

MONTHLY NEWS
of the
**Conservative Women's Reform
ASSOCIATION.**
NEW ISSUE.

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OUR WORK.

The glorious summer of 1921 has many good things to its credit, but one consequence we deplore is that people have lengthened their stay in the country or abroad beyond the usual limit, so that we were unable to fix dates of Conferences, etc. until our members and their friends had returned to take part in them.

Now, however, arrangements are being concluded for Conferences on "Second Chamber Reform" and "Unemployment: its remedy." It has been suggested that the latter should form the subject of a debate to be held after the formal business of the Annual Meeting is concluded.

Our members have already received a preliminary notice of the Annual Meeting on November 30th at 3 o'clock, containing a request from the Executive Committee for resolutions and nominations. Our Committee would like to emphasise the fact that the vitality of our organization depends to a great extent on the active interest shown by members in its work, and any resolutions sent in to the Office in response to the Committee's request will be cordially welcomed and placed on the agenda.

We ask all our members to make a real effort to be present and we hope that those living in the country will arrange to do their Christmas shopping during the week in order that they may be able to attend our meetings. The details of the proposed discussions will be advertised in our November issue, which we propose to make a special number and to circulate to every member of the Association in the hope that they may become subscribers.

In the July-August number we asked for suggestions how to make *Monthly News* more interesting and more helpful to our members. We received the following valuable advice—that we should publish extracts from the Extremist press showing the dangerous revolutionary propaganda which is being carried on, and which our Constitutional party will have to brace itself to fight. Ignorance is our worst enemy, and if Conservatives knew more about the dangers which menace the country there would be less apathy

and slackness in political matters.

The Editor appeals to members to help her to carry out this wise suggestion. It is impossible for her to read personally all the numbers of the *Daily Herald*, the *Clarion*, the *Communist*, and *Glasgow Progress*, but she would be very grateful if members would send her any striking and suitable extracts from those papers that they may happen to come across, with the name of the paper and the date of publication.

We strongly recommend our readers to buy and read a pamphlet written by Mr. Herbert G. Williams called "Elementary Principles of Political Economy," price 1d. post free 2d., No. 2027, published by the Chancery Lane Printing Works, Ltd., Plough Court, Fetter Lane, E.C.4. Mr. Williams possesses the rare art of making a difficult subject easy, and his explanation of the law of supply and demand makes many dark places plain.

Miss Fogerty is conducting a series of Speakers' classes at the Central School of Speech Training and Dramatic Art at the Royal Albert Hall. Pupils are graded into the class which is appropriate to their degree of proficiency. The cost is one guinea for six debates. Full particulars may be obtained on application to the C.W.R.A., 48, Dover Street, W.1.

An interesting course of free lectures has been organised by the Royal Institute of Public Health on "Problems of Public Health" in relation to Industrial Hygiene, on Wednesday afternoons at 4 p.m. at the Lecture Theatre of the Institute, 37, Russell Square, W.C.1. Full particulars may be had from the Secretary at that address.

**WOMEN AND THE LEAGUE OF
NATIONS.**

There were present at this year's Assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva delegates from 41 countries out of a possible 48. Of the 41 delegations, only four included a woman. The four women were:—Mdlle. Henni Forchhammer, the Danish expert; Professor Kristine Bonnevie, one of the substitute delegates for Norway; Mdlle. Hélène Vacaresco, who came as

a secretary and was appointed a substitute delegate for Roumania; and Mme. Anna Bugge-Wicksell, a substitute delegate for Sweden. All these ladies spoke in the Assembly, and all spoke well, Mme. Bugge-Wicksell and Mdlles. Forchammer and Bonnevie in English, and Mdlle. Vacaresco in equally perfect French. All were enthusiastically applauded by their audience. Mdlle. Vacaresco, indeed, whose reading of the Report on the Deportation of Women and Children in Turkey and the neighbouring countries partook rather of the nature of the recitation of a poem, received a tremendous ovation at its conclusion, delegates almost falling over each other in their eagerness to shake her hand.

Importance of Commissions.

It should be understood that one of the first things that the Assembly does when it meets is to appoint six Commissions (or Committees—though it is better, in order to avoid confusion, to keep the word "Committee" for the smaller bodies appointed by the Commissions for special purposes), and that each delegation is represented on each Commission by one of its members.

Thus it came about that Sweden was represented by Mme. Bugge-Wicksell on Commission I. (legal and constitutional), and Norway by Mdlle. Bonnevie, Denmark by Mdlle. Forchammer, and Roumania by Mdlle. Vacaresco on Commission V. (humanitarian interests). The Commissions are by far the most interesting and important part of the whole proceedings. In them, matters are gone into in detail; in them, too, people say what they really think, in a way which they seldom or never dream of doing in the Assembly itself. It is the Commissions which, after days, or even weeks, of discussion, draw up the resolutions which are to be presented to the Assembly and which, when accepted—as they generally are, without amendment—by the Assembly, become the opinion of the League of Nations.

Hence, it is obvious that an individual member of a Commission may be able to influence the whole attitude of the League on any given question. By the time that a resolution reaches the Assembly, everybody who was not on that particular Commission knows that the question has been thoroughly thrashed out, and, as a rule, although the Commission's Report to the Assembly is followed by speeches, nobody takes much interest in them. The real work is done in the Commissions. That is why, if women are to be included in delegations at all—and many people think that every delegation should include a woman among its members, in view of the number of questions especially interesting women which are dealt with by the League—it is desirable that they should be well qualified to play their part on Commissions.

Good Speeches—and others.

I did not happen to hear any woman speak in a Commission, and the summarized reports which I have by me do not enable one to judge whether they did well. But I heard them all in the

Assembly and was struck by their obedience to the President's request to delegates in general to "keep it short." No woman bored the Assembly by long-windedness; many men did so. There are two kinds of speeches which are properly regarded with horror by all whose duty compels them to listen to them. There is the "hot-air" speech, of the type which was the curse of countless futile pacifist meetings before the war, a torrent, or sometimes a dreary drip, of lofty sentiments altogether out of place in a meeting of people who are already convinced of general principles and who have got to get something done, with very little time to do it in. There is also the speech which is intended primarily for home consumption, to justify the expense incurred by the speaker's country in sending him to the Assembly at all. None of the women's speeches that I heard came into either of these categories, and I am sure that so long as the women who attend the Assembly are mistresses of their subjects and can say what they have to say in the fewest possible number of words, they will be a valuable addition to the ranks of delegates.

Need of Languages.

I think, however, that it is essential that they should know, even if they do not speak, both the official languages, French and English. In at least one of the Commissions this year an enormous amount of time and fatigue was saved by members agreeing to do without translations. Good though the interpreters are for the most part, they can seldom reproduce the "spirit" of the foreign tongue, and just as the official report of the proceedings gives no idea, for instance, of the intensely dramatic occasion when Mr. Balfour admonished the Polish and Lithuanian delegates in the Council, so it is certain that no delegate who is unable really to enter into the bilingual atmosphere of the Commissions and Assembly can be fully aware of all that is going on. And, apart from that, one of the great merits of the annual meeting at Geneva is that it gives an opportunity of getting to know personally a large number of people belonging to almost all the civilised countries of the world and all inspired by the same general ideals. But the number of foreigners at Geneva who are prepared to talk English is smaller than might be imagined, and some of the most interesting have, besides, or as, their own language, only French.

The Assembly this year had got over some of its youthful enthusiasm. That is a good sign, for it shows that people are realizing that there are certain things that even the League of Nations cannot do—or, at least, can do no better than the old diplomacy. But there are certain other things which the League can do well. If it does not attempt too much before its position in the eyes of the world is assured by a series of successes, even if these be in matters of comparatively minor importance, it will gradually come to be regarded as indispensable.

HUBERT WALTER

THE COMING SESSION.

It would be hard indeed to find in the political history of the British Empire a more important programme than that which is before our statesmen at the present time. The three great questions of an Irish settlement, a successful Washington Conference, and our own—nay, the world's—economic prosperity, are each and all so vital that it would seem almost impossible to give any judgment of Paris as to which was the most urgent. A failure, or even the record of but a partial success, in any of these problems, would be a calamity too appalling for thought. And yet to the man in the street, from whom the details are mercifully hidden, the solutions appear clear and undeniable.

Ireland.

A lasting settlement must be arrived at between ourselves and Ireland; but on no consideration can Ireland be allowed to renounce her Imperial status. Consonant with that, the wise course is undoubtedly to grant her in the fullest degree every measure which will make for her peace and contentment, in the belief that a day cannot fail to come when both North and South, animated by a common purpose, will find their old suspicions and hatred allayed, and will work together for the common good of their country.

Washington Conference.

With regard to the Washington Conference, the plain man may soon find himself out of his depth, when he first attempts to wade into little known pools of controversy surrounding Chinese agreements. But even though he should be in danger of submersion, let him seek *terra firma*, and surely the issue can never be in doubt? The Washington Conference has two purposes. First to consider the question of Disarmament with regard to the Pacific, and secondly to strengthen those ties of friendship which exist between America, Japan and ourselves. Will anybody deny the vast service gained to the world when it is found—as surely it will be—that a measure of disarmament between friendly nations is not only eminently desirable but perfectly feasible? No one knows better than the inhabitants of this island, with nearly two fortieths of her people unemployed, that no nation can afford to embark on a mad competition of armaments. The world about us is dying, starving, (alas, that we can use the words literally!) for peace. Murderous indeed would be the Governments who did not use superhuman efforts to ensure security and prosperity to the peoples committed to their charge. And does it indeed need such superhuman efforts? Surely determination to succeed, coupled with goodwill and sincerity, would remove mountains of doubt and suspicion, and the mountains are not there!—only fogs, which the genial statesmanship of all the nations concerned in the Washington Conference will soon dispel.

So far with regard to Disarmament, which is but one half of the programme of the Conference.

Inextricably bound up with that half is the second part dealing with the Anglo-Japanese treaty and its bearings upon China. Here the writer of this article must admit to being an Irish bull, a "plain man" herself. But the instincts of gratitude and fair play are international attributes; more, they are a light to the feet of all who regard them. Gratitude we have in plenty for our gallant allies who helped us in the War; we will never stab them in the dark, and we are convinced that neither will they stab us. Ties formed in 1914-1918 are not easily dissoluble. It may be, in fact it would seem almost certain, that a revised Treaty will have to be drawn up. But with the remembrance of that joint struggle clear before us, and with a sincere and disinterested desire to assist China to regain a position of internal economic security, the Treaty should easily achieve an immense measure of success. Let the Governments assembled at Washington give an earnest of their determination to secure peace and good feeling between their nationals, and they will most certainly find that they have summoned to their aid the Genie who will fulfil all their wishes.

Unemployment.

Lastly comes what is the most complex question of all, that of a revival of world trade, because that is the one solution of Britain's great unemployment riddle. By every means in our power, neglecting nothing and overlooking nothing, we have got to get the stagnant waters of international commerce stirred into movement. It cannot be done by one Government or Governments alone: Commerce is a delicate thing, and the rude breath of State interference will kill it. That alas! is a fact overlooked by Labour with its insistent demands for an all-wealth State ownership. That Governments must be behind Trade, ready to give help when the right time comes, is undeniable. That they must be stable Governments, lest that delicate mechanism security should be destroyed by their perilous movements, is also beyond doubt. But let them beware of laying their clumsy hands upon machinery which it takes an expert's skill to handle.

All this is undeniable, and yet often forgotten. Therefore it is with relief that we turn to our papers and read that the Prime Minister has called upon every branch of industry—employers, employed, bankers and insurance societies—to help him in the difficult times through which this country is passing. An Unemployment Committee of the Cabinet has also been formed, charged with the preparation of a National programme, and though nothing definite is known as to its findings, the Cabinet is reported to be in agreement with them. An extension of credits is rumoured, and support for public utility services. There is also Sir Alfred Mond's scheme of grants or loans to local authorities to enable them to start relief works. From this résumé it will be seen that there is no mention of wild-cat schemes for the erection of garden-cities

and the like. The whole idea of the Government seems to be to start trade flowing again in its normal channels. If we can set our erstwhile customers on their legs, if we can devise a scheme of increased Trade with the Empire, if we can produce more and produce it more cheaply, then and then only we shall see the writing fade which now reads "Exports down sixty-two million; a million and a half unemployed," then will the gaunt figure of hunger leave our shores

M. LLOYD GRAEME.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

The National Council of Women was held at Sheffield this year from September 26th to 30th. A large gathering of delegates from all parts of England, Wales and Scotland were present and also representatives of numerous affiliated Societies, the delegates of the C.W.R.A. being Lady Trustram Eve and Miss Gilstrap. It is a matter of legitimate pride to our Association that our Chairman, Lady Trustram Eve, should have been elected Treasurer in the place of Lady Nunburnholm; and Lady Lloyd Graeme a member of the N.C.W. executive committee. We offer them both our hearty congratulations. The C.W.R.A. was further fortunate in that the resolution we sent in was reached on the agenda, and duly passed. It asked that women should be allowed to retain their British nationality on marriage with an alien should they desire to do so.

Amongst others, the following important resolutions were passed:—

1. A strong protest against the wrecking of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill: all bodies of organized women to be asked to press for a further measure.
2. The Government to be asked to give time for the Guardianship of Infants Bill.
3. The need of Women on the League of Nations.
4. Trade Boards Act to be applied without delay to those trades in which wages are not up to subsistence level.
5. To consider the treatment of juvenile delinquency
6. To press for equal status of men and women within the Home Civil Service and equal pay for equal work.
7. To press for reduction of armaments, and to urge women to work for the peaceful ideal of the League of Nations.
8. To introduce legislation for the licensing of all persons performing in theatres, music-halls, concert halls or circuses, or acting in cinema films.
9. To press for a stricter censorship of films.
10. To press for the study of the duties of citizenship in all schools and training colleges.
11. Married women's income to be separately assessed for Income Tax.
12. Married women to be qualified to serve as jurors if the husband is qualified; no judge or other person before whom the case is heard to make an order excluding women jurors in cases where a child or woman is concerned, either as principal or as witness; and if a juror is changed, that juror to be replaced by another of the same sex.

This bare skeleton shows the work that associations may do to help to amend the laws, especially those relating to Women and Children. It also incidentally bears witness to the need of more women M.P.s.

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LECTURES.

WEDNESDAYS, 8.15 p.m.

- October 19th. "Self-Expression through Poetry"
Mr. R. DIMSDALE STOCKER.
Chairman: Miss VERA S. LAUGHTON, M.B.E.
- October 26th. "The Role of Women in the Revolutionary Movement"
Mrs. NESTA WEBSTER.
Chairman: Dame LOUISE GILBERT SAMUEL.
- November 2nd. "'Women's Rights'...are the Needs of Humanity"
Miss GEORGINA BRACKENBURY.
Chairman: Mr. GOLDFINCH BATE.
- November 9th. "The New Chinese Woman"
Miss E. G. KEMP, F.R.S.G.S.
- November 12th. Concert, arranged by the courtesy of
Miss F. BINYON ALEXANDER.
5.30 p.m. Mr. JOSEPH SLIVINSKI will play some Chopin, if in town.
(Other Artists announced later).
- November 16th. Subject to be announced later. Mr. G. K. CHESTERTON.
Chairman: Lady BONHAM CARTER.

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