

JUS SUFFRAGII,

PUBLISHED BY THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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No. 6.

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The ballot in the hands of the women should be a power to better the Home, the State and the Nation.

Perfect equality of rights for women—civic and political—is to-day, and has been for the last half century, the one demand of
SUSAN B. ANTHONY.
(15 February 1900).



— "No reform has ever been won by trusting to party, and those women who go on trusting party deserve to remain without the vote". —

KEIR HARDIE
(in Exeter Hall, Febr. 9th 1907).

Editorial Announcements.

Mrs. Pedersen-Dan has issued a circular announcing prices for the international badge, when manufactured in various metals. In it she quotes an opinion from me which, while not incorrect, might easily be mis-understood if left unqualified. I therefore wish to give my views upon this matter a little more fully. We adopted the bronze badge as the insignia of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance and we cannot take back nor override that vote. Bronze must remain the metal of the badge of the Alliance, until the next meeting at least. However, to make this badge truly international, so that the suffragists of every land will wear it, it must be adopted by each Association affiliated with the Alliance. This must be done at its annual, or general-meeting, and it then becomes the national badge of that country. It is possible that some Association may be willing to adopt the design, but not the metal agreed upon in Copenhagen. Some countries may wish a gold badge, some a silver one. I believe each country to be entirely free to adopt any metal it prefers. I do not think that a variety of metals should be adopted by any country, for uniformity is the only quality which would make a national badge useful. Nor should individual women order badges in any metal which pleases them, regardless of votes of national and international associations. Such badges would be meaningless. If any country should fail to adopt the badge, individual women of that country who may desire to wear the badge, should order them in bronze.
CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT.

The international badge, which should be worn by every woman believing in woman suffrage, is to be ordered from MRS. J. PEDERSEN-DAN, GRIFVENFELDTSGADE 39, COPENHAGEN. 50 bronze badges 22 Sh. 6d. postage prepaid, Reduction in price for orders exceeding that number.

A Committee, consisting of the three delegates, representing the two Women's Unions of Finland, was appointed in Copenhagen with instructions to make an effort to secure a federation of these two organizations in order that it might become

affiliated with the Alliance. One of these Unions, "Finsk Kvinnoforening", represented by Baroness Gripenberg, has reported itself as unwilling to join the Alliance, the other Finsk Kvinnosaksforbund, represented by Annie Furuhjelm and Maikki Friberg, has voted to become auxiliary. It is to be regretted that both Unions could not unite for this purpose. The whole world will watch the operation of universal suffrage in Finland and the results will be far-reaching in their influence. It is a pity that the Alliance could not be in direct touch with all the organizations interested in the suffrage in that country; yet we will welcome those who are willing to come with us. A vote has now been submitted to the presidents of the countries which are at present auxiliary to the Alliance, and to the officers concerning the admission of Finland. This will undoubtedly prove to be only a formality. If Finland is accepted, it will make the thirteenth country in the Alliance. Some people regard thirteen as an unlucky number, but if there are any such in our Alliance, they need feel no anxiety, it will not be long, I am sure, before we will add the fourteenth country. Our good cause grows stronger every day.
CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT.

DEAR CORRESPONDENTS AND READERS!

I have to thank you for having brought the number of subscribers to our paper nearly up to the desired 400. The following list will show there is only a little effort needed to complete the number, and possibly some countries might give a little more support; this is the number of subscriptions received from each country: Holland 47, Australia 9, Canada 4, Denmark 38, Germany 15, England 48, Hungary 26, Italy 12, Norway 27, Russia 16, Sweden 69, United States 45, France 2, Belgium 5, Finland 5, Austria 5, Servia 2, Bulgaria 2.

Now that the price is fixed at 2 guilders (florins) Dutch money. I think the circulation might be greatly aided, if the women's papers, would announce the cost and the editor's address of "Jus Suffragii", stating that the I.W.S.A. publishes this monthly bulletin for the purpose of communicating short but reliable information from all countries, excluding all polemics. On the other hand I think "Jus

Suffragii" might publish a list of woman suffrage papers in different countries with title, price and editor's address.

If you miss Russia and Dr. Käthe Schirmacher's account of her propaganda-journey in Southern Europe in this number, it is because the promised news has not reached me in time. For the rest I try to get information from all corners of the world. Should there be any inaccuracies in my statements, you will always oblige me by pointing them out, that I may make a correction in the next issue. You see, the limited space often obliges me to shorten reports, and sometimes I understand the language imperfectly. So I hope that I may always count on your help to get and, if necessary, to correct the news, and that you will overwhelm me with newspapers (marked, please!) and letters, always before the 6th of the month, at least when they have to be translated or copied.

It would be of great interest to the readers to have a sketch of the parliamentary procedure, like those that were given for England, France etc. in Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the bulletin, for all other countries. Could not some of our correspondents give a description of the way laws come into existence in Italy, the United States, Hungary, Germany, Norway etc.? And is nobody willing and able to send news from Switzerland with its different laws for different cantons?

May I remind you that No 1 of the bulletin was never printed and that there are no more copies available of No 2 and No 3, so that new subscribers have to begin with No 4.

One request to conclude. Is it asking too much of women who want to be enfranchised themselves, when I urge them to enfranchise their letters sufficiently? I have often to pay extra postage.

Yours sincerely
MARTINA G. KRAMERS.

Australia.

The Federal Elections took place on December 12th. This is the second occasion on which the women of the Eastern States, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania, have voted in national affairs, and the result shewed that the educational work of the past three years had a marked effect in rousing them to a sense of their public responsibilities. A much larger number of women voted than at the previous election, and in each State the Press expressed surprise and admiration at the intelligent interest displayed by the women on the political questions of the hour. One leading daily paper went so far as to say, in all seriousness, that "the women showed extraordinary intelligence in marking their ballot-papers". As the marking means simply putting a cross opposite the names of the candidates one favours, even a lunatic—formerly Woman's political peer—could hardly be accused of showing "extraordinary intelligence" in performing the operation correctly!

The elections were universally declared to be the most orderly that have ever taken place in Australia, State or Federal. They were conducted under laws passed at the behest of women:—that no canvassing shall be allowed within one hundred yards of a polling booth—and in New South Wales, that hotels shall be closed in election days.

A small number of women in each state joined with the men in voting merely on party lines, but the great majority voted independently and wisely, showing a keen determination to disregard party

nominees, where personal character did not come up to the mark. In Victoria, a few days after the elections, three disappointed party politicians unburdened themselves in the Press on the women's vote, stating that they were no longer in favour of woman suffrage. Their letters were answered by Miss C. H. Spence, of South Australia, Miss Rose Scott, of New South Wales, and Miss Vida Goldstein, of Victoria; but none of the recreant three vouchsafed a rejoinder. I mention this fact as it is possible that anti-suffragists in other countries may endeavour to make use of the letters of these gentlemen, who, in their own country, made no attempt to defend the absurd position they had taken up.

As far as the women of Victoria were concerned, the chief point of interest in the Government-programme lay in the proposal to introduce a Federal Marriage and Divorce Bill in the new Parliament. This plank was included at the instance of the Women's Political Association of Victoria, which, in all the years that it has been fighting for woman suffrage, laid particular stress on the injustice done to women under the State Marriage and Divorce laws. The Victorian candidates were questioned as to whether they would support a Federal Marriage and Divorce Bill based on absolute equality for men women, and a large majority replied in favour; the result of the test applied in Victoria may be taken as a fair indication of the support likely to be obtained for the measure from the members from the other States.

The elections again proved the falsity of every argument that is levelled against woman suffrage. They proved that the vote is the best possible weapon to rouse women to a sense of their duty towards the State—to rouse men also, for the increasing interest shown by women in public affairs is compelling men to bestir themselves, for they have no desire to be outdistanced by the women. In some electorates the women were much more active than the men, and did splendid work in getting electors registered and seeing that they recorded their votes.

It is asserted by several authoritative persons that the Legislative Council of Victoria will undoubtedly pass the State Woman Suffrage Bill after the State Elections that will take place about June as several of the most determined opponents have stated that the Federal Elections proved that their fears as to the women's vote were groundless. Meanwhile we continue our hard work.

VIDA GOLDSTEIN.

Melbourne, Jan. 2nd.

Great Britain.

The Central Society for Women's Suffrage (25 Victoria Street, London, S.W.) has made arrangements for a monster Procession and Demonstration meeting on Saturday, February 9th, to illustrate the growing strength of the movement, and on going to press, I hear that both were an unparalleled success.

Miss Clementina Black has presented a woman suffrage declaration to all her countrywomen of the British Isles, and committees all over the country are busy collecting hundreds of thousands of signatures.

From 24-27 Jan. took place at Belfast the Conference of the Labour Party, of which Keir Hardie is the President. After having rejected by a great

majority the international socialist program, it took up other subjects, of which woman suffrage is one.

Without any discussion the Conference agreed to a resolution supporting the Bill to enable women to be elected and act as members of County and Borough Councils and Metropolitan Borough Councils, and instructing the members of the party in Parliament to do all they can to get it passed into law.

Mr. H. S. Wishart (Woolwich Trades Council) next proposed: "That this Conference declares in favour of adult suffrage on the equality of the sexes, and urges an immediate extension of the rights of suffrage and of election to women on the same conditions as to men." He said that, as a revolutionary class-conscious Socialist, he was in favour of the equality of the sexes.

Mr. Quelch moved as an amendment:

"That this annual conference of the Labour Party declares that the time has arrived when equal voting rights should be extended to all men and women, and is further of opinion that any suggested measure to extend the franchise on a property qualification to a section only is a retrograde step, and should be opposed." He said that a franchise such as was proposed would only serve to increase the power of the propertied classes. It would not allow a married woman to vote at all. Immediately she got married she would be disfranchised. The Labour Party were opposed to plural voting, yet this very Bill would give every wealthy man the power to create as many faggot votes as he had daughters.

Miss Hope (Postal Telegraphs) seconded the amendment. She admired the pluck and heroism shown by the women, but she could not help thinking that their efforts were very much misplaced. They had created sex antagonism, instead of class antagonism, and it was contrary to the spirit of Socialism that that should be so. They, as Socialists, believed that there should be equality between men and women.

Mr. Keir Hardie said that if the Bill were a Property Qualification Bill, he would not support it. Women to-day were classed with criminals and lunatics as being unfit to exercise the vote. A man did not require to have property to have a vote. There might be a householding qualification. The Bill did not propose to establish any new qualification at all. Under it two millions, of whom 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ million would be working women, were to be enfranchised. The difficulty about the Bill was that people would not take the trouble to understand it.

The amendment was passed by 605,000 card votes to 268,000, and subsequently carried as a substantive motion.

Before the close of the Conference, Mr. Hardie said there was a personal intimation which, in respect to the Conference, he took the earliest opportunity of making. Twenty-five years ago he cut himself adrift from every relationship, political and otherwise, in order to assist in building up a working-class party. He had thought the days of his pioneering were over. Of late he had felt, with increasing intensity, the injustice which had been inflicted upon women by the present political law. The intimation he wanted to make to the Conference and friends was that, if the motion they had carried was intended to limit the action of the party in the House of Commons, he should have seriously to consider whether he could remain a member of the Parliamentary Party. He said this with great respect and feeling. The party was largely his own child, and he would not sever himself lightly from what had been his life's work,

but he could not be untrue to his principles, and he would have to do so in order to remove the stigma resting upon their wives mothers, and sisters of being accounted unfit for political citizenship.

The W.S.P.U. has issued a manifesto which states that the policy of the Union is to oppose Liberal Candidates at by-elections, because the Government refuses to grant votes to women. A strict neutrality will be maintained towards other candidates. If the liberal candidate has only one opponent, the latter will automatically gain the whole benefit of the votes lost to the Liberal in consequence of the Union's attack. If in any by-election there is no Government candidate, the Union will take no part in the contest. Since rank and file Members of Parliament vote as the party leaders bid them, the Union opposes even those Liberals who are personally in favour of the Suffrage.

A national convention summoned by the Women's Social and Political Union will be held in Caxton Hall, Westminster, on the second day of the new Session of Parliament, Wednesday 13 February, to discuss the King's Speech. Delegates from all parts of the United Kingdom will attend.

The National Union of Woman Suffrage Societies had a successful meeting at Newcastle on Tyne, where its new rules were adopted and Mrs. Fawcett was elected President and Miss Bertha Mason secretary. Further were chosen in the Committee: Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Walter Mc Laren, Mrs. Broadley Reid, Miss Ford, Miss Ashton, Miss Dimock, Mrs. Pechly Phipson, Miss Balgarnie, Mrs. F. Richardson, Mrs. Allan Bright, Lady Strachey, Miss Marris, The Hon. Bertrand Russell, Mrs. P. Snowden, Miss Hardcastle and Miss Sterling.

Lack of space obliges the editor to leave out all the news about agitation for woman suffrage in Edinburgh, Southampton, Glasgow and Hull, and its endorsement by the University-teachers.

The Netherlands.

The National Union for Woman Suffrage in the Netherlands feeling very proud and happy by the International Woman Suffrage Alliance having accepted its invitation to hold the next meeting in the Netherlands, at Amsterdam, has instituted a Central Committee to prepare a fitting reception of its honoured guests in the latter half of June 1908. This Committee, which is presided by Mevrouw Dr. Aletta H. Jacobs, has begun its work by an ardent appeal to all the men and women of the Netherlands, who recognise that political equality of the sexes is of high national importance and that the propaganda for this principle is of great momentary interest for the Dutch people, now that the Commission instituted by Government to advise as to the projected revision of our Fundamental Law, has already proclaimed that all impediments to the eligibility of women should disappear from that Law. The Central Committee trusts that its appeal will not pass by unheard, and that the general participation of men and women of all classes and of all ranks of society will enable it to fulfill faithfully and well the heavy task imposed on its members. The Committee will consider itself amply repaid for its pains if it succeeds in giving our guests at

their arrival the impression of a warm welcome, and at their departure the remembrance of bright days, rich in fruitful work and stimulating intercourse passed in our beautiful country.

JOHANNA W. A. NABER, 1st secr.

The State-Commission instituted for the purpose of making proposals for the revision of the State-Constitution, has published its recommendations on 4 Febr. The task of the Commission was limited to those articles which do not deal with the suffrage, as the Government was understood to keep that work to itself. The Commission is composed of seven members of different political groups, only the socialists—and the women—being left out. Among its proposals is the cancelling of the word „male” before „Dutch subjects” in those paragraphs which regulate the eligibility; and so, if these recommendations are accepted, the fundamental law (Constitution) will cease to debar women from being elected in all governing bodies. We rejoice to say that six of the seven members of the commission were in favour of this amendment; the seventh, a Roman Catholic, gives as motive for his dissension his fear lest family-ties might be weakened. However immediately after the publication of the commission's report, some Roman Catholic papers said that they did not share that opinion. Very generally the press remarks that the most important part of the Commission's work is the granting of eligibility to women; and this gives the public a better appreciation too of our work and our Association for woman suffrage. It is highly improbable now that next year the Government will propose anything short of entire abrogation of sex-exclusion. Yet the crisis, that has come about by the rejection of the war-budget, makes everything uncertain.

Finland.

Nylaende (15 Jan. 1907) says that especially in Helsingfors the interest for the elections, that are to take place in March, is great. The three principal parties are, the Old-finnish party, the Young-finnish party and the Swedish popular party; and they are divided mostly by the language. Probably Lucina Hagman and Helena Westermarek will be elected as members of the new parliament (Landtag); and three other ladies, who assisted at the Copenhagen W. Suffrage-congress in August 1906 are on the list of candidates, each for a different party: Bar. Alexandra Gripenberg for the Old-finnish, Dr. Maikki Friberg for the Young-finnish and Annie Furuholm for the Swedish popular party.

The past year will for ever be remembered in the history of the Finnish women. Through the introduction of universal suffrage for every Finnish citizen, the women enter emancipated into political life. Almost immediately after the 20th of July when the law had been sanctioned by the Czar, „The Finnish Women's Association” began to arrange lectures for women in which the new election law was explained. As the law is considered to be rather complicated — the proportional mode of election being used here for the first time — instruction is needed.

On the 22nd of July Mrs Tilma Hainari, the secretary of the association, gave the first lecture on this subject in the east of Finland and later on in various country places. On the 10th of Aug. „The Finnish Women's Association” invited women

from all parties and classes to a suffrage-meeting in Knopio, a town in the middle of Finland, where an exhibition was going on.

On the 1st of Oct. the new suffrage law entered into force. This day was celebrated with festivities by „The Finnish Women's Association” and many of its 35 branch-unions. The opening speech was made by the president Mrs. Elin Sjöström. Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg in a brilliant speech touched upon the feelings of the friends of the women's cause, as they now are seeing their most daring dreams of youth realized. She spoke of the Finnish women's responsibility not only for their countrymen but also for the women of other countries, whose success in the suffrage work may be influenced by the result of experiences here. She finished her speech by recalling those, „whose devoted, often thankless, work has prepared and made possible our present victory. May our gratitude be the never fading wreath with which we, in our thoughts, adorn their graves, be they in far Australia, the proud Albion, the mighty republic on the other side of the Allantic, or in that land to which we are attached by silver strings of memory, Sweden, or in our own country. Blessed are they who have struggled for great ideas, those shining stars in the world's darkness!”

Mrs. Ilmi Hallstén in cordial words presented the gratitude of the association to both its honorary presidents, Mrs. Elisabeth Lounasmaa and Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg, and also to the honorary member, the first Finnish female M. A. lektor, Emma Aström.

The association has during the last months energetically continued its lecturingwork. In a large, thinly populated country like ours, this task is a difficult one. To facilitate this work the association has arranged courses of lectures in the electionlaw; it has also invited members from its branch-unions to attend them, hoping that they thus might be able to teach others. But the most important is to awake the women. The reform has come so suddenly, that a great many of them scarcely understand that it is their duty to prepare themselves for and take part in the elections. We therefore send about lecturers to awaken the indifferent, inform the ignorant, and solicit all to activity, by explaining not only the electionlaw, but also the reasons why women ought to take an active part in the arrangement of public affairs. Thus we lecture on women's responsibility as citizens, the married woman's legal position, social purity, temperance, education etc. The association also publishes and spreads suffrage pamphlets.

To reach as large circles as possible we try to avoid all party-politics.

During the last three months our lecturers have delivered 130 lectures.

Of course there are other associations which are active in instructing the women but this account only deals with the work done by the Finnish Women's Association.

ELIN SJÖSTRÖM, President.
TILMA HAINARI, Secretary.

Denmark.

As announced in the Dec-bulletin, a public meeting in favour of the franchise of women has taken place 18th. January.

It was arranged by the Danish Woman Suffrage Association and the organisation Dansk Kvindesamfund. Three men and three female speakers

took the platform. The gentlemen were all members of the Parliament, belonging to different political parties. The three ladies were all married, their addresses of course were especially in favour of suffrage to be given to married women; but the gentlemen too all gave their full sympathy to the point of view, that the community just needed the ability and the competence of the married women.

The audience was numerous, all the speakers were applauded.

A resolution was passed, that the suffrage (election and eligibility) should be given in this session of the parliament to women, married and unmarried.

The D. W. S. A. and Dansk Kvindesamfund met 15 January in order to plan a personal visit to the 30 members of the Joint Committee (Dec-bulletin) that now has the fortune of the suffrage bill in its hand. The ladies present bound themselves to go to some of the 30 members and urge their opinion according to the suffrage bill. All the ladies were very eager in fulfilling this mission. The report of the visits has not yet been given.

A delegate meeting was held on the 2nd Febr. Here the terms on which Dansk Kvindesamfund joins the D. W. S. A. were adopted by the members.

Dansk Kvindesamfund enters the Association with its Executive Committee, 9 members.

For the members, who don't live in Copenhagen, they have the right themselves to nominate alternates, and they consider their membership as ended, if the Valgretsforbund should ever leave the Int. W. S. Alliance.

An Extra General Meeting is announced to take place at the end of February. A committee of three members has been appointed to change the constitution according to the compromise.

The teachers' association of Copenhagen held its General Meeting 23rd Jan. It was resolved to form a suffrage department and join the Danish Suffrage Association.

A constitution was adopted, the contribution fixed and delegates nominated. Two trade unions, the Servants Association and the Women Tailors, have formed suffrage departments too as members of the D. W. S. A. E. H.

The „Folkething” and the „Landsting” work in this session for passing a law for the municipal elections.

The Bill of the Folkething gives Municipal Suffrage to every respectable man or woman, who is a Danish subject, has completed his or her 25th. year, has paid taxes to the municipality and has lived and still lives in a constituency.

When a married man as the head of the family has paid direct taxes to the municipality from the common property of both himself and his wife, or from his wife's particular property, they are both considered as tax-payers. The husband's right of disposal of the joint property does not bring the wife to be considered under the heading: „Excluded from the right to dispose of one's property,” which in other cases makes a person disqualified for electoral rights.

This Bill was moved and carried on December 4th. 1906 in a single reading in the „Folkething,” which for years has been favorable to Woman Suffrage.

But the „Bill of Amendment” on the law of 1861 — moved by the Landsting — which was carried in a single reading on Dec. 7th. 1906, spoke otherwise of the women. The latter would only give Municipal Suffrage to each respectable

man, widow, divorced or separated wife or unmarried woman born in the country or naturalized, who has completed his or her 25th. year, has paid direct taxes and had a fixed abode in the municipality, when the electoral lists were drawn up.

Excluded from the electoral rights are: Those, who have been in domestic service without a home of their own; those, who have been deprived of the right of disposal of their property; those, who have had gratis support from the institutions for relief of the poor.

The Folkething and the Landsting then each elected 15 members for a Joint Committee. This has had some sittings, and our Suffrage Association elected Delegates to speak and discuss the women's cause with each member of the Joint-Committee.

It appears that the result of Woman Suffrage in Norway has removed some of the chief objections of the Landsting to Woman Suffrage on a more extensive scale.

Yesterday, Febr. 5th, the 15 members of the Landsting have sent in their report. To day—the 6th — it will be read to the committee members of the Folkething at a joint meeting.

Up to now the result is a secret, but rumours have circulated in the town in spite of this. It is considered certain, that this report contains Municipal Suffrage for women on a large scale: both for the married and unmarried, and the census is going down very low, even maid-servants may possibly get the suffrage.

The conservative party have got over their fear of giving women extensive suffrage. Still they will get the friends of our cause, namely the „Folkething” to pay for it. In which way and how much, the next days will tell us. Whether the chivalrous tendencies of the members of the Folkething will not fail in these trying circumstances, is a great problem; for they on their side have their doubts, whether Woman Suffrage will prove a support for radicalism, even if it be extended to maid-servants.

The contest is supposed to stand between County-Councils and Parish-Councils. The old Town-Councils will get a disagreeable rivalry in a new factor of authority named: „Diocese-Councils.” The superior influence of County-Councils and Diocese-Councils over Parish-Councils and Town-Councils is in fact the payment the Folkething is thought to be willing to give for the granting of Woman-Suffrage by the Landsting.

It would indeed be most foolish in us to rejoice too soon. As passive spectators we must patiently watch the ups and downs of our cause. The only real ray of light is this: „We are no longer ignored, and the possibility of our partaking in the municipal administration of public affairs has been looked upon as a thing which might happen — nay even as a wished-for eventuality!”

J. M.

Sweden.

The Central Committee of the General Association for Woman Suffrage has held its fourth annual meeting at Karlstad on the 8th and 9th of January. Forty-four delegates had come to it from all parts of our vast country, and the work was followed with the utmost interest, both by the delegates themselves and the outsiders. After opening the conference, the president announced the result of the monster petition as far as it was known. 135,000 names had been counted, and many more lists were expected to come in. It was then de-

cided that the petition should be presented to our Parliament by the Central Board which would have to look out for the best way and the most opportune moment.

Many questions of great interest were discussed, one of which was that of our claim to eligibility. The 1st article of our constitution runs as follows: "The General Association is a union of local societies working to procure political suffrage to the Swedish women". As we all agreed that eligibility must needs follow on political suffrage, and that the time has now come to work for both, it was moved and carried that the words "and eligibility" should be added to Art. I. This amendment has to be accepted by a two-thirds vote at our regular meeting next year, and afterwards be approved by more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the local societies, before the work can be taken up.

The next question was that of cooperation with the women of the social-democratic clubs. After a lively debate, it was agreed upon that the local societies should try so prevail on these women to join our movement, and that the General Association should send to the social-democratic women's congress, Jan. 27—30th, an invitation to work together for the enfranchisement of women.

In connection with the conference we held a public meeting which turned out a great success. Women speakers from various local societies treated, the question: "How are the women likely to use the political suffrage when they get it?" Men and women of all classes had come to the meeting, and the hall was crowded. There has been stated a sudden increase of the interest in our suffrage question in the town where the Central Board has held its annual meeting. That is the reason why we practise the method of holding these conferences in various towns. We now hope that Karlstad will soon reap some benefits from our last successful meeting. The town we are to meet in next year will be Gävle (not far from Stockholm).

The Government has now presented its Franchise Bill to Parliament. As we had been told some weeks before, woman suffrage is not proposed in it, but we are not left quite without any share. Some very sympathetic words are said about the righteousness of our cause, and we are given to understand that the present Government will promote our suffrage claim... as soon as it has been duly considered.

To day, the 6th of February, is an important date in the history of our movement. The monster petition has been presented to Parliament. No less than 142,121 Swedish women ask the Swedish men to give them full political suffrage.

The social-democratic women's congress, now ended, did not seem very anxious that women of all classes should join in organized work for women's suffrage. Somebody even went as far as to warn against unnecessary co-operation with women of "the upper classes". But it was moved and carried that social-democratic women should be free to enter our suffrage societies if they choose.

Febr., 6th, 1907.
JENNY WALLERSTEDT.

United States.

The most important work for woman suffrage now going on here is in the Constitutional Con-

vention which is preparing the Constitution for the proposed new State of Oklahoma.

The National American Woman Suffrage Association is helping the women there to secure a clause in this Constitution which will give them the vote.

On the 8th of January a former Governor of the State of Colorado, (where women have voted since 1893) Alva Adams, made a long address at the Hearing on this question, granted by the Convention now in session at Guthrie, Oklahoma. In the course of his address he said:

"In our State the School affairs have been given over to the women. The State Superintendent has always been a woman and most of the county superintendents have been women. Some county officers have been women and in the Legislature there have been a few, but women have not pressed for political recognition. When they have held office, not one of them has ever defaulted. Not a bit of suspicion ever rested upon them.

Every election day Mrs. Adams walks with me to the polls and a woman could not be treated with more courtesy than women are treated at the voting places in Colorado. There has never been a woman insulted at the polls in Colorado to my knowledge. The men are better, the country is better and the women are no worse.

In one election 73 per cent of the registered women voted and in a fall election 78 per cent voted. That is a better per cent than you men bring out to your registrations in your town. When our women were first made citizens, they were timid. They thought that to be a citizen and a voter you must be profoundly wise. Then a year after the passage of the law, the women started out to qualify themselves and it is a fact that more books on political ethics and parliamentary law were bought and read by the women of Colorado than had been bought in all the years of the State's history. The women soon studied and learned about these things and are now better posted upon political ethics than are the men of Colorado.

The women are instinctively for better morals. They are against the things that will contaminate and influence their children toward evil. As the woman is, so the child will be; and as the child is, so the State will be.

I come to you today, not as the herald of a new faith, but I come here to tell you of a State which has granted absolute equality to all its citizens and to tell you we have no regrets. Man has gained and woman has lost nothing. That is the message I have to bring to you, to say to you that, so far as this new freedom for woman is concerned, there is no danger but only ultimate good and safety".

Harpers' Weekly, which is one of our oldest and most widely circulated journals, and which has heretofore been indifferent upon the question of woman suffrage, has recently taken its position as an outspoken advocate of the cause. This is a great gain for us, as this journal is finely illustrated and, because of its illustrations, it is very popular and is taken in many families where a radical woman suffrage newspaper would not be read. Its advocacy of the cause will help greatly to popularise the idea of woman's voting in many a conservative household.

The Executive Board of the California Equal Suffrage Association meets from twelve to fifteen

times a year in San Francisco. Nearly all the officers are present at all the meetings. But the officers and members of local clubs have had no opportunity of learning anything definite of the work undertaken, except an occasional official letter or "message", or the annual report of the president.

The "Yellow Ribbon" can now be used as a means of communication, and has been adopted as the official organ of the Washington and California equal suffrage associations.

In its January-issue we read: On Tuesday, December 11th, representatives of the county of Los Angeles Equal Suffrage Society and City League of Los Angeles did some excellent preparatory work in behalf of the proposed constitutional amendment to secure equal suffrage in this State.

As is the custom, the recently elected Assemblymen from the districts of Southern California met in session in Los Angeles to listen to presentations of questions coming before the Legislature, and the suffragists got ten minutes' time to plead their cause. Assemblyman A. M. Drew of Fresno replied that equal suffrage must come gradually and that women should first be given the right to vote on educational and municipal affairs.

Canada.

The annual meeting of the Dominion Women's Enfranchisement Association was held on January 15th, when officers were elected for the ensuing year: Honorary President, Mrs. James L. Huges; President, Dr. Stowe Gullen; The name of the society was changed to "Canadian Suffrage Association". The following resolution was moved and carried unanimously: "The Canadian Suffrage Association wishes to record its hearty appreciation of the intelligence, courage and energy shown by the members of the Women's Social and Political Union of England, in their splendid campaign for true liberty for women, and to express the sincere hope that the spirit of British fair play may soon lead to a general recognition of the justice of their great cause."

Germany.

During the weeks which immediately preceded the elections, the great interest among the women, mentioned in the former bulletin, has manifested itself in different ways. Frequently the papers published appeals to women to solicit their direct or indirect help in the electioneering campaign. The work in Berlin consisted mostly of agitation and propaganda. Also in the district of Stargard in Pomeriana women have been actively at work, about which action we hope to be better informed in time. It was conducted in favour of Dr. Breitscheid, to whom the women owe much gratitude for his advocacy of their enfranchisement. The same feeling prompted the two presidents of the W. S. A. to offer their services to Dr. Müller in the district of Meiningen; and so they visited the country-towns, where they did much work, which was interesting in many respects. They not only visited electioneering-agents and mailed and distributed heaps of pamphlets, but also held many meetings, in which Lida Gustava Heymann presided and Dr. Augspurg gave the address to the electors. Dr. Müller was elected by a great majority in the first election. We hope to give more notices in the next issue of this paper.

In Württemberg a new local W. S. A. was founded in consequence of a lecture given by Miss Heymann at Ulm. She obtained the same success at Freiburg in Badenia.

Urged by the strong action of the W. S. A. in Bremen, the Congregation of Peace has granted to independent women over thirty years old the right of voting in the Conventions which have to elect the Ministers of the church.

On Monday 21 Jan. the Prussian W. S. A. had called a public meeting in the Palace of Industry, Beuthstrasse 19, 20 Berlin, which protested against the exclusion of women from political meetings, and adopted the following resolution: "This meeting protests against the base limitation imposed on women by an antiquated law. The assistants (men and women) demand the abrogation of this law, which is a hindrance to the growing national education and to the nation's free development. Furthermore they demand universal, direct, secret suffrage for women equally with men; for women are citizens and therefore possess the same right to decide on the laws as men have."

In Silesia the desire of suffrage for women began to manifest itself about three years ago. Urged by the action of the National Council of German Women, the women in Breslau began by demanding the franchise for commercial tribunals and schoolboards. In the summer of 1906 at Liegnitz Mrs. Elisabeth Hirsch-Jungfer asked inscription on the list of electors for the municipality, alleging that she did not thereby claim a political right; and she yet awaits the decision of the authorities. Meanwhile the Silesian Federation of Women's Associations has addressed to some 60 candidates for the German Parliament the six following questions:

1. Treten Sie für die obligatorische Fortbildungsschule für alle Mädchen ein?
2. Treten Sie für die Erschließung der höheren Berufe für Frauen ein?
3. Treten Sie für gleichen Lohn bei gleicher Leistung der Frauen ein?
4. Treten Sie für Gleichstellung der Frau im Familienrecht ein?
5. Treten Sie für das freie Vereins- und Versammlungsrecht der Frauen ein?
6. Treten Sie für das allgemeine, gleiche, geheime und direkte Wahlrecht der Frauen ein?

They got a considerable number of answers, varying from a whole-hearted endorsement of their claims, to: "Mulier taceat in ecclesia!"

During the recent elections the women played an active part, especially in Görlitz.

Austria.

The National Woman Suffrage Association has not obtained official recognition by the authorities. What all other countries in Europe — so-called barbarian Russia not excepted — vouchsafe to their women, is to be refused them in Austria. The authorities justify this refusal by alleging § 30 of the Law on Assemblies of 1867, which prohibits women and minors from being members of political societies. The W. S. A. is considered a political society, as in § 2 of its Constitution it expressly states as its aim "the obtention of equality for men and women as citizens, and the enfranchisement of women for all governing bodies." This is clearly a forced interpretation, for obviously an association which has for its object to gain for women the possibility of taking an active part in politics cannot well be called a "political society."

Of course the founders of the Association appealed to a higher Authority, viz. the Ministry of the Interior, and, until its decision arrives, they have resolved to desist from every public demonstration. However it is becoming evident that the authorities have furnished us a valuable means of agitation and procured us an unexpected affluence of friends and advocates. Several of the principal Vienna papers (Neues Wiener Journal, Neues Wiener Tageblatt etc.), which until now had scarcely taken any notice of our cause, had editorials in our defence immediately after the publication of the refusal, without our having encouraged them. They condemned most severely the tyranny of this action, or ridiculed it. There was a general attack on § 30 which they all thought should be amended; and the hope was expressed that the new Parliament may soon abolish it, considering its absurdity; whilst actually under the old constitution some women, however small the group was, possessed the right to elect members for the Diets.

In the Parliament the deputy Breiter (impartial)—likewise of his own accord—questioned the Minister of the Interior, baron Bienert, on the subject of the refusal. He too qualified this action of the authorities as unjust and especially as going against the trend of the times. Now that all men were enfranchised, the time had surely come to give some more rights to women. The Minister did not see fit to answer this question.

Let us hope that this incident may serve to enlighten those among us women that qualified our action against § 30 as unimportant, because until now, they said, women had never been hindered from assembling and demanding the suffrage. May they keep in mind that the liberty conceded us hitherto is *not based on right*, and may be taken from us at any moment. We wish to be independent from police and local authorities, and we demand neither more nor less than § 2 of the Constitution assures us, saying: „before the Law all citizens are equal.” And this constitution has been confirmed by solemn oath.

H. HERZFELDER, Vienna.

Italy.

The first meeting of the Woman Suffrage Committee of Naples in this year was very important. The president of this Committee, miss Irma Melany Scodnik, spoke to elucidate again the aim and the programme of action of the Committee of Naples, which will always keep itself in relation with the other Committees of Italy, and principally with the National one.

Miss Scodnik recommended also timely provision for inscription on the electoral lists, for this is the best proof that women really wish to participate in political work.

Professor Scipio Sighele, the well-known Italian positivist a truly modern philosopher, addressed the public on Woman Suffrage in his conference on “Women’s Education” at *Collegio Romano* in Rome. He said that the Italian law does not grant the suffrage to women, and he said that this law is wrong, because: if the right of suffrage is founded on the quality of intelligent and free human creatures, women must have the suffrage because they *are* intelligent and free human creatures; if the right of suffrage is founded, on superiority of intelligence, women must have it, because a great many women have more intelligence than the little office-clerks or the door-keepers who to-day possess the franchise; if the

right of suffrage is founded on physical strength, women must have the suffrage, because the electors are not submitted to the visit of the physician neither before obtaining the suffrage; and neurasthenic, epileptical, alcoholised men go and vote.

Thus in Italy much propaganda for the enfranchisement of women is made by all sorts of addresses and conferences.

Norway.

There are now no less than six projects of law before the Storting (parliament) to change the Constitution so as to enfranchise women. One, coming from Thorleif Homme, to grant the suffrage to heads of families; but this seems to have little chance of being carried. Then there is a bill, introduced by Carl Stousland, emanating from Kvindestemmeretsforening (a society for woman suffrage). It has two alternatives. A. is based on universal suffrage for women, and B. on political suffrage for women on the same terms as they now possess municipal suffrage. Louise Qvam’s project, introduced by deputy A. Galtvik, has two alternatives, which essentially agree with the aforesaid proposals of the Kvindestemmeretsforening. W. Konow’s bill is essentially the same as alternative B. We quote it here: „§ 50 of the Constitution shall read henceforth: „Competent to exercise the right of voting shall be those Norwegian citizens that have accomplished their 25th year, reside in the country since five years, and, in so far as women are concerned, have paid to the state or the municipality for the last year their taxes based on an income of at least 300 Kroner. Then the Landskvindestemmeretsforening (N. W. S. A.) has made two proposals, one dating from 11 March 1904, presented by the deputies Fr. Havig and Harald Bothner, and one of 29 May 1906 introduced by Fr. Havig. They have both the same aim but the latter is the more correct in form.

The L. K. S. F. (woman suffrage association) being based only on the principle: suffrage for women on the same terms as for men, cannot of course take up any alternatives in its proposal. It is based solely on universal suffrage for women, and so it coincides with alternative A. in L. Qvam’s project, which runs thus: § 50 of the Constitution shall henceforth read as follows: „The suffrage shall appertain to those Norwegian citizens, men and women, that have accomplished their 25th year, have their residence in the country and live there.”

The Annual Meeting of the Landskvindestemmeretsforening (N. W. S. A.) is to take place at Kristiania on February the 27th.

Bulgaria.

Mme Ghéorgoff, the President of the Women’s Association in Sofia has published our Alliance’s Constitution in the principal women’s paper of her country, with a view to making the international organisation known to her countrywomen, and by that means try to build up a national society for woman suffrage.

SAMPLE COPIES TO BE ORDERED
FROM THE EDITOR.
