

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

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PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE.

At this time of year I should wish all my friends a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, but today such a wish seems almost a mockery. How can the feast which recalls to Christian and non-Christian the famous message of 'Peace on earth to men of good will' be a merry one, when war is being waged in Asia and Africa and when threats of war in other parts of the world shake the hope and faith of everyone?

Therefore with all my heart I wish for you and for myself that rarest of all gifts, moral courage. Neither gaiety nor happiness, but clear vision, burning faith and unshaken courage is what we need.

The vision of a world as a single community with free

and equal co-operation between men and women must give us strength to overcome national interests and unworthy prejudice. Faith that we can convert the timid and suppress those who profit by war and rumours of war. Fortitude for each one of us as the martyrs of old to stand against even our own country's policy if that is cowardly or bullying. Hope that we may see the re-action against women pass away and the dawn of a new era of comradeship.

So I wish gaiety and happiness to those who come after us, but for ourselves faith, hope and invincible courage.

MARGERY I. CORBETT ASHBY.

EVENTS OF 1935.

For the Alliance the event which necessarily loomed largest was the Congress in Istanbul. Our little paper has been much taken up with material about the Congress, and we hope that it has been a faithful mirror of the interest aroused and of the brilliant success achieved.

The issue by the Turkish Government of a series of stamps commemorating the Congress was a great and indeed a unique event. As the issue was withdrawn on December 31st, we may hope shortly to be able to give some account of its success.

A less happy note has had throughout the year to be struck by references to laws and decrees, and those by no means only in countries which have abandoned the democratic form of Government, gravely endangering women's economic position. If our good wishes take the form of specially ardent hopes that 1936 may see—in spite of, rather than *because of*, human efforts—a gradual return to economic stability and prosperity, it

is because nothing would help women to regain this lost ground and to resist further encroachments than a better general economic position.

Belgium Appropriately enough, our first recollection is that the Belgian women were successful in securing the abrogation or suspension of several decrees drastically limiting their right to work. May it be a good augury.

Canada The representation of women both in the House of Commons and the Senate has been doubled—alas, that that only means that there are now two women Members in each House instead of one.

Chili Women went for the first time to the polls in municipal elections and many women were elected all over the country.

Cuba The new constitution gives absolutely equal political rights to men and women, confirm-

ing the franchise already exercised by women under provisional laws.

Czechoslovakia The elections held this year saw the return of eight women to the Chamber and five women to the Senate.

Egypt The abolition of the regulation of prostitution has been recommended by the Government Committee appointed to consider this question, and the Government has accepted the principle to be applied when preliminary arrangements to ensure the proper working of the new system can be completed.

Great Britain Nothing very striking can be reported, but the London County Council has partially abrogated the bar against the employment of married women in its service; and a law has been passed to remove some further anomalies in the position of a married woman under the law.

Elections held in November saw the return of nine women Members of Parliament, as against 15 in the last elections. The drop is certainly due to the unfavourable opportunities accorded to women candidates by the different parties.

Hungary. Two women were elected to Parliament.

Ireland. The new Nationality Law gives equal rights to men and women except as to the transmission of nationality from a parent to a child.

Japan. The system of Regulation of Prostitution is to be abolished.

Kenya. The capital, Nairobi, has for the first time a woman mayor.

New Zealand. The new Nationality Law gives a woman a right to retain her British nationality on marrying an alien while she is in New Zealand itself. This saving clause is due to the timid and reactionary attitude of the Imperial British Government.

Philippines. Women voted in the plebiscite as to the future form of government. It is unfortunate that their future suffrage rights have been made dependent on an affirmative action by women instead of being granted as an integral part of the constitution.

Rhodesia (Northern). A woman candidate for the first time won a seat in the Legislative Assembly.

Spain. The Regulation of prostitution has been abolished.

Sweden. Four women were elected to the Lower House.

Switzerland. Women were made eligible to serve as judges in the Children's Courts, and a woman came out at the top of the poll.

Turkey. Seventeen women were elected to the National Assembly.

OBITUARY.

During this past year we have had to announce the death of many old friends, both men and women. The whole world mourned the loss of Jane Addams; many feminists owed a debt to Charlotte Perkins Gilman; and countless homeless and oppressed people will remember with gratitude Karen Jeppe. New Zealand lost her only woman Member of Parliament, Mrs. McCombs, and also Mrs. Kate Edwards, the first woman in the British Empire to obtain a full university degree. The women's co-operative movement will long miss its international secretary, Miss Enfield, and Frenchwomen will not

forget Jane Misme. Mme. André Rieder, Miss Agnes Garrett and Dame Sarah Lees were all members of the Alliance for many years. Mme. Rieder had been especially active in promoting intercourse with the women of the Near East and her death just before the Istanbul Congress was a heavy loss. Lastly, the early death of Winifred Holtby deprived the woman's movement of a devoted and brilliant worker.

The two men we have commemorated are Mr. Corbett, Mrs. Ashby's father, a true feminist and a very generous friend to the Alliance, and Mr. Jaakoff Prelooker, who also had our interests close at heart.

Lastly, as we go to press, we learn from the newspapers of the death of Dr. M. Carey Thomas, for very many years Dean, and later President, of Bryn Mawr College, where she instituted many administrative and educational reforms. All her life she was an active worker in the woman's movement, and she joined the Alliance in 1913. In addition to her purely suffrage work, she was one of the founders of the International Federation of University Women and did much real feminist work in the field of education.

PRESENTATION TO MRS. CORBETT ASHBY.

Originated by the British Commonwealth League of which Mrs. Corbett Ashby is President, the idea of making a presentation to her on the occasion of her silver wedding spread rapidly through the many organisations for which she works and among her innumerable friends and admirers.

The intention was to make this a national tribute only as there was not time to undertake the organisation of an international affair nor did the moment seem suitable. But inevitably, some of Mrs. Ashby's friends in other countries came to hear of it and sent personal contributions. We want to emphasise the fact that this was a British occasion so that none of our readers may reproach us for having omitted to give them an opportunity of taking part in it.

The presentation took place at the American Women's Club in London by kind permission of the President, Mrs. Curtis Brown, on December 19th—an unfortunate date as events turned out since it co-incided with the big debate in both Houses of Parliament on the Abyssinian-Italian Peace terms and thus prevented all Members of either House from being present. But there was a big muster of friends representing all Mrs. Ashby's multifarious interests, and the Chair was taken by Miss Marian Reeves of the Women's Freedom League, of which Mrs. Ashby is also President. The other speakers were Dr. Maude Royden, who spoke of Mrs. Ashby's unique combination of grace, charm and sweetness with moral courage and absolute sincerity; Miss Agatha Harrison, who specially dwelt on Mrs. Ashby's work for peace; Lady Layton, a colleague in the Liberal Party as well as in other work; Mrs. Rama Rau, who paid a glowing tribute to Mrs. Ashby's amazing powers as Chairmen of international and other gatherings, and also to her successful visit to India last year. We regret that it is impossible owing to lack of space to repeat the charming—and true!—things which were said and which we are sure would be echoed by every reader.

In the regretted absence of Lady Astor, Mrs. Seligman made the presentation of a most beautiful sapphire and diamond pendant hung on a slender chain, of a cheque and of the beautiful book containing the signatures of those who had contributed. This book had been exquisitely bound in leather by Mrs. Seligman herself, her sister had contributed a charming title page with little vignettes showing some of the many countries Mrs. Ashby has visited, and a "tail-piece" of Swiss gentians to symbolise her work in Geneva was the work of Mrs. Seligman's son. Not that Mrs. Selig-

man in the few moving words in which she made the presentation gave away this secret, which was revealed by the Chairman. Mrs. Ashby was also presented with a wonderful bouquet of roses and the big vase of flowers on the Chairman's table had been specially sent from South Africa and a marvellous sight it was.

The sum collected amounted to over £300, all in small contributions, some of them of a few pence from women too poor to give more but who wanted to show their appreciation of Mrs. Ashby's work for women.

Mrs. Ashby herself made the perfect response, recalling the debt she owes to her father and mother for their encouragement at a time when perhaps most parents would have frowned on a daughter's activity, making just the right reference to her happy home life so as to spare embarrassment to Mr. Ashby and her son Michael sitting beside her, and telling us all that she must take our gift as an encouragement to go on with the defence of the three causes most dear to her: feminism, peace and personal liberty and reproductibility.

It is never possible to reproduce the atmosphere of such a gathering and to evoke in print the strength of the sentiment of affection, admiration and gratitude which struggled for expression. We think our readers will be able to imagine it and we hope that Mrs. Ashby herself realised the reality of the goodwill which inspired the whole proceedings.

THE STATUS OF AFRICAN WOMEN.

Archdeacon Owen, of Kavirondo, not long ago made the startling announcement that marriage by capture still existed in Kenya. He supported his contention with two tragic instances, from his own recent experience, of the hunting down and capture of women fleeing from their husbands. Such a statement, from such a sober source, cannot be ignored; and it has given rise to a representative conference in London on Nov. 5th, called by the British Commonwealth League.

But marriage customs cannot in themselves oppress or free women; they draw their significance and force from the fundamental economic and social relations of men and women. What these are in Africa, what they may and what they should become, are problems whose existence has hardly yet been realised. It is one of those subjects situated in a no man's land between two established fields of knowledge and endeavour. African experts are seldom well-read in the history of the women's movement in this or any other country, and they have no occasion to consider that complex of social problems involved in the phrases "the subjection of women" and "the emancipation of women." English feminists, on the other hand, frequently share with their fellow-citizens the characteristic English haziness about the Empire over which they are said to rule. Recent events have caused a spate of conferences and discussions on colonial questions, and the difficulties which the organizers have experienced in obtaining informed speakers is an unhappy comment on the interest which the Heart of Empire takes in the more distant members.

The condition of African women has therefore either been neglected, or it has given rise, in proportion to the attention bestowed on it, to more confused talk and less hard thinking than almost any other aspect of colonial problems.

The truth probably is that the status of African women has seldom sunk as low as that of English women at some periods in English history. It is, however, impossible to claim that, in their primitive state, they enjoy anything like economic, social, and political equality with African men. But a primitive society, untouched by European influence, now exists hardly anywhere in Africa. The question that cries for answer is not "What is the status and condition of women in primitive African societies?" but "What will be the fate of the women in the change from barbarism that is

taking place?" And it is clear that in answering this question the experience of Europe cannot be ignored. Will African women find, as Englishwomen found, that they are being slowly ousted from productive processes as these become more profitable? As farming becomes more scientific, will the woman farmer disappear into her huts, to become the housewife pure and simple, with the economic dependence and the limited horizons which we now strive to fight against in our own country? The history of the part played by Englishwomen in agriculture shows how probable it is that this will happen. Will the woman trader of the West Coast disappear, as did the mediaeval women traders of England, as business becomes more exacting, requiring more education and capital? What will become of the women craftsmen, the potters and the dyers, as the industrial revolution, creeping into their villages, drives them out of business without providing them with alternative means of livelihood? When local self-government is introduced, or Indirect Rule, as it is more fashionable to call it, will women have a voice in it? Will they be encouraged to take an active part in it? As yet there is no sign that this has happened, or will happen. Are we to protect the morals of African women as the morals of Englishwomen were once protected, by restricting their freedom of movement in the rest of Africa as we now restrict it in Basutoland?

These are questions which urgently need to be asked. They are questions which anthropologists, those students of changing societies, have not yet thought of asking, though a large proportion of anthropologists are women who owe their own intellectual freedom and academic status to the work and courage of those who, not so long ago, were not ashamed to be feminists. That struggle has been forgotten by those who now enjoy the fruits of a victory they did not win.

Still less than the anthropologists do the officials of the Colonial Service ask such questions. It is hardly reasonable to expect them to do so. They are members of a Service from which women are virtually excluded, and they already have their hands full to overflowing with the problems presented to them by a savage, but changing, Africa, and which they are expected to solve without adequate funds or staff.

There is no help then but from enlightened opinion in England. The causes and effects of European colonisation in Africa are being more closely scrutinised at the present time than ever before in the history of relations between the two continents. But some aspects of the question are too easily overlooked, either because they do not involve an immediate threat of war, or because they are not directly concerned with questions of the profitability of colonies. The status and condition of African women is one of these. It is perhaps not unreasonable to claim that the organized women of England should concern themselves with the welfare of their "sisters under their skins," the unorganized and inarticulate women of darkest Africa. If they will not, it is certain no one else will.

ELEANOR HAWARDEN.

AUSTRIA.

Women honoured. Princess Fanny Starhemberg, leader of the Frauenreferat of the Patriotic Front and Austrian delegate to the League of Nations Assembly, celebrated her 60th birthday on October 24th. On this occasion she was decorated by the President of the Federal State of Austria with the Officers' Cross of the Austrian Order of Merit. Erwin Rieger, a gifted author, has described the life and work of the Princess in a very interesting book published on the occasion of her birthday. The City of Linz, capital of Upper Austria, has made the Princess its first woman honorary citizen (Ehrenbürger).

Sarah Wambaugh, the only woman member of the

League of Nations Committee for the Saar Plebiscite, has also received the first class Knight's Cross of the Austrian Order of Merit, in recognition of her work for the Plebiscite in Corinthia, fifteen years ago, and also of her kind references to Austria in her books giving her experiences in connection with Plebiscites.

Woman Docent. Dr. Elise Hofmann, who was recently admitted as a Docent in the University of Vienna, is lecturing on a science neglected for the last 40 years because there was no teacher for it. This science of "Palaobotany" is very seldom studied. Dr. Hofmann was a teacher in a girls' school for many years and could only study in her free time. In 1920 she obtained a doctor's degree in philosophy and, continuing her studies into the fossil remains of plants, she was able to give as her Introductory Treatise (Habilitationsschrift) a very interesting study of the "Palao-Histology of Plants."

Woman Professor in China. Dr. Fanny Halpern, a young Viennese woman who has studied neurology with outstanding success, was called to Shanghai two years ago to direct the University Clinic for nerve diseases. Now she has been appointed Professor of the University, and she is the only woman in China holding such a post. After her arrival in China she worked out plans for a modern lunatic asylum, and her courage was rewarded by the actual erection of the asylum and her own appointment as director.

Mlle. Gourd in Vienna. It was a great pleasure for Viennese women to welcome and to hear Mlle. Gourd, Hon. Secretary of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, at a meeting arranged by the National Council of Austrian Women and the Austrian Association for Women's Citizenship. Mlle. Gourd gave us a very interesting report on women's work with the League of Nations and the International Labour Office, mentioning with lively satisfaction the importance of the international women's organisations. As she said it is indeed very valuable to be able to refer to a membership of forty-five million women, and, as a member of the Child Welfare Committee representing the women's organisation, she is in a position to know. On this same evening, the Austrian delegate to the League of Nations, Princess Fanny Starhemberg, also gave a very interesting account of her impressions of Geneva. It was very satisfactory to hear that, in her opinion, the personal contact between statesmen creates a real atmosphere of peace and that one of women's tasks is to promote understanding between peoples.

GISELA URBAN.

BERMUDA.

The Women's Freedom League of Great Britain, of which Mrs. Corbett Ashby is President, organised a deputation to the Colonial Secretary, Mr. J. H. Thomas, on the position of women in Bermuda. Miss Rathbone, M.P., introduced the deputation and Mrs. Tucker, of the Bermuda Woman Suffrage Society, and Mrs. Corbett Ashby were the principal speakers.

As some of our readers may remember from previous articles, the constitution of Bermuda is an old one. The Emancipation Act passed 101 years ago freed the coloured slaves and also enfranchised male negroes, if they possessed a property qualification of real estate valued at not less than £60. There are between seven and eight hundred white women who own property, but they possess no franchise, even for municipal and parochial bodies. The franchise is, in fact, exercised by only 8% of the entire population, and as plural voting is frequent, it is easily seen that the system is the very reverse of "democratic." Women have been far from acquiescent. But Woman Suffrage Bills, even recently a Bill for the Parochial Franchise only, have always been rejected by the Legislature. The same fate

overtook a recent bill asking that women should be exempt from taxation, since they have no representation. Women have adopted the expedient of refusing to pay taxes, but we believe that, though there have been cases of distraint (i.e. sale of their goods to meet the tax payments), some one has always intervened to prevent these women being sent to prison. One gathers that, possibly owing to the absence of women from public life, prisons in Bermuda are so unpleasant that man's chivalry has shrunk from exposing these white women to them.

We gather that Mr. Thomas made the stock reply of all Colonial Secretaries when approached by women for the redress of a grievance, namely, that it is impossible to interfere in the internal affairs of a self-governing colony. But nevertheless the Imperial Government does not, and cannot, disclaim all responsibility for decent government, and we may hope that indirectly some influence may be exerted.

DUTCH EAST INDIES.

We have just heard that Mrs. S. van Overveldt Biekart has resigned her presidency of the Alliance affiliated society in Java, the Vereeniging voor Vrouwenrechten, as after 32 years of suffrage work, first in Holland and then in the Dutch East Indies, she feels that a younger woman must take over. She will remain, however, in close touch as Honorary President.

Mrs. Biekart reports that in May of this year women won their first victory when a woman was appointed as a member of the Volksraad (National Council). We presume that this does not mean that women have any right to vote or to be elected, but that the Government has had the good sense to nominate a woman, which ought to clear the way for equal rights since women if suitable for nomination are surely suitable for election.

GREECE.

The last Government issued a decree excluding women completely from the Civil Service, and even from private employment in banks etc. This monstrous piece of injustice has given a new impetus to the women's movement and their organisations are uniting in a common effort to get the decree withdrawn by the new Government. The attitude of the new King, which seems to be sympathetic to democratic ideas, gives rise to hopes of success.

GREAT BRITAIN.

One of our British Societies, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, has just celebrated the silver jubilee of its foundation, or more strictly of the day on which its founder, Miss Jeffrey was inspired with the idea of forming the society. At a party given in her honour Miss Jeffrey handed the cheque for £25 presented to her to the Editor of the Society's paper, the Catholic Citizen, in memory of Miss de Alberti, the much-beloved former editor.

GERMANY.

Details on the law of September, 1935, on the Reichsbürgerrecht (see October number), published recently, have up to now shown no change in the position of women, the disqualifications being exclusively on racial grounds.

The Committees officially formed to organise and represent the German Protestant Church do not include a single woman.

It is rather difficult to judge of the status of women's professional work in Germany at the present time. There have been no ordinances or laws on this matter for some time, though statistics show a steady decline, as, for instance, in the teaching profession and even in girls' schools. On the other hand, measures for hygiene and other questions affecting the family necessarily

demand an increase of social workers. In that branch women are, however, now seldom admitted as civil servants, but serve as employees. The N.S.D.A.P. has created a "Schwesterschaft" of the nurses among its women members. They are, as far as we know, trained as nurses by other societies, but they are specially charged to look after the spiritual welfare of the sick and ailing in their care. Several hospitals have been handed over to them and they also work as district nurses. Their uniform is the Party brown.

An extremely interesting book has just come out, "Das unbekante Heer" (The Unknown Army), by Dr. Marie Elisabeth Lüders. It is an authentic account of the work done during 1914-1918 in organising, social and agricultural work and, above all, in ammunition production by women in Germany, with 13 plates. It is published by Ed. Mittler u. Sohn, Berlin, price 5.50 M. Considering the frequent and loud accusations during the last two years that we German women had "failed" during the war, this book, written by the then chief organiser of women's work at the "Kriegsamt," may claim to be of distinct and actual importance and of lasting value, even though at the moment women throughout the world would much prefer to turn their thoughts solely towards matters of peace.

Referring to the paragraph in the December issue of *Jus*, on the appointment of a headmistress of a girls' school in Württemberg, it should be understood that, although it is indeed the first time such a post has been conferred on a woman in this district, on the whole since 1933 women have been progressively deprived of such posts. After a steady increase in the number of women heads of girls' schools from 1919 to 1933, there has been a heavy drop.

D.V.V.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

This month we are largely indebted to a new source for many interesting items of news, namely, the "Women's Supplement" to International Information, published by the Labour and Socialist International, with which we have started an exchange. The following are brief extracts from this bulletin:

Holland. A big meeting was held in Amsterdam to protest against war and demonstrate women's desire for peace.

Belgium. The Socialist women organised a big rally against the Italo-Abyssinian conflict which was supported by many other women's groups.

Under the same auspices a meeting was organised to protest against yet another attempt against the work of married women, and this again was supported by many women's organisations. As a result a Watch Committee on which all different opinions are represented was set up to see that this protest is effective.

Accounts are also given of more definitely party activities in **Czechoslovakia** and **Poland**, and there is a justifiably bitter reference to the calls now being made to the patriotism of Italian women: "Rights? Oh, no. But cares and duties, yes!"

And, had we space, we would gladly have copied the whole of an article by N. Wibaut, "Women and Democracy."

From other sources we take the following items:

France. During November, women's organisations joined with the trade union women in a big manifestation in favour of women's right to work. With Mme. Duchêne as Chairman, in which capacity she read a message from Mme. Joliot Curie, the daughter of Mme. Curie, who has just been awarded the Nobel Prize, speeches were made by the Presidents of our two affiliated suffrage societies, Mme. Brunschvicg and Mme. Vérone, as well as by representatives of the great Trade Union and Labour Federations, and others. The

solidarity of opinion on this question among all ranks of women was thus demonstrated in striking fashion.

Great Britain. The Church of England has just issued the Report of a Commission to enquire into the position of women in the work of the Church. The Commission was overwhelmingly opposed to the admission of women to the priesthood, only one member stating that he saw no theological reason against it, but admitting that the time was not ripe. It is claimed, and doubtless rightly, that the admission of women to the priesthood would create a far-reaching dissension and schism. But, if that is so, would one not suppose that the leaders of the Church, while as statesmen bowing to the force of that obstacle, would feel it their duty to lead their flock to a more truly spiritual point of view, namely, that the religious vocation can surely come to any soul, since it comes from a realm where there is neither male nor female, and that it is not for man or a man-made organisation to refuse to recognise that vocation?

INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION FOR WOMEN.

16. SWITZERLAND.

I. In regard to Night Work, Dangerous or Unhealthy Work and Limitation of Hours there are certain restrictions applicable to all adult workers. No such regulations exist regarding Weight Lifting and Minimum Wages.

II. Protection only for Women Workers.

a. Night Work. The General Factory Law excludes women workers from Night Work, even where the general Night Work Prohibition makes an exception for men workers. In cases of shift work women workers must get 11 hours unbroken rest, in which time the period from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. shall be included. In trades not under the General Factory Law night work is altogether forbidden to women and young workers. For women workers in the Railway Service the law prescribes limitation of night work to a minimum.

b. As to Weight Lifting the Factory Law contains certain regulations for women workers.

c. Dangerous and Unhealthy Work. The National Council ("Bundesrat") can altogether exclude women from certain industrial branches or processes. By law women are excluded from painting work, where paint containing lead is used. Certain exceptions may be made by the Council.

d. Limitation of Hours. There is prohibition or limitation of Sunday work, restrictions as to overtime work and in general against any lengthening of the normal work time.

e. Minimum Wages are stipulated only in the work contracts of Women Domestic Servants.

f. Special regulations of work for Housewives. The Swiss Labour Legislation does not take into consideration the women workers' Civil Status, except when a woman has to take care of a home or a household of some sort. In this case she is excluded from certain extra work, she will get a longer work-pause at dinner time and, if she wishes, half-time work on Saturdays. In the Railway Service a dinner time pause of one and a half hours is obligatory for women workers not living in the immediate neighbourhood of the work-place.

Additional Protective Measures for Women.

a. Maternity Regulations. Women in Industry and Transport Work may not work in their regular trade during the first six weeks after childbirth. At their own wish this time may be lengthened to eight weeks. In certain cases, although very rarely, it can be shortened to four weeks. Pregnant women workers may leave their work after simply giving a notification. In neither case may they be dismissed during that time. In some cantons pregnant women are not allowed to do

overtime work, in a few instances this is the case also for nursing mothers.

No indemnity is stipulated for lost wages. A sort of compensation is offered by the Health Insurance Funds. As, however, such insurance is mostly voluntary—obligatory only in three cantons and in certain communities in some other cantons—its value as compensation in this respect is very limited.

b. Prohibition on the work of Married Women. None in regard to women workers in industry, etc. Only, in certain instances, for women civil and municipal servants and in some cantons for women teachers.

III. Effects of Protective Legislation for Women.

a, b. As most protective measures for women only apply also to young workers, it can scarcely be said that boys have taken the place of women. Neither does it seem, that on the whole women's position as workers had suffered by those measures. On the contrary the factory inspectors consider that a not unessential improvement of their position has taken place. Industry has seemingly accommodated itself to the existing regulations in regard to protection of women workers in those branches where women's work has long been usual. Division of labour between the two sexes, formed by custom and practice, is said to be of greater importance than legal restrictions on women's work.

There are, however, certain instances of men workers having replaced women because of the prohibition of Night work and Sunday Work for women, viz., in the flower workshops (for bouquets and garlands) and in the workshops for amateur-photos. Also it is considered that, but for the above named prohibition, more women would be occupied in the textile industry, than is now the case. Finally the exclusion of women from certain trades or processes is admitted to be a cause of their not being more used in the metal and machine industry.

As to the effect of Protective Legislation on the wages of women workers, factory inspectors and employers unanimously declare as their opinion, that with very few exceptions wages have not been lowered on account of the special protective measures for women. Here also the flower workshops are mentioned as exceptions. Some men workers have held that men get the better paid work, because they are allowed to do more overtime work than women.

c. Factory inspectors, Trade Unions and, in most cases also employers, hold that Protection of women workers gives great hygienic and moral advantages to the women.

d. No protests were made at the time of the introduction of Protective legislation for women, nor, since those laws became valid, have any protests been heard from Women's Organisations.

COMPLEMENTARY DUAL REPRESENTATION.

Under this title a correspondent in New Zealand has sent us a Memorandum submitted to, but not accepted by, the National Council of Women of New Zealand. Her object is to secure really equal representation of men and women in Parliament, and we think that a brief account of her plan may interest our readers, even if, like her fellow-countrywomen, they do not agree with it.

Complementary Dual Representation seeks to eliminate sex-competition and sex-antagonism by substituting a working co-partnership of the ablest men and women. It stresses the fact that men and women are not entirely identical in their contribution of service and to government. At present, in every electorate, a woman can only be returned by the exclusion of a man, and vice-versa. Why should not the State have the advantage of the combined experience of both men and women? The proposed plan is simple: combine two or more electorates, and give every elector a dual vote—one of which

must be recorded in favour of a man, and one in favour of a woman. If two electorates are combined, a perfectly feasible plan in these days of improved transport, the cost and number of representatives are no greater than at present.

The author of the Memorandum claims that her idea is based on strict equity and is the only plan that will bring a proper proportion of women into Parliament. She bases it on the analogy of the home, where the wife and mother should have an equal, but not identical, place with the husband and father.

The author further points out how greatly the women's organisations are hampered in their efforts at reform by the small number, or even the entire absence, of women Members of Parliament. One or two women can do so little, and the energy now expended on getting those one or two women in might perhaps be more profitably employed in securing a system which would ensure a really equal representation.

We have compressed the proposal into a very small space, but we would gladly lend the Memorandum to any reader who may consider that this idea is of interest.

VOEUX DE NOTRE PRESIDENTE POUR LA NOUVELLE-ANNEE.

Ce serait hélas! une ironie de répéter cette année à nos amis le message traditionnel de Joyeux Noël et Heureuse Année, quand la guerre sévit en Asie et en Afrique et que des menaces alarmantes bannissent la foi et l'espérance de nos coeurs.

Ce que je désire pour nous toutes et pour moi-même, c'est le plus rare de tous les dons: le courage moral. Ni gaité ni bonheur, mais une vision nette de nos devoirs, une foi ardente, un esprit de résolution inébranlable.

Vision d'un monde qui est une communauté unique au bien de laquelle hommes et femmes co-opèrent également, où les intérêts et les préjugés étroitement nationaux doivent disparaître.

Foi qui convertit les timides et est assez forte pour supprimer les rumeurs de guerre avec les profiteurs de guerre.

Force morale, égale à celle des martyrs de jadis, afin de nous dresser s'il le faut contre toute politique de domination et d'intimidation, même si celle-ci part de notre propre pays.

Espérance d'un monde nouveau, où la réaction présente contre le droit des femmes sera terminée, et où régnera la coopération dans l'égalité véritable.

Donc, je souhaite gaité et bonheur à ceux qui viendront après nous, mais pour nous je demande la foi, l'espérance et un invincible courage.

d'après MARGERY I. CORBETT-ASHBY.

RESUME DES EVENEMENTS DE L'ANNEE 1935.

Belgique. Les femmes belges ont jusque là résisté avec succès aux attaques gouvernementales contre le droit au libre travail.

Canada. Il y a deux femmes membres dans chacune des Chambres — Députés et Sénat.

Chili. Les femmes ont exercé pour la première fois le vote municipal et plusieurs ont été élues.

Cuba. La nouvelle Constitution donne aux hommes et aux femmes l'égalité absolue des droits politiques.

Tchécoslovaquie. Huit femmes ont été élues cette année à la Chambre et cinq au Sénat.

Egypte. Une Commission nommée spécialement pour cet objet a recommandé au Gouvernement l'abolition de la réglementation de la Prostitution.

Grande Bretagne. Le Conseil municipal de Londres a, dans une certaine mesure, rapporté certains décrets sur l'incapacité de la fonctionnaire mariée. D'autre part certaines anomalies du Code Civil ont été amendées.

Neuf femmes ont été élues aux Communes.

Hongrie. Deux femmes ont été élues au Parlement.

Irlande. La nouvelle loi de Nationalité accorde des droits égaux excepté pour la transmission de la nationalité à l'enfant.

Japon. La réglementation de la Prostitution doit être abolie.

Nouvelle Zélande. La nouvelle loi de Nationalité donne à la femme mariée le droit de garder sa nationalité tant qu'elle réside en Nouvelle Zélande.

Philippines. Les femmes ont pris part au plébiscite qui doit décider la forme future du Gouvernement.

Rhodésie du Nord. Une candidate a pour la première fois obtenu un siège à l'Assemblée législative.

Espagne. La réglementation de la Prostitution a été abolie.

Suède. Quatre Femmes ont été élues à la Chambre Basse.

Suisse. Les femmes ont été rendues éligibles comme juges de tribunaux d'enfants. C'est une femme qui a eu la majorité des voix.

Turquie. Dix-sept Femmes ont été élues à l'Assemblée nationale.

NOUVELLES BRÈVES.

Le Supplément féminin, publié par l'Internationale Travailiste et socialiste nous a fourni ce mois-ci des informations féministes, que nous publions ci-dessous.

Hollande. Un large meeting s'est tenu à Amsterdam pour protester contre la guerre et démontrer le désir des femmes pour la paix.

Belgique. Les femmes socialistes ont organisé une grande manifestation, contre le conflit italo-abyssin, avec la collaboration de plusieurs autres groupes féminins. Elles ont d'autre part formulé une résolution, protestant contre l'attaque faite au gain libre de la femme mariée.

Italie. Des allusions plutôt amères sont faites à propos des démonstrations patriotiques des femmes italiennes, auxquelles le gouvernement sait faire appel lorsqu'il s'agit de devoirs, mais oublie dans la question des droits.

Venant d'autres sources nous publions ceci:

France. Pendant le mois de novembre des organisations féministes se sont jointes aux femmes syndicalistes pour une vaste manifestation en faveur du libre travail de la femme. La Présidente, Madame Duchêne lut un message de Mme. Joliot-Curie, qui vient de recevoir le Prix Nobel; des discours furent prononcés par les Présidentes des deux Sociétés Suffragistes qui nous sont affiliées: Mme. Brunshwiig et Mme. Verone, ainsi que par les représentantes des organisations syndicales. L'unanimité d'opinion était remarquable.

Grande Bretagne. Le Rapport de la Commission d'enquête sur l'entrée des femmes dans le clergé de l'Eglise Anglicane, dénote une très vive opposition bien qu'un des membres ait déclaré

qu'il ne voyait aucune raison "théologique" à cette opposition. La peur de créer un schisme est surtout manifeste, et comme c'est là en somme, une objection d'opportunisme, on ne voit pas pourquoi les pasteurs eux-mêmes ne devraient pas sentir que c'est leur devoir d'entraîner leurs fidèles à une conception véritablement "spirituelle" des droits et obligations du pastorat.

Autriche. La Princesse Fanny Starhemberg, leader des Femmes autrichiennes et déléguée à la Société des Nations a célébré son soixantième anniversaire le 24 octobre dernier. A cette occasion elle a reçu plusieurs décorations et la Cité de Linz lui a décerné le titre de citoyenne d'honneur.

Sarah Wambaugh la Conseillère technique sur la question des Plébiscites a aussi été décorée de la Croix du Mérite autrichien.

Dr. Elsie Hoffmann fait un cours à l'Université de Vienne sur une science jusque là fort peu connue, la Paléobotanique. Elle a poursuivi des recherches spéciales sur les restes fossiles de certaines plantes.

Dr. Fanny Halpern, une jeune femme de Vienne est partie à Shanghai comme neurologue il y a quelques années et a dirigé avec succès une clinique pour maladies nerveuses. Elle vient d'être nommée Professeur à l'Université et directrice d'un Asile d'aliénés dont la construction est due à ses efforts personnels.

Mademoiselle Gourd, à son passage à Vienne a été chaleureusement reçue par la Conseil National des Femmes, et l'Association autrichienne pour le Suffrage. Melle. Gourd leur a fait un rapport sur le travail des femmes à la Société des Nations et au bureau International du travail.

d'après GISELA URBAN.

Bermudes. Les femmes des îles Bermudes commencent à protester énergiquement — et effectivement — contre la passivité civique et politique à laquelle leur Constitution les contraint. Certaines d'entre elles ont fait la grève de l'impôt et on n'a pas encore osé les mettre en prison. La Women's Freedom League de Grande Bretagne dont Mrs. Corbett-Ashby est présidente a profité du séjour à Londres de Mrs. Tucker, de la Société Suffragiste bermudienne, pour organiser une députation au Ministre des Colonies, Mr. J. H. Thomas.

Nouvelle Zélande. Un intéressant mémoire nous est envoyé par une associée de Nouvelle Zélande. Son objet est d'assurer une représentation égale d'hommes et de femmes au Parlement. Les sociétés féministes voient à l'heure actuelle de grandes difficultés à faire prévaloir leurs idées et à défendre leurs intérêts, attendu que très peu de femmes siègent dans les Parlements. Si deux ou trois circonscriptions étaient groupées, chaque électeur ayant un vote double, l'un pour un candidat femme l'autre pour un candidat homme, on arriverait ainsi, par un système très simple à une représentation équitable des deux moitiés du genre humain. L'auteur du mémoire fonde sa proposition en raison de ce qui existe déjà au foyer domestique où l'épouse et mère a une fonction égale bien que non identique à celle du père et mari.

Indes néerlandaises. Après 32 ans de dévouement à la cause du suffrage, Mrs. S. Van Overveldt Biekart se retire de la présidence de notre Auxiliaire de Java, estimant qu'il appartient à une femme plus jeune d'assumer cette fonction. Mrs. Biekart nous signale qu'une femme vient d'être nommée membre du Conseil National. Cela prouve que le Gouvernement apprécie la coopération féminine et nous fait bien augurer de l'avenir de la propagande suffragiste à Java.

Allemagne. Les détails de la loi promulguée en Septembre 1935 montrent que jusqu'ici

il n'y a eu aucun changement dans la position des femmes, l'incapacité étant prononcée uniquement pour question de race.

Il est plutôt difficile de passer jugement sur le statut professionnel des femmes allemandes à l'heure actuelle; il n'y a pas eu de décrets ou de lois à ce sujet depuis quelque temps, bien que les statistiques signalent une courbe descendante dans l'enseignement par exemple, même pour écoles de filles. D'autre part les mesures d'hygiène ou d'assistance familiale exigent un plus grand nombre de travailleuses sociales mais même dans ce département les femmes sont des employées, non des fonctionnaires. Des infirmières portant l'uniforme brun sont enrôlées dans une section spéciale du Parti et on les charge de veiller au "bien spirituel" des malades qui leur sont confiés.

Un livre remarquablement intéressant "L'armée anonyme" par Dr. Marie Elisabeth Lüders vient d'être

publié. C'est un compte rendu authentique du travail fourni par les femmes allemandes pendant la guerre de 1914—1918 dans l'assistance publique, l'agriculture, et surtout dans les usines de munitions. Ce livre est une réponse aux accusations fréquemment proférées dans ces deux dernières années, que les femmes allemandes avaient failli à leur devoir pendant cette période critique.

A propos d'un paragraphe dans Jus de décembre qui signale la nomination d'une directrice dans une Ecole de filles du Wurtemberg il est juste de noter que si en vérité c'est la première fois qu'un poste de cette nature a été confié à une femme dans ce district, dans l'ensemble depuis 1933 les femmes ont dû, graduellement, abandonner des postes similaires. De 1919 à 1933 il y avait eu une progression dans le nombre des directrices d'écoles de filles.

Depuis 1933 nous assistons à une régression.
d'après D.v.V.

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