

JUS SUFFRAGII,

PUBLISHED BY THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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No. 10.

JUNE 15, 1907.

Die Frau ist sich Selbstzweck wie der Mann, sie ist daher auch berechtigt und verpflichtet, den weiblichen Einfluss, der bisher bloss in ihren Leistungen als Gattungswesen zum Ausdruck kam, als vollwertige Persönlichkeit auf allen Gebieten des persönlichen und Gemeinschaftslebens auszuüben.

MARIE STRITT.



- You are just as bad as the rest of your sex, I see. Where you cannot withhold credit from a woman, you give it to her heart, and deny it to her head. —

G. BERNARD SHAW.

It would be a miracle if the object of being attractive to men had not become the polar star of feminine education and formation of character.

J. S. MILL.

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Editorial Announcements.

As there is no space left for a letter, the editor only asks all the readers to help find new subscribers, to send news, and to pay the subscription of f 2.— = 3 Sh. 6 d. = 3 Kr. (Sk.) = 0,82 §.

United States.

The most important advance in the suffrage line of late has been the organization of strong clubs in connection with a number of our leading colleges for women and in some of the co-educational universities. This movement was started several years ago but has progressed slowly until this past year. Within that time a club has been formed in the Chicago University and within the past month another in Bryn Mawr College, the institution which has the highest standing for scholarship among the American colleges for women.

In addition there have been formed College Equal Suffrage Associations in the cities of Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia. These clubs consist of college graduates; students who have studied at least one full year in a college, professional women and women who are upon the governing boards of colleges. Our National President, Rev. Anna H. Shaw, who is three times a college graduate and a doctor of medicine as well as of theology, has joined the Philadelphia Club.

The new impetus in this line of work has been given by the devotion to equal suffrage of Miss M. Cary Thomas, the Dean (president) of Bryn Mawr College. She is „mothering” these newly formed clubs and has been able to introduce a number of women who, though believing in woman Suffrage, have hitherto held themselves aloof from the movement, to take an active part with her in the organization of these college branches of the work.

The National American W.S.A. rejoices in these new societies which will be able to introduce the propaganda of our movement to a class of women, who, while themselves enjoying the fruits of the labor of the early woman suffragists, have been slow to recognize their debt to the pioneers.

The officers of the National American W.S.A. have been greatly cheered by the completion of the work started immediately after the death of our great leader, Miss Anthony, last year, to raise a large sum of money in subscriptions payable each year for five years, to support the association's work. This has been done by Dean M. Cary Thomas and Miss Mary Garrett, the last mentioned being the treasurer of the fund. By personal application to wealthy people (who were known to be friendly to our cause but many of whom had not before given anything towards its support) they have secured the splendid sum of sixty thousand dollars, payable twelve thousand dollars per year commencing this month.

This money has all come from people of means; it will ease the work of those who give all their time and effort to our cause, but it does not do away with the plan to raise a Susan B. Anthony Memorial Fund of one hundred thousand dollars (\$ 100.000.—) for the further needs of our work; for ours is an immense country and our opportunities today are almost limitless; at least they are limited only by our financial ability and the strength of our devoted workers. Never before were so many organizations both of men and women willing to listen to the gospel of equality of political rights for the sexes; never before could we get a hearing in so many and such important journals; never before could we use money to such advantage for this great, grand work of reform which will do more than any amount of philanthropic or charitable work to alleviate or rather to prevent misery and crime.

To this end we are now endeavoring to raise this other Fund in memory of our grand leader and to carry forward the work to which she devoted a lifetime of effort and noble self-denial.

The work in Oklahoma is going on vigorously. Our question was voted down in the Convention assembled to formulate the constitution for this new commonwealth, but as there is some expectation that the men there will vote not to accept the constitution as framed by the convention, we are remaining on the ground and continuing the work until that point shall have been decided. If the constitution should be rejected at the polls,

we will have another chance to bring forward our question in the convention which will have to prepare another constitution.

R.F.A.

Once again the suffrage petition has failed to pass the State Legislature of California, or, we might better say, the Legislature of California has failed to pass our petition.

Yet in the Colorado Legislature that has just adjourned, all the bills opposed by the Humane Society were defeated. Ellis Meredith and other women went to the capital, backed by the State Federation of Women's Clubs and different societies, aggregating about 8,000 women, and either got the bills amended so as to be unobjectionable, or killed them. The Humane Society admits that the women did it.

Woman suffrage was defeated in the Chicago Charter convention in March. The vote stood 27 to 27, the chairman voting with the opposition.

Less than 15 per cent, of the registered voters of Detroit cast their ballots at the city election. Yet no one argues that the public-spirited 15 per cent. ought to have been forcibly prevented from voting because 85 per cent. were indifferent.

The great public interest shown in the Peace Congress held in April in New York, must be a cause of satisfaction to all lovers of their kind. Immense audiences, earnest enthusiasm, and distinguished speakers of many nationalities united to make it a success. Besides the large meeting of women on the regular program, there was a Conference presided over by Mrs. Mead and addressed by Rev. Anna H. Shaw and Mrs. Catt from the N.A.W.S.A.

The New York Interurban W.S.C. elected as chairman for the coming year Mrs. C. Chapman Catt. This good news for N.Y. will be a disappointment for the European friends who had fondly hoped to see the International President this year on their side of the Atlantic.

Iceland.

Fru Johanna Múnter, editor of Kvindestemmetretsbladet, has got information from Reikjavik that Iceland has formed a Woman Suffrage Association under the name of „Den islandske Kvindestemmetretsforening". Its president is Fru Briet Asmundssen, the editor of Kvennabladid, who assisted at the Copenhagen congress last year. There is great probability that this summer the Minister will propose woman suffrage in the Althing (Parliament), but whether eligibility for women will be included in the bill is not yet certain. And even when political suffrage will be obtained, a great deal remains to be done, before there will be entire social and juridical equality of the sexes in Iceland. Moreover the municipal laws are greatly different; so the new association together with the existing women's league, which has come to renewed activity of late, have much work awaiting them.

Russia.

The most important feature of the latest activity of the „Russian Union for Women's Rights" has been its intercourse with different party fractions of the Douma. Deputations have been sent by the Union to all progressive parties (the Constitu-

tional Democrats, the Social Democrats, the Labour party, the Social revolutionaries) summoning them to stand firmly by women's equal rights. All these parties received the women deputies with the utmost courtesy; and all promised to stick to the principle of women's political and social equality with men and to defend it in the Douma.

In a few days a meeting of the „Russian Union for Women's Rights" is going to take place in Moscow. The main question that is going to be debated here refers to further means of action, which the Union must adopt under the present circumstances. Many members of the Union strongly advocate legalizing our Union and thus providing it with more liberty of action. Until now only a few branches of the Union have applied to the administration for permission to be inserted in the list of legalized organizations. The great majority of circles and branches never applied to the administration for any such permission and, accordingly, they were often persecuted and had a great many difficulties in organizing meetings and propaganda lectures.

Z. MIROVITCH.

22 May (3 June), Moscow.

The Russian league of suffrage for women was legalized in April, there were only 42 members to constitute this society. They have no sections in the provinces as yet, as they could not assemble and work before the first constituent assembly of the society took place. The yearly membership-fee is 1 rouble.

The league belongs to no party, but women having at heart the realization of political and civil equalization of women, in becoming members of the league, can remain at the same time members of different political parties. The league wants to organize flying detachments and to send them out to deliver lectures in the provinces to gain adherents to their cause.

Its statutes say: that the basis of their aims is that women should obtain civil and political rights, equal to those of all Russian citizens, in order to improve the economical and civil position of women, to propagate the ideal of the league, to defend the rights of women on the ground of the existing laws, to unite the majority of Russian women in the conscious demand of suffrage, etc.

As I have said, they do not put forth any political platform of their own, in this they differ from the Union of Defenders of women's rights that has existed two years already and has sections all over Russia, the delegates of which were present at the congress in Copenhagen, and whose political program coincides with that of the political parties which have endorsed women suffrage.

There are many societies founded now in Russia that pursue the same end — to guarantee women suffrage —, but working on different ground. The Union for Women's rights founded in May 1905, two years ago is the only large organisation as yet, including the women of the whole country, and which as a national society has joined the Int. W. S. Alliance and by right may be called National Women Suffrage Association. The first paragraph of its constitution states: The aim of the Union for Women's rights is to co-operate in the general political emancipation and to obtain equalisation of rights of women with men. *)

I think that the Suffrage-League, by its mode of work and stating as it does its non-political

*) For the rest of its Constitution see Report of Copenhagen Congress, page 97.

basis, will have a great success in the provinces, where women are as yet afraid for themselves as for their relations, of coming forward on a political ground, the administration putting impediments in their way at every step.

E. GONTSCHAROFF.

Great Britain.

As was to be expected, Mr. Russell, not supported by the Liberals and standing only for woman suffrage, was defeated at the Wimbledon election on 14 May. Mr. Chaplin's majority was 6,964.

Copy of letter sent by Miss Bertha Mason, chairman of Mr. Russell's Election Committee, to the Daily Press, May 16th., 1907:—

„In view of the fact that a considerable number of misleading statements have been made with regard to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and the Wimbledon by-election, will you kindly allow me to state as briefly as possible the leading facts of the case?

The object we had in view in bringing forward a candidate against Mr. Chaplin was to prevent the unopposed return to Parliament of a confirmed opponent of Women's Suffrage.

The result of the poll has surpassed our expectations.

Since 1885 there have been six Parliamentary Elections in the Wimbledon Division. On three of these occasions the Liberals brought forward no candidate at all, while in one of the three contested elections, the number of votes polled by their candidate was 697 less than Mr. Russell polled in the election just over. That Mr. Russell should have secured the number of votes he did, in spite of the abstention of the official Liberals within and without the constituency and of the local party organization (though we recognize gratefully the individual help given by many M.P.'s and others), is the more noteworthy in view of the fact that we were only ten days in the field. During that time Mr. Russell never once failed to impress upon the electors that he stood primarily as a women's suffrage candidate. At first the electors were apparently antagonistic to the principle of women's suffrage, but as time went on, the feeling seemed to change, and more interest was shown in this than in any other of the issues set forth. Many who remained unconvinced were shaken, the speakers, especially the women, were listened to with respectful attention, and jokes and sneers almost entirely ceased.

Another noteworthy feature of this contest is to be found in the fact that within a week of the National Union's appeal for an Election Fund, the money was in the hands of the Treasurer; a sum sufficient to meet all requirements being contributed (with few exceptions by women) from all parts of the country, donations being accompanied by letters expressing hearty approval and warm appreciation of the steps taken.

With these considerations before us, we have every reason to congratulate ourselves upon the success which has attended our policy."

The energetic and consistent policy of the Womens Social and Political Union is finding its legitimate reward in the successful development of the movement in all directions. The membership is increasing rapidly and despite the enormously increased expenditure, substantial financial support is being provided to carry on the work. The campaign of agitation and education proceeds without intermission and without halt, and its

effects are daily becoming more obvious. The Press, which at first tried misrepresentation, ridicule and abuse, recently adopted boycotting methods; these also failing, it is according slightly fairer treatment to the women and the misrepresentation is milder and the abuse less offensive. The behaviour of the audiences of many thousand people attending the Sunday meetings in the Parks is also much more sympathetic.

The attack on the Government for its refusal to enfranchise the women is being relentlessly carried on. After the strenuous Stepney fight where serious injury was inflicted on the chances of the Government's candidate resulting in his defeat by a majority of 949 votes, the campaign has been transferred to Rutland where a bye-election is taking place to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. G. H. Finch. Mrs. Pankhurst is conducting the attack, assisted by Mrs Martel, Miss Mary Gawthorpe and Mrs Borrman Wells, and a successful issue is confidently expected.

A Parliamentary vacancy also occurred in Hornsey but the Government party decided not to put up a candidate in view of his almost certain defeat.

Altogether the Government is unquestionably feeling the pressure of the agitation; and of special interest was the resolution of the Party organization in Stepney, which, in bitterly complaining of the action of the women, evidences how successful that action was.

Among other noteworthy events of the month was the largely attended demonstration at the Liberal meeting held at Alexandra Palace, London, to receive an address from Mr Haldane, the Secretary of State for War. Attempts were made to interrogate this Minister on his attitude to Woman Suffrage and some disturbance ensued.

The special work at present in hand includes the canvassing of the London districts of Paddington and St. Pancras to ascertain the class of voters affected by enfranchising women on the present voting basis; also an active campaign of education among the working classes of Hackney Wick, for which special funds have been provided.

One of the most successful meetings of the Women's Party ever held took place on the 30th May 1907 at Exeter Hall, London. For this meeting nearly 1000 tickets were sold and over 2000 people attended. Mrs. Pankhurst was in the chair and the speakers included Miss Christabel Pankhurst, Mrs. Martel and Miss Annie Kenney. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence also made an eloquent speech concluding with an appeal for funds. Amid the great enthusiasm which followed, the audience at once subscribed over £ 700, which amount was subsequently doubled by Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence; the total subscriptions raised at this meeting thereby reaching the magnificent total of £ 1400.

The attitude of the Government to the „Women on Local Bodies" Bill offered as a sop to the women, is causing indignation even among those women who support the Government. This tardy measure of justice (which proposes to restore to women the right they previously enjoyed of sitting on local bodies), although a Government Bill, has, contrary to general procedure, been introduced first in the House of Lords. It is evident that the Government has but lukewarm interest in the Bill and its prospects of becoming law are not great.

B. BORRMANN WELLS.

Austria.

The election campaign is over! The first time the country takes recourse to universal suffrage it shows great and astonishing results. Very generally it was expected that there would be a strong growth of the clerical and agrarian parties, of stagnation and reaction; yet this anticipation has not been fully realized. The clerical groups, among which we may count the Christian-Social party (Christlichsozialen), have nearly kept their former ground without any important gains. In Vienna this party has even lost some seats in a sharp struggle, and it seems to be losing part of its old repute. Unexpected losses have come to the progressive and national parties of all shades, their candidates having been defeated in most cases by the Socialdemocrats, who are going to march into the new Parliament 85 men strong, which is the most important fact in the election. They will constitute there one of the strongest and certainly the most homogeneous party. However great efforts are being made to join the deputies of German, Czechish, Polish nationality into national "blocks"; each of these will contain the most different shades of opinion, from black to red, and so their internal unity is not very promising.

Possibly one must be a citizen of our Empire and perfectly acquainted with its peculiar conditions to be able to realize that even the liberals (das Bürgertum), in so far as they hold no reactionary views, have hailed the great victory of the Socialists with grateful feelings. The Social-democratic party will not have power enough to upset the whole existing order of society, but in its strong union it will have power enough to prevent that the vessel of State be steered full speed backward. Especially in case of an attack upon the education system and the constitution of the empire, socialism would prove the bulwark against which the enemy would break their force. As defenders of those goods which progressive people prize most, the Socialdemocrats are hailed even by those who otherwise stand apart from them, separated by a profound contrast of opinions.

Even at this moment in the camp of those deputies that have been elected on a progressive program there are signs of weakness of purpose, which give some foundation to the supposition that they might possibly on the first occasion be induced to drop their liberal and progressive principles for some immediate profit.

On the whole the contrast between liberals (Bürgertum) and socialists has never been such an abyss as i. i. in Germany, for repeatedly both have joined hands for the sake of mutual support against the common enemy. A proof of this is their coöperation in the Union for Free Education and in the Union for Marriage Reform, which advocates the possibility of divorce in Roman Catholic marriages.

Outwardly the elections went off quite tranquilly, only in very few cases there were unimportant conflicts between victors and defeated. Only Galicia made a sad exception. The former rulers exercised the art of "corriger la fortune" at the polls in a rather too public fashion; and the uneducated masses of electors answered in the language they were best acquainted with, namely that of the fists; and thus arose in many places bloody conflicts which here and there made victims.

An extraordinary feature of the elections was the participation of progressive liberal women in the campaign, quite unknown hitherto in Austria. The Socialdemocrats as well as the clerical parties had long ago organised their women for their

aims, and taught them to become excellent agitators; but the liberal fractions — and among them the Germans with the strongest tenacity — had until now shielded themselves behind the well-worn phrases about the impurity of politics, in which they did not care to involve their women. This time, when the need became pressing, they threw that ballast of phrases overboard in a twinkling, and addressed their demand for help also to the voteless women. The liberal candidates did not only speak in meetings which the Committee for Woman Suffrage and other women's associations had called together, but they organised meetings of women of their own accord, explained there their program, invited discussion and readily answered questions. In many unsafe districts of Vienna they formed agitation committees of women who took an active part in the electioneering campaign and have most certainly contributed their part in the victory of the progressive candidates, baron Hock and dr. Oner.

The Vienna W. S. Committee, together with the Women's Anticlerical League, instituted collects to raise money, which was divided between the progressive parties. And, as they did in Vienna, so in the provincial capitals the liberal women have taken part in the electioneering action.

The reader has seen an account of the monster-meeting at Prague; also at Krakau, Brünn and Troppau similar meetings took place, nearly everywhere attended by the candidates of the countries and cities concerned. So the agitation, begun by the Vienna W. S. Committee, has already borne fruit, and not only among women but also among men the idea of woman suffrage has gained ground. Wherever it was discussed, the men too declared that women suffrage was bound to come, only opinions differed — and widely — as to the epoch of its realization. So i. i. one of the speakers supposed that at best the fulfilment of our desire might come with the third generation of women after the existing one. We however hope that its realization will not be postponed so long, since Austria is known to be the country of sudden revolutions. Not without reason the men reproach women with their conservative tendencies, but they ought to remember that they themselves are partly the cause of this state of affairs, since it is mostly they who oppose every desire of education and freedom manifested by women. Possibly they will at last gain the insight that you cannot build up a really democratic organisation for a state, as long as you suffer half of its citizens to pine in spiritual bondage.

H. H.

Bohemia.

In the kingdom of Bohemia the rules for elections are very old. So i. i. the Order of Elections for the municipalities—with the exception of the cities of Prague and Reichenberg, which have their own regulations—dates from 1364, that of Prague from 1858, and that for the Bohemian Diet from 1861. This explains that now a change or modification is being undertaken. It is my purpose at present to relate those stipulations of these laws that deal with women, and I would recommend other suffragists to review the electoral laws of their country in the same way. Possibly they may discover similar regulations and may fully utilize them to the women's profit.

In the Municipal Statutes of the kingdom of Bohemia all women tax-payers vote under the same conditions as the men,—but only through a proxy. That means they have the right to help elect the representant of the tax-payers,—but as

for casting the ballot-paper which contains the names of the candidates into the polling-box with their own hands, that is forbidden them. Moreover all those who possess the vote for municipal councils (Gemeinde-Vertretungen) also vote for the Diet (Landtag), and consequently this right also belongs to the above-named women tax-payers.

Although these statutes are clear enough, until now the women have rarely availed themselves of their privileges, partly owing to lack of knowledge of their rights, but partly also because the authorities concerned have—against the express stipulations of the said laws—refused to admit women to the polls in several places. So i. i. in three neighbouring towns the rules for the elections happened to be interpreted differently: in one town the women voted directly, in the second by proxy, and in the third they were not allowed to vote at all!

The former elections took place in 1901,—now new elections are going to be held, and it is highly important that, until then, a vigorous agitation should awaken the women's interest, thereby showing that at least those women who already possess the vote, are bent on taking part in the elections!

I have made another important discovery, viz. that properly, according to the ancient statutes for the Diet-elections, Bohemian women—with the exception of the citizens of Prague—are also eligible. Probably the legislators of old have not counted with women, which accounts for their being not expressly excluded. Only the capital has thought fit to defend itself against any possible influence of women on the elections; maybe that as early as in the fifties the women there were stirring and manifested a wish to take a share in public life. Possibly this explains why the statute on elections for the capital says expressly: "Citizens of the male sex"... Well, as it is, women are eligible to the Bohemian Diet! and, although this regulation has obtained these 45 years, the women have never yet tried to make use of their legally confirmed eligibility. This is a consequence of the tardy development of the movement for women's rights in our country, for only of late it has come to the fore in a more systematic fashion. If we succeed in finding some resolute women, in the next elections we will run our women candidates. However, in order to be entitled to nominate women suffragists who live in Prague, we must first of all apply our best energy to the modification of the municipal election-statute of the city of Prague.

Prague, April 1907.

F. PLAMÍNKOVÁ.

Norway.

The Parliamentary Committee has published an extensive Report, which appeared a fortnight before its proposals were discussed in the Odelsting on May 25th. In that session it was resolved by 57 to 24 votes that the final discussion on the bill for woman suffrage should be postponed until next year, because in 1907 there are to take place municipal elections, and so there will be more experience of the practice of woman suffrage in Norway. Meanwhile those who are interested in the question can find important data and good advice in the Committee's Report. It begins with mentioning the three petitions sent by women to the Government in the year of independence 1905: by the National Council of Women, by the Women from Drammen, and by the National Women Suffrage Association, which amply showed that the women citizens were not indifferent to the

country's well-being. Then comes a review of the political rights which women possess in other countries, and then follows this passage:

"Formerly women were always considered as being 'supported', but nowadays a considerable number of adult women earn their own bread, and the wives, whose work is connected with the home only, may equally be said to gain their own livelihood; and from that standpoint we must consider the women's demand of more influence on the affairs of the community. That women are qualified to be consulted in many important social interests, is a recognized fact, which has even in some measure found its expression in legislation. As women are nowadays independent wage-earners, they have the same interest as men in all that concerns trade, taxation and legislation. The Committee's majority thinks it rational and natural that women believe that the interests of the community will be best furthered, if they too gain the same facilities of exercising power over the state-affairs which men have now. In those states where the people's sovereignty is acknowledged, a vote should be given to all those who are qualified to exercise the suffrage in a way that may promote the growth and development of society. To exclude such, only on the ground of their sex, is not only an injustice to those affected, but it is a loss to the community, which is entitled to the help of all the forces it can command. The question is now before us whether women have the necessary qualifications for making a profitable use of the vote, and this question, according to the opinion of the Committee's majority, may be answered in the affirmative. Woman's gifts, talents, power, strength, character and intellect assign her a place by the side of man for solving the social problems, which are difficult to settle in a satisfactory way without the collaboration of all the nation's intellect.

In the public discussion on this matter some have censured us, because the proposal to confer civil suffrage on women was not accompanied by a proposed abolition of the compulsory acceptance of the appointment as deputy. But the majority of the Committee sees no danger in making the conditions of suffrage and eligibility the same, nor to the compulsory acceptance of a deputyship as stipulated in the Constitution."

The reader will remember that the nine members of the Committee did not agree on all points. And so Mr. Malm, a true conservative, gives 18 columns of arguments why the suffrage should never be extended and certainly the women should never have a vote. Now one of the good results of this Report is that it awakens much discussion, and that now reviews and papers in Norway, are full of woman suffrage. F. i. Fru Keilhau refutes in a very decisive way in "Morgenbladet" Mr. Malms assertions, that suffrage is no right, that women may be excluded in their own interest as well as minors and tramps are, that women can do no better than make men's brain and mind efficacious for the good of the state, that men and women have no separate interests, that women already possess the greatest influence, that most women do not wish to have the ballot, etc. etc.

Miss Gina Krog says in "Nylaende":—"There is some chance of our getting adult suffrage, as will be seen from the Committee's Report. But presumably there is more probability that we may get a limited suffrage, which, as we must acknowledge, is far better than nothing at all. Should the result be negative, the eagerness of our present hope may give the measure of our possible disappointment."

On Wednesday the 29th of May the „Kvindesagsforening” and the „Kvindestemmeretsforening” had arranged a big public meeting in order to demonstrate for women's political suffrage. This question is now a very exciting one, as its decision draws nearer. We had a very good meeting, plenty of interested people, men as well as women, were present.

The president of the „Kvindestemmeretsforening”, miss Anne Holsen gave a very good review of the history of suffrage, how it little by little has been finally extended to all the male citizens of Norway, while every time women have been excluded, except that one time in 1901, when a small minority of women citizens got their municipal rights.

Mr. Stang Lund, an ex-minister of justice, who takes a great interest in women's suffrage, gave a lively „causerie”, essentially aiming to prove that all those arguments against women's suffrage that the minority—consisting of a single member of the constitution-committee—, had put forth were unsound. This dissenting member is a well-known antagonist of any sort of women's work and progress in society.

Then Miss Gina Krog spoke of the great disappointment it would be to the Norwegian women, if also this time, being so near to getting political suffrage, they should again be refused.

So you see we live in a very exciting time, and all our thoughts are directed to that Parliament, in whose power we are, and in whose hands the decision is laid. I for myself have a feeling as if I can not bear a denial this time, and I think many women feel as I do. We Norwegian suffragists will, in case of rejection, feel slighted and injured.

FR. MÖRCK.

Fru Qvam, the President of the N. W. S. A. has edited a Norwegian translation of our Copenhagen Report of the I. W. S. Alliance's meeting, rendered more interesting by the addition of the addresses made by the Norwegian delegates. This will surely help to strengthen the bond between the Alliance and the L. K. S. F. May other countries follow this example!

Canada.

It was a large and enthusiastic gathering that met in Williams' Cafe in Toronto May 19th to discuss the question of woman suffrage.

In the absence of the president, Dr. Augusta Stowe-Gullen, who sent a telegram of regret at her inability to be present, the chair was occupied by Mrs. Flora MacDonald Denison, who gave an excellent speech referring to the national movement that was stirring the country, the size and growth of the organization, and the fact that the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, probably the largest organisation of women in the world, have suffrage as a plank in their platform.

Mrs. Denison then read a letter from Premier Whitney, in which he said that women do not want suffrage.

Mrs. James L. Hughes arose to say that the reason why most women do not want suffrage is that they are bound by centuries of tradition and circumstance, as well as by instinct and inertia: that women who held the same position in the business world as men were emancipated from such tradition.

In the old days women served; physical strength was paramount, and so sentimentality and servitude developed, and the damnable doctrine that women should win their way thru cajolery, which lowered her position in the world.

Husband and wife are two separate entities, and should be so represented—a state that would conduce to chivalry in men rather than detract from it.

Mrs. Calvert, who next spoke, held very radical views of the position of women 20 years ago, and enthused over the work of Susan B. Anthony and other wonderful women. She instanced the immense number of women organized in educational and progressive work, and said that peace and arbitration were necessary to bring about the desired result.

Dr. Margaret Gordon spoke of the political side of the question, and Miss Gibson, president of the telephone girls, advocated municipal ownership of the telephone system.

Miss Laura McCully of the fourth year, University of Toronto, made a brilliant speech, referring to the necessity of women emerging from the position of a chattel to man into his helpmeet.

Mrs. Murray spoke of motherhood as an appeal for suffrage, in that the intelligent emancipated mother brought up intelligent children.

Then some short speeches were given and after singing National Anthem, the gathering dispersed.

The weekly dinner of the Progressive Club was held May 14. The program was arranged by the Canadian Suffrage Association. Mrs. Flora MacD. Denison, first vice-president, occupied the chair, and in introducing Dr. Stowe-Gullen, stated that the first speaker who was to address them was entitled to much consideration because she was the daughter of Dr. Emily Stowe, Canada's first progressive woman, the one to open the field of medicine for Canadian women.

Dr. Stowe-Gullen referred to the able address of Mr. Maclean, M. P., on Municipal Ownership, and it was Dr. Gullen's intention to speak upon some further reasons why men had no rights, and had never attained the height intellectually, morally or physically that was theirs by birthright and ultimate destiny.

Democratic government (with its underlying principles of liberty and equality, tho no government has yet actualized these principles) is not an evolution of this age, because this was the form in vogue from the earliest point in history, and in many respects this system of government was superior, for the idea of personal ownership of land or common utilities was unknown to these primitive people. Land was for the use and good of all. The dawn of history began with woman's supremacy and man's dependency. Woman ruled the three great institutions, family, church and state. Her authority was unquestioned and all property rights were vested in the mother, the line of descent being reckoned thru her.

It was not contended that this matriachal form of government was ideal, because here we find one-half of the human race ignored. No government can be just or representative, no social structure permanent that is reared on a basis of inequality. After a time the scepter was gradually wrested from woman's hands and then ensued the patriarchy. A rule of men whose lives and religion were of the grossest character, the remnants of which we have to-day.

By the false interpretation of Christianity by St. Paul and other teachers, woman's position became truly pitiable, for she had no rights that any were obliged to respect. Even the immortality of her soul was denied. Even in modern times women had the greatest of difficulties in attaining, not higher nor special education, but even elementary education.

Dr. Gullen then traced the origin and growth

of the present movement, starting with the anti-slavery question and the first Women's Rights Convention, in 1848, until now that woman has the opportunity to qualify and demonstrate her fitness for the world's work. Only in a few countries, however, is she yet politically recognized, and the injustices that have existed and are existing, must inevitably affect man, because the interests of both are common, and man's intellectual and moral attainments have been curtailed by this one-sided system. Man still seems unconscious and unawakened to his God-like attributes and heritage.

Patriotism, not humanity, is still our political war-cry.

Dr. Gullen finished amid a round of applause. The discussion which followed was wise, witty and spirited.

Mrs. Denison received the hearty congratulations of her friends, who gave her much credit for arranging so splendid and enjoyable a program.

Switzerland.

The new election-bill has been defeated on May 12th, and so all hope has vanished for women to get at length a particle of power in government affairs; at least concerning education, the relief of the poor and church matters. And yet the demand was so small: the Municipal Councils would not even have been *obliged* to appoint women, they would only have been at liberty to do so, if they chose. It is desirable at the next occasion to ascertain by a vote how many citizens are against the appointment of women as such, and to make the issue a pure sex-question, whereas now there was much opposition on other grounds.

Switzerland, being an international country, is sometimes the scene of events which concern other lands. So Mme Kalmanovitch gave a conference in Geneva to the Russian refugees, on the women's movement and its problems. Against her expectation the audience received her address very favourably, and some young revolutionists said: „Ah! un tel féminisme, nous le comprenons, ses problèmes sont tout à fait identiques aux nôtres. Mais pourquoi alors les femmes ne deviennent — elles pas toutes révolutionnaires?” Then the socialist societies of Geneva, Zurich and Lausanne invited Mme K. to address them on the same subject. And so the attitude of the revolutionary socialists is becoming less hostile to women's rights.

Germany.

The National Council of Women held a meeting at Jena on 14 May, in which, after an address from Miss Adelheid v. Welzeck, the following resolution was adopted: „This meeting declares the existing stipulations of the laws of many German states, which hamper the women's right of coalition, incompatible with the modern position and duties of women. The meeting demands a general Law on Assemblies for the whole Empire which shall concede to men and women alike the full rights of coalition and assembly.”

From 24—26 September the German N. W. S. A. will hold its annual meeting at Frankfurt a. M. The extraordinary growth of the Association makes desirable a change of constitution, which will be discussed at the annual meeting. Moreover the N. W. S. A. will hold public meetings for propaganda at Frankfurt and the neighbouring

Mannheim. As is the custom, these meetings will be held in narrow connection with the meeting of the Federation of Progressive Women's Associations, but this time they will not follow but precede the latter.

Finland.

The May-number of the monthly review „Nutid” brings the news of Finland's affiliation to the I. W. S. Alliance, which is joyfully hailed by the editor, Annie Furuholm, as a new means of stimulating international sympathies among women.

The women of the Swedish party feel the need of organising a union for the protection of their language and national culture, especially with a view to the education of their children. On the 10th of June they are invited to a meeting by forty prominent women, to discuss their national interests.

The Senate has instituted a Committee for a revision of municipal statutes, with Dr. G. R. Idman as president and ten more members. It is strange to see that not one woman was appointed for this Committee, since it is well-known that the interests of women are greatly involved in its work. Now that women have won equal political rights, it would be but natural to see them by the side of the men here too. Not only the question of equal suffrage for married women is to be considered, but also that of eligibility. And surely it would not have been difficult to find clever women who might have performed the task satisfactorily, for this question has long been in discussion and investigation in those circles which are most concerned in it.

May we yet hope that the Senate will redress this injustice? L. K.

France.

Nine women's associations, among which „Le Suffrage des Femmes”, 151 rue de la Roquette Paris, have issued big posters worded thus: *Women must have votes for the taxes they pay and the laws they obey.* Men voters and future women voters! Under the ancient laws (ancien régime), women householders, widows and spinsters were in the same condition as men electors. So they have voted for the States General until 1789. At present they have the political suffrage in four states of North America, in Australia and New Zealand. In England the majority which refuses them a vote is daily diminishing. In France they have votes for the Courts of Commerce (Tribunaux de Commerce) and are electors and eligible in the Departmental Education Boards (Conseils départementaux d'Enseignement) in the High Councils of public Education and Labour (Conseils supérieurs de l'instruction publique et du Travail). Only political suffrage will permit the women to send to Parliament deputies who will represent and defend their interests; to give them votes would only mean a restitution to all of a privilege formerly the apanage of the higher classes. If accorded to all Frenchwomen as well as to all Frenchmen, it would become really *universal suffrage*.

On 24 May the Senate adopted the bill which gives to married women the disposal of their earnings. It has to pass through the chamber again, before it becomes law.

Denmark.

The law on Charity-boards has now been passed, and all women have got suffrage and eligibility for these bodies.

The Joint Committee on suffrage has not got through its deliberations, before the session of the Danish Parliament closed. There were proposals of property-qualifications for electorship of women, which were not acceptable to all parties.

The Woman Suffrage Club, of which Mrs. Münster is the chairman, has given a play at the Concert-palais in Copenhagen entitled "Put to the Test", which, according to the paper "Vort Land", was a witty criticism on the stupidity and prejudices which oppose women's emancipation. The representation was quite a success, and it is to be repeated in the autumn. "It was a good idea", says Vort Land, "to take up public agitation in that intelligent way. Much better than the action of those unwise English suffragists who hold street-demonstrations".

We are not sure that the Danish paper has studied the fact in England or has heard about Miss Robins's play "Votes for Women".

A success for women in another way is the appointment by the Government of Fru Brigitte Berg Nielsen as State-inspector of Cookery-schools, a new-created office, with 10,000 Kr. salary.

Italy.

On 16 May the annual meeting of the N. W. S. A. was held in Rome, and signora Lollini's proposition on the mode of future propaganda was discussed. She suggested that a more vigorous action should be undertaken among the working classes, and that, except monthly meetings of the Committee in Rome, there should be a course of lectures for working women. Two socialist deputies, Mr. Pozzi L.L.D. and Prof. Ciccotti, advocated a union with the S.D. party; Mr. Lucifero advised a union of women only, irrespective of party; and Mrs. Lollini pointed out that the Labour Bureau (Camera del Lavoro), having charge of the working women's interests, should of its own accord join in the Committee's efforts, without giving it a special political colour. Some other speakers saw a prominently moral interest in woman suffrage, Miss Teresa Labriola held it to be a question of sex-prerogative. Finally the original proposition was nearly unanimously adopted, and ways devised to carry it into execution.

The Netherlands.

On 25 May the Free-Liberal (called by some: "conservative liberal") Party met in order to fix their program. In 1905 the Manifesto published by this fraction contained many weighty reasons for not extending the suffrage neither to women nor to men and above all for not hastening a revision of the State Constitution. Now they have drifted on with the current, and have declared in favour of giving votes to qualified women, — the qualifications to be named later. So this party too has ceased to debar women as a sex from citizenship of the state.

The N. W. S. A. quietly pursues the preparation of the congress for 1908. They have completed the sub-committees for finances, reception, arrangements and press, and have published a list of supporters, among whom the Dutch aristocracy of birth, intellect and talent is largely represented. Meanwhile financial support is also pouring in from all sides.

Sweden.

The great parliamentary debate about extended suffrage for men took place on the 10th and 11th of May. The Government Suffrage Bill was carried with a democratic amendment, but very few of the speakers said anything about woman suffrage; it was as if we had not existed. At the very end of the debate, a member of the Second Chamber, Mr. Kvarnzelius, demanded a vote about Women's Suffrage and eligibility. We got 91 "ayes" against 133 "noes". But many circumstances make it probable that these figures are no adequate expression for the exact numbers of our friends and opponents.

The Swedish women nevertheless won one great victory. The Government had added a municipal Reformbill to the Suffrage Reformbill. It had *not* proposed municipal eligibility for women-municipal vote we already have-but three different political parties had included women in their special municipal Reformbills.

The great parliamentary Committee, that had to discuss all the municipal Bills before the debate in Parliament, added women's eligibility to municipal charges to the Government's municipal Bill, and it was carried. So we have now in Sweden from 1909 — with one small exception — the same municipal rights as men.

During the last months we have had small cause to hope that Swedish women would get the political vote at the same time as the excluded men; so the disappointment was not very great. As everything has at least two sides, we instantly saw the advantage of not being mixed up with the very entangled party politics in the men's Suffrage question.

Our new working-line is quite clear and we immediately set to work. We sent a letter of thanks to all the members of Parliament who had signed the municipal Bills including women. In this letter, which was published in the daily press, we asked them to introduce a Woman Suffrage Bill in the next Parliament. If we can get the suffrage in 1908, the last year in the period of three years before the new elections, it will be confirmed in 1909; that is at the same time as the municipal Suffrage Bill which has now been adopted. A member of the Liberal party, Mr. Lindhagen, interrogated the Premier as to the investigation into woman suffrage, which was to have been completed for this session. The answer was that the work was going on.

We have every reason to hope that the Liberal party will *now* put woman suffrage on its program, and that will make a very great change for us. If the Liberal as well as the Labour party will work for us, it is not unreasonable to hope, that the Government will not oppose us any longer. What we can do now is to show how serious and widespread our movement is. At the present moment we have 80 societies for woman suffrage and new ones will be formed. Meetings will be held and the question so earnestly brought forward that the great change in public opinion which has already manifested itself in many ways will grow and be confirmed. There is such an earnest wish to work for the cause among our women that nothing but a near victory is possible.

ANNA WHITLOCK.

The N. W. S. A. has addressed a petition to all popular high schools (folkhögskolor), in which attention is called to the two resolutions of Parliament to give women municipal suffrage and eligibility for state-offices. On these they base a demand to have instruction on the rights and duties of citizens imparted to women.