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THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
President's New Year Message	52	Suffrage Sub-Committee: Reply from Dutch East Indies	60
Summary of Feminist News, 1930	52	The Bankers and Unemployment, by Friede Harris	60
Events of the Month	53	Section Française:	
Woman Suffrage Situation in Peru, by Mercedes Gallagher Park	55	Evenements de l'Année, 1930	62
Ecuador	56	Pérou	62
Jus Cartoons: Number X	57	Nouvelles Internationales	63
A Useful Book	59	Lettre de Genève, par E. Gourd	64
News in Brief	59	Premier Congrès Feministe Oriental	65

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PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR'S GREETING.

To all members of the Alliance throughout the wide world I send my best wishes for health, happiness and success in the New Year and my most grateful thanks for the loyalty and friendship which binds us so closely together in our ideals and our work.

1930 has brought the women's movement many successes in many continents.

Suffrage gains in whole or in part in S. Africa, Greece, Turkey and Jamaica, a new status for women in Ecuador.

Women have played a part in the Naval Conference and the Round Table Conference. Mme. Marzorati is helping solve the difficult problems of forced labour.

The Pan-Arab Women's Conference on one side of the world is helped by the great Pan-Pacific Conference in Honolulu.

More women are entering public life and gaining there

the necessary experience for work of an international character.

But what patient, strenuous work we must still devote to our cause. We know we dare not rest or our gains will slip away. We need not only patience and energy but the fire and energy of faith which alone guide great spiritual revolutions. 1931 is ours to make or mar, we are the masters of our fate and on us and our loyal co-operation depend the successes of 1931.

We remember with gratitude and affection the great pioneers who have passed on, leaving us to be worthy of their splendid example. We bless the memory of Dr. Helene Lange and Frau Altmann-Gottheimer, of Germany, Mrs. Anna Whitlock, of Sweden, and Mlle. Camille Vidart, of Switzerland, and we pledge ourselves anew to our task.

M. I. CORBETT ASHBY.

EVENTS OF THE YEAR.

A SUMMARY OF FEMINIST NEWS IN 1930.

Canada. First woman Senator, Mrs. Wilson, appointed.

Ceylon. Woman Suffrage was finally granted in December 1929, but news of it did not reach us until 1930 so it might be mentioned.

Ecuador. Equality of sexes written into constitution.

Finland. First woman diplomat appointed to Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

France. First woman appointed "médecin des hôpitaux."

Germany. 39 women elected to Reichstag as against 35.

Greece. Decree for limited Municipal Suffrage came into force January 30th after long delay.

India. The Child Marriage Bill was to come into force on April 1st, 1930. Unfortunately, the Government has yielded to pressure to submit this Act for re-consideration.

Two women appointed delegates to Round Table Conference.

International Labour Office. Mme. Marzorati appointed member of Forced Labour Committee.

Ireland. Free State Affiliation Orders Bill passed improving laws dealing with illegitimacy.

Jamaica. Women made eligible for Municipal bodies.

Japan. Reported that a woman was appointed Consul-General (not corroborated).

League of Nations. Mlle Gourd appointed to take Miss Rathbone's place as Assessor representing women international organisations on Child Welfare Committee.

Nationality. The Hague Conference on the Codification of International Law was not a victory precisely, but it did serve as an occasion for showing the solidarity of women. The Alliance and the I.C.W. held a Joint Conference, at which other women's international bodies were also represented, and this together with the action of a group of American women, resulted in great publicity for the feminist point of view. The resulting Convention as far as it affects women, is disappointing, the clauses being merely designed to avoid statelessness and doing nothing to help the real principle that a woman should have a nationality of her own just as much as a man. The recommendations attached were better, suggesting that all governments should consider the possibility of bringing their national legislation on this subject into line with the principles of sex equality in nationality.

Naval Conference. Petition presented by Women of United States, France, Great Britain, Japan.

Newfoundland. First woman M.P. elected, Lady Squires.

Norway. Two women elected to Parliament.

Obituary. Dr. Helene Lange and Dr. Elizabeth Altmann-Gottheimer of Germany, and Miss Anna Whitlock of Sweden, Mlle Vidart of Switzerland.

Palestine. Supreme Court ruled that word "person" in Advocates Ordinance applied equally to men and women. Effect of this victory somewhat destroyed by subsequent Ordinance restricting rights of women barristers to appear in religious and tribal courts. The ordinance as drafted was extremely drastic and modifications were secured by action of women's organisations.

Roumania. Abolition of maisons de tolérance.

South Africa. Measure of enfranchisement for white women finally adopted. It is rather more than "equal" suffrage since it appears that the

opportunity was taken to make a more democratic bill for these new voters than was the case of the old law, which will eventually be amended in this sense.

Syria. Holding of Oriental Women's Congress in Damascus—not only Syria which organised the meeting, but most other oriental countries were represented.

Turkey. Grant of municipal suffrage and promise of Parliamentary vote in 1931.

U.S.A. Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen, Member of Congress, first woman appointed to Committee of Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

Second Cable Bill passed enacting certain reforms in Nationality e.g. United States woman citizen not to lose nationality by residing in country of alien husband or elsewhere, and facilitating repatriation of United States women who have lost nationality (presumably before passing of first Cable Act) by marriage with an alien.

EVENTS OF THE MONTH.

Great Britain. A Bill is being introduced in the House of Commons which rules that "The husband of a married woman shall not be liable to be sued or made party to any action or legal proceeding brought against her in respect of any tort committed by her before or after marriage." In the present state of the law a husband is held responsible for slander, libel, trespass, assault or malicious prosecution committed by his wife without his authority or participation. Every feminist would wish to see this remedied, and a woman be made responsible for her own acts, but it must not be forgotten that the present state of affairs is the result of the principle that married women's identity was merged in that of her husband and if husbands' suffer from its application in this respect, wives suffer in many more—a wife's money is lumped with her husband's for purposes of taxation; the Government refuses to employ married women in the Civil Services and many private employers follow their example, and if a British woman marries a foreigner she loses her nationality.

India. A memorandum in regard to the status and welfare of Indian women has been addressed to the India Round-Table Conference on India by Sir Philip Hartog (chairman), Lady Astor, M.P., Lady Cynthia Mosely, M.P., Lady Hartog, Lady Layton, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss A. R. Caton, Miss Megan Lloyd George, M.P., the Rev. R. M. Gray and Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Hubback, Mrs. Jin-arajadasa, Miss E. Picton-Turbervill, M.P. Miss E. F. Rathbone, M.P., and Mr. J. A. Richey and Mrs. Richey.

In regard to franchise the group states that they approve the recommendation of the Simon Commission—namely, that in addition to whatever property qualification was adopted there should be an alternative educational qualification applicable equally to men and women, further that there should be two special qualifications applying specially to women:—

1.—Being the wife, over 25 years of age, of a man who had a property qualification to vote,

2.—Being a widow over that age, whose husband at the time of his death was so qualified. But if practicable, it was preferred that the age qualification of 21

should apply to wives and widows as well as to other voters.

The group also proposed that women should be free to contest seats in the general constituencies, subject to the same qualification as applied to men. In addition to any seats so secured by women a certain number, or proportion of seats (say 5 per cent, as suggested by the Nair Committee) should be reserved for women in each Provincial Council, at least for a trial period of, say, three general elections.

It was also suggested in regard to the Round-Table Conference that a committee should be set up without delay to deal with the question of the franchise and the method of securing the inclusion of women on legislative bodies, with which could be coupled similar questions affecting other sections of the community.

Asian Women's Conference. We learn that it is finally decided to hold the Asian Women's Conference at Lahore from January

the 10th to the 25th. The organisers do not consider that the political conditions in India will prevent the holding of the conference or cause any discomfort to the delegates, though they feel that conditions have so changed since the invitations to the conference were first sent out, that it will be possible to show Indian hospitality only under a shadow and with the notable absence of prominent women leaders. Correspondents from Palestine, Syria, Nepal, Ceylon, Japan, Burma, Iraq, Siam, Indo-China, Malaya, Hawaii, Persia, Baluchistan and Java have written stating that their people are deeply interested in the promotion of the conference and are co-operating in various ways. Local newspapers in these countries have published the news of the conference, and delegates from eleven of these countries have definitely promised to attend.

Among the delegates will be Madame Nasik Abed, noted Arabian patriot and social worker, who has con-

The Management of the Hess Hotels

Wishes the members of the International Alliance
of
Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship

A Happy New Year.

Especially to the leaders of this movement does it proffer its sincere thanks and good wishes for the future. The Management always strives to dedicate the greatest care and attention to the members of this Organisation and hopes that they may continue in the future to feel at home in the Hess Hotels.

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sented to stand for election as the President of the Conference, Madame Hibino, wife of the Professor of Anthropology in the Government College, Formosa, Miss Taqi Fukit, Correspondence Secretary of the Japanese Women's Association, Madame Soondhi of Bandoeng, Java, Begum Sultan Ferukh, special prize-winner in Persian of the Calcutta University, Madame Nour Hamada, President of the Eastern Women's Conference held in Damascus last year, Madame Mastoree-Ashar, President of the Persian Patriotic Women's Association, and Mrs. Pradhan of the Kalimpong Buddhist Association.

Ceylon has given a splendid lead to all the countries by registering ten delegates, women representing five associations through which the Ceylon women do varied public service. Lady Diaz Bandaranaike will be the leader of the delegation. An influential reception sub-committee has been formed in Bombay to welcome delegates coming through that port. Similar groups will be formed in Calcutta and Karachi.

Ireland. In one of his rather numerous Utopias, Mr. Wells speaks of the Ages of Confusion. The present time might well be included in that period. At one happy time, everybody was sure that everything they did was right. Every little boy and girl alive was not only born a little Liberal or a little Conservative, but was sure that the particular party to which he or she belonged was always and entirely in the right. Also the time honoured methods of dealing with everything were right. The business, for example, of the Law, was to deter wrong doers by striking terror into their hearts. This view, coming down from times when the methods of punishment were what might be termed "thorough" sought to deal with social evil, as with other evils, by the weapons of fear. Things are different now. Everywhere it is admitted that the business of lawmakers is, not to make the punishment fit the crime, but to act like the modern patent medicine, which carefully advertises itself as a "preventive of many of the more dangerous" etc., etc.

Translated into language of sober fact, this rambling discourse means for example that in the region of Criminal Law, modern experts turn, not to consideration of the suitable periods of imprisonment for offenders, but to such questions as provision of juvenile clubs, and before most else, establishment of a force of women police, with proper status, training, and officered by trained women. This is illustrated by the work of the Irish Women Citizen's Association and the National Council of Women of Ireland, in connection with the Government Committee on reform of the Criminal Law, which has been sitting in Dublin, since June of this year. The two organisations have put the usual feminist points before the Committee raising the age of consent, revision of laws affecting solicitation, and this last with especial emphasis, establishment of a force of women police. In connection with this, Miss Tancred very kindly spared more than a week of her valuable time for a visit to Ireland. She addressed meetings in Belfast, one organised by the Junior branch of the Women Citizens Union, in Cork, where the mover of the vote of thanks expressed his amazement that any one should question the need for women police and in Dublin, where the Lord Mayor took the chair. Miss Tancred also addressed the Dublin Rotary Club on the question, and gave evidence before the Criminal Law Amendment Committee, a point of great importance.

The authorities are friendly—"it is mainly a question of cost" say they. "It would cost you more to shut up the girls who may go wrong for want of police-women," said one cynical member of the Association. Here again is the difference in the point of view. Should money be spent on prevention or on punishment.

Meanwhile the warmest and most sincere thanks of Irish feminists North and South are given to Miss Tancred for the very great help gained from her practical experience and wise counsel and warm encouragement.
DORA MELLONE.

New Zealand. The session just concluded would seem of small result at a first glance. But it is obvious on a second glance that this is hardly true; we have planted this year a new principle in our statute book, that is, national responsibility for unemployment. Not without much controversy did the measure pass, but the darkening outlook forced most to forgo debatable points in order to carry some immediate plan of relieving both the distress and the unequal burden of private and municipal charity. The Unemployment Act decrees in the first place that every male over 20 who is not a pensioner, a native, a student, or an inmate of a charitable institution, pays 30 shillings a year to an unemployment fund. It is estimated that this will bring in about half a million pounds yearly. In the second place an Unemployment Board is to be set up, to arrange with employers to find work, to promote the growth of primary and secondary industry so as to increase employment, and to organise the payment of subsistence allowances. These allowances are fixed, at 21 shillings a week for each contributor; 17 shillings and sixpence for a wife or housekeeper, and 4 shillings for each child.

Women are not included in the levy, nor do they participate in the benefit other than as stated. This point, as well as the flat rate in the levy, was hotly debated in by the Labour Party. The women themselves made no demand for inclusion beyond a formal representation from the National Council of Women. The machinery to work the Act is being set up without delay.

It is gratifying to record that a number of useful domestic measures emerged in the final list of sessional achievement, showing a genuine desire to meet the people's wishes. One of these provides that the word "illegitimate" should not appear on birth certificates, others lay down new reading to expedite or enlarge the scope of Coroners inquests, also in the matter of enforcing maintenance under certain conditions.

The Nurse and Midwives Registration Act Amendment was strongly debated. It provided for increased facilities for entering the profession by ruling that training received in certain large private hospitals would be regarded as giving the necessary qualification for registration. It was feared by the nurses themselves that this would cheapen the diploma and risk the present system of reciprocity as between New Zealand, Britain, and their British Dominions. Sufficient safeguard were offered to obviate these fears, and the Act passed.

JESSIE MACKAY.

Finland. Doctor Laimi Leidenius has been nominated Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Helsingfors after having acted as a deputy-professor on several occasions. Although it seems quite natural that a woman should be nominated for such a post, the appointment is an important event in the annals of the University and also an important one in the Women's Movement in Finland, because Professor Leidenius is the first woman professor at the University of Helsingfors, and only the second woman to be appointed as a professor at a Finnish university. Professor Alma Söderhjelm was the first Finnish woman to hold a professorship—she was appointed to the Academy of Abo some years ago.

Nationality of Married Women. At the last Assembly of the League of Nations a report was adopted which postponed consideration of the work of the Codification Conference to the next Assembly, and included a request that the Council of the League should consult the States Members of the League on certain proposals, including a resolution from Cuba. This Cuban resolution drew attention to the Recommendations of the Codification Conference,—which, as our readers will remember, took into consideration the women's demands—and pointed out that no State had yet ratified the Nationality Convention adopted by the Conference, and suggested the re-opening at a later conference of the question of the nationality of married women.

In view of these recent events, it is urged that the interested women's international organisations should again take joint action. The first work of a committee analogous to the one which directed the Joint Demonstration at the Hague, but more widely representative, would be to approach the Council at its next meeting (Jan. 31st, 1931) with the urgent request that it should adopt the recommendation of the Assembly in regard to circulating for the consideration of States Members the report which included the Resolution of Cuba on nationality. A sympathetic attitude on the part of the Council would do much to help the national situation without impinging on purely national rights in the countries which are members of the League.

Sweden. The Mayor of Stockholm, Carl Lindhagen, on his birthday, the 17th of December, when he entered his 70th year and retired from the mayorship, was feted in an almost unparalleled way. At 8 o'clock in the morning the first congratulatory deputation was received, followed by many others, and he was engaged by different social organisations, friends and admirers for 17 hours at a stretch.

A splendid banquet was arranged in the Hotel de Ville in the evening, and after that more representatives of associations were waiting to pay their respects.

He is a jurist, a lawyer and a politician, and in all these careers he has been animated by a lofty humanitarian spirit. His fight against partiality and prejudices, oppression and violence is followed attentively not only by the Swedish people, but has been appreciated by other nations as well. The women honoured him as one of the pioneers who did much to liberate them from their old position of inferiority in State and home. He has never, from the first, lost an opportunity to work for them in Parliament. To cite all the speeches, motions, propositions and resolutions he has moved in Parliament, in association meetings, in public meetings, supporting the women's rights, would fill a volume. With the same ardour he has battled for many other causes, and their representatives were so numerous that each delegate had to use only five minutes for his address after the banquet. It was a difficult task for the representative of the women, Miss Ingeborg Walin, to express in that time the congratulations and the gratitude she had to bring him from Swedish women and their joint organisations.
JENNY VELANDER.

France. The next meeting of the States-General of Feminism will be held on the 16th and 17th May. It will take place at the Colonial Exhibition, and will be devoted this year to Woman in the Colonies. A questionnaire has been prepared by the Committee of the States-General which will be addressed to the greatest possible number of French and Colonial associations. The questionnaire comprises three groups of ques-

tions: (1) Organisation of hygiene and health work in the Colonies; (2) Legal and moral situation of women and children; (3) Economic situation of women in the Colonies.

THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE SITUATION IN PERU.

In 1923 Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, accompanied by Miss Rosa Manus, made a tour of South America and visited Peru. Although the object of her trip was, naturally, to do pioneer work for Woman Suffrage, that clear-sightedness and quick intuitive judgment which have made her the leader she is, enabled her to see in the few days of her stay in Lima that Peruvian women were not ripe for suffrage. She very wisely limited her activities to founding the National Council of Women, by getting together some of the leading women of the city and appointing an Organising Committee which, after a brief period of struggle and difficulty, succeeded in making the Council a flourishing institution. Those reasons which decided Mrs. Catt to abstain from any active and direct work for suffrage are still in existence, even though the women of Peru have made great forward strides since her visit, and the Council whose foundation she was so successful in bringing about has thought it wise to follow the same policy of abstention where suffrage is concerned, although naturally it is in the fullest sympathy with everything that the suffrage ideal represents. Indeed, even in South America, it seems difficult to hark back in imagination to the time when women's right to vote seemed a bold and revolutionary idea.

There is nothing more difficult to explain than the conditions in Peru to anybody who has not visited the country and made a lengthy stay in it. Again and again, during the seven months' tour in Europe which I have just brought to a close, I have been faced with the same difficulty. Having attended the International Council of Women Quinquennial Meeting in Vienna, and visited nine European countries, some in connection with that meeting and others as an independent traveller, I have been pried with questions about conditions in Peru, and especially of course about the status of women, and I have found that before I could answer the simplest question in a satisfactory manner, I have had to launch into a disquisition on the geography of the country without an understanding of which it is impossible to grasp anything. Peru is more than any other country, fettered by its peculiar geographical conditions, and there is hardly any question concerning race, conditions of life, religion, climate, education, hygiene, or any other matter which can be answered in such a way as to be valid for the whole country. Its three great geographical regions, the dry coastline of the Pacific in which valleys fertilized by artificial irrigation alternate with endless desert waste, the vast high table lands of the Andes, and the boundless expanse of jungle amidst the network of rivers that go to form the Amazon, are so different from one another that it would be possible to find countries in different hemispheres less dissimilar from each other than are these regions of one single Republic. The black half-breed of the coast valleys speaks a different language and has different beliefs and superstitions from the hardy Andean Indian, and he, in his turn, has nothing in common with the savage tribesman of the Amazon jungles. Owing to this variety of conditions, it is a hard country to govern and a hard country in which to do any real national work of any sort whatever.

The fact is that when Peru achieved her independence from Spain in 1821, she was not ripe for self-government according to the French ideals of 1789, and it is an open question whether any one of the other Latin-American republics which achieved it at the same time really was. The struggles and mistakes of their political history during the first century of republican life are familiar to everyone from hearsay, if not from first-hand information. The error of trying to organize vaguely defined territories peopled by two and sometimes three different races on lines laid down for compact nations such as France and Spain would have been evident to anyone not blinded by partisan zeal and utopian faith, as all politicians were at the beginning of the 19th century. As a consequence of complex and difficult conditions of which I have here given only the briefest outline, manhood suffrage itself, although it forms the basis of the nation's written constitution, does not really function in practice as an effective political machine, and it is impossible that it should, in a country the majority of whose inhabitants, though possessing a civilization of their own, are totally incapable, both through their own limitations and those imposed by the difficulties of communication, of using the privilege of suffrage in an intelligent and effective way. For these reasons and many others derived from them, the thoughtful and representative Peruvian women do not feel that the country or they themselves would gain anything by women having the vote. And they feel, at the same time, that there are many and many things of infinitely greater urgency to be got before the vote can become truly useful. And as the number of women who are both able and willing to devote their time and energy to public work is extremely small, it would be folly to waste their strength in stimulating an artificial demand for suffrage, when problems of much greater immediate urgency clamour for solution.

The Peruvian National Council of Women has therefore most rigorously, and by practically unanimous consent, excluded woman suffrage from its present working programme, though reserving to itself the right to take it up when the fitting moment comes. Meanwhile, the ranks of the federated women's societies which compose its membership are open to suffrage societies on an equal footing with any other women's associations devoted to useful or cultural work of any kind, and it is one of the most significant achievements of the Council to have brought together women of the most dissimilar sorts; and the most staunchly conservative Catholic charitable institutions work hand in hand with the more advanced groups. I have mentioned women suffrage clubs, and indeed one or two of them exist in Lima, but their sphere of influence is not very extensive as yet, because the great majority of representative women see eye to eye with the Council in this matter.

As supplementary items of information, I may add that the Council numbers in its ranks some fifty affiliated institutions of the most varied description. Associations of office women, and teachers (the two most active and highly organized groups of Peruvian women) alternate with sports clubs, old-schoolgirl's clubs, the very progressive Nurses' Circle, and several women's libraries, the Peruvian Branch of the International Association of University women and a great number of Catholic welfare societies of the most varied description. The Council is governed by an Executive Committee of fifteen members elected yearly, and four general assemblies are held every year, at which one at least of the two delegates appointed for each affiliated institution is expected to be present. The Council maintains an office in Lima, which includes a small library and lecture room. Of

the affiliated societies, some four-fifths have their seat, or at least their governing body in Lima, and one-fifth are local provincial groups; the cultural life of Peru being perhaps unduly concentrated in the Capital. But Provincial institutions are welcomed by us with eagerness, as we feel that their increase in our midst will give us an ever greater right to be considered a truly representative National Council of Women.

MERCEDES GALLAGHER PARKS,
President, N.C.W. of Peru.

(We are glad to publish this interesting account of the situation in Peru by the President of the local National Council of Women. We are, however, not entirely convinced that the demand for suffrage there would be a waste of energy. As we understand it, Peru has, officially, got manhood suffrage, but a large proportion of its inhabitants are too backward to be able to avail themselves of their rights. This would, of course, be the case with large numbers of the women too, but on the other hand, the right to vote would put power which cannot be gained in any other way into the hands of the intelligent minority of educated women, who would then find themselves in a far better position for their work. The country, at present, is obviously governed by a minority of educated men. We suggest that it would benefit if to them was added a minority of educated women.—Ed.)

ECUADOR.

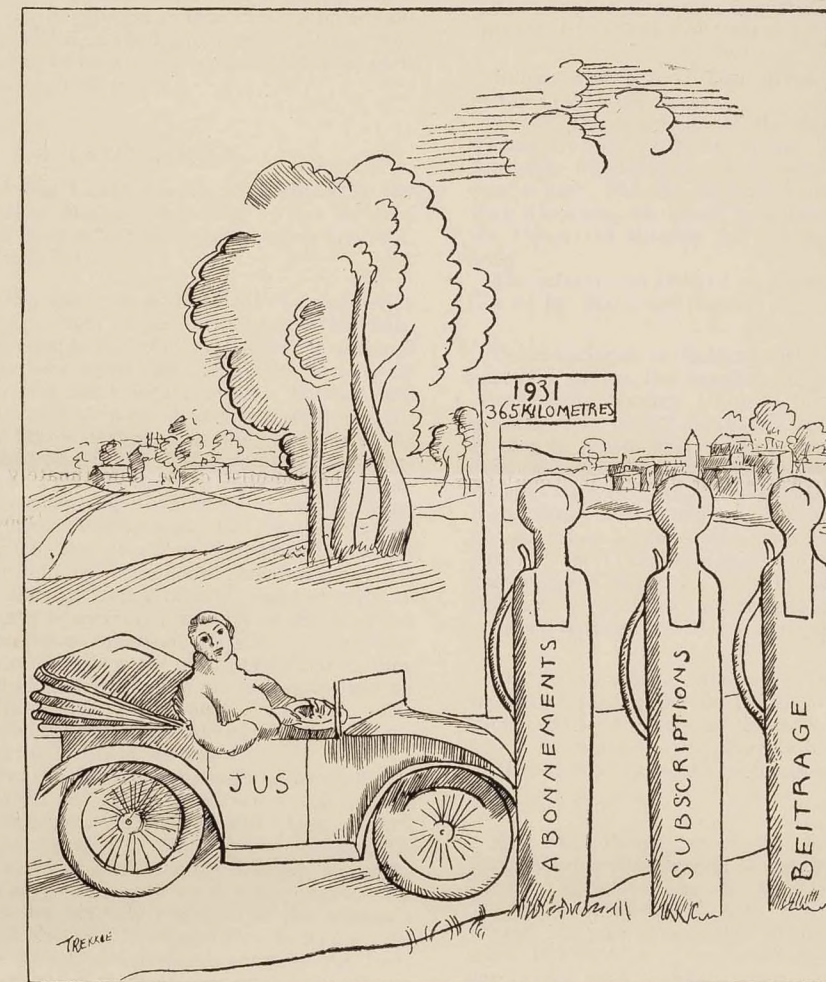
We published recently the news that the constitution of Ecuador gives equal political rights to men and women, and we have now received some interesting particulars about the position of women there. Though we have no affiliated society, we have a good feminist correspondent who has taken the trouble to write very fully. Senora Delia Ibarra de Duenas says:

The feminist cause unfortunately advances but slowly in Ecuador, not because of the law but because of social custom. With the exception of a Catholic charitable organisation and a Women's Library, both of which do excellent work, no organisations exist. In legislation, progress has been very rapid in the hundred years during which the country has enjoyed its independence. Whereas earlier constitutions stated that electors were male persons with certain qualifications, that of 1897 eliminated the words "male persons," and in consequence the laws putting it into force authorised, tacitly, women's rights of citizenship and of franchise. The women of Ecuador have therefore ever since 1897 possessed the right to vote for the President of the Republic, for Senators, Deputies, Municipal Councillors, etc., as also that of eligibility for every office, even the highest. But in practice, these full rights were never used, owing to social custom deeply rooted in the life of the country from colonial days. In 1925, a woman for the first time secured some votes as a municipal councillor.

The Constitutional Assembly of 1929 only confirmed and stated more clearly the previous position in Article XIII: "Every Ecuadorean, man or woman, over the age of twenty-one who knows how to read and write is a citizen." We women of Ecuador therefore possess full franchise by law, as is not the case in France, Spain or Switzerland. In the last elections, determined to begin the exercise of rights so easily obtained, some women voted in the provincial and communal elections, without taking any notice of the criticism and scorn expressed by many men, and by many women too. One woman secured a certain number of votes for the Council of State, and recently another obtained a majority in a communal election and at once took her seat in the council.

As regards Ministers, Secretaries of State, etc., these are appointed directly by the President. I do not know whether the women of other South American

JUS CARTOONS: No. X.



Madame l'Alliance: J'ai besoin de JUS.

States have such full rights as we have, but I do know that in the Argentine, in Chile, and above all in Uruguay, they have attained a general culture practically equal to that of men, and that they have magnificent intellectual and philanthropic organisations."

Senora Ibarra also enclosed with her letter a publication showing the position of women under the law in many other respects, nationality, property rights, etc. It is curious thus to find that ever since 1897 one of the South American countries, which we have thought of as a dark continent as far as woman suffrage is concerned, had so amended its constitution as to enfranchise its women on the most equal basis. Ecuador is among the pioneers, and even if its legislators went beyond public opinion so that little or no advantage has been taken of their progressive action, they are none the less to be warmly congratulated on their liberal and far-sighted policy.

A USEFUL BOOK.

A Survey of the Legal Status of Women in the Forty-Eight States, published by the National League of Women Voters, 532, Seventeenth Street, Washington, D.C.

Everyone who has ever had to collect information about the legal system of the United States has been faced with the complicating fact that each one of the 48 States has its own legislature, and thus is entirely master of its own domestic legal position. The National League of Women Voters has done a real service to the women of the States in preparing this summary of the legal position of women on the following points: Contractual Rights, Property Rights, Domicile, Guardianship of Children, Marriage, Divorce. These headings are in many cases sub-divided, for instance, under Property Rights; the questions deal with the wife's right in property brought in to or acquired in the course of marriage; share of family income; right of wife to her own property or earnings; liability of the husband for family necessities; inheritance rights. The answers to the questions are given for each State, and as they are printed in alphabetical order, it is easy to turn up the special State with which one is concerned. The book is extremely clear and completely covers the ground within the limits of the enquiry.

The perusal of this little book arouses an ardent desire that some learned and altruistic person would make a similar, or even wider, compilation of the laws of every country in the world. It would be a considerable piece of work, and would entail lengthy research, but it needs doing—not only as a book of reference for those who are actively engaged in the woman's movement, but also as a handbook for historians. In order to serve this latter purpose, not only the legal position at some given moment, but also a comparison showing the evolution of these laws during a period of, say, 50 years would be necessary. Many people agree that the woman's movement is one of the most striking phenomena of the last hundred years, but there is, so far as the reviewer is aware, no full and complete history of it even in its more general social aspect. That would be an even more appallingly difficult task, seeing that much of its story has only been told in newspapers and other ephemeral publications, and still more perhaps exists only in the letters and memories of those who brought it about. But what the woman's movement has solidly achieved is reflected in the laws, and this at least is a matter of fact, to be verified by laborious consultation of codes and published law texts. Lawyers are constantly writing theses on one or another aspect of the law—let us offer this suggestion

to those who are casting about for a fascinating subject, while we thank the National League of Women Voters for this contribution towards the work waiting to be done.

K. B.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Egyptian Government has appointed Mlle. Zeinab Kamel to a professorship in the Faculty of Science at Cairo University. This is the first time an Egyptian woman has occupied such a post. Mlle. Kamel had a distinguished career at London University.

The number of women magistrates in Great Britain appointed to the end of 1929 is 1,961.

Indian women have been given another privilege in the Travancore State.

This is the concession by the Maharani-Regent that women are eligible to sit on the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the body that is entirely elected, meets but once a year, and the recommendations of which with their discussion are taken to and dealt with direct by the Maharajah without the intervention of any other body.

The reform was granted to celebrate the 35th birthday of the Maharani-Regent.

Peace societies in Holland, Belgium, and Germany united at Aachen last month to do propaganda work for peace on the borders. This is the third such annual meeting to be held. In 1928 it was in Maestricht and in 1929 in Amsterdam. The Friedensgesellschaft, the Friedensbund Deutscher Katoliken, the Nie-wieder-Krieg-Verlinigung and the Chevaliers de la Paix were the societies most strongly represented, but all the well-known peace organisations sent declarations of sympathy. The Congress resulted in the foundation of a permanent Committee in Holland, Belgium and Germany to work for the promotion of a better understanding between the States concerned.

The Nationality of Married Women Bill has passed its second reading in the House of Commons, but Mr. Clynes made it clear that the Government intended to kill it in Committee, apparently because the Imperial Conference had failed to reach agreement on the problem.

Miss Enid Russell Smith, the first woman to enter the Administrative branch of the British Civil Service, has been appointed private secretary to the Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Sir Arthur Robinson. Though the post of secretary to the head of a Government Department is an exacting post, it is also one of the most coveted positions in Whitehall. It marks the holder out for possible advancement to the highest positions. It was only in 1925 that women were first allowed to compete for administrative posts in the Civil Service.

It is said that the exclusion of women from public life is the first plank of the new National Socialist Labour Party (Denmark). M. Lembcke, its founder, declares that the participation in public life of women on an equality with men has demoralised the male element, which is becoming effeminate. The new party will fight for the exclusion of women from both Chambers of the Danish parliament and also from municipal politics.

It is just eight years since women were first called to

the Bar in Great Britain. Among pioneers, Miss Normanton, Miss Davy, Miss Ashford, Miss Geikie Cobb and Miss Duncan have since made notable careers for themselves.

Dame Mary Scharlieb, who died in London aged 85, was one of the first women to qualify as a doctor and the first woman to become a Doctor of Medicine. She did valuable work both in England and in India.

COMMITTEE FOR SUFFRAGE AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Suffrage Sub-Committee.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONNAIRE.

V. DUTCH EAST INDIES.

We have still no right to vote. Since 1926 we are eligible for Parliament (Volksraad) only, not for municipal councils.

Women are members of political parties only in exceptional cases.

There are no women occupying important positions such as that of mayor, deputy mayor, chairman of Council Committees.

Parliament (Volksraad) has 60 members exclusive of the President; 38 members are elected and 22 appointed by the Government. The members of municipal councils are also elected.

Our electoral system is by proportional vote. The candidates must be 25 years old and taxable on an income of G. 300 a year; if a man has no income he can become an elector on the basis of his wife's income. He must not have lost the right of disposition over his property, or have been dismissed from employment for dishonourable reasons.

(Note.—It is not quite clear whether the above qualifications refer only to Parliamentary candidates, or to electors.)

It is not forbidden for women to become members of committees dealing with education, poor law, health etc., but they are only appointed in exceptional cases.

No political party in our country has woman suffrage on its programme. On my insisting, one of them—the Vaderlandsche Club—will now take up the question for study.

S. VAN. OVERVELDT-BIEKART.

THE BANKERS AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

It was recently stated in *The Times* that a committee composed of eminent bankers had been formed to help in rationalisation of industry generally and specifically to apply their knowledge of banking and rationalisation to help basic industries. This seems a tragedy to me, for I doubt if the contribution of leading bankers to the problem of unemployment will do anything but aggravate it. Indeed, had a committee of producers, distributors and consumers been formed to advise leading bankers on the proper uses of money generally, and more particularly to impress on them that money and its controllers should be the servants and not the masters of the community, one would have had better hopes for the solution of one of the greatest problems of our time.

These are bold statements, for nowhere more, perhaps, than in banking, is there a deeper respect for historical precedent and established authority. But in the last fifteen years vast changes have taken place over the whole field of commerce.

'Mass production' has become more than a technical term. We see standardised goods of every description turned out in infinitely greater quantities and at lower prices. We have always been taught by experts to believe that this great increase in the production of goods with less labour, time and cost, was a contribution to the wealth of man; and so I believe it to be. Articles that are really wanted, which previously have been either too expensive or too scarce, have been made available to millions. In distribution, too, 'mass merchandising' has grown in all progressive, civilised nations. This term means, I take it, the buying of goods in large quantities and selling again in a short time, and, by so doing, reducing the cost of handling these goods through distributing channels, and so effecting a saving to the consumer comparable to that effected by mass production.

Yet, all these increases in wealth by the saving of time, by the multiplication of output, by reduction in handling costs through distribution through efficient channels, are negatived, and we are left with the appalling tragedy of unemployment that haunts precisely those countries that have production and distribution skill in the highest degree.

In the name of common-sense, what a situation! Here we have this vast engine of production, this vast body of workers willing to work, and this vast accumulation of wants crying out to be satisfied, but held up by the inefficient monetary system almost a century behind all other progress. What is this money and what is its purpose? If we have the courage to ignore the experts, it is surely a measuring rod to correlate wants to production. Are we going to sit down and be satisfied with specious explanations of economists and banking experts against the plain facts that stare us in the face?

We see the money markets in all countries getting nervous at the movement of gold. The amount of money in circulation is being governed largely by the barbaric and stupid conception that the amount of gold held by each civilised nation shall form its base. But, why gold? Why not the sea shells on their respective shores? What possible relation can the visible amount of gold in any country have to do with its power to produce and distribute goods and services that are wanted, and the willingness and capacity of its people to work? This barbaric conception of wealth is responsible for untold misery to-day.

In spite of the gigantic growth in our wants, bankers and glib economists run about with their little six inch measuring rod that hardly served its purpose before the war, saying that production, and the satisfaction of wants, must not grow because, with their silly little ruler, they can hardly measure what is now in existence.

The obvious answer is that the ruler must grow with the power to produce, but this never seems to occur to them.

Until the peoples of civilised countries force on governments and banks the necessity of using a measuring rod designed to fit the size of the thing it is measuring we shall make no progress. Harsh and bitter words will be spoken before that happens, but bankers must know, and will know, that a free, hard-working people, intelligent and rational in their actions, will not be indefinitely governed by their measurements.

Money must be the servant of the thing it measures. This must be true. If bankers were brought up to measure a boy's canoe with a six inch ruler, they must not be allowed indefinitely to hold up the progress of a liner while they attempt the same thing. The moral fibre of a whole people is being sapped while this ridiculous operation is in progress.

FRIEDE HARRIS.

HOLIDAYS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE FINEST WATERING PLACES IN THE WORLD, UNDER STATE ADMINISTRATION.

STRBSKÉ PLESO.

In the beautiful scenery of the High Tatra Mountains. *Altitude 4,000 ft.*
Main Summer Season: 1st June to 15th September.
Winter Season: 15th December to 13th April.
Tourist centre and all Winter Sports.

Hotels: Grand Hotel Hviezdoslav and Kriváň. Comfortable villas: Janosik, Jiskra, Detvan, Maryna.

Recommended for: Anaemia, neurosis, chronic catarrh of the respiratory organs (not including tuberculosis), and Basedow's disease.

LUBOCHŇA. NEAR RUŽOMBERK.

Altitude 1,500 ft. Sub-Alpine climate. At the junction of the rivers Váh and Lubochnanka.
Season: 1st June to 30th September.

Modern Hotels: Bratislava, Šip, Havraun, Kolozun dum, Nezabudka, Hviezdoslav.

Guest-house for tourists.
Institute for Hydrotherapeutics.
Bicarbonate and gaseous springs.
Mixed baths at Rojkov.

Recommended for: Abnormal blood circulation, catarrh. Nervous diseases. Convalescence.

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The finest radio-active baths in Europe.
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Hotels: Radium Palace (1st class), Hotel Miracle.

Recommended for: Chronic muscular rheumatism, gout. Inflammation and wounds. Convalescence. Nervous diseases, paralysis, neuralgia and tabes. Bronchitis and laryngitis. Ulcers. Nervous breakdown. Anaemia.

SMERDŽONKA.

On the frontier between Slovakia and Poland in the High Tatra Mountains. Sulphur Springs.

Season: 1st June to 30th September.

There is a motor coach service to Kezmarok. Tourist centre. Fishing.

Recommended for: Rheumatism, gout, sciatica. Convalescence.

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TATRANSKÁ LOMVICE.

In the High Tatras. *Altitude 3,000 ft.*
Summer Season: 1st June to 30th September.
Winter Season: 15th December to 1st March.
Sports, walks, tourist centre.

Hotels: Grand Hotel Praha, Lomvice, Slovensky dum, Malá Lomvica.
Institute for Hydrotherapeutics.

Recommended for: Anaemia. Neurosis. Chronic catarrh of the respiratory organs (not including tuberculosis). Basedow's disease. Convalescence.

HERLANÝ. NEAR KOŠICE.

A famous cold spring with a natural fountain of 130 feet. These waters contain alkalines and bicarbonates.

Season: 1st June to 30th September.

Comfortable villas: Sokol, Hernad, Makovica.
Therapeutical Institute. Natural carbonic baths.

Recommended for: Anaemia, debility, abnormal blood circulation, nervous diseases.

SLIAČ. NEAR ZVOLEN.

Thermal springs containing iron and magnesium bicarbonates. Baths. Alkaline ferruginous waters in Pump Room.

Season: 1st May to 30th September.

Hotels: Praha, Bratislava, Slovensko. Newly built baths with a modern Restaurant, Café, and Lounge attached to them.

Recommended for: Anaemia, debility, abnormal blood circulation, women's diseases, nervous diseases, tabes.

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SECTION FRANCAISE.

EVENEMENTS DE L'ANNEE, 1930.

Inde.

Loi sur le mariage des mineurs votée en avril 1930, mais ajournée.

Nationalité.

En dépit de la propagande faite par l'Alliance et autres sociétés, la Conférence de Codification à La Haye n'a pas abouti au résultat désiré. La Convention a corrigé l'état de non-nationalité mais s'est gardée d'aborder le sujet de l'égalité des sexes en matière de nationalité.

Irlande.

Recherche de la paternité.

U.S.A.

Nomination de Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen, au Comité des Affaires Etrangères de la Chambre des Représentants.

Sociétés des Nations.

Melle. Gourd remplace Miss Rathbone au Comité International de protection de l'enfance.

Finlande.

Première femme diplomate au Ministère des Affaires étrangères.

Japon.

On dit qu'une femme a été nommée Consul Général (rapport non contrôlé).

Conférence Navale.

Pétition présentée par les Femmes des Etats-Unis, France, Grande Bretagne, Japon.

Canada.

Mrs. Wilson, première femme sénateur.

Office International du Travail.

Mme. Marzorati nommée à la Commission du Travail forcé.

Grèce.

Décret accordant le Suffrage municipal restreint.

Afrique australe.

Suffrage définitif pour les femmes de race blanche.

Palestine.

Les femmes avocats admises à plaider sauf quelques restrictions.

Ceylon.

Le droit de suffrage complet accordé en Décembre 1929.

Turquie.

Suffrage municipal et promesse du vote parlementaire pour 1931.

Jamaïque.

Les femmes sont éligibles aux Conseils municipaux.

U.S.A.

Loi sur la Nationalité permettant à la citoyenne des Etats-Unis de garder sa nationalité si elle risque de se trouver sans statut lorsque mariée à un étranger.

Syrie.

Congrès des Femmes de l'Orient à Damas.

France.

Première femme nommée médecin des hôpitaux.

Roumanie.

Abolition des maisons de tolérance.

Allemagne.

39 femmes élues au Reichstag contre 35 l'année dernière.

Inde.

Deux femmes sont déléguées à la Conférence de la "Table Ronde."

Ecuador.

L'égalité des sexes écrite dans la Constitution.

Terre-Neuve.

Lady Squires, élue. La première femme membre du Parlement.

Norvège.

Deux femmes élues au Parlement.

PEROU.

En 1923 Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt accompagnée par Miss Rosa Manus fit le tour de l'Amérique du Sud et s'arrêta au Pérou. Elle comprit dès l'abord que les femmes du Pérou n'étaient pas mûres pour le Suffrage et qu'il était même prudent de ne commencer aucune propagande à cet effet. Elle se contenta de fonder un Conseil National des Femmes qui, après une courte période de lutte est aujourd'hui une institution florissante.

La modération de Mrs. Chapman Catt est facile à comprendre pour qui considère un moment les particularités géographiques et ethnographiques de la république péruvienne. Il n'est pas une question ayant rapport soit à la race, à la religion, à l'hygiène, à l'instruction publique qui puisse être traitée en bloc, pour tout le pays. Trois régions géographiques: (1°) la côte sèche du Pacifique, où des vallées artificiellement irriguées alternent avec des espaces désertiques, (2°) les vastes hauts plateaux des Andes, (3°) la jungle interminable, parmi le lacis des eaux qui se réunissent pour former l'Amazone—présentent des caractères tout-à-fait dissemblables. Les métis de la région côtière parlent une langue étrangère aux Indiens des Andes—et ceux-ci à leur tour ignorent complètement les coutumes barbares des tribus de la jungle. Dans un tel pays un gouvernement national, un esprit national sont choses fort difficiles à créer. Quand le Pérou gagna son indépendance sur l'Espagne en 1821, le pays n'était pas prêt—encore moins peut-être que les autres républiques sud-américaines—à se gouverner suivant l'idéal français de 1829 qui inspirait ses libérateurs. Toutes les luttes intestines, toutes les difficultés du Pérou viennent de ce fait qu'un pays de conditions si diverses ne pouvait, n'aurait pas dû prendre modèle sur des Etats comme la France et l'Espagne, homogènes par la race et par la tradition. Il s'ensuit que le suffrage masculin, base de la constitution écrite, ne devait être qu'un leurre,—la majorité des habitants ne pouvant l'exercer, à cause de leur ignorance, ou de la difficulté des communications.

La même raison est applicable aujourd'hui au suffrage des femmes. La poignée de Péruviennes qui ont à cœur le bien et le progrès de leur pays, estiment que ce serait folie de gaspiller leurs forces à stimuler artificiellement une propagande pour le vote, alors que de plus urgents problèmes réclament une solution.

En conséquence le Conseil National des Femmes du Pérou, a, pour le moment, exclu le vote de son programme d'activité. Il accueille cependant les groupes suffragistes—il y en a un ou deux déjà à Lima—sur le même pied que les sociétés d'éducation ou de tendances philanthropiques. Le Conseil fédère près de cinquante associations dont les objets sont les plus variés:—syndicats de fonctionnaires ou d'institutrices, clubs de sports, cercles d'infirmières, bibliothèques féminines, groupes

universitaires féminins et diverses associations catholiques de bienfaisance. Le Conseil a son bureau à Lima avec sa bibliothèque et salle de conférence. Les 4/5 des sociétés affiliées ont aussi, du reste, leur centre à Lima. 1/5 seulement vient de la Province. C'est sur l'extension des sociétés provinciales que le Conseil porte graduellement ses efforts afin d'avoir en vérité, un caractère national.

d'après MERCÈDES GALLAGHER PARKS, Présidente.

NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

Finlande.

La Doctoresse Laimi Leidenius vient d'être nommée professeur de Gynécologie à l'Université d'Helsingfors. C'est la deuxième fois qu'une femme finlandaise est nommée professeur d'Université.

Nationalité de la femme mariée.

La dernière Assemblée de la Société des Nations a ajourné l'examen du rapport de la Conférence de Codification et propose que le Conseil consulte les Etats membres de la Société, en particulier sur le sujet de la motion Cubaine. Cette motion propose qu'en réponse aux demandes répétées des associations féminines la question soit ouverte à nouveau sur le sujet précis de la nationalité de la femme mariée.

Il serait donc opportun d'organiser un comité international similaire de celui qui fonctionna à La Haye mais plus largement représentatif—afin d'agir auprès du Conseil sans empiéter sur les droits purement nationaux des pays membres de la Société des Nations.

Ecuador.

Senora Delia Ibarra de Duenas relate ce fait curieux que dans la république américaine d'Ecuador l'égalité du suffrage est un fait inscrit dans la Constitution depuis 1897. Cependant la coutume sociale est en retard sur la lettre de la loi et peu de femmes font usage de ce droit de suffrage, que du reste le plus grand nombre ignore. En 1925 pour la première fois une femme obtint quelques votes à une élection municipale. L'Assemblée constitutionnelle de 1929 confirma les provisions de 1897 et les définit expressément: "Tout Ecuadorien, homme ou femme qui a atteint l'âge de 21 ans et sait lire ou écrire a qualité de citoyen."

Les femmes d'Ecuador possèdent donc l'entier droit de suffrage ce qui n'est pas le cas pour la France, l'Espagne ou la Suisse. Aux dernières élections, nombre de femmes, bravant l'opinion publique et le ridicule qui s'attache toujours aux pionnières, firent vaillamment usage de leurs droits. Une femme reçut un certain nombre de voix pour le Conseil d'Etat; une autre obtint récemment une majorité dans une élection communale et prit aussitôt sa place au Conseil.

Danemark.

Il paraît que l'exclusion des femmes de toute la vie publique sera le premier article du Programme du Nouveau Parti National Socialiste du Danemark.

Mr. Lembke son fondateur déclare que la participation des femmes aux affaires publiques a démoralisé et amoili l'élément masculin!

France.

Les prochains Etats généraux du féminisme auront lieu les 16 et 17 mai. Ils se tiendront à l'Exposition coloniale et seront consacrés, cette année, à *La Femme dans les Colonies*. Un questionnaire vient d'être édité dès maintenant par le Comité des Etats Généraux afin d'atteindre le plus grand nombre possible d'associations françaises et coloniales.

Ce questionnaire comporte trois groupes de questions:

1° Organisation des oeuvres d'hygiène et d'assistance aux colonies; 2° situation légale et morale de la femme et de l'enfant; 3° Situation économique de la femme aux colonies.

Grande Bretagne.

Le Bill sur la Nationalité de la Femme mariée a passé en seconde lecture à la Chambre des Communes mais Mr. Clynes a laissé entendre que la Commission n'irait pas plus loin dans l'examen de la proposition. La cause en est, paraît-il, qu'il a été impossible aux Dominions et à la Métropole de s'entendre sur ce sujet à la dernière Conférence impériale.

Un Bill a été proposé aux Communes qui rendrait à l'épouse la pleine et entière responsabilité de ses actes, de ses méfaits et de ses crimes. Le mari est encore responsable pour les "torts" de sa femme.

Toute féministe aura à cœur de voir ce projet passer à l'état de loi. N'oublions pas cependant que si, en l'occurrence un mari peut avoir à souffrir des "torts" de son épouse qui n'est pas considérée comme ayant une personnalité distincte, la femme souffre en mainte occasion de cette absence de personnalité. Une femme mariée n'est pas imposée individuellement: ses revenus s'additionnent à ceux de son mari. Une femme mariée ne peut dans bien des cas continuer l'exercice de sa profession: c'est le sort de toutes les femmes fonctionnaires et de la plupart des employées des Grands Services privés ou publics. Une femme mariée perd sa nationalité et bon gré mal gré doit adopter celle de son mari. Nous sommes encore loin de l'indépendance complète.

Dame Mary Scharlieb qui vient de mourir à Londres à l'âge de 85 ans fut la première femme qui prit le titre de docteur en médecine. Ses travaux dans l'Inde et en Angleterre ont été tort appréciés.

Inde.

Les femmes de l'Etat de Travancore viennent d'obtenir un autre privilège concédé par la Maharane-Régente. Elles seront éligibles à l'Assemblée populaire "Sri Mulam" dont les recommandations vont directement au Prince régnant.

Nous apprenons définitivement que la Conférence Asiatique se tiendra à Lahore du 19 au 25 janvier. Les organisatrices estiment que la sécurité est suffisante pour permettre aux déléguées de se réunir et travailler utilement. Elles regrettent cependant l'absence de quelques femmes notables et s'excusent à l'avance sur ce que leur hospitalité pourra avoir d'imparfait.

La Palestine, les Iles Hawaï, la Perse, le Balouchistan, Java, la Syrie, le Nepal, Ceylan, le Japon, la Birmanie, l'Iraq, le Siam, l'Indo-Chine envoient soit des délégués, soit des correspondants.

Madame Nasik Abed, une notable patriote arabe est proposée comme présidente du Congrès. Parmi les autres déléguées seront Madame Hibino de Formose, Miss Taki Fukit du Japon, Madame Nour Hamada et d'autres notables représentantes de Java, de la Perse, des Associations Bouddhistes et de Ceylan.

Des groupes qui veilleront à la réception des déléguées sont organisés dans les ports de Bombay, Calcutta et Karachi.

Le Gouvernement égyptien a nommé Melle. Leinab Kamel à une chaire de sciences à la Faculté du Caire. Melle. Kamal a fait des études remarquées à l'Université de Londres.

LETTRE DE GENEVE.

Au B.I.T.—Les Sociétés Internationales à Genève. Dame Rachel Crowley à Honolulu. L'Esclavage domestique.

Le Conseil d'Administration du B.I.T., ayant décidé d'inscrire à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine Conférence Internationale du Travail, qui s'ouvrira à Genève le 28 mai 1931, la question de l'âge d'admission des enfants au travail dans les professions non industrielles, le B.I.T. vient de publier un rapport très-développé sur cette intéressante question. En effet, si les Conventions précédemment signées interdisent d'employer des enfants de moins de 14 ans à des travaux industriels et maritimes, et à des travaux agricoles pendant les heures d'école, une foule de métiers échappent à ces dispositions internationales: bureaux, magasins, entreprises de spectacles, établissements forains, professions ambulantes, etc. Qui de nous n'a fréquemment rencontré de ces petits commissionnaires, marchands d'allumettes, marchands de fleurs, chasseurs minuscules dans des restaurants et des hôtels, aides dans des magasins, etc. et songé ainsi au dur apprentissage de la vie fait si vite par ces petits! Aussi nous proposons-nous d'étudier plus en détails, dans un prochain article, ce rapport, qui fournit des précisions intéressantes sur le travail des enfants dans ces professions à travers une trentaine de pays, et que nous tenions à signaler dès aujourd'hui aux lectrices de JUS.

Ceci d'autant plus que le directeur du B.I.T. a estimé utile de rappeler à ce sujet aux gouvernements le droit des femmes à faire partie des délégations aux Conférences Internationales du Travail, quand viennent en discussion des questions intéressant spécialement les femmes, et leur a suggéré d'appliquer cette disposition à la prochaine Conférence, vu son ordre du jour. C'est là une suggestion que toutes nos organisations féminines feront bien d'appuyer auprès de leur gouvernement, car du point de vue féministe comme du point de vue social, il est certain que la présence de femmes s'impose pour examiner et discuter des législations concernant l'enfance.

Sait-on que Genève abrite actuellement 72 organisations internationales qui, les unes après les autres, ont émigré de Londres, de Bruxelles, de la Haye ou de Paris, pour venir s'installer dans cette ville, afin d'être plus étroitement en contact avec la S.d.N. et le B.I.T., et pour profiter des avantages de cette vie internationale concentrée? La majorité d'entre elles ont estimé utile, sur l'initiative de la Société des Amis, de se grouper en une Fédération (Fédération des Institutions internationales semi-officielles et privées établies à Genève: F.I.I.G.), qui a pris en main la solution de différentes questions d'intérêt commun à toutes ces Associations.

Ajoutons qu'un bon nombre de ces organisations membres de la F.I.I.G. sont des Associations féminines, dont naturellement l'Alliance. La F.I.I.G., qui a trouvé à la Société des Amis un excellent secrétaire général, en la personne de M. B. Pickard, est en relations étroites avec le "Centre permanent d'Informations internationales" dont les publications, les renseignements, la distribution des rapports et bulletins sont extrêmement appréciés de tous ceux qui ont recours à lui.

Une autre institution internationale éminemment utile de Genève est le Club International, que connaissent certainement bon nombre des lectrices de JUS, et qui grâce aux talents d'organisation et aux convictions féministes de sa secrétaire-générale, Mlle. Ginsberg, a déjà rendu d'inappréciables services à nos Sociétés féministes. C'est au Club international qu'aura lieu, le 13 janvier, donc à peu près au moment où paraîtront ces lignes, le dîner offert à Dame Rachel

Crowdy, à l'occasion de son départ de la S.d.N., sous les auspices des organisations féminines internationales membres du Joint Standing Committee; et c'est là également que Dame Rachel a raconté son récent voyage à Honolulu et évoqué ses impressions de la Conférence féminine Pan-Pacifique, à laquelle elle a représenté la S.d.N. Ce fut, nous a-t-elle dit, dans un décor de rêve et dans ce paysage qui semblait surtout prédisposer au repos et à la promenade, une des Conférences où l'on a travaillé le plus intensément, le matin par petits groupes, l'après-midi en séances plénières, le soir en meetings publics. Le travail était divisé entre six Sections, qui ont voté des résolutions intéressantes touchant à nombre des problèmes qui préoccupent également les femmes de notre hémisphère: la protection de l'enfance, le cinéma, les tribunaux d'enfants, l'hygiène publique, l'opium, la traite des femmes, la maternité, l'activité des femmes dans la politique, la diplomatie, comme membres du jury, etc. Dame Rachel a très-nettement indiqué l'utilité de ce groupement féminin Pan-Pacifique à côté de l'Institut des Relations internationales, dont certaines délégations ne comptent point de femmes, et qui, par conséquent ne peut pas représenter complètement le point de vue féminin. Et en terminant, elle a rendu hommage à quatre femmes, dont l'activité et l'influence ont été tout spécialement marquées à ce Congrès: Dr. Sweet et Mrs. Swansey (Australie), Dr. Koo (Chine), et Mme. Alba (Mexique). A quoi Mrs. Fox, (Y.W.C.A.) a tenu à ajouter combien important avait été le rôle de Dame Rachel à Honolulu, et comment, grâce à elle, la S.d.N., au lieu d'être une lointaine abstraction, était devenue pour les femmes des pays représentés là-bas une vivante réalité.

Une autre causerie, récemment faite sous les auspices de l'Alliance et des Unions chrétiennes de jeunes filles, nous a fait toucher du doigt une fois de plus combien Genève constitue un centre d'informations féministes qu'il importe de ne pas négliger. Un missionnaire français, M. Rolland, est en effet venu, après un séjour de 34 ans en Kabylie, nous demander de nous intéresser activement au sort tragique et lamentable des femmes de ce pays, et les renseignements qu'il nous a apportés nous ont fourni une preuve de plus de cet esclavage domestique qui sévit encore dans tant de contrées mahométanes: la femme est vendue en mariage par son père, ou à son défaut par son plus proche parent mâle, sans son consentement, sans droit de divorce, sans droit de propriété, sauf sur les vêtements qu'elle porte, sans droit sur ses enfants auxquels elle devient étrangère en cas de répudiation. Elle peut être répudiée quand cela plaît à son mari, et sans qu'il soit obligé de donner ses raisons, et quand il meurt est léguée à un autre comme une partie de son héritage. Bref, suivant la formule, il peut faire d'elle ce qu'il veut, sauf un cadavre. Naturellement sévit là aussi comme ailleurs cette abominable coutume des mariages d'enfants, que retrouve à travers tout l'Islam notre féminisme international.

C'est pourquoi, et indépendamment du cas des femmes kabyles, pour l'amélioration du sort desquelles il a été vivement recommandé à M. Rolland de se mettre en rapport avec les féministes françaises, nous pensons que l'Alliance se trouve là devant une grande tâche internationale, de portée féministe autant qu'humanitaire. De portée féministe: j'insiste sur ce mot, car au dire de tous ceux qui s'occupent de ces questions (c'était notamment l'opinion catégorique de notre missionnaire), l'émancipation des femmes d'un pays mahométan, tels que la Turquie et l'Egypte, peut avoir des conséquences directes sur un changement des coutumes et des mœurs dans d'autres pays, et l'exemple des femmes turques, conseillères municipales à Stamboul, et des femmes égyptiennes exerçant librement une profession peut aussi contribuer beaucoup à améliorer la situation de ces malheureuses esclaves domestiques.

C'est là encore une preuve de la solidarité féminine qui nous unit toutes.

E.G.D.

PREMIER CONGRES FEMINISTE ORIENTAL
TENU A DAMAS LE 3 JUILLET, 1930.

(Nous avons reçu de Madame Nour Hamada (Président) les décisions suivantes prises par le premier congrès féministe oriental).

1. La femme doit être l'égal de l'homme dans toutes les branches de l'activité humaine; elle doit avoir libre accès au travail et être traitée sur le même pied que l'homme en ce qui concerne le salaire et la préparation technique. La femme mariée a droit au travail quand les charges qui lui incombent à ce titre ne constituent pas une entrave à l'accomplissement de ses devoirs d'épouse.
2. Le Conseil Supérieur du Congrès est chargé de poursuivre auprès des Gouvernements d'Orient la création de jardins d'enfants s'inspirant des méthodes pédagogiques modernes. Les Cinémas doivent faire l'objet d'une surveillance étroite. Il sera fixé l'âge à partir duquel les adolescents pourront y avoir accès.
3. L'instruction primaire doit être obligatoire. Le Gouvernement doit interdire tout travail aux adolescents âgés de moins de quatorze ans pour leur permettre de fréquenter les écoles.
4. Devront être instituées des écoles industrielles pour jeunes gens des deux sexes dont le libre accès serait facultatif à tous.
5. L'unification des programmes d'enseignement doit être décrétée dans tous les pays sans aucune distinction.
6. La publication de livres à l'usage de la jeunesse doit être hâtée comme aussi la création d'une terminologie scientifique arabe.
7. L'étude de la langue arabe doit être renforcée dans les écoles étrangères.
8. La culture doit être unifiée dans les pays orientaux.
9. L'âge à partir duquel le mariage peut être contracté doit être fixé pour les jeunes gens des deux sexes.
10. Il est indispensable pour les prétendants de se fréquenter au cercle intime avant le mariage.
11. Les prétendants doivent faire l'objet d'un examen médical avant le mariage.
12. Les douaires et le trousseau doivent être allégés et la dot supprimée pratiquement si possible.
13. La polygamie doit être interdite sauf en cas de nécessité extrême.
14. La femme doit avoir le droit de divorce en cas de motifs légitimes.
15. La femme doit bénéficier de la "chérie" en ce qui a trait à l'héritage qui lui reviendrait de son père ou de son époux, même si, en vertu du testament, elle est déshéritée.
16. Aide doit être fournie aux sociétés de lutte contre les spiritueux et le jeu.
17. La prostitution et la traite des blanches doivent être combattues.
18. Les produits nationaux doivent être encouragés et les produits étrangers délaissés.
19. La guerre doit être combattue et la paix maintenue dans le monde.
20. Il sera institué un Conseil Supérieur du Congrès Féministe Oriental composé des présidentes et déléguées des sociétés qui y ont participé ou l'ont soutenu par des messages écrits et des présidentes et déléguées des Conseils Exécutifs du Congrès dans les capitales des pays qui voudraient appliquer ses décisions présentement ou à l'avenir. Ce Conseil aura deux sièges, l'un en Syrie, centre géographique du Proche-Orient, et le second aux Indes, centre géographique de l'Extrême-Orient. Les Conseils du Proche-Orient et ceux de l'Extrême-Orient tiendront séparément leurs assises une fois par an dans un pays dont le nom sera choisi ultérieurement. Tous les deux ans, un Congrès Général se tiendra en Extrême-Orient et dans le Proche-Orient tour à tour. Le Conseil Supérieur aura le droit de modifier certains points des décisions du Congrès ou d'y ajouter certaines questions utiles à la cause.
21. Le Conseil Supérieur Oriental sera divisé en deux sections: la section administrative comprenant les membres des pays ayant participé effectivement au Congrès par l'envoi de délégations officielles et la section conseillère comprenant les membres des pays l'ayant soutenu par l'envoi des messages écrits.

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