

Whoever, in an otherwise popular government, has no vote, and no prospect of obtaining it, will either be a permanent malcontent, or will feel as one whom the general affairs of society do not concern.

JOHN STUART MILL.



— I know only woman, and her disfranchised. —

— No man is good enough to govern a woman without her consent. —

— Failure is impossible! —

SUSAN B. ANTHONY.

Internat. Woman Suffrage Alliance

Bulletin or Monthly Correspondence.

Miss Sophie Rodger Cunliffe, Treasurer of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, will remain for some months longer in America. Altho letters directed to her London address will be forwarded, it will be better to send them to her American address: 313 W. 82nd St. New-York, care Mrs. Gilman.

I must add an important correction to my President's Message, presented to the Copenhagen meeting. I said therein, that the temporary organization of the Alliance, effected in Washington in 1902, had no Treasurer. It is true we had no money and hence, no duties for a treasurer; but a Treasurer we did have, and one too, who would have performed her duties wisely and well, had there been any, namely, Mrs. Florence Fenwick Miller. She was the only delegate from England in attendance upon the Washington meeting, having crossed the ocean for the express purpose, and she became therefore one of the charter members it was a careless bit of forgetfulness on my part, not to have mentioned her, and I apologize to her and to the Alliance for my oversight.

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and Dr. Alletta Jacobs, president of the Dutch Woman Suffrage Association, will visit Hungary and Austria in October, and will hold meetings in Prag, Brünn and Vienna in Austria, and in Budapest in Hungary.

United States.

The National American Woman Suffrage Association is preparing for active work in Oklahoma, one of the few remaining Territories of the United States.

A constitution is to be prepared this winter, under which Oklahoma will ask to enter the Union, as a *State*. Our women are planning to question all the candidates for the convention which is to frame this constitution; as there are several different political parties in the field, there is a large number of candidates whose position upon our question must be ascertained.

It is probable also that the National Association will aid the Oklahoma Woman Suffrage Association by sending to them one of our best press

workers, to spread our views by articles which she will try to have accepted and published in the leading journals of the Territory.

But when we remember that Oklahoma was formerly a part of Indian Territory and that about one half of the men who will form the Constitutional Convention will be *Indians*, we see but little prospect of the women in the new State being enfranchised.

With its issue of October the little journal published by the National American Woman Suffrage Association, heretofore issued quarterly, will become a monthly. „Progress,” as it is named, will no longer be used only for special work with the newspapers and for propoganda, but will be made a means of communication among the members of our Association and other workers for woman suffrage.

The 39th. annual convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association will be held in Chicago Feb. 14—20 1907.

The Portland Federal Women's Equality Association in Oregon follows a new plan for collecting signatures in behalf of woman suffrage by publishing in its organ this paragraph:

WANTED—20,000 NAMES.

We want the signatures of 20,000 adult citizens which we can use in support of the Federal Suffrage Bill giving women the right to vote for members of the House of Representatives. Every reader can get some names. The form given below enables the names to be used for any woman suffrage measure in Congress, and it is a continuous petition, that can be used as long as needed.

Use this form. Cut this out or copy on sheet of paper, lined down the middle, with names on one side and addresses, with street and number, on the other.

PETITIONERS FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

We, the undersigned adult citizens of the United States, hereby authorize the Federal Woman's Equality Association to affix our signatures to any memorial or petition that may be presented to Congress on behalf of woman suffrage.

Austria.

The debates on the change of the electoral law in Austria may be best illustrated by the following account of parliamentary procedure in that country, written by Frau Marie Spitzer, member of the Law-Committee of the International Council of Women:

"A proposition of law may be introduced either by Government (the Ministers) or by a member of one of the two Houses (House of Lords [Herrenhaus] or House of Deputies [Abgeordnetenhaus]). If it originates from Government or from a Deputy, it is first discussed in the House of Deputies and passes through three readings. At the first reading there is a debate, which either ends in the House rejecting the bill or in its being referred to a Committee (Ausschuss). In this Committee the bill is examined in detail, a Reporter is chosen, and, in case there is a minority, a second Reporter for the minority. The second reading in the House begins with the Report, to which eventually that of the minority is added. Then there is a debate on the principle of the bill and after that an examination in detail. When each paragraph has been discussed and adopted, the third reading and the voting on the entire bill takes place without further debate. The decision of the House is then communicated to the House of Lords, in which the same process repeats itself, which has been gone through in the House of Deputies. The place of the Committees is here taken by Commissions (Commissionen). When the House of Lords decides on a change of the projected law, it is returned to the House of Deputies, where it has to follow the same treatment as the first time. This is repeated until both the Houses arrive at the same conclusion.

The procedure here described is that which is followed for a bill introduced by the Government or by a member of the House of Deputies. If it is a member of the House of Lords who brings in a bill, the proceeding is reversed: first it is submitted to three readings in the House of Lords, then referred to the House of Deputies, and so on. In the House of Deputies the quorum is 100, in that of Lords 40, and more than half the number of the votes cast is required to pass the law.

As soon as the bill has obtained the consent of both Houses, the Premier (Ministerpräsident) submits it to the Emperor for sanction. This being obtained, the bill becomes law, yet it only comes into operation by being published in the compendium of state-laws (Reichsgesetzblatt).

If a bill is rejected by either of the Houses or fails to obtain the imperial assent, it cannot be presented again in the same session, although it may be in the next.

Here follows a report on the discussions which have taken place last month on the reform of the electoral law.

On the 12th of September the Committee of the House of Representatives (Ausschuss des Abgeordnetenhauses) on the reform of the electoral law assembled again for the first time after the summer-pause. When § 7, on the franchise, was under discussion, there was an interesting debate on woman suffrage. The bill declares entitled to the franchise "any person of the male sex having accomplished his 24th year and in possession of the Austrian citizenship, not excepted from the right of suffrage, and having lived within the

boundaries of the states and kingdoms represented in the Diet (Reichsrat) in the district of election, for upwards of a year on the day of the election."

Deputy *Choc* (radical Czech) proposes that the first sentence run thus: "entitled to the franchise is any person of the male or the female sex, having . . . etc. Women's demand of the franchise is entirely just and opportune. The modern women can no more be content to be ranked with criminals idiots and minors. Deputy *Hrubi* (young Czech) also advocates woman suffrage. There is no gainsaying that in Austria nowadays there are women of great merit in public life, and there is no reason why these women should not be accorded the franchise. Also those numerous women, engaged in state- or public service, employees, teachers etc. and those who gain their own livelihood, have doubtless a right to the franchise. The speaker proposes, as universal suffrage for women has little chance of adoption, that a clause be added, giving the suffrage to persons of the female sex employed in state-, national or municipal service or in private employment of the same importance, which assures them a minimum income of 1000 Kronen a year, further to those women who exercise a profession or farming for their own account. Deputy *Kaiser* (German Popular Party) refers to the fact that the Government has declined to exclude the illiterate from the franchise, on the ground that existing rights should not be denied. As regards women they are less scrupulous: women property-holders and women possessing the suffrage for the Chambers of Commerce (Handelskammern), who until now — the former directly the latter indirectly — have voted to appoint delegates for the Diet, are to lose that right by adoption of the present bill. The speaker is no advocate of extensive emancipation of women, he would esteem it an evil, if women were dragged away from their natural sphere, and politics were carried into family-life. Hence he will not vote for universal woman suffrage. Yet those women who actually possess the suffrage should not be deprived of it, and so female persons who conduct business or manage property independently should be declared entitled to the franchise. *Dr. Adler* (socialist) declares that his party stands for the principle of absolute equality of men and women before the franchise. Still he thinks this reform entirely unpracticable at the present moment, and that explains why he sees in the different proposals of the former speakers nothing more than a demonstration of their pretended progressiveness.

The Minister of the Interior (*Baron Bienerth*) replies by stating that the vivid demonstrations held of late for the purpose of obtaining political equality for women have not escaped the Government's notice, and that it has even made them a subject of earnest consideration. Until now woman suffrage had been introduced into no state of Europe, and the Minister felt justified in doubting, if for Austria, at the very moment when it was traversing so important a political evolution, it were a wise course to hazard a first trial. The proposals moved by the deputies *Hruby* and *Kaiser* were in contradiction to the principle of equal suffrage, as thereby the franchise for women would be limited to a small group, whilst for men it was to be based on very broad and general conditions. For the rest, the franchise as proposed by the Government is a corollary to military service, i. e. the obligation of putting one's person entirely, if required, at the disposal of the community, which obligation could not be fulfilled by women. Finally

the Minister considered as a grave objection the fact that, if we would accord women the active right of suffrage, it would be difficult to exclude them from eligibility.

The debate ended with the adoption of § 7 in the above-named terms of the Government-bill; and although the women are going shortly to send a petition to the House of Representatives, there is little hope that it will amend the bill in their favour. But the Austrian women-as deputy *Choc* prophesied-will never give up the struggle for their rights, and they will certainly keep in mind the Minister's declaration that active and passive suffrage, the franchise and eligibility, are inseparable.

In Neues Frauenleben, the organ of the socialist women in Vienna, the above-mentioned debate is alluded to, and then follows this clause: "We will not fail, as soon as universal suffrage for men has become law, to demand the suffrage for ourselves also."

Hungary.

Since they gave their report in Copenhagen, the Hungarian suffragists have continued their untiring agitation by making known through the press in their country, and all over the world what their claims are and why the time is propitious to urge them now, whilst new electoral laws are in discussion. Writing articles for papers and reviews, eliciting declarations on the point of woman suffrage from all the deputies in the parliament, placarding their demand of votes for women on walls and fences, such are their constant occupations. Miss Schwimmer gave sketches of the Copenhagen congress in several Hungarian and German newspapers, and is now busily preparing the public meetings at which Mrs. Chapman Catt and Dr. Jacobs are to speak. Thus our International W. S. Alliance helps to further the movement in Hungary; and Hungary does not forget its sisters in other countries neither, for the Feminist Union congratulated the Dutch N. W. S. A. at the celebration of its Jubilee. Perhaps it might be advisable for each of our auxiliary associations to announce its celebrations, when there are any, in this bulletin.

FRAUEN IN DER KONSTITUTION.

In einer am 12. September im "Budapesti Hirlap" erschienenen Mitteilung wurde *Stefan Majoros*, der gewesene Abgeordnete der Stadt Zenta erwähnt, welcher im ungarischen Abgeordnetenhaus schon vor längerer Zeit die Ausdehnung des Wahlrechtes auf die Frauen beantragte. *Felix Parcsotrik*, ein Neffe des weil. *Stefan Majoros*, schreibt uns nun aus Berlin einen Brief, welcher einige Daten zur Ergänzung unserer Mitteilung enthält. — Nach diesen Daten gehörte *Stefan Majoros* zu jenen Idealisten des 1848er Freiheitskrieges, welche dem Geniesse der ungarischen Nation eine grosse europäische Mission zudachten und suchten. Ab und zu führte sie dies zu Extremen, aber sie standen immer mit ehrenwerter Begeisterung im Dienste ihrer Ideen. Oft waren sie ihrer Zeit voraus. So datiert die Beantragung des Frauenstimmrechtes im ungarischen Parlamente von früher, als die Bewegung der englischen Radikalen, ja sogar von früher, als das über diesen Gegenstand erschienene berühmte Buch August Bebel's. Schlagende Beweise hiefür sind die Begrüssungsadressen, welche von engli-

schen und italienischen feministischen Vereinen an den antragstellenden Majoros gerichtet wurden. Die galanten italienischen Frauen legten ihrem Grusse einen wertvollen Ring bei.

Wenn bei der Versammlung der ungarischen Feministen demnächst Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt aus New-York und dr. Aletta Jacobs-Amsterdam erscheinen, wird man ihnen mit vollem Rechte sagen können, dass die ersten Anfänge der Frauenstimmrechtsbewegung von Budapest ausgingen.

THE EIGHTY-CLUB AND WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Interview with Sir Charles Mc. Laren at Budapest.

Eventually, they have not much in common. That is woman suffrage and the Eighty-Club.

The club has no direct program, and so woman suffrage cannot either be in it, but our club serves the true liberalism, and so it is but natural that its members should take position for women's votingrights.

Here with us, where "true liberalism" and even "true democracy" fears the extension of woman's rights, this simple and natural declaration of Sir Charles Mc. Laren's sounds rather peculiar. Answering to my inquiry, he professes, that since fifteen years already he serves the cause of woman suffrage, and he is in hopes of leaving to his daughter, who was present at our discourse as an inheritance woman's active and passive voting right.

He is serving this cause not merely by word and letter but with deeds as well, in taking an active part in the women's political movement.

He is even the president of the group formed of all the parties in Parliament, the official title of which is: "Group formed in the House of Commons to promote Woman Suffrage." The secretary of this group, Honourable Geoffrey Howard, is also member of the Deputation of the Eighty Club which was here.

Sir Mc. Laren added to this: Mr. Geoffrey Howard, the secretary of our group, is the son of the Countess of Carlyle, president of the Women's liberal political Union.

He told of some highly interesting occurrences which happened lately in the English Women's movement. He was leading the deputation to Campbell-Bannerman which, losing patience at the delaying speech of the prime-minister, arranged noisy demonstrations in the streets of London.

The elderly gentleman, smiled with closed lips as Englishmen do, at my remark that, as far as I knew, the English ladies have no confidence now in the liberals, who after advocating for several decennimus the necessity of women's suffrage seem forgetful of their promise when coming into government.

I do not wonder at their doubts, his answer was, but do not share their disbelief. The liberals have not drawn back; myself, as a member of the House of Commons, must needs know it best, but momentarily the government would risk its position by too violent urging of the cause. It was only for tactical purposes if they did not put the franchise for women in a prominent position; but it is my conviction, that in a short time the situation will alter so as to enable the government to realise this inevitable claim of true liberalism. He believes the more in it, as the entire Labour Party declared to identify themselves with the complete demand, and exercises a pressure which

will force even the more cowardly liberals to take up a position.

As Mr. Mc Laren questioned me in his turn as to how the case of woman suffrage stands with us, he remarked:

"Well, if the reform of the franchise came up with us, doubtlessly the question of Woman's Suffrage would be solved simultaneously. With us, such reform, without considering women, would be impossible."

He expressed his regret at not having spoken of the question in which he takes so much interest in political circles.

The expected visit of Mrs. Chapman Catt and Dr. Aletta Jacobs has opened the columns of the entire Hungarian press to the discussion of women suffrage, and the newspapers vie in amiable and laudatory comments on the movement for women's rights.

This is again a conclusive proof that foreign visitors have power to give a mighty stimulus to the women's aspirations. All the principal papers have already published articles on both the speakers, which have awakened the public interest in the highest degree.

Even that fraction of the press, which until now kept entire silence on the women's movement, and that which was wont to cover it with ridicule, now, even before the meetings, publish most enthusiastic articles on woman suffrage.

Sweden.

The member for Sweden of the International Law Committee Dr. Alexandra Skoglund, gives the following account of parliamentary procedure in her country:

Civil and Criminal Law is given by the King and the Parliament (Riksdag). Either Parliament or the King drafts a bill. When a member of Parliament introduces a bill, it is first discussed in a Law-Committee, chosen by the two Houses of Parliament. The Committee either rejects or accepts the bill and refers it to the Parliament with explanatory comments. The bill is then discussed in public in both Houses, and if either of them recommends a change, the bill is referred back to the Committee. Both Houses have the same right to reject or accept it. Only when each of them accepts it, it is sent on to the Superior Court and the Council of State, of which the King is the President. If these pass the bill without amendments, it becomes law.

In case the King wishes to propose a bill, it is a Minister who presents it, and it is first discussed in the Council of State and the Superior Court. From thence it goes to Parliament and is treated in the above way. When both Houses have passed the bill unamended, it becomes law.

Laws concerning the State Church are originally treated in the same way, only a General Church Council has to adopt the project, before it becomes law.

Changes in the Constitution are proposed either by the King or by the Parliament. The Minister of Justice may draft the bill, and in that case the State Council, where the King presides, discusses it first. Then the lawproject is introduced into Parliament and referred to a Committee on Constitution. With the Committee's comments the bill is then presented to the Houses and publicly discussed. If the bill obtains the majority of the

votes in both Houses together, it is passed by Parliament, but it is not yet law. The Second Chamber has been elected for a term of three years. A bill, passed within that period, has to be accepted again without amendment by both Houses, when the Second Chamber has been renewed.

If a member of Parliament or the Committee on Constitution proposes a change in the Constitution, the project is treated in the same way in Parliament. And when Parliament has again accepted the bill twice without amendment, it is discussed in the Council of State, the King presiding. If it is then adopted without amendment, it becomes law.

The Swedish suffragists are living in a great suspense. The question is if women suffrage will be part of the Conservative Cabinet's Franchise Bill offered to next Riksdag (the Swedish Parliament) or not. In the first case, the Liberal party, though not very much disposed to that measure, would probably feel bound also to take up the women suffrage in their opposite Franchise Bill, as it cannot leave to the Conservatives alone to propose that big reform. The Labour party will most probably at all events include woman suffrage in its Franchise Bill. If we can get the Cabinet to propose woman suffrage, our question would from that moment be bound up with all political parties and could hardly be left aside in the actual politics any more. But if the Cabinet does not include women in their Bill, the majority of the Liberals will be only too happy to drop our question for a long time.

Last Riksdag asked the Government for an investigation into the women's franchise question and that investigation has taken place, though the results are not yet published.

In order to understand why Swedish women can entertain any hope of help from a Conservative Cabinet, one must know the political situation in our country just now. Extended suffrage for men has been a vital political problem for many years, but the different Bills have never obtained a majority in both the Chambers.

This year the first liberal Cabinet since 1866, the year of the great change in the Swedish Constitution, had a great majority for its Franchise Bill in the Second Chamber, but it was lost in the First. When the King refused to follow the Cabinet's advice to dissolve the Second Chamber, in order to give the voters an opportunity to give their opinion upon the Government's Franchise Bill, the liberal Cabinet had to resign. The Conservative Cabinet that took its place, has its natural support in the First Chamber, which now does not longer dare to oppose the extended franchise but will combine it with proportional representation, that mode of voting being, by a series of circumstances too long to explain, favorable to the Upper Chamber. In order to make a favorable impression upon the country and to obtain a majority in the Lower Chamber, the Cabinet seems to intend to go as far as possible to the left in its Franchise Bill. Including the women in the Franchise Bill would show the Government's wish to be even more liberal and more consistent than the Liberals themselves. Probably they entertain the idea that women voters would to a certain degree neutralize the radicalizing effect of the new men voters, women being by nature more conservative than men, and this consideration has its share in the Government's deliberation.

But on the other side, though woman suffrage has many staunch supporters among the Conservatives, the idea of women as voters would be in opposition to the majority's conception of "true womanhood", and would perhaps endanger the victory of the Government's Franchise Bill. So the pros and contras are weighed against each other by the Government, and it is no wonder that the Swedish woman suffragists live in a great suspense. We shall however, soon know the Cabinet's decision.

ANNA WHITLOCK,
President of the General Association
for Woman Swedens Suffrage.

On the 6th of October nearly fifty delegates from the N. W. S. A. were received by the Prime Minister. The President, Miss Anna Whitlock headed the deputation and urged the claim of women to citizenship in a strong and eloquent speech. The Minister's answer was very courteous but rather evasive, promising inquiry and consideration. And so the Swedish women are still in suspense.

Norway.

HOW THE PRESS REPORTS US.

To the Editor:

I have received the first number of the bulletin. By your reviews of the Danish and the Dutch newspapers I see that you are no great believer in newspaper-reports, where the reproduction of what women suffragists have said is concerned. I fully agree with you there. I illustrate the fact by an example of a misrepresentation, which I am sorry to say, has found its way from Politiken to the first number of your bulletin.

Miss Gina Krog did not, in her speech at the open-air meeting in Frederiksberg Park in Copenhagen on 19 August, boast: "that the women of Norway had got farther than their Danish sisters, etc." I said that both the Swedish and the Norwegian women had some rights which the Danish had not. I addressed the men of Denmark and asked them to give them these rights and more. I expressed the hope that our Danish sisters would obtain very soon what they first of all wanted: municipal suffrage; and that on a better basis than we have it, as we do not possess it on the same terms as men. There ought to be no connection between tax-paying and political suffrage, and there was danger in the delay of woman suffrage, as the burning social problems could not be solved until men and women could cooperate as political equals.

We Norwegian suffragists feel that we must spare no time to awaken the women's interest now, as it depends wholly on them, whether we may hope to have political suffrage in a few years or not. For I have the satisfaction of announcing you that the elections for the Storting for its triennial period have fallen out very much in favour of women suffrage.

Sincerely yours,
GINA KROG, editor of Nylaende.

Rev. Anna Shaw, Mrs. Foster Avery with her two daughters, Miss Lucy Anthony, Mrs. Mirovitch and Miss Partenheimer visited Norway after the Copenhagen congress. The American ladies enjoyed their passage through Norway so much, that Miss

Shaw exclaimed: I should like to live here a long long time," so much not only the country but also the splendid and cordial reception pleased her. When she addressed a meeting at Kristiania on August 23rd, the room was overcrowded, and the President of the Norwegian W. S. A., Fru Qvam, thanked Rev. A. Shaw heartily for her eloquent address.

Dagbladet of 26 September says of the result of the elections: For women's political suffrage there will *probably* be in the Storting a majority of $\frac{2}{3}$, composed of the left side (Venstre) with a few exceptions, the Democrats, the Socialists and some of the right side (Höire).

The President of the N. W. S. A. says however: We must not be too sanguine in our expectations. And the editor of Nylaende says: it is *not impossible* that before the end of this session the Norwegian women may be in possession of the franchise.

In Kristiania on 25 Sept. the jury had to pronounce a sentence in the case of a woman accused of adultery by her husband. The only female member of the jury was Fr. Mörck. Before the trial both the lawyers who had to speak for accuser and accused requested Miss Mörck to withdraw, as her presence was an obstacle for entering into the necessary unpleasant details. She answered that she was bent upon doing her duty, whether that was agreeable or disagreeable to her; and the court decided that it was unlawful to pronounce a sentence, when one from their number was thus excluded without her own request. So Frk. Mörck remained and did her duty, and the accused was acquitted.

Now, could it ever have happened in a country where women are full citizens, that a jury-member was expected to withdraw from her function on the ground that she was a woman?

Great-Britain.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies are now beginning their autumn campaign in the seven constituencies represented by well-known opponents of Women's Suffrage, five of them being members of the Government, such as the Right Honble. James Bryce (Chief Secretary for Ireland); the Right Honble. John Sinclair (Secretary for Scotland); the Right Honble. H. H. Asquith (Chancellor of the Exchequer); the Right Honble. L. V. Harcourt (First Commissioner of Works); the Right Honble. Sydney Buxton (Postmaster General); Mr. S. T. Evans and Mr. W. R. Cremer.

The work carried on by the National Union is to promote Petitions from the women householders in these constituencies and also a general petition from men and women, to be presented by a Deputation of Women to these Members, praying them to give their support to a Bill to give the franchise to women.

An active campaign has been already begun in Mr. L. V. Harcourt's constituency. A large number of open air meetings have been held there and great interest has been shewn. The women textile workers of Lancashire and Cheshire have been carrying out the work and have obtained over 7,000 signatures to the Petition to Mr. L. V. Harcourt.

In Scotland the campaign has been begun in Mr. Asquith's and Mr. Sinclair's constituency. Miss Roper and Miss Gore-Booth, the zealous

and untiring Secretaries of the Lancashire and Cheshire Women Textile and other Workers' Committee, have been speaking at open air meetings in Edinburgh, Forfar and East Fife. In Mr. Sydney Buxton's constituency in London the work of obtaining Petitions is being carried on. The object of this campaign is to convince these opponents of Women's Suffrage that women do want the vote.

In Mr. Evans' constituency, Mid-Glamorgan, (Wales) an election is about to take place, that is if the Federation of Miners in that constituency finally decide to oppose Mr. Evans. In that case Mr. Vernon Hartshorn would be the miner's candidate, and Mr. Hartshorn is a warm friend of Women's Suffrage. The Central Society have decided to do all they can to support Mr. Hartshorn, should he stand. They have sent their organizer, Miss Watson, down to Mid-Glamorgan and they are awaiting the result of the Miners' Conference held to-day.

Mr. Evans has been a very active opponent of Women's Suffrage, speaking against the Women's Suffrage Bill in Parliament and anything the National Union of Suffrage Societies can do to prevent his re-election will be done.

EDITH PALLISER,
secr. N. U. W. S. S.

On Oct. 8th Mr. Evans was declared duly elected, no other nomination having been handed in. However the meetings where he addressed his constituents did not go on without interruptions from woman suffragists.

Much amusement has been created among the ranks of the Women Suffragists in London by the announcement of a meeting held last month to oppose the granting of the suffrage to women. The first meeting was announced to take place on August 29th, at Anderton's Hotel, London, but it was postponed until September 3rd. On Sept. 3rd, the meeting was held and eight persons attended, four of these being reporters for newspapers. It was decided that the Society should have no name. Its aim was to oppose Women's Suffrage and to prevent women from getting into Government and business offices. Mr. Broom, the Secretary, had been summoned by the police some time ago for disturbing a meeting in support of Women's Suffrage.

The Scottish Liberal Association (composed of men) have unanimously passed a Woman Suffrage resolution in their meeting at Peebles on Oct. 5th.

In the Manchester Branch of the Independent Labour Party the conduct of the women's leaders, who took a strictly independent position at the Cockermouth election, was discussed; and after full consideration a very large majority decided that their conduct was not in any way contrary to the spirit of the Constitution.

Annie Kenney, one of the now released so-called "Asquith's Prisoners", is welcomed in many places by thousands of hearers. In Wales, Scotland and London the women agitators are constantly speaking in numerous meetings. Mrs.

Montefiore spoke for the S. D. Federation at Copenhagen, and a resolution was passed in these terms: "That this meeting expresses the deepest admiration for, and the warmest sympathy with, the brave women who have been so vindictively sentenced to imprisonment for merely technical offences, and the Danish workers, men and women, feel solidarity with the work of the "Women's Social and Political Union" in England for the "Votes for Women".

Mr. Asquith has consented to receive on Saturday 13 Oct. a deputation of the wives of some of his constituents.

The Women's Social and Political Union are about to open new central offices at 4 Clements' Inn Strand. On Oct. 21st they are going to hold four open-air meetings and a united demonstration on that evening in the Holborn Town Hall.

Germany.

Three great political parties of Germany gave declarations in favour of women's suffrage in the last weeks. The leading paper in South-Germany of the Roman Catholic party took a position, decidedly in favor of woman's suffrage by an article, that was intended to end a quarrel, running through the smaller provincial catholic papers ever since the first vote on Women's suffrage in the Bavarian Legislature in December 1905. Now this leading organ objects severely to further polemics, referring to the church herself, who gives full electoral rights to the sisters of sacred orders in their selfgovernment & more than this, worships a woman almost as highly as God himself. Therefore, the article argues, the laws of the church do not forbid the enfranchisement of women, & reason as well, as social & economic development prescribe it and make it desirable. This official edictum of the powerful clerical party in Germany is one to be well registered in the archives of our national Suffrage Society & made use of, as soon as the question becomes actual again in any of our states' or federal parliaments.

The social-democratic party had its annual meeting in the last week of September & for the first time the women of the party took a decided position with respect to women's rights in general & to women's suffrage in special. Until now even their leader, Mrs. Clara Zetkin, had backed a strategy, which, — as for instance in Belgium under Van der Velde, — dropped the suffrage for women as soon as it promised to serve better for other parties than for their own. But this year dictatorial resolutions were moved & passed, to put the obtention of equal rights above all tactical considerations. "We must not be surpassed in these demands by any other party" insisted the president of the party, August Bebel, in a long & brilliant speech & a resolution was adopted, to make the struggle for women's suffrage one of the urgent themes at the next international meeting.

The least satisfactory treatment the question found at the annual meeting of the liberal-democratic party, which in Germany as in many other countries, is very quick to lose all democratic dispositions, as soon as the rights of the other sex are at stake. Such was the case with the most prominent leaders of the party, Conrad Hauss-

mann & Payer, both from Stuttgart, even when the right to vote in its most modest form, for municipal bodies, stood in discussion. But to be just, it must be stated, that of all debates of the meeting none was as hard & excited as this one about women's suffrage, which shows clearly, that the friends of the question were equally numerous & zealous, if not more. In reply to the proceedings of this "democratic" & "liberal" meeting the German society for W.'s S. resolved at once to arrange a protest meeting in Stuttgart, the residence of those two chief opponents and to call them to account for their unreasonably, unjust & undemocratic words.

Dr. ANITA AUGSPURG, President.

The Netherlands.

HOW ORDINARY LAWS COME INTO EXISTENCE IN HOLLAND.

The bill is drafted by the Minister assisted by his officers. Then the State-Council is consulted and the Project of Law is presented, "in the Queen's name" to the Second Chamber of the States-General. Here, first of all, the Project is discussed in the Divisions and a Preliminary Report of the discussions is drawn up, which is answered by the Minister who proposed the law, in a document called the Reply. Occasionally the Minister enters upon a more detailed oral deliberation with the Reporting Committee. Generally this report or the deliberation induces the Minister to make some changes in the project. At the Public Discussions in the Second Chamber the members may adduce their motives, why they approve or disapprove the project, and at the same time they are entitled to communicate what modifications they should like to introduce in it. The proposed changes are called amendments. The Minister, on his part, gives explanations and defends his bill. First every article with its proposed amendments is put to votes; then the entire bill, with the amendments that have resulted from the debate, is submitted to the votes of the members. As the majority declares in favour or against the bill, it is either carried or rejected.

In the former case the bill is presented for discussion to the First Chamber. This body is not entitled to introduce amendments; it has either to adopt or to reject the entire project. Should the bill be rejected by one of the two Chambers, the Minister, with the Queen's authorization, repeals it. Generally in that case the Minister who made the project, sometimes the whole Ministry, tender their resignation. In case the Queen accepts this dismission, she gives a mandate to some competent person for the formation of a new cabinet; in case she refuses the dismission, generally either one or both the Chambers are dissolved and new elections ordered. When both branches of the Representation of the People have approved the bill, it still wants the Royal Sanction, after which it is edited in the State-Paper and becomes law.

For changing the State Constitution there is a different parliamentary procedure.

The Dutch W. S. A. has now existed 12½ years, and this eighth-of-a-century jubilee was celebrated by the edition of an extra-number of its organ and by a reunion of delegates from the different branch-societies at Zutphen on Sept. 9th. There

was an evening-reception with an address from the president, Dr. Aletta Jacobs, and some very good artistic performances; and on the next day we made a pleasant excursion in the country and had a nice farewell-dinner. The extra-number contains short texts and arguments for woman suffrage in prose, poetry and design, sent in by men and women of different social standing and various religious and political opinions, as the reader may see, if she (he) understands Dutch and cares to send me an application by postcard. Some branch-societies are arranging to celebrate the jubilee in their own way: the Hague has had a successful propaganda evening-party, and Amsterdam is going to perform a dramatic sketch, selected from a prize-competition held for this occasion.

For the winter campaign the Dutch W. S. A. offers a speaker, in case political or other associations should manifest a desire of discussing the franchise for women. It invites speakers who can take upon themselves a whole or part of a conference, to publish their names in the N. W. S. A.'s organ.

Denmark.

The meeting of the International Suffrage Alliance has been a great benefit to the suffrage work in Denmark, the public opinion now is on our side.

On Saturday 8th September a discussion about suffrage for women was held in our eldest, most conservative studentsclub called "Studentforeningen". The opening address was given by cand. theol. Mollerup, who very often attended the meetings of the Alliance.

Invited were ladies, who were known for their interest and belief in suffrage.

Mr. Mollerup fully agreed with our efforts. He showed, that historical evolution would bring equality and that it was a simple matter of justice to give to women social and political rights.

Mrs. Norrie and Mrs. Nörlund expressed their sympathy with this point of view.

Two gentlemen Dr. med. Thulstrup and Dr. phil. Storcke spoke in favour of suffrage but not on the basis of justice. In politics men would ask for the suitability of the purpose, the use of the measure rather than for its justice. It was on this way, the women had to reach the aim.

Nobody spoke against, but evidently about 1/3 of the audience were antagonists; probably their reasons were so ill founded, that they found no courage to express their opinions.

Mrs. NÖRLUND,
Pres. Danish W. S. A.

On 5 October a new Woman Suffrage Club was started at Copenhagen, Store Kongensgade 92. It bears the name of *Valgerda* in memory of the first Danish suffragist.

France.

The parliamentary procedure in France is described as follows by Mme d'Abbadie d'Arrast, member of the I. C. W. Law-Committee in Oct. 1905.

The law on the organisation of public power in France, being a constitutional and organic law of 25 Febr. 1875, says in art. 3: The President of

the Republic, together with the members of the two Chambers, has the right to propose laws and has to assure their execution. A law, promulgated by the President of the Republic, is inserted in the State-Gazette (Journal Officiel), signed by the President and also by the Minister concerned; and, by taking its place in the Code, it comes into force. Thus the right of proposing a bill appertains to the Senate as well as to the Chamber of Deputies: the bill (projet de loi) is laid on the table (Bureau) in one of the Chambers by one or several members of the Chambers concerned: the projected law (proposition de loi) is presented to the Chamber of Deputies by Government. A Committee is appointed by one of the two Chambers to examine the bill or projected law. When the Committee has terminated the discussion of the articles of the proposed bill, it elects a Reporter to present it for approbation to the deputies or senators in a public session, the text having been previously printed and distributed to the members by the care of the „questure”. An epitome of the law together with explanatory remarks drawn up by the originator is added to the articles of the bill, then the discussion takes place, one article after another, which are then put to votes, and finally the whole project is accepted or rejected in first reading. When it has obtained a majority the bill is referred to the other Chamber, where the same process of discussion and voting takes place. If modifications or amendments are introduced in the text, the bill is referred back to the House which examined it first, until agreement is obtained between the Chamber and the Senate. In case this agreement can not be arrived at, the bill is postponed indefinitely, and at the end of the legislative period it becomes obsolete (caduque). If, on the contrary, the agreement has been obtained on the text of the articles, a second deliberation followed by voting takes place in the Senate and in the Chamber of Deputies, and, if it is passed by a majority, the bill or project is referred to the President of the Republic in virtue of the constitutional and organic law quoted in the beginning of this sketch.

Report of the Copenhagen Congress.

The *Report of Second and Third Conferences of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance*, of 120 pages, containing the Declaration of Principles and Constitution, the minutes of the Berlin and Copenhagen Conferences, the President's address, Mrs. Husted Harper's opening words at the memorial meeting for Susan Anthony, and reports from Australia, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Great-Britain, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the United States, can be ordered from *Martina G. Kramers, 92 Kruiskade Rotterdam, Holland*, by sending the value of 2 Kroner Danish money.

Letter from the Editor.

Dear Correspondents!

You see here a sample-number of 8 pages, which the generous aid of an individual member permits me to issue in 500 copies. You and I are to do our best for a suitable distribution, that

we may get the largest possible number of subscribers and thereby reduce the cost. I need not again ask for news; those who have not sent it in time, can see that they are at fault. But I request your help in another respect; viz. for a description of the parliamentary procedure in the different countries, as I have not got it for more than the five countries published here. And if you have suggestions to offer as to the contents of the bulletin, I shall be glad to receive them, especially if accompanied by a sample of the new departure you would recommend. So f. i. Germany recommends a 4 page-issue, and I believe we should give that a trial next month; that is, if our number of subscribers is not largely swelled by those who wish to have the bulletin in its present form. I will not conceal from you my own wish that this may prove to be the case.

It would be a great help to me, if the editors of women's papers like Progress, Frauenbewegung, La Vita would send me a gratis copy of their publications. If they put me on the list of their subscribers that will save much expenditure to the Alliance, and yet for them it is not a very heavy cost.

Would the National Presidents have the kindness to send me the list of the addresses to which the bulletin is to be forwarded in their country? Then, next month, I can send it directly from Rotterdam; whereas now I can do no better than send a packet to each President for distribution, to which I add a few copies that may serve to gain new subscribers. I keep the rest of the 500 copies here, so as to be ready to send them to editors, debaters, speakers and organisers who may want to have a sample copy.

Finally I thank you for your contributions to this number and solicit your generous help for the future.

Yours sincerely,

MARTINA G. KRAMERS.

Rotterdam, 92 Kruiskade, October 8th 1906.



Each reader of this bulletin will oblige me by sending me her (his) name and address, in case she (he) wishes to become a subscriber. The cost will depend on the number of subscribers and on the size that is to be decided on for the bulletin. However I daresay it will not exceed three guilders in Dutch money.

I will also be thankful for any paper or review containing suffrage-news.

MARTINA G. KRAMERS.

