

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

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"The most important service we can ever render our fellow men is to awaken in them a real faith in their own spiritual nature and in their own potential energies, and to set them to the task of building the ideal democracy."—*Rufus M. Jones.*

**The Two-fold Value of the Vote.**

A PLEA FOR POLITICAL SOCIETIES IN VILLAGES.

By THE HON. MRS. WILLIAM CECIL.

It is strange how few people realize the two-fold value of their vote. All know that they can help to place that party in power which is most likely to govern according to their ideals, but only a few understand that if they are willing to organize themselves, they can also help to form that party's future programme.

The non-party person, who waits until the various parties present their candidates and programmes, and then complains that none are to her liking, has only herself to blame. To make full use of her citizenship she should join one of the party organizations in her neighbourhood, and then when an unsuitable candidate is proposed she could join with other members of the party in a protest, and move that he be not adopted, and this protest might lead to his rejection. Once the candidate is adopted it is too late, because it is then the duty of every member of his party to vote for him, because he does not represent himself alone, but the leaders behind him and the principles behind them.

Then as to needed reforms, she should rouse up the other members to pass resolutions and send them up to the Member and also to headquarters, so that those in authority may realize the needs of the people and the feeling of the country and pass reforms before bitterness has been aroused.

But all this means much local work and effort; and as it is rather dull, most people imagine they have not time; but those who do not trouble are, whether they realize it or not, neglecting a duty and not making full use of their citizenship, for the Vote is a two-edged sword with which we can fight for the right, and both edges must be kept sharp.

There is always the feeling that local branches have not much power, and are not of much importance. "If only I were on the Central Committee how much more I could do," is the feeling of each one of us, but it is a delusion, for the Central Committees would be powerless but for their numberless branches and active members in every county and town; and equally valuable work can be done locally as at the centre, for resolutions sent up from the branches

should receive as much consideration at headquarters as a suggestion made by one of the Executive. In a modern state with proper organization, each one of us can be a power for good within our party, without taking up our abode at headquarters. In despising the parochial and jeering at the Parish Pump, who knows that we may not be scorning one of the chief springs of national prosperity, for to separate the local from the national is almost impossible; better local conditions mean better men and women for the State, and to be part of a strong and enterprising state is a source of prosperity to each locality.

It is the same with party organization and now—*now* is the time to organize—for the political reconstruction of the country is of vital importance as one of the means of safeguarding and making full use of our political freedom.

In every village there should be a party association which meets together at stated intervals to discuss the questions of the day, and where each member should be encouraged to express his or her opinion, rather than, as in the past merely listen to a lecturer who comes from afar, and who usually ends with the somewhat patronizing remark, "Would anybody like to ask a question?" rather than "Would somebody be so good as to mention something which I have left out, or would somebody like to contradict what I have said," which would open the way for a real discussion of the subject.

Of course outside help and good speakers are from time to time needed; but the chief endeavour should be to find out the views of the rank and file and encourage them to express them, so that all classes of the community may be gathered to help solve some of the problems of the day; and those in authority should, like Chaucer's Clerk of Oxford, gladly learn as well as teach. If this were done, the shyest and humblest person might make some very valuable suggestions gleaned from his own experience; for there is an old saying, "He who wears the shoe, knows best where it pinches."

Where no other Conservative Society exists for women in the neighbourhood, a branch of the Conservative Women's Reform Association should be formed as soon as possible; but where a strong branch of another Conservative or Unionist body already exists, it is better to join

that and endeavour as far as possible to induce them to work on these lines. It is important to press for an annual secret ballot to elect local president and committee, as otherwise these branches may become one man shows, like so many local Men's Conservative Associations in the past; and they will neither reflect the true local feeling, nor secure the members they would have had, if people in the neighbourhood held the power to choose under whom they would work.

To educate and develop the electors on these lines by keeping up continuous interest in political matters, and studying each question as it arises, will help enormously to do away with wire-pulling; for when each elector is really alive to his duties and privileges, and becomes what our American cousins designate as a real live wire, people who try to manipulate him may receive a nasty shock and long for the good old days when the electors were but marionettes, unorganized and not realizing the two-fold power of the Vote.

#### Women and the Conference.

Paris, February 16th.—M. Clemenceau this morning received a deputation of women suffragists from the Allied countries, headed by Mes. De Witt, Schlumberger and Fawcett, the presidents of the French and British Women's Suffrage Societies.

M. Clemenceau said that, as a matter of principle, it was impossible not to grant women the same rights as men. So far as France was concerned, he said, women would at once be granted the municipal suffrage. M. Clemenceau promised the deputation that he would personally present a proposal to enable women representatives of the Allied nations to attend the Commissions of the Peace Conference which might include in their agenda important international questions concerning the interests of women and children.—*Reuter.*

We are very glad to state that our Chairman, Lady Trustram Eve, was one of the eight women elected to the London County Council on Mar. 6th.

#### Our Work.

The Association is represented on the Ministry of Health Watching Council, which, as its name implies, has been formed for the purpose of watching the Bill through all its stages, with a view to the suggestion of amendments wherever needed.

A special meeting of the Executive Committee was called to discuss the various clauses of the Bill. Amendments were sent to Mr. Bonar Law, and to all the Unionist members of the Standing Committee. The object of these was the curtailment in some respects of the practically unlimited power conferred by the Bill on the Minister of Health.

The Committee also gave its support to amendments proposed by the Watching Council, which provided that one of the Assistant Secretaries should be a woman, and that the higher offices in the Ministry should be open to both men and women without distinction of sex.

#### Meetings.

Since the publication of our last issue, we have had four lectures on "Housing."

On February 25th Miss Maud Jeffery gave the first lecture on "Urban Housing," in which from her own experience as an investigator she made us realize the very urgent need of speedy action in crowded urban districts. On March 4th Lady Selborne gave the lecture on "Rural Housing," which was not only deeply interesting but also eminently practical. On March 11th Mr. Aldridge, of the National Housing and Town Planning Association, very kindly gave us his valuable time, and spoke on "Town Planning." Part of his lecture was devoted to an historical survey of town-planning, coming down to our own times, and urging the extreme importance of all Municipal authorities looking into the future before making plans for the extension of their towns.

On March 18th Mr. Warburg summed up with "Some practical notes on the Housing of to-day."

On March 20th Lady Nott Bower is giving an address for us on "Urgent Reforms in Criminal Law Amendment" at 14, Wyndham Place, W. 1 (by kind permission of Mrs. Fabian Ware,) and on March 28th the debate on "Equal pay for Equal Work" will take place at the Council Chamber, Caxton Hall, at 3 p.m. We are hoping to have a very good attendance on the occasion, as the subject is one in which every woman has an interest. Tickets for all meetings can be obtained on application to the Secretary, C.W.R.A., 48, Dover Street, W. 1.

The Committee regret very much that owing to the present charges for printing and paper, they have been unable to accede to a request received from several members with regard to the publication of the series of Lectures on "Housing." A verbatim report has, however, been taken of each Lecture, and the Committee are prepared to lend the transcript of each such Lecture for a fee of 7/6, or 21/- the course, to members who can organize small meetings for the study of the question. Great pleasure has been evinced where this has already been done.

#### Resignation of the Hon. Treasurer.

Our members will learn with great regret that Mrs. Fabian Ware, who has held the position of Hon. Treasurer with such conspicuous success since November, 1910, has resigned that position owing to pressure of work. The Executive Committee passed a unanimous vote of very hearty thanks to Mrs. Ware for her invaluable work for the Association, and expressed great pleasure at hearing that she would be able to retain her membership of both the Executive and Finance Committees.

The Committee are pleased to state that Mrs. Kenyon Slaney, who was for some time a keen member of the Executive Committee of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, kindly consented to become a candidate for the Hon. Treasurership, and was duly elected.

#### WOMEN AND THE CHURCH.

The Representative Church Council, composed of the Episcopate, clergy and lay representatives, spent some days recently in the consideration of the proposals of the Grand Committee for the establishment of a National Assembly of the Church of England. Several important questions respecting the franchise for the election of the Assembly and concerning representation therein were decided. On the motion of the Bishop of Lichfield, women were made eligible for membership of the Assembly. As he said, already under the scheme women had a vote for and were eligible to sit on parochial church councils and in rural-decanal and diocesan conferences. On the other hand, they could not vote or take their place with the men in the Representative Church Assembly. That was illogical, unreasonable, and wholly indefensible. Dr. Temple, who seconded the Bishop's amendment, pointed out the present drift of young women, and especially the more intelligent among them, away from the Church; and he gave as one reason for this the refusal to women of the more responsible service in the Church.—*The Friend.*

#### Ministrations of Women.

The Bishop of Ely moved a resolution urging that, in order that fuller use may be made in the Church's service of the gifts and experience of women, the House recommended that, under conditions laid down by the Bishop of the diocese, it should be permissible for women duly qualified and approved by him to speak and pray in consecrated buildings at services or meetings for prayer or instruction other than the regular and appointed services of the Church. He said that if in the ordinary and regular services of the Church women were permitted to take the part that laymen had been allowed to take, a very large number of earnest Church-going people would be alienated. At the same time women ought to have a larger and more recognized place in the ministrations of the Church than at present, and certainly they had the spiritual experience which was in the highest degree useful in dealing with women and girls in their peculiar needs and temptations.

The Bishop of Gloucester, in seconding the motion, said there had fallen upon the whole community a new sense of the special gifts of women, and the wonderful power they had of making their influence felt.

The Bishop of Oxford moved an amendment asking the House to express its belief that, apart from the service of Holy Communion, there is no objection in principle to the admission of women to any of the functions to which laymen are admitted. He said he was never content to deal from hand to mouth with questions as they came up. They wanted to get some principle on which to base their action. He saw no objection in principle to the admission of women to any function open to laymen, but they had to distinguish between principle and expediency.

The Bishop of Chelmsford seconded the amendment.

The Bishop of Exeter thought they should definitely say that, whilst it might not be wrong for women to preach or teach in church, their ministrations should be confined to women and children.

The Bishop of Hereford spoke against the amendment. He thought the time was coming when the House would have to give the answer to a strong and coherent demand for the admission of women to the priesthood.

The Bishop of London agreed with the Bishop of Ely's proposal. They had to recognize women's wonderful gifts of speaking, and they should use all the help women could give, although their ministrations would have to be directed and regulated.

The Bishop of Peterborough said that the opportunities before the Church were so colossal that they could not afford to exclude the services of women.

The Archbishop of Canterbury suggested that the matter should be referred to a committee for further and wider consideration. The resolution and amendment were accordingly withdrawn, and it was resolved that, with a view to furthering a reasonable measure of uniformity in episcopal action on the subject, a joint committee of the two Houses should immediately consider and report upon the principles which should underlie the exercise of a Bishop's discretion in regard to the sanction he gives to the ministration and work of women in the life of the Church. (Times.)

#### Church of Scotland.

"Women as a whole are more interested in the Church than men are," said Bishop Walpole, speaking on the admission of women into the Councils of the Church at a meeting of the Representative Church Council, held recently in Edinburgh. Why, then, should they be debarred from guiding its fortunes in such a limited way as was proposed? Neither Scripture nor Church usage barred the way. Scripture recognized no inferiority of woman to man. Such women as the Abbess Hilda and Queen Margaret had great influence in the Church in the past. In municipalities and School Boards women had rendered good service. He was only sorry that the Government of the country should have given women the opportunity of representation before the Church had. A resolution to the effect that women should be allowed to become members of the Representative Council was moved by Mr. Bertram Talbot, and seconded by the Rev. Canon Laurie, who said the greatest need of the moment was that they should get a public opinion which would subordinate the present to the future. The emotion of the ideal had been taught to the race by women. Dean Skinner Wilson supported a motion to exclude women from the Representative Council on practical grounds. If the Church was to utilize the work of women in the best possible way, they should encourage them to go in directly for spiritual work as deaconesses, church and social workers, and to leave the mere matter of finance to men. On a vote being taken, the first motion was defeated.—*Scotsman.*

## KATHLEEN CASTS KHAKI.

Kathleen in khaki walking up Piccadilly presented a rather forlorn spectacle.

"Isn't it good to think it's all over at last?" was my greeting.

"Yes!" assented my cousin, a little listless. "It's all over at last. I've finished my war-work. Four years of real grind—out all day and most nights—driving anyone who wanted to be driven anywhere. But now I've really finished. I've just handed over the old 'bus and said good-bye to the Commandant of the Corps. In short, I've demobilized, and I don't mind telling you I'm feeling dead lonely."

"It certainly seems the moment to celebrate," I said. "Come and dine at the Ritz, and go and see Delysia afterwards. How does this plan appeal to you?"

"Not in these clothes if I know it," said Kathleen, "and I haven't another rag to my name. It's been khaki, khaki, all the way for me, and now I hate the sight, the feel, and the thought of it! I couldn't enjoy myself anywhere dressed like this. I can't tell you how smart I thought my uniform while the War was on. Now it seems only stupid and out of the picture. I've demobilized—and I'm going to DRESS."

"Then you'll have to be quick about it, or you'll be late for dinner."

"It's not going to take me long," declared my cousin with a determination that I couldn't help feeling was the outcome of those long months of driving anyone anywhere.

"If you've nothing better to do, you can come and watch me begin operations. For here we are," she said, turning into the Great Corner Shop of Piccadilly. "If I can't find what I want at Swan and Edgar's, I shan't find it anywhere."

And Kathleen was right. I had to acknowledge it an hour or so later when we emerged—my cousin no longer in khaki, but clad in the latest French fashions from head to heels—beautiful furs, a Parisian hat, silken hose and shoes that exactly matched the tone of the delicate grey dress she now wore under a sumptuous musquash coat of the latest length.

Nor had her transformation ended there. Preceding her to her club went a trunk containing a dream of an evening dress and a cloak that aroused the envy and the admiration of every other woman sitting in the stalls of the Pavilion that night—to say nothing of a bag full of feminine fripperies that Kathleen declared were indispensable to a well-dressed woman's wardrobe, but which I realized had been simply irresistible to my critical cousin on account of their novelty and chic.

But what struck me most of all was not the rapidity with which Kathleen cast khaki, but the ease with which the transformation was accomplished.

"I haven't an idea concerning the dress in my head," she confided to the sympathetic saleswoman who waited upon her. "You'll have to see me through."

And that is what that saleswoman did. What she didn't know about present-day fashions wasn't worth knowing.

Producing dozens of Models for my cousin to choose from, she sent forth S.O.S. messages all round the shop, and as Kathleen decided upon those toilettes that proved most tempting, they were borne away by other attendants, who found just what was right in shoes, in stockings, gloves, and scarves to match—in short, everything requisite to render them complete.

We experienced no tedious tramping off to other departments. Everything appeared as if by magic until Kathleen's Perce trousseau was complete and everything she wanted had been fitted, packed, paid for, and dispatched with the minimum of trouble and the maximum of success.

"And what is more, it is all wonderfully cheap," confided Kathleen as she signed her name to the cheque that paid for the anything but exorbitant bill covering the cost of everything that she had bought from Swan and Edgar's.

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Mar. 19.—*Speaker*: Mr. Homer Lane (of the Little Commonwealth)  
*Subject*: "The Psychology of Freedom."

" 26.—*Speaker*: To be announced.

Apr. 2.—*Speaker*: Lady Wolseley.

*Subject*: "Our American Cousins."

" 9.—*Speaker*: Mr. A. M. Kougliakoff (Member of Petrograd Bar)  
*Subject*: "Russia, and the League of Nations"

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