

JUS SUFFRAGII.

The International Woman Suffrage News

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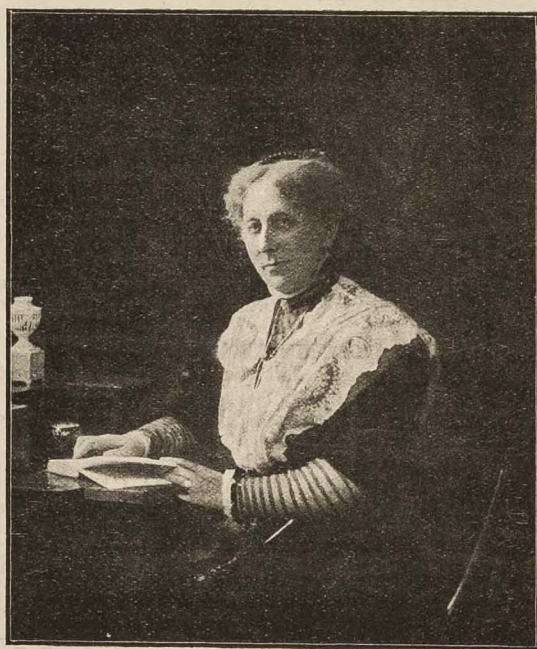
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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE VICTORIES SINCE THE WAR.

EUROPE.

- Denmark.—1915: Full Parliamentary Suffrage and eligibility; 9 women M.P.s.
- Iceland.—Full Parliamentary Suffrage and eligibility; 1 woman M.P.
- Great Britain and Ireland.—1918: Full Parliamentary Suffrage and eligibility; one woman M.P. (Ireland).
- Canada.—1918: Federal vote and eligibility, and all provinces except New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island; 4 women M.P.'s in State Legislatures.
- Germany.—1918: Suffrage for all women over 20, and eligibility for all Federal and State Legislatures and municipal bodies; 36 women M.P.s in Federal Parliament, 22 in State Legislatures.
- Austria.—1918: Suffrage for all women over 20, and eligibility for all Federal and State Legislatures; women M.P.s.
- Hungary.—Full Parliamentary Suffrage and eligibility.
- Netherlands.—1917: Eligibility and removal of Constitutional obstacles to Woman Suffrage; a Woman Suffrage Bill is now under discussion; 1 woman M.P.
- Bohemia and Poland are framing constitutions which include Woman Suffrage.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

- States won since the war:—
- New York, 1917.
- S. Dakota, 1918.
- Michigan, 1918.
- Oklahoma, 1918.

OTHER COUNTRIES WITH FULL WOMAN SUFFRAGE BEFORE THE WAR.

- Australia.—Commonwealth and State; vote and eligibility.
- New Zealand.—Vote, not eligibility.
- Finland.—Vote and eligibility; 19 women M.P.s.
- Norway.—Vote and eligibility; 1 woman alternate M.P.
- In the United States: Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Montana.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE PENDING.

- Sweden.—A Government Bill promised; victory expected immediately.
- Netherlands.—Woman Suffrage Bill introduced; victory expected immediately.
- Switzerland.—Federal Bill promised.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE PROPAGANDA GROWING.

- France, Italy, Belgium, Serbia, Spain, Mexico, Uruguay, British India.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MOVEMENT.

The table above, giving the position of Woman Suffrage all over the world, shows the international character of the movement. The battle is nearly won. An eminent woman M.P. writes that there can now be hardly any need of a Suffrage Congress unless we want to go to the Balkans. But there are still unenfranchised women in the United States, France, Italy, Belgium, and South Africa, young movements in Spain, South America and India which need the help and encouragement of an international alliance.

For the enfranchised countries there is a great deal of work awaiting an International Woman Voters' Alliance. In the belligerent countries the problem of demobilisation is being met, not solved, by wholesale dismissals of the heroines who were praised up to the skies for their war work.

In Great Britain there are already half-a-million women out of work. France, Germany, Italy, and the United States have a similar state of things.

Trade Unions and Governments are excluding women from occupations they have filled successfully during the war, and united action is urgently needed.

Special sex legislation and administrative measures are directed against women in the supposed interests of army health.

The death of millions of men has left millions of women without husbands and their children without fathers.

The pressure of the high cost of living falls with special severity on the housekeeping woman. Food production, conservation, and distribution must be an important interest of women everywhere.

Co-operation versus private profit will appeal to women as consumers, and now that the world's food supply is being organised on an international basis, enfranchised women will want to have a voice in the question. Without women's intelligent co-operation the food shortage in Europe cannot be met.

Peace and war and the whole field of international relations must come within the scope of a women voters' international alliance. Over and above the national interests which tend to separate them, there will be possibilities of a common endeavour and of mutual consultation in the interests of permanent peace. A war book by the Hungarian, Latzko, translated into English under the title, "Men in Battle," makes a forcible indictment against the womanhood of the world for its acquiescence in war. This indictment has appeared in many forms in many countries. The Swiss author, Vallotton, puts it into the mouth of his peasants, the movement "Young Germany" has condemned women along with intellectuals for their militaristic spirit, Siegfried Sassoon has satirised the frivolous hard-heartedness of the fashionable English lady, and Denis Thevenin, and the author of "La Guerre Madame," have drawn cynical pictures of the French mondaine in war time.

Organised enfranchised women will have answers to give to these reproaches; they will have constructive policies to forward.

The protection of children needs international action. International labour legislation has done something for the industrial protection of children and young people; backed by the women's movement much more could be done.

The vote is only a beginning to women's political work. Women should unite in international as well as national organisations for the purpose of combined action.

M. S.

THE TASK OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN.

By ANNIE FURUHJELM, M.P., Finland (Vice-President of the I.W.S.A.).

The great change that the war has made in the Suffrage situation in most of the belligerent countries, and in some of the neutral, has naturally caused members of the I.W.S.A. to put to themselves the question whether it will be possible to keep up this international body as a living organisation in the future, its field of action now being greatly limited. When the Executive last met in London in 1914 it was decided to devote one day of the next Congress to the meeting of the Committee of Enfranchised Women, and so it seems the time has come to discuss the question of a reconstruction of the programme of the Alliance, through the medium of *Jus Suffragii*, as the enfranchised women will in future be in a majority at a meeting of the I.W.S.A.

It appears to me to be of urgent necessity for the Board of Officers to meet next summer in a neutral country, and in connection with this officers' meeting, a meeting of the executive should be called with either one or two delegates from each of the affiliated countries, in order to discuss the future programme of the Alliance on the basis of being an organisation of enfranchised women, with a section for Suffrage for those countries where women do not possess political franchise.

When the call goes out for this meeting of the executive I believe it would be practical, and should be made clear to those attending, that the question of reconstruction ought to have

been duly considered by the auxiliaries, so that delegates should know the opinion of the organisations they represent. A preliminary programme could then be drawn up to be laid before the next Congress of the Alliance. Such an arrangement would save much time, as it would be possible for all the auxiliaries to consider the new programme before it is put before the Congress, which could not well take place before 1920, or at least not before normal conditions are restored in Europe. Travelling at present is very difficult and very slow, and passports not easily obtained; besides, the costs of travelling are so enormous that there would, I am afraid, be little hope of a full attendance in the near future.

A meeting even on a small scale, such as I propose, would help to revive the international spirit, so strongly felt in our former gatherings, and so necessary now after these four cruel years of isolation, during which all that separates humanity, and little or nothing of what unites it, has come to the fore.

The problems affecting womanhood are international, and now that women in most countries have the right of taking an active part in legislation, their responsibility is great. Many problems—ethical, such as the fight against regulated vice; economic, such as work and wages—confront them, but the re-establishing of international goodwill and solidarity stand paramount.

Abysses of antagonism must be overbridged and wounds must be healed before we can hope for a better future, and surely our common suffering will help us to meet in a conciliatory spirit to build up the International Alliance of Enfranchised Women.

Helsingfors, February 8, 1919.

Features of the Month.

The full fruits of woman suffrage are being speedily harvested in Central Europe. Women took a very active part in the Austrian elections, and a number of women were elected, one of the most notable being Adelheid Popp, one of the seven members elected for Vienna. Anyone who has read the autobiography of that wonderful woman will appreciate the dramatic significance of this culmination to her career. Every privation and hardship that a working-class child of the poorest birth and most wretched surroundings could suffer was undergone by Adelheid Popp in her miserable childhood. That she should have overcome and triumphed over such obstacles, and by sheer ability and force of character have educated and raised herself to be a great Socialist leader and now a member of Parliament, is a testimony to human nature and to woman's tenacity and idealism.

Among the 36 women reported as elected to the German National Assembly, Suffragists will welcome Dr. Alice Salomon, secretary of the International Council of Women, head of the School of Social Service, and editor of the German Women's Year Book. Dr. Gertrud Bäumer, president of the National Council of Women, Luise Zietz, Marie Juchacz, Margarete Behm, and Dr. Marie Baum are also leading feminists, and Dr. Katha Schirmacher was a well-known figure at Suffrage congresses. The well-known writer and speaker, Frau Marianne Weber, is a Democratic member of the Wurtemberg Legislature, which has 13 women members. Clara Zetkin, the Independent Socialist, and for many years editor of *Gleichheit*, and Frä. Von Payer, daughter of the ex-Chancellor, are also elected.

Nine women have been elected in Baden, mainly from the Conservative side.

The women of the Allied nations have met for a conference in Paris, convened by the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes. Representatives of France, Italy, Belgium, the United States, Great Britain, and New Zealand considered the best methods of securing the proper consideration by the Peace Conference of questions affecting women.

The women delegates were received by the eminent members of the Conference whom they interviewed with the greatest consideration, respect, and sympathy. President Wilson and M. Clemenceau each suggested fruitful lines of action for realising the women's objects. M. Poincaré also expressed his sympathy with the cause of Woman Suffrage, and did not think it could be long withheld in France. M. Clemenceau declared that there were no arguments for men's franchise which did not also apply to women, but—then the clerical bogey was raised. But he would support the concession of the municipal vote to women at once. The Greek Premier, M. Venizelos, showed himself a whole-hearted supporter of women's claims, and with his encouragement it should be possible to promote a women's

movement in Greece, which has hitherto been backward in that respect.

The practical objects aimed at by the women's conference were twofold:—(1) The appointment of a special commission of plenipotentiaries to consider international questions vitally affecting women and children, which commission should be advised by a body of women experts appointed by the societies which have sent delegates to the women's inter-allied meeting in Paris. The second aim is to secure women representatives on the commissions now sitting. How far these objects will be realised is still unknown, but the fact that women representatives of women's organisations have been favourably received by the Government representatives at the Peace Congress, and have been enabled to put forward a strong statement of women's claims in the matters of suffrage, nationality, equal moral standard, and industrial freedom, marks in itself a historic step forward.

As Mrs. Fawcett said in introducing the delegation to President Wilson, the Congress of Vienna is now chiefly remembered for what it did wrong. Let us hope the same may not be true of the Congress of Paris.

While the Old World seems waking up to the claims of women and wishful to use them to the full in the work of reconstruction, the New World is reluctant to admit them to political responsibility. The United States Senate has failed by one vote to give the necessary two-thirds majority for the federation amendment to the Constitution enfranchising women.

It will be left to a new Congress to wipe out this defeat. One obstinate man has postponed the enfranchisement of millions. He cannot prevent the early triumph of the cause he opposes, but he may put his countrywomen in the back row of enfranchised womanhood, behind all the European nations.

The first women's international meeting since the war took place at Berne in February. The Swiss section of the International Committee of Women for Permanent Peace, taking advantage of the presence in Berne of women from various countries in connection with the international labour conferences, organised a conference and public meeting. The result was most successful and happy. Women were present from most of the belligerent nations, Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Russia, as well as from neutral countries. Complete harmony prevailed throughout, and serious discussions led to important conclusions. Three of the delegates were commissioned to present the resolutions in Paris. This first women's international meeting since the conclusion of hostilities shows what goodwill, good sense, good-temper, and an international outlook can accomplish.

M. SHEEPSHANKS.

Women at the Peace Conference.

CONFERENCE OF WOMAN SUFFRAGISTS OF ENTENTE COUNTRIES AND THE U.S.A.

At the moment when the fate of the world is under discussion, without any representation at the Peace Conference of women, who nevertheless constitute half of humanity, the Central Committee of the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes decided to assemble in Paris delegates of the Allied countries affiliated to the International Alliance, so that the question of Woman Suffrage should be considered, and especially from the point of view of the representation of women at the Peace Conference.

It will be seen that this latter question rapidly developed in a way on which the delegates hardly dared to count.

Each country had been asked to nominate and to send to the Conference three delegates and three alternates. Owing to the difficulty of the postal services and transport, all the Entente countries were not able to be represented. The French had elected:—Mme. de Witt Schlumberger, president of the U.F.S.F.; Mme. C. L. Brunschwig, general secretary; and Mme. Pichon Landry, secretary. The alternates were Mme. Suzanne Grinberg, Mme. Louise Compain, and Mme. Valentine Thomson. From England came Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, and Miss Rosamund Smith. Mrs. Fawcett had been commissioned by Mrs. Catt, who was unable to come to the Conference, to nominate the American delegates. In Paris she chose Dr. Katherine Bement Davis, Mrs. Borden Harriman, and Mrs. Barrett Rublee. Belgium was represented by Mme. Brigode, Mlle. Marie Parent, and Mlle. Van den Plas, Italy by Dr. Margherita Ancona, New Zealand by Miss Atkinson, and Miss Nina Boyle attended as a

fraternal delegate from South Africa. The Conference was held from February 10 to 16, at the Lyceum Club.

February 10.—The first meeting, after greetings to the foreign delegates by Mme. de Witt Schlumberger, was devoted to drawing up a resolution, which was to be in the hands of President Wilson the same evening. Mme. de Witt Schlumberger had received President Wilson's consent to receive the Conference delegates.

Several plans were presented. That of Mrs. Harriman attracted special attention, because it was said by the American delegate to express the ideas of President Wilson, according to what she had heard from members of his entourage. Mrs. Harriman proposed the nomination of a commission of women of the Allied nations composed of delegates nominated by their respective countries—viz., three for each of the great Powers and ten for all the others. This commission would have to inquire and report on the claims of women, which it would then present to the Peace Conference. Mrs. Fawcett objected that this commission would have to do work which is precisely that of the National Councils of Women.

After a fairly long discussion, the principle of the nomination of a commission of women was agreed to, and it was agreed that this nomination should be made by the International groups all together.

Mmes. Brigode, Brunshwieg, Katherine Davis, Strachey, and Grinberg, commissioned to draw up this resolution, presented the following text to the Conference, which was ratified:—

Mr. President,—

The representatives of the Suffrage Associations of the Allied countries and of the United States affiliated with the International Suffrage Alliance, recognising that—

The women of those countries which have not adopted woman suffrage have no voice in their governments, and are therefore in no way represented at the Peace Congress;

And that women constitute one-half of humanity, and, especially as mothers, have both material and moral interests to guard;

And that the part they play in the world increases day by day, and their co-operation with men is indispensable in the rebuilding of a new world, feel that it is profoundly unjust and regrettable that they cannot take their part in the decisions which end the war and which prepare the way for the future;

Therefore beg you, Mr. President, to accept the following Resolution, and to do their cause the great service of submitting it to the plenipotentiaries of the Peace Congress:

Resolved: That a Commission of Women be officially appointed by the Peace Congress to inquire into and report upon conditions and legislation concerning women and children throughout the world;

That the suggested names of delegates for this Commission be submitted by the great International Federations of Women of all these countries, and the delegates be officially selected by their respective Governments.

After the vote the delegates met in the Lyceum Salon, where they were cordially received by the members of the Central Committee and by the Paris Committee of the U.F.S.F., who came specially to welcome them.

PRESIDENT WILSON RECEIVES THE WOMEN'S DELEGATES.

In the evening Mme. de Witt Schlumberger, Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Rublee, Mme. Brigode, Dr. Katherine Davis, Mdle. Parent, Miss R. Smith, Mrs. Strachey, Miss Atkinson, and Mme. Grinberg were received by President Wilson. Mme. de Witt Schlumberger presented the delegation, and Mrs. Fawcett explained the reasons which determined the Conference of Allied Women to ask his support. In the course of conversation, which lasted about half an hour, President Wilson, after fully approving the principle of the representation of women's interests at the Peace Conference, suggested as a practical solution the creation of a

SPECIAL COMMISSION OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES

to investigate women's questions of an International nature (e.g., nationality of married women, traffic in women, etc.). This commission, added President Wilson, should be in touch with a committee of Allied women, who would present resolutions.

Mrs. Fawcett, after thanking the President, said the great international federations of women would be pleased to unite in choosing members of the Women's Committee.

Mr. Wilson replied that the conference of women of the Allied countries affiliated to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance seemed to him suitable to make the nominations. "Unfortunately," added the President, "as I am obliged to leave in a few days I cannot present this scheme to a plenary meeting of the plenipotentiaries, but I promise to speak of it to my colleagues of the Quai d'Orsay."

February 11.—At the second meeting the members of the Conference agreed on the methods to be employed to gain the

support of the plenipotentiaries for President Wilson's scheme. Mrs. Harriman presented a motion in which she proposed that the plenipotentiaries should be asked to receive a deputation consisting of one delegate from each country, and that as far as possible the leader of the deputation should be a delegate known to the plenipotentiary, who could be specially recommended to him. This was agreed to. The delegates of each country undertook to ask for an audience of the plenipotentiaries of their respective countries who should seem to them particularly likely to take effective action for the cause. The secretary of the Conference, Mme. Grinberg, was entrusted with the task of writing to the plenipotentiaries of the other countries. The delegates decided that it was necessary to have a resolution adopted by the Conference to leave with the plenipotentiaries visited, and the following was then voted:—

RESOLUTION

Passed at the Inter-Allied Conference of Suffrage Societies, February 11, 1919.

The members of the Conference, being of opinion that women who do not vote have no influence in the establishments of their Governments and are in no way represented at the Peace Conference, affirm the necessity of some such representation.

They therefore beg the plenipotentiaries of their countries to support their cause.

President Wilson, who received them on February 10, gave his full support to the principle of the recognition of the claims of women, and was of opinion that it could most practically be realised in the following form: That a Commission of plenipotentiaries be appointed by the Conference itself to inquire into and report upon those questions of interest to women which are of international importance. This Commission to be specially advised by a commission of women to be appointed by the Inter-Allied Suffrage Conference.

M. VENIZELOS RECEIVES THE DELEGATES.

M. Venizelos was the first to receive this resolution. It had been previously arranged that he should receive the British delegation, who had a special introduction to him. Mrs. Fawcett asked the delegation from each country to send a representative, so that the deputation might be of an inter-allied character.

M. Venizelos received the delegates with great friendliness, assured them of his help in promoting the success of President Wilson's plan, and promised Mrs. Fawcett to send her a list of Greek women interested in social and educational work, so that she might encourage them to a Suffrage movement in their country.

February 12.—Mme. Alice La Mazière, secretary and interpreter, read the minutes of the preceding meeting. Then Mme. S. Grinberg, with the official list of plenipotentiaries furnished by Mrs. Rublee, asked the delegates to agree on the names of those to be interviewed.

Mrs. Fawcett thought it better not to make a choice, for it would be useful to have the support of all the plenipotentiaries. She asked the French delegation to undertake to continue the work if it were not finished before the departure of the other delegates from Paris.

Mrs. Fawcett then reported on the deputation to M. Venizelos. She announced that the English delegation was to be received in the evening by Mr. Massey (New Zealand), and invited a delegate from each country to join their English colleagues.

Mme. Brigode intervened to state that a Belgian plenipotentiary had informed her that the place to be chosen as headquarters of the League of Nations was under discussion at the Peace Conference. The Hague and Brussels were proposed, and the Belgian plenipotentiary wished the Woman Suffrage Conference to support the choice of Brussels. This proposal raised difficulties. Mrs. Fawcett, while expressing sympathy for Belgium, considered this question outside the programme of the Conference, and that the delegates should confine their attention exclusively to the programme.

Mme. Brigode insisted, and asked for a vote on the admissibility of the question.

The French, American, and Belgian delegates voted in favour, the English and Italian against.

Miss Atkinson (New Zealand delegate) arrived at this point. (Miss Nina Boyle was absent.)

Mme. Brigode explained that she only asked a resolution of sympathy of the Conference for the idea maintained by the group of Latin countries who choose Brussels as the seat of the League of Nations.

The French, American, and Belgian delegates voted in favour, the British, Italian, and New Zealand abstained.

Miss Atkinson read a series of resolutions presented by the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union (Australia, New

Zealand, South Africa, Canada, and India), and the delegates to the Conference voted on the following conclusions:—

(a) The franchise shall be granted to women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.

(b) That married women shall not be deprived of their nationality against their will.

(c) That all existing inequalities in the law as between men and women shall be removed, that all offices and employments shall be open to men and women equally, and that payment for work done shall be independent of sex.

(d) That the moral standard shall be equal for both sexes.

These resolutions were adopted unanimously without discussion.

Mme. Brunshwieg then explained that Frenchwomen, with the help of some women of other countries, had had the idea of forming a commission to study and prepare resolutions to be proposed to the Peace Congress. She pointed out that it was in view of the eventual possibility of a representation of women's interests at the Congress that this initiative had been taken. It was necessary, she said, to prepare such an undertaking which could not be done in a hurry, and was extremely serious.

This plan was at first opposed by Mme. Brigode, who thought it was the function of the members of the official commission proposed by President Wilson to organise this work.

Mmes. Pichon, Landry, and Suzanne Grinberg explained that there was no question of encroaching on the rights and prerogatives of the future commission, as the project of study was thought out before the practical solution proposed by President Wilson for the representation of women's interests at the Peace Congress was known.

All the delegates agreed on the necessity for this organisation. Similar committees will be created in each of the countries represented, and the presidents of the French sections (Labour, Hygiene, Morals, Suffrage, Law, and Peace) will come to an agreement with the presidents of other countries.

At 6.30 some delegates, presided over by Mrs. Fawcett, were received by Mr. Massey and by Lord Robert Cecil. The two plenipotentiaries promised their support of the cause that was presented to them.

February 13.—The delegates to the Conference met different French women personalities who were to establish the bases of organisation of the Commission for considering resolutions to be presented to the Peace Congress.

The report of this meeting, as well as that of Sunday the 16th, which is connected with it, will be found below.

The same day some delegates visited Mr. H. White (United States), Sir Robert Borden (Canada), and Mr. Barnes (Great Britain). Mr. White expressed his sympathy for the cause of the representation of women's interests, but Sir Robert Borden and Mr. Barnes promised to work for it.

February 14.—Mme. de Witt Schlumberger had asked the President of the French Republic to do the members of the Suffrage Conference the honour of receiving them. At the Elysée Palace M. and Mme. Poincaré received the delegates at 4.30. M. Poincaré, who conversed for some time with the delegates, showed that he completely approved the efforts of the Suffragists, and that he hoped Frenchwomen would soon have the Municipal Suffrage.

February 15.—This was the closing day of the session. Mme. Brigode reported the visit that had been paid before the meeting to M. Hymans (Belgium) by the inter-allied delegation. The Belgian Minister declared that he was sympathetic with the women's cause, but he did not promise effective help like some of the plenipotentiaries. Then Mme. Brigode announced that she had learnt of the frightful fate of the Armenian women at the hands of the Turks, and that a protest and intervention of the Suffrage Conference were solicited. Mme. Ancona replied immediately that she particularly wished the Conference to take up this question. Mme. Brigode, Mme. Ancona, and Miss Nina Boyle were charged to inquire in what way the Conference could usefully intervene.

There was only one question left to be solved: the number of delegates to be included in the women's commission accredited to the future commission of plenipotentiaries charged to take up the question of women's interests in the Peace Congress.

It was decided that each country should nominate five delegates.

Then, before the meeting closed, Mme. Brigode demanded that the Conference should not consider its work finished. "There is still much to be done," said the Belgian delegate;

"therefore the powers of the Conference should be extended until peace is signed.

This was unanimously agreed to, and then the delegates adjourned for tea while they waited to be received by M. Jules Cambon.

M. Cambon, the French plenipotentiary, listened to the delegates with great interest. Especially when he heard of the sufferings and martyrdom of the Armenian and Serbian women, he replied that he understood perfectly that Women Suffragists should desire to have women's interests protected, that it would be necessary to add to the inquiry a report on the sufferings of French and Belgian women of the invaded districts, and he thought this question in particular would enlist great sympathy for the principle of women's representation at the Peace Congress.

This visit closed the Saturday programme. The next day the members of the Conference were received by M. Clemenceau.

M. CLEMENCEAU RECEIVES THE DELEGATES.

After listening to the views of the delegates, M. Clemenceau replied that the claims put before him seemed very just. He added that he had been informed of Mr. Wilson's proposal, but thought it would be better that women should enter directly into the Commissions of the Peace Conference.

"Address a demand for this personally to me, and I promise that I will present it to the Congress."

This declaration gave great satisfaction to the delegates, but none the less they wondered how to reconcile the two plans.

M. Clemenceau declared that he was in favour of municipal suffrage for women.

Whether the Peace Congress pronounces in favour of Mr. Wilson's or of M. Clemenceau's plan, have we not now a right to hope that women's voice will be heard in those quarters where the fate of the world is being decided? It remains for us to agree on the questions to be considered—but it must be done quickly. The Suffrage Conference has shown that women of the inter-Allied countries agree in their views on these questions. It is therefore certain that agreement will be complete and rapid, both as to the subjects to be considered and the solution to be found.

And on the grand day of the realisation of the wishes of all the women of the Allied countries, the French Suffragists, who have called on their colleagues from abroad for a common effort, will have the immense joy of saying to themselves that they will have helped greatly to abolish the injustices from which the women of the whole world suffer.

SUZANNE GRINBERG,
Advocate at the Paris Court,
Secretary of the Inter-Allied Conference.

Two International Conferences at Berne.

By Mrs. PHILIP SNOWDEN.

There were two International Conferences recently held at Berne, although only one was advertised and planned beforehand—the Labour and Socialist International Conference and an informal conference of women called together by the Swiss Branch of the Women's Committee for Permanent Peace.

The Labour International was a great success, for through it we built the bridge over which the nations will ultimately cross to a common goal. Of the hundred or so delegates who attended the conference only four, alas, were women. Nina Bang, who is a Member of the Upper House in Denmark, was sent by that country. Malka Locker, a beautiful Jewess, was sent from Italy. Miss Margaret Bondfield was one of the delegates from the British Trade Union Congress, and did excellent work on the special Commission for an international Labour Charter. I was one of the representatives of the Executive Committee of the British Labour Party, with power to represent the specific Socialist point of view on the war and its issue if necessity should arise. Accompanying the British delegation were two other women. Miss Sophy Sanger, who is a great authority on questions concerning international labour, and Miss Mosa Anderson, whose knowledge of three languages besides her own was of great use not only to the British delegation but to the whole conference. Frau Kautsky attended the German Minority Delegation in order to help with the translations, and several other distinguished German women were present as interested spectators.

My own special contribution to the work of the conference was made on the Commission for the League of Nations. Through many hours of hard work we hammered out a scheme

as much superior to the Paris scheme as is sunlight to moonlight. All the speakers on the League of Nations emphasised the great importance of placing it upon a democratic basis, urging the need for the appointment by the various Parliaments of delegates to the League of Nations Council. Otherwise it was felt that the League would be simply a League of Governments, a greater power for mischief and tyranny than anything which has preceded it. The Paris scheme, with its exclusion of Germany, Austria, and Russia, is a startling realisation of all our fears. In my speech to the conference on this subject, I congratulated those countries which have enfranchised their women during the period of the war, especially those who have granted a complete and equal franchise, and urged the necessity of the extension of the principle of women's enfranchisement to the whole of womankind, if the League of Nations is to be placed upon a really democratic foundation.

The second conference was a more or less informal affair. Within the first hour of our arrival in Berne the desire was expressed by women we met for the calling together of all the internationally-minded women who were known to be in the city. At the very moment of my arrival I had placed in my hands a letter from Mme. Clara Ragaz, of Zurich, prominent in connection with the Swiss Committee for Permanent Peace, who begged that we might all meet for our common good and encouragement. During the Labour Conference it was impossible for us to do anything as we were kept too tightly to the work, sometimes sitting from nine o'clock one morning to one o'clock the next. We therefore suggested that the Swiss Committee do the organising, and expressed ourselves perfectly willing to take part in a conference on the day following the closing of the International Conference.

The Swiss Committee got to work, and a quite splendid little gathering of women assembled in the Hotel Belle Vue on the morning of Monday, Feb. 10th. Women from nine different nationalities were present. Besides Switzerland and Great Britain, there were women from Germany, Hungary, France, Alsace, Austria, Greece, Russia, and Poland. Dr. Augspurg and myself were unanimously elected to be president and vice-president. Letters and telegrams of sympathy from all over Europe were read at the opening. In view of the shortness of the time, it was simply marvellous that so many expressions of sympathy were received. All the evidence goes to show there is a deep yearning in the hearts of women everywhere to get into touch with one another again, and only nationalist Governments could have held us apart for so long.

We sat the whole day and held a public meeting at night. At the conference during the day there was very little time spent in disputation as we were all very much of the same mind. Inevitably we passed unanimously, and without discussion, the following resolution on woman suffrage:—

This International Conference of women, called together by the Swiss Women's Committee for Permanent Peace, including women of nine different nationalities, extends its congratulations to those women who have secured their political enfranchisement during the period of the war. It calls upon those Governments which have not yet fully enfranchised their women to do so immediately in order that women may exercise their due influence in the formation and upon the deliberations of the League of Nations. It expresses the view that equal opportunities with men should be extended to women in all trades and professions, and that no artificial barriers of sex should interpose between women and their opportunities for social service.

I am not sure that the latter part of this resolution is worded precisely as at the conference, for I have lost my copy, but this is certainly the sense of the motion.

Other resolutions which were passed unanimously were on:—

- (1) A Democratic League of Nations;
- (2) The release of all prisoners of war;
- (3) The need for women to take part in the Peace Council at Paris; and
- (4) The Blockade.

This last resolution was the subject of my own speech at the public meeting which followed, for everyone of us felt the importance of having it realised that there were women in the world who were strongly opposed to the wholesale starvation of innocent people. Other people who spoke at the public meeting were Rosika Schwimmer, Dr. Anita Augspurg, Fraulein L. Gustava Heymann, and Mme. Gobat.

The resolution, which passed without a dissident, reads as follows:—

This conference of women belonging to nine nationalities views with pity the appalling sufferings from hunger and

unemployment caused by the lack of food, coal, and raw material, of the peoples of Central Europe and Russia. It believes that the continuance of the present state will breed anarchy and defeat those principles of liberty and peace for which it is everywhere declared the war was fought and which should be the foundation of an effective League of Nations. It appeals to the Allied Powers to raise the blockade against these suffering peoples in order that they may find for themselves food and labour and so establish order and good government in their several territories.—
Moved by Mrs. Philip Snowden.

AUSTRIA.

WOMEN M.P.'s.

Reports of the elections in German-Austria state that one of the most interesting causes of the sweeping Social Democratic victories was the women's vote. Not only did they greatly help the men candidates, but seven women were elected in Vienna, of whom six are Social Democrats and one a Christian Socialist. One of the successful women candidates is the well-known leader, Adelheid Popp, who was also recently elected to the Vienna Municipal Council.

BELGIUM.

A correspondent in Belgium writes as follows to the *Nieuwe Courant* of February 13:—

The question of Women Suffrage is the central point of the revived party struggle. The Catholics accept Universal Suffrage, but for men and women. The Opposition want it for men only, because as they, and especially the Liberal Party, argue, women do not yet desire this reform, because they do not yet possess the necessary development to exercise it, and because, a majority of them being favourably disposed towards the Catholics, they would greatly prolong the period of power of the Catholic régime.

When it is said that the Opposition has declared itself against Woman Suffrage, that is only speaking generally. From the mass of the Opposition, voices of recognised Democrats make themselves heard warning that Opposition against the injustice it commits by thus being renegade to her own principles. In this chorus Minister Vandervelde's voice is not the least important.

As is known, he is a convinced feminist; he has shown that women are awakening. In less than ten days a petition has been forwarded to the President of the Chamber, in favour of Woman Suffrage, with over 35,000 signatures, and this notwithstanding the slow and defective traffic, the paper shortage, etc. The campaign is proceeding.

Vandervelde also said: "I do not know which party will benefit from Woman Suffrage, but I shall vote for it, because it is just." J. G. R.

DENMARK.

ELINE HANSEN, B. 1859, D. JAN. 5, 1919.

The death of Eline Hansen, inspector of school cookery classes, is a severe loss to the women's cause in Denmark, for which she was one of the most excellent workers, perhaps the most excellent. She was beloved by a large circle who used to meet in her hospitable home at Copenhagen. In their holidays she took a great interest in her little scholars, and, busy as she was, had always time to sympathise with the troubles of others.

Eline Hansen will also be sorely missed at international congresses, because of her remarkable knowledge of languages, and of all the ins and outs of the history of the women's cause.

WOMEN'S ACCESS TO PROFESSIONS.

When the law for admitting women to higher appointments which is now introduced passes into law, one of the main tasks of D.K. will be accomplished. Great thanks are due to Elna Munch, who introduced a motion in December that women should be legally allowed to be rectors, and also proposed that a bill should be brought forward for allowing women to be judges and priests. It is one of the first results of the work of women in Parliament that Elna Munch has been appointed president of the Committee for the consideration of

FRANCE.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PEACE CONGRESS.

The following invitation has been sent by the Women's Committee for the study of resolutions to be presented to the Peace Conference (Provisional Secretariat, 53, rue Scheffer, 16e arrondissement) to all women's associations likely to be interested:—

The Peace Conference, which is sitting at this moment, has undertaken the heavy task of reorganising the world on a basis which shall make war impossible and that the nations shall enjoy juster and more democratic laws. The whole world follows with passionate attention this work, on which the fate of future generations depends. But the women of all countries are painfully impressed by the fact that men alone prepare the future, that not one of them has been summoned to take part in the task of reorganisation, and that the international code of which they will have to bear the consequences will have been established entirely without them; once again people will speak in their name and decide for them without consulting them.

Isolated protests have been made, but they are not enough, and to-day we invite you to take part in a concerted effort which will show the force and power of women's energies.

We have thought it interesting to assemble in Paris during the Peace Conference competent women from allied countries who would study in common the proposals to be submitted to the commissions of the Peace Conference.

Sections would be organised for Labour, Hygiene, Law, Morals, Suffrage, and Peace. Reports would be prepared in these sections then ratified by the whole committee. This method of work is, moreover, that which is generally adopted by women's congresses, that which differentiates our congress from preceding is that the latter usually last only a few days, whereas our committee and the proposed sections will work permanently as long as the Peace Conference lasts.

The first meeting for organisation is fixed for February 16 at the Lyceum.

Signed: Mmes. Avril de Ste. Croix, Katharine Bement Davis, Borel, Brunshvicg, de Caraman, Chenu, Cruppi, Diemer, Fallot-Matter, Girard-Mangin, de Ganay, Goblet d'Alviella, Grimberg, Harriman, Max Lazard, Leroy Liberge, de Montmort, de Monster, Bertrand de Mum, de Neailles, Pichon-Landry, Puech, Raspail, Jules Siegfried, V. Thomson, d'Uzes, Maria Véone, Viollet, Weill-Raynal, de Witt-Schlumberger.

The presence in Paris of foreign delegates for the Inter-Allied Conference of Woman Suffragists enabled us to see at once what reception this plan would meet with from English, American, Belgian, and Italian, and women from New Zealand and South Africa.

The committee, being a working committee, would have no honorary members, nor subscriptions. Each section open to all those who will offer intellectual activity will elect its officers from among its members, and nominate a president and reporter. Above the sections a committee will control the choice of subjects to be considered by the sections. Women of Allied and friendly countries would take part in the working sections and in the committee. Besides, it would be possible to collaborate in several sections, and to be a member of the committee. Mrs. Fawcett held out the hope that Great Britain would send to Paris for the whole duration of the Peace Conference one or more delegates, real experts, whose competence in the subjects with which they would be called upon to deal would be unquestionable and unquestioned. It is to be hoped that the other countries will do the same. The prestige of the committee if it is truly international, the confidence that it will inspire in the plenipotentiaries, the authority of the resolutions passed by the reporters, would be increased. Committees and sections will unite on fixed days at some centre still to be fixed.

ALICE LA MAZIÈRE.

The French section of the International Committee of Women for Permanent Peace sent the following telegram to M. Dutasta, General Secretary of the Peace Conference:—

"We salute the opening of the Peace Conference with profound emotion. We firmly hope that nations which have rallied to the noble words of justice and right will insist on carrying them out in actions. We ask with all our heart for

this question. The question has aroused immense interest among laymen and church people.

At our request, Bishop Ostenfeld has given expression to his views in *Kvinden og Samfundet*. The Bishop has no objection to women as priests, but does not think there is much demand for them. We think that as soon as women may legally be priests they will begin to study theology and fit themselves for the profession. Eight young women are already studying theology at Copenhagen, and are likely to be followed by many more.

In the debate, YENSEN SÖNDERUP pointed out that the Ministry considered it necessary to settle the legality of women's eligibility to posts in consequence of their new political powers. He considered it a great advance that women should be made generally eligible instead of special paragraphs of laws being passed entitling them to special privileges. He thought the women would bring in new blood, and benefit the community by their work. He thought that men as well as women had duties to the children in the home, and that just as men's official duties did not interfere with their home duties, so women also would be able to do both with benefit to both.

ELNA MUNCH laid stress on the importance of women being appointed to the various offices under the same conditions as men, and not being excluded owing to marriage, etc. Though the new law goes into three short lines, it is of vast importance, as it makes efficiency and not sex the test of eligibility.

MATHILDE HAUSSCHULTZ greeted the reform with joy, as the breaking down of the last barrier. She proposed that the word *person* should be substituted for *man*.

Y. ANDERSEN thought there would be many difficulties left even if the law passed, as women might find difficulties in getting examined, ordained, etc. There would be much opposition in church circles, owing to Corinthians I, xiv., 34, and owing to the prejudice against women administering the Holy Sacrament. He thought the whole question should not only have been referred to a theological faculty before its introduction into Parliament, but that it was unheard of to introduce the bill before the question which had been put had been answered.

KAREN ANKERSTED objected to the plan suggested by a previous speaker of paying high officials according to their necessities. Efficiency should be the only test. The needs both of men and women are equally subject to fluctuation. She welcomed women judges more wholeheartedly than women priests, but was glad that on the whole the law had had a friendly reception from all parties.

KAMMERSGOED, S., thought that women were specially suitable as bishops.

The National Minister ZAHLE expressed delight at the good reception of the new law. Things had reached an advanced stage when the aim was to level a few remaining barriers against women instead of merely discussing their general eligibility. Of course, this law would also admit women to commissions and all sorts of higher offices, and therefore it had the advantage of being both general and particular.

There was no need to alter "man" to "person," for if this law passed women would be included in the cases in question where the word *man* now stands in the administration of justice.

The Minister of State pointed out that women could already administer the Sacrament of Baptism in cases of necessity. In conclusion, he promised that, once women had full access to all posts, he would give his utmost support to the movement in favour of equal pay for equal work.

—*Kvinden og Samfundet* (January 30).

CHANGE OF EDITOR OF SUFFRAGE PAPER.

Gyrithe Lemche resigned the editorship of *Kvinden og Samfundet*, November, 1918. The Executive Committee of D.K. has appointed Anna Koch Schiöler as her successor. From 1912 to 1918 Anna Koch Schiöler was on the staff of *Hoferstaden* ("Capital"), so her interesting literary work is well known. She has also written a novel and a play.

At her desire there has been formed an Editor's Committee of three—Elisa Petersen, Elisa Ussing, and Julie Arenholt, in concert with whom she will edit *Kvinden og Samfundet*, in close touch with the Executive Committee. The Editor's Committee belongs to different parties, but the editor belongs to no party. This arrangement, it is hoped, will keep the paper off the party rocks.

JULIE ARENHOLT,
Kvinden og Samfundet (January 15).

the constitution of a society of all nations leading to universal disarmament, the only method of ending wars.

Signed by Mmes Séverine, Marthe Bigot, Duchêne, Jeanne Halbevache, Morre-Lambelin, Madeleine Rolland, Marguerite Thevenet.

GERMANY.

January 19, 1919, the day of the elections for the National Constituent Assembly, will be distinguished in German history as a memorable day for all time, as the day in which Germany's women went to the ballot-box for the first time to take their share in deciding the fate of their nation. We cannot assume that all the women electors who thronged the polling stations, and stood in queues along the streets from early morning, were all fully aware of the significance of the hour; and yet a reflection of it was seen on the faces of the women, young and old, something of new dignity and assurance, of new self-reliance and modest citizen pride. "I, too, am called on to-day to take my share. I, too, can speak my mind when the weal or woe of the Fatherland are concerned!" And a new expression was seen on the face of many a worthy elector, who pressed to the poll by the side of his wife or grown-up daughter, an expression of comradely respect, such as formerly was felt and shown only to those of the same sex.

The impressions of this day will never be forgotten by all those like myself who have worked for decades for women's political emancipation, and have never had any hope of seeing our expectations realised in our lifetime.

The solemn and elevated Sunday atmosphere was undisturbed by the memories of the preceding heated electoral contests and speeches, or by the dismal remains of the feverish propaganda which covered the streets in the shape of innumerable leaflets, election lists, and bold posters.

The great day of January 19, 1919, signified a world turning point for German women. Consciously or unconsciously we all felt that. Precise details of the participation of the women electors are at present not available, but it is said that an average of 80 or 90 per cent. of all electors voted, which in any case shows a high percentage, including women. According to their undeniable numerical preponderance, it may even be reckoned that a higher percentage of women voted.

In the preparation for the elections, in the intensive work inside the parties, in the thronging of election meetings, there was joyful evidence everywhere of the awakened political interest and understanding of women through political rights.

The great women's organisations began the work of general elementary political enlightenment, and the political parties of all colours in their own interests did everything they could to draw in the women and to direct and lead them. That, of course, has always been usual with the masses of male electors, and will continue as long as, in political life as elsewhere, there are pioneers and followers, leaders and led. So, without boasting or undue optimism, it may be said that German women have come well through the tremendous test, and have put to shame all prophecies to the contrary.

However significant and promising the event is for the women electors, with regard to the elected women it is still more significant. What appeared incredible and inconceivable six months, even three months, ago has become a fact. All political parties, even those most bitterly opposed in principle to women suffrage, have agreed to it, and put women candidates on their electoral lists, among them a large number well known in the women's movement. That certainly did not happen for our *beaux yeux*, or from a suddenly awakened feminist conviction, but in most cases more from necessity than choice. But in those cases where the woman candidate's name was second on the list there was evidently a firm intention on the part of the party to get her into the National Assembly. In the case of women candidates third and fourth on the list there was evidence of a certain amount of good intention, unfortunately hampered by the timid reluctance to put a spoke in the wheel of male candidates and old Parliamentarians. The women's names lower down on the Conservative and Liberal lists were according to the relative size of the parties and the expected results of the election, intended as inducements to the women electors, and fulfilled their object on this first occasion of women's participation. Whether in future elections they would not gradually fail in this object will be seen later on.

In any case we can rejoice in what we have attained, in spite of some experiences in party politics not entirely pleasing, in spite of the fact that on this occasion, when a new spirit in

Parliamentary life is so urgently needed, much new wine has been poured into old bottles.

Out of 421 members of the National Assembly, 36 women have been elected, including 18 Majority Socialists, 3 Independent Socialists, 5 German Democratic Party, 6 Christian People's Party (Catholic), 3 German Nationals, and 1 German People's Party.

With heartfelt satisfaction we all—the candidates who were not elected too—follow the entry of our fellow-women into the representation of the people, which for the first time may be called representative of the *whole* people, and which is to create for our Fatherland the vital conditions which will raise it from direst need to prosperity and happiness, to interior and exterior culture. With deep emotion we all look to Weimar, to the place from which once before light shone forth to the German people, from which now in the darkest hour healing shall come. We hope that the genius loci, the real spirit of Weimar, will preside over the proceedings at which for the first time the mothers of the nation will speak.

MARIE STRITT,

President of the Reichsverband für Frauenstimmrecht (affiliated to the I.W.S.A.).

WOMEN M.P.'s.

The following women were elected to the National Assembly:—

Name	Party	Constituency	Profession
Bröner, Frau Elis.	Germ.-Democ.	Königsberg	Writer.
Kähler, Frau Wilhelm.	Soc.-Democ.	Berlin-Steglitz	
Schirmacher, Dr. Käthe	Nat. German (Conservative)	Dantzig	Authoress.
Klosz, Katharine	Germ.-Democ.	Dantzig	School Supt.
Simon, Anna	Soc.-Democ.	Brandenburg	Secretary.
Zietz, Frau Luise	Indep.-Soc.	Berlin	Writer and Socialist Leader.
Juchacz, Frau Marie	Soc.-Democ.	Potsdam	Party Sec.
Von Gierke, Frl. Anna	Nat.-German	Potsdam	
Ryneck, Elfriede	Soc.-Democ.	Potsdam	
Behm, Margarete	Nat.-German	Pomerania	President of the Home Work Un.
Häfs, Frau Else	Soc.-Democ.	Pomerania	
Elske, Elise	German-Democ.	Posen	School teacher.
Hauke, Frau Drioda	Soc.-Democ.	Oppeln	Housewife.
Bollmann, Frau Minna	Soc.-Democ.	Magdeburg and Anhalt	Housewife.
Hübler, Frau Anna	Indep.-Soc.	Merseburg	
Baum, Marie, Dr. Phil.	Germ.-Democ.	Schleswig-Holstein	Head of the Social Sch., Ham.
Lühns, Frida	Soc.-Democ.	Hanover	Welfare-worker, Brunswick, etc.
Bohm-Schuch, Klara	Soc.-Democ.	Arnsberg	Authoress and Poetess.
Tesch, Frau Johanna	Soc.-Democ.	Hesse-Nassau	
Teusch, Frl.	Christian People's Party (Centre)	Cologne	Trade Union Secretary.
Röhl, Elizabeth	Soc.-Democ.	Cologne	
Schmitz, Frl.	Christian People's Party (Centre)	Coblentz	Head-mistress
Weber, Helene	Centre	Düsseldorf	Head-mistress.
Agnes, Frau Lore	Indep. Soc.	Düsseldorf	
Zettler, Marie	Bavarian People's Pty.	Bavaria	Soc. Secretary in Munich
Lutze, Frau Ernestine	Soc.-Democ.	Saxony	Housewife.
Schilling, Frau Minna	Soc.-Democ.	Saxony	Housewife.
Blos, Anna	Soc.-Democ.	Württemberg	Ed. Authority, Authoress, Wife of the Minister-President.
Baumer, Dr. Gertrud	Germ.-Democ.	Thuringia, etc.	Writer, President National Coun. of Women
(Elected also for Hamburg.)			
Eichler, Frau Minna	Soc.-Democ.	Thuringia	
Reitze, Frau Johanna	Soc.-Democ.	Hamburg and Bremen	Housewife.
Salomon, Dr. Alice	Dem.		Vice Pres. N. C. of Women

The National Assembly in Weimar has ruled that speakers will now begin their Parliamentary speeches, "Ladies and Gentlemen." Women members will leave their hats in the cloak room before entering. All women members, whether married or not, will be addressed as "Frau—"

Speaking in the National Assembly at Weimar, Herr Scheidemann, the Prime Minister, on February 12, summed up the task of the Government in the immediate future. Domestic policy included the admission of women to the civil service.



DR. ALICE SALOMON (Dem.)



DR. GERTRUD BAUMER (Ger.-Dem.)



LUISE ZIETZ (Indep. Soc.-Dem.)



MARIE JUCHACZ (Soc.-Dem.)



ELFRIEDE RYNECK (Soc.-Dem.)



FRL. VON GIERKE (Nat. Ger.)

Germany's Women M.P.'s.

Women Voters' Programme.

The National Council of Women has put together the demands which the organised women's movement has had on its programme for many years and which it now hopes to realise by means of the vote.

I.—THE FAMILY AND MARRIAGE.

1. Reform of the marriage laws, giving the wife and mother equality with husband and father; equal rights and responsibilities, especially parental. Legal separation of property. Removal of such obstacles to divorce as involve dishonesty and humiliation.
2. Improvement in the position of the illegitimate child by making the father more responsible, in accordance with the equal moral standard and the needs of the child.
3. Abolition of State regulation of prostitution, and institution of social and hygienic reforms in conformity with the equal moral standard for both sexes. Supervision of venereal disease by a health office and provision of clinics for diseased persons. Prohibition of brothels and low-class drinking places where girls are used as decoys (Animer kneipen). Penalising of infecting with venereal disease. Raising the age of consent.
4. With regard to legislation introduced recently into the Reichstag, the N.C.W. favours the prohibition of advertisements of contraceptive methods, but is opposed to the prohibition of methods which are not harmful to health. They approve the continued prohibition of abortion.
5. Sex teaching in all educational institutions must develop and strengthen moral responsibility in both sexes.
6. Far-reaching housing reform undertaken by co-operation of State and municipality must protect family life.
7. Social welfare work for infants, children, and adolescents, extension of the maternity benefit; improvement in the training and status of midwives, and health work by trained women officials.
8. Combating of alcoholism.

II.—OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS.

1. Opening of all professions to women in which they are capable of producing good results, and of all training courses, in particular, admission of women to all high schools and academies, to legal and theological examinations, to teachers' places at the universities.
2. Equal representation of women in all professional bodies, commercial tribunals, chambers of commerce, agricultural chambers, insurance bodies, etc.
3. Restoration and extension of laws for the protection of women workers (Factory Acts, etc.), shortening of the hours of labour, protective measures in dangerous trades, increase of factory inspectors, extension of protection of home workers, introduction of maternity insurance.
4. Development of labour exchanges for women.
5. Carrying out of equal pay for equal work.

III.—EDUCATION.

1. Compulsory continuation schools for girls on an occupational basis.
2. Co-education in certain schools.
3. Strengthening of women's influence in girls' education.
4. The same university preparation for girls and boys.
5. More civic education for girls.
6. Provision of domestic and child-care teaching for all girls.

IV.—LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

1. Equal suffrage for women and men for all legislative and administrative bodies.
2. Admission of women to State and municipal civil service, especially in the departments of women's work, food supply, hygiene, housing, school, and child welfare.

—Frauenfrage.

Women Members of the Baden National Assembly.

The new Parliament was opened in Baden without any of the accustomed ceremonial, but with the utmost simplicity. The Minister-President Gais, the Social Democratic leader of the provisional Government, made an impressive speech, expressing the spirit of freedom and the will for order. The dignity and gravity of his words were worthy of the new Baden Republic.

The parties confined themselves to brief replies, assenting to the declarations of the President. But then an unforeseen and unpremeditated event occurred. The first woman spoke, Frau Marianne Weber, a member of the Democratic (bourgeois Radical) party, the well-known writer and speaker, and wife of the economist, Max Weber, expressed in a few warm and heart-felt words the deep feeling which filled her and thousands

of her fellow-women on this day, when, for the first time on German soil, women are included among the people's representatives. Her example was followed by a woman of the Centre party and then of the Social Democrats; after that no party would consent to be out of it, each wanted to show on this first great day that it had women in its ranks. In the future we must get accustomed to women in Parliament voting as women.

—Neue Zürcher Zeitung (Jan. 29).

GREAT BRITAIN.**Women's Freedom League.**

During the past two months we have urged the Prime Minister and our own Government, M. Clemenceau, President Wilson, and Signor Orlando to consider the necessity of women of all countries being included in the Peace Conference, pointing out that the settlement to be arrived at is of as vital importance to women as to men. Moreover, there are subjects to be dealt with which have special reference to women, e.g.—

- (1) The inalienable right of a woman to her own nationality irrespective of marriage.
- (2) The restoration to their own country of women deported into enemy territory.
- (3) The establishment of equal industrial conditions and opportunities for women with men by international agreement.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.**POLITICAL.**

Parliament has this month reassembled, and political activity is again beginning at the headquarters of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. Shortly before the General Election, in a manifesto outlining the work of the Coalition Government if returned to power, Mr. Lloyd George made a statement which delighted the heart and stimulated the hopes of every good feminist. "It will be the duty," he said, "of the new Government to remove all existing inequalities in the law as between men and women." On a programme containing this promise to women the Coalition Government was elected.

The N.U.W.S.S. was naturally anxious to see this pledge confirmed when the General Election was over. We therefore sent to the Prime Minister a request that he should include in the King's Speech, delivered at the opening of Parliament, some statement to the effect that legislation would speedily be introduced to give effect to his promise. We followed this request with a list of the reforms affecting women which we believed to be the most pressing. We then awaited results, and were—if not surprised because suffragists have learned never to be surprised—at least somewhat disappointed to find that the word "women" was never mentioned in the King's Speech. Nevertheless, the demand of the N.U.W.S.S. was not wasted, since when it was sent to the Prime Minister it was also sent to, and published by, the press. The result has been an enormous amount of publicity for the Union's programme and a great stimulation of interest in feminist aims.

WOMEN AS SOLICITORS.

Readers interested in the political work of British women may remember that during the last Parliamentary session the N.U.W.S.S. concentrated much of its energy on promoting a Bill to enable qualified women to practice as solicitors. The prospects of this Bill were of the brightest. A majority of the Members of the House of Commons had pledged themselves to vote in its favour, and it was expected that the Government would allot time to this Bill early in this session. However, between the two sessions we have had a General Election, and the complexion of affairs is altogether changed. Many of the tried friends of women's suffrage are not members of the present House of Commons, and, indeed, the membership of the House has so altered that its opinions on women's questions are very much of an unknown quality. The Union has, therefore, been obliged to restart its work for the Women Solicitors Bill from the beginning. It has sent out a whip to Members of the House of Commons asking them to vote for a Women Solicitors Bill, and it has formed a Committee of Members of the House for the opening of the Legal Professions to Women. So far support for the Bill promises well, and many Members have agreed to vote for it. But it is doubtful whether the Government will allow time for the Bill to be introduced. A question on this subject was asked in the House, but the reply given was non-committal.

THE PARIS CONFERENCE.

The Paris Conference of Women's Suffrage Societies of Allied Countries has done excellent work for the feminist cause.

British Dominions Women Citizens' Union.**Australia.**

The successful passing into law in the State of New South Wales of the Proportional Representation Bill is ascribed by the men of the National Party in that State to the efforts of the Women's Reform League. The members of this League, under the late Mrs. Molyneux Parkes, and now under Mrs. Bogue Luffman, have since their foundation in 1902 persistently fought against "machine politics," and they therefore consider the passing of this Bill a significant success. They have had to bear in the cause much ridicule and misrepresentation, because though they hold the same political views as the men's society, they remain quite independent of them. It may interest our international friends to know that Mrs. Molyneux Parkes, whose wonderful spirit still lives in this League, was a Swede, and retained the warmest love for her native land through the many years of devoted work which she gave to the country of her adoption.

The Women's Non-Party Association of South Australia also rejoices in the accomplishment of valuable work during the past year. They have succeeded in getting a clause introduced into a Matrimonial Causes Bill, a Government measure, which makes the grounds for divorce the same for women as for men. The amendment was adopted by the Government, and the Bill has passed the House. (No further particulars are yet to hand, but presumably the Bill is framed on the Divorce Act of Western Australia, which is as yet the best divorce law in any part of the British Empire.) The South Australians have also secured a Testator's Family Maintenance Act, making it compulsory for man to make provision for his wife and children in his will. (A similar measure was passed about a year ago in N.S.W.) A Children's Protection Act is another of the successes of South Australia. It prohibits the employment of very young children in theatrical performances. South Australia has always been to the fore in matters which concern the welfare of children, especially as regards their education and bringing-up, since the early days of the colony, when Miss Catherine Spence initiated this work. South Australia, however, has to regret inability to secure any women as municipal candidates this year, but hopes for better fortune in 1919.

The women's societies of both States greatly rejoice in the wonderful victories for the woman's cause made in Britain in 1918. They continue to follow the work of the women in Britain with the warmest interest.

Communicated by HARRIET C. NEWCOMB, Hon. Sec., British Dominions Women Citizens' Union.
From Letters dated December 30, 1918.

SOUTH AFRICA.**Woman Suffrage Conference.**

A conference took place on Tuesday, January 14, at the Alexandra Club, Cape Town, between representatives of the three suffrage units of the Union—namely, the Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union, the Women's Reform Club of Johannesburg, and the Women's Enfranchisement League of the Cape Province,—to discuss (1) the political situation in the Union as it affects the enfranchisement of South African women; (2) the means to be adopted to obtain suffrage on the same terms as it is granted to men; and (3) the advisability of immediate union of the three Suffrage units in a common policy to work to this end.

It was decided, in view of the fact that the women of South Africa, alone among the women of the British Dominions, are still denied the rights of citizenship, "that the three separate suffrage units of the Union unite immediately to work for the attainment of woman suffrage, acting under the title *Combined Suffrage Bodies of the Union*; and form a Standing Committee for that purpose, consisting of the Parliamentary Secretaries of these societies."

It was further agreed to ask the Government to reconsider the official policy outlined by the Prime Minister on the 12th February last, when he stated that it is impossible to deal with the enfranchisement of women as a separate matter, as it can only be treated as "part of the whole question of a uniform franchise law for the Union." Women ask for the removal of the sex disability for the reason that they desire the right of expressing their opinion as to the consolidated electoral qualifications of the future; franchise is asked for now, under the existing conditions as to qualification, on the same terms as it is granted to men.

A deputation of representatives, headed by Mme. de Witt-Schlumberger and Mrs. Fawcett (presidents of the suffrage societies of France and England) interview President Wilson, M. Clemenceau, M. Venezelos, Sir Robert Borden, Lord Robert Cecil, and Senator White. The result of the interview with President Wilson was particularly hopeful. President Wilson agreed to move, before leaving Paris, at the Peace Congress a proposal that a special commission of the plenipotentiaries of the Peace Congress should be established to consider women's international questions, and that to it shall be added a commission of women selected by societies represented at the Inter-Allied Conference of Women's Suffrage Societies, in consultation with other women's organisations. This proposal is being supported by M. Venezelos, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Massey, Sir Robert Borden, Lord Robert Cecil, and Senator White.

The decisions of the Conference of Inter-Allied Women's Suffrage Societies now become of the greatest importance. The conference has passed resolutions in favour of equal pay for equal work, the granting of the vote to women on equal terms with men, removal of all existing inequalities in the law as between men and women, the establishment of an equal moral standard between men and women, provision of equality of opportunity for women with men, and, further, has stated its opinion that a League of Nations should be based on an agreement between peoples allowing expression of women's opinions.

GUARDIANSHIP OF INFANTS BILL.

One of the chief activities of the N.U.W.S.S. at present is a campaign to secure the reform of the guardianship laws. The Parliamentary Department of the Union has drawn up a first draft of a Parliamentary Bill and has circulated it to other societies interested in the subject for criticism. A very large number of women's societies are ready to give their support to such a Bill and will co-operate with the N.U.W.S.S. in pressing for the reform of the guardianship laws.

Under the existing law of Great Britain, only the father is recognised as the guardian of his children, and is sole judge of what shall be their maintenance and education, and has, *prima facie*, the sole right to their custody.

N.U.W.S.S. RESOLUTION RE PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE.

That the National Union send delegates to the Conference in Paris on the following conditions:—

1. That it should be understood that this Conference is summoned independently of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.
2. That the Conference does not make part of its discussion the attitude of the suffrage societies in Allied countries to those in enemy countries.
3. That the National Union delegates confine themselves (a) to forwarding the cause of women's suffrage; (b) to forwarding other points on the National Union programme, giving particular attention to those which can be most suitably pressed at such a conference.

That these points should be pressed, if possible, by urging that the consideration of the position of women in any country shall be one of the points that shall be taken into account in determining whether it shall be admitted to the League of Nations.

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, CONGRATULATING THE GERMAN WOMEN ON THE VOTE.

"That the undersigned representatives of constituent societies of the Consultative Committee of Women's Societies Working for Equal Citizenship, send warm congratulations to the women of Germany on their complete enfranchisement."

Catholic Women's Suffrage Society

The annual meeting of the above Society was held on February 15, when the future work of the Society in the campaign to remove the existing inequalities between men and women was discussed. At the close of the meeting the following emergency resolution was put from the chair:—"That this Society pledges itself to press for immediate legislation by which a scheme for widows' pensions shall become law." The resolution was carried unanimously.

CANADA.

Delegates representing 100,000 members of women's societies of every province in Canada, except Prince Edward Island, at a meeting at Winnipeg have decided to form a National Women's Federation.

It was resolved "to ask the Acting Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet to receive a small deputation representing the Combined Suffrage Bodies of the Union," and the growing opinion of the country that problems awaiting solution in South Africa, whether of a political, social, or economic nature, must be decided by all citizens, men and women equally.

In addition to the resolution that the Government be asked to remove the sex disability of the women of South Africa by introducing a Woman Suffrage Bill this session, it was resolved: "Seeing that Ministers have stated that the claim to the franchise by women must be supported by a majority vote amongst them before the question can be considered, the Combined Suffrage Bodies of the Union herewith request the Government to provide the necessary machinery for obtaining this information on the ground that it is a national matter."

It was further resolved "that in view of the fact that the women of South Africa will be without representation or voice in the national reconstructions which will follow upon the peace settlement, they be heard at the Bar of the House to plead their case." It is conceivable that questions of a political, social, and economic nature will arise out of the Peace and Inter-Dominion Conferences for settlement, and will be referred to the electors of the several Dominions. In this event South Africa, under the existing disqualification of women, will be unable to obtain such a statement of national opinion as can be provided in the rest of the British Commonwealth by the exercise of the franchise by men and women equally.

For this reason and others of a kindred nature the Combined Suffrage Bodies of the Union, representing women of every shade of political opinion, call upon the Union Government to grant woman suffrage as an act of justice already extended to the women of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

A copy of this report has been sent to the Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet.

RUXTON.

INDIA.

Readers are aware of the Indian ladies' deputation at the time of the visit of the Secretary of State to India to obtain franchise on the same lines as men. Now again the ladies of the deputation have addressed the Right Hon. Lord Southborough, Chairman of the Franchise Committee for India, calling his attention to their request to Mr. Montagu, and referring to recent resolutions in favour of women's suffrage passed in various parts of the country by women's associations, District, and Bombay and Madras Provincial Conferences, the Provincial Committees of the Congress, the Home Rule League, and the Special Session of the Indian National Congress.

The Deputies request that the electorates of Reformed India should comprise all persons of a stated qualification without distinction of sex. They draw the attention of the Franchise Committee to the practice in Australia of sending election officers to homes of women voters to record their votes, and its utility in goshia districts in India.

They refer to offers from women's suffrage societies in Great Britain and Ireland to do all they can to draw Indian women to their own level in the reconstitution of the Empire.

They ask, further, that, if within their scope, the Franchise Committee should use its influence to procure them local government franchise and the opening of all Government offices to women in India.

They state that in this request they are voicing the wishes of the majority of the Indian people, who, they say, "have always recognised the ability of women to take a full share in the guidance of private, local, and national affairs."

The deputies close with the hope that the Committee will accede to their request, in the direct interests of one-half of the Indian people, and the later benefits of the whole of the Indian nation.

The signatories of the petition are Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Mrs. Naik, Joshi, Annie Besant, Mrs. Srirangamma, Chandrasekara Iyer of Mysore, Mrs. Nilakantha, Lazarus, Nehru, Mrs. Cousins, Sanjiva Rao, Rajammal, Tata, Petit, Kibe, and Lady J. C. Rose. It is quite possible that their requests will be conceded.

G. R. JOSYER, M.A.

Bangalore, India, January 22, 1919.

NEW ZEALAND.

WOMEN REFUSED ELIGIBILITY FOR PARLIAMENT.

The loss of the Bill enabling women to sit in Parliament has left, to say the least, a very disagreeable impression. Mr. James McCombs, an active reformer belonging to the Labour

Party, husband of Mrs. Elizabeth McCombs, a leader in temperance and social work, re-introduced the Bill from a previous session. No facilities were given, the allotted time was lost, and Mr. McCombs took the unusual, but by Speaker's ruling, regular course of embodying the principle in an amendment to another Bill, and the House passed it in that form. The Legislative Council, however, protested against this manner of introducing such a constitutional change and threw out the amendment. The Premier, Mr. Massey, took the unusual course of not demanding a conference on the Council's veto, and said, with perfect truth, that such a question should be dealt with in a Government Bill. He also deemed that time for full discussion was necessary. A prevalent absence of mind led to the regrettable absence of over a dozen bodies pertaining to previously friendly legislators, and a depleted House affirmed its agreement with the Council. In the course of debate, led with great jocosity by the Premier and Sir Joseph Ward, party animus was plainly revealed as explaining the vote against the women. Thus, then, do we who won the vote 25 years ago take lower place than other British women only enfranchised two years ago, but actually represented by their own sex at the time of the greatest political conference the world has seen. The House, however, thanks to the resolute champions, Mrs. and Mr. McCombs, is practically committed to a Government Bill next year.

This question of eligibility, strongly pressed by the National Council of Women, the W.C.T.U., and other bodies of enlightened women, has evoked little comment in the press, with a few honourable exceptions. The outstanding exception has been the *Evening Star*, Dunedin, of which the editor, Mr. M. Cohen, has been the consistent and chivalrous champion of every movement to help and uplift women. The *Evening Star* last year fought hard for the appointment of women police, blocked here by the opposition of the Ministers for Justice, past and present.

WOMEN FIGHT INFLUENZA.

Rejoicings on the cessation of war were clouded by a serious outbreak of influenza, which taxed the energies of the Health Department and the municipalities to their utmost. Here the magnificent organisation of women for war work was immediately diverted to the nearer need; and soup kitchens, medicine depôts, crèches, children's hostels, and other machinery for fighting misadventure, poverty, and sickness, were speedily established; the cities and suburbs were divided into blocks for inspection and relief. Government agency, municipal enterprise, and private benevolence were joined in hearty co-operation. Church and State, class and mass, men and women, all worked together with a single will, and now normal conditions are everywhere re-established. There was a mortality high, indeed, for our healthy young country, but the saddest feature was the long roll of honour for doctors, nurses, and untrained attendants. Among the victims was Dr. Margaret B. Cruickshank, of Waimate, South Canterbury, the first woman M.D. in New Zealand, whose noble record, cut short while she was in her prime, had been an honour to her profession, her country, and her sex.

The epidemic disclosed unsuspected poverty, shiftlessness, and bad housing, which have aroused civic and national concern. The Minister for Public Health, the Hon. G. W. Russell, pushed through a bill embodying the creation of a Board of Health, with wide functions of general prevention, and though bearing inevitable marks of haste, the measure cannot but lead to good. The whole question emphasises the pressing need for women both in the making and administration of laws.

EDUCATION.

Considerable interest is being shown in educational reform. Conference after conference has been called, in which such problems as continuation classes, the scope of technical and vocational instruction, and the cultivation of the individual bent are being discussed. The Women Teachers' Institute is devoting much quiet consideration to the difficult problem of sex-education for children, as well as actively campaigning against the inequalities of pay and status regarding men and women teachers. Both Institutes are denouncing overcrowding, under-staffing, and other evils to be dealt with by an increased education grant and a wider conception of duty owed to the country's youth.

A magnificent spirit has directed the thought and energy of New Zealand women during these trying and tragic years of war, and a feeling of hope and buoyancy prevails now regarding their share in the responsibilities of a new age.

PROGRESS TOWARDS PROHIBITION.

The outstanding victory of the Licensing Act Amendment Bill has meant much to all thinking women, as well as to active workers in the Women's Christian Temperance Union and other bodies of reform which have taken their part in the great national campaign that has secured this opportunity of making New Zealand once and for ever a Prohibition country. The National Efficiency Board for promoting the success of our war efforts recommended eighteen months ago that a referendum be taken on continuance or Prohibition with compensation. Petitions, representations from civic authorities, business men, and the higher citizenship generally, with a strong movement in the Free Churches, have succeeded in gaining a Government bill providing for the referendum as just stated, compensation being fixed at £4,500,000. It will be taken before the end of April, and Prohibition, if carried, will come into operation in June. If it is not carried, a poll will be taken later in the year on the three issues of Continuance, State Control, and Prohibition without compensation. In no case can the liquor trade last much longer in New Zealand, but a strong fight for State Control will be made by the Liquor Party. Happily, the bill also includes permanent six o'clock closing for as long as the trade lasts.

December 14.

JESSIE MACKAY.

HUNGARY.

THE NEW REPUBLIC ENFRANCHISES WOMEN.

The enfranchised women of the Hungarian Republic send hearty greetings to all their fellow-workers of the world!

But a few months ago I have reported the defeat of the Woman Suffrage Bill in our Parliament, but political events have followed each other in such a rapid course that an entirely new era has been inaugurated since then.

On September 25th we arranged a crowded peace meeting, which was presided over and opened by Miss Vilma Glücklich with a lofty speech. Mrs. Szirmai addressed a pathetic appeal to the martyred mothers of the world, and Mme. Schwimmer, with glowing enthusiasm and with sparkingly spirited words, commented on the resolution. She condemned in strong words the reaction which is ruining Hungary, urged the immediate realisation of the separation from Austria, general and equal suffrage to all men and women to be given without delay, and full autonomy to all nationalities of Hungary, giving full freedom to Croatia. The resolution calls to the people of the belligerent countries to seize the initiative to create peace, make an end to bloodshed and devastation, to avoid revolutions which would ruin everything that was yet left intact by the war, and to make a solid foundation to a lasting peace by people's union, disarmament, and a people's tribunal. The resolution asked also the Government to prepare a Woman Suffrage Bill, to form a Peace Council of the monarchy, with men and women experts, to quicken the peace; called the political parties, the working classes, and the press to united and strong struggle against reaction by claiming the realisation of these resolutions, and by the communication of same to all belligerent and neutral countries.

The publication of these resolutions and of the reports of the meeting were forbidden in the press by the censor. The events which followed proved what a clear insight into the consequences of political actions women have.

After this came the news that the Bulgarians had laid down their arms. All the enormous sacrifices of bloodshed and privation were in vain. "We have lost the war, and although we might make the victory to our enemies yet very dear, we cannot change the final result," owned the leader of the militant party in Hungary, Count Tisza, in Parliament. The logical consequence of this most deplorable circumstance would have been for this party, which has let pass all the opportunities to make an early and honourable peace, which it was continually urged by the progressive parties and most of all of the Feminist Societies to do, to retire and give place to a pacific and a democratic government. But the tenacity and conservatism of the majority parties and personal animosity against the leader of the Independent Party, Count Károlyi, prevented him from forming a government. Turbulent scenes in Parliament made work impossible; Count Károlyi, Mr. Lovász, and other members of the Independent Party were abused and threatened by the Conservatives when they owned themselves for always having been friends of the Entente. Count Burián's defeat in his peace propositions to Wilson caused general depression and bitterness. The excitement grew from hour to hour. Continual intrigues concealed the

real situation from the former King Charles, who would not accept Count Károlyi's proposals.

Meanwhile, men and women students and the working classes arranged demonstrations, which were brutally combated by the police. It was clear that, in case Count Károlyi will not get the King's consent to form a government, a National Council will seize the power. Our society sent messages to the prominent men of the Opposition to claim a part in the deliberations for the foundation of the Council. Nevertheless, the Council was formed and the programme fixed without our consent, and appeared signed by the three political parties—the Károlyi Party, the Radical Party, and the Social Democratic Party. Ultimately we were asked to join the Council and to send two delegates, and after deliberations with Count Károlyi and two other leaders of the parties, we appointed our two delegates. The same night the revolution broke out, and the next day Count Károlyi, first by the King's nomination, later by the National Council's charge, was Prime Minister, and his Cabinet was formed from the three parties which founded the National Council.

This was a bloodless revolution, and its victory released Hungary from the chains of political and economic slavery. Hungary by this revolution regained its independence, won a democratic government, which hurried on the very first day to lay down arms and to offer peace to the Entente. There is one more problem to solve: the question of the nationalities in Hungary, which we still hope will be solved on the ground of humanity, right, and justice promised to us by President Wilson in his fourteen points.

We deplore even the few victims of the revolution, and regret that Count Tisza should have been one of them. "Death is no punishment for him," said one of our Slovak women members; "he ought to live and see what has become of Hungary through his unbending will and politics. We used to be angry with him, they said, for his reactionary and chauvinist politics, but now we think every Slovak woman ought to have a little statue of him in her drawing-room, as we owe him our national liberty, which we never would have struggled for but for his politics."

This was said to our delegates who were sent by our society to the Slovak women to try and find some means of understanding between them and the Hungarian women. We met as friends, and parted as sisters who had the same ideals and suffered the same martyrdom during the war, and we Hungarian women understood that short-sighted politics of men and the utter subjection of women have made our own citizens to hate us. The obstinacy of the reactionary parties has retarded our intervention, which came too late. Nevertheless, we hope that we women will always find ground for common work, and that the delivered nations will not continue animosity. Our common enemy was the anti-democratic rule of Hungary in the past half-century; we cannot punish each other for the suffering the same has caused to us all.

On November 16th the Hungarian Republic was declared, and the Government has brought in a suffrage law which gives suffrage to all men of 21 and to women of 24 if they can read and write. This is not equality of the sexes yet, but we hope that the Constituent Assembly will give full justice to women. The Government has passed another measure which damages women—the help for the unemployed, which gives 10 crowns to skilled workmen and 6 crowns to working women, as well as to unskilled labourers of both sexes. This is the logical consequence of the unequal and low payment of women workers. Let us hope, as there are women in the consulting committees of the National Council, that this case will not be repeated, and that the laws for minimum wages and equal pay for equal work shall soon be established. Our claims were acknowledged in the Enquete for ground reform, and the bill for ground distribution, which intends for the State to acquire land by redemption and give it to landless peasants on mortgage, proposes ground also to widows, to wives of emigrants and of invalids of the war, as well as to spinsters.

Since women are voters the political parties compete to gain women and to enrol them in their list. Our policy is for our society, which changed into a "Non-party League of Feminists," to remain neutral, whereas it encourages the members to join, and to watch in the parties that women's interests and our programme shall be safeguarded. This evidently suits the parties, while everyone seems content that the Feminists have not joined the other parties.

Two laws for the liberty of the press and of assembly (Versammlungsrecht) have to be mentioned still, and the proposal of the Minister for Justice, who intends to give women

FRANCE.

The Bar and Woman Suffrage.

A large and brilliant assembly met on Sunday, February 9, to hear leaders of the French Bar argue in favour of woman suffrage at a meeting organised by the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes. The chair was taken by M. Busson-Billault, and the speakers included Maître Marcel Heraud, Mme. Suzanne Grinberg, Barrister, Maître Marie Thérèse Moreau, several other eminent lawyers, and the English delegates to the Women's Conference, Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, and Miss Rosamund Smith.

—*La Française* (Feb. 15).

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