

MONTHLY NEWS  
of the  
**CONSERVATIVE & UNIONIST**  
WOMEN'S FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION.

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**1830—1917.**

At the beginning of the New Year it is well to review the Parliamentary and Municipal progress made by women, in different parts of the world, during the last eighty years. A study of the victories already achieved will fill us with hope for the future.

Women now have full suffrage in States and countries, with a total population of 28,412,120. The trend of the times is toward equal rights for women. This is true the world over. Beginning slowly, and with victories only few and far between, the movement has gone forward with ever-growing momentum.

Ninety years ago women could not vote anywhere, except at municipal elections in Sweden and a few other places in Europe.

In the forty years from 1830 to 1870, women were given full suffrage in Wyoming, municipal suffrage in England, Finland, Victoria and New South Wales, and school suffrage in Kentucky, Kansas and Ontario.

In the twenty years from 1870 to 1890, women were given municipal suffrage in Kansas, Scotland, New Zealand, South and West Australia, Tasmania, Iceland, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec, British Columbia and the North-west Territory; school suffrage in Michigan, Minnesota, Colorado, New Hampshire, Oregon, Massachusetts, New York, Vermont, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Montana, Arizona, Oklahoma and New Jersey; and full suffrage in the Isle of Man.

In the twenty years from 1890 to 1910, women were given full suffrage in Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Norway, Finland, New Zealand, South and West Australia, Tasmania, Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales; municipal suffrage in Ireland, Denmark and the province of Vorarlberg (Austrian Tyrol), and school suffrage in Illinois, Connecticut, Ohio, Delaware and Wisconsin. In Louisiana, in Michigan and in all the towns and villages of New York State, tax-paying women were given a vote on questions of local taxation. In France, women engaged in trade were given a vote for judges of the tribunals of commerce. In Belgium, women were given a vote for the *Conseils des Prudhommes*.

In the seven years from 1910 to 1916 inclusive, women have been given full suffrage in California, Washington, Kansas, Oregon, Arizona, Montana, Nevada, Alaska, Iceland, Denmark, Bosnia, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan and

British Columbia; municipal and presidential suffrage in Illinois; municipal suffrage in South Africa, in Laibach (Austria), Baroda (India), and Belize (Honduras); and school suffrage in New Mexico. The Kingdom of Wurtemberg gave women engaged in agriculture a vote for members of the Chamber of Agriculture; Yucatan is reported to have given women the suffrage, to what extent is not yet known; and several cities in different States have lately given women a vote on local questions.

And the trend of events is all one way. The opponents of equal rights cannot point to a single country or State, in the last hundred years, that has adopted equal suffrage and then abandoned it.

A. S. B.

**OUR WORK.**

**C.U.W.F.A. Cot at Netley.**

Sir Warren Crook-Lawless, Commandant at Netley Hospital, says it will be a great help to the Netley Red Cross if we can continue to maintain the C.U.W.F.A. bed.

In our last issue we made an appeal for funds in order to do this for another half-year, but received a very small response. The sum required is £33, of which, up to the present, we have only £8 15s. 6d. Further donations are urgently needed.

Private McLeod, of whom we have previously given information, was succeeded in the cot by Private W. Davies, of the 2nd South Wales Borderers—who had a bullet wound in the head—but happily recovered. The present occupant is Private Knighton, 1st Northampton, who is suffering from severe fractures. He is, however, progressing satisfactorily.

E. M. KENYON-SLANEY.

**Our Prisoner of War.**

As the result of the collection taken at the lecture given by Mrs. Cameron at Lady St. Helier's, and of the appeal made at the same time by the Hon. Mrs. John Bailey, we are now able to send a parcel twice a month to one of our men—a prisoner of war in Germany. His name is Private Brew, No. 10,888, 2nd Division, Durham Light Infantry, Wahn bei Coln, Rheinland. Private Brew has been asked to acknowledge receipt of parcels to Miss Raiker at the offices of the Association.

E. M. KENYON-SLANEY.



### The Victoria Hut.

We should like our members to realize that the Victoria Hut *building* will be the property of the Association when the £550 required for the Building Fund has been provided. Two generous supporters have promised ten and five guineas respectively when £535 is reached; but we are still £100 from that desired goal.

### Branch News.

**Birkenhead.**—Our members have been busy with various kinds of war work. The sum of £17 has been collected and has been distributed between the Scottish Women's Hospitals and the Russian Unit. A joint meeting, in aid of the latter, was held in conjunction with the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and realized over a hundred pounds.

**Birmingham.**—During the last eighteen months, our Birmingham Branch has been working a Munition Workers' Canteen, which has proved so important and interesting that our members have undertaken it as the chief work of the Branch. They have also received great assistance from helpers who do not belong to our Association, in reply to a letter sent to the Press by our Birmingham Hon. Secretary appealing to "all patriotic women." At a meeting, recently held by the Committee, it was decided to continue this work as the Branch's chief activity.

**Edinburgh.**—The Branch has been working hard in conjunction with Lord Provost and Scottish Board of Agriculture and has also kept their office open as a registry for war workers.

**London.—Kensington.**—At the last meeting of the Kensington Committee, Miss Minna Rathbone was unanimously elected to fill the office of Vice-Chairman—vacant by the death of Lady Craggs—and Mrs. Saunders was elected Hon. Treasurer. We are glad to say that Lady Lockyer will continue to be Chairman of the Branch.

Although not doing any suffrage propaganda at present, the Kensington Branch is being well kept together. Committee meetings are held at intervals, which are extremely well attended; and several new members have joined, who, we hope, will help us greatly in our work.

A meeting of the Branch will be held early in the year, for which Mrs. Egerton Hensley has kindly promised to lend her drawing-room.

**Marylebone.**—The Committee organised a most successful meeting on "How new combatants can help to win the war." The speakers were:—Mr. Charles Stewart (the Public Trustee), and the Hon. Mrs. Stuart Wortley. Copies of *Monthly News* have been left each month on almost every member of the Branch. The Chairman and several members of the Committee are helping at the Victoria Hut, and others are working for Hospitals and Canteens, at Munition Works and on the War Pensions Committee.

**Dublin.**—Our Irish Branch joined officially in the following resolution, passed by the Joint Committee of the Irish Women's Local Government Association:—

"That this Joint Committee strongly protests against the proposal to give to Irish women teachers a War Bonus half as great as that to be given to men, and desires to support any demand the women teachers may make for equal treatment, in view of the fact that they have to meet the present high cost of living with salaries already smaller than those of the men."

As a result of the various protests made against the unfairness of paying a lower war bonus to women national school teachers in Ireland than is paid to men, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has decided, after consultation with the Chief Secretary for Ireland, "that the position of women teachers is such as to justify the payment to them of war bonus at the same rates as have already been announced in the case of the men teachers."

**Woking.**—The Branch collected this year £63/11/10 for the Star and Garter Home. The Branch has also for more than eighteen months sent weekly parcels to five Prisoners of War in Germany, belonging to the Royal West Surrey Regiment. For this object £50 has been collected. The Branch will continue to communicate with the men and collect money, but in future the parcels will be sent through the Regimental Depot at Guildford.

### Women and War Thrift.

About a month ago a women's branch of the National War Savings' Committee, Salisbury Square, E.C., was formed, and it has begun an economy campaign specially intended to rouse women of all classes to a recognition of the vital importance of economy. The underlying desire is to produce in the mass of women such a corporate spirit that any woman using luxuries, whose manufacture absorbs the labour of men who might be doing work of national importance, will be looked on in much the same way as was the man who in the early days of the war failed without sufficient excuse to enlist. A letter has been sent to peeresses, wives of M.P.s, and others, asking for their help, and a memorandum has also been sent out to the secretaries of the 900 local committees throughout the country, asking them to appoint women deputies for a women's campaign in their areas, and also to get in touch with all the leading women in their localities and with the local Press, in which the names of women giving pledges of economy could be published. The intention is to induce every woman in the country to realise that even a small unnecessary purchase may mean using man-power or woman-power needed for the prosecution of the war.

The card issued by Messrs. W. H. Smith has been a great success. The card has 31 squares for 6d. stamps, and when filled the card can be exchanged at any post office for a War Savings Certificate.

### Important Resolutions passed by the National Council of Women.

The following important resolutions were passed at the recent Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland:—

**Women Police.**—"That the National Council of Women notes with satisfaction Clause 4, Police, etc. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, legalising the payment of women from the police funds, which would include the payment of those women patrols who have been appointed to undertake special duties. In view of the success which has attended the Women Patrol Movement and that for women Police, the Council urges the appointment of women police in Great Britain and Ireland, believing that such appointment would be valuable for the care of women and the protection of children—the women to be properly trained, recognized and paid."

**Woman Suffrage.**—"Since the experience of the past two years has proved that the British Nation at war needs the responsible help of women for the efficient conduct of its affairs, no less than does the nation at peace, this National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland urges that any amendment or extension of the Parliamentary franchise must provide for the inclusion of women voters—not as a measure of justice only—but in the vital interests of our Nation and its future well being."

**Local Government.**—"That this Council urges its members to seize every opportunity of pressing upon public attention the need of women as elected (or co-opted) members of all local governing bodies, especially in view of new schemes of social work of utmost national importance which such bodies are now expected to initiate and administer." *On behalf of the Women's Municipal Party.*

"That this Council, realizing that the extended participation of women in Local Government is necessary for the welfare of the Nation, urges the Branches of the National Union of Women Workers to co-operate with women's local government associations where such exist, and elsewhere to help in forming such associations, independent of political parties; or alternately to form sectional committees of the Branches for Local Government purposes." *On behalf of the Women's Local Government Society.*

**Women on Boards of Hospitals.**—"That as the presence of suitable women on the Boards of Management of all Hospitals, Sanatoria, Asylums, Dispensaries and Nursing Institutions is eminently necessary in the interests of the nurses, patients and general efficiency, legislation should be introduced requiring Town Councils, Boards of Guardians and other public bodies to appoint women on the Committees dealing with such institutions under their charge, powers of co-option being conferred when necessary; and that Voluntary hospitals should also be useful to recognize this principle."

### Women in the War Labour Market.

The July figures, resulting from the monthly enquiries conducted by the Employment Department of the Board of Trade, referring to the increase in the employment of women, and of their replacing men throughout the country, have recently been published, and are interesting and instructive.

We read that up to July 866,000 additional women (27 per cent. of those employed in 1914) have been drawn into various occupations, and of this number 776,000 directly replaced men. There are no industries in which some form of direct substitution has not taken place, and few in which it is not increasing. The gross increase in the number of women employed in industrial occupations since July, 1914, is 362,000; and of these 263,000 are replacing men. In the cotton industry 25,000 women are directly replacing men, and many married women who had left off work have returned to it. The food trades show a very appreciable increase; in grain businesses the number of women employed has trebled since July, 1914; in sugar refining it has doubled; in brewing the figures have risen from 8,000 to 18,000. Women are now employed on the Tyne as blacksmith's strikers; they are also doing tool fettling and light blacksmiths' work. They are loading and discharging trucks, moulding, turning and carrying timber, weighing material in sulphur and copper works. A number are employed in sheet iron works, where they do all the work of making gunpowder kegs, including painting and packing them. In a gunpowder factory they work on small cordite presses—work which some firms stated they could not do. They are loading picric acid for another firm, cleaning the nitrating house, filling and emptying whizzer, and drying and sieving.

Returns of women engaged in nursing the wounded are only available up to the end of May, 1916, and since then have largely increased. The total was 30,000; of these, roughly, 9,000 were employed by the War Office, Admiralty, or in Territorial General Hospitals, and 21,000 by the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, of whom 10,000 are voluntary workers.

### Liberal Women Press for the Suffrage.

The Executive Committee of the Liberal Women's Suffrage Union have passed the following resolution:—

"The Committee of the Liberal Women's Suffrage Union desire to convey to the Prime Minister their most cordial wishes for the success of the Government in carrying on the war. The Committee assure the Prime Minister of the earnest desire of all members of the Union to co-operate in every measure for the national welfare, and respectfully urge that women can best render adequate service to the State if their duties and rights as citizens are fully recognised; this Committee are much encouraged by the knowledge that the Prime Minister has consistently endorsed this view."



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Serge Coat Gowns, ... 79/6  
29/11  
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29/11 to 79/6  
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Less than Cost.  
Coloured Silk Day Gowns,  
79/6 to 5 gns.  
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Coloured Silk Day Gowns,  
5½ gns. to 8 gns.  
69/6 to 5 Gns.  
Black Velveteen Coat Gowns,  
trimmed Fur 5 gns.  
39/11  
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57/6

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98/6  
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52/6  
150 Coats and Skirts, Tweed, Gaba Suitings and Covert Coating ... 8½ gns.  
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40 Coats and Skirts, coloured Cheviots, Serges and Friezes Some trimmed Fur  
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Tailor-made Walking Skirts in Tweeds and Coloured Cheviots. Slightly soiled.  
12/11

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5, Duke Street, Adelphi, or by letter from Miss NEWCOMB, (Hon. Sec.,  
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## The WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

Public Meetings at CAXTON HALL, Westminster.  
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS, at 3 o'clock.  
January 24th.—Mr. George Lansbury. Mrs. Mustard.  
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Admission Free. Collection. Tea, 4.30. 6d.

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