

MONTHLY NEWS  
of the  
**Conservative Women's Reform  
ASSOCIATION.**  
NEW ISSUE.

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“FOLLOW LIGHT—DO THE RIGHT.”

**Parliamentary.**

It is indeed sad to record, after all the hard work given to the Criminal Law Amendment Bill both by men and women, that owing to the introduction of a new clause dealing with unnatural practices among women, the Bill was thrown out by the Lords. It seems certain that this clause was moved by Mr. MacQuistin with the deliberate intention of wrecking the Bill, on account of his dislike to Clause 2., and unfortunately he and his friends succeeded in their design. If this, as it should be, is remembered against them, no less must we remember with gratitude Major Farquharson's gallant and dogged attempt to place the Bill on the Statute Book.

As for the Children of Unmarried Parents Bill we must weep for it. It passed the Commons without a division, but the Lords hesitated, apparently scared by the discovery that it contained much legal language—what Bill does not?—and it was lost. Surely the moral of this is to amend a certain well-known proverb into “Do not look too long before you leap.”

In view of the general sympathetic interest taken by our Society in the proposed Bill for the legalisation of Child Adoption, it may be as well to remind our members that all Societies who wish to send in amendments to the findings of the Home Office Committee should do so during the coming months.

If we are saddened by the fate of the two preceding Bills, we may well rejoice over the Government's decision upon Women in the Civil Service. On August 5th Major Hills supported by Sir Samuel Hoare introduced a motion dealing with the employment of women in the Civil Service. Although the Government did not accept these resolutions, Sir Robert Horne came forward with three Resolutions which, coupled with the assurances of fair dealing he repeatedly gave in his speech, mark undoubtedly an immense advance in the position of women. The Resolutions are as follows:—

“(1) That this House approves of the temporary Regulations for competitions governing the appointment of women to situations in the new reorganisation classes in the Home Civil Service. Provided that after a provisional period of three years women shall be admitted to the Civil Service of His Majesty within the United Kingdom under the same Regulations, present or future, as provide for and prescribe the mode of admission for men. Provided, further, that the allocation by the Civil Service Commissioners of such candidates as qualify at the examination shall be made with due regard to the requirements of the situation to be filled.

(2) That women shall be appointed to and continue to hold posts in the Civil Service within the United Kingdom under the same Regulations, present or future, as govern the classification and (in so far as regards status and authority) other conditions of service for men.

(3) That, having regard to the present financial position of the country, this House cannot commit itself to the increase in Civil Service salaries involved in the payment of women in all cases at the same rate as men; but that the question of the remuneration of women as compared with men shall be reviewed within a period not exceeding three years. Provided that arrangements in hand for the inclusion of ex-service men on special terms be not by these Resolutions prevented or delayed.”

They were passed without a division.

The New Licensing Act came into force on Saturday, September 3rd. It does not seem to be generally known that it is no longer necessary to pay cash when ordering wine.

As far as the new Session is concerned, Ireland, as every one knows, will be the chief business of the House. Throughout not only the Country, but the Empire, an overwhelming majority are hoping that the Dail will accept the generous terms which have been offered to her. Now at any rate, the action of the Cabinet has

met with almost universal approval. Press and parties alike, of many shades of opinion are at length united in agreement with the proposals of Mr. Lloyd George and his colleagues. It only remains for us to continue to exercise patience and to pray that it may never be said of Ireland that she knew not the date of her visitation.

Next in importance to Ireland comes the long-promised Reform of the House of Lords. When the Parliament Act of 1911 was introduced by Mr. Asquith it was brought forward solely with the idea of being a temporary measure until such time as a new Second Chamber could be constituted holding limited and defined powers. Mr. Asquith, however, did nothing in this respect before the War, and when war broke out, necessarily no action could be taken. But in the joint manifesto issued at the last election by Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Bonar Law a pledge was given that it "will be one of the objects of the Government to create a Second Chamber which will be based upon direct contact with the people and will therefore be representative enough adequately to perform its functions."

It will be remembered that a Committee with Lord Bryce as Chairman was appointed in 1917 to enquire into and report on Second Chamber Reform. The main recommendations of the Conference were that the House of Lords should consist of 327 members. At the outset a minority of the members should be elected by a Joint Standing Committee of both Houses, while the majority were to be elected in three ways with terms of office of twelve, eight and four years respectively. The first body were to be elected by a Joint Standing Commission of both Houses, the second by Members of the present House of Commons, and the third by members of the next House of Commons. Afterwards Lord Bryce's Commission recommended that the majority of the House should be elected by members of the Commons, grouped in geographical areas, the seats allotted to each area in proportion to the population of the area, and the minority by a Joint Standing Committee of both Houses. The term of office of both parts of the House was to be for twelve years, one-third to retire every four years.

The qualifications recommended for the majority of the House were the same as for the House of Commons, with the addition of clergymen, while peers not eligible for the Second Chamber would be eligible to sit in the House of Commons. For the minority there are two sets of qualifications, one to hold good for the first twelve years, and the other afterwards. At the first election held at the outset the whole body of the minority (81 persons) are to be Peers, including five Bishops; at the second and third elections (that is for those members elected for eight or four years) not less than forty are to be Peers. The second set of qualifications would alter this number to a minimum of thirty, the remainder

to be made up of persons eligible for election to the majority of the Second Chamber. The Law Lords, the Lord Chancellor (who would act as Speaker) ex-Lord Chancellors while still acting in a judicial capacity, and the sons and grandsons of the Sovereign are all to become ex-officio members.

Such are the recommendations made as to the composition of the Second Chamber. As to its functions, Lord Bryce's Committee urged that it should deal with Financial Bills through a Financial Joint Committee composed of seven members of each House appointed by each House, with power to co-opt an "outside" Chairman. Their duties would be to decide whether Bills referred to them are financial, in which case they can order the Bill to be divided so as to exclude the non-financial portions. Also whether provisions of a non-financial character are more important than financial ones, when they can send the Bill to the Second Chamber as a non-financial Bill. The Second Chamber would not be allowed to introduce taxation, or to rob the Commons of its privilege to initiate any Bill which would have arisen from Ways and Means, or from a Committee of the whole House. As far as other Bills are concerned under this scheme the Second Chamber will have unlimited powers, and if a Bill is passed by one House and rejected, or its amendments rejected, by the other, it can be referred to what is called a Free Conference consisting of forty members, half of whom would be appointed by both Houses at the beginning of each Parliament to form a Joint Standing Committee, and the other twenty to be appointed by each House whenever a Bill comes up for discussion.

It may be thought that this article is somewhat ponderous and overweighted with dull matter concerning recommendations which are old enough to be either completely forgotten or regarded as out of date. But be that as it may, the fact remains that the scheme originated by Lord Bryce's Committee is regarded by the Government as the most important of those which have been put forward for the reform of the House of Lords, while at the same time the Government is firm in its determination to stand by the pledge given by its leaders in 1918 because it recognises that a reformed Second Chamber will be the greatest safeguard for constitutional government.

The third great task which lies before the Prime Minister during the next few months is his attendance at the Washington Conference, which has been convened at the suggestion of President Harding to deal with the two great subjects of disarmament and Pacific policy. It will indeed be a wonderful achievement if at the conclusion of that meeting existing friendships between the Empire, America, Japan and China should be so strengthened that not a particle of suspicion can ever rest in the mind of a single inhabitant of those countries with regard to Far Eastern policy, while at the same time the great Navies of the

world go about their appointed tasks without the weight of rival "programmes" attached to them; for in these days even friendly rivalry in ship-building weighs very heavily.

Recent bye-elections have shown the determination of the country to secure an un wasteful Parliament, although, both in the case of Westminster and West Lewisham, the successful candidates have not been content to call themselves "anti-waste" alone. It is indeed an excellent thing that both General Nicholson and Sir Philip Dawson are not ashamed to own that they hold other principles besides that of anti-waste. Truth to tell, the anti-waste campaign has been staged by the Press, and partakes largely of the character of a hoax played on the British public. Thank Heaven! the day of "black lists" and so-called "Rolls of Honour" are over, and we are beginning to recover our sanity. It will be interesting to see who gets in for Louth, where none of the candidates are Anti-waste. Although a Conservative paper, we cannot but give much admiration and sympathy to Mrs. Wintringham, who is pluckily standing in her late husband's place. Her record is a fine one. She is a member of the Grimsby Education Committee and of the Louth Rural District Housing Committee, Hon. Organiser and Secretary of the Lindsey County Federation of Women's Institutes, a co-opted member of the County Agricultural Committee and a J.P.

#### A Matter of Urgency.

It is a matter of common knowledge that Cambridge is the only remaining University in the British Isles that does not admit women to membership of the University. Although both Girton and Newnham have celebrated their 50th Jubilees and are the oldest women's colleges, women do not receive degrees; they are admitted to lectures and tripos examinations by courtesy but not by right and are eligible for only 5 out of 145 University studentships, scholarships and prizes.

Women lecturers have no voice in University questions and cannot use the University Library except on the terms of the general public. Last December a proposal to admit them to full membership was voted on by 1,620 M.A.'s and defeated by a comparatively small majority, although the resident Cambridge vote was slightly in their favour and there was a remarkable preponderance of Professors and Heads of Houses on their side. The reasons expressed by many adverse voters, otherwise anxious to remove women from their anomalous position in the University, were that stronger safeguards were needed to prevent the flooding of the University by women, and that men should have the very last word in matters affecting men's education. The present position being clearly intolerable, and felt to be so by almost all parties, a compromise

scheme has since been put forward to meet these objections, which will be voted upon on October 20th. It would enable women to be matriculated from Women's Colleges as members of the University, confining their number to 500; it would make them eligible for all degrees of the University with all its privileges, except Membership of the Senate; and subject to the special rights of particular colleges, women could hold any scholarships, prizes, studentships, Professorships, Readerships, Lectureships, Examinerships, etc., and become Members of Boards of Studies and Syndicates.

Support for this scheme has already been promised by 50 M.A.'s who voted non-placet last December, and by 22 who did not vote at all. Although the proposals are in many ways illogical, the Women's Colleges are prepared to welcome the compromise in view of the substantial concessions offered, and in the hope that Membership of the Senate may follow at a later date.

The alternative proposal to be voted upon, also on October 20th, would confer titular degrees upon women, but in other respects would not touch the reasons for the present discontent. It is by no means certain that the compromise scheme will pass; the party of reaction will muster all its forces, and favourable votes may again be lost, as they were last December, in an erroneous belief that a successful result is assured. It is therefore of the utmost importance that all Members of the Senate interested in the position of women at the University should record their vote in Cambridge on October 20th in favour of Grace I.

AGNES ETHEL CONWAY.

#### Here and There.

It is distinctly encouraging to read the reports of the speeches of various Labour Leaders such as Mr. Hodges and Mr. Thomas advocating the cause of increased production, and depreciating the continued use of strikes, which Labour has seemingly come to regard as the first, not the last resort in Industrial troubles. Trade depression in England to-day is so acute that we cannot afford to lose any opportunity of righting the country as speedily as possible and with the best will in the world between Capital and Labour, a very long time must elapse before we can regain an appreciable measure of economic security. During the last century we have become one of the greatest manufacturing countries of the world, with the result that we rely more and more on sea-borne food. In fact to-day we are importing more than 60 per cent. of our food, which will have to be paid for mainly by exports. But the world's markets are closed to us for a variety of reasons. Europe is poor and cannot buy because the admixture of her collapsed exchanges and our high cost of production at home create prices so large that she cannot pay them. America is enormously developing her own re-

sources, and consequently she is buying less abroad. Meanwhile, winter draws on with one-and-a-half million of our people out of work, and a total population of 40 millions to feed. Away then with suspicion and Ca'canny, with strikes and bad employers. We simply dare not waste any more time in quarrelling. The war has proved that there is no inexhaustible fund in any country, except the right-mindedness of its people. Once our people realise that repeated mistakes in industry mean high prices, unemployment and eventual economic ruin, we are sure that they will put their hand to the plough of hard work that alone can bring prosperity, and never look back.

September 26th to 30th are the dates of the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women, which is to be held at Sheffield. The Conservative Women's Reform Association has sent up a resolution on the British Nationality of married women as recorded in the last issue of our paper. The Society has also nominated three representatives to the Executive, namely, Lady Trustram Eve, Miss Gilstrap and Lady Lloyd Graeme.

The Education Committee are making arrangements for a Conference to be held in October on Second Chamber Reform. On December 14th, Mr. H. G. Williams has very kindly consented to address a meeting on "National Finance." This subject being of absorbing interest at the present time we hope our members will keep December 14th free and will apply to us for tickets for their friends.

Full particulars of meetings, etc., are published in *Monthly News*, price 2d. monthly, subscription 2s. per annum, post free.

## Professional & Business Women's League

*President:* THE VISCOUNTESS ST. CYRES.

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### LECTURES.

WEDNESDAYS, 8.15 p.m.

- October 5th. "The Theatre" Sir JOHNSTON FORBES-ROBERTSON.  
 October 12th. "Post-War Problems of Rural Reconstruction" COLONEL J. MALCOLM MITCHELL.  
 October 19th. "Self-Expression through Poetry" Mr. R. DIMSDALE STOCKER.  
 October 26th. "The Role of Women in the Revolutionary Movement" Mrs. NESTA WEBSTER.

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