

JVS SVFFRAGII.



THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE NEWS

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THE PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

Every week I open a loving little letter which invariably begins, "I hope you are well and happy for I am." Health and happiness! My son is right in the importance he gives to them. What better can I in my turn wish my friends and fellow workers far and wide?

To us who strive to gain for women wider opportunities for fuller service, health means added power to work steadily and enthusiastically. Happiness comes to us with work well done, and its certain success: so in wishing you health and happiness I wish you also hard work and victory.

Nineteen-twenty-six has passed without any dramatic success, but has given us solid gains in many directions. We congratulate the League of Nations and ourselves that our friend, Dr. Gertrude Baumer, brought the number of women delegates to the Assembly up to seven—the highest yet attained. We hope other countries will emulate this fine example, and that the Assembly of 1927 may see many more women present. We also offer our heartiest congratulations to Emmy Freundlich, the

Austrian Member of Parliament, who was the only woman to serve on the Preparatory Committee for the Economic Conference.

Economic Peace and the Limitation of Armaments are the two great duties of the League next year, and since the Alliance stands for Peace and the League, may I urge our Auxiliaries to press the claims of women to be represented on bodies dealing with these questions, and also to do their utmost to educate women on these vital matters? Economic peace would alleviate unemployment and develop trade: a reasonable limitation of armaments would raise the standard of living for every family by 10 per cent. Surely we women can visualise the extra food and boots, milk and house room into which mothers everywhere would convert that dry 10 per cent.?

Those of us who were fortunate enough to meet in Paris must have felt a thrill as our friends from the great South American republics spoke to us. We send our warm good wishes to them and our heartiest congratulations on the news that the Argentine Senate has



MRS. CORBETT ASHBY.

passed a bill for women's civil rights. We hope that an even wider Bill recently introduced in Chile will shortly become law. We missed in Paris our loyal and distinguished member, Dr. Paulina Luisi from Uruguay. Our best wishes follow her as she develops the authority and influence of the Chair for Social Hygiene of the University of Montevideo founded in her honour.

The number of women in the Parliaments remains almost stationary, and I would beg our Auxiliaries everywhere to put pressure to bear on their political parties to put forward women candidates. I know the practical difficulties but the result in legislation is so excellent that a campaign among the women voters to demand this of their own parties would bring a rich reward. We are glad that a fourth woman has been elected to the Congress of the United States, and our sympathetic good wishes go to Miss McPhail and Miss Kéthly in their lonely work in Canada and Hungary.

During 1926 we have learnt of the appointment of Fröken Birgit Spangborg as the first woman judge in Sweden, and of the work done by another woman judge in Lithuania, Mme. Elena Jackeviciate. Advance in political and professional positions seems easier to obtain than economic security, and I do beg Auxiliaries in every country to study the problems of the woman industrial worker.

Our New Year greetings to Dona Maria Espinosa, elected this year to the Segovia Municipal Council. The referendum in Spain was truly national in that women voted as well as men. Hitherto "national" plebiscites have mostly been confined to one sex only. We who have counted so many friends among the women of Italy since our Congress in Rome regret that they are not able to use the municipal vote so recently granted, but their public spirit will be shewn in other ways.

I am so glad that our old colleague, Frau Anna Lindemann, has only transferred her knowledge and enthusiasm from the Board to the Women Police Committee, whose work will be helped by the resolution passed in favour of women police by the International Police Congress.

My last wish must be that 1927 will see our beloved Honorary President, Mrs. Chapman Catt, over this side of the world again with fresh youth and enthusiasm.

To all my colleagues, new and old, on the Board and Committees, Presidents of Auxiliaries in all lands, and to their splendid followers I send affectionate greetings. In many countries the romance of the early suffrage movement, with its dramatic courage and tremendous self-sacrifice has given way to the "middle age" period of persistent, steady and inconspicuous work in national parliaments, in local government and in professional and industrial organisations; but romance lies still in the lands of the East, both near and far, where against great odds the gallant pioneers are teaching the women to stand firm as in the heroic ages of the past.

As 1926 closes let us remember in reverent affection those who have passed over. I will only mention the name of M. Paul Schlumberger, whose death has so poignantly recalled the loss of Mme. de Witt Schlumberger; each of us will sadly add the names of others who meant much to the cause we have at heart. What we are we owe to them and we shall, in our turn, thus help or hinder those who come after.

MARGERY I. CORBETT ASHBY.

MME. WICKSELL.

Mme. Anna Bugge Wicksell is visiting the United States in January at the invitation of the Phelps-Stokes Fund in New York in order to study methods of training negro teachers in the Hampton and Tuskegee Institutes.

MONTHLY NOTES.

The Editor cannot refrain from following the example of the President and wishing all our readers a happy New Year. And it is not so difficult to put heart into the ancient formula this year as it has sometimes been in the past. Things are difficult, living is dear. In many countries unemployment is rife, and yet in spite of all this there seems to be a something in the air which speaks of hope—for Europe at any rate. Over the other side of the world in the great American continent there is more than hope, there is much actual realisation of prosperity and progress. But Europe is still only convalescent after her terrible malady of war, she still needs nursing. That word immediately suggests that the woman should be to the fore, and so she should, and so she will be in the measure that she is allowed to be. And in the East, do we not find women standing for the Indian Parliament, rumours that a woman is to be President of a new China, and many other signs that the women's movement is taking great strides. It is not for us to hesitate to call these things progress and not merely change. Things change—we will boldly state that they progress, for we are going "to make it so."

The Editor has a pleasing little progress to report on her own account—namely in the circulation of our paper. In order to prove that their appeal for more subscribers was founded on personal recognition of the need, members of the Board of the Alliance have been working hard. Miss Morgan, of the U.S.A., brings in forty new subscriptions, Chairmen of local Leagues of Women Voters; Miss Manus, of Holland, sends us ten new names with more to follow—these also in many cases for their national branches; Mme. Charaoui of Egypt has also sent in ten with promise of more to follow. These are fine stirring examples—will not our Auxiliaries take heart from them and pass a good resolution to follow them? Our staff is not very large, but it is very willing to deal with a perfect flood of new subscriptions.

Owing to Christmas this issue has to go to press early, which means that we cannot hope to include in it an account of the Second Conference on the Cause and Cure of War which takes place in Washington early in December. Our readers already know that Mrs. Chapman Catt is again to preside over this important meeting, and in the November issue our American correspondent gave some particulars as to the organisations taking part. From a preliminary notice of the Conference we learn that the subjects to be discussed include "The Fundamental Basis of Peace," "Germany and Future Peace," "The National Basis of Internationalism," "Public Opinion for War and Peace," and also the American attitude towards disarmament, foreign policy and debt settlements. It is a brave programme and it is hoped that we shall be able to publish a full account of it in the issue of February. This question of peace is one in which practically all women take a special interest, and the pity of it is that they play at present so small a part in the things which actually make for peace or war—for instance, all the names of the lecturers at this Conference which we have are those of men. Women's part at the moment lies almost entirely in the formation of public opinion, and even there we have to realise that in these days the Press is the great educating agent, and where are the women proprietors or editors of outstanding newspapers? So yet again we get the call back to feminism: we sometimes say that peace must be the basis of the feminist movement because without it our work comes to nought, but it is no less true to say that feminism is one of the bases of peace. Women must learn to walk before they can run; when women are full citizens, when women take a fair share in government, in trade, in education (not just teaching but in the formation of educational policy and ideals), then

they will be able to translate their will to peace into practical action. "First things first" is a good motto, and for women the first thing of all is to get the weapon of equal status and equal influence into their hands—then they can go forth to battle for all the other causes dear to their hearts.

THE EDITOR.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS NOTES.

Permanent Mandates Committee. This Committee met during November, and was attended by representatives of Italy, Portugal, Great Britain, France, Spain, Belgium, Switzerland, Holland, Sweden, and Japan. It examined annual reports on Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, the British Cameroons, British Togoland, the Pacific Islands under Japanese Mandate and Western Samoa. All these were considered in the presence of an accredited representative from each of the mandatory powers concerned.

At the request of the League Council, the Committee considered specially the question of the liquor traffic. It also dealt with numerous petitions from peoples in the mandated areas.

Preparatory Committee for the International Economic Conference. The final session of this Committee took place in November. It drew up the Agenda for the Conference which it proposed should be held from May 4th, 1927, and also made recommendations to the Council in regard to the principles which should govern the composition of the Conference. A Committee was appointed to keep up to date in the interval the documentary material needed for the Conference. The Committee also approved the Report drawn up by its Chairman, M. Theunis, for presentation to the Council, and texts drafted by the various Committees, namely, on Agriculture, Finance and Special Problems; Industrial Production; Trade and Markets.

The Draft Agenda is as follows:—
DRAFT AGENDA.

FIRST PART.

I. THE WORLD ECONOMIC POSITION.

Principal features and problems as seen from the point of view of different countries.

Analysis of causes of the present commercial and industrial dis-equilibrium.

Economic tendencies which affect the peace of the world.

SECOND PART.

I. COMMERCE.

1. Liberty of Trading.

- (a) Import and export prohibitions and restrictions.
- (b) Limitation and regulation of commerce; monopolies.

- (c) Economic treatment of nationals and companies of one country duly admitted to the territory of another.

2. Customs Tariffs and Commercial Treaties.

- (a) Form, level and instability of import and export tariffs.
- (b) Customs nomenclature and classification.

3. Indirect methods of protecting national commerce and shipping.

- (a) Subsidies, direct or indirect.
- (b) Dumping, and anti-dumping legislation.
- (c) Discrimination arising from the treatment of transport.
- (d) Fiscal discrimination against foreign goods after importation.

4. Repercussion upon international commerce of reduced purchasing power.

II. INDUSTRY.

1. Situation of principal industries (productive capacity, output, consumption and employment).
2. Nature of present difficulties in industry; their industrial, commercial and monetary causes.

3. Possibilities of action:

- (a) organisation of production, including in particular international industrial agreements; considered from the point of view of production, of the consumer and of labour; their legal position; their connection with customs problems.
- (b) importance of collection and prompt exchange of statistical information with regard to industrial production.

III. AGRICULTURE.

1. The present position of agriculture compared with pre-war conditions, in respect of production, consumption, stocks, prices and free circulation of agricultural products.

2. Causes of present difficulties.

3. Possibilities of international action:

- (a) development and international collaboration of producers' and consumers' organisations, including the different systems of co-operative organisation;
- (b) continuous exchange of adequate information concerning agricultural conditions, scientific and technical research, agricultural credit, etc.;
- (c) development of the purchasing power of agricultural producers.

Note.—In connection with the above, the Joint Standing Committee of Representatives of Women's International Organisations, at its last meeting, addressed a letter to the members of the Council of the League of Nations expressing its earnest hope that at least one woman would be chosen by the Council as one of its nominees to the Economic Conference, and suggesting the name of Frau Emmy Freundlich, a woman member of the Austrian Parliament, who has been the only woman on the Preparatory Committee. The Alliance is also going to suggest to its auxiliaries the urgency of getting women appointed to their national delegations to the Conference.

The Forty-third Session of the Council.—This session of the Council was held under the chairmanship of M. Vandervelde. The principal decisions reached concerned the appointment of Chairman of the Commissions of Investigation and the adoption of certain definitions of articles in its investigation plans; the examination of measures to ensure the rapid working of the League organs in emergencies; the convocation for May 4th, 1927, of the International Economic Conference under the presidency of M. Theunis; the convocation for July 4th, 1927, of a conference for the conclusion of an agreement establishing an International Relief Union; the holding in the autumn of 1927 of a conference for the supervision of the private manufacture of arms, munitions and implements of war; and various technical questions.

With regard to questions of security and reduction of armaments, among the decisions of the Council the most important was that dealing with emergency measures. Governments will be invited to note the advantage they would gain in entering into a formal engagement to facilitate the most rapid and effective working possible by the League organs in emergencies. They will further be invited to give favourable consideration to technical measures proposed in the Report of the Committee on Communications and Transit, which concern communication by air, rail, wire and wireless affecting the League in cases of emergency, and this Committee was requested to continue the necessary studies and to keep in touch with administrations and organisations concerned. The Financial Committee will study measures for drawing up a joint plan of financial assistance in support of a State victim of an aggression.

With regard to the General Disarmament Conference, the Council referred to the Preparatory Commission the

resolution by which the Assembly expresses the desire that this Conference may meet as soon as possible. It emphasised at the same time the necessity for careful technical and political preparation of the Conference.

Finally, the Council decided to inform Governments that it was ready to lend its good offices for the conclusion of suitable agreements for the promotion of an atmosphere of confidence and security whenever the Governments concerned might consider that circumstances allowed of the conclusion of such agreements.

Various decisions were taken with regard to financial questions, including the settlement of Bulgarian refugees; also with regard to health questions, among which we are pleased to note was the request to the Health Committee to submit a proposal concerning the appointment of a woman to sit on that Committee.

ARTICLE 7 OF THE COVENANT AND WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE.

As a result of the unanimous decision of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations Council that a delegate should be sent to Geneva to investigate whether the provisions of Article 7 of the Covenant are being adhered to wherever possible, Mrs. Hoster was asked to undertake this investigation.

During the six days which Mrs. Hoster spent in Geneva she interviewed, by appointment, nine officials of the Secretariat itself, and three of the International Labour Office. Through their kind help she met twenty-seven others, and was able to discuss the question with officials belonging to varied nationalities. Mrs. Hoster reports that:—

(a) Women do not hold any of the higher administrative posts with the exception of Dame Rachel Crowdy, Chief of the Social Section. Miss Florence Wilson, an American, who has served as Head of the Library for seven years, yields her position on the expiry of her contract in January, 1927.

(b) Owing to the great difficulty of the nationality question and the very strong feeling among the Latin nations, and certain of the more backward of the States Members of the League, women are not enjoying equal opportunities with men where appointments to the higher categories are concerned.

(c) In her opinion it would be of great advantage if Women's Societies in the more advanced countries would look seriously into this matter, and would bring pressure to bear upon their Governments and upon the authorities of the Secretariat of the League of Nations, with a view to securing fuller opportunities of promotion for women and opening to them equally with men the higher appointments.

(d) The Secretariat authorities responsible for selecting appointees to the higher grades believe they are conscientiously endeavouring to carry out the provisions of Article 7, but the slow emancipation of women in many countries reacts upon them and is proving a serious deterrent to their full freedom of choice in making appointments.

As a result of Mrs. Hoster's investigation, a letter has been addressed by this Council to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, expressing this Council's great concern at the disquieting report made by its representative, and pointing out that the difficulty in the way of women's advancement in the League lies not in the Secretariat itself, but rather with the Governments and the men of those more backward nations who are unaccustomed to seeing women in prominent public positions, and whose limitations of custom and tradition are being standardized within the Secretariat.

The Council submits that the administrative methods of the League might justly be expected to lead, rather than to keep pace with, those of the less

progressive nations, and urges that, were the Secretariat now to give full effect to Article 7 of the Covenant, such a step could only be held as authorised by the Covenant, and that no objection would be made by any of the States Members of the League.

At its general meeting, held on Monday, 29th November, 1926, the following resolution was unanimously carried:—

As a result of careful inquiry into the positions held by women on the staff of the Secretariat, this Council calls the attention of the Secretary-General of the League of Nations to the fact that women are not enjoying equal chances with men where appointments to higher posts are concerned. Moreover, the reasons frequently put forward, namely, that few women are able to offer the high technical qualifications and experience required for such posts is an argument that is bound to continue unless antiquated traditions are broken down which injuriously affect the selection of women in the various stages of their career. Women's Associations throughout the world had believed that Clause VII of the Covenant was intended to break down such prejudices. They are, therefore, the more disappointed in observing that this purpose is being frustrated by the reactionary attitude obtaining in the Secretariat. —*The Woman's Leader.*

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The following paragraphs are largely taken from miscellaneous press sources and their accuracy is not vouched for by our National Auxiliaries.

CHINA.

Equal Rights.

The Chinese Kouminting Congress adopted resolutions in favour of Equal Rights as between men and women in law, politics, economics, and education.

The Woman President?

The *Central News* reports that Mrs. Sun Yat Sen, widow of the late Sun Yat Sen, founder of the Chinese Republic, may be the first President of a new Cantonese Government. The appointment is to be made under the provisions of the equal suffrage programme.

Woman Solicitor.

Miss Kathleen Hoahing, the first Chinese woman to pass the British solicitor's final examination, hopes to leave for China in the early spring.

FRANCE.

For the first time in the history of the Paris Bar a woman lawyer addressed the annual ceremony of the Association of Paris lawyers in the Palais de Justice.

She is Mlle. Juliette Veiller, one of the secretaries of the organisation, with a brilliant record as a law student at Oxford and in America.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Women Lawyers.

For the first time on record a woman barrister, Miss Joan Clarkson, has appeared in wig and gown before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. She was briefed in an appeal from New Zealand, which concerned an assessment on Income Tax. Miss Clarkson was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple at the beginning of last year. She is a member of the Midland Circuit, and it is understood that she has been briefed in a similar appeal to be heard by the Judicial Committee this week.

A New World Record.

We offer hearty congratulations to Miss H. B. Carstairs on her achievement of a new world record for motor boat speed over a measured mile. Miss Carstairs already holds two international trophies, the Duke of York's Trophy, and the John Ward international trophy open to the world for the best speed for a 1½ litre boat over a distance of not less than 30

miles. Her present record shows a mean speed of 39.27 knots, as compared with a previous record (Mr. Hugh Trevis') of 38.175.

A New Opening for Women.

For the first time in history women have gained control of an important administrative office of the House of Lords with the appointment of Miss H. F. M. Court to be head of the Costing and Accounts Department.

Among the duties of the department are the receiving of all fees due from proceedings in the House of Lords and private Bills.

In no other department or office of the House of Lords do women hold the higher appointments.

MEXICO.

Maria Ross is chief of the radio department of the Ministry of Public Education in Mexico.

POLAND.

Poland has issued a postage stamp bearing the likeness of Mme. Curie, discoverer of radium. Mme. Curie is a citizen of France, but she was born in Poland. It is rare for a woman to be honoured with a postage stamp, and rare for any person to be so honoured by a country of which he is not a citizen.

SPAIN.

The Spanish Academy has altered its rules so that women may be admitted in future.

UNITED STATES.

For the first time in its history, the National Institute of Arts and Letters has admitted women to its membership. Four authors—Edith Wharton, Margaret Deland, Agnes Repplier, and Mary E. Wilkins Freeman—were chosen as the first women members of the institute.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL.

The International Congress of Women Socialists, which is meeting in Brussels, has adopted the constitution and rules for a consulting committee, and has appointed the following to be members of the provisional bureau: Frau Popp (Austria), Miss Susan Lawrence (Great Britain), Frau Marie Juchacz (Germany), Mme. E. Ribbins Pelletier (Holland), Mme. Budzinski (Poland).

Frau Popp (Austria) was re-elected delegate to the Labour and Socialist International.

REVIEWS.

Report of the Fourth Conference of the International Federation of University Women, to be obtained from 92 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

This Conference was held in Amsterdam last July. It showed a steadily growing number of affiliated associations and attracted a large number of delegates. The Dutch Federation gave a very interesting series of Reports of what Dutch University women are doing in various professions in Holland and its Colonies, which has also been printed as a separate pamphlet. The interesting Report on the Legal Status of Married Women in Professions has already appeared in our paper (see the November issue), and Professor Spurgeon as convener of the Committee on Careers for Women in Industry, Trade and Finance, outlined the steps which the Committee had taken to study this question and get the views of employers. This led up to one of the most interesting discussions of all from the purely feminist point of view—"The Reconciliation of Marriage and a Profession." The principal speaker was Mrs. Gilbreth, an American woman, who is herself an extremely successful professional woman and the mother of no less than eleven children! In spite of this outstanding example, there still seemed to be some doubt in the minds of some of those taking part

in the discussion as to whether a woman could do a full time paid job and be a wife and mother too, and the suggestion was even made that it might be interesting to compile a list of professions most compatible with marriage. Somehow it seems an odd idea for the girl just leaving College to have to say to herself: "Now I mean to marry, so I cannot be—say—a journalist, which is what I should like, and am fitted for, because I should have to be out at all hours, so I will be a Professor of Botany." But if that hardly seems to be the line on which the problem will be solved, it was interesting and instructive to find a body of women trying to get down to one of the really basic difficulties in the emancipation of women.

Some aspects of education were discussed, including schemes for the interchange of secondary teachers between different countries; an open meeting was held on the promotion of intellectual co-operation, and the question of an international language. The last session was devoted to the international research fellowships promoted by the Federation. Reports from many of the affiliated Federations are also included.

La Réglementation de la Prostitution jugée après les Faits, by Paul Gemähling, published by "Le Relèvement social," 39 bis, rue de Laseppe, Bordeaux.

This little pamphlet is an appeal to the people of France to do away with the system of vice regulation. It is safe to suppose that everyone of the readers of this paper is an abolitionist, but if any doubts should linger, this booklet would dispose of them. It is not a recital of "sad cases," but it makes the heart burn with indignation and horror. For those who are concerned with the fight against this system, it is an admirable text-book from which to take arguments and statistics.

WOMEN IN SPAIN AND SPANISH AMERICA.

Acción Católica de la Mujer (Madrid), notes certain clauses of the new Spanish Labour Code, promulgated by royal decree on the 23rd of August, which grant to women a limited right to dispose of their own earnings. Article 14 is as follows: "Payment made to a married woman in remuneration for her work shall be valid, if her husband does not lodge an objection. In order that the husband's objection may be effective he must formulate it before the competent municipal magistrate, who shall, after he has heard the woman and examined the evidence, either authorise her, or not authorise her, to receive her wages herself in order to spend them on supplying the needs of the home. If the husband and wife be separated, legally or in fact, the husband may not lodge an objection against his wife's receiving payment for her own work."

This article is completed by a clause of Article 452, which empowers a married woman to plead before a magistrate, if she so desire, and if her husband authorise her. If he refuse to authorise her when she wishes to plead the magistrate must summon both of them before him, and must settle the matter in dispute without further process.

Hitherto Spanish married women have had no rights at all over their own money.

* * * *

It is announced from La Paz (Bolivia) that Señorita Amelia Chopitea has graduated as Doctor of Medicine and Surgery at Sucre, in Bolivia, being the first Bolivian woman to obtain this degree. The government has granted her a bursary in order that she may continue her studies in Europe.

* * * *

La Nación (Buenos Aires) announces that the law granting civil rights to the women of Argentina was promulgated on September 2nd. The first case under this law was tried on Michaelmas Day, and the verdict was favourable to the woman litigant.

—*The Catholic Citizen.*

N.B.—An interesting note on the new Argentine Law appears in the Section Française of this issue.

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES

AUSTRIA.

Women's Questions in the New Programme of the Social-Democratic Party.

At their last party meeting held in Linz in October, the Social-Democratic Party of Austria proposed a revision of the party programme, and the proposals, which deal with all spheres of human life and activity, were accepted. Women's questions were also dealt with, and the women's social-democratic party is now working out this programme in more detail. The women's demands were accepted as follows:—

Women's Questions.—A fight against prejudices opposing the equal rights of women. They demand also full possibilities for women to develop personality; the appreciation of the social function of women as mothers and housewives and protection against the double work of profession and housekeeping. Consequently they demand:

The abolition of all laws militating against the interests of women; equal rights for women in the public service; official co-education of both sexes; prohibition of women's work in all professions which are specially injurious to the female organism; free admission of women to all other professions; equal possibilities of professional training; equal pay for equal work; facilitation of housekeeping in the sphere of housing by labour-saving devices and central homes; easing of the burden of mothers by the establishment of public day-homes for school children, babies and infants; equal rights for illegitimate children.

The programme also contains specific women's demands regarding the population question (Bevölkerungspolitik). They are:—

The Regulation of the Birth-rate.—The establishment of public consultation stations for instruction as to the use of harmless means of preventing conception and provision of such means by sick funds. The interruption of pregnancy is not to be fought by threat of punishment but by advice and social relief. First of all, the interruption of pregnancy is to be declared free of punishment if it is done by a physician in a public hospital on the demand of the pregnant woman. Public health institutions are to be obliged to carry out this operation on demand of the pregnant woman without payment if the competent physicians state that the birth would endanger the health of the mother, or that the birth of a child unfit for life is to be expected, or if the public relief authorities state that the birth of the child would endanger the economic existence of the mother, her professional advancement or the education of her living children.

The Fight Against Mortality, Especially Infant Mortality.—Progressive work for protective measures for the pregnant mother, the lying-in woman and the nursing mother to be incorporated in the protective laws for workers and employees; the securing of education subsidies from public funds for every child, and of subsistence subsidies for each mother who nurses her infant; progressive work in social relief by local authorities and by sick funds for the lying-in woman, infants and children; extension of public feeding and medical services in schools and day-homes for school children and babies; provision of holidays for school children, apprentices and young workers; extension of public health work and an energetic fight against tuberculosis, venereal disease and alcoholism.

Woman's Remarkable Invention.

The young Viennese scientist, Dr. Franziska Seidle, assistant at the Physical Institute of the Vienna University, has produced an invention designed to improve the telephone, making hearing more agreeable and reproducing exactly the sound and inflexions of the human voice. The metal plates which are now used as membranes are abolished by Dr. Seidle's invention and the telephone without membranes is provided

with a self-sounding crystal. Dr. Seidle is a young widow who began to study after her husband's death during the war. Since her early childhood she has been interested in natural sciences and she was first attracted to her husband when she was ten years old, when he, as a professor of physics at a secondary school, recognised her natural genius. In 1922 she became assistant at the Physical Institute, in 1923 she took her doctor's degree in philosophy. She is a valuable worker at the Institute, where she also delivers popular lectures. Her intensive study of electric waves led her to the invention of the self-sounding crystal, which is likely to revolutionise the telephone. Women may well be proud of the scientific talent of this young investigator.

The First Professional Motor-Car Driver in Vienna.

As in other towns, there are numerous women in Vienna who drive their own motor car. However, the petition of the woman who asked to be admitted to the public motor car driver service after passing her chauffeur's examination was refused by the police and by all other authorities on the pretext that for public reasons a woman could not be a motor car driver. This plucky woman, Felicia Fischer by name, applied to the highest Court of Justice, appealing in the name of equal rights for all citizens before the law, and this Court pronounced against the former illegal decision, so that Frau Fischer may now earn her living as an auto-taxi driver.

A Heroine.

Some weeks ago the heroism of a woman caused lively interest in the whole of Vienna, and the tragic death of this heroine moved all hearts. A housemaid of twenty went for a walk with the two children of her employer, a three year old boy and a little girl in a perambulator. Suddenly she was conscious that they were in danger of being run over by a van. With admirable presence of mind she flung the children out of the way but she herself got under the horse's feet, and owing to severe injuries died as she was being taken to hospital. The high-mindedness of this simple woman of the people, who put her duty before her life, caused the town of Vienna to give a plot of land for her grave, and a collection is being made for the erection of a monument to perpetuate the heroic act.

Visit of Lady Aberdeen.

The Board of the National Council of Austrian Women was very happy to receive the President of the International Council of Women, Lady Aberdeen, who, on her return from the Balkans, made a few hours' stay in Vienna. Lady Aberdeen expressed her hopes of a very successful Quinquennial of the International Council of Women in Vienna in 1930.

GISELA URBAN.

GREAT BRITAIN.

National Union of Societies For Equal Citizenship.

The 1926 Parliamentary session is over, and we have unfortunately but few successes to record. Our chief impression indeed is one of very keen disappointment that no steps appear to have been taken by the Government to advance the cause of Equal Franchise. It had been quite clearly understood by all concerned that the Government intended to set up a Conference of members of all parties to consider equal franchise this year. No Conference materialised, however, and only during the last week or so, have we heard that the Government is now giving its attention to the matter at all. If women are really to vote at the next election the matter is urgent, as it may take anything from two to three years for women's names to be placed on the Register, if the procedure at present proposed by the Government is adhered to. The N.U.S.E.C. is organising a Memorial on the subject to be signed by Members of Parliament.

The *Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Act* has become law, and a slight concession has been made to enable the women now engaged in the industry to remain, but no new women may enter unless and until the present law is changed. The Conference organised by the N.U.S.E.C. on November 26th on Protective Legislation was interesting and lively, and a resolution was passed urging the Government to deal with the question of hours by means of the Washington Hours Convention, rather than by clauses only relating to women in the Factories Bill, which it is expected will be reintroduced next year. A deputation of prominent individuals is being received by the Home Office to request that the new restrictions provided in the Factories Bill should not be limited to women only.

The *Legitimacy Act* has at last become law. The Act provides for the legitimation of a child on the marriage of its parents, except in those cases in which at the time of its birth one or both of its parents were married to someone else.

The *Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act* has gone through Parliament virtually unchanged, and will not do very much to lessen the smoke nuisance.

The N.U.S.E.C. has fixed the dates of its *Annual Council Meetings* for March 2nd—5th. It always invites visitors on this occasion, when its policy for the coming year is discussed, and we should be glad to hear from those of our readers who will be in London during that week.

No big summer school is to be held by the N.U.S.E.C. next year, but it has been decided to arrange a succession of small *week-end schools* in different parts of the country. Dates and places of these will shortly be announced. Visitors from other lands are always very welcome.

The progress made by the *League of Nations* towards a solution of the disarmament problem has been very welcome in this country, as though we recognise the need for proper preparation before a disarmament conference can be held, we feel that any indication of a solution of the problem that may be in sight is valuable.

E.M.H.

Women's Freedom League.

Our chief work continues to be for the political enfranchisement of women at the same age and on the same terms as men.

Dr. Octavia Lewin is representing us on a deputation on this subject to Sir Douglas Hogg, the Attorney-General, next month. We are organising two equal franchise public meetings in London constituencies in the New Year—in the Holborn Parliamentary division on January 20th, and in the St. Pancras Division on February 7th, the day before the opening of Parliament; and in each case we are asking the local M.P. to receive a deputation on the subject of equal franchise and to discuss with him the urgent necessity for an early settlement of this question. The speakers at our meetings and the members of the deputations will be residents in the constituency of the local Member.

Our President, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, and Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, are now in India. They are having a wonderful time there, and our President has been the speaker and guest at many meetings and conferences of Indian women. She tells us that women in the Madras Presidency have made incredible progress during the past eight years. We have arranged a reception to Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, and an informal dinner, to take place at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C., Friday evening, February 11th, when we shall be delighted to welcome all members and friends of the Women's Freedom League and to hear what our President has to say about the progress of Indian women.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

We have received a report from one of our South African members, Miss Dorman. As deputy for Mrs.

Fitzsimons, she attended a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union at Blomfontein, and spoke at a big public meeting in the town hall. She afterwards visited Cradock where she spoke for the Women's Civic Association, and on her return journey she founded a new branch of the Women's Enfranchisement League at Golden Valley, the new English settlement.

On the 6th of December we held a successful Equal Rights meeting in Marylebone, the constituency in which our office stands. It was one of the series of public meetings now being organised throughout the country by the feminist societies. Its outcome has been that Sir Douglas Hogg, Attorney-General and Member for Marylebone, has consented to see a deputation early in January who will press upon him the urgency of incorporating in the King's Speech a measure giving the suffrage to women at twenty-one and on the same terms as men. To be effective in any election before the 28th of October such a measure must have been passed by the 1st of June.

HOLLAND.

The Nederlandsche Vereeniging van Staatsburgeressen held its annual meeting in Utrecht on December 13th, and it was a great success. In the afternoon women members of various Town Councils gave an account of their special work. It is hoped that an article dealing with some of the interesting information obtained may appear in our next issue.

Mrs. Bakker Nort, one of the Dutch women Members of Parliament brought up the question of the nationality of married women in Parliament, presenting the views of the Alliance, which were heard with great interest.

HUNGARY.

Our opening meeting of the season was a welcome tea party, given in honour of Miss Schain, who, on her way to the Near East, passed through our country to study its political and economic problems. She obliged us by giving a very interesting survey of the difference in the mentality of the American people in the different parts of the U.S., and also spoke of the united efforts of American women's organisations to promote peace.

Miss Muriel Currey, lecturer for the British League of Nations Union, accepting the platform we offered her, gave us a very good account of the League of Nations' organisation and activities. She had an appreciative, grateful audience.

Professor Baudouin, lecturer of the Institut Jean Jacques Rousseau, Geneva, leader of the Psychogogic Institute, gave us a French lecture on the different psycho-therapies and the importance of auto-suggestive methods in education. He was very successful and won many compliments on his interesting lecture.

Three reports were given by our members and co-workers on the International Congresses and Conferences of the last summer. Mrs. Eugenie Miskolczy Meller and Miss Fried spoke of the Paris Suffrage-Congress. The former explained its important work and the resolutions, while Miss Fried in a very spirited and finely humorous way spoke of what took place behind the scenes.

The reporters of the Women's International League Congress in Dublin were: our Vice-President, Mrs. Irma de Szirmai, who with her remarkable abilities as a speaker gave us a very interesting account of the proceedings of the Congress, Miss Thornton gave her lively impressions as a British visitor to the Congress, and last but not least our Secretary, Mrs. Melanie Vámbéry. There was real literary value in her descriptions of the equal rights procession and the Hyde Park meetings in London, the numerous social gatherings and the beautiful excursions remarkable both for scenery and the historic interest attached to them.

Miss Anna Kéthly, M.P., lectured on the Gland Summer-School of the W.I.L.P.F. She gave a report of the very valuable lectures given there by the most prominent men and women pacifists, and said how delighted she was with the spirit of love and internationalism which linked scholars and lecturers together. It was their united effort which created this atmosphere of fellowship. Adherents of all political parties and world-views, they strove mutually to appreciate in each other that valuable element which contributed to the prevailing harmony—their love and devotion for the cause of Peace and Humanity. Our headquarters were crammed at Miss Kéthly's lecture. Our members and friends were eager to manifest their appreciation of her wonderful and untiring work. Her beautiful speech on women's education practically closed the work of the National Assembly which was dissolved the next day. It was said to have been the best speech and on a higher level than any made during the whole life of this National Assembly.

Parliamentary Elections.

The antiquated and ridiculous Bill relating to the Upper House, presented by the government, was passed by the obsequious National Assembly, and then it dissolved. Elections have been fixed for 8-15th of December. Constitutional rights in Hungary being violated by servile local authorities, we do not see the use of taking active part in the elections. Only the Social-Democratic Party and two of the other Parties of the Opposition put women on their list, although there are women in certain other Parties, who deserve a place because of their very great merits with regard to the organisation and education of women. These women, who feel wronged in their legitimate claims, may attempt to unite on a common non-party women's list, but for lack of funds this plan is likely to be abortive.

We shall endeavour to make use of the elections for the propagation of our political programme, which we agreed upon last winter. We consider it the right time to oblige candidates to study the items of our programme, i.e., questions with which hitherto they were very little concerned, and enable us in this way to remind those who will be elected of their duties, when the right time comes. We have sent every candidate a circular letter to which a copy of our political programme was attached, with a request to endorse it in their electioneering speeches. Encouraging answers are coming in.

For several days we distributed all over the town leaflets, with the heading "Where are the Women from the Candidates' list of most of the Parties?" On this leaflet we remind the women voters of their responsibilities and encourage them to vote for those candidates who will not wrong the women in their respective parties, and to consider not mere words, but deeds! These leaflets end by inviting women to a great meeting which we arranged on the 30th of November, at which men and women candidates—the latter our members, Mrs. Fodor, Mrs. Szentirmay—spoke, and our President, Vilma Glücklich, was in the chair.

This meeting was a real success, the speeches of the women and men candidates were on a high level and our Vilma Glücklich in the chair was as spirited and as charming as ever.

On the 3rd of December Vilma Glücklich gave a lofty and deeply instructive lecture on "Economic Pacifism and International Peace" in the Union of Bank-Clerks. We only wished that women with her abilities could find a sphere of activity broad enough to benefit their country and safeguard International Peace.

EUGENIE MISKOLCZY MELLER.

Budapest, Dec. 7th, 1926.

INDIA.

The Punjab Follows Suit.

The last session of the Punjab Legislative Council was marked by the passing of an important measure removing sex disqualification in the matter of election or nomination of women as members of the local Councils. Lala Mohanlal moved the Resolution recommending this, and quoted the instance of the Bombay and Madras Councils and also of the Legislative Assembly. No other Member spoke. But when the Resolution was put, a division was called and the motion was carried by 15 votes against 9, amidst applause, Government remaining neutral.

Women and the Elections.

Women have come in large numbers to vote at the elections this year. The various agents of the Parties have taken good care that their votes have been canvassed, and have used every persuasion to get them to the polls. The woman who usually is thought nothing of becomes the most important person in the street near election day. Certainly the vote has raised the status of all women in modern Indian life. There is still not enough consideration shown in the polling booths to women, seeing they are new to the technique. In South Canara a lady was allowed to stay inside each booth to show the women how to vote, but in other places this service to her sisters was denied to her. We must have this righted before the next elections.

The odds were too great against the Anglo-Indian woman candidate in Madras, though even then Mrs. Hannen-Angelo got 450 votes in her favour. It is good news that Dr. Parvati Bibi of Sialkot has come forward as a candidate in the Punjab elections. The Punjab was dilatory in removing the sex-disqualification for women's voting, now it is tumbling over itself to be first, and we wish it every success.

A noteworthy point was that one nomination paper of one of the Madras men candidates, Mr. Ranganathan Mudaliar of Bellary, was proposed and seconded by women voters.

Shrimati Kamala Devi Chattopadhyaya, the woman candidate for the South Canara seat on the Madras Legislative Council, polled 4,461 votes as against 4,900. She thus failed to secure election, but the result is remarkable in view of the short time she had in which to work up her constituency. The following are extracts from an open air speech delivered in English *ex tempore* to a gathering of over 2,000 people.

"If you peep into the dim unknown history of India, the history of which is written not on palm leaves or paper, but is alive in the hearts of every one of us, you will find that the position of woman was indeed an enviable one. Never in the history of any country, at any time, has woman been so honoured as she has been in this country. Though apparently she seems to have lost her voice, she has always been the vital element in the evolution of the country and the nation. When I was travelling abroad, I was often asked how the suffragist movement in India was progressing. I could only tell them that there was no suffragist movement in India. In fact, there was no need for such a movement. The last few years have proved this. As soon as the new Reforms came in, the franchise was granted, and closely following upon its heels came the removal of the ban of sex-disqualification. The time has now come when women should come forward and share the responsibilities equally with men. All over the world women are now taking a keen and an active part in all departments of life."

"I stand now as an Independent. I stand for no party or community. I stand as a representative of women. I am not a Swarajist candidate and I am not a member of the Swarajya Party. I do not believe in the policy of obstruction and walk-out. What the

Swarajya programme for this year is, I do not know. Whether it is going to accept office or not does not concern me. That temptation does not come in my way.

"As to what work I shall do in the Council, though no doubt I shall try to tackle problems that are intimately connected with women and children, I feel confident that with time and study I shall be in a position to handle general questions as well. During the course of my tour I have been observing and studying the local grievances. I have been trying to get first-hand information as to the Forest and Land Act. Some of the main problems agitating the public mind just now are the abolition of the old Rent Recovery Act without the introduction of any new compensating one and the Revenue Settlement Act. I have enough of leisure at my disposal to devote it to this work. I appeal to you to give me a chance. If women in other countries have proved competent enough to handle these problems I do not think an Indian woman will prove an exception. For years you have been sending men to the Councils. Some of them have done something for this District. Others have done nothing. So even if a woman fails to fulfil your expectations you have not much to regret. Some of you may have some conscientious objections in supporting my candidature either on the ground of sex or otherwise. I appeal to you, in that case, at least to remain neutral as far as possible. For, remember, when you work against me, you insult all womanhood, you work against your daughters. When you lend me your support, it is not merely a personal favour you do to me, but you pay your homage to womanhood. If the first Indian woman who has come forward in spite of all difficulties and obstacles is not helped, it will greatly discourage the women who in future might stand for election. So the privilege granted to women will be hardly of any service. I am not concerned very much with the result. I shall do my best. I wish to prove to the world that a woman can fight well in spite of everything. Woman in India has always stood for strength and not weakness. She is the Divine Shakti. Whether it is a mere sentiment or a living name will be proved by this election."

—Stri Dharma.

NOTES FROM IRELAND.

Belfast Women's Advisory Council and the Northern Farmer.

Tennyson's Northern Farmer stated as his convinced opinion that the poor in a lump are bad. Are Governments also in this sad condition? Or is it that often the real point at issue has never been pressed upon them, while other matters are brought up by powerful groups actually represented in Parliament? The history of the efforts made by women's organisations in Ireland during the last two years would seem to support the latter view. In Northern Ireland the Advisory Council has for eighteen months pressed for legislation on the lines of the English Equal Guardianship and Separation Orders Acts. The official reply stated that such legislation was undesirable. No reason was given. Pressure only brought a reference to technical difficulties. Some legislation on the Statute Book applies only to Northern Ireland, while the greater part is common to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Council is taking legal opinion as to special difficulties which may exist in this case. It is, however, obvious that in any other matter the Law Officers of the Government would make it their business to overcome these difficulties and secure the really vital principle of equal guardianship for both parents. As in the case of the Dublin work for the introduction of Affiliation Orders, the question has been shelved. The moral is that women must organise to do their own work. There must be women in Parliament free from party ties.

In the absence of such non-party women M.P.'s, the record of legislative achievement, North and South, in Ireland, is this year lamentably poor. People who are cold and hungry are rather apt to be absorbed in their own difficulties, and there is cold and hunger in Belfast this winter. It is difficult to rouse women to take an interest in wider issues when "there's no gettin' the work and the prices are awful high." Politicians take advantage, and so the tale of fish landed by feminist organisations is not very considerable. To overwork the metaphor, it is not that people have other fish to fry, but they have no fish at all and no fire to fry them over.

Housing in Belfast.

The hopeless and discreditable muddle of the housing business in Belfast has roused women to take the initiative. The Advisory Council carried a strong resolution demanding the dismissal of the Corporation and the appointment of Commissioners—as has been done with such satisfactory results in Dublin. The Women Citizens' Union has organised meetings to be addressed by Miss Long, secretary of the Irish Housing Council, to further the formation of Public Utility Societies. The Housing Council has done much valuable work in Dublin and in the country. Public Utility Societies having been formed in centres as remote from the capital as Galway. The situation in Belfast, where the members of the Housing Committee have been surcharged by the Public Auditor to the amount of several thousand pounds, renders the formation of such societies the only way by which the question can be tackled.

International Relations.

Following the advice given at the Paris Congress, a Committee on International Relations has been formed in Belfast, consisting in the first instance of delegates from Northern Ireland, who were present at the Congress. Any one who has attended such a Congress will realise how under the exterior differences the work is very much the same. Iceland and India do meet as at the Sorbonne, and the experience of the one cannot fail to be of value to the other. Belfast and Dublin meet through the medium of the National Council and the new Committee in Belfast will be linked with the movement outside Ireland.

DORA MELLONE.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

COMPARISON OF CHILDREN AT SCHOOL AND AT WORK.

By AMY G. MAHER,

Delegate to the Suffrage Alliance Congress in Paris.

On the heels of the controversy over the adoption of an amendment to the federal constitution to give the Congress the power to limit child labour (a measure supported by 25 organisations associated in a campaign for ratification of the amendment as passed by the Congress in 1924) a tempest now rages over a study by Dr. Helen Thompson Woolley, entitled: "An Experimental Study of Children at Work and in School between the ages of Fourteen and Eighteen Years." The study is a volume of 750 pages, characterised as "without doubt the most impartial study along this line that has yet been made." It is unfortunate that the storm centring about one of Dr. Woolley's findings may divert study from other important findings and suggestions in the book.

The Vocational Guidance Bureau of Cincinnati, U.S.A., of which Dr. Woolley was Director, began several years ago a comparative study of working children, and children remaining in school,—a five-year study, following as nearly as possible the same children in the two groups, with annual mental and physical tests, industrial histories, and studies of home conditions. The two groups started with 753

children in each. At the close of the five-year period 511 of the working children, and 322 of the school children, were still available for examination, but each year, as contacts were lost, other children were added to bring the group up to the original 753.

Comparison of the two groups showed that in the realm of physical tests the school child was superior to the working child at every age from fourteen to eighteen, but the differences were greater at fourteen than at eighteen. In steadiness only did the working group eventually surpass the school group. In mental tests, the superiority of the school children was least in tests of mere memory or routine processes, and greatest in tests in which logical thinking and a good command of language play an important part.

In the light of the study, Dr. Woolley lists in order of importance the reasons why children leave school and go to work:

- (1) Level of ability of the child.
- (2) Parental attitude and family ideals.
- (3) Health.
- (4) Industrial status.

It is upon number one that the manufacturers have seized as a powerful weapon against child labour legislation. "Retardation," says Dr. Woolley, "and an inferior grade of school work, bring about a sense of failure and inferiority, a conviction that school is not for them, and a consequent desire to try new fields which lead directly to school-leaving." The employers argue that since the majority of children who leave as early as legally possible are retarded children, most of the retarded children are mentally inferior, and would not benefit from remaining in school, and should be allowed to enter industry.

Dr. Woolley's interpretation of these facts is quite different from that of the National Association of Manufacturers. She points out that the mentally inferior children mature more slowly than superior children, and the years between fourteen and sixteen constitute the period of most rapid growth. Sixteen years should, in her opinion, be the minimum age for leaving school. Recognising the fact that objection to the later school-leaving age has come from the schools themselves, Dr. Woolley says it is "based upon the fact that inferior children cannot keep up the academic pace of the traditional school until the age of sixteen. They merely become retarded and discouraged, develop a sense of inferiority, form bad habits of truancy, and sometimes become delinquent. This is all quite true, but the solution of the problem should be that of changing the type of school to fit the child, rather than that of eliminating the child from school." "The manufacturers regard the child primarily as a wage earning unit," Dr. Woolley writes, in a letter to the National Child Labour Committee. "To the educator he is very much more than that. His ability to earn a living is but a small part of his preparation for life, and one that for children of limited mental capacity requires little or no training. It is the ability to live harmoniously—to be a good member of a family, to take his enjoyment wholesomely, to contribute to community projects, that requires the training. If education has failed up to this time to accomplish this result for some groups the remedy is not doing away with education. It is in making it more efficient."

Under the second reason, Dr. Woolley found that dissensions between the parents and lack of harmony at home disturb the child so that he cannot do well at school, and that in many families there is a tradition of leaving school early. This tradition allowed the girls to stay in school longer than the boys.

Dr. Woolley found that in the case of very superior children, economic need stood in the way of further schooling for about five per cent. of the entire number

who leave school at any age. In Cincinnati, a city of about 400,000, a scholarship fund of 10,000 dollars a year was sufficient to grant all legitimate applications.

Dr. Woolley's very pregnant suggestions, as far as the public is concerned, may be lost sight of, in the use the manufacturers are making of the book. Let us hope that many educators will ponder over them and lay them to heart. Very briefly, she hopes to see the schools employ social diagnosis and treatment to relate the school and the home; she feels that vocational training for factory work will have to give way to vocational training for the sake of its educational content; that the monotonous character of modern industry can be mitigated, on the one hand, by introducing interest in the job, by means of a share in management, and that, on the other hand, the number of hours, without injury, possible in monotonous work, should be carefully studied,—that certainly a shorter working day is one answer; that the school, since it can do little to "train" for factory labour, is bound to exert itself to the utmost to enrich the leisure hours of the day.

As other studies have revealed, so Dr. Woolley's study found that children with the added years of school training did not benefit in increased wages: "Wages bore no relation to school grade completed during the first four years of industry." There was a difference in the choice of the type of work: children with fewer years of schooling were in more of the factory jobs, whereas the others held more of the office and sales positions. Dr. Woolley says on this point: "To go on stressing the money value of education in the face of evidence to show how slight it is, is certainly not wise policy, nor is the fact that wage-earning is so little modified either by ability or by education altogether without its consolations for the idealist in education. To present education as of value, not primarily because it contributes to wage-earning, but because it opens the way to work which may offer a rich reward in pleasure of performance and at the same time make a contribution of higher value to community life, is the type of educational propaganda to which the idealist may subscribe with enthusiasm."



MISS AMY G. MAHER.

GERMANY.

Law Against Obscene and Trashy Literature.

The law for the protection of young people from obscene and trashy literature has been passed by the German Reichstag after a stiff fight in Parliament and a long feud with the publicity mongers. The Reporter for the Committee in the plenary session was the Member, Frau Dr. Matz. The law provides that obscene and trashy literature shall be placed on a list which will tend to a considerable shrinkage in the market, while the sale to young persons under 18 will be forbidden. The listing of such works will be carried out by a Government censorship which will consist of an official Chairman and assessors representing art and literature, dealers in books and works of art, youth and child-welfare organisations, teachers and educational organisations. The law forms a real complement to the German Child Welfare Laws, and is the first law dealing with national culture passed by the Reichstag.

PERSIA.

Zorah Khanoum Heidary.

By Mary Winsor.

Those who know Persia were thunderstruck when they heard that a woman had been appointed to the Sesqui Commission. It was revolutionary for a land, so ancient, so conservative, so far-removed from the highways of travel, from the currents of contemporary thought.

Madame Heidary has had experiences that lifted her out of provincialism and made a cosmopolitan of her. Married to a Russian, she spent years in Russia and in European travel, during which she cast off the "tchadouf," the heavy, smothering black veil which holds all Persian womanhood in its strangling folds, and familiarized herself with Western life and ways of thought. Bolshevism arrived and Russia became impossible. The Communists did not find her sympathetic and threw her into a prison, which she shared with Mrs. Marguerite Harrison, well known to the American lecture-going public. She was finally sent back to her native country.

When Persia, under the present Shah, began to remodel its institutions and looked about for new human material, Madame Heidary, with a knowledge of the world and of foreign languages, was an asset. She was given a post in the Department of Public Works as secretary to the Minister. When she was offered the position of member of the Sesqui Committee, though many difficulties stood in the way, she accepted it, in the hopes of meeting American women and interesting them in the economic development of Persian women. For in Persia, as everywhere else, the financial standing of women leaves much to be desired; the chances of making a livelihood are far more scanty for them than for men, who hold practically all paying positions; leaving only school teaching, wifehood, and concubinage. Very much the same situation that our early Feminists stormed against and set themselves to combat.

Madame Heidary is a Feminist to the core, and her dearest wish is to collect a little fund with which to finance some workshops for Persian women in which the old Persian industries are being revived, and adapted to modern Western needs, thus putting money in the hands of women and giving them the equality that counts and to which all other forms of equality are but ancillary. "Put money in thy purse!" said Iago. "That is what I ask for woman," said Susan B. Anthony; "A purse of her own, into which she may dip at her pleasure."

Madame Heidary is a friend and colleague of Madame Dolatabadi and paid a fine tribute to her as the pioneer Feminist of Persia.

The Actual Feminism.

By Zorah Khanoum Heidary.

A FEW years back, ten or fifteen years at the most, a patriotic and remarkably intelligent woman, belonging to a prominent and religious family of Ispahan, Madame Dolatabadi by name, decided to devote her life to woman's freedom.

Understanding quite correctly the importance of the problem and placing it on practical and reasonable grounds, she decided that the first step was to improve the education amongst women.

She resolutely attacked the study of the problem.

The establishment of a national school is a comparatively recent event. Some thirty years ago boys were educated in parochial schools, which, together with the baths, form an addition to the mosques. The children shut up in damp and dark rooms read and repeated unceasingly the Koran, the more gifted ones learning to write. Education was essentially religious. Neither history, general geography nor arithmetic were taught.

In 1896 it was decided to organise a high commission for public instruction entrusted with the formation of national schools for boys.

A few members of this commission timidly expressed the desire to see also girls' schools formed. But the clergy resenting the State's influence in the matter immediately organised a systematic opposition to this plan. Nevertheless, the plans for the organisations of schools for boys were finally successfully carried out and the women were eager to have their daughters educated also.

Unnoticed, they formed a class for a few girls and began to educate them, but the venture had to be abandoned. A year later a private school, which had received a vague official authorization, was started. The religious regulations being strictly observed, the management was as satisfactory as possible. Several prominent families, including those of the clergy, took an active interest in it. Encouraged by this success, in the year 1900, additional private schools were opened. All difficulties were overcome by unflinching perseverance, seldom met in Persia, and gradually the clergymen decided to send their daughters to schools.

The cause was won, the principle was acknowledged; within ten years about sixty schools were functioning, and so successfully that in 1914 the Ministry of Public Instruction extended its control on the education of girls, insuring the supervision after having defined the curriculum of studies.

In 1916 they decided to make an effort to propagate primary instruction, the necessary funds being obtained by raising the taxes in the provinces by 20 per cent. In the same year thirty new boys' schools and ten girls' schools were opened. A forceful propaganda for the development of the number of schools was led in the Feminist newspaper, *Zaban e Zanan*—The Voice of the Women—by its manager, Madame Dolatabadi, who insisted on the fact that the effort made in Teheran was to be continued in the provinces. She gained her point and a girls' school was erected in all large towns. In 1919 the first high school was opened in Teheran. The course was to last nine years: general subjects were taught, general history, mathematics, geometry, botany, astronomy, domestic science, music, etc. Such was the summary of the fight led by the women to gain their equality with men and to receive the benefits of education. It is possible to state, for one who knows the ardent conservatism of a nation and a church deeply attached to their religious customs, that a giant step was made in twenty years. It is an especially important achievement that the clergy is now convinced that the Koranic law is not opposed to woman's education. Hence, we see our young girls headed towards European

(Continued on page 47.)

SECTION FRANCAISE.

NECROLOGE.

Berne, 22 novembre, 1926. Aujourd'hui est décédée, dans son domicile à Berne, Mlle. Emma Graf, Dr phil., jusqu'en sept. 1926 institutrice à l'École Normale pour jeunes filles, âgée de 61 ans. Mlle. Graf a joué un rôle important dans le mouvement féministe en Suisse, notamment dans la Société suisse des Institutrices et dans le Mouvement suffragiste de la ville et du canton de Berne. Elle avait été pendant plusieurs années rédactrice du Journal des Institutrices et avait fondé en 1915 l'Annuaire des Femmes Suisses. Dans sa retraite elle espérait consacrer tout son temps à l'étude de l'histoire du féminisme, et sa mort est une grande perte pour le féminisme suisse.

LES DROITS CIVILS DE LA FEMME EN ARGENTINE.

La Chambre de Représentants de la République Argentine vient d'approuver un projet de réforme du Code civil visant à établir l'égalité de droits civils entre hommes et femmes.

En vertu du dit projet on accorde à la femme majeure (célibataire, divorcée ou veuve) capacité pour exercer tous les droits et fonctions civiles que les lois accordent à l'homme majeur. La femme célibataire, mariée, divorcée ou veuve pourra aussi être nommée tutrice, curatrice, exécuteur testamentaire, témoin. Pour exercer ces fonctions, la femme mariée n'aura pas besoin d'autorisation maritale.

La mère non mariée aura les mêmes droits sur ses enfants que la mère légitime.

La femme remariée conservera la puissance paternelle sur les enfants issus d'un mariage antérieur.

La femme mariée pourra exercer, sans autorisation maritale ou judiciaire, une profession, un emploi ou une industrie honnête, et adhérer à des associations civiles ou commerciales ou à des sociétés coopératives. Elle pourra administrer le produit de son travail et en disposer librement.

La femme mariée séparée de biens, pourra administrer les biens qui lui auront été adjugés, les aliéner et en disposer à titre onéreux.

Le mari gardera l'administration des biens de sa femme tout le temps qu'elle n'aura pas manifesté, au moyen d'une inscription dans un registre spécial ou dans le registre de mandats, sa volonté d'administrer elle-même ses biens. On considérera ce fait comme un mandat tacite en faveur du mari.

La femme remariée pourra administrer les biens du mariage antérieur. Le produit de ces biens n'appartiendra pas à la nouvelle association conjugale.

La femme mariée aura le droit d'accepter ou de répudier la reconnaissance en sa faveur que lui feraient ses parents. On lui accorde aussi capacité pour accepter des donations, des héritages sous bénéfice d'inventaire, et se pourvoir en justice pour des causes civiles et criminelles qui affectent sa personne, ses biens et la personne ou les biens de ses enfants mineurs issus d'un mariage antérieur.

Si, pendant le mariage, le mari est privé de liberté par une condamnation de deux ans ou plus, la femme pourra, avec autorisation judiciaire, disposer des biens personnels de son conjoint ou des acquêts dont il aurait l'administration à fin de pourvoir à son propre entretien et à celui de ses enfants mineurs. Cela dans le cas où la femme et les enfants n'auraient pas d'autres ressources.

Les dettes contractées par un des époux obligeront les biens de l'autre époux et les acquêts qu'il administrerait, seulement dans le cas où ces obligations auront pour objet les besoins du ménage, l'éducation des enfants communs, ou la conservation des biens communs.

La femme mariée mineure aura les mêmes droits civils que la femme mariée majeure, mais elle aura

besoin de l'autorisation maritale pour exercer la libre disposition de ses biens.

Ce projet marque un sensible progrès dans la situation légale de la femme et constitue une belle victoire des idées féministes. C'est presque la consécration de l'égalité des droits civils entre hommes et femmes. On a corrigé la flagrante injustice par laquelle la mère non mariée était presque dépouillée des droits sur ses enfants (lorsque ceux-ci étaient reconnus par le père), en lui accordant les mêmes droits qu'à la mère légitime, mais on n'a pas touché aux droits de celle-ci sur ses enfants. Le code argentin, comme presque tous les codes, reflète cette organisation patriarcale de la famille qui règne depuis tant de siècles dans nos sociétés civilisées, et attribue au père la puissance paternelle. Cela est à mon avis une situation illogique, antinaturelle, c'est la mère qui conçoit les enfants, qui leur donne la vie au prix de ses souffrances, quelque fois au péril de sa propre vie. Biologiquement les enfants appartiennent plus à la femme qu'à l'homme, en conséquence, les droits de la mère devraient primer, ou, tout au moins, on devrait accorder aux deux parents des droits égaux.

Verrons-nous un jour consacré par le code d'un pays ce desiderata du féminisme?

SARA REY ALVAREZ.

Londres, le 13 décembre 1926.

AUTOUR DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

On sait que, malgré toutes les démarches des Sociétés féministes nationales et internationales, le contrat de Miss Florence Wilson, bibliothécaire en chef au Secrétariat de la S.d.N., n'a pas été renouvelé, et que Miss Wilson va donc quitter dès le 1er janvier 1927 ces fonctions dans lesquelles elle a fait preuve de tant de précieuses capacités.

Les représentants à Genève de l'Alliance et du Conseil International des Femmes n'ont pas voulu laisser partir Miss Wilson sans lui manifester leur sympathie et leur reconnaissance, et elles ont organisé en son honneur un lunch, auquel elles ont convié les principales associations féminines internationales qui ont leur siège dans cette ville. Ce lunch a eu lieu le 17 décembre dans les salons du Lycéum-Club, sous la présidence de Mlle. Gourd, secrétaire de l'Alliance, et 8 autres organisations internationales féminines y étaient représentées (Conseil International des Femmes, Fédération des Femmes universitaires, Ligue Internationale des Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté, Association internationale des Gardes-Malades, Ligue internationale des Femmes juives, Fédération des Eclaireuses, Union Mondiale de la Femme, Bureau International d'Education). Mlle. Mundt du B.I.T. y assistait également. Des discours ont été prononcés par Mlle. Gourd, qui a transmis à Miss Wilson les messages d'autres groupements et personnalités empêchés de participer à ce lunch, et par Mrs. Doty au nom de "Pax et Libertas" et Mme. d'Arcis comme compatriote de Miss Wilson, les trois oratrices insistant sur le bel exemple de féminisme qu'avait donné Miss Wilson en prouvant par la façon dont elle avait accompli cette tâche écrasante de l'organisation de la bibliothèque du Secrétariat, de quoi sont capables les femmes, et quelle conscience elles apportent à l'exécution de leurs devoirs. Miss Wilson a remercié de façon charmante, en souhaitant plein succès aux efforts des Associations organisatrices, et à Mlle. Gourd d'être bientôt membre du Parlement fédéral suisse! Cette réunion à caractère intime et cordial a montré combien précieuses peuvent être les relations féminines sur le terrain international.

Parmi les promotions auxquelles a procédé le Conseil de la S.d.N. lors de sa dernière session, nous avons le plaisir d'enregistrer celle de Mlle. G. Radziwil, de la Section d'Information du Secrétariat, comme mem-

bre de Section. Mlle. Radziwil, qui est spécialement chargée des relations avec les organisations féminines, a représenté la S.d.N. au Congrès de l'Alliance à Paris le printemps dernier; et c'est toujours avec la plus grande complaisance qu'elle nous fournit, soit directement, soit par l'intermédiaire de Mlle. Gourd, notre secrétaire à Genève, tous les renseignements concernant la Société des Nations, qui nous sont nécessaires.

L'Alliance est heureuse de lui adresser ici ses meilleures félicitations pour cette promotion, qui constitue un avancement bien mérité.

NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.
CONVENTION SUR L'ESCLAVAGE A LA SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

Une longue discussion a eu lieu cette année dans le Comité et la Convention suivante, présentée par Lord Cecil, a été votée. Par cette convention, les états signataires s'engagent, en ce qui concerne les territoires placés sous leur souveraineté, juridiction, protection, suzeraineté ou tutelle: a) à prévenir ou supprimer la traite; b) à amener progressivement, aussitôt que possible, la complète abolition de l'esclavage sous toutes ses formes. Lord Cecil n'obtint pas que les vaisseaux qui transporteront des esclaves soient traités comme s'ils transportaient de la contrebande de guerre.

Une longue discussion sur le travail forcé a abouti à cette résolution: L'Assemblée, tout en reconnaissant que le travail forcé pour le service public est quelquefois nécessaire, est d'avis que, en règle générale, il n'y sera pas fait appel, sauf s'il est impossible d'obtenir un travail volontaire, et qu'alors il recevra une rémunération adéquate.

Sur la question de savoir si la juridiction de la Cour internationale de justice sera obligatoire, la convention des Etats signataires a accepté l'obligation, pour les disputes relatives à l'interprétation ou à l'application de la convention, pourvu que ces états fussent partie de la Cour.

La 3e résolution demande au Conseil de présenter chaque année un rapport sur les lois et règlements adoptés par les gouvernements et communiqués à la S. des N.

La 4e demande au Conseil d'autoriser le Bureau du Travail international à empêcher le travail forcé de dégénérer en esclavage. Une charte du travail indigène pourrait être établie; elle aurait une grande importance.

AUSTRALIE.

Un bill a passé à l'Assemblée législative de Victoria supprimant toute disqualification de sexe dans les fonctions publiques et les professions libérales.

GRANDE BRETAGNE.

Union nationale des Sociétés pour l'égalité civique.— Il avait été entendu que le gouvernement réunirait cette année une conférence de membres de tous les partis pour discuter la question de l'égalité de franchise; mais ce n'est que la semaine dernière, à la fin de cette session, qu'il s'est décidé à discuter la question. L'Union nationale prépare un Mémoire qu'elle fera signer par les membres du Parlement.

Loi sur l'emploi de la céruse.— Cette loi vient d'être votée. Les femmes engagées actuellement dans cette industrie pourront y rester, mais aucune ne pourra être engagée à l'avenir. La conférence organisée par l'Union nationale le 26 novembre sur la législation protectrice des femmes a été très animée et une résolution a été votée invitant le gouvernement à s'inspirer de la convention de Washington plutôt que du Bill qui doit être réintroduit cette année et qui n'applique les restrictions qu'aux femmes.

Loi sur la légitimation.— Cette loi a été votée. Un enfant né hors mariage sera légitimé par le mariage subséquent des parents, sauf dans le cas où il serait né pendant que l'un des parents était marié.

Santé publique.— Le Bill concernant le danger des fumées pour la santé publique a passé au Parlement; mais il ne sera pas très efficace.

Succès féminins.— Pour la première fois dans l'histoire, une femme avocate, Miss Joan Clarkson, est apparue en robe et perruque devant le Comité judiciaire du Conseil Privé. Pour la première fois aussi, les femmes ont gagné un poste important dans l'administration de la Chambre des Lords avec la nomination de Miss H. F. M. Court comme chef du Bureau des Comptes.

IRLANDE.

Dans l'Irlande du Nord, le Conseil consultatif a, pendant 18 mois, réclamé une législation sur le modèle de la législation anglaise concernant l'égalité de tutelle et la pension alimentaire. La réponse officielle a été qu'une telle législation n'était pas désirable. Aucune raison n'a été donnée. Les mesures législatives, cette année, ont été nulles. Cela tient aux difficultés matérielles trop absorbantes. La question des logements a progressé à Dublin et dans tout le sud de l'Irlande beaucoup plus que dans le Nord.

Suivant l'avis donné au Congrès de Paris, un comité de relations internationales s'est fondé à Belfast; il comprend les déléguées de l'Irlande du Nord qui étaient présentes au Congrès. Belfast et Dublin se rejoignent par l'intermédiaire du Conseil national et le nouveau comité de Belfast est relié aux comités des pays étrangers.

ALLEMAGNE.

Loi contre la mauvaise littérature.— La loi pour la protection de la jeunesse contre la mauvaise littérature a été votée au Reichstag après une vif débat au Parlement et une longue querelle avec les vendeurs d'obscénités. Le rapporteur à la session plénière fut Frau Dr. Matz. La loi prescrit que cette sorte de littérature sera placée sur une liste qui en limitera le débit et que la vente aux jeunes personnes de moins de 18 ans en sera défendue. La censure comprendra un président officiel et des assesseurs pris parmi les artistes et les écrivains, les libraires, les membres des oeuvres sociales, de l'enseignement, etc. Cette loi est un réel complément aux lois sur le bien-être des enfants. C'est la première loi sur la culture nationale que le Reichstag ait votée.

HOLLANDE.

L'Union nationale néerlandaise a tenu son assemblée annuelle à Utrecht le 13 décembre avec un grand succès. Mme. Bakker Nort, membre du Parlement, a soulevé à la Chambre la question de la nationalité des femmes mariées en présentant les vues de l'Alliance qui ont été accueillies avec un grand intérêt.

AUTRICHE.

A son dernier meeting tenu à Lenz en octobre, le parti social-démocrate a établi son nouveau programme. Il contient quelques clauses féministes: lutte contre les préjugés de sexe, possibilité pour les femmes de développer leur personnalité, appréciation du rôle des femmes comme mères et ménagères, protection contre le travail double du métier et du ménage. En conséquence, il réclame: l'abolition de toutes les lois contraaires aux intérêts féminins, droits égaux des sexes dans les services publics, coéducation officielle des deux sexes, prohibition de tout travail spécialement dangereux pour l'organisme féminin, admission libre des femmes à toutes les autres professions: possibilités égales d'apprentissage; salaire égal pour travail égal; moyens pratiques pour faciliter le travail du ménage; création de foyers pour les enfants, afin d'alléger le fardeau des mères; droits égaux des enfants légitimes et illégitimes; réglementation possible des naissances dans certains cas; lutte contre la mortalité infantile; subsides accordés à tous les enfants, à toutes les mères en couches ou qui allaitent, aux mères et aux enfants malades; soupes scolaires, colonies de vacances, lutte énergique contre la tuberculose, les maladies vénériennes et l'alcoolisme.

Une femme inventeur.— Dr. F. Seydle, assistante à l'Institut de physique à Vienne, a inventé un perfectionnement du téléphone qui transmet plus clairement le son et le timbre de la voix.

La première femme chauffeur à Vienne.— Toutes les autorités avaient refusé jusqu'ici aux femmes munies du diplôme de chauffeur, le droit de conduire les voitures

publiques. Frau Fischer ayant fait appel à la Haute Cour de justice contre cet ostracisme à eu gain de cause.

Visite de Lady Aberdeen.—A son retour des Balkans, Lady Aberdeen est restée quelques heures à Vienne où elle a été reçue par le Conseil national des femmes. Elle reviendra y présider le Conseil international de 1930.

HONGRIE.

Les élections ont été fixées du 8 au 15 décembre. Les droits constitutionnels en Hongrie étant violés par des autorités locales serviles, les femmes ne croient pas devoir prendre une part active aux élections. Seul le parti social-démocrate et deux autres partis de l'opposition, ont mis des femmes sur leur liste. Les sociétés féministes ont envoyé à tous les candidats une circulaire contenant le programme politique des femmes et demandant aux candidats de l'appuyer; des réponses encourageantes ont été reçues. D'autres circulaires ont été distribuées pour engager toutes les femmes à voter pour les candidats favorables et pour les inviter à un grand meeting organisé le 30 novembre. Ce meeting, présidé par Vilma Glücklich a eu un grand succès. Le 3 décembre, Vilma Glücklich a fait une conférence très instructive sur le pacifisme économique et la paix internationale.

POLOGNE.

La Pologne a lancé un nouveau timbre à l'effigie de Mme. Curie. Mme. Curie est une Polonaise de naissance devenue française par son mariage.

ESPAGNE.

L'Académie espagnole a changé son règlement de manière à pouvoir admettre des femmes à l'avenir.

ETATS-UNIS.

Pour la première fois, l'Institut des Arts et Lettres a admis des femmes parmi ses membres: quatre auteurs, Edith Wharton, Margaret Deland, Agnès Ripplier, et Mary E. Wilkins Freeman ont été élues.

Comparaison des enfants à l'école et au travail.—Une tempête a été soulevée par le livre de Dr. Helen Woolley intitulé *Etude expérimentale des enfants au travail et à l'école* entre 14 et 16 ans. C'est un volume très impartial. Le Bureau guide des vocations à Cincinnati, dont la Dr. Woolley est directrice, a commencé, il y a quelques années, une étude comparative, suivant pendant 5 ans les enfants des écoles et des usines. La comparaison a montré, par les tests physiques, que l'écolier de 14 à 18 ans surpasse l'ouvrier; en sérieux le jeune ouvrier surpasse l'écolier. Les tests mentaux montrent que l'écolier est inférieur pour la mémoire et la routine, et supérieur pour la pensée logique et la maîtrise du langage. Dr. Woolley fixe à 16 ans l'âge minimum de quitter l'école. Ce livre arrive juste à point au moment où l'on propose un amendement à la constitution fédérale pour permettre au Congrès de limiter le travail des enfants.

PERSE.

Ceux qui connaissent la Perse ont été stupéfaits en apprenant qu'une femme, Mme. Heydary, a été nommée à la "Sesqui Commission." C'est une révolution dans ce pays si conservateur et si éloigné de l'Occident à tout point de vue. Mme. Heydary, Persane mariée à un Russe, fut emprisonnée par les Bolshéviki avec Mrs. M. Harrison, puis renvoyée dans son pays natal. Quand la Perse, sous le Shah actuel, réforma ses institutions, Mme. H. fut nommée secrétaire du Ministère des Travaux Publics. Enfin, lorsqu'elle fut nommée membre de la Sesqui Commission, elle s'efforça d'intéresser les Américaines au développement économique des femmes perses; car dans ce pays, les hommes ont accaparé toutes les fonctions, ne laissant aux femmes que le métier d'institutrice, de ménagère ou de concubine. Elle s'occupe maintenant de rassembler des fonds pour développer l'apprentissage des travaux d'art chez les femmes et les rendre plus indépendantes.

Enseignement.—L'établissement d'écoles nationales est relativement récent. Il y a 30 ans, les garçons allaient à l'école paroissiale qui, avec les bains, forme un supplément à la mosquée. Les enfants, enfermés dans

des pièces sombres et humides, lisaient et répétaient indéfiniment le Coran; les plus doués seuls sachant écrire. Pas d'histoire, de géographie, ni d'arithmétique. En 1896, une haute commission fut organisée pour ouvrir des écoles publiques qui fonctionnèrent malgré l'opposition systématique du clergé. C'est alors que les femmes voulurent avoir des écoles pour leurs filles. Après un premier insuccès, une école privée obtint une vague autorisation officielle; les règlements religieux étant strictement observés, l'école réussit, et, en 1900, d'autres écoles de filles furent ouvertes et même le clergé y envoya ses enfants. En 1914, le Ministère de l'Instruction publique les patronna. En 1916 une taxe de 20 per cent. fut prélevée, 30 écoles de garçons et 10 écoles de filles furent ouvertes. En 1919, la première école secondaire de filles fut inaugurée à Téhéran. Le clergé est maintenant convaincu que la loi coranique n'est pas opposée à l'Instruction des femmes. De jeunes Persanes viennent même eutdier dans les écoles d'Occident. Mme. Dolatabadi, âgée de 35 ans, qui est la pionnière de ce mouvement, étudie depuis 2 ans à Paris, pour pouvoir suivre les cours de la Sorbonne. Mme. D. a aussi fondé deux groupes féministes dont l'un possède un journal: "La Voix des femmes."

Lois concernant les femmes.—Le divorce est très dur pour les femmes. Si le mari le demande, la femme ne peut pas s'y opposer, mais l'homme doit lui rendre sa dot. Un mari peut obtenir le divorce en 2 ou 3 jours, mais il doit payer à sa femme une pension alimentaire pendant 3 mois, durant lesquels elle ne peut pas se remarier. Si la femme demande le divorce, elle doit payer à son mari tout l'argent qu'elle lui a coûté. Il y a aussi une forme de divorce qui permet au mari de reprendre sa femme malgré elle. Le mariage temporaire et le concubinage sont autorisés. Le père doit subvenir à l'entretien de ses enfants; il en a la garde si la femme demande le divorce. Le suffrage n'est pas accordé aux femmes.

CHINE.

Le Congrès chinois a adopté une résolution en faveur de l'égalité des droits des deux sexes dans la politique, le droit et l'enseignement. Les "Nouvelles centrales" rapportent que la veuve de Sun Yat Sen, fondateur de la République chinoise, sera peut-être la première présidente du nouveau gouvernement de Canton. Miss Kathleen Hoahing, la première femme chinoise qui ait passé l'examen d'avoué, va repartir en Chine.

INDE.

Punjab.—Le dernière session du Conseil législatif a été marquée par une mesure importante: la suppression de toute disqualification de sexe en matière d'élections législatives ou municipales, par 15 votes contre 9, le gouvernement restant neutre.

Elections.—Les femmes ont voté cette année en grand nombre et on peut dire que le suffrage a élevé la situation des femmes dans la vie moderne hindoue. A Madras, la candidate n'a pas été élue, mais elle a eu 4,461 voix contre 4900. En Canara du Sud, une femme a été admise à l'intérieur de la salle de vote pour renseigner les électrices.

Voyage de Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.—Mrs. P. L., présidente de la Ligue de la liberté pour les femmes en Grande-Bretagne, est en ce moment aux Indes avec son mari; elle y a fait un grand nombre de conférences et elle nous écrit que les femmes hindoues ont fait des progrès incroyables ces 8 dernières années.

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES DIPLOMEES DE L'UNIVERSITE.

Une conférence s'est tenue à Amsterdam et a réuni un grand nombre de déléguées. Le nombre des associations affiliées s'accroît continuellement. Une des plus intéressantes discussions a porté sur la réconciliation du mariage et d'une profession libérale. Quelques aspects de la question scolaire ont été discutés: interchange entre les professeurs de l'enseignement secondaire, coopération intellectuelle, langue internationale. La 2e session a été consacrée aux bourses fondées par la fédération et aux rapports des fédérations affiliées.

SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

Comité des Mandats permanents.—Ce Comité s'est réuni en novembre; il comprenait des représentants de l'Italie, Portugal, Grande-Bretagne, France, Espagne, Belgique, Suisse, Hollande, Suède et Japon: Il s'est occupé spécialement de la question du trafic des liqueurs.

43e Session du Conseil.—Cette session a eu lieu sous la présidence de M. Vandervelde. Les principales décisions concernent la nomination de présidents des commissions d'investigation et l'adoption de certaines définitions d'articles; l'examen des mesures à prendre pour assurer le fonctionnement rapide des organes de la Ligue en cas de danger; la convocation pour le 4 mai 1927 de la conférence internationale économique sous la présidence de M. Theunis; la convocation pour le 4 juillet 1927 d'une conférence pour la conclusion d'un contrat établissant une Union internationale de secours; l'organisation d'une conférence dans l'automne 1927 pour la surveillance des manufactures privées d'armes, de munitions et de matériel de guerre, et diverses questions techniques. En ce qui concerne la sécurité et la réduction des armements, la plus importante décision a porté sur les mesures à prendre en cas d'extrême danger. Les gouvernements ont été invités à reconnaître les avantages d'un engagement formel pour faciliter des mesures rapides et effectives. Le Comité financier étudiera l'établissement d'un plan d'assistance financière en faveur de tout état victime d'une agression. Enfin, le Conseil a décidé d'informer les gouvernements qu'il est prêt à offrir ses bons offices pour créer une atmosphère de confiance et de sécurité entre les gouvernements. Diverses décisions ont été prises au sujet des questions financières, comprenant: l'installation des réfugiés bulgares, les questions d'hygiène (pour lesquelles le comité se doit d'adopter une femme). Le comité de Déléguées des organisations internationales féminines a adressé une lettre aux membres du Conseil de la Société des Nations exprimant le vœu qu'au moins une femme soit choisie par le Conseil pour siéger à la conférence économique et suggérant le nom de Frau E. Freundlich, membre du Parlement autrichien.

Comité préparatoire pour la conférence économique internationale.—Ce comité s'est réuni en novembre; il a rédigé l'ordre du jour de la conférence qui se tiendra le 7 mai.

ORDRE DU JOUR DE LA CONFERENCE.

Première Partie.

Situation économique actuelle:

Ses principaux aspects et problèmes du point de vue des différents pays.

Analyse des causes du déséquilibre actuel dans le commerce et l'industrie.

Tendances d'ordre économique pouvant influencer la paix du monde.

Deuxième Partie.

A.—COMMERCE.

(1) Liberté du commerce.

(a) Prohibitions et restrictions d'importation et d'exportation.

(b) Limitation, réglementation ou monopolisation du commerce.

(c) Traitement économique des ressortissants et des sociétés d'un pays admis à s'établir sur le territoire d'un autre.

(2) Tarifs douaniers et traités de commerce.

Obstacles au commerce international provenant:

(a) de la nature, du taux et de l'instabilité des tarifs d'importation et d'exportation.

(b) de la nomenclature et la classification douanière.

(3) Moyens indirects de protéger le commerce et la navigation nationaux.

(a) Subsidés directs ou indirects.

(b) Dumping et législation anti-dumping.

(c) Discrimination établie par le régime des transports.

(d) Moyens fiscaux de pénaliser la marchandise étrangère importée.

(4) Répercussion sur le commerce international de la diminution du pouvoir d'achat.

B.—INDUSTRIE.

(1) Situation des principales industries (capacité de production, production effective, consommation main d'oeuvre).

(2) Caractère des difficultés actuelles de l'industrie et leurs causes d'ordre industriel, commercial et monétaire.

(3) Possibilités d'action:

(a) L'organisation de la production, notamment les ententes industrielles; leurs aspects du point de vue de la production, de la consommation et de la main d'oeuvre—leur régime juridique; leur connexion avec les questions douanières.

(b) Importance de la réunion et de l'échange rapide d'informations statistiques relatives à la production industrielle.

C.—AGRICULTURE.

(1) La situation actuelle de l'agriculture par rapport à la situation d'avant-guerre, en ce qui concerne la production, la consommation, les stocks, les prix, et la liberté des échanges des produits agricoles.

(2) Causes des difficultés actuelles.

(3) Possibilités d'action internationale:

(a) Développement et collaboration internationale des organisations de producteurs et de consommateurs, y compris les différents systèmes d'organisation coopérative.

(b) Echange continu de tous renseignements utiles se rapportant aux conditions de la situation agricole, recherches scientifiques et techniques, crédit agricole, etc.

(c) Développement du pouvoir d'achat des agriculteurs.

(Continued from page 43).

schools. Great numbers of them are already seated next to their sisters from the West, where they learn to deserve the greater freedom they crave.

In fact, they have for an example Madame Dolatabadi, a woman of thirty-five and the real leader of this movement, who for two years now has been training at the College Feminin in Paris in order to intelligently attend lectures at the Sorbonne.

The movement is rapidly spreading and nothing can stop it.

But a tremendous effort must yet be made. The problem depends on the amount of money the Government is willing to allot to the budget of the Ministry of Public Instruction. All other obstacles have been overcome.

Satisfied with the first results obtained, which constitute an upheaval of the most ancient customs, Madame Dolatabadi then directed her efforts towards organising the women, making them conscious of a common goal and co-ordinating their action towards one and the same plan. To this second period belongs the creation of two Feminist groups. The first was started four or five years ago, when Madame Dolatabadi succeeded in grouping around herself about forty women who, putting together some funds, started three weaving workshops on a small scale, employing women only. The first one for silk at Yezd, another one for wool at Kerman, and the last for cotton at Ispahan. At the present time about seventy women belong to this group. Another society with educational tendencies was formed at Teheran by a woman who assured its success by acting as its secretary. Princess Mou, a sister of the famous former Socialist leader at the parliament, Souleiman Mirza, was elected president. This society publishes the newspaper, *The Voice of the Women*, of which we have already spoken, and conducts a school at Teheran, as well as a working room in which stockings, woollen socks, etc., are manufactured. This society consists of about 500 members.

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