

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

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### OUR WORK.

Very few of us, I expect, realised on October 24th, when the last issue of *Monthly News* was published, that in less than four weeks from that date Parliament would have ceased to exist, and that we should be in the turmoil of a General Election. This is, of course, the supreme subject of the hour; but in a little paper of this occasional sort, it is impossible to be up-to-date, so we shall not attempt to deal with the great and urgent questions now before the country. We can only ask you to play your part by offering your services either to the Secretary, C.W.R.A., Windsor House, Victoria Street, S.W.1., who will put you in touch with a district in need of help; or else directly to your own local Conservative Association.

**C.W.R.A. Lunch.**—Before leaving the subject of the Election entirely, I am asked to state that the luncheon arranged at the Hyde Park Hotel on Thursday, November 29th, at 1 o'clock, will take place. The Committee feel, however, that the occasion cannot have only the social character that they had intended, so they have invited the Attorney General, the Right Hon. Sir Douglas Mc Gard Hogg, to speak on the Government Policy. He has most kindly consented to do so. He will take the place of Mrs. Scoresby Routledge. We shall hope to have the opportunity of hearing her address on her experiences in the Pacific on some other occasion. Tickets cost 10s.6d., and a few can still be obtained from the office. They can be bought singly, or members can reserve a table for themselves and their friends if they will inform the Secretary.

**Council Meeting.**—The Council will meet on Tuesday, November 27th, and Mr. Hubert Walter will speak on: "What are we to think of Monsieur Poincaré?"

**Annual Meeting.**—The Annual Meeting will be held at 12.30 on Thursday, November 29th, at the Hyde Park Hotel, just before the luncheon.

**Lecture.**—It is hoped to arrange a lecture during the second week in December, but it will be readily understood how difficult it is to make arrangements and plans at election time.

**Study Circle.**—There has been a very encouraging response to the notice sent out by the office, and it is hoped that one or two Study Circle meetings may be held before the Christmas holidays. Mrs. Bucknill is confident of arranging this, though here again the election interferes to make the carrying out of the routine work difficult.

**Dance.**—The dance has been fixed for December 4th, on Tuesday, and will be held in delightful rooms at the Suffolk Galleries, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall. The tickets will cost 12s.6d. as usual, or 10s.6d. for a block of six or more; but this year it is not a Cinderella, and dancing will go on from 9.30 till 1. Tickets may be obtained from Miss Raiker, or from the members of the Dance Committee.

**Emigration Meeting.**—It is a great pleasure to be able to report the remarkable success of our Emigration Meeting on October 26th. The very grateful thanks of the Association are due to the authorities at Australia House, who so

kindly lent us their splendid hall, and assisted in every way in carrying through the arrangements. The hall was crowded, and all present must have been impressed by the force and power of Mr. Bruce the Prime Minister of Australia, and the energy with which he and his fellow-speakers, Sir Joseph Cook, High Commissioner, Mr. Amery, First Lord of the Admiralty, Colonel Buckley, Chairman of the Overseas Settlement Committee, and Dame Meriel Talbot, pleaded and urged the vital importance to the Empire and to Great Britain herself of developing the populations and markets of the Dominions beyond the Seas. The meeting was very fully reported in the press, and we reprint to-day *The Times* reports for the benefit of those members who were not present.

**Lecture.** Lord Phillimore gave a most interesting address on November 9th, on "How has the League of Nations acquitted itself at Geneva?" Lady St. Helier kindly lent her house, and a crowded meeting was expected, but the heavy fog that came down between 2.30 and 3.30 kept many people away. It was a carefully reasoned and on the whole encouraging verdict, and was much appreciated.

**The Women's Year Book.**— We have been asked to draw the attention of our readers to this excellent book of reference. It is published by Women Publishers, Ltd., at 170, Strand, W.C.2., price 5/- and it gives information, with facts and figures, on subjects interesting to women. These include Education, Politics, Sport, Social Life, Arts, Professions and Public Work, and the contributors are well-known experts on these widely differing subjects.

#### EMIGRATION MEETING.

AT AUSTRALIA HOUSE.

(Reprinted from *The Times*.)

Sir Joseph Cook, High Commissioner for Australia, who presided, contested the justice of the representation that an attempt was being made to drag English people from their own country by emigration. Australia was as much their country as Great Britain. They were merely moving from one part of the great family estate to another.

Mr. S. M. Bruce, Prime Minister of Australia, said there was to-day no question of greater importance than that we should try to arrive at a better distribution of our British population and should ensure that we retained all

our own people under our own flag. Many people in this country seemed to think that Australia for her own selfish purposes was trying to drain from the shores of Great Britain the best of the population and that only Australia was going to derive advantage from the step. The position was far otherwise. To-day the population in Australia was small, but was living in great happiness and enjoying a great measure of prosperity. They were free from most of the hideous trials and tribulations which the Old World was now going through. But they recognized that they could not continue to live indefinitely in that paradise which had come to them with no real effort of their own. It was imperative, both from the point of view of Australia and from that of this country, that Australia should be populated and developed. This could only be done by Australia receiving more people and a greater flow of capital.

If they did not develop and populate Australia they could not continue to hold it indefinitely. Without people they could not ensure their defence. There were teeming millions around them in the Pacific, and Australia had the greatest undeveloped lands left on the face of the globe. Sooner or later they would have to fight for their existence unless they could get a greater population. He believed in the League of Nations, and he believed that some day it would be the safety of all, but at present the only way to ensure safety was by the strength of one's own right arm. If they were going to pass out of the present *regime* of the world into a better one their danger would be even greater. They had one of the great potential sources of wealth for the world, and under such a *regime* a few selfish people would not be allowed to hold that great heritage unless they developed it. That would be a tragedy both to Great Britain and to Australia.

Dealing with the question why Australia had not done more to populate and develop the country, he said it was only recently that most English people had discovered that such a place as Australia existed. He contended that an amazing amount of development had been done, considering the smallness of the population, and said they were beginning to attract a great flood of emigration when the war destroyed their plans. People now complained that Australia was not taking hundreds of thousands of people. It could not be done. There were economic laws behind which it was impossible to go. They had to move at a pace that was sane, or they would defeat their own object. With such a vast territory, scattered population, and limited financial resources, how could they have developed the country at the rate at which some people thought they ought to have done? But this task, which had been impossible hitherto, would not be impossible in the future, if the people of Great Britain would give their co-operation. Before the war Britain never spent a farthing to assist in the migration of her own people under her own flag. It was only a short time ago that the Empire Settlement Act was passed, and everything could not be done in a short time.

#### LIMIT OF IMMIGRATION.

Australia could not solve the troubles that Britain was faced with to-day. She could not absorb the unemployed of this country. Australia was prepared to take all the people compatible with the rate at which she could develop, but she was not prepared simply to have people poured into the country without any idea of what was to be done with them. In the not distant future, however, it would probably be possible for Australia to absorb more people than Great Britain would want to send and absorb more money in development schemes than Britain would be able to supply. They had to work up to that point and not take action before they knew exactly what they were going to achieve. They had laid foundations. They had schemes of land

settlement in three of the great States. Under these schemes people were being taken and ensured a real opportunity to prosper and lead happy lives. They were also taking a number of people under the system of nomination by States. They had another system, which he thought best of all, by which persons resident in Australia could nominate people in Britain who would be assisted with their passages to Australia. There they had the personal touch. One man who had gone to Australia and knew it invited somebody else. Such a scheme would expand more and more rapidly as time passed. The more people went to Australia, the more there would be to nominate persons here. There were also other schemes, including in three States schemes for taking boys, training them, and putting them on farms.

Australia had to build more railways, roads, and power stations. Everything depended on developing the country. It was no use people thinking that in going to Australia they would go to a paradise, where they need not work and everything was provided. He did not ask that people should endure what the old pioneers did who built Australia, but they must be determined to work. If they did so, and threw their hearts and souls into their work, there was no reason why any man or woman should fail in Australia to-day. If they stopped here in Great Britain they were to some extent looked after, but Australia would be very reluctant to take over that obligation from Britain. (Laughter.) He did see daylight now, and opportunities of very great advance in what they were doing. Perhaps he appeared to have a mania about markets. It was not a mania, but hard, cold fact. It was no use Australia pretending she could give people a chance unless she had markets in which what they produced could be sold. If they could get markets there was little they could not do; and if they could not, their progress would be slow.

There was another thing that could be done and on which he was glad to see the Government had taken a very direct and statesmanlike line. They were prepared to aid financially in the development of Australia and the other great Dominions. They had the opportunities, and if they could get the money he believed a new era would open. They would be able to press on with development schemes and bring to full fruition the amazing resources which Australia possessed. He believed these schemes would be greatly aided by the proposals the Government had put forward at the Economic Conference. In Australia they were 95 per cent. pure British stock and were determined to try to keep their stock pure British. He believed there would some day be in the Southern seas a greater Britain than the Northern Britain, and that the heart of Empire would shift from these small islands. As regarded the emigration of women to Australia something had been done, and he believed a great deal might be done in the future. Australia was the land of promise. It had 88,000 more men than women. (Laughter.)

#### MEN, MONEY, AND MARKETS.

Mr. Amery, First Lord of the Admiralty, said immense prospects lay before us in the development of the Dominions. The three inseparable factors were men, money, and markets. A better distribution of population in the Empire was the policy of strength and security. A world-wide Navy could not be supported indefinitely from one little corner of the world. The sure guarantee of peace and freedom was that the nations that loved those things should be strong enough to maintain them, without imposing undue burdens on themselves.

Sir Joseph Cook spoke of the excellent education available within the country, where a child could pass without cost through every stage of school and university, and of the

great need here of propaganda to teach that Britishborn people should go from this overcrowded family estate to a sunnier Britain overseas, taking with them their religion and their principles, and finding the customs and organizations to which they were accustomed. Not laws but people must build an Empire. If we had taught young people about the Empire and so directed emigration as to keep those who went overseas under our flags for fifty years before the war, not fifteen but fifty millions of people might then have rallied to our aid.

Colonel Buckley, Chairman of the Overseas Settlement Committee, emphasized this remark about fifty years of neglect, pointing out that Germany when crushed by Napoleon had turned her attention to education, with results which we had only too plainly seen. He added that in eighteen months nearly 35,000 people had gone to the Dominions under the Empire Settlement Act, and that in all 85,573 ex-Service men and women have been helped, and that it should be remembered that these numbers only represented those who needed State aid. Information on this was available at any Labour Exchange and from some steamship companies.

Dame Meriel Talbot spoke encouragingly of the care being taken of children, their journey, reception at hostels, and inspection after settling. One of the largest landowners in Queensland had gone out as a "Barnado boy." It was hoped to get 6,000 boys out under the Dreadnought scheme, and a plan was under consideration for the subsequent nomination of 6,000 sisters.

#### D. O. R. A.

By the kind permission of the Earl of Selborne we are allowed to reprint his speech made to the National Unionist Conference at Plymouth, putting forward the following resolution, which was carried unanimously.

"That the enactment of D.O.R.A. in a permanent form under the Parliament Act would be a grave menace to the Constitution of Great Britain, and to the liberty and property of all His Majesty's subjects."

The Earl of Selborne said what he wanted the Unionist party and the country to realize was that, under the Parliament Act as it stood to-day, any revolution in our Constitution was possible. They would say the idea of D.O.R.A. appearing again in any permanent form was absurd. Well, our experience in Ireland and Russia showed that nothing was impossible if an unscrupulous body of men got control. It would be said that our people were very different to the Southern Irish or to the Russians. Yes, indeed they were. But he did not want our people to be swindled out of their birthright by the Parliament Act. (Applause.) The Constitution was so arranged to-day that this was absolutely possible.

#### EXTREMISTS AND CONTROL.

Of course, he was thinking of what a Socialist majority might do if they once got the power. He would be told that the Socialist party contained many moderate men. Quite true, but the programme of the party, which was accepted by the moderate men, was a revolutionary programme. (Applause.) History taught that in a party composed of such people as constituted the Socialist party, the

moderate men never got control. The control always fell eventually into the hands of the extreme men.

There was more than this. The Socialist party made no secret of its intention to revolutionize our Parliamentary procedure. That was very explicable. The party, roughly speaking, consisted of two portions, one the idealists who really believed that by legislation we could change this world into a new Jerusalem, and the other, which hated all existing institutions and meant to destroy them. To both of these sections our Parliamentary procedure seemed extraordinarily cumbersome and dilatory, and they were quite determined to shorten the procedure by some methods or other. It might not be done by an exact re-enactment of D.O.R.A., but he confidently predicted that if they once got the opportunity it would be by some enactment of procedure very little different in principle to the operations of D.O.R.A.

#### SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS.

It would mean the summary passing of a resolution by the House of Commons and the translation of the principle of that resolution into legislation by some extra-Parliamentary body. D.O.R.A. really exactly suited their mood and purpose. D.O.R.A. gave the Privy Council the power of legislation. It took the whole power out of the hands not only of the House of Lords, but also of the House of Commons, and in two years under the Parliament Act D.O.R.A., or something like D.O.R.A., might become a permanent part of our Constitution.

The question really had nothing to do with the Peers, but was whether the control of the House of Commons and of the electors in the country was to continue. The electors were in no such position in any other civilized country in the world. There was no other civilized country in which the electors could be deprived of their permanent control. This question had become a popular issue. If ever there was a clear case of call to the Unionist party and the Unionist Government it was the re-establishment of the stability of the Constitution. (Applause.) There must be no mistake about the matter. If our people wished for revision they could have it, and no Second Chamber or First Chamber would be able to stop it. That was not the question. The question was that this was the only civilized country in the world where the Constitution had been so jerry-mandered that people could have revolution foisted on them when they did not want it. (Applause.)

#### DUTY OF UNIONISTS.

It was the duty of the Unionist party to press the urgency of the matter, and on the Government must rest the responsibility of framing its policy. The position of the Second Chamber and the exact definition of its powers was another matter which would be treated quite separately. The present vital matter was the removal of the reproach from our Constitution that the electors may have fundamental changes made in the British Constitution or have changes enacted affecting their prosperity or liberty against the view of the majority and without any consultation with the people. (Applause.)

#### "IDLE RESOLUTIONS."

Commander P. H. Edwards, Westminster Constitutional Association, in whose name the second resolution stood, seconded Lord Selborne's motion. He reminded them that in the past similar resolutions had been carried at conferences, but not put into effect. "What are we? Is our word something or is it not? Are we to pass these idle resolutions and let off steam, or are the powers that be to pay attention to our demands?" he asked. In 1912 it was pointed out that their Constitution was wrecked—that Constitution which they had learned to love and respect at school and which civilization throughout the world had learned to respect—that it was on the scrap-heap. "What have we done and what are we doing?"

Ignorance on this subject was colossal. People did not realize what was done, "We are absolutely in a worse condition than Russia or any other civilized country." The House of Lords had no power whatever. Make it a money Bill and their power had gone. The House of Commons was ruled by a majority. They might take a dislike to their Government at any moment. "Look at the footling things

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### WEEKLY LECTURES.

Wed., 28th Nov., "Some Aspects of China" Mrs. STAN HARDING.  
8.15 p.m. Chairman

Wed., 5th Dec., "Medicine and Faith Healing" Miss LETITIA FAIRFIELD,  
8.15 p.m. C.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.  
Chairman ... The Rev. FRANCIS A. P. AVELING,  
D.D., D.Sc.

Wed., 12th Dec., "Parliamentary Bills of 1923 relating to Women" Mrs. HUBBACK.  
8.15 p.m. Chairman

### Luncheons, Teas & Dinners.

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which are on the agenda to-day," he continued. "Look at the dangerous things which are on the agenda to-day."

They were a strong-minded party to-day. So they were once before, but there were things in the agenda which, if they were not careful, would rend them in two. "If we do go down, split in two, our Constitution goes down too." They must remember that they could make anything a money Bill, and it would not have to go before the House of Lords; they could abolish property, abolish the King if they liked, in one session of Parliament. "That is what we are up against. What are we going to do about it? The first thing we must do is to amend the Parliament Act. Don't let us be led away on the question of the reform of the House of Lords. We will go into that afterwards, but first let us amend or do away with that iniquitous Parliament Act which was put in only for one special purpose.

"I must finish on a note of reprobation. I think our leaders have betrayed us on this matter; I think our Conservative Press have betrayed us in this matter. It is their duty to take the public by the hand and educate the public brain.

Lastly, and most of all, he blamed the members of the party. They elected their leaders and members of Parliament. "Do not let us waste time in talking. Let us do deeds. We love our country and we will not let the Constitution of our country be wrecked."