of the members who voted there were (including tellers and pairs):—

	For.	Against.
English,	133	164
Welsh,	8	6
Scotch,	20	23
Irish,	18	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	179	202

The evening before the debate a conversazione of those interested in the Woman's Suffrage Bill was held at the Galleries of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours, Piccadilly, and brought together a numerous and influential company. The following ladies formed the Committee of Reception:—The Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Leonard Courtney, Miss Courtenay, Mrs. Culme Seymour, Miss Davenport-Hill, Mrs. Fawcett, Lady Matheson, Mrs. Penrose Fitzgerald, The Lady Rayleigh, Mrs. Henry Sidgwick, Mrs. Temple, Mrs. Westlake, The Lady Maude Wolmer.

Short addresses were given during the evening by Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Tod.

Successful drawing-room meetings have been held this spring, by the kind invitation of Captain and Mrs. James, in Lexham Gardens; of Miss Bell, in Bayswater, the Rev. J. C. Ridgway presiding; of Misses Gurney in Kensington, Mr. Lafone, M.P., presiding; and of Mrs. Shillington, in Wandsworth. In February Miss Reid kindly arranged a meeting in Hammersmith, Prebendary Snowden in the Chair.

Mrs. Fawcett, in November, addressed a meeting at Coventry, by invitation of the Coventry Primrose League, Mr. C. H. Richards presiding; and in February at Southend-on-Sea, by invitation of the Conservative Association of that town, Major Rasch, M.P., presiding. Mrs. Fawcett has also addressed meetings at Birmingham and Southport, in connection with the Women's Suffrage Societies of the respective districts. She has spoken on the political work of women at Liverpool, Manchester, Cambridge, and Thrapstone, and has addressed debating societies in Lewisham, Norwood, and Bloomsbury, and at Toynbee Hall. She also addressed a meeting at Bradford-on-Avon, Wilts, presided over by the Hon. Canon Meade, which meeting was also addressed by Mrs. Beddoe and Mrs. Hallett.

Miss Mordan has addressed debating societies at Wandsworth, Woodbury Down, and a Primrose League meeting at Ingham.

The thanks of your Committee are due to Miss Petrie, B.A., Mrs. Benjamin Clarke and Mrs. Stopes for speaking at Debates.

Periodical meetings of friends actively helping the work have been held at the Society's office during the winter, which your Committee believe have been useful in suggesting and extending work, especially in regard to private discussion parties and circulation of literature.

The requests for literature which have been received at your office during the past year have been much more numerous than in any preceding year, which in itself is an indication of growing interest in the subject.

Your Committee have to record with sorrow the death of Miss A. J. Clough, which removes from their General Com-

mittee an ever ready sympathizer in all their efforts. The death of Mrs. Charles Holland has taken one of their earliest and most generous supporters—the list of donations in this report includes her name as a donor of £100. Yet another valued member has passed away in Miss Amelia B. Edwards. They also regret to record the death of Miss Lucy Wilson, one of the early band of workers in the cause of women's progress. Miss E. L. Browne, Mrs. Hall Anderson, Mrs. Sims, all workers of early days, have also passed away.

Your Committee received the following letter in acknowledgment of a resolution of condolence sent to their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales on the occasion of the lamented death of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale:—

Sandringham, Norfolk.

“Sir Francis Knollys is desired to convey to the Members of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage the sincere thanks of the Prince and Princess of Wales for the warm sympathy they have expressed on the occasion of the Royal Highnesses' bereavement.”

A letter was also received from the Duchess of Teck in reply to a resolution of a similar character addressed to herself and the Princess May.

Turning now to future action—a General Election is at hand and all political parties are inviting the active participation of women in the contest, as canvassers or speakers. It is earnestly hoped that all women who are thus asked to undertake political work will question the candidate they are invited to support as to his views on Women's Suffrage. The old prejudice, that women have nothing to do with politics, has been completely broken down in the face of the political work which women are encouraged to do. This is in itself a great gain for the cause of their political enfranchisement. If women are fitted to canvass and to influence the votes of others by political argument, they cannot be unfit to vote themselves. All candidates should be pressed to define the ground on which they stand upon the question of Women's Suffrage; and members and friends of this society are requested to report to this office the opinion of the candidates whom they have questioned on the subject of the

admission of the women householders and ratepayers to the Parliamentary Franchise.

In conclusion, your Committee make an earnest appeal to all friends of Women's Suffrage to come forward and help them with funds. Money is always a necessity for the successful carrying on of the work, but the increased activity called for by the approach of the General Election makes the question of finance even more important than in an ordinary year. A special fund has been opened for donations for electioneering work. Some of the old friends of the Society have once more come forward, and it is hoped that a considerable sum will be entrusted to the Committee to enable them to carry on active work during the next four months.

The following sums have already been promised:—

E. A. G.	-	-	£100
A Friend	-	-	25
Mrs. Sterling	-	-	10
Mrs. Fawcett	-	-	10

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE,
CENTRAL COMMITTEE, 10, GREAT COLLEGE STREET, WESTMINSTER.

Receipts and Payments from July 1st 1891, to May 30th, 1892.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
By Balance	-	9 11 6	By Rent	-	40 0 0
„ Donations	-	362 12 6	„ Office Expenses	-	15 16 7
„ Subscriptions	-	181 10 0	„ Salaries	-	136 13 4
„ Sale of Publications	-	7 9 4	„ Meetings and Advertisements	-	64 12 8
			„ Stationery	-	17 12 5
			„ Printing and Publications	-	63 17 3
			„ Postage	-	68 13 3
			„ Secretary's Travelling Expenses	-	6 18 5
			„ Newspapers and Parliamentary Papers	-	15 14 2
			„ Fee for Legal Opinion	-	11 11 0
					441 9 1
			Balance in Bank on General Fund	29 8 8	
			„ „ on Three years Fund	86 0 0	
Liabilities	19 0 0				115 8 8
			Cash in hand	-	4 5 8
					£561 3 5
					£561 3 5

Examined, compared with the books and vouchers, and found correct,
M. HARRIS SMITH, Auditor.

(Public Accountant)

13, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., and
Royal Bank Buildings, 123, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C.

30th May, 1892.

National Society for Women's Suffrage

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Office:—10, GREAT COLLEGE STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESENTED AT THE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD IN THE

WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL

JULY 11th, 1893.

LONDON:

WOMEN'S PRINTING SOCIETY, LIMITED
66, WHITCOMB STREET, W.C.

V15465781 (6)

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

To obtain the Parliamentary Franchise for Women on the same terms
it is or may be granted to men.

Office:—10, GREAT COLLEGE STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Professor ADAMSON.
Miss GERTRUDE ANDREWS.
Mrs. ASHFORD.
The Lady FRANCES BALFOUR.
Miss HELEN BLACKBURN.
Miss JESSIE BOUCHERETT.
Miss FRANCES POWER COBBE.
Colonel COTTON-JODRELL, M.P.
Miss COURTENAY
The R. Hon. LEONARD COURTNEY,
M.P.
Miss F. DAVENPORT-HILL.
Miss EMILY DAVIES.
Capt. EDWARDS-HEATHCOTE.

Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT.
LOUISA LADY GOLDSMID.
Mrs. HALLETT.
Mrs. HASLAM.
Miss MORDAN.
Mrs. J. E. MYLNE.
CLARA LADY RAYLEIGH.
T. W. RUSSELL, Esq., M.P.
Mrs. STEPHEN SPRING-RICE
Mrs. STERLING.
Miss M. CARTA STURGE.
Miss TOD.
Miss VERNON.

And Delegates of Associated Societies.

Hon. Treasurer—Miss VERNON.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. FAWCETT. *Sec.*—Miss HELEN BLACKBURN.
Assistant Sec.—Miss TORRANCE.

Bankers—LONDON & COUNTY BANK—NEW OXFORD ST. BRANCH.
Office—10, GREAT COLLEGE STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.
Auditor—Miss M. HARRIS SMITH, Public Accountant.

ASSOCIATED SOCIETIES.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—
Established 1867.

Hon. Treasurer—THOS. CHORLTON, Esq.

Hon. Sec.—Miss ATKINSON.

Office—Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton Street, Manchester.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—Established 1868.

Hon. Treasurer—Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT.

Hon. Secs.—Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT and Miss EVA TRIBE.

Secretary—Miss BLACKBURN. *Office*—69, Park Street, Bristol.

NORTH OF IRELAND BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S
SUFFRAGE.—Established 1871.

Hon. Secretary—Miss ISABELLA TOD, Belfast.

DUBLIN SOCIETY, Established 1874.

Hon. Secs.—Mrs. HASLAM, 91, Rathmines Road, and Miss MACDOWELL.

LUTON COMMITTEE—Established 1879. *Hon. Sec.*—Miss LOUISA BIGG.

LEEDS NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—Established 1889
President—Mrs. EDWARD WALKER. *Hon. Treas.*—Mrs. RAWLINSON FORD
Hon. Sec.—Miss BARBER, Mount Preston, Leeds.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE
NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

*Presented to the Annual Meeting at Westminster Town Hall,
on July 11th, 1893.*

THE record your Committee have this year to present, deals more with signs of growth without than within the House of Commons. The Parliamentary leaders of the movement have been on the watch to seize any occasion that might occur, for raising the question of Women's Suffrage, but, up to the present time, no opportunity has arisen for bringing the matter forward, in the present Parliament.

The attention given to other political questions of absorbing interest during the General Election, last July, deterred many supporters of Women's Suffrage from pressing the subject prominently forward. The result of the Election has, however, been to return very few members avowedly opposed to Women's Suffrage and very many who acquiesce in the general principle that women should not be debarred from direct representation.

Immediately after the Election, your Committee took steps to secure the services of a Member of Parliament, who should be a centre to the movement in the House of Commons.

They are glad to be able to state that such a leader has been found in Viscount Wolmer, who has been unremittingly watchful for the interests of the question during the session.

On the first day of the session, Mr. W. McLaren, M.P., summoned a meeting, in one of the committee rooms of the House of Commons, of Parliamentary friends of Women's

Suffrage, a considerable number of whom proceeded at once to ballot for a day for a Bill. The best number was drawn by Mr. Charles McLaren, M.P.; but this was not sufficiently good to secure a day when the Bill would be certain to come on. The best available place for the Bill was as second order on Wednesday, March 8th. The first order on that day was the Rating of Machinery Bill, which absorbed the whole of the afternoon.

The Registration of Electors Bill, introduced on behalf of the Government by the Rt. Hon. H. H. Fowler, was not at first expected to yield opportunity for any enfranchising amendment. But when it appeared that the effects of the Bill were not limited to the simplification of registration, but that its provisions would place a large number of new voters on the Parliamentary Register, the Speaker ruled that enfranchising amendments would be in order. Accordingly Viscount Wolmer gave notice to move, after second reading of Registration of Electors Amendment Bill—

“That it be an instruction to the Committee that they have power to provide for the registration of duly qualified women, to vote at Parliamentary elections.”

Viscount Wolmer also gave notice of a similar instruction on the Scotch Registration Bill, introduced by Sir George Trevelyan.

Although the English Registration Bill passed second reading on April 26th, it has not yet been brought into Committee, and at the present late period of the session, the prospects of its reaching that stage are very uncertain.

A Petition in favour of Women's Suffrage, signed by 643 members of County Councils, was presented by Lord Wolmer in March, and subsequently a second petition with 263 signatures was forwarded to him.

Your Committee desire to cordially thank the Mayor of Northampton, for his kindness in granting the use of the Town Hall for a meeting in support of Women's Suffrage on December 12th, and for presiding on the occasion. They

would also thank Mrs. Butterfield, and the ladies who joined with her in making the meeting the success it proved. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Manfield, M.P., Mr. J. Barry, Mrs. Pender, Mrs. Fawcett, and Mrs. Ashford.

The Luton Women's Franchise Committee have worked with much energy during the past year. A public meeting was held in the Town Hall on November 24th, Mr. Michael Cook in the chair. Mrs. Ashford and Miss Mordan attended on behalf of your Committee. This meeting had been preceded by a Conference of local supporters, held at the house of the Hon. Sec., Miss Bigg, and was followed, on January 16th, by a lecture on Women and Politics, by Mr. J. A. Rentoul, M.P.

Your Committee desire to thank Mr. and Mrs. John Marshall for a meeting arranged by them at Keswick in October, which was addressed by your Hon. Sec., Mrs. Fawcett. Mrs. Fawcett also addressed a large gathering at 69, Park Street, Bristol, by invitation of the Bristol and West of England Society, during the meeting of the Central Council of Women Workers in that city in November. She also spoke at the Annual Meeting of the Manchester Society in November. On February 14th, a meeting in support of Women's Suffrage, arranged by the Haggerston Liberal Unionist Association, was addressed by Mrs. Fawcett, Mr. Lowles presiding, and a resolution affirming the importance of extending the franchise to women, was unanimously adopted.

Miss Mordan has addressed Debating Societies at White-chapel and Kilburn; Miss Davies at Bramham Gardens; Miss Stacpoole has addressed a meeting of the Westminster Debating Society. The thanks of your Committee are due to Mrs. Crisp for a drawing-room meeting, kindly arranged by her, at her house in Coningham Road, Shepherd's Bush. The demand for literature during the past year, for purposes of debate, has been quite beyond precedent, and shows that thought on the subject continues to extend.

volunteer help. With more funds available the results would have been far greater, and your Committee hope, therefore, that contributions will be sent in to this fund which is carrying out work of the utmost value to your Society.

They would here like to call to your recollection that last year's balance sheet, although showing a balance in hand of £55 18s. 1d., also showed that accounts were at the time due and unpaid amounting to £95 8s. 5d. Therefore, instead of there being a balance of £55 18s., there was in reality a deficit of £39 19s. 5d., with which your Committee had to begin the year's work. The Committee wish to point out with the greatest gratitude that Mrs. Fawcett came forward and lectured twice, giving the proceeds of these lectures, amounting to £48 7s. 2d., to your Society's funds. In addition, there were other donations from members and friends amounting to £60 12s. 6d. With this timely help your society has been able to free itself from debt, and to show this year a genuine balance of £38 16s. 3d. They would also like to call special attention to the fact that the recurrence of such help cannot be relied upon in the future.

General Meetings to further the objects of your Society have been held in different parts of the country, and were addressed by Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Arthur Francis, and Miss Edith Palliser.

At the invitation of the Political Committee of the Junior Constitutional Club, Mrs. Fawcett gave an address at that Club, in November last, on Women's Suffrage.

This year your Committee have with great regret to record the loss of many old and valued supporters of the Women's Suffrage movement. By the death of the Rt. Hon. C. P. Villiers (Wolverhampton), Mr. George Dixon (Birmingham, Edgbaston), Sir Frank Lockwood (York) and Mr. Abel Smith (Herts, E.) your Committee have lost constant and steady supporters in Parliament of measures for the enfranchisement of women. The Rt. Hon. C. P. Villiers voted for the measure from

1870 to 1892, and Mr. George Dixon also voted constantly for the Bill, though not so frequently, owing to his absence from the House. They have also lost, through the resignation of their seats, the support in Parliament of Mr. Dampier Palmer (Gravesend) and of the Hon. Harold Finch-Hatton (Notts, Newark).

Among their supporters outside Parliament, your Committee have further to record the loss of an old and valued friend in Sir James Stansfeld. Sir James Stansfeld voted with Mr. John Stuart Mill in 1867, and backed Bills for the enfranchisement of women through a long series of years.

The following resolution was forwarded to Lady Stansfeld by your Committee :—

Resolution—

“That this Committee is very sensible of the steadfast, self-sacrificing support given throughout his life by Sir James Stansfeld to further the claim of women to political enfranchisement. They desire to express their sympathy to Lady Stansfeld in this heavy loss.”

Our Society has also met with the loss of an old member and former supporter in the House of Commons in Baron Dimsdale, of Essendon, Herts.

The following Resolution was forwarded by this Committee to Baron Dimsdale's family :—

“That this Committee remember with gratitude the steady support and many services rendered to the cause of Women's Suffrage by Baron Dimsdale, both in and out of Parliament, through a long series of years. They deeply deplore the loss they have sustained by his death, and they desire to tender their sincere sympathy to the members of his family.”

Your Committee have satisfaction in recording that at the bye-elections which have taken place since our last Annual Report was presented, ten of the successful candidates are known to be friends of Women's Suffrage. These are :—

Mr. Mendl (Plymouth), Mr. Wynford Philipps (Pembroke), an old supporter, Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice (Wiltshire, Cricklade), President of the Bristol Women's Suffrage Society, Captain Oliver Young (Berkshire, Wokingham), Mr. Steadman (Stepney), Mr. A. H. Morton (Deptford), Mr. Joseph Walton (Yorkshire, Barnsley), Mr. MacArthur (Liverpool, Exchange), Mr. Moss (Denbigh, E.), and Alderman Duckworth (Lancashire, Middleton).

Your Committee look forward with every hope to the prospects of an active and vigorous campaign of work in the autumn throughout the country. No efforts will be spared to increase interest and spread the knowledge of the aims of this Society by means of the Local Scheme, and by work at election times, when the claims of duly qualified women to the Parliamentary franchise can be most effectually brought before the electorate of this country. They feel, however, that success in carrying on such work will greatly depend on the amount of the funds at the disposal of your Society. They would, therefore, earnestly beg that all who look forward to the advancement of the claims of women to political enfranchisement will contribute to the funds of your Society.

STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE from July 1st, 1897, to June 30th, 1898.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.		
£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
To Balance brought forward, July 1st, 1897...	55	18	0	
Subscriptions ...	254	18	6	
Donations ...	61	3	0	
Sale of Publications and Tickets ...	4	13	6	
Bristol W. S. Society's Share of Expenses, Queen's Hall Meeting...	16	9	0	
North of England W. S. Society ditto ...	16	9	2	
Ditto, ditto, Printing Expenses ...	5	1	8	
Collection at Meetings ...	3	13	6	
Proceeds of Mrs. Fawcett's Lecture ...	48	7	2	
		37	19	10
		52	0	8
		£466	13	6
		60	0	0
		10	5	11
		147	11	6
		80	3	5
		5	10	9
		82	0	9
		24	10	9
		11	6	9
		1	0	4
		4	2	5
		426	12	7
		38	16	3
		1	4	8
		49	0	11
		£466	13	6

13, Victoria Street, Westminster,
London, 6th July, 1898.

Examined, compared with the books and vouchers, and found correct.

M. HARRIS SMITH, Auditor.
(Public Accountant.)

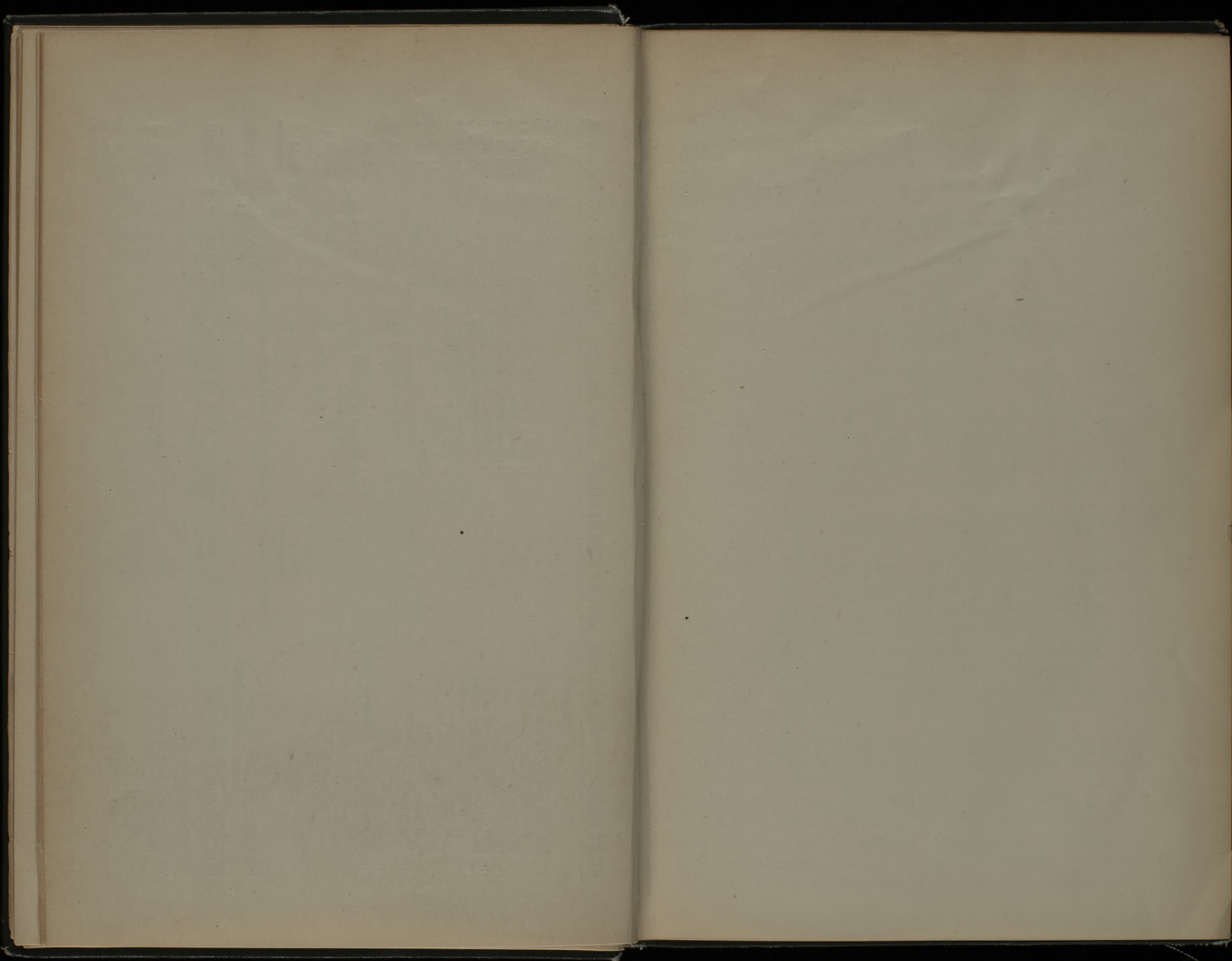
SPECIAL FUND FOR ENROLLING LOCAL ASSOCIATES OF THE CENTRAL AND EAST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, 30TH JUNE, 1898.

£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Balance brought forward, July 1st, 1897 ...	24	7	0
Donations, Subscriptions and Collection at Meetings ...	39	12	3
	£63	19	3
By Organising Expenses ...	...	...	...
Cash at Bankers ...	...	...	...
	£45	9	3
	18	10	0
	£63	19	3

13, Victoria Street, Westminster,
London, 6th July, 1898.

Examined, compared with the books and vouchers, and found correct.

M. HARRIS SMITH, Auditor.
(Public Accountant.)



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1901



ANNUAL REPORT
 OF THE
 CENTRAL COMMITTEE
 OF THE
 NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

YOUR Committee have this year the satisfaction of recording a debate and division on the second reading of a Women's Suffrage Bill, for the first time in the life of the present Parliament. The result has indicated a marked advance in the growing force of the movement.

The steps which led up to this debate may be briefly stated. In anticipation of the important Conference of the National Union of Conservative Associations, which was held in Birmingham last November, your Committee in the autumn took counsel with some of the influential Conservative supporters of Women's Suffrage with a view to the inclusion of Women's Suffrage in the questions for deliberation at the Conference: as a result of these negotiations Viscount Feilding (now Lord Denbigh) introduced the following Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Rankin, M.P. :—

" That this Conference is of opinion that when the question of representation of the people is re-opened in Parliament, serious consideration should be given to the claims of women to be admitted to the franchise when entitled by ownership or occupation."

An invitation was conveyed by the Chairman to Mrs. Fawcett from the Conference of Delegates asking her to address a few words to them on the question. The Resolution when put to the meeting was carried by a very large majority amid much enthusiasm. In the afternoon of the same day a ladies' confer-

ence in connection with the National Union of Conservative Societies was held, presided over by Lady Windsor, and attended among others by the Marchioness of Salisbury and Lady Gwendolen Cecil. Mrs. Fawcett and Mr. Dixon Hartland, M.P., addressed this meeting on the importance of extending the Parliamentary Franchise to women.

In December a deputation from your Committee waited on Sir A. Borthwick to lay before him an earnest request that he would undertake to introduce a Bill into Parliament this session for extending the Franchise to those women who already possess the various local franchises. After carefully considering the request of your Committee, Sir Algernon Borthwick most kindly promised to take charge of the Bill and do all in his power to get it passed.

On the opening of Parliament a considerable number of M.P.'s balloted for a day for the second reading of the Bill. Sir Albert Rollit was fortunate in securing the earliest place, and according to the custom of Parliament, the Bill was then passed to his charge. April 27th was secured for the second reading, being the first Wednesday after the Easter recess.

Notice of opposition was immediately given by Mr. Samuel Smith, also by Mr. De Lisle, Mr. Radcliffe Cooke, and Mr. John Kelly.

The text of the Bill was prepared, after much careful consideration and consultation with experienced parliamentary draughtsmen, in a form which your Committee could heartily support, and immediately after it was printed,* they began

* Text of the Women's Franchise Bill [55 Vict.] Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women).

A Bill to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to Women. Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—1. This Act may be cited as the Parliamentary Franchise (Women) Act, 1892. 2. Every woman who—(1) In Great Britain is registered or entitled to be registered as an elector for any town council or county council; or (2) In Ireland is a ratepayer entitled to vote at an election for guardians of the poor; shall be entitled to be registered as a parliamentary elector, and when registered to vote at any parliamentary election for the county, borough, or division wherein the qualifying property is situate.

(Prepared and brought in by Sir Albert Rollit, Sir A. Borthwick, Viscount

active preparation in its support. In addition to the whip sent out by the Parliamentary Leaders, a joint whip, signed by the officers of your Committee and the Committees of the Central National, Manchester, Bristol, Birmingham, Nottingham, Leeds, Edinburgh, Dublin, and Belfast Societies, was sent to all Members of Parliament not known to be opponents. A letter, written by Mrs. Fawcett in reply to Mr. Samuel Smith's pamphlet, was sent to the newspapers immediately on the rising of Parliament for the Easter recess. This letter appeared in full in the *Morning Post*, *Morning Advertiser*, *Manchester Examiner*, *Leicester Post*, and several other papers, while many more gave extracts or comments.

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	<hr/>	<hr/>
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mittee an ever ready sympathizer in all their efforts. The death of Mrs. Charles Holland has taken one of their earliest and most generous supporters—the list of donations in this report includes her name as a donor of £100. Yet another valued member has passed away in Miss Amelia B. Edwards. They also regret to record the death of Miss Lucy Wilson, one of the early band of workers in the cause of women's progress. Miss E. L. Browne, Mrs. Hall Anderson, Mrs. Sims, all workers of early days, have also passed away.

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Sandringham, Norfolk.

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The following sums have already been promised :—

E. A. G.	-	-	£100
A Friend	-	-	25
Mrs. Sterling	-	-	10
Mrs. Fawcett	-	-	10

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE,
CENTRAL COMMITTEE, 10, GREAT COLLEGE STREET, WESTMINSTER.

Receipts and Payments from July 1st 1891, to May 30th, 1892.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
By Balance	-	By Rent	40 0 0
" Donations	-	" Office Expenses	15 16 7
" Subscriptions	-	" Salaries	136 13 4
" Sale of Publications	-	" Meetings and Advertisements	64 12 8
		" Stationery	17 12 5
		" Printing and Publications	63 17 3
		" Postage	68 13 3
		" Secretary's Travelling Expenses	6 18 5
		" Newspapers and Parliamentary Papers	15 14 2
		" Fee for Legal Opinion	11 11 0
			441 9 1
Liabilities	19 0 0	Balance in Bank on General Fund	29 8 8
		" " on Three years Fund	86 0 0
		Cash in hand	115 8 8
			4 5 8
			<u>£561 3 5</u>

Examined, compared with the books and vouchers, and found correct,
M. HARRIS SMITH, Auditor.

10th May, 1892.

13, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., and
Royal Bank Buildings, 123, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE EXTRACTS.—No. I.

The Late MISS LYDIA E. BECKER.

The General distribution of political power necessitates the giving of a share to women, because every extension of the franchise to classes hitherto excluded lowers and weakens the status of the classes which remain out of the pale. Agricultural labourers in counties, and women householders everywhere, are now excluded from influence over the Government. They possess none of those "little bits" of political power which those who would govern the country need to sweep into a heap by means of persuasion and offers of just measures and legislative protection. The larger the body of unrepresented persons in the country, the stronger is that body. If the unrepresented body consists of two distinct classes having interests not always in common, and sometimes apparently antagonistic, as in the classes of employers and employed, it is evident that if one class is admitted to the safeguards of representation, the one left out is in a worse position than before. It has obtained another master in place of a fellow-sufferer, and its interests will have less chance than ever of being considered, as they will have to withstand the rivalry of those belonging to the class just admitted to a share of those magical and all-potent "bits" of power.

It is because each "bit" is so small that it is safe to assign a bit even to the uneducated and indifferent elector. No man or woman, however stupid or silly, could do much mischief with the infinitesimal share of power comprised in his or her particular "bit." It is perhaps for this reason that so many intelligent women and men are slow to appreciate the value of a vote. Because the mere possession and occasional exercise of a vote seems a small thing in itself, is actually an infinitesimal factor in the sum of most people's experience, they imagine it is an equally unimportant matter to the interests of a class. One drop is an infinitesimal item in a shower, yet it would not be safe to say that the shower is unimportant because each drop composing it is a very small thing. It matters little or nothing personally to any individual woman whether she has a vote or not. It is of vital consequence to the interests of women as a class that they should have representative government.

Extract from "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," 1874.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S
SUFFRAGE, 10, Great College Street, Westminster

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duplicate of W1546572X

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dup of W15465706 ✓

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE
OF THE
NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

YOUR Committee have this year the satisfaction of recording a debate and division on the second reading of a Women's Suffrage Bill, for the first time in the life of the present Parliament. The result has indicated a marked advance in the growing force of the movement.

The steps which led up to this debate may be briefly stated. In anticipation of the important Conference of the National Union of Conservative Associations, which was held in Birmingham last November, your Committee in the autumn took counsel with some of the influential Conservative supporters of Women's Suffrage with a view to the inclusion of Women's Suffrage in the questions for deliberation at the Conference: as a result of these negotiations Viscount Feilding (now Lord Denbigh) introduced the following Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Rankin, M.P. :—

"That this Conference is of opinion that when the question of representation of the people is re-opened in Parliament, serious consideration should be given to the claims of women to be admitted to the franchise when entitled by ownership or occupation."

An invitation was conveyed by the Chairman to Mrs. Fawcett from the Conference of Delegates asking her to address a few words to them on the question. The Resolution when put to the meeting was carried by a very large majority amid much enthusiasm. In the afternoon of the same day a ladies' confer-

ence in connection with the National Union of Conservative Societies was held, presided over by Lady Windsor, and attended among others by the Marchioness of Salisbury and Lady Gwendolen Cecil. Mrs. Fawcett and Mr. Dixon Hartland, M.P., addressed this meeting on the importance of extending the Parliamentary Franchise to women.

In December a deputation from your Committee waited on Sir A. Borthwick to lay before him an earnest request that he would undertake to introduce a Bill into Parliament this session for extending the Franchise to those women who already possess the various local franchises. After carefully considering the request of your Committee, Sir Algernon Borthwick most kindly promised to take charge of the Bill and do all in his power to get it passed.

On the opening of Parliament a considerable number of M.P.'s balloted for a day for the second reading of the Bill. Sir Albert Rollit was fortunate in securing the earliest place, and according to the custom of Parliament, the Bill was then passed to his charge. April 27th was secured for the second reading, being the first Wednesday after the Easter recess.

Notice of opposition was immediately given by Mr. Samuel Smith, also by Mr. De Lisle, Mr. Radcliffe Cooke, and Mr. John Kelly.

The text of the Bill was prepared, after much careful consideration and consultation with experienced parliamentary draughtsmen, in a form which your Committee could heartily support, and immediately after it was printed,* they began

* Text of the Women's Franchise Bill [55 Vict.] Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women).

A Bill to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to Women. Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—1. This Act may be cited as the Parliamentary Franchise (Women) Act, 1892. 2. Every woman who—(1) In Great Britain is registered or entitled to be registered as an elector for any town council or county council; or (2) In Ireland is a ratepayer entitled to vote at an election for guardians of the poor; shall be entitled to be registered as a parliamentary elector, and when registered to vote at any parliamentary election for the county, borough, or division wherein the qualifying property is situate.

(Prepared and brought in by Sir Albert Rollit, Sir A. Borthwick, Viscount

active preparation in its support. In addition to the whip sent out by the Parliamentary Leaders, a joint whip, signed by the officers of your Committee and the Committees of the Central National, Manchester, Bristol, Birmingham, Nottingham, Leeds, Edinburgh, Dublin, and Belfast Societies, was sent to all Members of Parliament not known to be opponents. A letter, written by Mrs. Fawcett in reply to Mr. Samuel Smith's pamphlet, was sent to the newspapers immediately on the rising of Parliament for the Easter recess. This letter appeared in full in the *Morning Post*, *Morning Advertiser*, *Manchester Examiner*, *Leicester Post*, and several other papers, while many more gave extracts or comments.

Meantime the opponents were exerting themselves to a quite unprecedented extent against the Bill. First an attempt was made to prolong the Easter recess over the 27th. This, however, met with no encouragement from the Leader of the House of Commons. An adverse whip* was then issued, signed by twenty members drawn equally from each side of the House. Finally, the week before the day fixed for second reading, Mr. Gladstone addressed a letter to Mr. Samuel Smith, which was widely circulated in pamphlet form, and which urged Parliament to decline giving a second reading to the Bill.

This action on the part of the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition doubtless determined the action of many wavering Liberals against the Bill, while the speech of the Leader of the House in its support may have determined some waverers on the Conservative side to vote in its favour. All shades of party are represented amongst both the ayes and the noes.

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A Friend	-	-	25
Mrs. Sterling	-	-	10
Mrs. Fawcett	-	-	10

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE,
CENTRAL COMMITTEE, 10, GREAT COLLEGE STREET, WESTMINSTER.

Receipts and Payments from July 1st 1891, to May 30th, 1892.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
By Balance	-	9 11 6	By Rent	-	40 0 0
„ Donations	-	362 12 6	„ Office Expenses	-	15 16 7
„ Subscriptions	-	181 10 0	„ Salaries	-	136 13 4
„ Sale of Publications	-	7 9 4	„ Meetings and Advertisements	-	64 12 8
			„ Stationery	-	17 12 5
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					£561 3 5
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Examined, compared with the books and vouchers, and found correct,
M. HARRIS SMITH, Auditor.

(Public Accountant)

13, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., and
Royal Bank Buildings, 123, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C.

30th May, 1892.

National Society for Women's Suffrage

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Office:—10, GREAT COLLEGE STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESENTED AT THE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD IN THE

WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL

JULY 11th, 1892.

LONDON:

WOMEN'S PRINTING SOCIETY, LIMITED
66, WHITCOMB STREET, W.C.

615465781 (6)

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

To obtain the Parliamentary Franchise for Women on the same terms
it is or may be granted to men.

Office:—10, GREAT COLLEGE STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Professor ADAMSON.
Miss GERTRUDE ANDREWS.
Mrs. ASHFORD.
The Lady FRANCES BALFOUR.
Miss HELEN BLACKBURN.
Miss JESSIE BOUCHERETT.
Miss FRANCES POWER COBBE.
Colonel COTTON-JODRELL, M.P.
Miss COURTENAY
The R. Hon. LEONARD COURTNEY,
M.P.
Miss F. DAVENPORT-HILL.
Miss EMILY DAVIES.
Capt. EDWARDS-HEATHCOTE.

Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT.
LOUISA LADY GOLDSMID.
Mrs. HALLETT.
Mrs. HASLAM.
Miss MORDAN.
Mrs. J. E. MYLNE.
CLARA LADY RAYLEIGH.
T. W. RUSSELL, Esq., M.P.
Mrs. STEPHEN SPRING-RICE
Mrs. STERLING.
Miss M. CARTA STURGE.
Miss TOD.
Miss VERNON.

And Delegates of Associated Societies.

Hon. Treasurer—Miss VERNON.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. FAWCETT. *Sec.*—Miss HELEN BLACKBURN.

Assistant Sec.—Miss TORRANCE.

Bankers—LONDON & COUNTY BANK—NEW OXFORD ST. BRANCH.

Office—10, GREAT COLLEGE STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

Auditor—Miss M. HARRIS SMITH, Public Accountant.

ASSOCIATED SOCIETIES.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—
Established 1867.

Hon. Treasurer—THOS. CHORLTON, Esq.

Hon. Sec.—Miss ATKINSON.

Office—Queen's Chambers, 5, John Dalton Street, Manchester.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—Established 1868.

Hon. Treasurer—Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT.

Hon. Secs.—Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT and Miss EVA TRIBE.

Secretary—Miss BLACKBURN. *Office*—69, Park Street, Bristol.

NORTH OF IRELAND BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S
SUFFRAGE.—Established 1871.

Hon. Secretary—Miss ISABELLA TOD, Belfast.

DUBLIN SOCIETY, Established 1874.

Hon. Secs.—Mrs. HASLAM, 91, Rathmines Road, and Miss MACDOWELL.

LUTON COMMITTEE—Established 1879. *Hon. Sec.*—Miss LOUISA BIGG.

LEEDS NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—Established 1889

President—Mrs. EDWARD WALKER. *Hon. Treas.*—Mrs. RAWLINSON FORD

Hon. Sec.—Miss BARBER, Mount Preston, Leeds.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE
NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Presented to the Annual Meeting at Westminster Town Hall,
on July 11th, 1893.

THE record your Committee have this year to present, deals more with signs of growth without than within the House of Commons. The Parliamentary leaders of the movement have been on the watch to seize any occasion that might occur, for raising the question of Women's Suffrage, but, up to the present time, no opportunity has arisen for bringing the matter forward, in the present Parliament.

The attention given to other political questions of absorbing interest during the General Election, last July, deterred many supporters of Women's Suffrage from pressing the subject prominently forward. The result of the Election has, however, been to return very few members avowedly opposed to Women's Suffrage and very many who acquiesce in the general principle that women should not be debarred from direct representation.

Immediately after the Election, your Committee took steps to secure the services of a Member of Parliament, who should be a centre to the movement in the House of Commons.

They are glad to be able to state that such a leader has been found in Viscount Wolmer, who has been unremittingly watchful for the interests of the question during the session.

On the first day of the session, Mr. W. McLaren, M.P., summoned a meeting, in one of the committee rooms of the House of Commons, of Parliamentary friends of Women's

Suffrage, a considerable number of whom proceeded at once to ballot for a day for a Bill. The best number was drawn by Mr. Charles McLaren, M.P.; but this was not sufficiently good to secure a day when the Bill would be certain to come on. The best available place for the Bill was as second order on Wednesday, March 8th. The first order on that day was the Rating of Machinery Bill, which absorbed the whole of the afternoon.

The Registration of Electors Bill, introduced on behalf of the Government by the Rt. Hon. H. H. Fowler, was not at first expected to yield opportunity for any enfranchising amendment. But when it appeared that the effects of the Bill were not limited to the simplification of registration, but that its provisions would place a large number of new voters on the Parliamentary Register, the Speaker ruled that enfranchising amendments would be in order. Accordingly Viscount Wolmer gave notice to move, after second reading of Registration of Electors Amendment Bill—

“That it be an instruction to the Committee that they have power to provide for the registration of duly qualified women, to vote at Parliamentary elections.”

Viscount Wolmer also gave notice of a similar instruction on the Scotch Registration Bill, introduced by Sir George Trevelyan.

Although the English Registration Bill passed second reading on April 26th, it has not yet been brought into Committee, and at the present late period of the session, the prospects of its reaching that stage are very uncertain.

A Petition in favour of Women's Suffrage, signed by 643 members of County Councils, was presented by Lord Wolmer in March, and subsequently a second petition with 263 signatures was forwarded to him.

Your Committee desire to cordially thank the Mayor of Northampton, for his kindness in granting the use of the Town Hall for a meeting in support of Women's Suffrage on December 12th, and for presiding on the occasion. They

would also thank Mrs. Butterfield, and the ladies who joined with her in making the meeting the success it proved. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Manfield, M.P., Mr. J. Barry, Mrs. Pender, Mrs. Fawcett, and Mrs. Ashford.

The Luton Women's Franchise Committee have worked with much energy during the past year. A public meeting was held in the Town Hall on November 24th, Mr. Michael Cook in the chair. Mrs. Ashford and Miss Mordan attended on behalf of your Committee. This meeting had been preceded by a Conference of local supporters, held at the house of the Hon. Sec., Miss Bigg, and was followed, on January 16th, by a lecture on Women and Politics, by Mr. J. A. Rentoul, M.P.

Your Committee desire to thank Mr. and Mrs. John Marshall for a meeting arranged by them at Keswick in October, which was addressed by your Hon. Sec., Mrs. Fawcett. Mrs. Fawcett also addressed a large gathering at 69, Park Street, Bristol, by invitation of the Bristol and West of England Society, during the meeting of the Central Council of Women Workers in that city in November. She also spoke at the Annual Meeting of the Manchester Society in November. On February 14th, a meeting in support of Women's Suffrage, arranged by the Haggerston Liberal Unionist Association, was addressed by Mrs. Fawcett, Mr. Lowles presiding, and a resolution affirming the importance of extending the franchise to women, was unanimously adopted.

Miss Mordan has addressed Debating Societies at Whitechapel and Kilburn; Miss Davies at Bramham Gardens; Miss Stacpoole has addressed a meeting of the Westminster Debating Society. The thanks of your Committee are due to Mrs. Crisp for a drawing-room meeting, kindly arranged by her, at her house in Coningham Road, Shepherd's Bush. The demand for literature during the past year, for purposes of debate, has been quite beyond precedent, and shows that thought on the subject continues to extend.

Your Committee forwarded a paper, by request, to the American Branch of the International Council of Women, at the World's Fair, Chicago, on the work of the Central Committee; they have since published this, with slight modifications, as a pamphlet. They also sent a diagram representing the progress of women in the last 50 years, to the Handicrafts' Section of the Women's Work Committee, (in connection with the Royal Commission for Chicago). This was executed in colours in a decorative style by Miss A. M. Reid.

Your Committee deeply regret to record the death of the Dowager Countess of Buchan, which occurred suddenly at the end of April. Notwithstanding her advanced age, Lady Buchan had continued to the last, her warm interest in all that pertains to the advancement of women, and the progress of the Suffrage movement, with which she had been associated from the first.

In view of the pending legislation dealing with the Electoral Law, your Committee in February last raised a fund of £300 to enable them to organise active work. When it became apparent that no legislation was likely to be undertaken in the present session, they convened a Conference of members of the general and associated Committees of this Society, with a view to organising a general appeal to Members of the House of Commons from women of all parties and all classes. The Conference met on June 1st, at the Committee Room, the Westminster Town Hall, Miss Florence Davenport Hill presiding. The attendance included:—Mrs. H. Adair (Oxford), Mrs. Roberts - Austen, Miss Jessie Boucherett, Miss Babb, Mrs. Stewart Browne (Liverpool), Miss Bigg (Luton), Miss Blackburn, Mrs. N. G. Clayton (Hexham), Miss Emily Davies, Miss Catherine Drew, Hon. Lady Grey Egerton, Miss Eccles, Mrs. Lauder Eaton (Falmouth), Mrs. Penrose Fitzgerald, Mrs. Fawcett, Miss I. O. Ford (Leeds), Mrs. C. H. Hodgson, Lady Knightley of Fawsley, Miss Lee (Manchester), Miss Mordan, Miss Ogle

Moore, Clara Lady Rayleigh, Miss A. M. Reid, Mrs. T. W. Russell (Dublin), Mrs. Singleton (Derbyshire), Mrs. Severne (Salop), Mrs. J. K. Spender (Bath), Mrs. and Miss Sterling, Miss Stone, Mrs. Thomas Taylor (Chipchase Castle), Miss Tod (Belfast), Miss Vernon, &c., &c.

The following resolution was unanimously carried:—

“That this Conference approves the plan of a general appeal from women in favour of Women's Suffrage and the members here present undertake to promote the dissemination of the Appeal throughout the kingdom.”

In order to secure as wide a circle of co-operation as possible in working this Appeal, your Committee invited ladies connected with the chief organisations amongst women to join a Special Appeal Committee and thus act as links with the associations to which they respectively belong. This Special Appeal Committee has accordingly been formed as follows, Mrs. Fawcett, President; Mrs. Frank Morrison, Treasurer:—

The Lady Frances Balfour	Miss Mordan
Miss Balfour	Mrs. Wynford Philipps
Miss Blackburn	Mrs. Broadley Reid
Mrs. Leonard Courtney	The Lady Henry Somerset
Mrs. Fawcett	Mrs. Taylor of (Chipchase Castle).
The Lady Knightley	Miss Vernon
Mrs. Eva McLaren	
Mrs. Massingberd	

Offices for the work of the Appeal have been secured at 47, Victoria Street, Westminster, and Miss Julia Cameron appointed Secretary.

Your Committee earnestly invite all their members and friends to give such help as they may be able, whether by money or work, to make this a strong and united effort from women throughout the kingdom, in furtherance of their just and constitutional claim.

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE, 10, GREAT COLLEGE STREET, WESTMINSTER.

Receipts and Payments from June 1st, 1892, to June 30th, 1893.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Balance, 1st June, 1892	119 14 4	Rent	42 16 0
Donations	119 13 0	Office Expenses	10 7 11
Do. Special Fund	289 15 0	Salaries	176 9 6
Subscriptions	409 8 0	Meetings and Advertisements	47 14 1
Sale of Publications, etc.	179 4 0	Stationery	26 11 8
Interest on Deposit Account	11 8 2	Printing and Publications	120 8 5
	0 17 2	Postage and Telegrams	58 1 11
		Secretary's Travelling Expenses	16 1 3
		Newspapers & Parliamentary Papers	9 8 2
		Chicago Exhibits	4 11 6
			512 10 5
		Deposit at Bankers	200 0 0
		Balance	6 18 1
		Cash in hand	1 3 2
			208 1 3
			<u>£720 11 8</u>

Examined, compared with the books and vouchers, and found correct,
M. HARRIS SMITH, Auditor.

(Public Accountant)
13, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., and
Royal Bank Building, 123, Bishopsgate Street Within, London, E.C.

July 11th, 1893.

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

General Annual Meeting of the Central Committee, Westminster
Town Hall, July 11th, 1893.

VISCOUNT WOLMER, M.P., in the Chair.

RESOLUTION I.

"That this Meeting adopt the Report and Financial Statement and direct that they be printed and circulated."

Moved by VISCOUNT WOLMER, M.P.
Seconded by MRS. FAWCETT.

RESOLUTION II.

"That the Executive Committee for the ensuing year consist of the following persons, with power to add to their number, and of delegates of Associated Societies:—

"Professor Adamson, Miss Gertrude Andrews, Mrs. Ashford, The Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Helen Blackburn, Miss Jessie Boucherett, Miss Frances Power Cobbe, Colonel Cotton-Jodrell, M.P., Miss Courtney, The Right Hon. Leonard Courtney, M.P., Miss Emily Davies, Miss F. Davenport-Hill, Captain Edwards-Heathcote, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Louisa Lady Goldsmid, Mrs. Hallett, Mrs. Haslam, Mrs. J. E. Mylne, Miss Mordan, Clara Lady Rayleigh, T. W. Russell, Esq., M.P., Mrs. Stephen Spring-Rice, Mrs. Sterling, Miss M. C. Sturge, Miss Tod, and Miss Vernon."

Moved by SIR WILFRID LAWSON, BART., M.P.
Seconded by REV. C. J. RIDGWAY.

RESOLUTION III.

"That this Meeting, while deeply regretting that the exigencies of public business have so far this session prevented any action in Parliament, urge on all friends of Women's Suffrage to strengthen the hands of their Parliamentary leaders by united effort to make the Appeal in favour of Women's Suffrage a truly national expression of opinion from women throughout the United Kingdom."

Moved by LADY KNIGHTLEY.
Seconded by MISS MORDAN.

RESOLUTION IV.

"That the best thanks of this Meeting be given to Viscount Wolmer for presiding on the present occasion."

Moved by MISS EMILY DAVIES.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

	DONATIONS			SUBSCRIPTIONS		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Adams, Mrs.				0	10	0
E. G. A.	100	0	0			
Addison, Mrs.				0	2	6
Allen, Miss Gray	9	12	0	1	0	0
Anderson, Miss				0	2	6
Anthony, Miss				0	4	0
Ashford, Mrs.				1	1	0
Atkin, Edward, Esq.				0	5	0
Atkinson, Mrs. Beavington				0	5	0
Austen, Mrs. Roberts				2	0	0
Aylmer, Miss				1	1	0
Babb, Miss				2	2	0
Babb, J. Staines, Esq.				1	1	0
Bailey, Miss				0	10	0
Balfour, The Lady Frances				2	2	0
Barnard, Stanley, Esq. (two years)				0	10	0
Barrett, Mrs. F.				1	1	0
Baxter, Mrs. Fleming				1	0	0
Baxter, Miss				0	5	0
Beale, Miss E. A.				1	1	0
Beechcroft, Miss				0	2	6
Bennett, Mrs. Ernest				0	5	0
Biggs, Miss Maude				2	2	0
Biggs, Miss Ashurst				1	1	0
Bird, Miss Lucy				0	10	0
Blacker, Miss				0	2	6
Blackmore, Miss				0	5	0
Boddy, Dr. Clarinda				0	5	0
Bonham Carter, Miss Alice	5	0	0	0	3	6
Borchardt, Miss				1	0	0
Bostock, Miss						
Boucherett, Miss Jessie	20	0	0	2	0	0
Bridges, Mrs.						
Brodie Hall, Miss	2	2	0			
Brooke, Mrs. C. J.	2	2	0			
Buchan, The Dowager Countess (the late)	2	0	0			
Buckland, Miss A. W.				0	2	
Burne, Miss				0	5	
Burt, Miss N. S.				0	2	0
Bush, The Misses				2	2	0
Butterfield, Mrs.				0	10	6
Byers, Mrs				0	10	6

	DONATIONS			SUBSCRIPTIONS		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charlesworth, Mrs.				0	5	0
Chickall, Miss				0	2	6
Clarke, Mrs. Benjamin				1	0	0
Clarke, Miss Stanley				0	2	6
Clutton, R. G., Esq.	5	0	0			
Colborne, Hon. Mrs.				0	10	0
Cotton, Mrs.				1	1	0
Courtenay, Miss	10	0	0			
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard, M.P.				1	0	0
Cowell, Mrs. H.				1	0	0
Coxhead, Miss				0	10	0
Crawford, Miss Sibella				0	5	0
Creewel, Miss				0	2	6
Crook, Mrs.				1	1	0
Cross, The Misses	0	5	0			
Crowe, Miss				1	0	0
Culme Seymour, Mrs.	2	2	0	2	2	0
Darwin, Mrs. Francis				1	0	0
Davenport Hill, Miss				1	1	0
Davenport Hill, Miss F.	5	0	0	1	1	0
Davies, Miss Emily				1	1	0
Debenham, Mrs. Wm.				0	10	0
Dimsdale, Baron	10	10	0	3	3	0
Donkin, Miss				0	5	0
Dublin Committee				1	0	0
Duer, The Misses				0	10	0
Dunn, Miss				1	1	0
Eaton, Mrs. Lauder				0	5	0
Eccles, Miss				5	0	0
Edmunds, Miss				1	1	0
Ely, Miss				0	5	0
Eve, Mrs.	1	0	0	0	10	0
Fawcett, Mrs. Henry	20	0	0	5	0	0
Fawcett, Miss				1	0	0
Fenwick, Mrs. Bedford				1	1	0
Ford, Miss I. O.				5	0	0
Ford, Miss E. H.				3	0	0
Ford, Rawlinson, Esq.				1	1	0
Ford, Rawlinson, Mrs.				1	1	0
Friend (per Mrs. Sterling)	25	0	0			
Garrett, Miss Agnes				2	0	0
Gilliatt, Mrs.				1	1	0
Goff, Miss				0	5	0
Goldsmid, Louisa, Lady	10	0	0	2	2	0
Gordon, Miss				0	10	0
Gore Booth, Misses				0	2	0
Gould, Miss A. B.	5	0	0			
Graves, Mrs.				0	2	6
Green, Miss H. E.				1	0	0
Grey, Mrs. Wm.	2	0	0	2	2	0
Griffith, The Dowager Lady Waldie				2	0	0
Griffiths, Miss E.				0	2	0

	DONATIONS	SUBSCRIPTIONS
Grove, Miss		0 10 0
Gurney, Miss M.		1 0 0
Gurney, Miss A.		1 0 0
Gwynne, Miss		0 10 0
Hallett, T. G. P., Esq., and Mrs.	10 0 0	0 5 0
Hamilton, Miss		0 2 6
Hamley, Miss		1 0 0
Harberton, Viscountess		0 5 0
Hardie, Miss Mabel		0 5 0
Hart, Miss M. H.		
Haweis, Mrs.	1 0 0	1 0 0
Haycraft, Mrs. (Brighton)		1 1 0
Heath, Mrs. Bayly		4 0 0
Higgins, Mrs. Napier (two years)	1 0 0	1 0 0
Higginson, Mrs.		1 1 0
Hill, Frederick, Esq.	2 0 0	0 2 6
Hill, Miss Emily		0 2 6
Hill, Miss Georgiana		3 3 0
Hodgson, Mrs. C. H.	3 3 0	2 0 0
Holland, Miss Mabel	10 0 0	0 2 6
Hope, Mrs. Curling		0 5 0
Howse, Mrs.		0 5 0
Hubbard, Mrs.		0 1 0
Hunter, Miss R.		
Jeffock, Mrs.		0 5 0
Jeffrey, Miss		0 10 0
Jex-Blake, Dr. Sophia		1 0 0
Johnson, Miss Lucy	11 0 0	1 1 0
Johnson, Miss Agnes		1 0 0
Jones, Miss Constance		1 1 0
Jones, Miss H. M.		0 5 0
Judd, Mrs.		0 2 6
"Jumbo"	0 5 0	
Kerr, Miss Malcolm	0 5 0	
Kensington, Miss		0 5 0
Lacey, Mrs. Bolton		0 10 0
L. A. J.	8 0 0	
Lafone, Alfred, Esq.		2 2 0
Lewin, Miss		0 4 0
Le Fanu, Mrs.		0 1 0
Light, Miss		1 1 0
Little, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. (Shanghai.)	2 2 0	
Lister, Miss Emma		0 5 0
<i>Luton Committee, per</i>		0 5 0
Alford, Mrs.		0 1 6
Baily, Mrs.		2 2 0
Bigg, Miss		0 5 0
Bigg, Miss, per		0 2 6
Boutwood, Mrs.		0 1 0
Carvell, Mrs.		0 2 0
Cook, Mrs. R. E.		0 1 0
Fairhurst, Mrs.		0 2 6
Hall, Mrs.		

	DONATIONS £ s. d.	SUBSCRIPTIONS £ s. d.
<i>Luton Committee—continued</i>		
Pearman, Mrs.		0 1 0
Plummer, Mrs.		0 1 0
Smart, Mrs.		0 1 0
Webb, Mrs. F. B.		0 2 6
Webdale, John, Esq.		0 5 0
Webster, Mrs.		0 5 0
Wootton, Mrs.		0 2 6
Wright, Mrs. Henry		0 5 0
Luttrell, Mrs. A.	1 1 0	
Lyttelton, the Hon. and Rev. Edward		1 1 0
Lyttelton, the Hon. Mrs. Edward		1 1 0
Mackintosh, Mrs.		0 2 6
Mac-Swinney, Mrs. R.		0 2 6
Maguire, Mrs.		0 2 6
Makovski, Stanislaus, Esq.		1 0 0
Makovski, Mrs.		1 0 0
Manning, Miss E. A.		1 1 0
Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. John	5 0 0	2 2 0
Marshall, Miss A.	0 5 0	
Marshall, Miss C.	0 5 0	
Martineau, Miss L. E.		1 0 0
Massey, Miss		0 5 0
Matheson, Lady	20 0 0	
Meinertzhagen, Miss		0 5 0
Mitchell, Mrs. (Llanfrechfa)		1 0 0
Mitchell, Mrs. (Kensington)	0 10 0	
Moore, Miss Ogle		0 2 6
Mordan, Miss	5 0 0	5 0 0
Mordan, Augustus, Esq.		1 0 0
Mosley, Miss		0 2 6
Mylne, Mrs. J. E.	5 0 0	0 10 0
Muller, Mrs.		2 2 0
Newman, Professor		1 0 0
Notcutt, Miss		0 5 0
O'Connor, Miss		0 5 0
Paine, Mrs. Lewis		0 5 0
Paley, Hon. Mrs.	5 0 0	2 0 0
Paull, Miss Lillie		0 2 6
Peters, Mrs. Ada B. S.	1 1 0	
Pierpont, Miss		0 2 6
Ponsonby, Hon. Mrs.		1 1 0
Pym, Mrs. Guy	1 1 0	1 1 0
Rayleigh, Clara, Lady	5 0 0	
Reid, Mrs.		0 2 6
Richardson, Miss (2 years)		2 0 0
Rippingall, F. T. S., Esq.	1 0 0	
Roberts, Sir Owen and Lady		2 2 0
Robarts, Miss		0 2 6
Robertson, Miss	1 0 0	1 0 0
Rolleston, Miss		0 1 0

	DONATIONS		SUBSCRIPTIONS	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Russell, Mrs. T. W.	-	-	0	10 0
Ruth, Miss	2	0 0	1	0 0
Sanderson, J., Esq.	-	-	1	1 0
Schaw-Protheroe, Miss	0	10 0	-	-
Scholefield, Mrs.	-	-	0	10 0
Scott, Mrs.	-	-	0	10 6
Shaen, Mrs.	10	0 0	1	1 0
Shaen, Miss	-	-	1	1 0
Shanks, Mrs.	-	-	0	2 6
Shedden, Mrs. R.	-	-	0	2 6
Shedden, Mrs. E. C.	-	-	0	2 6
Shedlock, Miss M. L.	-	-	0	1 0
Sidgwick, Prof. and Mrs. Henry	10	0 0	-	-
Sieveking, Miss	-	-	0	2 6
Singleton, Mrs.	-	-	0	2 6
Smith, Mrs. F. P.	-	-	0	5 0
Smith, Mrs. Murray	5	0 0	-	-
Smith, Mrs. St. Osythe Eustace	5	0 0	1	1 0
Spring Rice, Mrs. Stephen	-	-	1	1 0
Sterling, Mrs.	10	0 0	-	-
Sterling, Miss	-	-	2	0 0
Stevenson, Miss E.	-	-	1	1 0
Stone, Miss	-	-	1	0 0
Strange, Miss L. G.	-	-	1	1 0
Streatfield, Mrs.	-	-	2	2 0
Tabor, Miss M. C.	-	-	0	5 0
Tacey, Miss	-	-	2	0 0
Tacey, Miss Annie	-	-	2	0 0
Tacey, Miss Alice	8	0 0	2	0 0
Taylor, Mrs. (Chipchase Castle)	1	0 0	-	-
Tatlock, Miss	-	-	0	10 0
Temple, Sir Richard, Bt., M.P.	-	-	1	0 0
Thomas, Mrs. Charles	-	-	1	0 0
Thompson, Mrs. Percy	1	1 0	-	-
Thorne, Mrs.	-	-	0	5 0
Topham, Mrs. Alfred	-	-	0	2 6
Vansittart, Mrs.	-	-	0	5 0
Vickery, Dr. Alice	-	-	0	5 0
Vernon, Miss	-	-	0	10 0
Wainwright, Miss	-	-	0	5 0
Walker, Miss Abney	-	-	1	0 0
Walker, Miss J. H.	-	-	1	1 0
Walker, Mrs. Ingram	-	-	0	10 0
Wall, Miss Mack	-	-	0	10 0
Ward, Miss F. B.	-	-	0	2 6
Wedgwood, Miss Julia	2	0 0	0	10 0
Welsh, Miss	-	-	1	1 0
Westlake, Mrs.	5	0 0	-	-
Wilkinson, Miss L. M.	-	-	1	1 0
Wilkinson, Miss F.	-	-	1	1 0
Willson, Miss	-	-	0	5 0
Wilson, Miss Jane	1	0 0	-	-
Wilson, Miss	-	-	0	2 6
Wolmer, The Lady Maude	-	-	1	1 0

	DONATIONS		SUBSCRIPTIONS	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Wardale, The Rev. J.	-	-	2	0 0
Wright, Mrs. Almroth	1	0 0	1	0 0
Zimmermann, Miss	-	-	1	1 0

RECEIVED SINCE BOOKS MADE UP.

Adair, Mrs.	-	-	0	5 0
Baily, J. T. H., Esq.	-	-	0	5 0
Grimshawe, Mrs.	-	-	1	0 0
Heberden, Mrs.	-	-	0	2 6
Twining, Miss	1	1 0	-	-

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Abbott, Rev. Edwin A., D.D.
 Adair, Mrs. H. (Oxford)
 Adamson, Professor
 Agg-Gardner, J. T., Esq., M.P.
 Allen, Miss Gray (Londonderry)
 Andrews, Miss Gertrude
 Anderson, Mrs. Garrett, M.D.
 Anstruther, Louisa Lady
 Ashford, Mrs. (Birmingham)
 Atkinson, Miss (Manchester)
 Austen, Mrs. Roberts-
 Babb, Miss C. E.
 Bain, Sir James
 Baker, Miss M.
 Balfour, Eustace, Esq.
 Balfour, The Lady Frances
 Barnett, Mrs. S. A.
 Beddoe, John, Esq., M.D., F.R.S.
 Beddoe, Mrs.
 Bell, Miss Elizabeth
 Bell, Miss A. E.
 Bevan, Mrs. Wm.
 Bigg, Miss Louisa (Luton)
 Biggs, Miss Ashurst
 Blacker, Mrs. Louis
 Blackburn, Miss Helen
 Bostock, Miss
 Boucherett, Miss (Willingham)
 Boucherett, Miss Jessie
 Bousfield, W. R. Esq., M.P.
 Bousfield, Mrs. (Bedford)
 Bowring, Lady
 Bridges, Miss (Bath)
 Brodie-Hall, Miss L. W.
 Brook, Mrs. (Harewood Lodge,
 Meltham)
 Burrough, Mrs.
 Butterfield, Mrs. (Northampton)
 Byers, Mrs. (Belfast)
 Cayzer, C. W. Esq., M.P.
 Chamberlain, V. I., Esq.
 Chamberlain, Mrs. V. I.
 Champneys, Basil, Esq.
 Clarke, Mrs. Benjamin
 Clayton, N. G., Esq. (Hexham)
 Clayton, Mrs. N. G. (Hexham)
 Cobbe, Miss F. Power
 Cohen, B. L., Esq., M.P.
 Colborne, The Hon. Mrs.
 Collings, Jesse, Esq., M.P.
 Colville, Col.
 Cooper, Miss Laura
 Cotton-Jodrell, Col., M.P.
 Cotton-Jodrell, Mrs.
 Courtauld, Geo., Esq.
 Courtenay, Miss
 Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard, M.P.
 Crook, Mrs. (Bolton)
 Cross, Mrs. Joseph
 Darwin, Mrs. Francis
 Davenport-Hill, Miss
 Davenport-Hill, Miss F.
 Davies, Rev. Llewelyn
 Davies, Miss Emily
 Dimsdale, Baron,
 Donkin, Miss
 Drew, Miss Catherine
 Dunbar, Dr. Eliza W.
 Dunn, T. W., Esq., M.A. (Bath Coll.)
 Dunsany, Lord
 Eastwick-Field, Mrs.
 Eaton, Mrs. Lauder (Falmouth)
 Eccles, Miss
 Edwards-Heathcote, Capt.
 Egerton, The Hon. Lady Grey
 Eiloart, Mrs.
 Ellaby, Miss, M.D.
 Ellis, Miss
 Ewart, Lady (Belfast)
 Fawcett, Mrs. Henry
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NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

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

The Society seeks to achieve this object :—

1. By acting as a centre for the collection and diffusion of information with regard to the progress of the movement in all parts of the country.
2. By holding Public Meetings in support of the repeal of the Electoral Disabilities of women.
3. By the publication of Pamphlets, Leaflets, and other Literature bearing upon the question.

RULES.

PASSED AT THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE
 AND SUBSCRIBERS TO ITS FUNDS, HELD JULY 17TH, 1872.

1. The Central Committee shall consist of the present members and such others as the Executive Committee may, from time to time, elect.
2. The Executive Committee shall consist of members of the Central Committee, to be elected at the Annual General Meeting, and of single delegates, the same being members of Local Committees, appointed by Local Associations to represent them; the Executive Committee having power to add to the Central Committee, and to its own number, and to appoint the Officers.
3. A subscription of any amount constitutes membership of the National Society.
4. A General Meeting of the Central Committee shall be held once a year to appoint the Executive Committee, to receive the Annual Report and the Financial Statement, and to transact any other business which may arise.
5. The Executive Committee shall, at its first meeting, appoint the Officers.
6. A Special General Meeting may be called by the Executive Committee at any time; or, at the written request of not less than twenty-five members of the Central Committee the Secretary or Secretaries shall call a Special General Meeting to discuss such matters only as are mentioned in the notice of such meeting.
7. Eight days' public notice shall be given of all General Meetings.
8. The above rules shall not be altered except at a General Meeting, after fourteen days' notice of the proposed alteration given to the Executive Committee.

SOME PUBLICATIONS

Issued by the Central Committee.

OCCASIONAL PAPER containing the Debate in the House of

Commons, April 27th, 1892. *Price 3d.*

SPEECH OF THE RIGHT HON. A. J. BALFOUR, M.P., in the

House of Commons. *Price 1d.*

SPEECH OF SIR ALBERT KAYE ROLLIT, M.P., in the House of

Commons. *Price 1d.*

A REPLY TO THE LETTER OF MR. SMITH, M.P., on Women's

Suffrage, by Mrs. Fawcett. *Price 1d.*

THE WORK OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. A SKETCH. *Price 1d.*

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. Reasons for supporting the Extension

of the Franchise. *Price 1s. per 100.*

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National Society for Women's Suffrage

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Office:—10, GREAT COLLEGE STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESENTED AT THE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD IN THE

WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL

JULY 6th, 1894.

LONDON:

WOMEN'S PRINTING SOCIETY, LIMITED,
66, WHITCOMB STREET, W.C.

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

*To obtain the Parliamentary Franchise for Women on the same terms
it is or may be granted to men.*

Office:—10, GREAT COLLEGE STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

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Hon. Treasurer—Mrs. ASHWORTH HALLETT.

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NORTH OF IRELAND BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S
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DUBLIN SOCIETY, Established 1874.

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LEEDS NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—Established 1889.

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SPEECH

BY

PROF. R. C. JEBB, M.P.,

*At the Annual Meeting of the Central Committee of the National
Society for Women's Suffrage, May 31st, 1892.*

In supporting this resolution, I am glad to have an opportunity of indicating the reasons which led me to vote for Sir Albert Rollit's Bill on April 27th. The debate was an able one on both sides. Will you allow me to estimate, as concisely as possible, the position in which, as I conceive, it has left this great question?

The characteristic of Sir A. Rollit's Bill is that it affirms a general principle, but applies this principle only within certain limits, recommended by experience and convenience. The principle is that a woman should not be disqualified, merely because she is a woman, from exercising the rights of citizenship. The limits are those of the Municipal franchise, as already possessed by women.

The arguments used against the Bill were chiefly of two classes—those which impugned the general principle, and those which impugned the special form proposed for its application.

Among the arguments against the principle, the first was that which is derived from the physical constitution of women. This argument was urged in two forms. First: that the ultimate sanction of the law is physical force. But we reply that in civilised communities the exercise of this ultimate sanction is assigned to a certain portion of the community, specially organised and trained for that purpose, viz., the police, and, in the last resort, the military. Secondly: it was said that among the active duties of citizenship is that of fighting, at need, in defence of one's country. But there are great numbers of men who would be completely useless for that purpose; and yet no one proposes to disfranchise them.

The next argument was founded on the intellectual and moral characteristics of women. No one went so far as to say that women are intellectually incapable of exercising the franchise aright. But it was said that most women lack the requisite knowledge. Might not the same thing have been

said of the average rural labourer? Then, more generally, it was said that the nature of women is such that it would be deteriorated by bringing them into the turmoil of public life. But already large numbers of women take part in canvassing for Parliamentary candidates, in the business of committees, and in other electioneering work. Candidates of all opinions have been only too glad to avail themselves of such services. If women can do all this without degradation, they can also support the ordeal of being canvassed, and of recording a vote. It cannot be reasonably maintained that the temperament of women, however much it may normally differ from that of men, affords any ground for excluding them from the franchise. Gloomy prophecies were uttered as to the probable effects on domestic life; but no serious attempt was made to show exactly how such effects would be produced by the possession of a vote. Prophecies of a similar kind were equally rife at the time when women first obtained control over their own property; but they have not been realised.

I turn now from the arguments against the principle to the arguments against the limited form proposed for its application. It was urged, first, that there is no proper analogy between the Municipal and the Parliamentary franchise. It is true that the Municipal franchise rests on a distinct ground, the payment of rates. But the difference between the function of the Municipal voter and that of the Parliamentary voter is a difference merely of degree, not of kind; it depends on the fact that the questions submitted to the Parliamentary voter are more various and more important. If the possessor of the Municipal vote is capable of using the Parliamentary vote aright, the fact that the Municipal franchise rests on the payment of rates is not, in itself, a reason against conferring the higher franchise. It was further objected that, on the Municipal basis, the Parliamentary franchise would still be withheld from a large class of self-dependent women who are not householders but merely lodgers. In reply it may be pointed out that the women householders whom it is proposed to enfranchise would be very largely in sympathy with the needs of their unenfranchised sisters, and would be able to make those needs understood. The reason for taking the Municipal basis is that it represents a limit within which Parliament has already given a vote to women, and within which a trained electorate of women exists. This area also coincides roughly with that category of women whose claim to the franchise is most obviously just, viz., self-dependent women householders, who bear the burdens of citizenship, while they are excluded from representative rights.

The argument which told most against the Bill was undoubtedly the argument from "the inclined plane." It was

said that this Bill would initiate a process which must ultimately lead to womanhood suffrage—when the women voters would outnumber the men—and to women sitting in Parliament. I fully admit that legislators are bound to consider such ulterior consequences of their present action as can be shown to be either necessary or strongly probable. But in this case we must distinguish between two kinds of possible consequences, which opponents of the Bill confused. First, with regard to possible future extension of women's franchise beyond the Municipal basis. Here it is enough to reply that the Municipal basis is a well-defined limit which we are now justified in adopting, and which could be defended at any future time by the same reasons which justify it now. It is impossible to foresee all the circumstances under which a further extension of the male franchise may hereafter be urged, or the modifications in the area of the franchise of women which might then be suggested: but it is precisely one advantage of the Municipal basis of the concession, as now proposed, that it does not by any logical necessity commit us to ulterior developments: we leave the circumstances of the future to the discretion of those who will have to deal with them. A fallacy sometimes lurks in a metaphor, and the inclined plane is here a metaphor of that sort. The process really represented by the proposed measure is not that of setting a ball rolling down a slope; it is rather that of taking in part of a wide field, by setting up a barrier which those who come after us will be perfectly able to maintain if they choose. Now, as to the other kind of consequence foreshadowed by opponents of the Bill—that women will claim seats in Parliament, will hold office, and sit in the Cabinet: the answer is that there is a fundamental difference between having a voice in the election of persons who are to exercise certain functions, and being admitted to the exercise of those functions. Clergymen can vote for members of Parliament, but cannot sit in the House of Commons. It is wholly unwarrantable to say that women's enfranchisement would logically lead to their being made eligible for seats in Parliament. The reasons against women sitting in Parliament are absolutely independent of the arguments for or against giving them the franchise.

Lastly, certain arguments were employed which had a wider scope, since they might equally be used against extending the franchise to a new category of men. It was alleged that women have no longer any grievances which make it desirable that any of them should obtain the franchise. On this point three things may be said. First, experience shows that the extension of the franchise is apt to be followed by the revelation of needs and desires deeply felt by those to whom it is extended, but not disclosed or fully appreciated before.

Thus the enfranchisement of the £10 occupier in 1832 led to the opening of the Municipal Corporations; the enfranchisement of the urban householder in 1867 led to National Education; the enfranchisement of the rural labourer in 1885 has led to allotments and small holdings. Secondly, even now women are known to have some causes of complaint which are not likely to be removed until some women have votes. It is enough to mention the Divorce Laws, the law relating to the custody of children, and—to take an instance affecting many thousands of poor working women—the need for women inspectors in the textile factories. Thirdly, in all those social questions which concern women there is a great difference between direct and indirect Parliamentary representation. Only when women have some direct voice in Parliamentary elections can we be sure that we shall have these questions put before us from those points of view from which women themselves regard them. Then there is the often repeated assertion that women themselves do not desire the franchise. Before 1885, did any unanimous prayer for enfranchisement go up from agricultural labourers? Nay, did they evince anything like such an active desire for it as has been evinced by great numbers of women all over the country? What have women left undone, to show this desire, that it was possible for them to do? They have organised committees, they have held meetings, they have spoken and written. It is not a relevant answer that many other women are apathetic or adverse.

If I might conclude with a word of counsel, though I feel diffidence in offering anything of the kind to such a meeting as this, it would be that the friends of this movement should subordinate all minor differences, and concentrate their efforts on an endeavour to pass into law a measure on the lines laid down in the Bill which lately came so near to success.

ANNUAL REPORT

Presented at the Annual Meeting, July 6th, 1894.

THE session of 1894 opened with an apparently hopeful prospect that the consideration of Women's Suffrage would arise on the Registration Bill which the Government announced as one of their intended measures. Hope was yet further encouraged when the Period of Qualification and Elections Bill was printed, and it was positively known to deal, not simply with Registration, but to contain clauses which would involve both enfranchisement and disfranchisement. As soon as the Bill had passed second reading on May 4th, Viscount Wolmer, M.P., gave notice of an Instruction in the same terms as last year.

“On order for Committee on Period of Qualification and Elections Bill being read to move, That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to provide for the Registration of duly qualified women to vote at Parliamentary Elections.”

Mr. W. S. B. McLaren, M.P., also set down a motion:—

“On order for Committee on Period of Qualification and Elections Bill being read to move, That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to insert provisions in the Bill to extend the Parliamentary Franchise to women.”

As a preparation for all further contingencies Viscount Wolmer also gave notice of an Amendment:—

“Clause 2, page 2, line 33, after ‘qualified,’ insert,—

“(3) It shall be the duty of the overseers to include in the Parliamentary Register, whether under this section or otherwise, the names of all women, who, if men, would be duly qualified, and every woman so registered shall be entitled to vote at any Parliamentary Election for the county, borough, or other division where the qualifying property is situate.”

As the session advanced, however, it became increasingly doubtful whether the Bill would reach the stage for either

Instruction or Amendment, so that all the preparations made by your Committee for direct support of Viscount Wolmer's motion were necessarily held in abeyance.

Meantime your Committee have concentrated their efforts on the work of the Appeal from women in favour of Women's Suffrage, the arrangements for which were first publicly announced at the Annual Meeting held on July 11th, 1893. The combined effort to promote this Appeal has formed the principal feature of the Women's Suffrage work during the past year. The Appeal has given a common rallying point for all workers for Women's Suffrage, and combined with the expectation of a debate coming forward on an amendment to a Government measure, has been the means of calling forth widespread interest. The very fact that more than 3,500 women have assisted in collecting signatures in England and Wales is proof of this. The total number of signatures collected is 248,674.

The number of meetings held in the past season is wholly unprecedented in the annals of the movement. These were not confined to the Women's Suffrage Societies; many having been arranged by local committees specially formed for the purpose of supporting the Appeal, as well as by local political organisations. The appended list is exclusive of meetings held by political organisations, as well as of those organised in direct connection with the Society at 29, Parliament Street. In Halifax, Liverpool, and Mansfield, permanent Women's Suffrage Committees have resulted from the meetings held.

The work of the Appeal has also given an impetus to the circulation of literature, and there is no item in their expenditure to which the Committee have reason to look with greater satisfaction than to the increased amount for printing leaflets and other publications.

Your Committee would draw special attention to a small volume entitled, *British Freewomen, the History of their Privilege*, by Mrs. Stopes. This compendious account of the historical and constitutional aspect of the question, compiled with

careful research amongst original documents and old records, will shortly appear in an enlarged form, published by Messrs. Swan, Sonnenschein & Co.; the form in which it was first printed can be obtained at the office of your Committee, and will form a valuable book of reference for students and workers in the movement.

The thanks of your Committee are due to Sir John Hall, K.C.M.G., for the gift of 1,200 copies of his speech when moving a resolution in support of Women's Suffrage in the New Zealand House of Representatives on August 5th, 1890.

The absence of progress in our legislature at home is in some measure counterbalanced by the cheerful tidings from New Zealand, where the new Electoral law which includes women as electors on the same terms as men, received the assent of the Governor, Lord Glasgow, on September 19th, 1893. The General Election followed on November 28th, and in the interval 109,461 women were placed on the register, and 90,290 recorded their votes; the polling taking place, as all reliable accounts testify, with more than usual order and tranquillity. For purposes of comparison it may be of interest to add that the total number of men on the register was 177,701, of whom 124,439 recorded their votes.

The passage of the Local Government Act creating Parish and District Councils is an additional indication of the growing willingness to admit the individual rights and duties of women in matters of internal administration and local policy.

By Clause 43 it is enacted that :—

“For the purposes of this Act a woman shall not be disqualified by marriage for being on any local government register of electors or for being an elector of any local authority, provided that a husband and wife shall not both be qualified in respect of the same property.”

This clause was added in Committee of the House of Commons, by the President of the Local Government Board, the Hon. H. H. Fowler, in deference to an Instruction moved

or by Mr. W. S. B. McLaren, and carried on November 16th by a majority of 21, *viz.*, 147 to 126.

The death of Mrs. Cowen, Hon. Sec. of the Nottingham Women's Suffrage Committee, has removed an earnest and steadfast worker, one who for many years had carefully utilized every opportunity to promote the cause of women in Nottingham.

By the death of Lord Coleridge, Lord Chief Justice of England, the Women's Suffrage cause has lost an early friend. As member for Exeter Lord Coleridge both spoke and voted in support of the Women's Electoral Disabilities Removal Bill in 1872. Previous to that he had defended the cause of the 5,347 women who claimed their right to vote (in the case of Chorlton *versus* Lings) before the Court of Common Pleas in November, 1868.

To turn to the future. Your Committee trust that the increased vitality which the movement has shown in the past will be continued in the coming year, and that it will reveal itself both in the form of personal work and of increased numbers of subscribers. Without the latter, the work must be hampered, which would be doubly lamentable at a time when opportunities for spreading it are largely on the increase.

The same friend who gave £100 in 1892 and in 1893, will do so again in 1894, if a further sum of £200 is promised. The Committee entreat their well-wishers to enable them to avail themselves of this generous offer, that whatever the exigencies of the work in preparation for the next session, they may be found ready.

RECORD OF MEETINGS.

DATE.	PLACE.	DESCRIPTION.	CHAIRMAN.	SPEAKERS.
Aug.	Reigate	Drawing Room Meeting, by invitation of Mrs. Powell	Mrs. Sambrook ..	Miss Mordan
" 29	Ventnor (Albert Hall) ..	Lecture (organised by Miss Malcolm Kerr)	Mr. Albert Bull, C.C.	Miss Mordan
Sept. 13	Luton	Conference at Lyndhurst House (in connection with Luton W. S. Committee)	Alderman Blundell	Miss D. Roberts, Prof. Viriamu Jones, Miss Wright, Miss Blackburn
" 13	Nottingham (Central Hall) ..	"At Home" of Notts. W. S. Committee	Mrs. Cowen ..	Mrs. G. P. Fuller, Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, Mrs. Emma Marshall
Oct. 7	Bradford-on-Avon (The Chantry)	Drawing Room Meeting, given by Mrs. Beddoe	Mr. Lewis Fry ..	Mrs. Fawcett
" 10	Mansfield (Albert Street Hall)	Public Meeting, organised by Mansfield W. S. Committee	Mr. H. E. Hollins	Mrs. Rylands, Mrs. Ashford, Mrs. Fellowes, Mrs. Hallwright, Mrs. Sonnenschein
" 12	Manchester (Congregational Hall, Eldon Street)	Public Meeting	Mr. Councillor Southern	Mrs. Fawcett
" 13	Edgbaston (Birmingham Committee)	Drawing Room Meeting (Mrs. H. N. Rylands) .. .. .	.. .. .	Mrs. Rylands, Mrs. Ashford, Mrs. Fellowes, Mrs. Hallwright, Mrs. Sonnenschein
" 19	Toynbee Hall	Lecture .. .. .	.. .. .	Mrs. Fawcett
" 23	Bristol (69, Park Street)	Conference of Workers	Mrs. Beddoe.	Lady Sawyer, Mrs. Phills, Miss Martin
" 23	Handsworth (Birmingham Committee)	Drawing Room Meeting (Mrs. Wilkinson)	Mrs. Ashford	W. H. Browell, Esq., Rev. T. R. Stebbing, Miss Blackburn
" 24	Tunbridge Wells (Sussex Assembly Rooms)	Meeting, by invitation of Miss Stapleton	Mrs. Fawcett	Miss Mordan
" "	Falmouth (Pennance House)	Drawing Room Meeting, by invitation of Mrs. Lauder Eaton	Mrs. Genn	Miss Mordan
" 30	Truro (Bosvigo House) ..	Drawing Room Meeting, by invitation of Miss L. Powell	Rev. R. E. S. Buck	Miss Mordan

DATE.	PLACE.	DESCRIPTION.	CHAIRMAN.	SPEAKERS.
Oct. 30	Oxford (105, Banbury Road)	Drawing Room Meeting, by invitation of Mrs. Adair	Mrs. A. Johnson..	Miss Blackburn
Nov. 2	Harborne (Birmingham W. S. Committee)	Drawing Room Meeting (Mrs. Godlea)	.. .. .	Mrs. Fellowes, Mrs. Ashford
" 4	Northampton (Old Reading Room, Town Hall)	Public Meeting	Lady Knightley ..	Mrs. Pender, Mrs. Hickson, Lord Knightley, Mrs. Manfield, Mr. Manfield, M.P., Miss Blackburn, Mayor and Mayor Elect
" 6	Newcastle-on-Tyne (Y.W.C.A., Saville Place)	Conference of Workers, organised by Mrs. T. Taylor	.. .. .	.. .. .
" 7	Leeds (Braysher's Rooms, Bond Street)	"At Home," by invitation of the Leeds W. S. Committee	Mrs. Edward Walker ..	Mrs. Beddoe, Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Arthur Lyttelton, Miss I. O. Ford, Miss Blackburn, Miss Connon
" 8	Huddersfield (Mayor's Parlour)	Afternoon Public Meeting, organised by Mrs. Brook	Dr. Macgregor ..	Mrs. Fawcett
" "	Birmingham (Birmingham Committee)	Drawing Room Meeting (Mrs. Hallwright)	Mrs. Ashford ..	Mrs. J. K. Reid, Miss Bourly, Mrs. Farrow
" 13	Melbourne Vicarage (near Derby)	Drawing Room Meeting, by invitation of Mrs. Singleton	Canon Singleton..	Miss Mordan, Mr. Briggs, R.C.
" 14	St. Peter's, Red Lion Square..	Address to Mothers' Meeting .. ..	.. .. .	Mrs. Fawcett
" 15	Brighton (Mayor's Parlour) ..	Conference of Workers	Mrs. Haycraft ..	.. .. .
" 18	Cambridge Training College..	Lecture .. .. .	.. .. .	Mrs. Fawcett
" 21	Handsworth	Drawing Room Meeting, Mrs. Pearson	Mrs. Darby Weston	Mrs. Reid, Mrs. Phillip
" "	Mosley (Birmingham Committee)	Drawing Room Meeting, Mrs. J. Smith	.. .. .	Mrs. E. E. Matthews, Mrs. Phillip, Miss Norah Morris
" "	Barnt Green (Birmingham Committee)	Drawing Room Meeting, Mrs. H. Lee..	Mrs. J. Moore Bazley	Mrs. Osler, Mrs. Eric Carter, Mrs. Ashford
" 23	Clerkenwell	Address to Factory Girls .. .. .	.. .. .	Mrs. Fawcett
" 27	Southport	Annual Meeting of the Guild of the Unrepresented	Mr. J. J. Cockshott	Mrs. Mallet

DATE.	PLACE.	DESCRIPTION.	CHAIRMAN.	SPEAKERS.
Nov. 28	Withington (Town Hall) ..	Public Meeting	Mr. J. Southam ..	Mrs. Fawcett
" 29	Manchester (Memorial Hall)	Annual Meeting	Rev S.A. Steinthal	Mrs. Fawcett
" 30	Eccles (Hon. Mrs. A. Lyttleton)	Drawing Room Meeting .. .. .	.. .. .	Mrs. Fawcett
Dec. 1	Clifton (Clifton Down Hotel)	Meeting of Ladies	Mrs. Ashworth Hallett	Miss Balfour, Mrs. Beddoe
" 2	Brighton (Prestonville) ..	Drawing Room Meeting given by Mrs. Martindale	Mrs. Longton ..	Mrs. Morgan-Browne
" 5	Brighton (Sussex Square) ..	.. .. .	Miss M. Lawrence	Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Morgan-Browne
" 2	Walworth (St. John's Schools)	Lecture .. .. .	.. .. .	Miss Mordan
" 7	South Kensington (Bramham Gardens)	Drawing Room Meeting, Misses Jacomb Hood	.. .. .	Miss Mordan, Miss Stackpoole, Miss Blackburn
" 8	Kettering	Meeting .. .. .	.. .. .	Mrs. Fawcett
" 11	Tynemouth (St. Oswin's Hall)	Public Meeting	Mrs. Taylor, of Chipchase ..	Mrs. Fawcett
" 11	Liverpool	Meeting organised by Mrs. Alan Bright	.. .. .	Mrs. Fawcett
" 11	Newcastle-on-Tyne (Art Gallery)	Public Meeting	Alderman W. D. Stephens ..	Mrs. Fawcett, Mr. Geo. Benwick, Mrs. Spence Watson
" 12	Shields (Congregational Hall)	Public Meeting	Mrs. Taylor of Chipchase ..	Mrs. Fawcett
" 13	Jarrow (Mechanics' Institute)	Public Meeting	Mr. W. S. Dalglish	Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. John Winbolt
Jan. 8	St. Mary's, Charing Cross ..	Address to Mothers' Meeting .. ..	.. .. .	Mrs. Fawcett
" 8	College for Men and Women	At Home .. .. .	.. .. .	Mrs. Fawcett
" 10	Ilfracombe	Drawing Room Meeting by invitation of Miss Tickell	.. .. .	Miss Down, Mrs. McMichael
" 25	Wilton Place, London ..	Drawing Room Meeting by invitation of Mrs. Algernon Joy	Mr. Joy	Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Westlake
" "	Sale	Drawing Room Meeting by invitation of Mrs. Rooke	Miss Atkinson ..	Mrs. Sheldon Amos, Rev. Carey Bonner
" 26	Gorton (Old Endowed School-room)	Public Meeting in connection with the Manchester W. S. Society	{ Mr. H. P. Ilderton Mrs. Wilson	Mrs. Sheldon Amos, Hon. Mrs. A. Lyttelton Mrs. Sheldon Amos
" "	Rochdale (Parish Room) }			

DATE.	PLACE.	DESCRIPTION	CHAIRMAN.	SPEAKERS.
Jan. 30	Bloomsbury (Vestry Hall) ..	Public Meeting	Rev. A. B. Boyd-Carpenter	Mrs. Fawcett
Feb. 8	Niddry Lodge, Campden Hill	Drawing Room Meeting by kind permission of Miss Mabel Holland	Mr. Richard Shore	Dr. E. A. Abbot, Mrs. Fawcett
" 13	Wandsworth	Drawing Room Meeting by invitation of Mrs. Shillington	Mr. Shillington	Mrs. Fawcett
" 14	Pioneer Club	For Members and Friends	Mrs. Massingberd	
" 15	Somers Town (Blind Aid Society)	Organised by Mrs. Starey In connection with Mr. W. Lester's Chapel		
" 29	Portland Street Schoolroom			
Feb. 16	Haverstock Hill	Drawing Room Meeting by invitation of Mrs. St. Osyth Eustace Smith	Mr. E. K. Blyth..	Miss Louisa Bigg, Miss Blackburn
" 19	Wimbledon	Drawing Room Meeting by invitation of Mrs. H. W. Lawrence .. .. .	.. .. .	Mrs. Fawcett
" 26	Leytonstone (Iron Room) ..	Public Meeting ar. by Rev. W. Manning, Vicar of St Andrew's	Rev. W. Manning	Mrs. Fawcett
" "	Birkenhead	Public Meeting	Dr. Alice Kerr ..	Mrs. Mallet, Miss Mellor, etc.
" 28	Stamford Hill	Meeting at the Skinners' School for Girls, arranged by Miss Page	.. .. .
" 29	West London Mission Cleveland Hall	Address to Mothers' Meeting		Mrs. Fawcett
Mar. 2	Battersea Polytechnic	Debate	Sidney Wells, Esq.	
" 5	St. Anne's, Soho	Address to Mothers' Meeting	Rev. Cardrell, Vic.	
" 6	Memorial Hall	Address to Meeting of Association of Board School Mistresses		
" 7	Ipswich (Public Hall).. .. .	Public Meeting arran. by Local Committee	Captain Pretyman	Mrs. Fawcett, Mr. W. McLaren, M.P., Mr. L. R. Everett, M.P.
" 9	York Place (Baker Street) ..	Meeting for Teachers, ar. by Miss Franks	Mr. Francis Storr	Mrs. Fawcett
" 12	Highbury (New Park)	Drawing Room Meeting by kind permission of Miss Mallett	Mrs. John Hullah	Mrs. Benjamin Clarke, Miss Griffin, Miss Blackburn
" 13	Cheltenham (Corn Exchange)	Meeting arranged by Local Committee	The Mayor ..	Mrs. Fawcett

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DATE.	PLACE.	DESCRIPTION.	CHAIRMAN.	SPEAKERS.
Mar. 14	Bath (Guild Hall)	Meeting by invitation of Ladies.. ..	Lady Blaine ..	Mrs. Fawcett, General Coningham, Dr. Beddoe, Mrs. Hallett, &c.
" 21	New Cross	Public Meeting arranged by Mrs. Norfolk	Mrs. Greenwood	Mrs. Stanbury, Rev. Brooke Lambert
" 21	Anderton's Hotel	Address to Society of "Cemented Bricks"	Mr. John Hobson	Mrs. Fawcett
Apr. 12	Buckingham (Oddfellows' Hall)	Public Meeting arran. by Mrs. Cheeseman	John Marshall, Esq	Miss Blackburn
" 11	Accrington	In connection with Manchester W. S. Com.		Mrs. Fawcett
" 12	Halifax	Organised by Local Committee	Rev. Canon Brook	Mrs. Fawcett
" 13	Liverpool (Temperance Hall)	Arranged by Liverpool W. S. Committee	Sir E. R. Russell	Hon. Mrs. Arthur Lyttelton, Mrs. Alfred Booth
" "	Harrogate (Spa Concert Room)	In connection with the Manchester W. S. Committee	Mrs. Cannon ..	Mrs. Fawcett, Mr. J. W. Willans, Dr. Williams
" 26	St. Nicholas Club, Queen Victoria Street	Lecture to Members of Club	Mrs. Shuttleworth	Miss Blackburn
June 28	Worthing	Drawing Room Meeting by invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Mordan	Rev. Dr. Springett	Miss Mordan, Miss Abney Walker, Miss H. E. Green

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NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.
CENTRAL COMMITTEE, 10, GREAT COLLEGE STREET, WESTMINSTER.

Receipts and Payments from 1st July, 1893, to June 30th, 1894.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
Balance, 1st July, 1893	208	1	3
Donations	124	10	0
Subscriptions	186	11	0
Sale of Publications, etc.	18	0	10
Interest on Deposit Account	0	11	1

PAYMENTS.

	£	s.	d.
Rent	...	...	...
Office Expenses	...	...	...
Salaries	...	...	...
Meetings and Advertisements	...	...	...
Stationery, etc.	...	...	...
Printing and Publications	...	...	...
Postage and Telegrams	...	...	...
Secretary's Travelling Expenses	...	...	...
Newspapers and Parliamentary Papers	...	...	...
Legal Expenses	...	...	...
Women's Suffrage Appeal	...	...	...
Balance at Banker's ...	...	5	3
Cash in hand	...	0	11

£537 14 2

£537 14 2

Examined, compared with the books and vouchers, and found correct,

M. HARRIS SMITH, Auditor,

(Public Accountant),
13, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., and
Royal Bank Building, 123, Bishopsgate Street Within, London, E.C.

July 6th, 1894.

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.
General Annual Meeting of the Central Committee, Westminster
Town Hall, July 6th, 1894.

THE RIGHT HON. LEONARD COURTNEY, M.P. in the Chair.

RESOLUTION I.

"That this Meeting adopt the Report and Financial Statement and direct that they be printed and circulated."
Moved by THE RT. HON. SIR GEORGE GREY, K.C.B.
Seconded by MISS IRBY.

RESOLUTION II.

"That the Executive Committee for the ensuing year consist of the following persons, with power to add to their number, and of delegates of Associated Societies:—
"Miss Grey Allen, Miss Gertrude Andrews, Mrs. Ashford, The Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Helen Blackburn, Miss Jessie Boucherett, Colonel Cotton-Jodrell, M.P., Miss Courtenay, The Right Hon. Leonard Courtney, M.P., Miss Emily Davies, Miss F. Davenport-Hill, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Louisa Lady Goldsmid, Mrs. Hallett, Mrs. Haslam, Mrs. J. E. Mylne, Miss Mordan, Clara Lady Rayleigh, T. W. Russell, Esq., M.P., Mrs. Steven Spring-Rice, Mrs. Sterling, Miss Tod, Miss Vernon, and Mrs. Evans Williams."
Moved by B. L. COHEN, Esq., M.P.
Seconded by MISS SPENCE (South Australia).

RESOLUTION III.

"That this Committee, while regretting that the course of Parliamentary business has been such as to render it impossible for their Parliamentary leaders to bring forward any motion for Women's Suffrage in the House of Commons this session, earnestly entreat all friends of the cause to co-operate, whether by money or work, in extending the Appeal from women in favour of Women's Suffrage, and thereby strengthen the hands of their supporters in the legislature."
Moved by MRS. FAWCETT.
Seconded by MISS FLORA STEVENSON.

RESOLUTION IV.

"That the best thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. Courtney for presiding."
Moved by MISS LOUISA BIGG.
Seconded by MRS. MYLNE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	DONATIONS		SUBSCRIPTIONS	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Adair, Mrs.				
Allen, Miss Gray			0	5 0
Anderson, Miss A.			1	0 0
Anderson, Miss I.			0	2 6
Anderson, Miss S. (Peckham)			0	2 6
Anthony, Miss			0	2 6
Angell, Mr. Arthur Torrington			0	4 0
Arlidge, Mrs.	0	2 0		
Ashford, Mrs.	0	5 0		
Atkinson, Mrs. Beavington			1	1 0
Austen, Mrs. Roberts			0	5 0
Ayrton, Mrs.			2	2 0
			1	1 0
Baily, Mr. J. T. H.				
Balfour, The Lady Frances			0	5 0
Barnard, Mr. Stanley			2	2 0
Barratt, Mrs. Francis			0	5 0
Baxter, Miss			1	0 0
Baxter, Mrs. Fleming			0	5 0
Beachcroft, Miss			1	0 0
Beale, Miss E.A.			0	2 6
Bennett, Mrs.			1	1 0
Bertram, Mrs. D. E.			0	5 0
Bewicke, Mrs. Calverley			0	10 0
Biggs, Miss Maude	0	10 0		
Biggs, Miss Ashurst			2	2 0
Bird, Miss			1	1 0
Blacker, Miss			0	10 0
Boddy, Dr. Clarinda			0	2 6
Borchardt, Miss			0	5 0
Bostock, Miss			0	2 6
Boucherett, Miss Jessie			1	0 0
Bridges, Mrs.	10	0 0		
Bright, Mrs.			2	0 0
Browne, Miss Jessica	1	1 0		
Buchan, The Dowager Countess (the late)			0	2 6
Buckland, Miss A. W.	20	0 0		
Bullock, Mrs.			0	2 6
Burne, Miss	0	5 0		
Burt, Miss N. S.			0	5 0
Bushe, Miss			0	2 6
Butterfield, Mrs.			2	2 0
			0	10 0
Chadwicke, Miss Marion				
Channing, Mrs. Pearce			0	10 0
Charlesworth, Mrs.			0	5 0
			0	5 0

	DONATIONS		SUBSCRIPTIONS	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Cheltenham Committee				
Chickhall, Miss			0	2 6
Clarke, Mrs. Benjamin			0	10 0
Clarke, Miss Stanley			0	2 6
Colborne, The Hon. Mrs.			0	10 0
Cooper, Miss Amy			0	2 6
Cotton, Mrs.			1	1 0
Courtauld, Mr. George				
Courtenay, Miss	5	0 0		
Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard, M. P.	10	0 0		
Cowell, Mrs. Hubert			1	0 0
Coxhead, Miss			1	0 0
Crawford, Mrs.			0	10 0
Crawford, Miss Sibella			2	0 0
Crewel, Miss			0	5 0
Crook, Mrs.			0	2 6
Croze, Miss			1	1 0
Culme Seymour, Mrs.			1	0 0
			1	1 0
Darwin, Mrs. Francis			1	0 0
Davenport Hill, Miss F.			1	0 0
Davenport Hill, Miss	5	0 0		
Davies, Miss Emily			1	1 0
Davis, Mrs. Israel (2 years)			1	0 0
Dawson, Mr. Arthur			1	0 0
Debenham, Mrs. Wm.			0	1 0
Dimsdale, Baron			0	10 0
Donkin, Miss			3	3 0
Dublin Committee			0	5 0
Duer, The Misses			1	0 0
Dunn, Miss			0	10 0
			1	1 0
Eccles, Miss			5	0 0
Edge, Miss C. E.			0	2 6
Egerton, The Hon. Lady Grey			2	0 0
Eve, Mrs.			0	10 0
Eyre, Miss			0	3 0
			0	3 0
Fawcett, Mrs. Henry			5	0 0
Fawcett, Miss	10	0 0		
Fennell, Mrs.			0	10 0
Finch, Mrs.			0	2 0
Fitzgerald, Mrs. Penrose	0	10 0		
Fitzgerald, Miss	0	10 0		
Fitzgerald, Miss F.			0	2 6
Ford, Mrs. Rawlinson			0	2 6
Ford, Mr. Rawlinson			1	1 0
Friend, at Newcastle			1	1 0
			1	0 0
Garrett, Miss Agnes			2	0 0
Gilliatt, Mrs.			1	1 0
Goff, Miss A.			0	5 0
Goldsmid, Louisa Lady			0	5 0
Gordon, Miss	10	0 0		
Graves, Mrs.			2	2 0
Grey, Mrs. William			0	10 0
Griffith, The Dowager Lady Waldie			0	2 6
			2	2 0
			2	0 0

	DONATIONS		SUBSCRIPTIONS	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Grimshaw, Mrs.	-	-	-	1 0 0
Grove, Miss	-	-	-	0 10 0
Gurney, Miss A.	-	-	-	1 0 0
Gurney, Miss M.	-	-	-	1 0 0
Hallett, Mrs. Ashworth	-	-	5 0 0	2 2 0
Hallwright, Mrs.	-	-	-	0 5 0
Hamilton, Miss Mary	-	-	-	0 5 0
Hamley, Miss	-	-	-	0 2 6
Harberton, Viscountess	-	-	-	1 0 0
Harvey, Miss	-	-	-	0 2 6
Heberden, Mrs.	-	-	-	0 2 6
Herringham, Mrs. (2 years)	-	-	-	2 0 0
Higgins, Mrs. Napier	-	-	-	2 0 0
Hill, Mr. Frederick	-	-	-	1 1 0
Hill, Miss Emily	-	-	-	0 2 6
Hill, Miss Georgina	-	-	-	0 2 6
Hodgson, Mrs. C. H.	-	-	-	3 3 0
Holland, Miss Mabel	-	-	-	2 0 0
" " " Collected at Meeting	10 0 0			
Hopkins, Miss Alice		2 13 0		
Howse, Mrs. (2 years)	-	-	-	0 10 0
Hubbard, Mrs.	-	-	-	0 10 0
Hunter, Miss	-	-	-	0 5 0
Jeffcock, Mrs.	-	-	-	0 5 0
Jervis, Miss E. H.	-	-	-	0 2 6
Jex-Blake, Dr. Sophia	-	-	-	1 0 0
Johnson, Miss Lucy	-	-	10 0 0	1 0 0
Johnson, Miss Agnes	-	-	-	1 0 0
Jones, Miss Constance	-	-	-	1 1 0
Jones, Miss H. M.	-	-	-	0 5 0
Kensington, Miss	-	-	-	0 5 0
Kent, Mr. Beaumont	-	-	-	0 0 6
Lacey, Mrs. Bolton	-	-	-	0 10 0
Lafone, Mr. Alfred	-	-	-	2 2 0
L.A.J.	-	-	3 3 0	
Lawrence, Miss M.	-	-	-	1 1 0
Lawrence, Miss D.	-	-	-	1 1 0
Lawrence, Miss P.	-	-	-	1 1 0
Leeds Society for Women's Suffrage	-	-	-	0 10 0
Lehmann, Miss O.	-	-	-	0 10 0
Lewin, Miss	-	-	-	0 4 0
Lester, Miss E. L.	-	-	-	0 5 0
Lord, Miss	-	-	-	0 5 0
Lyon, Mrs. Edward	-	-	-	0 10 0
Lyttelton, The Hon. and Rev. Edward	-	-	-	1 1 0
Lyttelton, The Hon. Mrs. Edward	-	-	-	1 1 0
Maguire, Mrs.	-	-	-	0 2 6
Manning, Miss E. A.	-	-	-	1 1 0
Makovski, Mr.	-	-	-	1 1 0
Makovski, Mrs.	-	-	-	1 1 0
Marshall, Mrs. John	-	-	-	1 1 0
Marshall, Mr. John	-	-	-	1 1 0
Marshall, Mrs. M. D.	-	-	-	0 5 0

	DONATIONS		SUBSCRIPTIONS	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Martineau, Miss E. C.	-	-	-	0 10 0
Massey, Miss	-	-	-	0 5 0
Meinertzhagen, Miss	-	-	-	0 5 0
Mitchell, Mrs.	-	-	-	1 0 0
Moore, Miss Ogle	-	-	-	0 2 6
Mordan, Mr. Augustus	-	-	-	1 0 0
Mordan, Miss	-	-	-	5 0 0
Moro, Miss	-	-	-	1 0 0
Mosley, Miss	-	-	-	0 2 6
Muller, Mrs.	-	-	-	2 2 0
Mylne, Mrs.	-	-	5 0 0	1 0 0
Newman, Professor F. W.	-	-	-	1 0 0
Notcutt, Miss	-	-	-	0 5 0
Nottage, Lady	-	-	-	1 1 0
O'Connor, Miss	-	-	-	0 5 0
Paine, Mr. Lewis	-	-	-	0 5 0
Paley, The Hon. Mrs.	-	-	-	2 0 0
Pierpont, Miss	-	-	-	0 2 6
Ponsonby, The Hon. Mrs. Chambre	-	-	-	1 1 0
Porter, Miss	-	-	-	0 5 0
Rayleigh, Clara Lady	-	-	-	2 0 0
Reid, Miss A. M.	-	-	-	0 2 6
Richardson, Miss	-	-	-	1 0 0
Reynolds, Mrs. Bernard	-	-	-	0 2 6
Roberts, Sir Owen and Lady	-	-	-	2 2 0
Roberts, Miss Dorothea	-	-	3 0 0	
Robertson, Miss	-	-	-	1 0 0
Rolleston, Miss M.	-	-	-	0 1 0
Ruth, Miss	-	-	-	1 0 0
Sanderson, Mr. J.	-	-	-	1 1 0
Scholefield, Mrs.	-	-	-	0 10 0
Seakins, Mrs. (2 years)	-	-	-	0 10 0
Scott, Mrs.	-	-	-	0 10 6
Shaen, Mrs.	-	-	-	1 1 0
Shaen, Miss	-	-	-	1 1 0
Shadwell, Miss B.	-	-	-	0 10 0
Shanks, Mrs.	-	-	-	0 2 6
Shedden, Mrs. R.	-	-	-	0 2 6
Shedden, Mrs. E. C.	-	-	-	0 2 6
Sidgwick, Mrs.	-	-	-	2 2 0
Singleton, Mrs.	-	-	-	0 2 6
Smith, Mrs. St. Oysthe Eustace	-	-	-	1 1 0
Smith, Mrs. F. P.	-	-	-	0 5 0
Spring-Rice, Mrs. Stephen	-	-	-	1 1 0
Sterling, Mrs. (2 years)	-	-	5 0 0	4 0 0
Sterling, Miss F.	-	-	-	2 0 0
Stevenson, Miss E.	-	-	-	1 1 0
Stone, Miss	-	-	-	1 0 0
Strange, Miss L.	-	-	-	1 1 0
Streatfield, Mrs.	-	-	-	2 2 0
Tabor, Miss.	-	-	-	0 5 0
Tacey, Miss	-	-	-	2 0 0

	DONATIONS			SUBSCRIPTIONS		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Tacey, Miss Annie	-	-	-			
Tacey, Miss Alice	-	-	-	2	0	0
Tatlock, Miss	-	-	-	2	0	0
Taylor, Mrs. Thomas (Chipchase Castle)	-	-	-	0	10	0
Temple, Sir Richard, Bart., .MP.	-	-	-	2	0	0
Thorne, Mrs.	-	-	-	1	0	0
Topham, Mrs. A.	-	-	-	0	5	0
Tubbs, Mrs.	-	-	-	0	2	6
Twining, Miss Louisa	-	-	-	1	1	0
	1	1	0			
Vansittart, Mrs.	-	-	-	0	5	0
Vernon, Miss	-	-	-	0	10	0
	5	0	0			
Walker, Miss Abney	-	-	-	1	0	0
Walker, Mrs. Ingram	-	-	-	0	10	0
Walker, Miss J. H.	-	-	-	1	1	0
Ward, Miss F. B.	-	-	-	0	2	6
Wardale, The Rev. J.	-	-	-	2	0	0
Wedgwood, Miss Julia	-	-	-	0	10	6
Welsh, Miss	-	-	-	1	0	0
Westlake, Mrs.	-	-	-	1	1	0
Wilkinson, Miss F. R.	-	-	-	1	1	0
Wilkinson, Miss L. M.	-	-	-	1	1	0
Wilkins, Miss M. F.	-	-	-	0	2	6
Willson, Miss	-	-	-	0	5	0
Wolmer, The Lady Maude	-	-	-	1	1	0
Wright, Mrs. Almroth	-	-	-	2	2	0
Zimmermann, Miss	-	-	-	1	1	0
Received since books made up:						
Atkin, Mr. Edward	-	-	-	0	5	0
Aylmer, Miss	-	-	-	1	1	0
Currey, Miss F. W.	-	-	-	0	5	0
Light, Miss	-	-	-	1	1	0
Stopes, Mrs.	-	-	-	0	5	0

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Abbott, Rev. Edwin A., D.D.	Colborne, The Hon. Mrs.
Adair, Mrs. H. (Oxford)	Collings, Jesse, Esq., M.P.
Adamson, Professor	Colville, Col.
Agg-Gardner, J. T., Esq., M.P.	Cooper, Miss Laura
Allen, Miss Gray (Londonderry)	Cotton-Jodrell, Col., M.P.
Andrews, Miss Gertrude	Cotton-Jodrell, Mrs.
Anderson, Mrs. Garrett, M.D.	Courtauld, Geo., Esq.
Anstruther, Louisa Lady	Courtenay, Miss
Ashford, Mrs. (Birmingham)	Courtney, Rt. Hon. Leonard, M.P.
Atkinson, Miss (Manchester)	Crook, Mrs. (Bolton)
Austen, Mrs. Roberts-	Cross, Mrs. Joseph
Bain, Sir James	Darwin, Mrs. Francis
Baker, Miss M.	Davenport-Hill, Miss
Balfour, Eustace, Esq.	Davenport-Hill, Miss F.
Balfour, The Lady Frances	Davies, Rev. Llewelyn
Barnett, Mrs. S. A.	Davies, Miss Emily
Beddoe, John, Esq., M.D., F.R.S.	Dimsdale, Baron
Beddoe, Mrs.	Donkin, Miss
Bell, Miss Elizabeth	Drew, Miss Catherine
Bell, Miss A. E.	Dunbar, Dr. Eliza W.
Bevan, Mrs. Wm.	Dunn, T. W., Esq., M.A. (Bath Coll.)
Bigg, Miss Louisa (Luton)	Dunsany, Lord
Biggs, Miss Ashurst	Eastwick-Field, Mrs.
Blacker, Mrs. Louis	Eaton, Mrs. Lauder
Blackburn, Miss Helen	Eccles, Miss
Bostock, Miss	Edwards-Heathcote, Capt.
Boucherett, Miss (Willingham)	Egerton, The Hon. Lady Grey
Boucherett, Miss Jessie	Eiloart, Mrs.
Bousfield, W. R., Esq., M.P.	Elder, Miss Constance
Bousfield, Mrs. (Bedford)	Ellaby, Miss, M.D.
Bowring, Lady	Ellis, Miss
Bridges, Mrs.	Ewart, Lady (Belfast)
Bridges, Miss (Bath)	Fawcett, Mrs. Henry
Brodie-Hall, Miss L. W.	FitzGerald, R.U. Penrose, Esq., M.P.
Brook, Mrs. (Harewood Lodge, Meltham)	FitzGerald, Mrs. Penrose
Burrough, Mrs.	FitzGerald, Miss Geraldine Penrose
Butterfield, Mrs. (Northampton)	FitzGerald, Miss (Valencia Island)
Byers, Mrs. (Belfast)	FitzGerald, Mrs. Robert (Tralee)
Cayzer, C. W., Esq., M.P.	FitzWygram, Lt.-Gen. Sir F., M.P.
Chamberlain, V. I., Esq.	Fletcher, J. S., Esq.
Chamberlain, Mrs. V. I.	Ford, Mrs. Rawlinson (Leeds)
Champneys, Basil, Esq.	Ford, Miss Isabella O.
Clarke, Mrs. Benjamin	Forsyth, W., Esq., Q.C.
Clayton, N. G., Esq. (Hexham)	Forsyth, Miss Ethel
Clayton, Mrs. N. G. (Hexham)	Fry, Lewis, Esq.
Cobbe, Miss F. Power	Garrett, Miss Agnes
Cohen, B. L., Esq., M.P.	Gilliland, Miss
	Green, Rev. Charles (Beckenham)

Grimshawe, Mrs.
 Gurney, Miss Mary
 Goldsmid, Louisa, Lady
 Hallett, Mrs. Ashworth (Bath)
 Hallett, T. G. P., Esq. (Bath)
 Hamilton, Mrs. (Bray)
 Hamilton, Miss Mary
 Hanbury-Tracey, Hon. F. S.
 Hankey, Mrs. H. A.
 Harberton, Viscount
 Harberton, Viscountess
 Harcourt, A. Vernon, Esq.
 Harle, Mrs. (Falfield)
 Hart, Miss Mary H.
 Haslam, Mrs. (Dublin)
 Herringham, Mrs. Wilmot
 Higgins, Mrs. Napier
 Hill, Frederic, Esq.
 Hill, Mrs. Frank
 Hodgson, Mrs. C. H.
 Hughes, Edwin, Esq., M.P.
 Hunter, R., Esq.
 Hunter, Mrs. R.
 James, Captain
 Jex Blake, Dr. Sophia
 Johnson, Miss Lucy (Bath)
 Johnson, Mrs. Arthur H. (Oxford)
 Johnston, Wm., Esq., M.P.
 Jones, Rev. Harry
 Jones, Miss H. M. (Notting Hill High School)
 Joy, Mrs. Algernon
 Kensington, Miss
 Kenyon, Hon. Geo., M.P.
 Kerr, Miss Malcolm
 Kinnear, J. Boyd, Esq.
 Kinnear, Mrs. J. Boyd
 Knightley, The Lady (of Fawsley)
 Lafone, Alfred, Esq.
 Lambert, Rev. Brooke
 Laurie, Col.
 Lecky, Mrs. W. E. H.
 Lee, Miss (Bath)
 Lee, Miss (Sale)
 Lethbridge, Sir Roper
 Lethbridge, Lady
 Lister, Miss Emma
 Lynd, The Rev. R.I., D.D.
 Lyttelton, The Hon. and Rev. Ed.
 Lyttelton, The Hon. Mrs. Ed.
 Lyttelton, The Hon. Mrs. Alfred
 Macdona, J. Cuming, Esq., M.P.
 Maclure, J. W., Esq., M.P.
 Maclure, Mrs. J. W.
 McLagan, Peter, Esq.

McLaren, Walter, Esq., M.P.
 McLaren, Mrs. Eva
 Madden, Rt. Hon. D. H.
 Manfield, M. P., Esq., M.P.
 Manning, Miss E. Adelaide
 Marshall, Mrs. Mary, M.D.
 Marshall, Mrs. Emma
 Marshall, Mrs. John (Derwent Is.)
 Marshall, Mrs. Stephen
 Meath, The Countess of
 Mele Barese, Princess
 Mitchell, Mrs. (Llanfrechfa)
 Mordan, Miss
 Mylne, Mrs. J. E.
 Newman, Prof. F. W.
 Nottage, Lady
 Oliver, R., Esq.
 Oliver, Mrs.
 Paley, The Hon. Mrs.
 Parry, The Lady Maude
 Percival, Rev. J., D.D., Rugby
 Passmore Edwards, J., Esq.
 Patton, Mrs. Arthur
 Pender, Mrs. (Thornby Hall)
 Pereira, The Hon. Mrs.
 Ponsonby, The Hon. Mrs. Chambre
 Portsmouth, Evelyn Countess of
 Prideaux, Miss S.
 Puleston, Sir J. H.
 Pym, Guy, Esq.
 Pym, Mrs. Guy
 Rayleigh, Clara, Lady
 Reeves, Miss
 Reeves, Miss (Tramore)
 Reid, Miss A. M. (Hammersmith)
 Ridley, Miss
 Ridgway, Rev. C. J.
 Roberts, Sir Owen, F.S.A.
 Roberts, Lady
 Roberts, Miss Dorothea
 Robertson, Miss
 Rollit, Sir A. K., M.P.
 Round, James, Esq., M.P.
 Russell, T. W., Esq., M.P.
 Russell, Mrs. T. W.
 Sanderson, J. S., Esq.
 Sawyer, Lady
 Scholefield, Mrs.
 Severne, Mrs.
 Shaen, Mrs.
 Sidgwick, Prof. Henry, D.Litt.
 Sidgwick, Mrs. Henry
 Singleton, Mrs. (Derby)
 Spender, Mrs. J. K. (Bath)
 Spring Rice, Mrs. Stephen

Stapleton, Miss (Tunbridge Wells)
 Still, Major-Gen.
 Stopes, Mrs. Carmichael
 Sturge, Miss M. Carta
 Sterling, Mrs.
 Stevenson, Miss Flora (Edinburgh)
 Stevenson, Miss Louisa (Edinburgh)
 Stone, Miss
 Swanwick, Miss Anna
 Tabor, Miss M. C.
 Taylor, Mrs. (Chipchase Castle)
 Taylor, Mrs. Thos.
 Taylour, Miss Jane E.
 Thew, Mrs. A. (Birkdale)
 Temple, Sir Richard, Bt., M.P.
 Thomas, Mrs. Charles (Bristol)
 Thorne, Mrs. (Lewes)
 Tod, Miss Isabella
 Toynbee, Miss

Tribe, Miss Eva (Bristol)
 Turner, The Lady Frances
 Turner, Mrs. Hugh Thackeray
 Twining, Miss Louisa
 Vernon, Miss
 Vincent, Maria, Lady
 Walker, Mrs. Edward (Leeds)
 Ward, Mrs. E. M.
 Wedgwood, Miss Julia
 Welsh, Miss (Girton College)
 White, Miss (Alexandra College)
 White, Miss C. E. (Charleville)
 Wilkinson, Miss
 Wilkinson, Miss L. M.
 Wilks, Mark, Esq.
 Wolmer, Viscount, M.P.
 Wolmer, The Lady Maude
 Wright, H. Smith, Esq., M.P.

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

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

The Society seeks to achieve this object:—

1. By acting as a centre for the collection and diffusion of information with regard to the progress of the movement in all parts of the country.
2. By holding Public Meetings in support of the repeal of the Electoral Disabilities of women.
3. By the publication of Pamphlets, Leaflets, and other Literature bearing upon the question.

RULES.

PASSED AT THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND SUBSCRIBERS TO ITS FUNDS, HELD JULY 17TH, 1872.

1. The Central Committee shall consist of the present members and such others as the Executive Committee may, from time to time, elect.
2. The Executive Committee shall consist of members of the Central Committee, to be elected at the Annual General Meeting, and of single delegates, the same being members of Local Committees, appointed by Local Associations to represent them; the Executive Committee having power to add to the Central Committee, and to its own number, and to appoint the Officers.
3. A subscription of any amount constitutes membership of the National Society.
4. A General Meeting of the Central Committee shall be held once a year to appoint the Executive Committee, to receive the Annual Report and the Financial Statement, and to transact any other business which may arise.
5. The Executive Committee shall, at its first meeting, appoint the Officers.
6. A Special General Meeting may be called by the Executive Committee at any time; or, at the written request of not less than twenty-five members of the Central Committee the Secretary or Secretaries shall call a Special General Meeting to discuss such matters only as are mentioned in the notice of such meeting.
7. Eight days' public notice shall be given of all General Meetings.
8. The above rules shall not be altered except at a General Meeting, after fourteen days' notice of the proposed alteration given to the Executive Committee.

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1896

 ANNUAL REPORT.

It is with regret that your Committee have to record the failure to secure during the present session any consideration by Parliament of a measure for extending the Parliamentary Franchise to women.

Shortly after the opening of the session a Conference of friendly Members was convened by Mr. George Wyndham in one of the Committee Rooms of the House of Commons.

The following Members of Parliament were present:—Mr. Jebb, Mr. Atherley Jones, Mr. Lewis Fry, Mr. C. B. McLaren, Sir W. Arroll, Mr. Rankin, Mr. Platt-Higgins, Mr. Drucker, Mr. W. Johnston, Mr. J. H. Johnstone, Major Wyndham Quin, Mr. Jacoby, Mr. Alexander Wylie, Mr. Ernest Gray, Mr. Thos. Skewes-Cox, Mr. Yoxhall, Mr. M. Vaughan-Davies, Major Pryce-Jones, Mr. Francis S. Russell, Mr. Guy Pym, and Mr. J. A. Rentoul.

The following ladies were also present by invitation:—Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Russell Cooke, Mrs. Ashworth Hallett, Mrs. Phillip, Miss Blackburn, Miss Cozens, Miss Edith Palliser and Miss Gertrude Stewart.

The announcement was made by Mr. Wyndham that, among the Members who had balloted for the Women's Franchise Bill, the best place had been secured by Mr. Faithfull Begg, M.P. for the St. Rollox Division of Glasgow. He had obtained the twelfth place out of over 400 Members who had balloted that day for numerous Bills; and it was subsequently announced that a first place on Wednesday, May 20th, had been secured.

The following is the text of the Bill, which was introduced by Mr. Faithful Begg and backed by Mr. Wyndham, Mr.