

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:* "Cufranchis London." *Telephone:* 886 Mayfair.

No. 29.

JULY, 1916.

THE RESULT OF OUR APPEALS.

The result of our appeals has been, up to the time of going to press, most encouraging.

The Hostel.—It is evident that our members are keenly interested in the Hostel, and are desirous of continuing the work. Therefore application was made to the owner of the house for a further extension of six months. This was most kindly granted, and the Committee decided that a second appeal for funds should be made. We have received nearly £100; and this, with our average expenditure, we calculate will maintain it for the period for which the loan of the house has been extended. Several accounts of the work of the Hostel have recently appeared in the Press, and we have had many letters of enquiry resulting from them. Also many appeals for admittance.

A Canteen.—Money was also asked for the provision of a canteen to provide women munition workers with food and a rest room, so that they may be able to get good meals and eat them in comfort. The result, so far, is £22 7s. 6d.

Cot at Netley Hospital.—Our readers will remember that we endowed a bed at Netley for twelve months. This period will expire at the end of September, and we should be exceedingly sorry to have to take down the tablet bearing the name of the Association, which is now over the bed. We hope to continue our endowment as long as the war lasts, but we are only at present appealing for funds to carry it on for three months. The amount required is £16 10s., and so far we have received £13. We feel sure our readers will cover the deficit.

Training a Patrol.—It has been suggested to us how urgently money has been required for the training of patrols. We already have a few pounds in hand to be devoted to this purpose, further details of which we will supply in the next issue.

Loan Fund.—Money is also needed for the purpose of lending to girls anxious to be trained for work on the land and in professions, which will be repaid when the recipients earn sufficient to enable them to do so. We have received nearly £11 towards this object.

Our Hut in Holland.

BY MRS. FABIAN WARE.

In the early part of the year we appealed to the generosity of our readers to provide £100 for

a *démontable* double-storied wooden hut, complete with simple furniture, to house two of the families of the Belgian soldiers now interned in Holland. These families had trekked across the frontier by thousands in order to be near their husbands; but Holland was unable to cope with all the demands for accommodation made upon her by these and the many other Belgians flooding the country. Unhealthy congestion and undesirable housing conditions naturally prevailed, resulting in sickness and a high rate of mortality amongst the children. The Belgian Repatriation Fund, of which Lady Selborne is Chairman, was helping to provide wooden houses according to a Belgian design, and the C.U.W.F.A. collected the sum required for one of these, and forwarded it through the Fund to the proper authorities at the Hague. At the end of May I had the interesting opportunity of accompanying the Hon. Secretary of the Fund, Mrs. Francis Acland, on a visit to some of the Camps, and spent a long Sunday afternoon at Hardewijk, where our C.U.W.F.A. hut is placed. Hardewijk is an attractive little place on the Zuyder Zee, and on this particular day was gay with Dutch and Belgian soldiers and groups of picturesque fisher folk promenading the long avenue leading from the station to the town. On the far side of the railway, near the soldiers' internment quarters, is a cluster of fifty wooden huts, among which one bears a plaque with our name, and another that of the Liberal Women Suffragists. They stand on a sweep of sandy ground dotted with fir trees, the characteristic scenery of that part of Holland, and ideally healthy for a camp. The houses are all alike—painted in bright colours—and roofed with variegated asbestos tiles. Critics might call them fantastic in appearance, but they suit their quaint surroundings in a country which is sometimes very like a toyshop. Huts and furniture are the work of the interned soldiers, and the labour necessary to their construction is of the very greatest comfort to these men stranded in idleness.

In the large camp at Amersfoort we visited the workshops, and the cheerful looks of the soldiers there employed were a pleasure to see. The reconstruction of Belgium seemed actually under way, and lathes and hammers throbbed with victory. The transportable hut is such a real link between the ruined home of the tragic past and the restored country of the happy future, that the C.U.W.F.A. may rejoice in having been able to provide this means of comfort for two of the homeless Belgian families now in Holland.

A Business Man's Tribute to Women.

At the twenty-second ordinary general meeting of the holders of Ordinary shares of J. Lyons and Co., Ltd., Sir Joseph Lyons, D.L., presiding, paid a warm tribute to the women employees of the Company. He said:—

"You can form some idea of the change-over of staff when I tell you that to-day we employ thousands of women in excess of the pre-war number. A special tribute is due to them for their patriotic contribution of endurance and pluck in this country's hour of trial, and for the arduous duties they so faithfully perform to the best of their ability, which in many cases is great. It is an exhibition of devotion to duty calling for grateful admiration, and must command the greater respect in that in a large number of instances uncongenial work is cheerfully undertaken in the steadfast determination that nothing shall stand in the way of final and early victory. Were it not for their splendid efforts we should have been irretrievably hit by the immense response of our male eligible staff to the appeal for men. No work seems to these brave women too laborious or difficult to attempt, and the pleasure of it is the greater that they succeed in many apparently impossible occupations. The work of such women deserves the nation's fullest and most grateful recognition, being as it is a practical and invaluable backing of the heroic valour which our soldiers and seamen are showing in our struggle for the maintenance of the spirit of true freedom and true civilization."

Women in Church Life.

The Master of the Temple, in an address given at the forty-second Annual Conference of the Association to Head Mistresses, made some interesting remarks on women in the professions. He declared that "No woman should be debarred from a profession by reason of sex; capacity and temperament should be the test. He doubted if women would be likely, apart from natural fitness, to be admitted to the regular ministry of any of the closely organized churches, but with regard to the Established Church there was real need for the development of a regular order of deaconesses, one to be on the staff of every large urban parish with a vocation and status as definite as that of the Vicar, with an adequate stipend and training in ethical economics. It would pay the state to subsidize the medical examination of women by a liberal system of scholarships, and private benefactors could not do better than lavish money upon the training of girls for medicine and surgery."

Women in Munition Works.

Sir William Beardmore, in his presidential address at the Annual Meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute, in referring to the restrictions imposed by Trade Unions, said that "Girls introduced into a certain projectile factory all produced more than double the output of thoroughly trained Trade Union mechanics working the same machines under the same conditions. In the curving, waving, and finishing of shell bases the girls' output was quite 120 per cent. more than that of experienced mechanics."

THE DECREASING BIRTH-RATE.

BY THE COUNTESS OF SELBORNE.

There is no doubt that the birth-rate in all European countries is decreasing, with the exception of Roumania and Bulgaria.

The phenomenon was first noticed in France, where the birth-rate had lessened continuously, till, in the year 1911, it was absolutely below the death-rate. This led to an energetic campaign against infant mortality; and in the next two years, although the birth-rate did not rise, the death-rate fell. In Germany, though the process began much later—it was not till 1898—it has progressed a great deal more rapidly, especially in the ten years from 1902 to 1912, during which time it fell by nearly 8 per thousand of the population. In the same period our own rate fell by 4; but the fall began here long before it did in Germany, so that they have not yet sunk to our figure. The fall in Germany has been the greatest, but there has been a fall during the same period of time in Russia, Austria, Italy, Spain, Holland, the three Scandinavian Kingdoms, Switzerland and Serbia.

We have not the figures to prove it, but there is a general impression that the custom of restricting births had been in existence in the upper and middle classes of most countries for some time before it spread to the working class; but that while it was confined to these classes, it did not show sufficiently to make an impression on the national birth-rate.

It is very natural that people should desire that their children should be as well off as they are themselves. This is obviously only possible when the family is fairly small; so it seems that once the knowledge of how to bring this about has spread, the great majority of any given nation limit the size of their families.

From a statesman's point of view, the desirable thing is that this nation should increase sufficiently to fill the still vacant spaces in the Colonies and Dominions; otherwise they will be filled by alien nations, and the populations of the future will not be of our own race.

So at present it is to be wished for the British nation that it should increase. The first step that should be taken is to stop the excessive infantile mortality. It is sheer waste of health and strength to have a large birth-rate, and a huge infant death-rate. Ceylon, with a birth-rate of 38, only has an increase rate of 6; while New Zealand, with a birth-rate of 26, has an increase rate of 17. This example shows that it is possible to have a perfectly sufficient rate of increase with a very moderate birth-rate.

Secondly, I think we ought to consider whether more provision ought not to be made for assisting poor women during their confinements, and the first months of their infant's lives. A beginning has been made with the maternity benefit. I should like to see that supplemented by a weekly payment to the mother while she is suckling her baby. The months following on the birth of a baby are very trying ones to the working class family. The poor woman has hardly a

chance to regain her own health; and the many extra expenses to be met, mean some privation to the rest of the family. If the mother is accustomed to work at a factory, she will try and wean her baby earlier than she should, in order that she can resume earning. The money could be paid through the insurance societies, and a grant made from the State to meet it.

Thirdly, municipalities should make an effort to see that there are houses in working class quarters, which are large enough for families. On the whole, London is not badly off in this respect, except in the very central parts, but the rent and rates are very high. It has always seemed to me that it would be fair to assess childless people at a higher rate for income tax, than those who have families to educate. A beginning has been made here also, as an exemption is granted in certain cases to people with children. On the other hand, the plan of reckoning husband and wife's income as joint, for the purpose of taxation, is a direct burden on matrimony. When it is considered how many more charges the man of moderate means who has a family to educate has to meet than the bachelor or childless couple, I think it is clear that he should be much more lightly taxed.

The whole question is one which ought to be considered by women as well as by men; and one of the best ways of impressing upon them that they have duties of their own to the nation, is to give them the Franchise and so make them responsible citizens.

Women Army Cooks.

OVER £400,000 SAVED IN SIX MONTHS.

Miss Lilian Barker, woman superintendent of Woolwich Arsenal, who lectured at Bedford College, Regent's Park, recently, on "Housewifery in the Army," told a *Daily Mail* representative that, although there are already 400 women cooks for officers' messes, command depôts, convalescent camps, and rest camps, the movement has only just begun in earnest.

"Women are about to succeed men as cooks at six big camps, one alone of which will require 250," she said. "They are willing, too, to serve abroad, and there is every prospect that their services will be accepted at the base camps in France."

"Their aim has been to provide variety and attractiveness in the meals, and at the same time to economise. Since women took up the duties of Army cooks, in the last six months £410,035 has been saved at places where they have been working. At one command depôt alone £4,790 has been saved."

Many changes are taking place at the present time, and we feel sure that our readers will deeply regret to learn that after six years' excellent work with the Association, Miss Moyes, our Press Secretary, left us last month to take up more important work elsewhere. Miss Moyes will continue to help us with the publication of the paper, but we shall miss her efficient and willing help at the Central Office.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Report of the Women's Mission to French Farms in February, 1916 (published by the Berkshire Committee in *Women and Farm Labour*, Shire Hall, Reading, 6d.).

This Mission was the outcome of a Conference on Women's Labour and the Land between representatives of County Committees and Lord Selborne, which took place at the close of last year. The representatives of the Berkshire Committee realizing how valuable is first hand information, decided to organize a personal visit to the French agricultural districts, where women are carrying on the cultivation of the land. The results have been published in an interesting and valuable pamphlet, which should be studied by everyone who is in any way helping to meet the present agricultural crisis by endeavouring to induce women to work on the land.

In spite of great drawbacks—bad weather, and the fact that the greater part of the country visited was directly behind the French Army lines, and therefore within the war zone, having twice experienced invasion by German troops—the Mission seems to have made good use of its time. The greater number of farms were small holdings, varying from 40 to 120 acres. All possessed cows, and, in some instances, sheep. Every house made its own butter and cheese, wine and cider; and rabbits were invariably kept for the market and family consumption, but most of the machinery had been destroyed by the Germans. Soldiers were billeted in all the farms, and the women of the house cooked for them, in addition to their other work. The Mission was much impressed by the courage and energy displayed by the French women; even those "whose advanced years would naturally have earned them complete rest were found taking an active share in the roughest labour."

Instructive and interesting as is the Report, it strikes us as being too sketchy. Fuller details would have been of great interest at the present time, and would have had a permanent value after the war is over. We hope that the information here given will be incorporated in a more elaborate and technical work.

It is anticipated that County Committees working in connection with the land campaign, will make use of the services of the speakers who accompanied the Mission. Their names and addresses can be obtained from the Board of Agriculture.

The latest of the series of booklets issued by the Central Committee for National Patriotic Organization, deals with the sterilization of fruit and vegetables for the home. It deals with the type of bottles to be used, methods of bottling and sealing, selection and preparation of fruit and vegetables, testing for defective sterilization, and storing. The booklet also describes fruit bottling without sugar. The booklet can be obtained for 1d., post free 1½d., from the Central Committee for National Patriotic Organizations, 62, Charing Cross, S.W.

**BRITISH DOMINIONS WOMAN
SUFFRAGE UNION.**
**CONFERENCE, JULY 5th, 6th & 7th,
CENTRAL HALL, Westminster.**

Meetings: 10 a.m., 2.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.

SPEAKERS—

Miss ABADAM, Councillor MARGARET ASHTON, Mrs. DESPARD,
MAURICE GREGORY, Esq., LAURENCE HOUSMAN, Esq.,
Mrs. PETHICK LAWRENCE, Miss SUSAN LAWRENCE, L.C.C.,
Miss CHRYSAL MACMILLAN, LL.B., Miss MAUD ROYDEN,
Dr. B. TCHAYKOVSKY, etc., etc.

SUBJECTS—

Women as Citizens in the Dominions Overseas.
Sex Morality and Sex Education.

Women and Children in the Industrial World. India.

Thursday, July 6th, 8 p.m.—An Evening on India. Lady MUIR
MACKENZIE, Sir K. G. GUPTA, K.C.S.I., Sir M. M.
BHOWNAGGREE, K.C.E.I.

Friday, July 7th, 7.30 p.m.—Public Suffrage Meeting. Woman
Suffrage and the Empire.

Particulars from the Hon. Sec., B.D.W.S.U., c/o International
Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly.

MADAME HÉLÈNE

5, Hanover Road, Scarborough.

Buys Ladies', Gentlemen's and Children's
worn clothing—Costumes, Coats, Furs,
Lingerie, Boots, Oddments. Separate
prices for each article.

Send trial parcel carriage forward.
Cash by return.

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.

S.M.—Gentlewoman desires temporary daily post as
Secretary to professional man, or would do light household
duties or housekeeping for elderly couple, or gentlewoman
where servants are kept. Salary by arrangement. Personal
interview.

R.S.—Gentlewoman requires post as Housekeeper
where servant is kept.

D.E.—Gentlewoman would be glad of orders for needle-
work (not dressmaking), fancy or pretty underlinen, or
would go out daily to make or mend houselinen. Terms
by arrangement.

L.D.—Desires clerical work, some typewriting and
French (nine years Paris). Reads music at sight.

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

C.U.W.F.A. COT AT NETLEY,

(endowed for 12 months, September, 1915).

FUNDS URGENTLY NEEDED TO
CONTINUE ENDOWMENT.

Conservative & Unionist Women's Franchise Association,
48, Dover Street, Piccadilly, W.

GEO. WEBB'S DYE WORKS,

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

No connection with any other firm
trading in the same name.

Exhibitor at British Silk Exhibition, 1912. Established 50 years.

The finest and purest pre-war colours absolutely guaranteed.

As we held an exceptionally large stock of colours in reserve at
the outbreak of the War we are able to dye in all the following
rich tones: Purple, Mauve, Dark Violet, Royal Blue, Scarlet,
Crimson, Claret, &c., &c.

Instructions by Post or Telephone command immediate attention.
Testimonials and Recommendations from all parts of the country.

TEL. 1852 BRIXTON.

THE FLORAL DEPOT LTD.,

Tel. Nos. 3821 Padd. 47, BAKER STREET, W. "Anthoflor. Baker,
3822 } London."
1933 Mayfair.

Cut Flower Specialists and Floral Decorators.

Flowers despatched to any part of the country
within half-an-hour of receiving orders and
their arrival in perfect condition guaranteed.

MEMORIAL DESIGNS OUR SPECIALITY.

International Women's Franchise Club

9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.

FOR MEN AND WOMEN.

NO ENTRANCE FEE DURING THE WAR.

Subscriptions One Guinea per annum from date of entrance.
(Irish, Scottish and Foreign Members, 10/6).

WEEKLY LECTURES, HOUSE DINNERS.

Valuable Feminist Lending and Reference Library.
Free to Members. (Non-Members 5/6 per annum.)

Excellent Catering. Luncheons and Dinners from 1/-

All particulars—Secretary. Tel. 3932 MAYFAIR.

**The WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE
RECEPTION**

Mrs. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY

(FIFTH YEAR)

WILL BE HELD AT

CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER,

(Nearest Station St. James's Park District Railway).

On THURSDAY, JULY 6th, 1916.

Presentation of BIRTHDAY GIFT to the League, Songs, Dances, etc.,
and short Speeches at 8 p.m. by

Mrs. Despard, Miss Nina Boyle,

Miss Munro, Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Zangwill.

TICKETS (including Refreshments). ONE SHILLING, from the
WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

All communications respecting
advertisements should be addressed to
THE MANAGER,—

Miss F. L. FULLER,

99, NEW BOND STREET, W.

TEL. 2421 MAYFAIR.