

(L604)

Dec 29<sup>th</sup> - 1888,

FONTMELL PARVA,

CHILDE OKEFORD,

SHILLINGSTONE,

DORSET.

TELEGRAPH STATION

Dear Sir,

may I ask if you will kindly send me the sum of £ 20 which you are good enough to contribute to the North Dorset Conservative

Appl.?

We have paid great attention to Registration this year & gained about eighty more votes. We have

have also recently  
concluded a series of  
twenty one lectures on  
political matters, aided  
by a magic lantern, &  
these were well attended,  
and as a rule quietly  
conducted -

In fact there is reason to  
hope that when we  
have a candidate in the

field he will have a  
much more hopeful  
prospect than has been  
possible in North Dorset  
since the labourers have  
had political power in  
their hands -

Yours truly

H. Squiercombe Power

(Hon. Sec.)

Not sent

LBK

North Dorset Conservative Association

Yotmell Parva Blandford.

My dear Sir

The Finance Committee of our Council met recently to consider the present position of this Association and to see what steps can be taken to counteract the great and unremitting exertions made by the Separatist party in North Dorset.

It is well known that in their camp money is always forthcoming to further their political views in any and every way.

With us on the contrary, there is not a sufficient income even to secure proper Registration while other work such as is necessary to defeat our opponents is almost entirely neglected.

Our present income amounts but to £200 and arises from subscriptions given by thirty two gentlemen, and four Districts and nearly half the total amount comes from four subscribers.

It is therefore abundantly manifest that the great majority of the Constitutional party take no share in this most necessary duty.

No one can be unaware of the zeal and activity with which the Separatist propaganda is carried on.

We have to cope with a staff of highly paid agents assisted by the great majority of the nonconformist ministers and by such means as these the dangerous fallacies of the Separatist are being constantly dinned into the ear of the new voter. —

Unless therefore we are to abandon all hope of winning this seat it is absolutely necessary that we should take prompt action to provide an antidote to the Separatist and Radical poison and to put sound Constitutional views before the laborers. —

We are advised that when an election is close at hand the Association must be very careful in its use of paid Agency

Therefore it is doubly incumbent upon us to work now and make a vigorous effort to influence the — constituency by large meetings in the towns, smaller meetings in villages, working men agents, literature &c besides our important work of Registration

It is obvious that we cannot carry on this vigorous political warfare without a considerable expenditure of money

In view of the opinions which are openly expressed by prominent politicians among our opponents it is surely unnecessary to say that this matter is one which most vitally affects all.

Love for our country, no less than a regard for our

own interests call on us with no uncertain voice to oppose a party to whom the integrity of the Empire and the rights of property are alike matters of indifference

We therefore hope that you will feel that every landowner and householder who has an interest in North Dorset should take his fair share in the effort to provide funds to promote this object in proportion to his stake in this Division of the County.

We want £500 and we propose to follow the example of a neighbouring Constituency, where a financial scheme has been drawn up which has worked well; but before we go into details we wish to consult you, as one of our principal landowners and we request the favour of your kind consideration and an early reply. —

We are only too painfully aware that this is a bad time to ask for money but on the other hand the matter is urgent and admits of no delay.

We are, my dear Sir,

Yours faithfully

William Parker, General

Chairman of the Council

H. Syndercombe Power

Hon. Sec.