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THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

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ANNA WHITLOCK.

We have lost one of the great pioneers of the Swedish suffrage movement in Anna Whitlock.

While Mrs. Ann Margret Holmgren aroused the women in all parts of Sweden by her enthusiastic lectures and made them form suffrage societies, it is Anna Whitlock's wonderful organizing power which we have to thank for a strong and efficient National Association. Anna Whitlock was its first president, and in a great many ways she left the mark of her personality on it. Her habit of mind and her life-work were the teacher's—she wanted to instruct women as to their future citizenship and at the same time was untiringly active in her propaganda work by means of meetings, resolutions and pamphlets. The local associations became small educational and cultural centres for the Swedish countryside, and our suffrage movement has often been praised for its educational, non-aggressive character which was most in accordance with the general tendency of our people. The leading politicians of our country were never allowed to forget that there existed an association of women ever ready to bring itself before their minds by petitions, meetings, resolutions, etc.

Anna Whitlock herself was exceedingly interested in politics and a keenly active worker in the Liberal party. In the National Suffrage Association, however, which was strictly neutral, she knew how to unite women of all political parties.



"With the men for the country" was Anna Whitlock's motto when she formed the National Woman Suffrage Association at the beginning of the century. If she had put her formula

into words later, I think it would have been, after the experience of the years between, "With the men for mankind." For Anna Whitlock's work for women's suffrage had as its source a deep sense of justice and a desire to make life better for everyone; she was an eager pacifist and one of the first during the Great War to work for peace demonstrations by women.

Her social conscience was always active. As a pedagogue—she was the director of a large co-educational school, the first in Sweden—she worked for freer methods in instruction and took the initiative in courses of social science for the schools. She was also actively at work in order to procure a secure old age for old teachers in the girls' schools.

Above all it is her broadminded and intelligent guidance and leadership of our association which we of the older generation of suffragists will never forget. She was our president at the Stockholm Congress, 1911; later congresses she was not able to attend because of her failing health.

To the last days of her life—she was 78 when she died—she continued to take an active part in everything to which she had once given her love and her interest.

GULLI PETRINI.

EVENTS OF THE MONTH.

The Simon Report on India. Volume Two of the Indian Statutory Commission has now been issued. It proposes that the franchise in India should be broadened. At present only

2.8 per cent. of the population of the areas returning members to the Provincial Councils are registered as voters, and among these only a very tiny fraction are women. The Commissioners advocate that steps should be taken to enfranchise 10 per cent. of the total population, and to arrange that the ratio of women to men voters be greater than at present. It suggests that two other qualifications may be added for women, namely:—(1) Being the wife, over 25 years of age, of a man who has a property qualification to vote; or, (2) being a widow over that age whose husband at the time of his death was so qualified. In addition, the educational qualification should apply to women over 21 as well as to men. The Commissioners state that they limit their proposals to wives and widows of 25 because, on practical

grounds, they are anxious to avoid introducing at this stage too heavy a proportion of women into the electorate.

With regard to the Legislative Councils, the Report states that, although in seven Provinces out of nine it is possible for women to be members of the Councils, and several women have, in fact, been made members by nomination, no woman candidate, so far as the Commission knows, has been elected. The Commissioners consider that the proper course is to leave to women candidates a fair field, and no favour, but that it should be provided by statutory rule or otherwise that the Governor, in exercising his powers of nomination, should have special regard to the extent to which women have been returned as members from general constituencies, with a view to supplementing their number if he thinks this should be done.

Without going into the general policy of methods of extending the franchise, we must point out that it is certain that Indian women will not be satisfied with any measure of unequal suffrage, a principle which is contrary to the whole trend of modern ideas.

Nationality of Married Women.

The Codification Conference in the Hague last March adopted, as our readers will know from the article on this subject in the June number, a recommendation that Governments should study the possibility of introducing into their law the principle of the equality of the sexes in matters of nationality. The first fruits of this recommendation appear in a letter received from Dr. Lüders, of the German Reichstag. Dr. Lüders writes that she recently introduced a motion during the debate on the Budget for the Ministry of the Interior, both in Committee and in the plenary session, demanding that the German nationality law should be amended in the sense of giving equal rights to men and women. This motion was adopted unanimously. During the debate Dr. Lüders asked that a Bill in this sense should speedily be introduced, and met with no opposition. The Government itself, in contrast to its former attitude, offered no opposition to this demand for an amendment of the law in the direction of equal rights for women.

Dr. Lüders adds that it is for the women of other countries which are in the same position to take similar steps to demand an amendment in their nationality laws.

The Cable Bill. The United States Senate Cable Bill has at last been passed. It promises that a woman married to an alien who lives two years in her husband's country or five years in another shall not be presumed to have lost her United States Citizenship, as is the case under the existing law. It also facilitates the repatriation of United States women who have lost their United States nationality by marriage with foreigners. It was introduced in the House of Representatives by John L. Cable, of Ohio, and passed there without a dissenting vote. The delay in the Senate was caused by objections not to the Bill, but to some of the amendments proposed by Senators. These have now all been rejected and the Bill in its original state has been passed and sent to the President.

THE LEGAL DISABILITIES OF WOMEN IN JAPAN.

Our country is in a period of transition. The modern family system (Conjugal System) has become more popular than the patriarchal family system, and the contradictions between law and actual practice are very striking. The Government have established a Board of Investigation, which is conducting an extensive research into various anomalies. Meanwhile, our special conditions have been making rapid progress and have left some of the out-of-date laws behind. What we have to consider is the best way to harmonise the law as it is at present with actual conditions. The law must be improved, otherwise our progress will be retarded.

Industrial civilisation has brought into this country the spirit of individualism, which, together with the idea of patriarchy, allows the paternal right to be supreme, and under this system the wife is treated as a nonentity. She is too weak to complain, and even now, as in the past, buries herself in domestic work. Superiority of physical strength, which has hitherto been the foundation of paternal rights, has lost its power, has become obsolete as an argument, owing to its being too weak to coerce the family, and its disuse has caused great confusion to arise in this section of the family law of Japan. The family is not even one spiritually and economically, because they do not necessarily live together, but all the members of one family are registered together in one section of the Census register, and this binds them legally to be under the autocracy of the paternal head.

Japanese law was at first like the Chinese law, but later it became 30% Japanese and 70% European, but at present it is 60% Japanese and 40% European. This gradual adaptation is natural, because the conditions of every country are different, and the law of even the most advanced countries will not suit others in every respect. Japanese civil law was made in the 29th year of Meiji (1897), and was put into practice on the 31st year of Meiji (1899). The family section of the law and the section on inheritance were altered in the 35th year of Meiji (1903) but it is formed entirely for the safeguarding of paternal rights. This revised law became quite out-of-date within 20 years because women began to get a more important position in everyday life than before.

Wives in the eyes of the law are nonentities. This is not intended to slight the wives. The idea came from Confucius, whose doctrine was that it is not possible for two to be the head. When husband and wife agree, they live in perfect peace. But although the law is quite satisfactory when husband and wife are in agreement, it is not so when differences arise. As the law itself is one-sided, women cannot expect fair judgments. It is a pity that there is no law court specially for family troubles. Husbands need not consult their wives about anything they may do, but a wife can do nothing with a third person without having her husband's approval. And, although wives can deal with others within the limits of the permission accorded by their husbands, the husband can cancel the permission or limit it to whatever extent they please. Wives are declared nonentities not because they are women, but because they are wives. Even a woman who has been doing very important work becomes after marriage a nonentity simply because she has entered the married state.

It is impossible for women to inherit paternal fortunes. When the father dies, his eldest son becomes head of the family. If the eldest son is absent, the second eldest son becomes the heir. The wife or the daughters have no right to do so in law. Women are treated as inferiors and can do nothing. When mothers die leaving a fortune, it is divided between the sons and daughters equally. Why can't women inherit fortunes from their fathers? Simply because they marry and go to other families.

When the law was established, there were very few business women in Japan, but the number has increased gradually, and now many are entering the economic field. The rope of the old régime has become too short to bind them.

The fortunes of husband and wife are separate, but the right of administering the property of himself and his wife remains with the husband. It may be said that the husband has better knowledge and skill to administer the fortune, but on the other hand it is he who spends money on drink or flirting with women, or he may lose the fortune by speculating. Women excel in saving and increasing money, but this right is men's, not women's, according to law. Those who cannot receive a personal fortune are men under age, and persons declared incompetent, and wives. Women can't enjoy the pleasure of increasing their fortune by their own skill.

The law allows only paternal authority, and not the mother's, excepting in cases where the father is incapable, so that mothers have no parental authority over their children, though all the cares of their training are in their hands.

Women cannot be ministers or mayors in Japan, in fact, they have no civil rights. At present women cannot attain any higher position as officials than school inspectorships, but the opportunity of alteration is approaching. No women lawyers are allowed up to

the present. Wives cannot be directors of banks or companies.

The unequal opportunities in education between boys and girls are surprising. There are far more girls entering the girls' schools than boys going to the Middle Schools, but the standard of the latter is much higher. There are sixteen higher-class schools attached to the girls' schools, eighteen colleges, Medical Colleges, Colleges of Pharmacy, Normal Colleges, Musical Academy, and two private universities which have a lower standard than the men's universities. Some years ago, for the first time three ladies entered the science department of the Tohoku Imperial University; later, the Tokyo and Kyoto Imperial Universities allowed women to enter as special students. As there are no preparatory courses for women entering men's universities, it is very inconvenient for them.

Women are prohibited by law from attending political meetings. Since the suffrage movement became vigorous this law has had to be somewhat revised, but women are still unable to belong to any political party. A Bill to alter this was passed by the House of Commons recently, but it was thrown out by the House of Peers. Women are working hard to get it accepted.

Any Japanese subject can be a civil or military officer, or enter the public service, so that every person should have the right to vote at elections, but there are two classes of people who are specifically debarred—the Peers, who have their own rights, which are higher than those of Commoners, and women, whose status is too low. Women are treated just like men who have lost the right to vote by bad conduct. (Foreigners naturalized as Japanese also have no right to vote and no civil rights.)

The two propositions of woman suffrage and the granting of civil rights to women passed the House of Peers, together with the proposal to promote the higher education of women. The Bill is introduced in the Diet every time it meets, but has not yet been accepted. The injustice of this has been recognised by the public, so it will not be long before women gain their right to suffrage.

Public opinion is divided on the subject. There are three main schools of thought: 1. Give civil rights to women who live in big cities. 2. Give women local civil rights. 3. Treat men and women as equals in the eye of the Japanese law.

Divorces are obtainable by two means: by mutual consent, or by legal process. There is a great difference in the way the offence of adultery is regarded, according as the man or the woman is the guilty party. When the wife commits adultery, she has to suffer the penalty, while when a husband commits it he is free from punishment. This one-sided law is based on the paternal idea. The husband's adultery has no effect on the lineage, but in the wife's case it may affect it. Public opinion is anxious that some restriction should be placed on men.

KANEKO KITAMURA.

THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

The fourteenth session of the International Labour Conference was held at Geneva from June 10th to 29th. It was remarkable for the presence of a larger number of delegates than had yet attended a conference, the most conspicuous newcomers being a full delegation from New Zealand.

Three main questions came before the Conference for discussion: the regulation of hours of work in coal-mines, of the hours of work of "salaried employees," and the regulation for a transitional period, with a view

to its eventual suppression, of forced labour in colonial territories. At the same time the Governing Body discussed a subject which has given rise to much anticipatory conjecture and anxiety; namely, the revision of the eight Conventions which by 1931 will have been in force for ten years. The danger that revision may lead to mere annulment has been a serious preoccupation with the Workers' Group, while those more interested in legal and constitutional questions have been seeking the best method of making revision effective, reconciling the existence at the same time of two conventions on the same subject and so forth. For the moment, however, it seems that their ingenuity will not be called upon, as the Governing Body has decided that revision is unnecessary. This decision is interesting in view of the fact that up till quite recently it was assumed that the much-debated Convention on Hours of Work in Industry would be revised next year, and that less than two years ago the British representative actually proposed that the date for revision should be advanced. The change is doubtless due to the decision of the present Government to ratify the Convention in its existing form.

Ten years of intermittent discussion on its interpretation have borne their fruit, however, in the drafting of the corresponding Convention with regard to "salaried employees." The term "hours of work" is defined as "the time during which the persons employed are at the disposal of the employer." This is the definition agreed upon by the London Conference of Labour Ministers in 1926, but some countries which have ratified the Washington Convention interpret it as applying only to "effective work." The present Convention eliminates the possibility of such divergencies. On the other hand, the limit is of course fixed at eight hours in the day and forty-eight in the week, with provision for exceptional cases and emergencies. The Convention has unfortunately not as wide a scope as might have been hoped. In its original form it was intended to cover the whole class of workers with which the International Labour Organisation has not yet dealt, industry and merchant shipping being now covered by Conventions, while an attempt, albeit unsuccessful, was made to limit the hours of work in agriculture. Last year, preliminary discussion showed the impossibility of reaching agreement on regulations to cover types of work between which the differences are much greater than in the case of factory work. The final draft applies to "communal and trading establishments," but excepts hospitals, asylums and kindred institutions, hotels, etc., and theatres. Recommendations were passed inviting the Governments to make official investigations in the conditions of work in the three classes of exempt establishments with a view to the regulation of hours at some future date.

The Draft Convention in Hours of Work in Coal Mines is interesting because of its unusual origin. It is unique in emanating not from the Labour Office, nor from a resolution of the Conference, nor from a proposal on the Governing Body, but from a request made to the International Labour Organisation by the League of Nations at its Assembly last September. It was Dr. Hugh Dalton, taking as his text the opinion of the Economic Committee that the present crisis in the coal industry can only be solved by international action, who proposed that the International Labour Office should do its part in such co-operation by studying at its next session the possibility of reaching uniformity in "wages, hours and conditions of labour." Such a request was unprecedented, and, in a sense, unconstitutional, since the International Labour Conference has laid down for itself a rule by which any Convention must be discussed in two consecutive years

CORRESPONDENCE.

Equal Rights Association of the Palestine Jewish Women.

We have received the following letter from the President:

In our fight against Child Marriage in Palestine we have experienced another setback. In answer to our memorandum of March 6th, calling the attention of the Government to the fact that our memorandum of one and a half years ago had remained unanswered, and that in the meantime even India had enacted legislation against Child Marriage, overruling the objections of its large Moslem population, we received the reply, that though the High Commissioner was in sympathy with our request, "he does not find it possible in the present circumstances to consider legislation for minimising these evils." What we had asked was not the minimising but the complete abolition of these evils.

We are determined to fight on and as always count on your co-operation.

In the International Women's News of February, 1930, you published an article on the "Conflict in Palestine." To my objection that such an article had no specific relation to women's news, you answered that "now that women's citizenship is largely an actual fact and now that the Alliance has a section for Peace and the League of Nations, any question such as the Mandate is a matter on which our women ought to have some knowledge."

If such is your attitude, the cable which our Society sent on March 30th to the Congress of the International Council of Women in Vienna, addressed by women to women, deserves publication in your paper. I enclose a copy of the cable; it speaks for itself and needs no comment.

ROSA WELT STRAUS.

Jerusalem, May 30th, 1930.

Congress International Council of Women.

The Palestine Jewish Women's Equal Rights Association Auxiliary of the I.A.W.S.E.C. addresses to you a protest against the recent action of the British Government in suspending the immigration of Jewish workmen into this country. This came as a last and unbearable blow against the words and spirit of the Mandate which acknowledges the historic right of the Jewish people to establish a National Home in the land of their forefathers, which was ratified by all nations represented in your Council, and was accepted by our people as a basis for the creation of a national home. We assert in all modesty that our activities here have harmed none and have raised the status of the entire population economically, hygienically, and socially. We now address to you women comrades in the quest of justice, above considerations of race, creed or political expediency, the request that you protest in your own countries as well as before the League of Nations against this violation of the words and spirit of the Mandate and help us in our desperate fight for justice and fair play.

INTERNATIONAL GATHERINGS.

Two important women's international gatherings will be held in August. One is the second Pan-Pacific Conference at Hawaii, Honolulu, which will include representatives of all the women in countries bordering on the Pacific Ocean.

The other is the first international conference to be convened by the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs of the United States, a body which visits Europe annually in order to meet women in business and the professions in other parts of the world.

LUCY MAIR.

A PROPOSED NANSEN MEMORIAL.

Mrs. Ann Margret Holmgren, the great Swedish pioneer for woman suffrage, associates herself with a suggestion for the establishment of a peace foundation in memory of Fritiof Nansen.

There is hardly a country which is not indebted to Nansen for something valuable in a scientific, educational or human way. Who does not remember how he sailed over the Arctic ocean in his vessel the *Fram*, and his exploration of the inland sea of Greenland? But he gave up his work for science and discovery when the League of Nations called him to work for peace.

His first mission was to trace half a million prisoners of war, who had languished for many years in Russia and Siberia, and to repatriate them. The task seemed an impossible one, since it depended on co-operation between the Soviet and twenty-six different States, and meant raising large sums of money from countries which had declared their inability to bear the expenses of the enterprise. However, it was done.

This duty accomplished, he was appointed High Commissioner of the League and charged with making arrangements for the transport of a million and a half expatriated Russians. These people were regarded by the Soviet as enemies, traitors to the Revolution, and were denied return to Russia, and not granted passports. Nansen had to introduce them into other countries where they could find a livelihood, a difficult thing to do in days of widespread unemployment. Without passports, the poor people could not be moved, so Nansen invented a kind of certificate of identity, signed by himself, and after long negotiations he succeeded, largely by the power of his own personality, in getting these Nansen Passports accepted by the Governments in thirty-two countries.

In August 1921, the Russian famine, which affected from twenty to thirty million people, broke out. Twelve countries and forty-eight charitable organisations, and notably the International Red Cross, united to help them and put Nansen in charge. He made a world-wide appeal for money, and raised much of it himself by making speeches in different countries. In the end he succeeded, but not before many thousands of lives were lost, which he felt bitterly.

Then the League of Nations gave him his next task. 50,000 Russian refugees, the remainder of the ill-fated army of General Wrangel, were gathered in Constantinople. Return to Russia meant death both for them and for their wives and children. Nansen rescued them and put them in the way of attaining a better standard of living.

A panic arose among the Greeks and Armenians who lived in Turkey. They thought that a wholesale massacre was about to begin, and a million of them, terrified out of their wits, fled into Greece. About 100,000 perished on the way, the rest poured over the frontiers into the impoverished country which was already suffering from political unrest. Nansen, commissioned again by the League of Nations, found a solution for the difficult problem. He repatriated 300,000 Mohammedans who had been living in Greece and put Greek and Armenian refugees in their place, and the rest were established as cultivators of hitherto untilled soil in Greece.

This is but a short résumé of Nansen's enormous labours. Space does not permit a study of the nobility and steadfastness of his character, the inexhaustible energy of his mind, his generous heart, his courage, altruism and unselfishness.

If the nations would establish a peace foundation and put it under the direction of the League of Nations it would be a fitting memorial to one of the finest spirits of our time.

JENNY VELANDER.

REVIEWS.

HOUSECRAFT.

Housecraft, Housing and Care of Infants, by G. W. Hayes and H. Emlyn-Jones (George Philip & Sons. 1/6).

To be the "complete Housewife" requires a knowledge of many things; Dietetics, Cookery, Hygiene, First Aid, Infant Feeding, Child Management, Psychology, Elementary Anatomy and Physiology, Sewing, Handicrafts, Household Management,—the list could be extended indefinitely, as few branches of knowledge would not be found useful at some time; but this is, of course, a counsel of perfection. In the meantime, much can be done by courses on domestic science in the schools; many of the elementary schools have such a course already, but in the secondary schools it is not yet so frequently found. Such courses give the children some sound rules and principles, but their value lies mostly in showing them that domestic work is a science, and an honourable one, worthy to rank with any calling or profession; indeed, worthily followed, it is the highest calling there can be, and wider appreciation of this might do much towards raising the status of those engaged in household work, and thus possibly increase the supply of girls willing to engage in domestic work.

A small text-book published by George Philip & Son seems admirably suited to serve as a basis for such a school course; it is called "Housecraft, Hygiene and Care of Infants," by J. W. Hayes and H. Emlyn-Jones. Originally published in 1912, this recent edition has been revised and brought up to date by Jane Hayes. The print is large and clear,—a most desirable thing in a school book,—and the wording concise and definite so that the facts given may be the more easily memorised. For its size, the book covers an amazingly wide field; not only is the complete working of a house indicated, together with table-work, laundry, cookery, including dishes for invalids, there is also a section on Infant care, one on labour-saving devices, and space has been found for a chapter on good manners and moral maxims.

The section on Housecraft and that on laying a table seem to be excellent; a girl who learnt and practised their contents would be an excellent maid; indeed every girl would be the better for such knowledge, even if she expects to be in a position to have domestic help, for nowadays such help is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain; and in any case, it must lead to a better and more human relationship between mistress and maid if the former thoroughly understands housework and knows how much labour it entails. It would not be amiss for boys to study these things; in the United States where domestic help is scarce, it is quite common for boys to take their share in the household duties,—an excellent thing.

The section on Cookery is good, and contains some useful economical recipes; that on Infant Care is necessarily very elementary; it is impossible to do more than lay down a few broad rules in such a short space. Under the directions for infant feeding, directions are given to feed every two hours for the first two months, every two and a half hours during the third month, and then 3-hourly until weaning; but most authorities now advocate 4-hourly feeds from birth, except in the case of very small and weakly babies. Again, the directions given for artificial feeding of infants are too dogmatic; each case is different, and there can be no hard and fast rule; artificial feeding should always be under skilled direction, and this is not stressed by the authors. Indeed they say "If the infant does not thrive on milk alone, a small quantity of fresh cream should be added to each feed," but in a very large proportion of difficult feeding cases it is the fat digestion which is at fault and

instead of increasing it, better results are obtained by diminishing it. This is an instance of the dangers of being dogmatic on a subject so complicated as Infant Feeding. However, the book as a whole is excellent for its purpose, and could be used with advantage in every girls' school in the country.

D.M.A.

HOLIDAY GUIDE BOOKS.

London Town, by Sidney Dark. (Harrap, 7s. 6d.).

This book owes much of its charm to the author's own personality. His reminiscences are so happily interwoven with the general historical account that one almost feels that he was acquainted with all the ghosts of London Town whom he has called up.

Through beautiful Richmond and sordid East End street alike he traces the record of fine deeds and evil doing, of tragedy and comedy, which is the real stuff that history is made of.

Londoner or visitor will find the book a good companion for half-hour rambles or whole days of exploration.

The English Lakes, by W. T. Palmer (Harrap, 7s. 6d.).

The peaceful loveliness of the Lake country has attracted many whose names are famous in literature, and Mr. Palmer's account of it, of the men and women who have loved and immortalized it, and of those others who are immortalized in its songs and legends, is a worthy result of a lifetime's scrambling, rambling, and reading.

The explicit directions for travelling, both by road and rail, are most necessary for this country, and could only be given by one who knows it intimately.

The many beautiful photographs endorse the author's infectious enthusiasm for his subject.

G.M.P.

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Readers of the paper are reminded that the firms and agencies who use its columns for advertising are actuated by good-will towards us in giving this early support to our venture for an improved paper, and that they can greatly help towards its success by supporting, in their turn, our advertisers, when circumstances permit, and by mentioning the paper when they do so.

All firms and agencies advertising in the paper are known to and approved by the Editorial Board.

The cartoon is omitted this month as our cartoonist is on holiday.

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

AUSTRALIA.

The Third Triennial Conference of the Australian Federation of Women Voters took place in Melbourne from May 12th to 16th. Morning, noon and night were crowded with meetings and entertainments, lightened by the contact with new minds, fresh outlooks and unexpected points of view. About thirty-five delegates were present at the meetings, representing societies in all States but Queensland, whose absence was much regretted.

The Business Meetings of the Conference were held every day from May 13th to 16th, and a great number of important matters were dealt with. Besides the Triennial Report and Balance Sheet, reports were also presented on matters of Federation work and relationship. In addition to the resolutions arising from these, a long list of others was considered and carried, the subjects including Ratification of International Labour Conventions, Appointment of Women Delegates and Technical Advisers to I.L.O. Conferences, Federal Control of Aborigines, Married Women in Professions, Women's Economic Rights, Pensions for Widows, Control of Mental Defectives, Federal Divorce Law, Federal Domicile in Divorce, Children's Evidence in Sexual Cases, Proportional Representation, Australian Women in Parliament, Support of the paper "Dawn" by affiliated societies, Maternal and Child Welfare, Advertising Australian Products on the Federal Railways, Appointment of Tariff Educational Committees, a National Unemployment Council, and Our Financial System.

Several important amendments to the Constitution were carried, and the usual elections took place. Mrs. Rischbieth was re-elected President.

NEW ZEALAND.

The result of the women's campaign to collect £25,000 to endow a chair of obstetrics at the Dunedin Medical School has been a notable success. £31,000 has been gathered in, and the extra £6,000 puts the scheme on a sound basis. It is proposed that part of it at least should provide travelling scholarships for medical students qualifying in midwifery. The greatest admiration is being expressed for the enthusiastic workers, especially for the organiser, Dr. Doris Gordon, secretary of the Obstetrical Society in this country. Special appeals are being addressed to the collectors to transfer their activities to the cancer campaign, which is not faring so well, and it is hoped that this is a year fraught with vital promise in New Zealand.

At the moment, antipodeans are united in grateful jubilation at the successful landing of Miss Amy Johnson. The romance and daring of the young English girl and her wonderful achievement have quickened every heart with pride and thankfulness.

Mention has been made of the quick spread of Women's Institutes over the country. The movement is being consolidated by the tour of Miss Stops, the English organiser who has served the cause so well overseas. Her pleasing personality and able presentation of the aims of the movement will still further extend the reticulation of Institutes now covering the more easily settled country areas, and designed at once to bring a new interest into women's lives in the back blocks, and to ensure closer understanding and co-operation between well-to-do women and struggling country housewives. The working of the organisation is harmonious throughout the country.

JESSIE MACKAY.

POLAND.

The Polish Association for the Civic Work of Women is a democratic social organisation which co-operates with the Government of Marshal Pilsudski. The Association was started in 1928, and at present, after two years of work, it has 359 sections scattered throughout the country, with 33,554 members in all.

In accordance with its constitution, the Association seeks to promote the civic ideals of the Polish Republic, and works for the attainment of true democracy and for the growth of the influence of women upon the political and social life of the country.

The Association is composed of the following departments:—

I. The Department of Civic Education. This department is concerned with the making of women into conscious and active citizens, interested in all problems of modern Poland. It also acts as the organising department for the inauguration of new sections.

II. The Department of Maternity and Child Welfare studies the care of the child, the future citizen, who lacks educational facilities and protection. The department has set going a Home for Mothers and Children, two Crèches, 53 preparatory schools, 17 social welfare stations, 10 Free Milk Centres, and 22 clubs. The department takes care of over 20,000 children.

III. The Department of Women's Work gives legal protection to working women, promotes the idea of equal rights for the employed woman, takes steps for the introduction of necessary changes in the penal code. It establishes working houses and homes for single women, and takes care of the morally neglected woman.

IV. The Department of Production takes an active part in the economic organisation of the country. Sixteen houses of the Association are employing over 640 women, and twenty-one sewing rooms employ 730 women. Ten house-keeping courses and thirty-one on manual work offered opportunities for training to 1000 girls. In addition there were organised:—one weaving school, one school of domestic economy, seven shops, twenty pigeon, chicken, and rabbit farms, and medical botanic gardens. Several exhibitions of folk industry and of manual work were held. The department also conducts propaganda for Polish silk by the planting of mulberries in 700 farms and organising balls, known as "Polish Silk Balls."

V. The Department of Culture tries to introduce aesthetics into every-day life. It organises competitions in cleanliness, promotes the cultivation of good habits, and conducts a theatre for children and juveniles.

VI. The Press Department issues two periodicals; one, entitled "Prosta Droga" (The Straight Way) is for country women; the other, "Praca Obywatelska" (Civic Work) for town dwellers.

VII. The Department of International Relations takes part in the activities of the International Women's Alliance, informs its members of conditions in Poland, and gives Polish women knowledge about the conditions abroad. The department welcomes foreign visitors in Poland, and organises excursions to different countries for its Polish members. The department intends to inaugurate a quarterly publication in French, containing information about Poland.

VIII. The Financial Department provides funds for the work of the Association.

The Executive of the Association is the Assembly of the Delegates of all Sections and the Board of Officers elected by them. On the 7th, 8th and 9th June inst. the Assembly of the Delegates met in Warsaw. It was honoured by the presence of Mrs. Moscicka, the wife of the President of Poland, the Secretary of Labour, the Speaker of the Senate and many Delegates from different organisations. The Assembly was attended by 325 Delegates from the provincial Sections and 15 Delegates from the Sections of the city of Warsaw.

The Meetings were well attended, the Delegates were full of enthusiasm for their work, many propositions were brought forward and we give good hope for the further development of the Association.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Another Birthday.

Birthday cakes with ten gleaming candles seem to be in the natural order of things in the United States this summer. Following closely on the tenth anniversary of the National League of Women Voters came the tenth birthday of the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labour. Because it is one of the achievements of American women which came soon after women's suffrage and because it is making notable contributions toward the welfare of women wage-earners its birthday has been a time for hearty congratulations.

The United States Women's Bureau is an organization composed almost entirely of women, directed by a woman, and charged with the task of looking after the vast and varied army of wage-earning women in the country. It collects facts about, studies problems of, and formulates standards for, women workers.

Long before the enfranchisement of women, the need for some agency to collect facts about conditions under which women were employed in the United States was felt by women like Miss Jane Addams, Miss Edith Abbott, Miss Sophonisba Breckinridge and others. They realized the significance of the bewildering transition of women's work from the home to the factory during the last half of the 19th century, when spinning, weaving, knitting, baking, canning, the making of soap, candles, shoes, and garments ceased to be monopolies of the sex. Women were stripped not only of their work but of their economic wealth; in order to meet the new scale of living costs they responded to the call of the expanding industrial establishments and went forth from their homes to help to produce the nation's goods. The group that knew the conditions under which women and children were working wanted the Government to make an investigation so that they could get the real facts before the public. So in 1920, when the United States Women's Bureau was inaugurated—an event in which the women's suffrage victory was an influential factor—the dreams of many women were realized.

Under the leadership of Miss Mary Anderson, its director, the Bureau approached its anniversary of a decade of activity with a commendable record. With over eight and a half million women wage-earners in the United States according to the 1920 census, with one in every five women a wage-earner, and one in every five wage-earners a woman, the Women's Bureau charged with the responsibility of studying and safeguarding the interests of these workers has had before it a tremendous task.

The two divisions of the work of the Bureau have been fact-finding and fact-furnishing. On the one hand, it has collected information, planned scientific studies, and made technical investigations with regard to wage-earning women. On the other hand, it has classified, published and disseminated these facts for the

purpose of informing the public, and of effecting better conditions by stimulating into action those forces concerned with the employment of women. Standards which have been drawn up by the Bureau serve as a guide to all who are interested in promoting the welfare of the woman wage-earner. While it has no mandatory powers it urges the following:

Real opportunity for employment and advancement; adequate wage based on occupation and not on sex; time for recreation, self-development, leisure, not more than an 8-hour work day, including rest periods; not less than one and a half days off in the week; no night work; no industrial home-work in rooms used for living and sleeping purposes; a clean, well-aired, well lighted work-room; a chair for every woman; safety precautions; adequate and sanitary service facilities, and a personnel department charged with the responsibility for selection, assignment, transfer, or withdrawal of workers.

The United States Women's Bureau believes that women working in comfortable and healthful surroundings with adequate pay, will have more time, money and energy to live well and to establish better homes. With a very limited budget, but with the support of thousands of interested women all over the country, it has done much during the last decade to help secure those higher standards for women workers everywhere.

SWEDEN.

The Swedish Committee for International Suffrage work which was formed as a successor to the National Woman Suffrage Association held its final meeting on June 18th. Its work is now done, and there are two other women's organisations, Fredrika-Bremer-Forbundet and Svenska Kvinngrens Medborgarförbund, both affiliated to the Alliance, to carry on the international relations.

GREAT BRITAIN.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Married Women Teachers.

One of the most interesting events that we have to record this month is the passing of a bill moved in the House of Commons under the ten minutes' rule on July 2nd to amend the law with respect to the employment of married women teachers, so that a woman shall not be refused employment as a teacher by any Local Authority on the grounds only that she is married or about to be married. Although no further progress will be made with the bill this session, it is a valuable expression of opinion, and will serve as an introduction to the campaign which will be launched in the autumn.

Women in the House of Lords.

Although women have now for 12 years been eligible to sit in the House of Commons on the same terms as men, they are still debarred from the Upper Chamber. On July 16th Lord Astor made a further attempt to pass a motion in favour of the admission of women to the House of Lords on the same terms as men, but was defeated by 6 votes.

League of Nations Assembly.

We are glad to be able to record that a woman has at last been appointed full delegate for this country to the Assembly of the League of Nations—Miss Susan Lawrence, while Mrs. Hamilton, who acted as a substitute delegate last year, has again been appointed to serve in this capacity.

G. HORTON.

LICENSING COMMISSION.

Last Thursday (July 17th) Miss Alison Neilans gave evidence on behalf of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene and St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance. The point emphasised before the Commission was "the advisability of eliminating from the Licensing Laws all specific references to 'prostitutes' as such." Miss Neilans said that a by-product of this legislation was that some licensees of places of public refreshment refused to admit any women at night unless accompanied by a man and that this resulted in hardships and annoyance, sometimes to the very poorest women, as certain coffee-stalls also refused to serve women at night for the same reason. The witness read the resolution unanimously adopted at the meeting at the Kensington Town Hall on April 4th, organised by St. Joan's Alliance and supported by eighteen societies, including some of the largest organisations of women in the country. This resolution "calls upon the Government to repeal the special clauses with regard to prostitutes in the various licensing and police Acts so that no vendor of refreshments need draw invidious distinctions between his customers, whether men or women, so long as these behave in an orderly manner."

Miss Neilans said that these clauses in the Licensing Laws were based on conditions which had long passed away; that they threw an impossible duty on licensees and resulted in insult and humiliation to many hard-working women, while achieving no moral purpose, but rather the contrary. The Chairman asked if these laws were not intended to prevent disorder in licensed premises? The witness agreed, but said order could be equally well maintained, if not better, by provisions applicable to all persons of either sex who molested or annoyed anyone lawfully enjoying the use of such premises.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The King's Cup air race, the most important annual aerial event in Great Britain which is open to civilians, men and women, was won this year by a woman, Miss Winifred Brown. Another woman, Mrs. A. S. Butler, finished fourth.

The Society of Persian Women (President, Mme. Mastourah Afchar) has applied for affiliation to the Alliance.

A Committee has been set up by the Government in Dublin to enquire into the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1880, and to consider whether any new legislation is possible to deal with the problem of juvenile prostitution. The two women members of the Committee are Miss Jane Power and Miss V. O'Carroll.

Lady Noel Buxton (Labour) has been elected Member of Parliament for North Norfolk. This brings the number of women M.P.s up to fifteen, which is the largest number there has been so far in the British Parliament.

An International Women's Congress was held during July in Damascus. The session lasted five days and was attended by delegates from Lebanon, Syria, Hejaz, Persia, Afghanistan and Greece. Letters of sympathy were read from India, Turkey and Egypt.

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

LA PRESIDENTE EN BELGIQUE.

Centenaire de l'Indépendance belge.

Une visite de deux jours m'a fait apprécier de nouveau la patience et le courage des féministes belges et m'a permis d'admirer en passant les expositions de Liège et d'Anvers à l'occasion du centenaire de l'Indépendance.

Indépendance pour les hommes et non pour les femmes, me suis-je permis de remarquer lors de ma conférence sur le lieu même de ces expositions, car elles sont encore mineures et irresponsables ces femmes, ces mères dont l'héroïsme au cours de la guerre gagna tous les suffrages, sauf les suffrages de ceux là mêmes en qui résidait le pouvoir de changer le Code civil. Ne serait ce pas un beau geste que de célébrer ce Centenaire par un élargissement de la franchise électorale, appelant hommes et femmes, côte à côte, dans une collaboration féconde pour le progrès de la patrie?

Mes hostesses de l'Union des femmes de Wallonie me conduisant à travers le palais de l'Union à Liège où je pus admirer les peintures, broderies et autres ouvrages. La tendance de l'exposition elle-même est plutôt industrielle, mais l'architecture moderne, les céramiques d'Espagne, les verreries belges et mille autres objets artistiques attirent les regards. C'est avec regret que je quittai si tôt l'aimable présidente Mme. Delchef, Melle. Delcourt notre guide empressé, Mme. Sacré qui m'offrit gracieusement à souper et les dames du comité qui me convièrent à un thé élégant, avant la conférence.

À Anvers je eus l'honneur d'être l'invitée du club Soroptimiste, fondation récente, qui, en la personne de sa présidente fournit un commentaire ironique sur la situation politico-légale de la femme belge: Melle. Hirsch dirige en effet, avec enthousiasme et succès, une fabrique de chocolat, mais elle n'a pas le droit de vote. Les vieux messieurs s'effrayaient de la voir prendre part à la législation industrielle et sociale du pays! Le Comité a eu l'attention délicate de m'offrir à souper au restaurant du *King George*. Mes regards erraient des palais d'architecture moderne, enfouis dans la verdure, jusqu'à l'eau étincelante de lumières, spectacle magique que la fée Electricité crée pour l'amusement de nos regards comme elle crée aussi la lumière d'usine et les feux de cuisine, pour la satisfaction de nos besoins et de nos appétits.

Plus intéressant encore que les objets exposés, était pour moi cette galerie de féministes belges, de professions diverses, convaincues de la nécessité pratique d'une égalité de droits dont elles sont les pionnières et les protagonistes. L'Alliance internationale trouvera dans leur mouvement national un appui cordial et efficace. Je quittai Anvers avec un sentiment de courage et de foi.

Passant par Bruxelles j'eus la bonne fortune de saluer Mme. Elise Soyer, doyenne du mouvement généreuse, inlassable au service du féminisme, toujours prête à reconnaître les mérites d'autrui. Et j'ai pu remercier en notre nom à toutes, Melle. Marcelle Renson des services signalés qu'elle rendit à notre cause pendant la Conférence de la Haye. Un code civil périmé et les luttes féroces des partis politiques belges ferment encore la voie aux réformes favorables au suffrage des femmes. Puisse l'exemple récent de l'Afrique du Sud s'imposer au peuple belge et lui prouver qu'en dépit d'un conservatisme intense, et des dissensions intestines de race, de couleur, de parti, les femmes arrivent quand même à conquérir leurs droits politiques.

MARGERY CORBETT ASHBY.

FRANCE.

LA PROPOSITION DE LOI DE M. DE MONZIE.

Au mois de mars dernier, la question de la réforme judiciaire venait en discussion à la Chambre, et à cette occasion, un député, Monsieur André Bardon, prit l'heureuse initiative de déposer un amendement permettant l'entrée des femmes dans la magistrature.

Cette proposition trouva un défenseur ardent en la personne de M. Anatole de Monzie, député du Lot, ancien ministre et ancien sénateur, féministe convaincu, mais qui jusqu'alors n'avait pas encore manifesté publiquement ses sentiments à cet égard. Malgré son intervention remarquable, la proposition Bardon qui contrecarrait les desseins du Gouvernement fut repoussée, et alors que le projet de loi sur la réforme judiciaire permet l'accès de la magistrature à des avoués ayant un certain nombre d'années de pratique, mais qui ne sont même pas licenciés, la fonction reste interdite à des femmes pourvues du diplôme de docteur en droit!

Monsieur Anatole de Monzie ne se tint pas pour battu. Il est vrai que, dès sa jeunesse, il s'était fait le défenseur des opprimés; à la fin du siècle dernier il fréquentait assidûment à Auteuil, chez le socialiste d'origine grecque Argyriades, où chaque dimanche après midi, on s'assemblait pour discuter des moyens de rendre la liberté aux Alsaciens-Lorrains, aux Polonais, aux Macédoniens, aux Arméniens, aux Cubains, aux Crétois. C'est même en faveur de ces derniers qu'il prononça en 1897 son premier discours politique. Aujourd'hui, comprenant que "dans notre législation, le privilège de sexe est rendu de plus en plus incompréhensible et insoutenable par notre vie même," et que l'inégalité est une injustice profonde et qui n'a que trop duré, M. de Monzie, fidèle aux principes de sa jeunesse, se fait le champion de l'indépendance féminine, et, le 3 juin 1930, il déposait sur le Bureau de la Chambre des Députés la proposition de loi suivante et qui se compose d'un article unique:

"Est nulle et sans effet toute distinction entre Français suivant leur sexe pour la détermination des conditions d'aptitude aux fonctions publiques ou aux mandats électifs."

Toutes dispositions législatives ou réglementaires contraires sont abrogées."

Point n'est besoin, dit-il dans l'exposé des motifs, d'énumérer les cas où la capacité de la femme doit être égale à celle de l'homme; nous proposons une formule unique qui, par voie impérative, redresse la trop longue inégalité de nos lois civiles et politiques.

C'est ainsi que pour la première fois se trouve posée d'un seul coup toute la question du féminisme; en trois lignes, M. de Monzie accorde aux femmes l'électorat, l'éligibilité et l'accès à toutes les fonctions. Si le texte proposé par lui est voté par le Parlement, c'est tout le problème du féminisme qui se trouve résolu en une seule fois.

Quel sera le sort réservé à cette proposition hardie? Il est à craindre qu'elle ne se heurte à l'opposition des antiféministes de la Chambre et du Sénat, notamment des radicaux-socialistes. . . . mais il ne faut pas se dissimuler l'importance énorme de l'initiative prise par M. de Monzie.

Un de nos hommes politiques les plus éminents, jouissant d'une autorité incontestée, ancien et futur ministre, un homme de gauche et ne pouvant être suspecté de vouloir mettre la République en péril, a pris la peine de monter à la tribune pour dénoncer l'injustice et le paradoxe de l'incapacité féminine, pour proclamer que l'heure est venue d'appeler les femmes à la vie publique, et qu'on a besoin de leur apport pour "renouveler l'air du pays qui en a besoin." Nul doute que sa proposition généreuse ne fasse réfléchir nos

adversaires les plus acharnés et ne les amène finalement à composition.

Remercions de toutes nos forces M. Anatole de Monzie de son initiative si nette et si courageuse. Après tant d'échecs subis par notre cause, s'est pour nous un réconfort puissant que l'entrée en lice à nos côtés d'un homme de sa valeur qui nous guidera vers le succès. Son intervention va donner à nos efforts une impulsion nouvelle, elle arrive à point pour remonter notre courage et galvaniser notre énergie. Et déjà l'appui précieux qu'il nous apporte commence à porter ses fruits. Au grand banquet organisé en son honneur le 1er juillet dernier par les Associations féministes, des parlementaires de tous les partis s'étaient rendus nombreux, affirmant, par leur présence, et par leurs discours, leur volonté de nous aider à faire aboutir au plus tôt nos justes revendications. Grâce à M. de Monzie l'espoir déçu renaît, le succès qui semblait s'éloigner se rapproche, bientôt nous chanterons victoire.

ODETTE SIMON,

*Docteur en Droit,
Avocat à la Cour.*

MADAME BERTRAND-FONTAINE:

MEDICIN DES HOPITAUX.

Le succès de Mme. Bertrand-Fontaine fut accueilli avec une bien grande, une bien légitime satisfaction. La presse s'en empara et les commentaires furent à la hauteur de l'événement, prévu par ceux qui connaissent le mérite singulier de l'impétrante, mais sensationnel néanmoins.

Mme. Bertrand-Fontaine est cette jeune femme qui, à l'issue d'un concours dont la difficulté est connue, reçut le titre de Médecin des Hopitaux. Nulle femme avant elle n'avait accédé à cette haute charge. Et il fallait vraiment pour qu'on l'y admit, des qualités techniques, des dons scientifiques tout à fait exceptionnels.

Car, en vérité, préjugés et routine s'opposaient à cette nomination. Lorsqu'il en apprit la nouvelle, un vieux maître scandalisé leva les bras au ciel pour le prendre à témoin de l'injure infligée aux traditions. Faisant grief à ses collègues de leurs décisions, c'est en ces termes qu'il manifesta son indignation: "Une femme, deux juifs reçus à ce concours. . . . C'est la fin de tout!"

Mme. Bertrand-Fontaine est-elle féministe? La question serait dépourvue de sens. Le fait est là. Il s'affirme et triomphe. Cette porte ouverte, d'autres femmes plus tard la franchiront. Et cette victoire, — car il s'agit bien d'une victoire que le féminisme fièrement inscrit à son drapeau, — cette victoire prend d'autant plus d'importance qu'elle a été gagnée par la seule force d'un magnifique tempérament.

Oui, un tempérament magnifique! Comme en se jouant, Thérèse Bertrand mène tout de front, vie de travail et vie de famille.

Son portrait? C'est une jeune femme grande et mince, aux cheveux flous, aux yeux gris pailletés de vert qui posent sur vous leur regard droit, sérieux et profond.

Douée d'un esprit généralisateur, d'une intelligence remarquable, elle comprend tout, s'intéresse à tout, peut confier à sa mémoire et, sans avoir l'air d'y toucher, réussit dans tout ce qu'elle entreprend. Quel que soit le domaine où s'exerce sa fantaisie, tennis, natation, bridge, mots croisés (son péché mignon), violon, elle s'y met avec une aisance parfaite. Absolument simple, jamais elle ne parle d'elle-même et devant l'émotion suscitée par sa réussite s'étonna le plus gentiment du monde: "Mais je n'ai rien fait de plus que les hommes," dit-elle.

Toute jeune, un gout marqué, une vocation pourrait-on dire, la portait vers les études médicales. Elle gravit tous les échelons, fut successivement externe, puis interne, soutint en 1926 sa thèse sur le sujet suivant: *Etude clinique et anatomique des pneumopathies pneumobacilles de Friedlander*, rempli auprès de son maître Vidal qui l'appréciait infiniment les fonctions de chef de clinique, puis, le récent concours, consolida, à trente-quatre ans, sa jeune gloire.

Au lendemain de la guerre, elle épousa Philippe Fontaine, industriel, fils d'Arthur Fontaine, Président du Conseil d'administration du Bureau International du Travail, Inspecteur général des Mines, tout acquis au vote des femmes et à l'émancipation féminine. Elle eut deux enfants. Or, il faut le dire puisque telle est la vérité, c'est parce que Philippe Fontaine est doué lui aussi d'une très belle intelligence que, respectueux du travail de sa femme, ayant maintes fois partagé ses veilles, il a su créer pour elle l'atmosphère indispensable au développement d'une grande personnalité.

Thérèse Bertrand a de qui tenir. Et il n'est pas possible de parler d'elle sans mentionner ceux qui l'ont précédés dans la vie, la double chaîne d'héritité, de cerveaux pénétrants et lucides à quoi elle appartient.

Née dans un milieu de haute culture intellectuelle, elle est la fille de Marcel Bertrand, Membre de l'Institut, le savant géologue qui arracha aux Alpes leur secret, petite-fille de Joseph Bertrand, l'illustre mathématicien si doué pour les lettres que l'Académie française le disputa à l'Académie des Sciences, petite-fille, par sa mère, du célèbre physicien Mascart, membre, lui aussi, de l'Académie des Sciences.

ALICE LA MAZIÈRE.

LA QUESTION DE LA NATIONALITE DES
EXPATRIÉS DE L'EUROPE CENTRALE.

À propos des mesures internationales qui sont à prendre à l'égard des réfugiés et de ceux que je nommerais les expatriés il ne faut pas confondre les deux catégories. Or, les réfugiés russes et arméniens doivent être considérés d'un tout autre point de vue que les expatriés de l'Europe centrale—ces derniers ne sont ni réfugiés, ni exilés: ce sont des individus à nationalité douteuse et contestable par suite des modifications survenues dans la carte politique de l'Europe et que chaque Etat, depuis la paix, se refuse à accepter.

Sans doute la situation des réfugiés est le fait de circonstances inévitables, mais leur exil est dans une certaine mesure, volontaire. Quant aux expatriés on ne saurait les blâmer de n'avoir pu procéder à leur repatriation, qui exigerait des pièces justificatives, pour la plupart non-existantes ou non-procurables. Dans tous les cas, c'est une chose d'abandonner son domicile et une autre d'y être abandonné. Le réfugié se retire de sa patrie, mais la patrie de l'expatrié se retire de lui. L'ancien Etat, dépossédé d'une partie de son territoire, resserré entre les nouvelles frontières, ne trouve plus le moyen de nourrir autant d'habitants que par le passé, et le Gouvernement du nouvel état ne veut pas reconnaître à la masse des peuples annexés une nouvelle nationalité. Le réfugié abandonne sa patrie, il ne veut plus en être, le sujet, au moins sous le régime actuel. L'expatrié, au contraire, appartiendrait volontiers à l'un ou l'autre, mais nul ne veut de lui. Théoriquement, il a le droit d'appartenir à chacun des deux états dont il ressort; en réalité il n'a aucun statut. C'est un véritable jeu de paume qu'on joue avec ces misérables en les rejetant de frontière en frontière.

Pour les réfugiés, la solution offerte par les passeports Nansen de la Société des Nations apporte quelque soulagement, mais ceux-ci ne suffisent pas aux expatriés. Il s'agit de l'organisation de leur vie entière, de la protection de leurs professions, de leurs métiers. Il leur faudrait une réglementation définie.

Malheureusement, les réfugiés ne sont pas considérés avec faveur dans les pays où ils se fixent; vouloir identifier les expatriés au réfugiés ne serait pas leur donner une situation enviable. Identification d'autant plus dangereuse qu'elle peut être prétexte à l'exil, sans cause spéciale, car l'exportation des réfugiés indésirables est un droit international reconnu. Une telle réglementation ne contribue en rien à la solution du problème. Elle a une apparence factice et conduirait à des vexations sans fin, à des procédés légaux sans doute, mais peu propres à atténuer la haine qui subsiste encore entre les nations de l'Europe centrale.

Il est aisé de mettre ces maux au compte de la guerre, mais il serait bien téméraire de légaliser une situation injuste et de perpétuer à jamais les mésententes dans un système démontré absurde. Si la solution juste et parfaite ne se présente pas à l'heure actuelle il faut continuer à chercher et s'abstenir au moins de démarches inconsidérées. La Conférence de Codification à la Haye a étudié la question qui demeure à l'agenda de la Conférence arrangé par la Ligue internationale féminine pour la Paix, à Genève, au mois de septembre.

Il faut combattre toute proposition qui identifie les réfugiés et les individus de nationalité contestable—il faut exiger la suspension d'ordres d'exil contre les expatriés et les citoyens de nationalité douteuse, jusqu'à ce que la question soit décidée équitablement par une convention internationale.

DR. LILLA WAGNER.

Déléguée hongroise à l'Assemblée quinquennale du Conseil International des Associations féminines à Vienne de 1930.

LES FEMMES DANS LES MINISTÈRES EN FRANCE.

Tous nos ministres ne sont pas féministes, mais un grand nombre d'entre eux ont des femmes dans leurs cabinets.

À la Justice, Mlle. Raoul Péret est secrétaire de son père; au sous-secrétariat des Finances, la secrétaire particulière est Mlle. Bertrand.

Comme attachées aux Cabinets, nous voyons à la Présidence du Conseil, Mlle. Santini; aux Travaux Publics, Mlle. Elise Franc; à l'Enseignement technique, Mlle. Tabet.

Sans attacher plus d'importance qu'il ne faudrait à ces nominations, c'est cependant un signe des temps précurseur de la justice future.

La Française.

DECES.

Mlle. CAMILLE VIDART.

Nous regrettons d'annoncer le décès à l'âge de 76 ans, de Mlle. Camille Vidart de Genève. C'est une perte qui sera vivement ressentie dans les milieux académiques de son pays où elle fut bien connue comme professeur de littérature française, ainsi qu'au sein du mouvement féministe auquel elle a rendu des services insignes.

Les membres de l'Alliance qui assistèrent au Congrès de Genève en 1920 se souviendront de sa présence distinguée, et voudront exprimer à leurs collègues suisses leur sympathie sincère.

NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

ALLEMAGNE.

Nationalité de la femme mariée.

La Conférence de Codification à La Haye avait adopté en mars dernier la résolution recommandant aux divers pays d'introduire dans leur Code civil l'égalité de l'homme et de la femme en matière de nationalité. Dr. Lüders, député au Reichstag introduisit, dans le débat du budget du ministère de l'Intérieur, une motion réclamant l'amendement de la loi de nationalité.

Sa proposition ne rencontra aucune opposition, le Gouvernement ainsi que la Reichstag étant favorables à l'égalité des droits de nationalité pour les deux sexes.

NOUVELLE ZELANDE.

L'auxiliaire de Nouvelle Zélande enregistre avec satisfaction le plein succès de leur campagne pour réunir les fonds d'une Chaire de Gynécologie—31,000 livres ont été souscrites, et il sera possible de fonder des bourses pour études de sage-femmes. Ce succès est dû à Dr. Doris Gordon.

Les antipodes se rejoignent en ce moment pour fêter le succès de Miss Amy Johnson tous les cœurs ont vibré à l'unisson d'orgueil et de gratitude.

Le mouvement des Instituts féminins destiné à unir et les travailleuses agricoles aux ménagères des villes se propage rapidement. Tout en regrettant le démission pour raison de santé du premier ministre Sir Joseph Ward, les femmes de Nouvelle Zélande souhaitent la bienvenue à son successeur the Hon. George Forbes qui aura le courage de faire face à une situation financière difficile.

POLOGNE.

"L'Association polonaise pour le travail civique des Femmes" est une organisation sociale démocratique qui coopère avec le gouvernement du Maréchal Pilsudski. L'Association inaugurée en 1928 a maintenant 359 filiales et 33,554 membres.

L'Association se subdivise en sections, comme suit:

(1) La Section d'Éducation civique.

(2) La Section d'Aide et d'Assistance maternelle qui fonde des asiles, crèches, gouttes de lait, écoles enfantines et clubs.

(3) La Section du Travail féminin, donne des conseils sur la situation légale des ouvrières, se charge de la propagande pour la réforme du code pénal et pour l'égalité des conditions de travail.

(4) La Section de production qui prend une part active à la vie économique du pays, organisant ateliers, fermes, écoles d'apprentissage, de travail manuel. Elle préconise le développement de nouvelles industries nationales telles que celles de la "soie polonaise."

(5) La Section de Culture intellectuelle et esthétique organise des concours d'hygiène et a fondé un théâtre pour enfants.

(6) La Section de la Presse publie deux périodiques: l'un pour la ville, l'autre pour la campagne.

(7) La Section des relations internationales se met en rapport avec l'Alliance, informe les femmes polonaises des événements intérieurs et extérieurs. Cette Section espère publier bientôt une feuille de nouvelles, rédigée en français.

(8) La Section financière trouve des fonds pour le travail de l'Association.

Le Conseil exécutif de l'Association est formé de l'Assemblée des déléguées. Celle-ci se réunit à Varsovie en juin dernier. La femme du Président de la République, Mme. Moscicka, l'honora de sa présence, ainsi que le Ministre du Travail et le Président du Sénat. 325 déléguées provinciales s'y rencontrèrent. Ces premières réunions nous font bien augurer de l'avenir de notre Association.

LE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION SIMON SUR L'INDE.

Le Volume II. du rapport de la Commission sur l'Inde vient d'être publié. Il propose une extension de la franchise électorale. A l'heure actuelle seulement 2.8% de la population a le droit de vote et ce nombre ne comprend qu'une infime fraction de femmes électeurs.

La Commission propose d'augmenter le nombre des femmes électeurs en observant les conditions suivantes:

(1) Que le droit de suffrage soit donné à l'épouse, ayant au moins 25 ans, d'un homme qualifié lui-même pour le vote.

(2) Que le droit de suffrage soit donné aux veuves de plus de 25 ans dont le mari défunt était qualifié pour le vote.

(3) Que la franchise soit accordée aux femmes possédant une instruction suffisante ou des diplômes universitaires, au même titre que les hommes.

Quant aux Conseils législatifs le Rapport note que dans sept provinces sur neuf les femmes peuvent être membres et quelques-unes le sont en effet, par nomination, non par élection. La Commission émet le vœu que l'élection des femmes en tant que membres des assemblées législatives se généralise, et qu'au cas où leur nombre ne serait pas en proportion des celui des femmes électeurs, le Gouverneur use de son pouvoir de nomination pour accroître leur influence dans les Conseils législatifs.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Deux protestations de Madame Rosa Welt Straus au nom de l'Auxiliaire de Palestine ont été adressées à la secrétaire de notre organisation.

La première déplore la réponse du Haut Commissaire dans le pays mandaté de Palestine à propos de la question du mariage des filles mineures, question presque résolue dans l'Inde mais qui semble définitivement ajournée en Palestine, malgré la sympathie verbale du Haut Commissaire.

La deuxième est la copie d'un télégramme adressé au Congrès International des femmes siégeant à Vienne, en Juin. L'Association des Femmes Israélites de Palestine pour l'égalité des droits proteste énergiquement contre l'action du gouvernement britannique mandataire qui vient de suspendre l'immigration des travailleuses israéliennes en Palestine.

"Cette discrimination contre un peuple dont le droit d'établissement sur une terre qui fut le berceau de sa race a été reconnu par la Société des Nations, et qui a contribué largement à l'élévation du niveau moral et social des populations de Palestine, est une violation de l'esprit comme des lettres du Mandat, et une injustice."

NOUVELLE AFFILIATION.

Téhéran, le 21 juin 1930.

Madame Katherine Bompas,
Secrétaire du Bureau Central de l'Alliance.
Madame,

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception de votre aimable lettre du 7 avril et des statuts que vous avez bien voulu nous envoyer. Je les ai portés à la connaissance de notre Société, qui les trouva d'un grand intérêt. La plupart des articles de vos statuts sont entièrement conformes à nos principes et notre idéal. C'est pourquoi nous acceptons avec un grand plaisir de nous affilier à l'Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship. Je me fais un devoir de vous écrire, ci-dessous, les buts principaux de notre Société:

- (1) Liberté des femmes et suppression du voile là où il existe encore.
- (2) Éducation des femmes persanes en vue de leur faire acquérir leurs droits civiques, sociaux et politiques;
- (3) Fixation d'un minimum d'âge pour le mariage des jeunes filles (16 ans au moins).
- (4) Suppression de la polygamie.

(5) Le problème du divorce qui doit être résolu de façon à assurer les droits légitimes des femmes.

(6) Propagation de l'instruction et lutte contre l'ignorance.

En attendant le plaisir de vous lire et souhaitant le succès complet de l'Alliance, je vous prie, Madame, de vouloir agréer mes considérations les plus distinguées,

La présidente de la
Société des Femmes persanes.
MASTOURAH AFCHAR.

REUNIONS FEMININES INTERNATIONALES.

L'une se tiendra au mois d'août cette année à Honolulu. Ce sera la Conférence pan-pacifique d'où les pays européens seront exclus. Son programme très étendu comprendra des rapports sur le rôle des femmes dans l'hygiène, l'éducation, le gouvernement et la question du suffrage dans les pays non affranchis.

L'autre Conférence internationale qui se tiendra à Genève au mois d'août doit réunir les femmes d'affaires et professions libérales. Convoquée sous l'initiative des clubs féminins des États-Unis, elle aura pour objet de resserrer les liens internationaux entre les femmes, dont les occupations sont identiques dans divers pays.

L'INCAPACITE LEGALE DE LA FEMME AU JAPON

Le Japon est dans une période de transition. Le système familial moderne tend à remplacer les vieilles coutumes patriarcales, mais comme le Code Civil est fondé sur ce système patriarcal et la puissance suprême du chef de la famille il en résulte des anomalies dont la Japonaise moderne a fort à souffrir.

Légalement la Japonaise ne compte pas et elle est trop faible pour se plaindre. La loi se modelait jadis sur la coutume chinoise mais aujourd'hui elle est dans l'ensemble 60% Japonaise et 40% européenne. La Section du Code qui se rapporte à la famille a été amendée au début du 20 siècle mais seulement pour sauvegarder les droits paternels. Depuis 20 ans, la femme a gagné de l'importance dans la société, et ce code paraît archaïque.

La femme est civilement incapable, et ce fait est en accord avec la doctrine de Confucius qu'il ne peut y avoir deux têtes pour un même corps. L'épouse ne peut rien faire sans l'assentiment du mari, et il n'existe pas de cour de justice où puisse se porter les différends conjugaux. La fille n'hérite pas de la fortune paternelle. Les fils ont sur elle droit de priorité. Elle a droit à sa part de la fortune maternelle, mais les fils ont une part égale. La fortune de l'épouse n'est pas confondue avec celle du mari—mais c'est le mari qui l'administre à moins de cas exceptionnels d'incapacité notoire. Les femmes ont pourtant fait preuve depuis quelques années d'un sens des affaires remarquable et plusieurs régissent des maisons de commerce. Dans la vie civile peu de positions sont ouvertes aux femmes. Elles ne peuvent être avocates ni directeurs de banques ou d'entreprises—

tout au plus on leur permet de s'élever jusqu'au grade d'Inspectrices d'écoles. Cependant, les filles profitent de plus en plus des facilités d'instruction qui leur sont accordées. Elles entrent en grand nombre dans les écoles secondaires et on a fondé des universités de femmes, des collèges de médecine, de Pharmacie et d'Enseignement.

Le 6eme Chapitre du Code civil interdit aux femmes d'assister à des réunions politiques, mais le mouvement suffragiste a pris une telle extension que la loi a dû être

révisée bien qu'il soit encore impossible de s'inscrire à un groupement politique. Les femmes sont dans la même catégorie que les étrangers (même naturalisés), les malfaiteurs et les imbéciles.

Deux projets de loi conférant les droits civils et le suffrage aux femmes ont passé à la Chambre des pairs, mais la Diète les rejette à chaque session.

L'opinion publique est en faveur de ces projets; elle se divise en trois courants:

(1) Pour les droits civils accordés aux femmes des grandes villes.

(2) Pour les droits uniquement accordés dans les questions d'intérêt local.

(3) Pour l'égalité de traitement entre hommes et femmes au regard de la loi.

La question du divorce reste sous l'emprise du système patriarcal. L'adultère de la femme, seul, est criminel parce qu'il porte une atteinte directe à la lignée familiale. C'est encore un des points à propos duquel l'opinion publique est en avance sur le Code.

d'après KANEKO KITAMURA.

UN BANQUET FEMINISTE.

A ce banquet organisé par des groupements féministes en l'honneur de M. de Monzie, les femmes si bavardes, prétend-on, et que la démanigaison de parler taquine toujours, restèrent muettes. Seuls les hommes eurent le droit de se faire entendre. Ils furent brefs, convaincus, prononcèrent des paroles essentielles.

— Nous, les pacifistes, dit le colonel Picot, député, président des Gueules Cassées, nous ne pouvons, sans les femmes, faire régner la paix sur le monde.

— Les cerveaux masculins sont encombrés de formules stériles, dit M. Lucien Romien, auteur de cette PROMOTION DE LA FEMME livre de fière allure, frappé comme une médaille, et qui lui vaut une place importante parmi les militants du féminisme.— Les hommes sont impuissants à remplir les cadres.

— Si les femmes voulaient! soupire Léon Blum. Ce sont elles que nous avons le plus de peine à convaincre. Or, c'est à elles que l'effort essentiel incombe. Lors de notre dernier congrès, nous avons réservé une grande place à ce problème du recrutement féminin, nous avons ouvert et monté un "rayon" femmes. De les associer à la vie politique du pays, le parti socialiste a fait promesse. C'est un engagement auquel jamais il n'a failli. Et puisque je suis un prophète professionnel, j'apporte ici cette prophétie: avant d'être électeurs et éligibles, les femmes seront ministres. Quand le parti socialiste prendra le pouvoir elles feront partie du gouvernement.

— Les femmes partagent toutes les responsabilités de l'homme, dit M. Jénouvrier, sénateur, qui porte allégrement le poids de nombreuses années pendant lesquelles il soutint hautement ses convictions suffragistes.

— La France s'ennuie, déclare dans une improvisation brillante M. de Monzie, héros de la fête.

Ces paroles sont d'autant plus inattendues qu'il est charmant ce repas pris sur le toit fleuri d'un établissement de la rive gauche. La chère, les vins sont de choix: les convives, de qualité et de fort belle humeur, tiennent des propos optimistes.

— La France s'ennuie, affirme M. de Monzie avec cette fougue, cette véhémence, cette ardeur qui confèrent au moindre de ses propos tant d'autorité.

L'assemblée aussitôt devient attentive. Il suffit qu'elles soient formulées pour que l'on se rende compte quelle part de vérité contiennent ces paroles graves.

De la vie sociale, de la vie politique, la foi s'est retirée. Toutes les réformes projetées échouent.

— Nous avons payé en conservatisme l'orgueil de notre victoire, ajoute M. de Monzie. Nous avons "raté" notre affaire en 1919. A un organisme vieilli il faut infuser un sang nouveau. Des éléments neufs sont nécessaires. Ne le croyez-vous pas, Guernut, fait-il en s'adressant au secrétaire général de la Ligue des Droits de l'Homme, vous qui pensez à l'indignat pour le renouvellement du corps électoral?

La France a besoin de cerveaux frais, de novices ou de novatrices, deux mots qui, si l'on y réfléchit un moment, ont le même sens. Dans l'intérêt même des hommes,

du pays tout entier, il faut émanciper les femmes, leur donner tous les droits, supprimer pour les emplois civils et les mandats électifs toutes distinctions fondées sur la différence des sexes.

Dans la proposition de loi qu'il a déposée sur le bureau de la Chambre, M. de Monzie note qu'il y a en France sept femmes professant dans les Facultés, trois cents femmes inscrites dans les divers barreaux, quelque mille femmes médecins, cent quarante mille femmes fonctionnaires d'Etat, quatre millions et demi de Françaises occupant un emploi en dehors de leur ménage (sans qu'il soit tenu compte des professions agricoles).

Et quand il ajoute que le plus grand prosateur français est une femme, le meilleur poète français une femme, une femme aussi le savant français le plus connu dans le monde, on a tôt fait de citer Colette, la comtesse de Noailles, Mme. Curie.

Or, c'est le moment où le Sénat achève sa onzième année de résistance passive au vote émis le 20 mai 1919 par la Chambre des députés, en vue de conférer aux Françaises le droit de vote et d'éligibilité.

Le Sénat peut agir comme frein. Il ne doit pas être un mur devant lequel la volonté de la Chambre vient se briser.

En vérité, tous les orateurs, et sans qu'ils s'en fussent donné le mot firent entendre des variantes sur ce thème connu: Nous voulons du nouveau, n'en fût-il plus au monde.

Parce qu'ils ont l'habitude de la vie publique, parce que l'âme des foules leur est plus familière, ils se rendent compte mieux que d'autres, que la France anémiée espère et attend quelque chose de nouveau pour reprendre sa marche ascendante.

Cette nouveauté ce sera, si les deux Assemblées suivent M. de Monzie, l'avènement de la femme capable de travailler, dans tous les domaines, à la grande gloire de son pays.

ALICE LA MAZIÈRE.

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COMITE DE LA TRAITE DES FEMMES ET DES ENFANTS.

Nous venons de recevoir de Mme. Avril de St. Croix son rapport annuel de 1929 présenté au Comité de la Traite des Femmes et des Enfants de la part des Associations Internationales féminines. Encore une fois nous tenons à exprimer à Mme. Avril de St. Croix notre reconnaissance profonde de ses efforts inlassables pour la suppression de la réglementation, pour l'emploi des femmes dans la police et le relèvement de l'âge de consentement. Elle ne cesse d'encourager par son exemple les femmes de tous les pays dans l'œuvre de relèvement et d'éducation.

En prenant connaissance des rapports fournis par les divers pays on est frappé de l'intérêt soutenu avec lequel les grandes organisations féminines internationales suivent les travaux de la Commission consultative et s'efforcent chez elles de rendre ses résolutions efficaces. Le projet d'étendre l'enquête des experts de la S.d.N. aux pays de l'Orient et de l'Extrême Orient rencontre une approbation unanime.

Ces propos du Docteur Gaucher, le célèbre professeur de clinique des maladies cutanées et syphilitiques à Paris, cités dans le Rapport de la France méritent d'être répétés ici:—

"La prophylaxie des maladies vénériennes," dit il "dépend entièrement et uniquement de la morale. C'est l'immoralité qui crée la prostitution, et c'est la prostitution qui crée les maladies vénériennes. Faites que les conditions sociales de la femme ne la pousse pas à la prostitution; en préservant la femme vous préservez l'homme; mais la femme ne donne à l'homme que ce que celui-ci lui a donné."

Le numéro officiel du rapport est C.T.F.E. 461.

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L'école d'été aura lieu du 24 août au 10 septembre 1930 à Sofia. Les Conférences auxquelles prendront part des professeurs de l'Université, des écrivains, des artistes bulgares, et beaucoup d'invités de l'étranger, auront lieu de 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ —12 $\frac{1}{2}$ du matin. Les après-midis et les soirées sont réservés aux conférences, discussions, productions des danses nationales, ainsi que promenades collectives dans les environs de la ville.

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