

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.

Hon. Treasurer: MRS. FABIAN WARE.

Central Office: 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly, W. 1. *Telegraphic Address:* "Cufranchis London." *Telephone:* 886 Mayfair.

No. 44.

MARCH, 1918.

Our Future.

Now that the granting of the Parliamentary Vote to women is an accomplished fact a final meeting of the Council was held on the 6th, inst., at 35, Onslow Gardens, by kind permission of Mrs. Boyd Carpenter. Our President took the chair and there was a large attendance of members.

The main reason for continuing the organization is to form a centre for, and to consolidate the public activities of Constitutional women who wish to support the policy of social reform—there being at present no such centre—and it is felt that there will be many opportunities when Constitutional women will wish to make their opinions known as a body, either in formulating or supporting legislation affecting the interests of the community. The members of the Association have been accustomed to work together on principles dear to them, and they can be re-organized and fitted for an extended field of work.

The Executive Committee has now retired and a new one will be elected by the whole body of members. We hope we may count on all our previous members joining the new Association and that they will induce their friends to do so too. The qualifications for membership will be a minimum annual subscription of one shilling.

We must remember that other Parties are already organizing their forces with a view to gaining adherents among the future women voters, and that we must do our utmost to strengthen the Constitutional and Imperial spirit among them.

We have given our support to the following resolution, sent us by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene:—

"That section 114 of the Children Act, 1908, be so amended as to leave to judges and magistrates the power to clear courts of all persons or of young persons of both sexes, but in no case where a child is giving evidence to clear the court of women probation officers or of women only."

Suffrage Victory in Canada.

We hear that the Canadian Government have definitely decided to grant the parliamentary vote to women in all the Canadian provinces, and it is likely that a Bill will be introduced in the coming session of Parliament.

Two Appeals.

NEW HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.

We are authorized by the Executive Committee to appeal for funds for a memorial to the late Dr. Garrett Anderson, which is to take the form of the endowment of a Suffrage bed in the New Hospital for Women—a scheme for which a thousand pounds is required. We earnestly hope our members will respond generously. Most of the civil hospitals are in urgent need of funds at the present time; and none of them is more deserving than the New Hospital for Women, with which splendid work Mrs. Garrett Anderson was so intimately connected.

THE MILLICENT FAWCETT SCHOLARSHIPS.

BEDFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN.

Now that our great victory for the Parliamentary Franchise has been won, it is felt that some permanent memorial shall be raised as a tribute to Mrs. Fawcett for her life-long work for the cause. To this end it has been decided to create an endowment for women students at Bedford College to be named after her. We confidently believe that the appeal will secure a response from our members in gratitude to Mrs. Fawcett, who has been leader of the movement for so long.

Donations for both these objects to be sent to the Secretary, C.U.W.F.A., 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly, London, W. 1.

Lowering the Standard.

The leniency with which crimes committed by soldiers are now being regarded by the public and by many magistrates is a subject which ought to be ventilated and protested against. We yield to none in admiration of the brave men who are fighting for us, but it is deplorable that the standard generally accepted in times of peace should be lowered in these days, when the nation in general and our soldiers in particular require bracing to meet the strain.

In the Central Court of Appeal, Mr. Justice Darling recently referred to the light sentences which have been passed on soldiers in some recent cases. He said "No one who has observed the administration of justice in the case of soldiers lately can affect to be unaware of a practice which has been adopted in certain courts of

allowing soldiers who commit crimes to go practically unpunished. We who sit as judges of the King's Bench division do not live in convents away from the world. We know perfectly well what is the public opinion on this matter. Recently the judges of the King's Bench division held a meeting which had to discuss this subject, among others, and that meeting recognised the evil which had been done. There is no doubt that there has grown up in certain quarters a practice of treating soldiers who have done good service quite differently from civilians who have committed the same crimes. That practice has placed in the greatest difficulty those who have to deal with sentences with a view to remissions, indulgences, and so on. It has become manifest that certain persons think that, as the applicant says, you may 'set off' good military service against civil crimes and that if a man has served well he may murder his wife, outrage a woman, and commit, I know not how many bigamies, and yet go free. If that is to prevail a Mention in Despatches or a Military Medal will be a license to commit crimes. The members of this Court think that there must be an end to any encouragement of such a view. The practice which has arisen is a most maleficent one. Each case must be judged on its own merits, and on nothing else."

Writing in the *Common Cause* on March 1st, on the facilities for immorality which are permitted to British troops in France and elsewhere, the Editor of *The Shield* says:—"Perhaps nothing has so directly laid bare the belief in the double standard of morals as this provision of facilities for immorality for British troops, taken in conjunction with the recent cases in which soldiers have been acquitted after murdering their wives. These women have been unfaithful while their husbands have been absent in France. In France the authorities provide opportunities for husbands to be unfaithful to their wives. Comment is needless, but these facts must prove to women that they have much yet to achieve. In the very hour of our victory the State itself lowers the standard of morality and strikes at the integrity of the principles of law."

Branch Work.

Glasgow Annual Report.—Through the kindness of Mrs. Hugh Strain a drawing room meeting was recently held when Dr. Louise McLlroy gave an interesting account of her work in Salonica, Serbia and France. Miss Macfarlane Park presided. The proceeds of the "At Home" which was arranged by the C.U.W.F.A. were devoted to the Scottish Women's Hospitals. £60 was realised which was handed over to Dr. McLlroy in appreciation of her work in the Scottish Women's Hospitals and was to be labelled for the Orthopædic department of the Salonica Unit to be expended on apparatus. In this way we shall have a little tablet in the Department with the name of our Association.

Rothsay Branch.—Miss Somerville, Convener in Bute for the C.U.W.F.A. tells us that among other things she has sent 1,000 parcels to the "Bute Boys" in the Army and Navy and has had a "Bring and Buy" sale for King George's fund, the helpers have made a door-to-door collection for gifts. Miss Somerville's own special work is the collection of tinfoil and she sends off at one time two or three sacks of metal.

New Leaflet.

We are publishing a leaflet giving in a simple form the qualifications of the new women voters. We have already received many requests for a leaflet of this kind. It will be published at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per copy or 2/6 per 100.

Women's Questions in Parliament.

WOMEN MUNITION WORKERS.

Mr. Kellaway (Bedford, L.), answering Mr. Anderson (Attercliffe, Sheffield, Lab.), said:—The number of women munition workers who have been dismissed or received notice of dismissal during the last three weeks as a result of the termination of certain contracts is about 8,000. It is not possible without inquiries from each exchange to say what notice was given to the employment exchanges in each district. Firms were requested to give the employment exchanges a fortnight's notice of the numbers, and a week's notice of the individuals to be discharged. Fresh instructions are being circulated emphasizing the necessity for the longest possible notice. The Minister regrets that a certain amount of hardship is inevitable, but everything possible is being done to reduce the hardship. There are openings for a considerable number of women in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, in agriculture, in shipyards, and in other occupations. The machinery of the labour exchanges and of the National Service Department is being utilized to its fullest capacity in order to bring the women who may be displaced into these other forms of national service. The possibility of giving priority in employment on war work to these women is under discussion. The suggestion that the Minister should authorize the issue of free railway warrants home is receiving sympathetic consideration. Other suggestions, e.g., the payment of wages for a certain period, are being examined by the Departments concerned in conjunction with the Treasury. An inter-departmental conference is being held this afternoon by my right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade, the Chairman of the War Cabinet Committee on Unemployment, to consider these and other aspects of the problem. Mr. G. Faber (Clapham, U.)—In view of the importance of not discouraging the efforts of these women, will the hon. gentleman be specially jealous and careful to find places for them at the earliest possible moment? Mr. Kellaway.—One of the considerations to be taken into account in deciding on the limitation of contracts must be the possibility of replacing dispossessed labour in that particular area.—February 26th.

It is feared that there will be about 40,000 women munition workers unemployed in this country. This estimate was made at a meeting at the House of Commons between members of all parties and a deputation of representatives of women workers' organizations.

On the 13th inst. Mr. Churchill attended another meeting of members of the House of Commons on the subject. He said care would be taken to give a fortnight's minimum notice and everything would be done to help women to obtain employment in other forms of war work.

SOLICITORS (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN) BILL.

Lord Buckmaster (in moving the second reading of the Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill, explained that it was identical with the Bill he brought forward last year, but which the Government were unable to adopt or to facilitate in the House of Commons. Since then events had happened which had materially altered the atmosphere in which the proposal found itself. Six millions of women had been entrusted with the Parliamentary vote, and those six millions knew better than anyone the relentlessness of the struggle in which any woman found herself who tried to obtain her living by honourable means. At the present moment admission to the ranks of solicitors was regulated by an Act of Parliament which, although it was couched in general language, had been judicially interpreted as excluding the female sex. He asked the House to say that a woman who had qualified herself by study to practice the calling of a solicitor should be able to do it in her own right and do it for profit. A solicitor in a large manufacturing town, who had no son, had written him that he had a daughter, whom he had trained, and added, "When I go the goodwill of my business vanishes." Why was it that his daughter should be prevented from "carrying on"? To that the noble lord saw no answer. In *The Times* of the previous day a statement was made that questions had been put to him in regard to this matter. As a matter of fact, they had not been put, except through the paper, but, as he gathered, they represented the organized view of certain legal societies upon the point. It was said that the Law Societies of Manchester, Liverpool, and Birmingham had indicated reasons why the Bill should not be proceeded with till after the war, and they put the question that if women were admitted to one branch of the legal profession as solicitors, why should they be excluded from the Bar and other numerous public appointments open only to members of the Bar? He reminded their lordships that when the Bill was before them on a former occasion he had pointed out that there was no law to prevent a woman becoming a barrister, and that a woman might be admitted to any of the Inns of Court at once if the Benchers of that Inn chose to permit her entry. At the moment legislative interference appeared to be unnecessary to compel such action by the Benchers. He saw no reason why women should

not be admitted to the Bar, and he believed that the passage of this Bill would be the most certain way of bringing about that reform. If a woman were, by her qualities, pre-eminently fitted to discharge any public duty, and were better fitted than a male competitor, why in the public interest should she not be allowed to discharge it? There were members of that House who, he believed, could point to women among their personal acquaintances whom they would be glad to have associated with them in the discharge of magisterial duties, and whose help would be of great value in cases affecting young girls. (Hear, hear.) The Bill had nothing to do with the industrial and economic occupation of women outside the particular occupation to which it related, and he could think of no other occupation the entrance to which was rigidly defined by statute. In reply to the argument that the Bill might be a good one, but the present was not the right moment for its introduction, in view of the absence of a number of men connected with the profession who were nobly and honourably discharging duties away from England, he pointed out that if the measure became law no woman could become qualified to practise within a minimum period of three years, and, in many cases, five years, and expressed the belief that the solicitors who were serving with the forces would come back with their outlook on life widened, and would be unwilling to stand in the way of women to whose services they owed so much. The motion was agreed to without debate.—March 6th.

Recent Publications.

Women in the Engineering Trades. By Barbara Drake, Fabian Research Department, 25, Tothill Street. 2/6 net.

The outstanding feature of the present time is the introduction of women into the engineering trades and we much regret that the limited space at our disposal prevents us from doing justice to this deeply interesting book. The report, based on an enquiry by a joint Committee of the Fabian Research Department and the Fabian Women's Group, shews us that the entry of women into the engineering trades is not, as is commonly supposed, an event of recent date, but that they were largely employed in Birmingham and elsewhere from the forties onward and thereby incurred the wrath of the men engineers who refused to recognise "those presumptuous females who turn at the lathe and file at the vice." A chain maker complained in the local press that when he was thoroughly exhausted, his daughter could still go on.

According to an estimate of the Board of Trade the total number of women employed in Engineering and Allied Metal trades was 170,000 in July, 1914; by January, 1917, the number had risen to 440,000; about 90 per cent being employed on work "customarily done by men" and 40 per cent directly replacing men. During the same period, another 150,000 women entered National factories, bringing up the total number to well over half-a-million.

The story of the dilution of skilled labour from the outbreak of war till April, 1917, contains much useful information, as does also the chapter on the position of women in the Engineering Trades during the same period. The part dealing with reconstruction should be studied by all who are now preparing to grapple with the tremendous problems which will confront us when peace is declared. This book is a most valuable addition to the subject.

Women in Industry after the War. By B. L. Hutchins, The Athenaeum Press. 6d. net.

We advise our readers to send for and carefully study this pamphlet which deals in a clear and interesting manner with one of the most important problems we shall have to solve after the war.

Miss Hutchins considers two great perils lie before us at the cessation of hostilities,—the danger of a period of industrial confusion and chaos, and that reconstructive measures will be taken, ostensibly by the State, but really in a spirit of hard, unimaginative capitalism. It is to combat these dangers that this useful pamphlet has been written. The chapter on the Organisation of Women's Industry after the War contains valuable tables. The writer takes a cheerful view of the future of women's work. Women have proved themselves so useful and adaptable that it is scarcely likely that employers will surrender their employment. We learn there are plans afloat for factories staffed entirely by women.

We specially commend to our readers the following remarks on a much debated question, "It will, perhaps, be said 'Why not equal pay for equal work?' But I confess to feeling that the principle 'equal pay for equal work,' while unimpeachable in words, is unfruitful in practice; it helps very little. A great deal of engineering work evidently can be done by women with the aid of suitable machinery, yet it may still be fallacious to rate the woman's work with the man's. A highly skilled mechanic or engineer will be able to do, not one process merely, but many, and that in the course even of a single day. It must necessarily be long before an appreciable number of women can acquire this many-sided aptitude. Piecework rates, equal between men and women, are the best solution, because they leave the determination of income to individual skill and industry, and, as with cotton weavers, sex competition is thus avoided.

The Health of a Woman. By R. Murray Leslie, M.A., B.Sc., M.D., M.R.C.P. Methuen & Co., 1/3 net.

Never has the health of a woman mattered so much to the nation as now, when so many women and girls are engaged in civil and war work, and when the depopulating effects of the war have made motherhood more serious than ever. On the safe-guarding of women's health depends the future of our race. This book gives frank, practical advice on all branches of the subject.

GEO. WEBB'S DYE WORKS,

Chief Office: 254, BRIXTON HILL, S.W.

TEL. 1852 BRIXTON

The finest Quality

Cleaning and Dyeing of Costumes, House Furnishings, etc.

Only the highest skilled labour employed, and absolutely the best colours and chemicals used.

VANS COLLECT and DELIVER TWICE WEEKLY THROUGHOUT the WEST END.

Recommendations from all parts of the country.

Orders by Post or Telephone command Immediate Attention.

International Women's Franchise Club

9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.

For MEN and WOMEN.

NO ENTRANCE FEE DURING THE WAR.

Subscriptions: London Members, £1/11/6; Country Members, £1/5; per annum from date of entrance.

(Irish, Scottish and Foreign Members, 10/6).

LECTURES.

Thursday, March 14th.—"The Social Evil—A Suggested Solution."

Staff-Sergt John Simpson. 8 p.m.

Chair: Mrs. M. Nash.

Saturday, March 23rd.—"Exit Mr. Bumble."

Mrs. Nevinson. 4.30 p.m.

NEW LIBRARY and SMOKING ROOMS now open.

Valuable Feminist Lending and Reference Library.

Free to Members.

EXCELLENT CATERING. LUNCHEONS AND DINNERS A LA CARTE.

All particulars—Secretary.

Tel. 3932 Mayfair.

The WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

WILL HOLD

PUBLIC MEETINGS ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS

at 3 p.m.

IN THE

MINERVA CAFE, 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.,

March 20th.—Mr. Joseph King, M.P. "What the Liberal Party has to offer Woman." Chair: Miss Underwood.

For further particulars, see "The Vote."

ADMISSION FREE.

Tea can be obtained in the Cafe at close of Lecture, 6d. each.

ST. ANDREW'S HOUSE CLUB,

31a, Mortimer Street, W.

(Close to Oxford Circus). Subscription, 1 Gn. Entrance Fee, 1 Gn.

A Residential and Non-Residential Club for Professional Women, Students, Social Workers, and others needing a quiet comfortable Club in a Central Position.

For Prospectus containing full information, apply to the Secretary.



By Special Appointment
"Purveyors of Milk and Cream"

TO
HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

WELFORD'S DAIRIES

FOR ABSOLUTELY PURE MILK.

Branches in all parts of London.

Chief Dairy and Offices: ELGIN AVENUE, W.

Principal Phone No.: PADDINGTON 5440.

All communications respecting **Advertisements** should be addressed to—

The Manager, Miss FULLER, 99, New Bond Street, W.1.

TEL. 2421 MAYFAIR.