

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

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PERSECUTION.

The persecution, or alleged persecution, of any racial or religious minority in any country is nowadays fairly sure to rouse protest in the press of other countries. It seems ominous that what might without too greatly straining the meaning of the word be said to amount to persecution of a whole sex in the form of prohibition of their fundamental right to earn their living at the highest level which their capacity permits, not to mention pettier restraints on their personal liberty, not only rouses little protest but often meets with positive approval. Long continued economic stress may easily lead to revolution, and there is visible a tendency that such revolution may tend towards some form of dictatorship. In most countries we might almost say that women in the economic field are apt to be subjected to forms of dictatorship to which men would not submit. And yet in many of those countries women are not only voters but form the majority of the electorate. The men who while still desiring a democratic form of government acquiesce and welcome arbitrary restrictions on women might perhaps usefully pause to consider that, to use a homely English proverb, what is sauce for the goose may become sauce for the gander.

We are pretty familiar now with cases of special discrimination against the married woman worker. We are aware that there have been many proposals, some successful, some happily defeated, for taking from women who already receive a lower salary than men, a larger proportion of their remuneration in "cuts" than is to be taken from their male colleagues. Women are often penalised in unemployment insurance. We learn that in the draft industrial codes to be enforced by the Recovery Administration in the United States, it

was proposed to fix lower minimum wages for women than for men, though women may succeed in having these proposals eliminated from the final form. These are official measures, but it will be seen from a perusal of the letters to the press which give some sort of reflection of public opinion that they do not go far enough for "the man in the street." There is a real campaign in England at any rate, for the removal from the labour market of all married women and of *all* women who are considered to have any sort of family backing which would permit them to subsist without earning. And we never see a proposal, which would at least be logical, that if unemployment is to be relieved by the removal from paid employment of all those who do not actually need their pay for bare subsistence, a means test should be imposed on all workers. It would of course, if impartially applied, remove most Cabinet Ministers from their jobs! not to mention the Captains of Industry.

No, this is not a campaign for economic recovery, it is a manifestation of the ingrained habit of persecuting what is not indeed a minority but a section of the community which for all the magnificent work done in the last fifty years has not yet had time to shake off the habits of dependence and servitude which have been forced upon it through hundreds of years. But let us at least be clear on the point, and do not let us, as women be misled into thinking that perhaps we ought to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of economic recovery. It has nothing to do with the matter. Listen to what the British Engineering and Allied Employers Federation says (and engineers do not particularly love the woman worker): "In uninstructed quarters there is a tendency to attribute unemployment among men to

the entry into industry of women. This may or may not be true of some industries, but it is certainly not true of the engineering industry, as can be proved despite the actual increase in the employment of women. . . in fact increased employment of women is accompanied by increased employment of men and other classes of employees."

We do not accuse those who call for the elimination of women from the labour market on perfectly false economic grounds of any deliberate desire to use the present economic confusion as a screen for a cold-blooded effort to "down" women. We only desire to make it clear to women that quite genuine muddled thinking is gladly taken advantage of to indulge the regrettable human tendency towards persecution where persecution seems safe.

PERSONAL.

Though owing to the holidays, our congratulations to Mme. Suzanne Grinberg, Member of the Alliance Board, on becoming Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur are very belated, they are none the less sincere.

We have to offer our congratulations on the attainment of their sixtieth birthday to two well-known figures in the women's movement, Ellen Hagen of Sweden, on 15th September, and Dr. Gertrud Bäumer of Germany on the 19th. May they both have many happy years before them and see the end of the present difficulties and period of re-action.

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT.

We have to announce simultaneously the first election of a woman to Parliament in the first and almost the last country to give women the vote. New Zealand gave the vote in 1893, though women only became eligible for election in 1919. Still it has taken a long time for a woman to get into the House of Representatives and we are rejoiced to learn that in a recent by-election in the constituency of Lyttelton, Mrs. McCombs has been elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her husband, in the Labour interest. She is well known in public life, sits on the Christchurch City Council and has stood for Parliament before. Her sister, Mrs. Allen, is a well-known journalist in Australia and some of our readers may remember that some years ago she was a substitute delegate from Australia to the League of Nations Assembly. Another sister, Miss Henderson, is very well known in New Zealand as an active supporter of the woman's movement.

Brazil only gave the vote to women with eligibility last year so that it is an achievement to have secured a woman in the Constitutional Assembly on the first occasion when women voted. Dr. Carlota Pereira de Queiroz will sit for S. Paulo.

South Africa has now achieved a second woman in Parliament by the election of Mrs. Malherbe, Hungary a fourth by that of Countess Apponyi.

WOMEN IN THE DELEGATIONS TO THE LEAGUE ASSEMBLY.

Australia: Mrs. Jamieson Williams (Substitute delegate).

Denmark: Miss Forchhammer (Substitute delegate).

France: Mme. Malaterre Sellier (Technical Adviser).

Gr. Britain: Miss Horsburgh, M.P. (Substitute delegate)

Holland: Mme. Kluyver (Substitute delegate).

Hungary: Countess Apponyi.

Norway: Mme. Aas (Substitute delegate).

Persia: Mme. A. H. Hékimî.

Poland: Mme. Hubicka, Senator (Substitute delegate).

Roumania: Mlle. Vacaresco (Substitute delegate).

Spain: Mme. Isabel de Palencia (Substitute delegate).

S. Africa: Miss Burnside.

Sweden: Miss Hesselgren, Senator (Full delegate).

INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION FOR WOMEN.

It will be recalled that the Berlin Congress voted for the holding of a special Conference on Protective Legislation for Women in connection with the next Congress to permit different opinions being stated and discussed on the basis of impartial information to be collected beforehand. A Questionnaire was therefore issued to the Auxiliaries as given below. Owing to the indefinite postponement of the next Congress, the Board decided at its meeting in July, 1932, that the substance of replies received to this questionnaire should be published serially in *Jus* in order that the information might be available before it was too much out of date. The first reply appears below and it is hoped that others will appear, in alphabetical order of the countries from which they were received, each month.

QUESTIONNAIRE.

I. Do there exist in your country any laws and regulations in regard to adult workers, both men and women, in respect of:

- (a) night work (specifying whether regulations deal with hours, interruptions for rest, etc.)
- (b) weight-lifting
- (c) Dangerous or unhealthy work
- (d) Limitation of hours
- (e) Minimum wages: if so,
 - (i) in what trades or industries?
 - (ii) has the International Convention on Minimum Wages adopted by the International Labour Conference at Geneva 1928, been ratified by your country, and if so does the law permit two different minima—one for men and another for women?

II. In what respect does such protection exist *only* for women workers?

Are there additional protective measures for women, such as:

- (a) Maternity regulation:
 - (i) without compulsory allowances
 - (ii) with compulsory allowances?
- (b) Prohibitions on the work of married women?

III. What are the effects of protective legislation for women only in the light of investigation by competent and as far as possible impartial persons in the following respects:

- (a) Has such legal limitation resulted in men or boys taking the place of women, or have conditions of work been changed so as to permit of the employment of women?
- (b) What restriction, if any, has been caused by such limitation on the opportunities of women for securing employment?
- (c) Have these limitations favourably affected the position of women workers, and if so in what respects?
- (d) Have there been official or unofficial protests against protective measures for women only?

IV. If no special legislation for women exists in your country, what is the condition of the women workers?

REPLY FROM AUSTRALIA.

A very interesting and detailed reply was received, accompanied by a letter from Mrs. Rischbieth, President of the Australian Federation of Women Voters, pointing out important facts about her country and giving a summary of the replies received from the different States, both of which will be cited in or used for this Report.

To begin with Mrs. Rischbieth points out that as Australia consists of six States (New South Wales,

Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, West Australia, and Tasmania) it has six different sets of laws governing industry, so that one cannot say "This is the law of Australia," or "There is no such provision in Australia." All the States answered except Tasmania, but as that is not an industrial state, the information given may be taken as complete.

Night Work is prohibited for women in industry throughout Australia with one exception and with minor differences. The hours prohibited are: in New South Wales 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.; in West Australia 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. for *any* female worker; in Victoria 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. for female workers under 16 years of age, and in Queensland the same hours for those under 18. In Victoria and S. Australia no woman may work in a factory later than 9 p.m. Exceptions are generally made to meet unforeseen pressure of work. Queensland is the only part of Australia where an adult woman, over 18, may work in a factory at night. Everywhere the same restrictions apply to boys under 16.

In respect to *Weight Lifting*, New South Wales prescribes varying maximum weights for different ages: for male workers under 16, 30 lbs. between 16 and 18, 40 lbs.; for female workers under 16, 20 lbs. between 16 and 18, 25 lbs., and over 18, 35 lbs. Thus *any* woman, however strongly built and healthy, is forbidden to lift a weight that any male youth between 16 and 18 may lift. In Victoria and South Australia a maximum weight of 25 lbs. is forbidden only to young women workers respectively under the age of 18 or 20. Queensland and W. Australia have no laws or regulations on this point.

Dangerous or Unhealthy Work. New South Wales provides that in the process of making white lead a person under 18 shall not be employed. Victoria lays down the age for males as 18, prohibiting women workers of any age. Queensland enacts that no young male person or female of any age may be employed, and W. Australia the same, except that the age for males is set at 18. In glass works the permitted age for a female worker is 18 in all States, except in Victoria and W. Australia where women are not employed. Wet spinning in Victoria and W. Australia is governed by similar laws: males and females can be employed if the necessary safeguards are provided for protecting the worker.

Limitation of Hours. In New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and S. Australia, the prescribed working week for young male workers and all women workers is 48 hours. In W. Australia a woman or boy may not be employed for more than 44 hours a week.

Minimum Wages. Australia has not yet (or had not in August, 1931) ratified the International Convention adopted in Geneva in 1928. In N.S.W. there are different minimum wages for different trades, the wages for women varying from 49 to 59% of those for men. There are no regulations in force in Victoria. In Queensland the Basic Wage Declaration lays down the wage for male and female workers separately, the women's wage being about 53% of that of the men. The wages of adult male workers in S. Australia are based on the cost of living of man and wife and 2 children, while the wages of female workers are fixed on the basis of the cost of living of the women only and generally speaking are about two-thirds of those of men doing the same or similar work. In W. Australia the Factories and Shops Act prescribes an irreducible minimum wage for workers of both sexes, rising from 10s. a week for the first year of employment to 35s., by additions of 5s. per week for each year of employment. This, however, applies only where no award or industrial agreement exists. But under the Industrial Arbitration Act of W. Australia, 1925, basic wage rates are prescribed for all organised trades from time to time by the Arbitra-

tion Court, in accordance with fluctuations in the cost of living. Generally the wage of women workers is about 54% of that of men.

As regards *Additional Protective Measures for Women*, N.S.W. provides that in factories where bricks, tiles and salt are manufactured women under 18 shall not be employed; also that no woman shall be employed during the four weeks after her confinement. The W. Australian Act provides that no woman shall knowingly work in a factory and no occupier of a factory shall knowingly permit any woman to work during the six weeks immediately prior to and after her confinement. There seem, however, to be no compulsory allowances for the period.

Prohibitions on the Work of Married Women. There are no such prohibitions in any State as regards industry but in Victoria, N.S.W. and W. Australia there are such prohibitions in the Civil Service.

With regard to the *Effect of Legal Limitations on the Work of Women* no particular investigations appear to have been made in any of the States and there is no knowledge of any protest having been made officially or unofficially against protective measures for women only. Still the answers differ not a little on some points.

While the answer from W. Australia testifies that the entrance of women into industry is on the increase, and the answer from Victoria that protective legislation has not affected women's opportunities in industry, S. Australia says that the regulations have undoubtedly the effect of confining the work of women to certain parts of some trades, such as tailoring and boot manufacturing, whilst women are not permitted to be apprenticed at all to the printing trade. Queensland informs us that application has been made to the Industrial Court claiming equal pay for males and females.

Finally from New South Wales comes the following declaration: No investigations have been made which might indicate whether limitations have favourably affected women, but the opinion is held by many that the restrictions placed on women with regard to Night Work, Dangerous or Unhealthy Work, and limitation of hours, must restrict the opportunities of women to secure employment and must certainly lower their status. If work is considered dangerous or unhealthy for women, it is equally unhealthy for men. The same applies to night work and overtime. To ask for equality of status and opportunities for women and then hedge them round with restrictive or protective measures, suggests inconsistency. At least give women a chance to prove their ability to compete on equal terms with men before assuming that they are unequal to the task.

OBITUARY.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Annie Besant, President of the Women's Indian Association, our Indian Auxiliary, and one of the most remarkable women of our time. We hope to be able to give some account of her career in our next issue.

SPAIN.

We are indebted to Victoria Priego, the author of the excellent little book "La Mujeres ante las Urnas" which was recently reviewed in these columns, for the following details of a Bill presented to the Cortes by the ex-Minister of Justice before the recent changes of Government. By this Bill, which it is hoped will shortly become law, the married woman is given full civil rights: she can keep her own nationality, administer her property without intervention of her husband, make contracts in her own name, exercise equal guardianship of her children with her husband, and in fact in future husband and wife should be on an absolute equality.

AUSTRALIA.

FOURTH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF WOMEN VOTERS.

The Australian Federation of Women Voters, Australian auxiliary of the I.A.W.S.E.C., held its fourth triennial conference during May of this year. Adelaide (South Australia) was the place of meeting, and some forty delegates from all the six States of the Commonwealth met to discuss a national agenda. Opening on May 22nd with a well-crowded Reception by President and Board, at which an Exhibit of Women's Emancipatory Progress and an original Pageant-Play of the Woman Movement were noteworthy items, Conference continued until the 26th with morning, noon, and evening meetings. Mrs. B. M. Rischbieth presided, and was unanimously re-elected to the office of President.

The resolutions passed were not confined to the work for equality of citizenship and social welfare, but showed a wide grasp of those problems of politics and nationhood which agitate Australia today. There were motions referring to Women's Economic Rights, Married Women's Status, Equal Parental Guardianship, Education, Welfare of the Child and of the Aborigines, as well as to the subjects of the International Standing Committees. But there was in addition a striking group which dealt with Constitutional, Electoral, Parliamentary, Tariff and Financial Reform, while International Disarmament and Women's Collaboration in the League of Nations also held a prominent place upon the list. The watchword of Conference was "A United Australia," and an outstanding part of its activities was concerned with the need for a revision of the Australian constitution by the people, in view of the dissatisfaction which is rife in many places, and the faults which have become apparent after thirty years of national life. The subject was brought forward in a comprehensive resolution, and was given special publicity by the staging of a Model Federal Convention, open to the public, and effectively portraying the possibilities inherent in the whole question.

Proposals for a revising Convention have since emanated from a gathering of State Premiers and the Prime Minister, but the A.F.W.V. strongly opposes the schemes suggested, demanding in letters to the Prime Ministers, Premiers and Press, that representatives should be elected by the people through Proportional Representation, not nominated by party Cabinets. A non-party Federal Association of men and women to support this idea has also been formed as an outcome of the Conference, and a campaign launched, which it is hoped may succeed in securing a democratic Convention to revise the national constitution.

ELLINOR G. WALKER,
Conference Secretary.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Traffic in Women. Last month we sent a letter to the Prime Minister and other members of the Government urging that the British Government should not sign the new draft Protocol brought forward by the French delegation in April last, that, "Whoever, in order to gratify the passions of another person has procured, enticed or led away, even with her consent, a woman or girl of full age for immoral purposes in another country shall be punished, notwithstanding that the various acts constituting the offence may have been committed in different countries."

We pointed out that in our opinion this declaration is a retrograde step, and, by making the penalisation of traffic in women to depend upon the specific locality in which it is conducted, gives tacit approval to its continuance unchallenged in all other places.

Local Government Conference. On Friday, October 20th, we are arranging a one-day Conference of representatives of women's organisations on the subject of Women and Local Government, our object being to stimulate the interest of women in the work of local governing bodies, and to get more women on to local government Councils.

Tea-and-Politics Meetings. Our weekly Thursday afternoon Tea-and-Politics meetings will be resumed at the Minerva Club, 28a, Brunswick Square, W.C.1., on October 26th. Tea is served in the Club on these Thursdays at 4 o'clock, the meeting beginning at 4-30. We have an exceedingly interesting list of speakers this session, and visitors will be cordially welcomed at all these meetings.

FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD,
Women's Freedom League.

IRAQ.

The sudden death of King Feisal recalls the interest he and his Queen took in the Women's Conference in Baghdad and the fact that the Alliance representative, Madame André Rieder, received the kindest hospitality from the Royal House. Madame Rieder received a special invitation to show her slides at the Palace which depict women and their activities all over the world, including of course a portrait of Mrs. Ashby and other Alliance personalities.

TURKEY.

The Turkish Women's Union have decided to open a home for girl students in Istanbul. The home will be opened in September, 1933, and is to be under direct control of the Board of the Turkish Women's Union.

Mlle. Adile Maksudi, graduate of the Law School in Ankara, has been appointed attaché to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. She is the first Turkish woman to enter the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Cemile Hanim, a school teacher, was elected mayor of the village of Örencik, in the province of Kutahya.

Mlle. Remziye Salih obtained the degree of Docteur ès Sciences at the Sorbonne in Paris.

REVIEW.

WOMEN IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, By S. P. Breckinridge. McGraw Hill Publishing Co., Ltd., Aldwych House, London, W.C.2. Price 24/-.

This is one of the series of studies published by the President's Research Committee on Social Trends in the United States, and in the Author's Preface its aim is stated to be "to present the developments that seem to have been taking place in the activities and relationships of women other than those incidental to family life." In fact three aspects of woman's activities have been chosen: women's organisations, women in gainful employment, and women and government.

The introductory chapter gives a brief summary of the American woman's first essays in public affairs beginning as they have nearly everywhere with concern for some humanitarian causes and the change from home to mass production, both leading inevitably to a realisation of the necessity for emancipation, political and social rights.

The section on women's organisations traces briefly the history of the immensely varied bodies which women have set up for the prosecution or protection of their interests, beginning with the history of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and leading on to religious, social, professional organisations of all kinds. On the whole the reader is left to draw whatever conclusions he or she likes from this condensed account of "women's use of spare time."

The second section on "Women as Workers" is to a considerable extent statistical and is an endeavour to determine whether women's part in the professions, industry and other "gainful employment" is increasing or decreasing, whether they are advancing towards greater opportunities and better pay, and what is the position of the married woman worker. After pointing out that most of the direct legislative obstacles to the freedom of the married woman have gone, the author reminds us that the fact that in general the husband's domicile determines the wife's, affects the mobility and hence the opportunities of the married woman worker. A real problem that. An acute observation in the introductory chapter is that even when certain jobs were held to be beyond women's capacities, such jobs were sometimes filled by persons whose sole qualification may have been that of widow of the deceased holder! The succeeding chapters dealing with the numbers of women workers, their distribution, their rates of pay are mainly founded on census returns and seem to some extent inconclusive as regards positive changes. For instance it is stated that the proportion of women in the total number of factory employees has remained approximately the same for the last fifty years. In some occupations they increased, in some they decreased. For instance they have largely superseded men in the cigar factories, but their temporary incursion into the metal industries due to the war was not maintained, in spite of the fact that over four-fifths of the metal-working firms reporting on the work of women substituted for men considered it as satisfactory or even better than the output of men. In fact the fight against prejudice has not been won.

In non-industrial occupations, there is a slight definite advance in the professions, though in medicine curiously enough the number of women is decreasing. In clerical work there seems to be some danger that while many types of job are now practically a woman's monopoly they are becoming less and less a possible step towards better things. If you have separate girl clerks for each machine, the typewriter, the duplicator, etc. each is probably destined to stay at that machine for ever.

On the question of equal pay, the writer rightly states that the question is not so much that of getting the same pay for the same job, but of getting the opportunity to do the interesting and important work. Less pay for identical work does exist, but it is the steady tendency either to put women into the lower categories all together, or worse still when you employ women, automatically to turn their work into a "woman's job" that is the root of the mischief.

The final section surveying women's work in politics, as voters, as office holders, etc., is certainly a little bit gloomy. It appears that the first rush to propitiate the new women voters following on the suffrage victory by giving them a few of the things they asked for, has been succeeded by a pretty complete indifference now that the political parties have found that women are really quite good and docile "party men." The idea of a Woman's Party comes into the comment of one woman who has retired from politics after serving a term as a State legislator. How often that idea does recur, and so often we are reminded that it is impracticable if not altogether ludicrous. It was one of the worst bogeys put up by the anti-suffragists. Why were they so frightened? Was it because they thought that it might really be a means of women getting something done?

And alas, though the author surely did not mean to create that impression but only to state a case with absolute impartiality, this book does a little tend to suggest that women are not getting very much done after all.

K.B.

La Femme Grecque is the title of a little pamphlet sent out by the Press Service of the Greek Ministry for Foreign Affairs. It is a brief account of women's activities, their legal status, etc. It must be admitted that the latter section is not a model from the feminist point of view. It is stated that all the liberal professions are open to women but this proud statement seems to be considerably modified by a reference to all the various higher posts for which they are not eligible. If, however, the pamphlet does not altogether redound to the credit of the State where women are concerned, it is a warm tribute to the value of women's activities, among which it does not fail to re-call those of the Alliance Auxiliary, la Ligue pour le Droit des Femmes.

We have also received the first issue of a new periodical called *La Femme Slave* published in Prague with the object of making known to the women of other countries the women of the different Slav nations who are working in many directions for the women's movement. This first number contains brief biographies of such women in Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Russia, including one of our own Vice-President, Mme. Plaminkova.

OPEN DOOR INTERNATIONAL.

The Session of the Third Conference of the Open Door International for the Economic Emancipation of the Woman Worker at the Senate House, Prague, and of its Summer School at Mlada Boleslav took place in July and August.

The Conference included members from Austria, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, Great Britain, France, Finland, Norway, Latvia, Sweden, Yugoslavia. There were also present as observers representatives of the Governments of Ecuador, Greece, Czechoslovakia, Great Britain and Uruguay, and many Czech visitors.

The President, Chrystal Macmillan, in her opening address drew attention to the attacks now being made on the right of the married woman to sell her labour for gain—a right everywhere recognised as one which distinguishes the freeman from the slave; and to the way in which the International Labour Organisation was increasingly making proposals which placed the woman worker at a disadvantage because of her sex.

A resolution which aroused great interest was that which claimed the woman earner's right to marriage. It was declared to be an unjustifiable interference with private rights to prevent the employment of married women; that this did not reduce but shifted the incidence of unemployment from one person to another, and tended to perpetuate the low status of all women earners by encouraging the limitation of their employment to unskilled, mechanical and low paid processes. In another resolution the Conference pointed out that the muscular use of the body promotes its physical development and that women had always taken their full share in the disagreeable, heavy and dangerous work of the world and that it was not women who were invading the sphere of the male worker but rather that men had invaded the traditional work of women.

Among the topical resolutions were a number dealing with subjects which had recently been, or were shortly to be, discussed within the International Labour Organisation. The Conference in this connexion declared that a woman should have the same right as a man to earn her living underground, and drew attention to the hardship suffered and the protests made by the women miners of Great Britain and of India when they were eliminated from a well paid employment in mines. This resolution—as were all the others—was carried unanimously, among those voting in favour being a Danish woman delegate formerly a worker underground in a coal mine in Canada.

The Conference expressed dissatisfaction at the recently adopted Draft Conventions of the I.L.O. on Invalidity and Old Age Pensions since these left it open to a ratifying State to pay unequal benefits to men and women.

The Conference urged that the I.L.O. Conventions on Widows and Orphans Pensions should not be ratified as they are based on wrong principles and envisage the widow solely as the relict of her husband. In connexion with the proposed I.L.O. Convention on Unemployment Insurance the Conference urged that any such Convention should provide for equal contributions and equal benefits for men and women with no discrimination against the married woman; and reminded the International Labour Organisation of the guiding principle of its own constitution that "men and women should receive equal remuneration for work of equal value."

The Conference further declared its opposition to a proposed enquiry by the I.L.O. into the conditions of work of the married woman, saying she should not be treated as a class apart. It further urged that the subject of Night Work and the reduction of the hours of work should be considered together, and that any Convention on night work should be the same for men and women.

Anxiety was expressed regarding rumours about women being deprived of their work in Germany and authority was given to the O.D.I. Board to condemn such action if the rumours were ascertained to be true.

The Conference, by the courtesy of the Czechoslovakian Government, held its sessions in the beautiful Senate House of Prague; and the Summer School met in the Women's Agricultural College at Mlada Boleslav. Among the many delightful hospitalities provided for the delegates were receptions and entertainments by the City Council of Prague at the beautiful Old Town Hall, and by the Town Councils of Mlada Boleslav and Mjelnik, and a Dinner given by the National Council of Women of Czechoslovakia.

CONFERENCE OF THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ZIONIST ORGANISATION (THE WIZO.)

August 8th to 14th.

In 1921 the Wizo was founded at a meeting at Karlsbad in Czechoslovakia. This year about 150 delegates from all parts of the world came to the Congress in Prague, the President of the Czechoslovakian Federation, Frau Hanna Steiner, being in the Chair.

Dr. Vera Weizmann (Palestine) stated that more than 100,000 Jews could be colonised in Palestine in the next two years. Mrs. Alman (London) gave the financial report stating that the budget is for nearly £21,000. The expenses for the next two years—until the next Congress—have been fixed at £40,000, from which sum the Czechoslovakian Federation is pledged to pay £2,500. Mrs. Romano Goodman reported on the growth and organisation and said that there are over 50,000 members in 44 countries.

The position of Jews in Germany was discussed, especially that of women, and resolutions were adopted on the necessity of women and girls being able to emigrate from Germany to Palestine after being taught agriculture and husbandry on the required lines. Schools for this training will be set up in those European countries where the German emigrants are concentrated and also in Palestine itself, and immigration into Palestine will be extended.

The existing Executive was re-elected.

L'EGYPTE.

Succès Féministes.

1. La suppression des maisons de tolérance dans deux villes importantes d'Egypte: celles d'Assiout et de Mansourah. Cette mesure que nous ne saurions assez louer, fait prévoir pour bientôt l'abolition totale de la prostitution dans tout le pays.
2. Les remarquables succès obtenus par nos étudiantes cette année dans les examens secondaires et supérieures. Les résultats du Baccalauréat ont été particulièrement brillants pour nos jeunes filles. Plusieurs d'entre elles ont obtenu les premières places dans le classement général de toute l'Egypte.

Quant aux premières lauréates de l'Université Egyptienne, leur succès a été éclatant. A la Faculté de Droit la seule étudiante, une jeune fille égyptienne musulmane, a été classée première parmi tous les concurrents au diplôme de la licence. C'est Mlle. Naïma el Ayoubi qui sera notre première avocate près des Tribunaux Indigènes. En ouvrant si brillamment à la femme les portes du Barreau, Mlle. Naïma el Ayoubi vient d'assurer une nouvelle victoire au féminisme égyptien. A la Faculté des Lettres nous enrégistrons le même succès. Les 4 lauréates se sont particulièrement distinguées en obtenant toutes la mention Bien et en se classant premières et secondes dans les sections de sociologie, langues anciennes, langue arabe: ce sont Mlles. Sohair el Kalamaoui, Fatma Fahmy, Fatma Salem Seif et Zahira Abd el Aziz.

Mentionnons également Mlle. Fatma el Malah qui vient de terminer ses études à l'Institut dentaire du Caire et qui sera ainsi la première dentiste égyptienne.

Je me borne à ces succès qui sont les plus marquants. Ils font prévoir pour notre pays la formation d'une élite féminine capable de jouer un rôle actif et bien-faisant dans les divers domaines de l'activité nationale ainsi que dans la collaboration internationale mondiale.

CÉZA NABARAQUI.

PERSÉCUTION.

La presse de tous les pays s'indigne journellement contre les persécutions dont certains citoyens sont l'objet, sous tel ou tel gouvernement, parce que leur race, leur confession religieuse ou politique n'agrée pas aux maîtres de l'heure. Mais peu ou point de gens n'ont cure de cette persécution qui atteint un sexe entier, restreignant notre droit au travail et notre liberté personnelle. Beaucoup même l'approuvent et sous le couvert de la nécessité économique excusent une forme de dictature particulièrement sévère à l'endroit des femmes, et cela dans des pays où elles forment la majorité des votants. On se demande si la femme continuera sans récriminer à élire des maîtres qui trouvent toujours des raisons patriotiques pour la ramener à l'antique servitude.

Les attaques contre le statut de la travailleuse mariée ne cessent pas. Dans bien des cas la femme, mariée ou non, si elle garde son poste voit son salaire réduit dans des proportions plus grandes que celui de son collègue mâle.

La nouvelle administration des Etats-Unis a même proposé un salaire minimum féminin plus bas que le salaire normal. Nous espérons que la propagande féministe réussira à faire abroger cet article. Ce sont là des mesures officielles, mais une lecture de la correspondance dans la Presse quotidienne que lit l'homme

moyen a de quoi nous alarmer: il existe, en Angleterre du moins, un mouvement très marqué pour démettre de leur emploi toutes les femmes mariées ou non qui ne sont pas absolument forcées de gagner leur vie par nécessité matérielle. Il serait du moins logique d'étendre ce principe aux deux sexes, et de faire dépendre l'attribution des postes ou fonctions d'un questionnaire sur les ressources personnelles des candidats. Certains Ministres ou Capitaines d'Industrie se verraient alors forcés de démissionner. On voit combien est absurde ce mouvement d'injustice à l'égard du sexe. Et les femmes ne réagissent pas parce qu'un demi-siècle de libération partielle n'a pas suffi pour secouer les chaînes d'une servitude millénaire. Elles devraient comprendre au moins que ce sacrifice qu'on leur demande n'est pas du tout dicté, bien qu'on le prétende par la nécessité économique. Le chômage n'a rien à voir avec l'entrée de la femme dans la vie industrielle. La Fédération des Arts et Manufactures le dit expressément "Chez nous l'embauchement des ouvrières a toujours coïncidé avec une recrudescence de travail pour les ouvriers et autres sections d'employés."

La plupart de ceux qui crient "haro" sur la femme qui travaille sont des esprits millénaristes et ignorants qui ne savent pas rechercher les causes beaucoup plus profondes d'un malaise universel. Ils font, sans le vouloir, le jeu des antiféministes et des réactionnaires pour qui la persécution d'un sexe qui veut s'affranchir est un article de foi.

LA PORTE OUVERTE INTERNATIONALE.

La Troisième Conférence de la dite Société s'est réunie à Prague et a tenu ses séances au mois de Juillet et d'Août sous la présidence de Miss Chrystal Macmillan. Des déléguées et représentants d'une quinzaine de pays y assistaient.

La présidente attira l'attention de l'auditoire sur la défaveur croissante que rencontre le travail de la femme mariée et déplore l'attitude de l'Organisation internationale du Travail à Genève dont les propositions tendent nettement à placer la femme qui travaille dans une position inférieure à celle de l'homme. Ces entraves à sa liberté d'action tendent à rejeter la femme, capable ou non dans les emplois monotones et mal rétribués. On l'accuse à tort d'envahir les occupations masculines, lorsque, à bien regarder, c'est le contraire qui s'est produit. La femme a toujours pris sa part du travail difficile et dangereux, mais depuis des années sa sphère d'occupation s'est restreinte; des travaux féminins par excellence tels que la cuisine, la cuisson du pain et des gâteaux, la conserve des aliments, la préparation des boissons, le tissage, la culture du sol et la mise en oeuvre de ses produits, qui autrefois lui appartenaient en propre, tout cela est passé aux mains de l'homme.

La Conférence formula des résolutions sur

(1) l'égalité absolue du droit au travail, et les mêmes conditions d'emploi pour les deux sexes, quant à la durée et au milieu que ce soit dans les usines ou dans les mines.

(2) l'égalité de traitement absolue quant aux retraites et pensions. Pas de Convention spéciale pour les femmes. Elle manifeste son anxiété à l'égard des femmes allemandes et des entraves mises à leur liberté.

AUSTRALIE.

La Fédération Australienne des Femmes électeurs a tenu sa quatrième Conférence triennale en Mai cette année à Adélaïde (Australie du Sud). Après un exorde de Réceptions, Tableaux vivants sur l'histoire du mouvement etc., la Conférence a élu ses bureaux et organisé son travail. Les résolutions votées cette

année ne sont pas restreintes à l'Egalité civique et aux mesures d'assistance. Elles touchent la question économique, le problème des races. Surtout les discussions se sont portées sur la réforme nécessaire de la Constitution australienne, maintenant que les besoins et les affinités des Etats sont un fait acquis par quarante années d'existence nationale.

TURQUIE.

L'Union des Femmes turques a décidé d'ouvrir un Home à Istamboul en Septembre 1933. Mlle. Adile Maksudi, une avocate d'Ankara, est nommée, attachée au Ministère des Affaires étrangères.

Cemile Hanım, institutrice, a été élue maire du village d'Orencik, province de Kutahya. Mlle. Remziye Salih a obtenu le titre de Docteur ès Sciences à la Sorbonne.

NOUVELLES BREVES.

République d'Andorre. Dans la réforme Constitutionnelle le vote des femmes est inclus, sur le même pied que les hommes à l'âge de 25 ans.

Inde. Srimati Lekhavati, candidate du Conseil Législatif du Punjab, ayant vu sa candidature invalidée pour raison de sexe a gagné sa cause en Appel et l'élection de son collègue a été invalidée. Quatre femmes siègent désormais dans la Législature de Travancore.

Grande Bretagne. Après une période d'essai trois femmes ont été nommées détectives à la Section criminelle de la Police métropolitaine.

Nouvelle Zélande. On va introduire au Parlement un projet de loi sur le droit des femmes à garder leur nationalité, après mariage avec un étranger.

Bien que les femmes de N.Z. aient eu le vote depuis 1893 c'est seulement cette année qu'une femme Mrs. McCombs a été élue au Parlement, à la place de son mari décédé.

Espagne. Victoria Priego nous écrit qu'un projet, ayant bientôt force de loi, donne pleins pouvoirs civils à la femme mariée de sorte que l'égalité absolue de l'homme et de la femme devant la loi sera un fait accompli.

Iraq. Nous regrettons ici la mort subite du roi Feisal qui accueillit avec faveur la Conférence féministe de Bagdad l'an dernier. On se rappelle que notre déléguée Mme. Rieder fit devant le roi et la Reine d'Iraq un exposé des Progrès de la Femme.

CONFERENCE DU DESARMEMENT.

Le Groupe Consultatif International (composé, on le sait, des représentants des grands groupements travaillant à Genève pour le désarmement: Associations pour la S.d.N., Comité féminin, groupements ecclésiastiques, universitaires, anciens combattants) a décidé d'organiser un grand meeting public à Genève, le 16 octobre, qui devrait être précédé de multiples réunions dans les différents pays.

Ces projets ont été salués avec satisfaction par le Bureau du Comité International féminin pour le Désarmement, qui a décidé de faire tout son possible pour en faciliter la réalisation. A cet effet, il a déjà mis ses locaux à la disposition du Comité d'organisation de cette manifestation, dont l'adresse est donc dès maintenant celle bien connue de nos lecteurs; 25, quai du Mont-Blanc. De plus, le Comité International féminin a prié ses quatorze Associations constituantes d'engager leurs branches et sections nationales à organiser, partout où cela leur sera possible, des meetings et des réunions préparatoires.

—Le Mouvement Féministe.

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