

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

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*Central Office:* 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly, W. *Telegraphic Address:* "Cufranchis London." *Telephone:* 886 Mayfair.

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MARCH, 1916.

**WOMEN AND CITIZENSHIP.**

**"Keep on Keeping on."**

Under the above title, the March number of *Votes for Women* publishes an amusing suffrage incident at the mass meeting of Women War Workers, held in the Queen's Hall in January, under the Chairmanship of Field Marshal Lord Grenfell.

"Mr. Bottomley and Major the Hon. Arthur Stanley were the chief speakers. The former made a speech about the war services of women, in which he recapitulated what they had done, especially in connection with the Scottish Women's and Serbian Hospital Units, the Women's Emergency Corps, Women's Volunteer Reserve, Army Nurses, Signallers, Munition workers, and so on, and so on. He deprecated the idea of women police, though he confessed he would not object to these if they confined their operations to members of their own sex."

It was when he 'hoped we had heard the last of Women's Rights' that a spirited interruption was made by a woman sitting in the grand circle; and at the close of his speech Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett rose from the stalls and said to the Chairman: 'My lord, I wish to ask a question of Mr. Bottomley, on a subject he has not made quite clear.' For no very obvious reason, this reasonable request seemed to cause considerable consternation on the platform and among the audience. Women in uniform were even observed to hiss, though their very presence at such a meeting and in such a dress seemed to point to the fact that they did not belong to the ranks of those who object to women taking a prominent position in public. Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett waited a moment, then went on as follows:—

'My lord, my question is brief and simple. I want an answer.' (Small commotion in the hall.) 'My lord, I will put my question. Does Mr. Bottomley know that nearly all those organizations he has extolled were initiated, formed, and are chiefly run by Suffragists, who want their rights? Does he know that the Scottish Units were equipped, financed, and sent out to the war zone by Mrs. Fawcett's organization, and that Mrs. Fawcett has been fighting for the vote since 1867? Will Mr. Bottomley tell this audience that a sex which has produced a Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale and Josephine Butler can remain voteless; while every man, however silly, is perhaps shortly to have a vote at

21 years of age? Will Mr. Bottomley help to get women equality of voting rights with men?'

No answer was given. The speakers on the platform seemed to be having a hurried consultation. The inexorable voice in the stalls went on: 'I want my question answered, my lord.'

Then Mr. Bottomley stood up and said in answer, 'Yes; I will.'

Although the incident might be held to have closed here, the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., rose at this point and began to speak, saying, 'I suppose I mustn't mention politics here—'

'Yes, you may,' said Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, with a smile.

'Well,' continued the speaker, 'one person gives me permission, at any rate. I should like to say that if women want the vote—'

'We do. We would die for it,' the persistent one assured him.

'Then all I can say is,' said Major Stanley, M.P., heartily, 'that when I resume my Parliamentary duties, if my help and my vote can give it to them, they shall have it.'

Amid applause from Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett and other sympathisers in the hall, both interrupter and interrupted sat down, and the meeting proceeded to a close."

**Suffrage Victory in Canada.**

It is encouraging to record that a great suffrage victory has been won in the province of Manitoba. This success is due to the admirable work of the Canadian Suffrage Association, who have been carrying on a strenuous campaign. They published an open letter, which says:—

"In this time of national stress and strain, when the heads of so many homes have enlisted to fight the battles of the Empire and of human freedom—and there are those who are unable to express their opinion through the ballot box—would it not be simple justice if the wives and mothers left behind would vote on behalf of those who have gone to the Front. Women have shown what magnificent patriotic service they can render. Why should they longer be deprived of the privilege of still further serving their country through the power of the ballot?"

We read that the Bill passed the Manitoba Legislature amid scenes of unparalleled enthusiasm. It was sponsored by the Government; and in the absence of the Premier, was moved by the Acting Premier, who is also Minister of Public

Works. There was no debate on the second reading, and not an opposing voice was heard.

We understand the position is this. The men's Provincial vote carries with it the Federal vote also (*i.e.* to elect members to the House of Representatives) but now that women are included in the suffrage, a technical point of law has arisen as to whether they also are eligible for the Federal as well as the Provincial vote. The *Woman's Journal* says that on the same day that the Manitoba Legislature granted the Suffrage, a notice was given in the Canadian Parliament at Ottawa of a resolution to give the Federal vote to any woman in those Provinces where they already had the Provincial one. This will decide the question for good and all.

We hear that Alberta and Saskatchewan have also granted the suffrage to women, but we cannot obtain confirmation of this report. The *Times* of February 26th states that at the opening of the Alberta Legislature a bill was announced providing for women suffrage.

#### Women on Exemption Tribunals.

It is not generally realised that Mr. Walter Long, in his notice to the local Mayors, advises that women be included on the tribunals called to deal with the requests for exemption against enlistment in the New Army. It is, unfortunately, a fact that the Mayors—on whom the duty of forming the tribunals devolves—have, many of them, entirely ignored this point. We consider that the presence of women on these tribunals would be most valuable, as many of the exemptions are claimed solely on the ground of "home responsibilities."

If any of our readers know of tribunals on which women have been invited to serve, we should be glad if they would kindly communicate with us at the Offices of our Association.

#### The "Star and Garter" Home for Disabled Soldiers and Sailors.

The British Women's Hospital is appealing to English women at home and Overseas to raise £50,000 for the purpose of building the "Star and Garter" Home at Richmond for totally disabled soldiers and sailors, as a memorial of their gratitude to the men who have suffered in the War.

In support of this object a mass meeting will be held on the afternoon of Friday, March 24th, at the Palace Theatre, kindly lent for the occasion by the Directors of the Palace Theatre. Tickets, prices 3/-, 2/- and 1/-, can be obtained at the offices of the British Women's Hospital, 21, Old Bond Street, W.

As the £50,000 is to be raised entirely by the efforts of women, we should be glad to be assured by the British Red Cross Society that women will be adequately represented on the Board of Management of the Hospital, and also on the House Committee which manages its domestic arrangements.

### OUR WORK.

#### Special Funds.

**Munitions Hostel.**—Our appeal for £100 for furnishing a Hostel at Woolwich for women munition workers, the premises of which have been rented by a member of our Association, has been so well responded to that the Fund is now closed. The greater part of the money has already been paid over to the Young Women's Christian Association, who are providing additional accommodation for women munition workers at Woolwich. It was hoped to have everything ready for its opening on February 26th.

**Hut in Holland.**—The response to the appeal for a Hut in Holland has not been so great as to the Hostel at Woolwich; but we hope now that the Hostel Fund is complete, our members will devote their attention to the urgent need of the "Hut" appeal. We would remind our readers that the people for whom we are appealing are not the ordinary refugees, but are the dependents of those men who bore the initial onslaught of the Germans; and who, after the fall of Antwerp, sought refuge in Holland, and were therefore interned.

#### Lectures organised by our Association.

A most successful lecture on the work of the English Women's Canteens in France took place on February 1st at 68, Great Cumberland Place, W., by kind permission of Miss Edmonds. The speaker was Mrs. Pertwee. A sum of £6 11s. 6d. was collected for the work, nearly £5 worth of articles (manufactured by wounded French soldiers) was sold, and promises of over £6 were made, making a total of £17 11s. 6d. altogether.

"Life in China" by Mrs. Archibald Little was the subject of the lecture which was to be held on March 1st at Lennox House, Ovington Square, kindly lent for the occasion by Lady Wilson. The Meetings Committee very much regret that the lecture had to be cancelled as Mrs. Archibald Little was summoned to a sister who was lying critically ill after an operation.

The next course of lectures will be on the Dominions. The first chosen is South Africa, which will take place on Monday or Tuesday, April 10th or 11th. The Committee hope that they may be able to obtain the consent of Mr. Schreiner to speak on this subject. The definite date, place and time will be announced later. Applications for tickets should be sent to the Office as early as possible.

#### Our Hostel.

Our readers will be glad to hear that recently the ladies in the Hostel have been very successful in obtaining posts. As so many guests have been passing through lately, our 'Needs Fund' has been heavily called upon and requires replenishing. This Fund has proved most valuable in providing us with the means of helping our guests in ways not directly connected with the actual upkeep of the Hostel, and if we were obliged to give up this

particular branch of our work, the Committee fear that an important means of doing good would be closed to them. The provision of travelling expenses, in most cases, is essential to enable guests to take up new posts; dental treatment, surgical appliances, warm clothing, are a few of the many demands the Needs Fund supplies.

A list of posts required by ladies now in the Hostel will be found on page 4.

#### The Council Meeting.

The Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 15th, at 32, Sloane Gardens, by kind permission of Mrs. Gilbert Samuel. It was very well attended, and great interest was taken in the proceedings. In the absence of our President, the Chair was taken by Lady Betty Balfour. The attention of the Council was mainly devoted to the consideration of the resolutions for a wider representation of branches on the Council and Executive Committee. These resolutions had already been discussed by the Executive, and were generally approved by the Council, subject to one or two minor alterations.

#### Women Patrol Meeting in Kensington.

Our Kensington Branch held a most successful meeting last month, in order to interest our members in the work of the women patrols. Mrs. James Gow and Mrs. Hartwell, the London Organising Secretary, both spoke. The latter appealed for funds to start a club in Shepherds Bush, where one is badly needed, and the sum required was subscribed at once. Several ladies present also offered their help, both as patrols and in other ways. Our thanks are due to the Hon. Mrs. John Bailey, who kindly lent her house and also took the chair.

#### British Women-Workers' Exhibition.

An Exhibition will be held under the above title at Prince's Skating Club, Knightsbridge, lasting three weeks, and opening May 1st next. The Exhibition will be held under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, and Her Majesty Queen Amelie of Portugal. It will be the most comprehensive Exhibition of Women's Work ever held in England, and will embrace every form of women's activity. At the present time, when the work of women has come so prominently before the public, and when so many women have to earn their own livelihood, it is peculiarly appropriate. The aim of this Exhibition is an endeavour to furnish women with new ideas for gaining a living. The exhibits will be, as it were, a living and practical catalogue of what pioneer women workers are doing. The exhibits will furnish such widely different professions as Lace Making, Copper Smiths, Glass Blowers, Silver Smiths, Dog Fanciers, Bird Tamers, War Work, Nursing, Baby Incubators, Wood Carving, Leather Workers, Sweet Making, and every form of Arts and Crafts. A commendable feature of this Exhibition will be the scope of the interests to

which it appeals. There will be something of interest for every woman, no matter what her tastes or ambitions. It will be a complete epitome of everything a woman can do in every sphere of activity, from the farm to the fireside.

The executive offices are at 39, Victoria Street, Westminster.

#### A Series of Practical Lectures.

The Chadwick Trustees have arranged a course of lectures on "The Domestic Arterial System in Relation to Comfort and Health," by Dr. Charles Porter, at the Household and Social Science Department, King's College for Women, Campden Hill, W., on Wednesdays, 15th, 22nd, 29th March, at 3 p.m. The subjects will be: Drains and Drainage, Water Supply, Heating and Light. These lectures will be of practical value to women householders, who are frequently hampered in their efforts to attain efficiency and economy in the home by ignorance of the complicated internal arrangements of the modern house. As the late Sir Edwin Chadwick was one of the earliest advocates of women's political and economic rights, it is particularly appropriate that the scope of the free lectures on public health founded under his bequest, should be extended so as to include questions effecting the interest of women householders.

#### Maternity and Infant Welfare.

The Women's Local Government Society has sent a memorial to the President of the Local Government Board urging that pressure should be exerted on those local authorities which are least conscious of the need for co-operation of women in maternity and in infant welfare.

The memorial says:—

"We venture to suggest that local authorities whose schemes have not as yet been approved by the Board might be advised by circular as to the provisions of some of the best local schemes and might at the same time be informed that no scheme will be approved by the Board which does not make full provision for the co-operation of women on committees and sub-committees for the care of mothers and young children. We should be glad if the Board could also see their way to introducing some similar condition (*i.e.*, as to the co-operation of women as administrators) into the regulations under which grants in aid of local expenditure will be made by the Board after the termination of the year ending March 31st, 1916.

"It is the more urgently necessary to seek the aid of the Local Government Board in this matter because on most of the councils all the members are men, and during the operation of the Elections and Registration Act no woman member can be added by popular election."

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## THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

HOLDS

### PUBLIC MEETINGS

On WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS,

AT 3.30 P.M., AT

CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

Come to the Freedom League Rally at Caxton Hall, Friday, March 17th, when the first contribution to the 50,000 shilling fund will be presented to Mrs. Despard. Music. Refreshments, 7 to 9.30. Tickets 6d. each from the W. F. L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

### HOSTEL EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

We have opened a Bureau in connection with the Hostel at the Office, and we shall be glad to receive information regarding vacant posts. A list of positions required will be found below, and we ask our friends to help us to place these ladies as soon as possible.

K.S.—Lady seeks post as Secretary-Companion, or any position of trust.

C.P.—Lady, well educated, with knowledge of type-writing and some book-keeping, seeks position as clerk or Secretary-Companion.

E.F.P.—Lady seeks post as superintendent or matron, accustomed to organise, train and control.

E.M.P.—Lady, well educated, travelled, and with nursing experience, seeks post as Secretary-Companion.

M.A.C.—Young lady, hard hit through War, could act as Companion-Housekeeper; knowledge of all plain cookery. Daily post preferred. Excellent references.

B.N.—Lady, well educated, travelled on the Continent, speaking French and German, seeks clerical work or position as Secretary-Companion.

F.E.P.—Lady seeks post as Companion-nurse, secretary, housekeeper to lady or gentleman. Very experienced.

E.K.—Young lady, British, just returned from Brussels, seeks post. Several languages. Resident or non-resident.

M.F.—Lady, who has lived ten years in Paris, seeks position as Companion to lady or young girl.

J.C.—Young lady would help in any capacity—shopping, light domestic duties. Highest references.

K.E.—Young lady, speaking three languages fluently—French, English, German—seeks post as Secretary or similar position.

A.L.—Lady, well educated, seeks re-engagement as companion or housekeeper to lady or gentleman. Musical, good needleworker, reader, and thoroughly domesticated. Excellent references.

W.K.M.—Position as superintendent or catering housekeeper required by a lady of large experience, accustomed to a large staff, trained abroad under expert chefs, economical manager. Good disciplinarian.

All applications to be addressed to the initials stated above, c/o The Superintendent, 9, Roland Gardens, South Kensington.

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### LECTURES:

Wednesday, March 1, 8 p.m.—Miss ANNA AIRY, R.E., R.O.I. "A Woman's Experience as a Painter." Chair: Lady Muir-Mackenzie.

Tuesday, March 7, 7.30 p.m. House Dinner. "That the Civilization of Ireland is far more Ancient and Superior to that of England, Scotland and Wales." Opener: Mr. G. B. Hamilton, J.P. Opposers: Miss Gladys Rinder, Mr. D. Cameron-Swan, Miss Eilian Hughes. Chairman: Mr. J. Y. Kennedy.

Wednesday, March 8, 8 p.m.—Mr. LANGDON, K.C. "Woman and the Law." Chair: Mrs. Percy Bigland.

Wednesday, March 15, 8 p.m.—Prof. L. T. HOBHOUSE. "The Principles of a European Settlement." Chair: Miss Margaret Bondfield.

Wednesday, March 22, 8 p.m.—Sir SIDNEY LEE. "Shakespeare as a National Hero." Chair: Lady Meyer.

Wednesday, March 28, 8 p.m.—Miss REBECCA WEST. "The Art of Reviewing." Chair: Miss Otter.

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