

Roosevelt for Suffrage
Sincerely
1910

JUS SUFFRAGII,

MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

EDITOR: MARTINA G. KRAMERS, 92 KRUISKADE, ROTTERDAM.

FOURTH YEAR No. 6.

FEBRUARY 15, 1910.

Over and over again I have thought of how women have been thought unwomanly, unnatural, held in contempt, a thing outside the pale, and laughed at and then insulted because of conditions which they had not produced, but which were the result of mistakes and injustice of civilisation.

LADY CONSTANCE LYTTON.



L'homme a chargé inégalement les deux plateaux du code, dont l'équilibre importe à la conscience humaine; l'homme a fait verser tous les droits de son côté et tous les devoirs du côté de la femme.

VICTOR HUGO.

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.

A similar Report of the Amsterdam Congress may be distributed to public libraries, on application to Miss Martina G. Kramers, 92 Kruiskade, Rotterdam.

LITERATURE.

Mrs. B. Borrmann Wells, member of the Women's Freedom League, will mail her new leaflet on *America and Woman Suffrage* free to any reader of "Jus Suffragii" who will send her a stamp to cover postage to 1 Robert Street Adelphi, London W.C. It contains the refutation of the old objections by "stubborn facts" of experience in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Idaho, together with testimonials from Governors etc.

* * *

The Swedish W. S. A., 6 Lästmakaregatan, Stockholm, is constantly issuing the leaflets mentioned in "Jus Suffragii". New ones are: *Svenska Kvinnans kommunala Rättigheter* (The municipal rights of Swedish Women), by G. A. Aldén, 15 Öere, and *Kvinnan i Hemmet och Samhället* (Women at Home and in the Commonwealth), by H. E. Hallberg, 5 Öere.

The plan for this winter's lectures on municipal duties and rights (Kurs i Kommunalkunskap) may also be ordered there.

Leaflet No. 8 of the Göteborg W. S. A., *Varför fru Hakanssons dotter gick in i rösträttsföreningen* (Why Mrs. H.'s daughter joined the Suffrage Association) by Fru Frigga Carlberg is to be ordered for 5 Öere from Miss Hildur Oeyer, Göteborg.

Great Britain.

The elections are over, and the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has now to count the gains. Alas! they are lessened by the loss of some staunch friends, such as Mr. C. H. Corbett.

In the Cabinet itself we can count three adherents who placed Women's Suffrage as an issue before the electors in their addresses. These are Mr. John Burns, Mr. Sydney Buxton, and Mr. Walter Runciman, and constituents of the last have sent up a good petition to show that they are ready to urge our demand.

The candidates who have placed Women's Suffrage in their addresses by no means represent the whole body of those who are in favour of this great reform. But at least we know this much—that the question of Women's Suffrage has been before the country, and that in 209 constituencies of England and Wales it was put forward as one of the issues of the election, as one of the claims of the candidate to the votes of the electors. This is a very distinct and marked advance.

Nevertheless, a considerable number of Anti-Suffragists have got in, notably Mr. Asquith, with an increased majority. Mr. Asquith is said to have been asked at Auchtermuchty whether, if a majority of electors signed the petition, he would reconsider his position on Women's Suffrage, and he replied, "No; the only expression of the views of the people I will consider is the vote at the poll." Now this, if it means anything but temper, means that Mr. Asquith refuses to accept the women's proffered solution on non-party lines and insists that it shall be made a matter of political life or death. We commend it to the careful consideration of Suffragists.

The results of the petition are not complete as yet, but one thing is certain. The results will show our strength and our weakness, and this election should be of the greatest importance in showing us how to carry further our campaign of education.

We have not much to thank any paper for during the time of stress and difficulty when, with little money and no influence, we were striving in a peaceful and non-party way to get a mandate from the electors. But of all the papers nominally friendly to our claim, surely none has been quite so shabby as the "Daily News." This organ of popular democratic opinion, which before the election advised that the Suffrage workers should

proceed precisely as we have proceeded, has maintained a most sinister silence about us and has even pointedly refrained from reporting anything favourable to us which might be said by a successful candidate. The "Daily News" was evidently concerned to make it easy for an indiscreet M.P. who in the warmth of his gratitude promised women something and might wish in a cooler moment to back out. As far as their reporter was concerned any mention of votes for women fell on distinctly deaf ears.

* * *

The annual meeting of the Council had to be considerably deferred on account of the General Election. It is now fixed for Saturday, March 19th, and it is likely to be a particularly interesting one. Besides the election of Executive Committee and hon. officers, it is open to the Council to revise the constitution of the Union, and the question of the national policy at by-elections will have to be decided.

(from „The Common Cause”)

The Women's Social and Political Union have mainly during the month of January been occupied with their General Election Campaign. This campaign consists of opposing all Liberals standing for election throughout the country. The Women's Social and Political Union holding as they do, that a private member when returned to Parliament is absolutely powerless to put into effect his private convictions unless those convictions are officially endorsed by his leaders, took no notice whatsoever of the promises of these gentlemen. Even if a would-be Member placed Woman Suffrage in his Election Address, he was opposed; so long as he chose to offer himself for service under the Liberal Government, so long had he to expect opposition from the woman suffragettes. When this policy on the part of the Women's Social and Political Union was announced, they were told it was doomed to failure. The question of votes for women, people said would be entirely lost sight of among the greater issues which would be before the country. Nevertheless, the policy of opposition was relentlessly carried out. Special attacks were made upon the weakest places in the enemy's line of defence. The forces of the Union were concentrated upon those seats held by the Liberals during the last Parliament by means of a small majority. Thus, to take one instance, South St. Pancras, where Mr. P. W. Wilson, the Liberal candidate, was returned in 1905 by a majority of 62, was marked out for attack. Committee rooms were opened, a large number of meetings held daily throughout the constituency and every effort made to secure his defeat. When the poll was declared it was found that Mr. Wilson's majority of 62 had been turned into a minority of 825. That this result was due to the influence of the women there can be but little doubt. All the meetings held by the Suffragettes were crowded and enthusiastic, and the women were eagerly welcomed wherever they went, numbers of electors voluntarily telling them of their determination to withhold their vote from Mr. Wilson, and giving it to the women this time. Letters to the same effect have been received at the head quarters, 4, Clement's Inn, from electors all over the country, and on January 13th a meeting of male electors was held at which Mr. Nevinson, the famous war correspondent spoke. At this meeting many hundreds of letters were read from electors all over the

country, announcing their determination to stand by the women on this occasion by casting their votes against the Liberal Government at the coming General Election. The following resolution was carried unanimously:—

“That this meeting of men workers for Woman's Franchise views with the deepest indignation the repressive measures adopted by the present Liberal Government towards women political offenders; declares its intention of sinking all other political questions till women are given the Parliamentary Vote on the same terms as men, and pledges itself to vote against Government Candidates at the forthcoming General Election as an expression of its dissatisfaction with the attitude of the Liberal Government towards this agitation”.

It may be pointed out that the women have not succeeded in altogether defeating the Liberal Government, but when Mr. Asquith and his party take their seats in the House of Commons this month, they will do so considerably reduced in strength. Every Bye Election which is fought during the coming month will be of the utmost importance. The Government will not be able to afford to lose a single seat, and when therefore, they find that the women are determined to exert all their influence against them, they will come to the conclusion that it is wiser to do justice, and will grant the long delayed reform.

One event of the greatest importance has happened during January. It will be remembered that Lady Constance Lytton when arrested last October in Newcastle, was sentenced to a fortnight's imprisonment, but was released as the authorities said her heart was in a weak state for her to be forcibly fed. Whereupon Lady Constance vigorously protested that her release was more due to her social position than to the state of her health. The Home Secretary vehemently affirmed that this contention was “a wilful and deliberate misrepresentation”. In the beginning of this year Lady Constance decided to play a ruse upon the Government, and to this end she disguised herself as a working woman, went to Liverpool and protested. She was arrested and was sentenced the following day to a fortnight's hard labour. Under the impression that she was a working woman, she was taken to Gaol and there treated with the utmost brutality. She started the hunger strike, and after the second day was forcibly fed. At the end of the first week, after she had been in prison six days and had been forcibly fed several times, the authorities discovered that Lady Constance Lytton and their prisoner were one and the same person, she was released next day. This action of Lady Constance's has convinced even the most ardent supporters of the Government that there is a very real difference between the treatment awarded to a lady of title, and that meted out to a working woman.

The Women's Social and Political Union have decided not to again undertake militant action until the Government themselves have shown themselves to be blind to all other forms of agitation. The Union will concentrate their efforts during the next few weeks upon a great mission for women. Meetings will be held in every town and village throughout the country. These meetings will be for women only, and every endeavour will be made to convince the Government of the sincerity of the woman's claim.

EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.
London, Febr. 1910.

The Women's Freedom League has been very active, and the results from the General Election Campaign show conclusively the effect of the suffrage agitation which has been so vigorously waged during the last few years, the Liberal Government despite the effectiveness of its rallying cries and the almost superhuman energy of its supporters only retraining office on a coalition vote. We were successful in greatly reducing majorities and in addition have kept the question vigorously to the front securing from elected members more or less willing promises of support which it will be our duty to have redeemed in the new Parliament. It can no longer be claimed that Woman Suffrage has not been before electorate for we have made it one of the dominant issues of the fight.

On Saturday the 29th January the Women's Freedom League's Annual Conference was held at which the whole executive and the policy of the organization was, as usual, submitted to the votes of the members through their respective Branch delegates and this Conference taking place in London was the occasion of several special meetings including a most successful reception which was crowded by an interested and enthusiastic audience.

We are also running a series of weekly At Homes at which in addition to well known suffragists many public men and women are taking part; among the latter are Miss Margaret McMillan, Mr. H. W. Nevinson, Mr. Bart Kennedy, Mr. Cecil M. Chapman, J. P., a London Police Magistrate, Dr. Cl. E. Saleeby and Mr. Laurence Houseman.

London, Febr. 1910. B. BORRMANN WELLS.

The Men's League for Women's Suffrage says:—

„It is too soon to prophesy; but, other things apart, it is clearly to our advantage that the parties are more evenly balanced. Mr. Asquith's direct negative in East Fife merely emphasizes how astonishingly illogical and illiberal can be a man who is ostensibly making a grand appeal to justice. Few things could be well imagined more astounding than that a Liberal Premier should claim that he is appealing to the people, when he deliberately excludes more than half!

Mr. Balfour is elusive. Careful inquiries have failed to discover any one who confidently asserts that he knows what Mr. Balfour thinks about our question. At all events, he has unfortunately not given a satisfactory answer.”

The League will make its annual Queen's Hall meeting a triumphant success, wanting to send to the new Government a genuine mandate from a crowded and enthusiastic meeting for the immediate removal of women's electoral disabilities. Among the speakers will be the Earl of Lytton, Mr. George Elliott, K.C., the great criminal lawyer, Mr. H. G. Chancellor, M. P., one of our honorary treasurers, Mr. Laurence Houseman and Mr. A. M. L. Langdon, K. C., Recorder of Burnley, members of the Committee, and Mr. Aneurin Williams, M. P. The chair will be taken, as usual, by our founder, Mr. Herbert Jacobs.

(Monthly Paper M. L. W. S.)

Under the auspices of the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association, a meeting was held on Jan. 31 in Dublin, at which there was a large attendance, presided over by Mr. J. P. Nannetti M. P.

An address was given by Councillor Margaret Ashton, of Manchester, on “The citizenship of women.” A floral tribute was offered her and Mrs. Haslam and Miss Hayden, M.A., proposed a resolution, which was adopted.

(from „The Daily Express”.)

Sweden.

The N. W. S. A. held its 7th Annual Meeting at Jönköping on the 10th and 11th of January. The N. W. S. A. now consists of 157 local sections (at this time last year there were 134) 68 of which were represented at the meeting.

After the election of officers the greater part of the first session was taken up by questions of policy. Dr. Lydia Wahlström was re-elected President, Miss Signe Bergman Vice-President, Miss Axianne Thorstenson Treasurer, Mrs. Ezaline Boheman Secretary of the Central Board.

The President gave an account of the political situation and of what the women could hope from the present Conservative Government. She and the Vice-President had been received by the Prime Minister, and on asking for information on this subject, they got the answer that no Government bill on Women's suffrage could be hoped for during their session. But the investigation concerning the results of Women suffrage in those countries where it had been introduced was to be expected within the near future.

Referring to this statement, the President urged the women not to lose courage but to work with increased energy for their righteous cause.

At the evening meeting of the first day which was open to all members of local societies the following questions were discussed:

- 1) “What can be done to prevent other important questions, such as the labour-question, the temperance-question o. a. to divert the interest from the women suffrage question?”
- 2) “Married women and the new municipal laws.”
- 3) “Women as Town Councillors.”

Mrs. Anna Wicksell's report of the new municipal laws with special reference to married women was the most interesting of these subjects. In studying the laws, she had discovered that Parliament-intentionally or unintentionally—had given to all married women who are taxed for an income of their own at least 10 kronor (in some cases as low as 1 krona) derived from property in their own right (under their own administration) or from wages, the faculty to obtain municipal suffrage and consequently municipal eligibility.

This discovery evoked great enthusiasm in the meeting and has afterwards been much discussed and commented upon by members of the Government, by lawyers and in the press. But no one has as yet been able to prove Mrs. W.'s statements to be incorrect.

The next day's private meeting offered several points of interest. The first subject for discussion was: “The relation between the International and the National Women Suffrage Movement”, and immediately after this, the question of inviting the I. W. S. A. to hold the next congress in Stockholm in the summer of 1911 was taken up for discussion. The meeting unanimously decided to invite the congress to Stockholm and a telegram containing this invitation was immediately despatched to Mrs. Chapman Catt.

Among other subjects of interest may be mentioned: “Should the women under any circum-

tances allow party interest to be placed before the suffrage question?" and "Is it possible for the N. W. S. A. to take an active part in an election campaign without risking the unity of the organisation?" The following resolution was unanimously passed:

"The Annual Meeting of the Central Board urges the women—with reference to the coming elections for the 1st Chamber—to take an active part as well in the preparations for the elections to the "Landsting" as in the elections themselves, thereby doing their utmost to get the question of women's suffrage duly considered."

In the evening a large public propaganda meeting was held with speeches by Mr. C. R. Johansson, M. P. for Jönköping, Mr. A. Dalin, Miss Anna Witlock and Dr. Lydia Wahlström.

Miss Whitlock summed up the political situation of the moment and urged the Swedish women to join their forces in breaking the resistance of the 1st Chamber.

Dr. Wahlström spoke of the results of women's suffrage in various countries, thereby in a certain sense forestalling the investigation that the Government had needed more than 2 years to complete.

* * *

We are now very busy preparing for the municipal elections which will take place in March. These elections will be of a special interest as this is the first time that the new municipal rights of women, which make women eligible for Town- and County Councillors—will be put into practice.

To prepare the women for their new responsibilities, the W. S. A. in many places have arranged lectures on municipal subjects. The Stockholm W. S. A. has arranged for a series of lectures which were opened last week, the audience consisting of 800 women. One of the ladies of the royal family Princess Ingeborg, has expressed her intention to attend some of these lectures.

Meanwhile the political parties are busy forming new organisations for the elections. In Stockholm the liberals have invited the women to enter their organisation and to become members of their local boards, also of the Central Board, which latter now counts 5 women among its members.

EZALINE BOHEMAN,
Secretary of the Central Board.
Stockholm, Febr. 1910.

As a supplement to the reports from Sweden for the year 1909 I should like to mention two facts casting light on the present position of the Suffrage Movement in our country.

You know that the Nobel Prize in Literature was given to the great Swedish authoress, Selma Lagerlöf. Some days after, a public banquet in which only ladies had to take part was arranged in her honour. At this occasion the first and by far the most important speech of homage to Selma Lagerlöf was delivered by Dr. Lydia Wahlström, president of the Swedish Suffrage Association.

* * *

A characteristic fact from the later months of 1909 is the eagerness with which newly-formed local political organizations appeal to women and wish to have women also as members of their Board or Committee.

Lund, Dec. 1909.

H. BORELIUS.*)

*) Received too late for January. Ed.

France.

The New Year's festivities and the calamity which has befallen Paris have had their effect on the suffragist movement. The General Meeting of the National Council of Women, which was to have taken place on Jan. 30, has had to be postponed. Except the monthly meetings of the League for Women's Rights and the Women's Fraternal Union we have no manifestation to mention, and the period of disorganisation to be expected in February has no great promise for exertions. This does not mean that we are going to remain inactive: as we announced last month, some women's associations have joined hands to prepare a meeting on suffrage and this meeting is sure to be of much interest. As for the French W. S. A., which will have accomplished its first year of existence on the 13th of this month, it is preparing for its Annual Meeting on March 13. It is contemplating a new form of organisation, viz. a federation of societies and at the same time an association of individual members. It is also going to fix its policy for the approaching elections in May. It is steadily developing. It counts now nearly 330 members. The paper "La Française" also intends shortly to enter upon the electoral campaign.

* * *

We see with great joy that the women are beginning seriously to organise in the provinces, outside of Paris. Two societies, one at Havre under the presidency of Mme Pauline Rebour, the other at Vienne under that of Mlle Pellat Finet, are particularly active; and we may point out also the Women of Saône and Loire, led by Mlle Guillot. Although not belonging to the properly so-called university-women, these societies are of university origin, their founders are mostly teachers of different grades. It is clear that the organization of women in the provinces will be mostly due to the teachers of primary schools. Its was started with a decidedly university character by the "Groupes Féministes Universitaires" founded by Mlle Marie Guérin from Nancy, and now they have united into a Federation of Women Teachers. These groups, which exist already in a number of Departments are nearly everywhere the only organisations of women in the provincial towns. They are led by true apostles, who, within a short time, have succeeded in infusing real life into them. We may name with the league of Nancy headed by Mlle Guérin; those of the Indre with Mlle Cécile Panis, of Savoy with Mlle Fournier, of the Lower Alps with Mlle Durand, of the Lower Pyrenees with Mlle Privat, of Eure and Loir, with Mlle Dubois, of the Sarthe with Mlle Froger, which seem to be the most active ones.

These groups are surely a nucleus which may develop and justify the greatest hopes.

* * *

The French women's movement has lost one of its most devoted supporters in Mme Fésesse-Deraismes, sister of the great pioneer Maria Deraismes, who did all in her power to help the cause which her sister served so conspicuously. Mme Fésesse-Deraismes was eighty nine years old.

Communicated by the French W. S. A.

Russia.

The period of the end of 1909 and the beginning of 1910 has clearly shown that the women's question

cannot be set aside,—in spite of the reactionaries' efforts. As before, our cause has been strongly bound to other social and political events. Thus by the reaction, lectures on the women's movement, as well as on other questions, have often been forbidden,—without any reason whatever. In the Crimea (and Odessa) especially, the authorities of several towns are inclined to forbid any lectures.—Together with other progressive institutions, the "Working-Women's Club" has lately been closed in St. Petersburg.—No one knows why! But, in spite of all, women's clubs are springing up, like mushrooms after rain, not only in the capitals, but also in provincial towns. And even in Simferopol (Crimea), where the Governor is against any progressive movement—a Women's Club has lately been formed. Of course it is under the sword of Damocles, the governor having declared that he does not mind the new society being a ladies' club; and that for the least imprudent deed or word the club will be immediately closed...

It is in Moscow especially that the women's question is often discussed just at present. A new weekly paper "The Women's Cause" has just been started. It intends to treat all aspects of the women's question and promises to be good. In a few days a branch of the new "Russian League for women's rights" is going to be opened in Moscow. Unlike our "Russian Union for Women's Rights", this organisation is sanctioned by the Government; therefore the women's work in it will be much easier. (Unfortunately men cannot be members of this league.) The work will be divided between ten committees. Each will take up either theoretical study in literature of one of the chief questions,—political, economical and other women's rights,—or the agitation for these rights in the press and through the organisation of lectures. Two committees will devote their energy to the struggle against legalized prostitution and also against alcoholism. We are going to make an effort and try to unite in the new League all the progressive women's organisations in Moscow: various university courses for women; educational societies, women's clubs etc.

Several big congresses have been held during the Christmas holidays in Moscow and St. Petersburg: the congress of the anti-alcoholists; the psychical and medical congresses; the veterinary congress etc.: all of these have passed resolutions on women's rights.*)

Finally, even in the fortresses of conservatism and reaction,—the women's question is not ignored. Thus the Ministers' Council has lately applied to all the directors and chiefs of different departments in order to have these officials' opinion as to which state services should be open to women. The answers of all the departments will be discussed by the Ministers' Council.

To close my short report, I would like to mention an original and very energetic defender of women's education in Bessarabia (south of Russia). Last summer, Mr. Kolibaba, country district inspector, laid a wager with a millionaire, Mr. Zanco, that, in three days he would personally mow out a certain (very big) space of grass. If he succeeded in his undertaking, Mr. Zanco solemnly promised to found a secondary school for girls in the big village of Kamrat. Mr. Kolibaba executed his task splendidly; and now the local inhabitants are quite excited at the prospect of having a girls' lyceum in the autumn of 1910. Mr. Kolibaba has received many thanks and congratulations from different parts of Russia. And the working men of a big factory

in the north have presented him with a memorial with a thousand signatures. Quite different has been the attitude, on this occasion, of the local authorities towards Mr. Kolibaba: he was advised to resign his state-employment... Now he has taken up the profession of a lawyer, which promises to be very successful, as Mr. Kolibaba is now most popular, especially amongst the peasantry of Bessarabia.

ZÉNEÏDE MIROVITCH.

Moscow, 1st February 1910.

As is often the case, I have not much to mention about the women's movement. We are hampered on all sides. You know already that a hundred members of the Douma petitioned on account of Miss Fleischitz being forbidden to practise as a lawyer. The Minister of Justice formally declared himself against this.

I have just read in to-day's paper that the women of a certain capital, Minsk, sent a petition to be permitted to found a women's club. The Governor denied them this right. I myself, after all sorts of obstacles, have succeeded in obtaining the permission to give a lecture in St. Petersburg, which I did on Dec. 18 with good success. The room was full, there were even men, which is very rare at a lecture on women's rights. The audience listened with perfect attention to my explanation of the movement. I had to explain our tactics and the misapprehension of the Socialists, who oppose us without taking the pains of trying to be informed of the aims of our movement. I was invited at Odessa, our great southern city, to give the same lecture, but the Governor did not permit it.

However we are always trying to do something. In October Mrs. Wachtine gave in a women's club a lecture on the London congress. Now she went out into the provinces to hold the same conference. Mrs. Blandow lectured in two women's clubs on public immorality and the means of repression. Both speakers had success.

In December there were two congresses, one of neuro-pathologists, the other of antialcoholists. The former passed a resolution stating that the cause of the psychical depression of women is often their political disability, and it is very difficult to combat illness in general without the help of women. To obtain their cooperation they must be enfranchised and be made responsible citizens. The second congress, although not always polite to the ladies present, passed the following resolution:—

"This congress is of opinion that, to combat alcoholism successfully, women should be enfranchised, and that habitual drunkenness of the husband should be considered a sufficient cause for divorce."

You see, the day is dawning notwithstanding the darkness, and we are full of confidence that the present state of oppression cannot last long.

ANNA KALMANOVITCH.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 22/4, 1910.

*) A congress on the question of prostitution will take place in St. Petersburg in the end of April 1910.

Belgium.

The bill which gives suffrage and eligibility to women for the Trades Councils (Conseils de Prud'hommes) was passed by the Chamber of Deputies, and was recently sent to the Senate, which began its discussion on Febr. 3rd. The report presented to the Honorable Body by Mr.

Claeys Bouwaert, Senator from Ghent, is in favor of the women's claims and demands a confirmation of the Chamber's vote. So we may now expect that the desired reform will be introduced. The discussion on the articles is to begin to-morrow. Brussels, Febr. 7 1910. JULIE GILAIN, L.L.D.

The Local Branch of Ghent is very active; it has sent to "Jus Suffragii" two translations of the international Suffrage Hymn in French and in Flemish, and also two different tunes to which it may be sung. Pity there is no space this time. M. G. K.

Denmark.

The D. W. S. A. (Danske Kvindeforenings Valgretsforbund) sends the following report.

A vacancy in the Copenhagen municipal board was lately filled by *Miss V. Rerup*, first alternate on the list of the Antisocialists. *Miss Rerup* was among the women-candidates whom the Valgretsforbund recommended to the various political parties at the time of election. Nine members of the Municipal Board (out of 42) are now women.

the *Dansk Kvindesamfund* (affiliated to the Valgretsforbund) held their annual meeting in January here in Copenhagen with the secretaries of their local branches. It was decided that the winter-campaign is to be opened every year in September. In the last week of this month, meetings will be held in all the 110 branches and the usual resolution, urging the Government to give women the political vote, will be proposed.

The day-session was followed by a public meeting in the evening, where *Miss Holsen* from Norway gave a clear and most interesting account of Norwegian women's work for obtaining their political freedom.

Copenhagen, Febr. 1910.

TH. DAUGAARD.

It may perhaps be easier for an interested reader to understand the present situation, if I give a short explanation of the Danish constitution and the political conditions.

The bill of the 5th of June 1849 gave to the Danish nation the right of parliamentary rule. The constitution was based upon a two-chamber system, consisting of an Upper House (Landsting) and a Lower House (Folketing), whose members were chosen by universal suffrage. But seventeen years later the constitution was altered by the act of the 28th of July 1866, so that from this time a number of 12 members of the Upper House should be chosen for *lifetime* by the crown, while the remaining 54 members of the Upper House should be chosen partly by voters, who pay taxes on an annual income of considerable amount, partly by electors, who are chosen by the general voters.

A revision of the constitution cannot take place without a dissolution of the whole house (Upper and Lower House together). But every time in previous years, whenever a proposal concerning the revision has been moved, the cabinet has not been able to solve this difficult question: Are the twelve members of the Upper House, who are chosen for *lifetime* by the crown, soluble or not?

However, in course of time, a whole series of questions concerning the constitution have been raised: proportional representation, a new electoral

division, votes for seafaring people, votes for servants, votes for women, a new age-limit for voters, and so on. Some of these reforms are very urgent and are now claimed by the leaders of different political parties. Therefore, under the present conditions, there is every reason to believe, that a proposal for revision, which has been moved by the Radicals on the 5th of October this year, *will open a political campaign, which will not cease, until the constitution has been amended to some degree.* All political parties are more or less interested in the matter for some reason or another, and the time certainly has come, when a revision is generally considered to be a necessity.

The question about "votes for women" has not as yet become a partisan matter. The Landsforbund is glad to observe, that two political parties—the Radicals and the Socialists—have Woman Suffrage on their programme, but at the same time the leaders of different other parties have shown their sympathy with the cause and spoken in favor of it on several occasions. Under these circumstances the Landsforbund is most eager to strengthen its organisation. We feel rather sure, that Woman Suffrage will become a matter of practical politics in time—it may be months or years—and we are also sure, that when this happens, our opponents will be more active than they are at present.

Ringsted, Dec. 1906.

CLINNY DREYER.

Germany.

Three Liberal groups agreed last year to operate a fusion and fix a common platform for a new Liberal Party. Two delegates from the Progressive Popular Party (freisinnige Volkspartei), one from the South-German Popular Party (Süddeutsche Volkspartei) and one from the Progressive League (freisinnige Vereinigung) were appointed to draft a constitution. This draft was published a short time before Christmas. With regard to the position of women it advocated: "Augmentation of the rights of women and their professions, better education and reforms of civil laws, more co-operation of women in social and educational work, appointment of women in municipal boards". This was much less than a resolution of the Progressive League in 1908 had demanded, viz, recognition of political equality for women especially with regard to suffrage and eligibility in the Empire, the State and the Municipality. This roused the indignation of the women suffragists, and after a speech from *Miss Marha Zietz*, an officer of the German W.S.A., in a meeting at Stuttgart a practically unanimous resolution was carried to the effect that § VIII of the draft did not at all do justice to women's social work and position and that the legal rights it demanded were wholly insufficient; and that therefor the meeting called upon the Liberal parties to claim full political equality for women. The same resolution was carried at a meeting of the Frankfurt Women Suffrage Society. At Mannheim, after an address by *Mrs. Wolff-Jaffé* a public meeting called by the W. S. A. adopted a similar resolution. Much more to the point was the following one, carried at a protestmeeting held by the National, the Bavarian and the Local W. S. Associations:—

"This meeting expresses its indignation at the clause on women's civil and political status contained in the draft of the Committee on Fusion of the Liberal Parties.

A Liberalism which in its platform goes no farther than an expression of *benevolence* towards

women, without declaring distinctly in favor of their just claims, may be still less trusted to show *actively* its sympathy for unlimited civil and political equality for German women, and has no right to bear its name.

This meeting feels sure that the national congresses of the Progressive Popular Party, the South-German Popular Party and the Progressive League will amend the draft for fusion so as to demand distinctly and unequivocally *entire political equality* for women in state and municipal affairs."

The Liberal Women's League published an eloquent condemnation of § VIII, and the Brandenburg local section of the Progressive Popular Party, assembled on 31st of October 1909, resolved — on the W. S. L.'s suggestion — to instruct their delegate to the national congress to propose amendments of wide scope to the incriminated § VIII, yet *Dr. Ablasz, M. P.* for the P. P. Party spoke in a most disparaging tone of the German W. S. A. and no amendments have been proposed by the late delegate-meeting of the party. Yet it remains to be seen what the adopted fusion-platform will be like, when it appears.

Lübeck, the third Hanseatic City of the German Empire, has recently joined the suffrage ranks by founding a W. S. A., after an address by *Mrs. Frieda Radel*, *Miss Jens* had done the preparatory work, and *Mrs. Buzemann* was elected chairman.

On January 8, 10 and 11 our Acting President, *Miss L. G. Heymann*, addressed meetings in Eisenach, Jena and Weimar on the subject Women and Politics, which were well attended and procured 20 new members.

(from: Zeitschrift f. Frauenstimmrecht.)

United States.

The Oklahoma Woman Suffrage Association has secured the submission to the voters of an amendment to the State constitution to strike out the word "male" from the clause relating to the franchise. Oklahoma has the initiative and referendum, and the women did this by obtaining about 38000 signatures of legal voters to an initiative petition. That was 5000 more signatures than were necessary.

Many years have often passed in the United States without a woman suffrage amendment being submitted to the voters in any State. It has never been submitted in more than two States at once. Now, for the first time in history, such amendments are pending simultaneously in four of our States Washington, South Dakota, Oregon and Oklahoma.

ALICE STONE BLACKWELL,

Editor of The Woman's Journal.

Boston, Massachusetts.

The appearance before the conference of assembled Governors in Washington D. C. on January 20th of the delegation from the Votes for women Committee of the Equality League of Self-Supporting women was a significant event.

On Monday, January 17th the following resolution was mailed to the conference of Governors:

Chairman, Conference of Governors, Washington, D. C.

Whereas: the question of the basis of franchise in the respective States is a question of National concern in that it immediately

and directly affects the composition of the National Legislature: and

whereas, in four of the States of the Union, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho and Utah, women citizens now exercise full electoral franchise;

Therefore, we urge upon the Conference of Governors, now assembled, that they consider the question of making uniform the basis of franchise and representation in their respective States, by removing the disqualifications now resting upon the women citizens thereof, and that they recommend to their respective Legislatures a measure for the accomplishment of this end.

For the Equality League of Self-Supporting Women.

HARRIOT STANTON BLATCH.

On Tuesday Mrs. Clarence Mackay telegraphed Governor Hughes that a delegation of three New-York women were coming to Washington to ask for the right to speak to the Governors for five minutes on the subject of woman's political status. *Mrs. Alexander*, and *Mrs. John Winters Brannon* sent similar telegrams to Governor Fort of New Jersey and Governor Shafroth of Colorado. On Wednesday the delegation went to Washington, on Thursday on motion of Governor Hughes they were given the five minutes they asked for and *Mrs. Blatch* read the following paper.

To the Conference of Governors:

As one of the objects of your conference is to establish in the separate states uniform legislation upon those questions which seem to demand a national policy, yet in regard to which federal action is impossible or inadvisable, we, a committee of women from the State of New-York, feel that it will not be out of place to suggest that the political position of women in the several states is a question worthy of your most earnest consideration. This question like the others with which your conference will deal, is not likely to be settled nationally, but will, in the future as in the past, be entirely a matter of state action.

It is also a question which because of lack of uniformity in the electoral laws of the several states causes discontent in a large body of our citizens. No other laws in the separate states stand in greater contrast than those dealing with the political rights of women.

While in four states, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and Idaho, women enjoy the exercise of electoral rights which belong to citizens in a republic, in other states they have no part whatsoever in the political life of the community in which they live.

Between these extremes our States illustrate every stage in political evolution from a complete sex aristocracy to a free self-governing people. Between these extremes there are states in which women have the school vote, the tax vote, and in Kansas the municipal vote. This divergence causes constant unrest in our women. It has been again and again demonstrated that human beings will not rest satisfied under disenfranchisement within a given boundary while their fellows outside that boundary enjoy political freedom. It causes, for instance, unrest for the women of New-York State to see with what little effect they worked for protective legislation for women and what ease similar laws are put on the statute books of Colorado.

We urge then upon this conference that the question of the political position of women in the separate states be made one of the topics upon which the most exhaustive information be gathered,

to the end that the enfranchisement of women be made the basis of a full discussion at the next meeting of our Conference of Governors.

Signed, MAUD CABOT, Chairman.
EUNICE DANA BRANNON.
HARRIOT STANTON BLATCH.

The chairman of the conference, Gov. Wilson of Kentucky, promised to appoint a committee to investigate the subject and report at the next meeting.

It was considered especially important that the question of woman's political status should be brought before the Governors, since they were assembled to discuss needed legislation on matters which the federal Government cannot, or does not regulate, but on which uniform laws are most desirable. The delegates were treated with the most marked respect and in spite of the fact that the Governors were very busy and had refused several other delegations they were received.

ELIZABETH ELLSWORTH COOK.
New York, Jan. 1910.

Mention was made last month of the strike of the women shirt-waist makers in New York and the way in which the suffragists had taken up their cause. The younger ones—mostly college girls—have done picket duty with the strikers while the older ones have raised money for them, and gone with them into the courts to protect their rights. It was soon found that the manufacturers were sending their work to the neighboring city of Philadelphia, where conditions of labor were just as bad as in New York, and very soon the shirt-waist makers there went on strike. Instantly Mrs. Avery called a mass meeting and the women of Philadelphia took the same action as those of New York. In both cities they found terrible injustices practised against the girls by employers, police and even the judges of the courts. All of these declared savagely that if the suffragists had attended to their own business the strikers soon could have been brought into subjection. The newspapers and public sentiment sustained those who were helping the striking girls and women, and the result is that those of New York have now secured a settlement on practically their own terms, and those of Philadelphia will have done so before this is read. The cause of woman suffrage has been greatly helped in both cities—among the working women because they now know that the suffragists are sincerely desirous of helping them; among others because they see that the effort for woman suffrage is not a class movement; and among all because they have been led to recognize how helpless wage-earning women are without votes.

* * *

The most important work ever undertaken here has been the forming, within the past month, of a Woman Suffrage Party, with Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt as its leader, or president. It proposes to go directly into politics and has already appointed a leader for each of the political districts and formed an organization in it. Hereafter when a man is a candidate for the Legislature they will learn his attitude toward woman suffrage and either work for him or against him. In a city of four-and-a-half million people this is no small task but it is without doubt the most effective method.

IDA HUSTED HARPER,
Chairman N.W.S.A. Press-Comm.
New York, Jan. 1910.

Austrian Empire.

AUSTRIA.

Die Redaktion der Wiener Monatsschrift „Neues Frauenleben“ richtete an sämtliche Mitglieder des österreichischen Abgeordnetenhauses die Anfrage, wie sie über den § 30 des Vereinsgesetzes dächten, der den Frauen die Beteiligung an politischen Vereinen und Versammlungen untersagt. Von 515 Abgeordneten beantworteten diese Anfrage. Zwei davon, Baron Hock und Dr. Ofner, die keiner Partei angehören, aber selbst im Abgeordnetenhaus die Beseitigung dieses Paragraphen gefordert hatten, antworteten auch in diesem Sinne. Dr. Ofner fügte überdies den sehr beherzigenswerten Rat hinzu, dass die Frauen den Kampf um ihre Rechte viel energischer führen sollten. Die dritte Antwort stammte von einem Sozialdemokraten, der kurz erwiderte, er halte es für überflüssig, sich über derartige Selbstverständlichkeiten umständlich auszusprechen. Der Vierte, Mitglied der christlichsozialen Partei, schrieb ebenso kurz wie geistreich: „Ich würde Ihnen gerne meine Meinung mitteilen, wenn ich zum Briefe schreiben Zeit hätte!“

Dieses Resultat zeigt deutlich, dass wir Frauen in Oesterreich nicht gegen eine ausgesprochene Gegnerschaft, sondern gegen die absolute Teilnahmslosigkeit und das Unverständnis derjenigen zu kämpfen haben, die uns ihre Gesetze diktieren. Und dabei behaupten die Herren noch, die Frauen brauchten keine Vertretung, weil ihre Interessen durch die Männer ja hinreichend vertreten würden!

* * *

BOSNIA and HERZEGOWINA.

Der neue Verfassungsentwurf für diese beiden annektierten Provinzen erteilt den islamitischen Grossgrundbesitzerinnen das Wahlrecht für die neu zu errichtende Landesvertretung. Diese können aber nur durch Bevollmächtigte wählen, eine Beschränkung, welche sich durch die gebundene Stellung der islamitischen Frauen rechtfertigt.

Es ist jedenfalls bemerkenswert, dass die minder entwickelten Länder unseres Reiches (Vorarlberg, Krain) ihren Frauen das Wahlrecht verleihen, während es ihnen im fortgeschrittensten Stammlande der Monarchie, in Niederösterreich, immer mehr eingeschränkt und in der Haupt- u. Residenzstadt Wien, gelegentlich der letzten Aenderung des Gemeindevahlrechts, gänzlich entzogen wurde.

Wien, Februar 1910.

H. HERZFELDER.

Iceland.

The Women's Suffrage Society in Reykjavik tried to constitute a national association. Delegates from the 5 newly founded societies came to Reykjavik and a draft for a national constitution was discussed that was made after the example of the Swedish national organization. Two of the societies and that of Reykjavik were willing to sign, but three refused. Nevertheless the national association was founded and even if the three others should remain unwilling, the Icelandic National Association will be eligible for membership in the International Women's Suffrage All., as may be seen from art. III section 4 of the I. W. S. All. Constitution.

Alkmaar, Febr. 1910.

E. VAN DER HOEVEN.