

JUS SUFFRAGII,

MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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SEVENTH YEAR No. 6.

FEBRUARY 15, 1913.

Eternal Spirit of the chainless Mind!
Brightest in dungeons. Liberty! thou art,
For there thy habitation is the heart —
The heart which love of thee alone can
[bind;
And when thy sons to fetters are con-
[signed —
To fetters, and the damp vault's dayless
[gloom,
Their country conquers with their mart-
[yrdom,
And Freedom's fame finds wings on every
[wind.

LORD BYRON.



Il y va de l'intérêt du pays et du droit
de la moitié de la nation.

D'ailleurs la femme ne demande aucun
privilège Elle réclame l'égalité.

Manifeste des Femmes
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Announcements.

NOTICE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT.

1. *Auxiliaries should not forget that the reports of all Auxiliaries must be in my hands in New York City not later than March 1st, in order that these reports may be printed previous to the Convention, in accordance with the vote taken in Stockholm.*

2. *At the event there are distinguished persons whom the Auxiliaries desire to have officially invited to attend the Congress in Budapest, or Societies of their Country, which they desire to have officially invited to send Fraternal Delegates to Budapest, the names and addresses must be sent to me soon.*

Our readers will be pleased to hear that our appeal for more support for *Jus Suffragii* has been heard. A generous London suffragist has paid the expense of our sending samples and letters to all British Suffrage Societies of which we could find the addresses. The result was that we got a number of new subscriptions. Could not a means be found of imitating this action in other countries? Especially for the continuation of our French edition this would be most desirable, essential even.

Let those who feel sympathy for *Jus Suffragii* no longer defer to give this sort of financial help.

Congress Announcements.

The International President, Mrs. Chapman Catt, has sent the following special appeal to the women of the Balkan States:

— It is the hope of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance that the Congress to be held in Budapest June 15th to 21st, 1913, will prove a milestone in the woman movement. We expect delegates from Asia and hope to unite there the women of all nations, races and religions in a common plea to the Governments of the World for the extension of liberty and opportunity to women.

We are aware that the women of the Balkan States are just now engrossed in the care of the sick and wounded and that the great questions of the War absorb their every thought. Nevertheless,

I appeal to you to send your Delegates to our Congress that we may know what your women have done and that the common sisterhood of the World's women may be complete. There are wrongs of countries and of classes to be righted, but the wrongs of women are common to all races and nations, and they call for the united effort of the women of the World to set them right. Come and help us and allow us to help you.

Most cordially,
CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT.

THE PRESS-RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED BY GREAT BRITAIN.

Now that the discussion on the expediency of suffragists joining or not joining the political parties of their country has brought to light the different currents of opinion existing in the I. W. S. Alliance on this score, I would take another subject and invite different suggestions that might be offered to carry out the above-named most useful scheme proposed by Great Britain. We need not wonder that an Auxiliary which has itself a successful press-bureau that provides the daily papers of the country with suffrage news feels the expediency of having the same institution on a larger scale in the International Alliance.

By my experience as collector of international news and opinions I know that Great Britain, as the storm-centre of the suffrage movement, has the greatest need of watching against its events and actions being misrepresented in the daily press throughout the world. Possibly the other countries that have more or less successful press-bureaus (Denmark, the Netherlands etc.) have schemes to offer for the spreading of international news in the most efficient way. Unfortunately I must say that the news published by the organ of the Alliance does not completely and at any rate not quickly find its way into the ordinary daily press. Even the women's papers do not generally enough avail themselves of this our common source of news.

What to do for this end?

„*Jus Suffragii*” is ready to try every plan proposed and will gladly offer an opportunity to submit schemes or suggestions that may form a basis of discussion at Budapest. *Ed.*

Great Britain.

From the *Press Department of the N. U. W. S. S.* we receive the following communication:

Women's Suffrage in England has for the moment received an untimely check at the hands of the Speaker, who ruled that the grafting of the Women's enfranchising amendments upon the Reform Bill would so alter its character as to necessitate its withdrawal and the introduction of a new Bill. To dwell on the intense disappointment and irritation caused to suffragists throughout the country would serve no useful purpose. Deep dissatisfaction however, is felt at the inadequacy of the Prime Minister's compensatory offer of facilities for a private member's Bill next Session. It is realised that such a Bill would meet with the insuperable difficulties which were encountered last March, when the Conciliation Bill was defeated by a majority of 14. The National Union has, therefore, readjusted its attitude with regard to the Government and has defined its position in the following manifesto:—

„The offer of facilities for a private member's Bill next session cannot be regarded by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies as an equivalent of the opportunity promised by the Prime Minister of proceeding by means of an amendment to the Government Franchise Bill. Such an amendment once passed would have received the protection of the Government, and the advantage of the Parliament Act. A private member's Bill, on the other hand, would be subject to continual risk from the devices of its enemies during the three years which might elapse before it could become law. Procedure by private member's Bill would have had an excellent chance in 1910 and 1911, when the Conciliation Bill passed its second reading by large majorities, but the Government would not grant facilities. A promise of facilities was given for 1912, but in the meantime the Bill, in the words of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was „torpedoed" by the announcement of the Government Franchise Bill, which we were assured by Sir Edward Grey, „provided a better opportunity than Women's Suffrage had ever yet had of making real progress in the House of Commons". It is, therefore, clear that the offer of a private member's Bill is wholly inadequate to meet the situation, and that nothing now can fully redeem the Prime Minister's pledges except the introduction of a Government measure including women."

The Labour Party was holding a Conference the following week, and among the subjects for discussion was that of the attitude of the Labour Party to Women's Suffrage. Should the Labour Party accept franchise reform without women or should it not. The Conference does not generally observe strict silence during the delegates' speeches, but as soon as Philip Snowden rose there was a hush of expectancy. He held the Conference tense, as no other Speakers had done, and the response to his appeal to the men not to „sneak" more votes for themselves at the expense of the women, was immediate and enthusiastic. The feeling of the delegates was clear, but a card vote was called for, and the final announcement that the amendment that „the Conference calls upon the Party in Parliament to oppose any Franchise Bill in which women are not included" had been carried by 870,000 votes to 437,000 was received with a spontaneous outburst of enthusiasm unique in the Conference. Not content with clapping, the delegates cheered for several minutes together and when, later on a telegram of congratulation

from the National Union was read, it was received with marked approval. London, Febr. 1913.

The *Women's Social and Political Union* organised a deputation of representative working women to interview Mr. Lloyd George, and ask how he proposed that the millions of women whom he desired to see enfranchised were to gain the Vote by means of women's amendments to the Franchise Bill. Over a thousand women came from all parts of the Kingdom, but twenty only were received by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and introduced by Mrs. Drummond on the 23rd of January. The working women's point of view as to the necessity of the Vote was admirably put by one woman after another, and Mr. Lloyd George expressed himself much impressed by their sincerity and business-like presentation of their case. Although he gave no satisfactory pledge, he promised to receive the deputation again when the political situation changed. He, however, withdrew this promise later when Mrs. Drummond asked for its fulfilment after the Speaker had ruled the women's amendments out of order, and the situation for women was materially altered.

The Chancellor's substitution of a private interview without reporters did not satisfy Mrs. Drummond, who marched with members of her deputation to the House, was forcibly refused admittance, arrested, and with others committed to prison.

The *Women's Social and Political Union* from the first disclaimed any faith in Mr. Asquith's Franchise Bill; and the Premier's broken pledge, with regard to the women's amendments was not a surprise to the Union, which has always demanded a Government measure.

The Speaker's ruling was given at the last moment, although the Franchise Bill had been five years before the country. This proved the drafting of the Bill to have been the work of either bad lawyers or dishonest politicians, and that the expensive legal machinery at the disposal of the Government is inefficient or corrupt. The W.S.P.U. persist in their demand for a Government Bill, in which they are now joined by all other Suffrage Societies. Mr. Asquith's new „pledge" of a private Member's Bill next Session is rejected as worthless.

Robbed of the protection of the Parliament Act, by the delay in dealing with the question, and defrauded of the Government's support, promised in the Prime Minister's original pledge, the women of the country are obviously without any means of redress save militancy.

The Secretary of the W. S. P. U. London, Febr. 1913.

The *Men's League*, like the other Women's Suffrage Organisations, has been profoundly disgusted with the discreditable failure of the Government to redeem its pledge with respect to the Reform Bill. The very difficulty which led to the abandonment of this measure had been foreshadowed by Suffragists and by Members of Parliament themselves in its early stages, and nothing can absolve the Government from the gravest dishonour in permitting a breakdown at the last moment. The action of the Speaker also appears, on many grounds, open to the severest criticism. It must be said, however, that the provisions of the Reform Bill, apart from the question of Women's Suffrage, were of so controversial a character as to seriously prejudice the chances of its success.

The Women's Suffrage Societies having practically unanimously rejected Mr. Asquith's new proposal, in favour of demanding a Government meas-

ure, the Men's League has resolved, for the sake of a united policy, to join in the demand. For the first time therefore for many years the whole Women's Suffrage movement appears to be solid in policy, and it is to be hoped that this will bring about a better understanding as to methods. The difficulties in the way of obtaining a Government measure seem at the moment insuperable, but there are hopes that Mr. Asquith will not continue in office much longer, and that he will be succeeded by Sir Edward Grey. With a strongly Suffragist Premier the cabinet may be induced to take the matter up.

The Men's League inaugurated a strongly worded Memorial to Members of Parliament, signed by prominent men supporters, just before the Reform Bill discussion, and sent it to each Member with a copy of the League's handbook on the situation. Unfortunately the Speaker's action prevented Members from discussing the question to any great extent, but it is to be hoped that some good has been done by these efforts.

C. V. DRYSDALE.

After the withdrawal of the Government Franchise and Registration Bill, the Executive Committee of the *Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association* passed the following resolution:—

„That this Committee feel that a Government measure is the most satisfactory method of dealing with the question of the enfranchisement of women, and the Committee very much regret that the Government has found it impossible to adopt this method."

The Committee further decided that all possible support should be given to the private Member's Bill, facilities for which have been promised by the Prime Minister.

Our meeting for Conservative men and women at the Horticultural Hall, London, on Thursday evening, Feb. 6th, was an unqualified success. In the unavoidable absence of the Viscountess Castlereagh through illness, the Lady Knightley of Fawsley (first President of the Association) kindly took the Chair and introduced the following speakers: The Earl of Selborne, Lord Willoughby de Broke, Lady Betty Balfour, Mr. C. S. Goldman, M.P. and Miss Evelyn Deakin.

The resolutions were as follows:—

(1) „That this Meeting deeply regrets that owing to the inexcusable carelessness of His Majesty's Government in the conduct of the business of the House of Commons, the opportunity for a decision upon the question of Women's Suffrage has been lost for this Session, and wishes to express its sympathy with all the women whose hopes have been so grievously disappointed by the failure of the Government to redeem its promises."

(2) „That this Meeting urges all Conservative Suffragists to do their utmost to take advantage of any opportunity offered by the Government of passing a measure of Women's Suffrage through the House of Commons."

The following Vice-Presidents of the Association and Unionist Members of Parliament were present:—

The Marchioness of Sligo, Winifred, Countess of Arran, the Countess of Essex, the Countess of Lonsborough, the Earl and Countess of Lytton, the Countess of Selborne (President), the Viscountess Churchill, the Viscountess Dillon, the Viscountess Hill, the Viscountess Howick, the Viscountess Masareene & Farrard, Miss Balfour, the Lady Robert Cecil, the Lady Mary Cooke, the Lady Winifred Gore, the Lady Emily Wyndham Quin, the Lady Willoughby de Broke, the Lady Penrose Fitzgerald, the Hon. Mrs. Bailey, the Hon. Mrs. Burn, the Hon.

Mrs. William Cecil, the Hon. Mrs. Devereux, Lady Strachey, Lady Lockyer, Lady Wilson, the Hon. John Gordon, M.P., Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck, M.P., Sir A. Griffith Boscawen, M.P., Sir John Rolleston, M.P. and Lady Rolleston, Sir Edward and Lady Busk, Mr. L. Worthington Evans, M.P., Colonel Pryce Jones, M.P., Mr. A. Clavell Salter, M.P. and many other prominent Conservative members of the Association.

During the past month meetings under the auspices of the Association have been held in Bath, Birmingham, Cheltenham, Dublin, Hampstead, Hayling Island, Purley, Shipston-on-Stour, Stamford, Woking, Warwick, and an „At Home" at 18, Cadogan Place London, at which Mr. Ronald McNeill, M.P. took the Chair, and the Lady Betty Balfour spoke.

United States.

At this moment in America the minds and hearts of all suffragists are with the dear ones in Great Britain, now at the crisis in their long struggle, and, if the cable news is correct, facing almost certain defeat! On all sides is heard an expression of deep indignation and if they lose they may be assured of the strongest sympathy throughout our country.

In the United States events are occurring so rapidly that we open our newspapers each morning eager to see what has happened over night. Legislatures in nearly all our States convene in January and already that of Montana has passed the woman suffrage bill through both houses. As it does not have to be acted on a second time the constitutional amendment will probably go to the voters next autumn and a campaign will begin at once in that large State on our northern border. The prospects of its success are excellent.

To the southeast of it in South Dakota the bill has passed the Senate with only two opposing votes, and before this is read it will undoubtedly have passed the Lower House, and, as only one Legislature has to act, an immediate campaign there is practically assured. We shall be disappointed if there is not also one in North Dakota, just above it and Nebraska to the South. All of those big, independent Western States seem ready now to enfranchise their women. The Legislature of Nevada met January 20 and we are expecting every day to hear that it has acted favorably on the woman suffrage bill. Bills are pending in several other States but it is too soon to make predictions.*

* * *

At last the women in Michigan have had to give up their contest. There is no doubt the amendment received a majority of the votes but when the official count was announced it gave 740 against them in the entire State. They secured an order to open the ballot boxes in Detroit, the only large city, and here they found ample evidence of many fraudulent and illegal votes. The case was carried to the court, which decided that the law did not permit a recount! Scarcely anybody knew such a law existed, but the women had to yield to it. The Legislature, which is in control of the Republicans, offered to submit the question again, and they even gave the State Suffrage Association a choice of the time when it would like to have the voters pass upon it, and the decision was for April. The new Governor is as strongly in favor as the one who just went out of office and he says he will see that there is an honest election. Doubtless my letter next

*) Nevada voted in favor. Now already we are to have amendment campaigns in Montana, South Dakota and Nevada.

I. H. H.

month will tell that the bill has been passed and the campaign is in progress.

The New York suffragists are feeling much elated. On the 21st the bill passed the Lower House with only seven votes in opposition. On the 23d it passed the Senate with only two votes against it, but unfortunately this body added an amendment requiring the naturalization of foreign-born wives, who now by law assume the nationality of the husbands. This made it necessary to return the bill to the Assembly, who are to vote on it again the 27th, but they will probably accept the amendment. Another Legislature must act on the bill two years from now before it can go to the voters, and the women will at once begin a State-wide campaign to create a public sentiment which will compel that second Legislature to ratify the action of this one. Once before, in 1895, the bill passed its first Legislature but the second defeated it. There was a vast difference between the free and cordial manner in which the Western Legislators granted the appeal of the women and the grudging, disagreeable way in which those of New York yielded to what they could no longer resist. Many of the latter said as they answered to their names that they did not believe in woman suffrage and should vote against it at the polls, but as the platform of their party contained a pledge to submit the amendment they would have to give their consent. Others, however, were loyal and chivalrous to the women, and the newly-elected Governor Sulzer, always in favor of equal suffrage, gave all the assistance in his power.

The chief interest now is centered in the parade which is to take place in Washington, the national capital, March 3d, the day before the inauguration of President Wilson. It is no exaggeration to say that it is occupying more space in the newspapers than the inaugural ceremonies. It promises to surpass any suffrage parade yet given in this country and will include women from practically every State. The use of the magnificent western entrance of the Capitol building itself, with its wide approaches, has been granted for the formation of the parade, which will march down Pennsylvania Avenue (just as the inaugural procession will the next day), until it reaches the beautiful Treasury Building at the foot. Here on its broad steps, also by permission of the Government, allegorical tableaux will be given and patriotic music rendered, led by our own glorious Nordica. Then the procession will sweep on till it reaches the White House, home of the President, where it will encircle the historic grounds before disbanding. If the weather is propitious this spectacle will be witnessed by hundreds of thousands.

New York as usual is in the throes of arranging for a dozen great meetings. The Men's League leads off on February 3d with a dinner at one of the best hotels, where the speakers will be Mrs. Chapman Catt, Mrs. Philip Snowden, of England; the district attorney of New York (the highest legal office); a Justice of the Supreme Court; the City Controller, and Miss Mary Johnston, of Virginia, the novelist. This will be followed on the 15th by a large "tea" and reception at Hotel Astor, in honor of Miss Susan B. Anthony's birthday, and of Dr. Shaw's, which occurs the preceding day, for which hundreds of acceptances have been received. Then follows on the 17th at Carnegie Hall the mass meeting of the National Association, as a farewell to the vice-president, Miss Jane Addams, who starts the following day for Egypt. She will remain abroad until after she has attended the International Congress at Budapest.

Hundreds of smaller meetings are constantly

taking place and in closing this long letter one of these of special significance, occurring to-morrow may be mentioned. The Republican Club of New York City, one of the largest political clubs in the United States, gives a luncheon to its members to hear a debate between representatives of the suffrage and anti-suffrage associations!

IDA HUSTED HARPER.

New York, January, 1913.

At the Philadelphia Convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association the newly-elected officers were:

President, Rev. Anna Howard Shaw, Moylan, Pa.
First Vice-president, Miss Jane Addams, Chicago.
Second Vice-President, Miss Charlotte Anita Whitney, Oakland, Cal.

Recording Secretary, Mrs. Susan Walker Fitz Gerald, Boston.

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Mary Ware Dennett, New York.

Treasurer, Mrs. Stanley McCormick, Boston.
First Auditor, Mrs. James Lees Laidlaw, New York.
Second Auditor, Mrs. Joseph T. Bowen, Chicago.

The following is the text of the resolutions adopted at the National Suffrage Convention:

We, the National American Woman Suffrage Association, at our forty-fourth annual convention, in the city of Philadelphia assembled, reaffirm that our one object and purpose is the enfranchisement of the women of our country. We call upon all our members to rejoice at the winning of the school vote by the women of Kentucky and at the full enfranchisement of four more States—Kansas, Oregon, Arizona and Michigan; to rejoice in the fact that at the last election the electoral vote of women fully enfranchised has been nearly doubled, and to rejoice that the political parties are now obliged to reckon with the growing power of the woman vote.

Resolved, That the National American Woman Suffrage Association re-affirms the principle for which our association has always stood, of being an absolutely non-partisan, non-sectarian body.

That the National American Woman Suffrage Association believes in the settlement of all disputes and differences, national and international, by arbitration and judicial methods and not by war.

That we commend the action of the Federation of Women's Clubs, which has founded departments for the study of political economy, and that we congratulate those clubs that have indorsed our movement to gain the ballot for all women.

That we commend the efforts of the National Government to end all traffic in women; that we urge the passage in our States of more stringent laws for the protection of women; that we demand the same standard of morals for men and women and the same penalties for transgressions, regardless of sex; that we call upon women everywhere to awake to the dangers of the social evil, and to hasten that day when women shall vote and when commercialized vice shall be exterminated.

That we deeply deplore the exploiting of the children of this country in our labor markets, to the detriment and danger of coming generations; that we commend the action of Congress in the creation of a National Children's Bureau and President Taft's appointment of a woman, Miss Julia Lathrop, as head of that bureau.

(From *The Woman's Journal*.)

Hungary.

One of the most important epochs of the W.S. movement in Hungary is the present time. The defeat of the English women has augmented our

own distrust of politicians, which was also proved right by some new events of our own country. As you remember, some leaders of the Opposition parties, for instance Count Albert Apponyi, François Kossuth and others, promised to get their parties to stand actively for W.S. Though all the leaders declared to be in favour of W.S. we didn't get an official answer, so that we had finally to urge very strongly for a reply. This we got. It said that the coalition of Opposition parties are of so different views concerning W.S. that the managing leaders of the Opposition do not think this to be the right moment to introduce a new dissension between them.

If you know that the Opposition parties include the most reactionary Clericals as well as the Social-democratic party, the most chauvinistic national party in full friendship with the cosmopolite parties, the party wishing to stand for ever in union with Austria with the parties whose aim it is to promote the divorce from Austria, you will see again, that men are able to forget every difference of creed and opinion; only one thing they never forget i.e. that the women's demands are nothings, not even worth to be discussed, if there is any difference of opinion about them.

While the Opposition parties gave us practically a desillusion, which theoretically is very old, we have the great joy to be able to gather facts which show, that we still stand a good chance to carry W.S. in connection with the present Reform Bill.

Our latest news in this respect are these: The principal semi-official paper of the Government, „Budapesti Hirlap”, had lately two leading articles about the Government Bill which criticized the fact that Votes for Women is not proposed in it, and gave concrete advices about the measure which would be desirable. One leading article was written by Mr. Edvi Illés, a highly esteemed lawyer and the other by Charles Kmetty, Professor of Political Economics at the Budapest University. The latter was formerly a Member of Parliament much opposed to the extension of women's rights but confessing now to be converted to the necessity of W.S. not only for the benefit of the individual, but also for the State. Another very interesting convert is the former Minister of the Interior Joseph Kristófiy, who introduced the first Reform Bill in 1905 explaining the exclusion of women in 3 lines (see last number of „Jus Suffragii”). He confesses now in an interview made by a journalist that women ought to get the vote. Lots of our leading politicians being interviewed in this question admit that it is a great fault not to begin with introducing at least some measure of W.S. with the Reform Bill. Especially valuable were the articles of Mr. Dolechal, Professor of Public Law at the University of Budapest and University-Professor Ladislaus Négyessy. All these and many other articles in favour of W.S. are going now constantly through our press, which shows the very wonderful fact, that, besides the social-democratic and the boulevard press, there is no opposition in the press of Hungary against the demand of inclusion of W.S. into the Reform Bill. We value especially highly the fact that in the „Pester Lloyd” the former Minister of the Instruction, His Excellency Georg von Lukács, not only criticised the exclusion of women but gives notice of his intention to dwell further on this subject. As he is a very highly esteemed member of the present Government party, his changed views are especially valuable, for us the more so, as he formerly also treated W.S. as of no consequence in a book on the subject of Universal Suffrage questions.

We are glad to know that very probably His Excellency will accept the presidency of our Men's League for W.S.

The Reform Bill is now under discussion in a committee of 40 members elected by the House. As the Opposition parties are boycotting the Parliament all the members of this Committee belong to the Government Party. As soon as they were elected we began canvassing them. Our canvassing had the surprising result, that not one of the gentlemen declared himself opposed to W.S. Their great majority declared to be very much in favour of granting votes to women now, in connection with the present Reform Bill. Not only our society, but many other societies, among whom is the National Council of Women, who devoted an extra-ordinary annual meeting under the presidency of Countess Albert Apponyi to the discussion of the Government's Bill, and the National Society of female Clerks, etc. etc., are pressing the Committee to include W.S.

Count Charles Kluen-Hédervary, the president of the Government Party and president of the Committee to discuss the Reform Bill, declared that the Committee will occupy itself with the question of W.S. Several members are already named who will propose to the Committee the inclusion of W.S.

It is an exceedingly hot time for us. Every day brings new surprises, new tasks, new work. The women, living in the South-Eastern part of Hungary, collected a good lot of signatures to a petition asking votes for women, but they made a party question of it, i.e. they left the right to decide, whether their petition should be presented, to the Saxon fraction (13 M.P.), which decided not to present it to the House.

A great surprise was the introduction of a Bill from those Members of Parliament who represent the Romanian population of Hungary. This Bill demands universal suffrage for all adult men and women. It may be that this bill will never be discussed, but surely it will be valuable for us as the second bill since women in Hungary were disfranchised (in 1848) demanding the restitution of their rights.

We suffered since our last report another loss by the death of Dr. Sigmund Várady, M.P., who was a strong supporter of our cause and lately rendered it very valuable help. His nerves being ruined totally by the political disorder in our country he committed suicide. We mourn in him a very helpful friend, who was also amongst the founders of one of our branches.

A great success was the lecture of Sir John Cockburn, the former Prime-Minister of Australia, who spent 4 days in Budapest on our invitation, and was here the object of the greatest attention. His strong belief in our cause and his personal charm converted many new friends. We are very grateful for the service Sir John Cockburn has rendered to our cause.

Since the political work needs at this moment every bit of our work and energy we are a little backward in our Congress correspondence and beg to excuse every delay in replies.

We are very happy to hear from many lands the good news that many suffragists are preparing to come to Budapest. You may be sure that this news, which we insert properly in our press, is a very great factor in the converting of our people in general. Please let us know as early possible who is coming from your country. May we mention here, that there are several countries which did not answer yet our questionnaire of June 1912. We would be very grateful if those countries would favour us with an early reply. Everything allows us to hope that our Congress will become a splendid demonstration for the united will of just-thinking men and women. Please do remember that the greatest

help for the cause would be to have the greatest number of attendants, therefore please do try to induce as many people as possible to come besides the delegates and alternates, as guests and visitors, as fraternal delegates, as journalists and in any other possible capacity.

The world may see, how advanced our cause is, by the quality and quantity of people who are representing it.

ROSIKA SCHWIMMER.

On December 31st the Prime Minister Ladislaus von Lukacs presented to the House of Representatives the plan for electoral reform which he had promised to submit before the end of the year. The first paragraph is this:

Qualified for the election of Members of Parliament is every male Hungarian citizen having resided there for at least five years, provided he have attained the required age and possess a fixed residence and one of the qualifications here specified.

The qualifications are mostly of a fiscal and of an educational nature and so little democratic that Mr. Szekely M.P. announced immediately that he would leave the party.

The „Pester Lloyd“ published the following explanation from the Premier, Mr. Lukacs himself:—

Vermöge ihrer prinzipiellen Bedeutung gehört auch die Frage des Frauenwahlrechtes in den Rahmen der allgemeinen Begründung. Diese Frage tritt in neuer Zeit allenthalben immer stärker in den Vordergrund. Die Anhänger des Frauenwahlrechtes sind mit grosser Begeisterung und Energie bemüht, die Idee volkstümlich zu machen und die öffentliche Meinung für sie zu gewinnen.

Mein Gesetzentwurf wünscht des Wahlrecht bloss den Männern zu erteilen. Das bedeutet keineswegs, dass ich die Bedeutung der Frau im öffentlichen Leben unterschätze. Ich lege grossen Wert auf die Mitwirkung der Frau, insbesondere auf dem Gebiete der sozialen Fürsorge und der philanthropischen Einrichtungen, wo die Frau nicht nur ein unschätzbare Mitarbeiter der sozialen Tätigkeit, sondern auch eine Helferin der in moderner Richtung zu entwickelnden Verwaltung ist. Die ganze ungarische Rechtsentwicklung beweist die Wertschätzung der Frau. In unserem Vaterlande ist die Lage der Frau zu allen Zeiten die einer ihres edlen Berufes bewussten gewesen. Sowohl im Staatsrecht, wie insbesondere im Privatrecht ist stets das Streben nach Achtung der Rechte der Frau zur Geltung gelangt. Indessen, die Frau, als ebenbürtige Konkurrentin des Mannes im wirtschaftlichen Kampfe, beschäftigt erst in jüngster Zeit die ungarische öffentliche Meinung, und auch auf diesem Gebiete kommt die für das Seelenleben der ungarischen Nation bezeichnende liberale Gesinnung zur Geltung in den Bestimmungen, die in raschem Nacheinander die der nach Broterwerb ausgehenden Frau im Wege stehenden Hindernisse beseitigen. Wenn ich gleichwohl nicht die Zeit als gekommen erachte, um das Wahlrecht auch auf die Frauen zu erstrecken, so bin ich bei dieser Überzeugung von denselben Gesichtspunkten geleitet, die es der Gesetzgebung zur Pflicht machen, bei der Ausdehnung des Wahlrechtes die Gesetzmässigkeit der stufenweisen Entwicklung nicht durch übergangslose Übertreibungen über den Haufen zu werfen.

Wenn es gilt, ein so zahlreiches neues Wählerpublikum zur Ausübung des wichtigsten politischen Rechtes zu erziehen, welches an ziffermässigem Umfang binnen kurzer Zeit die Gesamtzahl der gegenwärtigen Wähler erreichen wird, wäre es nicht zeitgemäss, die Erschütterungen des Überganges dadurch zu steigern, dass wir in die politischen

Kämpfe gerade jetzt auch noch die Frau einbeziehen, der es ja nur nachteilig sein könnte, wenn die Gegensätze, die nicht einmal noch im wirtschaftlichen Wettbewerbe ausgeglichen sind, nun auch noch durch die Parteigegensätze verschärft würden.

In eine theoretische Diskussion über das Frauenwahlrecht möchte ich mich nicht einlassen. Auch in der Frage des Männerwahlrechtes gehe ich ja nicht von abstrakten Theorien aus, und so will ich denn auch diese Frage lediglich aus dem Gesichtspunkte der Zweckmässigkeit beurteilen, ob es geraten wäre, zu einer Zeit, da wir von einem in die engsten Schranken gebannten Wahlrecht in einer umfangreichen Rechtsausdehnung übergehen, die ungewissen Chancen der Zukunft auch noch durch Gewährung des Frauenwahlrechtes zu vermehren. Denjenigen, die vom Standpunkte theoretischer Argumente für die im Kampfe ums Dasein selbständige Frau das Wahlrecht fordern, trete ich mit den Argumenten der praktischen Zweckmässigkeit entgegen. Ich halte es für recht und billig, dass die Frau, die ungeachtet ihrer ungünstigeren Rüstung, unter den gleichen Bedingungen wie der Mann für das tägliche Brot kämpft, oder an dem um die Geltung im öffentlichen Leben wogenden ewigen Kampfe teilnimmt, zu den öffentlichen Angelegenheiten ihr Wort erheben dürfe. Auch lassen sich auf einer gewissen Stufe der wirtschaftlichen und kulturellen Entwicklung die Kriterien finden, innerhalb welcher wir der Frau das Wahlrecht erteilen könnten.

Die natürlichste Grundlage des Zensus des Frauenwahlrechtes wäre die Intelligenz, die Vermögenslage und die Selbständigkeit. Allein diese Bedingungen würden, weder kombiniert, noch gesondert ins Auge gefasst, eine gerechte Selektion möglich machen. In dem wirtschaftlichen und sozialen Leben unseres Landes ist nämlich die Lage der zum Broterwerb genötigten oder im öffentlichen Leben auf andere Art wirkenden Frau noch lange nicht so weit gediehen, um schon jetzt ohne grosse Ungerechtigkeit oder lückenhafte Generalisierung die Grenze feststellen zu können, innerhalb deren die Frau in den Besitz des Wahlrechtes gelangen könnte.

Bei der Frau könnte, wenn auch die Kriterien des Vermögens oder Selbständigkeit sonst zutreffen, der Intelligenzzensus in der Regel nicht erlassen werden; denn bei den gegenwärtigen sozialen Verhältnissen erschliesst sich im Kreise der auf tieferer Intelligenzstufe stehenden Arbeiterschaft für die erwerbende Frau ein unverhältnismässig geringeres Gebiet, um die zur Stellungnahme im öffentlichen Leben erforderlichen Kenntnisse in noch so oberflächlicher Weise zu erwerben, als dem Manne. Die infolgedessen unerlässliche Einführung eines höheren Intelligenzzensus hinwieder würde zu der Ungerechtigkeit führen, dass gerade die ausschliesslich von der eigenen rechtschaffenen Arbeit lebenden selbständigen Frauen in ihrer grossen Mehrheit aus der Wählerschaft ausbleiben würden. Und es könnten auch zahlreiche gebildete Frauen, die im öffentlichen Leben oder im Familienkreise ihren Frauenberuf in hervorragender Weise ausüben, nicht in den Besitz des Wahlrechtes gelangen, da sie im Elternhause unterrichtet wurden und daher nicht in der Lage sind, das als Durchschnittsmass geforderte Schulzeugnis aufzuweisen.

Wenn wir mithin schon jetzt — im Verein mit dem anderen Kriterium auch an dem höheren Intelligenzzensus festhaltend — der Frau das Wahlrecht erteilen wollten, so würde dies in der Praxis nur einen verschwindend geringen Bruchteil der Frauen zur Urne zulassen. Da wir aber das Maximum hinausgehende Mass der Schulbildung zum überwiegenden Teile im Kreise der wohlhabenderen Bürgerklasse vorfinden, so würde das auch auf den

höheren Intelligenzzensus begründete Frauenwahlrecht in der Praxis zu einem Klassenvorteil werden, der die in der männlichen Gesellschaft vorhandenen Wahlrechtsgegensätze auch unter die Frauen tragen und solchermassen statt Beruhigung zu schaffen, die Klassengegensätze verschärfen würde.

Dies sind die hauptsächlichsten Gesichtspunkte, die mich bewogen haben, die Ausdehnung des Wahlrechtes auf die Frauen bei diesem Anlasse nicht in Vorschlag zu bringen.

Denmark.

Let me first of all tell the readers of „Jus“, that to-day a *Men's League* was formed here under the presidency of our representative at the Congress in October in London, Mr. Munch-Petersen, an able lawyer and well-known suffragist. For years he has been a member of the Central Committee of our eldest Union, Dansk Kvindesamfund, and has done the cause much good not only by giving his name to it but also his *work*. He is for instance the head of several important special committees, one of which has lately petitioned the Government for women's free access to all Offices of the State. Among the officers elected for the League the famous philosopher *Harald Høffding* became the President and Mr. Munch-Petersen the Vice-President. Other members are well-known men of all classes. Even though Danish women seem to be on the point of carrying the victory, it is most useful and a great joy to us to see men of importance officially acknowledge our claim and stand side by side with us. The activity of the League will so far be small, but simply the fact that it is there, is of great value to the cause and we hope that it will also help the cause in other countries and that the time will be near when the Danish Men's League for Women's Suffrage is able to send out the message to its co-workers abroad that Women's Suffrage in Denmark has been a great benefit to the country and not—as feared by some people—an immense evil. Women's Societies have at once welcomed the League by telegrams, flowers and articles in the papers and the whole affair has been very useful in the propaganda-work.

As mentioned in the last letter of the *Danske Kvindeforeningers Valgrettsforbund*, we have had the pleasure of seeing Miss Jessie Ackerman among us. She spoke most brilliantly at several meetings—sometimes twice a day—and won the sympathy and love of all her audience. She spoke in the same church as Anna Shaw did in 1906 and members of the congregation were present at all the following meetings. Her subject was Woman Suffrage, of course, and then some most interesting experiences from her wonderful journeys all over the world. She left us for Sweden and Finland and we have received word that the women of Norway have succeeded in securing her for some meetings also there. Then she will come back and stay here for some time to rest and we hope we shall be able to show her something else than our largest halls filled with people, however delightful this sight may be to her.

THORA DAUGAARD,
Copenhagen, February the 7th, 1913. Int. Sec.

After the Christmas-holidays the Landsting (Upper House) had its first sitting on the 8th of January, and the first reading of the Government's constitutional reform bill took place on this and the following days.

The Moderates, the Radicals and the Socialists of the Landsting spoke to the effect that they were

going to support the bill in its present shape, while the Conservatives declared, that they could not do so, until it had been considerably altered in certain points concerning the electoral rights for the Upper House. But the Conservatives nevertheless expressed their willingness to discuss and consider the bill, and to this end it was referred to a committee of fifteen members of different parties. The president of the committee is a Conservative.

Although the bill was sent to this committee as early as the 10th of January only two business-meetings—and very short ones—have been held since then, and the third committee-meeting is to be held as late as the 20th of February.

This certainly seems slow work. However, there is always a chance that the Prime-Minister may use his privilege to keep the Parliament sitting until the 1st of May, in which case there ought to be time enough for the bill to go through its different stages.

CLINNY DREYER.

Copenhagen, Febr. 1st, 1913

Sweden.

On the 9th and 10th of January the Central Board of the N.W.S.A. had its 10th annual meeting in Stockholm. The N.W.S.A. now consists of 187 local societies, which had sent 84 representatives to the meeting.

At the opening of the first session the President gave a short retrospect of the 10 years that the N.W.S.A. had existed. In these years public opinion had changed so far that debates of principle on the question of woman's suffrage may be reckoned as a thing of the past. Now the question is not *whether* women shall be enfranchised, but *when* they shall be enfranchised. This decennium has also seen the enfranchisement of the women of Norway, Finland and some of the United States, and the women of Denmark seem to be very near their enfranchisement too. In Sweden the women have reached as far as a Government Bill, and their question has passed three times in the Second Chamber. The year 1913 will be a year of waiting for the Swedish suffragists, who must use it in making as many women as possible join a claim for full political rights, to be laid before Parliament in 1914.

After the opening speech of the President followed the usual elections. Miss Anna Whitlock was re-elected President, Miss Signe Bergman Vice-President, Mrs. Ezaline Boheman Secretary and Miss Thorborg Widebeck Treasurer.

As delegates and alternates at the congress in Budapest were elected:—

Delegates: Mrs. Anna Wicksell, L.L.B., Mrs. Louise Woods-Beckman, Mrs. Ellen Hagen, Mrs. Gulli Petrini, Ph. D., Mrs. Frigga Carlberg, Mrs. Karin Fjällbäck-Holmgren, Mrs. Caroline Benedicks-Bruce, Miss Hilma Borelius, Ph. D., Miss Gerda Planting-Gyllenbåga, Miss Gertrud Klintberg, Miss Signe Wolter and Mrs. Ruth Randall-edström.

Alternates: Mrs. Maria Bolin, Mrs. Augusta Tonning, Miss Jenny Wallerstedt, Miss Sigrud Kruse, Miss Sofia Svensson, Miss Ellen Wester, Miss Alfhild Lamm, Miss Julia Palm, Mrs. Hilda Sachs, Miss Anna Abergsson, Miss Valborg Olander and the Baroness Ebba Palmstierna.

The N.W.S.A. then elected its first Honorary Associate, Mrs. Martina Bergman-Oesterberg, a Swedish lady living in London, who two years ago granted a sum of 5000 Crowns annually during 10 years to teach Swedish women sociology.

At the evening meeting, which was open to all members of local societies, the following lectures were delivered:

1) The present aspect of the women's suffrage movement in the northern countries.

2) Women and the Agricultural Societies.

3) What is difficult and what is easy for the women when they enter into public life?

The whole of next day's private meeting was taken up by the discussion on the planned demonstration to the session of Parliament in 1914 by collecting names on lists. The discussion was opened by the President, who drew the lines of the demonstration. She reminded the audience of the women's mass-petition in 1907, which had collected 142,128 names, and said that now the time for petitions was past. What is now wanted instead of that is a mass-demonstration in order to show the absurdity of the argument that the women themselves do not want political suffrage. To collect names on lists, headed by a statement of principle, must therefore be the best way of showing those in power that there really exists among the women of Sweden a general claim for enfranchisement. This statement of principle ought to be formulated as follows: „We undersigned Swedish women join in the claim for full political rights for the women of Sweden.”

This wording was accepted by the meeting, which also accepted, almost unaltered, the plan of organization, drawn up by the Executive Committee. According to this plan the organization shall be conducted by a Central Bureau and a Central Committee in Stockholm and by Local Committees in the different counties. Each county shall decide its own time for the collecting of names and the Local Committees shall try, as far as possible, to arrange the work in their different districts. The Central Bureau shall keep up the correspondence with the Local Committees, send out and collect the lists, print all sorts of pamphlets and manage the general economy.

It is a big piece of work that the Swedish suffragists have undertaken and it is to be hoped that they will be able to carry it out to a satisfactory end. The readers of „J. S.” will be kept in touch with the results as soon as they begin to get known.

The meeting of the Central Board was characterized by much good will and unity, and each member seemed prepared to take up her part of the burden of work, which awaits us all in this year.

EZALINE BOHEMAN.
Stockholm in February 1913.

Finland.

The women of Finland are not unconscious of the fact that they have been something of a disappointment to the suffragists of the world. With complete political freedom, full eligibility to the Diet, indeed with women elected to every Diet since the franchise was granted, why have the Finnish women accomplished so little in the way of legislation?

The fact of the matter is that neither the women of Finland nor the men of Finland have any political freedom. For a very brief period after the constitution was restored and universal suffrage established, one year to be exact, we had a semblance of liberty. We had high hopes of repealing all the old laws restricting the rights of women, and of establishing in Finland a civilization in accord with the really modern cast of mind we claim to possess. Very soon it became manifest that the Russian Government which gave us our constitution had not the slightest intention of allowing us to retain it.

Take it away formally the Government could not, at least it could not do so without incurring the censure of all Europe. But there are indirect and subtle ways by which the liberties of a subject

people can be undermined. The constitution of Finland could be so ingenuously interpreted by those in power as to render it, from the Russian point of view, quite harmless.

According to the terms of that constitution the Diet, in conjunction with the Tsar, in his capacity of Grand-duke of Finland, makes the laws which govern Finland. That is to say the Diet passes laws which the Tsar must sign. The Diet has passed many laws since 1906. If there were space I could publish here a considerable number of laws which emanated from the women members, and no one who read them would ever again doubt the activity of the enfranchised women of Finland. Of all the laws passed by the Diet the Tsar has approved exactly two. One of these two laws raised the legal age of marriage from 15 to 17; harmless enough. The other, a law relating to land rents was a direct bid for popularity with certain proletarian classes.

Our judges are sent to prison to Petersburg because they have been faithful to the laws of their country. A time of perfect anarchy seems in front of us, and nobody knows what the next day will bring.

Under these conditions it is not easy to achieve anything of great importance.

Svenska Kvinnoförbundet i Finland (the Swedish speaking women's Association in Finland) which has a political as well as a national programme elections of Helsingfors. Owing to our abnormal political situation the women of Finland, who possess the necessary qualifications as tax-payers, have the right to vote at municipal elections but they are not eligible, and this has been the reason that they have not taken any very keen interest in these elections. The Svenska Kvinnoförbundet however decided to run candidates who would be in favor of women's eligibility on municipal boards and also ready to vote for restrictions in the liquor traffic. The election campaign was very well conducted, and thanks to the good discipline of the members of the Association, the campaign was crowned by success. The two candidates were nominated, put on the party ticket and finally elected.

Moreover, it being a part of Svenska Kvinnoförbundets aim to see that women are elected on all the different committees of the Swedish National party, two women candidates were started for the Committee that has to conduct the municipal election campaign. This committee has so far been considered very Conservative, no women have ever been members of it and so it created no small astonishment even sensation. So also this attempt was successful.

These facts show the necessity of women's organisations also where women vote.

It will perhaps be remembered that a woman, Mme Alma Söderhjelm, doctor of philosophy, applied for the right to be professor at the University of Helsingfors. This was denied to her on legal grounds. The matter was before the Consistorium and by a majority vote, it was declared that the Finnish law forbids a woman to hold a professorship. Two professors of Law, Hj. Granfelt and R. Erick, have taken steps in order to put and end to this state of things by applying to the Consistorium asking this learned body to turn to the Government with the demand that a bill should be laid before the Diet, in order to secure to women the right to hold professorships at the University of Helsingfors.

Of course it is next to impossible to predict if this will lead to the desired end. The Diet, it is supposed, will vote for this timely reform; but then

the further advance can be stopped. The Russian Council of Ministers who have already set an example that the nomination of a professor is considered by them to be a question of imperial policy, and as such to be decided in the most reactionary manner possible.

Before ending this lengthy account of what we are trying to do in a small way and under difficulties, we wish to send the suffragists all over the world our best wishes for the New Year with the hope that it will bring success to the great Common Cause, which links us together, women of all nations, those who enjoy the liberties of a free country, as well as those to whom national freedom seems a far off dream.

ANNIE FURUHJELM.

Helsingfors, Jan. 12, 1913.

Russia.

Between the 8th—17th of January 1913, we have had our first „Congress on Women's Education in Russia”. Once again the progressive women of this country met together at a big congress in St. Petersburg. They came from all parts of the country—from the South and East, and West; and all had much to tell each other about all they were doing in the way of progress,—still more about all they were unable to accomplish because of the reaction which reigns in the sphere of education as well as everywhere else in Russia.

1115 members took part in the C. W. E., 173 reports were read and discussed, and 72 resolutions were passed.

That the congress united once more the progressive social workers of Russia was a good thing in itself. At the same time, it gave a vivid tableau of the state of things in our country. We had a picture of our primary schools in the country, where, even of late, in some parts of Russia, village schools have been closed, their place being taken by church schools, often organized in dirty huts, more fit for pigs than for human creatures,—and with no teaching worth the name. In the secondary schools the state of things is also most unsatisfactory. The bureaucratic spirit reigns here supreme—to the destruction of all high moral principles of education. That is especially evident in the system of school inspection.

As it has been demonstrated in Mme Kouskuova's report, most curious rules are established in different secondary schools. In some towns, the school-boys and girls are not allowed to walk along some of the principal streets; sometimes along one side of the street. In other places, they are forbidden to enter a book-shop or stationery. In Smolensk they are forbidden to attend University Extension lectures on science (chemistry, physics) etc. etc. A whole system of spying is organized in order to have all these rules carried out; and the police takes part in this noble activity, and for the right to arrest any school boy or girl who is seen walking in the streets in the evening-time. Sometimes, it happens that the school authorities stop in the streets the parents with their children or invade their houses at 11—12 o'clock in the night for the purposes of inspection.

All this is being done in order to check the free development of human beings. The school rules are enforced by strict punishments; and statistics show that 10% of all the pupils in secondary schools are excluded every year; the number of these being in 1902 26,600 boys and girls, and in 1909 42,308.

Such is the state of things in secondary schools.

The same bureaucratic spirit reigns in the high schools and universities.

Great energy and determination is needed to combat all these evils. One of the first means of introducing real progress is the establishment of a representative government and of equal law for all.

It is a hopeful omen, that the C. W. E. recognized the importance of women's political emancipation; and Mme Mirovitch's resolution on political rights as the necessary foundation of Women's Education was unanimously adopted.

Thus our last congress asserted, once more, the great truth, demonstrated by the whole women's movement of our time: suffrage rights are the key to women's political and economical emancipation,—the great reform, which, it is to be hoped, will bring a new standard of morality into the world, which, till now, has been going the wrong way.

Z. MIROVITCH.

Moscow, February 2, 1913.

Belgium.

The *Roman Catholic Woman Suffrage League*, a branch of „Féminisme Chrétien de Belgique” has presented the following petition to the Chamber and the Senate, when the discussion of the Constitution and Electoral Reform was coming on.

—„Again the revision of art. 47 of the Constitution is put before public opinion and Parliament. Sooner or later the electoral question will have to be solved. On this occasion the R. C. Woman Suffrage League begs to call your benevolent attention to the expediency of granting the parliamentary suffrage to women as well as to men. An important movement has become manifest in several political parties in favour of this social reform demanded by Justice. Either the right to vote is a social function entrusted to the most capable, or it is a natural right belonging to every adult person not disqualified by crime or infamy, but in either case nothing justifies the exclusion of one sex and the granting of a privilege to the male sex.

Our constitution proclaims equality among citizens and the sovereignty of the people. Women constitute half the nation, both men and women are citizens. The sovereignty is the apanage of all: why then should not all, men and women, have votes?

According to modern justice no one has to pay taxes unless he has given his consent by his elected representative in parliament; why refuse women who pay a great part of the taxes the right to vote as men do?

The experience of the fifteen nations which, in three continents, have introduced woman suffrage and enfranchised their women conclusively proves not only that woman suffrage does not bring in any of these states the evils which imagination and prejudice are fain to predict; but on the contrary that the enfranchisement of women has greatly contributed to the progress of civilisation and the welfare of the community. In those countries investigation shows that whereas alcoholism, crime, vice and pauperism are on the decrease, morality, social and rescue work, education and pacifism are growing. In short international experience of woman suffrage goes to show that the citizenship of women lifts nations up to a higher plane.

Why should not Belgium take advantage of the proposed revision of the Constitution to keep pace with Progress in its electoral institutions?

Within the different parties the number is increasing of those who place the claim of votes for women above every immediate political interest. In the opinion of all of us woman suffrage is a question of principle, of justice and of civilization. We respect-

fully beg of Deputies and Senators of every party to take our petition into consideration and examine our just claim with impartiality free from prejudice. The interest of the country and the rights of half the nation are at stake. Women do not ask for a privilege, only for equality.

We do not doubt the success of our efforts in the near future. The Belgian Parliament, which honoured itself by enfranchising women for professional elections, cannot fail to carry on its work of justice by inserting into the text of Art. 47 of the Constitution the right of suffrage for women as well as for men. No act of legislation could have a better influence on our country's future well-being, on its economic prosperity, and especially on its moral progress.

We are, Gentlemen, with unswerving trust in your wisdom and acquiescence to our claim,

Your obedient servants,

The Executive of the R. C. W. S. A.,
Louise van den Plas, President
Cyr. van Overbergh, Vice-President
Gabrielle Fontaine, Secretary
Maria Verlant, Treasurer
René Henry, *Marie E. Belpaire*,
Emy van den Plas, *Laure Hap*.

Enclosed was the following addition:

—,The undersigned Suffrage Associations, holding that the enfranchisement of women is an equitable and progressive reform which supersedes party questions and should therefore remain independent of considerations of political interest, join in a common plea with the signers of the above petition for woman suffrage.

The Belgian League for Women's Rights,
Secr. Jane Brigode and Marie Parent.
The Belgian Ass. for Women's Better Status,
Secr. Elise Nyst and Alice Habay-Lamal.
The Belgian Woman Suffrage Association,
Secr. Céline Dangotte-Limbosch.
The Women's League of Ghent,
Pres. Rosa de Guchtenaere.
Secr. V. Ledewijn.

The Netherlands.

The *Dutch W.S.A.* was greatly hampered in its action this month by the illness of the President and two other Officers. This made it difficult to prepare for the exhibition of this summer, for the elections and for a demonstration of disappointment at women remaining unenfranchised in the Government's suggested revision of the State Constitution.

Five lectures given by Miss Blouw from Helsingfors proved excellent propaganda. M. G. K.

The *Men's League* has resolved to address a set of questions to each candidate in the elections for the Second Chamber in order to ascertain his views on the enfranchisement of women and publish these for the benefit of the electors.

On Febr. 5th the Government proposals for amending the Constitution appeared. They came more than a month later than was promised, but nobody was very anxious to see them, since the allied clerical parties now in power are in no hurry to have the constitution revised at all and the other parties expected little democracy at the hands of the present Government. Now it is proposed among other things to augment the prerogatives and the stipend of the Crown, to have more religious schools than neutral schools and to add to the privileges of the First Chamber. The paragraph dealing with the qualifications of electors excludes all women. It begins as follows:—

—,The members of the Second Chamber shall be chosen by direct election by the *male* inhabitants being Dutch subjects who have reached the age of 25 years and are *heads of families* or, in default of this, are independent persons in society; these qualifications to be formulated by the law.”—

Then the paragraph goes on to stipulate some limitations, for instance people who have enjoyed public charity (not from Church Boards) are disenfranchised; but we shall not here enlarge upon the Government proposals, it is enough to say that all suffragists are greatly disappointed by them.

Utrecht, Febr. 1913. W. A. E. MANSFELDT.

Germany.

The Imperial Parliament is going to discuss a law which is of the greatest interest for women and has been the object of repeated petitions and memorials on their part; we mean a special *Penal Code for juvenile offenders*. The question which naturally concerns women most is that of the appointment of women as Assessors in the Juvenile Courts. Although in the draft of the bill it was especially mentioned that as Assessors should be appointed such persons as had most experience in education of children, yet it is again proposed now to exclude women. This strikes one the more as men generally lavish praises on women as *educators* and are fain to entrust them with this difficult mission. On the other hand you hear it repeated on all sides that in modern penal proceedings against juvenile offenders the greatest prominence should be given to education and not to punishment. Since some years already we have actually in Germany many hundreds of women in active service as *Probationers* to keep an eye on young offenders who fill their function with great self-abnegation and are therefore much appreciated by the judges of our Juvenile Courts. But an appointment as Assessors would give the women a place among the *competent judges*, be it only as lay-judges, and there is a fear of constituting thereby a precedent which would have inevitable logical consequences for the whole *penal jurisdiction*. At the first reading of the bill the famous professor of penal law, Dr. Von Calker, was the only man to advocate the women's claim. Now, on the initiative of the National Council of German women, in all towns of some importance protest-meetings are being held in order to urge the claims of the women while there is yet time before the second lecture.

In our Local Branches there is a vivid interest for the Budapest Convention. The artistic posters which the Budapest Organisation Committee kindly put at our disposal, have been distributed by the National Executive to each of the Local Societies and have been put up everywhere in Women's clubs and other public places. Many Local Branches are planning to give in the coming weeks the lecture with lantern slides which was also sent us from Budapest in order to spread the interest for the congress into still wider circles. The first article on the Convention published by the National Executive of the German W. S. S. has been printed in a number of big daily papers. Questions of various nature are being put to the Executive and we may predict that from Germany a considerable number of visitors may be expected for the Convention.

ADELHEID v. WELCZECK.

Dresden, Febr. 1913.