

JUS SUFFRAGII,

MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

EDITOR: MARTINA G. KRAMERS, 92 KRUISKADE, ROTTERDAM.

FOURTH YEAR No. 3.

NOVEMBER 15, 1909.

In so far as with political equality between men and women an increment of force that makes for civilisation has come to the community, society will be richer for this reform and there will be more justice and happiness in life.

FREDERIKKE MÖRCK.



Dans l'état parlementaire, les élus, moins préoccupés d'équité que de réélection, gouvernement et légifèrent pour ceux dont ils sollicitent les suffrages: qui conque ne vote pas ne compte pas!

ANDRIEUX.

PRICE PER YEAR 2 DUTCH FLORINS (= 3 Sh. 6 d. = 0.82 § = 3 Kr. = 4.25 Frs. = 3½ Mk.)

Announcements.

The Report of the London Congress may be ordered from Mrs. Adela Stanton Coit, 30 Hyde Park Gate, London S. W. for 1 Shilling and 3 pence post paid. It contains the reports of the twenty-one auxiliaries and in addition those of Iceland and Poland; the proceedings; the resolutions; names and addresses of officers, committees, auxiliaries and Honorary Associates; an account of the social attractions of the congress; the President's address, etc. This pamphlet is one of our best means of propaganda, showing the actual state of the suffrage-problem, and should therefore be in the hands of every suffragist and every M. P. in the world.

A similar Report of the Amsterdam Congress may be distributed to public libraries, on application to Miss Martina G. Kramers, 92 Kruiskade, Rotterdam.

Auxiliaries are requested to make applications for any number not exceeding 50; those that come first will be helped first.

LECTURERS.

Miss Cicely Corbett, 75 Victoria Street, London S. W., is expected in Hungary in the end of January or the beginning of February.

* * *

Miss Rosika Schwimmer, temporary address: 92 Kruiskade Rotterdam, is going to lecture in Denmark and in Sweden from December 2nd.

Dear Correspondents and Readers!

Have you seen any mention made in the women's press of your country of my letter in the October-number, in which I announced our

French edition? I wrote to all the Presidents of our Auxiliaries to request them to have it published.

Our sisters in France have been most active, they secured 44 new subscribers, and what is better still, sent the subscription-fees. Will not all other nations follow this example? You must bear in mind that, although possibly you do not read French yourself, our suffrage news is now brought directly to those who only read that language, and that is a great advantage for the suffrage cause all over the world. And as for paying, I must tell you that over 200 old subscribers have failed to send the money for the third year, which is due since September. So that is all the more reason for not noting new subscribers unless on pre-payment.

I thank most heartily those who have sent their reports early, as there is much to be translated.*)

Yours sincerely,

Rotterdam, Nov. 11 1909. MARTINA G. KRAMERS.
Editor.

France.

Immediately after the close of the summer-holidays, the first official act of the N. W. S. A. was the spreading of the circular of which we reproduced the text in the last number of "Jus Suffragii". The circular, printed in 18,000 copies, has been addressed to different groups of women considered susceptible of interest in the suffrage question, for instance governesses of normal schools, lyceums and girls' colleges; women employees of post, telegraph and telephone, and also those who are known as social workers and philanthropists.

At the same time nearly 750 letters have been

*) Our Auxiliary for Germany having failed to send news, I cannot inform the readers of any events in that country.
EDITOR.

addressed to eminent men in France, in order to request them to give their opinion on the two questions, formulated after the recommendation of the I. W. S. Alliance. (In the business-meeting of May 3rd it was decided to issue a leaflet of opinions of eminent men. Ed.)

A great number of answers have come to hand, among which nearly sixty are in favour of woman suffrage, and among these some are real lawyers' consults on the question. So we decided to have them printed and issued as a leaflet to be used for propaganda among the legislators and also among the general public.

The interview accorded Mme Jeanne E. Schmahl by the Prime Minister was fully and extensively reported by the press. Not only the French papers but also many papers abroad, English, German and Italian, took it as an occasion to give detailed articles on woman suffrage, and mostly in a sympathetic strain.

The two illustrated women's magazines, "La Vie Heureuse" and "Femina" also publish articles in their November issues, giving photos of the interview of the President of the French Women Suffrage Association and the President of the French Cabinet, all in a spirit of cordiality and with favorable comments.

The declarations of membership continue to pour in regularly, but in small groups together; we may well say in this respect that little streamlets make great rivers, for the number of paying members (and we count no others) is actually above the membership of most of the old Societies for Women Suffrage.

The fact of the existence in France of so many different associations for suffrage, may be considered, after the standpoint of the observer, either as an advantage or as a disadvantage.

It is an advantage if we only wish to pay attention to the vitality of the idea of votes for women, for there is needed an enormous quantity of energy, activity and work for the formation of all those groups. But, from another standpoint, it seems regrettable to see the energies spreading instead of concentrating, and to state that this diversity makes on the general public the impression of division in the women's army.

Now in reality there is no division, since we have all the same object in view. And we are each and all equally sincere in our aspirations after a future of civil and political equality between the sexes.

What divides us is what divides men: that is party-politics.

The women lose precious time in grouping themselves after their political and religious opinions. They have not yet realized the futility of sustaining opinions which they have no effective means of carrying into effect, as long as they lack the right to vote.

Let us first fight for the vote, we can see afterwards which side to strengthen by the use of the ballot which we shall possess.

JEANNE E. SCHMAHL.

Paris, November 1909.

The idea of the enfranchisement of women is making visible progress in our country. For the first time the question has been introduced in the Chamber of Deputies by Mr. Marcel Sembat M.P. on the occasion of a discussion on electoral reform. And Mr. Fallières, the President of the Republic, in his address to the Educational League (Ligue de l'Enseignement) declared himself in favour of equal rights for men and women.

[The "Gaulois", a clerical paper, reports his words as follows: "I am of those who hold that women should be treated on a footing of equality with men; and if the law has not yet sanctioned that equality, I hope that in future this discrimination will disappear". Editor.]

The President of the National Woman Suffrage Association, Mrs. Jeanne E. Schmahl, has been requested by the Free College of Social Science (collège libre des sciences sociales) to give a conference on Women's Civil and Political Rights. Besides this institution it has on its programme a series of lectures on subjects of social interest for women.

Another society, the Woman Suffrage Association of Mme Hubertine Auclert, sent a delegation to the Chamber, bearing a petition signed by three thousand persons. This petition presented to two Members of Parliament, Mrs. Sembat and Louis Marin, was deposited by them on the bureau of the Chamber, and thereby proposed for discussion.

The propaganda made for the French edition of "Jus Suffragii" on behalf of the French Woman Suffrage Association by the Paper "La Française" is going on apace and not without bringing results. The edition of December is assured and nearly also that of January. [Let us hope that other French-speaking countries show a similar energy for the common cause! Editor.]

The course of lectures of the club "La Française" on the History and Principles of the Women's Movement has begun very successfully by a conference from Mr. Léon Cahen, Professor at the University, on Condorcet. The lecture exposed the arguments of the great philosopher in favour of woman suffrage. The twelve lectures which will constitute the course are each to be given by a different speaker. They will be published in a volume in May 1910. Subscriptions for this report at 3.90 frs. are received from now at 49 rue Lafitte, Paris.

JANE MISME.

Paris, November 1909.

The Congrès Permanent du Féminisme International will hold its session devoted to the inquiry into the actual position of women with respect to their municipal rights on November 26, at eight o'clock in the club "La Française", 49 rue Lafitte. Up to now reports have been received from Russia, Norway, Sweden, Holland, Poland, Lithuania, Silesia and Galicia. Mrs. Misme will speak on the bill introduced in the Chamber of Deputies by Mr. Dussaussoy. Communications from abroad should be addressed to the General Secretary,

Mrs. ORKA.

Paris, November 1909. 28 rue de Penthièvre.

At Vienne on October 17 the Mayor, Mr. Brenier, presented to the Socialist M.P. Mr. Jaurès, at his reception in the Town Hall, Mrs. Pellet-Finet, secretary of the Group of University Alumnae of Isère, and Mme Claudette Coste, member of the Trade Board (prud'hommes) at Vienne. Mr. Jaurès asked to be informed of the women's claims and wishes. In his evening speech he made the following declaration:

"Not as a matter of gallantry, but as I am convinced that this forms part of the social question,

I will now particularly address the women here present.

"They too have numerous rights to conquer. How many unfortunate women from factories have to begin another task after their working day at the factory, and toil again at home!

"The women have the right and the duty to urge the solution of the question of their economical and social position.

"We shall take our stand by the side of the valiant women workers who rise to claim economical and political equality with men.

"Since there are numerous feminists in Isère, I hold it my duty to encourage them to hasten the hour when complete equality of rights for men and women shall be proclaimed".

M. G. K.

Great Britain.

For the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies the month has not been without important events in the suffrage movement. The National Union at the beginning of the month issued a statement condemning the use of violence in political propaganda and also condemning the fashion in which the Government have dealt or failed to deal with the whole suffrage movement. Mr. Asquith's final refusal to receive a deputation of constitutional suffragists has indeed roused deep indignation amongst voteless women, just as the attempt of militant suffragists to invalidate the recent parliamentary election in London by destroying ballot-papers has roused deep indignation amongst men electors. On the whole it would be difficult to prophesy the immediate future of the movement. Politically—in the House of Commons at least—we seem rather at a standstill, yet in the country at large, our cause is winning numbers of converts. The General Election which is almost fixed for the second week in January next, will we hope show how great this conversion is, for one of our aims will be to make this struggle over the Budget (for that will be the most prominent issue of the Election) serve also as a kind of referendum on the suffrage. It is going to be also a great test of the party woman, and the question which shall they choose, suffrage or party, will be a test the severity of which at such a crisis must not be underrated.

We are busy now preparing for the General Election and gathering our forces together. Our hundred and three societies are all busy organising and we expect to have many more before the end of the year.

MARION PHILLIPS.

London, November 1909.

Last month the Women's Social and Political Union spoke of the attempt made by the Government to break down the resistance of the imprisoned suffragettes, who had adopted the hunger-strike as a protest against the action taken by the Government. This abominable outrage of forcible feeding has not had the slightest effect upon the determination of the women, for the authorities have been compelled to forcibly feed not only the ten women then in Winson Green Gaol three times a day until the end of their sentences, but have had to carry out the same process upon the 34 arrested subsequently. At Manchester, Newcastle, Berwick, Dundee and Radcliffe demonstrations were made during the progress of meet-

ings addressed by Cabinet Ministers, and, as a result of these demonstrations, a large number of women were arrested and sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from ten days to one month's hard labour. Among the more notable of the women imprisoned were Lady Constance Lytton, and Mrs. Brailsford, the wife of the well-known journalist.

Some of the women in their attempts to prevent the doctors from committing the outrage of forcible feeding upon them, barricaded their cells, so preventing the authorities from entering, and in one case, that of Miss Davison (a school teacher) the prison authorities tried to break down her resistance by turning a hose-pipe upon her for the space of several minutes. This extraordinary conduct had the effect of arousing a storm of indignation and protest throughout England, and when questioned in the House of Commons the following day, the Home Secretary, Mr. Herbert Gladstone, apologised for the occurrence, and announced the discharge of the brave woman in question.

Meanwhile the health of one of the women in Winson Green Gaol, Mrs. Mary Leigh (the wife of a working man) had become so seriously endangered by the repeated feeding by force, that the authorities were obliged to release her six weeks after she had entered the prison. Mrs. Leigh thus served only about half of the sentence that had been meted out to her, which was intended to be one of 4 months.

The Women's Social and Political Union took a prominent part in the bye-election in South London which has taken place this month. They opened committee rooms in the heart of the constituency and held some twenty or thirty meetings daily. The men and women of Bermondsey received them enthusiastically, and their meetings were always attended by crowded and attentive audiences. One of the most striking features of the campaign was the exhibition by the suffragettes of a colored poster, entitled "Forcible Feeding", illustrating this process being carried out upon a woman prisoner.

Side by side with the more militant work done by the Women's Social and Political Union here last month, a great educational campaign has been carried on. Prominent in this was a mass meeting held in the Albert Hall early in the month, at which meeting between two and three thousand pounds (between 40,000 and 60,000 Marks) was raised in ten minutes. The following day a great demonstration was held in Edinburgh, the ancient capital of Scotland.

EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

London, November 1909.

The following letter was issued by the Men's League for Woman Suffrage to the press on October 6th. The Committee, abstaining, in conformity with the expressed policy of the League, from expressing opinion on the tactics-controversy, is profoundly convinced that the Prime Minister has no reason sufficient to justify his continued refusal to receive a deputation from either wing of the Suffrage forces.

Sir.—On behalf of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, we desire at this juncture to express our conviction that the Government's continued refusal to hear the women in support of their claim to the Parliamentary Franchise has produced a situation which is not only deplorable to-day, but to-morrow may become dangerous.

More than a year ago Mr. Asquith asked to be convinced that that claim was supported by numbers. Numbers there were, acting quietly and constitutionally; but he ignored them, and has ever since persisted in denying a hearing to those who would have laid before him the proofs that he demanded.

The numbers that are now being swept into the movement are largely and not unnaturally of a different temper; and for that change of temper who is mainly responsible? Surely the man who, in his most responsible position as head of the Government, asked for proofs and obstinately refused to receive them. Say what you will of the evils of violent tactics, it is the temper of the Government that has produced the temper of the women. We all know to what lengths that contemptuous repulse has already driven them; but no one can predict what it may lead to in the immediate future. One thing is certain, that the Government's present course of action can neither pacify nor deter those in whom it has once roused the spirit of revolt. Neither the men nor the women who are sincerely devoted to this cause are going to abandon it because some of its adherents have been provoked beyond endurance and have shown by violent actions the bitterness of their resentment. The force behind the movement is greater than ever, and it is a force increasingly difficult to control. That force may, in some of its manifestations, be as blind, as perverse, as impolitic as admirers of our present political system pronounce it: but the grave fact is that it is an impatient force. It needs but a little more impatience to bring about a position which this country, and in particular this Government, must presently view with bewildered consternation, and which none of us will be able to think of hereafter without shame. The danger is real and imminent; unless we take warning quickly it will be too late.

(Signed) HERBERT JACOBS,
Chairman of Executive Committee.
J. MALCOLM MITCHELL,
Honorary Secretary.

The National Council of Women had, at its annual meeting, four resolutions before it. The first was a reaffirmation of a resolution passed in 1902: "That without the firm foundation of the Parliamentary Franchise for women, there is no permanence for any advance gained by them." There was no discussion of this, and it passed with only a small minority of 31 against.

There was a great Suffrage Debate in Manchester on October 26.

As Mrs. Arthur Somervell, the well-known speaker for the Anti-Suffrage League, was free on Tuesday, a great debate was arranged for that evening to take place in the Free Trade Hall, the scene of so many famous political fights in Manchester.

The Right Reverend Bishop Welldon, Dean of Manchester, consented to preside, and it was arranged that Mrs. Humphry Ward and Mrs. Somervell were to represent the Anti-Suffrage League, while Councillor Margaret Ashton, Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, M.A., and Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., spoke for the cause of Women's Suffrage. Mrs. Somervell spoke twice instead of a third speaker on their side.

The Free Trade Hall was packed. The resolution was: "That the grant of the Parliamentary Suffrage to women is against the best interest of the Empire and of their own sex." It was lost by an immense majority.

The following authoritative statement on the question of Women's Suffrage was issued by the Ladies' Grand Council of the Primrose League, with the approval of Grand Council: Primrose League, October, 1 '09.

"The Primrose League was formed to maintain the three great principles of religion, the estates of the realm, and the integrity of the Empire. The Grand Council considers that Women's Suffrage, being a question of opinion and not of principle, is outside the scope of the League as a body.

"Any person holding these principles may therefore be a member of the Primrose League, whether in favour of, or opposed to, women having the Parliamentary franchise. But members of the League are bound not to oppose official

Unionist candidates, whatever the candidates' views may be on the question of Women's Suffrage.

"Members of the League can attend Suffragist or Anti-Suffragist meetings, and sign petitions on either side, so long as they do not attempt to injure the cause of any official Unionist candidate, whether he be in favour of, or whether he objects to, women having votes for Parliament."

The object of the *People's Suffrage Federation* is: to obtain the Parliamentary suffrage for every adult man and woman, on a three months' residential qualification, and it is expounded as meaning: votes for women; one man one vote, one woman one vote; equal terms for men and women; persons, not property; just representation of labour.

The officers are: Chairman of Executive, Miss Emily Hobhouse, Hon. Secretaries, Miss Llewelyn Davies (Hon. General Secretary Women's Co-operative Guild), Miss Mary Macarthur (Secretary Women's Trade Union League).
(from "The Common Cause".)

Under the auspices of the *Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association*, a drawing-room meeting was held in Dublin on Nov. 2nd. The company were entertained to tea by Alderman and Mrs. Vancy, after which Mrs. Haslam said there were three Women's Suffrage Societies in Dublin. They were the old constitutional one opposed to violent methods, and they had been working Ireland for thirty years. They had never taken any share in party politics, and they had members from all parts of Ireland, irrespective of party or religious differences. They wanted to see women on every Board where there were women and children to be looked after.

Mr. T. J. Haslam read a paper on "The Claims of Women Restated". He said that one of the most hopeful signs of the present time was the way in which women were waking up to their responsibilities. Invaluable progress had been made, for women had acquired the kind of education which hitherto they had lacked. In the United Kingdom they had obtained almost every kind of representative vote except the Parliamentary vote, which could not be long denied them.

An animated and sympathetic discussion terminated the gathering.
(from "The Daily Express".)

Denmark.

On the 5th of Oct. the *Radical party* of our Lower House moved an amendment to the Constitution which runs thus:

§ 30. "Every naturalized man and woman of age and of unimpeachable character has the right to vote for the Folketing (Lower House) except in cases where:

1. Support by public charity has been granted and not remitted or repaid within the year previous to the election;

2. free disposal of estate and property has been interdicted."

§ 31. "Anybody who has the right to vote is also eligible."

A *National Progressive Party* has lately been formed. On its programme we find the following

sentence "right to vote for women as well as for men of age". The party is not yet represented in the House.

The *Danske Kvindeforeningers Valgretsforbund* held its general meeting on Oct. the 12th. The following Officers were appointed:

Miss Eline Hansen, President.
" Marie Luplau, Vice-president.
Mrs. von der Asten, National Secretary.
Miss Nanna Berg, Treasurer.
" Th. Daugaard, International Secretary.

Copenhagen, Oct. 1909. TH. DAUGAARD.

Last week the speaker of the Radicals, Mr. Zahle, was called upon to form a new Cabinet, and before two days had elapsed, he was able to introduce a Radical Cabinet, which was instantly accepted. One of the members—the Minister of the Interior—is Dr. Munch, married to Mrs. Elna Munch, who has founded the *Landsforbund for Kvinders Valgret*.

The political situation at present is of the highest interest for the women, as we have got a Cabinet, which has Woman Suffrage on its programme. But I am sorry to say, that this will be of no consequence in the nearest future, as the Radicals are not in majority in the Folketing.

Yesterday the Prime Minister, Mr. Zahle, delivered the opening speech, in which he said: "This Cabinet can not, until the political conditions have been somewhat altered, open a political campaign upon the question of an amendment to the constitution. But the Cabinet fully agree with the proposal for revision, which has been moved by the Radicals and heartily wishes, that it may be met with the strongest sympathy by the members of this House." Most probably the new Cabinet first of all will try and alter the order of election, which is out of date. This can be done by law and without revision of the constitution. This done, there is reason to believe, that either the Radicals or the Radicals and the Socialists together may become the majority after the next elections have taken place, and thereby the way is open for our cause to become a matter of practical politics. Meanwhile the *Landsforbund for Kvinders Valgret* is doing its work as usual. In a few days we hope to form the 140th local branch.

Ringsted, Nov. 4th 1909. CLINNY DREYER.

Mrs. Thora Knudsen is one of our Women-Representatives in the Municipal Board of Copenhagen. On Oct. 27, she gave a survey of the work done in the 7 months of its session (April 1-Nov. 1) in our *Club for W. S.* The leader of the Socialists (the most numerous group) in the Municipality, Mr. Borgbjerg, gave, at the first meeting April 1st, a kind welcome to the new element, the women; praising their wisdom in immediately joining their political parties. Mrs. Knudsen, the first elected woman of the next-largest group, returned thanks on behalf of the women at the banquet in the evening of the same day. She wished that the electors might always be pleased to follow the joint work of men and women in the Board.

When the parliamentary elections had to take place, in each of the 13 or 14 constituencies of Copenhagen the Municipal Citizen-Representatives had to furnish two members as President and Vice-President in the Committee for the election. The question was raised whether women might

be admitted to these committees. Some men in the Board were of opinion that women had no place in the Committees, being deprived of political suffrage. Mrs. Knudsen maintained with force that nobody could hinder women from speaking at election-meetings and influencing the audience. The lists that excluded women from the Committee were rejected and new ones admitting them, distributed.

Fru Knudsen as well as almost all the women of the Municipal-Representation Board were elected Vice-Presidents in the committees of some constituencies.

The work of the board, police-regulations, sanitary-regulations, the petitions for higher salaries for women, seemed all very well fitted for the capacities and sphere of women, and the women were eager in the discussions without ever losing their temper.

Fru Knudsen ended this her first review of the work by these words: "The whole Municipal Citizen Representation Board has made many visits to inspect municipal enterprises, institutions and works. We have seen lunatic asylums and hospitals for tuberculosis. We have visited together the exhibition in Aarhus. More and more our interest is awakened by all the problems concerning municipal work. We look on our town in quite another light than before. The material before us is a large one and surely the women will prove in many cases to be a great gain and their influence will undoubtedly be felt.

JOHANNA MÜNTER,
President of the group of Suffrage Clubs in Valgretsforbund.
Copenhagen, November 8, 1909.

On November 6 the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior received a deputation from *Dansk Kvindesamfund* which requested an answer to two questions:

"Will the Government work for women's political Suffrage and eligibility, and is it prepared to take up § 30 and § 31 in an eventual revision of the Constitution, so as to make them apply to women as well as to men?"

The Prime Minister answered that the Radical Party had proposed the said amendment of § 30 and § 31, which proposition would be discussed in the nearest future, the Government entirely agreeing with the proposers.

(from: "Köbenhavn")

Norway.

The first elections have now finished. However, according to the Constitution a second election is to take place in all constituencies where no candidate has obtained at least one half of the votes delivered. And as we at this election have three great parties, only few constituencies have been able to send their candidate to the Storting after the first voting. The second election will not be finished until the 11 of November. Until to-day have been elected: 39 Conservatives and Liberals („Rechte" und „Freisinnige"), 24 Radicals and National Democrats („Linke" und „Arbejderdemokraten") and 7 Socialists. However, many "red" constituencies are left, so that a radical victory is not yet wholly out of the question: but the Conservatives and Liberals have made great progress: They have won 9 seats from the Radicals and lost but 4 to them, and they have

won 1 seat from the Socialists. So the final result is as yet impossible to guess. But so much may already now be said, that the Radicals and Socialists will not obtain so great a majority as is needed for an amendment to the Constitution. Thus: *universal suffrage for women is lost this time.*

No woman will sit in the new Storting. In Uranienborg (Kristiania) the Radical Miss Gina Krog obtained but 863 votes. Her opponent candidate, a strong Conservative, was elected with 9033 votes. In Hammersborg the Socialist, Mrs. Martha Tynaes, got 2521 votes, her Liberal antagonist won the struggle with 5141 votes. At the second election in Tromsø the Socialist Miss Garfjeld had 264 votes, a Conservative carried the victory with 380 votes. Of all the women nominated as substitutes only one has been elected: the Liberal Miss Anna Rogstad in "Gamle Aker" in Kristiania.

To the last some women orators have taken a very energetic part in the struggle. Those women are: On the Radical side: Miss Gina Krog, Mrs. Louise Keilhau, Mrs. Dagny Bang. On the Socialist side: Mrs. Martha Tynaes. On the Liberal side: Miss Anne Holsen, Miss Kristine Bonnevie, Miss Anna Rogstad. On the Conservative side: Mrs. Marianne Naerup, Miss Elise Heyerdahl.

In my next letter I shall tell more about the women and the elections.

WILHELM KEILHAU.

Kristiana 3 of November.

If we have to give our opinion on the attitude of the women in the past election, one truth comes forward first: they have mostly shown themselves exceedingly dutiful soldiers in their parties' ranks.

When our opponents formerly met us with the objection that women were not yet ripe for the vote, we used to answer: "That is quite true, but we cannot grow ripe, before we possess the ballot; we want to be educated by it". Now we are having our apprenticeship. It is only a pity that so much is at stake for us just now.

Miss Anna Rogstad, substitute elect in Gamle Aker, may, in case Mr. Bratlie, who has a high rank in the army, is appointed as Cabinet Minister, come to enter the Storting (Parliament) as the first woman M.P. She was born in 1854 in the parish of Land. In 1873 she became a school-teacher at Drontjhem and is now in function at Grünerløk School. Miss Rogstad is Chairman of the Kristiania Teachers' Union, and she is their representative on the schoolboard. This spring she took part in the constitution of the new party, the "Progressive Left".

(from "Nylaende")

Sweden.

The "Jus Suffragii" of Sept. 15th reported the 147th W.S.A. in Sweden. Since then the work has been carried on incessantly by some of our foremost workers. Five new W.S.A. have been formed, in different parts of the country, by Mrs. Jenny Velander, Mrs. Ellen Hagen and Miss Anna Sundbom, which brings us forward to no. 152. A great number of lectures have been arranged by the old associations. Our president, Dr. Lydia Wahlström, has made a lecturing tour in the west of Sweden, and Mrs. Velander has visited Södermanland, both with equal success.

The autumn elections to the 1st Chamber have

not been altogether void of interest. The suffragists have had the opportunity of witnessing the re-election of both promoters and opponents to our cause. Among the newly elected members we recognize with satisfaction several friends, but at the same time we have to state the loss of two of our staunchest supporters: Mr. Sjöcrona, Governor of "Skaraborgs län", and Mr. v. Möller. They have both, on several occasions, with great eloquence defended our cause before the 1st Chamber, and Mr. Sjöcrona has brought in no less than four bills on woman's suffrage. As for gains and losses at these elections, we dare assume that the scales are pretty even.

JENNY WALLERSTEDT.

Linköping, Nov. 1st, 1909.

United States.

In New-York, October 25, under the auspices of the Self-Supporting Women's Suffrage League, whose president is Mrs. Blatch, (a daughter of the great pioneer, Elizabeth Cady Stanton), Mrs. Pankhurst addressed an enthusiastic audience of 3000 persons. On October 29, the Suffrage Clubs of Greater New-York, under the leadership of Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, our international president, held a mass meeting equally large. On November 17, the National Association will have one in the same big auditorium, Carnegie Hall. Smaller meetings are being held in all parts of the city. Similar reports might be given from many other cities, and on every hand are the brightest prospects for woman suffrage ever known in the United States.

Preparatory to the news on suffrage in the U. S. of which we are going to take charge for a while, we here place the situation in the U. S. before the readers.

Our beloved leader, Susan B. Anthony, often said that some day there would be a great awakening among the women of the United States on the question of the Suffrage. She did not know what would cause it, but she felt that American women could not always remain as indifferent as the majority of them seemed to be during her lifetime, and eventually they would rise up and demand their right to a voice in their Government.

Miss Anthony's prophecy has now come true. Never was there such an uprising among the women of the United States as is now taking place in all parts of the country. Men themselves are amazed, and the politicians, the editors, men of all classes, are asking, What does it mean? The women everywhere seem to be springing up out of the very ground, and demanding a vote. Why does this happen all of a sudden? One can only answer: "because the time has come."

Our laws are more favorable to women than are those of other countries, they have better industrial opportunities, and greater social freedom, and these very facts have made them slow to demand the franchise because they enjoyed so much without having it. Now, however, their eyes are opening wider, and they are beginning to see that numerous laws still discriminate against them; that, while they have many chances to work, it is for much less pay than men receive, and that social freedom does not carry with it the power to control social conditions.

No doubt the active suffrage movement in Great Britain has had a stimulating effect on women

in the United States, for the relation between the two countries is very close, and their people are constantly going back and forth. Nearly all the American women who visit England return home strong suffragists, if not suffragettes. English women have come over here to tell their story and rouse our women, among them Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson, Miss Ethel Arnold, Mrs. Philip Snowden, and now Mrs. Pankhurst. All have been royally received, have lectured to large and sympathetic audiences, and have made thousands of converts. Mrs. Pankhurst has disarmed criticism of herself and her movement by her diplomatic and statesmanlike speeches, and has inspired our women with her spirit of courage, aggressiveness and sacrifice.

Woman Suffrage in the United States has always been what might be called a "middle class movement." It has not appealed to the rich and powerful to any large extent until within the past two years, but within that time it has been espoused by a number of women of such commanding position that they have given it a very conspicuous and influential place in the eyes of the public. Thousands of women who have lacked the courage to declare openly their allegiance to a cause which carried with it much of ridicule and reproach, are now flocking under its banners, and by their number and their character they have lifted it to a high place in public esteem.

(to be continued).

IDA HUSTED HARPER,
Chairman National Woman
Suffrage Press Bureau.

New York, November 1909.

Iceland.

According to the new law of April 15th, that becomes valid the 1st of January 1910, women are eligible, on the same terms as men, for all representative corporations, except the Althing. Women were already eligible for the town-councils of Reykjavik and Hafnarjörður and for the vestries. One fifth of the members of the Council of Reikjavik are women, and women have been elected in the vestries at several places all over the island. Now they are also eligible for the other town-councils, for councils of the poor law-districts, for the boards of assessment of taxes, for local boards and for the councils of the 22 districts into which the inhabitable part of Iceland is divided. A man, if elected, may not decline, unless he has occupied the seat for which his electors destined him during at least six years, but every elected woman may refuse, without any statement of motives. The women who wish for equal rights, do not feel grateful for this latter stipulation. It will make the election-work in the rural districts more difficult. During this autumn the women of the whole island do their best to succeed as well at the elections as the women of the Capital did in 1908.

E. VAN DER HOEVEN.

Alkmaar, November 1909.

Austria.

The different way in which common jurisdiction treats men and women is clearly illustrated by the following example. A ladies' dressmaker in Vienna addressed to the Mayor a petition in which she pointed out the injustice that independent

professional women tax-payers should be deprived of the citizenship of Vienna. The petitioner laid stress on the fact that she did not claim the political rights (municipal suffrage) inherent to burghership, only she believed she had a right to the same old-age-pension which was awarded to formerly self-supporting burghesses. The pension for burghesses is considerably higher than that for the ordinary poor. According to her opinion, burghership should only be conceded to independent, self-supporting, widows or spinsters. The Municipal Committee on Citizen and Burghership however, referring to the stipulations of the existing municipal law, advised to refuse the petitioner's claim. They quoted the following clause: "*Females cannot in their own right obtain citizenship, though by marriage with a burgher or concession of burghership to their husband, they may participate in all the advantages pertaining to citizenship, provided the municipal law contain no other restrictions.*" So in herself a woman, however efficient and clever she may be, has no value, she only counts as an appendix to her husband.

I hold this event to be of more than local importance, for to be sure in other places these regulations are similar to ours. Is it not the common character of laws in nearly all countries that they discriminate against women, and, where rights are conceded, treat them as nonentities?

At the occasion of the annual meeting of the National Council of Women in Austria held at Troppau in Silesia Oct. 2-5, the Vienna Committee for W. S. arranged a meeting on woman suffrage. The biggest hall of Troppau was crowded with men and women of all classes. The President of the Vienna Committee, Mrs. Nini von Fürth, was in the chair, and opened the meeting by claiming the final abolition of the discriminations against women, contained in the Law on Assemblies. A report on this subject was given by Mrs. Leopoldine Glöckel from Vienna, who with brilliant eloquence and sovereign humor refuted the numerous arguments generally brought against women's taking part in politics, clearly showing their futility and insincerity. While she was speaking, some men in the audience manifested their contrary views by making objections, but these gradually subsided and were totally silenced, when finally Mrs. von Fürth called for discussion without any response.

The meeting ended by resolving that a Silesian Committee on Woman Suffrage should be formed, and it has been constituted accordingly.

HENRIETTE HERZFELDER.

Vienna, November 1909.

The Netherlands.

During the first half of November Miss Margery Corbett was here on a lecturing tour for the N. W. S. A. She spoke six times at Amsterdam and three times in other cities. Especially in the capital her thorough knowledge of the subject, her eloquence and her ladylike manners gained her a steadily increasing sympathy from the public. This month Rosika Schwimmer is with us, lecturing for our Local Branches day after day in different towns all over the country. Our Dutch suffragists have come to love her since last year, chiefly because of her humorous way of speaking, which is always highly appreciated and applauded. Mrs. Stritt also promised to come for some conferences in the month of January, and besides, in our own

country many young speakers are being trained, some of whom promise to become good orators and organizers.

Our annual meeting is to take place on Dec. 11 and 12 at Zwolle. Communications to be addressed to the Hon. Secr., 43 Linnaeusstraat, Amsterdam. Our membership is steadily increasing.

Dr. ALETTA H. JACOBS.
Amsterdam, November 1909.

Italy.

The National Committee for Woman Suffrage published the following manifesto on the occasion of the referendum taken in Rome:

"In a modern spirit, the Communal Administration invites the electors to express their opinion, or rather their will, on municipalisation of some public services.

This question, which concerns all classes of citizens, is narrowly connected with those domestic occupations which are more particularly women's sphere. But the right to express an opinion is not granted us. We have still to wait—not long, we are told—that the Commission on this issue may publish its report on the granting of municipal suffrage to women, that the government may propose and parliament may discuss it.

Since we are not yet entitled to exercise a right, we urge those who can, to do their duty. Let the women of Rome take care that no electors abstain from voting in the said referendum from negligence or laziness; thereby we will give proof that we recognize the obligations attaching to the electorate, which one day we hope to obtain.

ROMELIA TROISE,
Rome, November 1909. secr. N. W. S. A.

South Africa.

Since the measure for the Union of four South African States, namely Transvaal, Orange Free State, Cape Colony and Natal, was recently passed into law by a large majority in the British Parliament, it is not to be wondered at that South African Women Suffragists have been painfully alive to the fact that henceforth "Male" adults only will form the basis for representation, while the women and children are not even included as part of the population! Hitherto women taxpayers and landowners have had a voice in local affairs, especially in Cape Colony. But it has been decided that Provincial Councils shall manage all such matters in future. Thus the Voters Roll will be the same as that selected for the purposes of Parliamentary elections. Under these circumstances the women can cherish little or no hope of retaining the Municipal Vote.

Along with this grave injustice to their sex, the women of nobler mould deeply resent the clauses which jeopardize the franchise rights exercised by some 22,000 natives and coloured people in Cape Colony, where, after a period of five years, a two thirds majority in the Union Parliament may deprive these respectable and satisfactory citizens of the voting rights conferred upon them fifty years ago when England granted Responsible Government to Cape Colony. The women recognise that retrograde legislation of this sort will not merely affect the interests of those directly concerned, but must necessarily tend to retard the progress of the Women's Movement, and of all their aspirations for generous reform.

On reading the provisions of the Bill for the Union, and finding that the membership of its Parliament would be based entirely upon European "male" adults, a M.P. loyal the cause of Woman Suffrage, rose to his feet in the House exclaiming: "Surely, in this connection at least the claims of the white women in South Africa might have been considered?" During the discussion on Clause 35th (Qualification of Voters) Mr. Snowden M.P. asked the Attorney-General if the Union Parliament would have power to make alterations in the basis of the franchise in the future? He asked, "Will they be able by an ordinary majority vote to extend the franchise to women?" And further, Mr. Snowden requested to be assured by the chief legal authority in the Cabinet, that the word "persons" would include women as well as men? On receiving affirmative replies, Mr. Snowden had the satisfaction of defining the position thus: "I take it, on the statement of the Attorney-General, that the Union Parliament will have at any time, under the powers conferred by this Act, the right to extend the franchise to woman by a majority vote."

We women in London, who had devoted our energies towards finding some methods of opening the door of this South African Constitution to the women, forthwith thanked God and took courage, believing that our labours were now crowned with success. It is for the women of South Africa to press forward and claim their Citizenship.

GEORGIANA M. SOLOMON.
London, Nov. 1909.

Switzerland.

We have resumed work in all our sections, each in its particular way. Let us hope that all their different programs may contribute to the advancement of our cause.

Unfortunately we have to record a death which painfully affects us Swiss women. Prof. Charles Hilty from Berne has suddenly died on Oct. 12 at Clarens where he was staying.

Mr. Hilty was an influential politician, a distinguished lawyer and an eloquent moralist, and at 76 years of age he was still sprightly, good-natured and sensible. His voice was one of those that commanded most attention in the National Council, where he was considered a great authority. Being an ardent patriot, Prof. Hilty felt what part women should play in public life. Long since he had recognized the women's claims to be well-founded, and advocated them by writing pamphlets and in all possible ways. Annually in his "Politisches Jahrbuch der Schweiz" he recorded the progress of woman suffrage in other countries.

Hardly a month ago Prof. Hilty wrote to me speaking of Switzerland: "We shall soon have to fall back on the women and possibly I may live to see this progress, both expedient and necessary, realized". This shows sufficiently his deep conviction. Unfortunately his expectation was not fulfilled, but I hope that his optimism may bear fruit in the future.

Swiss women cannot but regret this so faithful friend of their cause whose help and good advice were always at their disposal. I wish the women from all other countries will join in the great grief we feel for we were proud of having the support of so broad-minded a man in whom the sense of justice was so particularly developed. Lausanne, Oct. 26, 1909. A. GIRARDET VIELLE.