

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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THE PAPER.

When the Board met last July it was faced with the necessity of trying to cut down expenditure, which had already been drastically reduced. The cost to the Alliance of its paper has been heavy, and even after reducing the staff and cutting down printing costs to the lowest possible figure, income from this source has not been sufficient to meet outgoings. The Board therefore, after a very long discussion, decided that the only remaining possible economy must be effected, namely, to reduce the paper in size. After obtaining an estimate from the printer, it appeared that provided our subscribers will show their appreciation of the difficulties which the Alliance is making a gallant effort to meet, by accepting this smaller paper at the same subscription rate, and continuing their support, the paper's budget may just be balanced. We realise that our readers may feel a slight sense of dismay when they contemplate this slender issue, but our movement has been built up on small sacrifices, and every effort will be made to ensure that the reduction is effected by compressing the usual amount of news into the smaller space.

The only alternative is to cease publication, and it is an alternative which it is painful to contemplate. For twenty-six years "Jus Suffragii" has appeared regularly. It survived the war with all its difficulties, surely it can survive the present depression. But if it is to do so, our friends must not only be content to get less in bulk for their money, they must take a firm determination that that money shall be forthcoming regularly as subscriptions fall due. During the last year so many of our oldest subscribers have written to say that they can no longer afford to take the paper. Will not our friends remember that it is not only what they themselves may get from the paper which counts; their

support of it enables the Alliance to possess what is its most valuable link between its scattered societies and members; its one regular means of public utterance. International meetings must always be few and far between, the cost of travelling must always be prohibitive to many. But sixpence once a month is not a tax so heavy that it will be found impossible for anyone who really cares. There are other papers, but still there is not one other which provides exactly the same general and impersonal news of the woman's movement. We are the organ of the Alliance indeed, but however little space we may be able to dispose of, we shall continue to aim at being more than just the bulletin of a single society.

And in asking you to stand by us, we venture also to ask you to give us active help as far as you can. In a smaller paper if it is to be of value, we want more news and less expression of opinion. Reliable, up-to-date feminist news should be the backbone of the paper, but it is difficult to get. Without asking too much of over-worked feminists, we do venture to ask readers to try to remember to send us the briefest note, a post-card will serve, when something of interest to women happens in their countries. Language does not matter—we will manage to read them all—alphabets other than the Roman alone being barred, and with a slight qualm on the score of the slavonic and eastern tongues. But English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and the Scandinavian languages can be dealt with adequately, if correspondents will take care to see that proper names are carefully written. We are willing to take a great deal of trouble on our side, if you will take just a little on yours.

THE SPANISH RESOLUTION.

All our readers will remember that at the last Assembly a Resolution was adopted asking the Council to examine the possibilities of increasing the collaboration of women in the work of the League. Women's international, and national, organisations were invited by the Secretary General to give their views, and a Report giving a number of their replies and containing the observations of the Secretary General has now been published by the League of Nations (A. 10. 1932). The Alliance decided to express its views solely through the joint reply drawn up by the Liaison Committee of Women's Organisations, of which it is a member. This was signed by all the member organisations, though one or two of them felt it necessary to send in additional Reports. It is impossible here to give even a summary of all the replies, but it is interesting and encouraging to find that practically all give emphasis to the view that the main and indeed only finally satisfactory method of increasing women's co-operation in the work of the League is to increase their official co-operation as delegates to the Assembly and other bodies, as members of the Committees, as higher grade officials in the Secretariat. It is recognised that this official co-operation, except for the third category, lies in the hands of the States Members, and that it must therefore be based on an equality of status between men and women in each individual country. Apart from this statement of principle and certain indications as to how that principle may be applied, there are proposals for increasing the unofficial co-operation of women through the international organisations, these being, however, "merely a part, though a very important part, of the wider question of the contacts of the League with public opinion in general."

It now remains to be seen what action the Assembly will feel able to take on the suggestions made. Meanwhile we may perhaps not unfairly regard as one result of the raising of this question the provision of special facilities at this forthcoming Assembly for international organisations. A special Bureau is to be set up for their reception and special permanent entrance cards are to be given to their representatives with special seats at the Plenary Sessions and meetings of the Committees.

THE NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

It will be remembered that the Assembly last year postponed discussion on this question till this present Assembly, sending to Governments the Report then presented to it, including the Report of the Consultative Committee of women's international organisations, for their observations. We are indebted to Mlle. Gourd's article in the "Mouvement féministe" for the following information on what those observations are:

"The League of Nations has just published the Governments' replies which make an interesting document (A. 15. 1932. V), though they are far from favourable to feminist opinions. Out of 18 Governments which replied, only three envisaged the possibility of revising the articles of the Hague Convention, as demanded by the Women's Committee: Czechoslovakia, Norway and Sweden (although Norway has already ratified the Convention it is ready to study the question afresh). Others, like Germany, announce that they sympathise with the women's view on this question but consider that the moment is not opportune for revision, which others again refuse to consider, stating categorically their opposition to the feminist point of view, such as Roumania, Japan, Siam, etc. Lastly, Great Britain and Australia are already proceeding to

ratification of the Convention, which will come into effect when it has been ratified by 10 States."

The Women's Committee was also invited to submit its observations, and it met at the Secretariat of the League of Nations on August 10th-15th for this purpose, and to study the replies of Governments. It was not found possible after long discussion to present a single report, the societies dividing into equal halves of four societies each in signing two separate documents. The Alliance, with the International Council of Women, the International Federation of University Women and the World Union of Women for International Concord jointly signed a Report which aimed at answering the principal objections advanced against the previous Report, and showing how the actual legal position is tending steadily towards the views there set forth by the women's organisations. The other Report, signed by the remaining four member organisations, was mainly concerned with a simple re-affirmation of the previous Report, but indicated briefly matters which, in the opinion of the Alliance and its co-signatories, would admit of a different interpretation of equality in nationality that that adopted by them, or which appeared extraneous to the single subject—i.e., women's nationality—which the Committee was formed to deal with.

Our limited space forbids us, unfortunately, to attempt to give any extracts from the Report signed by the Alliance, which has been communicated to all those of our societies whom we could reach in the time available before the opening of the Assembly.

SWEDEN.

A week before the Swedish general elections a very large and successful women's public meeting was held in Konserthuset in Stockholm, at which six prominent women in political life, each representing a different Party, replied to questions posed by the representatives of thirty women's organisations. The meeting was held under the able Chairmanship of Miss Ingeborg Walin, who explained that the six party representatives had been asked to state their attitude towards some questions specially relating to women, after which they each outlined the policy of their party. After these speeches the field was open for questions, and the extremely lively interest manifested shows how eager the women are to obtain political knowledge. It was a triumph in organisation to have brought together thus these thirty political, feminist and professional societies, representing in many cases the most opposing policies, and the fully packed hall was a testimony to the great public interest shown in this undertaking, originally planned by the Svenska Kvinnors Medborgarförbund. Altogether it was a most entertaining and profitable evening.

The elections took place on September 18th, and, although we have not yet received the details, we are able to announce that 5 women were elected, as compared with 3 last year.

AUSTRALIA.

Here in Australia we are suffering under the same disabilities as women in other countries, in that women are being used as victims in the employment troubles. Quite recently there was an agitation that all married women should be dismissed from the State Education Department. The United Associations made many protests against this, and so far have been successful in preventing an Act being passed to that end.

Of course the conditions under which teachers train and enter the teaching service vary in each country, but here in New South Wales many teachers are trained at the public expense, and are obliged to sign a bond to

remain in the teaching service for a definite period after being qualified. The United Associations drew up a list of reasons pointing out the injustice of dismissing married women teachers.

These are too long to quote in full, but they call attention to the fact that married women are ordinary citizens with full rights; that they are engaged under contract; that they have spent their best years in qualifying and the State has spent much money on their training which would be wasted; that if two incomes must not go into one home, this should apply to income from property; that the only consideration should be the interests of the children; etc., etc.

Meanwhile we have been in the throes of an election and the agitation has died down, but we feel sure it will raise its head again when we shall continue to fight for the freedom of the women of New South Wales, and, incidentally, of the World.

Yours faithfully,
LINDA P. LITTLEJOHN,
Vice-President, United Associations.

IRELAND.

On August 6th a Meeting of the Board of Officers of the National Council of Women was held in Dublin, at which representatives from Belfast and Cork were present.

The Board received Reports of the work connected with the Nationality of Married Women, and suggestions were made for bringing pressure to bear on the Irish Government Delegation to the League of Nations Assembly on the subject of Disarmament and kindred questions.

The Council expressed its thanks to the Deputation which waited on the Ministry of External Affairs in June last in connection with possible inclusion of Nationality of Married Women among the subjects to be dealt with at Ottawa. It was decided to hold the Annual Meeting of the National Council in Dublin in November.

U.S.A.

September 22nd, 1932, was an anniversary of significance to the women of the United States. To many of them it brought back memories of that day ten years before when President Harding signed the much desired Cable Act establishing the principle of independent citizenship in the United States for married women, and sent the pen used in the ceremony to Mrs. Maud Wood Park, president of the League of Women Voters, in token of her work to secure the enactment of this law.

The Cable Act was viewed as one of the first accomplishments of the newly enfranchised women of the United States. The first Congress which women had helped to elect convened in December, 1921, but it took nine months of arduous work before the desired legislation was enacted and signed by the President. Since that time the same groups of women have worked to remove other minor discriminations against women in the citizenship laws of the United States.

THE LEAGUE'S PLATFORM.

Just three months before the November elections when platforms and candidates are the chief topics of conversation in the United States the League of Women Voters has issued its platform for 1932-1934, which one leading newspaper terms in *advance of the Administration, of Congress, of the political candidates.*

The platform is selected from the League's programme of work for study and support, and declares for,—

Constructive Economy in Government.

Reorganization of governmental units, especially local units, to prevent waste.

Establishment of budget systems to promote efficiency.
Extension of the merit system to eliminate the waste of the spoils system.
Reduction of expenditures for war to release funds for other governmental services which now receive only 31% of the federal budget.
Maintenance of standards and opposition to destructive "economy" which threatens essential social services and the status of women in governmental employ.
Readjustment of tax burdens.

Prevention and Relief of Unemployment.

Provision for public relief funds to be administered by trained personnel.
Establishment of a co-ordinated system of federal and state employment exchanges and regulation of private employment agencies.
State legislation for unemployment insurance.

International Co-operation.

Economic international conferences on war debts and tariffs to remove causes of war and maintain standards of living.

Adherence of the United States to the World Court.
Devices to make effective the Pact of Paris.

International reduction of armaments.

Occupational statistics of the 1930 census of the United States which have just been made public tell an interesting story of economic and social changes that have taken place during the ten year post-war period. They show—

That the number of working women in the United States has increased by more than 2,500,000 in the last ten years. In 1920 there were slightly more than 7,500,000 women of 18 years of age and older who were gainfully employed. In 1930 the number had risen to over 10,000,000.

That in 1920, 23 per cent. of women workers were married—in 1930, almost 29 per cent.

That there has been a definite trend of women away from dressmaking and millinery toward professional occupations.

That women lawyers increased from 1,738 to 3,385.

That women authors, editors and reporters doubled in numbers.

That women college presidents and professors jumped from 10,075 to 20,131.

OBITUARY.

We regret that, owing to some hitch in correspondence, we did not learn of the death of Julia Lathrop, of the United States, in time to express our deep regret in an earlier issue. Miss Lathrop died last April, but we would not wish her memory to go unhonoured even if our tribute comes late. Julia Lathrop was known far beyond her own country as a great worker for child welfare, and our own Alliance knew her also as a supporter of the women's movement, the Berlin Congress welcoming her as a delegate. We cannot give here the details of her long social service, which began in Hull House, and which led her to become the first Chief of the Children's Bureau and an Assessor on the League of Nations Child Welfare Commission.

We offer our sympathy to the League of Women Voters, of which she was a deeply-valued member. The Alliance also loses an old personal member in Miss Lathrop, and the whole world a woman who had the gifts and the character to use nobly a great opportunity for advancing the ideals of social service.

We are also very sorry to have to announce the death of Elisa Petersen, former President of our Danish

society, Dansk Kvindesamfund. She was one of the founders of the local branch of the Kvindesamfund in Naestved in 1907, being President of the national society from 1924 till 1931. She gave her services both to her home town as a member of the Town Council and of the Education Commission, and to her country as a Member of the Rigsdag. She always had the ideals of the woman's movement at heart and in Parliament she laid more emphasis on the women's point of view than on party politics. By her death the cause has lost a very strong and capable supporter in Parliament, where anyway women have a very slender representation. Elisa Petersen had a firm belief, however, in the success of the woman's movement, and her valuable work will be continued by the Dansk Kvindesamfund. For her, the woman's movement was not a special problem concerning women only; it was the problem of humanity, of the community, and of culture, which she was confident would eventually restore happiness and harmony between the sexes.

PERSONAL.

Miss Rosa Manus has asked us to inform our members that after November 1st, her *only* address will be:

67, Jacob Obrechtstraat, Amsterdam.

All communications whether personal, or connected with her work should be thus addressed.

GERMANY.

The Sixtieth Birthday of Frau Else Lüders.

Another suffrage pioneer, well known internationally, has this summer reached her seventieth decade, Else Lüders. She was closely linked to Minna Cauer, the leader of the progressive women's wing in Germany, and joined the movement as a young girl. Deeply interested also in social work, she was connected with the Gesellschaft für Soziale Reform, especially as a contributor to the paper "Soziale Praxis." She was also a contributor to Frau Cauer's paper "Die Frauenbewegung." As an expert on questions of women's and children's work and cognate problems, it was natural that after 1918, Else Lüders should be given a post in the Reichsarbeitsministerium, where she works on these problems with the title of Oberregierungsrat (Government Councillor). She has also taken part in the International Labour Conferences. Her numerous articles are to be found in "Soziale Praxis," and the official "Reichsarbeitsblatt," while she reached a wider public by her biography of Minna Cauer (Minna Cauer, Leben und Werk; Verl. L. Klotz, Gotha, 1924), a beautiful tribute to friendship. Her ever-increasing professional work has forced Else Lüders to withdraw more and more from all other activities; she remains none the less one of our leaders whom we regard with gratitude and affection.

D. v. V.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor,
JUS SUFFRAGII.

Dear Madam,

I beg to thank you cordially for the very warm welcome you gave in the current issue of JUS SUFFRAGII to my projected Women's International Calendar. Let me define the objects of this publication more clearly.

It is to plead that the fullest justice should be done to the Mother of the Race, who bears infinitely greater responsibility and suffering in its propagation than Fathers ever do, and the improvement of whose position should therefore be always and everywhere the starting-point for the improvement of the race as a whole.

Unfortunately, the fact is that if man's inhumanity

to man is frequent and cruel enough, his inhumanity to woman is more frequent and crueller still. So the new Annual has the ambition to make clear the true relationship between Motherhood and Fatherhood, and by facts and statistics to prove WHY, IN THE COMMON INTERESTS OF HUMANITY AT LARGE, WOMEN ARE WANTED AS LEGISLATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS.

Past experience has abundantly shown that man was never willing to lend a sympathetic ear to the just pleadings of woman, and this remains true to-day as it was in pre-suffrage days. So, paraphrasing the classical biblical appeal, may I say:

To thine own tent, O Woman! Rely on thyself and look after thine own house, for thou chiefly art the "house." Above all, in those great national "Houses" in which legislators assemble to decide the fate of millions, their very life or death in Peace or War, you must make your voices clearly heard.

The article in JUS SUFFRAGII has created wide interest and expectation. But practical support is needed and should be twofold.

Firstly, readers in each of the forty-two countries in which the Alliance has auxiliaries are invited to try and get *annual* statistics of their own countries concerning the following subjects:

- (a) Percentage of women criminals among the total of criminals.
- (b) Numbers of sentences for drunkenness among men and women.
- (c) Number of deaths through childbirth.
- (d) Number of women divorcing their husbands, and vice versa.
- (e) Number of illegitimate children abandoned by their mothers, also number of those acknowledged by their fathers amongst the whole number of illegitimate children.
- (f) Women's voting rights in municipal and parliamentary elections.

These figures are vital to obtain a clear idea of the relative character and position of the two sexes.

Secondly, kindly send me a postcard stating whether you are *likely* to purchase a copy of the Calendar on publication, as this will give an approximate idea of the support it is likely to receive, and entail no obligation.

Any candid criticism of the undertaking would be sincerely appreciated. Finally, I would like it to be understood that the whole venture is not undertaken with a view to financial gain, and the price will therefore be as low as possible. At the same time the Calendar will be an attractive ornament, very suitable for a gift.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

JAOKOFF PRELOOKER.

"Rossiana," Pine Avenue, Hastings.
September 20th, 1932.

22nd August, 1932.

Dear Madam,

Mrs. Corbett Ashby's reply to Mrs. Beeks Easley's letter completely vindicates the policy of our paper. I have recently returned from a visit to Soviet Russia. In spite of a shortage of nearly all material things and a meagre and unappetising diet for the vast majority, the Government has established complete political, economic and social equality between men and women, while their organisation for the welfare of mothers and children compares very favourably with that of any other country in the world.

One other point, what will become of the freedom of the press, if subscribers endeavour to coerce editors into giving only such news as will arouse no controversy?

Yours very truly,

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

NEW ZEALAND.

Women are asking for two amendments to the comparatively recent Mental Deficiency Act: sterilisation of the sexually defective and prohibition of marriage for the socially deficient, allowing of course for proper safeguards and reasonable exceptions.

We are beginning to be aware of our Pan Pacific interests, and the women prize their new connection with the women of the East in the Pan Pacific Women's Conferences, and feel personal affection and admiration for superb pioneers from China and Japan. We are peculiarly delighted with news of the friendly interaction of enlightened Chinese and Japanese women to avert further trouble between their countries, and we respond to the realisation of the misery of the oriental woman-worker caught in the same web of poverty, toil and exploitation that held our own women captive a hundred years ago. If men speak crookedly on policies and armaments, the more does the world's future depend, humanly speaking, on women's fair, open and sisterly speech on the great cosmopolitan problems that touch us all.

JESSIE MACKAY.

Recommended by Mrs. Corbett Ashby. English country mansion, all modern conveniences. Young ladies received into private family: courses in English; young society; delightful country near Southampton; large grounds; tennis, bathing. Communicate with: Mrs. Lewis Williams, Rivermede, Romsey, Hampshire, England.

REVIEWS.

The Suffragette Movement. By Sylvia Pankhurst. New edition 7/6. Longmans, Green & Co., 39, Paternoster Row, London, E.C.4.

This book was fully reviewed when it first appeared at the beginning of 1931. We are glad to welcome this edition at a popular price, since it is a book which surely ought to be read by every one who is interested in the woman movement. It is indeed a matter for rejoicing that this record of an extraordinary period in social history has been given to us by one who was so closely connected with it, when one had sometimes feared that the details would be forgotten, or only survive in piecemeal form in the shape of often hostile references in other books. The literature of the suffrage movement which appeared at the time was necessarily of the ephemeral kind, pamphlets and papers intended for propaganda. Here are facts, not presented perhaps with impartiality—how could they be?—but with a transparent honesty. The book is intensely moving, absorbingly interesting.

K. B.

Hats off to the Past: Coats off to the Future. Published by the Women's Freedom League, 144 High Holborn, London, W.C.1. Price 3d.

This pamphlet gives a brief account of the foundation and earlier work of the Women's Freedom League, recalling some of the more salient events of the militant campaign. The second part deals with the main points of the League's active programme, and a real feminist programme it is. Equal Pay, so-called "Protective" Legislation, the position of the Married Woman, and several aspects of the problem of securing a larger number of women in vital departments of public life. The final motto sums up the gallant attitude of the League: "The difficult can be done immediately, the impossible takes a little longer."

BALTIC WOMEN

What are the women of Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania thinking about?

In a brilliant series of four articles in *The Christian Science Monitor*, dated October 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th, a Special Commissioner will tell you about the National aspirations of the women of those countries.

So little has hitherto been written about these small countries which have acquired independence for the first time in many centuries! The articles are fascinating studies of little-known conditions to the majority of Europeans.

The issue of *The Christian Science Monitor* containing the first of these articles will be on sale in Great Britain on the 18th October, and in Finland and on the Continent during the week ending the 22nd October.

The price in Great Britain is 2d. per copy; in Germany 20 pf., and in other countries relative to 5 cents. per copy.

In Great Britain *The Christian Science Monitor* is on sale at all bookstalls and most newsagents. If any difficulty in obtaining, copies can be obtained from the European Bureau, 2, Adelphi Terrace, London, W.C.2. All women will find *The Christian Science Monitor* of extraordinary interest. Every issue contains something of vital importance to them.

The

Christian Science Monitor

An International Daily Newspaper.

Published by The Christian Science Publishing Society
Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

"Mutter und Amazonen" (Mothers and Amazons), by Sir Galahad. Albert Langen Verlag, München.

Frau Gisela Urban has sent us a most interesting review of this book, written by a Viennese woman under the above pseudonym, and it is a matter of great regret that lack of space compels us to give only a brief summary of her article. After referring to the researches of J. J. Bachofen, which established the ancient prevalence of matriarchal systems, Frau Urban takes us briefly through the main points of this outstanding book: the primary biological importance of woman; woman in myth and early history; mother-right, matriarchat and gynocracy; the reign of the Amazons. Finally we see how the ruling principle expressed by women, namely, obedience to the laws of nature and the oneness of humanity, was overruled by the masculine conception of right founded on might. Man has built up a world of great moral and material achievement, but which has separated spirit and matter, and destroyed the oneness of humanity by creating a gulf between the sexes. Mankind looks wistfully backwards to the harmonious world of women's rule: can it return? The author says no, because woman too has changed, the mother-type has gone. But a new type, still indeed pure woman, but immeasurably superior, physically and mentally, will eventually prevail to restore its birthright to humanity.

BRAZIL.

The Brazilian Government has appointed Miss Bertha Lutz as a member of the Committee which is to draw up the new Constitution of Brazil. Congratulations.

AVIS
AUX LECTEURS DE
"JUS SUFFRAGII."

Quand le Bureau se réunit au mois de juillet, la situation financière était telle que force nous fut de comprimer encore notre budget, déjà si réduit. Les souscriptions de "Jus Suffragii" ne couvrent pas nos frais d'édition et d'impression. Nous sommes donc acculées à la seule et dernière économie possible: réduction de cette revue mensuelle au volume d'un simple Bulletin. Cependant pour que nos finances s'équilibrent, il nous faut compter sur le même chiffre de souscriptions que par le passé. Nous demandons donc à nos lectrices de faire de leur côté un sacrifice et de consentir à recevoir moins de matière pour le même argent.

L'alternative qui nous reste est de cesser la publication de Jus Suffragii. Ce serait une défaite, qu'aucune des nos lectrices, nous en sommes sûres, ne pourrait souffrir sans peine. Depuis 26 ans, Jus Suffragii paraît régulièrement tous les mois. La guerre et ses temps difficiles n'ont point arrêté sa publication. Nous laisserons-nous entraîner par la crise de dépression actuelle?

Des associées de longue date nous ont écrit qu'elles n'avaient plus les moyens de payer l'abonnement de Jus. Nous faisons la part des économies nécessaires dans tout budget, à l'heure actuelle, mais une féministe convaincue ne peut-elle vraiment trouver six pence par mois pour maintenir le lien entre l'Alliance et ses auxiliaires dispersés aux quatre coins du globe? Car, c'est là l'utilité primordiale de notre journal: il centralise les nouvelles féminines du monde entier et plus que n'importe quel autre organe de même nature, il donne une vue générale, impersonnelle et impartiale de notre Mouvement. Les Congrès internationaux sont espacés: leur coût devient prohibitif. Nombre d'associées sont empêchées de s'y rendre. Mais notre journal est un moyen d'échanges, et de communication internationale.

Pour que le Bulletin demeure un lien effectif nous demandons à nos fidèles associées deux choses: d'abord, qu'elles nous fassent parvenir leur souscription, sans retard, à la date convenue — ensuite, que toutes collaborent à l'intérêt du Bulletin en nous envoyant des nouvelles. Nous avons besoin de faits, plutôt que d'opinions. La note la plus brève, une carte postale à la rigueur peuvent suffire. Et la difficulté du langage n'embarrasse pas l'Éditeur, pourvu toutefois qu'on emploie une langue européenne et des caractères romains. Nous sommes déterminées à surmonter tout obstacle, si nous trouvons parmi nos abonnées le concours dont nous avons tant besoin.

LA RÉDACTION.

ALLEMAGNE.

Frau Else Lüders, amie et biographe de Minna Cauer, comme elle, publiciste, féministe, philanthrope, vient d'atteindre sa soixantième année. Else Lüders est Conseillère du Gouvernement sur toutes les questions qui ont trait à la législation du travail des femmes et des enfants. Son activité professionnelle sans cesse accrue l'oblige à se retirer du mouvement féministe mais elle reste une des pionnières que ses disciples considèrent toujours avec gratitude et affection.

D.V.V.

SUEDE.

Une semaine avant les élections, une grande réunion d'intérêt tout spécial eut lieu au Konserthuset de Stockholm. Six femmes notables dans la vie politique, représentant chacune un parti, se tinrent à la disposition des déléguées de trente organisations féminines, pour répondre à leurs questions. Miss Ingeborg Walin

qui présidait demanda aux six représentantes des partis politiques d'expliquer leur attitude vis-à-vis des questions féminines actuelles. Leur exposé fut suivi d'une discussion qui montra l'intérêt que les femmes portent à la vie politique. Les trente associations représentées étaient pour la plupart très diverses dans leurs tendances et dans leur but; aussi le succès de cette réunion fait-il grand honneur à l'organisation de la Svenska Kvinnors Medborgarförbund à qui en revient la conception originale.

ETATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE.

Le 22 septembre est un anniversaire pour les femmes des Etats-Unis. Il y a dix ans en effet, que le Président Harding a signé le fameux Cable Act qui établissait le principe des droits politiques indépendants pour les femmes mariées, et qu'il envoyait comme gage, à Mrs. Maud Wood Park, présidente de la Ligue des Femmes Electrices, la plume qui avait signé le décret. On considère le Cable Act comme l'un des premiers succès accomplis par les nouvelles électrices des Etats-Unis. D'après les lois alors en vigueur, la femme mariée prenait obligatoirement la nationalité de son mari, même si, née en Amérique, elle continuait à habiter les Etats-Unis, après son mariage avec un étranger. Ou conçoit que cet arbitraire devait recevoir l'attention des féministes sitôt qu'elles eurent le pouvoir d'y remédier. Depuis 1922 le même groupe de femmes s'est appliqué à réduire les autres discriminations contre les femmes, en matière de droits civils.

La Ligue des Electrices, aujourd'hui, deux mois avant les élections de Novembre, a comme les autres partis politiques, publié son programme, qu'un des journaux les plus notables, qualifié de plus radical que celui de l'Administration, du Congrès ou des Candidats.

Le premier article est intitulé: Economie constructive dans le Gouvernement—c'est à dire: réorganisation des services administratifs et locaux pour prévenir le gaspillage.

- (2) Etablissement d'un système budgétaire efficient.
- (3) Extension du système de promotion d'après le mérite et non pas l'influence.
- (4) Réduction du budget de la guerre en faveur d'autres services qui ne reçoivent aujourd'hui que 39% du budget fédéral.
- (5) Maintien des progrès accomplis dans les services sociaux et opposition à une économie destructive—dans les départements de l'Education, de la Santé, de l'Inspection du travail.
- (6) Réajustement du fardeau de l'impôt sur le revenu.

Le deuxième article se rapporte au Chômage, aux moyens de le prévenir et d'y remédier. La Ligue réclame en particulier une législation d'Etat pour l'assurance-chômage.

Le troisième article a trait à la Coopération internationale.

La Ligue réclame—

- (1) Des conférences économiques internationales sur la question des dettes de guerre, des tarifs protecteurs et du coût de la vie.
- (2) L'adhérence des Etats-Unis à la Cour de justice internationale.
- (3) Que le Pacte de Paris soit rendu efficace.
- (4) Que tous les armements soient réduits.

Les statistiques compilées lors du recensement de 1930 montrent qu'une évolution extraordinaire est en cours et qu'en particulier le nombre des femmes qui travaillent aux Etats-Unis s'est accru de 2 millions 500.000 en 10 ans — que 23% des travailleuses sont mariées, que la tendance est plus marquée vers l'accroissement des occupations professionnelles que vers les métiers dits féminins.

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URUGUAY.

Par décret du 27 Avril 1932, le Ministre de l'intérieur vient de supprimer l'intervention de la Police dans la surveillance des filles publiques, sauf pour les cas où il y aurait infraction aux lois pénales. Le registre d'inscription pour les prostituées n'a pas été aboli, mais seulement le quartier de concentration des maisons de prostitution.

C'est un premier pas vers la suppression de la réglementation de la prostitution, et satisfait, sous une forme malheureusement partielle, les demandes de la Présidente de l'Alianza de Mujeres, Dr. Paulina Luisi, pionnière de l'abolitionisme en Uruguay.

Le Sénat de l'Uruguay vient d'approuver un projet de "Code des Droits Civils de la Femme," par lequel la disposition surannée par laquelle la femme doit obéissance à son mari et le mari protection à sa femme, est substituée par celle-ci: Les époux se doivent mutuellement respect et protection. La femme n'est plus obligée de suivre son mari et d'adopter son domicile, mais le domicile conjugal sera fixé par commun accord entre les conjoints, la femme conservant le droit de faire opposition devant les Tribunaux, pour cause de changement de résidence et d'établir domicile séparé ou séparation de fait.

Le consentement pour le mariage des enfants mineurs devra être accordé par les deux parents au lieu de l'être par le père seulement.

Quant à la tutelle des enfants mineurs; la femme veuve ou divorcée conserve, en cas de remariage, la tutelle des enfants du mariage antérieur; le droit de se présenter devant le "Fiscal" des Mineurs en demandant d'appliquer des mesures de correction aux enfants, est accordé aux deux conjoints.

La limite d'âge des enfants qui seront confiés à la mère non coupable en cas de divorce ou séparation, est élevée à 12 ans pour les garçons et 16 pour les filles. Cette même disposition est applicable aux enfants naturels reconnus par le père et la mère.

La femme mariée pourra administrer librement ses biens propres ou réservés (c'est à dire ses gages, salaires, honoraires ou les biens ou économies provenant de ceux-ci) seulement dans le cas où elle aura exprimé la volonté de revendiquer ce droit par une déclaration insérée au Registre des Relations de Famille. Pour que la réforme fut efficace on aurait dû accorder à la femme mariée le droit d'administrer ses propres biens et le produit de son travail sans aucune restriction.

Un grand progrès a été fait dans la situation économique de la femme divorcée ou séparée. Sous le régime actuel quand le père ou le mari ne remplit pas son obligation de payer la pension fixée par le juge, la femme doit attendre trois mois pour se présenter devant le juge et réclamer la pension; cette situation peut se renouveler tous les trois mois. L'innovation approuvée par le Sénat consiste en ce que le juge peut décréter la saisie des biens, rentes, salaires, etc., du mari jusqu'à 40%, et l'adjuger au profit de la femme et des enfants.

SARA REY ALVAREZ,

Secrétaire Générale de l'Alianza U. de Mujeres.

NECROLOGIE.

Nous regrettons de n'avoir pu signaler plus tôt le décès de Julia Lathrop, membre de l'Alliance, déléguée des Etats-Unis au Congrès de Berlin, philanthrope bien connue pour son service social et féministe avancée et énergique. Avec elle le mouvement perd une notable travailleuse et propagandiste.

Nous regrettons aussi d'avoir à annoncer la mort de Elisa Petersen, une des Présidentes de notre Société danoise Dansk Kvindesamfund. Elle était à la fois membre du Conseil municipal et de la Commission d'Education de sa ville de Naestved et Membre du Rigsdag.

LA NATIONALITE DE LA FEMME MARIEE A GENEVE.

La Société des Nations vient de publier les réponses des Gouvernements au Rapport de la Commission Consultative internationale des femmes qui formulait les conclusions des Associations féministes sur le Statut de la Femme Mariée.

"Le Mouvement féministe" de Genève auquel nous renvoyons nos lectrices constate que, pour la plupart ces réponses sont hostiles aux opinions féministes. La Tchécoslovaquie, la Suède et la Norvège sont favorables à une révision de la convention de la Haye.

La Roumanie, le Japon, le Siam y sont opposées. L'Allemagne serait favorable mais déclare que le moment n'est pas opportun. La Grande Bretagne et l'Australie sont en train de procéder à la Ratification de la Convention.

Les sociétés féministes réunies à Genève n'ont pu trouver l'unanimité pour la présentation du Rapport sur l'égalité de nationalité.

En ce qui concerne la collaboration féminine au travail de la Société des Nations, l'Alliance et la plupart des autres sociétés estiment que la seule méthode véritablement satisfaisante est d'accroître notre coopération officielle par le moyen des déléguées à l'Assemblée et aux autres groupes, par les membres des Commissions et les membres aux postes supérieurs du Secrétariat.

AUSTRALIE.

En Australie, comme ailleurs les femmes sont les premières à porter la responsabilité de la crise économique. Récemment une agitation fut organisée pour forcer à la démission toutes les femmes mariées du Département de l'Instruction publique. Nos associations féministes protestent, rappelant que les institutrices ont été engagées par contrat, que l'Etat a dépensé de l'argent pour leur éducation, et que si ce contrat est rompu, on leur fait injure d'une part et que d'autre part la dépense de l'Etat a été faite en pure perte; que si deux revenus ne peuvent entrer sous le même toit, le même principe devrait s'appliquer aux pensions, aux intérêts venant de propriétés ou de placements, etc. En attendant les disputes électorales ont fait oublier cette question secondaire—mais les Associations Australiennes sont toujours prêtes à la lutte pour le droit.

d'après LINDA P. LITTLEJOHN.

Brésil. Le Gouvernement brésilien a nommé Miss Bertha Lutz membre de la Commission qui doit jeter les bases de la Nouvelle Constitution du Brésil. Nos félicitations.

STOP PRESS.

We have pleasure in announcing that three members of the Alliance Board are included in the delegations to the Assembly of the League: Mme. Plaminkova, delegate for Czechoslovakia, Frau von Velsen and Mme. Malaterre Sellier, experts in the German and French delegations.

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