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National Union
of Women's Suffrage Societies.

NORTH-EASTERN
FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
SOCIETIES.

Second
Annual Report,

April, 1912.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne :
T. M. Grierson, Printer, Ellison Buildings, Ellison Place.

Executive Committee.

MAY, 1912.

BARNARD CASTLE.—

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—Mrs. Walker Black.

DARLINGTON.—Miss Lucas, Miss M. Robinson, Miss M. L. Swanson.

DURHAM.—Miss Robinson, Miss Liddell.

GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE.—Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. G. D. Biltcliffe, Miss Temperley.

HARTLEPOOL.—Mrs. Thompson.

HEXHAM.—Miss Lowe, Mrs. Walton.

JARROW-ON-TYNE.—Miss Fletcher.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Dr. Mabel Campbell, Miss Fenwick, Miss Mein, Dr. Ethel Williams.

SHILDON.—Mrs. Brown, Miss Alice Robson.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Miss E. Sedcole, Miss Florence Robertson.

SUNDERLAND.—Mrs. Arthur Johnson, Miss Milbanke, Mrs. Rudd.

TYNEMOUTH.—Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Sisson.

WALLSEND AND WALKER.—

Hon. Secretary:

MISS HARDCASTLE, M.A.,
3, Osborne Terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Hon. Financial Secretary:

MISS M. BURY.

Hon. Treasurer:

MISS E. F. STEVENSON,
24, Brandling Park, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Co-opted Member of N.U.W.S.S. Executive Committee:

MISS CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN, M.A., B.Sc.

Organiser:

MISS C. M. GORDON, M.A.

Assistant Organiser:

MISS I. S. A. BEAVER.

Hon. Press Secretary:

MISS GLADYS FENWICK,
The Cottage, Jesmond Park East, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Common Cause Correspondent:

MISS GLADYS FENWICK.

Rules.

Title.

1. The title shall be the "North Eastern Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies."

Area.

2. The area of the Federation shall be the counties of Northumberland and Durham, comprising the constituencies of:—

(County Divisions) Berwick, Hexham, Wansbeck, Tyneside, Jarrow, Chester-le-Street, Houghton-le-Spring, North West Durham, Mid-Durham, South East Durham, Bishop Auckland, Barnard Castle.
(Boroughs) . . . Morpeth, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Tynemouth, Darlington, Durham, Gateshead, Hartlepool, South Shields, Stockton, Sunderland.

Object.

3. To obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.

Work.

4. To promote the formation of new societies in its area.

To perfect existing organisation.

To arrange joint meetings, and generally to secure co-operation among societies in its area.

Methods.

5. The methods of the Federation shall be constitutional.

Membership

6. Membership of the Federation is open to all Women's Suffrage Societies within its area which are affiliated to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, on payment of an affiliation fee of 2/6 for every completed fifty members on their books.

**Federation
Committee.**

7. The Members of the Federation Committee shall be appointed annually by the Societies. Casual vacancies shall also be filled by the Societies. Each Society shall be entitled to appoint Federation Committee Members as follows:—

From 20 to 50 Members	.	1	Committee Member
„ 51 to 100	„	2	„ „
„ 101 to 200	„	3	„ „
Above 200	„	4	„ „

as a maximum number.

Each Society shall also be entitled to send one of its members as a proxy in the absence of any one of the Federation Committee Members appointed by it.

**Financial
Year.**

8. The Financial Year shall end in April.

**Committee
Meetings.**

9. The Federation Committee shall meet twice a year and more often if required. The meetings shall be held in the office of the Newcastle Society, the travelling expenses of the Committee Members shall be pooled and divided among the Societies in proportion to the number of Committee Members in attendance. Notice of the time and place of meeting shall be sent to the Hon. Secretary of each Society 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 fourteen days before the meeting; the Hon. Secretary of the Federation shall make the Agenda and send it to the members of the Committee ten days before the meeting. Business for which urgency is voted may also be considered.

**Special
Committee
Meetings:
Bye-
Elections.**

10. In the event of a Bye-election occurring within the area, a Special Meeting of the Federation Committee may be summoned at twenty-four hours' notice by the Hon. Secretary, such meeting to be held, if possible, in the constituency concerned.

**Special
Committee
Meetings.**

11. Any other Special Committee Meeting may be summoned at the request of three members at three days' notice.

**First
Committee
Meeting.**

12. At the first meeting after the beginning of the financial year, the Treasurer shall submit a financial statement, the Committee shall elect its Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, and an Hon. Financial Secretary; shall

co-opt a member of the N.U. Executive Committee, and shall elect two of its members to serve as representatives on the Provincial Council.

Quorum.

13. Five shall form a quorum for ordinary meetings of the Committee, three for special meetings. If less than a quorum be present, only unopposed business may proceed.

**Sub-
Committees.**

14. The Committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees when necessary.

Organiser.

15. The Federation Committee shall in general be responsible for directing the work and paying the expenses, board and lodging of the organiser whose salary is paid by the N.U., but while she is working in the area of any affiliated society, that society shall be solely responsible for her working expenses, board and lodging.

**Alteration
of Rules.**

16. These Rules may be altered when required provided that any amendment be included in the written agenda.

NORTH-EASTERN FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

Annual Report.

In drawing up the report of the second year's work in the area of the North-Eastern Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies, a significant feature is the marked increase in the corporate spirit shown by the suffrage workers of the district. Two years ago, the representatives of four Women's Suffrage Societies, perfectly distinct from one another in their activity as well as in their geographical position, met to discuss the preliminary steps towards forming this Federation. They first demanded that no money should be levied from them for joint purposes, and that no one town should have preference over the others as a place for the committee meetings. During the past year £100 has been raised from the Societies as well as from individuals in the district for the salary of the National Union Organiser to the Federation, Miss C. M. Gordon; Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle and Sunderland contribute regularly a fixed proportion of their income, and at the last committee meeting a new rule made the office of the Newcastle Society the fixed place for Federation committee meetings. The geographical continuity of the societies is now becoming—at least over part of the area—a real thing. Along the north bank of the Tyne, in the County of Northumberland, the gap between Newcastle and Tynemouth has been filled by the formation of a society at Walker and Wallsend. Wansbeck, a very straggling area, has at present no society within its bounds, but the members resident in Monkseaton and Whitley, of whom we have between twenty and thirty, at present attached to the Tynemouth Society, hope shortly to form a separate organisation. Hexham, a similar constituency and the largest and most difficult county division in England, has a most energetic society. In Morpeth, we have made an excellent beginning with the energetic help of Miss Ayre. In Berwick, another county constituency, there is at present no immediate prospect of forming a society. On the south bank of the Tyne the chain of constituencies represented by organisations affiliated to the National Union has this year been nearly completed, for by the division into two of the Jarrow and South Shields Society, we have given

to the borough of South Shields and the county division of Jarrow each an independent organisation to bring pressure to bear upon their respective members. Gateshead is the next link in the chain, and in the county constituency of N.W. Durham, which covers the remaining area along the Tyne, branches have been formed at Consett and Shotley Bridge. South and east of the chain we have added a most flourishing society at Chester-le-Street, formed by the £10 grant made us last year by the National Union; and when workers can be found to break up fresh ground in the adjoining constituency of Houghton-le-Spring (for which we have also a grant) we shall fill the gap between the county division of Chester-le-Street and the borough of Sunderland, which last contains one of the most flourishing and energetic societies in the area. At the south-west of the last chain is the county constituency of Barnard Castle, with a long-established branch of the National Union, and the remaining portion of the area lies entirely east of this to the sea. The county constituencies of South-East and Mid-Durham (for the former of which we have a similar £10 grant) are still in the wilderness as far as the existence of responsible Women's Suffrage Societies is concerned, but the borough constituencies of Darlington and Durham are within their bounds and should form centres of activity during the coming year. If hospitality were available for Miss Gordon, or for an Assistant Organiser working under her direction in either of these towns, there is no doubt that as much could be done next year for these constituencies as has been achieved in the last two years along the banks of the Tyne, largely owing to the hospitality given by Newcastle. The £10 grant from the National Union for work in the borough constituency of Hartlepool, whose district cuts a piece off the sea coast area of Durham has started a society, thanks to the zeal and initiative of Mrs. Thompson, of Seaton Carew, its Hon. Secretary, and out of the remaining grant of £10 a most encouraging beginning has been made in Stockton on the north bank of the Tees, which separates the North-Eastern from the Yorkshire Federation. The county constituency of Bishop Auckland, for which the Shildon Society has undertaken to be responsible, adjoins Barnard Castle, which contains one of the original societies in the area.

On five separate occasions during the early part of last summer, the Women's Suffrage Societies in the area combined to impress upon the public a sense of their solidarity and zeal. The first was the National Convention, held by the National Union in London, on May 3rd, to which the accredited representatives from our area were:

North-Eastern Federation.	Miss Hardcastle, M.A,
Barnard Castle.	Mrs. Wells,

Darlington.	Miss Monica Gordon.
Durham.	Miss Beadle.
Gateshead.	Mrs. Warden.
Hexham.	Miss Foley.
Newcastle.	Dr. Charlotte Brown.
Shildon.	Miss Alice Robson.
South Shields and Jarrow.	Miss Florence Robertson.
Sunderland.	Mrs. Arthur Johnson.
Tynemouth.	Miss Gladys Fenwick.

The four other occasions were processions ending in public meetings, viz., the first joint procession in London, on June 17th, in which, despite our distance from London, ninety-nine members took part, walking under the banners of their respective Societies: and the three local joint processions; in Newcastle on June 10th, Tynemouth on July 22nd, and South Shields on July 29th, all of which were headed by Miss C. M. Gordon on horseback, and had contingents representing the Women's Social and Political Union, the Church League, the Women's Freedom League and others. A fifth demonstration took place at Sunderland, on September 9th, when a number of our societies took part, though, owing to the time of year, all were unable to do so.

Other opportunities arose during the year for joint action with the Women's Social and Political Union. A deputation of women ratepayers to the Newcastle City Council, which resulted in the passing of a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill by 46 votes to 7; a similar deputation to the Tynemouth Council, productive of an equally satisfactory result; deputations to the Rt. Hon. Herbert Samuel, M.P., at Newcastle, on April 29th, 1911, and to Mr. Herbert Craig, M.P. for Tynemouth, on October 6th.

Yet another combined effort has resulted in the formation of the Suffrage Choir, composed of members of any Suffrage Society, and conducted by Madame Marie Bellas Simpson. It met first in the office of the Women's Social and Political Union, but was transferred to that of the Newcastle Society, when Miss Hardcastle lent that Society a piano, and regular practices now take place at 27, Ridley Place, on Tuesdays, at 8 p.m. The Choir, whose members wear no colours but the green sash of the International Alliance, have sung at meetings held under the auspices of either Suffrage Union, in Newcastle, Gateshead, North and South Shields, Hartlepool and Sunderland.

On Friday, December 8th, the Lovaine Hall, Newcastle, was the scene of a Conference, called by the People's Suffrage Federation, to discuss the proposed Reform Bill. This, being the first meeting of the kind ever held, was of great importance. The Suffrage forces were well organised, delegates rushing back from the Special Council in order to be present, and every society

in Northumberland, Durham, Westmoreland and Cumberland was fully represented, either by their own delegates or by proxies. A meeting was held in the office of the Newcastle Society immediately before the Conference, and to it came all the branches of the National Union, the Women's Social and Political Union, the Women's Freedom League, and the Church League, to whom Miss Gordon briefly outlined the amendments to be moved, and the line of action to be adopted. At the Conference itself, which carried every one of our amendments practically unanimously, the representatives of Trades Unions, Miner's Lodges, Political Associations and Co-operative Guilds pledged themselves to "Votes for at least some women, or no more votes for men."

During August, when other work was largely in abeyance, a number of local Councils in our area were urged to pass resolutions in favour of the Conciliation Bill. In all, fourteen have now done so, viz., Newcastle City Council, Hartlepool, Jarrow and Tynemouth Borough Councils, the Rural District Councils of Chester-le-Street and Haltwhistle, and the Urban District Councils of Annfield Plain, Blaydon, Chester-le-Street, Felling, Hetton, Ryton, Southwick and Spennymoor.

The Federation has been a great help to the constituent societies in arranging meetings. A number of speakers were invited to make tours in the area, thus greatly economising time, fatigue and travelling expenses, and also making it far easier for young and inexperienced societies to be active. Among those who kindly spoke at joint meetings of the Federation and the societies were Miss Royden, Miss I. O. Ford, Mrs. Rackham, Lord Robert Cecil, Councillor Margaret Ashton, Mr. Mirrlees, Mrs. Philip Snowden, Miss Lisa Gordon, Mrs. Abbott, Miss Alice Low. In addition, a very large number of meetings have been addressed by Miss Gordon, Dr. Ethel Williams, Mr. Markham, Miss Fenwick, Dr. Dunn, Miss Weddell, Miss Lucas, Mrs. Biltcliffe, Mrs. Walker Black, Miss Mein, Mrs. Harrison Bell, Mr. Foster, Miss Bury, Miss Foley and others.

We are much indebted also to those members who have done work outside the area of their own society; Miss Margaret Dickinson (whose marriage and consequent departure from Jarrow has been a serious loss to us, but an equal gain to the Scottish Federation, who have found in her an energetic and capable Secretary for Gourock), Dr. Mabel Campbell, Miss Sharp, Miss Ellis, Mrs. Smith, Miss Catnach, Miss Robertson, Miss Jardine, Dr. Charlotte Brown, Mrs. Revel, Lady Howick. The Committee feel that special thanks are due to Miss Fenwick, who to her labours as Press Secretary and "Common Cause" Correspondent, added the Secretaryship of the Tynemouth Society, for which she has been responsible since its inauguration in April, 1911.

Through the agency of the Federation, proxy delegates at Council Meetings have been provided for those societies who were unable to send delegates, and in consequence the majority of the societies in the area have been represented at all the meetings held, viz.:—at Edinburgh in July, London in November, and at the Annual Meeting in London in February.

Among the meetings addressed by our members have been many organised by the Primrose League, the Women's Liberal Federation, Liberal, Conservative and Unionist Clubs, Independent Labour Party, Women's Labour League, Adult Schools, Literary and Debating Societies, Mothers' Meetings, etc. In places where there is as yet no society, we have held the following meetings, out of which societies will arise as soon as we have an organiser free to go to them.

Forest Hall, *Hostess*: Mrs. Mackenzie. *Speaker*: Miss Alice Low. *Chair*: Miss Margaret Dickinson.

Westerhope, *Chair*: Mr. Angus Wilkinson. *Speakers*: Mrs. Biltcliffe, Miss Gordon.

Blackhill, *Hostess*: Mrs. *Speaker*: Councillor Margaret Ashton. *Chair*: Miss Peile.

Shotley Bridge, *Hostess*: Miss Walton Wilson. *Speakers*: Miss I. O. Ford and Mrs. Abbott. *Chair*: Mrs. Pumphrey.

Consett, *Speakers*: Miss I. O. Ford, Mrs. Abbott. *Chair*: Miss C. M. Gordon.

Morpeth, *Market Place*, Miss Fenwick.

Morpeth, *Town Hall*, Miss A. Maude Royden. *Chair*: Miss C. M. Gordon.

Stockton, *Town Hall*, Mrs. Philip Snowden. *Chair*: Miss Lucas.

Propaganda work has also been carried on among political Associations, and especially among the Women's Liberal Associations, and, as a result, strike resolutions have been carried in Newcastle at a meeting convened by the Elswick Women's Liberal Association, and at Gateshead, both meetings pledging themselves no longer to work for the Liberal party unless some measure of Women's Suffrage was placed upon the Statute Book before the end of the year.

The Federation has had the services of Miss C. M. Gordon, one of the head organisers of the National Union, throughout the year, except during the month of July, when she was withdrawn for special work in the North-Western Federation. Her withdrawal took place at a most inconvenient moment, as the demonstrations at Tynemouth and South Shields had been undertaken before this was known. Had it not been for Miss Bury (Secretary of the Newcastle Society), who gallantly threw

herself into the breach, these demonstrations would have been utter fiascos. To obviate the recurrence of such a contretemps, the Committee decided to make an effort to raise Miss Gordon's salary in the area, and so establish a permanent claim upon her services. So prompt and generous a response to the appeal was made by individuals and societies that more than the required sum of £100 has been forthcoming during the year. As in last year's Report, the Committee wish to place on record their conviction that the amount of work accomplished during the year, and above all the invaluable spirit of comradeship established among our own societies, as well as with the sister Women's Suffrage Societies in the area, has been largely due to Miss Gordon's presence, and her organising powers. Like every National Union organiser, she has been unsparing of herself this winter, and the demands upon her strength unfortunately called for a respite on sick leave this spring. Before she left, we had secured, however, from the National Union the help of a Junior Organiser (Miss Beaver), and the work planned by Miss Gordon is being most energetically carried on during her enforced absence.

In thanking Dr. Ethel Williams and Miss Hardcastle for continuing to give hospitality to Miss Gordon throughout this second year, the Committee wish to point out that this is by far the most valuable help which can be given, inasmuch as it effects a saving to the Federation Fund of a sum amounting roughly to £65 a year.

About the middle of the financial year the Committee received with regret the resignation of the Treasurer (Miss Alleyne), owing to her approaching marriage. Some time elapsed before a new Treasurer could be found, and the Committee is under great obligations to Mrs. Mundella (the Hon. Financial Secretary), who, besides keeping the accounts during the whole year, kindly undertook all the duties of Treasurer during this interval. Thanks to her and to her husband, who is one of our soundest supporters, the accounts of the Federation, though kept by amateurs, will bear professional inspection.

PARLIAMENTARY WORK.

A great deal of time and energy has been spent on the various M.P.'s in the area. In addition to deputations, too numerous to mention here, but of which reports have appeared regularly in "Common Cause," members have been interviewed by individuals, they have been written to, they have been sent literature, suitable copies of the "Common Cause" and Annual Reports, they have been bombarded with resolutions, endorsing or disapproving their pronouncements, and particularly their votes, in the House of Commons, resolutions, not only from public meetings, but from organisations of voters. Local Councils,

Political Associations of all shades of political colour, Trades Unions, Miners' Lodges and Co-operative Guilds, have one after another given a little turn to the Parliamentary screw. The net result of our action throughout the year was evinced at the Second Reading of the Conciliation Bill in March, when the votes recorded were as follows:—

DURHAM.			Voted or paired, July, 1910.	Voted or paired, May 5th, 1911.	Voted or paired, Mar. 28th, /12.
BOROUGHS.	M.P.'s.	Party.			
Darlington	Lincoln	L.	Abstained	Not in	
	Pike-Pease	U.	Not in	For	For
Durham	Hills	U.	Against	Against	Against
Gateshead	Elverston	L.	For	For	Abstained
Hartlepool	Furness, S.	L.	For	For	Abstained
South Shields	Robson	L.	Against	Not in	
	R. Rea	L.	Not in	For	Abstained
Stockton	Samuel	L.	For	For	For
Sunderland	Storey	Ind.	Abstained	Not in	
	Knott	U.	For	Not in	
	H. Greenwood	L.	Not in	Abstained	Against
	Goldstone	N.T.U.	Not in	For	For
COUNTIES.					
Jarrow	Palmer	L.	For	For	For
Houghton-le-Spring	Cameron	L.	For	Against	For
Chester-le-Street	Taylor	Lab.	For	For	For
North West	Atherley-Jones	L.	For	For	For
Mid.	Wilson, J.	L.	For	Abstained	Abstained
South East	Hayward, E.	L.	For	For	For
Bishop Auckland	Havelock-Allan	L.	Abstained	For	Against
Barnard Castle	Henderson	Lab.	For	For	For
NORTHUMBERLAND.					
BOROUGHS.					
Morpeth	Burt	L.	For	For	For
Newcastle	Hudson	Lab.	For	Abstained	For
	Shortt	L.	For	For	For
Tynemouth	Craig	L.	Against	Against	Against
COUNTIES.					
Berwick	Grey	L.	For	For	For
Hexham	Holt	L.	Against	Abstained	Abstained
Tyneside	Robertson	L.	For	For	For
Wansbeck	Fenwick	L.	For	For	For

PRESS REPORT.

For various reasons, the press work in the Federation has not yet been completely organised or adequately supervised, but the attitude of the press generally in the north-east has proved so satisfactory that the incompleteness of the work has not so far been of serious moment.

All the important dailies in the area are willing, and even eager, to insert Suffrage news, while the *Newcastle Journal*, the *Chronicle*, and the *North-Eastern Daily Gazette* have had at various times leading articles in support of Women's Suffrage. Correspondence is always willingly inserted, and recently the *Hexham*

Courant published a lengthy series of letters on Suffrage principles. In many cases, papers ask for news and for interviews, and the illustrated papers take our photographs on every possible occasion. The *Shields Daily Gazette*, at one time reported as somewhat hostile, now reports Suffrage accurately and fairly, and as far as one can judge, there is not one single paper at war with votes for women.

The strongest recommendation one has to make to Press Secretaries and members is that, as a greater public is reached through the press than by any other means, they should not confine themselves merely to the defensive, but should be on the alert to provide every opportunity for discussion and instruction, so that both public and Press may be kept alive to the vitality of the movement.

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

BARNARD CASTLE.

During the past year three guild meetings have been addressed by Mrs. Wells, viz.:—Church Guild, Free Church Guild and Wesleyan Guild. Each time we had a debate after the address, and the vote was taken and it was always in favour of Women's Suffrage. A public meeting was organised at Middleton-in-Teesdale, at which Mrs. Rackham spoke. Our member, Mr. Arthur Henderson, is a whole-hearted supporter and has promised to vote against the third reading of the Reform Bill unless women are included.

Hon. Secretary: Miss J. Barker, 20, Horse Market, Barnard Castle.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

A public meeting was held in the Co-operative Hall, and shortly after this Society was formed at a meeting addressed by Miss Gordon, on May 15th, 1911, and is the first to be started in this division. The members afterwards arranged an invitation afternoon meeting, at which Miss Christopher, Head of St. Hild's College, Durham, acted as hostess, and addresses were given by Miss Gordon and Miss Mein. In December the Society held a meeting at Sacriston, in the Mid-Durham Division, and arranged a concert with the object of raising funds. In order to advertise Mrs. Snowden's forthcoming meeting propaganda meetings were held at Birtley, when Miss Gordon, Mrs. Black and others spoke and the Rev. J. G. Soulsby took the chair; and at Chester Moor when Miss Faulkner presided and Mrs. Black gave an address. Meetings arranged at Waldrige Fell and Pelton Fell and Fatfield had to be abandoned owing to the coal strike. Mrs. Snowden's meeting took place on April 15th, eleven

months after the formation of the Society, and was an unqualified success in every respect, the largest hall in the division being crowded, and many persons having to stand. Mr. J. W. Taylor, M.P. for the division presided and made an excellent speech. He has received two deputations during the year and is one of the soundest members in the House, having pledged himself to vote against the third reading of the Reform Bill unless it is one worthy of the name and including women. In addition to their other activities members took part in five processions. Five made the journey to London last June and marched in the great joint procession.

Hon. Secretary: Miss Faulkner, 14, Hilda Terrace, South Pelaw, Chester-le-Street.

DARLINGTON SOCIETY.

This year the Society has been one of the most active in the Federation, and has held the following meetings;

- ¹⁹¹¹
- May 17. Annual Meeting in the Temperance Institute. *Speaker*, Miss C. M. Gordon.
- June 14. Garden Party at Polam Hall. *Speaker*, Mrs. Henry Fawcett.
- July 20. Open-air meeting in the Market Place, *Speaker*, Miss C. M. Gordon.
- Sept. Mrs. Harbottle's Drawing Room Meeting, Miss C. M. Gordon.
- Oct. 4. Performance of "How the Vote was won" in the Mechanics' Hall, which left the Society with a good balance in hand.
- Mar. 7 Nine meetings were addressed by Miss C. M. Gordon, resulting in sixty members being added to the Society.
- Mar. 14. to
- Nov. 21. Large Public Meeting in the Mechanics' Hall. Addressed by Miss Margaret Robertson, in place of Lord Lytton.
- Dec. 11. Miss Herbert's Drawing Room Meeting. *Speaker*, Miss Lucas.
- ¹⁹¹²
- Jan. 18. Mrs. Denham's Drawing Room Meeting. *Speaker*, Miss Telford.
- Mar. 14 Mrs. Cruikshank's Drawing Room Meetings. Addressed & 21. by Miss Lucas.
- April 19. Large Public Meeting in the Mechanics' Hall. *Speaker*, Mrs. Philip Snowden.

The Society has been represented at every Federation Committee Meeting, and Miss Lucas, Mrs. Wood and Miss Telford attended Council Meetings in London. Members of the Society walked in all the processions, including the London one, to which five representatives were sent, and Miss Swanson was one

of the delegates to the Provincial Council at Scarborough.' A very successful debate was organised by the Junior Unionists in the Mechanics' Hall, when we were represented by Miss Gordon, and the Antis by Miss Wall, of Leeds.

Hon. Secretary: Miss M. L. Swanson, 17, Waverley Terrace, Darlington.

DURHAM SOCIETY.

At the present moment there is a regrettable decrease in the number of our members, entirely owing to the fact that many have left the town. We hope, however, to make up this loss before the end of our financial year in May.

We have twice had Miss Gordon to address meetings, and are sorry we could not have her help for a week's meetings, owing to election work. Later, when she could have come, we were unable to have her. We sent nine members to the London Demonstration, and were represented at the Newcastle Procession also.

The Durham Town Council was approached by many members of our Committee, but as we could not secure a majority in favour of the Conciliation Bill, we agreed not to proceed further in the matter. On February 22nd, we had a most successful debate at the Constitutional Club, when Mr. Hills, M.P. for Durham, and Dr. Robinson, were severely defeated by Miss Cicely Corbett and Miss Eskrigge.

Hon. Secretary: Miss Burgess, St. Hild's College, Durham.

GATESHEAD SOCIETY.

This Society ended last year with seventy-six members, and has now 120. A deputation was received by Sir Harold Elverston on January 18th, when he reiterated his whole-hearted support of the Conciliation Bill. He broke this pledge by absenting himself from the Division in the House on March 28th, and by this action has roused so much resentment among the members of the Women's Liberal Association in Gateshead that it has pledged itself no longer to work for him until such time as Women's Suffrage is an accomplished fact. The following meetings have been held:—

May	4.	<i>Speaker</i> , Miss I. O. Ford.
Oct.	29.	<i>Speaker</i> , Mrs. Harrison Bell.
Nov.	16.	<i>Speaker</i> , Miss Gordon.
Nov.	24.	<i>Speaker</i> , Councillor Margaret Ashton.
Nov.	29.	<i>Speaker</i> , Mrs. Rackham.
Feb.	16.	<i>Speaker</i> , Miss Royden.

In February, Miss Gordon addressed five Drawing Room Meetings for us, Mrs. Biltcliffe two, and Miss Foley one, all of which brought members to the Society.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Biltcliffe, 23, Edendale Terrace, Gateshead.

HARTLEPOOL SOCIETY.

During the past year we have doubled our membership, and have held a Drawing Room Meeting at Seaton Carew, when Miss Gordon spoke, and many members joined the Society; a Public Meeting in the Town Hall, in conjunction with the Women's Freedom League, when Mrs. Swanwick spoke; and another Drawing Room Meeting in Seaton Carew, when, after an address by Mrs. Rackham, several new members were obtained. We intend to have an organiser in the autumn, and carry on an active campaign.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Thompson, South Holme, Seaton Carew.

HEXHAM SOCIETY.

The above Society was formed on February 8th, at a meeting in Corbridge, at which Miss Hardcastle (Hon. Secretary of the Federation), and Miss Gordon, were present. It started with a membership of thirty-six, and, within twelve months, has increased to seventy-one. During the year, two Public Meetings have been held; one at Hexham, addressed by Mrs. Philip Snowden, with Mr. Alfred Howson in the chair; and one at Stocksfield, at which Miss Alice Low spoke and Mrs. Pumphrey. The Society has also held twelve Drawing Room Meetings, at which Miss Alice Low, Mrs. Rackham, Miss Gordon and Mrs. Abbott have been the speakers, and members of the Society have given papers. On May 4th, a meeting was held in Verræ's Café, Hexham, when Miss Alice Low spoke, and the Rev. Matthew Johnson took the Chair. On December 9th, a Reception was given in the Abbey Hotel; hostess, the Viscountess Howick: speakers, Miss Fenwick and Miss Mein. Mrs. Stenhouse arranged a meeting in Mickley Mission Room, which was addressed by Mrs. Rackham. Resolutions have been sent from all the principal meetings to Mr. Holt, our member, calling upon him to vote for the Conciliation Bill, but the most we have achieved is to secure that on the last two occasions he has refrained from voting against it.

Members resident in Stocksfield, aided by their friends, performed a Suffrage play entitled "Man and Woman" in the Institute, which was a great success, and had excellent reports in all the Hexham papers. In fact, all our meetings of any importance have been exceptionally well reported.

The Annual Meeting was held in March, Mrs. Pumphrey in the chair. Miss Fenwick gave an interesting address on the political situation. Miss Fenwick also addressed the Rothbury Mutual Improvement Society. The Society also took part in several demonstrations.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Walton, Ingleholme, Stocksfield.

JARROW AND SOUTH SHIELDS SOCIETY.

For over a year members in these two constituencies have been united in one society and during that time joint meetings have been held in the two divisions. Miss Florence Robertson, South Shields, has given two Drawing Room Meetings, at which a large number of members were gained; members' meetings have been held at Miss Wills' Café, and Miss Gordon addressed the Primrose League, in the Victoria Hall. In Jarrow, Miss Gordon spoke at two public meetings in the Mechanics' Hall, and Miss Margaret Dickinson organised a Jumble Sale, which placed the Society in funds until its dissolution. Thereafter, three Drawing Room Meetings were held at Jarrow by kind permission of Miss Annie Dickinson, Mrs. Conway and Miss Jardine, when the speakers were Miss Gordon and Miss Weddell, and a public meeting took place in the Mechanics' Institute and was addressed by Mrs. Snowden. In South Shields we united with the Women's Freedom League in an American Tea in the Victoria Hall, when Miss Gordon and Miss Anna Munro spoke; and in a public meeting in the Congregational Hall, when Miss Munro took the chair and Miss I. O. Ford was the speaker. A joint demonstration was held in July, when a long procession, headed by Miss Gordon on horseback, marched from Tyne Dock to the Bents, where the speakers for the N.U. were Miss Florence Robertson (Chair) Miss Margaret Mein and Mrs. Harrison Bell.

Hon. Secretary: for Jarrow, Miss Fletcher, Oaklands, Bedeburn Road, Jarrow.

Hon. Secretary: for South Shields, Miss Sedcole, 17, Westoe Road, South Shields.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE SOCIETY.

The work of this Society has progressed at a greater rate during the past year, owing to the starting of an office, where members can come for information and current Suffrage news. Consequently there has been an increase in membership of 141, nearly double the amount of money has been raised, and about sixty meetings of various kinds have been held. A Procession and Demonstration was organised in June on the Town Moor, in which the other Suffrage Societies and Women's Organisations in the district took part. In July, a "Common Cause" Week made that paper better known in the city, and called forth the energies of all the workers. Twice recently the Town Hall has been well filled by meetings, at which the principal speakers were Mrs. Philip Snowden and Lord Robert Cecil. A joint deputation to the City Council from the Women's Social and Political Union and the Newcastle Society resulted in the Council passing a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage. Propaganda Meetings have been arranged for Midwives and Nurses, Teachers, and

Shop Assistants. A joint Suffrage Choir meets in the office every Tuesday, and, conducted by Mme. Bellas Simpson, practises songs for meetings.

Deputations to our M.P.'s have been favourably received, and both Mr. Hudson and Mr. Shortt voted for the Conciliation Bill on March 28th.

Office: 27, Ridley Place. Secretary: Miss Mary Bury.

SHILDON SOCIETY.

This Society was formed on March 13th, 1911, at a meeting held in the Friends' Meeting House, and addressed by Miss Gordon. It started its career with a membership of forty-five, which rose up to sixty before the week was out, and at the first annual meeting stood at 123. The following meetings have been held during the year:—

- 1911.
- April 5. "At Home," given by Mrs. Brown, our President, and at which Mrs. Gray, of Whitley, gave an address on "Suffrage and Anti-Suffrage Ideals."
- May 3. Public Meeting in the Friends' Meeting House. *Chair*: Mr. Watson. *Speaker*: Miss I. O. Ford.
- May 18. Members and friends in the St. John's Road School. *Chair*: Mrs. Fryer, of Smelt House. *Speaker*: Miss C. M. Gordon.
- June 30. Open-air Meeting, at the Railway Gates, Church Street. *Chair*: Mr. Whittaker. *Speaker*: Miss Margaret Mein.
- Oct. 18. Public Meeting. *Chair*: Councillor Curry. *Speaker*: Miss I. O. Ford.
- Nov. 18. A very successful Musical Evening was held in the Dean Street Schools. Mr. and Mrs. Markham, of Darlington, presided, and the meeting was both socially and financially a success, as we cleared £4 after paying all expenses.
- 1912.
- Jan. 8. Members' Meeting. *Speaker*: Miss Bury.
- Jan. 25. Under the auspices of the Wesley Hall Debating Society, Miss Gordon defeated Miss Cordelia Moir, of Manchester, in debate.
- Jan. 27. A Deputation waited on Sir Henry Havelock Allan, M.P. for the Division. He promised to vote for the Conciliation Bill, but when the time came failed to do so. His action caused widespread indignation, and resulted in a great access of support to the Suffrage from among his Liberal workers.
- Mar. 4. Annual Meeting. *Speaker*: Dr. Ethel Williams.
- April 16. Public Meeting in the Friends' Meeting House. *Speaker*: Mrs. Philip Snowden. *Chair*: Miss Lucas.

Miss Alice Robson, Miss Beadle, Mrs. Brown, Miss Annie Robson and Mrs. Martindale have attended the National Convention and the various Council Meetings. The Society was also represented at the London Procession and at the South Shields Demonstration.

Hon. Secretary: Miss Alice Robson, Sunnydale, Shildon.

SUNDERLAND SOCIETY.

During the year we have held meetings for Miss I. O. Ford and Mr. Mirrlees, Mrs. Philip Snowden, Mrs. Rackham, Miss A. Maude Royden and again for Mrs. Rackham. A deputation waited on the Town Council asking for a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill. It was considered outside the scope of the Council, but the members who spoke declared themselves in favour of Women's Suffrage, and this led up to a strong Town Councillors' Platform at the Demonstration on September 9th. There was also a National Union Platform, at which Councillor Margaret Ashton and Miss Margaret Mein spoke. Members attended the London, Newcastle, Tynemouth and South Shields Demonstrations, and delegates were present at the Council Meetings in July, November and February, while Mrs. Rudd represented the Federation at the Provincial Council at Haslemere, and Mrs. Johnson went up to London to the National Convention. The company of players have twice performed "How the Vote was Won," and a Press Secretary has been appointed. Our members now number over 200, and our finances are in a sound condition.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Arthur Johnson, 2, Gray Road, Sunderland.

TYNEMOUTH SOCIETY.

This Society was formed in April, with a membership of thirty-three, which, at the end of the year, has increased to eighty-four. Two public meetings have been held, addressed by Miss I. O. Ford and Mrs. Philip Snowden; two members' meetings have been held; and four Drawing Room meetings. In subscriptions, donations and collections, nearly £17 has been raised, of which £5 was collected for the organiser's salary fund. The Society's banner was carried by its own members in processions in London, Newcastle, Sunderland, South Shields and Tynemouth. Mr. Herbert Craig, M.P. for the division, received a deputation but it left him unconverted. The member for the Wansbeck constituency, for which this Society is also responsible, has never wavered in his active support of our cause in the House.

Hon. Secretary: Miss Fenwick, The Cottage, Jesmond Park East, Newcastle.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

Anonymous, per Miss Hardcastle	-	-	-	3	12	0
Miss Christopher (Durham)	-	-	-	0	5	0
Mrs. Dunn (Gateshead)	-	-	-	1	1	0
Miss Fenwick (Newcastle)	-	-	-	0	10	0
Miss Hardcastle (Newcastle)	-	-	-	2	2	0
Mrs. Jevons (Durham)	-	-	-	3	3	0
Miss Lucas (Darlington)	-	-	-	1	1	0
Mrs. Marshall (Newcastle)	-	-	-	2	2	0
Miss Mein (Newcastle)	-	-	-	1	1	0
Miss Newbigin (Newcastle)	-	-	-	0	5	0
Miss H. M. Pease (Newcastle)	-	-	-	3	0	0
Mrs. Pumphrey (Hexham)	-	-	-	2	2	0
Mrs. Scholefield (Newcastle)	-	-	-	1	0	0
Miss Shields (Durham)	-	-	-	0	5	0
Mrs. Stoney (Newcastle)	-	-	-	0	10	6
Miss Temperley (Gateshead)	-	-	-	0	5	0
Mrs. Watkins (Durham)	-	-	-	1	1	0
Dr. Ethel Williams (Newcastle)	-	-	-	2	2	0
Gateshead Society (Donation)	-	-	-	1	1	0
" " 1d. in 1/- on income	-	-	-	3	5	6
Newcastle Society Demonstration	-	-	-	11	9	0
" " 2/- in £1 sale profit	-	-	-	1	0	4
N.U.W.S.S. excess on Organiser's Salary	-	-	-	3	4	0
Sunderland Society, 1d. in 1/- on half year's income	-	-	-	3	8	6

£48 15 10

DONATIONS TO PROCESSION FUND.

Miss Foley	-	-	-	-	-	0	13	0
Miss Gordon	-	-	-	-	-	0	8	0
Mrs. Harvey	-	-	-	-	-	0	13	0
Mrs. Peile	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	0
Miss Peile	-	-	-	-	-	0	10	0
Miss Priestman	-	-	-	-	-	10	0	0
						<u>£13</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>

SPECIAL FUND FOR SALARY
OF NATIONAL UNION ORGANISER.

Miss Atkinson, Tynemouth	-	-	-	-	2	2	0
Mrs. Dunn, Gateshead	-	-	-	-	2	10	0
Axel Ericsson, Esq., Newcastle	-	-	-	-	2	0	0
Hartlepool Society	-	-	-	-	1	1	0
Hexham Society	-	-	-	-	2	2	0
Mrs. Jevons, Durham	-	-	-	-	5	2	0
Mrs. Johnson, Sunderland	-	-	-	-	1	0	0
Nicholas Mein, Esq., Newcastle	-	-	-	-	5	0	0
Mrs. Mundella, Sunderland	-	-	-	-	1	0	0
Mrs. A. F. Pease, Darlington	-	-	-	-	1	1	0
Mrs. J. Pease, Newcastle	-	-	-	-	7	0	0
Miss Pease, Richmond	-	-	-	-	5	0	0
The Misses Peile, Shotley Bridge	-	-	-	-	3	1	0
Miss Priestman, Shotley Bridge	-	-	-	-	15	0	0
Mrs. Pumphrey, Hexham	-	-	-	-	10	0	0
David Richardson, Esq.,	-	-	-	-	8	0	0
Sildon Society	-	-	-	-	5	5	0
Sunderland Society	-	-	-	-	3	0	0
Tynemouth Society	-	-	-	-	5	0	0
Dr. Ethel Williams and Miss Hardcastle, Newcastle	-	-	-	-	19	0	0
					<u>£103</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>

NORTH-EASTERN FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.
GENERAL FUND.

Cr.

Income and Expenditure Account, Year ending April 30th, 1912.

Dr.

EXPENDITURE.		£ s. d.	INCOME.		£ s. d.		
To Organiser's Expenses	10	17	11	By Affiliation Fees—	0	2	6
" Speakers' Expenses	28	5	7	Barnard Castle	0	2	6
" Delegates' Expenses	3	14	3	Chester-le-Street	0	5	0
" Printing	12	15	6	Darlington	0	2	6
" Advertising	0	16	6	Durham	0	2	6
" Hire of Halls	5	5	10	Gateshead	0	5	0
" Press Cuttings	1	1	0	Hartlepool	0	2	6
" Sundries	1	15	10	Hexham	0	2	6
" Postage, Telegrams, etc.	8	9	2	Jarrow	0	2	6
" Literature	4	3	11	Newcastle	0	15	0
" Deficit, year ending April 30th, 1911	7	6	2	Sildon	0	5	0
	84	11	8	South Shields	Not paid.		
				Sunderland	0	7	6
				Tynemouth	0	2	6
				Subscriptions, as per List	2	15	0
				" Organiser's Expenses refunded	48	15	10
				" Speakers' Expenses refunded	3	9	4
				" Collections	22	11	0
				" Press Cuttings Donation	6	5	10
				" Donations	1	1	0
				" Receipt Books	0	14	6
				" Literature	0	6	3
					3	18	9
Balance	5	5	10		<u>£89</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>6</u>

Examined and found correct: V. MUNDELLA.

GRANT FROM N.U.W.S.S. FOR WORK IN SPECIAL CONSTITUENCIES.

Dr. Cr.
Income and Expenditure, to April 30th, 1912.

EXPENDITURE		INCOME.
To Chester-le-Street	2 14 9	By Balance, brought forward
„ Hartlepool	5 11 10	
„ Stockton	0 7 10	
	8 14 5	
„ Balance, carried down	39 2 3	
	£47 16 8	£47 16 8