

HAIL COLUMBIA. By Mrs. Fawcett

The Common Cause OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] **Societies and Branches in the Union 561.** [NON-PARTY.]

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

The Representation of the People Bill.

The Representation of the People Bill has now entered on the Report stage. At the time of writing, the debates on that stage have not yet been begun. Sir George Cave has given notice of a number of Government amendments, of which the following are the most important:

1. A person is to be disqualified from being registered if that person has, for 30 days or more in the aggregate during the qualifying period, been maintained as an inmate of any prison, lunatic asylum, or workhouse. The disqualification is not to affect the right of the wife of any such person to be registered.
2. The Treasury may frame a scale of registration expenses, and may alter the scale as and when they think fit.
3. At a General Election all polls are to be held on one day. The returning officer of any constituency, however, may postpone the poll if, owing to bad weather or some exceptional circumstance, a proper poll cannot take place on the required day.
4. The proxy voting scheme is to be applied to pilots as well as merchant seamen and fishermen.
5. A brother or sister of an elector can be appointed proxy only if of full age.
6. A registration officer is to keep a list, open to inspection, of absent voters entitled to vote by proxy in any constituency, and of the persons entitled to vote as proxies.

An amendment will also be moved to restore the Service Franchise; and there will be many others!

The Municipal Vote for Married Women.

From the Women's Suffragists' point of view, however, infinitely the most important of the amendments which will be proposed during the Report stage of the Bills is the one extending the local government vote to the five million married women who, as things stand, will have the Parliamentary but not the municipal vote. This amendment is down in the names of Mr. Duncan Millar, Mr. Acland, Mr. Arnold Ward, Major Hills, Mr. Stephen Gwynne, Mr. Ronald McNeill, and Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck.

In support of it an influential deputation of distinguished women has been introduced by Mrs. Fawcett to the Home Secretary, who has also received a memorial signed by a

number of men of weight and standing. The full list of those who took part in the deputation, and of those who signed the memorial, will be found on page 384, under Headquarter Notes.

The Education Bill.

The Executive of the National Union of Teachers has made strong representations to the Cabinet, Mr. Fisher, and members of Parliament with regard to the urgent need of proceeding at once with the consideration of the educational proposals made in the Education Bill.

The Workers' Educational Association is also protesting against delay, and is urging all organisations interested in child welfare to pass resolutions demanding that the Government shall proceed immediately with educational legislation, to organise public meetings, and to write to the Press.

A New Tribunal on Women's Wages.

The Minister of Munitions has found it necessary to reconstitute the Special Arbitration Tribunal on Women's Wages, in view of the increasing volume and importance of its work. All differences as to rates of wages, hours of labour, or conditions of employments of women and girls engaged on munitions work, are referable to the Tribunal, which also advises the Minister, when invited by him, as to what directions he shall give in matters upon which it conducts arbitration.

The Hon. Alexander Shaw, M.P., has accepted the Minister's invitation to become Chairman of the Tribunal, whose other members are Mr. J. C. Smith, Mr. C. Kenrick, Mr. A. Clegg, Mr. G. Ryder, Miss S. Lawrence, Mrs. Streatfield, and Mr. F. C. Button (advisory member).

Women Workers in Politics.

The National Federation of Women Workers have just decided, by a ballot under the Trade Union Act (1913), to become affiliated with the Labour Party. The result was 14,171 votes in favour of affiliation, and 531 against; the total number of votes cast out of a membership of 40,000—especially as the ballot was taken in an air-raid week—showing that woman workers are taking a keen interest in politics. This is the first time such a ballot has been taken in a Union composed of women only. Affiliation gives the right of running a separate candidate for Parliament.

Women and Child Welfare.

One would imagine that any body of men would be only too glad to hand over to women the responsibilities for supervising maternity and child welfare work. Not so our brave Town Councillors. The majority of Councils are keeping this task in the hands of their Public Health Committees, which consist entirely of elected members, so that most have no woman member serving on them at all. The Local Government Board sent out a recommendation some time ago that sub-committees should be appointed to deal with maternity and child welfare, and women co-opted to help with the work, but so far the advice has been for the most part ignored. If the amendment for extending the Municipal Franchise to wives of occupiers is passed, it is likely that this state of things will soon be altered.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:

MISS VIOLET EUSTACE

MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary)

MISS EVELYN ATKINSON (Literature)

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Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless 'phone, London. Telephone—4673 Vic.

Deputations to the Home Secretary.

On Wednesday, November 14th, a Deputation of women of weight and standing in the country waited on the Home Secretary to urge him to consent to the Amendment to the Representation of the People Bill, conferring the Local Government franchise on the wives of men on the Local Government Register. It was introduced by Mrs. Fawcett, and its members included the Duchess of Marlborough (President, Women's Municipal Party), Miss Rathbone (Liverpool City Councillor), Countess of Selborne, Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttleton, Lady Henry Somerset, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon (President N.U.W.W.), Miss Kilgour (Women's Local Government Society), Mrs. Oliver Strachey (N.U.W.S.S.).

Lady Aberconway, Mrs. Sidney Webb, and Mrs. Creighton, who were also to have taken part in the deputation, were unavoidably prevented from doing so. Miss Mary Macarthur, Miss Llewelyn Davies, and Dr. Marion Phillips had also agreed to be members of it, but as a second deputation was arranged, composed of members of the Parliamentary Labour Party, and of the Joint Committee on Industrial Women's Organisations, they elected to act as members of the latter deputation. This second deputation was introduced by Mr. Adamson, Chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, and was received by Sir G. Cave at the same time as the former.

Memorial from Distinguished Men.

The following letter from men of weight and learning has also been sent to the Prime Minister and to the Home Secretary:—

SIR,—We, the undersigned, urge His Majesty's Government to consent to an amendment of the Representation of the People Bill, Clause IV., Subsection 3, for the purpose of enabling a married woman to vote in Local Government elections upon her husband's qualifications as occupier.

The case for this amendment seems to us unanswerable, and it was very well received by the House on the Committee stage of the Bill when the Government expressed their willingness to consider the proposal again on the Report stage.

Those of us who have been supporters of the extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to women feel that there is scarcely an argument in favour of giving the Parliamentary vote to a married woman that does not tell with even greater force in favour of her claim to vote at local elections; while those of us who have opposed the Parliamentary Enfranchisement of women nevertheless fully concede their right to a voice in local elections upon questions such as Public Health, Housing, Education, and Child Welfare. Yet, as laws relating to these matters are usually permissive, the married woman, if excluded from the Local Franchise, will be deprived of the power of enforcing the administration of the laws on these subjects. By the Act of 1914, she will be able to stand for election to county and town councils, but not to vote for them, while in Parliamentary matters she may help to elect, but may not be elected.

Married women, and those who believe in the value of their influence on public life, cannot be expected to accept so glaring an anomaly. It follows, therefore, that if the proposal we make is rejected, the Bill will no sooner pass into law than a demand will spring up for its amendment as regards the Local Franchise, and the value of the Bill as putting an end, for a considerable period at least, to a long-veiled controversy, will be greatly impaired.

Whatever our view on the Parliamentary Suffrage, we should deeply deplore anything of this kind.

We urge this amendment, not only in the interests of married women themselves, but of the whole community, since we believe that their enfranchisement for local purposes will give a valuable stimulus to the activities of local authorities in matters of social reform, and especially of child welfare. In view of the present unnecessary waste of child life this is a matter not only of national, but of imperial concern.

We are, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

Horace Plunkett, D.L., P.C., LL.D.; E. Lyttelton; Frederick Pollock, D.C.L.; George Adam Smith, D.D., LL.D.; C. P. Scott; Sidney Webb; Muir Mackenzie; Henry Scott Holland, D.D., D.Litt.; J. L. Garvin; J. Scott Lidgett, D.D.; Thomas Barlow, K.C.V.O., F.R.S., F.R.C.P.; B. Seebohm Rowntree; Plunkett; C. Oxon (Bishop of Oxford); A. J. Gardiner; W. Arbuthnot Lane, M.B., M.S., F.R.C.S.; Edward H. Busk; Gilbert Murray, LL.D., D.Litt.; W. L. Courtney, M.A., LL.D.; Edward Lincoln (Bishop of Lincoln); J. Arthur Thomson, M.A., Hon. LL.D.; Robert Smillie; Arnold Bennett; R. J. Campbell; William Archer; Pontypridd; G. Bernard Shaw; Karl Pearson, F.R.S.; Aylmer Maude; Winfrid C. Truron (Bishop of Truro); John Galsworthy; George Cadbury, J.P.; Aberconway; Horace Annesley Vachell; John Clifford, M.A., D.D., B.Sc.; Harold Spender, M.A.; N. G. Lyttelton, G.C.B.; I. H. Ely (Bishop of Ely); Herbert Warren, K.C.V.O., B.C.L.; W. Carlile; W. Chance, M.A.; F. C. de Sumichrast; Tenterden; Malcolm Morris, K.C.V.O.; A. G. Asaph (Bishop of St. Asaph); James M. Wilson (Canon of Worcester); C. W. Saleeby; Harold Begbie; H. H. Johnston, G.C.M.G.; Courtney of Penwith; W. Wedderburn; J. T. Grein; Ronald M. Burrows, D.Litt.; A. W. Chapman; Basil Brown; H. Percy Boulnois; A. W. Mayo-Robson, C.V.O., C.B., D.Sc., F.R.C.S.; Alfred Hughes, M.A.; John A. Hobson, M.A.; J. F. C. Welldon; Greville Macdonald, M.D.; Laurence Housman; Edward Bonner; F. de Selincourt, M.A., D.Litt.; J. F. Bethune-Baker, D.D.; W. M. Geldart, M.A., B.C.L.; W. F. Cobb, D.D.; J. H. Muirhead; J. Theodore Dodd, M.A., J.P.; J. J. Mallon; Marcus Hartog, M.A., D.Sc., F.L.S.; Hon. F.R.H.S.; Holford Knight; Edw. Winton (Bishop of Winchester); Bedford Fenwick, M.D.; Robert J. Parr; Sidney Coupland; Hugh Lewis; D. Baker; J. Sodor and Man (Bishop of Sodor and Man); T. N. Kelynack, M.D., M.R.C.P.; W. M. Ramsay, K.L.D.; H. G. Stanger, K.C.; Archibald Ean Campbell (Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway); J. R. Wakefield (Bishop of Wakefield); James Heard, M.A., LL.D.; D.Sc.; A. M. Langdon, K.C.; Herbert Jacobs; Henry Nevinson; Theodore Petriburg (Bishop of Peterborough); J. M. Chelmsford (Bishop of Chelmsford); W. A. Appleton; Stewart D. Headlam; Thomas Whiteside (Archbishop of Liverpool), R.C.; Huyshe Worcester (Bishop of Worcester); F. J. Liverpool (Bishop of Liverpool); John Kensington (Bishop of Kensington); A. H. D. Acland; Frederic L. Dearne, D.D. (Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney).

The 1917 Franchise Fund.

The ready response to Mrs. Fawcett's appeal for funds for the N.U.W.S.S. has been most gratifying. Over £700 has already been received. The list of contributors up till the middle of last week is printed on page 387.

In view of the very important work now in hand, we urge all our friends to give, and to give quickly. It is worth while!

REMOVAL OF HEADQUARTERS AND OF "THE COMMON CAUSE."

The offices of the National Union and of THE COMMON CAUSE are being taken over by the Government, and fresh quarters must be found as soon as possible. We hope to announce our new address next week.

INSURANCE OF MARRIED WOMEN.

The text of the Bill to amend the Insurance Act has now been issued. It is provided that the sum retained by the Commissioners from the weekly contributions of insured women shall be one penny and one sixth instead of 1½d. A Women's Equalisation Fund is to be formed for the purpose of assisting approved societies to meet their liabilities in respect of the sickness claims of women. From this fund the approved societies will receive a sum not exceeding 8s. a year in respect of each of the married women who are members.

Money is to be granted each year by Parliament for the Fund, but it is not clear from the text of the Bill whether the fund is also made up from the women's contributions, or from the contributions of both men and women, or whether the grant covers the whole amount.

A Special Risks Fund is also to be established, to which a sum of £150,000 a year is to be voted by Parliament, beginning with 1917. From this sum deficiencies of societies are to be made good where due to abnormal rate of sickness or any other cause beyond the control of the society.

For maternity benefit contributions in respect of persons entering into insurance after the passing of the new measure must be paid for 42 weeks, instead of 26 weeks as at present. Under the original Act the payment of 26 weekly contributions entitled the insured person to 10s. a week sickness benefit in case of men and 7s. 6d. a week in the case of women. Under the new Bill it is proposed that until 104 weekly contributions are paid the benefit shall be 6s. a week in the case of men and 5s. in the case of women.

National Young Women's Christian Association

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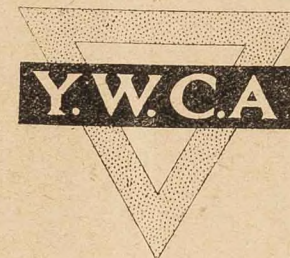
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13th November, 1917.

I gladly avail myself of the courtesy shown me by the Editor of THE COMMON CAUSE to write a personal letter of thanks to the readers of THE COMMON CAUSE who have so generously built, equipped and provided the running expenses for a year of a Hut for the W.A.A.C. in France.

At the opening of this Hut the enthusiasm and gratitude of the girls was boundless, and the remark most often heard was that "it was such a real bit of home."

This is the second Hut the readers of THE COMMON CAUSE have given to the Y.W.C.A. for the rest and recreation of our splendid Women War Workers. I, as a suffragist, am proud of what the members of the N.U.W.S.S. have done to help us in our truly National work for women.

Yours truly,

E. Picton-Turbervill

Chairman of the National Appeal Committee.

SUPPORT OUR APPEALS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when sending donations.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

ASCOT.—A rummage sale was held by the Ascot Society last week. The stock was much smaller than usual, but good prices were cheerfully given; the profits therefore were low. A sum was retained for incidental expenses of the Society, donations sent to THE COMMON CAUSE hut in France, and to Mrs. Harley's Memorial.

Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.W.S.S.)

- NOVEMBER 16. Birmingham—Members' Meeting, at Grand Hotel—Mrs. Osier, "The Future of the N.U." 5.30 p.m. London—24, Park Lane, W.—Hostess: The Countess Brassey—Chair: The Hon. Mrs. Astor—Speakers: Mrs. Oliver Strachey—Subject: "The Importance of Using the Vote"—Tickets to be had from 58, Victoria Street, S.W. 6 p.m. Marylebone—Members' Meeting, 9, Queen Anne Street, W. (by kind permission of Mrs. Lill)—Speaker: Miss Helen Ward—Subject: "The Future of the N.U.W.S.S." 2.30 p.m. Streatham—Drawing-room Meeting, at 70, Mount Road, Streatham Hill, S.W.—Hostess: Mrs. Phillips Jones—Chair: Miss Jetley—Speaker: Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher—Subject: "Women in Industry, Reconstruction, and the Use of the Vote." 5 p.m. NOVEMBER 18. Birmingham—Soho Hill Men's Movement—Mrs. King. 3 p.m. NOVEMBER 21. London—Special Council, to discuss the future of the National Union—Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 3 p.m. Bristol—Working Party at 40, Park Street. 3-5 p.m. NOVEMBER 23. Sunderland—Mrs. Arthur Johnson, At Home—2, Gray Road—Discussion: "The Future of the National Union"—Chair: Mrs. Mundella. 7.15 p.m. NOVEMBER 30. Cambridge—Members' Meeting, 20, Green Street—Speaker: Miss G. Jebb, Lecturer in Economics, Newnham College—Subject: "Careers for Educated Women"—Chair: Mrs. Heitland. 3 p.m. LONDON UNITS. NOVEMBER 19. Bognor—St. Michael's—Afternoon At Home—Speaker: The Hon. Evelina Haverfield. School Meeting in the evening—Speaker: The Hon. Evelina Haverfield. NOVEMBER 20. Chichester—The Palace—At Home—Chairman: Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Chichester. 2.30 p.m. Speaker: The Hon. Evelina Haverfield. Bishop's Otter School—Speaker: The Hon. Evelina Haverfield. 8.30 p.m. NOVEMBER 22. Hove—St. Aubyn's Gardens—Mrs. Beddington—At Home—Speaker: The Hon. Evelina Haverfield. 5 p.m. NOVEMBER 23. Eastbourne—Saffron's Rooms—Lantern Lecture—Speaker: The Hon. Evelina Haverfield. Tickets, 2s. and 1s. NOVEMBER 26. Leytonstone—8, Preston Road—London Society for Women's Suffrage (Walthamstow Branch)—Speaker: Miss Curwen. 3.30 p.m.

Coming Events.

A Conference on a Ministry of Health, arranged by the National Union of Women Workers, will be held on Thursday, November 22nd, in the Council Chamber, Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W., at 11 a.m., followed in the afternoon, at 2 p.m., by a Conference on Citizenship. Next week, at the "Old Vic" (Royal Victoria Hall, Waterloo Road), "The Tempest" will be given on November 19th, 21st, and 23rd, at 7.45. Matinees, November 21st, at 2.30; and 22nd and 23rd, at 2. Opera, "Daughter of the Regiment," 22nd and 24th, at 7.45. Matinee, "Rigoletto," 24th, at 2.30.

Women Workers' Series—No. 5.



"It's absurd, Elsie,"

I said, "to scamp your breakfast as you do. Why, it's the longest spell without food in the whole twenty-four hours, and what will really do you good is a great big cup of Rowntree's Cocoa. It's just delicious these cold mornings—and cold nights, too!"

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N.U.W.S.S. THE 1917 FRANCHISE FUND.

I enclose Donation of £ : s. d. Name (Mrs., Miss, Esq. or other Title) Address All Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed "London County and Westminster Bank, Victoria," and made payable to: The Hon. Treasurer, National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

1917 Franchise Fund.

Table listing donors and amounts for the 1917 Franchise Fund, including names like Mrs. Claude Montefiore, Miss M. Fuller, and Mrs. Alice Spicer.

Table listing donors and amounts for the 1917 Franchise Fund, including names like Mrs. Claude Montefiore, Dr. and Mrs. I. W. Dunn, and Wellingborough W.S.S.

Postal Orders should be crossed and filled in N.U.W.S.S. Treasury Notes should be treated like coins, and always registered. If any contributions remain more than two days unacknowledged, please write at once to the Secretary, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. 1. Please address letters containing money to the Secretary or to Mrs. Auerbach, or Miss Sterling, by name, not to the Treasurer.

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

[We regret that, owing to pressure on our space, we are obliged to hold over the list of donations received at the Scottish Headquarters of the Hospitals. The full list will be published next week.] Subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock. Cheques should be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

Table showing donations for Scottish Women's Hospitals, categorized by month (September and October) and listing various hospitals and their respective amounts.

"There but for the Grace of God go I."

Do you feel like this towards the criminal? If so, why not help to spread the feeling and promote reasonable measures by joining the

Penal Reform League?

Subscriptions are not fixed. Usual amounts are 2/6, 5/-, 10/- to a guinea, and a few under or over those amounts. Write to Hon. Secretary, 68a, Parkhill Road, London, N.W.3. Some of the League's Publications are: Manual Training by T. C. Horsfall, Prison Regime by Arthur St. John, Against Criminality by Arthur St. John, Prostitution: Its Nature and Cure 2d. each, 1/6 per doz. The Latest Word in regard to Juvenile Probation by A. W. Towne 1d. each, 9d. per doz.

DISPLAYED ADVERTISEMENT RATES

Table showing rates for one insertion, 13 or more insertions, and pre-paid advertisements.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Table showing pre-paid advertisement rates for different word counts and durations.

All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 14, Great Smith-st., Westminster, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

SCHOOLS

"The WYCH SCHOOL for the DEAF" (of Hampstead) is removing to Haslemere at Christmas. For Deaf Girls of good social position. Art work and gardening special features. Charming situation. Apply: Miss Parker, "The Wych," Keats Grove, Hampstead, N.W.3 or Miss Parker, Englishwoman Exhibition, Central Hall, Westminster. Stalls 110 and 111.

INDUM HOUSE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.—Home School on Progressive Thought lines. Large garden, cricket field, sea bathing; all exams. Special care given to backward and delicate girls.—Principal: Miss Richardson, B.A.

FOR WAR WORK.

WANTED.—Volunteer Club Leaders for work in Y.W.C.A. Huts in France (who must sign on for four months) and at home, who can meet their own expenses.—Apply Miss Moore, 42, Hill-st., Berkeley-sq., W.1.

POSITIONS VACANT.

WANTED, a cook-housekeeper in Unmarried Mothers' Hostel in Epsom.—Apply stating qualifications and salary to the Superintendent, Waltham House. WANTED.—LADIES AS REPRESENTATIVES to a well-known old-established Insurance Company. An entirely new opening for women workers; whole or part time. Excellent prospects.—For particulars apply Miss Rochford, c/o COMMON CAUSE Office, 14, Great Smith-st.

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WARWICK SCHOOL OF MOTORING 259, WARWICK ROAD, KENSINGTON. Telephone 986 WISSEMAN. Officially appointed and recommended by the Royal Automobile Club. Individual Tuition given to Each Pupil. Call and inspect our mechanical class rooms, which are fully equipped for practical training. Driving and mechanism is thoroughly taught by a competent staff.

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GARDENING FOR WOMEN.—Essentially practical training. Vegetable, fruit and flower culture. Healthy outdoor life. Individual consideration. Long or short courses; from 60 gns. per annum. Gardening year begins September 21st.—Illustrated prospectus of Peake-Ridley, Udmore, near Rye, Sussex.

LANGUAGES.

FRENCH taught as in France, by lady with many years' experience in Paris. Classes arranged to suit students.—Write for full particulars to Mme. Bolton, c/o COMMON CAUSE Office.

(Continued on page 388)

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