

**PROCEEDINGS IN CONNECTION WITH  
THE 26-28 ANNUAL MEETING, HELD IN  
MANCHESTER, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,  
LIVERPOOL, FOR THE YEAR 1906, WITH  
THE ANNUAL REPORT AND THE SPEECHES**

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# **THE NATIONAL LIBERAL FEDERATION**

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THE 26-28 ANNUAL MEETING, HELD IN  
MANCHESTER, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,  
LIVERPOOL, FOR THE YEAR 1906, WITH  
THE ANNUAL REPORT AND THE SPEECHES**



1903-06

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# NATIONAL LIBERAL FEDERATION.

PROCEEDINGS

IN CONNECTION WITH THE

## TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE FEDERATION,

HELD IN MANCHESTER,

MAY 12th, 13th, and 14th, 1904,

WITH

*The Annual Report and the Speeches;*

INCLUDING THOSE DELIVERED BY

THE RIGHT. HON.

**JOHN MORLEY, M.P.,**

THE RIGHT. HON.

**HERBERT J. GLADSTONE, M.P.**

AND

**MR. WINSTON S. CHURCHILL, M.P.**

1904.

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# NATIONAL LIBERAL FEDERATION.

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## PRESIDENT :

AUGUSTINE BIRRELL, K.C.

## CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE :

EDWARD EVANS, JUNR.

*(President of the Liverpool Liberal Federal Council.)*

## TREASURER :

DR. JOHN MASSIE.

*(Vice-President of the Oxford Liberal Association.)*

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE :

*(Elected at the Annual Meeting of the General Committee at Leeds,  
February 26th, 1904.)*

AGLAND, FRANCIS DYER (Richmond Division of Yorkshire).  
ANN, E. T. (President of the Derby Liberal Association).  
BARRAN, ALFRED (Vice-President of the North Leeds Liberal Association).  
BIRD, ROBERT (Vice-President of the Cardiff Liberal Association).  
BRUNNER, J. F. L. (Cheshire Liberal Federal Council).  
BUNTING, P. W. (President of the South St. Pancras Liberal Association).  
BURGESS, A. H. (Hon. Sec. of the Harborough Division [Leicestershire] Lib. Assn.).  
DAVIES, W. HOWELL (President of the South Bristol Liberal Association).  
DICKINSON, W. H. (Chairman of the London Liberal Federation).  
FULLERTON, HUGH (Manchester).  
ILLINGWORTH, PERCY HOLDEN (Shipley Division of Yorkshire).  
LEHMANN, R. C. (South Bucks Liberal Association).  
MACDONALD, J. A. MURRAY (President of the Bow and Bromley Liberal and Radical Association).  
RADFORD, CHARLES H. (President of the Plymouth Liberal Association).  
ROWNTREE, ARNOLD S. (Hon. Secretary of the York Liberal Association).  
WATSON, DR. ROBERT SPENCER (Vice-President of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Liberal Association).  
WELLS, SIR ARTHUR S., Bart. (Hon. Secretary of the Home Counties Liberal Federation). *Elected by Executive Committee, March 23rd under Rule V.*  
WHIBLEY, HERBERT G. (President of the Cambridge Liberal Association).  
WILLIAMS, J. E. (Vice-President of the Huddersfield Liberal Association).  
WRIGHT, FRANK (President of the Birmingham Liberal Association).

## SECRETARY :

ROBT. A. HUDSON.

## ASSISTANT SECRETARY :

FRANK BARTER.

## OFFICES :

42, PARLIAMENT STREET, LONDON, S.W.

(Telegrams: "Liberalize, London.")

PROCEEDINGS  
AT THE  
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
OF THE  
NATIONAL LIBERAL FEDERATION  
HELD AT THE  
MIDLAND HALL, MANCHESTER,  
*THURSDAY and FRIDAY, MAY 12th and 13th, 1904.*

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FIRST SESSION.

THURSDAY, MAY 12TH. 2 P.M.

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**REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.**

Moved by Mr. BIRRELL (President of the Federation); seconded by Mr. ROBERT BIRD (Chairman of the Finance Committee of the National Liberal Federation); and resolved:—

“That the Report and Statement of Accounts be received and adopted.”

**ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND TREASURER.**

Moved by Mr. C. E. SCHWANN, M.P. (President of the Manchester Liberal Federation); seconded by Mr. J. EMMOTT BARLOW, M.P. (Chairman of the Manchester Reform Club); and resolved:—

“That Mr. Augustine Birrell, E.C., be re-elected President, and that Dr. John Massie, be re-elected Treasurer for the ensuing year.”

**RETIREMENT OF SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT.**

Moved by THE PRESIDENT; seconded by Mr. F. CAWLEY, M.P. (Lancashire—Prestwich Division); and resolved:—

“That this Council learns with deep regret of the impending withdrawal from the House of Commons of Sir William Harcourt. It places on record its grateful appreciation of the long and eminent services



which he has rendered to the country, and expresses its earnest hope that he may live long to give his powerful aid towards the accomplishment of many of those reforms which he has helped so much to promote and which the Liberal party stands resolutely pledged to carry into effect."

#### THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

Moved by Mr. HILAIRE BELLOC (Prospective Liberal Candidate for South Salford); seconded by Sir JOHN BRUNNER, BART., M.P. (Cheshire—Northwich); and resolved:—

"That this Council records its hearty and unabated confidence in Lord Spencer and Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and their colleagues in the two Houses of Parliament, and, being satisfied by the clear evidence of the by-elections and other unmistakable signs that Mr. Balfour's present Administration, far from representing the opinion of the Country, has incurred the contempt of men of all shades of political opinion, calls upon the Government to submit itself to the judgment of the constituencies at the earliest possible moment."

#### FREE TRADE.

Moved by Sir W. H. HOLLAND, M.P. (Yorkshire—Rotherham Division); seconded by Mr. REGINALD MCKENNA, M.P. (North Monmouth); and resolved:—

"That this Council, whilst reiterating its former declarations upon the revolution in our Fiscal Policy proposed by Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain, recognises that the course of recent events has shown that the preservation of the Country from the evils of Protection and the Taxation of Food depends mainly upon the determined and organised opposition of the Liberal Party, and calls upon all who are alive to these dangers to join in saving the Country from them."

#### LAND AND SOCIAL REFORMS.

Moved by Mr. F. S. STEVENSON, M.P. (Suffolk—Eye Division); seconded by Mr. HENRY VIVIAN (Prospective Liberal Candidate for Birkenhead); and resolved:—

"That this Council again calls attention to the urgent necessity of Social Reform, particularly in connection with the Housing Question, the reform of the Land Laws, the Equality of Rating, and kindred matters, and once more records its opinion that Land Values should be taxed so as to contribute their fair share towards the ever-increasing cost of local administration."

## SECOND SESSION.

FRIDAY, MAY 13TH. 10.30 A.M.

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### EDUCATION.

Moved by Dr. JOHN MASSIE (Treasurer of the National Liberal Federation); seconded by Mr. F. D. ACLAND (Prospective Liberal Candidate for the Richmond Division of Yorkshire); and resolved:—

“That this Council is convinced that no satisfactory settlement of the Education Question can be obtained from the present Government, and that no settlement can be accepted that does not secure for the country a national system of Education based on popular control and management, and freed from religious tests and sectarian influences.”

### NATIONAL EXPENDITURE.

Moved by Mr. L. V. HARCOET, M.P. (Lancashire—Rossendale Division); seconded by Mr. A. E. W. MASON (Prospective Liberal Candidate for Coventry); and resolved:—

“That this Council views with alarm the enormous growth of the ordinary yearly expenditure of the nation due to the long predominance of the Tory party, and declares such expenditure to be uncalled for by national necessities. In particular, the Council protests against the extravagance of the amounts now spent upon armaments, and against the loss of life and waste of money involved in needless and aggressive expeditions such as those in Somaliland and Tibet.”

### TEMPERANCE REFORM.

Moved by Mr. T. P. WHITAKER, M.P. (Yorkshire—Spenn Valley Division); seconded by Dr. A. P. THOMAS (Prospective Liberal Candidate for the Bootle Division of Lancashire); and resolved:—

“That this Council strongly condemns the Government Licensing Bill, since it interferes with the discretion of the Magistrates, does nothing to popularise the constitution of the Licensing Authority, and by creating for the first time a vested interest in a licence places new and serious obstacles in the way of Temperance Reform.”

**CHINESE LABOUR.**

Moved by Mr. CHARLES FENWICK, M.P. (Northumberland—Wansbeck Division); seconded by Mr. ELLIS J. GRIFFITH, M.P. (Anglesey); and resolved:—

“That this Council protests against the Ordinance permitting the introduction of indentured Chinese Labour into the Transvaal, and, whilst challenging the statement that cheap foreign Labour is a commercial necessity, places on record its conviction that the proposal is inconsistent with the Common Law of England, destructive of the love of liberty, inimical to the true interests of South Africa, and likely to weaken the bond of union between the several portions of the Empire.”

**VOTE OF THANKS TO MANCHESTER LIBERALS.**

Moved by Mr. EDWARD EVANS, JUNR. (Chairman of General Committee of National Liberal Federation), and resolved:—

“That the best thanks of this Council be tendered to the President of the Manchester Liberal Federation and his colleagues, and to the Officers and Members of the Reception Committee for their excellent arrangements in connection with the visit of the Federation to Manchester, also to Mr. Charles E. Schwann, M.P., and Mrs. Schwann, and to Mr. J. Eumott Barlow, M.P., President of the Reform Club, and the Committee of the Club for their generous hospitality.”

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