

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.

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#### Address to Lady Selborne.

In order to commemorate the attainment of the object for which the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association was inaugurated, and to demonstrate the appreciation of the Officers and Executive Committee for the work Lady Selborne has done as our President, the following testimonial was presented to her by Lady Arran, Chairman; Mrs. Ware, Treasurer; and Miss Raiker, Secretary, on March 20th, on behalf of the Executive Committee. The Hon. Secretary was unable to be present to her great regret, as she was obliged to attend on a deputation to the House of Commons at that hour:—

"At this most memorable time of the passing into law of the Representation of the People Bill, conferring the Parliamentary vote on Women, we ask you to accept from this Association the expression of our very deep sense of gratitude for the continued courage and statesmanship with which you have led our section of the Suffrage movement during the long struggle, now happily ended.

"We, who have been so closely associated with you in the past, rejoice to know that, at this great and grave moment in the history of the Nation and of the World, your wide political knowledge will be in still greater measure at the service of the Electorate, and devoted to the promotion of the highest ideals of citizenship."

#### Women in Canadian War Administration.

A striking and significant conference at Ottawa has been held between the Federal Ministers and the leaders of women's organizations throughout the Dominion. Representative women from the West, from Quebec, Ontario, and the Atlantic provinces, assembled at the capital, and for three days devoted themselves with singular zeal and earnestness to the consideration of proposals to increase production, enlarge the reserve of labour, and encourage thrift and saving. There has been nothing more impressive in Canada since the war began. It is universally admitted that the women displayed remarkable practical ability in the discussion of war problems and proposals for re-construction. Assuredly their counsel and co-operation will be of great advantage to the Government and the country. The *Times* points out that as allies of the Canada Food Board, they will be effective, and perhaps chiefly in inspiring women throughout the country to reduce household expenses and check consumption of foods most needed for Great Britain and the armies in the field.

#### Payment of Women Teachers.

At the Conference of the National Union of Teachers, held last month, the question of the equal payment of men and women teachers for the same work was discussed. Miss E. R. Conway, the new President, in her address remarked:

Some 20,000 men had been withdrawn from a total of about 36,827 to serve with the Armies, more than a thousand of whom had made the great sacrifice. It was obvious that it would be many years before the gaps would be filled. The status of the teaching profession must be raised if it was now to attract any large number of gifted men and women.

If woman was to fill her proper place in the educational system, it would be necessary for her to be acknowledged, when fully qualified, as the equal of her man colleague, with the same opportunities for development and promotion as he enjoyed. It was alleged that large numbers of women teachers were absent from their work owing to sickness, but many cases of breakdown in health had been caused by the low standard of pay, which had caused the young teacher to live in uncongenial surroundings, to go home at night to do her own laundry work, to mend and make her own clothing, and also to earn money by working for other people. The supplementary grant Mr. Fisher gave was actually being used by the authorities in London and some other localities to make the differentiation between men's and women's salaries greater than in the past. That was a retrograde step, and would result in disaster. Surely the supplementary grant should be shared out on an equal basis as between men and women teachers of equal service, and the rates of increment in the new salary scales should be equal for men and women. The lower standard of pay meant a lower standard of living, and gradually but surely resulted in many cases in the undermining of the health of the woman teacher.

It was impossible not to refer to the utterly inadequate salaries paid in Cambridge and in the county. Here the men class teachers received a salary of from £85 to £100 and the women £75 to £100, with an additional amount of £15 to each class teacher from the Fisher grant. Twenty-five head teachers received less than £150, plus a similar amount, and sixteen head teachers were receiving salaries between £150 and £240, with £10 from the Fisher grant. In the county salaries were exceedingly low, men class teachers ranging from £85 to £120, and women from £75 to £100.

She hoped that all teachers would in the near future receive additional remuneration, which would bring them up to a decent level. She was sorry to see that the recently suggested new London scale brought in the principle of greater differentiation between the salaries of men and women than the scale which it was intended to supersede. This was so manifestly unfair that she hoped that the premier Education Committee of the country would set the matter right.

Miss McCullough (Manchester) moved a resolution in favour of equal payment, and an amendment was moved by Mr. W. H. Young (Liverpool), urging that men's salaries should exceed those of women until the State makes adequate financial provision for wifehood and motherhood. The result of the voting was as follows:—

For the amendment ...	42,757
Against ... ..	26,040
Majority ... ..	16,717

The discussion on the subject was continued, and ultimately, on the motion of Mr. Corbett (Stretford), seconded by Mr. W. G. Cove (Rhondda), it was resolved that a referendum of the members of the Union should be taken on the question:—"Are you in favour of the principle of equal pay for men and women teachers of the same professional status?"; and that this vote should be completed in time for report to the next conference. The Executive promised to obtain, so far as possible, the votes of members who are in the Services.

#### Equality of Sacrifice.

##### THE CONSCRIPTION OF WEALTH.

Readers of *Monthly News* will remember that in a recent issue we published an account of the Women's Labour League Conference. As women, we are deeply interested in and anxious to collaborate as far as possible with other women's organizations for securing improvements in the conditions under which we all work; for, in these strenuous days, most of us would be ashamed to do otherwise than belong to the "working class," and with us the position of women in the industrial world has always been a subject of special sympathy and study, as well as anxious endeavour to better as far as we could the conditions under which they lived. But as Conservatives we differ profoundly from the women of the Labour League as to the means by which many of these reforms can be obtained. Expressions, which to them embody ideals capable of realization, to us are merely catch phrases. Among these, the words Equality of Sacrifice and Conscription of Wealth take a foremost place. They are met with again and again in Labour speeches and in the Labour press, and a motion on the subject was carried at the Women's Labour Conference. An admirable article on this subject appeared in the February issue of the *Nineteenth Century and After*, by Mr. J. A. R. Marriott, M.P., which we advise our readers to study carefully, and from which we herewith make short extracts.

Mr. Marriott takes strong exception to a recent statement made by the Leader of the Labour Party in the House of Commons, in which he says:—"More men are to be taken from the factories, the mines and the fields, and are to be conscripted for the purposes of the war, and not one word was said about conscripting the other part of the nation's wealth—namely, the capital of the nation." He points out that this statement rests upon two assumptions, both equally false.

1. That military conscription affects one class more than another, and that consequently Labour has been called upon to make a disproportionate sacrifice; whereas all classes—peasants, employers, employed—without distinction have made unprecedented sacrifices.

2. That while the lives of the poor have been ruthlessly conscripted, the wealth of the rich has been allowed to go free. The money cost of the war has fallen to a certain extent on all classes, but the main burden has been borne by the limited class subject to income tax. This fact was recently acknowledged by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who supplied the figures. In the last year of peace (1913—1914) the amount of revenue derived from indirect taxation was £69,000,000; from direct it was £93,000,000, then the proportion of direct to indirect was £8 to £42 per cent. In 1916—1917 the amount collected by direct taxation was no less than £466,000,000, as compared with £102,000,000 from indirect—or 82 per cent. as against 18. If this is not conscription of wealth, the word has no meaning.

It is perfectly true that many companies, despite the excess profits and the unprecedented income tax, are still making large profits, which has given rise to the coining of the effective cry-word "profiteering," but two things must be remembered in connection with the argument—

1. Profits are declared in a greatly depreciated currency.

2. They are most frequently encountered in quasi-luxury trades which are reaping a harvest, not from the expenditure of the "classes" who are, as a rule, living much more frugally than usual, but from the increased spending power of the "masses."

But criticism is not levelled against the profits derived from productive industry, so much as against interest derived from invested capital. Socialists specially attack "unearned" incomes, *i.e.*, incomes derived from accumulative earnings. In practice this acts as a direct incentive to personal extravagance. Take the case of two professional men, each earning £1,500 a year. A. lives up to his income, and has a good time. B. saves £500 a year, and invests his savings in gilt-edged securities. He has already by war conditions been compelled to submit to a loss of nearly half his capital; he is now called upon to surrender the whole of his interest because it is "unearned." He has earned every penny; but instead of spending it on personal indulgence, he has invested it, and the interest of his savings is to be confiscated by the State.

In the first half of the nineteenth century Labour was shamelessly exploited by employer capitalists; Labour submitted because it was powerless, and because it was taught that wages were actually derived from capital. But in the sixties Labour acquired legal right, and learnt the economic power of combination. From the over-valuation of the economic function of capital men jumped to an under-valuation. Industrial production is still absolutely dependent upon capital; but the old prejudice survives to the confusion of the employer, who is not necessarily a capitalist, and still more, perhaps, to the capitalist who is only indirectly or accidentally an employer. To the imagination of uneducated people, "wealth" still presents itself in the form of "money." But a very large proportion of the accumulated wealth of a country consists in railways, roads, mills, machinery, warehouses, land, implements, etc. Which of these forms of capital can contribute directly to the day-to-day conduct of the war? You cannot feed an army on mills and warehouses. Therefore as a means of meeting the current expenses of the war, a levy on capital is not only inadvisable but impracticable.

#### New Leaflet.

We have just published a new leaflet on the qualifications of women for the Parliamentary vote. It has been written as simply as possible, and has been submitted to a barrister, and our members may rely on its accuracy.

The leaflet is published at 1d. each, or 3/6 per 100. We hope there will be a great demand for it, and that our members will circulate it freely.

#### The War Decalogue.

Dr. Shaw, as Chairman of the American Woman's Committee of the National Council of Defence, has issued a Decalogue of War that challenges attention. These are the war commandments defined by Dr. Shaw:—

Do not chatter. Keep to yourself the news you hear.

Do not listen to alarmists or slackers.

Be moderate in your spending, neither lavish in gifts nor sordid in your economies.

Encourage national industries, avoiding imported ones.

Do not look upon departures for the Front of those dear to you as an abandonment. Be with them constantly in thought, as they are with you, particularly in the hour of danger.

Do not complain of the difficulties, annoyances and privations caused by the war.

Multiply your activities in your home as well as outside.

Exhibit day by day and hour by hour the same courage a man shows upon the field of battle.

No matter how long the struggle may last, await victory with strength and patience.

If you are stricken in your dearest affections bear your sorrow nobly, that your tears may be worthy of the hero whose death you mourn.

#### New Executive.

The voting papers for the new Executive Committee have been circulated, and the result will be published as soon as possible.

**London Branches. Kensington.**—During the year the Kensington Committee has met from time to time to discuss matters of current interest and to elect new members of Committee, as it became necessary through the resignation and the death of two Vice-Chairmen. Miss Chadwick resigned from the position of Vice-Chairman she had filled for so long in Kensington. Lady Craggs was duly elected her successor, but her sudden death only allowed her to preside at one Committee. Miss Minna Rathbone is now Vice-Chairman, and Mrs. Saunders Hon. Treasurer of the Committee. One large meeting of the Branch was held last summer at 14, Albert Court, by the kind permission of our hostess, Mrs. Egerton Hensley. Mrs. Gilbert Samuel took the chair, and M. Gaston de Leval lectured to a large and interested audience on the Belgian Tragedy, and on the last hours of Nurse Edith Cavell. M. Gaston de Leval, Legal Adviser to H.B.M. Legation in Brussels, worked hard with the U.S.A. Legation to be allowed access to Miss Cavell and to the German General in command. Copies of a letter sent by the Association to Mr. Bonar Law and to the Party Whips were forwarded by the Kensington Branch to Lord Claud Hamilton and Mr. Alan Burgoyne, the Kensington Members of Parliament. The Committee also wish to state that Lady Lockyer, who has been Chairman of Committee for so many years has resigned, as she considers her work done, now the Association is on the eve of reconstruction.

#### Recent Publications.

*Dr. Isabel Mitchell of Manchuria.* By F. W. S. O'Neill. James Clerk & Co., 2/6 net.

The magnificent work that British medical women are doing in the far East is little realized at home, therefore this brief but stirring account of the life of a young and distinguished Irish medical Missionary in Manchuria will be read with interest. A fine tribute was paid to her work and influence on her death last year by a Chinese convert who preached the funeral sermon.

"Our doctor has given her life for us. For twelve years she has been at the call of anyone who suffered. Her name is known and revered through all this country. Her skill was most wonderful to us. Her life was like sweet perfume and in losing her we have lost what no words can express." We heartily recommend the book, which testifies unconsciously but none the less forcibly to the value of women's influence in distant lands.

*Simple Health Talks with Women War Workers.* By Nurse Sarah Macdonald. Methuen & Co., 1/6.

A series of homely talks on Health and Hygiene applicable to all women who are contributing to the defence of the country.

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at 3 p.m.

IN THE

MINERVA CAFE, 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.,

April 24th.—Mrs. Nevinson, LL.A. "Will the Poor Law go?"

May 1st.—Mrs. Boyd Dawson. "The Ministry of Health."

For further particulars, see "The Vote."

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Speakers—

Mr. LEES SMITH, M.P. Miss LIND-AF-HAGEBY  
Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY Miss ESTHER ROPER

Mrs. DESPARD

Tickets for reserved seats, 2/6 and 1/-, from Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1., or International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke Street, Adelphi, and at doors.

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