

JUS SUFFRAGII.

The International Woman Suffrage News

The Monthly Organ of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

FRENCH EDITION.

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HEADQUARTERS:

11, Adam St., Adelphi, London, W.C. 2,
to which all communications should be addressed.

Telegrams: Vocorajto.
Telephone: 4255 Regent.

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FIRST WOMAN M.P. TAKES HER SEAT IN BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

ALLIANCE CONVENTION IN MADRID, 1920.

Bye-law of I.W.S.A. Constitution.

"The International Woman Suffrage Alliance, by mutual consent of its auxiliaries, stands pledged to preserve absolute neutrality on all questions that are strictly national."

CONVENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

Friends,—After six years the International Woman Suffrage Alliance is going to hold its full convention in Madrid, probably in one of the two first weeks of April. Postal difficulties have delayed the official call of our President, which will follow later. But we send out this preliminary notice so that friends of the women's movement may be able at once to make preparations for attending the convention.

This meeting, held at so critical a period of the women's movement, and the first after so many years of separation, is of supreme importance. Since the Budapest Convention (1913) thirteen new countries have gained votes for women, but many still remain without the suffrage. There are also the Eastern women, for many of whom the work of emancipation has hardly begun. The voting countries, too, have strenuous work to do before women can be fully enfranchised economically and socially, for in no country does there exist an equal moral standard, full economic opportunities, or equality in marriage relations. Then, too, the policy of the Alliance on the question of women in connection with the League of Nations has now to be considered.

These are the old and new problems before us. The convention meets under changed conditions, and we must develop a new international policy adapted to the full attainment of our object, "the enfranchisement of the women of all nations."

The presence of women from all countries will be an irresistible force. What can we not accomplish if we take advantage of this opportunity?

We plead that every effort should be made to support the convention. Whether you come as fully qualified delegates, representing affiliated national auxiliaries of the Alliance, or as fraternal delegates, representing other societies, or as visitors, matters little. The great thing is to come. We strongly urge that every affiliated National Auxiliary send its full quota of delegates, and that other national societies send fraternal representatives.

Notwithstanding the existence of difficulties, we beg you to remember that this meeting gives us an exceptional opportunity of breaking new ground and of bringing into the suffrage movement countries which have hitherto been little influenced by it. It is a great privilege offered to each one of us, and we cannot neglect such an opportunity.—We are, in the name of the Headquarters Committee,

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, ADELA STANTON COIT,
CRYSTAL MACMILLAN.

November 28, 1919.

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LATE NEWS.

Lady Astor Elected

Lady Astor has been returned as Coalition Unionist candidate for the Sutton Division of Plymouth by a majority of 5,203.

She took the oath and her seat as member for the Sutton Division on December 1, and was introduced by Mr. Balfour and the Prime Minister. Though Countess Marciewicz was the first woman elected, Lady Astor is the first to actually take her seat in the British Parliament.

Important Advances Gained by Passing of Sex Disabilities (Removal) Bill.

The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill, as amended by the House of Lords, has passed into law. (November 26, 1919).

Further fruits of the vote follow from the passage of this Bill through both Houses of the British Parliament. It opens to women all branches of the legal and other professions, and makes them eligible to become magistrates, jurors, and police. Unfortunately, powers are taken to restrict their opportunities in the Civil (*i.e.*, Government) Service, and certain conditions are placed on their eligibility as jurors. The provision enabling women to exercise *any public function*, however, will make it possible for them to hold the highest offices of the State, including those of Cabinet Minister, Privy Councillor, etc. Unfortunately, the words enabling them to sit in the House of Lords have been cut out of the Bill, and it is uncertain whether the wording covers their admission as clergymen—probably not.—CHRISTAL MACMILLAN.

FEATURES OF THE MONTH.

THE EIGHTH CONVENTION OF THE I.W.S.A.

We publish this month a letter from the Headquarters Committee which is a forerunner to the formal "Call" to Convention, which we await from our president, Mrs. Chapman Catt. The eighth convention is to be held in Madrid in the beginning of April, 1920, after an interval of seven years. Those seven years have been fraught with suffering, but they have also witnessed such victories for the women's movement as even the most optimistic of those who met in Budapest in 1913 did not dream of. Three groups will be represented at that convention—those who are in the noon-day glow of victory, those who are on the eve of victory, and those women of the East for whom the struggle for emancipation is at its dawn.

Triune is perhaps the best word wherewith to describe that meeting, for there can be "neither east nor west, border nor breed, nor birth," when from the earth's ends there comes together a great gathering of women whose hearts and minds are set on the enfranchisement and raising of the womanhood of the world.

CANADA.

We congratulate Canadian women on the Bill which allows them to retain their nationality on marriage with an alien, and on the Prohibition victory in Ontario.

SPAIN AND SPANISH-SPEAKING AMERICA.

In Spain the Conservative party are introducing a Woman Suffrage Bill during the coming parliamentary session, so we may meet in an enfranchised country after all. From Honduras a correspondent writes that she is trying to form a suffrage society, and we have heard from Mexico that a Woman's Group has been formed there. In Uruguay and the Argentine the movement is growing rapidly, and in our next issue we hope to give special Spanish and South American news.

ITALY AND FRANCE.

Both Italy and France have carried on a strenuous election campaign. In Fiume Italian women have voted for the first time at a Communal Council election, and three women have been elected members. Women will also vote in Fiume for the candidate for the Italian Chamber of Deputies.

FRU BETSY KJELSBURG—A CORRECTION.

The report published in our October number that Fru Betsy Kjelsburg had been elected a member of the League of Nations Parliament is unfortunately incorrect. She was appointed by the Norwegian Government as an advisor to the Labour Conference at Washington; and the women of Norway have protested against her being sent as an advisor only and not as a Government delegate with full voting powers.

THE DISPLACEMENT OF WOMEN WORKERS.

We call the special attention of our readers to the facts on increasing unemployment among, and general displacement of, women workers given in the British report, and an article derived from news in the Italian paper, *Voce Nuova*. The positions are the same in both countries. Women are being driven out of employment—sometimes pre-war employment—ostensibly to make room for demobilised men; in reality, often to make room for mere youths, who were never in the army, and are not skilled workers. This is another matter that requires immediate investigation. We shall be grateful if correspondents will send without delay facts as to the unemployment or displacement of women in their country.

INDIA.

The Joint Committee on the Government of India Bill has recommended to Parliament that the question of women's enfranchisement shall be relegated to the reconstituted legislative council of each Indian Province. While the Committee have found it possible to make definite recommendations with regard to the representation of the non-Brahmin community, and the urban and rural wage-earning classes, and the depressed classes (outcastes), it has handed over the fate of the entire womanhood of the Indian nation to these new Councils. In spite of the fact that a large number of enlightened Indian men are warmly in favour of the enfranchisement of Indian women, and have given evidence to that effect before the Committee, the latter has practically ignored the claims of women, and left them at the mercy of the legislative councils, the composition of which is entirely problematical, and may be of a reactionary nature where the interests of women are concerned.

Amendments will be brought forward in the House of Commons, but after the recommendation of the Committee there are grave doubts whether they will stand any chance of success, though Mrs. and Miss Tata have circularised the members of the House who voted in favour of the Women's Emancipation Bill. It is plain that the organised and enfranchised women of the West must use their knowledge and their power to obtain emancipation for Eastern women.

MRS. FAWCETT AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

We are very glad to hear that Mrs. Fawcett has accepted the invitation of the League of Nations Union to be one of the British delegates at the conference which this Union is about to hold in Brussels, since wherever Mrs. Fawcett is, the right attitude on all questions concerning women will always be kept in view.

OUR NEXT NUMBER.

We hope to publish a special number in January containing Mrs. Chapman Catt's call to the Convention, news of the woman's movement in Spanish and Spanish-speaking South America, and a special article from Miss Chrystal Macmillan, who is leaving for Madrid next week. In this number there will also be inserted a Spanish Broad Sheet giving our principal news in Spanish. All subscribers who have Spanish friends and who would like extra copies of this number, or extra copies of the Broad Sheet, are asked to communicate with the Editor at once.

The Editor also makes a special appeal to all subscribers and friends that during the coming months they should make every effort to increase the circulation of *Jus Suffragii*. If the circulation could be doubled before next April—and if each subscriber will find one more subscriber, that hope will be realised—there would result an added stimulus to the work of our Alliance, and in addition the importance and meaning of our convention in Spain would be brought home to a much wider public. Will subscribers help?

The Future of the I.W.S.A.

Again, after an interval of six years, the call for action has come to the International Women's Suffrage Alliance. An invitation has been received from the Marquesa Delter that the Alliance should hold its next convention in Spain in 1920. The time is not yet definitely fixed, but it will probably be April. As was to be expected, a majority of the Board of Officers and of the affiliated countries have intimated their joyful acceptance of this invitation. Communications have been received from Mrs. Catt, who tells us that she becomes more and more enthusiastic for Spain as our next meeting place, and I believe a similar feeling will be general throughout our affiliated countries. There are many reasons for this, and I will call the attention of our readers to a few of them.

The last six years, filled as five of them were with the nightmares and horrors of war, with personal losses and anguish unspeakable, have, nevertheless, brought men and women close up against the realities of life and death. Artificialities and all conventions founded on them have vanished and evaporated. Men and women have stood face to face with the sternest realities. One of the results of this has been a sort of tidal wave which has carried the enfranchisement of women to a higher level than it had ever reached before, beyond the highest high-water mark of our dreams.

Since the I.W.S.A. met in Budapest in 1913, eleven countries on our list of affiliated associations have adopted as a principle, in which their governments will in future be founded, the political emancipation of women. In some the enfranchisement is partial; in others, and among these several whom we formerly considered the most backward, it is absolute and complete. They are Great Britain and Ireland, Canada, the United States (in process of completion), Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bohemia (Czecho-Slovakia), Belgium (very partial), Italy (promised), Holland, and Sweden. Some will think this wonderful list of the triumphs of our cause provides a reason for dissolving our Alliance. I read its lessons quite in another way. It was because the seed was sown in part at least by the missionary efforts of the I.W.S.A. that men and women in many of these countries were ready to seize the favourable moment when it arrived for extending the bounds of freedom, so as to take in the female half of the human race. In countries where little or nothing had been done in the way of education, preparation, and organisation, women still remain shut out from all share of political freedom. When the women suffragists of the allied nations had the honour of an interview with M. Venetelos in Paris last February, he expressed the warmest sympathy with our cause, and said how he wished a movement similar to ours existed in Greece, and that if it should come into being he would gladly extend his protection to it; but, he said, "in my country the women themselves have made no movement in this direction, and what can I do?"

The task of the Alliance in the future is to help on the awakening of women to their national duties and responsibilities in those countries which have not yet entrusted their women with political freedom. Therefore, to have received an invitation from one of these, Spain, to hold our convention there in 1920, should be welcomed with enthusiasm by every one of us. Many of us have for several years watched with the greatest interest the rapidly increasing growth of the women's movement in Spanish South America. Out of the worst of evils the germ sometimes springs of the greatest hope for mankind. Spanish South America has been one of the chief seats of the White Slave trade, and this outrage in all that is sacred in sex relationship has given rise there, not only among women, but among men also, to the conviction that much of their society has been founded on impurity and falsehood, and to a determination to re-found it in purity and equality. The movement in South America has had its reaction in Spain itself, and unless I am mistaken was one of the forces which produced the invitation which we have just received.

Besides Spain we have also other European countries, which we may call "irredenta," so far as the political freedom of women is concerned. They are France, Portugal, Greece, and Switzerland. Let us work to get the women of these countries enfranchised before we even think of dissolving. Then there is South Africa. It was good news in last month's *International Suffrage News* that General Botha, the late Prime Minister, at a banquet in Johannesburg appealed to the men of the Union to enfranchise the women. It will not surely

be long before South Africa takes her place with the other Overseas Dominions in this great and fundamental matter of the enfranchisement of women.

In a category by themselves, and probably needing our help more than any others, are the women of the East, in what was lately Turkey, Egypt, India, Burma, and China. The women of India have been putting up a brave struggle here in London for months past, to convince the House of Lords' Committee of the unwisdom of leaving women out from the scheme of enfranchisement which forms part of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms. They have a great and uphill task before them, and surely it should be the part of the I.W.S.A. to help and encourage them by active sympathy and co-operation.

I know our Alliance will be shortly receiving a clarion call from its president, Mrs. Chapman Catt, to renewed activity, and I simply send this message to assure my colleagues that I am strongly for the continued activity of our Alliance, and to affirm my belief in the large field of useful work which still lies ahead of it.

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

The History of Women's Suffrage in Foreign Lands.

Miss Holmgren, in "Kvinnorösträtens Historia in främmande Länder," brings out in a striking way the salient points of the history of women's suffrage all over the world. The pamphlet is not mere chronology, but history with its beacon fires lit up. Examples of this method are her account of how Garrison took his seat beside the women delegates ejected from the Slavery Congress at London in 1840, and how Wyoming telegraphed to Congress in 1889 that it would rather stay outside the Union for 100 years than be inside and abandon women's suffrage. It is very interesting to note how in some cases, as in Germany, where women wholeheartedly helped men to extend their vote, they were rewarded by being freed at the same time as the men. In other cases, as in Portugal, where the men asked the women to help them start the Republic, when it was formed in 1910 women looked to get the vote, but to their amazement they were not included in the 1911 Portuguese Franchise Bill. When the Senate approved a united form of women's suffrage in 1913 most of the members of parliament jeered and scoffed at the notion.

It is impossible to quote many of the interesting details given by Miss Holmgren, but it is evident that in Catholic countries, such as Spain, progressive men fear priestly influence and in Austria women lost the united property vote they had had for more than thirty years, when universal suffrage was introduced.

It is sad that so few men are willing to copy the wise Indians described by Miss Holmgren, who say that where women are honoured the gods are pleased. Many men are unwilling to take the rights of their liberal opinions and to put up with the inevitable backwash of the prejudiced vote, without which true democratic progress, which "moves altogether if it moves at all," is unattainable.

In Galicia the Polish women are very keen about development, and a few women already have the vote. Deputations to the political leaders have urgently demanded permission to hold political meetings, which at present are forbidden to women.

In Bohemia women over the age of 24 had votes for the Bohemian Lantag on the same conditions as men if they paid taxes or belonged to learned professions. The Czech women did not neglect to vote, and in 1870 Dr. Maltusch wrote that they voted with great intelligence, according to conviction, and without a slavish obedience to party. In 1908 they helped the Democrats, and were horrified when the Franchise Bill put forward by the men not only gave them no extension of the vote, but robbed them of the ones they already had. In the new Czecho-Slovak constitution women vote at 21, and are eligible at 30.

The women of Hungary are unique in having taken an interest in politics at an early stage. As early as 1790 they petitioned for seats in the National Assembly. Since 1903 women of every class have shown active interest in the fight for the vote. The Hungarian Socialists have been opponents of women's suffrage for the same reason as in Austria, especially Counts Andrassy and Tisza. Count Karolyi, on the other hand, has fought valiantly for our cause, and attributes his enthusiasm for it to women's love of peace. Since the pro-

clamation of the Republic in 1918, women over 24 who can read and write have the vote.

The women of Serbia enjoy almost entirely equal rights with men, and have fought for 500 years for their country's liberation by the side of their brothers. Their first suffrage society was formed in 1909.

In Bulgaria the women were active in helping the men to shake off the Turkish yoke in the 'seventies of last century. Not only did the men reject their petition for the vote, but they deprived them of the votes they already enjoyed. In 1889 the Bulgarian Woman Suffrage Society published a newspaper called *Women's Vote*. In 1900 thirty-seven societies united to work for the women's cause, and have done good service in fighting for equal political rights for men and women.

In Rumania Fru Janculescu did not at first rouse much interest in woman suffrage, but since Bessarabia and Transylvania have got the vote the movement in Roumania has taken a start by combining with these provinces.

New Zealand was the first British colony which gave women the vote. In 1893 it was given to women of 21. All the predictions as to women neglecting to use the vote were falsified, as the high average of 85 per cent. went to the polls.

In Persia a gifted woman came forward in 1848 and started an insurrection against the notion of the subordinate position of women. She gained a large following of men and women, and she and 20,000 of her followers were condemned to death. But the Baha doctrine lives on, and a third part of the Persians believe in it. Women speak and teach in Persia, and have made themselves so useful that Vassel el Rayiath brought forward a motion in the Persian Parliament for votes for women. Unfortunately, progressive movements have been suppressed in Persia since then, and women have been forbidden all political activity.

Space does not permit to tell of all the advanced work of women in China and Japan. Kwantung showed gratitude for the immense help women had given in forwarding the revolution, and was the only province which reserved ten places for women in its parliament. Mrs. Chapman Catt found the Chinese women very intelligent, and in Kwantung there is a society in which the women vow that they will rather die than marry an unknown man.

Japanese women are more enlightened than other Asiatics, and there are from three to four hundred women doctors in Japan.

The new Jewish State in Palestine has decided that women are to have votes and eligibility for the Constituent Assembly on the same conditions as men.

November 20, 1919.

CLOTILDA MARSTON.

Displacement of Women Workers in Italy.

The Milan Union of Demobilised has initiated a campaign against working women with the ostensible object of finding work for discharged soldiers. The more violent spirits at first denounced women as having invaded the sphere of men while the latter were fulfilling their duty in the battlefields. To this attack the women replied by reminding their accusers that, if man had the duty to defend the country by force of arms, upon woman fell the duty of working for the absent. Had women failed the cry would have been heard that by their laziness and luxury they were helping the enemy. Lately the Union, realising the absurdity of those tirades, has demanded only a partial demobilisation of women, subject to definite criteria. On November 1 women workers held a meeting under the auspices of the Milan Association of Employed (*Associazione Milanese Impiegate*), when this question was discussed. Taking into account that the rights of soldiers, who before the war had an occupation, were safeguarded by legislation, they recognised their claim to preference in employment, and admitted the possibility, though not the necessity, of a partial demobilisation of women, provided it is conducted with just consideration of the economic and family conditions of each woman. At the same time, they draw attention to the fact that, in spite of the offers made direct to the Union of Demobilised to assist in placing men, no list of unemployed has as yet reached the Association. Those offers were accompanied by requests for qualified stenographers, to which the Union has been unable to respond. From this they argue, in a resolution published in the *Voce Nuova* of November 11, it is clear that the present agitation, if not due to political motives, is ill-founded, since the demobil-

ised cannot even recover occupations now filled by women, ill-trained and ill-paid, whom the whole class of working women has every interest to eliminate.

The truth seems to be, as a writer in the *Voce Nuova* of November 1 had already pointed out, that the crisis of unemployment cannot be dealt with by cries which may, perhaps, serve the electoral ends of some candidate, but which have very little basis in economic facts. The problem is one of the most complicated, arising from the general transformation of present-day industrial life and from conditions which are older than the war, though they may have been intensified by it. In proof of this contention—that woman's "invasion" is not an improvisation,—the writer quotes the census of 1911, from which it appears that out of 2,304,000 workers about 600,000 were women; whence it may be concluded that the greater part of the improvised munition women workers was drawn from other industries. A more telling piece of statistical evidence adduced refers to Milan itself—the centre of the anti-women agitation. The promoters of that agitation make much of the fact that in Milan alone there are 39,000 employed women. Now, from an inquiry made at Milan in 1913 by the Committee of Woman's Suffrage, it resulted that at that time working women were estimated at over 31,000. If to-day their number has increased to the figure quoted, the increase surely is due in the main to the growth of industrial activity in Milan, and to the increasing number of women who seek other than domestic employment.

In any case, it cannot be considered excessive when viewed in relation to the environment from which it arises. But though the quantity of female labour mobilised, in the proper sense of the word, during the war is not so great as it is represented, its absorption presents difficulties which cannot be ignored.

November 24, 1919.

The Educational System in Christiania (Norway).

By LEKTOR MARGIT SAHLGAARD BÖRRESEN.

Since the Municipal Council of Christiania, in 1918, bought four of the greatest private secondary schools, both the elementary and the secondary education are now practically wholly under the Council's administration, and under the control of the Board of Education. Children of all classes are admitted free of cost to the elementary schools, where the pupils are also supplied without payment with books and stationery required for use. The age of compulsory attendance at an ordinary elementary school in Christiania is from 7 to 14, the regular curriculum thus being 7 years, after which time the pupils may go to a communal three years' secondary school, where there is no fee to pay. The curriculum here finishes with an official examination, called "middelskoleeksamen," which is required to be admitted to college. There are now colleges attached to all the communal secondary schools; these colleges prepare the students for the university. There is also a continuation school for girls in direct connection with the elementary schools, where girls, mostly from the working classes, are taught needlework, English, book-keeping, and other practical subjects. This school is also free of charge.

Besides the communal three-years' secondary schools there are several communal four-years' secondary schools, to which the pupils are admitted after five years at the elementary schools (or private preparatory schools). They first have to undergo a preliminary test in Norwegian and arithmetic. Many parents prefer their children go to these four years' schools, where they have to pay a small fee (£4 a year), because the pupils can then pass their "middelskoleeksamen" after nine years (5 + 4) instead of after ten years (7 + 3), and thus be admitted to college, commercial schools, etc., one year earlier. Besides, all clever pupils who cannot afford to pay the fees are admitted free of charge after the first year; and there are colleges attached to the four years' schools as well. In fact, there are at present only two three-years' communal secondary schools, and six four-years' communal secondary schools.

The "middelskoleeksamen" is an official examination; the pupils throughout the country are given the same examination papers on the same day (in Norwegian, English, German, and mathematics), and these papers are corrected by official "censors," appointed by the Education Council, whose members are appointed by the Board of Education. There is also a *viva voce* when the pupils are examined by their own teachers

in the presence of a "censor," who, with the teacher, gives the marks. The subjects of the *viva voce* may be Divinity, Norwegian, English, German, mathematics, history, geography, science, zoology, and botany. The pupils are not examined in all these subjects, but the Education Council chooses for each school generally three subjects; for the rest, the pupils get the marks their teachers have given them beforehand, according to their cleverness throughout the preceding year. The pupils are likewise given marks for writing, drawing, and handicraft (the boys also for gymnastics) if no special examination is held.

The college curriculum is the same at all the communal high schools and also at the Cathedral School, which is the only State school in Christiania, having a four-years' secondary high school and a three-years' college. The annual fee at college is about five or six guineas, but there are many scholarships. There are three sides, one of which the students at the three-years' college can choose—viz., the classic side (with Latin as the principal subject), the modern side (with English as the principal subject), and the science side (with science and mathematics as the chief subjects). The final college examination is called "artium," after which the undergraduates can be matriculated at the university, where all classes and lectures are free of cost.

The teachers at a communal high school are: The rektor (so the headmaster is called); the lektors, who as well as the rektor must have gone through a full university training of philology (cand. mag. about seven years of university study), of science (cand. real, about six years), or of theology (cand. theol., about six years); the adjunkts, who have gone through part of the university training only; and masters and mistresses, who have generally gone through college, or a training college for teachers, or both, as have all the masters and mistresses at the elementary schools. As a rule, only the rektor and the lektors teach or lecture at college. The rektorship, the lektorship, and the adjunktship are all open to women as well as to men on the same conditions.

Both at the elementary schools and at the secondary schools there are classes for boys only, for girls only, and mixed classes. At the colleges the classes are always mixed. All schools are day schools. There are also private high schools, but the number of these has been constantly decreasing during the last years, and there is now only one private school in Christiania with a regular three-years' college attached to it.

November 18, 1919.

AUSTRALIA. Commonwealth.

Equal pay is being argued in the clothing trades case before Mr. Justice Higgins in the Arbitration Court. Mr. Scovell, for the employers, contended that work done by women was not up to the men's standard. Mr. Justice Higgins said if that were so it would be because women had not had the same training as the men. Mr. Scovell replied that women had had the training in the making of sac suits, and had not risen to it; he maintained that if women were paid the same rates as men they would not hold their own. Mr. Justice Higgins observed that arguments much the same as that were used in favour of slave labour in the United States. It was urged that if the slaves were freed and sent out into the world to earn their own living they could not hold their own, but these predictions have been falsified by events.

Mr. H. Carter, for the Clothing Trades' Union, said uncontroverted evidence had been given to prove that in most branches of the industry women were as efficient as men. This was recognised in Queensland and New South Wales, where men and women employees received the same pay. If equal pay were conceded in Victoria he was confident not one woman would be thrown out of employment. That the women themselves were anxious to see equal pay applied was clear from the fact that the log had been approved by the individual members of the Union, the great majority of whom were women.

Nursing Sisters Classed as Soldiers.

The Repatriation Department has decided that nursing sisters who served abroad with the Australians shall be classed as soldiers, and eligible with men to all the benefits under the various acts providing assistance, securing homes, obtaining occupations, and monetary allowances while unsettled.—*Morning Post*.

New South Wales.

CHILDREN'S MAINTENANCE BILL.

The financial aspect of this Bill has caused the Upper House to reject the measure, action which has led to a political crisis unusual in connection with reforms of this character. It is expected that the trouble will be overcome by the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the financial effect of the Bill.

Victoria.

THE SEAMEN'S STRIKE.

This strike, which lasted fifteen weeks, caused such widespread hardship among women and children that much of the ordinary political activity of women had to make way for relief work, and remembering the disastrous effects on women and children during the wharf labourers' strike in 1917, there is a growing feeling that some permanent organisation should be created to protect the helpless during industrial strife.

NURSES' REGISTRATION BILL.

The Government having decided to appoint five Civil Servants as the Board of Registration under this Bill, a spirited protest has been made by the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association, whose members rightly consider that nurses should have direct representation on the Board. They have petitioned Parliament against the Government's proposal, and make a counter proposal, that the Board should be composed of representatives of the hospitals, the nurses, the doctors, and the Government. The National Council of Women is supporting the nurses' claim, and other organisations of women consider that the public should also be represented on the Board.

The National Council of Women, at a deputation to the Chief Secretary, reminded him it had been agreed that women should be eligible to sit on all Boards in the League of Nations. The Minister replied that the Board would "merely" register nurses, issue certificates, and put into effect the disciplinary clauses of the Bill, the latter duty calling for the services of a police magistrate! Naturally the deputation was not satisfied, and pressed the Minister further on the subject. He, thereupon, took refuge in the statement that when the Bill came before Parliament the Government might not succeed in getting the Board it had proposed.

POLITICAL EDUCATION OF GIRLS.

The Y.W.C.A. has extended the scope of its educational work by starting a series of weekly lectures and discussions on industrial questions. The earnestness of its desire to get to the root of the matter from the workers' standpoint is evidenced by their having gone straight to official women trade unionists to present such subjects as "Strikes: Are They Justified?" "Arbitration," "Basic Wage," "The Trades' Hall as an Institution." VIDA GOLDSTEIN.

London, November 24, 1919.

BELGIUM.

Madame Brigode and Mademoiselle Van Den Plas Decorated.

In recognition of their services to the country during the war the Government has made Madame Jane Brigode, president of the Patriotic Union of Belgian Women, a Chevalier of the Order of Leopold, and Mademoiselle Louise van den Plas a Chevalier of the Order of the Crown.

The General Elections.

We are on the eve of the General Elections, which take place on the 16th of November. They will probably result in a strengthening of the Socialist party in the Chamber. For the first time the elections will take place under the universal suffrage system (one man of 21 years of age, one vote). A small number of women will take part in the elections, but their influence on the result will be negligible.

The new Chambers will meet during December. At the head of the Orders for the Day is the question of universal municipal suffrage for women. This reform is assured of a majority in the Chamber, as both the Left Party, Socialist, and the Right are in favour of it.

The question of the political suffrage for women will also be brought forward for full discussion. A decisive period is opening up for the women suffragists of Belgium, and they are preparing to take full advantage of the favourable moment.

JANE BRIGODE.

Brussels, November 9, 1919.

CANADA.

I have some excellent news for Jus Suffragii. Ontario has upheld the Prohibition Referendum by about 300,000 votes, and the married women of Canada have now the right to take out naturalisation papers on their own account.

General Election and Prohibition Referendum (Ontario).

I have been too busy with the referendum campaign to do more than exist beyond it. It was most interesting. The Government, within a fortnight of the date, October 20, decided to have the General Election the same day. This made it very complicated. There were four difficult questions on the referendum ballot, and in many cases a choice of four and even five candidates. This was the first vote the women have given, and so it was a vast undertaking to teach them even the procedure of voting. And up and down this big Province, 1,000 miles east to west, and 700 from north to south we had to go, not to mention factory noon-hour meetings, drawing-room meetings, and mass meetings here in the city. It was wonderful the interest the women took, but their interest was more on the Prohibition question than on the political one, and the Government made a tactical error in putting them on the same day. All the bitter element of the community, who would naturally have worked for them, was already booked up with non-partisan temperance work. The consequence is that the Hearst Government (Conservative), which gave Prohibition and women's suffrage, has been swept from office, Premier and all. The Liberals also lost one seat, due entirely to their choice of a brilliant but unprincipled man for a leader, whom decent Liberals of years' adherence would not support. Unfortunately, our only woman candidate in Toronto came out under his party, and went down to defeat. We were unable to put an Independent woman in the field at that late hour, and the Liberal men's machine induced this woman to stand—an excellent candidate personally, but evidently a party woman or she would not have consented to run under such a leader. The balance of the successful candidates belonged to the United Farmers of Ontario and to the Labour party, and now we have the interesting situation of four almost equal (numerically) parties, with the light majority of farmers, who belong to a party organised this summer, with no leader, and at that time no expectation of getting more than one or two candidates elected! If the Parliament could only be run on non-party lines everyone voting according to his own convictions, we might have some good forward legislation. Toronto is the first city of its size (considerably over half a million) to go for Prohibition on its own account, and here, without a doubt, the women's vote and work carried the day. We had a thoroughly organised campaign, working with the men, of over 6,000 people. Every individual was canvassed; women inside and outside scrutineers were in every polling-booth, and we have such an enormous electorate—adult suffrage. Only 200 people are allowed to poll at each booth, so in every one of the five polling divisions there were about 200 polling booths, and it was splendid of our women to volunteer so well. I noticed a difference this year between Canada and England in this matter. In England the temperance women and the suffrage women are, speaking generally, a different lot of women. Here they are largely one and the same. The work for the franchise was started on this continent by the W.C.T.U. women, whose leader, Frances Willard, understood the necessity of what she termed the "home protection ballot." I could wish the feminist women of England, with all their valuable political training, would put all the weight of their experience and work into the fight for Prohibition, for until the liquor interests, as such, are out of politics all moral reform is difficult to get. May be England is not "ripe" for Prohibition yet, but it is more than ripe for Local Option, and without doubt our wonderful victory to-day is due to the ten years' experience and educational force of Local Option. Even before the war 68 per cent. of Ontario was dry by its own local vote. Each separate community had its own intensive educational campaign, and its own experience to gauge by, and was a solid body of public opinion to call upon for our campaigns in 1916 and to-day.

Nationality of Married Women: New Act.

Now to turn to the other truly great advance. You may have seen the Act, but I did not see it until my return to Canada. All previous Naturalisation Acts have been repealed,

and the new one of July, 1919, passed. Its chief clauses affecting women are these: Although a married Canadian woman still automatically takes the nationality of her husband, she has the following rights as well:—

- (a) She may take out naturalisation papers as if she were a femme sole. (New.)
(b) If marriage is annulled for any reason she can get a certificate of naturalisation without fulfilling the full qualifications re residence again. (Old.)
(c) If her husband changes his nationality after marriage she may retain her British nationality on a declaration to that effect. (Old.)
(d) If her alien husband becomes an enemy of the King, she may regain her British nationality at once if the Secretary of State thinks it safe for her so to do. (New.)

With regard to the Dominion Franchise Act, this has also been consolidated, and now the qualifications are: Men and women of 21 years of age, British subjects by birth and naturalisation, and resident in Canada for one year and in the electoral district wherein such person seeks to vote for at least two months immediately preceding the issue of the writ of election.

"For the purposes of this Act, the allegiance and nationality of a person as it was at the birth of such person, shall be deemed incapable of being changed or of having been changed merely by reason of or in consequence of marriage or change of allegiance or naturalisation of any other person, or otherwise than by personal naturalisation of such first-mentioned person. Provided, however, that this sub-section shall not apply to any person born on the Continent of North America, nor to any person who in person applies to and obtains from any judge having jurisdiction in naturalisation proceedings a certificate under the hand of such judge, and the seal, if any, of his Court, to the effect following:—

"To all whom it may concern.

"This is to certify that from evidence submitted before me, I am satisfied that A. B., of in the Province of occupied as is a person naturalised as a British subject by operation of law, who, but for such naturalisation, would be entitled at the date of the issue of this certificate to be personally naturalised in Canada."

I have given this quotation for you to think over for yourself! At present even the lawyers disagree as to what it means and why it discriminates between European and U.S.A.-born aliens. But in practice it really means that European born aliens (men and women) must be personally naturalised. Alien women from the U.S.A. married to Canadians become Canadians too, but they only need a voting certificate (i.e., they are stated to be fit subjects to vote, without fulfilling the five years' residence necessary for naturalisation papers). Also Canadian women married to aliens, and living in Canada, do not lose their vote if otherwise qualified, even though legally they are aliens.

EDITH LANG.

55, Woodlawn Avenue, West Toronto, October 26, 1919.

DENMARK.

The Question at Issue (Nightwork).

With reference to Denmark's present position as to the veto on nightwork for women, the last time our legislators expressed their opinion was in the Rigsdag of 1912-13, when all voters, against four Social Democrats in our then existing Landsting, voted against special legislation. The Folketing followed suit, for on April 25, 1913, sixty-four votes against twenty-four (these chiefly Social Democrats) voted against exceptional legislation for grown-up people.

We are not clear how or what will be the result of the reported "Instructions," but one thing stands out:—

If it is Denmark's official vote that shall make itself heard in the international conference at Washington, and not the voice of the Government party alone, then the delegates must needs report that in a small unconsidered country—"a place in Scandinavia"—people count grown-up women as grown-up human beings who are not to be included in any special legislation.

We have greatly at heart effective protection of workers in general and protection of child labour in particular.—Tidens Kvinden, October 18.

Women Police.

The Danish Women's National Council is in favour of an increased employment of women police in the police service, not only in the State but the local police. Women policemen, especially in the streets, will act as a protection and help in a moral direction to young girls and children. This has been proved by experience from abroad.

It is to be hoped that the local women's organisations in the different towns will try to get the matter taken up and will manage to overcome the prejudice against the use of women to police the streets. Experience from abroad, especially England, goes to prove that women in this department are of the greatest blessing, especially to girls and children.

In order to arouse interest in the question we have invited Miss Peto, head of a school for policewomen in Bristol, to come here and lecture on her experiences.

She will in all probability speak at two public meetings here on November 21 and 25. HENRI FORCHHAMMER. —Tidens Kvinder, November 1.

FRANCE.

Suffrage Election Campaign.

The elections for the Chamber of Deputies have just taken place all over France, and the Union Francaise pour le Suffrage des Femmes, supported by other suffrage organisations, putting party politics on one side, has carried on an important campaign in Paris and throughout the country.

Either from our Paris office or through our provincial branches we sent to all candidates the following letter:—

Paris, November 2.

Sir,—The presence of your name in the list of candidates put forward by your party obliges us, on behalf of the suffrage societies, which we represent, to enquire what will be your attitude towards the question of votes for women.

The Bill passed by the Chamber on the 20th of last May, giving the suffrage to women, has not been discussed by the Senate, in spite of the forcible call to action voted by the Chamber on October 7 by a large majority—namely, 340 votes to 90.

This question will again come forward in a definite manner during the coming legislation, and we shall, therefore, be obliged if you will kindly inform us, by means of the enclosed letter, whether you are in favour of this reform.

We hope that you are among those who, putting party politics aside, wish to see the women of France treated as justly as the women of the great nations of Europe, of America, and Australasia. —We are, Sir, etc.,

- For the Union Francaise pour le Suffrage des Femmes, MARGUERITE DE WITT-SCHLUMBERGER, President, CECILE BRUNSCHWIG } Secretaries, PAULINE REBOURS }
For the Union Fraternelle des Femmes, AMELIE HAMMER, President, JULIETTE-FRANCOIS RASPAIL, General Secretary.
For the Ligue d'Electeurs pour le Suffrage des Femmes, GABRIEL G. RAMON, Secretary General.
For l'Amélioration du sort de la Femme, ELISABETH FONSEQUE, Delegate.
For La Propagande Feministe, MADAME KAUFFMAN, President.

P.S.—We shall consider as hostile those who send no reply to our letter; and their names will not, therefore, appear on the list of candidates whom, to the exclusion of all others, we shall commend to the electors.

This letter covered the following printed reply note:—

November, 1919. I declare myself to be in favour of Votes for Women, and shall support this electoral reform until it becomes law; or I am not in favour of Votes for Women. (Signature)

(Kindly strike out the statement with which you are not in agreement).

The number of replies far surpassed our expectations, and the vast majority, in some districts the whole number of candidates, promised to support woman suffrage. This is a hopeful sign of the attitude of the new Chamber to the woman question. In each district the names of the friendly candidates were advertised on large posters. The posters were prepared beforehand and sent to the presidents of our various branches, who had only to add the names.

UNION FRANCAISE POUR LE SUFFRAGE DES FEMMES. TO THE ELECTORS.

CITIZENS. In order that "Universal Suffrage" shall no longer be an empty word, Because it is a question of Justice and Right, As a weapon to fight the plagues which are ruining our country. In order to cement the effectual co-operation of the men and women of France, DECLARE YOURSELF IN FAVOUR OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Here followed a list of candidates in favour of woman suffrage. TO WOMEN.

WOMEN OF FRANCE. In spite of the huge majority (329 to 95) for Woman Suffrage in the Chamber on the 20th May last, the Senate has not yet declared itself on this question.

We cannot, therefore, vote in these elections. But we must use all our influence to secure the support of the future Parliament and local Councils.

Work, then, for the Woman Suffrage Candidates, and keep the anti-suffragists out. Three-quarters of the countries of Europe have granted Woman Suffrage.

FRENCH WOMEN MUST AND SHALL VOTE.

In Paris, as well as in the provinces, suffragists attended many election meetings, and we were generally very well received when we stated the social reforms which made woman suffrage a necessity.

With our own poster we distributed everywhere the poster of the Ligue d'Electeurs pour le Suffrage des Femmes, which we reproduce below. It was extremely successful, and we feel that when we are able to demonstrate that men and women are hand in hand in demanding a reform, not only is that reform more easily obtained, but the way is prepared for that cordial understanding between the sexes which is of such inestimable value.

MARGUERITE DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER,

President Union Francaise pour le Suffrage des Femmes.

LIGUE D'ELECTEURS POUR LE SUFFRAGE DES FEMMES.

WOMEN MUST HAVE THE VOTE.

Woman votes in almost every civilised country. She votes in the Allied Countries.—In the United States, in Britain, in the British Dominions, in Belgium, etc. She votes in the Neutral Countries.—In Sweden, Norway, Holland, etc. She votes in the Countries of our late enemies.—Germany and Austria. But she does not vote in France, the country of the Rights of Man. Women should vote because they pay the same taxes as men. Women should vote because they work in the same way as men, and have the same economic interests to protect. Women should vote since they are subject to the Law, and should have the same right as men to make the Law. Women should vote unless we wish to see a battle between the sexes which will further complicate and aggravate economic strife. Electors, listen to those Electors who tell you—

IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE AND THE NATIONAL WELL-BEING WOMEN MUST VOTE.

Signed by the executive committee of the League. Paris November 20, 1919.

GERMANY.

Unemployment and the White Slave Traffic.

It will be long before the agonies caused by the economic collapse of a people can be overcome, and many of those who have lost faith in the reconstruction of Germany will probably emigrate. Employment for men has improved, but not for women. Even women in permanent employment may have to make room for men without work. The chances of marriage have declined, and therefore it is the single woman in particular who will wish to emigrate. These stand in special danger of being made use of in the White Slave Traffic. Promising contracts may be arranged, and the journey undertaken. If the contract proves to be a fraud, and the emigrant finds herself in a house of bad repute, instead of as a governess or domestic servant in a good home, it is too late to protect them from the horrors of this life. For example, there are no German representatives or Consuls in South America to protect a young German going there.

—Gleichheit, November 1, 1919.

A Woman Reporter at the Ministry of Health.

One of the problems which the Ministry of Health has to deal with is the securing of the organised co-operation of women in its work. It has made a good beginning by appointing a woman reporter to the Department of General Assistance, which is just being organised. This first woman reporter in a Prussian ministerial office is Mrs. Meta Krauss.—*Die Gleichheit*, October 25, 1919.

Extension of Care to Expectant Mothers.

Just before the holidays the National Assembly passed a Bill to continue the provisions of State Lying-in Assistance adopted during the war. The assistance consists of Lying-in grants, grants to nursing mothers, and contributions of 50 marks towards the expenses of the confinement. Most of the expenses in connection with this aid has been borne by the Insurance Funds, but for this further assistance grants will be made by the State.—*Die Frauenbewegung*, November 1, 1919.

GREAT BRITAIN.**National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.****THE TURNED TIDE.**

The best optimist of us all cannot deny that feminist stock is low in Great Britain to-day. The tide of sympathy with women's interests and new opportunities has turned, and we are suffering from the reaction from our war-time popularity.

During the war, when women's work—every kind of it that could be secured—was needed, when one by one the doors of industry opened and every welcome success that the woman worker achieved was hailed with general applause and general promises of fresh opportunities for service, we were, perhaps, lured into believing that what had so suddenly been done could not be undone, that there could be no going back on the many opportunities that had been given to women. We hoped that women had won for themselves a permanent footing in industry and the professions, and that the extension of the franchise would enable them to maintain and improve their foothold. But even while we hoped, we recognised that there must come a bad time for the woman worker, who held only temporary employment, when the soldier whom she was replacing was released from the army.

The bad time is considerably worse than we anticipated. Not only is the present position of the woman worker jeopardised, but her whole future. Not only is the temporary woman worker being dismissed, but women are even being turned away from employment which they held before the war, and one case has been brought to the notice of the Union, where a widow with six children to support has been dismissed from work to make room for a boy of 18 who has never been in the army. The whole popular attitude towards women's work has changed, and the one idea in the mind of the public to-day is to get rid of the woman to make room for the man. It is the attitude not only of the public, not only of the employer, but more than all of the male employee.

EDUCATION GRANTS.

Not only in the matter of unemployment are the interests of women being overlooked. The Government has adopted just the same attitude of indifference to women's welfare in its provisions for the education and training of men and women demobilised from the Service. A grant of two million pounds has been made to the Minister of Education to be allotted to demobilised soldiers for the purpose of university education. Not a penny has been granted for the education of demobilised members of the Queen Mary Army Auxiliary Corps, the Women's Royal Air Force, or the Women's Royal Naval Service. They are left to find their own way out of their difficulties.

THE UNION'S CAMPAIGN.

The N.U.S.E.C. is doing all that it can to protest against the injustices being done to women. It is sending a protest from headquarters to the Minister of Education, urging that educational grants shall be given to demobilised members of the Women's Services, and is asking its societies throughout the country to send in particulars of cases of the unjust dismissal of women in order that full evidence may be collected and submitted with a protest to the proper authorities. Societies of the Union are also being urged to arrange meetings

and debates wherever possible on the question: "Are Women Wanted in Parliament?" to bring before the public the urgent need for consideration of the woman's point of view.

THE WOMAN M.P.

This question of women's membership of Parliament is one which is again ripe for serious consideration in this country. No official word has yet been spoken about a general election, but the air is full of rumours. The National Union is, therefore, making its preparations early. Not only is it organising debates and meetings throughout the country, but it is compiling a list of women willing to stand for Parliament who have declared themselves in favour of the Union's programme. It is also holding a series of introductory classes on election work, to be followed, if the demand is sufficient, by a training course for women election agents.

Much interest has been, at the moment, aroused in women's parliamentary candidature by a bye-election at Plymouth, where a vacancy has occurred through the Unionist M.P., Major Astor, having inherited a peerage and so being translated to the House of Lords. His wife, Lady Astor, has offered herself as candidate in his place, and, although the result of the election is not known, she has certainly won a great deal of support. Lady Astor is a good feminist, and the N.U.S.E.C. has sent her its best wishes for success on her candidature.

A MOTHER'S RIGHTS OF GUARDIANSHIP.

Readers of the *Women's International News* may remember that among the reforms on the programme of the National Union for this year is the reform of the Guardianship Laws. In this country a married mother is not recognised in the eyes of the law as the parent of her child; she has no right to a voice in the manner of its education, or of its religious upbringing; she is not even legally certain of having her child with her, for by law it is in the father's power to remove the child from the mother at the age of seven, nor is he required to give any reason for doing so. The N.U.S.E.C. has, in consultation with other societies interested, drafted a Bill, which if passed through Parliament would make a mother equal joint guardian of her child with its father. This Bill has many supporters among members of Parliament, and the National Union is arranging a conference of friendly M.P.'s and representatives of societies, to be held next month at the House of Commons, to discuss final details of this Bill and make arrangements for its introduction into Parliament. Much propaganda on behalf of equal guardianship has been carried on up and down the country, and when the Bill is introduced it will be loyally supported by the societies of the Union. One particularly interesting feature of the Bill is that it is the first which demands from both parents a proper standard of maintenance for the child. It enables a wife to procure from her husband a proper weekly allowance for the child, which hitherto a wife has only been able to do if legally separated from her husband.

November 22, 1919.

INEZ M. FERGUSON,

HUNGARY.

A copy of the following telegram has been sent to us by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Geneva:—

Budapest,

October 10, 1919.

"Our organisation, which in Hungary represents both women's interests and the pacifist movement, is on the eve of a crisis, from which it can only be saved by immediate and material help. In this distressing situation we are forced to appeal to our fellow-workers in other countries. Come to our aid and transmit our appeal to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, with whom we cannot communicate direct. The results of long years of work will be lost, without your immediate help, which could be sent to us through the Entente missions here."

"THE COMMITTEE OF THE FEMINIST SOCIETY."

On November 13 the Executive Committee of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship (Great Britain) passed the following resolution unanimously:—

"That the N.U.S.E.C. expresses its sympathy with the women of Hungary in their efforts to retain their hard-won political liberties, and trusts that any new constitution will establish Hungary as one of the progressive countries by making provision for equal political suffrage for women."

The Committee of the N.U.S.E.C. is also approaching the League of Nations to make representations to that organisation in this country about the question of the retention of votes for Hungarian women.
November 15, 1919.

ICELAND.

In 1917 a Women's Council was formed in Reykjavik, embracing seven women's organisations.

Its aims are:—

1. To promote understanding and co-operation between the organisations which form its members.
2. To support every good cause that may prove a blessing to our town and people—that is to say, everything concerning women's development and the upbringing of children.
3. To work to form similar organisations in different parts of the country.

The executive of the Women's Council consists of a representative of each of these societies which are included, together with a president chosen by the representatives. The yearly meeting is held each June. The first was held in 1918. This year's meeting was put off on account of the absence of the president, Fru Steninn A. Bjarnason, in England. It will be held in October.

Among the causes which Icelandic women have put on their programme is the founding of a women's institute in Reykjavik. It is hoped to raise the necessary capital by means of an issue of shares. The shares are quite small, and the subscribers mainly or exclusively women. Such a building is greatly needed in our town. Besides the meeting-room, there will be space for some smaller rooms to be let out to travelling women. Two more building enterprises have been planned—a convalescent home and a children's home. The first has already got a site, but nothing else has been done in either case. And, perhaps, that will never get beyond the stage of a good idea.

Our Council is still in the making, and it is hard to say how far its strength will go. We have no lack of tasks. Time will show whether we can fulfil them.

October 10, 1919.

INGA L. LARNSDOTTA.

—*Tidens Kvinder*, November 1.**Letter from Iceland.**

Reykjavik,

October 12, 1918 (sic).

Honoured Editor,—You have invited me to send your paper a short letter from Iceland. I gladly accept your invitation.

For many terrible years we have lived almost entirely cut off from the rest of the world. Here in the North we have only seen the world war as something distant and unreal. Only very rarely has it touched ourselves closely, as when some of the Icelandic merchant and fishing fleet were shot at. There has hardly been any real want. By direct connection with the U.S.A. we managed to import the most important necessities of life.

The Icelandic Steamship Co., which, together with the ships bought at the public expense, looked after transport, have been of great value. Here in Reykjavik there has been provided a special institution, with branches in the larger places, which looked after the buying and sharing out of provisions. The English have exercised a firm control here. They bought up most of the products of the country at a price fixed by themselves. As a sort of recompense we were allowed to import a certain amount of goods unhindered by restrictions. This amount was calculated according to the average imports of the years immediately preceding the war. Licences and all other kinds of restrictions were, naturally, endless.

Since 1915 Icelandic women have had the vote, and can be elected to the Alting. At the first elections in 1916 all who had attained the age of 40 and otherwise fulfilled the general qualifications had to vote. Moreover, the age limit has fallen by one year. There is now before the Alting a bill to give the vote to all women who have attained the age of 25. Apparently it is going to pass. We are glad, but how much prouder we should have been to get an unrestricted vote in 1915, without any vote of non-confidence in the younger women.

The day of the Foundation Law, June 19, is celebrated each year as a women's day, "and not only for pleasure," of course.

The object of the festival was to get money for the County Hospital Fund. This Fund was started on June 19, 1916. The largest women's organisations in Reykjavik, eight in number, joined in sending out an appeal where contributions were invited. At the same time the Alting and the Government were urged to put the matter forward. In the first year about 24,000kr., in small and large contributions from almost every parish in the country, was raised. Since then great progress has been made: now the fund amounts to nearly 100,000kr. In the last year the money has been raised exclusively by the work of celebrating June 19 as "County Hospital Day." This year the collection was 25,000kr. That, we think, is something to be proud of. Next year we hope for still more. The idea has been set going, and women are at the head.

The Government and the Alting have also been interested. Ground has been bought, and in the next Budget 10,000kr. has been granted for designs and preparations for buildings.

On December 1 last year a new Act of Union with Denmark came into force, whereby the two lands are constitutionally equal. This law brings about a number of legal changes. And at the same time the talked-of alteration as to women's eligibility was proposed by the Government. Meanwhile, the Constitutional Commission have raised a difficult question as to the eligibility of foreigners for election. It is feared that this disagreement will cause delay. Although women's eligibility, in accordance with the alterations in the Constitution, has been greatly widened, we Icelandic women are as unfavourably situated as you Norwegians with a view to getting elected.

There are exclusively one- or two-member constituencies; only six seats are chosen on a proportional basis over the whole country. In the county elections in 1916 *Fru Briet Bjarnsdottir* was number three on the largest party's list, she only succeeding in getting a place as an extra member.

Also with us, women's constitutional rights are in process of transformation. In line with the new Scandinavian family legislation, a Bill has been put forward as to contracting and dissolving marriage and a new Children's Law. These proposals will probably not be sanctioned by the present Alting, for it seems likely that it would have wished to exclude women even from knowing their contents. Now the matter is moving it must be the task of the women's organisations to inform women as to these important laws and to give the necessary criticism.

A National Women's Council is being formed. There has been a Local Council for Nordland since 1914. Reykjavik got one of its own in 1916. They work in agreement, and Iceland will soon be ready to become a member of the International Council of Women.

On the whole, we are advancing both materially and in general civilisation, and in most departments progress can be seen. We have a good deal to make up. This month a complete Radium Institute is to be opened in the town, entirely equipped by means of gifts.

There is great talk of air connection between Iceland and other countries, and the first flying machine is expected here in the course of the summer. Our little community has got safe through the hardships of war. We have only ground for gladness and thankfulness to Providence which has watched over us. But what the future has in store we know not. We only feel that a great industrial revolution lies before our country.

INGA L. LARNSDOTTA,

—*Nýlaende*, November 1.**INDIA.****Indian Women and the Vote.**

The following letter has been sent to the Chairman of the Joint Select Committee on the Government of India Bill, on behalf of the constituent societies of the British Dominions Women Citizen Union:—

Sir,—I am authorised by the constituent societies of this Union to write to you upon the following question:—

With the single exception of South Africa, we are all enfranchised citizens of the Empire. We know by experience as well as by theory that equality between men and women is fundamental to the well-being of every state. The women of South Africa are within measurable distance of securing the recognition of this principle in the case of their own political enfranchisement.

We, therefore, venture to inform you that in the four great self-governing dominions of the Empire, women have but one opinion as regards the claim of the women of India to the same electoral rights as the men.

We are well aware that as self-governing dominions, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, and Canada have no voice in the internal affairs of another part of the Empire. But the principle for which we contend has been recognised by the League of Nations. It is impossible that the British Empire, itself a League of Nations within the greater League, can take a lower moral stand.

We, therefore, beg that in the truest and most far-reaching interests of the Empire, the Joint Select Committee will secure that the Government of India Bill shall include the granting of the franchise to the women of India on the same terms as it is to be granted to men.

Signed on behalf of the constituent societies of the British Dominions Women Citizen Union.

HARRIET C. NEWCOMB, Hon. Secretary.

Conditions of Indian Women in Fiji.

Last March the Committee of Enquiry into the social and moral conditions of Indian women in Fiji forwarded a petition to the Governor of Fiji, asking that there should be a thorough investigation into the conditions in Fiji, which, according to the report of Miss Graham, who had been sent by the Joint Committee of Australian and New Zealand women, to make an enquiry into these same conditions, "were such as make it practically impossible for many innocent women to continue to lead a moral life."

Mrs. Bennett, the secretary of this Joint Committee, in a letter of August 8, reports that an answer has now been received, and that the following resolutions have been adopted by the Legislative Council of Fiji at a meeting held on July 1 this year:—

"That a select committee be appointed to consider and report—

Resolution—

"1. What steps might be taken to bring about an adjustment of the sex ratio among East Indians in the Colony.

"2. What steps should be taken to improve the housing accommodation of East Indians employed as labourers on plantations, so as to ensure that each married couple shall occupy a separate house, and single men and single women shall be housed in quarters some distance apart.

"3. What steps should be taken—

"(a) To improve the medical and nursing arrangements.

"(b) To extend the educational and religious facilities for East Indians generally.

"4. What further steps should be taken for the general improvement of conditions affecting East Indians.

Resolution—

"1. That the indentures of all East Indian immigrants allotted to employers under the provisions of the Indian Immigration Ordinance, 1891, whose period of service has not expired on the 1st August, 1920, be cancelled with effect from that date.

"2. That employers of labour, the indentures of whose immigrants are cancelled as above, be paid from public funds an amount in respect of each immigrant which shall bear the same proportion to the cost of introduction of such immigrant as the unexpired period of the indenture shall bear to the whole period thereof."

Mrs. Bennett, in reply to the Acting Colonial Secretary, Fiji, has requested that the report of the Select Committee, in reference to these resolutions, be forwarded to the Joint Committee of Enquiry.

Indian Government Supports Cancellation of Indentures.

The Viceroy, in a speech (Simla, September 3), said that the Indian Government was pressing for the immediate cancellation of indentures in Fiji. So long as the old system is not continued under the new name of immigration, as some have feared, and care is taken to safeguard the morality and welfare of the Indian coolie women and children, their conditions might very well be happy.

Contributed by Harriet C. Newcomb, Hon. Secretary, British Dominions Women Citizen Union, 19, Buckingham Street, London, W.C. 2.
November 18, 1919.

Women's Christian Temperance Union.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST COMMERCIALISED VICE.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union of India support the proposal "to prohibit by law the sale and purchase of a woman's honour," and are carrying on a campaign to penalise commercialised vice.

The Moral Education Superintendent, Mrs. F. G. Hallows, writes:—

"We hold a National Women's Convention in Lucknow next month (November) to discuss the terms of our Bill, which will be backed up by 10,000 signatures of men and women from all parts of India. We rejoice in the prominence given in England to the subject of woman suffrage for India. Indian women are terrible sufferers from commercialised vice."

October 8, 1919.

LATE NEWS.

The Woman Suffrage amendment to the Indian Reform Bill has been defeated in the House of Commons.

—December 4th, 1919.

ITALY.

The Political Situation.

A month ago a victory for woman suffrage in Italy seemed certain. The Chamber of Deputies had passed the Nitti-Martini Bill by a huge majority, and the Bill had been put in the Orders of the Day for the first sitting of the Senate. S. Mortara, Keeper of the Seals, had received a suffrage deputation with these words: "In a week you will be electors." The Senate was in favour of the Bill, and the Government itself was anxious to see it passed.

Unfortunately, the Senate did not meet in the first fortnight of September. It was convoked for the 21st of that month, when internal political complications, caused by the failure of Mr. Wilson to give a satisfactory solution to the Fiume question, brought about the dissolution of the Chamber, and the end of the Legislature.

In Italy the two Chambers—the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate—sit at the same time. And the Senate, although it is composed of life members nominated by the King, does not sit when the Chamber of Deputies is not in session. Under these conditions laws which have not been approved by the Senate before the end of a session or of the Government, cannot be discussed before the re-opening of the Chamber for a new session.

It follows that there must, therefore, be a certain number of laws which have not been passed by the Senate when the Chamber is dissolved as suddenly as in this case. But there are but few examples of such sudden dissolutions, and neither our Statute, which is still that of 1848, nor the rules of the Chamber of Deputies and of the Senate, give any indication of what happens to a law which has been half passed.

Under these unprecedented conditions we have addressed ourselves to members of the Government. A deputation, headed by Signorina Troise, has been received by S. Mortara; and Signora Zanini Valeri has been received by the Prime Minister, S. Nitti. Both were extremely kind, and spoke with much sympathy of the woman's cause, which, they said, they looked upon "as their own." In their opinion the Bill will have to be presented to the Chamber of Deputies before being sent to the Senate, but they have promised to present it in the form of a report, so that it need not be read three times, but can be passed after the first reading. Signor Nitti has also promised to bring the Bill forward immediately the Chamber opens in December, and also to propose that the municipal elections shall be postponed in 1920. This would exactly meet our wishes, for the Bill passed by the Chamber postponed the use by women of the municipal vote till the administrative elections of 1920, and the succeeding political elections. If Signor Nitti remains in power, and if he carries out all that he has promised, we shall have lost nothing.

But it is probable that after the elections the Chamber of Deputies will be much changed. More than 300 of the former Deputies will not be re-elected, and there is no doubt that the proportion of the various parties will be considerably altered in the new Legislature. If, after the first sitting of the Chamber, Signor Nitti resigns, his successor will not be bound to fulfil his promises.

Fearing this possibility, we have asked one of the Senators, who is friendly to our reform, to propose whenever the Senate meets that the Woman Suffrage Bill, passed by the Chamber

of Deputies on September 5, shall be considered at once by the Senate. We are quite aware that this is no easy matter, since there are very few examples of such procedure, but the thing can be done if the Senate is willing. And we are occupied just now in studying all the parliamentary precedents which give power to our case.

Under such unexampled conditions we have been in no small difficulty as to the wisest way of conducting our electoral campaign. There are practically no anti-suffragists, and all the parties have woman suffrage on their programmes. In our own associations there are women of all parties, and it would therefore be impossible to unite in working for one party or even for any one candidate. We have, therefore, asked suffragists to work for the party or for the candidate which they prefer, provided in the latter case that he is a good suffragist and known to be of high character. In some towns, for instance in Rome, the suffragists are organising large meetings for women.

After the elections we shall demand from those returned that they shall bring pressure to bear on their respective parties to keep the pledges made to woman suffragists, and we shall then concentrate our suffrage campaign on the Government itself.

We cannot, under these circumstances, make any prophesies, since the result of our actions will very much depend on the result of the elections, and these are quite uncertain. And, in addition, since all the political parties are pledged to woman suffrage, none has any particular interest to be served by the immediate application of a Bill which gives universal suffrage to women.

Milan, October 26, 1919.

M. ANCONA.

Women Vote at Fiume: Three Elected.

For the first time Italian women have exercised the right of voting. On October 26, in the town of Fiume, occupied by Signor D'Annunzio and his volunteers, the first woman suffrage victory for Italy took place, on the occasion of the elections for the Consiglio Comunale. The new constitution of the town gives political rights to all citizens of 21 years of age, and women are on the electoral lists.

The Italian newspapers have been loud in their praises of the calm and dignity with which Italian women discharged their new duty. Even very old women went to the polling booths saying: "We are going to baptise ourselves as Italian women."

These elections of October 26 were for or against the Union National, an association which supports the annexation of Fiume by the kingdom of Italy. More than 70 per cent. of the men and women electors voted, and the Union candidates received nearly all their votes. Among the candidates were three women: one bourgeoisie, Madame Olga Kucich (an Italian in spite of her name); a professor, Signorina Ofelia Nascimbeni; a cigar maker, Signorina Antonia Verson, who were elected with a magnificent poll. They are the first Latin women who have the honour of sitting on a Municipal Council, and we are very proud that they are Italians.

On November 16 the political elections take place. Although Fiume has not yet been annexed to Italy it is reported that an election will be held, and it will certainly be a unique one. Officially there is no deputy for Fiume, but there is a candidate. Signor Comandante Rizzo is a Socialist, not at all a politician, but a hero of the war. And he will be elected by women, though the women of Italy are not enfranchised!

The Political Elections.

The electoral campaign has been a very active one, but suffragists have not carried out a suffrage campaign on the usual lines, for fear of endangering their position—which is really a very strong one in view of the Chamber passing the Suffrage Bill—by encouraging any discussion on the principle of woman suffrage, a principle which has already been accepted by the politicians of all parties.

An attempt was made to hold one open-air meeting in Rome, but the students prevented the suffragists from speaking. The Press, in writing of this unpleasant episode, expressed their sympathy with the suffragists; but we must confess that open-air meetings are not customary in Italy. In other towns the suffragists (while working for the party or candidate they favoured) sent letters to all the candidates asking them, if elected, to pledge themselves to support the Woman Suffrage Bill being immediately put in the orders of

the day for both Chambers. We had many answers, and only one of them was unfavourable.

At Milan one of the political parties, the Left, actually organised a meeting for the purpose of replying to our letter, and two candidates spoke.

We also put up large posters, always pointing out the urgency of the Woman Suffrage Bill.

Many meetings were held for Socialist, Catholic, and Liberal women, in the political associations, and also at party headquarters, these conferences being organised by the parties themselves. It was practically impossible for women to be present at the ordinary men's meetings, as very young Socialists and Anarchists have taken to breaking these meetings up, and the parties were obliged as a precaution to ask at the door for electors' certificate, which we, as women, of course did not possess.

The result of the elections is not yet announced. There will certainly be in the new Chamber a hundred or so of Socialists, and about the same number of Catholics, who are equally pledged to support us. Our real suffrage campaign, therefore, begins to-day, and we shall make every effort to persuade the Government and Parliament to pass into law before the end of the year the Woman Suffrage Bill, already passed by the Chamber of Deputies.

M. ANCONA.

Milan, November 16, 1919.

NORWAY.

Norwegian Women Demand Direct Representation at Washington Conference.

The Norwegian Women's National Council has sent in the following two resolutions passed in a recent meeting:—

To the Royal Norwegian Government—

"The undersigned women's organisations express their deep regret that the head of the Home Office has not found it possible to pay attention to the repeated requests of the Norwegian Women's National Council that a woman should be nominated as a delegate to the Congress in Washington. As it has come to our knowledge that the delegates are going with mandates on the question of women's work, we most respectfully urge the Government to order its representatives to allow the woman adviser all the opportunity to make her views carry weight which the statutes allow.

"We permit ourselves to make this request, as we are informed that within the Government there was a very strong minority which voted for a woman as representative to the Congress."

To the International Workers' Conference in Washington—

"The Norwegian women's organisations express their deep regret that women are not represented in a satisfactory manner at the first International Workers' Conference. It is in the interest of society as a whole that women should have full voting powers in everything that touches on their paid work.

"We hope that any decision as to women's conditions of work will only be taken with the co-operation of women themselves.

Christiania, October 16, 1919."

Similar resolutions were passed by twenty-one women's organisations.—*Nyblaende*, November 1.

State Grant to Fru Betsy Kjelsberg.

The woman factory inspector has been given a State grant of 1,000kr. for her maintenance in America, to study industrial conditions and the social institutions of special undertakings which are the best organised for the comfort of the workers.

Fru Kjelsberg will then pay a visit to Detroit, and see Ford's great works and his many social institutions, also the great steel workers in South Bethlehem, in Pennsylvania. Here much has been done for the advantage of the workers.—*Nyblaende*, November 1.

Mothers' Pensions Passed.

In the municipal meeting of September 25, after a long and searching debate, measures were passed for pensioning mothers. There were thirty-two votes against admitting separated and divorced wives to pensions, while forty-eight opposed the admission of deserted wives.

The recommendation of the Mayor of Christiania to the Municipal Executive was that the law should come into force from January 1, 1920, and this was passed unanimously.

The Committee, on which only one woman, Fru Anna Pleym, had a place, was divided into a majority and a minority. The majority recommended that pensions should be granted to widows, divorced and separated wives, and to unmarried mothers whose children were at home. The minority, two members of the Committee, proposed that divorced and separated wives and unmarried mothers should not be included.

A mother's pension falls due to a mother "when she or her husband has been domiciled in Christiania for the last 15 years before the passing of the law, and when she has living with her children, step-children, or adopted children of under 15 years, and when she herself and the children do not earn more than 2,000kr. for one child, 2,400 for two children, 2,800 for three children, and 3,000 for four children, with an addition of 100kr. for every child above the number four."

In accordance with Par. 4 of the regulations the mother's pension where there is one child shall be 60 per cent.; two children, 70 per cent.; three children, 80 per cent.; four children, 90 per cent. of the sum by which the family falls short of the income fixed as the basis for reckoning the pension. That is to say, proportionally, 2,000, 2,400, 2,800, 3,000. Moreover, the mother and her children who are entitled to pension should have free medical attendance.

Moreover, if a mother dies there is an extra payment of 200kr.; 100kr. when a child dies.

The Committee have laid it down that the expenses should not exceed 1,300,000kr. for widows, 300,000 for the separated and divorced wives, and 300,000 for unmarried mothers, making a total of 1,900,000kr. The expenses of administration, 62,300kr., have been set aside.—*Nygaende*, October 15.

RUSSIA.

Women as Factory Managers.

From an article in *Pravda* on the activities of the women workers in the economic reconstruction of Russia, we learn that a nationalised factory (formerly Poliakov and Co., one of the largest in Moscow) has on its works committee three women, one of whom was elected as manager. At first she had to carry on the direction of the big establishment quite alone, without the aid of specialists or engineers. Nevertheless, she acquitted herself of her task most brilliantly. Everywhere factories were obliged to stop production for lack of raw material and fuel, but her factory has been able to work to this day. The factory has attached to it a dining room, a creche, and a school, and meetings and concerts take place at frequent intervals. The workers, thanks to the efforts of the woman manager, all live in healthy and comfortable tenements, formerly belonging to the capitalist class.

Another factory, the great confectionery works which formerly belonged to Sioux and Co., also has at its head three women, who are respectively president, secretary, and treasurer of the Works' Committee. They also discharge their duties in an exemplary manner. The factory has a school, a good library, and reading room, and carries on courses of lectures and musical instruction. The large factory formerly of Gubkin and Kuznetsov, has also many women in various branches of the administration.—*The People's Russian Information Bureau*.
November 21, 1919.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The short session of the Union Parliament called to ratify the Peace Treaty closed without the introduction of any measure of woman suffrage for South African women. General Botha's generous expressions of sympathy with the women's cause at the Johannesburg banquet gave rise to hopes that he would recommend his Government to grant suffrage under the existing voting qualifications, so that women might vote for the election of the new Parliament. But General Botha died and nothing was done.

Memorials to the new Prime Minister have been widely signed, and the Women's Enfranchisement League, Cape Town, have presented a memorial to Parliament, urging the necessity of enfranchising women *immediately*, and under the existing voting qualifications, in the four Provinces. This memorial was signed by fifteen hundred men and women, not chosen at random, as in petitions, but representative of various interests, political, administrative, professional,

industrial, commercial, and agricultural. From the W.E.A.U. and from the Johannesburg Reform Club other memorials will be presented from all over the Union. Every effort is being made that the enfranchisement of women may be effected before the dissolution of Parliament.

General Smuts and Woman Suffrage.

After due notice, Mr. D. M. Brown asked the Prime Minister whether he was prepared to take action at an early date to extend the franchise to women, and thus give effect to the resolution adopted by Parliament in favour of the principle. The Prime Minister replied that this raised a matter of general policy, and Colonel Cresswell then asked whether he was aware that a resolution had been carried in favour of woman suffrage, and whether he proposed to disregard that resolution. General Smuts said that he had no intention of disregarding the resolution, but when pressed to state that he would give effect to it for the next election, gave the unsatisfactory and time-worn reply: "This is a difficult question."—Letter from Mrs. Ruxton and *Woman's Outlook*.
October 1919.

SPAIN.

A Woman Suffrage Bill to be Introduced.

A correspondent writes: "It is intended to give Spanish women the vote in a Bill which is to be introduced during the next parliamentary session. Should it pass, Spanish women would be in the curious condition of obtaining the vote almost before they have begun to ask for it. This Bill is presented by the Conservative party, which is anxious to secure woman suffrage before women know what to do with their new privileges."

"I am on the Committee of the National Association of Spanish Women, and, therefore, in the midst of the movement, which has only just lately taken root in Spain. I am delighted to think it has been decided to celebrate the next conference in Spain, and think it will be of enormous value in forwarding our interests, not only in this country, but in all Spanish-speaking nations."

"When you are here you will be able to appreciate the necessity of making women see how important the vote is, and how it can further their interests. This is what we are now doing through the press and popular lectures."

"I think the conference will be a great success, because we won't have to cope with the difficulties of a long and bitter previous opposition as most countries have done."

ELLA O. DE PALENCIA,

Asociacion Nacional de Mujeres Espanolas.
Madrid, November 12, 1919.

SWEDEN.

Swedish Women's Resolution to Washington Conference.

To the International Labour Congress in Washington and to the Women's Congress in Washington.

While emphasizing the necessity of providing for adequate protections against child labour, the regulation of juvenile labour conditions and the introduction for men and women of the eight hours' working day, an early rest season, extended labour inspection, effectual measures against unemployment, equal payment for equal work, we wish to point out, in accordance with the views earlier set forth by us, and in accordance also with the programme published this year by the "Comité Féminin Français du travail," that we do not approve the principle of a special protective legislation for women except in cases of maternity.

The Swedish Social-Democratic women's associations' signatories of this statement did not endorse the Berne convention of 1906, although it was officially approved by our country on the ground that, in our opinion, a legislation of this kind tends to restrain the scope of activity for women, precluding them from many suitable and remunerative occupations. To continue along the lines of special legislation for women previously entered upon, as night work prohibition or the introduction of *obligatory* shorter working hours for women, would be bad policy, especially at the present time, when the establishing of a general efficient protective legislation (providing also for men) seems to be imminent.

The necessity of providing economical support for mothers and children, on the other hand, has unfortunately not received sufficient consideration. An efficient maternity benefit would, therefore, be established for all women. For women, sole responsible providers for children, the community should furnish adequate guarantees as to assistance in the form of pensions to be paid to widows' children, and substantial support also for children of other mothers left alone with the burden of support.

We voice the hope that the Congress will see to it that the rights of women as citizens and individuals are vindicated, and that substantial assistance be afforded women in the exercise of their maternal duties.

Stockholm, in September, 1919.

For the Central Board of Social Democratic Women,

ANNA STERKY, President,

ANNA LINDHAGEN, International Sec.

For the Trade Co-organization of Social Democratic Women,

AMANDA FRÖSELL, President,

ANNA JOHANSSON-VISBORG, Treasurer.

October 28, 1919.

The Swedish Social expert factory inspector, Kerstin Hesselgren, undertook to present the document to both Congresses, and the above-named organisations have given powers to Dr. Alma Sundquist, who is at present in America to represent Swedish Social Democratic women in the Congress as a fraternal delegate.—*Morgenbris*, November.

Compulsory Insurance Against Sickness and Insurance of Motherhood.

The present proposal for insurance of motherhood has, as in all foreign legislation, formed a natural addition to compulsory sickness insurance.

The Committee's proposal embraces every Swedish man or woman who has attained the age of 16 years, and who, either alone, or with husband or wife, has a yearly wage of not more than 8,400kr., or property not exceeding 15,000kr., or an income from pension, etc., of not more than 1,000kr.

From the employer's side there are provided certain expenses on accidents, and from the State 48 öre a month for each insured person and half the cost of all attendance and drugs, together with 8 öre per month for each insured person to an administration fund.

In the event of illness the insured person receives free attention and drugs, and a sick pay corresponding to two-thirds of his earnings for the first 180 days, and afterwards half that amount.

At the birth of a child help is given the mother to the extent of the care of a midwife for 56 days, 14 days before and 42 days after the birth, a payment in money corresponding to the whole sickness insurance, at least 1kr., and for the first 42 days for insured women who are resting from their paid work, a "nursing payment" corresponding to half the sick pay for every day she nurses her child up to 50 days.

ANNA ÅBERGSSON.

—*Rosträtt för Kvinnor*, November 1.

Since I last visited my native country (1914) a great thing has happened. The Swedish women have got the political vote. That is to say, this year's Riksdag has passed the law, but before we can use our votes this Riksdag must dissolve and its work on the women's behalf be sanctioned by the next Riksdag. This delay the women seem to take with our race's usual philosophical calm, and to utilise it in preparing themselves for the great event—the practical use of their newly won political power.

To judge from the large enthusiastic meeting here on November 10, one of the questions they first of all will take up and unflinchingly fight to a finish for is "equal pay for equal work for men and women." The Danish women have recently "won through" in this demand, and two of their representatives were present at this Swedish meeting (Fru Arenhold and Frøhen Westergaard), and most ably and interestingly told the meeting how great the difference in men's and women's wages had been in Denmark, and what a strong and selfish opposition they had had to fight and overcome. The two Swedish speakers (Fru Johansson-Visborg and Fru Bugge Wicksen) pointed out that the prevailing conditions in wages are the same here, and that we also will have to be prepared for the same war of understanding from our country-

men. But the cheery, resolute looks everywhere bespoke a firm intention to "carry it through" as successfully as our Danish sisters have done, and a resolution to that effect was unanimously carried.

From the papers I see that my countrywomen also give their thoughts to compulsory insurance against illness and during maternity. The Social Democratic Women's Associations protest against the Berne Convention of 1906 (although Sweden officially has accepted that Convention); they argue that the special protection this Convention offers the women workers is more likely to prove an interference than real help and protection, and demand that all women workers should come under the same law of protection as all male workers.

It is pleasing to note how readily my countrywomen, in gratitude, turn their thoughts to co-workers in the great cause here and abroad. I have found no less than three recent publications to such effect: "A Character Sketch of Susan B. Anthony," by Friggu Carlberg; "A Short History of the Political Enfranchisement of Women in Foreign Countries," by Ann Margret Holmgren; and "A Short Biography of Anna Shaw," by the same writer. And at the celebration of the St. Birgitta Day (a yearly institution in the Franchise Society) they also celebrated Ellen Key, taking her coming 70th birthday as a special occasion, and she was paid the earnest and truest homage by Fru Marika Stjernstedt, who rendered an able and interesting description of her life and her work in the service of literature, art, and sociology. In thanking the Franchise women for their homage, Ellen Key asks them not to consider that their newly won victory is the real great victory. That one will only be theirs when they have freed themselves from the chains of present-day party politics, and formed themselves into a new, free, and independent party, which included like-minded men, a party in which no violence is done to members' consciences. Women's essential rôle in the world should not be that of a party fighting Valkyrie. It is *healers* that the parties, the peoples, and humanity itself now are in need of. This idea of a new, independent women's party was launched by Ellen Key sometime ago, and I believe it is beginning to interest women here and there.

On November 13 an informal reception was held in honour of Miss Chadwick, who is spending the winter in Stockholm, and who is rapidly making herself very much liked and esteemed by the Swedish franchise workers. She spoke on this occasion about the Quakers. Miss Chadwick was, together with her friend, Fraulein Haecker, presented to the Crown Princess of Sweden at a meeting of the "Idun" Society. On Thursday the 13th an "Anglo Swedish Society" was formed, and amongst the names of the committee we find Fröken Signe Bergman. T. THORBJÖRN.

Stockholm, November 16, 1919.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The National American Suffrage Association and the National Council of Women of the United States, have met with another loss, that will be felt also by their international organisations, which she helped to found. Mrs. Rachel Foster Avery died suddenly on October 26. She attended Dr. Shaw's funeral in July with the officers of the National Association, in perfect health and strength, and her death was a great shock.

After the many ratifications of the Federal Woman Suffrage Amendment during the summer, October proved to be a barren month, and not one was recorded. A good start has been made in November, and on the first day the California Senate ratified unanimously, and the Lower House by a vote of 73 to 2. On the fourth day the Maine Senate ratified, by a vote of 24 to 5, and on the next day the Lower House by 72 to 28. The big favourable vote in California was expected, but that of the Lower House in Maine shows that the suffrage leaders had reason for their anxiety in regard to that State. They knew that the eastern "antis" would concentrate their forces there to prevent ratification. This was useless in the Senate, but they did hope to prevent in the House, and the narrow margin of only four votes shows how nearly they came to doing so. However, it was carried, and it will stand, as an affirmative vote by a Legislature on a Federal amendment cannot be rescinded.

Nineteen States are now in the ratification column. The Legislatures of North Dakota and Idaho will vote during November, and there is no doubt whatever of the favourable results there. For various reasons the Governor of Colorado keeps postponing the date for ratification, but it will probably occur this month. We had expected action in Nevada, but the Governor telegraphs that a special session of the Legislature is to be called for several purposes, and it may have to be delayed as late as January, but this ratification is only a matter of a short time. In all of the equal suffrage states the Legislatures do not meet again in regular sessions until 1921, so that it is necessary to call special sessions for the ratifications. This involves a great deal of expense to the State, and the Governors delay calling them until more than this one matter can be attended to, especially when others are likely to come up which will require special action. In some States the Governor can call a Legislature together to act on certain measures which he names, and they cannot take action on anything else, but in others when the Legislature is convened it can remain in session as long as it pleases, and bring up all kinds of new legislation. Sometimes the Governor does not wish to give this opportunity. In Indiana, for instance, the Governor succeeded in getting a tax law through the last Legislature after a good deal of trouble, and he fears that, if it meets again, it will repeal this law, so he will not call it in special session until the taxes have been levied under this new law.

It is said that in two States at least people are so dissatisfied with the actions of their present Governors that if their Legislatures could get together the Governors would be impeached and put out of office. In Connecticut, where the majority of both houses of the Legislature petitioned the Governor to call them in special session for the purpose of ratifying the Amendment, he positively refused to do so. Now some other matters have come up which may require the special session, but he is afraid to call it because it will ratify the Amendment. These instances are given to show the readers of the *International Suffrage News* what difficulties the women of the United States have to meet in order to get the franchise.

In my last letter I spoke of the involved situation in New Jersey. This has not been improved by its recent State election. A Democratic Governor was elected by a large majority, and one of the planks in his platform was the immediate ratification of the Federal Suffrage Amendment but a Republican Legislature was elected on a platform which called for a referendum on this question of the voters, so this is the Chinese puzzle in New Jersey. The Legislature meets in January. The situation in Maryland is equally confused. A Democratic Governor was elected by a majority of less than two hundred. The Democratic State platform opposes the ratification, but the Democratic National platform demands it, and calls upon the State Legislature for favourable action. The Republican United States Senator from Maryland is making speeches in favour of it, and the Democratic Senator is organising a committee to defeat it. The Republicans throughout the country are making political capital out of the fact that sixteen of the nineteen States which have ratified the Amendment are strongly Republican, and the Democrats are greatly distressed at having to go into the Presidential campaign with only three ratifications to their credit; but neither President Wilson nor the National Committee, nor the leaders of the party, have been able to compel favourable action by Democratic Legislatures. Most of the Legislatures which meet in regular session during the coming winter are Democratic, and it may be possible that they will wake up to the situation before it is too late.

The political parties are vying with each other in their recognition of women, who scarcely have to make an effort for positions on the National and State Committees and in the various councils of the parties. Even in States where they have not yet secured the vote they are receiving this recognition, and there will be little left for them to gain after they have secured the right to go to the polls. Equal suffrage in every State carries with it automatically eligibility to all offices and civil rights of all kinds. There remain legal disabilities, which may require a change in the laws, but all other discriminations are removed, and if unfair laws are permitted to remain on the statute books it is because the women themselves do not make the proper effort to have them removed.

In New York the women have voted this month in the second State election. The registration was smaller than last year, due to the fact that the women's organisations depended on the political parties to bring out the women to register, and each of them was afraid to make any effort lest the women should cast their votes for another party. The leaders of Tammany, for instance, gave instructions that no effort should be made to bring out the women unless it was sure that they would vote the Democratic ticket. Only about 364,000 women registered in New York City, a little less than one-half the number of men, but it was noticeable that nearly all of those who did register, voted. The election as a whole was a victory for the Republicans, but there was no proof that this was due any more to women's votes than to men's. The feature, however, that was most noticeable, and was universally recognised, was the salutary effect of the women at the polls. It was a hotly contested election, and the *New York World* (Democratic) headed its account: "Women's big work in election proves stunning surprise. As campaigners, as polling clerks, as voters, fair sex shows a cleverness and efficiency that amaze." It said: "Police in all quarters of the city say that Women and Prohibition have wrought a vast change in a New York election day. Women, the unknown quantity, and for that reason admittedly the dominating factor in the election, distinguished themselves in their second year as part of the State's electorate for three things. As officials on Election Boards, many of which were almost wholly composed of women, they exhibited a facility and despatch which made the handling of the heaviest vote a local election has known an affair of oiled wheels. Whether as watchers or voters they carried into the polling places, in even the worst districts, where riot and unseemliness have hitherto intruded, a sense of order and attention to the business in hand. And in their devotion to the interests of the individual candidates whose banners they upheld, they were not only unflinching in sacrifice, but splendidly sportsmanlike when facing certain disaster."

The *New York Tribune* (Republican) said: "For the first time now polls and politics are receiving the same thoroughgoing treatment given every well-kept house twice a year. In every community where women voted we have just witnessed something very accurately resembling a fall cleaning—with the certain prospect of a spring cleaning and countless other cleanings to come hereafter."

The two present women members of the Legislature were defeated, and two others were elected. The first two had never been endorsed by the suffragists; one of them voted against the ratification of the Prohibition Amendment, and they also incurred the displeasure of the wage-earning women who are very much divided on what is called "welfare legislation," one branch insisting that there shall be no discrimination for women in regard to night work, hours of labour, or conditions, no demand for seats in stores, elevators, etc., but that they shall be treated exactly like men workers, in order that there may be no excuse for refusing them positions or paying them smaller wages; the other holding that as mothers, or potential mothers, and for other reasons, they should be safeguarded.

The two women elected, one on the Democratic and one on the Republican ticket, are highly spoken of. One is a graduate of Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York City, and a teacher in the Horace Mann School connected with that College; the other is a prominent physician of Schenectady, New York. Both rendered distinguished services during the war, and will be creditable representatives. A very competent lawyer of New York City, Miss Bertha Rembaugh, was a candidate for Municipal Judge, and was supported by the newspapers of the city, without regard to party. She was endorsed by many organisations of women, and by such men as former President Taft and President Butler of Columbia University, but as she ran on the Republican ticket in a strongly Democratic district, she was defeated. The first woman judge in this city or State has just taken her seat on the bench, Mrs. Jean Norris, Judge of the Women's Court and the Court of Domestic Relations. She was appointed by Mayor Hylan to serve for a month or longer during the illness of the regularly elected judge, but it is hoped that a precedent has been established. Mrs. Norris is president of the National Women Lawyers' Association, and when she took her seat she was welcomed by the president of the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association; representatives of

many women's societies were present, and her desk was covered with flowers. There are a few women judges in other cities, and a few women have been elected to high legal offices.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National American Suffrage Association, is making a six-weeks tour of the States west of the Mississippi River, conferring with the Governors to induce them to call special sessions, and holding conferences and mass meetings in the interest of the new League of Women Voters which is to replace the old National Association after the Amendment has been adopted and all of the women of the country are enfranchised. It will be absolutely necessary to have an organisation of this kind if they are to be held together, for as soon as they get the suffrage in any State the Association for that purpose goes to pieces. Women for the most part seem to welcome the idea of this new League, but it is going to be strongly opposed by the political parties, who resent the idea of non-partisanship in this large body of new voters. Each party had hoped to use it for its own advantage, and strongly objects to the idea of an independent electorate. Mrs. Catt has a wonderful genius for organisation, and probably will be able to overcome all the obstacles that will be put in the way of the League.

Is it not probable that the International Woman Suffrage Alliance will have to be changed into an association of this kind? Can it be held together under its old name when the women of practically all nations become enfranchised? At its last meeting in Budapest, in 1913, it looked as if the struggle of years was ahead before the women of all countries could win the suffrage, and yet at its next meeting in 1920 this will have been accomplished in practically all of the Western World. There will still be vast need, however, for organised movement, through which women can co-operate by the use of this new power for the welfare of humanity, and these needs are very much the same in all countries. Those who have been with the Alliance since its beginning, watched it increase in size and strength, and seen the comradeship that was possible among women of different nations, would consider it a calamity to have this great organisation go out of existence.

IDA HUSTED HARPER.

New York City, November 11, 1919.

WASHINGTON LABOUR CONFERENCE.

The International Labour Conference closed on November 29. Six draft conventions were adopted, which may be briefly summarised as follows:—

1. The daily hours of work in industry to be not more than 8, with a 48 hours' week. Where the hours on one day are less than 8, the limit may be exceeded on other days, provided that they are never more than 9. In shifts the limit may be exceeded provided the average number of working hours over a period of three weeks does not exceed 56 a week. Some other exceptions of the same nature are made. In Japan there will be a limit of 57 hours for workers over 15, with 60 hours for the silk industry, and in India 60 hours for miners and certain railway workers. In Greece and Rumania the above rules are not applicable till 1924.
2. Children under 14 are not admitted to industry. In Japan and India, in certain trades, children under 12 are barred.
3. Each country shall establish free employment agencies and furnish information to the International Labour Office every three months.
4. Women are not to be employed between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.
5. Persons under 18 are not to be employed between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. For Japan the limit is 15 till 1925, and for India the limit is 14.
6. No woman to work for six weeks after child-birth, and all women to have the right to quit six weeks before. Maintenance by the State while out of work owing to child-birth.

The *Maryland Suffrage News*, November 15, 1919, writes:—"That women should have equal representation with men in the delegations to the International Labour Conference was the first official motion made in the International Congress of Working Women held in Washington, D.C. Mademoiselle Jeanne Bouvier, a member of the Supreme Council of the French Federation of Labour, a garment worker and technical advisor to the International Labour

Conference, as well as a delegate to the Working Women's Congress, made the motion asking that in the next conference six delegates be sent from each country, two to represent employers, two to represent employees, and two from the Government, and that one of the two delegates representing each group be a woman. Mademoiselle Cappe, another technical advisor to the Labour Conference (Belgium), and a delegate to the Working Women's Congress, emphasized the fact that it was more important for the working-women of the world to see that laws concerning employment were enforced than that others were passed."

We cordially agree with Mademoiselle Bouvier and Mademoiselle Cappe. In spite of our far-reaching suffrage gains during the past years we have not yet attained anything approaching equality, and it is a striking fact that not one Government appointed a woman delegate with full voting powers to the International Labour Conference at Washington, though from the beginning it was known that questions intimately affecting the welfare and earning capacity of women were to be discussed. Women, it is true, were appointed as "advisors," but for years we have been offered these "advisory" jobs in one line or another as a substitute for more direct power. We refused them, and now that so many women are enfranchised it is more necessary than ever that they should demand adequate representation on every conference of this kind. One of the findings of the International Labour Conference in Washington is that "women are not to be employed between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m." If this is ratified then women will be automatically shut out of a large number of industries. It is intolerable that a conference on which women are so inadequately represented should deal with these matters more or less authoritatively. We need decent conditions in work, not restrictions on work. If these decent conditions are created in all work, men's as well as women's, the supposed need for restrictions on women's hours, etc., will be found to be needless.

December 1, 1919.

Woman Municipal Candidate Nominated in Paris

Mme. La Maziere writes that the Socialist Party has put her up as a candidate for the municipal elections, which are to take place shortly. She is the candidate for the ninth "arrondissement" (quartier St. George), but, unfortunately, she cannot be elected, as the Senate has not ratified the Woman Suffrage Bill passed by the Chamber. She hopes, however, to gain a few votes, although the district she is standing for is a rich one and very hostile to Socialism.

We look forward to an article from her next month on her "Impressions as a Candidate."—Paris, November 26, 1919.

LATE NEWS FROM CANADA.

The Canadian Criminal Code.

Mrs. Lang writes:—

"I am sorry to daunt you, but your informant *re* the Criminal Code was not accurate. The reforms you mention were passed by the Commons but amended by the Senate, and then, rather than accept the Senate's amendments, the Commons dropped the whole thing.

"I do not know if this is what is here called 'a put up job,' but this is the second—or, I think, the third—year that this identical thing has happened.

"The Criminal Code was amended to raise the penalty for selling motor-cars, but as far as sexual crimes are concerned there has been nothing done."

Banquet to Woman Judge and School Inspector.

The Board of our Canadian paper, *Woman's Century*, gave a most interesting banquet to two guests of honour—Mrs. Murphy, our woman judge from Edmonton, Alberta, and Miss Marty, LL.D., our newly appointed and first woman inspector of schools. The latter will work in Toronto. Besides these, representatives from all over Canada were present who are in Toronto just now for the First Dominion Convention of the Women's Institutes, which is to be held this week.

November 8, 1919.

An Appreciation from Manitoba.

A correspondent writes:—

"I am forwarding two years' subscription for 1919-20, as I should be very much disappointed if I did not receive your paper. Its success in maintaining its position during the trying years of the war is wonderful. Fairness to every nation has been its watchword.

"I live 200 miles north of Winnipeg, in the Swan River Valley, and am very much interested in work for women and children. I am President of the Women's Institute, Organising Secretary of the Boys' and Girls' Club, and School Fare, also a Grain Grower woman, so I meet a great many people and find the information in your paper very useful, often being able to tell those who would otherwise never hear of it of the progress of the women of the world."

Our October Number.

The October number of *Jus Suffragii* proved so popular that there are very few copies left in the office.

Will anyone who has an extra number to spare kindly return it to the Editor at Headquarters?

Subscribers who wish for extra copies of the special January Convention number are asked to communicate with Headquarters at once.

A Correction.

In our July issue it was stated that a Conference held at the Lyceum Club was called by the International Council of Women. The meetings in question were called by the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, and were attended by representatives from National Councils of Women in allied and neutral countries.

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LECTURES.

Saturday, 6th December, 5 p.m.—"Imperial Resettlement," Miss E. St. John Wileman, Chairman, Lady Askwith.
Wednesday, 10th December, 8 p.m.—"The Future of Women Police," Miss Damer Dawson, Chairman, Miss Alison Neilans.
Wednesday, 17th December, 8 p.m.—"Ghostly Phenomena," Dr. Ellis Powell, LL.D., B.Sc. Chairman.

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Dec. 3.—Miss M. A. Tata, B.A. (Hons.) (Representative of Bombay Women's Association): "Indian Women and the Vote."

.. 10.—Mr. G. S. P. Haynes: "Women Under the Divorce Laws."

EVENING MEETING.

Monday, December 8, 6 p.m. Dr. Octavia Lewin: "Health Through Sneezing."

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