

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. 41.

DECEMBER, 1917.

OUR WORK.

The Council and Annual Meeting.

Exceptional interest was taken this year, both in the Autumn Council and in the Annual Meeting, as plans for our future were to be discussed and our policy outlined as far as possible. Mrs. John P. Boyd-Carpenter kindly lent us her house for our Council Meeting.

In the absence of Lady Selborne, Lady Betty Balfour presided, and there was a large attendance of members.

In her opening speech, Lady Betty gave the reasons for the need she thought there was for our Association to remain in being, and she paid a well-deserved tribute to Miss Raiker and the work accomplished during the year at the Head Office. She pointed out that though our Staff had been reduced and our expenses curtailed by £170, the reduction in postage was only £10, which showed that the correspondence was nearly as great as in former years when we had our full Staff.

After a keen discussion, in which many members present took part, the following amended resolutions were passed, and were ratified at the Annual Meeting the following day:—

1. That the Association remain in being.
2. That from and after the passing of the Representation of the People Bill conferring the political franchise on women, the Association be re-constituted with the object of considering and dealing with legislation for the benefit of the community, primarily that of women and children.
3. That the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association be re-organized on an independent Conservative basis.
4. That when the Association is re-constituted, a new Executive Committee be elected.
5. That the question of the title of the Association be left for decision until after the reconstruction.

Our President took the Chair at the Annual Meeting, which was held in the Council Chamber of the Caxton Hall, and was very well attended. Mrs. Gilbert Samuel gave an account of the year's work, accomplished both by our Executive Committee and by our London and Country Branches, and of the many Conferences and outside Committees which have been attended and reported on by various members of the Executive, in order that we may be abreast of the work which is being carried on elsewhere.

Among the Conferences were the following:—

On Clause 3 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

Central Committee of National Patriotic Associations.

Meeting convened by Mrs. Tennant at the National Service Headquarters on the subject of the collection of woollen and other rags.

Conference of the National Union of Women Workers on the education of the future woman voter, and of the Women's Industrial Council on the post-war employment of women clerks.

We are represented by the Hon. Treasurer on the National War Savings Committee, of which Mrs. Lloyd George is Chairman.

We have also given our support to the following resolutions:—

Resolution sent by us to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the differential treatment of men and women with regard to War Bonus, 1916. We also joined deputation organized by the N.U.W.W. to the Prime Minister on this subject.

Resolution sent to Mr. Bonar Law and the Conservative Party Whips by the Council of the Association, on the subject of the support of the party being given to the Recommendations of the Speaker's Conference.

Support was given to a resolution of the Women's Municipal Party, urging the importance of arousing public attention to the need for women to be elected and co-opted to all local governing bodies, in view of the many questions of reconstruction that would have to be considered by local governing bodies, in which questions women were vitally interested.

We took part in a deputation to the Prime Minister, organized by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies to urge the inclusion of women in the Electoral Reform Bill. Women of every trade and profession were included in the deputation.

Support was given to the resolution of Belgian women, headed by Madame Hymans, regarding the deportations from Belgium.

Resolutions sent by us to the Home Secretary regarding the importance of introducing a clause into the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, raising the age of consent to 18.

Support given to the National Union of Women Workers for their resolution sent to the Government regarding the Women Solicitors' Bill, which had passed its third reading in the House of Lords.

Resolution of protest sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the composition of the Re-

construction Committee, whose duty it was to advise the Government on all questions that might arise with regard to reconstruction after the war. Only two women were appointed out of twenty-six members, and these both hold very extreme views.

The support of the Association was given to the following resolutions, discussed at the National Council of Women in October last:—

"That the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland affirms its unshaken belief in an equal moral standard for men and women. Since the present laws relating to solicitation and indecent riotous conduct in the streets are complicated, unjust, and ineffective in practice, the National Council of Women urges that a law on an equal basis for men and women with regard to administration, evidence and penalties should be substituted to deal with molestation or annoyance by any person in the street.

"Since the duty of the State towards young people who are drifting into criminal courses is to restore and reform them, and since experience shows that moral reformation is more likely to be brought about by voluntary methods than by compulsion, the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland urges the Government to improve and co-ordinate existing agencies—official and voluntary—and with this in view to appoint a Commission to enquire

1. How far the present methods of prisons, Courts and police help or hinder such reformation?
2. How the laws and their administration can be improved.
3. Whether the co-operation of voluntary, educational and reformatory agencies can be more largely utilized?"

With regard to this resolution, the Committee suggested to the Association of Moral and Social Hygiene—the movers of the resolution—that if it were not too late the words be inserted after "to appoint a Commission," "of whom a large number should be women." The movers expressed themselves entirely in harmony with this amendment.

That the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland urges Parliament to take the earliest opportunity of extending the local government franchise to the wives of men on the local government register.

Meeting on War Savings.

We held a meeting on the 7th at 32, Sloane Gardens, by kind permission of Mrs. Gilbert Samuel, in order to interest our members on behalf of the War Savings Campaign in Westminster. Mrs. Fabian Ware took the Chair, and the Speaker was Mr. Evan Hughes, M.A., Head of the Organization Department of the National War Savings Committee. A keen discussion followed. It was generally felt, however, that no economy campaign can be really successful until the shopkeepers refrain from placing expensive and unnecessary goods in the windows.

The Local Franchise for Married Women.

Women won a great victory last month when the debates took place on Mr. Acland's Amendment to Clause 4 of the Representation of the People Bill, which gave the Local Government Franchise to the wives of men who have it.

In moving the amendment on November 15th, Mr. Acland said that the question of women's suffrage had passed beyond the sphere of the recommendations of the Conference. The decision to confer the Parliamentary franchise on women rested on the overwhelming support of the House of Commons and of the Nation. The married woman represented the responsible element in the community. It was absurd to give her a share in legislation and refuse her a share in administration.

Her exclusion from local government would lead to dangerous results. To keep sure control over administration the married women would be obliged to insist on administrative details being settled in this House. This would overburden Parliament with legislation and deprive local authorities of initiative.

The extension of the local government franchise, on the other hand, would have a good result on the woman voter. It would lead to discussion of, and intimacy with, administrative work, and thus would prevent her political voting from being uneducated and ill-informed.

Mr. Duncan Miller seconded the amendment. He spoke of the strong feeling in its favour which was apparent throughout the country. He argued that the claims of married women ought to receive special attention at the present time, since the married woman would play a leading part in the education of the coming generation, to which we must look for the rebuilding of the Empire.

The Home Secretary (Sir George Cave) stated his intentions with regard to the amendment. He admitted that the arguments in favour weighed strongly with him personally; at the same time, there was justice in the claim that the Representation of the People Bill was primarily a Parliamentary reform bill, not a Local Government reform bill, and that the amendment contained a change not embodied in the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference. He therefore felt that the Government could not accept the amendment.

In subsequent discussion, much regret was shown that Sir George Cave did not see his way to adopting the amendment as a Government proposal, and the hope was repeatedly expressed that the question would at least be left to the open vote of the House.

The debate was resumed on the 20th. After discussion, Sir George Cave said the amendment they were technically considering was not that which was really being pressed on the Government. The only form in which it could be considered by the Government was that in which it had been put on the paper by Mr. Crooks. [Mr. Crooks's amendment was to add to Mr. Acland's the words "in respect of premises in which they both reside and she has attained the age of

30 years." He had received an enormous mass of resolutions and letters, all of them in favour of the amendment. When he spoke recently he pointed out that they were working under special conditions in dealing with the Bill, meaning, of course, that it arose out of the report of the Speaker's Conference. But at the same time, as the whole object of that Conference was to obtain a lasting agreement on these matters relating to the suffrage, the Government would be reluctant to see left outstanding a question of this importance, if it could be solved by a stroke of the pen. It seemed from the debate that the very great majority of the House would like to see this change made, and therefore he thought the Government would be justified in leaving the matter for the decision of the House. (Hear, hear).

Mr. Acland, on behalf of the supporters of the original amendment, agreed to accept the form referred to by the Home Secretary, and the amendment: "That the local Government vote be given to the wife of a local government elector in respect of premises in which they both reside, provided she has attained the age of thirty years," was carried without a division. The Representation of the People Bill has now passed all its stages in the Commons, and gone up to the House of Lords.

Suffrage News.

The carrying of New York State is the greatest single victory that the Suffrage cause in America has yet won. It breaks the backbone of the opposition; it forces the blindest reactionary to see the handwriting on the wall and it insures the speedy passage through Congress of the nation-wide suffrage amendment.

Miss Robert Macadams, of the Canadian Military Nursing Service, is one of the two members of the Alberta Parliament elected by the Alberta soldiers and nurses in service. Her colleague is a man, and she was the only woman among twenty candidates. Miss Macadams is the second woman elected to this legislature.

The movement for woman's enfranchisement in South Africa has received a great encouragement from the fact that a deputation, bearing a resolution calling upon the Government to grant next Session a measure for Woman Franchise, was received by Mr. Malan, the Minister of Education, and the Minister of Lands, in full public session of the Provincial Congress of the South African Party in Bloemfontein. Owing to serious indisposition, the Prime Minister was unable to be present. Mr. Malan, in responding to speeches made, pointed out this to be the first time that a woman's franchise deputation had been received in a political congress; and that the arguments and points made by the speakers met with heartiest applause, is proof of the change of public opinion towards the principle of self-government for women. Both Ministers declared themselves to be whole-hearted supporters of our cause.

Recent Publications.

Life Saving in War Time. A Campaign Handbook. By Mabel Palmer, M.A. Compiled for the Infant Welfare Propaganda Committee, 4, Tavistock Square, London, W.C. (C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., 1s. nett).

This handbook is in itself an able review, not only of the work that is being done, but also of the further measures that should be taken to cope with the problems of Maternal and Infant Welfare in this country.

Mrs. Palmer touches on the decline of the birth-rate, and the probability of its further decline in the coming years; on the causes of infant mortality; the needs and difficulties of the mother both in crowded urban and in lonely country districts; on the problems of housing and sanitation; the provision of skilled and sufficient attendance in confinements; the employment of mothers; the supply of pure milk and other questions which should engage the attention of those who would foster a sturdy generation. In presenting data for reference in a concise and readable form Mrs. Palmer has done a real service, and the volume should be read from cover to cover by all who are interested in this vitally important national work.

Women's Work in War Time: A handbook of employments. Compiled by H. M. Usborne. (Werner Laurie, Ltd. 2s.).

A Handbook of Employments, in which women are engaged, should prove most valuable at the present time when so many new branches of work are being opened to them.

The first part of the volume is a guide to the many employments which women are now being urged to take up; the second part is a series of chapters by experts, giving details of the various branches of work dealt with in Part 1.

The author emphasizes the need for training, and appeals to parents to educate their daughters for a definite employment in the same way as they educate their sons. She tells us that there is a great demand for fully qualified workers in most of the professions open to women; and one of the reasons why suitable posts cannot be found for many of the 70,000 women whose names are on the registers of the Employment Exchanges, is that they have no qualification. This is an old grievance, but it must be brought forward again and again until it is removed.

We heartily recommend the book to those of our readers who are looking out for employment. Its value, however, consists in its immediate use. Events are moving so fast that the information contained in its pages may soon be out of date.

The Women's Local Government Society has issued a new leaflet of a preparatory character on "Women Candidates in Local Elections," in view of the need for preparing for the elections of Local Government authorities, which must take place after the war. Price ½d. each, or 3d. a dozen. To be obtained from the Secretary, 19, Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

Dainty & Inexpensive Frocks
for Christmas Parties
at Messrs.
Swan & Edgar's,
Regent
Street
&
Piccadilly,
W. 1.



A white net dancing frock over pink or sky, trimmed with Valenciennes lace and a posy of small flowers at the waist. Prices 27s. 6d. to 29s. 6d. from 18 in. to 29 in.

A charming little frock of pink or sky net over Japanese silk to match. It is made in sizes 18 in. to 24 in. all at 29s. 6d.



Very chic is this dress of silk and wool crepe, hand embroidered in art shades. It is made in various colours, for girls from 16 to 18 years, and the price is 84s.



Dainty embroidered white voile is used for this model, which has a pretty swathed silk belt finished with tiny posies. Price 31s. 6d. to 39s. 6. for girls of 7 to 11 years.

GEO. WEBB'S DYE WORKS,

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

TEL 1852 BRIXTON

No connection with any other firm trading in the same name.
Instructions by Post or Telephone command immediate attention.
The finest and purest pre-war colours absolutely guaranteed.
Testimonials and Recommendations from all parts of the country.

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).

WEEKLY LECTURES. HOUSE DINNERS.

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.

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.

Eat less
Bread

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

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

TEL. 2421 MAYFAIR.