

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. *Telegraphic Address*: "Cuf franchis London." *Telephone*: 886 Mayfair.

No. 24.

FEBRUARY. 1916.

NEW SCHEMES OF WORK.

£200 Required.

The Executive Committee has decided to appeal for funds for the following objects:—

1. **To furnish Hostel.** £100 for furniture for a Hostel for Munition workers at Woolwich, the rent of which has been provided for one year by a member of the Association.

This is a most necessary piece of work, for many of the women are forced to travel long distances at the end of long hours. The house, which has been so generously provided, is situated at the end of a ten minutes walk, thus economising time, strength and money. The assistance of our members is asked to furnish it. The cost of this should not exceed £100. We should be glad if we could claim this Hostel entirely as a gift of the Association.

2. **To provide a Hut.** The Executive has also decided to appeal for £100 in order to erect a transportable house for two families of the wives and children of Belgian soldiers, at present interned in Holland. That this work is badly needed is proved from the following extracts taken from a Report published by the Belgium Repatriation Fund, whose honorary secretary has just returned from a visit to the internment camps:—

"There are four internment camps, containing 30,000 soldiers. About 7,000 women and children, families of interned soldiers, have gone to live in the districts near these camps. . .

Their husbands are many of them the pick of the working class artisans. . . It would be a disaster to allow them altogether to loose caste and to deteriorate physically and mentally. Luckily something can be done and has been begun. Besides other accommodation, the Friends' War Victims' Relief Committee are on the point of finishing twenty smaller houses which will each accommodate one family. The houses are charming and practical, four-roomed, plainly furnished, lavatory accommodation outside. By an ingenious arrangement of piping, one stove keeps an even heat in all four rooms. These houses are built on a design which allows them to be taken to pieces and re-built at trifling cost.

Every £100 means one more house (complete with furniture) which will rescue about fourteen women and children from their present misery. Within three weeks from the day the £100 is forwarded to the Belgian Minister in Holland,

fourteen people will be on the up-grade instead of the down-grade. The labour is ready. Among the husbands of these women in the Internment Camps are hundreds of carpenters, glass-fitters, joiners, cabinet makers, stove makers, etc. We have only to say the word "Go" and they will be at it, tooth and nail, to get the houses up."

We hope very much that our members will response generously to these two appeals. All donations should be sent to the Honorary Treasurer, C.U.W.F.A., 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly.

Two Interesting Lectures.

Arrangements are being made to continue the series of lectures on social and political conditions in other countries. The subjects chosen for the next two are "Persia and Mesopotamia" and "China." At the time of going to press the dates have not been definitely fixed, but the lectures will be held during the first week of March and the first week of April, respectively. The charge for admission will be one shilling for each lecture. We hope our members and friends will make early application for tickets to the Secretary, C.U.W.F.A., 48, Dover Street, W.

Will our readers kindly remember the Hostel advertisements on page 4.

Juvenile Crime in Germany.

According to the *Daily Chronicle* Professor von Liszt, the well known criminologist, has been telling an audience of experts in Berlin that juvenile offences and crime have become relatively more numerous than in any previous year, and that in certain classes of offences the number of convictions is three times that of five years ago. The Military Commandant of Cassel reports a rapidly increasing criminal class of boys and girls, who lead a life of extreme depravity with no home control. He proposes to forbid them the theatres, cinemas, dancing saloons and all public places where drink and tobacco are sold. The Governor of Cologne draws the attention of the Municipality to a similar state of affairs in that city, and appeals to all in authority to do their utmost to prevent the progress of a disease which threatens with calamity the future of the country. Juvenile crime has been abnormally high in Germany for some time, and this fact, together with the high rate of infant mortality, throws an interesting light on the nature of the price the German community has to pay for a Militarist Government.

"THE WOMEN ARE SPLENDID."

Under the above title the *Daily Mail* of January 17th gives an interesting account of Women's war work.

"... The war has already proved that woman has not hitherto been given her opportunity in most parts of the Empire. . . To-day it begins to look as though the votes-for-women demonstrations were but manifestations of the tremendous pent-up energy of more than half the nation. . . Their influence on recruiting has been immense. When the forthcoming and long-overdue Economy Campaign begins they will be found the most effective workers in the task of solving the Money Question, which is every whit as important as the Soldier Question."

Some Examples of Successful Women Workers.

Steady Shell Makers—A great testimonial to the steadiness of women shell makers is embodied in the recent statement in Parliament of Dr. Addison (Secretary to the Munitions Department). He said that out of 3,868 cases brought before munitions tribunals (which deal with bad time-keeping, neglect of work, etc.) only 94 of the cases have been concerned with women, and these include 90 applications for leaving certificates; only one woman had been fined.

Give satisfaction in Postal work—The *Daily Mirror* tells that the women engaged by the G.P.O. to cope with the recent Christmas traffic have given so much satisfaction that the services of many of them are to be retained indefinitely by the Postal authorities. The officials of the Controller's Office at Mount Pleasant paid unstinted tribute to the efficacy of the women workers there, which "has exceeded all expectations. They adapted themselves to their work so diligently and learnt so quickly that out of some 1,200 women we employ here, we have had to dispense with the services of only six. The others reached a high standard of efficiency which not only compared favourably with that of the regular workers, but far exceeded that attained by the extra male workers we engaged for Christmas." During Christmas week nearly six thousand extra women were employed in London alone.

Good Health of Women Tram Conductors. It is interesting to note from the *Times* that a return, prepared by the Manager of the Salford Corporation Tramways, shews that the percentage of sickness among the 150 women conductors was less, even in the trying month of November, than among the male conductors.

Glasgow Women Workers.—Another correspondent to the *Times*, in describing the admirable war work accomplished by Glasgow women, says:—

"It happened that I heard a civic authority in Glasgow expressing his views concerning these women tramway-drivers and the other women who are replacing men in the work of the northern city. He said that the results of employing women had justified the most extravagant hopes. The women

were a very great success. They seemed in some cases to be more efficient than the men. They were often more punctual, more careful, more conscientious. They worked harder and gave the impression that they liked their work. For these reasons woman had justified herself so far as the city was concerned, and it would be a very difficult matter any longer to refuse her a voice in its control."

French Women's War Work.

There is no restriction (in France) on the work which a woman may do. The only processes which are confined, so far, to men, are setting up and tool-making, though women may qualify for some part of the former, and with regard to the latter some women are actually grinding the edges of cutting tools for machines. The report includes a representative list of more than fifty operations undertaken by female labour in French factories. The opinion in the French factories is that the output of females on small work equals and, in some cases, excels that of men, and in the case of heavier work, within certain limits, women are of practically the same value as men. It has to be kept in mind that physical considerations limit the range of work which may be done by women. It was noticed, however, that part of the work done by women involved greater strain than might be thought reasonable in this country.

Practically all the work, except tool-room work, setting up, and floor labouring, is done on piece. The premium bonus system is not known. The same piecework prices are paid to women as to men. Unskilled men and women are taught in each factory. The objection originally raised in a few cases to the system of a man teaching a woman, who then became a teacher herself, has long disappeared, and no difficulty is placed in the way of unskilled male and female labour being enabled to acquire all the skill necessary for their work.

The Review.

The mid January—March number of the *Review* is a special issue dealing entirely with the War work of the Association during the past year. The activities recorded are many, and articles on the various branches of work have been written by those who have been intimately connected with them. Among the subjects dealt with, in addition to a general review of the Association's War work during 1915, are The Hostel, Work for the Wounded, Work of the Lectures Committee and activities of Branches.

The *Review*, price 2d. (or 3d. post free) can be obtained on application to the Office, 48, Dover Street, W. We make a special appeal to our readers to buy extra copies of this issue to send to their friends, for it is most important that the patriotic work of suffrage societies should be widely known.

Hospital comforts are urgently needed at the Military Hospital, Colchester. Mrs. Harry Jeffreys (Abbey House, Colchester) would be most grateful for any gifts our members can send her.

OUR SISTERS OVERSEA.

How Canadian Women are Helping.

The *Daily Telegraph* publishes the following tribute to the patriotism of the women of Canada, written by a Canadian woman whose husband is a native of the Isle of Wight and has left his farm for his wife to look after while he is serving with the Expeditionary Force in France:—

"I often wonder," she says, "if the Isle of Wight people realise the sacrifices we in Canada, and we wives especially, are making. Many of us are left this winter to fix things up where last year we had our husbands to do the heavy work for us, and out here it is heavy work, especially in the country districts. Imagine clearing a path to the main road 200 feet away after every fall of snow, which in places is 4 feet deep, and only my two boys (the eldest aged 11) to help me. Then we have to keep fires going all the time in the depth of winter, and as the houses are mostly of wood, it increases the fire danger. One has to live in Canada to realise the conditions. But even if I had to work twice as hard, I am glad my husband is 'doing his bit' for his King and Country, and I am only too sorry my boys are not old enough to go too. We are busy with Red Cross work in Ottawa. Boxes and bales go off week after week. One often wonders where the money comes from so get all the things, and still we keep on giving willingly and will still keep on till the war is ended."

The Women of New Zealand.

A widow in Wellington, New Zealand, on applying for a pass to be present at the departure of reinforcements, was asked:—"Are you next-of-kin to a soldier?" She answered:—"Yes, I have only one left. I had eight boys, seven have already gone, four are killed, three are wounded, and now I am sending my last. There is only me."

A Contrast—Women's Co-operative Guild Oppose Compulsory Military Service.

The contrast is great between the splendid and self-sacrificing patriotism of the Canadian and New Zealand women and the action of the Central Committee of the Women's Co-operative Guild, who have recently passed the following resolution:

"The Central Committee of the Women's Co-operative Guild protest against the introduction of compulsory military service. They believe it would be a national disaster (1) because it would impose, not only now but probably permanently, one of the worst forms of militarism on our country; (2) because it could be used, as it has been in other countries, to suppress the efforts of men and women workers to secure better conditions; and (3) because the right to freedom of conscience as regards actions involving the taking of human life should be respected and protected by the State."

We deeply regret that the governing body of any women's organisation should oppose enforced military service in the hour of their Country's greatest need and danger. It is satisfactory to realize that the Guild does not voice the opinion of the mass of British working women.

Women's Vote in Finland.

The women of Finland are extremely intelligent and are keenly interested in education. Illiteracy is almost unknown and the farmers' wives in, even remote villages, are great readers and subscribe to newspapers and magazines. Women were given the vote in 1905 and have sat as legislators since 1906. Within recent date many petitions and motions have been submitted to the Diet, either originated by women or moved by both men and women. Women have helped to work out many of the projects submitted by men, and men have helped in those originated by women. Among the recent petitions moved by women delegates are the following: (A petition is a request addressed to the Government and asking for consideration and elaboration of a Bill to be taken up by the Diet at a future time).

1. Concerning women's rights to State appointments.
2. Concerning the organization of an effective control of the treatment of prisoners.
3. Concerning improvements in the conditions of female workers employed in railway work.
4. Concerning travelling subsidies to teachers in schools for household management, cookery, etc.
5. Concerning subsidies for the furthering of home industry.
6. Concerning a public subsidy to the Society for Home Education.
7. Concerning the foundation of homes for destitute children and mothers.
8. Concerning the legal organization of the care and education of the feeble-minded.
9. Concerning a raising of the public moral standard.
10. Concerning a Government investigation as to the conditions of workers in the clothing industry.
11. Concerning the appointment of a Committee in order to make an investigation, and to propose improvements as to the conditions of home industrial workers.

The Englishwomen's Year Book.

We would call the attention of our readers to the new number of the *Englishwomen's Year Book*, which can be obtained from Messrs. A. C. Black, Ltd., 4, Soho Square, W., price 2/6. This book is indispensable to the woman worker, for it contains accurate and detailed information on subjects of special interest to women.

I enclose 1/- annual subscription to C.U.W.F.A. Review and (or) 6d. annual subscription to Monthly News (five copies each month).

Name

Address

HOSTEL EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

We have opened a Bureau in connection with the Hostel at the Office, and we shall be glad to receive information regarding vacant posts. A list of positions required will be found below, and we ask our friends to help us to place these ladies as soon as possible.

F.A.R.—Lady, with good references, seeks post as Governess or Social Worker.

K.S.—Gentlewoman requires post as Companion to lady, chaperon to young girls or teacher of English to foreigners.

H.M.B.B.—Lady, with several years experience in catering, buying, book-keeping, etc. and thoroughly domesticated, requires engagement as manageress or superintendent.

Y.L.—Required a position as Housekeeper in School, or post of similar character.

E.R.G.—Lady desires engagement as capable teacher, housekeeper or useful help in house where her dog would be allowed.

L.W.—Lady requires post as Companion or Housekeeper. Experienced. Good references.

E.K.—Young Lady, just returned from Brussels, seeks daily post. Fluent French and German, or would take Belgians for English instruction.

E.M.P.—Lady, trained nurse, educated, experienced, with knowledge of French and book-keeping, seek any clerical or secretarial work, or any position of trust. Has travelled. Excellent references.

G.L.G.—Gentlewoman, capable and experienced, requires post as governess to young children, or as Companion to a lady. Speaks French and is musical. R.C. Good references.

G.B.—English governess, certificated, desires resident post. Fluent French (Paris 4 years) elementary Latin, music, freehand drawing, drill. Excellent testimonials. Church of England. Teaches little girls; has prepared twelve boys for school.

M.K.—Lady, cook-housekeeper or cookery superintendent, trained under expert chefs in France and Russia, thoroughly experienced; expert at invalid cookery, compiler, desires immediate work where dainty cookery, without lavish expenditure, is required.

B.P.—Gentlewoman (ruined by war) earnestly seeks post as Secretary or position at the Censorship. Speaks English, French, Flemish and Dutch fluently, and is very musical. Has done voluntary work for Government. Highest references.

All applications to be addressed to the Initials stated above, c/o The Superintendent, 9, Roland Gardens, South Kensington.

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PUBLIC MEETINGS

On WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS,

AT 3.30 P.M., AT

CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

SPEAKERS:

Feb. 9.—Miss B. KENT; "My Journeys across the American Continent and what I learned of Suffrage and Suffragists."

Mrs. Mustard and Miss Boyle.

Feb. 16.—Miss M. HODGE: "Canada and Votes for Women."

Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Corner.

Feb. 23.—Mrs. M. CUNNINGHAM: "Wanted an effective Survival Rate, not a High Birthrate." And others.

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MEETINGS:

Wed., Feb. 2, 8 p.m.—Right Hon. Sir JOHN COCKBURN. "The Mystery of the Alphabet." Chair: Mr. R. F. Cholmeley.

Wed., Feb. 9, 8 p.m.—Mrs. H. CROUSCHOFF MATHESON. "Some Religious and Political Theories of contemporary Russia." Chair: Mr. Th. Gregory.

Tues., Feb. 15, 7.30 p.m.—House Dinner. Miss CHRISTOPHER ST. JOHN: "The Theatre as Such." Chair: Mr. Frederick Whelen.

Wed., Feb. 16, 4.30 p.m.—Miss DAMER DAWSON: "The Women Police Service." Chair: Lady Clare Annesley.

Wed., Feb. 23, 8 p.m.—Dr. FREDERICK BOAS, M.A.: "Wordsworth's Patriotic Poems." Chair: The Hon. Mrs. John Bailey.

Wed., Mar. 1, 8 p.m.—Miss ANNA AIRY, R.E., R.O.I.: "A Woman's Experiences as a Painter." Chair: Lady Muir-Mackenzie.

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