

# JUS SUFFRAGII,

MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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FOURTH YEAR No. 1.

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The conflict is between despotic and democratic tendencies regardless of sex. Women are seeking the ballot not as enemies but as helpmeets of men.

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT.



Woman is not mentioned in the Constitution. It is a piece of insolence thus simply to overlook one half of humanity.

JEPPE AAKJAER.

PRICE PER YEAR 2 DUTCH FLORINS (= 3 Sh. 6 d. = 0.82 \$ = 3 Kr. = 4.25 Frs. = 3½ Mk.)

## Announcements.

The Report of the London Congress may be ordered from Mrs. Adela Stanton Coit, 30 Hyde Park Gate, London S. W. for 1 Shilling and 3 pence post paid. It contains the reports of the twenty-one auxiliaries and in addition those of Iceland and Poland; the proceedings; the resolutions; names and addresses of officers, committees, auxiliaries and Honorary Associates; an account of the social attractions of the congress; the President's address, etc. This pamphlet is one of our best means of propaganda, showing the actual state of the suffrage-problem, and should therefore be in the hands of every suffragist and every M. P. in the world.

A similar Report of the Amsterdam Congress may be ordered from Miss Martina G. Kramers, 92, Kruiskade Rotterdam, for one shilling post-paid during the course of two months, after which time the remaining copies will be distributed to public libraries.

By the zeal of our fellow-workers in France we are enabled to give in October a French edition of this paper, for two months to begin with, and for as many months more as the subscription-fees will allow: fifteen are needed for one month.

To give the new departure a fair trial, I shall send the French paper to all the readers of „Jus Suffragii” in the following countries: France, Belgium, Russia, Switzerland, Italy, Servia and Bulgaria, and moreover I shall be glad to send it to all those who apply for it.

*Prepayment.* I have had to strike out 51 persons from my list of subscribers, as having neglected to pay the second year. This is of course a great loss to the finances of „Jus Suffragii”, but it is not entirely due to the carelessness of those 51 themselves, since in many cases their addresses were given me by zealous national secretaries anxious to support „Jus Suffragii” at its starting, and the receivers, unable to read English, imagined that they were to have the paper gratis. Yet

I must guard against a repetition of this mistake, and so from the beginning of the fourth year I will not enter any new subscribers on my list, unless prepaid.

May I also urge each reader to pay the third year in case he or she has not already done so.

I hereby request all correspondents to note that I should be in possession of all their news by the sixth of each month in order to be able to translate it for the two editions. I think I send my reminders early enough, do I not?

*Lecturers.* Miss Rosika Schwimmer, Budapest VII, Istvan út 67 (see „J. S.” III p. 10 and 94) is expected in Switzerland in the middle of October, at Munich from Oct. 23—26, then in the Rhine Province and the Netherlands. The dates for Eastern and Northern Germany are not yet fixed.

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Miss Adele Schreiber, 29 Uhlandstrasse Berlin W. 15, (see J. S. III p. 10) will come to the annual meeting of the German W. S. A. on Oct. 23 at Munich and the G. W. S. A. recommends its Local Branches to invite her to give conferences on her way to and from Munich.

*Literature.* The National Union of Woman Suffrage Societies in Great Britain has edited a reprint of Mrs. Chapman Catt's Presidential Address at the London Congress, obtainable for 3 d. at 25 Victoria Street, Westminster.

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A new leaflet that should be read by all suffragists may be ordered from F.K.P.R. Stockholm for 3 öre. Miss Elin Wahlquist's lecture on the neutrality of the W. S. A. in politics, which she delivered on June 19 at the general meeting in Stockholm, has now been printed as a leaflet with the title „Partipolitiken och kvinnornas rösträttsfråga”. It clearly shows the advantage of uniting women of all parties in one strong league. Each member may belong to a political fraction as well, but the work in the W. S. A. teaches her self-restraint as long as the common cause of all women is at stake, and the union multiplies the power of each

a thousandfold, as shown by the result of the N. W. S. A.'s policy in the recent unanimous vote of the Second Chamber. "Our common aim is not only progress, but we also care how we attain it; so that we may be worthy of our place in the government of the community, and make things better than men alone have hitherto been able to make them."

### Great Britain.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies was the hostess of the I. W. S. Alliance in April this spring. The statement of accounts of the International Conference this year shows that, of the total guarantee fund of £1,090 12s., only half was called up. The receipts from sale of tickets were £651 6s. 11d., and from other sources £90 3s. 2d., and the total expenditure was £1,257 14s., leaving £29 2s. 1d. as a balance for the National Union general funds. In addition to this, as already stated in these columns, a number of guarantors handed over the second half of their guarantee, amounting in all to £146 11s., to the National Union, which thus profited to the amount of £175 13s. 1d.

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In Yorkshire at all the meetings collections have been taken and discussions have been raised. We find that it is much more difficult to arrange open-air meetings now than formerly, as so many of the towns, especially the seaside and inland watering-places, have adopted by-laws which stop us from using the best places to obtain a good hearing, and require application, stating exact time, place, and date, to be made to the council, which probably only sits at stated periods.

The "Curlew" left Perth on Monday in the rain and drove along wet roads, past grey hills and rain-shrouded woods to Newburgh, in Mr. Asquith's constituency.

Cupar was next, and we drove to Cupar's market cross, to find it market day and plenty of people about. The opportunity was too good to lose, so we promptly held a meeting and announced our evening one, further worked up by chalking.

St. Andrews next day—a lovely drive and great interest in our entry.

We asked for volunteers for chalking next day, and as I left for Perth at 10.40 three of the gentlemen turned up to help Miss Walker and Mrs. Fraser, and they all went out and chalked the town—chalked it better than I have seen a town chalked. When I returned to it I could not evade these notices—they were everywhere, and one kept saying as a sort of refrain, "Monument, 4 p.m.; Cross 8 p.m." They must have worried any Anti-Suffragists about.

Our afternoon ladies' meeting at Perth was well attended, and at the end we had many questions and a "policy" discussion. It was a joint meeting with the Edinburgh Society.

The abilities of a caravan for giving one new worries is astonishing, but, in justice to the "Curlew" I must say its abilities for being comfortable are equally remarkable. "Your education is not complete till you have gone a caravan tour—neither is your philosophy", says Miss Helen Fraser.

The Bala meeting did not fulfil our expectations, says Miss Morgan. Before the meeting began noises more or less hideous were heard. Gradually the crowd drew nearer and nearer, and I began to speak in Welsh. They gave me a hearing for about thirty minutes, though I was frequently interrupted. Miss Edwards got up, and then began

a great hubbub. Thanks to the help of some gentlemen and the police, who linked arms round us and forced a passage, we were safely got out of the crowd and escorted home. We had to hold quite a reception later at the hotel, for a number of people came in to inquire after us and to apologise for the iniquitous behaviour of a few roughs from the town.

At the meeting at Llanuwchllyn we secured a good hearing by asking Mr. Jones, J.P., to take the chair. Our meeting was a great success. Miss Edwards, Miss Helga Gill, and I spoke, and all agreed that our claim was a reasonable one. We sold some copies of "The Common Cause", and we were asked to return to hold another meeting. The whole countryside came to Rhydymain to our meeting. Sheep-shearing and hay-making became a secondary consideration, and men, women, and children walked miles in order to hear us. They listened to us attentively and asked us intelligent questions at the end. We were invited to all the cottages, and flowers were lavished upon us. The leading men of the village told us that they would see that their prospective candidate would be "all right" on the women's question.

At all the meetings where we have been able to explain the N.U. policy we have met with approval.

(from: "The Common Cause").

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Two deputations of constitutional Suffragists have been received by Cabinet Ministers during the week. On Saturday last Lord Crewe was interviewed by the Warwick and Leamington Women Suffrage Society, and held out to them no hope of Government action during the present Parliament, saying that the members of the present House of Commons must not be regarded as favourable to Women Suffrage. On the same day Mr. Birrell, interviewed by the North of England Society for Women Suffrage, expressed surprise at the importance which women attributed to the vote, and, while declaring himself personally favourable to Woman Suffrage, expressed emphatic disapproval of Adult Suffrage. He indicated that the question had not yet received the consideration of the Cabinet. Militant Suffragists will gather from these interviews that the hostility of the Government to Votes for Women is only to be removed by vigorous measures.

("Votes for Women", Sept. 10, 1909)

The Executive Committee of the Men's League for Woman Suffrage have decided to issue to all the members a monthly leaflet, containing all news of its work and forthcoming arrangements. Members and friends are specially reminded of the demonstration in Trafalgar Square on Saturday afternoon, September 18th, at 3.15 p.m.

We wish to make this in a real sense a men's demonstration.

(Women's Franchise.)

The Women's Social and Political Union writes: Although the majority of folks have been away from London during the summer holidays, there has been no cessation in the war between women and the Government.

Early in the month the Home Secretary took the extraordinary step of issuing warrants upon Mrs. Dove Willcox and Miss Theresa Garnett, (arrested the previous month), for alleged assaults committed by them whilst in prison. The two

women therefore, came before the magistrate exactly a fortnight after they had won their way out of prison by means of the terrible hunger strike which they had adopted. The charges brought against them were of "biting and kicking", but the prisoners were entirely cleared of this first disgraceful charge. The women, however, were sentenced to a second term of imprisonment; and on again entering the walls of Holloway Gaol they once more adopted the hunger strike, as a result gaining their release at the end of a few days.

In taking advantage of the vigorous campaign being waged by the Liberal Party in support of the Budget, the Women's Social and Political Union have had several opportunities of questioning Cabinet Ministers at meetings. As a result of these attempted questionings and subsequent protests, several women were arrested in various towns. At Limehouse two women were arrested; at Liverpool, seven; at Glasgow, four; and others in different towns. Except in four cases, i.e. those of Limehouse, Liverpool and Exeter, the women were released without further action being taken by the authorities. At Limehouse, however, twelve were sent to Holloway, and these immediately adopted the hunger strike gaining their release at the end of a few days. The same happened at Liverpool where seven women were arrested, and at Exeter three women were arrested. At Glasgow, owing to the fact that the women were five minutes late in surrendering to their bail, the magistrate took the high-handed action of forfeiting the bail money (143 marks). The women accordingly refused to give any promise to reappear for their trial, with the result that warrants were issued for their arrest, but the authorities took no further action and the women are therefore still at liberty!

Meanwhile those members of the Women's Social and Political Union who were away on their holidays, had previously registered their names and holiday addresses at headquarters; these addresses being published week by week in "Votes for Women", the official organ of the Union, so that a perfect net-work was formed throughout the country, meetings being held in every seaside town and country village.

The arrest of eight members of the Women's Freedom League for "obstruction" in Downing Street in the epic struggle to present their petition to Mr. Asquith, raises a constitutional point which would have moved the whole nation to passion a century or two ago. The right to petition is one of the clearest privileges of a British subject. It is not confined to males. The statute of Charles II, which finally regulated it, makes it perfectly clear that a petition was then naturally regarded as a personal application. No one then contemplated that it should be sent through the post, and the law forbids the assembling of more than ten persons to present it. Blackstone's Commentary is as explicit as it can be, and winds up by declaring that any imprisonment for the exercise of the right to petition is illegal. It was, indeed, on that point that the seven Bishops were acquitted, and all London went into that delirium of rejoicing which Macaulay described with so much eloquence. It is no answer to the women to say that petitions are obsolete. So they are for men, because men can employ the machinery of representative institutions. Women are constitutionally in the position of the unenfranchised masses who, in every country—even in Russia—have clung

to the traditional right of personal access to their rulers.

(Daily News, Aug. 19, 1909).

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The eight suffragettes who were arrested on August 19 in Downing-street in connection with the picketing campaign of the Women's Freedom League were again before Mr. Curtis Bennett, at Bow-street on Sept. 3.

The defendants were Charlotte Despard, Ann Cobden Sanderson, Edith Cranstoun, Irene Tillard, Lilian Martha Hicks, Lilie Boileau, Marianne C. Hyde, and Janet Legate Bunten.

The case had been adjourned to enable the magistrate to consider the legal points raised by Mr. T. M. Healy, K.C., M.P., that the defendants were acting in pursuance of a statute of Charles II, and the Bill of Rights passed in the reigns of William and Mary.

In giving his decision, the magistrate said he agreed that everyone had the right to present a petition or remonstrance to the Crown through the proper officer, the Home Secretary, and also to any member of Parliament, and to use every legitimate means in his power to rectify any abuse or grievance, but he was not prepared to differ from the ruling of the chief magistrate that a member of Parliament was not compelled to receive any such petition or remonstrance.

Proceeding, the magistrate said he was of opinion that in every presentation of every such petition or remonstrance there must be reasonable conduct on the part of those seeking to present them, and it was not reasonable conduct to picket the residence of any member of Parliament, particularly for six weeks, as had been done in this case.

As the appeal case was still pending in the High Court, he was still willing not to record a conviction until that case had been decided.

Mr. Healy: We should prefer to have a conviction and a case stated.

The magistrate accordingly fined each of the defendants 40 s. or seven days' imprisonment in the second division.

He ordered the defendants to fine one surety in £ 40 to prosecute the appeal.

The conviction was ordered to be suspended until after the appeal had been heard.

Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, and Mrs. Hicks write to us with reference to their appeal against the magistrate's decision in the proceedings reported above. They say:

"This ancient right of petition is the only opportunity possessed by unrepresented citizens of laying before the Government the grievances they have to be redressed. It is therefore of the deepest importance to them to maintain this right. The expenses of the appeal will be great; and, at this important crisis in our movement we do not think it too much to expect to receive, from both men and women, such financial help as will enable us, with every chance of success, to carry through our case.

"We have made many personal sacrifices and are ready again to face prison, should it be necessary, as well as to give all the money we can afford for the furtherance of the cause which is so dear to us. Meanwhile, we cannot but feel that the time has come for the many who are in sympathy with us to come to our assistance and share the financial burden, which is falling so heavily on a few.

"Contributions to the Prisoners' Defence Fund

should be sent to Mrs. Despard, President of the Women's Freedom League, 1 Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C."

(Daily News, Sept. 4. 1909.)

The Irish W. S. and Local Government Association issues a call in all newspapers to urge women to make use of the Lodger Franchise, in case they possess it, Mrs. Haslam, the Hon. Secr., writes:—

"The time is again rapidly drawing near when women who possess the Lodger qualifications must carefully look after their registration if they do not wish to lose their votes at the elections of next year. That registration cannot be effected by deputy: it must be done by themselves."

She then gives a detailed account of the qualifications and the formalities of registration, and concludes:

As Mr. Asquith, on behalf of the Government, has given us women a conditional promise of a measure of enfranchisement, it is all the more important that we, who possess the statutory qualifications, should register in preparation for that concession; and, in the meantime, it behoves us to prove the earnestness of our demand by faithfully voting for the best candidates, whether male or female, in all the elections for County, Borough, and Urban Councillors, Poor Law Guardians, etc., now open to us. The only plausible objection to our Parliamentary enfranchisement advanced by our opponents, is, that a considerable proportion of our women Local Government electors are indifferent to the franchises which they already possess."

### Australia.

The Melbourne papers are full of dramatic accounts of the eagerness shown by the Victorian women to register under the new law which gives them state suffrage. National suffrage they have, in common with all other Australian women, been exercising for seven years. The registrars were overworked to the point of breaking down and special clerks had to be employed, and even mayors had to lend a hand to cope with the rush of applicants. In some cases in the country districts the offices ran out of forms and at date of writing our correspondent expected that the time of registration would have to be extended in order to avoid disfranchising a number of women electors.

(Union Labor Advocate.)

### Denmark.

Mrs. Johanna Münter's organ, "Kvindestemmerets-bladet" is to be stopped next January. The other Suffrage papers will have to try and fill the gap; and surely the readers have great reason for gratitude to the editor who did so much for the cause, especially with regard to international relations.

The Kristelig Kvindevalgrettsforening is fast growing since it is carrying out the resolution adopted at its annual meeting at Vejle in May, that Christian Unions should be accepted as auxiliaries with an annual fee of 10 öre per member. They are now giving lectures on woman suffrage in several religious associations that work for temperance, purity, care of children and unprotected etc. They do not feel like competitors

but more like fellow-workers of other suffragists and suffrage associations. Lectures have been delivered in many Branches of Kvindesamfund, White Ribbon, Blue Cross, etc. and Mrs. Blauenfeldt's three pamphlets: "Vort Ansvar", "Den Kristne Kvinden og Valgretten", and "Fra Kvindestemmeretskongressen i Amsterdam", prove most useful. They may be ordered from the author at Körup pr. Horsens for 10 öre, 10 öre and 20 öre each. "Vort Ansvar" is an urgent appeal to religious women to remember the text: "Am I my brother's keeper?" The second tract is a more practical survey of the new openings and wider possibilities which enfranchisement will bring to women. The third gives a good notion of the great gain to the suffrage cause derived from international co-operation, and shows that religious people in many countries are convinced suffragists.

The Landsforbund for Kvinders Valgret has augmented its membership from 4000 to 10,000 in the last year, and now numbers 122 Local Branches.

Miss Westenholz, who like a British Suffragette entered the House during a meeting of the Folketing, seized the bell, uttered a violent protest against the Government and left the hall, is no suffragist, nor did she claim any right for women. She simply wanted to have her say in the Representation of the People, and as such her action is a sign of the times.

M. G. K.

### Norway.

When on Aug. 21 the Odelsting began the second reading of the bill which limits women's hours more than men's by prohibition of night-work, they had received a memorial from 26 men physicians urging them to adopt the bill and another from 80 women who worked in the Sulitjelma mines, claiming its rejection. There was great anxiety about the result, says Nylaende; and two of the former opponents of the bill were absent. Yet the result was again rejection of separate legislation for women by 45 to 43 votes.

Then the matter had to be referred to the Lagting again, and a new petition came from all the women in Kristiania employed in newspaper-carrying and packing. They wanted not to lose their work, and one of the petitioners had been at it for 29 years. So the future women voters have not neglected to put their case before the legislators, and with more result than voteless women, as the event has shown.

M. G. K.

On Aug. 27 at the second reading in the Lagting the bill on separate protection for labouring women, was lost with 3 votes against, the Socialists only voting in favour of it.

It is a great pleasure to me to tell you this, because we — the real friends of the women's cause — were very disappointed and apprehensive when I sent you my last letter.

As you know, the Parliament has also decided that there shall be appointed a travelling woman inspector in the factories, and that this inspector also shall have a woman assistant. During the debate in the Parliament, a proposal was made to give the same wages to this inspector as to the men inspectors. When it was lost, it was only on the ground that the men inspectors are obliged to have a technical education which is not needed for the woman inspector.

So you see we are progressing!

Kristiania, Sept. 1909.

PR. MÓRCK.

The women's paper "Urd" publishes a very literal and at the same time fluent and melodious translation of our international woman suffrage song, of which Mrs. Thea Ebbell from Drammen is the author.

M. G. K.

### Egypt.

The first Egyptian woman to demand women's rights is the wife of a Bedouin sheikh in the province of Fayoum, who, after writing for some years on the subject under a pseudonym, has now publicly given an address in a newspaper office on the woman question in Egypt. The audience consisted of 200 ladies from the most distinguished harems of the capital, who listened attentively to her demand for monogamy, reform of divorce law, higher education of girls, and legal equality of the sexes.

(Votes for Women.)

### Italy.

At the last meeting of the Roman W. S. A. in its office 11 Piazza Fiammetta the following plan for the political education of women, submitted by the Corresponding Member Prof. Erminia Montini, was read and approved. The basis of the plan is the formation of the political conscience of Italian women by bringing them into direct contact with the political life of the nation.

The following means to this end were proposed:

1st. To put at the disposal of readers in certain club-rooms some daily papers in which the most important articles on the political situation and the discussions in Parliament should be carefully marked.

2nd. To start a little library of works of political character.

3rd. To distribute by turns tickets for the Ladies' Gallery for the most important sessions of Parliament.

4th. To invite celebrities to speak on subjects of political nature or similar topics in the halls of the Association.

5th. To go to women's associations, workshops, warehouses etc. and urge the necessity for women to take an interest in public life and the country's welfare.

6th. To interest the press of every party.

7th. The members of the W. S. A. should be propagandists of this agitation for the political education of women.

The eleven members present were all in favour of this action, and Miss Labriola L. L. D. advocated it strongly as did also the Hon.-Secretary, Miss Troise.

Orvieto, Sept. 1909.

ERMINIA MONTINI.

### France.

The women's paper "La Française" urges upon the French suffragists as a patriotic duty to secure subscribers for a French edition of "Jus Suffragii". The editor, Mme Jane Misme, secretary of our auxiliary society in France, has already collected thirty, which number will ensure the new publication for two months; and she feels sure that many more will follow.

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The "Journal des Femmes" informs us of the formation of a Rationalist League for the Extens-

ion of Universal Suffrage to Women, of which the President is Mme Nelly Roussel and the Secretary Mme Marbel. The editor, Mme Maria Martin, adds that this is good news. Perhaps some readers may not entirely agree with her, fearing that there will be overlapping, when several societies cover the same ground. We shall see.

M. G. K.

La première séance du "Congrès Permanent du Féminisme International" après les vacances aura lieu le 29 octobre. Les représentants de divers pays vont lire des rapports sur la situation actuelle de la femme au point de vue du suffrage municipal. La réunion aura lieu au "Cercle du Progrès féminin" à la rédaction de "La Française". On est prié de vouloir bien envoyer les rapports ou les résumés d'avance à la secrétaire générale Mme Orka, Paris, 38 rue de Penthièvre.

Mme RAYCHMAN-ORKA.

Paris, Septembre 1909.

### Belgium.

On May 28 the Chamber of Deputies unanimously passed a law which gives women the right to sit in a Family Council and to be appointed as guardians. Will the Senate ratify this decision? "Certainly", says Mme. Gilain, "for it interferes in no way with men's rights, and only charges women with a new social obligation without any moral or financial compensation. So the right honorable legislators lose no credit with their electors in voting this reform. It is different when you undertake to touch on political or administrative rights, e.g. the appointment of women as prud'hommes (Boards of Trade)".

The Senate has not yet reopened the discussion of the bill concerning these courts.

M. G. K.

### The Netherlands.

The Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church in its annual meeting had to decide once again on a proposal to give women members a vote in church matters. The proposal was ably defended by a Minister member of the Synod and it had two petitions to back it, one signed by over nine thousand women, the other by more than five thousand men; yet it was lost by 10 votes to 9. Another proposition, which claimed for women the right of being ordained as Ministers after having passed the university examinations and obtained the degree of D. D., was lost too with one vote less in favour.

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The opening of the States General in September is always an incentive to advocates of Universal Suffrage to hold meetings and demonstrations. The Socialdemocratic Party and the National Federation of Trades Unions had arranged a big demonstration for Sept. 19 at The Hague. The N. W. S. A., desiring to take care lest the women's claims be forgotten and "Universal Suffrage" be understood to mean "Manhood Suffrage", had printed a manifesto urging political equality for men and women, which was intended for distribution at the meetings. But now the fear of contagion from the — fortunately diminishing — cholera has occasioned the interdiction of the great demonstration. Yet it is probable that our Local Branches will not neglect the opportunity offered by eventual local demonstrations for urging the women's claim to enfranchisement.

Dr. ALETTA JACOBS.

## China.

Mr. L. S. Münter sends most interesting clippings from the "Peking and Tientsin Times" on the courageous efforts of a Chinese girl twenty-one years old to show her disapproval of Chinese marriage customs. The editor calls this heroine "a Chinese Suffragette", and goes on to say:

"Her attempt, in which we sincerely trust she will succeed, to combat the ridiculous restrictions imposed on Chinese women, while amusing, is nevertheless indicative of a new movement in China which will have a vast effect upon the country at large. We are no admirers of the "suffragist", but it cannot be denied that many things would be taught this country if its women were free to teach."

## Sweden.

Why do not women at least those who stand outside the parties at war—the employers and employed—bring their influence to bear on the Government, that it may offer to intercede? This was the question asked in the paper "Dagby". Then thirty representative women, among whom were Miss Signe Bergman, Miss Anna Whitlock and Miss Selma Lagerlöf, sent the following memorial to the King:—

"For nearly three weeks our country has suffered under an enormously extensive strike, which makes itself felt in every Swedish home with daily augmented violence. As up to now, as far as we know, no step has been taken which aims at the restoration of social peace, we undersigned, Swedish women, take the liberty to address Your Royal Majesty as the only power which may induce the contending parties to begin negotiations, knowing that this step will not be misunderstood by Your Majesty.

It is our conviction that none of the contending parties will refuse to obey an exhortation emanating from Your Royal Majesty to begin negotiations which shall aim at ending the strife that is bound soon to come to an end. In the name of the home, of the future generation, of social peace, we beseech Your Majesty to consider if the moment has not now come to try and bring together the combatants with a view to arrange at least a mode of negotiations, which is indispensable as an initial step to a final settlement.

We address ourselves to Your Royal Majesty, feeling that Sweden's healthy and strong development is hindered every day that this pernicious struggle is carried on. It calls up economical animosities, not only in numberless Swedish homes, but also in the whole country's trade and livelihood. Above all it fosters hate and bitterness between the classes, which is already so strong that it constitutes the greatest danger for the future of society."

His Royal Majesty has not deigned to answer the petitions for intercession in the great strike.

In a public meeting of the Women's Debating Club in Stockholm on Sept. 8, called to discuss the question: What can women do in the social struggle?, the strike was considered from different points of view and the result was the appointment of a Committee of twelve women to take measures for the relief of the victims, beginning with gratis meals for children.

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A very popular means of propaganda, artistically executed, is the series of twelve post-cards

with portraits and mottoes from celebrated leaders of the suffrage movement, which the Göteborg Local W. S. A. edited in June. The portraits of Susan B. Anthony and Mary Wollstonecraft show that the Swedish Suffragists have an outlook farther than their own country, and the others go to prove that in Sweden itself there is high sentiment, strong conviction and logical insight enough to further the cause.

Every suffragist should order the series for 1 Kr. from Frk Hildur Oeyer at Göteborg; and those who do not understand the mottoes in Swedish should learn it.

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On Aug. 1 at Stenstorp Mrs. Rydström founded the 146th W. S. A. in Sweden, and on Aug. 8 Dr. Jenny Velander gave there a lecture on women's duties in municipal and state government. At the request of the W. S. A. the University Extension Committee had arranged this conference.

The 147th W. S. A. was formed at Skurup after an address by Miss Sigrid Kruse. The same speaker was also much applauded at Sösdala where she spoke on the relation between women's enfranchisement and temperance.

(from "Dagby".)

## Poland.

Madame Cécile Walewska, présidente de l'Association pour les droits des femmes vient de publier un livre sur "Le mouvement féministe en Pologne". Ces documents démontrent que la femme polonaise remplit avec dévouement ses devoirs de citoyenne et que par conséquent elle ne devrait pas être exclue des droits. L'oeuvre vient à temps comme un argument irréfutable à l'heure de la réforme municipale qui se prépare.

I. ORKA.

## Hungary.

In August also we only gave lectures in watering places and summer resorts. We may state that particularly with foreign visitors—e. g. in Posttyen and Tnemesenteplyt—we succeeded in awakening a benevolent interest. Many a visitor of our meetings confessed that at home he had never cared for the women's claims. A notable circumstance in the month of August was the presence of Dr. Aletta Jacobs, who passed her summer-holidays in the Hungarian mountains.

Our Association gave a reception in her honour, a five o'clock tea in the Palace Hôtel at Tatalomnicz, to which all the members who were sojourning in the Tatra had been invited. Besides the members, about 25 ladies of the highest Hungarian aristocracy had come to attend the reception, a class of women whom, under ordinary circumstances, we can seldom reach. Dr. Jacobs succeeded in removing many of the false notions as to our agitation and ideas, prevailing in certain circles. In a short but telling address she showed that women of all classes are bound to organize for the common cause. Unfortunately this time we did not immediately succeed in gaining the ladies as members of our Association, yet it is very important for our movement that they should have been brought to drop prejudices and to think better of our agitation.

The inner political disturbances in our country seem to portend the approach of decisive events;

yet since long we are accustomed to the most incredible delays, and so we postpone our preparations for active work until the future lies before us in a more tangible form.

Now and again the dreadful demon of absolute want of funds exercises its depressing influence over all our work. The lack of national and international financial resources is the eternal handicap to our action.

ROSIKA SCHWIMMER.

Budapest, September 1909.

## Austria.

The Committee for Woman Suffrage in Vienna, provisionally putting freedom to form political associations in the centre of its claims, requested some days ago Dr. Ofner M.P. to present to the Chamber of Deputies a petition for abolition of § 30 of the Law on Assemblies. In its explanatory remarks the Committee alleges that in most other states of Europe, with various sorts of political disabilities put on women, yet their right of free action in the sphere of politics is never hampered.

Even conservative Prussia has, last year when new laws on political unions were made for the Empire, granted women the privilege of free association. In Austria since fifteen years women have demanded the suppression of the word "females" in § 30 of the said law. Last year the Committee presented to the House a petition to this effect signed by over 40,000 men and women. Now the Committee again addresses the same request to the Representation of the People, demanding that they may at last grant women the most fundamental constitutional right of free expression of opinions by means of political associations.

(Neues Wiener Tageblatt)

## Germany.

The German Woman Suffrage Association holds its annual meeting at Munich in Hotel Union, Barerstrasse 7, from Oct. 23 to 26. On the first day the business meeting will begin at 9.30 and in the evening at 8 Miss Schreiber will address a public meeting on "Women in Politics and the Sex-problem". On Sunday Oct. 24 at 9.30 there will be a procession through the streets of Munich, and at 11 there is to be a public meeting on Financial Reform with Mrs. Breitscheid as speaker. On Monday, public meeting at 9.30, where Dr. Elisabeth Altmann-Gotheiner will give a conference on Votes for Women for Trades Councils, and at 3 public debate in which Miss Martha Zietz and Dr. Augspurg will treat the question: Is the entrance of women into men's political parties calculated to further the cause of women's enfranchisement? Then on the 26th the unfinished business is to be transacted and new plans discussed.

The social features of the convention are different excursions and an at-home at Mrs. Warburg's on the Sunday, and an evening reception on Monday night in the Löwenbräukeller. A gala representation of Ernst Rosmer's Maria Arndt in the Schauspielhaus will close the proceedings.

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The Berlin Local Branch of the N. W. S. A. has planned a procession in the streets of Berlin for September. This gave rise to many hateful and insulting comments of the press; but to be just we must say that many papers e.g. the "Berliner Zeit am Montag" express their sympathy and declare that they expect "an orderly, earnest and

impressive demonstration of women". In Munich at the annual convention a similar procession of decorated carriages is to go from the suburb Schwabing to the ancient Town Hall, where a meeting is to follow. In Berlin the permission of the police has not yet been obtained; in more progressive Southern Germany we had no difficulty in getting it.

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A general regret, expressed by the German Evangelical Women's League, was felt when a conference of women Teachers of Religion in Hamburg resolved provisionally not to claim votes for women in church affairs. This resolution contrasts with the efforts to obtain women's enfranchisement in the Church made during some years by the German Evangelical Women's League, the Christian-Social Women's Union, the Christian Women Teachers' Association and quite a number of other societies of women working on a religious basis. These have often petitioned Provincial and National Synods for the granting of the church vote and duties thereto pertaining, to women.

(Zeitschrift für Frauenstimmrecht.)

The German Federation of Progressive Women's Associations (Bund Fortschrittlicher Frauenvereine) has its national meeting in Berlin, Oct. 3-7. There are to be three public meetings and among other subjects a discussion on Questions of Organization.

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In the "Leipziger Neueste Nachrichten" a lawyer proposes the foundation of an Antifeminist League; and he really means to organize it, for he invites expressions of sympathy from all his countrymen. "All hail!" says the editor of the "Frauenbewegung".

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The Association of Electors of the Progressive Popular Party (Freisinnige Volkspartei) at Breslau resolved to invite Miss Lischnewska for a lecture, and to arrange courses of political lectures, issuing a special invitation to women to attend, with a view to gaining them as members of their party.

Miss Lischnewska is the President of the Women's Liberal Party, which proposes to organize women in a separate division. In Silesia on the contrary, most women are of opinion that they can be taught organization well enough in their women's associations, especially in the W. S. A., and should enter as equals into the men's parties. Collaboration between men and women is the very thing to bridge the chasm which now exists between women and men.

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The Minister of the Interior in Bavaria has recently instructed municipal and charity councils to appoint women in the public charities. "The good results of the participation of women in the relief of the poor make it desirable", says His Excellency, "that our Bavarian municipalities should avail themselves more and more of this valuable help".

M. G. K.

## Servia.

In the course of this year Servia entered the great International Woman Suffrage Alliance. No doubt our readers will be interested to obtain some informations about Servia and the Servian nation, and the state of the women suffrage question there.

Servians live in the provinces on the south-eastern side of Europe from the Adriatic sea to

the southern Carpat mountains, and over more than 250,000 square kilometres with about 10,000,000 inhabitants. One part of those dominions is under Austria-Hungary (viz: Dalmatia, Croatia, Slavonia, Srijem, Banat and Batchka) and has about 6,000,000 of inhabitants on 135,000 square kilometres; the other part is under Turkey, called "Old Serbia", and only one part is independent, which is divided into two states, viz: Serbia with 48,600 square kilometres and 2,800,000 inhabitants, and Montenegro (9,400 square kilometres and 300,000 inhabitants.)

The woman suffrage question can only be solved in independent Serbia. In Turkey, as you know, unfortunately almost everyone is deprived of rights, and it is quite natural that the women possess no rights at all, least of all political ones; we hope that this rightless state will be amended by the new regime; in Austria-Hungary the conservative political rule forbids the women all political assemblies, therefore such political organizations are impossible to be founded, even if the Servian women in Austria-Hungary were inclined for such things, which is very doubtful, because the question of national independence surpasses now all other social questions. Therefore only in the independent part of Serbia and especially in the Kingdom of Serbia one can think of working for the political rights of women.—Montenegro, until alterations, be made in its military organization, cannot be taken into consideration.—

The "terrain" for such kind of work is exceedingly favourable. The Servians have the sentiment of justice extremely developed; they are extraordinarily tolerant, in Serbia nobody is persecuted for his opinions.

The women were always especially esteemed, and it is very often even in our days that a woman is the head of a family—Servian "Zadrouga" (Co-operative society)—and she governs the whole family, which sometimes numbers more than 300 persons. Such kinds of organized families exist even among the Servian families in Turkey, notwithstanding the Turkish queer ideas, concerning the woman's position.

Indeed as soon as Parliamentary Government was inaugurated in Serbia, there appeared the question of women's political rights, which immediately gained a great many supporters, and, what is most interesting, the opposition was not a strong one.

When Mrs. Catherine Milowek claimed votes for women, the Highest Court in Serbia has rejected the request by a majority of only one vote and even this majority allowed that it would be just to enfranchise the women, viz. to grant them the right to vote at all elections, but that this had to be decided by the Parliament as the Highest Court, according to the existing laws, has no right to grant it.

In 1902 Mr. George Pavlovitch, ex-president of the Highest Court and the best known jurist—one of the Conservative leaders,—submitted a proposal to the Servian State Senate to grant the vote to women. This proposal has been accepted and assigned to a commission for examination, but the later events were in the way of accomplishing this at present.

The well-known political crisis of last autumn, we are sorry to say, also hindered for a time the accomplishment of our wishes, but the women's participation in national work during the crisis provoked by the annexation of Bosnia and Chertzegowina, was so energetic, that woman suffrage gained universal sympathy. At the meeting of the

Servian women they undertook, though without any political rights, joint-liability with men respecting the "national" question. This declaration produced a deep impression on every one, because it is the woman who suffers and loses most in war. On this occasion the women took advantage of gaining equality in one thing, which is supposed to be exclusively for men—we were accepted as volunteers in our army.

All this has contributed to the success of the action for woman suffrage and has encouraged its advocates to form themselves into a strong organisation. The Servian women were most energetic in agitating for their rights, just when Serbia stood in anticipation of war. This action gained us a considerable number of adherents and was sympathetically received by public opinion. The "elan" has been created and now we want most strenuous and enthusiastic co-workers and the success must be assured. The only thing which seriously hinders the decision of our question is the difficulty of the international situation of Serbia and the present "National" question.

At the commencement of this article one can see that the independent Kingdom of Serbia contains scarcely one quarter of our nation, but the national crisis of last autumn has furthered the woman's question a great deal; at this moment the question has had to be dropped for a time, for the Servian nation and its politicians are taken up with other more pressing national questions.

After the settlement of these questions, woman suffrage will be granted in a very short term. Let us hope that we shall not have to wait long for its decision.

ELLEN S. LOSANITCH.

Belgrade, July 1909.

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## United States.

The second biennial convention of **The National Women's Trade Union League** will be held in Chicago beginning Monday, September 27th.

This convention differs from the Interstate Conferences which were held simultaneously in Chicago, New York and Boston in 1907 and 1908 in that it is a convention of delegates from the Local Women's Trade Union Leagues, members at large—whether trades unionists or allies—and delegates from those trades unions affiliated with the national organization; while the Interstate Conferences represented visiting women, trade unionists from all over the country, coming together to consider the best means of strengthening trades unions among women.

The importance of our organizations and cause, the duty of the hour and the future of the work, lying as it does at the heart of the great question of women in industry—the conservation and preservation of the race, demand that every affiliated local and state organization be represented and send its full number of delegates.

Chicago, Aug. 1909.

ALICE HENRY.

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## Switzerland.

The University Woman Suffrage Association in Zurich has changed its constitution and transformed itself into a "Zurich Woman Suffrage Association" which will also receive members that are not graduates or alumnae. The President is Anna Mackenroth L.L.D. and the Secretary Gertrud Woker D.Sc. For the winter an energetic agitation has been planned throughout Switzerland.

(Zeitschrift für Frauenstimmrecht.)