

International Woman Suffrage Alliance

1916
AL/1764

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April 13, 1916.

My dear Mrs. Park,

I have told Mrs. Stanton Coit, Treasurer of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, that I would collect the dues of the Associate Members this year. I agreed to do this because foreign mails are uncertain. The dues are \$5. per year and you now owe for 1915 and 1916. I trust that you will not only be able to pay your own dues but that you may be able to solicit new memberships from other suffragists in this country who can spare that much from their gifts to suffrage.

When the Board of Officers met in London in July 1914 a splendid program of forward work was planned and we closed the meeting with hearts light and happy with hope. Before our members had had time to return to their homes the war had broken out. The headquarters in London have been maintained up to this time. They were utilized for many months as relief headquarters for women belonging to the "alien enemy" countries.

It is the plan of Mrs. Coit and Mrs. Fawcett to remove the headquarters to cheaper accommodations when the lease runs out. They have much reduced expenses and are running at the least possible expenditure. When the war is over, which let us hope may not be too long deferred, we must hold an International Congress. According to the constitution it should be held in 1917 at which time officers will be elected. If the war is not over it will be necessary for us to secure the consent of our members to override the constitution and to wait until peace has been established. If, however, the war draws to an end before that date the convention must be held in some neutral country, and this time we shall probably be obliged to defray the expenses from the common funds. I feel that the International Alliance will have a greater and more important work to do than it has yet performed when that time comes.

It will be a serious and difficult task to draw the women of the warring nations together again. They have not lost their faith and hope in internationalism; this I know for they write me. They have, however, such bitterness in their hearts that we Americans have a mission to perform when the right time comes. I hope we shall not lose any of our Associate Members and that we may gain many more. The money will be used for the maintenance of the work at present and for the expenses necessary to pull the national associations together again when the war is over.

Most cordially yours,

Carrie Chapman Catt

PRESIDENT.

C.R.