

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

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***A NATIONAL LENT.**

Nothing is stranger in the nature of men than their willingness to sacrifice their lives, compared with their unwillingness to sacrifice other things. Mr. Lloyd George needs to make no appeal for the sacrifice of life; but he does need to appeal, through the sacrifice of life, for the sacrifice of trifles. Men give their own lives—and, what is harder still—men and women give the lives of their sons and husbands. He reminds us of that, and then he says: Let the nation as a whole place its comforts, its luxuries, its indulgences, its elegances, on a national altar consecrated by such sacrifices as these men have made. Its elegances! The very word seems absurd; and yet we know that the appeal is needed. Those who offer their lives rid themselves of all luxuries and indulgences and elegances at a stroke. They pass into another world where these things are not. But we at home are still in the old world, and the old habits cling to us. For us there is not one great act of renunciation, but a number of small ones; and there is no particular moment at which we must renounce. The soldiers are like monks, who make their vows, and then there is an end for them of the temptations of the world; but we are like laymen, and the world is always with us.

We may say this in excuse for ourselves, in excuse for our whole world of litter and trash and joyless pleasures. It has grown up round us, and we were born into it.

But now, suddenly, every one knows that it has to be paid for; and not in the money which the rich give so easily, but in the labour of those who are not rich. The war has made us all aware of that fact, and no one now says that luxury is good for trade because it gives employment; we all see that it is bad for the nation because it wastes labour. In this war the nation has suddenly become one—for the purpose of the war; but still there cling to us the habits of the time when the nation was not one, when it consisted of consumers and producers, of capital and labour, of haves and have-nots, of anything rather than men and women. And of these habits we cannot free ourselves, even if we have freed ourselves of the illusions which accompanied them. Unless we are soldiers and have made the great renunciation at a stroke, the past is heavy on us still. Unless

we march in a regiment and face death together, the nation is not yet a fellowship to us, and we can without shame take more than our own fair share of its common stock. It seems to us that we still have a right to whatever we give up; it is our property, and we give it up because of our own virtue. We do not see fully the meaning of those words of Mr. Lloyd George's, "It is not what a nation gains, it is what a nation gives that makes it great." For the words are meaningless unless it is the nation that gives and the nation that gains by its giving, unless every individual at home, who gives his comfort and his indulgences and his elegances, feels, like the soldiers, who give their lives abroad, that the nation, and not merely he himself, is the giver; unless he wishes the nation and not himself to be the gainer. Indeed, except in that feeling a nation does not exist; without it we should be but a limited company, anxious to get rid of our shares as soon as the liabilities seemed to exceed the assets.

But we are more than a limited company, because our hearts do make an answer to the words of Mr. Lloyd George; because, in war, if not yet in peace, we do see that labour is not merely something to be paid for, and that money does not give all rights to those who possess it. In our use of it now we acknowledge that we do owe a duty to the nation, to that fellowship of which we are members; and we are not suddenly aware of that duty merely because, if the nation falls, we fall too. We remember its past and look forward to its future; and neither past nor future means to us that warm, well-finished life of worldly success. They mean the labour and sweat of great deeds and the solitary passion of great thoughts; they mean, not pleasure, but the high quality of joy or of sorrow; not prettiness, but the fierce austerity of beauty; and with these they mean all the people of our land and that common spirit of theirs which has so wonderfully survived both luxury and squalor; they mean not the palaces but the cottages and the village churches of the past, and the simple men and women who built these and did their duty and worshipped God in them, and have expressed themselves to us in the works of their duty and worship. And they mean more of all these things to be, when we have found our way to peace again and have leisure to make our purged country worthy of all those who died for it.

There is one great lesson which the war may teach us; but we can learn it only as a united

* Reprinted, in part, by courtesy of the Editor of the *Times Literary Supplement*. The entire article can be obtained from the National War Savings Committee, Salisbury Square, E.C. Price 1d.

nation and by acting upon it and proving to ourselves by action that it is true; and it is the lesson that only through austerity can men come to joy and beauty. They must refuse, if they would attain; and they must refuse not from timidity, but from desire. The way to all great things is through refusal, and men must desire them so that they may refuse all lesser things. This truth more than any other we had forgotten in our life before the war.

Report of Electoral Reform Conference.

The following recommendation regarding Women's Suffrage was embodied in the Report of the Speaker's Conference:—

"That any woman on the Local Government Register who has attained a specified age, and the wife of any man who is on that register if she has attained that age, shall be entitled to be registered and to vote as a Parliamentary elector."

Various ages were discussed, of which 30 and 35 received most favour. The Conference further resolved that if Parliament decides to enfranchise women, a woman of the specified age, who is a graduate of any University having Parliamentary representation shall be entitled to vote as a University elector.

A special meeting of our Executive Committee has been called to discuss the above recommendation.

In a sympathetic editorial article on the subject the *Times* points out:—"The real case for their enfranchisement in these days rests on the palpable injustice of leaving the women, who have become for the first time an essential factor in the national effort, to fight their industrial battles hereafter without such help as the vote provides. Their case rests, further, on the value of their help in maintaining those far-reaching social reforms—in such matters as drink control, child welfare education and housing schemes—which the war has already brought about as emergency measures. We doubt very much whether there is any great hostility left in this country to the principle of Woman Suffrage. Its advocates are almost forcing an open door. The practical problem is to devise some form of franchise which will, as far as possible, meet with general consent."

The Women's Municipal Party.

The Executive Committee has given its support to the following resolution passed by the Council of the Women's Municipal Party:—

"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."

A copy of this resolution will be sent to all local authorities in the Metropolitan area asking them to co-opt women when vacancies occur, and drawing their attention to the strong public feeling prevailing that women should be more fully represented on these public bodies.

Our Executive Committee recommended that the resolution be sent also to Local District Councils.

The War Cabinet.*

Prime Minister	Mr. D. Lloyd George (L.), Carnarvon—S.
Lord Pres. of Council	Lord Curzon (U.).
Without Portfolio	Mr. Henderson (Lab.), Barnard Castle—S.
Without Portfolio	Lord Milner (U.).
Chancellor of Exchequer... ..	Mr. Bonar Law (also Leader of the House of Commons) (U.) Bootle, Lancs.—S.

OTHER MINISTERS.

Lord Chancellor	Baron Finlay (U.).
Home Secretary	Sir G. Cave (U.), Kingston—S.
Foreign Secretary	Mr. Balfour (U.), Lond. City—S.
Colonial Secretary... ..	Mr. W. Long (U.), Strand—S.
Secretary for War	Lord Derby (U.).
Secretary for India	Mr. A. Chamberlain (U.), Birmingham W.
Pres. Local Govt. Board	Lord Rhondda (L.).
Pres. Board of Trade	Sir Albert Stanley (U.), Ashton-under-Lyne.
†Minister of Labour... ..	Mr. Hodge (Lab.), Lancs., Gorton—S.
First Lord of Admiralty	Sir E. Carson (U.), Dublin University.
Minister of Munitions	Dr. Addison (L.), Hoxton—S.
Minister of Blockade	Lord R. Cecil (U.), Hitchin—S.
†Food Controller	Lord Devonport (L.).
†Shipping Controller	Sir Joseph Maclay (L.).
Pres. Board of Agriculture	Mr. R. Prothero (U.), Oxford University—S.
Pres. Board of Education	Dr. H. A. L. Fisher, Shef- field (Hallam Division) —S.
First Com. of Works	Sir Alfred Mond (L.), Swansea—S.
Chancellor Duchy	Sir F. Cawley (L.), Prestwich—S.
Postmaster-General	Mr. Alfred Illingworth (L.), Heywood.
†Pensions Minister	Mr. G. Barnes (Lab.), Glasgow S.
Attorney-General	Sir F. E. Smith (U.), Liverpool.
Solicitor-General	Mr. G. Hewart (L.), Leicester—S.
Secretary for Scotland	Mr. Munro (L.), Wick—S.
Lord Advocate	Mr. J. A. Clyde (U.), Edinburgh—S.
Solicitor-Gen. Scotland	Mr. T. B. Morison (L.).
Lord-Lieut. Ireland	Lord Wimborne (L.)—S.
Chief Sec. Ireland... ..	Mr. H. E. Duke (U.), Exeter—S.
Lord Chancellor Ireland... ..	Sir I. J. O'Brien (L.).

† Indicates a new office.

S Indicates Suffragists.

* From the *Common Cause*.

Women Workers' Demonstration.

The National Union of Women Suffrage Societies are organising a mass meeting at the Queen's Hall on Tuesday, February 20th, 8 p.m., "to support the inclusion of women in any Electoral Reform Bill." Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., will preside. The meeting has the support of practically all constitutional suffrage societies, and it is hoped that a large number of C.U.W.F.A. members will attend.

Admission free; tickets 10/6, 2/6 and 1/- (special terms on application). Apply to the Demonstration Secretary, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

Australian Conscription and Women's Vote.

In some quarters, the defeat of the measure for military conscription is attributed to the women's vote. We wish to draw attention to the following figures which indicate that Australian men and women think very much alike on this subject.

There are six States in the Commonwealth, of which three had a majority in favour of the measure, and three against it.

	For	Majority	Against	Majority
Victoria	25,877		New South Wales	116,496
W. Australia	53,081		Queensland	9,050
Tasmania	10,734		S. Australia	26,223

Now the numbers of male and female electors in these States in 1914 were as follows:—

	Male	Female
Victoria	321,655	336,781
W. Australia	89,824	64,736
Tasmania	42,995	41,122
New South Wales	491,086	429,906
Queensland	163,836	138,534
S. Australia	116,594	111,372

Two points are at once apparent in these figures. One is that the only State in the Commonwealth which has more women voters than men, namely Victoria, gave a majority for conscription. The other is that the question was practically decided by the large majority against in New South Wales. But it is obvious that in all the States opinion was divided in both sexes.

OUR WORK.

The Hostel.

As was announced in our last issue, the Hostel was closed to guests on December 1st. Until Christmas the Matron and maids at the Hostel were very busily engaged in packing up and returning all furniture that had been lent by members and friends of the Association.

There are still one or two outstanding matters to be cleared up; but when all liabilities were discharged, the Committee found they still had in hand the sum of about £100 (£50 of which was from the sale of furniture and effects). A circular letter was sent by the Committee to all who had subscribed to the Hostel Fund since 1914, asking their permission to allocate the balance as follows:—£85 to complete the Building Fund of the Victoria Hut for women war workers—at which so many of our members are now helping—and the balance to the National Food Fund, without whose help it would have been impossible to have carried on the Hostel so long.

We should like to draw attention to the entertainments which are held at the Victoria Hut on Tuesday afternoons from 4 to 6 p.m., for wounded soldiers. Tea 1/- each. Members wishing to bring parties from hospitals should write to Lady Worthington Evans, 7, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.

The National War Savings' Committee summoned representatives of all important Women's organisations to a special conference to discuss means of assisting the Government by providing centres where information regarding

the War Loan can be obtained. Our Treasurer attended as our representative and we are co-operating in the work.

Future Meetings.

The Meetings Committee are now making arrangements for a series of lectures on "The War and the Industrial Position of Women," to be given in March. The subjects selected provisionally are: March 7th—"Women and Trades Unions"; March 14th—"Women in Engineering trades in the North"; March 21st—Conference on "Women in Agriculture"; March 28th—"Recent Industrial Developments in Australia and New Zealand." Early application should be made to the Office, 48, Dover Street, for tickets, which will admit to the series.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Long Road of Women's Memory. By Jane Addams. (Macmillan, 5s. 6d.).

Miss Addams is so well known for her magnificent philanthropic work in America, and for her studies in connection with life experiences and the mind, that a book on the above subject ought to interest many people. She endeavours in her present volume to show the relation between ancient tribal customs and race memory in the modern woman. The opinions she has formed are based on her life's work, i.e., all forms of preventive and rescue work in the slums of Chicago.

Our Girls. Their Work for the War. By Hall Caine. (Hutchinson, 1s.).

A most useful book about women's work in munition and other factories, illustrated by interesting photographs.

The Church and Woman. An Address delivered at the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. By John Lee. (Longmans, Green & Co., 6d.).

Women's Political Disability in its relation to the Morals of a Nation at large. London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage. 1d.

We have received the first number of what promises to be a most useful monthly publication, "Maternity and Child Welfare." It contains interesting articles by medical men, as well as others on "Day Homes for Children of Widows," and "Libraries for Schools for Mothers." It can be obtained from Messrs. Bale, Sons and Danielsson, Ltd., 83, Great Titchfield Street, W., price 6d. monthly.

Many of our readers are unaware of the excellent *Weekly Notes* which are distributed by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies to its branches. The *Notes* contain topical information on women's work and interests all over the world. Price 1s. per annum.

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WEEKLY LECTURES, HOUSE DINNERS.

Wed., 14 Feb., 8 p.m. "To-day in the Balkans."
Mr. H. W. Nevinson.
Chairman: Mr. A. W. Evans.
Tues., 20 Feb., 7.15 p.m. HOUSE DINNER (for Diners only).
"Modern Fashions for Women."
Miss Elspeth Phelps.
Chairman: Captain Coote.
Thurs., 22 Feb., 8 p.m. "The Prospect for Suffrage."
Mr. H. N. Brailsford.
Chairman: Miss Mildred Ransom.
Wed., 28 Feb., 8 p.m. "Some Questions of Reconstruction."
Prof. L. T. Hobhouse, (University of London).
Chairman: Mr. R. F. Cholmeley.

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The WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

Public Meetings at CAXTON HALL, Westminster.
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS, at 3 o'clock.

February 14th.—Miss Esther Koper.
Mrs. Mustard.
Miss F. A. Underwood.
February 21st.—Mrs. Corner.
Miss Abadam: "The Feminist Outlook."
Mrs. Mustard.
February 28th.—Dr. Armstrong Smith (Letchworth Theosophical School): "Some Ideals in Education from a Theosophical Standpoint."
Mrs. Despard. Miss Eunice Murray.
Admission Free. Collection. Tea, 4.30, 6d.

THE NORTHERN MEN'S

"MANIFESTO" on

General Disease in its Relation to the Political Disability of Women.
Being an answer to the Home Secretary's Mansion House Speech.
Signed by Sixteen Magistrates of the City of Glasgow and the Executive Committee of the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage. A Record of Parliamentary Facts and Dates for Suffrage Speakers & Social Reformers. 1d. Order from your Suffrage Society.



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