

A Voice: Then why did you do it?

The Chairman contended that he had been attacked in a most virulent manner. (Laughter.) He had stuck to the Welsbach Company,

A Shareholder: At a good price.

The Chairman: At half-price. I have given the shareholders back half what I was told I was to have.

A Voice: And it is good pay then.

The Hon. Philip Stanhope said, on behalf of the whole committee, that the statement Mr. Williamson had made in regard to what happened when Sir Henry C. Burdett told them of the £400 loss on the Kern burner instead of £20,000 was absolutely true, and he wished to state on behalf of the committee that they were unanimous in their recollection that Mr. Williamson was right in what he had said.

Mr. Green (Tunbridge Wells), speaking on behalf of the trade, pointed out the impossibility the trade found in doing any business with the present management. He did not believe any public man had ever made a more lamentable exhibition of himself than Sir Henry C. Burdett had done that day.

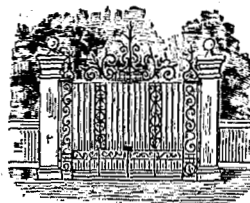
Finally, this great meeting of 1,500 persons, with only some six dissentients, adopted the Committee's Report, and called upon Sir Henry Burdett and the Directors to resign at once. This he declined to do, and left the Hall, amidst a storm of hisses, and it was determined to call another meeting as soon as possible to discharge the whole Board.

After such a scene, said to be unprecedented in the City of London, after such astounding disclosures of something graver than financial incompetence, and when even more serious allegations are threatened, it is not surprising that the nurses who have placed their hard earned savings in the National Pension Fund, should be extremely anxious concerning the part played by Sir Henry Burdett, in its management. Personally, we have always considered the printed regulations concerning the interest on premiums returned are ambiguous and misleading, and for the comfort and satisfaction of all concerned, we consider the Council should institute a searching investigation into every detail of the management, and issue a Report which will allay the natural anxiety which has arisen in the minds of the nurses after the startling disclosures which have been publicly made concerning Sir Henry Burdett's methods of financial management.

Confidence has been given to the nurses in the past by the knowledge that several of the Matrons of our leading training schools hold official positions as representatives of Policy Holders on the Royal National Pension Fund. If these ladies have not, in the past, satisfied themselves by *personal investigation* of the thrifty and careful conduct of the business in connection with it, the time has come when they can no longer neglect this duty.

## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



Once more women suffragists are to the fore. A meeting of members of Parliament favourable to the cause was held in a committee room of the House of Commons last week. Mr. Chas. B. McLaren presided. Amongst those present were Mr. Corrie Grant, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Wm. Johnston, Mr. John D. Hope, Mr. W. J. Galloway, Mr. Firbank, Mr. W. R. Plummer, Mr. Richard Rigg, Mr. Whiteley Thompson, Mr. D. A. Thomas, Mr. Chas. Trevelyan, Mr. Wm. Allan (Gateshead), Mr. Leyland Barrett, Mr. Cameron, Mr. M. Vaughan Davies, and General Laurie.

A sessional committee was formed of those present. Mr. Chas. McLaren was appointed chairman for the session, and Mr. W. J. Galloway and Mr. Rigg hon. secretaries. The following delegates from the Women's Suffrage Societies forming the National Union were present: Mrs. Broadley Reid, Mrs. Russell Cooke (Central Society for Women's Suffrage, London), Miss Helen Blackburn, Mrs. Ashworth Hallett, Mrs. Arthur Francis (Bristol), Miss Milner (Cheltenham), Mrs. Gray Heald (Leeds), Mrs. Shaw (Cambridge), Mrs. Taylor (Southport), and Miss Edith Palliser, secretary.

We sincerely hope that under the able chairmanship of Mr. Charles B. McLaren, whose clever wife is a leader in all that pertains to the elevation of women, a spirited policy will be inaugurated. Discretion is not always the better part of valour. Give us the zeal of the conscientious objector, when great and deep-rooted wrongs have to be righted.

Women's position in politics is at present humiliating and demoralising. So far as can be judged, they are entirely satisfied to be the catspaw for political parties during an election campaign, taking part in all the laborious and disagreeable features of it, and then on election day, when the sovereign will of the people is to be officially expressed, relegated to the contemptuous position of having no right to record their choice of the candidates to be elected.

There are few men nowadays who do not desire the assistance of women, and no man who does not realize fully how handicapped they are without the franchise, and yet how few are the men who are making any genuine effort to obtain it for them. In all the large cities of the country men are appealing to women for help in municipal and parliamentary campaigns, but what do they want them to do? Peddle literature and direct postal cards! Then on election day go into the house and shut the door and let the illiteracy, the unscrupulousness and the vice of the country do the voting!

A burly Tammanyite expressed the situation perfectly during the recent campaign in New York against

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