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Nov. 29. 16.

With the Hon. Sec's compas.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S
SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

Oxon, Berks and Bucks Federation

(including Bedfordshire, West Herts and
South Northants Societies).

FIFTH

22802
ANNUAL REPORT.

1915-16.

OFFICERS (ELECTED OCT. 31st, 1916).

<i>President</i>	Mrs. F. J. K. CROSS, Aston Tirrold Manor, Wallingford.
<i>Hon. Treasurer</i> ...	Miss DUNCAN, Abbotsleigh, Maidenhead.
<i>Hon. Secretary</i>	Miss MARGARET JONES, Jesmond Hill, Pangbourne, Berks.
<i>Press Secretary and "Common Cause" Correspondent</i> ...	Miss L. C. JONES, Jesmond Hill, Pangbourne, Berks.

RULES.

As amended October 31st, 1916.

1.—The Title of the Federation shall be the "Oxon, Berks, and Bucks Federation," and its area shall be the Counties of Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Bedfordshire, the Western Division of Hertfordshire, and the Southern Division of Northamptonshire.

2.—The Federation shall be governed by a Committee, consisting of :—

- (a) The Officers : President, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretary.
 - (b) Two Representatives for each Society of over 60 members, and one Representative for each Society of 60 members or under. Each Society shall elect its Representatives annually, but shall be entitled to send substitutes. After the first Committee Meeting in each year the Society whose Representative is elected Chairman of Committee shall have the right to appoint a new Representative.
 - (c) One Representative of the N.U. Executive.
 - (d) Any member of the N.U. Executive, who may reside within the Federation area and be willing to serve.
- (Only Members in Classes *a* and *b* shall have power to vote).

3.—The Committee shall meet at least twice a quarter, and shall appoint its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman; these appointments to be made for a year by the Committee from their own number at their first meeting after the Annual Meeting.

4.—Notice of the time, date, and place of each Committee Meeting shall be sent to the Hon. Secretary of each Society, and the Members of the Federation Committee, at least three weeks before the Meeting. Notice of business to be transacted at a meeting must be sent by the Hon. Secretaries of Societies to the Hon. Secretary of the Federation 14 days before the meeting. The Hon. Secretary of the Federation shall send the Agenda to the Members of the Committee 7 days before the Meeting.

5.—A Report of the proceedings of Committee shall be sent to the Hon. Secretary of each Society within ten days after the meeting.

6.—The Officers and Chairman of Committee shall be ex-officio members of all Sub-Committees.

7.—A General Meeting of the Federation shall be held annually to elect, by ballot, the Officers, a Press Secretary, a "Common Cause" Secretary, and a F.W.S. Secretary; to receive and adopt, if approved, the Report and Balance Sheet for the year; to make any necessary alteration in the Rules; and transact any other business. Each candidate for election shall be nominated by two Societies.

8.—In case of vacancy of any office during the year, the Committee shall appoint a new Officer or Secretary to carry on the work until the next Annual Meeting.

9.—The Societies shall be represented at the Annual Meeting as follows:—

- Societies with 20-50 members, 1 representative.
- Societies with 50-100 members, 2 representatives.
- Societies with 100-150 members, 3 representatives, and so on.

10.—Notice of the time, date, and place of the Annual Meeting shall be sent to the Secretaries of Societies at least 30 days before the Meeting. Resolutions to be placed on the Agenda, and nominations for Officers must reach the Federation Secretaries 21 days before the Meeting. The Agenda shall reach the Secretaries of Societies 10 days before the Meeting.

11.—A Special General Meeting shall be called:—

- (a) At the discretion of the Officers;
- (b) or within 14 days, at the request of not less than 10 Societies.

At least 10 days' notice of the Meeting called under (b) and of the special business to be transacted, shall be given to Secretaries of Societies.

Only the special business for which the meeting was summoned under (a) or (b) shall be taken, unless urgency be voted.

12.—That the affiliation fee to be paid by each Society to the Federation be 1s. in the £ of subscribed income, but that the minimum fee be 10s. a year. The fee for the first year of a Society's existence shall be 5s.

13.—That the expenses of the Organiser, including her railway fare within the Federation, to the Society she visits, and a weekly allowance of 1s. for bicycle repairs, shall be paid by that Society.

14.—No alteration shall be made in the rules, except at the Annual General Meeting.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OXON, BERKS AND BUCKS FEDERATION, PRESENTED TO THE ANNUAL MEETING, AT 14, GT. SMITH STREET, ON OCTOBER 31st, 1916.

The difficulties of maintaining Suffrage organisations through two years of war are great, and the justification and reward of those who have struggled to do so is now apparent.

The attitude of the Prime Minister, many Members of Parliament, and some newspapers can be explained in various ways; it is partly, no doubt, a reflection of the change in the attitude of the country. It is at least doubtful, however, if our supporters in the Commons could have put forward our claim with so much assurance, or our erstwhile opponents retracted with so much grace, if our organisation had ceased to exist. It is organised opinion that counts. Those who are keeping our Societies together and our machinery well-oiled, are rendering inestimable service to the Cause.

To two of the Societies in the Federation belong the distinction of having added to their membership during the year. King's Sutton has risen from 27 to 40 members, and Wokingham from 86 to 102.

The various patriotic funds continue to be well supported by the Societies in the Federation. Ascot, Banbury and Oxford finance beds in the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Hospitals, the first-named Society having endowed two beds this year. Eight other Societies have contributed varying sums to these hospitals, and seven Societies have helped the Millicent Fawcett Units, Luton leading with a donation of over £80. Russian and Serbian Relief Funds, Infant Welfare Centres, Red Cross Hospitals, the Professional Classes War Relief Fund, Prisoners' Parcels Funds, and the Star and Garter Home and Patriotic Housekeeping Exhibitions have engaged the energies of the Societies, sometimes in addition to efforts for the N.U. Hospitals,

while Ascot, Beaconsfield and Wokingham have contributed to the Headquarters Fund.

Your Committee has met twice and your Organisation Sub-Committee twice. The suspension of Rule 3 was voted at the first Committee Meeting, Societies being asked to lodge complaints should they wish to do so. No such complaints were made. The Committee decided that expenses up to £5 incurred by the Honorary Secretary when acting as Organiser, and duly authorised by them or by the Sub-Committee, should be paid by the Federation.

At their second meeting held in May your Committee decided not to recommend to Societies the re-commencement of Suffrage propaganda, but to send out a letter drawing attention to the Registration Bill and its bearing on Women's Suffrage.

The Honorary Secretary attended a meeting of the Beaconsfield Committee in January when the Council Meeting Agenda was under discussion. She was unfortunately prevented by illness from attending the Wokingham Committee and the Bracknell Committee. She attended a meeting of the Maidenhead Committee in October, and addressed a drawing-room meeting there. The Hon. Sec. visited Newbury to see if it were possible to re-organise the Society there. This was found to be impossible, but there is no doubt, that could an active Secretary be found, the Society could be re-started without much difficulty at the end of the War.

The Society at Hungerford has lapsed, and five others are suspended temporarily, finding it impossible to collect subscriptions. Five Societies have not sent in reports.

The Windsor and Eton Society have suffered a great loss in the death of Miss Mary Hodgskin, for some years Hon. Sec. of the Society.

Miss Grace Bradford resigned from the Sub-Committee in January owing to ill-health, and Miss Hartopp Nash was obliged to resign the *Common Cause* Secretaryship in June, as her work for the Government entailed constant moving from place to place. Both resignations were accepted with regret.

The Federation is a great loser by the resignation of Mrs. Berney, who has done such valuable work as Treasurer of the Federation, and as Hon. Sec. of the High Wycombe Society. There is some consolation in the fact that another Federation will gain where we lose. Mrs. Berney takes with her our hearty thanks for past work and good wishes for the future.

ELEANOR CROSS.

PRESS REPORT.

The *Weekly Notes* from headquarters are supplied to seven Societies, of which three are able to make use of them regularly. *The Oxford Times*, *The Reading Observer*, and *The East Berks Gazette* have constantly inserted notes or articles, the two last mentioned giving a column weekly. The general attitude of Editors is friendly, but since the War began it has been even more difficult than before to get any but strictly local news printed.

L. C. JONES.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

In presenting the Report of the last year of my Treasurership, I am glad to say there is a balance in hand of £34 18s. 7d. Since the Accounts were audited £9 1s. 10d. has been received, completing the Banner Fund. The Auditor's fee and Press Secretary's postage, amounting to £2 13s. 11d., have been both paid since the Audit, leaving £41 6s. 6d. in hand.

The Head Organiser remained with us for thirteen and a half months—one and a half months longer than the twelve months for which the salary of £120 was guaranteed. The donations received for the Head Organiser's Fund amounted altogether to £119 1s. 6d. I would suggest that the Bank Interest for the last year, 18s. 8d. should be placed to the credit of this Fund, making it £120 0s. 2d. The rest of the salary of £15 has been paid from the General Fund.

It is with much regret that I resign the Treasurership. I feel very grateful to my colleagues, and all connected with the Federation, for the kindness and support I have always received.

EDITH BERNEY.

BALANCE SHEET.—OXFORD, BERKS AND BUCKS, &C., FEDERATION.
August 7th, 1915—October 10th, 1915.

INCOME.	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward	65	15	5
„ Affiliation Fees—			
Banbury	£0	10	0
Oxford	1	18	6
North Berks	0	15	0
Pangbourne	0	10	0
Ascot	0	12	9
Crowthorne	0	10	0
Maidenhead	0	15	0
Wokingham	0	10	0
Reading	0	14	9
Windsor and Eton (1914-15)	0	5	0
Windsor and Eton (1915-16)	0	8	0
Bedford	0	7	6
Woburn Sands & Apsley Guise	0	8	0
Mid-Bucks	0	10	0
Beaconsfield	0	10	0
Gerrards Cross	0	10	0
High Wycombe	0	12	0
Slough	0	5	0
Berkhamsted	0	10	0
West Herts	0	12	0
King's Sutton	0	10	0
„ Head Organiser's Fund—Banbury W.S.S	12	3	6
„ Sale of Reports	5	0	0
„ Polish Relief Fund—	0	3	0
Miss Woods 5/-; Woburn Sands 5/-	0	10	0
„ Bank Interest on Deposit	0	18	8
	£84	10	7

EXPENSES.	£	s.	d.
By Auditor's Fee
„ Head Organiser's Salary and Expenses	20	9	9
„ Reports of Executive Committee	0	12	0
„ Printing Federation Reports...	4	6	0
„ Reading Day Nursery	3	15	0
„ Banner	13	9	10
„ Polish Relief Fund	0	10	0
„ Press Secretary—Postage and Expenses	1	5	4
„ Hon. Secretary	3	0	0
„ Cheque Book	0	2	1
Balance	49	12	0
	£84	18	7

I have examined the above Accounts, with the Books and Vouchers, and certify same to be correct.

A. F. MERRIT, Manager,
London County and Westminster Bank, Ltd., Harpenden.

10th October, 1916.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY SOCIETIES.

Constituency.	Society.	Hon. Secretaries.	No. of Members.	Receipts.	Expenditure	Meetings.	Special Work.	Raised for Special Work	Raised for S.W.H.	Raised for M.F.U.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
NORTH OXON— Hon. Sir Eustace Fiennes, Bt.	Banbury	Mrs. Pentrose, South Bank.	114	6 18 6	2 4 4		Banbury Bed, S.W.H. (Serbia).	25 0 0		
SOUTH OXON— Mjr. V. Fleming, U.	Dorchester and District	Miss Hudson, Newington House, Wallingford.								
	Henley	(No Secretary)								
OXFORD— City— Lord Valentia, University— Lieut. Lord Hugh Cecil, R. E. Prothero, NORTH BERKS— A. K. Lloyd, K.C.	Oxford	Mrs. Geldart, 10, Chadlington Rd. Miss Lewis, 13, Rawlinson Rd.	424	24 9 4	30 9 3	2	Funds & Workers for Babies' Welcome.	75 19 2	64 11 2	
	North Berks	Miss Nora Marshall, Castle Villa, Wallingford.	100	10 13 6	3 4 6					
	Pangbourne	Miss L. C. Jones, Jesmond Hill.	52	5 16 3	3 5 1		Providing Gar- ment for Reading W.S.S. Day- Nursery.	3 14 6		
SOUTH BERKS— W. A. Mount, U.	Ascot	Miss Violet Hanbury, Holmwood Lodge.	116	34 11 9	26 8 9	3	Two Beds in S.W.H. and work- ing parties twice a week.	174 14 4	18 16 11	
EAST BERKS— E. Gardner, U.	Bracknell	Miss F. G. Bradford, Fir Cottage.	33	3 10 0	3 6 0		Serbian Flag Day.	6 0 0		

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY SOCIETIES.—Continued.

Constituency.	Society.	Hon. Secretaries.	No. of Members.	Receipts.	Expenditure	Meetings.	Special Work.	Raised for Special Work	Raised for S.W.H.	Raised for M.F.U.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
EAST BERKS— <i>Continued.</i>	Crowthorne	(<i>Pro tem.</i>) Mrs. Haye, Trevear, Wellington R.S.O.	107	27 5 0	16 11 6		Russian Flag Day. Soldiers' Canteen.	74 0 0		
	Maidenhead	Miss Duncan, Abbotsleigh.	102	11 11 1	7 13 1	1	Headquarters Fund Reading Day. Nursery. Prisoners' Parcels Fund.	6 0 0 0 10 0	9 0 0	
	Wokingham	Miss E. M. Cruttwell, Wroxton.	167	13 1 1	10 8 10	2	Maintenance of Day-Nursery.	130 14 8		38 15 8
READING— Lt.-Col. Wilson, D.S.O., C.M.G., U. NEW WINDSOR— J. F. Mason, U.	Reading	Miss Margaret Jones, 229, King's Road. <i>Hon. Treasurer</i> — Miss Emma Street, Myrtle Cottage, Clewer.	26	3 14 6	3 14 6				3 0 0	
BEDFORD— F. Kellaway, L	Bedford	Miss Stacy, 34, Kimbolton Rd.	242	10 3 5	3 1 10	1				
NORTH BEDS— Sir A. W. Black, L	Biggleswade	Mrs. Aggis, Leigham, Drove Road.								
SOUTH BEDS— Cecil Harmsworth, L.	Luton	Mrs. Chalkey, 32, Studley Road.	108	14 3 5	12 7 4	1	House-to-house Collection for M.F.U.			82 9 4
NORTH BEDS— Sir Harry Verney, L. Bt.	Woburn Sands and Apsley Guise	Miss E. Woods, Firdale, Woburn Sands.	23	8 5 3	10 1 5		Lecture on Thrift. 8 Cooking Lessons. 24 Sewing Meetings.	1 2 8	0 13 6	

MID-BUCKS— Mjr. L. de Rothschild, U	Mid-Bucks	Miss S. R. Courtauld Bocken, Great Missenden.	95	6 5 3	6 4 11	3	Professional Classes War Relief Sale. Patriotic House-keeping Exhibition. Working Parties for S.W.H.	25 0 0	13 5 3	
SOUTH BEDS— Mjr. Baring du Pré, U.	Beaconsfield and District	Mrs. J. R. Maitland, Lusitania, Curzon Avenue.	59	5 8 1	2 2 1	1	Maintenance of 2 children. French Wounded Emergency Fund. Flag Day.	19 17 0	3 1 9	3 1 9
WEST HERTS— Arnold Ward, U	Gerrards Cross High Wycombe Slough	Mrs. Barnard Davis, Brantfell. Mrs. Woodward, 61, Priory Avenue Miss Lily Simpson, 106, St. Leonard's Road, Windsor.	52	1 16 0	1 18 0	1		106 17 8	6 19 0	10 19 0
	Berkhamsted	Mrs. Stevenson, Glanmor.	36	2 9 6	7 7 8		Lecture by Mrs. Seton Watson for Serbian Relief Fund.	18 14 3		
SOUTH NORTHANTS— Capt. the Hon. E. A. Fitzroy, U.	West Herts Kings Sutton	Mrs. Wright, 21, Monmouth Rd. Watford. Miss Harman, Fernleigh.	40	7 1 6	2 1 2	4	Star and Garter Home. Red Cross Hospital, Banbury.	2 3 4 5 3 7	22 13 2	2 11 2

NOTE.—Mid-Oxon (Lt.-Col. A. St. G. Hamersley, K.C., U.), in which there is no separate Society, is worked from Oxford by the Oxford Society.

