

MONTHLY NEWS  
of the  
**CONSERVATIVE & UNIONIST**  
WOMEN'S FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION.

*President:* THE COUNTESS OF SELBORNE.

*Chairman of Executive Committee:* WINIFRED, COUNTESS OF ARRAN.

*Hon. Sec.:* MRS. GILBERT SAMUEL.

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**REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE.**

Nearly four months have passed since the House of Commons, by a majority of 214 to 17, passed the Woman Suffrage Clause of the Representation of the People Bill, the proposal accepted by the House being that adopted by the Speaker's Conference, and agreed to by all the Suffrage Societies, save one. At the risk of repetition, we venture to remind our readers that under the provisions of the clause all women "occupiers" over a certain age (30 or 35) who already have the Local Government vote, and all wives of men (also occupiers) who have the Local Government vote, will in future be entitled to exercise the Parliamentary Franchise. The number of women who will be able to vote at Parliamentary elections under the scheme is estimated at about 6,000,000, as against 10 or 11 million men voters. There is really no very good reason why women should be voteless, until they are on the threshold of middle-age, still less why women lodgers and daughters living at home should be ineligible when every adult male voter is qualified by a mere six months' residence in one place, and Suffragists cannot be expected to applaud these inequalities. But the Bill is admittedly not a counsel of perfection, but a compromise to meet a pressing need.

After our triumph at the outset with its promise of speedy victory, the long subsequent delay has proved rather disconcerting. But the urgencies of war have been so helpful in educating the public mind in our favour, that it would be unfair to complain when the same elements interrupt the course of Parliamentary business. Much time was lost to us by the debate on the Corn Production Bill—an immediate war necessity—and there have been other measures of a like nature, to which we have had to yield precedence. But if there has been delay, we have it on the highest authority that the People's Bill is not, and will not be "shelved." Mr. Lloyd George, speaking on September 28th to a deputation from the Labour Party and the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee, said:—"They would have no need to be apprehensive of the Bill, because it was the intention of the Government to afford every facility for its early passing into law. The Government had not swerved one iota with regard to their interest in the measure, the urgent necessity of which was apparent to them all."

No one can say when a General Election may become necessary; but it is a matter of common knowledge that on the existing Parliamentary

register no election could be taken which would be other than a farce. Hence the "urgent necessity" of the People's Bill, which undertakes to create a new register. The security of Suffragists in their share of it lies in this—that an overwhelming majority of their countrymen have now made up their minds that there can be no true representation of the people without the inclusion of women. The rest we must leave to time, but with anything like reasonable luck we may hope for the Royal Assent before Christmas.

**Women Solicitors.**

Lord Buckmaster's Bill for the admission of women as solicitors, which passed through the Lords without a division, has met with the obstacle in the Commons that no Bill can be taken that is not a Government measure.

When the Law Society introduced a Bill of their own to reduce the number of Statutory examinations from three to one each year, the Government were approached with the view of getting special facilities for Lord Buckmaster's Bill. It was pointed out that the Law Society's Bill was based on the fact that there was a shortage of male candidates, and that therefore the case for the admission of women was overwhelming. Mr. Bonar Law held out a faint hope that the Government might consider the matter, and there for the moment it rests.

In an interview with Major J. W. Hills in the *Observer* of September 9th, stress is laid on the very considerable inconvenience that might have been avoided, had the restriction on women been removed at the beginning of the war. Many solicitors' businesses are one-man businesses, and it would have been an immense advantage if a sister or some other woman relative could have carried on the work while the man went to the front. In some cases this is actually being done, but of course unofficially. A woman does the work, but cannot act as solicitor.—*Weekly Notes.*

The Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women was held in London last week. Our Association was represented by Winifred Countess of Arran and Mrs. Gilbert Samuel. It has now been decided that societies affiliated to the National Union of Women Workers shall be represented on its Executive by twelve members. The election for these will take place shortly. Our nominees are—Mrs. Gilbert Samuel and Mrs. Ridley Smith. The Executive Committee of the N.U.W.W. will in future meet monthly instead of quarterly as heretofore.



### The Nationality of Married Women.

We are signing the following Memorial, for which the National Union of Women Workers is obtaining as much support as possible from women's societies throughout the Empire:—

"We, the undersigned, representing Women's Societies throughout the British Empire, having noted that the Imperial War Conference held in London in March and April, 1917, expressed the desirability and importance of securing uniformity of policy and action throughout the Empire with regard to the laws of naturalization, and commended to the consideration of the respective Governments summoned to the Conference a Memorandum and Draft Bill proposing amendments to the nationality laws of the Empire, have the honour to submit to you our claim that any amendment of these laws should include the grant to women, in those parts of the British Empire where such amendment is necessary, of the right to retain their British nationality on marriage with an alien, a right enjoyed by them under the laws of the United Kingdom until 1870.

We further urge that uniformly throughout the Empire the laws should provide that a woman shall not on marriage with an alien be deprived of her British nationality against her will, but that she shall be given the same choice of nationality as a man."

The International Woman's Suffrage Alliance is also making an enquiry into the question of the nationality of married women. Laws regarding the position of women married to foreigners vary in different nations; all, however, denying choice to the women as to accepting the nationality of her husband. The hardships arising from the war, which have resulted in so many women being treated as alien enemies in their own countries, have brought home to women the need of amending the laws; but it is a question that must be solved internationally, and women's organizations in all countries must act together in the matter.

### The Victoria Hut.

We have often referred in these pages to our work in connection with the Victoria Hut. Our members are aware that the last instalment of the £550 required for the Building Fund was paid over by us last April. We have received a donation of £100 from the Management Committee, with the following letter from the Hon. Mrs. C. H. S. Stanhope, Chairman of the Committee:—

"On behalf of the Management Committee of the Y.W.C.A. Victoria Hut, I have pleasure in forwarding the enclosed cheque for £100 to the funds of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association. It was voted at the last Committee meeting, and is a very inadequate expression of appreciation for the great help and co-operation so generously given to aid the Young Women's Christian Association in their endeavour for the welfare of Government clerks in that district. It would be a great pleasure if this money could be used for some war charity that the C.U.W.F.A. is interested in. I think it would

interest your Association to know what a very great success this Hut has proved and how much it is valued by the girls; and one of the chief factors in this success has been the devoted work of Mrs. Percy Boulnois and her helpers."

The Executive Committee have decided that this donation shall be added to the Association's Loan Training Fund for the daughters of professional men.

### Churchwomen and the Vote.

As the time approaches when they may be called upon to take part in electing the House of Commons, it is much to be hoped that Conservative women are studying current political questions, so that they may use their new powers intelligently. Of all the questions which are likely to engage the attention of Parliament, as soon as the pressure of the war is withdrawn, that of the relations of Church and State is sure to be one of the first.

At present Churchpeople suffer under various evils which nobody defends, which could be easily remedied, but which are not remedied, because Parliament is either too busy with other matters, or because some group of members for political reasons set themselves to oppose every attempt at reform. However inefficient a clergyman is, he cannot be removed from his living. He may stay on and draw the pay for his services when he is too old and infirm to render them. He may totally neglect his schools, thus nullifying the efforts of Churchmen to preserve their own form of religious education, yet no one can supersede him.

Then it is impossible to vary the services. The Church should be free to alter or add to her devotional forms to meet the requirements of people of a different age, and different conditions to those in which these forms took their present shape. There are many other things which need adjustment. No living growing body can be confined in a wooden inelastic shell without suffering serious injury.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, fully alive to these dangers, is taking steps to remedy them. He and his advisers have formulated a plan, whereby through elected Church Councils such changes as are necessary for the welfare of the Church can be carried out. On these Councils women are to be represented—somewhat inadequately according to the present scheme—but at any rate a step in the right direction is to be made.

But in order to make the Archbishop's proposals operative, an Act of Parliament will be necessary; and I would strongly urge all Churchwomen to study the subject, so that at the first election for which they have a vote, they may bring it to the notice of the candidate for their suffrages.

The true Conservative should be energetic in the removal of undoubted and admitted abuses, as it is most often under cover of an attack on them that the Radicals succeed in injuring valuable and revered institutions.—MAUD SELBORNE.

### The Health of Munition Workers.

The Committee appointed to enquire into the health of Munition Workers has issued an Interim Report on Industrial Efficiency and Fatigue (price 1s. 3d.). It contains valuable information regarding the conditions under which women are working, and their effect on health. Two valuable memoranda, already published separately (price 2d. each). "Industrial Fatigue and its Causes" and Vernon's "Output in relation to hours of work" are reprinted entirely. The Report also contains an interesting medical study on the results of an enquiry into the health of women engaged in munition factories, carried out by Dr. Janet Campbell and Dr. Lilian Wilson.

The Committee had already expressed the opinion in a former memorandum that women should not work more than sixty hours a week; and Dr. Vernon was deputed to find out whether this should be of general application, or whether in the interests of output (which is also a measure of the worker's health and efficiency), any difference should be made between the various kinds of work. Dr. Vernon has kept women munition workers under observation for over a year, and has noted the variations of output corresponding to variations of hours of work. Her report confirms the fact that overtime beyond the ordinary Factory Act week is inexpedient in the interests of output, as well as the women themselves. In fact, she thinks it probable that sixty hours a week are still too many to produce the greatest output, the rate of which could be maintained even if the hours were reduced to fifty-six or less.

The health of the munition workers does not seem to be bad on the whole; but it would be interesting to know what is the reason for the continual shifting of workers which seems to be going on. The medical investigators point out that the fairly satisfactory health reports "are no criterion of what effect may be produced upon those—and their number is not inconsiderable—who for various reasons give up industrial employment after a short time." For instance, out of 210 workers examined in one factory, only 116 were there when a second examination took place six months later.

The Medical Report tells us of unsatisfactory conditions in other directions. We read of women working seventy-seven hours a week, of girls being forbidden to sit down when their work could thus be just as well performed, or when not engaged on their machines; of 300 women and girls engaged in dirty occupations who were provided with only three basins of cold water without soap or towels; spells of six or seven hours without food, the legal five hours spell being increased by long journeys to and from work. The Committee was surprised at the ignorance of industrial problems manifested by both employers and employed, and also by the "complete absence of all systematic effort to collect exact data which might prove of permanent value in the solution of industrial problems." It recommends the establishment of a permanent organization "for the collection of scientific data upon which alone can

be based the right solution of many industrial problems intimately connected with the future prosperity and progress of the nation."

### Women and the Welsh Church Conference.

We understand that there were no women members of the Conference of Welsh Churchmen, which met at Cardiff at the beginning of October, to draw up a preliminary constitution for the Welsh Church. This seems a serious omission. From time immemorial, as Weekly Notes of the N.U.W.S.S. points out, women have been privileged to hold the office of Churchwarden; and to shut them completely out of an assembly which is to draw up a constitution for the Welsh Church is very ill-advised.

### Constitution of Welsh Church.

#### WOMEN AS REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS.

The Convention of the Church in Wales was resumed at Cardiff on October 3rd.

The consideration was resumed of the scheme for the creation of a representative body, Clause 6 of which provides that "every male communicant of not less than twenty-one years of age shall be qualified to be a member of the representative body." To this clause the Rector of Harwarden had moved an amendment to eliminate the word "male," but this was withdrawn in favour of another amendment moved by Mr. Justice Sankey, and seconded by Lord Justice Bankes, that the clause should read:—"Every communicant of either sex shall be qualified," and conclude with the proviso that at the first election, and until the governing body shall otherwise determine, the number of women to be elected, nominated, and co-opted shall not exceed twelve.

Mr. Justice Sankey said that he was in favour of the limited admission of women. If two women were elected from each diocese, and if two were nominated members and two co-opted, that would give women twelve members, or one-sixth of the lay membership.

Mr. W. S. de Winton maintained that women should be admitted on an equal footing to men; and Archdeacon Green invited Mr. Justice Sankey to make clear certain points.

Mr. Justice Sankey said that his proposal was that the question of the admissibility of women to the governing body should be first considered by the governing body. If their admission was found permissible canonically, then women should be appointed in the proportion already proposed.

Archdeacon Green said that there was no instance in which women had been admitted to the integral membership of Church councils, though they had been admitted to monastic assemblies. He pointed out that the governing body could not be a Synod as long as the Church in Wales continued part of the Province of Canterbury. Until the Archbishop had absolved the Welsh Bishops from their oath of allegiance to him, the governing body would have to be very careful how it dealt with the canonical questions.

Mr. Justice Sankey's proposal was carried, and the clause was adopted.



#### RECENT PUBLICATION.

*Woman's Effort.* By A. E. Metcalfe. (Blackwell, Oxford, 3s. 6d. nett).

This book professes to be an unbiassed "chronicle of British Women's Fifty Years' Struggle for Citizenship" "from the time of the first timid incidents connected with the movement about the middle of the nineteenth century, up to the outbreak of the great European War." It consists of 366 pages. The first part—a summary of the origin of the movement and the events which led up to the beginnings of militancy in 1906 is compressed into twenty-four pages; the rest, with the exception of a few insignificant paragraphs and references, is a detailed account of the doings of the movement as exemplified by the activities of the W.S.P.U. We look in vain for information regarding the work accomplished at the same time by the other Suffrage societies. This is unfair, and is a distortion of history, amazing in an author who has been an Inspector of Secondary Schools. Had the writer announced her book as "a chronicle of Militant English Women's struggle for citizenship," we should have had no quarrel with her, and we should have reviewed it as an untimely but skilful account of that movement. We regret that this book has been published, and that Mr. Lawrence Housman should have sanctioned it by writing a preface. Is this a time to revive the memory of old controversies that already seem dim in the shadows of a remote past? What possible good does the author hope to accomplish by this book?

We offer another criticism: If the author professes to give an account of British women's struggle for citizenship, the work of our sisters beyond the Seas should have been included. We find no mention of their untiring efforts.

#### *Englishwoman* Exhibition.

We have much pleasure in announcing that the 7th Annual Exhibition of Arts and Handicrafts organized by *The Englishwoman*, will be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, from November 14th to the 24th.

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#### WEEKLY LECTURES. HOUSE DINNERS.

Wed., 24 Oct., 7.15 p.m.—House Dinner (for Diners only). "Breakfast Manners." Mr. Keighley Snowden. Chairman: Miss Mildred Ransom.  
Wed., 31 Oct., 8 p.m.—"The History of the Waring and other English Settlers in Constantinople from the Earliest Times." Sir Edwin Pears. Chairman: Miss F. C. Johnson, M.A.  
Wed., 7 Nov., 7.15 p.m.—House Dinner (for Diners only). "Eastern and Western Proverbs." Miss Zabelle C. Boyajian. Chairman: Mrs. Percy Bigland.  
Wed., 14 Nov., 8 p.m.—"The Future of National Defence." Mr. Spenser Wilkinson. Chairman: Mr. H. C. O'Neill.  
Wed., 21 Nov., 7.15 p.m.—House Dinner (for Diners only). "The Lighter Side of Officialdom." Miss Amy E. Otter. Chairman: The Rev. A. E. de Catto.  
Wed., 28 Nov., 8 p.m.—"Engineering for Women." The Hon. Lady Parsons. Chairman: Mr. John Cameron Grant.

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IN THE

#### MINERVA CAFE, 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

October 17th.—The Rev. W. C. Roberts, (Rector of St. George's, Bloomsbury). "Indian Education."

Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Miss Eunice Murray.

October 24th.—Miss Evelyn Sharp.

Mrs. Despard. Chair: Miss Nina Boyle.

October 31st.—Miss Abadam, "The Feminist Revision of Theological Values."

Miss Nina Boyle.

THE CHAIR WILL BE TAKEN AT 3.30.

ADMISSION FREE.

Tea can be obtained in the Cafe.

#### DISCUSSION MEETING

AT THE

MINERVA CAFE, 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.,  
Tea 4.15. Lecture 5 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 18th.—Miss REBECCA WEST on "The Real Sources of the Inequality of the Sexes."

DISCUSSION INVITED.

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