

JVS SVFFRAGII.



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HOW CITIZENS ARE URGED TO VOTE IN THE U.S.A.

WITH women's conventions—both national and international—now a matter of history, the attention of women voters in the United States is being directed to politics, candidates, campaign issues, and getting out the vote. Headquarters and offices of the League of Women Voters are never closed, even during the most extreme warm weather; the work of educating the citizen must go on.

While individual members of the League of Women Voters have special interest in this or that candidate or campaign, the organisation as such confines its interest to the non-partisan aspects, such as candidates' records, regardless of party affiliation, information on issues, and the very important feature of getting out more than a majority vote.

When the League launched its get-out-the-vote drive in the 1924 election, it began an educational campaign of unlimited duration. Efforts of the League and other co-operating organisations brought the 1924 vote just a little above the fifty per cent. mark. No particular goal has been set for the 1926 elections, beyond the hope that increasing representation of voters at the polls may continue, instead of having a decrease. While the 1926 elections are not on a nation-wide scale, there are gubernatorial and senatorial contests in some thirty-odd States, and the entire body of the House of Representatives (435 in all) is to be elected.

Get-out-the-vote campaign methods devised by enterprising Leagues in the 1924 elections are again being brought

into play. June primary elections in seven States prompted the use of all sorts of "go to the polls" appeals. The National League is flooding the country with gaily-coloured posters, radio talks are being given, special booths are being erected at country fairs, and not an opportunity is being missed to stimulate public sentiment in support of heavy voting.

Further indication of the interest in voting statistics is an exhibit which is a feature of the League's house at the Sesquicentennial International Exposition in Philadelphia—a fitting celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of the United States. The Exposition is a visualisation of the spiritual, scientific, economic, artistic and industrial progress that has been made in America and the world during the 50 years that have elapsed since 1876, when the nations of the world joined in celebrating the 100th anniversary of American Independence.

One section of the League's exhibit presents the contrast in voting percentages of the United States and five foreign countries. Illustration is made by dolls of contrast size dressed in the costumes of the country. The tallest doll is Checko-Slovakia, with 91 per cent. of its citizens voting; Germany and Switzerland, each 85 per cent.; France, 81 per cent.; Great Britain, 80 per cent.; and United States, 51 per cent. Another section depicts the "Vanishing American Voter," and the shrinkage from the 81 per cent. in 1876, the centennial year, to little more than 50 per cent. to-day. Another enter-



This "Vote" poster is one of the many devices used by the National League of Women Voters to further its campaign for a bigger and hoped-for majority vote in all the primary and general elections this year. Hundreds of local Leagues throughout the country are flooding their communities with the gaily-coloured posters.

taining and instructive part of the exhibits shows "What One Hundred Citizens do on Election Day" in the United States. There are 51 tiny doll figures portraying citizens going conscientiously to the polls, while 49 dolls represent the vote slackers driving to the country for picnics, going shopping, attending the movies, playing golf or bridge, or remaining indifferently at home or at work.

ANNE WILLIAMS WHEATON.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS' NEWS.

HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE LEAGUE.

THE Health Committee of the League of Nations decided at its session in April to authorise the Medical Director to consult a limited number of experts from different countries to assist him in preparing a report to the Committee on the directions in which the Health Committee could profitably undertake investigations of an international character on matters relating to infant mortality and infant welfare. The following experts have been appointed:—Professor Pirquet, Austria; Dr. Debré, France; Dr. Rott, Germany; Dame Janet Campbell, Great Britain; Dr. Gorter, Netherlands; and Dr. A. Collett, Norway.

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE AND NATIVE LABOUR.

Although the I.L.O. does not propose to draw up a "Charter of Native Labour," as was at first suggested, it is to consider the question of the protection of native labour, and a conference of experts will be held to study the problems connected with native labour.

Even where slavery has been abolished, the conditions under which natives work in various colonies and protectorates are often most unsatisfactory. In certain areas, the indentured workers have no guarantees with respect to the measures taken for their maintenance; the method of payment of their wages; medical assistance; compensation for sickness, accident or death; and repatriation. Finally, a breach of contract by the worker is often considered a criminal offence. In other districts the authorities employ forced labour, sometimes without exempting the unfit, the aged, women or children. Finally, skilled workers are prevented from entering certain manual occupations on the grounds of colour or race.

SLAVERY.

At its June session, the Council definitely agreed upon the procedure to be followed in regard to the conclusion of an international convention for the suppression of slavery.

A draft convention on the subject had been recommended for approval by the Sixth Assembly, and, shortly after, the Council had asked the Members of the League and nine other States (Afghanistan, Ecuador, Egypt, Germany, Mexico, Russia, the Sudan, Turkey and the United States) to forward not later than June 1st any observations they might wish to make in regard to this document. Replies were received from twenty-two countries, namely, Abyssinia, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Esthonia, Finland, Great Britain, India, Japan, Latvia, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, San Salvador, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, the Sudan, Switzerland and the United States. A memorandum was also received from the Vatican, by the intermediary of the Apostolic Nuncio in Switzerland which the Council decided should be communicated in the same way as the observations of the Governments.

The Council, after noting these recommendations, decided to place on the agenda of the Seventh Assembly the question of the conclusion of an International Convention on Slavery, and to suggest that States Members should empower one of their delegates to the Assembly to sign such a convention.

INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION.

On June 9th the Council considered certain questions in connection with the composition of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation.

In 1922, when the Committee was first constituted, its members were appointed for an indefinite period. As the Council felt that the Committee might now be regarded as a permanent organ of the League, it decided that the term of office of its members should be for five years (from June 9th, 1926) and should be subject to renewal.

The Council appointed M. Casares, member of the Spanish Royal Academy, to succeed M. Torres-Quevedo. It decided to increase the number of experts to sit on the Sub-Committee on the Education of Young People in the Aims and Work of the League, in order to give wider representation to Latin America and in order that there might be at least one woman on the Sub-Committee.

TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

ON June 15th a meeting was held at the Caxton Hall, London, under the auspices of the N.C.W. Rescue and Preventive Committee and the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, at which Miss Baker and Mr. Cohen gave a report of the work of the Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Women and Children, of the League of Nations, of which Committee they are assessors. Mr. Cohen spoke of the wide field covered by the Committee, which at its last session dealt, amongst other subjects, with emigration, obscene publications, and the care of foreign prostitutes expelled from various countries. The Committee called for the co-operation of private organisations in helping these unfortunate women to return to a respectable life. The Committee had asked for an enquiry into the employment of women police, as helpful to the work of rescue and prevention.

Miss Baker spoke of the changed character of the reports given by Governments on this question of prostitution, showing a deeper interest and a wider knowledge of the whole question of suppressing the traffic. The Chairman, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, reminded the speakers of the need of keeping in touch with feminist societies, which had very definite views on various subjects connected with the suppression of the traffic, and abolition of licensed houses. In connection with emigration and travelling generally, Miss Neilans raised the point that no restrictions should be placed on women which prevented them from travelling freely in the same way as men.

Mr. Cohen represents the Jewish Association for the Protection of Girls and Women; Miss Baker represents the National Vigilance Association. L. de A.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

We call the attention of our readers to the fact that the Headquarters of the Alliance will be established at Geneva during the month of September at 22 rue Etienne-Dumont, while the Seventh Assembly is sitting. The office will be opened on September 4th, hours 10 to 12.30 and 2 to 5.30. Mrs. Bompas will be in charge, and Mlle. Gourd hopes to be frequently there, as also other members of the Board. It is hoped that the office will be a centre for feminists visiting Geneva during the Assembly, who will be able to meet one another in a congenial atmosphere and learn to know the work of the Alliance more intimately.

ELECTIONS IN LITHUANIA.

Four women have been elected to Parliament, 3 Christian democrats, Mesdames Galdihis, Gwildys and Ladyga, and one Socialist democrat, Mme. Puzenas, a lawyer.

Frau von Velsen asks us to say that she is not President of the National Council of Women of Germany, as we stated in our last issue. Frau Emma Ender is the President of the N.C.W.



Miss Walin, Sweden, a new member of the Board.
(We regret that Miss Walin's name was accidentally dropped from the printed list of the New Board in our last issue.)



Mme. Suzanne Grinberg, France,
a new member of the Board.

We hope later to print the portraits of other members of the Board which have not yet appeared.



Miss Ruth Morgan, United States,
a new member of the Board.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Annual Conference.

The Work of Married Women, Prevention of Maternal Mortality, the Position of Women under English Law, Women and Internationalism, are among the subjects to be discussed at the annual meeting and conference of the National Council of Women of Great Britain this year to be held in London, at the Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster, on October 19th—22nd. Particulars can be obtained from the N.C.W. Secretary, Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W.1, and men and women interested in up-to-date information on matters affecting national life are invited to join these discussions on public questions from varied aspects of experiences and opinions. Workers, both men and women, often lose freshness when immersed in one cause only when by sympathetic understanding of other people's causes they could both give and take to advantage. This autumn conference, coming at a convenient time in a convenient place for the majority, should not be missed by anyone who is free to listen to the Council business or to take part in the public meetings that promise interesting diversities of opinions.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION AND GOVERNMENT.

THE British Commonwealth League undertook on June 22nd and 23rd the discussion of problems of great interest in view of present day conditions.

The Conference was preceded by a public luncheon at the Criterion, with the Duchess of Atholl, Miss Wilkinson and Viscountess Astor as the guests. The luncheon room was packed to its full capacity, and many guests were refused. Lady Astor reminded her hearers that the work done by women in Parliament was not nearly so important as the work that ought to be done outside Parliament, and she urged her hearers to remember that constant watchfulness on the part of all organised workers was necessary if the work of those who were in Parliament was to be effective.

The Duchess of Atholl dwelt chiefly on certain experiences in connection with migration, while Miss Wilkinson struck a broad feminist note in her reminder that the industrial conditions of women all the world over were the concern of interested women everywhere.

The Conference was significant for striking two distinct notes. During the first day there were interesting discussions on the position of women in planning and administration, and on the opportunities provided for women, especially educated women in the Overseas' Dominions. Miss Gladys Pott, O.B.E., chief woman officer of the Overseas Settlement Department, followed Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who opened with a reminder of the self governing Dominions and the power they exercised. Miss Gladys Pott pointed out the interesting fact that before the war there really was no policy of the British Government with regard to assisting migrants to go Overseas. She also pointed out that when a commission was set up to enquire into migration, a sub-section was specially devoted to the question of girls and women. She said that the Secretary of State and the Home Secretary were fully convinced of the necessity of having women in the centre of their councils, and that women were selected to sit on the big Advisory Committee and the small Overseas' Settlement Committee which existed until 1922. After 1922, with the passing of the Empire Settlement Act, a Statutory Committee was set up composed of officials representing certain departments. In the meantime various groups of women had set up the Society for Overseas Settlement of British Women. This group of Societies was told that if they would be registered as a legal society they should have a grant of public money and should be recognised by the British Government as an organisation in connection with the migration of women. This group of Societies has been finally given official recognition as the acting woman's branch of the State Department known as the Overseas Settlement Department. This is, perhaps, a unique example of official positions given to women in connection with this subject. Miss Pott felt that this was particularly important because there is now an agency which combines representatives of voluntary effort and of a Government Department, and it is certain that this makes possible a principle of co-operation most important for the conduct of the human side of the organisation of migration.

Miss Pott's speech was followed by discussions from Australian and South African representatives. It was generally agreed amongst the Australian Delegation that there ought to be at least one experienced Australian woman, thoroughly familiar with Australian conditions, in a position of authority in dealing with migrants.

These speeches were followed by an excellent address from Lady Galway, who pointed out that educated women were usually those who had enough vision and stuff in themselves to go forward, and do the work that was required. The discussion on the educated woman was taken up by Miss Frances Taylor and Miss Helen Fraser. Miss Taylor, who is the editor of "Woman's World," felt that the educated woman was the very woman who made a success on land and in many kinds of pioneer homes.

Miss Fraser put in a strong plea for some kind of assistance for educated women who wished to go Overseas.

The reports given by officials from Canada, Rhodesia and New Zealand were not at all encouraging from the point of view of the educated woman. The need for domestic workers was continually and specially emphasized. The South African Delegates differed somewhat in their opinion on the matter, but it must be confessed that the problems of the educated woman need much closer attention. Nova Scotia seemed to offer a more hopeful prospect than other Dominions.

A very interesting section on Moral Responsibility struck the second note of importance. The Committee of the League felt that if migration was to be discussed, the question of responsibility ought also to be taken up.

Mrs. Macgregor Ross spoke feelingly and very ably on the responsibility of English people to their own British race and to the Africans in Kenya. She urged that the right example should be set, and that before laws were passed which affected the African peoples, the question should be "what the final effect was likely to be."

A very interesting paper was read by Mrs. Lakshmi-pathi, of the Women's Indian Association, who was warmly applauded, and Miss Alison Neilans urged a resolution on the question of conditions in Hong Kong. Mrs. Neville Rolfe then spoke of moral responsibility towards members of the British race who went out to foreign countries, and from lack of sympathetic social surroundings fell into bad ways and were anything but a good example of the British race abroad. A resolution was passed which dealt with this point.

The Conference aroused a very great deal of interest, and during the last session of the afternoon of the 23rd, resolutions were passed dealing with the position of women at the Imperial Conference, the nationality of married women, full women delegates to the League of Nations, Reciprocal Affiliation Orders within the Empire, and Equal Franchise.

At the Moral Responsibility section a resolution was passed in the following terms: "This Conference welcomes the first Report of the Advisory Committee of the Colonial Office on Social Hygiene, defining the Government's attitude to social hygiene in Singapore, and urges that the question of conditions in Hong Kong should be referred to the Advisory Committee."

Also "This Conference recognises the Moral Responsibility laid upon citizens of the British Commonwealth in regard to members of the less advanced races within its boundaries. It urges upon the constituent societies the duty of examining the problems which this responsibility involves with a special view to: (a) the study of laws which function in regard to vice so that discrimination may not be unjustly exercised against one sex only; (b) the methods employed, especially in mandated territories, to safeguard women of those less advanced races."

The discussion on Opportunity resulted in the passing of a Resolution asking the League to set up a Committee further to examine the funds, assistance and training available for women other than domestic servants.

THE SUFFRAGE IN QUEBEC. THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

MRS. JOHN SCOTT, of Montreal, writes:—It distresses me to have to set you right in one item. You say that the Quebec Legislature has passed a Bill giving the municipal franchise to married women owning property. Would that this were true, but, alas! as far as material efforts are concerned we are exactly where we were. Let me explain:

A single woman owning property of sufficient value has a vote in municipal and school elections. As soon as she embarks on the matrimonial sea that vote is thrown overboard, so to speak, and is lost, unless the wedded pair reside in the property, in which case the husband votes. This is the law all over the Province, except, strange to say, in the City of Quebec itself, where married women qualified as to property (that is with a pre-nuptial marriage contract) have had the right to vote since 1854 in municipal elections. Now don't ask me how this happened, because nobody seems to know. The presumption is that a new Charter for the City was drawn up in that year, and the idea of such a monstrous thing as a woman voting not having occurred to any of the framers, it was so worded as not to prevent that unthought of calamity. Now, we poor suffragists in Montreal after trying to secure the services of a deputy, English or French, Catholic or Protestant, Liberal or Conservative to bring in a Bill, or even a resolution, to give women the Provincial vote, and having tried for years in vain, finally succeeded in enlisting the sympathies of a young Irish-Canadian deputy—Mr. J. H. Dillon—to the extent of his being willing to endeavour to secure this municipal vote for married women, a very tiny nibble at the great question of "votes for women." However, half a loaf being proverbially better than no bread, we accepted gratefully the offered assistance. Mr. Dillon worked well and nobly. He secured an interview for our Franchise Committee of the Montreal Women's Club (which is really the only agency actively at work on this question) with the Executive Committee of the Montreal City Council, and to our astonishment and delight that august body passed the proposed amendment to the City Charter unanimously. But, from subsequent events it is pretty safe to infer that unless they had made sure that the City Council would turn it down, this would not have happened. It was referred back to the City Council for ratification, but was defeated by a small majority. The convincing argument used by the opponents to the amendment was, that if it passed it would cost more to run aldermanic elections, as cards would have to be sent to more women than before. The next step was for a delegation to proceed to Quebec, where the Legislative Assembly was then in session and place the amendment before that body. Our gallant champion made the arrangements for us, and presented our case, and again we were electrified—it passed the L.A. unanimously. It was generally supposed, by the good people who have not come in contact with the ways that are dark and the tricks that are peculiar to politicians, that our fight was won. Not at all; the Legislative Council which is our Upper Chamber, had yet to be heard from. A second delegation went again to Quebec, were very rudely dealt with, and our amendment was defeated. But there is really a silver lining to this cloud. Never has the cause had so much publicity, and indignation at the treatment we received, and sympathy with our efforts have been freely expressed on all sides. Besides, civic elections were on the tapis, and we circularised every candidate for aldermanic honours as to his attitude, and quite a number of sudden conversions took place, when it was realised that the opposition of the women might spell disaster at the polls. So, we are hoping that next year your little item re Quebec may be true in every particular. Then the next step will be to work for an amendment to the Cities and Towns Act which will confer the same rights on all the women of the Province.

May 31, 1926.

Catholic Citizen.

ONLY one main item was on the agenda of this Conference, namely, the simplification of the inspection of emigrants on board ship. As was stated by the President, Monseigneur Nolens, however, in his closing speech, various decisions taken by the Conference on the subject of procedure are likely to prove more important than the Draft Convention adopted on this question.

The subject of the simplification of the inspection of emigrants on board ship was thoroughly debated by a special Committee of the Conference. The final Draft Convention, which obtained the necessary two-thirds majority by the very narrow margin of 72 to 35 votes on the last day, closely resembles the original draft proposed by the International Labour Office. In general it aims at avoidance of confusion and lessening of expenditure by the appointment of a single inspector on board emigrant vessels chosen as a rule by the Government under whose flag the emigrants embark. The inspector shall be entirely independent of the shipping interests, and shall supply a report to all countries concerned at the end of each journey.

In addition to this Draft Convention the Conference adopted a Recommendation providing for the appointment of a properly qualified woman conductress for the protection of emigrant women and girls on board ship, and a resolution in favour of carrying an interpreter when there are on board at least 50 emigrants speaking a language other than that of the flag.

With regard to questions of procedure, an important decision was arrived at in connection with Article 408 of the Treaty. Under this Article countries are obliged to submit reports on the measures taken by them to give effect to Conventions which they have ratified. The increasing number and detail of these reports make their study by the Conference exceedingly difficult. It has now been decided that an expert committee of independent persons shall assist the Conference by the preliminary examination of these reports, and make suggestions for their improvement.

The Conference also agreed to amend its Standing Orders in order to allow any duly authorised delegate or adviser to take part in Conference committees with full rights, except that of voting. By this measure it will be possible for the voice of any special or national interest to be heard in Committee as in the Conference itself.

Thirdly, and perhaps most important, the Conference decided that in future questions placed on the agenda shall be subjected to a general discussion at a preliminary Conference, which shall indicate the main principles on which the opinions of Governments shall be asked with a view to the framing of a draft convention or recommendation for discussion at a subsequent Conference. It is hoped that in this way difficulties that have in the past arisen from the immature consideration or faulty drafting of Conventions will disappear, and the way paved for an increased number of ratifications.

As usual an interesting debate took place on the Report of the Director, a valuable document of some 750 pages summarising the work of the Office during the past year. Resolutions were also adopted concerning native labour, unemployment, the Hours Convention, the establishment of a Correspondent's office in India, and—a subject which is becoming increasingly important—the scientific organisation of industry.

The Conference lasted from 26 May to 5 June when it gave place to the Ninth Session of the Conference devoted entirely to maritime questions. It was attended by 39 countries, and the number of persons officially taking part was 243.

—I.L.O. News Service.

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

AUSTRALIA.

Justice versus Tradition.

The Women's Propaganda Committee for the Combined Women Teachers' Association of New South Wales has issued a pamphlet under the above title, in reply to "Equal Pay and the Teaching Profession," published by the London School Masters' Association. The writers of this able defence of the principle of equal pay sum up as follows:—

In conclusion we would like the L.S.M. to give kindly consideration to the points we have tried to emphasise:

1. It is the inherent right of every human being to work out his or her destiny without being barred by sex prejudice.
2. That a nation's world status largely depends on the status of its women.
3. That women have been forced into the labour market by the Economic Pressure of Progressive Civilisation.
4. That men and women are equal human beings, and for one sex to subordinate the other is bad for both.
5. That in spite of women being spoken of as the weaker sex, they do a very fair share of the world's work—to wit, the unpaid work in the home.
6. That the wife should have social, civic, and economic equality with the husband, secured by legal right.
7. That Child Endowment is necessary to secure decent environment and reasonable educational facilities for every child.
8. That the term "Family Unit" applied to the Basic Wage is a misnomer, as it pays men irrespective of family responsibilities; gives wives and children no legal claim to monetary support; and ignores the claims of widows; for these reasons it is most illogical and grossly unjust to men and women.
9. That women workers, including teachers, should be paid on a work basis, and not on a sex basis.
10. That the two-thirds ratio quoted in Industry is in no way applicable to teaching, the only argument in its favour being muscular superiority, which is no guarantee of teaching efficiency.
11. That two rates of payment for equal work, a man's rate and a woman's rate, is economically and ethically unsound for men and women, as it leads to unwholesome competition between the sexes, and under-cutting of rates of pay by the exploitation of women.
12. That teaching, being a sequel to Motherhood, is essentially women's work, and the bulk of teaching is most effectively done by women.
13. That it is of paramount importance that only teachers who reach and maintain professional standards should be employed.
14. That a nation's manhood is not jeopardised by the predominance of women in education.
15. That "Equal Pay for Equal Work" is a step in race evolution that makes for the good of Humanity.

The perusal of "Equal Pay and the Teaching Profession" has given a fillip to the women's side of the profession in this outpost of Empire. The L.S.M. have accused women teachers of no greater crime than being women, thus criticising the handiwork of the Master Potter. Talents have been given to women, and if they wish to hear, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of Thy Master," they must exercise those talents to their utmost in whatever walk of life they are destined to tread. Motherhood should be women's most important work, but, as we have endeavoured to show, thousands of women, through no fault of their own, cannot be mothers. After motherhood, there is no better outlet for womanly qualities and no nobler work for women than teaching, and women hope to continue teaching, trusting to British fair play to ensure that the hire is worthy of the labourer, even though the labourer be a woman.

Finally, the women teachers from "way down south" take this opportunity of sending fraternal greetings to the men and women teachers of the Motherland, and trust that readers of this small pamphlet will understand that, as before stated, no spirit of sex-antagonism but the deep-rooted conviction of the ethical and economic importance of women in any sphere of labour being regarded as the human equals of men, and the paramount importance of workers being paid on a work-value basis instead of merely on a sex basis, prompted this answer to the challenge thrown down in "Equal Pay and the Teaching Profession."

Why Women Teachers in N.S.W. ask for Equal Pay for Equal Work.

Women teachers in N.S.W. ask for equal pay for equal work for several reasons, viz. :—

1. As a matter of principle, N.S.W. desires an educated democracy. She needs teachers, and women are by nature fitted to do a large share of whatever teaching is to be done. Education is of great importance to the nation, and those undertaking the work should be thoroughly competent, and should receive the monetary value of the work irrespective of sex.
 2. Women have the same political rights as men.
 3. Women obey the same laws as men.
 4. They have the same property rights as men.
 5. They pay the same rates and taxes as men.
 6. Women usually pay equal board with men, and receive less for it; men very often have washing and mending included.
 7. The cost of dress is probably higher for women than men.
 8. Women need similar cultural environment to that of men.
 9. They need similar relaxation to men.
 10. The equipment for trades and professions costs women a similar price to men.
 11. If ill, they pay similar doctors' fees to men.
 12. They pay similar dental and opticians' fees to men.
 13. They pay similar burial fees to men.
- Briefly, women require as much money to live as men.

BULGARIA.

On the 18th to the 22nd July the Union des Femmes Bulgares held its twentieth General Meeting, together with a Jubilee Congress to celebrate its twenty-five years of active work. No less than 58 branches from different parts of Bulgaria took part, and the following items appeared on the Agenda:—

1. An account of twenty-five years' work from the date of the first Congress in 1901.
2. Report of the Executive Committee on the work of the Union for the year 1925-26.
3. Debate on this Report.
4. Report of the Editor of the Union's paper, "Frauen Stimme."
5. Debate on this Report.
6. Addresses on:
 - (a) Recruiting for the woman's movement.
 - (b) How to help women and children.
 - (c) The evolution of the woman's movement in Bulgaria.
 - (d) The evolution of the woman's movement abroad.
 - (e) Women and peace.
 - (f) Women and the drink problem.
7. Election of the new Executive Committee.

It is hoped that a further report on this interesting Congress will be received later.

GERMANY.

Brothels Abolished.

Though the keeping of brothels, in the usual police-technical meaning of the word, is officially forbidden in the German States, many city municipalities still tolerate so-called harlot-quarters, where four or more prostitutes may be lodged together, which, in practice, means nothing else than brothels, with all their moral atrocities and social dangers. The often-mentioned Bill "to fight venereal disease," which is still pending between Reichstag, Reichsrat and Committee, will, of course, do away with such quarters. The women's organisations, however, becoming impatient with the present state of things, have, in several large places, protested against it, and petitioned the city authorities and governments for the abolition of these corrupting houses—with rather good success so far. In Hamburg, where the system prevailed in its most distinct form, it was, thanks to the initiative of the women city councillors, abolished already about two years ago. In Leipzig and Dresden the local branches of the German Evangelical Women's Association called together the women's and other welfare organisations of every kind to take steps, with resolutions and deputations to the Government and the municipalities, for the same purpose. In Leipzig they had the surprisingly prompt success that on January 1st, 1926, already all the houses were closed; in Dresden the Home Minister as well as the Mayor expressed to the deputation their willingness to do the same. The last good news comes from the other stronghold of the brothel system, Bremen, where the municipality, on a motion of its member, Frau Bahnsen, decided for the closing of the street consisting only of such houses, by April, 1927, at latest. It is to be hoped that such self-reform of the public and the communities will induce the Government at last to discharge, as soon as possible, the new Reichs law we are so long waiting for.

"Frau" and "Fräulein."

The claim of the Danish women to give the title "Fru" to all women, whether married or not, has, as the papers report, been granted by a special decree of their Government with regard to all official documents, and we may be sure the custom in personal intercourse will soon follow. The equivalent title for all adult women is doubtless a genuine and righteous feminist claim for all countries and languages. But it is, of course, most strongly felt as such in the Scandinavian and German speaking countries where the diminutive "Fröken" and "Fräulein" (little woman!) for the oldest unmarried lady is simply a ridiculous absurdity. It seems, however, as if with us in Germany the reform would take the other course, i.e., as if custom would come first and official acknowledgment by special decree afterwards. A propaganda for the equivalent title "Frau" was undertaken already many years ago by two societies in Munich and Frankfurt, but met with only little attention, while, on the other side, the personal initiative of several well-known unmarried women-workers to call themselves, and be called by others, "Frau," gave an effective example which many followed, and will do so more and more, no legal impediment being in the way. The strongest support and help for the propagation of the idea was besides—as a consequence of woman suffrage—the official application of the title "Frau" for all women members of Reichs and State Parliaments and City Councils, as well as for all women in Government and communal offices.

Very soon the public has got accustomed to this innovation, and nobody will mind if one or the other women's societies have dropped all the "Fräuleins" from their list of members, or will ridicule modern spinsters who, in personal intercourse, claim the "Frau" for themselves, as was the case with the first pioneers in this movement.

A Scheme for Women Police.

As several practical experiments show (i.e., in Karlsruhe, Frankfurt, Dresden), the movement for the

incorporation of women in the police service is advancing not only in the interest and understanding of the German public, but also in the favour of the authorities. With regard to a conference on the subject held in the Prussian Home Ministry in January, the National Council of Women has, by its special committee on this matter, worked out and published a particular "scheme for the employment of women as police functionaries." It contains valuable practical advice concerning the most suitable kind of work for police women, their personal fitness, their training, etc. Stress is laid, further, upon the necessity of a uniform, and of the establishment of special departments for woman police in the competent administrative centres of the States. The scheme which may well be considered as a definite step forward in this promising new line of women's work, has been submitted to the home and public welfare ministries of the States, and to the Prussian police presidencies.

Dresden, July 16th.

MARIE STRITT.

GREAT BRITAIN.

National Union of Societies For Equal Citizenship. Equal Franchise Campaign—Procession and Demonstration in Hyde Park.

Our chief energies during the summer have been devoted to a campaign for Equal Franchise. Not only have a large number of our own Societies had meetings and passed resolutions, but we have sent speakers to meetings of Women's Co-operative Guilds, Young Liberal Sections, Labour Parties, men's Rotary Clubs, etc., etc. These efforts culminated in the big procession from the Embankment to Hyde Park on July 3rd. The N.U.S.E.C. had a large contingent in this procession, headed by Dame Millicent Fawcett and other members of the "Old Gang," including Miss Margaret Ashton, Miss Sterling, Miss Garrett, Lady Gibb and Mrs. Stopes. The old banner of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies was carried, together with a new banner for the occasion, and a very large number of others which had been sent up by our Societies. The N.U.S.E.C. also organised groups of women engaged in various occupations, such as journalists, nurses, industrial women, etc., etc., and was responsible for the groups of Labour women and young Liberals represented at the Demonstration. On our platform in Hyde Park we had a fine body of speakers with Miss Rathbone in the chair, including Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Mrs. Wintringham, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, Mr. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Helen Fraser.

Although the demonstration bore practical testimony to the increasing demand for equal franchise, the Government steadily refuses to announce when it proposes to deal with the question, and so far has not agreed to receive our deputation on the subject. Mr. Baldwin is being approached again asking him to receive the deputation in the autumn.

Parliamentary.

As the attention of all of us, both in and out of Parliament, has been chiefly engaged in the crisis in the coal industry, it is not surprising that there have been fewer bills with which we are specially interested before the House. With regard to the Adoption of Children Bill—a bill which gives definite status to the adopted child, and gives the adopting parents the same rights and responsibilities of real parents (except with regard to inheritance)—we have succeeded in initiating certain amendments which have been accepted by the Government. An amendment to the Mining Industry Bill, with which we were also concerned, providing for the setting up of a committee on family allowances though not carried, has won from the Government the promise to set up forthwith a committee to enquire into this important question, the adoption of which we feel is the best method of avoiding a degradation of the standard of living in the mining industry. A sad disappointment awaited us in the defeat of the Parliament (Qualification) of

Peers Bill, introduced by Lord Astor in the House of Lords on June 24th. Not only was this badly defeated, but speeches were made by certain noble Lords which savoured more of the pothouse than of Parliament. The **Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Bill**, which, while providing regulations against lead poisoning for men, excludes women altogether from the industry, the **Legitimacy Bill**, which legitimates a child on the marriage of its parents, are partly through their stages in the House of Commons. A conference was called by the N.U.S.E.C. on the **Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Bill**, which, strengthened on the lines we suggest, would have a considerable effect in removing the pall of smoke from our cities.

League of Nations.

We are delighted to welcome among the British delegation to the League of Nations our old friend Dame Edith Lytton. Not only has Dame Edith proved herself to be one of the women in public life whose judgment is most respected by men and women of every political party and point of view; not only has her experience of public affairs in general been wide and varied, but she proved herself an outstanding success when appointed in a similar capacity for the Assembly of the League of Nations in 1923. Once a delegate has proved that she is eminently fitted for her task, as has Dame Edith, there is a great deal to be said for her re-appointment. She knows the ropes, and will be able to make herself even more effective than a stranger to League procedure and methods. Our one regret is that Dame Edith has not been made full delegate. The N.U.S.E.C. has organised a conference of women's organisations to meet Dame Edith shortly.

Summer Schools.

Two week-end summer schools are being arranged—at Durham, on September 10th and Edinburgh on October 1st. The speakers at the first school include Miss Rathbone, Miss Fraser and Miss Picton-Turbevill; at the second Lady Balfour of Burleigh, Mrs. Abbott and Mrs. Hubback. Subjects to be discussed include Equal Franchise, Legislation before Parliament, Restrictive Legislation, Family Allowances, Equal Moral Standard, Women in the Church, Arbitration and Disarmament. Fees, inclusive for the week-end, are £2. Visitors from overseas will be very much welcomed. Apply, the Secretary, 15, Dean's Yard, S.W.1.

Summer Holidays.

The Office of the N.U.S.E.C. will remain open right through the summer. Visitors from overseas are particularly welcome. E.M.H.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

The Women's Freedom League actively co-operated in the recent Peace Pilgrimage and in the Equal Political Rights Procession from the Embankment to Hyde Park, as well as in the demonstration in Hyde Park, our contingent in the procession being headed by Mrs. Despard, our first president; Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, our president this year; and by Dr. Elizabeth Knight, our hon. treasurer. From our platform in Hyde Park we had ten speakers on behalf of equal political rights for men and women. In the autumn we are preparing an increasingly intensive campaign to secure equal franchise and the admission of peers in their own right to a voice, a seat, and a vote in the House of Lords.

We obtained the signatures of representatives of sixteen women's organisations to the following resolution, copies of which were sent to the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Birkenhead, and Lord Newton: "That the societies mentioned below protest in the most emphatic terms against the tone of the speeches of both Lord Birkenhead and Lord Newton during the debate on the second reading of the Peers Bill in the House of Lords on June 24th, and regard it as a public scandal that Lord Birkenhead, a paid servant of both women and men, should take advantage of his

privileged position as a member of a non-elective Chamber to insult women."

We have urged the Prime Minister to include a woman as a fully accredited delegate to the League of Nations Assembly in September, and we have again applied to the Sergeant-at-Arms for the admission of a representative of our paper, "The Vote," to the Press Gallery of the House of Commons.

Our Clyde Coast campaign is now in full swing. Regular and frequent outdoor meetings are being held at Rothesay, Dunoon, Largs and Milport to explain to holiday crowds the urgency of granting equal political rights to women and men.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

HOLLAND.

We held our national meeting of the "Vereeniging van Staatsburgeressen" in Groningen, June 26-27. It was a most interesting gathering, and many good reports have been issued. Mrs. van der Hoeve-Bakker, our president, gave the most beautiful report about the congress. It was quite remarkable how she went into every detail, and how enthusiastic she made our whole meeting over it. She began her speech by saying some very nice words of appreciation of me, and thanking me for the work I have done in the Paris congress, and then a beautiful bouquet was handed to me from the Dutch National Society. Mrs. Bakker-Nort gave a very good account of the "Illegitimate Child," for which they had had a committee of prominent men and women. One of our prominent Dutch newspapers has issued a pamphlet in which was printed what some professors have lately written in their paper about this question, and they distributed this pamphlet among all our delegates. This is really an act that shows how much the movement has won ground in Holland.

We also had a very good report on our new marriage laws, and our National Suffrage day on the 27th of September will be used for propaganda for the new marriage laws all over Holland, and speakers on this subject will be heard everywhere.

It has also been decided to rearrange our National Committee for International Affairs, and to ask each of our branches to nominate one person who is interested in International affairs. Then when we call a meeting the members can come, and from them we will nominate our delegation for the next congress.

ROSA MANUS.

HUNGARY.

Annual Meeting.

AN international Congress is a strong incentive to intensive work. We feel the obligation to fall into the ranks of the enfranchised States, not only to prove our solidarity, but also to produce evidence of at least some progress in order to promote the cause of unenfranchised women. With this inspiration we revised our whole political programme in order to establish a fresh goal for our endeavours.

This new programme was published for the first time at our annual General Meeting, and five leading politicians of different parties accepted our invitation to speak in support of our programme. This time the chair was taken again by Vilma Glücklich after her absence abroad from the three last annual meetings. In her Presidential address she referred to the news of Ellen Key's death. She was the pioneer in claiming liberty and justice for women. She was also one of the first women in public life to raise the question of child welfare.

After summing up the difficulties with which our organisation had to cope since its foundation nearly twenty-two years ago, and our political work initiated by Rozika Schwimmer, Vilma Glücklich reminded our members of their responsibilities as citizens and their duties to use their suffrage for the well-being of the nation and for the promotion of world-peace. She also

INDIA.

Suppression of Brothels.

A FINE meeting was held under the auspices of the Madras Vigilance Association, in Madras, to support a Bill for the Suppression of Brothels and immoral traffic in women, and to establish a Rescue Home for girls. The Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri was in the chair, and he emphasised the need for a powerful expression of public opinion, demanding reform in the moral life in the city. He urged the audience to give their sympathetic support.

Dr. A. Lakshmanaswam Mudaliar moved the following resolution:

"Whereas traffic in women and girls is rapidly increasing in the Presidency and in the city of Madras and whereas brothels are becoming a menace to public health and purity, this meeting urges Government to introduce legislation for the suppression of brothels and traffic in women and girls."

He emphasised strongly the evils of any regulation of immoral traffic in segregated areas and pointed out that far from doing any good it causes greater evil in every way both with regard to health and to morality. He also said that every civilised country had given up regulation and that India must see to it that she does not tolerate, in any part of the country, legislation of this kind. Mr. K. V. Sessa Iyengar explained the Bill that will be brought up before the Legislative Council at an early date.

Mrs. Dorothy Jinarajadasa moved the following resolution:

"Whereas in order to make effective any scheme of rescuing women and girls from a life of prostitution, and to carry out the provisions of any legislation for the suppression of brothels and traffic in women and girls, it is necessary that there should be a Rescue Home for maintaining on certain terms and conditions women and girls reclaimed from a life of prostitution, and whereas no such home exists at present for Hindu and Muhammadan girls in the Madras Presidency, this meeting calls upon the Government to institute and maintain a suitable Rescue Home.

She urged the importance of starting a Rescue Home at once to care for the little girls that are rescued from the brothels. Archdeacon Loasby, the President of the Association, summed up the work to be done. Other speakers also supported the resolutions enthusiastically, and each was passed unanimously.

This evil of commercialised traffic in women is of fairly recent origin in Madras City. Prostitution, of course, has always existed, but not in the same commercial and brutal way that it does to-day. And it is to put a check on this development that Vigilance Associations have come into existence in Madras, Bombay and Calcutta. One of the very great evils that exists is that in so many of the brothels in India, there are living little children, and girls at the age of perhaps nine or ten years old become prostitutes. We have come into personal contact with some such tragic cases, where little girl children have been enticed away from their homes and put into brothels. It seems about the worst crime that humanity can commit, to permit that these little innocent girls should be used for this purpose. No man or woman who knows of this appalling evil can tolerate it for one minute; and so we must strongly support the Vigilance Associations in Madras, Bombay, and in Calcutta, in the work that they are doing for the purification of life in India.

STRI DHARMA.

emphasised how useful and necessary it was to awaken the interest of politicians for the political programme of women and to gain their co-operation for these aims.

Three prominent politicians and members of Parliament paid their tribute to the principles and work of our Society. Mr. Paul Hegyemegi Kiss, Party of small landowners in towns and country, the former Minister of Education; George Lukács, United Christian Party; and the President of the Kossuth Party, former Minister of Interior, Vincent Nagy, promised us their definite support. They acknowledged the important role women play in the realisation and extension of public rights, social legislation, and peace. To our great disappointment our one woman Member of Parliament, Anna Kéthly, was prevented by her legislative work from appearing and speaking at our Annual Meeting.

Economics and Peace.

The two last lectures of this course were delivered by Dr. Julius J. Piker, former Vice Director of the Municipal Statistical Office, an expert on single taxation of international repute. He gave us a brilliant lecture on peace, proving that single taxation is a fundamentally important factor of peace.

Dr. Ernest Naményi, of the Society of Industries, spoke of the economic inter-dependence of the nations, which cannot prosper except by economic co-operation. Professor Havas, whose help in arranging this course of lectures we much appreciated and gratefully acknowledge, summed up the conclusions to be drawn from the whole course.

Young People's Group.

Our Young People's Group arranged a round-table discussion on Free Trade, others on the League of Nations, Disarmament, International Arbitration, Summer Schools, Economic Conference of the L. of N., the Strike in England, the German-Russian Pact, etc. The group is now preparing a lecture on Youth's Part in the Work for Peace to be given by Miss Hoysted, who is the Secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, for Austria.

Co-operation with Other Societies.

Our Secretary, Mrs. Melanie Vámbéri, represented our organisation and the women's standpoint at a demonstration of the Bank Clerks' Organisation for the proper regulation of clerks' pensions. Mrs. Vámbéri said that the struggle for public health and the morals cannot be successful unless it is sustained by the equal economic position of women, a living wage and pension. At the Women's Political Section of the Democratic Party, Mrs. Vámbéri spoke of the importance of educating children for peace. At the same place our President, Vilma Glücklich, gave the history of the three great women's international organisations, the Y.C.M., the W.I.S.A. and the W.I.L.P.F., stating that all have local Hungarian branches, and invited the audience to attend the two international congresses to be held this summer.

A welcome guest at our Annual Assembly was the President and delegate of the agricultural women labourers from Balmazújváros, Mrs. Bordás, who came to demonstrate the solidarity of her group with our Feministák Egyesülete. She declared that the peasant women who had proved in difficult times the equal value of their labour, now claim their right to local suffrage, and they are determined to fight for it.

Mrs. Irma de Szirmai, Vice-President, spoke of the importance of women's international co-operative work and appealed to the members to take part in great numbers at the two International Congresses, i.e., that of the Suffrage Alliance in Paris in May-June, and that of the Women's League for Peace and Freedom in Dublin in July.

Mrs. Eugenie Meller Miskolczy gave an account to the Library Section of the Hungarian Red Cross of the wonderful book of John Haynes Holmes, "Patriotism is Not Enough."

EUGENIE MISKOLCZY MELLER.

THE CAMPAIGN IN JAPAN.

"WOMAN's Suffrage!" "What do women want suffrage for?" "They are not ready for it!" were the exclamations raised on every side, not only by men, but by women themselves when, at first, attempts were made to form suffrage associations in the city about five years ago.

In spite of numerous difficulties, however, a small band of women who possessed a strong conviction that women must be enfranchised in order to bring about the necessary changes in this country, went ahead and organised a small society, which was subsequently affiliated with the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

Of course, this does not mean that no attempt has ever been made to call women together to raise their voice to win votes. There are about half a dozen Woman's Suffrage organisations in the city with hard-working women taking a lead in them. The most prominent ones are "The Woman's Suffrage League," "Woman's Political League," "Union of Three Suffrage Bands," beside "The Japanese Woman's Suffrage Association."

We are, with the Woman's Suffrage League at the head, again at the height of a campaign to get the bills passed by the Diet demanding (1) Equal Parliamentary Suffrage, (2) Equal Municipal Suffrage, (3) Freedom to form political clubs and parties. A special office was rented near the Parliament buildings, with two women to lead in lobbying and making plans for others to step in and help. Mass meetings are held in different parts of the city with some distinguished Members of Parliament and some strong advocates for woman suffrage as well as some women speakers. Some of the most persistent women are Miss Ichikawa, Mrs. Tanaka, Mrs. Kubushiro, Miss Ogino, Mrs. Sakamoto, Mrs. Kaneko, Mrs. Yamane, and Mrs. Midorikawa, etc.

Let me tell you, dear co-workers, however, of the dramatic scene we so proudly witnessed last year on our "Women's Day" in Parliament, March 13th. All the Bills in regard to women were to be presented that day. Many weary days were spent in getting everything ready for this memorable event.

The longed-for day arrived with a cold wind blowing, but by ten o'clock nearly 200 women were gathered in front of the House with badges of yellow and purple ribbons. Miss Ichikawa, Mrs. Kaneko, Mrs. Tanaka, Mrs. Sakamoto, Mrs. Yamanouchi and Miss Ogino, with a goodly number of officers and committees, were busy looking into the details connected with getting necessary tickets for all as well as other minor matters.

The door was to be opened at ten minutes to twelve and there was a long queue of men and women eager to obtain entrance. I was at the head of this queue when a middle-aged man pushed himself in front of men, saying that he was not going to lose his chance this time as he had been turned away many times before on account of lack of room. I was not willing to show that I resented his push, but I quietly made up my mind to let a woman be the very first one to step in when the door opened. Then I saw Mrs. Kubushiro a few paces behind me push her way through the crowd and I beckoned to her to come to where I was. Asking the man to step aside to allow Mrs. Kubushiro to head this long trail of women, I made a way for her, and thus we stood almost breathless, waiting for the door to be opened. Ten to twelve! The portals soon swallowed us, one by one, each one being carefully scrutinised by the guards. Alas! At the end of the landing upstairs we had to wait patiently once more, and when the signal was given by one of the guards to usher us all in, to our horror and despair, we found that something was wrong with the door. No amount of pounding or pushing had the least effect. Owing to some fault in the lock the door had to be forced by one of the guards and we were admitted without any further

delay, with Mrs. Kubushiro leading the way; seemingly an omen that it would be a woman who would ultimately break down the barrier of prejudice.

Our suffragettes are going through the same experience as the woman of Western countries. The majority of them are hard-working women, teachers, social welfare workers, business women, etc., who can hold meetings only in their spare time, consequently they are often at work up till nearly midnight. Sometimes they are obliged to sell sweets and bananas in the street in order to raise funds for the cause. Yet they never seem to grow weary of this hard work, because they have implicit faith in the righteousness of their cause. **CONSTANCE T. GAUNTLETT.**

NEWFOUNDLAND.

MRS. HUTTON has been elected President of the League of Women Voters in place of Mrs. Gosling, who has gone to Bermuda.

The first quarterly meeting of the League took place on 28th June, and the large number of women who attended left no doubt in one's mind as to the keen and growing interest that our women take in public affairs. Mrs. Hutton opened the meeting with a short address, in which she referred to the constitution which had been drawn up, and went on to say that while the chief work of the League will be to agitate for the amending—where necessary—of existing laws concerning women and children (endeavouring to ensure the passing of just and equitable ones in the future), there is no rule, as will be seen, in the constitution to confine us absolutely to this work. We are given a wide field for our activities, and we can, and no doubt will, discuss any questions concerning public welfare, and help further any movement which may arise, for the betterment of the community at large. The minutes were then read by the Secretary and also a cable received on June 15th from Mrs. John Browning, who had just returned to England from Paris, where she had represented us at the great Congress held by the International Suffrage Alliance. The message reads:—

"Congress great success. Newfoundland honoured as last country obtained suffrage.—Browning."

The constitution was then read and submitted for ratification, and after its adoption Mrs. Hutton spoke of the need of a large and representative committee. Mrs. Hutton hoped that women will realise the power and importance of the vote, and the urgent need that all women should exercise this great privilege,—the infinite pity if they neglect the use of this powerful weapon to help them in their work,—and the big difference between the voteless woman and the woman with the vote.

The committee of the Franchise League were then re-elected as members of the committee of the League of Women Voters, and also representatives of many societies, who were present, were added to the number. It is hoped that every women's organisation will soon have a representative on this committee. Other business of importance was then transacted, after which Mrs. Hutton introduced Miss Pressley-Smith, who gave a most interesting address.

Miss Pressley-Smith has taken part in conventions of the Woman Suffrage Alliance both in England and Norway, and spoke with enthusiasm of the future opportunities of women.

Miss MacDonald, of the Y.W.C.A., being present, very kindly acceded to the President's request to say a few words. Miss MacDonald has had wide experience in the care and guidance of young girls, and this knowledge will be of inestimable value to our community. Having travelled from the Pacific to the Atlantic in pursuit of her work, Miss MacDonald has had every advantage of judging the mental status of the young girl. Miss MacDonald has a fine faith in the outlook of young womanhood, and declared that "the girl of to-day is looking for better things and higher standards with which to fill her life, than the frivolous ones of yesterday. She is anxious to accomplish something for the good of others, and is not merely seeking her own pleasure and self-gratification."

VOTES FOR WOMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A Ray of Hope.

Miss Dorman sends us the following:—

Recently there was issued by Reuter's the 6th clause of the Report of the Select Committee on Enfranchisement of Women appointed during the recent session of Parliament; we are now able to give the full Report, which is as follows:—

Your Committee, having considered the question referred to it, namely, the best steps by which a commencement may be made in removing the sex disqualification from the franchise laws of the several Provinces of the Union, and having taken evidence from various sources on the matter (which it submits herewith), begs to report as follows:—

(1) That in the larger towns of the Provinces of the Union there is a considerable body of opinion in favour of granting the vote to women on the same terms as is enjoyed by the male members of the population.

(2) That the volume of evidence appears to favour the principle of extending the franchise only to women of European descent, until the native segregation policy is decided upon by Parliament.

(3) The country districts reveal a strong body of opinion against any extension of the franchise to women until the native segregation proposals of the Government have become law, but if Parliament should decide to extend the vote to women, it should be granted to women of European descent only.

(4) Your Committee found difficulty in estimating the strength of the movement against the granting of women's franchise on account of the lack of organisation among the women, who undoubtedly hold strong views on the question, whereas the movement in favour is organised and better able to present its case.

(5) Notwithstanding the fact that your Committee has made an effort to obtain evidence, it has been unable to find any direct demand for the extension of the franchise to native or even to coloured women.

(6) Your Committee is of opinion, and begs to recommend to the House for consideration, that the first step to be taken in removing the sex disqualification from the present franchise laws of the Union is to grant the vote to women of European descent on the terms at present enjoyed by the European males in the four Provinces of the Union.

The Select Committee comprised: Rev. J. Mullineux (Chairman), Messrs. D. M. Brown, Moll, Sephton, and Brand Wessels.

This recommendation of the Select Committee will be acceptable to the Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union who decided to ask for the franchise practically on these lines two years ago. Clause 4 strikes us as being decidedly illogical. Why, if there is a body of "anti-suffragists" with strong views, do they not express them and organise for the purpose as do the women who are working for their enfranchisement? This clause is indirectly a compliment to the W.E.A.U., for organisation means hard work, and hard work demands much self-sacrifice. Where there is enthusiasm in a cause there is unselfish and unstinted labour on the part of its votaries which results in good organisation. Clause 4 is a strong one in favour of granting women the franchise. "Per aspera ad astra" has been for long years our motto and women have given ungrudgingly in the cause they have at heart, to attain their enfranchisement, and travelled over rough paths to win the right to vote for those who are to make the laws which are as binding for the woman as the man, which affect alike the home and the State, the child and the adult man and woman.

—Port Elizabeth Advertiser.

UNITED STATES

ALTHOUGH several weeks have elapsed since the close of the Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in Paris, keen interest in the action taken there is still displayed by women in the United States. The interest is particularly lively in the ranks of the National League of Women Voters, stimulated by newspaper accounts of the Congress, by the return of Miss Belle Sherwin, head of the American delegation, and by the appointment of Miss Ruth Morgan, third vice-president of the League, as chairman of the new Peace Committee of the Alliance.

Miss Sherwin's arrival in New York was the occasion for a special "welcome home" celebration. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, Miss Mary Garrett Hay, Mrs. Henry Goddard Leach, president of the New York State League, and Mrs. Maud Swartz, president of the National Woman's Trade Union League, were among the twenty outstanding women who gathered to greet Miss Sherwin. Before rushing off within a few hours to an Executive Committee meeting of the National League, Miss Sherwin had opportunity to summarise the "high spots" of the Paris gathering for the "welcome-home" group. Extracts from her review of the multitude of interesting happenings follow:—

"The most progressive action taken was the formation of a new committee to examine in what way women can use their political powers towards promoting the cause of peace. This action marked a great advance over the Congress of three years ago. Women in this country were honoured and in a sense made responsible by Miss Morgan's appointment as chairman of that committee, after her election to membership on the international board. The appointment came after M. Briand's praise of the work, which, he observed, women have done in this country in promoting international co-operation.

"The United States delegates were particularly pleased by the action of the Congress regarding women in industry, when the policy maintained in this country by the League of Women Voters and by the American Federation of Labour was adopted in Paris. It was a victory for those who steer by facts rather than theory, when the Congress voted that no special regulations for women's work should be imposed contrary to the wishes of the women concerned. The resolution which followed the most spirited debate of the session provides for special legislation for women in industrial occupations when the women want it, and the facts demonstrate the needs for it. The United States delegation was gratified to find this provision urged by women workers in other delegations as well as in their own.

"The resolutions of the Equal Moral Committee provided that there should be no discriminations against women in law and no compulsory measures in public health regulations. The resolutions of the Committee on the Nationality of Married Women was of particular interest to women in the United States, because these resolutions embodied the principle that women be given the same right as men to retain or change their nationality. This is the principle of the Act of 1922 for the independent citizenship of married women in the United States. The resolutions of the Committee on the Problem of the Unmarried Mother were similar to the subjects for study in the programme of the National League of Women Voters, while the recommendations of the Committee on Family Allowances are for us in the United States an academic question.

"The evening meetings of the Congress were brilliant and impressive, and each auditorium used was filled to overflowing; the hospitality shown by the municipality of Paris, by public officials, and private citizens could hardly be exceeded. It would seem as if suffrage must come sooner—if not soon—to the women of France because of the demonstrations made during the week of the Congress. We wait with eager sympathy and interest to know what action will be taken by the Senate of France on the question of woman suffrage.

"Delegates from the United States could not but feel overwhelmingly conscious of the difference between conditions in this country, under which our strongest impulse and necessity are to make use of political equality already gained, and conditions in many countries of the old world in which equality and opportunity of every sort are still to be won by women. In those countries restrictions of any kind seem ominous. The lesson of the Congress is that standards must be set up in terms which will meet facts of life of infinite variety, and which will make for the advancement of women everywhere.

"A conspicuous and real achievement of the Congress was the gradual development of solidarity among the women present. This may have been due to the practicability with which the women regarded the questions before them. In spite of the diversity of backgrounds and conditions in India, Egypt, Australia, Europe and the Americas, opinions in the main were formed and defended with constant reference to facts and to actual experience. Theorists were in the minority."

Miss Ruth Morgan's election to the board and her subsequent appointment as chairman of the new peace committee was hailed with jubilation by members of the League of Women Voters, and a large group of men and women who have followed Miss Morgan's peace work in the last four or five years. Although it is what Miss Morgan calls "a matter of fearful responsibility," she already is considering plans for the development and scope of the committee's work.

Ever since the termination of her work overseas in the world war, Miss Morgan has devoted all her time and energy to the cause of world peace. She has been chairman of the League's department of International Co-operation to Prevent War since its formation in 1922, and in that capacity directed the League's three-year campaign for the World Court.

Another contribution made by Miss Morgan was in connection with the Woman's Conference on the Cause and Cure of War, in January, 1925, in Washington. Miss Morgan was a member of the Committee which called the Conference, served on the Committee on the Cures of War, and participated in many of the open forums.

Her interest in world affairs is a natural one. She is a descendant of an officer who served on Washington's staff, and her grandfather, Morgan Lewis, was one of New York's first governors. One of her early ancestors was Robert Livingston, ambassador to France during the period of the American Revolution.

When a young girl in school in France, Miss Morgan gave evidence of her "international-mindedness," and her knowledge and understanding of international matters to-day is the result of study and observation. Her experiences in France, as a director in the Red Cross Nurses' Bureau, naturally intensified her desire to make world peace a life work.

Twenty years of charitable work in New York City, some of which has been volunteer nursing, has given Miss Morgan another particularly interesting point of view. She has served a score of years as a member of the board of managers of the famous Bellevue hospital. As in the case of world affairs, Miss Morgan's interest in hospital work may be traced to an ancestor. Her grandmother, Geraldine Livingston Hoyt, had a large part in the establishment and the success of the school of nursing at the hospital.

Appointments and assignments of important posts, for carrying on the work of the National League in 1926-1928 give evidence of the marked progress already made, and also predict an increasingly interesting period of development in the next few years. The League is now operating under a biennial convention plan, and will not meet again until 1928.

Mrs. Walston Chubb, of St. Louis, Mo., is the new chairman of the Women-in-Industry Committee. In her college work at Oberlin and Columbia University,

Mrs. Chubb specialized in subjects relating to public and social welfare, and for ten years was identified with the American Association for Labour Legislation. She succeeds Miss Mollie Ray Carroll, professor of social science, of Goucher College, who was elected fifth vice-president at the League's recent annual convention. Miss Carroll's new responsibilities carry with it the portfolio of head of the department of public welfare, a department now assuming direction of the work of the League's committees on education, child welfare, living costs, social hygiene, and women in industry.

Miss Elizabeth J. Hauser, of Girard, Ohio, relinquishes the secretaryship, a post she had held for three years, to become fourth vice-president. She also steps into the role of head of the department of efficiency in government, a place held by Miss Belle Sherwin, League president, since 1921. Miss Ruth Morgan, of New York City, is to continue as head of the department of international co-operation to prevent war, a place she has filled ever since the department was organized.

Three widely known women, who are specialists in the fields of legislation, public welfare in government and the new work of interesting New Voters, are to serve the League. Mrs. Maud Wood Park, former president of the League, again acts as counsellor on legislation; Miss Julia C. Lathrop, of Rockford, Ill., as counsellor on public welfare in government; and Miss Gertrude Ely, of Bryn Mawr, Pa., counsellor on New Voters.

Mrs. Glen Levin Swiggett, of Washington, D.C., who has been intimately associated for several years with various Pan-American endeavours, was the North American delegate to the Inter-American Congress of Women to be held in Panama, June 18-25. The woman's congress was held in conjunction with the commemoration of the first centenary of the first Pan-American Congress convened by Bolivar in June, 1826, in Panama.

Mrs. Swiggett was appointed the official delegate by Miss Belle Sherwin, president of the National League of Women Voters, who is also the North American vice-president of the Inter-American Union of Women. The congress, which was under the direction of the Government of Panama and the Inter-American Union of Women, included representatives from all the Americas, and was devoted to discussion and addresses on subjects of outstanding interest to women in the fields of politics, citizenship, international relations, social welfare, laws, and education.

It was the second foreign gathering this spring at which the National League of Women Voters was represented by an official delegation. Miss Sherwin and twenty-three other League women were in Paris, as the official American delegation to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

Mrs. Swiggett has had the distinction of attending previous Pan-American gatherings, and her official positions with several organisations has included representation in international and Pan-American work. Mrs. Swiggett was chairman of the United States delegation to the second Pan-American Conference of women in Lima, in December, 1924, January, 1925, and is now serving as executive secretary of the United States Section, Pan-American International Women's Committee. She was executive secretary of the Women's Committee of the Second Pan-American Scientific Congress from 1916-1925, and from 1918-1925 served as chairman of the Latin-American section of International Relations Committee of the American Association of University Women.

Mrs. Swiggett is corresponding secretary of the National Council of Women, and from 1920 to 1923 was a member of the American Committee of the International Federation of the University of Women.

ANNE WILLIAMS WHEATON.

NEWS OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

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WORLD'S COMMITTEE MEETING, OXFORD, JULY 1-8.

THE meeting of the World's Committee in Oxford will remain a happy and stimulating memory to the participants. The circumstances under which it was held were particularly delightful. St. Hugh's College, though a new building, could not fail to afford the true Oxford atmosphere, the really old gardens and beautiful chapel being a special joy and most characteristic of Oxford. The first three days of the Committee were perfect summer days—the opening day being spent, by invitation of the President, at Parmoor, where the lovely leisure of an English country house afforded many opportunities for gaining a firm foundation of friendliness and ease. The first two days of business were equally lovely, and the majority of discussion groups established themselves on the lawns, in the shadiest spots that might be found; this also contributed to the sense of leisure which is essential to the best work in any conference.

On the Saturday afternoon, the gathering migrated to Wadham College, which the Warden had thrown open to the Committee of the Oxford Y.W.C.A., in order that they, with the help of Association members from far and wide, might entertain the World's Committee. It was a gay scene in a beautiful setting—the many national costumes, gorgeous saris and cool Roumanian black-and-white; heavy Chinese and Japanese satins and thinnest Scandinavian muslins—not to mention the Mayor of Oxford in full robes, who wished to add the welcome of the city of Oxford to that already extended by the University. Members of the Association of the Midlands and South of England gave a display of folk-dances, and Guide activities, and Countess Elsa Bernadotte of Wisborg, President of the Y.W.C.A. of Sweden, gave a brief account of her recent world tour, making a great impression in her charming national dress.

There were few set speeches during the week; the only addresses being given on alternate evenings by the Dean of Canterbury, Pastor Lauga of France, and Pastor Jeep, of Germany, on the subjects on which the Bible study discussion was based. This departure from the old custom of long speeches and formal meetings is becoming the recognised rule of many modern conferences, where the democratic tendency of the age shows itself in the division into small groups, in which every person present is free to express her own opinion and may feel herself a responsible member of the conference. The result in this instance was that the discussion at the business sessions when the whole committee met together, was freer and more constructive than is often the case.

A notable characteristic of the meeting was the foremost place taken by the Far East. There were two Japanese and two Chinese women present, and the Committee meeting had not been in session for twenty-four hours before the entire company was aware of how much the Far East has to give to the rest of the world. For the first time many European countries became conscious of how truly we are a World's Association, and Europe and the Far East each realised with how many international problems the other as to deal. The message from the China National Committee, urging the co-operation of other National Associations in combatting evils which have international sources, such as opium and child labour, met with a most cordial response, and was an apt illustration of the importance of our co-operation with such organisations as the Institute of Pacific Relations. This matter of co-operation with other societies has become one of urgency, as is made clear in the section dealing with the business sessions.

There were more countries represented than on any former occasion, voting members (or proxies) being present from all affiliated National Associations except South Africa, namely, Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, India, Burma and Ceylon, Iceland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, U.S.A.; corresponding members (or proxies) represented Czechoslovakia, Egypt and Palestine, France, Switzerland, Jamaica, Malaya, Malta, the Near East and South America, while visitors came from the Associations in Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Greece, Latvia and Roumania, as well as from the majority of countries sending voting or corresponding members. Korea was unable to send any delegate, as were also Mexico, Kenya Colony, West Africa and Algiers. Including some twenty members of the Executive Committee and seven members of the staff, the total meeting numbered one hundred and sixty.

THE DISCUSSION GROUPS.

The meeting of the World's Committee on this occasion differed in various respects from former gatherings. As far as the programme was concerned, there was not as much business to be transacted as usual; there was more time, therefore, for periods of discussion when we could face together the circumstances by which the Association is conditioned in different countries—circumstances differing very widely, and necessitating different methods of growth and life. At the Washington meeting two years ago much interest was expressed in the question of membership, and it was decided to ask the Associations to study further the qualifications for active membership. A questionnaire was sent out, the answers to which opened up the

bigger question of the relation of the Association to the Christian Church. This had been to some extent foreseen by the committee in charge of the preparations for Oxford, and it had therefore been arranged that there should be two series of discussions in small groups—one studying the question of the Church and our loyalty to Jesus Christ, with the Bible as the starting point and text book; the other studying our relation to the Church as a practical Association problem. Mlle. de Dietrich, of the French National Committee (and of the French Student Movement) drew up an admirable series of outlines for discussion, which were circulated beforehand, and group leaders were instructed daily by Mlle. de Dietrich. The result of much careful preparation was the admirable work done in the Bible Study with which each day opened. The groups brought the summary of their discussions to Mlle. de Dietrich, who three times during the week gave the whole meeting her own final summaries. These were truly inspiring occasions.

Another series of groups discussed on three mornings the questions arising out of the answers to the questionnaires, the suggested questions being, What is the reason for the existence of the Y.W.C.A.? How is the function of the Association different from that of the Church? What is the sphere for which we are training our members? The leaders of these groups met daily with Miss Heath, General Secretary of Kingston, Jamaica, who on the fourth day presented a stimulating summary of the discussions, from which we quote the following extracts:—

"It was soon discovered that the problem lay, not in the new countries and not in older countries where the Association had recently started its work in response to a real felt need, but rather in countries where the Association had led the way for many years, and where the churches and other organisations had, in certain measure, adopted our programme, and were carrying out many of our methods of work. Is there still a need for the Y.W.C.A. in countries which come under this heading? In some of these countries a great deal of criticism had been levelled at the Asso-



World's Committee Group, Oxford.

ciation, and some were finding that life was difficult for some of their own local Associations when situated in districts in which a number of churches were working on Institutional lines. Their work had been of undoubted value in the past; was it still needed to-day?

This brought the groups to their first point, viz., "that the Y.W.C.A. had always been a pioneer and that certain pioneering work is still necessary to-day, which work, in the opinion of many present, the Y.W.C.A., by reason of its greater flexibility, of its democratic organisation and of its interdenominational character, is able to give. The Y.W.C.A. can undoubtedly cut across all sections of women and girls, and make experiments which are not possible in bodies which are more tightly controlled and tied up with traditions and constitutions which are a heritage of the past.

"It was further felt that the Y.W.C.A. in many countries, by reason of its specialised knowledge of the spiritual, educational and industrial needs of women and girls, and by reason of its close links with all the churches, is trusted and consulted by many organisations engaged in doing humanitarian work, whether on a definitely Christian or on a non-Christian basis. In such countries the emphasis has shifted and pioneering work has (except in times of national emergency) tended to move forward into co-operative work.

"It was felt that in these days of transition it was essential that there should be a Christian Association, controlled by women, which will give to the younger girls and women a greater measure of opportunity for expressing themselves and greater powers of responsibility than are possible in men-led organisations and in the churches at this time.

"It was also felt that the Association was better equipped than most organisations to meet the needs of girls who wanted work in which they could put into actual practice the ideals which had been presented to them in the Churches, and that our work with industrial girls and with younger girls gave such opportunity to a large number of younger people, and enabled them to put their Christian principles into action.



Palestine, Bulgaria, Hungary and Sweden.

"The strongest opinion of all, and one that found expression in every group, was our right to exist because of our unique position as a world wide fellowship with a definitely Christian background and purpose.

"Emphasis was laid upon the necessity for frankly facing up to the question of whether in our national and local associations we do have in our minds a definite sphere for which our membership is being trained.

"There was an acknowledgment in many groups that the sphere for which we were preparing our membership was very varied.

"It would appear that in some countries the main insistence has been on the following of Jesus Christ mainly as individuals, whilst in others the fact is more truly realised that the Association must emphasise its distinct Christian message in the life of the community, the state, and the world, through its collective thinking which finds its expression in and through the personal life of its Christian membership."

"Much still remains to be done in the training of the whole membership in the knowledge of economic and social questions, particularly those relating more especially to women and children. If the Association is to have the courage to advocate the taking of a definite stand on the part of committees and National Boards in regard to moral standards in our different countries, the education of our whole membership is our first step, in order that Boards taking this stand may realise they have the membership solidly behind them.

It appeared to be not very clearly realised in some countries how much could be done through lectures, talks, discussions, magazine reading, etc., to educate the membership, as a whole, to think more clearly upon the affairs of their own and of other countries, thus assisting girls to take a more intelligent interest in public matters and helping them, in countries where women have the vote, to make the wisest possible use of it."

The summaries of both discussion groups were felt to be so valuable, that it was decided to publish them in printed form as soon as possible in English, French and German.

THE BUSINESS SESSIONS

An average of two hours a day was given to the formal business of the committee, and in addition five hours were given to hearing reports from countries. These reports in the first session were given in three sections, dealing respectively with work among industrial, rural and educated girls; at the second session, reports were given on the most important progress during the last two years, and at the final sessions Associations reported on the lines along which advance was most urgently needed. The two latter sessions were unofficially entitled "Conquered Fields" and "Fields to Conquer!" In order to give a background

for these reports, a handbook, entitled "Association Chronicles" had been prepared, giving a brief history of every Association.

One session was devoted to reports from other societies. A report was presented on the work of the Institute of Pacific Relations, which was held in Honolulu from June 30—July 14, of last year. Several Association leaders from China, Japan and the U.S.A. had been present at the Institute, the work of which is felt to be of great value. Mme. Pannier, one of the French delegates, who represents the World's Y.W.C.A. on the Comité d'Entente of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, gave a brief summary of the work of that Committee of which our Association is one of the original members. Miss E. Picton-Turbervill, a fraternal delegate to the I.W.S.A. Conference in Paris, gave a most lively and enthusiastic report of that great meeting. Finally a report was given of the International Migration Service, an offspring of the World's Committee, having been originally the Migration Committee of the World's Y.W.C.A.

These are only a few of the international societies which apply to the World's Executive Committee for co-operation of some kind. Not a week, sometimes not a day, passes but some invitation is received, to send a fraternal delegate to a conference, to appoint a representative for a committee, to exchange publications, to join in consultation, or to co-operate in some other manner. Up till now all such appeals have come under the item Miscellaneous Business on the fortnightly agenda of the Executive Committee, but it has been apparent for some time that there must be some more adequate method of dealing with them. Arising out of the General Secretary's report, therefore, a resolution was carried to appoint a Standing Committee on Co-operation, to deal with all matters relating to other societies, excepting only the World's Y.M.C.A., and the World's Student Christian Federation.

These two bodies, always spoken of as our two kindred societies, and with whom there have been for years the most friendly relations, are to receive yet more consideration in future. There is to be more consultation, not only between members of staff, but between members of committee also, with a view to sharing new ideas and planning joint enterprises.

It was a real loss to the Committee that Miss Mary Dingman, Secretary to the Industrial Advisory Committee, was detained in the United States owing to serious illness. At her request, the Chairman of the Committee, Miss Constance Smith, presented two points for consideration: First, that the World's Association should enquire into industrial conditions and economic problems in regard to their national and international implications. This was agreed by the Committee, and it was resolved that there should be a special industrial commission at the time of the next World's Conference. Secondly, that the World's Committee should forward a memorandum to the Committee of the International Missionary Council, at its July meeting, when the agenda for the next proposed World Missionary Conference is to be set up, urging the Council to set aside time to consider the bearing of economic problems and industrial conditions on mission work. The World's Committee agreed to forward such a memorandum, and Miss Smith was responsible for the document. Miss Dingman has recently spent two years in China, paying a visit also to Japan, and the Industrial Advisory Committee of the World's Association has spent much time in the consideration of problems arising out of present industrial conditions in India, China and Japan. Many members of the World's Committee are well aware of the inter-relation of economic to international problems, and of both to the missionary enterprise, and were ready therefore heartily to endorse the above memorandum.



The Chairman of the Training Committee with a Roumanian Student.

IMPRESSIONS AND EXPERIENCES AT THE INTERNATIONAL STUDY COURSE, STORRINGTON, SUSSEX, JUNE 11-25.

IN any account that I would give of the Study course, I would begin with the best part of the whole experience: we could say, here is love and fellowship. All of us who took part, more than forty of us from more than twenty countries, are grateful to those in charge for this impression, this atmosphere which they brought with them. The Y.W.C.A. is a family of which the children are scattered throughout the wide world, differing as to their surroundings and their needs, and consequently in their work, but they have a common purpose and a common loyalty.

As to our studies, both in particular and in general, there was a great deal to be learnt as to fundamental principles. What do our girls need? This question was sounded again and again, in all discussion and in every address. We desire to disclose to them the oneness of life; Christianity must not be shut up in one compartment, but must flow out into every region of life; this was the theme of the course: "The oneness of life; the search for beauty, truth and goodness."

Two sessions were held before noon; the first to study the Bible; this was done in three sections; on the first day a general address was given, on the second the conference was divided into small groups to discuss the subject introduced the previous day, and on the third day the conference met together to hear the summary of the group discussions. Three subjects were dealt with during the fortnight.

The second session was given to talks on Psychology, Social Hygiene, and How to draw up an Association programme. These were of great interest and practical value. Sometimes we sat round the fireplace; at others, our meetings were held in the sunshine of the garden, with the lovely Downs all round us. It was a temptation in such a quiet, friendly retreat to forget all the needs and cares of our work at home, but that would have been contrary to the aim of the Course. We had, rather, to open our eyes all the wider, and to think together by what ways and means we could gain a clearer vision of our tasks.

It is worthy of note that we not only considered in theory the oneness of life, but worked it out in actual practice during the Course. Beauty and joy went side by side with strenuous work throughout the whole day, from the early morning hour when we exerted ourselves to perform Swedish exercises by the side of a sweet smelling rose bed. Perhaps this was most evident in the fact that there were many free hours each

day. Every afternoon we were left to our own devices and pursued delights of every variety, whether that might be quiet and rest, reading in the library, or a long walk, when one might exchange questions and news with Association leaders from far-away lands. In addition there were the special joys of drives to Worthing on the South coast, and to Arundel with its wonderful old castle. Then two hospitable families invited us to their respective houses, where we foreigners might gain some idea of English homes and gardens, and at one of which we were treated to chamber music.

The evenings were a great delight. Much secrecy was here required beforehand! "National evenings" of a most charming character were given us. Wonderful national costumes, folk dances, games and songs delighted our eyes and ears. One evening Indian folk-tales were recited; another, we heard of modern life in Palestine. Our New Zealander, who had long weeks of travel behind her, gave a native dance; on other evenings, Holland, Sweden, Roumania, Hungary (to mention only a few) gave a glimpse of their countries—and how we listened when China talked!

In looking back over these fourteen days we are filled with joy and thankfulness, and also with the earnest wish that our work may be broadened and deepened thereby.

G. HARTLIEB (translated).

FROM A REPORT FROM OSAKA, JAPAN.

We visited an island off the west coast of Japan. We had a friend there, the manager of a large cotton mill, and he had been urging us to come and see the mill for some time. Our Sunday morning audience was 2,200 little factory girls who were as undeveloped mentally and physically and spiritually as any group of a similar kind I have ever seen. The dormitories were splendid, well managed, clean, airy, full of sunshine, and with beautiful gardens outside, but the workers were a depressing sight, so stunted in all that makes life worth living. They literally mobbed us when the authority of the foreman became a little lax, for they had never seen a foreigner before, and we had almost to fight our way out of the midst of them. The whole dormitory system is so contrary to nature that even good ones cannot offset the damage the system does.

During the visit to Tokushima, we were both asked to speak at a mass meeting for women in the town, organised by the leading newspaper as part of the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary. The meeting was to be in the town hall, formerly the palace of the local Daimyo, and we both prepared for an audience suited to the surroundings. I was to speak on Home Economic Problems of Women as a Foreigner Sees Them, Takabatake San was speaking on the Industrial Problem in Relation to Women. When we faced the audience, it was to see a group of about seven hundred men, mostly labourers, whom I felt sure thought they were coming to hear a labour harangue, and about a hundred women, mostly grandmothers who went to sleep before the speaking even began. Takabatake San soon won their closest attention, and they listened with the greatest interest. When my turn came, I told them they were a proof of what I had intended to say to their wives, and that was that because of the laborious and inefficient way in which the Japanese homes were run, women had no leisure outside the home, and they proved my point by coming as their wives' representatives, their wives being too worn out or occupied with home duties to be able to come; that therefore as representatives they had to listen carefully and carry back what I was about to say to their wives. Living in a Japanese house for four years, I was well qualified to speak on its weak points, and they appreciated the various points, and we had a good time over it, but how much trickled back to the women I cannot say.

NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS.

It has been recommended to the delegates at the Congress in Paris to try and form in their respective countries National Committees of members of the societies to take up all the international matters of the Alliance that are sent out to the auxiliaries to be dealt with.

I have already given an account in "Jus" (August, 1923) about such a Committee and how it works in Holland, but I am asked to give some more information, and gladly do so.

We in Holland have a *National Committee for International Affairs*. This Committee consists of 12 members who are nominated at the annual meeting of our "League of Women Citizens."

The President of our National Society serves also as President on this Committee, as the International Headquarters corresponds only with the President.

Most of the members of that Committee are the delegates to the International Congresses.

When the President has received letters from Headquarters, she calls a meeting and the International questions are treated and discussed. If questionnaires have to be filled in or reports to be given, these are given to the member of the Committee who has made a special study of the question. Amongst these same members are chosen the ones to serve on the International Commissions ("Like Conditions of Work," "Nationality of Married Women," etc., etc.). Each year at our annual meeting the Secretary of the National Committee for International Affairs must give a full report of the proceedings, and thus our whole Society of Women Citizens keeps in touch with things going on in the Alliance. This report appears afterwards in our monthly organ.

Some months before the next Congress is held, the members are asked if they intend to go as delegates to the Congress; of course, there are always some of them who are unable to attend; then other members are co-opted.

As each country is entitled to have 12 delegates and 12 alternates, we try and find these 24 delegates, and we hold, during that time, a great number of meetings with all of them.

This enables them to discuss all Congress questions and to understand the important matters coming up. Of course, if each delegation coming to the Congress were educated likewise the proceedings of the Congress would be far easier. Now we often find that some of the delegates have never seen any of the International correspondence, and come to the Congress unprepared.

Therefore I once more recommend to each National Auxiliary to form such a Committee as soon as possible. Try and find members from different parts of your country. A good way of making propaganda for the International Alliance is to go and speak about the Paris Congress and then to make national members.

Baarn, Holland.

ROSA MANUS.

July, 1926.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

The London skies and London crowds smiled on the Equal Franchise Procession of July 3rd. It was a fine pageant and a great success. Those of us who marched in the old pre-war suffrage processions were struck by the different attitude of the crowd—even clubland seemed to be more kindly. St. Joan's had a very fine contingent, led by our Founder, Miss Gabrielle Jeffery, carrying the colours; then came our new banner, "St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance," and further down the line came our dear old banner, "The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society," which has so often braved the battle and the breeze; this was followed by members of the Committee with Mrs. Murphy and Miss Parnell, Chairman and Hon. Secretary of our Liverpool Branch, and other members of the Alliance; then came our beautiful banner of St. Joan. We were glad to welcome two Dutch members of St. Joan's. Our

speakers were Father Arthur Day, S.J., Miss Monica Whately, Mr. Joseph Clayton, and three "Under Thirties"—whose excellent speeches greatly impressed the crowd—Miss Barclay Carter, Miss Monica O'Connor, and Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, Hon. Secretary of our Liverpool Branch. Miss Eleanor FitzGerald presided. (Great Britain.)

WOMEN'S WORK IN POLAND.

FROM the first moment of Poland's re-birth as an independent State, women have taken an active and important part in public affairs. The suffrage was granted them at once without any need of insistence on the part of women themselves. In view of the inestimable service Polish women had rendered to the national cause, the devotion and patriotism shown by them during the years of captivity it would indeed have been a disgrace to Polish manhood had they been shut out from the right to vote in public affairs or to participate in the government. Therefore women sit both in the Parliament and on the municipal boards. The universities and higher schools are open to them, and there is no intellectual profession which does not number among its ranks women of eminence. Their co-operation in the Ministry of Labour and social protection has proved most beneficial, and needless to say that they have long since proved their value in the medical profession. We have, however, also women engineers, architects, and even land surveyors and measurers. In so agricultural a country as Poland it is natural that there are many women land owners and agriculturists. Therefore it seems a strange anomaly that in a State where women have been so freely admitted to co-operation in public affairs, where we have women barristers in an ever increasing number, women have been excluded from the judicial bench. Women may plead at court, but they may not judge. They are admitted to studies in the Court of Justice, and before becoming full fledged barristers they must pass an examination before the bench of Judges, but nevertheless are excluded from taking part themselves as Judges. This inconsistency has called forth a protest from women who first of all point out that their exclusion is not in accordance with the statutes of the constitution that make no difference between the sexes, according equal rights to all, and secondly the women contend that in many cases justice would be better served by the admission of women to the judicial bench, more especially in the case of juvenile offenders, when a woman's keener insight and greater sympathy would doubtless prove invaluable. Another source of unfairness towards women lies in the fact that the former Russian part, which comprises the larger part of Poland, is still under the "code Napoleon," which was established in the time of the creation of the Poland of the Congress of 1815. As is well known, this code is glaringly unfair towards women, placing them under numerous disabilities, and in a position of dependence on their husbands. At present Polish jurists are working out a unified code of justice for the whole country, but until this code becomes practicable for the whole community the old code is binding and thus women are still in a dependent position before the law.

In the service of anti-alcoholism and prohibition women of all classes in Poland are the most active in the community, and thanks to them restriction bills have been initiated and passed in the Parliament. Likewise their influence in the fighting against prostitution, the white slave trade, and all forms of immorality has been widely and beneficially felt. Within the space of a short article it is impossible to enumerate all the activities of Polish women. I will conclude, therefore, only with mentioning their services in the cause of peace. The Polish section of the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom counts a large number of members, and has branches in all the larger Polish towns.

K. MELECKA.

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE CONGRESS.

Dublin, July 8th to 15th, 1926.

THE Fifth Biennial International Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom met in Dublin from July 8th to 15th, under the presidency of Miss Jane Addams, of the United States.

The following countries sent delegates:—Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Japan, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

Delegates were promised also from Greece, Italy, and the Ukraine, but those from the two latter countries were not permitted by their Governments to attend. In the case of the Ukrainian delegates (who are a minority under Poland), the Polish delegation telegraphed to their Government to urge that permission should be given. Altogether 120 delegates attended besides many alternates and visitors.

The arrangements for the Congress made by the Irish Committee were admirable, both on the business side and for social gatherings, and much delightful hospitality was enjoyed. Since the first Congress, held at the Hague in 1915 to protest against the war and to make concrete suggestions for a peace of conciliation, and the Zurich Congress of 1919, when the terms of the treaties met with keen criticism, the peace work of the League has developed on constructive lines. No longer in any country is it necessary or useful to rouse a mere general sentiment for peace—that is present everywhere—and mere peace speeches fail to interest audiences. What is wanted and what is given are consideration of problems which if left unsolved may lead to war, and concrete proposals for securing peaceful solutions.

Thus at Dublin the points chiefly considered were: (1) the problems of minorities; (2) of economic and colonial imperialism; and (3) of arbitration, conciliation and disarmament versus militarism. The Congress divided into three commissions for the detailed study of these subjects, on which reports from the sections were sent in before the Congress, and on which rapporteurs had previously been appointed. These commissions met each day and presented the results of their deliberations at the closing sessions of the Congress, in a long series of far-reaching resolutions. The evening sessions likewise were devoted to speeches from representatives of different countries on Women's work for Peace, Economic Imperialism, Arbitration and Conciliation versus Militarism, and the Treatment of racial Minorities. Marcelle Cappy (France) was acclaimed as the great emotional orator of the Congress, and great appreciation was expressed for the clear and convincing arguments of Mrs. Swanwick and Miss Courtney on Arbitration, of Frau Yella Hertzka, Mme. Cederfeld and Miss Daugaard, on Minorities.

Everyone who attended the Congress, both old and new members, realised the infinite value of having as its President Miss Jane Addams, whose noble, wise and sweet personality pervades every department of work done, and whose conciliatory spirit succeeds in harmonising conflicting views as no one else could. A witty report or humorous comment from the chair often solved the apparently insoluble and averted a deadlock.

Mrs. Ramondt Hirschmann, of Holland, the recording and financial secretary, did Trojan's work, as usual, and proved quite indispensable. Dr. Aletta Jacobs, in spite of recent severe illness, braved the fatigue of long sessions and was warmly welcomed as a veteran in all good causes. Mrs. Martha Larssen-Jahn, of Norway, won great praise. Gertrud Baer, of Germany, Miss Widegren and Mrs. Waern Bugge, of Sweden, Miss Jodai, of Japan, were amongst the many who worked hard and contributed to the success of the Congress.

Two ladies who were very greatly missed were Miss Emily Balch, the first international secretary, whose valuable work at Geneva and at former Congresses have earned her the deep gratitude of all sections, and Miss Vilma Glucklich, of Hungary, who succeeded her at Geneva, and who has also done excellent work for the League. In spite of their absence, both were elected to seats on the Executive—which also includes the following:—Louie Bennett (Ireland), Gertrud Baer (Germany), Martha Larssen-Jahn (Norway), Catherine Marshall (England), Mme. Duchêne (France), Mrs. Ramondt Hirschmann (Holland), Clara Ragaz (Switzerland).

An interesting and encouraging account was given by Madeline Doty (international secretary) of the work at Maison Internationale, Geneva, and of the success of "Pax International," the monthly paper.

The only regrettable feature of the Congress was the use made of it as a platform for intense nationalist propaganda by representatives of one nation. As this is a real danger at international congresses, we feel it right to protest against what is a misuse of what should be purely international and pacifist.

M.S.

REVIEWS.

The Y.W.C.A. Chronicles.

The Y.W.C.A. has published in book form the history of the Y.W.C.A. Associations all over the world—Africa, America, Asia, Australasia and Europe. Almost all the histories have been written by a leader of the Association in the country concerned. The volume is a very valuable book of reference for all interested in the work of the Y.W.C.A. There is also a French edition of the book. The book, entitled "Association Chronicles," can be obtained from the World's Y.W.C.A., 34 Baker Street, London, W.1.

University Women.

The Business and University Committee, chairman, the Viscountess Rhondda, J.P.; vice-chairman, Professor Caroline Spurgeon, Litt.D., has just issued a pamphlet, "Is the University-Trained Woman Worth Employing?" giving the reasons why the University woman is worth employing. The pamphlet is being sent to all large employers of labour in the commercial and industrial world.

Electricity and the Home.

The Electrical Association for Women has founded a new magazine entitled "The Electrical Age for Women," of which we have received the first number. The magazine is to be published at first quarterly; as the demand increases, and a monthly publication is needed, the magazine will appear as a monthly. The new paper is welcomed by many distinguished men and women, including Dame Millicent Fawcett and Mr. R. P. Sloan, C.B.E., M.I.E.E., President of the British Electrical Developments Association, and Chairman of Newcastle-on-Tyne Electric Supply Co.

"The Electrical Age," says Mr. Sloan, "should act as a much needed link between the women who are studying electricity and its many uses, and those who will benefit by its application, particularly in the home." There is no doubt that electricity can revolutionise all work in the home.

The Electric Association for Women, founded in 1924, has grown so rapidly that it has become necessary to have an organ of its own to express the Association's point of view and report its activities.

The magazine is under the able editorship of Miss C. Haslett, and can be obtained from 26 George Street, Hanover Square, London, W.1, price 6d. This first number has a foreword by Lady Astor, the first President of the Electrical Association for Women.

We cordially wish long life and prosperity to this new paper. L. de A.

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

Sixième Assemblée (1925).

Fru Wicksell.
Fröken Forchhammer.
Madame Martha Larsen Jahn.
Mlle Hélène Vacaresco.
Her Grace the Duchess of Atholl, M.P. (délégation britannique).
Mrs. R. R. S. MacKinnon, O.B.E. (délégation australienne).

Ces femmes ont toutes siégé non seulement en leur qualité de déléguées techniques ou suppléantes, mais ont encore contribué définitivement au travail des commissions nommées par l'Assemblée qui siègent en même temps, pour préparer les rapports qui sont finalement adoptés en séances plénières. En général les femmes ont siégé à la V^e Commission qui s'occupe de questions sociales: Traite des femmes et des enfants, protection des femmes et des enfants dans le Proche Orient, l'Opium, les réfugiés, la protection de l'enfance. Fru Wicksell, en outre, siège généralement à la 1^{ère} Commission (juridique) et Fröken Forchhammer à la 2^e Commission (Organisations techniques).

Le Conseil.

Le Conseil se compose de quatre membres permanents (Empire britannique, France, Italie, Japon) et de six membres non permanents, élus chaque année.

A la Commission des Mandats Fru Wicksell (suédoise) sert depuis 1920 seule femme avec 8 membres hommes.

Au Comité d'hygiène en 1921 Dr. Josephine Baker (américaine) seule femme avec 15 hommes, Dr. Hamilton lui a succédé depuis dans ce rôle si important.

La Commission qui s'occupe des femmes et des enfants déportés en Asie Mineure a eu Miss Cushman et Miss Karen Jeppe à son service.

A la Commission Consultative de la traite des femmes et des enfants et de la protection de l'enfance: Miss Abbot, Children's Bureau, Dept. of Labour, Washington; Dr. Estrid Hein, Danemark, Dr. Paulina Luisi d'Uruguay siègent comme membres de la Commission, et Miss Baker, Bureau international pour la suppression de la traite des femmes et des enfants; Mme Avril de Sainte Croix, Organisations féministes internationales; Mme de Montenach, Associations catholiques pour la protection de la jeune fille; Mme Curchod Secrétan, Fédération des Unions Nationales des Amies de la Jeune fille, siègent comme assesseurs.

Les assesseurs que concernent spécialement la protection de l'enfance sont:

Dame Katherine Furse, Organisations des Eclaireurs et des Eclaireuses; Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Associations internationales féministes; Miss Eglantyne Jebb, Unions internationales de secours aux enfants, Mlle. Whitton et Mlle Burniau.

Au comité spécial d'experts nommés par le Conseil afin d'enquêter sur l'extension de la traite des Femmes et des enfants siègent avec 6 hommes Dr. Paulina Luisi et la Princesse Cristina Bandini.

A la Commission de Coopération intellectuelle, Mme Curie Skłodowska et Dr. Bonnevie sont les membres féminins; de même, elles siègent à la sous-commission de bibliographie. A la sous commission des lettres et des arts, Mlle Vacaresco est un des membres adjoints et représente en même temps le Gouvernement roumain auprès de l'institut de Coopération intellectuelle.

Le Secrétariat.

Le Secrétariat est un organe permanent, établi au siège de la Société à Genève. Il est chargé de la préparation des décisions du Conseil et de l'Assemblée.

Il est divisé en sections, d'après les ordres d'affaires à traiter, et non d'après les nations qui forment la Société. Chaque section comprend des membres de plusieurs nationalités. Les postes dans les sections

LES FEMMES ET LA SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

POUR comprendre l'oeuvre des femmes à la Société des Nations, il faut rappeler ici les grandes lignes de son organisation et se rappeler que c'est, évidemment, pour répondre aux tendances générales de notre époque, et pour satisfaire aux demandes formulées par les grandes organisations féminines internationales et présentées dans un memorandum, à la Commission pour la préparation du Traité de Paix, le 18 mars 1919 que fut incorporée au Pacte de la Société des Nations la phrase suivante:

"Toutes les fonctions de la Société ou des services qui s'y rattachent, y compris le Secrétariat, sont également 'accessibles aux hommes et aux femmes.'"

Les principaux organes de la Société des Nations sont:

l'Assemblée,
le Conseil,
Le Secrétariat et
2 organisations adjointes:
La Cour Permanente de Justice Internationale,
et le Bureau International du Travail.

L'Assemblée.

L'Assemblée est composée de représentants des 55 Etats membres de la Société, à raison de 3 délégués (avec un seul vote) par Etat; mais chaque délégation est assistée de délégués suppléants et techniques, et c'est surtout parmi ces derniers que les femmes ont été appelées à jouer un rôle aux Assemblées de la Société des Nations.

Voici les noms des déléguées femmes aux Assemblées:

Première Assemblée, en 1920.

Fru Wicksell, Déléguée suppléante de la délégation suédoise,
Fröken Forchhammer, Conseiller technique sur les questions féminines (délégation danoise).
Dr. Kristine Bonnevie, Déléguée suppléante (délégation norvégienne).

Deuxième Assemblée (1921).

Fru Wicksell, Déléguée suppléante (délégation suédoise).
Fröken Forchhammer, Conseiller technique sur les questions féminines (délégation danoise).
Dr. Kristine Bonnevie, déléguée suppléante (délégation norvégienne).
Mlle Hélène Vacaresco, déléguée suppléante (délégation roumaine).

Troisième Assemblée (1922).

Fru Wicksell.
Fröken Forchhammer.
Dr. Kristine Bonnevie.
Mlle Hélène Vacaresco.
Mrs. Coombe Tennant, J.P., déléguée suppléante (délégation britannique).
Mrs. Dale, déléguée suppléante (délégation australienne).

Quatrième Assemblée (1923).

Fru Wicksell.
Fröken Forchhammer.
Dr. Kristine Bonnevie.
Mlle Hélène Vacaresco.
Dame Edith Lytton, J.P. déléguée suppléante (délégation britannique).
Miss Jessie Webb, M.A., déléguée suppléante (délégation australienne).

Cinquième Assemblée (1924).

Fru Wicksell.
Fröken Forchhammer.
Dr. Kristine Bonnevie.
Mlle Hélène Vacaresco.
Mrs. Helena M. Swanwick (délégation britannique).
Mrs. S. M. Allan, Ll.B. (délégation australienne).

sont gradés comme suit : un directeur, des membres de catégories A et B, et des membres de la classe intermédiaire, y compris les secrétaires de section; des assistantes secrétaires sténo-dactylographes.

Plus de trente nationalités sont représentées à l'heure actuelle au Secrétariat.

Parmi les postes actuellement occupée par des femmes sont :

1°—Le Chef de la Section de l'Opium et des Questions Sociales Dame Rachel Crowdy (nationalité anglaise), qui a fait partie du Secrétariat dès l'origine de la Société des Nations; elle était au début chargée de toutes les questions sociales, et s'est vu adjoindre les travaux relatifs au trafic de l'opium. La Section Sociale comporte actuellement comme principaux sujets la traite des femmes et des enfants, le trafic de l'opium, la protection de l'enfance, la protection des femmes et des enfants dans le Proche Orient.

2°—La Bibliothécaire (de nationalité américaine), qui a organisé la bibliothèque du Secrétariat et créé tout le service, et une bibliothécaire-adjointe (de nationalité américaine).

3°—Un membre de section—classe B—(nationalité belge), faisait partie de la Section de l'Opium et des Questions intéressant la Protection de l'enfance.

Cour Permanente de Justice Internationale.

La Cour Permanente de Justice Internationale est composée de juristes éminents, elle ne comprend de femmes que dans son Secrétariat et pour des postes secondaires.

Organisation du Travail.

L'Organisation internationale du Travail a été instituée par les Traités de Paix de 1919, comme organisme associé à celui de la Société des Nations.

Les principes de cette organisation sont affirmés dans un préambule solennel qui consacre pour la première fois dans le monde moderne, et internationalement, les droits du travail (Partie XIII du Traité de Versailles).

L'organisation permanente comprend :

1°—Une Conférence générale des représentants des Membres;

2°—Un Bureau International du Travail sous la direction d'un Conseil d'administration.

En vertu de l'article 7 du Pacte toutes les fonctions de la Société ou des services qui s'y rattachent, y compris le Secrétariat, sont également accessibles aux hommes et aux femmes, et l'article 395 de la partie XIII du Traité de Versailles stipule qu'un certain nombre des personnes choisies par le Directeur du Bureau international du Travail "devront être des femmes." A l'heure actuelle le Bureau occupe 149 femmes, qui sont réparties de la façon suivante :

Quinze membres de section de catégorie B (rédactrices, traductrices, travaux scientifiques et bibliothécaires-adjointes) : 9 anglaises, 4 françaises, 1 norvégienne et 1 allemande;

Huit membres de section auxiliaires (rédactrices, recherches, relations) : 2 anglaises, 1 française, 1 danoise, 1 hollandaise, 1 irlandaise, 2 suisses;

On compte 119 femmes occupées tant aux travaux généraux : commis de différentes catégories, de bibliothèque, des archives, des impressions, etc. . . qu'au service de sténo-dactylographie : sténographes parlementaires, surveillantes, secrétaires, sténo-dactylographes, copistes, multigraphistes, ronéotistes. Ces groupes sont composés de 46 suisses, 30 françaises, 25 anglaises, 7 russes, 3 polonaises, 2 italiennes, 1 allemande, 1 belge, 1 hollandaise, 1 irlandaise, 1 letton et 1 tchécoslovaque.

Aux conférences internationales du Travail, les femmes ont pris part, à titre de déléguées ou de conseillers techniques des gouvernements, des organisations des employeurs et des ouvriers.

FINLANDE.

LA LOI CONCERNANT LES ENFANTS ADOPTÉS.

Autrefois il n'y avait en Finlande aucune loi concernant l'adoption des enfants. Après la guerre, l'adoption des enfants étant devenue plus habituelle et les parents adoptifs sollicitant pour leurs adoptés une position assurée, le manque de dispositions législatives se faisait de plus en plus sensible. En conséquence, une proposition conforme à la loi de la Suède, fut présentée par le gouvernement au Parlement et votée en 1925.

La permission d'adopter un enfant doit être demandée au Tribunal et sera accordée sous certaines conditions qui considèrent l'intérêt de l'enfant.

Pour obtenir l'adoption l'autorisation des parents ou du tuteur de l'enfant est exigé, elle n'est jamais accordée contre l'approbation de l'enfant si celui-ci est en état d'en juger lui-même.

Depuis l'adoption de cette loi, plusieurs enfants ont déjà été adoptés.

La Loi Concernant la Compétence des Femmes aux Fonctions Publiques.

La loi entra en vigueur le 25 avril, 1926. Les femmes peuvent être nommées à toutes les fonctions publiques. Pourtant, il est stipulé qu'à certaines fonctions qui sont mieux administrées soit par des hommes soit par des femmes, seul des hommes ou des femmes peuvent être nommés.

Les fonctions sont énumérées dans la loi du 23 avril, 1926. Les fonctions qui ne peuvent être confiées qu'aux femmes, sont : les Inspectrices de l'Economie domestique, le personnel des prisons de femmes, les Inspectrices de l'Enseignement de Gymnastique et d'Hygiène, et les Professeurs de Gymnastique et d'Hygiène, dans les Ecoles de filles, les Directrices des écoles normales de femmes.

Amendements à la Législation Criminelle Concernant la Protection des Femmes et des Enfants.

Les amendements ci-dessous mentionnés ont été présentés, au Parlement par nos premières femmes députées déjà en 1907, mais ils ne furent votés qu'en février, 1926.

Les dispositions nouvelles protègent aussi bien les garçons que les filles contre les crimes d'immoralité. C'est au Ministère Public de poursuivre de tels crimes commis contre des enfants au dessous de 15 ans. Auparavant, le terme était 12 ans. La condamnation peut aller jusqu'à 10 ans de reclusion.

En même temps que les dispositions contre les crimes d'immoralité, fut votée aussi une loi conforme à la convention de 1921 à Genève, concernant la traite des femmes et des enfants dont jusqu'ici rien n'avait été stipulé dans la législation Finlandaise.

Dans les mêmes textes, il est accordé aux femmes une protection judiciaire contre le séducteur si celui-ci s'est servi de moyens perfides ou a profité de la situation de supérieur ou de la situation abandonnée de la femme.

Pour l'Education Professionnelle des Institutrices Ménagères.

En 1925, le Parlement vota une Ecole normale publique, soutenue aux frais de l'Etat. Ainsi fut menée à bonne fin une question qui a traîné depuis 1907.

Des Amendements à la Législation du Mariage

Ont déjà été discutés au Parlement, mais furent renvoyés au Gouvernement pour nouvelle proposition.

La Nationalité de la Femme Mariée.

Le Gouvernement a présenté une proposition au Parlement qui la discutera aux séances d'automne, et toute la question sera votée dans le sens que la femme ne perdra pas sa nationalité en épousant un étranger, et en général pas sans son propre consentement.

LA NATIONALITÉ DE LA FEMME MARIÉE.

Puis-je me marier, demande une jeune institutrice. Je suis fiancée depuis quelques années avec un étranger, et je ne veux abandonner ni ma profession qui m'est chère, ni mon fiancé qui me plaît?

La loi sur la nationalité de la femme mariée est-elle votée?

Mariez-vous, Mademoiselle, vous ferez bien... ne vous mariez pas...

La loi sur la nationalité de la femme mariée fut discutée le 10 avril 1924 devant la Chambre, qui en adopta de nombreux articles et la renvoya au Sénat.

Le Sénat adopta et renvoya à la Chambre, où certains articles subiront de nouvelles modifications. Si ce petit jeu vous amuse...

Mais, répondons aux jeunes filles qui veulent se marier avec des étrangers, tout en restant Françaises.

Les articles adoptés décident que "la femme française qui épouse un étranger conserve sa nationalité, à moins qu'elle ne déclare expressément, dans l'acte de mariage, vouloir acquiescer en conformité des dispositions de la loi nationale du mari, la nationalité de ce dernier. Elle perd la qualité de Française si le domicile des époux est fixé hors de France lors de la célébration du mariage et si elle acquiert nécessairement la nationalité du mari en vertu de la loi nationale de ce dernier."

La Chambre, envisageant la situation des femmes déjà mariées décida qu'une disposition transitoire ainsi conçue serait votée :

"Toute Française qui aura épousé un étranger antérieurement à la mise en vigueur de la présente loi, peut, avec l'autorisation maritale, si le domicile matrimonial est fixé en France et si l'intéressé réside depuis deux ans au moins en territoire français, recouvrer la nationalité française par une déclaration faite devant le juge de paix de son domicile dans l'année de la promulgation de la présente loi."

"En cas d'absence, de disparition ou d'incapacité légale du mari, l'intéressée peut, sans aucune autorisation, souscrire cette déclaration."

Le Sénat, reprenant tous ces articles, les a votés sans les modifier. La disposition transitoire proposée par la Chambre a été adoptée.

Les femmes françaises qui auront épousé des étrangers avant la promulgation de la loi, auront la faculté de recouvrer leur nationalité perdue.

Mariez-vous, Mesdemoiselles, soyez heureuses. La loi sera votée bientôt. Nous l'espérons, nous l'attendons, et vous pourrez alors, avec quelques petites formalités que nous vous faciliterons à ce moment, être de nouveau Françaises.

Tout vient à point à qui sait attendre!

YVONNE NETTER,

La Française. Avocat à la Cour.

QUEBEC.

Lois injustes pour les femmes.

Le père a seul autorité pour l'éducation et la disposition des enfants bien que la mère soit également responsable pour leur maintien.

Une fille de douze ans peut se marier même contre le désir de sa mère pourvu que le père consente.

Aucun chirurgien ne peut opérer une femme ou un enfant mineur, même pour lui sauver la vie, sans l'autorisation du mari ou du père.

En cas de séparation le père a les droits légaux sur les enfants à moins que la cour n'en décide autrement.

S'il n'y pas de contrat de mariage le mari a l'administration complète des biens de sa femme et peut même recevoir son salaire.

Le mari peut vendre sans le consentement de sa femme les biens accumulés conjointement et il n'a besoin de lui donner qu'une petite allocation s'il le désire.

Une épouse ne peut pas avoir recours à une action légale, disposer de ses biens légaux, accepter un don

de propriété ou entrer dans le commerce sans l'autorisation de son mari.

Si une femme quitte son mari il a le droit de l'obliger, même par force à rejoindre le domicile conjugal.

Un homme peut obtenir une séparation de corps à cause de l'adultère de sa femme; il est nécessaire avant que la femme puisse obtenir la même chose que le mari entretienne sa concubine au domicile conjugal.

Une femme, bien que séparée de son mari, et séparée de biens ne peut pas vendre ses biens sans son consentement.—Imprimé par The Franchise Committee of the Montreal Women's Club.

LE FOYER DE LA FEMME.

Le "Foyer de la Femme" à Bruxelles.—Le "Home Edith Cavell," 26 rue de Parme, Bruxelles, et la "Maison Yvonne Vieslet," 51 chaussée de Vleurgat, accueilleront amicalement les dames et jeunes filles anglaises devant séjourner à Bruxelles. Prix très modéré.

NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES. GRANDE-BRETAGNE.

"The British Commonwealth League" a réuni une conférence les 22 et 23 juin, précédée d'un lunch public au Criterion, où la duchesse d'Atholl, Miss Wilkinson et la vicomtesse Astor étaient les invitées d'honneur. Lady Astor a rappelé que le travail fait hors du Parlement est plus important encore que le travail parlementaire. Le premier jour de la conférence il y eut des discussions intéressantes sur la position des femmes dans l'administration et les carrières nombreuses qui s'ouvrent à elles dans les Dominions. Miss Pott fit remarquer qu'avant la guerre le gouvernement n'avait pris aucune mesure pour assister ses émigrants; mais aussitôt après, une commission fut réunie pour faire une enquête sur l'émigration, une sous-section fut nommée pour s'occuper des femmes et des jeunes filles, et des femmes firent partie de la grande commission d'enquête et de la commission des établissements d'outre-mer qui existèrent jusqu'en 1922. Après quoi, on nomma un comité statutaire composé de fonctionnaires, et plusieurs groupes de femmes fondèrent des sociétés féminines correspondantes. Ces sociétés ont été reconnues d'utilité publique. Dans son discours, Lady Galway montra que les femmes instruites sont les plus aptes à réussir, mais le manque de domestiques, spécialement au Canada, Rhodesia et Nouvelle-Zélande rend leur oeuvre très difficile. Mrs. Rolfe et Mrs. Ross parlèrent de la responsabilité des Anglais, non seulement sur leurs nationaux, mais encore sur les peuples qu'ils protègent. Mrs. Dakschmi-Patti, de l'Association des femmes hindoues et Miss Allison Neilans parlèrent des conditions morales de Hong-Kong auxquelles il est nécessaire de remédier. La section de responsabilité morale approuva le rapport de la commission de l'Office colonial sur l'hygiène sociale au sujet de Singapour. Elle désire que ces questions soient portées devant le Comité d'enquête. La conférence se termina par la déclaration suivante : "Cette conférence reconnaît la responsabilité morale qui incombe aux citoyens de l'Empire britannique à l'égard des races moins avancées qui vivent dans ses frontières. Elle fait appel aux sociétés constituées pour examiner les problèmes que cette responsabilité implique, spécialement : (a) l'étude des lois en vigueur contre le vice, afin que les pénalités ne tombent pas exclusivement sur les femmes; (b) les méthodes employées spécialement dans les territoires donnés en mandat pour sauvegarder les femmes des races moins avancées."

LITHUANIE.

Quatre femmes ont été élues au Parlement : trois démocrates chrétiennes, Mmes Galdihas, Gwildys, Eladyga et une démocrate socialiste, Mme. Puzenas.

HOLLANDE.

Le meeting de la "Vereeniging van Staatsburgeressen" à Groningue a eu lieu les 26 et 27 juin. Des rapports très intéressants ont été faits sur : l'enfant naturel, les nouvelles lois sur le mariage. La société va réorganiser son comité des affaires internationales, pour lequel chaque branche élira une déléguée.

ETATS-UNIS.

La Ligue des électrices s'est occupée spécialement de la politique, des candidats, des campagnes électorales et a surtout appliqué son activité à combattre l'abstention et à faire l'éducation civique des femmes. Les statistiques montrent que le pourcentage des électeurs qui votent dans les différents pays est le suivant : Tchécoslovaquie, 91% ; Allemagne et Suisse, 85% ; France, 81% ; Grande-Bretagne, 80% E.U., 51% (alors qu'en 1876, le pourcentage était de 81%).

CANADA.

Au Canada une femme célibataire qui possède une propriété assez importante a le vote municipal et scolaire. Aussitôt mariée, elle perd ce droit (excepté à Québec où ce droit lui a été maintenu depuis 1854). Les suffragistes de Montréal ont trouvé un défenseur en la personne du député canadien irlandais Mr. Dillon. Il ménagea une entrevue entre le comité du club féministe et le comité exécutif du Conseil municipal de Montréal. Celui-ci vota l'amendement proposé ; mais le vote ne fut pas ratifié par le Conseil. Mr. Dillon alla à Québec où il présenta l'amendement à l'Assemblée législative ; il fut voté, mais le Conseil législatif (Sénat) le rejeta. Toutes ces démarches ont créé un mouvement d'opinion considérable.

HUITIEME SESSION DE LA CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL.

La simplification des formalités pour l'inspection des émigrants sur les bateaux a été le sujet principal des discussions. Le vote final a décidé :

(1) Qu'un seul inspecteur sera choisi par le gouvernement auquel appartient le vaisseau et enverra un rapport à tous les pays intéressés. En outre, une femme qualifiée sera choisie pour protéger les femmes et jeunes filles du bateau ; enfin, il y aura un interprète quand le bateau contiendra au moins 50 émigrants parlant une même langue étrangère.

(2) L'article 408 a été ainsi modifié : un comité d'experts examinera d'avance les rapports présentés par les différents pays et les soumettra à la conférence.

(c) Toutes les questions à l'ordre du jour seront discutées à l'avance par une commission spéciale.

Des résolutions ont été aussi adoptées concernant : le travail indigène, le chômage, les heures de travail, l'établissement d'un office de correspondant aux Indes, enfin l'organisation scientifique de l'industrie.

DISCOURS DE LA PRINCESSE CANTACUZENE (AU TROCADERO).**Déléguée de la Roumanie.**

Il était indispensable, en venant dans cette ville qui a toujours encouragé les nobles aspirations, que nous posions devant nous le grand problème de la Paix, le débarassant des paroles inutiles et l'abordant avec toute la sincérité que comporte un programme dont dépend le développement et l'avenir de la civilisation.

N'en doutons pas, Mesdames, c'est nous les femmes qui avons la responsabilité du maintien de la Paix, car donnant la vie, nous avons le devoir de la préserver de la mort.

En bien, il faut l'avouer, jamais nous n'avons été plus éloignés de la Paix que depuis que nous en parlons tout le temps et que nous nous leurrions (Applaudissements)

ments) et que nous nous leurrions de vaines paroles et de vaines illusions.

Partout il n'y a que chaos, instabilité, luttes âpres dans tous les domaines.

Mais, est-ce la Paix que ce combat farouche économique ? Que cette politique des changes qui enrichit les uns, appauvrit les autres (Applaudissements très vifs) nous conduisant certainement tous à de nouvelles catastrophes par le nombre des chômeurs dans certains pays et par le renchérissement de la vie dans certains autres. (Applaudissements.)

Nous avons ici le devoir de dire courageusement la vérité et d'avouer que notre génération est beaucoup trop intoxiquée de passions, de colères, d'amertume, de haines obscures et quelquefois absurdes, pour être l'artisan éclairé de la vraie Paix.

Ceci n'empêche pas qu'à voir notre faiblesse morale, nous ne tachions pas de créer une nouvelle ambiance, et de donner son véritable essor à la religion de fraternité qui doit unir tous les humains. (Applaudissements.)

Nous, les femmes, nous penchant sur les berceaux, sur le coeur intact de nos enfants, des enfants de la nation, puisant la-bas de nouvelles forces rédemptrices, nous devons les pousser à se tendre les bras, sans différence de races et de religion dans un divin élan d'amour. (Applaudissements.)

Pour la réalisation de ce qu'on peut appeler un beau rêve, mais qui sera, si nous savons vouloir, une noble réalité, nous proposons que sous l'égide de la coopération intellectuelle, et avec le concours de la Société des Nations, se fonde l'organisation internationale des orphelins de guerre, ayant pour but l'organisation systématique des colonies de vacances entre enfants de différentes nations. (Applaudissements.)

Là, autour de ce foyer de l'enfance, les haines se tairaient, vainqueurs et vaincus s'inclinaient devant la majesté de la mort qui a frappé dès leur berceau, ces innocents.

Là, les femmes et les hommes de demain se connaîtraient, joueraient, riraient ensemble, pleureraient leurs parents morts et se promettaient de donner à la vie un sens plus élevé, plus noble, plus conforme à la justice et à la vérité.

Comme dans les plaines de la Marne en France, en Italie, en Roumanie, après le grand ouragan, la nature a repris ses droits et tout est redevenu de nouveau vert, fleuri, serein, de même autour de nos enfants, nous retrouverons l'équilibre et une juste appréciation des gens et des choses et nous aurons ainsi semé le grand amour ensemble pour le plus grand bien de la Société future.

Mais qu'on ne nous dise donc pas que la chose n'est pas possible ; il y a dix millions d'orphelins de guerre en Europe. Si nous voulons savoir, et nous pouvons le faire pour les orphelins car ils n'ont pas de famille, dans le courant de l'été prochain se formeront cinquante colonies de vacances, avec un roulement de mille enfants par colonie pendant les deux à trois mois de vacances, et nous aurons ainsi mis en contact cinquante mille enfants, Roumains, Hongrois, Français, Allemands, Polonais, Anglais, Autrichiens, etc., et nous aurons ainsi, Messieurs, non par des paroles mais par des faits, contribué à l'apaisement des âmes et des coeurs.

Pour la réalisation de ceci, financièrement parlant, nous aurions besoin de 20 à 25 millions de livres sterling qui seraient probablement donnés par les représentants des différents états à la Société des Nations, qui contribueraient ainsi, d'une manière effective à la grande œuvre d'apaisement.

Voilà, femmes de tous les Pays, la grande tâche qui nous attend. Elle est difficile, mais nos coeurs sont vaillants et nous sommes venues ici puiser à la source même de courage, de générosité !

Femmes de France, vous qui en tout êtes le symbole vivifiant de toutes les élégances morales et physiques, vous qui avez eu la généreuse idée de créer les "Ligues de bonté," inspirez-nous et aidez-nous pour sauver le monde d'une nouvelle éclipse.

LES FEMMES CONTRE LE CODE NAPOLEON.**Discours de Mme. Crinberg.**

Dès le début de cette réunion je voudrais en préciser le sens et la portée véritable. Vous savez quel est son objet : les femmes contre le Code Napoléon.

Est-ce à dire que nous allons faire une protestation contre ce monument législatif, dont la France est à juste titre fière puisqu'il a servi de modèle, soit en tout soit en partie, dans maintes législations, des pays civilisés.

Nous portons notre effort à attaquer, mais avec conviction, mais avec fermeté, le chapitre du mariage et de l'incapacité de la femme mariée ; mais, seconde précision, cette levée de boucliers contre le chapitre du code civil du mariage n'est point, vous en êtes sûrs, n'est-ce pas ? Une levée de boucliers contre l'institution du mariage lui-même.

Nous ne partons en guerre ni contre le mari, ni contre le mariage, ni contre la famille.

Mais notre code civil a été promulgué en 1804, il a par conséquent quelque chose comme 122 ans, ce qui n'est peut-être pas grand chose pour un chêne, mais est beaucoup pour une loi. Nous voudrions que ces lois archaïques par définition deviennent un peu plus modernes, et c'est pourquoi, après nous être rendu compte des difficultés constantes qu'elles soulèvent dans la pratique, nous trouvons nécessaire de demander, dans tous les pays où cette législation existe, qu'elle soit abrogée.

Le droit, Mesdames et Messieurs, n'est pas fixe ; pour un moment il se développe et évolue en même temps que la vie sociale, que la vie morale, que la vie économique des peuples, dont il n'est que le reflet et l'extériorisation.

C'est du jugement des institutions qu'est faite l'histoire. C'est de l'évolution des esprits qu'est fait le progrès. Par conséquent nous sommes donc dans la normale des choses lorsque nous demandons que des lois vieilles de plus d'un siècle se modifient. Pour nous, femmes d'aujourd'hui, il est si vrai que c'est l'évolution des esprits qui s'est modifiée que toute la vie quotidienne le prouve.

Lorsque les hommes qui sont omnipotents en matière législative veulent modifier quelque chose en faveur de leurs ambitions personnelles, ou satisfaire aux petites chapelles politiques, les hommes trouvent des raisons, des prétextes pour les modifications des lois. En voulez-vous un exemple ? Pendant longtemps les députés ont été élus au suffrage nominal et d'arrondissement ; et puis, l'évolution de l'état des esprits s'étant modifiée, les députés ont décidé qu'ils seraient désormais élus au scrutin de liste et puis, comme l'évolution des esprits s'est encore manifestée, ils ont encore décidé de revenir au scrutin d'arrondissement ! Ils appliquent ce principe essentiel dans tous les pays civilisés que les lois suivent les moeurs et les états d'esprit des différentes générations.

Je vous ai dit tout à l'heure que notre code a été promulgué en 1804 ; il est, vous le savez, la conséquence de la décision de la Constituante de 1791 d'une unification des lois de tout le royaume.

C'était une entreprise fort difficile, car vous savez que la France était partagée en pays de droit romain et de coutumes provinciales, et que les coutumes variaient non seulement d'une province à l'autre, mais encore de bourgades en bourgades. Il fallait, par conséquent, concilier des usages et des tendances diverses, quelquefois même contradictoires, et opérer une transaction qui n'apporte pas trop de secousses entre le passé et le présent.

Il y eut trois projets de Combacérés qui ne furent pas acceptés au lendemain du coup d'état du 18 brumaire, un 4ème projet subit le même sort, ce qui fait qu'à la fin de 1799 la nation attendait toujours son code civil.

Puis Napoléon Bonaparte Premier Consul réalisa l'unité législative et il est certain qu'à ce titre il a droit

à bien des félicitations. Mais Napoléon Bonaparte insista tout particulièrement pour que les articles relatifs au mariage fussent discutés en sa présence : le mariage de Napoléon Bonaparte n'était peut-être pas l'un de ceux qui assurent aux époux toute quiétude et toute tranquillité ! La séduisante Joséphine de Beauharnais était quelquefois, il faut l'avouer, un peu irritante, et son autoritaire mari était souvent très irrité ; je crois, je peux même dire que je suis à peu près sûre que nous avons subi, nous, pauvres femmes, les conséquences de la mauvaise humeur conjugale de Napoléon Bonaparte !

Il est bien vrai, Mesdames et Messieurs, que les femmes attirent très souvent le malheur aux autres femmes.

Eve, d'après l'Ecriture, aurait été condamnée, elle et celles qui viendraient après elle, à enfanter dans la douleur.

Joséphine fut infidèle à Bonaparte, et il décida qu'à l'avenir les femmes seraient soumises à leur mari, et devraient l'obéissance passive.

Nous ne pouvons rien, évidemment, contre les décisions qui ont été prises au Paradis terrestre, mais nous pouvons probablement contre celles qui ont été le reflet de la pensée et des opinions personnelles de Napoléon.

"Les peuples de l'Orient, dit-il, font sagement, car ils gardent les femmes enfermées. Nous autres, occidentaux, nous n'y entendons rien. Pour une femme qui peut nous conseiller, utilement, il en est 100 qui nous font faire des bêtises ; d'ailleurs il est dans la nature même des choses que la femme soit subordonnée à son mari. Elle donne des enfants à l'homme, et elle est la propriété de l'homme comme l'arbre est la propriété du jardinier."

Et c'est pourquoi, Mesdames et Messieurs, vous connaissez tous, pour avoir assisté à des mariages, cet article du code, 213, qui dit que la femme doit obéissance à son mari.

SOCIETE DES NATIONS.

Ordre du jour de la Septième Session de l'Assemblée qui s'ouvrira à Genève, le lundi 6 septembre 1926, à 11 heures.

Questions Proposées par le Conseil.

Le rapport ou les propositions que le Conseil pourrait décider de présenter, après avoir examiné le rapport de la Commission chargée d'étudier la question de la composition du Conseil, instituée par la résolution du Conseil en date du 18 mars 1926.

Rapport sur les travaux de l'Organisation économique et financière, y compris la restauration financière de l'Autriche, la restauration financière de la Hongrie, l'œuvre de l'Office autonome pour l'établissement des réfugiés grecs, etc.

Conférence économique internationale : Rapport sur les travaux du Comité préparatoire.

Rapport sur les travaux de l'Organisation des communications et du transit.

Rapport sur les travaux de l'Organisation d'hygiène de la Société.

Rapport sur les travaux de la Commission consultative du trafic de l'opium et autres drogues nuisibles.

Rapport sur les travaux de la Commission consultative pour la protection des enfants et de la jeunesse :

(a) Rapport du Comité de la traite des femmes et des enfants ;

(b) Rapport du Comité de la protection de l'enfance.

Rapport sur les travaux de la Commission internationale de coopération intellectuelle.

Conférence pour la réduction et la limitation des armements : Rapport sur les travaux du Comité préparatoire, etc., etc.

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