

JVS SVFFRAGII.



# THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE NEWS

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## A MESSAGE from Mrs. CHAPMAN CATT.

DEAR JUS SUFFRAGII,

Through the columns of our international paper I want to announce to all its subscribers that the International Board Meeting just held in London has been full of the old spirit of hope, courage and determination.

The Board has decided to urge each Auxiliary in all the unenfranchised countries to press its claims for enfranchisement more strongly than it has ever done, and to aid our Auxiliaries in this effort the International Board has planned to gather material from the enfranchised countries and prepare it for dissemination in the unenfranchised countries. It is also sending an International appeal direct to the Governments of the unenfranchised countries.

The International Alliance has performed a great task in the past in uniting the suffragists of all nations in support of our common cause. It now promises to do a far greater work in the future than in the past.

From every side the evidence comes to hand that the continuation of the Alliance is needed to strengthen the campaigns for further enfranchisement of women in many lands, and that the present unhappy period lays upon it another duty, that is, to unite the women of our many countries in international understanding through a more discerning comprehension of the political problems of each and all nations, and how these problems affect the greatest

of all international problems—the method by which war shall be eliminated from the world. The ballot, when won, is but a tool with which to accomplish forward work. The women in half the nations of the world are now supplied with that tool, and have a power, a self-confidence they never knew before. I find the representatives of all lands, no matter how they may differ about all other things, are united with a fine, high-spirited determination to use their ballot for the righting of wrongs, the correction of errors, and the elimination of that distrust which has separated the nations in the past. Each country must be free to enjoy its own autonomy, to make its own progress according to its own traditions, but there is a common ground of International Law and understanding which sadly needs revision. To these noble ends international groups of women may perform a tremendously fundamental service.

Again, suffragists must climb to the mountain tops to get the far, wide view of the world's needs. Together those needs must be discussed without "fear or favour," and together we must try to find common ground of agreement and to take common action. The world needs women as never before, and it needs the disciplined, unafraid suffrage women. There will be no time for rest or pause, for a distressed world is calling us to "forward march."

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT.



## BRITISH WELCOME to Mrs. CHAPMAN CATT and the Board of Officers.

MASS MEETING IN CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER.

ON Monday evening, November 29, the Central Hall, Westminster was generously decorated with flags and banners from the various women's organizations, the hall itself being packed to the uttermost with men and women suffragists met together to do honour to America's great leader in the recent fight for enfranchisement. It was a great moment in the history of the Woman's Movement in this country and across the Atlantic, when Mrs. Fawcett, the English leader, and Mrs. Chapman Catt, the American leader, walked arm in arm to their seats on the platform, and the organ pealed out the "Star-Spangled Banner," and everyone in the audience rose to their feet.

Mrs. Fawcett, who presided in the unavoidable absence of Miss Eleanor Rathbone, reminded the audience that the last time the Board Officers of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance met in London was in the fateful July immediately preceding the war, but urged everyone not to dwell upon the tragic happenings that had intervened since that date, but rather upon the wonderful progress which was binding women together all over the world. In 1914, four countries only had enfranchised their women. To-day the suffrage countries had increased to twenty-six, and some of these were the foremost countries in the world.

Mrs. Fawcett then put the following resolution to the meeting: "That this meeting tenders its sincere and hearty congratulations to the women of the United States on their magnificent victory in having gained the franchise on the same terms as men under the inspiring leadership of Mrs. Chapman Catt, a victory which will have widespread influence on the progress of women all over the world."

Madame de Witt Schlumberger (France), in support of the Resolution, said it was more than ever necessary for the women of the old world to cling together to fight against the evils of destruction as evidenced in the late war, and to prepare a better future for humanity. All women must band together to give their support to the League of Nations. Unless women recognised that the League was their special concern it could not live. With all its imperfections it was still the greatest ideal the world had ever produced. American women voters must now persuade the men that America could no longer remain outside of it.

Mrs. Chapman Catt, who was greeted with prolonged applause, expressed herself as indeed fortunate in being the representative of thousands and thousands of women, who, for three generations, had fought so valiantly for the freedom of their sisters. The Women's Movement in Great Britain and America had travelled along on strangely parallel lines, one country shooting forward at intervals, and then the other. The winning of New York State to the Suffrage cause was the final factor in American women's success. The population of New York State was about the same as that of the entire population of America prior to its separation from this country. The foreign element in New York State was immense, 92 of its papers being published in foreign tongues, and 40 different languages being spoken. New York State was divided into 63 Assembly districts, from each of which one person was elected to the Legislature.

Sixty-three women were, therefore appointed as Chairmen in each of these divisions (which were still further subdivided for election purposes), and it was their duty to canvas the registered voters and also the women by means of house-to-house visiting. The foreign papers were also furnished with items of Suffrage news. The women canvassers also had to make acquaintance with the leaders of the various political parties, and they finally conquered even Tammany itself, and obtained Women's Suffrage by a majority of 100,000. The presence of women in New York during the recent Presidential elections had revolutionised the electorate, and after the saloons had been eliminated elections seemed more like Sunday school gatherings than anything else. The enfranchisement of women was a great experiment in democracy, and it was impossible to foresee what would be the ultimate conclusion. Women must now see to it that they kept their eyes on the big things of the world, instead of wasting precious time over trivial details.

Lady Astor, M.P., who was greeted with an ovation, then put the second resolution: "That this meeting demands that the women of the United Kingdom should be granted the vote on the same terms as men, and calls on the Government to introduce a measure to this effect in the next session." She said that for women to defeat Tammany was a most marvellous thing. Fortunately, in British politics, though there was plenty of prejudice, there was no graft, as the word was understood in America. British women had also done great things because they had broken down British prejudice, which was no light thing. Women in this country had still to win citizenship on an equality with men, and so she urged them not to rest on their oars, but to become thoroughly organised—as organised as they were in the old Suffrage days—and to march forward to complete victory.

Mr. Alfred Noyes, in supporting the resolution, said no one who knew America could doubt the tremendous influence that the victory of the American women was going to have upon the whole world. It certainly was not yet realised in this country by that gloomy limbo known as the House of Commons.

Frau Schreiber-Krieger, M.P., in the German Reichstag, paid a graceful tribute to English and American pioneer women in the Suffrage cause, and said it had been a humorous moment at the recent International Conference at Geneva when she, a German M.P., had welcomed unenfranchised women from the United States. Never had the world needed the spirit of motherliness as in the present day. All women stood united to-day in determination that war should cease. Great changes were coming in the inner politics of all countries. Women must act in future as the conscience of the world.

Dr. Margherita Ancona (Italy) said that Italian women were now daily expecting to hear that they had become municipally enfranchised, and the Italian Parliament was also discussing a Bill by which women could be Parliamentary voters as well.

Both resolutions were then put by Mrs. Fawcett to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

D. M. N.

### BOARD OF OFFICERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE. Programme of Meetings, London, November 28 to December 5.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28.

1.30 p.m.—Luncheon given by Mrs. Stanley McCormick at the Savoy Hotel to Members of the Board of Officers.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29.

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.—Meeting of the Board of Officers at the Savoy Hotel, Strand, W.C. 2.

8 p.m.—Public Meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, to celebrate the American Suffrage Victory and welcome the Board of Officers. *Chair:* Mrs. Henry Fawcett, J.P., LL.D. *Speakers:* Mrs. Chapman Catt, Mr. Alfred Noyes, Madame de Witt Schlumberger, Frau Adele Schreiber-Krieger, Dr. Margherita Ancona, Madame Girardet Vielle.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30.

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.—Meeting of the Board of Officers at the Savoy Hotel.

8 p.m.—Dinner given by Viscountess Astor, M.P., at 4, St. James's Square, S.W.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1.

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.—Meeting of the Board of Officers at the Savoy Hotel.

8 p.m.—Dinner given by Mrs. Chapman Catt to Members of the Board of Officers and Representatives of the Suffrage Societies.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2.

10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.—Meeting of the Board of Officers at the Savoy Hotel.

1.15 p.m.—Luncheon given by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship at the Hotel Cecil.

9 p.m.—Reception by Mrs. Stanton Coit, 30, Hyde Park Gate, S.W.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3.

4 p.m.—Reception by Mrs. Henry Fawcett, J.P., LL.D., 2, Gower Street, W.C. 1.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5.

8 p.m.—Dinner given by the Catholic Woman's Suffrage Society, Florence Restaurant.

### MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF OFFICERS,

Nov. 29—Dec. 2, 1920.

*Present.*—Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt (in the chair), Madame de Witt Schlumberger (France), Miss Chrystal Macmillan (Great Britain), Frau Anna Lindemann (Germany), Mrs. Corbett Ashby (Great Britain), Madame Girardet-Vielle (Switzerland), Dr. Margherita Ancona (Italy), Frau Schreiber-Krieger, M.P. (Germany).

Mrs. Stanley McCormick was prevented by illness from attending the Board Meetings, and Miss Rathbone was unable to be present owing to the death of her sister. Messages of sincere sympathy were sent by the Board to these absent members.

It is more than six years since the Board of Officers of the I.W.S.A. met in London. That last meeting took place in July, 1914, and before Mrs. Chapman Catt had reached America on her return journey practically the whole of Europe was involved in war—the plans made by the Alliance at its Board Meeting were but scraps of paper, and there must have been doubt in many hearts as to whether the Alliance itself would weather a storm that wrecked so much.

Not only has the Alliance survived, but it has come out of that six years' struggle with renewed energy, stronger, more united, if possible, than before. The Board Meeting of 1914 was a pre-Congress one, and much of its business consisted of arrangements for the proposed Berlin Convention. The Board Meeting which has just closed was exactly the opposite—a post-Congress meeting—and its principal business was to plan the effective carrying out of the I.W.S.A. programme which was passed at Geneva—no light task.

"What can the Alliance do to help the unenfranchised countries towards suffrage? And what can the Alliance do to help the enfranchised countries towards a real equality for women?" These were the first words of Mrs. Chapman Catt, and it was round these two questions that the work of the Board centred.

#### HELP FOR THE UNENFRANCHISED COUNTRIES.

First came the consideration of the position in the various unenfranchised countries. None were forgotten by the Board, but there was a unanimous feeling that for the moment the Alliance should concentrate in helping France, Italy, and Belgium, where the granting of woman suffrage is a matter of practical politics. During this discussion Mrs. Catt made a most generous and helpful suggestion, namely, that she would on her return to America lay the special claims of these and other unenfranchised countries before the Board of the Leslie Commission for Women Suffrage, a Commission which has already shown its practical and generous interest in the international work for Woman Suffrage.

The sending of a Memorial on Suffrage from the Alliance to the Premiers and Parliaments of unenfranchised countries was warmly approved by Madame de Witt Schlumberger and Dr. Margherita Ancona on behalf of France and Italy, and we hope that every Auxiliary in an unenfranchised country may find such a memorial of practical help to them in their campaign.

Perhaps Mrs. Catt's words to the Press best sum up the help which the Alliance hopes to render to the unenfranchised countries:—

"Following the example of the League of Nations the Suffrage Auxiliaries of enfranchised countries will be asked to take mandatories over unenfranchised lands. The function of the Suffrage Mandatory, however, partakes rather of the nature of a step-mother, who will be expected to assist with advice, workers and money.

"A systematic getting of information concerning woman suffrage in operation in various lands for the purpose of disseminating it in unenfranchised countries will also be undertaken. Speakers and organisers will be sent to several countries for the purpose of stimulating organised effort. We look forward to an enfranchised world within a few years."

#### UNENFRANCHISED AUXILIARIES AND THE EQUALITY PROGRAMME OF THE I.W.S.A.

To secure effective international action on behalf of outstanding points in the programme of women's rights passed at Geneva was the next consideration of the Board, and, in order to compass that, three International Committees are to be appointed. The first will deal with the question of the Nationality of Married Women; the second, with the Right of Women to Work and to Equal Pay for Equal Work; the third, with the question of the Equal Moral Standard and its cognate problems, Prostitution and Venereal Disease. Various countries will be asked to appoint members to these committees, and each committee will gather from all nations concerned the many problems included under each subject and will bring a definite proposal for unified legislation to the next Congress, which will meet in Paris in May, 1922.

After the Board Meeting was over, Mrs. Catt said that she was satisfied that at no Board Meeting held so far had better work, or more of it, been accomplished. One of the contributing causes, without doubt, was the extreme ease and comfort of the actual arrangements



for the meetings. Our Treasurer insisted that a suitable room should be secured within the Savoy Hotel, and there the members met day after day, and worked on into the afternoon without the usual dislocation that lunch time means, for again our Treasurer insisted that lunch should be served for the Board in another room of the Hotel, so that neither time nor energy should be lost. We cannot be too grateful for that very practical kindness on the part of Mrs. McCormick. We were particularly happy too in the fact that Miss Rosa Manus had come over from Holland in time to make the thousand-and-one detailed arrangements that make so much difference to the smooth running of meetings. We all know and love Miss Manus, and the Board this time wisely insisted that she should be the Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements for Board Meetings and the Paris Congress.

#### SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.

A full report of the public meeting held on Monday, November 29, appears on another page. On Tuesday, Viscountess Astor gave a delightful dinner party for the Board at 4, St. James's Square. Among the guests were the American Ambassador and Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton, the Earl of Kerry, Lord Henry Bentinck, Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P., Sir George Newman, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., Mr. Vernon Hartshorn, M.P., and many other distinguished men and women came on to the reception held afterwards. On Wednesday night Mrs. Chapman Catt invited representatives of the British Suffrage Societies to meet the Board of Officers at dinner at the Savoy Hotel, and on Thursday evening Mrs. Stanton Coit gave a reception. On Friday, when the work of the Board was really over, Mrs. Fawcett brought all together for a last and very delightful gathering at her house. Another specially interesting function was the luncheon given by the N.U.S.E.C. on Thursday, December 2, at the Hotel Cecil.

Dr. Ancona and Madame Girardet-Vielle unfortunately had to leave London on Saturday, but the other members of the Board were able to accept the very kind invitation of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society to a dinner at the Florence Restaurant on Sunday, December 5.

#### PRINCIPAL DECISIONS MADE BY THE BOARD OF OFFICERS, Nov. 29 to Dec. 2, 1920.

##### Affiliations.

That the Women's Indian Association and the Palestinian Jewish Women's Association for Equal Rights be provisionally affiliated.

That Societies in countries not yet eligible to be Auxiliary Members of the Alliance may be accepted as Honorary Associate Members on the same terms as individual Associate Members.

##### Work for Suffrage in Unenfranchised Countries.

That the first duty of the I.W.S.A. should be recognised to be to secure the vote for the women of the unenfranchised countries.

##### MEMORIAL.

That a Memorial from the Board should be sent to the Prime Ministers of France and Italy urging them to enfranchise their women, and that a similar memorial be sent to the other unenfranchised countries if the Auxiliaries approved.

##### MANDATES FOR UNENFRANCHISED COUNTRIES.

That the Board write to the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the Women's Freedom League, the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, and the British Dominions Women's Citizens' Union to ask

them to help the International Woman Suffrage Alliance with a view to establish Auxiliaries for the Alliance in the British Dominions and Dependencies, and that the Board invites the Canadian Association, in conjunction with Mrs. Lang and Mrs. Smillie, to establish an Auxiliary in Newfoundland.

That the Board request the above Societies to appoint a Committee to meet the Headquarters Committee of the I.W.S.A. to determine how this work is to be done.

That the Board request the United States to undertake the work of forming Auxiliaries in Cuba, Philippines, Porto Rico, Panama, Jamaica, and Hawaii.

#### PUBLICATIONS.

That a new French edition of "Woman Suffrage in Practice" be published, and that Miss Gourd (Switzerland) be Chairman of the Committee of Publications.

That Great Britain, Germany, United States, the Scandinavian countries, and Holland be asked to prepare and send in to Headquarters material to form a cheap leaflet containing the facts of what has been attained in those countries by the granting of Woman Suffrage.

#### LESLIE COMMISSION.

The Leslie Commission for Woman Suffrage has been so interested in, and so generous to, international suffrage work that Mrs. Chapman Catt has promised on her return to the United States to submit to its Board the immediate needs with regard to lecturing tours, conferences, propaganda, etc., of some of the unenfranchised countries, with a request that if possible a grant should be made for such work.

#### Work for Equality Programme in Enfranchised Countries.

##### NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

That the I.W.S.A. shall appoint a Committee on which jurists, experts in international law (and others), shall be members, in order to draft a proposal on the nationality of married women for the next Congress.

It is hoped that the following will consent to become members of this Committee: Miss Chrystal Macmillan, Sir Willoughby Dickenson (Great Britain), Madame Pichon Landry (France), Mrs. Catherine Waugh McCulloch (U.S.A.), Mrs. Anna Wicksell (Sweden), Madame Girardet-Vielle (Switzerland), and either Dr. Adelina Pertici or Dr. Paulina Tarrigi (Italy).

This Committee shall have power to co-opt two further members; that Miss Chrystal Macmillan be Chairman.

##### WOMEN'S RIGHT TO WORK AND EQUAL PAY COMMITTEE.

That an International Committee to consider the right of women to work and to equal pay for equal work be formed.

That one Member from each of the following countries should be elected to this Committee, the nomination to be made by the National Auxiliary: Great Britain, Denmark, Holland, Sweden.

That Miss Chrystal Macmillan be Chairman.

##### EQUAL MORAL STANDARD COMMITTEE.

That a Committee be formed on the Equal Moral Standard, and a Conference on this subject be held in Paris.

That Madame Schlumberger be Chairman of this Committee; that Dr. Luisi be Member from South America, and Mme. Girardet Vielle from Switzerland; and that Germany, Holland, and the United States be asked to appoint Members.

That the Chairman of every sub-Committee of the I.W.S.A. formed to carry out the programme must be a Member of the Board of Officers.

That each Committee be allowed to co-opt other Members.

#### EDITOR.

That the Editor shall have the right to cut and edit reports from Auxiliaries where necessary.

#### Information Bureau.

That Headquarters be instructed to collect information on Suffrage and on subjects on the immediate programme of the Alliance.

That National Auxiliaries be asked to send to Headquarters addresses of National or International organisations which deal with any of the equality objects of the Alliance.

That Auxiliaries be asked to send reference books on Suffrage and one of the programme subjects to Headquarters.

#### League of Nations.

##### APPOINTMENT OF WOMAN OFFICER IN LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The Board appreciates and approves the suggestion that a woman should be appointed to the Secretariat of the League of Nations in order to ensure full exchange of information between women's organisations and the League.

The Board is unanimously of opinion that Mrs. Wicksell, of Sweden, has outstanding qualifications for such a post, and wishes to nominate her as candidate.

The Board is unanimously of opinion that to be of value such an appointment must be within the political department of the Secretariat.

##### APPOINTMENT OF WOMEN ON THE MANDATORY COMMISSION.

That the Council and President of the Assembly of the League of Nations be urged to appoint women members on the Mandatory Commission, and this request be immediately telegraphed and written.

##### LABOUR COMMISSION AND TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASE AT PORTS.

That a letter be sent to the Labour Commission in connection with the International Labour Office within the League of Nations, which is reporting on the treatment of Venereal Disease in ports, pointing out important statements against the regulation of vice as an effective measure in combating venereal disease, and quoting the material parts of the Resolutions of the Geneva Congress on Prostitution and Venereal Disease.

#### Next Congress.

That the next Congress be held in Paris in May, 1922. (The Board discussed at length arrangements for the Congress, but no definite resolutions were passed, as plans for the Congress will be discussed in greater detail at the next Board Meeting.)

##### INVITATIONS TO THE CONGRESS.

That invitations to send fraternal delegates be sent to National Organisations in sympathy with the objects of the I.W.S.A., unless the Auxiliary objects.

That the lists of delegation members shall be put under a heading which clearly indicates the organisation represented.

##### COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

That Miss Rosa Manus (Holland) be appointed Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements for Board Meetings and for the next Congress.

#### Next Board Meeting.

That the next Board Meeting be held in Italy, in the autumn of 1921; and that officers going to Italy next autumn should try to hold meetings in other countries on their way.

That before the Congress in Paris, all-day Conferences arranged by each of the above Committees should be held simultaneously, their aim being to arrive at a proposal for definite action by the Congress.

That these Committees be asked to report to the next Board Meeting in Italy the information they have collected, and their proposed recommendations for the Conferences to precede the Paris Congress.

##### SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY ON THE QUESTION OF MAINTENANCE OF MOTHERHOOD AND THE QUESTION OF THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILD.

That a Special Committee be formed on the question of the Maintenance of Motherhood and the question of the Illegitimate Child, with the following terms of reference:—

- (1) That the Committee shall collect information on the position of wives and mothers as regards maintenance at law and its enforcement in practice.
- (2) The rights of wives to a share in their husband's income.
- (3) Financial arrangements in divorce.
- (4) Allowances from the State or Municipality for motherhood.
- (5) State or Municipal provision for widowhood.
- (6) The illegitimate child in relation to its parents.
- (7) The illegitimate child in relation to the State.

That Miss Rathbone be asked to be Chairman of this Committee; that Frau Schreiber-Krieger (Germany) be a Member; and that Australia, Norway and Sweden be asked to nominate a Member.

(The same regulations with regard to Chairmanship, co-options, reports to the Board Meeting in Italy, and all-day Conference in Paris, to apply equally to this Committee.)

#### "Jus Suffragii."

##### DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME.

That the different points of our International Programme shall be discussed in Jus during the coming years by means of articles from competent writers in different countries, such articles to be paid for; and that if possible £100 per year be raised for this purpose.

##### SUPPLEMENTS FROM OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

That the World's Young Women's Christian Association, the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union, the International Abolitionist Federation, the International Congress of Working Women, and the International Federation of University Women should have definite offers made to them to publish supplements in connection with Jus SUFFRAGII on the understanding that such supplements should not add to the Budget.

##### FRENCH SUPPLEMENT.

That reports from French-speaking countries should be inserted in French; and that the French summary of general news should be shortened and a very brief summary of the reports in French be given in English.

##### "JUS" AND THE PRESS.

That some outstanding feature of the month be communicated to the Press—and this statement shall also be sent to our Auxiliaries and contributors, in order that they may send it to the Press of their country; that a short summary of contents be sent to each national equivalent of the *Review of Reviews*.

##### INCREASED CIRCULATION.

That in various countries Women's Clubs having a club house shall be circularised and asked to place Jus SUFFRAGII in their Reading Rooms.

That the Board of Officers shall address a letter to Auxiliaries, making a special appeal to them to send regular reports and news to Jus SUFFRAGII, and to make a special effort to increase the circulation of Jus SUFFRAGII among the members of the Auxiliary.



**Honorary Associate Members.**

That Madame Girardet-Vielle should act as Chairman of a Committee for the purpose of increasing the number of Hon. Associate Members, and that a special appeal be issued.

**Committee of Enfranchised Women.**

That countries not affiliated to the Alliance shall be eligible as Corresponding Members of the Committee of Enfranchised Women.

**Affiliation Fees, Subscriptions, and Hon. Associate Members' Fees in Countries with Abnormally Low Rate of Exchange.**

That a Treasurer be appointed in each country to receive payments for JUs, Fees, etc., at the pre-war rate of exchange. This money to be forwarded to Headquarters after the exchange has become normal;

or  
That an account for such payments be opened in the Auxiliary country on the same lines as our present account in the Dresdner Bank;

or  
That such payments be made to our account at the Dresdner Bank, Berlin.

**WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS ASSEMBLY.**

IN addition to Mrs. Anna Wicksell, who is alternate for one of the Swedish delegates to the League of Nations Assembly, Denmark has sent Miss Henni Forchammer as an alternate, and Norway has sent Miss Bonnevie. Holland has also sent Mrs. Kluyver as an adviser.

**Report of Action of I.W.S.A. in connection with League of Nations.**

MISS FLORENCE WILSON was sent officially by the League of Nations to our Congress at Geneva, and reported to Sir Eric Drummond, the Secretary-General, on it, who, on hearing that we proposed to ask him to receive a deputation, at once suggested a date, and received us most courteously on Thursday, July 15. Miss Eleanor Rathbone presented the deputation, which consisted of Madame Rudler, acting for Mme. de Witt Schlumberger, Dr. Helen Wilson, from the Association of Social and Moral Hygiene, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, and Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Mrs. Hubback, Parliamentary Secretary to the British Auxiliary, attended to answer questions on points of fact if necessary. The Secretary-General had with him Dame Rachel Crowdy, of the League of Nations Health Section, and his secretary. The Resolutions of the Geneva Congress were submitted.

The Secretary-General informed us that he was just issuing invitations to the First Assembly of the League, and advised us to postpone asking for a conference. He informed us that action against the Traffic in Women and Children would be undertaken. He was most interested in our resolution on the conditions under which mandates should be granted, and consequently the Association for Social and Moral Hygiene has taken up the matter, and the I.W.S.A. has circularised all its Auxiliaries to take action.

Arising out of the discussion was the suggestion that the Women's International Organisations might like to have a woman at the headquarters of the League to keep the women of the world in touch with the League. Members of the Board were circularised and asked (1) if they approved; (2) if so, to send in nominations. At the full Board Meeting in London we therefore accepted the proposal to have such a woman appointed, and have unanimously nominated Mrs. Wicksell to the post.

MARGERY CORBETT ASHBY, *Hon. Sec.*

**INTERNATIONAL ABOLITIONIST FEDERATION.****FORTIETH CONFERENCE AT GENEVA.**

September 27-29, 1920.

(Summarized from a report in "The Shield.")

ALL those who took part in the Conference of the International Abolitionist Federation, held at Geneva in the last week of September, must have gained a new and stronger sense of the value, and indeed, the necessity of international consultation and co-operation. The problems of prostitution and of venereal disease are forcing themselves on public attention everywhere, and a plausible proposal put forward in Australia or Scandinavia is eagerly seized upon in America or Austria. Hence the need for comparing experiences, for correcting false impressions, and above all, for seeking and promulgating the principle which must underlie all true prophylaxis.

The attendance at the Conference was good, and its international character was indisputable. From England there were about a dozen representatives; from Holland a similar number. France sent a good contingent, and the Swiss Cantons also. Other countries represented were Germany, Austria, Italy, Greece, the United States, and Uruguay.

The proceedings began with a meeting of the Assemblée Générale, the governing body of the Federation; it proceeded at once to elect its new President. The choice fell on M. de Graaf, of Utrecht, Holland, who is widely known as an indefatigable worker in the movement against the White Slave Traffic. In the international Conferences on that subject he has been conspicuous for his fearless and convincing exposure of the Regulation system as the foundation of the traffic in women.

The next business was the consideration of proposed alterations of the Statutes. The Assemblée adopted the proposition of the British Branch, that the wording of the Statutes should be unchanged, but that Article 6 should become Article 2, the other articles being re-numbered accordingly. The objects of the Federation are now defined as follows:—

"(1) The International Abolitionist Federation has for its object the abolition of prostitution specially regarded as a legal or tolerated institution.

"Holding that the organisation of prostitution by public authority is a hygienic mistake, a social injustice, a moral monstrosity, and a judicial crime, the Federation endeavours to arouse opposition to the system, and to secure its condemnation everywhere.

"(2) Besides the questions which have a direct connection with its special aim, the Federation makes a scientific study of prostitution. It carries on a permanent inquiry as to the moral, economic, or other causes of this special sore—as to its effects—and as to the means of remedying it.

"Questions of this nature placed on the Programmes of the Congresses are as far as possible announced a year in advance. It is, however, to be understood that such inquiries are only to be regarded as collective studies, and that with regard to them no resolution pledging the Federation can be passed.

"(3) The Federation is independent of any political party, philosophical school, or religious creed.

"It unites in voluntary association persons of either sex who wish to assist in the realisation of its object."

The first subject of discussion was the question of the penal treatment of young girls found practising prostitution. Miss Willis, who had collected reports from various countries, summarised them in a paper, which will probably be published. Frau Scheven (Dresden), Madame Avril de Saint Croix (Paris), and Dr. Hedwig Hoffmann (Vienna), spoke on various aspects of the question. It seems clear that the machinery of Regulation has everywhere failed to deal satisfactorily with this problem. All the speakers were agreed that the treatment of these girls should be educative, not punitive; and that in applying this principle, no one method was suitable to all cases. Some girls could be returned to their relatives; some could be dealt

with by the probation system; while others needed to be sent to training institutions or farm colonies. But who is to be entrusted with the task of exercising this discrimination, and deciding on the treatment in each case? In the United States, it is the Judge of the Juvenile Court; in Germany, the Woman Police Assistant; while in England the Magistrate and Probation Officer settle the matter between them.

The main interest of the Conference centred round the second question: A comparison, in the light of war-time experience, of the results obtained by voluntary and compulsory methods for the prevention of venereal diseases. First came the reports from different nations. They were curiously similar, from neutral as well as from belligerent countries: everywhere a relaxation of morals, and a tendency to revert, under the stress of panic, to the discredited methods of Regulation; everywhere attempts to introduce and enforce on soldiers the use of chemical applications for personal prophylaxis; and everywhere failure and increased spread of diseases. At the same time, the great nations—England, United States, Germany, and, to a lesser extent, France and Austria—can report an enormous extension of the voluntary method in the provision, more or less widespread, of facilities for the civil population to obtain free, skilled and discreet medical treatment. In England, this voluntary method has not been hampered by any coercive measures, except the futile short-lived Regulation 40D (Defence of the Realm Act). In Germany, Frau Scheven reported that the compulsory treatment of prostitutes continues, but the numbers dealt with in this way are so infinitesimal compared with those who have recourse to the voluntary clinics and other opportunities now available, that even Regulationists could hardly claim for it any appreciable effect on public health. In Paris, the free treatment centres are proving increasingly attractive, even for prostitutes they are more successful than the compulsory methods. Thus the old-fashioned Regulation (in spite of some apparent extension in France) is really perishing everywhere because of its futility. On the other hand there is a strong movement in favour of compulsory measures applied (nominally, at least) to the whole population. In Germany and Austria the Australian system is very favourably regarded, and it is being advocated in Holland as well as in England.

In the United States compulsory methods have been widely adopted. On behalf of the Social Hygiene Bureau, Mr. Walter Clark spoke on what he called "the American Programme," under the heads of Education, Recreation, Official Repression of Prostitution, Prophylaxis for Men, Treatment for the Diseased and Rehabilitation. As soon as he sat down, he was hotly challenged by questions as to the actual working of this system—questions implying that, in fact, the "repression" was exercised only on women, thus maintaining the double standard and practically establishing the Regulation system. To these questions Mr. Clark replied that he was not concerned in defending the practices in any particular region, but that the model laws recommended to the States and adopted by many of them were just and equitable. He further maintained that the system was warmly supported by public opinion. This last assertion was hotly challenged by Rev. W. H. Burgess, of Chicago, who maintained that protests against the campaign of the Social Hygiene Bureau and the National Health Department had been made and were still increasing in urgency and volume.

A very interesting report was given on Austria by Professor Ude, of Graz, Austria. He described the terrible laxity of morals due to the war, and accentuated by poverty and revolution. In a frenzied effort to check the alarming spread of disease, Regulationist methods had been pushed to an extreme, the authorities had gone so far as to provide for the soldiers, free brothels, under military control. Methods of personal prophylaxis were also advocated and enforced. A responsible official had put forward an elaborate proposal

for "educational brothels," where successive sets of women were to reside for periods of three months, in order that they might be carefully instructed in the methods to be used by themselves and their customers. Yet everything fails, and disease goes on increasing. Since the Revolution, Regulation was somewhat discredited, the Government was attempting to meet the problem by something like the Australian system, combined with a programme of moral education, and the provision of sports, etc., for young people. He summarised by saying that the old system of Regulation still persists under a new cloak of equality and voluntarism.

Tuesday afternoon was devoted to a paper by Dr. Santoliquido, in which he further expounded and illustrated, from his experience as Minister of Health for Italy, that complete voluntarism which he believes to be "the guiding principle of public prophylaxis" as regards venereal disease. He reminded us of the deliberate decision adopted by the International Office of Hygiene under his own presidency in 1913: "Above all, the public authorities must suppress, radically and without hesitation, everything which tends, directly or indirectly to prevent or hinder the medical treatment of the sick during the contagious stage of their malady." This declaration, he said, had been accepted by the official representatives of all the governments, including that of the United States; but it is not easily reconcilable with the measures recently adopted by that government.

Later in the Conference a woman doctor put a question which troubles many who in all other respects support the voluntary principle: If a diseased woman wishes to leave the hospital before she is cured, ought she be allowed to do so? Dr. Santoliquido answered this question beforehand, and in no uncertain terms. He said, "It is absolutely necessary that women should know that they will not be prisoners if they enter a hospital; women who know they are ill, and who also know that they will not be forcibly detained, rarely ask to be discharged; but if they wish to go they are allowed to do so; thus all who are diseased are encouraged to seek admission. For one woman who is allowed to go out uncured, there are a hundred who will apply for treatment."

A further powerful argument for the voluntary principle was contained in the paper describing the Institut Prophylactique in Paris, which occupied most of the session on Wednesday morning. In the absence of its author Dr. Vernes, the paper was read by his chief assistant, Dr. Uffholz. The Institut Prophylactique is a voluntary treatment centre on a very large scale, which has demonstrated in the most conclusive manner that when patients are treated with tact and consideration, and when care is taken to secure their own intelligent co-operation, they come in large numbers, and continue coming until the cure is complete. Dr. Vernes has devised a physico-chemical blood-test for syphilis, which is claimed to be far more reliable than the somewhat discredited Wassermann test.

It would seem that Dr. Vernes has brought "prophylaxis by treatment" to the highest possible point, so far as syphilis is concerned. (He does not touch gonorrhoea.) He has shown that compulsion is unnecessary, for his voluntary methods result in curing numbers compared with which the cases forcibly treated by the police *des mocurs* are insignificant.

The Conference ended with a special session of the Assemblée Générale, called at the request of some British delegates, for the purpose of passing resolutions. The meeting was lively and not too orderly. The discussions were mainly about wording, and though the result, as seen in the resolutions, may leave something to be desired, yet the incident was valuable as showing that the Federation is very much alive, and that in essentials it is unanimous.



The resolutions as finally carried read as follows:—

"(1) This Conference affirms the fidelity of the International Abolitionist Federation to the principles of justice and morality formulated in its Statutes of 1886.

"(2) The reports submitted, specially the report of Prof. Dr. Santoliquido, International and Public Health Adviser to the League of Red Cross Societies, and also that of Dr. Vernes, Director of l'Institut Prophylactique de Paris, presented and explained by Dr. Uffholz, supply new and convincing proofs that prophylaxis of venereal diseases, instead of being in opposition to morals and right, is in conformity with them.

"Consequently this Conference affirms its conviction that all coercive measures for the prevention of venereal disease, are inefficacious, and demands the general adoption of a liberal system, which is not only more moral, more just, and more scientific, but has proved to be the most efficacious.

"Therefore, this Conference calls upon all Governments which still retain the Regulation system, to abolish it in all its forms.

"(3) This Conference reaffirms its acceptance of the following principles laid down by Prof. James Stuart, in his presidential address to the Federation Conference, held in Dresden in 1904:—

"When any proposal comes before us we are bound, therefore, to apply to it a touchstone. We ask:

"(1) Does it tend to make of women, or of any women, a special class?

"(2) Does it tend to place them under police control?

"(3) Does it tend towards re-establishing the compulsory visité?

"These are the features of the system of Regulation, and, if a proposal sins in any of these, we are against it, if it does not, we are open to consider it on its merits. And in connection with every proposal which comes before us we have to ask not only is it intended fairly, but will it operate fairly?

And this Conference invites all the branches of the Federation to submit to this touchstone all proposals relating to hygienic and other measures concerning the problem of prostitution and venereal diseases.

"(4) This Conference calls the attention of the League of Nations to the fact that the Regulation of prostitution is one of the most important causes of the traffic in women, and asks that the mandates given by the League for the administration of undeveloped countries shall be subject to the condition that all forms of Regulation of prostitution shall be prohibited in the mandatory territory.

"(5) The International Abolitionist Federation notes with satisfaction the establishment of an International Bureau of Health within the League of Nations.

"Confident of the professional independence of that Bureau and of its desire to attain the objects for which it has been established, the Federation forwards to it Resolutions 1, 2, and 3 (as above) and the documents upon which they are based."

A crowded evening public meeting was held in the Salle Centrale on September 28. The subject of all the speeches was "Prostitution et Temps Nouveaux," and Madame Avril de Saint-Croix (Paris), Professeur Johann Ude (Austria), Dr. Mueller (Hamburg), Frau Scheven (Dresden), Dr. Luisi (Uruguay), Miss Alison Neilans (London), and several others were the speakers.

It is possible that the next Abolitionist Conference may be held in Rome.

## SOUTH AFRICA.

### Women's South African Party Congress.

#### General Smuts speaks out for Woman Suffrage.

DURING the afternoon session of the first day of the Women's South African Party Congress, General Smuts addressed the delegates. He said that he took a serious view of the work which women could do in public life and felt that they could accomplish very much indeed. Touching upon the present world unrest and the recent world catastrophe in which so many civilised nations were involved, he said he felt more and more that there was a screw loose in their civilisation. At present civilisation seemed to be built upon man the fighter, whilst the most responsible work was being done by women and the burdens borne by them. The more woman was left out of affairs, the more man showed he alone was not able to carry on.

Theirs was a conservative people who did not like to see women take a part in public life. He was conservative too; but during the last six years he had come to form the opinion that the women would help them through. This would throw a great responsibility upon them, and it was unpleasant work, but he would ask them to put their shoulders to the wheel and do their best.

In replying, Mrs. Leviser said that the women present, appreciated what General Smuts had said about women and they would be glad to help him—but if he would

give them the vote they would naturally be of a great deal more practical use, and have much more power to do good.

General Smuts said that he quite agreed and that at no distant date they would have it. The Government had pledged itself to enfranchise women.

#### Native Women as Peacemakers.

All praise to the native women who have proved that women's influence is cast on the side of law and order. Two days after the terrible happenings during the native riot in Port Elizabeth on October 28, attended by such fatal results, the native women to the number of some four hundred organised themselves into a Peace Party, having as its purpose to exhort and influence the men, who were still in a recalcitrant mood, to abandon anything which might serve further to excite feeling and lead to trouble.

*Woman's Outlook, November, 1920.*

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

THE editor of *The Dawn*, the organ of the Women's Service Guilds of Western Australia, writes:—

"The attention of our readers is directed to two or three Bills now before the Legislative Assembly, affecting the social and economic welfare of women and children:—

#### The Qualification of Women for Parliament.

"This Bill has reached the second-reading stage and needs a majority of hon. members present at a sitting to carry it, as the Bill is an amendment to the Constitution.

#### The Guardianship of Infants Bill.

"This Bill has been introduced before the Assembly by a private member, Mr. S. M. Roche, and has secured Government support. The general effect of the Bill is to give the mother certain co-ordinate rights of guardianship with the father of her infant children.

"For instance: (a) Where the mother survives the father, who has appointed no guardians, she will be sole guardian; or (b) if he has appointed a guardian, the mother will be joint guardian with the person so appointed; (c) the mother will also be able by deed or will to appoint a guardian to act after the death of herself and the death of the father of her infant children, or to act jointly with the father if he survives her and is for any reason shown to be unfit to be the sole guardian.

"Clause 7 also provides that the Court may order trustees, executors, etc., possessed of any funds for the maintenance or education of an infant to pay maintenance to the mother during the continuance of period of custody of her child.

"This Bill is a step in the right direction, but it still leaves much to be desired. Parental authority still belongs exclusively to the father; the mother is entitled to it only after the death of the father. The husband and wife living together should be joint guardians of their minor children, with equal powers, rights and duties in respect of the control and custody and of the services and earnings of their minor children. To this should be added equal rights to inherit from the child. On death the survivor should have the sole guardianship. On separation or divorce the judge to decide in accordance with the welfare of the child. This equal law is in operation in some few of the American States, and it is at once an inspiration and a precedent that other States and countries might well follow."

*The Dawn, October, 1920.*

## AUSTRIA.

AM 17. Oktober fanden die zweiten Wahlen in den Nationalrat statt. (Nach der neuen Verfassung führt die Volksvertretung jetzt diesen Namen). Diese Wahlen wurden einige Monate vor dem anberaumten Termin ausgeschrieben, weil die Koalition zwischen den beiden stärksten politischen Parteien, zwischen den Sozialdemokraten und den Christlichsozialen, in Brüche gegangen war und keine der Parteien die Bürde und Verantwortung der Regierung allein tragen wollte. Überdies gieng die allgemeine Meinung dahin, dass die Volksvertretung in ihrer Zusammenstellung keineswegs mehr als der derzeitige Ausdruck des Volkswillens betrachtet werden kann. Tatsächlich hat das Wahlresultat eine Veränderung der politischen Struktur gebracht. Während in der früheren Nationalversammlung die Sozialdemokraten die stärkste Partei des Hauses waren, sind es nun die Christlichsozialen, die aus dem Wahlkampfe als stärkste Partei hervorgegangen sind. Sie haben von 175 Mandaten 82 errungen. Die absolute Majorität erfordert 88 Mandate. Auch die Grossdeutschen, auf deren Parteiprogramm in allererster Reihe den Anschluss an Deutschland propagiert, haben im Wahlkampfe gut abgeschnitten. Die bürgerlich-freiheitlichen konnten nur ein Mandat erringen, in dessen Besitz sich der ehemalige Minister des äusseren, Ottokar Czernin, befindet. Die Tschechen, die Jüdisch-Nationalen und verschiedene andere Gruppen giengen vollkommen leer aus.

Als wesentliches Merkmal der Wahlen ist neben dem Abbruche des Aufstieges der Sozialdemokratie die Tatsache zu verzeichnen, dass die Frauen in überwiegender Anzahl gewählt haben. In Wien allein sind circa 60,000 Frauen mehr als Männer zur Wahlurne geschritten. Charakteristisch ist, dass die Christlichsozialen (konservativ) von circa 54,000 Frauen mehr als von Männern gewählt worden sind. Die Frauen haben dadurch dokumentiert, dass sie Brot, Ordnung und Ruhe wünschen. Der Misserfolg der Sozialdemokraten drückt sich dank des Proportionalwahlrechtes und der Wahlkreiseinteilung weniger in der Anzahl der erstrittenen Mandate als in dem starken Stimmenrückgang aus. In Wien hat diese Partei circa 100,000 Stimmen, also ein Fünftel des Früheren Besitzes, verloren.

Die Schlappe, die die Sozialdemokraten erlitten haben, ist eine Folge der Enttäuschung und Beunruhigung, die durch die schwankende Regierungstaktik und durch die umstürzlerischen Regierungsmethoden der Sozialdemokraten in weiten Volkskreisen hervorgerufen wurden. Von ihrer Vormachtstellung berauscht, haben die Sozialdemokraten in unserem verelendeten Staate Parteiideale zu verwirklichen gesucht, sie haben Klassenpolitik und nicht Staatspolitik getrieben. Alle, die sich den kulturellen Forderungen der Sozialdemokraten anschliessen, empfinden es schmerzlich, dass die Regierungskunst dieser Partei versagte, dass ihr unglückseliges Theoretisieren sie an das Gebot der Stunde vergessen liess. Nun kündigen die Sozialdemokraten die schärfste Opposition an, nun wollen sie ihre Kräfte dem rücksichtslosesten Klassenkampf widmen. Diese Taktik würde die Quelle steter Unruhen sein. Unser armer kranker Staat aber braucht Ruhe, inneren Frieden und Ordnung, um endlich den Weg zur Genesung zu finden, um Brot und Arbeit für sein gequältes Volk zu schaffen, das von Verzweiflung erfüllt, an bessere Tage fast nicht mehr zu hoffen wagt.

Der neue Nationalrat zählt neun Frauen zu seinen Mitgliedern. Von der sozialdemokratischen Partei wurden in Wien gewählt: Adelheid Popp, die selbstlose, auch von den Frauen anderer Parteien hochgeschätzte Führerin der proletarischen Frauen; Therese Schlesinger, Emmy Freundlich, Amalie Seidel, Gabriele Proft und Anna Boschek. In Wiener Neustadt wurde Julie Rauscha gewählt. Kärnten, wo bisher noch keine Wahlen stattfinden konnten, dürfte wieder Marie Tusch, Mitglied der ersten Nationalversammlung, entsenden. Die Christlichsozialen haben keiner Frau zu einem Sitze im Nationalrate verholfen. Sie haben ihre Kandidatinnen so schlecht plaziert, dass deren Wahlwerbung im Vorhinein aussichtslos war. Von den grossdeutschen Frauen zieht Emmy Stradal in den Nationalrat ein. Sie hat ihr Mandat nicht im direkten Wahlgange erobert, sondern durch die Verteilung mittelst der Reichsliste erhalten. Diese Liste verdankt einer Abänderung des Wahlgesetzes ihr Entstehen. Die Mandate dieser Liste werden auf die Reststimmen verteilt.

Wo sind die freiheitlich-bürgerlichen Frauen geblieben, die Frauen, die für das Stimmrecht gestritten und in der Frauenbewegung bahnbrechend wirkten? So wird wohl manche Leserin fragen. Von diesen Frauen hat diesmal keine kandidiert. Die freiheitlich-bürgerlichen Parteien, noch immer zersplittert, sind mit geringen Hoffnungen in den Wahlkampf gezogen. Sie haben ihre ganze Kraft daran gewendet den männlichen Listenführern zum Siege zu verhelfen, was ihnen aber nur in einem Falle gelungen ist (Ottokar Czernin). Die Frauen haben sich an den Wahlen nur passiv beteiligt. Sie warten noch immer auf eine Vereinigung, auf eine Vereinheitlichung aller freiheitlichen Gruppen, von der allein sie sich den Erfolg einer politischen Geltung erhoffen. Wie lange werden die Frauen noch warten müssen? Oder werden sie gezwungen sein aus dem kurzzeitigen Verhalten der freiheitlichen Gruppen andere Konsequenzen zu ziehen?

GISELA URBAN.

## BRAZIL.

THE new triumph of feminism in Brazil consists of the final admission, after refusal, of women candidates to the competitive examination for posts in the Audit Office at Rio de Janeiro. This decision practically opens the whole Brazilian Civil Service to women. Notwithstanding the fact that a woman, having passed the entrance examination, was already employed in the Foreign Office, the Audit Office authorities based their refusal on the ground that only persons enrolled in the Army Reserve were eligible for examination. They, however, finally yielded to Press agitation.

*Revista Feminina, August, 1920.*

## BULGARIA.

THE Bulgarian Women's Union, which held its 14th Congress in Sofia on August 20, sends its warmest greetings to the women of all countries, to enfranchised women, and to those who are still struggling for their freedom. In spite of difficulties of post-war conditions in Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Women's Union is working hard for the enfranchisement of women, and hopes soon that Bulgarian women will take their place beside the enfranchised women of other nations.



### LA FÉDÉRATION ABOLITIONNISTE INTERNATIONALE.

La Conférence internationale de la Fédération abolitionniste internationale, réunie à Genève du 27 au 29 septembre dernier, a eu un succès dépassant certainement les espérances des organisateurs. Tous les pays rattachés au Bureau international, à l'exception de l'Italie, du Danemark et de la Suède, y étaient représentés et certains d'entre eux par délégations fort nombreuses. La Hollande en particulier avait envoyé douze représentants, l'Angleterre cinq. Même l'Amérique lointaine avait délégué Mlle Luisi, docteur en médecine, pour rendre compte de l'activité abolitionniste en Argentine et en Uruguay, ainsi que le pasteur William Burgess, un des vétérans de la Fédération, puisqu'il participait déjà au Congrès de 1877, pour faire entendre la voix de l'Association pour le relèvement de la moralité de l'Illinois. La France, la Grèce, l'Autriche, la Norvège, l'Allemagne et la Suisse, tous ces pays se retrouvaient à Genève pour reprendre la lutte internationale contre la prostitution internationale, et reprendre leur contact personnel indispensable, rompu par les cinq douloureuses années que le monde vient de traverser. Et pour la première fois dans les annales de la Fédération, le nombre des médecins participant aux travaux a été considérable. Du reste, comment eût-il pu en être autrement, puisque la plupart des rapporteurs nationaux étaient des médecins et que même un des rapporteurs généraux était le Dr Arthur Vernes, directeur de l'Institut prophylactique à Paris. Mais il y a plus, et ceci est peut-être la meilleure preuve qu'il y a quelque chose de changé de par le monde, surtout en Suisse, c'est que la presse qui, lors des autres manifestations internationales de la Fédération, avait gardé un silence impressionnant, a, cette fois-ci, inséré dans ses colonnes de très détaillés comptes rendus.

Le monde entier commence à se rendre compte du danger et de l'inutilité de la prostitution réglementée : on reconnaît que le rôle de l'Etat et des autorités ne peut être celui d'un tenancier de maison publique ; on avoue dans les milieux médicaux la faillite de la police des mœurs et de l'examen médical des femmes en maison, on est obligé de proclamer dans de nombreux milieux avec beaucoup de regrets que les principes et le programme que la Fédération abolitionniste a élaborés il y a quarante-cinq ans et qu'elle a défendus dans de nombreux Congrès, indiquent la voie qu'on sera forcé de suivre si on veut venir à bout d'un des plus terribles fléaux de l'humanité.

L'Angleterre, la Hollande, les trois pays scandinaves, la Suisse, l'Italie, sont déjà entrés complètement dans la voie tracée par Joséphine Butler et ses collaborateurs. L'Allemagne, l'Espagne, la Russie même, si elles n'ont pas réalisé encore complètement le programme abolitionniste, en ont cependant adopté une grande partie. Il ne reste en Europe que la France, l'Autriche, le Portugal et la Grèce qui semblent être réfractaires à toute réforme du problème prostitutionnel sur la base abolitionniste. Il est cependant juste de dire qu'en Autriche la situation s'est beaucoup améliorée depuis quelques mois.

Aux Etats-Unis les "maisons" sont il est vrai abolies, mais la police des mœurs y est toute puissante.

Un des points capitaux de la Conférence a été l'intervention du professeur Rocco Santoliquido, conseiller de santé publique international à la Ligue des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge, ainsi que celle du général Henderson, directeur général de la même Ligue. L'un apportait à la Conférence l'expérience de ses quarante années de lutte en faveur du traitement libéral, rationnel, des maladies vénériennes, expérience magistralement exposée dans son discours sur "l'action des pouvoirs publics dans la lutte contre les maladies vénériennes." L'autre donnait l'assurance que la Ligue des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge travaille également en faveur des principes défendus par la Fédération.

Par l'entremise du professeur Santoliquido, la Conférence a pris également connaissance d'un remarquable rapport du Dr Ciarrocchi sur le rôle du médecin dans la prophylaxie de la syphilis et d'un fort intéressant travail de M. Knud Stouman, chef des services statistiques démographiques à la Ligue des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge, sur la valeur de nos données statistiques sur les maladies vénériennes. Les trois rapports ont paru en brochure et sont en vente au Bureau International au prix de fr. 2 (suisse) les trois. Nous pouvons être très reconnaissants à l'égard de tous ceux qui, par leurs travaux et leurs discours, ont contribué au succès de la Conférence. Nous nommerons en premier lieu le professeur Ude, de Graz, une des personnalités les plus marquantes de la Conférence, Mme Avril de Sainte-Croix, dont la parole chaude et convaincante a charmé tous les auditeurs, Mme Hoffmann, docteur en médecine à Vienne, Mme Scheven, l'infatigable championne de l'abolitionnisme en Allemagne. Toutes ces personnes ont démontré d'une façon éclatante que la réglementation est condamnée, que toute police des mœurs est condamnée, et que la lutte contre la prostitution et les maladies vénériennes doit revêtir le caractère qu'a voulu lui imprimer la Fédération.

Il y a une leçon à tirer de la Conférence internationale de septembre dernier, une leçon qui dépasse le cadre de la Fédération. Pendant quarante-cinq ans la Fédération a lutté ; pendant quarante-cinq ans des hommes et des femmes de foi ont proclamé la suprématie de la justice sur l'injustice, de l'amour sur la haine et le mépris ; pendant quarante-cinq ans des hommes et des femmes comme Joséphine Butler, Minod, Pierson, de Morsier, Fiaux, de Meuron, Yves-Guyot, Wilson, Stuart, ont été sur la brèche, souvent insultés, conspués, attaqués et incompris, rarement loués ; ils n'ont pas perdu un seul moment leur foi et leur enthousiasme. Plus la lutte durait, plus ils étaient convaincus de la valeur de leurs arguments. Ils l'étaient d'autant plus qu'année après année, ils voyaient les rangs des défenseurs de la réglementation et de la police des mœurs s'éclaircir. Puis vint l'époque des grandes victoires abolitionnistes. Un des moments les plus mémorables fut certainement celui de la deuxième Conférence pour la prophylaxie de la syphilis et des maladies vénériennes, à Bruxelles. C'était là un gros coup porté à la réglementation et la police des mœurs. Puis ce fut la Commission extra-parlementaire, en France, qui se déclara en faveur du régime libéral. Ensuite ce furent le Danemark, la Hollande, la Suède qui en 1906, 1911, 1918, renoncèrent au funeste régime de la réglementation. Partout se fondèrent des sociétés pour la lutte contre les maladies vénériennes, qui toutes voulaient enlever la surveillance de la prostitution à la police. Enfin ce fut la Conférence de 1920 qui démontra par les voix les plus diverses la faillite définitive de l'ancien régime. Ceux qui avaient lutté pendant quarante-cinq ans voyaient enfin leurs efforts couronnés de succès.

Certes il y a encore à compter avec l'opposition acharnée de certains gouvernements, de certaines administrations. Mais cette opposition sera brisée, nous en sommes sûrs. Genève elle-même renonce à ses "maisons." Et bientôt il n'y aura plus en Europe que la France pour soutenir un régime condamné partout ailleurs. Il est peut-être juste que la mère de la réglementation qui a imposé son enfant à l'Europe tout entière, assiste jusqu'au bout à l'agonie de son rejeton.

Que la lutte soutenue par la Fédération puisse inspirer d'autres sociétés, qu'elle leur donne l'assurance, la conviction que toute cause juste et humanitaire finit tôt ou tard par triompher ! Les quarante-cinq années de combat des abolitionnistes sont là comme un éclatant témoignage de cette vérité. Que ceux qui veulent puiser du courage pour continuer leur action lisent les écrits de Joséphine Butler ; que ceux qui veulent renouveler leurs forces lorsqu'ils désespèrent demandent à certains ouvriers de la première heure, sur la brèche, depuis 1875, comment ils ont fait pour résister au découragement. Ces pionniers qui voyaient le monde entier

dressé contre eux, et qui étaient attaqués par ceux-là même qui auraient dû les soutenir, leur donneront la réponse de tous ceux qui sont des lutteurs : ne perdez jamais de vue votre idéal.

### BELGIQUE.

Le Sénat a ratifié, le 6 octobre, l'article 47 nouveau, voté par la Chambre le 28 juillet.

Cet article dit :

"Les députés à la Chambre des représentants sont élus directement par les citoyens âgés de vingt et un ans accomplis, domiciliés depuis six mois au moins dans la même commune et ne se trouvant pas dans l'un des cas d'exclusion prévus par la loi.

"Chaque électeur n'a droit qu'à un vote.

"Une loi pourra, dans les mêmes conditions, attribuer le droit de vote aux femmes. Cette loi devra réunir au moins les deux tiers des suffrages.

"Disposition transitoire.

"Sont admises au droit de suffrage, concurremment avec les citoyens visés à l'article 4 de la Constitution, les femmes qui, réunissant les conditions prescrites par cet article, appartiennent à l'une des catégories énoncées dans l'article 2 de la loi du 9 mai 1919."

Etant donné l'opposition acharnée de tout le parti libéral et de la majeure partie du parti socialiste contre le suffrage politique des femmes, notre cause n'est pas très assurée de recueillir au Parlement les deux tiers des suffrages. Notre seul espoir réside dans le mouvement d'opinion publique qui pourrait résulter d'une participation active et judicieuse des femmes aux élections communales qui auront lieu dans quelques mois.

Aussi est-ce de ce côté que nous orientons en ce moment tous nos efforts.

JANE BRIGODE.

12 novembre 1920.

### FRANCE. LA CRISE DOMESTIQUE.

En France, comme dans tous les pays, les Suffragistes se sont toujours attachées à l'étude des questions touchant à la famille.

Actuellement, une de nos grandes préoccupations est la crise des domestiques, qui commence à devenir aussi aiguë chez nous qu'en Amérique, en Angleterre et dans bien d'autres contrées.

Pour les familles aisées, la situation n'est pas encore très grave, car on peut trouver ici des serviteurs en faisant des sacrifices d'argent.

Mais pour la classe moyenne, la situation devient critique, et elle nous touche surtout par ses répercussions sur la vie de la mère de famille qui, dans les conditions actuelles, ne peut pas accepter, sans appréhension et sans angoisse, de nombreuses maternités.

La question de la natalité a pour nous une telle importance, que nous devons rechercher toutes les causes qui peuvent l'entraver et, si possible, les remèdes qui pourraient l'atténuer.

D'autre part, notre devoir de Suffragiste nous commande de ne rien négliger de ce qui pourrait adoucir et rendre moins pénible le travail ménager.

En effet, la femme trop absorbée par les détails de sa maison se désintéressera presque forcément des questions sociales et politiques, sa vie se rétrécira, ses préoccupations s'éloigneront des problèmes qui intéressent les hommes, ce qui est exactement le contraire du but auquel nous tendons et auquel la société tend elle-même dans tous les pays du monde.

C'est pourquoi nous devons nous attacher sérieusement à la solution de la crise des domestiques, et c'est dans ce but que nous demandons à JUS SUFFRAGII de bien vouloir publier ce questionnaire, rédigé par la question du travail du Conseil National des Femmes Françaises.

Nous faisons un pressant appel aux Sociétés affiliées à l'Alliance pour qu'elles nous envoient des réponses

détaillées, et pour qu'elles nous communiquent des documents publiés chez elles à ce sujet.

Nous serions heureuses de faire connaître dans JUS SUFFRAGII, s'il y consent, le résultat de nos travaux.

Le but à atteindre est de nous tenir toutes au courant de ce qui a été fait partout, afin que chacun bénéficie de l'expérience de tous.

C. BRUNSCHVIGG.

Secrétaire générale de l'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes ; Présidente de la "Section du Travail" au Conseil National des Femmes Françaises.

### ENQUÊTE.

SUR LE PROBLÈME DES DOMESTIQUES DANS LA FAMILLE.

- A. — 1. Le recrutement est-il facile dans votre pays ?
2. Emploie-t-on des femmes ?
3. Emploie-t-on des hommes ?
- Sont-ils logés ?
- Sont-ils nourris ?
- Dans quelles conditions ?
4. Indiquez les salaires habituels pour les femmes. Indiquez les salaires habituels pour les hommes.
5. Les heures de travail et de repos, et les congés payés sont-ils réglementés ?
- Si oui, donnez des détails.
6. Employez-vous de la main-d'œuvre étrangère ?
- Si oui, indiquez les nationalités ; les salaires habituels.
- B. — S'il y a des difficultés de recrutement dans votre pays, indiquez : 1. Depuis quand ?
2. A quelles causes l'attribuez-vous ?
3. Quelles solutions ont déjà été adoptées ?
4. En envisagez-vous d'autres ?
- Lesquelles ?
5. Croyez-vous que la crise des domestiques ait une répercussion sur le nombre des naissances de la classe bourgeoise de votre pays ?
- Donnez des détails, s'il y a lieu.
6. S'il y a dans votre pays des organisations ou des personnes s'étant occupées de cette question, prière de les indiquer (noms et adresses).

Prière d'envoyer les réponses à l'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes, 53, rue Scheffer, Paris (16ème arr.).

Nov. 26 1920.

### ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE.

Un très grand nombre de femmes se rendirent aux scrutins dans la récente élection présidentielle.

Des 48 États, il n'y a que ceux de Georgia et du Mississippi qui ne purent voter, vu que tout électeur doit dans ces deux États s'inscrire 6 mois à l'avance.

Les femmes ayant reçu le vote trop tard n'ont donc pu participer aux élections de cette année.

Les femmes reçurent aussi des places comme employées du scrutin, comme inspectrice et surveillante.

Il paraît qu'une seule femme, Miss Alice Robertson, of Oklahoma, fut élue au Congrès. D'autres États donnèrent à des femmes des emplois moins importants.

### GRANDE-BRETAGNE.

Le 29 novembre il y eut à Londres une grande réunion pour célébrer l'affranchissement de la femme aux États-Unis. Mrs. Chapman et d'autres membres du bureau exécutif de l'I.W.S.A. parlèrent. La salle était comble et la réunion eut un grand succès.

La conférence des femmes magistrats, qui se tint à Londres le 30 novembre, fut très intéressante et mona l'avantage d'avoir des femmes comme magistrats. Il est à espérer que leur nombre grandira bien vite.



### LA SOCIÉTÉ CATHOLIQUE DES FEMMES SUFFRAGISTES.

Le président de la Société Catholique Espagnole a reçu du Pape, par l'intermédiaire du Cardinal Gaspari, l'assurance que le Pape désirait que les organisations féministes ne s'occupent pas seulement de choses religieuses mais qu'elles entrent aussi la sphère politique, et que les femmes aient la connaissance des problèmes sociaux.

Le Pape exprima aussi le vœu d'avoir les femmes électeurs partout.

La Société Catholique des Femmes Suffragistes prit part, le 6 novembre, à la démonstration qui eut lieu à Londres en faveur du paiement égal pour femmes et hommes faisant le même travail.

### IRLANDE.

L'Union Politique des Femmes s'est occupée jusqu'à présent d'affaires municipales et tout spécialement de la question d'habitation pour le peuple. Si la loi du "Home rule" est mise en vigueur, leur besogne deviendra de la plus grande importance et la société représentera des milliers de femmes électeurs. Le fait que la société existe dans les conditions présentes est en lui-même l'assurance de la puissance du mouvement féministe en Irlande.

### NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE.

Nous avons enfin un bureau pour l'hygiène publique. Parmi les trois membres composant ce bureau il doit se trouver une femme. Les membres sont nommés par le Ministre de l'Hygiène publique.

Une autre réforme très importante est la création d'un bureau pour l'hygiène de l'enfant. Ce bureau s'occupera de lui à partir de sa naissance jusqu'au moment où il entrera à l'école.

Les différentes sociétés féminines s'opposèrent à l'emploi, par contrat, des Chinois dans la nouvelle dépendance de Samoa, mais l'intérêt commercial triompha en dépit des efforts faits par le parti ouvrier (Labour party).

### SUÈDE.

Le nouveau Gouvernement de la Suède, parmi les amendements à faire, votera certainement le suffrage pour les femmes et permettra certainement aux femmes le droit d'être employées dans les postes importants de l'état-civil.

Ce dernier amendement présente quelques dangers. On a proposé qu'une nouvelle loi serait déposée au Parlement, déterminant les conditions auxquelles les femmes seraient admises à l'état-civil ainsi que le tarif gradué des appointements. Avec un gouvernement socialiste, nous espérons recevoir le même paiement que les hommes pour le même travail. Nous avons certainement le support du Ministre de la Justice, un homme très libéral et juste en ce qui concerne la position de la femme. Je n'ai aucun doute que tous les partis voteront le suffrage pour la femme.

En attendant, nous tâchons d'instruire la femme dans ses devoirs politiques et de la préparer à ses nouveaux droits d'électeur.

### SUISSE.

Après une période tout à fait calme au point de vue féministe et suffragiste, divers événements viennent de se produire chez nous, qui montrent que nos idées ne sommeillent pas complètement et que l'opinion publique s'en préoccupe. Il est certain que, dans quelques-unes de nos villes, à Genève notamment, le principe du suffrage des femmes a fait de grands progrès et est maintenant envisagé tout autrement qu'il y a quelques années. Evidemment l'influence du Congrès y est pour beaucoup. Notre public a pu se rendre compte à ce moment-là de l'amplitude de ce mouvement, des réalisa-

tions obtenues ailleurs parce que, chez nous, on persistait à considérer comme une utopie des qualités sérieuses et profondes des suffragistes, de leur compétence à traiter les questions qui les intéressent. Ajoutons aussi qu'il n'a pas été insensible à l'extérieur de nos hôtes internationales... et que la dignité souveraine de Mrs. Chapman Catt et le sourire de Lady Astor ont été pour beaucoup dans certaines conversions! Si la question du vote des femmes avait été posée en votation populaire huit jours après le Congrès, peut-être aurions-nous eu partie gagnée. Tandis que maintenant, les impressions les moins vives se sont effacées, et il nous faudra un effort pour les rappeler à la mémoire de nos électeurs.

Nous serons cependant aidées dans la campagne que nous allons entreprendre par une autre influence: celle de la Société des Nations. A l'heure où j'écris ces lignes, aucune question, aucun problème en dehors de ce qui concerne l'Assemblée plénière n'intéresse plus notre public genevois, lequel, dans sa majorité, suit avec passion les débats, est au courant dans le détail de tout ce qui se passe dans la salle des séances, connaît par le menu l'histoire et la biographie de chaque délégué... Cet intérêt fervent pour la réunion de l'Assemblée est peut-être le fait d'une petite ville, moins accoutumée aux grandes réunions d'ordre politique que les capitales de grands États, mais aussi, j'en suis persuadée, le fait de la mentalité très particulière aux Genevois de participer effectivement à tout ce qui se passe dans leur ville. Des membres du Secrétariat l'ont déjà remarqué: alors qu'ailleurs ils n'étaient guère que des numéros, isolés dans l'indifférence de la foule, à Genève on désire les connaître, leur parler, échanger des idées avec eux, les recevoir, et cela presque dans tous les milieux. Plusieurs réunions ont déjà été organisées à cet effet par nos Sociétés féminines et féministes genevoises, pour ne parler que de ce qui concerne les femmes. Or, étant donnés les principes d'égalité entre les sexes qui sont à la base de la S.d.N., étant donné le fait que trois femmes siègent à l'Assemblée comme déléguées techniques ou suppléantes de leur pays (Mme Wicksell, Suède, membre du Comité exécutif de l'I.W.S.A.; Mme Forchammer, Danemark; et Dr. Bonnevie, Norvège), que des femmes occupent des postes importants au Secrétariat (Dame R. Crowdy, Miss Wilson, etc.), on ne peut manquer, pour peu que l'on réfléchisse, de se rendre compte que, si une organisation comme la S. d. N. confie des postes comportant des responsabilités à des femmes, la Suisse, qui ne leur reconnaît même pas le droit que tout jeune homme est déclaré capable d'exercer à vingt ans, est singulièrement arriérée!

Toutefois, ne nous berçons pas trop d'illusions! car à Genève même, où va s'engager, ainsi que je le disais tout à l'heure, une campagne en faveur du suffrage féminin, nous sommes rien moins que sûres de la victoire. Il est pourtant intéressant de constater que nous sommes le premier canton suisse — et je le crois, le premier État du monde, car je me demande si le droit d'initiative populaire existe ailleurs que chez nous? — où la question du vote des femmes soit posée justement par voie d'initiative. Deux mots d'explication à ce sujet ne seront peut-être pas inutiles: dans la plupart de nos cantons, comme sur le terrain fédéral, quand un chiffre de citoyens fixé par la loi demande l'élaboration d'une loi ou d'une modification à la Constitution, cette loi ou cette modification doit être, quel que soit l'avis du Parlement à son égard, soumise à la votation populaire. A Genève, pour qu'une initiative populaire aboutisse, il faut que la demande soit faite par 2.500 électeurs. Or, près de 2.800 ont signé une demande pour que les mêmes droits politiques soient reconnus aux femmes qu'aux hommes par la Constitution genevoise. La vérification très minutieuse de ces signatures vient seulement d'être terminée, et maintenant, dans le délai d'une année, tous les électeurs seront appelés à se prononcer. Nous avons donc une grande tâche devant nous pour préparer cette votation populaire. Mais le fait que cette question a été posée par des électeurs eux-mêmes, et non pas par un homme politique quelconque, est déjà un gros atout en notre faveur, en donnant beaucoup plus de poids et de sérieux à cette

revendication. Je ne manquerai pas de tenir les lecteurs de JUS SUFFRAGII au courant des péripéties de cette campagne.

Chez nos voisins du canton de Vaud, la situation actuelle est moins favorable. Canton agricole, assez réfractaire aux nouveautés, lent à s'émouvoir, le canton de Vaud n'est guère un terrain propice au suffrage. Il y a plus de trois ans qu'un député socialiste, M. Suter, avait déposé une motion à ce sujet au Grand Conseil (Parlement) qui avait chargé le Conseil d'État (gouvernement) d'étudier la question et de faire un rapport. Ce rapport vient d'être imprimé, et se prononce contre le suffrage des femmes, estimant qu'il faut attendre encore... quoi? avant d'introduire cette transformation dans nos mœurs politiques! Les débats du Grand Conseil qui auront lieu, soit encore avant la fin de l'année, soit en février, promettent d'être intéressants, mais sans laisser beaucoup d'espoir.

A St-Gall, à l'autre bout de la Suisse, MM. les députés ont également grand peur du vote des femmes: ils l'ont bien montré lors d'une révision récente de la Constitution cantonale, à propos de laquelle la proposition d'inscrire une mesure permettant de reconnaître plus tard les droits politiques aux femmes a été repoussée à une très forte majorité. On a seulement décidé qu'une loi pourrait leur attribuer l'éligibilité à certaines Commissions d'assistance et d'école, sans qu'il soit nécessaire pour cela de reviser encore la Constitution! Quelle générosité!

Et cependant un des grands arguments des anti-suffragistes: que les femmes suisses tiennent si peu au droit de vote qu'elles ne l'exercent pas là où elles le possèdent sous une autre forme, est contredit par les faits. Dans le canton de Neuchâtel, notamment, ont eu lieu ce mois des élections aux Conseils de prud'hommes, pour lesquels, dans ce canton, les femmes sont électrices et éligibles. D'après les renseignements qui nous parviennent, les femmes votent beaucoup, bon nombre d'entre elles ont été élues pour représenter les différents métiers féminins, et leur activité dans ces tribunaux professionnels a été reconnue comme excellente. Dans le canton de Bâle, les femmes ont pris part, il y a deux semaines, à une votation ecclésiastique qui les touchait de près: il s'agissait de reconnaître aux femmes, jusqu'alors simplement électrices, le droit d'être éligibles dans les Conseils de l'Eglise. La mesure a été adoptée à une forte majorité, et l'on estime que 90% des femmes ont pris part au vote. Bâle sera donc le premier canton suisse où les femmes pourront siéger dans les corps officiels de l'Eglise nationale.

Il ne s'est toutefois pas agi encore là de l'autorisation pour les femmes d'être pasteur. A Zurich, la question va être discutée prochainement. Comme dans cette ville, deux femmes remplissent avec plein succès des fonctions de pasteur suppléant, on voudrait voir leur situation officiellement reconnue par une décision du Synode (Conseil de l'Eglise). Les débats auront lieu en décembre.

Enfin, à Bâle encore, une grosse question se pose qui va faire couler beaucoup d'encre: le gouvernement propose au Grand Conseil une loi obligeant les maîtresses d'école mariées à quitter leur poste! Les féministes s'agitent naturellement beaucoup, alors que certaines maîtresses d'école considèrent avec une satisfaction un peu surprenante cette restriction au droit au travail de la femme. L'Association bâloise des maîtresses d'école a proposé un moyen terme, qui permettrait à la maîtresse d'école de garder sa place si elle peut motiver ce désir par des raisons suffisantes. Cette attitude très modérée ne satisfait pas cependant toutes les féministes, même ailleurs qu'à Bâle.

EMILIE GOURD,

Présidente de l'Association suisse pour le Suffrage féminin.

Genève, le 28 novembre 1920.

### LE VOTE DANS LE JUGOSLAVIA.

Le suffrage pour la femme a été rejeté par le "Jugoslav Skupstina," mais les suffragistes redoublent leurs efforts et il est évident que bientôt la victoire leur appartiendra. Déjà à Slovenia, où la femme a toujours eu sa place dans les affaires publiques, il est reconnu que leur participation dans la politique est de grande importance.

### SEANCES DU BUREAU EXECUTIF INTERNATIONAL.

Mrs. Chapman Catt, présidente; Madame de Witt Schlumberger (France); Miss Chrystal Macmillan, Mrs. Corbett Ashby (Grande-Bretagne); Madame Girardet Vielle (Suisse); Dr. Ancona (Italie); Frau Schreiber-Krieger, M.P., Frau Anna Lindemann (Allemagne).

Il y avait six ans que le Bureau Exécutif ne s'était réuni, et la grande question à discuter pour l'Alliance fut les moyens à employer pour aider les pays n'ayant pas encore le vote à l'obtenir; et pour les pays ayant le vote, les moyens à employer pour obtenir l'égalité complète.

La première question envisagée par le Bureau fut la position politique dans les différents pays n'ayant pas le vote. Aucun de ces pays ne fut oublié, mais tout le monde fut d'avis que les premiers pays dont il fallait s'occuper étaient la France, l'Italie et la Belgique.

Pendant cette discussion, Mrs. Catt eut la bonne idée de proposer qu'à son retour en Amérique elle exposerait tout spécialement devant la commission Leslie les droits spéciaux de ces pays, cette commission ayant déjà montré un intérêt très pratique et généreux au suffrage féminin international.

La proposition que l'Alliance enverrait une pétition en faveur du suffrage aux ministres et aux parlements des pays n'ayant pas le vote, fut fortement appuyée par Mesdames Schlumberger et Ancona pour la France et l'Italie.

Les paroles de Mrs. Catt résumant l'assistance que l'Alliance propose donner aux pays où les femmes ne sont pas affranchies.

Il y aura un système d'information systématique venant des pays qui ont le vote pour aider ceux qui ne l'ont pas. L'Alliance enverra des orateurs et des organisateurs dans plusieurs pays, pour encourager le travail bien organisé.

Nous espérons que d'ici à peu d'années les femmes du monde entier auront le vote et travailleront côte à côte avec l'homme. Pour arriver à une parfaite entente internationale sur les questions en suspens, trois différents comités internationaux seront organisés.

Le premier s'occupera de la nationalité de la femme mariée; le second, du droit que la femme a de travailler et d'obtenir le même salaire que l'homme pour le même travail.

Et le troisième comité s'occupera de la morale des deux sexes, du problème de la prostitution et de ses tristes conséquences: les maladies vénériennes.



**GREAT BRITAIN.****Work of the N.U.S.E.C.**

THE series of lectures on the Economic Independence of Women is proving a great success. Colonel Grieg, M.P., Major Hills, M.P., and Sir Martin Conway, F.S.A., F.R.G.S., M.P., and other distinguished politicians are acting as Chairmen, and it was an excellent send-off to the project to have Mrs. Fawcett preside at the first lecture and give a delightful and witty opening address.

A Conference of Women Magistrates convened by the N.U.S.E.C. was held on November 30 and December 1. Women Magistrates have already made themselves felt as useful additions to the legal system of the country, but many more are wanted and it is hoped that new appointments will soon be made.

**Women Jurors.**

In reply to a question in Parliament it has been made known that on every panel of jurors, men and women shall be as nearly as possible in the same proportion as on the list from which the panel is drawn. Unfortunately it is within the discretion of the Court to order that a jury shall be composed wholly of men or of women, and it is feared that this may have the effect of excluding women from cases in which the presence of women in Court and the experience of women as jurors may be most valuable.

**The House of Lords.**

Viscountess Rhondda has sent a petition to the King asking that a writ may be issued enabling her to take her place, as a Peeress in her own right, in the House of Lords.

**Women, Young Persons, Children (Employment) Bill.**

The N.U.S.E.C. has recently given evidence before a Departmental Committee on the Employment of Women on the two-shift system. The chief points emphasised were that regulations for the conduct of any industry should be based on the type of the work and not on the sex of the worker. It is felt that the fact of reconstructive legislation being so often confined to women only has resulted in many cases in women being denied the entry into the industries and processes affected. Unemployment and overcrowding in "women's" trades may have more serious results on the health of women and of the race than is imagined.

The Committee is expected to report very shortly and its findings are anxiously awaited. There is, of course, a serious difference of opinion among feminists on this subject, but the N.U.S.E.C. holds strongly a belief in equal conditions and opportunities, knowing that women will drop out of unsuitable work without any artificial restrictions, provided there is no inducement to the employer to take them on because they are cheap.

R. S.

**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.****The Pope on Votes for Women.**

THE President of the Spanish Catholic Society—the Accion Catolica—has recently received a letter from Cardinal Gasparri on behalf of the Pope, which will give much satisfaction to Catholic Suffragists in every country. Cardinal Gasparri writes that those who had concluded from a recent Allocution that the Pope desired Christian Women's organisations to be used solely for religious ends were under a misapprehension; for the Holy Father's desire was that Catholic Women should enter the political arena, so that the light of Christian principles might be spread throughout the world. He therefore urged all women to endeavour to have a clear understanding of social problems.

It will be remembered that the Holy Father has also, some time ago, expressed his desire to see "women electors everywhere."

The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society took part in the Demonstration held in London on November 6 to support the demand of the Women Teachers for equal pay for equal work.

November, 1920.

**IRELAND.****WOMEN'S POLITICAL LEAGUE.**

THIS society during the last year has been mainly concerned with municipal affairs. The elections in January resulted in a defeat of the one non-party woman candidate, owing to the block voting tactics adopted by the majority party, and in the return of two women who stood on the party ticket. Similar results followed in other towns and counties, while notably in Dublin, where the two non-party women were defeated, while at the same time women candidates who accepted the programme of the majority party were returned for the first time in appreciable numbers. In the elections for Guardians of the Poor, the proportion of men returned was much greater, but in the majority of cases, also on the party ticket. The League brought all possible pressure to bear on the Parliamentary representatives in support of such measures as the Representation of the People Bill, and the Plumage Bill. It will be understood that no definite political work is at present possible.

In November of last year, at the instance of the League, an Advisory Council on Housing was formed, representing practically all women's organisations in the city. This provides a means for joint action among women's organisations of very different types, including as it does the woman's branch of the I.L.P., the Textile Trade Union, the Salvation Army Social Wing, and the Irish Co-operative Guild. Last winter the Council were successful in securing official adoption of better types of houses, on better sites, with more air space. This winter the scope has been enlarged, and it will be known henceforward as the Belfast Women's Advisory Council. If the Home Rule Bill becomes law, and is enforced, the work of the Advisory Council will become of great importance. It will represent many thousands of women voters. It is determined to keep itself free from all party entanglements, and to bring to an end the long continued neglect of fundamental social reforms. The mere existence of such a body under present conditions is in itself a striking testimony to the real strength of the feminist movement in Ireland.

DORA MELLONE, Hon. Press Secretary, W.P.L.

November, 1920.

**HUNGARY.**

OUR British contemporary, *The Woman's Leader*, reports that there is reason to believe that an attempt is being made to disfranchise Hungarian women. A Bill regulating municipal elections has been submitted to the Hungarian National Assembly by which women are to be deprived of the electoral qualifications for municipal and county councils. This new legislation arranges that half of the municipal councillors must be taken from the ranks of the highest ratepayers, so that there is a distinct limitation of choice for the proletariat. The Hungarian Premier is also reported to have declared that universal suffrage will be abolished and that the House of Magnates will be reinstated in its former rights preparatory to the election of a king.

*Woman's Leader*, November 19, 1920.**INDIA.****WOMEN DISENFRANCHISED IN MADRAS.****Village Panchayat Bill.**

THE Village Panchayat Bill has passed into law, containing, most regrettably, a clause disenfranchising all the village women in the Madras Presidency for the first time in Indian history.

The members of the Women's Indian Association, however, refuse to regard this clause as anything but a temporary enactment. It is true that this was a recommendation of the Select Committee; but the Hon. Mr. B. V. Narasimha Iyer had appended a note to his general approval of the Bill, stating that he thought all adult women should as justly have the village vote as all the adult men.

We had fully expected that there would have been a debate on this question in the Council, and had there been such, we believe the women would have got fairer treatment; but the necessity for pushing through the Bill as a whole in the limited time before the sitting of this last Council ended, caused a large number of amendments to be withdrawn, including the women's amendment.

Thus the final act of the Madras Legislative Council under the passing régime was, in this instance, of a most retrograde character, and we shall call on the Reformed Council early to rectify this special section of the Village Panchayat Bill, and restore to women their ancient rights.

There is evidence that for over a thousand years village women were eligible for election to the panchayats, and there is a record of one woman at least who was a member of a Committee of Justice. (A.A.S. Report, 1910.) In recent years, though women have dropped out of the custom of voting, still there has been no law compulsorily preventing them from doing so, and it is the very reverse of democratic action to exclude them now. There is no qualification needed by the village men but that of age; there is no disqualification for women but their sex. Womanhood as such should not be held a limitation.

In no section of Indian life are women more the partners and equals of men than in the villages. They know the needs and interests of their locality just as well as do the men, and they are quite well able to express their opinions about them. The voting pot is therefore next door neighbour to the cooking pot in a woman's life of National service, and we shall press for her restoration to her ancient dignity in the village life by the removal of this entirely new, unjustified and un-Indian disability. To this end we shall seek to gain the support of all the candidates for the new Council.

M. E. COUSINS,

*Hon. Secretary, Women's Indian Association.*

October, 1920.

**Zenana Voters in Madras.**

Here are a few items of the development of women's freedom in India. It might be known to persons interested in the liberalisation of the political condition of women that one objection to granting suffrage to women in India, among a considerable section of whom the system of "ghosha" prevails, was the impossibility of getting them to visit voting stations. But, in order to eradicate the difficulty involved in this, the Legislative Council of Madras has arranged that qualified zenana voters may register their votes by a male proxy.

**Scholarships for Hindu Women Teachers.**

Next, the Government of Bengal, with a view to meeting the increasing demand for trained Hindu women teachers, have directed the Department of Public Instruction to open preparatory classes in selected elementary training schools, for candidates not eligible for direct admission to elementary training classes, and have granted 190 monthly scholarships of Rs. 10/8 each for the coming year.

**Woman Municipal Commissioner in Indore.**

The Government of the Native State, Indore, have nominated Miss Ahalyabai Bhandarkar, M.A., a granddaughter of the great Sanskritist and Chancellor of the Indian Women's University, Sir Ramakrishna Bhandarkar, as a Commissioner of the Municipality of Indore.

Last, in the Bombay Presidency, the members of the Bombay Corporation had a warm discussion about allowing women to enter the Corporation precincts as authorised and duly elected members. The advanced side argued that India should march with the times, and remove all limitations on women; while the Conservatives argued that in the larger social interests women should be kept aloof from the unwholesome atmosphere of public life, and that a difference in the employments of men and women did not imply a disparagement of the capacities of women. However, the motion for admission was carried and communicated to Government for final sanction.

G. R. JOSYER, M.A., F.R.E.S.

Bangalore, India, November, 1920.

**ITALY.****MUNICIPAL SUFFRAGE BILL PASSED.**

WHILE the Board of Officers of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance were in session in London, telegrams were received by Dr. Margherita Ancona and the Alliance to the effect that the Bill giving Italian women the municipal suffrage on the same terms as men had passed its final reading in the Italian Chamber. A telegram of congratulations was also received at Headquarters from Baron Sonnino. We congratulate Italian women on their victory, and hope it is but the immediate precursor of a still greater victory—the granting of the Parliamentary vote.

December 3, 1920.

**JAPAN.****Bad Industrial Conditions for Women.**

THE World's Young Women's Christian Association writes:

"Perhaps in no country is the Association needed more by factory girls than in Japan, where the conditions of work are extraordinarily trying. Every year 200,000 girls are recruited from country districts and enter factories for the first time. Seventy per cent. of them live in dormitories attached to the factories. A thousand to three thousand girls may be housed in the building, divided into wards of 250 to 500 each, under the supervision of a matron. A room in one of these wards may vary from 20 to 60 yards square, and will contain from 10 to 30 mats for the girls to sleep on—thus allowing only two square yards or less to each girl. The rooms are usually dark and poorly ventilated, and in smaller factories are built over the noisome steam and foul air of the work-rooms. In large factories the girls have to work in day and night shifts, both shifts using the same room and the same bedding from one year's end to another.

"Needless to say, such conditions work havoc among the employees. Out of the 200,000 before mentioned, 80,000 return home within a year—13,000 of them suffering from serious illness. Fortunately some of the larger factories are now beginning to improve conditions, and there are a few factories conducted on modern lines."

**MECKLENBURG STRELITZ.***Report presented to the Eighth Congress.***A Woman M.P., Head of the Committee of Public Safety.**

IT gives me great pleasure to be able to send you the greeting of a small German State which, from being



extremely reactionary, has become one of the most progressive under the new régime.

The little State of Mecklenburg Strelitz, with only 106,000 inhabitants, was entirely in the hands of the Junkers, who, traditionally opposed to Women's Suffrage and hostile to every form of democratic government, had prevented the Grand Duke from granting a Constitution to the country. All that is changed to-day. In the Landtag (Parliament) there is a Woman Member; she is at the head of the Committee of Public Safety, and works with a staff of ten helpers, two of whom are constantly travelling all over the country for purposes of propaganda. Under the former Government a man had this post—a very important professor; but President von Reibnitz, without much ado, put a woman in his place, being of the opinion that the Committee of Public Safety would be "safer" in the hands of a woman than in those of even a very important man! And he was not mistaken, for, thanks to woman's influence, Mecklenburg Strelitz has, as one of the first of the German States, passed a Wage Act for Officials, according to which the Scale of Extra Pay for Children is the same for all classes of officials, be the official a Minister or a school porter.

During the negotiations with the former Regent a considerable sum was advanced to the Treasury, a great part of which was used for the erection of schools and to procure food, school requisites, boots and other necessary articles of apparel. In consequence, Mecklenburg Strelitz had no strikes, and work proceeded quietly and peacefully. President von Reibnitz had many a dispute with the feudal, old-established landowners, who would not yield to his radical measures. But he gained his point in almost every case, as he was backed up by the people and particularly by the women. He belongs to the few men who before the Revolution were strongly in favour of Women's Suffrage; and in view of the reactionary and Junker movements in his country he attached great importance to the fact of being represented by a woman at the Congress, and to having his sympathies for the cause expressed by a woman.

LISE MULLER.

## THE NETHERLANDS.

### Revision of the Constitution.

THE Committee appointed by the Dutch Government to prepare a Bill for the revision of the Dutch Constitution have just published their report.

In this report it is proposed to make universal woman suffrage, on the same terms as men, an integral part of the Constitution. This Bill will probably pass into law in 1922—the first year in which Dutch women will be able to use the parliamentary vote.

### Revision of Dutch Municipal Law.

At practically the same time the Government appointed another Committee to prepare a Bill for the revision of the Dutch Municipal Law. The Committee's report is now published, and recommends that women shall henceforth be eligible as Burgomaster or Secretary of a Municipality (Mayor or Town Clerk).

It is practically certain that both these reforms will pass by a large majority.

### Dutch Woman Adviser at League of Nations Assembly.

Although the Dutch Government did not appoint a woman among the members of the delegation which represents Holland at the League of Nations Assembly in Geneva, among the technical advisers who accompany that delegation is Mrs. Kluyver. Mrs. Kluyver was, from its inception, Secretary of the Anti-Oorlog Raad, and later on she took a very leading part in the Society which works in support of the League of Nations. She is therefore the right woman in the right place.

ALETTA JACOBS.

November, 1920.

## NEW ZEALAND.

LITTLE of special interest to women has actually occurred in New Zealand this year, but signs are not wanting that a gratifying social advance will follow the settlement of immediate post-war problems. The general state of prosperity in the country has given no incentive for heroic measures, but the high cost of living, though low compared with Home prices, is making itself felt with increasing severity, the country being specially moved at the moment by the rise in butter from 1s. 8d. to 2s. 11. Inflated land prices will form a main factor in hastening the expected slump, but it is unlikely to prove either so heavy or so lasting in this land of resources as in the older centres.

A Health Minister has long been an important member of the Cabinet; we are now to have a Public Board of Health. Of the three members of this Board appointed by the Minister of Public Health, one must be a woman. The number of school medical inspectors and nurses already under the Department is being gradually increased, and their functions will be extended. A Director of School Dental Services has been appointed, and it is expected that an effective scheme will later be put in operation, co-ordinating, to some extent, dental work with that of other school officials under the Health Department.

The most distinct departure in reform has been the creation of a Bureau of Infant Welfare, which, when fully constituted, will supervise the health and well-being of New Zealand children from birth till they enter school. It will be seen that supplies the needed link between our excellent Plunket system for baby welfare and the activities directed towards the health of school-children.

A number of valuable forecasts in the matter of extending and improving our school system are before us; and the health of women is being considered in the increase of maternity homes, and further provision will be made for extra nurses in country districts.

The National Council of Women, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and in fact the general body of feminine opinion, opposed the continuing of Chinese indentured labour in our new dependency, Samoa. The commercial interests have prevailed, but, though the system is said to be safeguarded as far as possible, the moral weight of the country is against this retrograde step. It was strenuously fought by the Labour Party, which, though small, is at present the only articulate Opposition in Parliament. The want of a new Liberal Party is being felt.

Immigration is before the country in one or two forms, but no great influx can be invited till the world-wide problem of housing is grappled with. Impatience has been expressed with the slowness and inadequacy of our progress on these lines; the high price of labour and the scarcity and dearness of building materials are of course severe handicaps in providing what the population urgently requires.

Labour troubles have not been lacking to show New Zealand that she, too, must face the great reconstruction of the industrial system. Coal strikes, often on frivolous pretexts, sometimes on genuine grounds, have perpetually threatened the public with a stoppage of normal life and industry throughout the year. Auckland is, at the moment of writing, without gas and ordinary tram services. These hardships are partly owing to a shortage of men for the mines, partly to hardships in some cases (although the all-round wages of miners are high, and in many mines living conditions have been studied), and partly because of a desire for nationalisation. Earnest efforts are being made to secure industrial peace on a sound basis, and a number of the men are not desirous of going to extremes, but the country is definitely unsettled, and decisive developments must be looked for in which it is hoped good feeling and sense may prevail on both sides finally.

October 12, 1920.

JESSIE MACKAY.

## SWEDEN.

THE political situation in Sweden at the actual moment is a little confused. The general elections this autumn showed progress for the conservatives, and still more for an agricultural class party only a couple of years old, some decline for the social democrats and a large loss of representatives for the liberal party. The social democrats are still the strongest party in Parliament, though the conservatives are closely behind them, and, if able to coalesce with the agriculturists, more numerous. The social-democratic party, who have been in power for seven months, asked the liberals if they were willing to form a parliamentary block together with the socialists, but for several reasons the liberals declined, and now, last week the government resigned, and a new cabinet of non-party experts is planned and probably will be appointed long before this article is printed.

It seems as if this new cabinet has been created under the special auspices of the old social-democratic government, and therefore, I take it for granted that they have promised not in any way to thwart the acknowledgment of the amendments to the constitution that are still pending. Among these amendments are also women suffrage and the proposal of granting to women the right to enter the higher civil service. As for the latter of these amendments, there will, perhaps, be some danger; the plan was that together with the second accepting of the constitutional amendment a special bill should be laid before Parliament, fixing the conditions upon which women were to be admitted into this service; some exceptions might be stipulated, and the scale of remuneration must be determined. Now it is possible that in connection with this question will come up the whole old problem of the different remunerative principles: equal pay for equal work, or payment according to requirement, i.e., larger salaries for family supporters than for single persons, men or women. With a social-democratic, or even with a mixed liberal and socialistic government we might hope to get these questions solved on the basis of equal pay for equal work, perhaps with some slight modifications. With this new government, and a stronger position within Parliament for the conservative and agricultural parties I am not quite without misgivings. The proposed Minister of Justice, who will have to hand in the bill, was one of the most prominent members of the family rights commission that drafted our new marriage law, and he is, I believe, a most liberal-minded and most fair-minded man as regards the position of women. But I am not as sure of all his colleagues, and then the situation within Parliament itself is far more uncertain than has been the case during the period, which has now come to an end.

As for Women Suffrage, I believe there is not the slightest notion in any party of not definitely accepting it. When it has been voted for the second time—it will probably be in February—Parliament will be dissolved in the spring, and new elections will take place in the autumn of 1921. The Swedish suffrage movement ought to be busy preparing the new women electors for the use of their new rights; but we are extremely handicapped by the expensiveness of every means of propaganda or information. We are trying, however, to get the work done through local organisations outside of our own local branches; there are a lot of small half religious, half philanthropic women associations in almost every parish, mostly under the leadership of the curate, and there are also a great many small groups of prohibitionists with many women members; we now try to interest them for educating the women to make a good use of their new responsibilities; we send them elaborate plans containing what we consider most necessary to teach them, and we tell what persons within each community may be supposed to be able to lecture upon these questions, and where they may get the necessary literature.

Of course, the different party organisations also do their best to get into connection with the women all about the country, but their aim is party propaganda,

and if everything was as it ought to be, we should have been ahead of them, in order to make the women able to judge for themselves regarding this party propaganda, and then choose their own position in accordance with their own understanding. I am afraid too much is undone in this way, not because we have not known that such work ought to be done, but because we have not had the means of doing it. We applied for a State subvention for this particular educational work, but the State was too strained by all other claims upon it, so that the Government could not give us the money, though it fully understood the desirability of doing it.

ANNA WICKSELL.

Stockholm, October 25, 1920.

## SWITZERLAND.

### (Summary.)

MISS GOURD writes that there has undoubtedly been progress in the Woman Suffrage cause during the last few months. One factor was the International Woman Suffrage Alliance Congress in Geneva. Another is the League of Nations Assembly at present in session in that city. The fact that in the League men and women are on an absolutely equal footing cannot but impress deeply the Swiss public.

In Geneva the Swiss Woman Suffrage Society has succeeded in obtaining 2,800 signatures to the Initiative. In this and other cantons any change in the law or constitution which is demanded by 2,500 or more of the electors has to be considered by the Government and put to the referendum.

In Vaud Suffrage affairs progress more slowly. More than three years ago a Socialist deputy submitted a Bill in favour of Woman Suffrage. A Committee was appointed to consider this reform and has just reported—adversely!

In Neuchâtel the elections for the Conseils Prud' hommes have just taken place. Many women voted, and some have been elected to these Councils.

In Bâle, where women have the ecclesiastical vote, there has just been an important decision. The vote was taken as to whether women should remain electors only in ecclesiastical matters, or whether they, equally with men, should be eligible for the Church Councils. By a large majority this reform has been carried.

Zurich is about to discuss the question of women clergy. There are already in Zurich two assistant woman pastors, but feminists hope that women may soon be permitted to act as fully licensed pastors.

The Government of Bâle proposes to lay before the Grand Council a regulation whereby women teachers will be obliged to give up their posts on marriage. The woman suffragists are protesting against this regulation.

November 30, 1920.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

IT was Mrs. Chapman Catt who said when we walked out of the Tennessee legislature on that memorable August 18th: "At last the women of the United States have won the right to have their prayers counted at the polls."

Such was the feeling of reverence with which the American women entered upon their first universal presidential campaign. And how sorely they were tried. During the first few weeks it was a campaign of personality without issues. When the League of Nations issue was introduced, it was declared for clearly by the Democratic Party candidate, James M. Cox, but there were many Democrats who did not support it. The Republican candidate, Warren G. Harding, assented to the idea of "a" League of Nations, but not the present one, while many Republicans were whole-hearted adherents of the League. There were those, both Republicans and Democrats, who considered a change of administration vital to business and domestic issues



and who therefore supported the Republican ticket, although they did not agree at all with the Republican foreign policy. It was such a clouded campaign as could only be possible in a country like the United States, where party government is maintained at all costs with traditions supreme over present divisions. There were weeks of indecision and discussion for the women. In the end many women changed their original party allegiance, and many more remained independent voters, refusing to ally themselves with either of the dominant parties.

Mrs. Chapman Catt, who had intended to remain in a non-partisan position so long as she was President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, was driven by the false statements of Republican leaders about the League of Nations to declare for Mr. Cox, who had pledged his best efforts to secure the entrance of the United States. The National Association, at its last convention, adopted a resolution favouring the entrance of the United States into the League, and with the partisan developments it appeared that the best way to accomplish this was through the election of Mr. Cox.

The women went to the polls in overwhelming numbers, bringing forth tributes from men and publications who had been most bitterly opposed to Woman Suffrage. Especially in the South were the old-time opponents of Suffrage confounded by the interest of the women. In Southern States the women who had been quoted as indifferent to or against voting, registered in equally as good proportion as the men, as they did in all other parts of the country. There were only two States of the forty-eight where any difficulties were made over the women voting. Georgia and Mississippi require the registration of women six and four months respectively preceding election. Since the women did not then have the vote and could not register, they were barred from the polls this year. The discrimination was not against the women as women, but applied equally to men, and therefore there was nothing which could be done to change it. But it will not apply to future elections, since the registration of women in large numbers in both these States was accepted during the few weeks preceding election.

It seems certain that any pending legal attacks upon the federal amendment will be settled in favour of the Suffragists. The United States Supreme Court refused to advance to a hearing before Election Day the suit brought by Anti-suffragists to restrain the United States Secretary of State from promulgating the amendment. Had there been the slightest question of the validity of the women's vote, it seems certain that the Supreme Court would have hastened to render a decision before Election Day. And it seems equally certain that the Court would not now declare the votes of the women illegal and thus overturn the entire election.

That the balance of legal opinion is in favour of the amendment is indicated in many States where Attorney-Generals, personally both favourable and unfavourable to Woman Suffrage, gave decisions clearing away all impediments to voting by the women.

The women not only voted in the election, but they were given official appointments as poll clerks, inspectors and watchers.

On the party tickets there were many women's names, but as a rule only in States or districts where the party itself was in the minority. So that although one woman ran for Lieutenant-Governor of Rhode Island, many for State Secretaries of State, State Superintendents of Education, for Congress, State legislatures, judges, and other positions, the list of successful candidates is very small. At this time it appears that only one woman was successful in winning a seat in Congress, Miss Alice Robertson, of Oklahoma, whose election seemed so improbable that there was no contest over her nomination. Her election in a normally Democratic State as part of the general Republican landslide will make her the second woman to have a seat in the United States House of Representatives. Other States sent women to their legislatures and elected them to minor offices.

In the effort to secure the election of the best candidates, the League of Women Voters, which Mrs. Chapman Catt organised and of which she is honorary President, conducted citizenship schools all over the country and in every State submitted questionnaires to the candidates. The questions were put especially upon the legislation for which the League will work during the coming months, laws for general welfare and for the removal of discriminations against women. The answers were printed so that the women voters could have easy access to the records and promises of the candidates. Naturally, the information brought about much independence in voting and splitting of tickets.

There were three senatorial campaigns in which women sought especially to make evident their stand for principle above party or person. In New York, New Hampshire and Connecticut the women campaigned against the re-election of Senators Wadsworth, Moses and Brandegee, men who have opposed not only Woman Suffrage but other forward-looking legislation which women consider their especial responsibility. Just as in the Suffrage campaign days, the women's motives, ambitions and aims were misunderstood.

They were called petty, spiteful, mean, malicious. But courageously, self-sacrificingly, they went on in an attempt to show that they would not tolerate boss-picked candidates and the rule of the minority over the majority. In these three cases the machines of both parties made common cause. All three senators were Republicans, but they were aided by Democrats, who openly stated that if the women succeeded in splitting the ticket on these senators, they would be trying it in the next election to defeat Democrats. It resolved itself into a fight between machine rule and the rule of the people. And the machines won, all three senators going into office with the general Republican landslide.

MARJORIE SHULER.

#### THE VOTE IN YUGOSLAVIA.

THE rejection of Woman Suffrage by the Yugoslav Skupshchina had the good effect of arousing interest in circles hitherto closed to feminist aspirations. Suffragists are redoubling their energies, carrying the glad new tidings of the movement for equal rights to the remotest villages in Carinthia and Macedonia. At the same time they are educating the peasant women in economics, industry, and hygiene. The amazing readiness with which the new ideas are grasped by illiterate but capable home-dwellers shows that with woman's claim to the vote a general breath of freedom has swept through the world.

The significant presence of a Moslem woman at the recent Congress is a further proof of the strain to development. Miss Rassem Bissic came in spite of threats from her co-religionists to speak for her sisters in the harems. The Mussulman population of Bosnia, freed from the alien rule of Austria, are still enslaved by traditional prejudice. But at Sarajevo women are emerging from mental and physical seclusion, forming societies of mutual help, and loud as any in their claim for the vote.

In Slovenia, where women have always had some share in public affairs, it is recognised that their participation in politics is of the first importance. Perhaps the best speech ever delivered on woman's rights to administrate and govern was by Dr. Dezelic in the Belgrade Parliament. Dr. Dezelic is a leader in literary, scientific, and philanthropic fields. The religious elements in Croatia recognise the advantage of women's collaboration in framing laws to combat the social evil.

With such varied factors alive to the actuality of the question, it is confidently expected that the women's intense campaign will be crowned with victory in the very near future.

E. C.

November 29, 1920.

#### DONATIONS MADE AT GENEVA CONGRESS.

Name.	Country.	Amount.	Name.	Country.	Amount.
Union Feminista Nacional	Argentina	50 dollars	Lady Holder	Australia	£1
Mdlle. Grete Schwarz	Austria	100 kroner	Mdme. Martinez Sierra	Spain	£4
Mrs. Ada Gordon	Canada	100 dollars	Supreme Feminist Council	Spain	£4
Mdlle. Plaminkova	Czecho-Slovakia	100 kroner	Mdme. Goristidi	Spain	£1
Miss Julie Arenholt	Denmark	25 kroner	Mdme. de Palencia	Spain	£1
Miss Orth	Denmark	10s.	Antonio and Alvaro		
Mdme. Heilbuth	Denmark	100 francs	Espinosa	Spain	£2
Miss Pedersen	Denmark	20 francs	Mrs. A. Wicksell	Sweden	£5
Miss Furuhjelm	Finland	10 francs	Mrs. Edstrom	Sweden	50 dollars
Mdme. Cremieux	France	35 francs	Mrs. Lindblom	Sweden	£1
Mdme. Brunschwieg	France	50 francs	Dr. Hannah Rydh	Sweden	£1
Mdme. Lazard	France	500 francs	Mdme. Blum-Kullman	Switzerland	25 francs
Mdme. Grinberg	France	50 francs	Mdlle. Nottbeck	Switzerland	200 francs
Mdme. Schlumberger	France	500 francs	Mdlle. Pearce	Switzerland	10 francs
Mdme. Vacaresco	France	100 francs	Mdlle. Glennie	Switzerland	2 francs
Frau Lise Müller	Germany	10 marks	Mdme. Zorian	Switzerland	20 francs
Miss Merrifield	Great Britain	10s.	Mdme. Lina Erin	Switzerland	20 francs
Mrs. Fyffe	Great Britain	£2	Mdlle. Vidart	Switzerland	10 francs
Mrs. Naidu	Great Britain	£2. 2s.	Mdme. Tomini	Switzerland	10 francs
Miss Villiers	Great Britain	£5	Mme. Schaub-Waekemarel	Switzerland	20 francs
Mrs. Tata	Great Britain	£1. 1s.	Mdme. Wertmuller	Switzerland	50 francs
Mrs. Scott	Great Britain	£1	Mdme. Girardet Vielle	Switzerland	25 francs
Miss Newswick	Great Britain	£20	Mdlle. Porret	Switzerland	10 francs
Miss Newcomb	Great Britain	£5	Mdlle. Dutoit	Switzerland	5 francs
Miss Cook	Great Britain	5 francs	Mdlle. Fierz	Switzerland	50 francs
Miss Hodge	Great Britain	£1	Mdlle. Meyenburg	Switzerland	20 francs
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April to June, 1920.

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	Fr.		Fr.
To Congress Grants from Headquarters—		By Rent of Offices, Office Supplies, Hire of Furniture	2,411.05
445	981.85	" Petty Cash (drawn by Hon. Secretary)	2,550.65
1100	2,164.50	" Rent of Mason Communale de Plain Palais	1,000.00
4150	3,284.50	" Salaries, Board, Travel, etc., of Congress Staff	3,010.10
	6,430.85	" Press Expenses, Passport, Telegrams	635.70
" Sale of JUS SUFFRAGII, Donations and Subscriptions		" Grant to French Edition of JUS SUFFRAGII	679.55
paid into Geneva Bank	2,079.00	" Madame Grinberg: Expenses in connection with London Meeting	173.15
	8,509.85	" Payment of Delegates' Expenses from Special Collection	1,080.00
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