

WOMEN'S SERVICE  
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# THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS



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## TWO VICTORIES AND A VEXED QUESTION.

The Child Marriage Protection Bill was passed by the Indian Legislative Assembly on September 23rd, by 67 votes to 14. This Bill raises the legal age of marriage to 14 years for girls and 18 years for boys. What this will mean for the amelioration and the lot of Indian women can be best and most briefly illustrated by the following paragraph from the Report of the Age of Consent Committee:

In 1921 in the Bombay Presidency, there were 1,661 girls married or widowed under one year of age, 1,671 girls married or widowed between one and two years of age, 4,378 girls married or widowed between three and four years of age, 7,219 girls married or widowed between three and four years of age, 12,834 girls married or widowed between four and five years of age, 193,582 girls married or widowed between five and ten years of age, and 498,706 girls married or widowed between ten and fifteen years of age.

Indian women have carried on an energetic and patient propaganda for the passing of this merciful Bill and are to be congratulated on their active share in the work for the instruction of public opinion and the pressure brought to bear upon the legislators which have made its adoption possible.

The Canadian women have won their case. They have secured a judgment from the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council that women are eligible to be summoned as members of the Senate in Canada, thus reversing the decision of the Canadian Supreme Court. The matter turned, as readers of the paper will remember, on the meaning of the word "persons," the case

being brought by five prominent women of Alberta. The Judicial Committee decided that the great change in conditions and especially in the position of women since the Act was passed had a bearing on the point, and furthermore that as in other clauses in the same Act the word "persons" quite clearly did denote persons of both sexes, while in other cases where only men were intended the word "male" had been inserted, it must be assumed that here also it covered both sexes. In the working of the federal constitution of Canada, the last barrier to the political equality of women is now down. Women have attained "equal citizenship." It is likely that this victory will have repercussions in the fight for woman suffrage in Quebec—the only Province where women are not allowed to vote for the Provincial Legislature, though they have, of course, the Federal vote.

The September number of the *International Labour Review*, the official organ of the International Labour Office, contains an article by Frau Else Lüders on "The Effects of German Labour Legislation on Employment Possibilities for Women." This question of the benefit or otherwise of special Protective Legislation for women grows more crucial as the measure of women's political influence increases, and the article should be read by all who desire facts to aid them in maintaining either of the two differing points of view. Frau Lüders' subject is the effect of special legislation for the protection of women workers on the employment opportunities of women in Germany, and her conclusion is that special laws applying only to women workers have not led to a displacement of female labour in that country.

## WOMEN IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

The absence of any substantial recourse to the services of women in the administrative staffs of departments, and still more in the intelligence branches, has in the past deprived the public of a vast store of knowledge, experience, and fresh ideas, some of which would for particular purposes have been far more valuable than those of even the ablest men in the Civil Service.—“From the Report of the Machinery of Government, 1919 (Lord Haldane in the chair).

(We think it will be of interest to our readers, in view of the great importance to women of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service now sitting, to read these extracts: the flattering sentence from the Report of the Machinery of Government, 1919, the sympathetic notice from the *Manchester Guardian* and an article by a Woman Civil Servant (M.D. Boston in *Red Tape*). The assumption of the last writer—that a woman who is going to have a child would always prefer to resign her appointment for good—is, however, incorrect. Nor is it necessary that she should do so. Consider the practice on the League of Nations Secretariat, where an expectant mother who is a permanent official has an adequate period of leave allowed to her and then returns to her duties).

## THE MARRIAGE BAR.

The announcement that a Royal Commission has been set up to investigate and report on conditions in the Civil Service, including the marriage bar, will interest organised women throughout the country. The position of women in the Civil Service and the fact that women permanent civil servants were obliged to retire on marriage have been discussed at women's conferences year after year, and hundreds of resolutions have been passed urging that their disabilities should be removed. Every candidate at the last general election must have been impressed by the numbers of societies and of individual electors who stressed these points.

The present House of Commons is probably much more favourably disposed than any of its predecessors have been to the claims of women civil servants, though it must not be forgotten that in the previous Parliament the Commons carried a resolution affirming the principle of equal pay for equal work. Many women, in fact, think that more might have been secured and certainly secured more quickly by approaching Parliament directly than will be got on the recommendation of a Royal Commission. Others consider that only a commission can deal adequately with such a complicated subject, when, even in a body so small, members desiring the same results will have different views as to how they should be obtained.

But it will be generally agreed that it is a very good thing to have five women on the Commission, and that the choice has been excellent. The Duchess of Atholl is recognised as being painstaking and fair, and Mrs. Wintringham will have the confidence of all. The three Labour women are exceptionally well informed on the question of women's employment. Mrs. Ayrton Gould, who has been three times a candidate for Parliament, was an active suffrage worker, and is well qualified to represent the feminist point of view.

—*Manchester Guardian*.

## A WOMAN CIVIL SERVANT'S VIEW.

Opponents of the Marriage Bar assume that the natural occupational corollary of marriage is domestic work. There is, however, nothing about this arrangement that is "natural." It is purely and simply a custom that expediency has fostered. The idea of marriage, the decision of two people to link their lives, should be divorced from the conventions with which it is associated. One of these is that a woman should change her occupation when she marries. In these days labour-saving machinery has invaded the individual home to such an extent, as to render this entirely unnecessary; unnecessary at any rate in so far as the early part of the marriage is concerned.

It may be admitted that, generally speaking, women cannot rear children and at the same time earn their living in the labour market. For this reason one assumes that the majority would resign when children were born.

The crux of the situation is surely here. The compulsory resignation on marriage of all women is an attempt to act as Procrustes of old, who, boasting that he had a bed which fitted everybody, cut off the limbs of those who were too long, and stretched those who were too short. It is against this cast iron system that those appeal who advocate the removal of the bar. It is barely necessary to point out that, voluntarily or involuntarily, children do not always follow marriage. Further, it is entirely overlooked that there are many women who, because of financial responsibilities towards relatives, are prevented from marrying so long as this involves the cessation of their independent incomes. Thus, it is essentially normality, not abnormality as Mr. Bryant suggests, which may induce a woman to retain her occupation. Again, there is the case of the comparatively late marriage, where a position of authority and responsibility has been attained prior to it. Why should such a person, professionally at her prime, be compelled, if she quite naturally desires a man's companionship, to waste years of training and experience? This is a factor which, as Mr. Mayne points out, tends to reduce the professional value of women. It is time women ceased to submit to the alternative, "either you marry and make housekeeping your job, or you forego marriage."

If the Bar is removed, there will be no need for any one to remain in the Service if she feels she ought to resign. Those who feel in this way will have no coercion applied to them, and they should consider whether it is fair that they in their turn should coerce others into following their way of living. The agitation for the removal of the Bar is a plea for that wider liberty to which we all pay homage; a recognition that women are not Robots, possessing uniform tastes and aptitudes, but human beings with all the varying qualities of individuals.

There appears to be only one vital argument of principle advanced against the retention of married women, and this is that they are keeping out unemployed persons. Surely, such an argument rests on false economics. The causes of unemployment are admitted by the best informed minds to be obscure. It seems ridiculous to regard employment as the cause of unemployment. This would be the case if there was in the world only a limited amount of work to be done, and this had to be shared amongst the inhabitants. But work is wealth and the more people that work the more wealth there is created. Hence the claim of the Socialist that the man who will not work should not have the means of life. The trade cycle and an old fashioned credit policy, rather than the employment of married women should be looked on as the causes of unemployment.

In regard to the question of the blocking of promo-

tion, it is only necessary to say that women who reach the grades above the Clerical are generally above the normal marrying age, and that consequently the marriage wastage is comparatively small. The position, therefore, would not be materially affected. In any case, to oppose on this narrow ground such a broad principle as the right of a woman to choose, as far as possible, her mode of living, is unreasonable.

In conclusion, let us not be misled by the cry that the time is not opportune. The time for the introduction of reforms never has been opportune, but they have been introduced and civilisation has not crumbled as a result.

## THE WOMAN MOVEMENT IN IRAQ.

It may be said that the War, which, endorsed by the powerful hand of Mustapha Kemal, brought the Turkish woman her charter of freedom, did nothing to ameliorate the position of Muslim women in Iraq. Disabilities and prejudices against which she was powerless, kept the women of the countries of the Middle East in the place which long custom had assigned them, and, for the most part, they themselves remained undesirous of progress. Some, though not all, women of the wealthy classes received elementary education—reading, writing, and perhaps a smattering of French and English in convent or missionary schools, but education of girls in the true sense of the word was entirely lacking. Women of the lower and middle classes were, almost without exception, illiterate, and not only unable to read or write, but also ignorant of elementary laws of health and hygiene. It followed that a woman had no standing as an individual; she was part of that complicated machine, the family, and if she failed to please or to produce children, she was liable to be discarded as useless. No man looked to his wife for companionship, and in the cases where a woman, by means of native acumen and common sense, established complete rule over her household, it was often to exercise a tyranny over the other women of the family.

The women of Iraq, until the War, considered the Turkish women representative of all progress and enlightenment. Many Iraqi men married Turkish wives, and there are Turkish women in Iraq to-day, with Arabic-speaking husbands, children and grand-children, who have never troubled to learn the tongue of what they consider to be an uncivilised race. But these imported Turkish women, including the wives of Government officials, did little but introduce a taste for European clothes and Western specialities, and the outlook of the Iraqi woman remained unchanged. The War brought her for the first time into direct contact with the outside world, and the rapid development of the country, with its enormous increase of means of communication with other countries by car, aeroplane, train and shipping, roused her to a sense of her backwardness. Moreover, the wholesale reforms with regard to the status of women in Turkey were bound to have their repercussion in Iraq, and the introduction of women teachers, Christian and Muslim, for no women in Iraq were qualified to teach, in girls' schools from such comparatively advanced countries as Syria, worked greatly upon public opinion.

When Government schools for girls were first opened in Baghdad, I saw women of advanced middle age sitting in the class-rooms poring over elementary reading books. In spite of their years, these plucky and intelligent women were trying to avail themselves of new opportunities. During the last few years there have been great advances in the education of girls in Iraq, though the proportion of utterly illiterate women is still enorm-

ous. Such institutions as the enthusiastically directed Central Girls' School in Baghdad, for instance, and the Teachers' Training College in connexion with it, are furnishing a nucleus of girls aware of the shortcoming of the country and its attitude towards women, and awaking the spirit of progress amongst the younger generation.

Meanwhile, feminism in Iraq has its pioneers. About five years ago, a number of ladies in Baghdad, the majority of whom were Muslim, met together and decided to form a club for the purpose of raising the status of women in Iraq. The moving spirit was the unmarried sister of the well-known Iraqi poet Jemil Zahawi, a woman well-versed in Arab and Persian literature, whose intelligence, learning, and force of character placed her by common consent at the head of the movement.

The objects of the club were vague and ill-defined; it had no programme beyond the intention of listening to a few speeches delivered by women. It extended a welcome to the friends of progress whether Muslim, Christian, or Jew, and its inception was notified in the local Press. There was an immediate outcry. Reactionaries fulminated against it in the newspaper, die-hards appealed to Government to scotch the movement in its infancy. *Sufur* (unveiling) was impending, they said, and Muslim homes were threatened by Western abominations. The accusation was ludicrously untrue. Not one amongst the Muslim Iraqi members wore anything but the thick veil which custom prescribes in Baghdad, and many of them were old-fashioned enough to wear as well the national indoor garb, consisting of a plain, long garment reaching to the feet, the hair being completely concealed by black bandages, except for two plaits falling on either side of the face. Nor was there any intention of unveiling, though many of the women longed to do so, on account of the symbol which the veil has arrived at being. The members of the projected club defended themselves, and declared that their immediate projects were the education of some female orphans and the meeting together of a few women bent on self-improvement. Grudging consent was then given to the registration of the club, which took the name of the *Nadi al Nahidha an Nissaiya* ("Club for the Elevation of Women"), rented a house, and occupied itself with the care of a few orphans. As is not uncommon in these countries, enthusiasm waned. The promised lectures were few and far between, subscriptions (five rupees monthly) fell away, attendance became rare, and though there was a nominal committee, it did not do, nor know how to do, its work completely. Slowly but inevitably the ambitiously named club dwindled into an occasional tea-party, the house was given up, and the orphans were all but abandoned.

It had been dead for more than two years when stimulus came from the outside in the shape of a letter from a Druze lady, Nur Hamadi, foundress of the Muhammadan Women's League in Syria. The letter, which reached Esma Khanum Zahawi, president of the now defunct club, was to invite the leaders of the feminist movement in Iraq to co-operate, not only with the Muhammadan Women's League on Syria, but also to participate in the feminist movement all over the world. It was suggested that Iraq feminists might care to send a representative to yearly conferences of the Muhammadan Women's League to be held alternately in Egypt, Palestine, Syria, and Iraq.

The letter gave Esma Khanum the excuse for gathering together as many of the old members of the Club as she could; a meeting was held in Nouri Pasha as-Said's house, enthusiastic speeches were made, the local Press gave the affair leading articles and long reports, and again the movement was launched. It was resolved that the club must not this time end in words only, and at the present moment its members are anxiously debating

what form their activities and efforts will take. Unveiling is certainly not on their programme, nor would it be politic or necessary to contemplate it for many years to come, and it remains to be seen what will result from their reawakened zeal.

In Syria a certain section of the feminists are decidedly anti-foreign in tone. The more clear-sighted among the women see that it would be fatal for the movement to be committed to any political creed. They realise that feminism in the East can only gain strength by making common cause with feminism all over the world, independent of race or creed, and especially to the women of England and America, who have fought and gained their battle, they look for encouragement and practical assistance. In such a cause as this there can be no petty feelings of national jealousy or hatred, and it would be a fine gesture if the women of England were to think out some way of aiding the women of Iraq in the task which they have set themselves.

So far they have fought their battle alone. Not a man in Iraq has come forward to offer them the building that they need or has contributed to their funds. Those in high places have held aloof for fear of offending the fanatically-minded. A Syrian partisan, Jemil Bey Beyhum, known as the *Nasir al Marra* ("Defender of Women") on account of his zeal in the cause of feminism, came to Baghdad and announced his intention of making a speech about the rights of Muslim women to freedom. There was an immediate cry of horror. At last, a progressive section of the men said, "You, as a foreigner, might—we Iraqis could not possibly speak in public on such a subject." He gave his lecture, and the hall was more than half full of women.

A notable exception to this general timidity is the poet Jemil Zahawi, who is never tired of proclaiming that Islam was intended to bring woman her charter of freedom, not her sentence of perpetual confinement, and that seclusion is not of Arab, but of foreign origin. He is right, but as yet very few of his own countrymen have the courage to support him.

E. S. STEVENS.

—*The Near East and India.*

#### WHY WOMEN DO NOT STAMMER.

(We had promised ourselves to attempt to divert our readers with a few remarks on the interesting correspondence which recently appeared in *The Times* on this subject, but finding that our contemporary the *Woman's Leader*, with the natural advantage of a weekly over a monthly paper, had already proceeded to the attack, we think we could not do better than reprint, with acknowledgements, its crisp comments.—ED.)

With perfect confidence, we venture the assertion that had women, instead of men, been found to be the stammering sex, a very simple and universally accepted cause would have been found for this curious sex-distinction. It would have been explained as a defect of nervous co-ordination, one of many aspects of the weakness of women. But unfortunately it is men who stammer. Indeed a correspondent to *The Times* of 16th September is forced to admit that men and women stammer in the proportion of 16:1. Some explanation is therefore needed that is not derogatory to the dignity of the male sex, and the correspondent in question, quoting from an unnamed German professor, is prepared to furnish one. Men, it appears, stammer more than women because they are more civilized—less near to the savage than women. Stammering being caused by "the interference of the conscious mind with what should be a subconscious thought process, so the growth of conscious processes, stimulated by civiliza-

tion, being more advanced in the male, tends to an increase in stammering propensities." All this is very interesting, and we feel that the professor in question could, if he gave himself to the business, furnish an equally convincing explanation of why men are not only the stammering sex, but also, if comparative statistics are to be trusted, the suicidal sex, the short-lived sex, the drunken sex, and the criminal sex. Can it really be that civilization is such a d-d-d-d-dangerous thing?

#### WOMEN JURORS.

Under the Sex Disqualification Removal Act, 1919, women were given the right for the first time to assist in the administration of justice by sitting on juries. There are certain cases in which their aid is especially valuable. One of the kind arose at the Old Bailey—a charge against a man of a grave offence against a young girl. Yet counsel, taking advantage of an old custom that allowed the right of challenge in certain cases without stating reasons, objected to all the women on the panel and they had to be replaced by men. The Recorder referred to it as an anachronism that defeated the express intentions of Parliament. And so, no doubt, it is. The challenge where impartiality or prejudice is suspected is quite proper, but it should not be allowed on the ground of sex alone. It is to be hoped that the protest voiced by Sir Ernest Wild will have effect and lead to a change in the law.

(This paragraph is especially interesting as it reflects the opinion of the General Press on the incident, not that of a specifically feminist organ, and therefore shows that some feminist principles have already been incorporated into the accepted ideas of "fair play".)

#### LOGIC.

(We publish below some remarks by Mr. Walter Henry Foster in his presidential address to the meeting of the Law Society at Bournemouth, as widely reported in the General Press. We leave it to our readers to make their own comments. It is, of course, possible that Mr. Foster was speaking sarcastically and has been misunderstood. Let us hope so.)

Mr. Foster suggested that the war killed women's right to vote. While the extension of the franchise to young women might have been a logical conclusion to Mr. Asquith's Act, that Act itself was the negation of logic. Although women proved themselves competent in many ways in the war, they did not fight. No one suggested that they could or should.

"The prospect, now not impossible, of a Parliament of women resolving on a war to be fought by men is repugnant. The war should have put an end to the Suffragette movement. Really, it should have caused the franchise to be limited to men of fighting age, say from 17 to 50, conscientious objectors being, of course, disfranchised."

#### Free Education for Girls in Madras.

*Stri-Dharma*, the official organ of the Women's Indian Association, reports that the Elementary Education Committee of the Government of Madras, which has been sitting at Ootacamund and has gone into the whole question of elementary education, has decided that all poor girls shall be exempt from the payment of fees up to the Seventh Standard.

#### BERLIN CONGRESS REPORT.

Certain corrections to the Report have been received and will be published in the December issue of the paper.

## REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

### AUSTRIA.

#### The Second Woman Professor at the Vienna University.

Professor Dr. Elise Richter, well known as President of the Austrian Association of University Women, is the first woman who was honoured with the title of "Professor" by the Vienna University. This happened some years before the war. Now a second woman has become a Professor. She is the distinguished scientist, Dr. Charlotte Bühler, internationally known for her psychological research work on the mentality of children. Dr. Bühler, who is now lecturing by invitation in the United States, has been working as a Privatdozent at the University of Vienna for some years. But her principal energies are devoted to the Psychological Institute of the city of Vienna. This Institute was founded in order to promote children's education by psychological knowledge.

#### The first Woman Regierungskommissär in Austria.

For the first time in Austria a woman has been nominated "Regierungskommissär." Dr. Oda Negbauer, the daughter of a high employee of the State, lives in Graz, where she studied and where she was promoted to be a doctor of law. She entered the service of the Styrian Country Government and was occupied with matters concerning the activity of associations and schools. In June 1929 she passed the examination which enables her to work in a higher position with brilliant success. At last the way to advancement was open and Dr. Negbauer could be nominated "Regierungskommissär." She is working now in affairs dealing with citizens' questions.

#### The first Mother's School in Vienna.

Some months ago the first mother's school was founded in Vienna. The founder is the well known philanthropist Luise Leithner, who during the war established day-homes for forsaken and poor children. After the war she founded an association to help intellectual people suffering from privation. The mother's school tries to educate young women and brides for their task as mothers. Different courses and practical work introduce these women to the duties which a mother has to fulfil. Dr. Bühler, now Professor at the University of Vienna, held some lectures on the psychology of the child which form the basis for the activity of the school. One may report with satisfaction that the school meets with the greatest interest.

#### Experiments of a Viennese scientist.

The young Viennese Biologist Dr. Auguste Jellinek has been performing experiments at the Viennese Institute for Psychology, of which it is said that they will bring about a total revolution in the knowledge of hearing and of aural afflictions.

### GERMANY.

A General Council Meeting of the German National Council took place at Königsberg from the 29th September to the 3rd October. The main subjects of discussion were: "Ten years of Citizenship of German Women," "The State and the Family, Principles and Aims of State measures for the care of the Populations," "Woman in Agriculture."

One day was devoted to the Professional Woman. With regard to Old Age Provision for the professional woman a resolution was adopted dealing with a reform of Employees' Pensions. Interest centred chiefly in the speech of Dr. Gertrud Bäumer on "Aims of State Measures for the Care of the Population." She stipulated that State assistance should not be given merely on the score of "Quantity," i.e. for the biggest families, but that the point of view of quality should predominate, and help be given with regard to the selec-

tion of the most capable and industrious child. From this point of view she does not advocate a general premium being given for large families of children, but a system of State grants for Education being extended to those who are the most capable intellectually or practically. With regard to Women in Agriculture the following resolutions were adopted:

The German National Council considers the preservation of German agriculture and the reorganisation of its rentability to be a problem of paramount national importance. It particularly considers the preservation and the care of the female agricultural population to be one of the most urgent tasks of German National Economy. It will apply itself therefore to work for the acceptance and the carrying out, as far as is economically possible, of all measures which are concerned with the protection and the well-being of the rural family, the care of the health and the professional training of all female workers in rural districts and the enrichment of rural cultural life.

This can only be achieved by a more active participation of country women themselves in their own organisations and the professional representation of Agriculture in legal matters as well as in State and Municipal bodies.

The German National Council expects that the women of all classes and professions will assist the rural women in their fight by an attitude of sympathetic understanding.

#### Preparations for the Elections to Local Government Bodies.

In Prussia and in several other German States new elections for Local Government are taking place on Nov. 15. In preparation for them several Conferences have been held dealing with women's work in Local Government, their achievements and demands. A Conference was held in Berlin in the former Upper House, in which questions of Housing, of Public Health, Youth, and Social Welfare work and the special requirements of the professional woman were discussed. The numerous speakers and lively debates, to which women of all parties contributed, gave an interesting impression of the development of a united women's will beginning to show itself on most questions. It was satisfactory to note not only the lively interest and valuable discussions, but the fact that already numerous women are at work in Local Government bodies and are filling important posts. In Dresden these preparatory Conferences dealt mainly with questions of Organisation, Finance and Taxation, in Boppard on the Rhine with questions of the League of Nations and of Peace.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

#### NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

##### Memorial Service to Dame Millicent Fawcett.

Arrangements are being made by the N.U.S.E.C. jointly with the London and National Society for Women's Service, for a Memorial Service to Dame Millicent to be held in Westminster Abbey. The exact date is not yet fixed but it will be about the third week of November. Suffragists from other countries likely to be in London at that time and desirous of attending should communicate with the Secretary at 15, Dean's Yard, London, S.W.1.

##### Parliament Reassembles.

On the 29th of October Parliament reassembles, and there is certain to be a very heavy programme of legislation. At the time of writing, the actual Bills to be introduced are not yet known, but of those of more particular interest to this organisation, it is expected

that a Housing Bill will be introduced early in the Session, dealing with slum clearance, as well as the amending Bill to the Pensions Act which has already been announced. But of even more direct concern to the National Union will be the Factories Bill. The Home Secretary has already agreed to receive a Deputation of Women's Societies organised by the N.U.S.E.C., when the principle that regulations regarding the protection of workers should be based not upon sex, but upon the nature of the occupation, will be laid before him.

#### Nationality of Married Women.

Apart from work in connection with the Government Bills, the National Union is working for the introduction of a Private Members Bill on the Nationality of Married Women. As readers of this Journal will know, a Conference is to be held at the Hague next Spring, under the auspices of the League of Nations, to consider the codification of international law. The women of this country are particularly anxious that this Conference should support the claim of women that on marriage a woman should have the right to retain or change her nationality at will. As British women at present lose their nationality on marriage to an alien, we are particularly anxious that a Bill amending this law should be carried through as soon as possible. Miss Ellen Wilkinson is hoping to introduce such a Bill.

#### Other Bills promoted by the National Union.

Lord Astor proposes to re-introduce in the House of Lords his Wills and Intestacies (and Families Maintenance) Bill shortly. It will be remembered that he originally introduced this Bill at the request of the N.U.S.E.C., and that it aims at securing for the dependents of Testators maintenance from the Estate in cases where, by the Will, the dependents are overlooked or are inadequately provided for. England is one of the few countries where the wife or husband or children can thus be overlooked by the other spouse or the parent. The difficulty does not arise in Scotland, where the law is based upon the old Roman Law. The National Union also hopes to have a Women Jurors Bill introduced, which will disallow the challenging of a Juror on the ground of sex alone, and prevent the appointment of a Jury consisting of one sex only. It also proposes to increase the number of women available for Jury service by making a married woman liable if her husband is liable.

#### Town Council Elections.

As a result of the alterations in the administration of the Poor Law brought about by the last Government's Local Government Act, a very large number of women at present acting as Poor Law Guardians will no longer be able to do so, as the Poor Law work has been transferred to the local Councils. The National Union, therefore, has been stressing more strongly than ever the need for more women on Town Councils, and, for the elections which take place early in November, issued a Manifesto calling attention to those functions of the Councils which more particularly require the co-operation of women.

#### ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

Our Annual Mass for deceased members, associates, and benefactors of the Alliance will be offered at St. Patrick's Church, Soho, on Sunday, November 3rd, at 10-30.

At the Rendezvous Restaurant on November 19th we will give a dinner to two of our international members, Mademoiselle Lenoël, Hon. Secretary of the Orleans Suffrage Society, and Mrs. de Fonseka who has promised to speak on the position of women in Ceylon. Our chairman, Miss C. M. Gordon will preside. Any members of the I.W.S.A. from abroad who happen to be in London will be welcome at the dinner.

## HOLLAND.

Ten years ago, on the 8th of September, 1919, the Act for Equal Woman's Suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies was passed. Several suggestions were made as how to celebrate the Jubilee this year, but the death of our Hon. President and leader, Dr. Aletta Jacobs, made it necessary to postpone the planned festivities to a later occasion.

As the Annual General Meeting of the Ned. Vereeniging van Staatsburgeressen synchronized with the 10th Anniversary, the President, Mrs. Cohen Tervaert, summarized in her opening speech what these ten years of equal citizenship have given to the Dutch woman. The number of women on local government bodies is steadily increasing and there is a small but select number of women M.P.'s supporting their aims.

Mrs. Bakker Nort, M.P., Vice Chairman, retraced in particular the struggle for the reform of the Civil Code. Only a very few favourable changes have been made so far, but there is no reaction in the progress of woman suffrage, there is only advance, not often very fast, but advance. Both speakers moved the resolution adopted at the Berlin Congress that in countries where the vote is won it is essential, in order to achieve full equality of opportunity between men and women, for non-party feminist organisations to continue to exist, in order to exert full influence on the government, political parties and on the Press and to educate the women voters. This resolution was carried unanimously by the meeting.

The annual meeting was attended by a large number of delegates and members of the local branches. Particular interest was given to the question of a possible amalgamation of the Unie van Vrouwenbelangen and de Vereeniging van Staatsburgeressen. Both Executives are studying this rather difficult problem as each society has its different tradition and character. A definite decision in this matter will be taken in the course of 1930. With great pleasure we welcomed Mrs. Corbett Ashby who came over by aeroplane to attend the evening memorial service for Dr. Aletta Jacobs. Mrs. Ashby took an active part in the discussion and made some very useful suggestions for which we heartily thank her.

The meeting unanimously adopted a resolution pressing the government again to nominate a woman delegate to the Codification Conference in 1930 at the Hague, and to bring forward our wishes that marriage shall bring no change in the nationality of women. Mrs. Corbett Ashby then pointed out that the "Committee of the Nationality of the Married Woman" of the Alliance will hold a demonstration on the Nationality of the Married Woman and said the Vereeniging van Staatsburgeressen and the Unie voor Vrouwenbelangen could be of great service to the Alliance in helping to prepare material. Mrs. Bakker Nort, the representative in that Committee for Holland, accepted responsibility for the preparatory work, assisted by Miss Manus, the 2nd Vice-Chairman of the Alliance.

Mrs. Polak-Kiek, vice-president of the Amsterdam branch, gave an explanation of her attempts to secure more youth in our movement. She led a special youth section in Amsterdam last winter, and held special lectures for young students, young business women, etc., on marriage laws, equal moral standard and other important subjects.

Miss Clara Meyers, the treasurer of the Vereeniging van Staatsburgeressen gave a wonderful address on behalf of Youth and Labour, but as we think this article is so especially good, we will try and have it translated into English and included in the next number of Jus.

A very great number of friends gathered on the evening of the 5th of October to honour the great leader Dr. Jacobs.

Mrs. Cohen Tervaert spoke in moving words of

Dr. Jacob's work and her ideas with regard to the future. She would have been the last to agree that the present state of our cause was the end of our work. With the inspiration derived from her own life, it is for the younger women to carry out the duty of seeing that the best use is made of the vote which we greatly owe to her indefatigable endeavour.

Miss Manus spoke as her friend and companion on International meetings for the last twenty years. She showed us Aletta Jacobs in the light of the never-tired, ever-ready attendant of International Congresses. No hour was too late, none too early when she saw a possibility of serving her ideals. Through the power of her eloquence she won many others for the cause and we all saw before our mental eyes the picture of Aletta Jacobs driving through London at 6 a.m. on the top of an omnibus to see her English suffragette friends released from prison.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby spoke in the name of the Alliance and expressed the sympathies of the different Auxiliaries. Dr. Jacobs' death is felt as an international loss. None of her fellow workers will ever forget how she fought against prejudice with a burning faith. She will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her and still more by those who had the privilege of counting themselves amongst her personal friends.

Mrs. Bakker Nort showed us what women have attained within 10 years of enfranchisement under the leadership of Dr. Jacobs. There are only a few reforms won, only a few favourable changes made as yet, but this shows us how necessary it is for us to continue her work. She put us in the right way and following it we shall not fail to achieve our object.

Mrs. Doorman-Kielstra had warm words of thanks for the work done by Dr. Jacobs in the National Council of Women.

Miss Groot showed us Aletta Jacobs as a pacifist. Having always been on the side of the weak and oppressed it was no wonder that the world war made Aletta an ardent pacifist. After the International Congress of Women in 1915 at the Hague she was among the delegates who had a mission to the governments regarding peace. She visited the governments of the Netherlands, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, France, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland in order to plead for the resolutions adopted at the Congress.

Miss Groot ended by saying that though the beloved leader had gone for ever, we should remain faithful to her ideals.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

### NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS.

Miss Beatrice Pitney, who is assistant director of the Department of International Co-operation to Prevent War of the National League of Women Voters, contributes these impressions of a conference held in a country in which women are still far from political and legal equality.

"As another indication of the interest being taken by the women of the world in the problem of the good relations between countries, this summer's Seminar in Mexico is of considerable significance.

"This unofficial conference was held under the auspices of a group of prominent citizens of the United States known as the 'Committee on Cultural Relations with Latin America.' The purpose of the Seminar was to enable the group of Americans who attended it to come to a clearer understanding of present-day Mexico,

along political, economic and cultural lines. Among the lecturers were prominent officials of the Mexican government, such as Gomez Marin, President of the Bank of Mexico; Marti Gomez, Secretary of Agriculture, and Moises Saenz, Under-Secretary of Education. Distinguished artists, such as Chavez, the Conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra, and Diego Rivera, Mexico's outstanding painter, also addressed the Seminar. Although the lectures took place in Mexico City, the Conference also included trips to other parts of Mexico, and even into rural districts, in order to give the visitors from the United States an opportunity of seeing Mexican life in all its phases.

"The Seminar was not organized solely for the benefit of women, but the women who attended it outnumbered the men, and they took the leading role in many of its meetings. Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Catherine Waugh McCulloch, a prominent lawyer of Chicago, a small committee was formed to make a special study of the educational movement in Mexico. This committee made special trips to many of the new Rural Schools which the Mexican government has recently opened in the back-country regions in its effort to decrease illiteracy and provide some basis for stable democracy. This committee also visited the new Rural Normal Schools, where teachers for the Rural Schools are being trained, one of the Modern Agricultural Schools, an outdoor school of painting for Indian boys and the House of the Indian Student, through which the government hopes to bring the fifty separate Indian tribes into closer cultural relations with the rest of Mexico.

"As a result of these investigations, Mrs. McCulloch's committee found that the educational programme of the present government is of such far-reaching significance in the building up of a more stable Mexico that it deserves greater recognition abroad than it has yet received.

"Another woman who played an important part in the conference was Mrs. Bessie Bloom Wessel, of Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut. Under her leadership a special group was formed to make a study of the religious problem in Mexico, especially with regard to the relations between the government and the Catholic Church. When the Seminar met, the controversy between church and state which had dragged on for two years and created much bitter feeling in both camps, had just been brought to a close. A compromise agreement had been reached whereby the government allowed church services to be conducted, provided that the priest registered their names with the government. Mrs. Wessel's study group investigated the situation created by the Church-State agreement in order to discover how satisfactory it was to both parties, and whether or not it gave hope of permanent religious peace. Mrs. Wessel secured for her group an interview with the Archbishop of Mexico, with numerous other important Catholics, and, also, with men representing the government side of the question.

"Another group of women, under the leadership of Dr. Charles Fenwick, of Bryn Mawr College, studied public health conditions in Mexico. They visited a number of clinics and hospitals, but unfortunately were forced to report that public health in Mexico is still in a deplorable condition.

"The women who attended the Seminar thus performed a valuable service by widening the scope of the conference so that it included, not merely a consideration of political and economic factors, but also of those more fundamental human questions which a Seminar composed only of men might have tended to neglect. It is to be hoped that next year's 'Seminar in Mexico' will be attended by women, not only from the United States, but also from Europe."

SECTION FRANÇAISE.  
CHRONIQUE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DES  
NATIONS.

Les questions féministes à la Conférence Internationale du Travail (Session Maritime).

Nous ne chômons jamais en matière de révisions internationales à Genève. L'Assemblée plénière de la Société des Nations a clôturé ses travaux le 25 septembre, et dès le 10 octobre s'est ouverte la IX<sup>e</sup> session de la Conférence Internationale du Travail, qui amène un déploiement de forces internationales presque aussi considérables, ceci sans parler des nombreuses séances de Commissions de la S.D.N. qui ont eu lieu dans l'intervalle, et de Conférences privées, comme celle qui ont tenue en commun immédiatement avant la Conférence Internationale du Travail la Ligue des Croix-Rouges, l'Union Internationale contre le Pêchier vénérien, et d'autres Associations d'hygiène sociale sur l'Hygiène et le Bien-Être dans la Marine marchande.

Il aurait pu paraître à première vue que cette session de la Conférence du Travail, étant consacrée uniquement aux questions du travail maritime, les femmes n'auraient pas eu à s'en occuper spécialement puisqu'il s'agit là d'un travail en quelque sorte exclusivement masculin. Nos lecteurs qui ont assisté au Congrès de Berlin savent qu'il n'en est rien, et que l'une des propositions formulées par une Sous-Commission avait soulevé une grosse émotion dans les milieux féministes et abolitionnistes: il s'agit de la Recommandation A.6, qui proposait, comme l'un des moyens de préserver les marins en séjour dans les ports contre la contagion des maladies vénériennes, d'instituer un contrôle médical des femmes qui ont des rapports illégitimes avec des marins. C'était revenir en quelque sorte au système antique, inefficace, et injuste de la prostitution réglementée, et c'était d'autre part établir une contradiction directe avec l'action de la S.d.N. en ce domaine. Aussi est-ce avec une grande satisfaction que nous toutes, qui avions voté par l'intermédiaire de différentes Associations, des résolutions contre cette Recommandation A.6 (je rappelle notamment notre Résolution III.1 de Berlin), avons pris connaissance du chapitre consacré à cette question dans le Rapport préparatoire à la Conférence, dit "Rapport gris," et dans lequel le Bureau International du Travail exprime catégoriquement une opinion si fortement motivée contre cette Recommandation qu'aucune de nous n'aurait rien pu désirer y ajouter. Il y a là une mise au point si parfaitement claire des principes modernes en cette matière que nous pouvons en remercier le Directeur du B. I. T., M. Albert Thomas, dont l'inspiration se fait nettement sentir ici. En outre, cette Recommandation n'a pas figuré dans les conclusions préparées par le B. I. T. pour servir de base à la discussion de la Conférence, ce qui fait que la question n'a même pas été soulevée: on n'en a pas parlé et on n'en parlera pas. C'est un point capital acquis dans la lutte à mener encore à travers le monde contre cet odieux et inutile système.

Une autre des Recommandations proposées par la Sous-Commission pour l'amélioration des conditions de séjour des marins dans les ports a également, quoique plus tardivement, retenu l'attention des organisations féministes: c'est la Recommandation A.5, qui, dans le chapitre consacré à la réglementation des hôtels et débits de boissons, était formulée comme suit:

"Interdiction d'employer des femmes comme serveuses dans les établissements où l'on vend des boissons alcoolisées."

Alors que, sur l'autre Recommandation, l'unanimité s'était faite dans tous les milieux féminins et médicaux, celle-ci a, au contraire, soulevé de vives discussions, et nous avons entendu des femmes dont l'opinion compte en matière de moralité publique, comme des médecins spécialistes de maladies vénériennes, en soutenir la valeur. Notre confrère féministe *La Française* du

12 octobre a publié également à ce sujet une lettre d'une mère de famille qui applaudissait à cette mesure, dans laquelle elle voyait, un peu naïvement, le salut moral de tous les hommes fréquentant des cafés et des bars, par la suppression totale du personnel féminin. Notre opinion à nous est toute différente: nous ne croyons pas en effet que, et indépendamment du principe auquel nous tenons très fort du droit au travail de la femme, on puisse remédier à un mal social par la suppression de ce que l'on estime être la cause du mal, quand il s'agit d'être humains. Que l'on interdise la vente et l'emploi de la cocaïne, de l'absinthe: pleinement d'accord, ce sont des choses. Que l'on interdise à des enfants le travail avant un certain âge: pleinement d'accord aussi, ce sont des mineurs qu'il faut protéger. Mais que, pour protéger des hommes parce qu'ils ne savent pas se contrôler eux-mêmes (ce qui serait leur meilleure protection!), on raie ainsi de la circulation de la vie économique toute une catégorie d'être humains, dont le métier n'est pas immoral en lui-même, c'est ce que nous n'admettrons jamais, et contre quoi nous ne cesserons de lutter.

Ce sont des idées, comme celle de l'inefficacité complète de la mesure proposée, que l'Alliance a exposées au Directeur du B. I. T. lors de l'entrevue que quelques-uns des membres de son Comité ont eue avec lui à Genève en septembre. Ensuite, notre Présidente a adressé une circulaire à toutes nos Sociétés affiliées d'Europe pour leur demander d'agir dans le même sens auprès de leurs gouvernements respectifs,\* alors que de Genève même, il était envoyé une lettre à tous les délégués et à tous les membres de la III<sup>e</sup> Commission qui avait cette question à son ordre du jour, ainsi qu'une autre à M. Albert Thomas, que nous reproduisons ci-après, estimant utile, puisqu'il s'est trouvé des membres de l'Alliance sympathiques à cette Recommandation, de faire valoir au long tous nos motifs d'opposition.

Genève, le 9 octobre, 1929.

Monsieur Albert Thomas, Directeur du Bureau International du Travail.

Monsieur le Directeur,

Faisant suite à l'entrevue que quelques membres du Comité Exécutif de l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage et l'Action civique et politique des Femmes ont eue l'honneur d'avoir avec vous, il y a peu de semaines, je viens tout d'abord vous exprimer nos vifs remerciements pour la façon si nette dont le Bureau International du Travail a, dans le Rapport gris préparatoire à la Conférence Internationale du Travail, Session Maritime, pris position contre le contrôle médical des femmes qui, dans les ports, ont avec les marins des relations illégitimes (Recommandation A.6.). Nous savons tout le poids de l'opinion ainsi exprimée par le B.I.T., et sommes certaines, que, si comme nous avons lieu de l'espérer, cette Recommandation est écartée par la Conférence, nous le devons certainement pour une majeure part à la position prise par le B.I.T.

En revanche, nous sommes obligées d'élever une protestation contre la Recommandation A.5, qui prévoit l'interdiction d'employer des femmes comme serveuses dans les établissements où l'on sert des boissons alcoolisées. Nous déplorons tout spécialement ce que figure à l'ordre du jour d'une session de la Conférence à laquelle les femmes n'ont aucun moyen de faire entendre directement leur voix et leur opinion, comme cela a été le cas dans d'autres sessions auxquelles ont participé des femmes, cette proposition que nous estimons à la fois inefficace et injuste. Inefficace en raison de ses difficultés presque insurmontables d'application pratique: comment en effet pourra-t-on empêcher des marins, qui voudront se trouver avec des femmes dans des bars d'amener avec eux celles qu'ils auront rencontrées dans le rue? ou de fréquenter des établisse-

\* Le Groupement belge pour l'affranchissement de la Femme, qui est affilié à l'Alliance, et l'Open Door Council ont également adressé au Président de la Conférence une protestation contre cette Résolution A. 5.

ments situés dans d'autres quartiers? et ne sera-t-on pas ainsi amené, si on veut essayer de rendre cette interdiction opérante à l'étendre à tous les établissements où peuvent se vendre des boissons alcoolisées, ce qui dans les grands ports de mer, comme Marseille, Gênes, Hambourg, etc., signifierait simplement l'exclusion des femmes d'une profession, puisque les restaurants de tout ordre, même ceux des hôtels, devront alors forcément tomber sous le coup de cette disposition. Or, nous estimons parfaitement injuste que fussent ainsi privées de leur gagne-pain toute une catégorie de travailleuses, dont on ne peut dire comme on l'affirme des serveuses des bars qu'une forte majorité entre elles sont des prostituées. D'ailleurs, même si l'on croyait pouvoir limiter efficacement cette interdiction aux serveuses des bars, nous ne saurions admettre que, parce que des statistiques établissent qu'elles sont pour une forte proportion des prostituées, elles soient ainsi frappées d'une interdiction dans l'exercice d'un autre métier, qui en lui-même n'est immoral que par la faute des hommes qui fréquentent ces établissements.

Que des abus graves se soient produits auxquels il faut parer, nous sommes pleinement d'accord. Mais nous voyons à cela d'autres remèdes que celui qui consiste à priver de son droit au travail tout un élément féminin. Nous voyons ces remèdes dans une réglementation stricte de tous les établissements où se débitent des boissons (Recommandations A.2, 3 et 4). Nous les voyons également dans la proposition formulée au mois de mars dernier par le Comité finlandais pour la Protection des marins d'interdire l'emploi de femmes et d'enfants au dessous de 18 ans, protection de la jeunesse des deux sexes infiniment plus facile à faire appliquer, et que se justifie d'elle-même. Nous les voyons enfin dans des mesures constructives beaucoup plus efficaces pour combattre le mal que des dispositions restrictives, soit par un système moderne de protection des marins (création de salles communes, avec restaurants, bibliothèques, cinémas, places de jeu et de sport, etc., etc.) brefs de lieux de rencontres et de récréation, comme il en existe déjà dans nombre de grands ports de mer, et qui peuvent faire une concurrence effective aux bars et autres établissements. Et nous demandons que les Commissions chargées de créer et de diriger ces diverses institutions comprennent aussi des femmes, comme le demandait la Recommandation A.1. ce qui a malheureusement omis de rappeler le programme établi par le B.I.T. dans le Rapport gris pour la création d'une vaste organisation nationale et internationale ayant pour objet le bien-être des gens de mer. Nous ne pensons pas qu'il soit nécessaire d'insister ici sur l'influence bienfaisante que peuvent exercer des femmes dans ce domaine, et c'est pourquoi nous demandons que le texte adopté stipule expressément cette disposition.

Nous vous serions reconnaissantes, Monsieur le Directeur, de bien vouloir communiquer cette lettre, comme vous nous l'avez nous-même proposé lors de l'entrevue que nous avons eu avec vous, au Président de la Conférence, afin que celle-ci ait ainsi connaissance comme telle de l'opinion des femmes groupées dans notre Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage et l'Action civique et politique des Femmes sur les points si importants touchés ci-dessus. Nous vous remercions très-vivement d'avance de la bienveillance avec laquelle vous voudrez bien accueillir notre demande, et nous vous prions de croire à l'assurance de notre considération très-distinguée.

Pour l'Alliance etc., etc.,  
(Signé) EMILIE GOURD,  
La Secrétaire générale.

Cette lettre a été communiquée officiellement par le B.I.T. à tous les délégués et à la presse. Il est juste d'ailleurs de relever que déjà le rapport gris du B.I.T. indiquait (nous citons textuellement p. 27) qu'on "ne peut méconnaître les difficultés de principe et d'application auxquelles risqueraient de se heurter l'inter-

diction totale de l'emploi des femmes," et signalait à titre "d'interventions possibles pour faire disparaître les abus les plus graves" la proposition finlandaise, à laquelle nous avions déclaré nous rallier, d'interdire simplement l'emploi des femmes et des enfants au-dessous de 18 ans. Et dès le début des travaux de la III<sup>e</sup> Commission, on a bien senti dans quelle atmosphère, due certainement pour une bonne part à l'opinion du B.I.T., allaient se dérouler les débats. Il est vrai qu'un délégué ouvrier hollandais déclara que, malgré la lettre de l'Alliance, il était partisan de l'interdiction de l'emploi des serveuses, "parce qu'il faut protéger les femmes contre elles-mêmes," mais d'autre part un des conseillers techniques à la délégation gouvernementale espagnole, Don Pedro Sangro y Ros de Olano, qui est aussi délégué gouvernemental à la Commission contre la Traite de la S.d.N. fit deux déclarations empreintes du véritable esprit féministe, une première fois quand il releva qu'une des gloires à son avis de la S.d.N. est d'avoir, dans l'art. 7 du Pacte, stipulé que femmes et hommes sont sur un pied d'égalité, et en second lieu, quand il protesta contre la discussion de cette mesure touchant au travail féminin, alors qu'aucune femme ne siégeait à la Commission ou à la Conférence pour défendre le point de vue des femmes dans un domaine si important. Don Pedro proposa en conséquence de ne pas traiter cette question-là dans cette Conférence: proposition repoussée par 12 voix contre 6, mais qui montre chez quelques délégués une compréhension malheureusement trop souvent rare du véritable esprit d'équité. Puis, un délégué ouvrier suédois, M. Ring proposa le texte suivant pour remplacer celui de la Recommandation A.5:

"Interdiction de l'emploi dans les débits de boissons de personnes des deux sexes au-dessous d'un certain âge,"

texte appuyé par le délégué finlandais, M. Ramsay, qui remarqua que les femmes étant partout employées dans les débits de boissons dans les pays du Nord, le gouvernement finlandais n'accepterait en tout cas pas la Recommandation A.5. Et après un bref échange de vues, le texte de M. Ring fut adopté à l'unanimité par la III<sup>e</sup> Commission en deux lectures. Au moment où nous écrivons cet article, le rapport de la III<sup>e</sup> Commission n'a pas encore été présenté à la Conférence siégeant *in pleno*, mais comme on n'a jamais vu une Conférence rejeter ou modifier un texte voté à l'unanimité par une Commission, nous pouvons être tranquilles et considérer la question comme réglée.

Et nous pouvons être aussi extrêmement satisfaites, car le texte adopté est plus féministe dans sa rédaction précise que celui de la proposition finlandaise, et pose ainsi nettement le principe auquel nous tenons. D'autre part, nous croyons savoir que la protestation formulée par M. Sangro, et que relevait également notre lettre à M. Thomas, sera retenue, et que l'on examinera la question de la représentation féminine à la prochaine Session maritime de la Conférence, qui aura à adopter une Convention internationale sur toutes les questions déterminées par cette Conférence-ci. Ce sera alors l'affaire de nos Associations féministes nationales de veiller à ce que, soit leurs gouvernements respectifs, soit les Associations professionnelles de patrons et d'ouvriers nationales, délèguent à Genève des femmes capables, bien au courant des problèmes traités, et pouvant vraiment représenter les intérêts professionnels féminins en jeu.

Quant à la demande que les Commissions à créer pour s'occuper d'institutions sociales de bien-être des marins dans les ports comprennent aussi des femmes, elle a trouvé sa réponse dans le texte de la conclusion A.1., qui fait une place dans ces organisations aux représentants des institutions reconnues intéressées, sans mention de sexe. Il sera dès lors loisible aux Associations féminines qui ont ces activités à leur programme de demander, le moment voulu, leur représentation.

Ajoutons enfin que la Conférence des organisations

privées que nous avons mentionnée plus haut sur l'Hygiène et le Bien-être dans la Marine marchande a voté une Résolution appuyant le point de vue du B. I. T., sur le contrôle médical des femmes et demandant la collaboration des Associations féminines aux œuvres de protection sociale en faveur des marins dans les ports. Nous savons aussi que, s'il se trouvait de ses membres qui étaient partisans de l'interdiction de l'emploi de serveuses dans les bars, d'autres étaient personnellement opposés à cette mesure. On peut ainsi se rendre compte de l'intérêt qu'ont éveillé dans des milieux tout autres que nos milieux féministes les problèmes féministes soulevés cette session de la Conférence du travail.

Genève, le 22 octobre, 1929.

E. G. D.

#### EXTRAIT DU RAPPORT PRESENTE AU XXVIIe CONGRES DE LA PAIX, ATHENES, OCT., 1929.

par Mme. Avra Theodoropoulou.

L'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage et l'Action civique et politique des femmes, que j'ai l'honneur de représenter à ce Congrès, avait décidé, lors de son Congrès à Rome en 1923, de s'occuper tout particulièrement des problèmes de la paix et d'ajouter ainsi aux efforts qui se groupaient déjà dans le monde entier pour combattre le fléau de la guerre, ceux des forces féminines.

Au Congrès de Paris, en 1926, une Commission permanente de la Paix fut instituée, qui s'est mise à étudier les problèmes de la Paix les plus graves en organisant une Conférence d'études à Amsterdam en 1927. En adhérant aujourd'hui au Congrès Universel de la Paix, l'Alliance s'associe au mouvement de coordination des forces pacifistes organisé par le Bureau International de la Paix. Je voudrais seulement informer le Congrès de l'importance que l'Alliance reconnaît au Pacte Kellogg par le vœu suivant voté unanimement au dernier Congrès de Berlin: "que par la ratification rapide du Pacte de Paris par tous les Etats, le caractère criminel de la guerre soit définitivement et universellement reconnu, et que les Etats en acceptent toutes les conséquences politiques et juridiques."

C'est dans le sens de ce vœu que nous suivons de près toutes les suggestions proposées par des personnalités éminentes pour arriver à rendre du Pacte Kellogg une force efficace. Et nous avons porté un intérêt spécial aux suggestions du Professeur Scelle, sur la nécessité de l'institution d'un organe de haute juridiction à l'intérieur de chaque Etat, auquel tout citoyen ou groupe de citoyens pourraient dénoncer tout acte illégal d'un gouvernement, tendant à déchaîner des conflits entre nations.

Je ne permets toutefois de remarquer que ces suggestions, seraient irréalisables dans la plupart des pays, où les gouvernements, dès qu'ils croient apercevoir la nécessité de mobilisation, estiment avoir le droit de prendre des mesures d'oppression contre toute opposition et trouvent toujours le moyen de donner un caractère légal à ces mesures. J'estime donc que, comme complément aux propositions du Professeur Scelle, le Congrès de la Paix pourrait adopter un vœu basé sur le principe de la résolution votée par l'Alliance au Congrès de Berlin, condamnant toute mesure d'oppression, économique, militaire, politique et intellectuelle.

#### NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

##### Autriche.

Professor Dr. Elise Richter, Présidente de l'Association des femmes diplômées de l'Université fut la première femme honorée du titre de Professor par l'Université de Vienne; une seconde femme vient d'obtenir ce titre; c'est Dr. Charlotte Bühler, connue par ses recherches psychologiques sur la mentalité de l'Enfant. Elle enseigne à l'Institut psychologique de l'Université de Vienne.

Pour la première fois en Autriche, une femme a été nommée "Regierungskommissar"; c'est Dr. Oda Negbauer, Dr. en Droit.

La première école des mères vient d'être fondée à Vienne. La fondatrice est la philanthropiste bien connue Luise Leithner, qui, pendant la guerre, avait fondé des Homes pour les enfants abandonnés. Après la guerre, elle fonda une société de secours pour les intellectuels.

La jeune biologiste viennoise, Dr. A. Jellinek, a fait, à l'Institut de psychologie, des recherches qui révolutionneront les connaissances sur les troubles de l'audition. (d'après G. Urban).

##### Grande Bretagne.

UNION NATIONALE DES SOCIETES POUR L'EGALITE CIVIQUE.—Service funèbre pour Dame Millicent Fawcett.—L'Union Nationale, de concert avec la Société nationale de Londres pour l'action civique des femmes, organise, pour la troisième semaine de Novembre, un service à l'Abbaye de Westminster, en souvenir de Dame M. Fawcett. Les suffragistes de passage à Londres, qui désirent y assister devront écrire à la Secrétaire: 15, Dean's Yard, London.

Au Parlement.—La rentrée du Parlement a eu lieu le 29 Octobre. Le programme n'est pas encore fixé, mais les féministes espèrent que le Bill sur les Logements insalubres et l'Acte sur les Pensions seront discutés en premier. Mais le Bill le plus important pour les femmes est le Bill sur le travail dans les usines. Pour ce dernier, le Ministre de l'Intérieur a déjà consenti à recevoir une délégation des Sociétés féministes qui soutiendront le principe que les règlements de protection des travailleurs doivent être basés, non pas sur le sexe, mais sur la nature du travail.

Nationalité des femmes mariées. L'Union Nationale travaille à faire introduire un Bill sur la nationalité des femmes mariées, en vue de la conférence qui aura lieu à La Haye au printemps prochain sous les auspices de la Ligue des Nations, pour établir un code international. Les féministes britanniques insisteront pour que les femmes aient le droit de conserver ou de changer leur nationalité. Comme les femmes britanniques perdent leur nationalité par le mariage avec un étranger, elles demanderont un amendement à cette loi. C'est Miss Ellen Wilkinson qui présentera le Bill.

Autres Bills demandés par L'Union Nationale.—Lord Astor réintroduira incessamment son Bill sur les Testaments et la Pension alimentaire. Ce Bill, réclamé par L'Union nationale, demande que l'Etat assure une pension suffisante à la femme et aux enfants du testateur au cas où son testament les a laissés sans ressources. L'Angleterre est un des rares pays où la femme et les enfants peuvent être laissés en dehors de la succession. L'Ecosse n'est pas dans le même cas, parce que son code est basé sur la loi romaine.

L'Union Nationale espère aussi obtenir un Bill sur l'entrée obligatoire des femmes dans les jurys.

Elections municipales.—Le dernier gouvernement ayant transféré la direction de l'Assistance publique aux conseils municipaux, beaucoup de femmes employées dans les services de l'Assistance devront cesser leurs fonctions. L'Union nationale réclame donc l'élection d'un plus grand nombre de femmes dans les conseils municipaux et leur coopération plus active dans les services de l'Assistance publique. Elle a envoyé un manifeste sur ce sujet pour les élections de Novembre.

##### Hollande.

Le 8 Septembre 1919, l'Acte sur l'égalité de suffrage et d'éligibilité fut publié. La mort de Dr. Aletta Jacob a empêché de commémorer cette date avec autant de joie qu'on l'avait espéré, elle le sera plus tard.

A l'Assemblée générale annuelle, la Présidente, Mme. Cohen Tervaert a résumé les progrès accomplis depuis cet acte mémorable. Le nombre des femmes dans les conseils municipaux augmente d'année en année et il y a un petit nombre de femmes au Parlement. Mme. Bakker Nort, membre du Parlement, a rappelé la lutte pour la réforme du Code civil. Il n'y a eu jusque main-

tenant qu'un petit nombre de réformes, mais il n'y a pas eu de recul dans les progrès féministes. L'Assemblée a résolu de maintenir, comme dans tous les pays ayant obtenu le suffrage, et d'après les conseils du Congrès de Berlin, les Sociétés féministes sans parti, de manière à exercer une influence sur le Gouvernement, sur les partis politiques et sur la Presse, et d'assurer l'éducation politique des électrices.

Mme. Corbett Ashby vint en aéroplane pour assister à cette assemblée, et au service en l'honneur d'Aletta Jacob.

L'Assemblée résolut d'exercer une pression sur le Gouvernement pour qu'il nomme un délégué à la conférence de codification internationale qui aura lieu en 1930 à La Haye, et d'y appuyer le vœu que le mariage n'apporte pas de changement dans la nationalité des femmes. Mme. Corbett Ashby annonça que le "Comité sur la Nationalité des femmes mariées" de l'Alliance internationale préparait une vaste démonstration et conseilla aux deux sociétés féministes de Hollande d'y prendre part. Mme. Bakker Nort a accepté de faire le travail préparatoire avec l'assistance de Mlle. Manus. Mme. Polak Kiek travaille à assurer aux sociétés féministes le concours des jeunes, elle fait de nombreuses causeries aux étudiantes et aux jeunes employées, etc., sur les lois du mariage, l'égalité de morale et autres sujets. Puis il y eut une grande réunion en l'honneur d'Aletta Jacob.

##### Iraq.

On peut dire que la guerre qui, grâce à Mustapha Kemal, a affranchi les femmes turques, n'a rien fait pour améliorer la position des femmes musulmanes de l'Iraq. Quelques-unes seulement des femmes des classes riches reçoivent une instruction élémentaire: lecture, écriture, quelques mots de français et d'anglais dans les écoles de missionnaires, mais aucune instruction véritable. Quant aux femmes des classes moyennes ou inférieures, non seulement elles sont complètement illettrées, mais elles n'ont pas les moindres notions d'hygiène. Une femme n'a pas de droits individuels; elle n'est qu'un rouage dans cette machine compliquée: la famille, et si elle cesse de plaire ou d'avoir des enfants, elle peut être répudiée comme inutile. Quant aux femmes turques qui habitent l'Iraq, elles ne se mêlent pas aux femmes de l'Iraq qu'elles considèrent comme d'une race inférieure et elles ne parlent même pas leur langage. Leur seule influence sur ces femmes est dans le costume.

Mais la guerre a eu ses conséquences: rapports plus étendus avec les autres pays, développement des moyens de communications avec les autres peuples, a fait sentir aux femmes de l'Iraq leur infériorité. De plus, les réformes faites en Turquie ont eu leur répercussion sur ce pays et l'introduction d'institutrices chrétiennes et musulmanes a fortement agi sur l'opinion publique.

Aussi, depuis quelques années, l'instruction des femmes a fait de grands progrès en Iraq, mais il reste encore un nombre important de femmes illettrées. Des institutions comme l'Ecole Centrale de jeunes filles de Bagdad et l'Ecole Normale en connexion avec elle, ont fourni un noyau de jeunes filles conscientes de l'état arriéré de leur pays, qui éveilleront l'idée de progrès dans l'esprit des nouvelles générations.

En outre, le féminisme en Iraq a ses pionnières. Il y a environ 5 ans, un certain nombre de femmes de Bagdad, dont la majorité étaient Musulmanes, décidèrent de former un club pour améliorer la situation des femmes en Iraq. L'âme de cette société était la soeur du poète Jemil Zahawi, femme très versée dans les littératures arabe et persane. L'objet du Club était encore vague et indéfini. Il se contentait d'organiser des causeries et de recevoir des femmes distinguées: Chrétiennes, musulmanes ou juives et la presse en parla. Ce fut un tollé chez les conservateurs. Mais le Club se défendit et il finit par être autorisé. Il prit le nom de "Club pour l'élevation des femmes," loua une maison et s'occupa de quelques orphelins. Une femme druse

Nur Hamadi, fondatrice de la Ligue des femmes mahometanes en Syrie vint encourager l'activité du club. Elle organisa un mouvement général dans les pays islamiques et des réunions eurent lieu alternativement en Egypte, Palestine, Syrie et Iraq.

Ce mouvement mérite d'être encouragé par toutes les femmes d'Occident. (d'après E. S. Stevens).

##### Indes.

Le 23 Septembre l'Assemblée législative des Indes a voté la loi sur le mariage par 67 voix contre 14. D'après cette loi, tous ceux qui bénissent un mariage où la jeune fille n'a pas atteint l'âge de 14 ans et le jeune homme l'âge de 18 ans, sont passibles d'une amende de 1000 roupies ou d'un emprisonnement d'un mois.

##### Canada.

Les femmes de Québec n'ayant pas encore le vote, Mme. John Scott, Présidente du Club féministe de Montréal, âgée de 75 ans, est montée en aéroplane et a jeté du haut des airs, des circulaires suffragistes. L'expédition eut un grand succès et provoqua de nombreux commentaires dans la presse.

##### Etats-Unis.

Une Conférence a eu lieu à Mexico sous les auspices d'un groupe de citoyens éminents des Etats-Unis, connu sous le nom de "Comité sur les relations culturelles avec l'Amérique latine." Parmi les orateurs, des personnages officiels du Mexique, comme Gomez Martin, président de la banque de Mexico et Moise Saenz, Secrétaire d'Etat pour l'Instruction publique, Chavez, chef d'orchestre, Diego Rivera, grand peintre, firent des discours importants. Puis une visite des districts ruraux permit aux délégués des Etats-Unis de connaître la vie mexicaine dans toutes ses phases.

La conférence n'était pas organisée spécialement pour les femmes, mais le nombre des femmes qui y prirent part surpassait celui des hommes. Sous la présidence de Mme. C. Waugh McCulloch, juriste éminente de Chicago, un petit comité se forma en vue d'étudier spécialement la question de l'Enseignement au Mexique. Ce Comité visita spécialement les nouvelles écoles rurales fondées par le gouvernement mexicain dans les régions les plus arriérées pour diminuer le nombre des illettrés et assurer les bases d'une démocratie stable. Ce Comité visita aussi les écoles normales rurales, une des écoles modernes d'agriculture, une école de peinture en plein air pour les enfants indiens et la maison des étudiants indiens, grâce auxquelles le gouvernement espère amener les 50 tribus séparées d'indiens en contact plus intime avec le reste du Mexique.

Ces visites permirent de constater que le programme d'enseignement du gouvernement actuel est d'une portée énorme pour l'organisation d'un état plus stable au Mexique et devrait être plus apprécié qu'il ne l'est à l'étranger.

Sous la direction de Mme. B. Bloom Wessel, un groupe fut organisé pour étudier le problème religieux au Mexique, spécialement en ce qui concerne les relations du gouvernement et de l'Eglise catholique. Après deux ans de lutte, un compromis a été signé, grâce auquel le gouvernement autorise les services religieux pourvu que les prêtres fassent enregistrer leurs noms. Mme. Wessel eut des entrevues avec l'Archevêque de Mexico, d'autres catholiques éminents et aussi des représentants du gouvernement. Elle ne nous donne pas le résultat de ces entrevues.

Un autre groupe de femmes, sous la direction du Dr. C. Fenwick, étudia l'état sanitaire au Mexique. Elles furent obligées de constater que cet état sanitaire est déplorable.

Espérons que l'année prochaine, des Européennes se joindront aux femmes des Etats-Unis dans cette visite instructive au Mexique. (d'après B. Pitney).

MADELEINE RUDLER.

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