

JUS SUFFRAGII.

The International Woman Suffrage News

The Monthly Organ of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

FRENCH EDITION.

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Features of the Month.

The Suffrage campaign enjoys a breathing space this month, after the great British women's victory recorded last month, and before, as we hope, the approaching American victory. And women have the happy consciousness that their victories, unlike those on bloody battlefields, benefit the vanquished as much as the victor, leave no wounds, no ruin, no remorse or humiliation, but prepare the way for harmony and peaceful development and co-operation of all branches of society. The victories of the women's cause are victories for humanity, victories for democracy, for peace, freedom, and progress. Nothing can stay its triumphant march, and no one will regret its success once it has been achieved.

Sweden is now entering on the final stage of its struggle. The King's Speech promised a Government measure for Woman Suffrage, which is now introduced. If the opposition of the Upper Chamber can be overcome, the last steps should

not be too long delayed. Mrs. Wicksell, in her address to the Suffrage annual meeting, discussed the work lying before Swedish women as voters. This question is becoming more and more actual as more countries join the list of the enfranchised. Several points present themselves as urgent. What are to be the relations between the new women voters and political parties? Will the women's organisations remain intact and be a nucleus for women's work? Can women of various political parties continue to co-operate for certain objects now that they have gained their original ends? What can be done to further the political education of the new voters? And, finally, what will be the relation of national associations of women voters to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance? Each country will work out for itself the answers to the earlier questions, though it must be a matter of regret to all that there is now no opportunity for women to meet in international congresses to discuss subjects on which so much light can be shed by comparing experience.

For this reason, too, we venture to urge that women in enfranchised countries should continue to support the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. The new world that must be made after the war needs international co-operation, and it needs the help of women. If women support internationalism and transform national politics, there may be some hope of avoiding many of the difficulties and dangers of the past. A closer drawing together of the women of the world would be the best augury for the future.

"Jus Suffragii: The International Woman Suffrage News."

The index for the year 1916-17 can be obtained gratis by sending a postcard to 11, Adam Street, Adelphi, London. Owing to paper shortage the index is not being sent to all subscribers, but only to those who apply for it. The index is arranged under subject headings as well as under countries, and is invaluable for reference. Covers for binding in the international colours can be had. Price: England, 1s.; other countries, 2s. (for postage).

Correspondents are requested to forward all communications in strong wrappers or envelopes to avoid loss or injury in the post.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

This is a question of paramount interest for all women, and it is sure to receive the greatest attention from women in governing bodies, and, indeed, from all enfranchised women. Therefore, it was a splendid idea of the Editor* to have it treated in *Jus Suffragii*.

From the moment women began to take men's places in industrial work, the question of equal output and equal pay, irrespective of the sex of the worker, has become a burning one. But its solution is beset with great difficulties. First, there is the exact equality of the work, for it is not always as with the work of a tram or 'bus conductor, which is incontestably the same as the man's whose place the woman has taken; and then there is the desire of the worker herself to be engaged by the employer, which makes her agree to have her output valued less than her predecessor's for the sake of the paltry wage so sadly needed. There are endless stratagems that make it possible to elude the enforcement of the seeming simple principle, equal pay for equal work.

In order to have their claim heard and their demand enforced, women workers will have to organise, if possible internationally. But that is no easy thing to do, even if we can have an International Women's Congress at the conclusion of peace.

Among the old conventions and "scraps of paper" torn up by the war, the first that disappeared or were disregarded were the labour laws, limitation of hours, obligations of employers with regard to conditions of labour, etc. With these disappeared the women's disabilities and restrictions, and in the belligerent countries women flocked to the munition and other trades. It was easy to explain their small salaries by their being untaught and unskilled.

Now, since 1911, there exists an *International Correspondence* of women that has for its object the promotion of labour legislation which shall not put more restrictions upon women as compared with men workers than is strictly necessary for the protection of motherhood. At present the writer of this article is its International Secretary, and ten countries have appointed Correspondents. At the outbreak of the war our sphere of action changed, and the majority of the Correspondents with whom we could remain in contact agreed to take up the question of equal pay for equal work. Unfortunately, it is not an easy matter to get exact and exhaustive statistics on women's work and wages; only France, Denmark, and Switzerland have contributed information. Mme. Duchêne sent a most interesting pamphlet from Paris, stating the wages women got in the first year of the war, when they replaced men, and relating the establishment of a Committee against the Sweating of Women, consisting of six men's trade unions. In Denmark a State Commission was appointed to deal with the question of a bonus to help men and women State employees through the crisis. From Switzerland we hear that in the tailoring, printing, and metal trades women are paid less than men. In Holland this is also the case, but in general the State awards the same salary to men or women employees, only giving women less chances of advancement.

The International Correspondence received from the Fédération Féministe Universitaire de France a list of resolutions passed by several meetings and unions in many lands, all advocating equal pay irrespective of sex.† We are thankful that these show the movement to be an international one; but our direct object is to obtain statistics as well, and these seem to be difficult to get. The Trade Unions Congress at Berne in 1917, attended only by delegates from the Central and the neutral States, declared itself in favour of equal pay for equal output, which in the case of women may mean longer time.

Congresses, especially international ones, have power to impose their decisions; our International Correspondence is content to collect information on the subject of equal pay for equal work.

MARTINA G. KRAMERS.

The question of the difference between men's and women's wages is not a purely feminist question, but eminently social and humanitarian, and the often furious opposition shown to it by men is incomprehensible, as if the exploitation of women in the labour market did not turn also to their injury. It is, of course, a fact that in labour contracts the preference is always given to the best offer, and the development of machine

* The Editor owes the "splendid idea" to Mme. Kramers!
† Most of these were published in *Jus Suffragii* of September, 1917.

work, which is perfected more and more, demands less muscular strength and more attention to agility of manipulation—a quality essentially feminine,—and renders less necessary men's labour, women being quite adequate substitutes, and possibly superior.

Great economic injury will accrue to man from this fact by the withdrawal of a great part of the work which formerly belonged to him alone, and by acquiescing in the lower wage of women he creates a situation disadvantageous to both sexes.

Women, who have always been the symbol of family unity, who because of their eminently sympathetic qualities have always been an element of social harmony, by being subjected to this unjust depreciation of their work, are becoming, against their own nature, blacklegs and elements of disorder, since their less paid work upsets the standard of wages. This is due to the false idea which has ruled till now, that as a woman is not the head of a family, and has not the obligation to maintain one entirely, her earnings should be less; and, even if she has none, she needs less than a man, according to the opponents of equal pay for equal work.

It would be useless to demonstrate the erroneousness of such assertions to-day, when women, even young girls, by the mere fact that they live on their earnings, are no longer limited to their hearth, but have created for themselves the same social and intellectual needs as men.

But the conception that contributes more to the injustice is that work should be valued not according to its value, but according to the sex of the producer.

This question of equal wage is so complex that the more it is studied the more apparent it is that it concerns not only women but men and the whole society.

Man creates a competitor; society, by exploiting the mother, sets a mine at its own basis that may explode it.

But it must not be thought that women are not greatly to blame for this false and harmful situation which results from women's exploitation. I have heard an intellectual woman say: "It would be humiliating for a man if women were paid the same!" And a poor street-sweeper, asked by me as to her wage and why it was less than a man's, replied: "Signora, let us thank Providence that the authorities have accepted us."

The lack of the sense of their own personality in the majority of women which keeps them in bondage to ancient prejudices, and first of all to unconditional submission to men, the conviction that women's work should be paid less, contribute in great part to maintain a state of things which only the will of a minority of women who have a sense of justice for their sex will not succeed in changing. Let us therefore enlarge women's minds by an education more suited to their new social position; let us raise their personality so that they may understand that in their own interests and in those of men, and in the interests of society, they must not let themselves be exploited; let us show man that woman's progress in the economic sphere will redound to his benefit and will complete his existence, and after that we shall have more hope of attaining that social harmony which eliminates every inequality of sex.

We can already note some favourable symptoms. In France a Trade Union Committee against the exploitation of women is carrying on an active campaign for equality of wages, and that in the same France where in 1913 they not only would not accept a woman printer in a trade union session, but expelled her husband because according to the Statutes he ought to have prevented his wife from carrying on her proper trade. And yet it is in France that the Minister Thomas publishes an order for equal pay for men and women in munitions.

And this, together with the agitations of the Socialist party and their associations in support of the principle, if no more, is a sure proof that the necessity for protecting women's labour begins to penetrate men's minds, not only as a feeling of justice but as a social need.

After the war, fields of social activity will be opened to women which are not yet open to them. Let them acquire the consciousness of their own value, and know how to make it appreciated.

ELISA LOLLINI AGNINI.

It is hoped to publish a Special American Victory Number when the Federal Amendment passes the Senate, and a Special Canadian Victory Number when the Federal Vote is won.

NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

Dean Mussey's Naturalisation Bill.

Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey has prepared a Bill to allow American women married to aliens to retain their own nationality, a Bill which is now in the hands of the Immigration Committee of the House of Representatives. She was the founder of the Washington College of Law and the first dean of a law school. She held this position for seventeen years, and is now honorary dean. She is also the president of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia and the chairman of the Committee on the Legal Status of Women of the National Council of Women.

Mrs. Mussey is the widow of General R. D. Mussey. She practises in all the courts of the district of Columbia and is a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, having appeared there in five cases, winning them all. For twenty-five years Mrs. Mussey was the attorney for the Legations of Sweden and Norway in the United States.

She procured from Congress legislation which made mothers equal guardians with fathers in the district, and also secured the right of married women to their own earnings. She was for six years a member of the Board of Education, and got the appropriation for the first free kindergarten.

In view of the pending law for interneg alien women residing in the United States, Mrs. Mussey's story of the Bill she has drafted to give American women married to aliens the right to choose their own nationality is of marked interest.

A nation-wide registration of unnaturalised Germans is to be made by the Department of Justice on February 4. A Bill has recently been introduced in Congress to include women in the alien enemy class. In case it passes, they, too, will be registered; but at present every American woman, whether she will or not, must take the nationality of her husband.

In the following article Dean Mussey explains her Bill and its application to the status of the married woman's nationality:—

"The National Council of Women, composed of national organisations of women in the United States, aggregating a membership of 7,000,000, and also affiliating to the International Council of Women having representation in twenty-four foreign countries, has for several years stood behind a Bill which would give the American woman married to an alien the right to retain her own nationality.

"The Bill was prepared by me as chairman of the Committee of the National Council on the Legal Status of Women, and it provides that upon marriage to an alien the American woman may retain her own nationality, or she may renounce her nationality in a court competent to grant naturalisation.

"Under the law of 1907 the woman, after the dissolution of the marriage by death or divorce, can resume her former nationality by returning to the United States to reside permanently, or, if abroad, by filing with United States consul a declaration declaring her intention to resume her American nationality. The State Department has formulated a procedure to carry out the provisions of this law.

"The Bill was introduced in the House of Representatives in May last by Miss Jeannette Rankin, and in the Senate by Senator Sheppard of Texas, and in both cases referred to the Committee on Immigration of the House of Representatives. This Committee gave us a hearing on the 13th and 14th of December, which was very fully attended by the members of the Committee, who evinced a lively interest in the provisions of the Bill. The hearing was opened by Miss Rankin by a general declaration of the principle that a woman has a right to choose her own nationality independent of her husband. Miss Rankin afterwards left me in charge of the hearing.

"Among the speakers were Mrs. Kate Waller Barrett, national president of the Florence Crittenden Mission and formerly connected officially with the Federal Bureau of Immigration. She was followed by Miss Mary Wood, chairman of the Committee on Legislation of the General Federation of Clubs. Miss Wood spoke particularly, as she said, not for American women who have married titled foreigners, but for the wives of the middle-class man and the labouring man.

"Mrs. N. E. Harris, president of the National Council of Jewish Women, stated that she represented 25,000 women, and that they had endorsed this Bill most heartily. She believed there were many cases among the members of the Jewish

Council of great hardship by reason of the American woman's losing her nationality by marriage with an alien. Mrs. Mary M. North, secretary of the National Council of Women, spoke for the Women's Relief Corps, numbering 160,000, and also for the Rivers and Harbours Congress, all of whom had pledged their support of the Bill under consideration.

"Mrs. Myra Kingman Miller, president of the Colledge Women's Federation, spoke for the principle of the right of the American woman to retain her own nationality, and also objected to the automatic naturalisation by marriage of the alien woman marrying an American.

"Miss Kate Devereaux Blake, of the Good Government League of New York, stated that her mother, Mrs. Lilly Devereaux Blake was the first woman to petition for a change in the law. The petition was made about 1903. Mrs. Thomas, of Chicago, spoke also on the justice of the principle that the American woman should retain her own nationality in marriage, if she desired. Mrs. Thomas stated that she did not represent any organisation, and spoke only for herself.

"The question was asked by a member of the committee, If there was a child of a marriage where the mother and father had different nationalities, which nationality would the child follow? Mrs. Thomas replied very promptly that she believed it should follow the nationality of the mother, because she was the more permanent parent; and said that in Chicago they referred to the father as the casual parent, because it was so often very hard to find him. She said that in social service work in Chicago they found the father an 'intermittent parent.' In this connection I called attention to the fact that under the law of the United States the nationality of the parent has nothing to do with the nationality of the child born in this country, as the locality of birth fixes his status as an American citizen, and that this law is practically the same as the law of all the other foreign countries. I stated that the conflict of laws arose over the fact that Great Britain, France, Holland, Sweden, and Norway, and nearly all other countries, hold that when a citizen is travelling abroad the child born retains the nationality of the parents, so that Great Britain is claiming the children of British parents born in the United States, while at the same time the United States is also claiming those children born here.

"Dr. Shearer, a Presbyterian minister from Toronto, spoke of the agitation in Canada on the subject of this Bill, and that the present ministry had pledged itself to support a measure similar to the one being considered by the committee.

"It was brought out at the hearing that the American woman married to the alien who was visiting abroad, on returning to this country is subjected at the port of entry to the indignities to which the foreign-born woman is subjected, both as to restrictions from disease and examination and to the dependent and pauper clauses of the Immigrant Act.

"In concluding the hearing I stated that the International Council of Women had been petitioned by several other countries to urge this change in the law, and that the women of Great Britain, France, Holland, Sweden, and Norway are all agitating the same subject in their own countries, so that it is, in fact, a world-wide movement. A hearing before the Senate Committee on Immigration will be held some time in January.

"While the granting of Suffrage to the women of New York State has raised this vital question of citizenship in many thousands of cases, the disability as to Suffrage is not the only disability from which women suffer under the present law. In the District of Columbia and the territories under the Federal law aliens cannot hold real estate, nor can an alien act as an executor of an estate. These limitations exist in quite a number of States, and in no State can an alien be a member of the Bar. In most States, also, aliens are not allowed to qualify as teachers.

"Under the theory of the common law the legal identity of a woman upon marriage was merged into that of her husband and she held no property as her own; even her earnings belonged to her husband during marriage. Under the law of King Charles II. of England the mother had no rights in her child, and the father could will the child away even before birth. All of these disabilities have been swept away in whole or in part in the United States, but the fallacy that the husband must govern the nationality still remains for women to combat. It is hoped and believed that women will realise, at this time of the nation's demand upon them for their best for the support of the great purpose of democracy and of our nation's integrity, that we should at least have the right to decide to what nationality we shall consecrate our devotion and service."—From the *Woman Citizen*.

AUSTRIA.

Women Demand a Voice.

The National Council of Women and the International Committee of Women for Permanent Peace have petitioned the delegates at Brest Litovsk that in every case of a plebiscite women shall be included.

DENMARK.

Work of the Danish Women's Society for the Economic Independence of the Wife.

On November 7, 1878, Frederik Bajer, then a member of the Lower House, brought forward a Bill in the Lower House for wives to have full power over the property they earned by their own labours. In February, 1880, this was supported by a petition signed by 2,350 women in the capital and the provinces. In May, 1880, the Bill was adopted. But next year the proposal that inheritances or gifts to a wife during marriage should be in her power was lost. In 1899 it became law that if the testator or the donor decided it so, either partner should have exclusive rights over an inheritance or a gift. In 1908 a Bill was drafted by a committee of Danish women and lawyers to introduce new arrangements for the holding of property by married people, and for the powers of married parents over their children. It was proposed to introduce joint disposal of the profits of joint labours, exclusive disposal of the profits of independent labours and of what is introduced by either of the married pair into the marriage, or which they inherit as a legacy or a gift or the like addition during the marriage.

July 9, 1912, saw a Commission established by the Government to consider rules for entering on and dissolving marriages, conditions of property, and personal relations between man and wife, together with authority and adoption. Like Commissions were appointed in Norway and Sweden so as to get a joint Scandinavian opinion on these questions. The draft of the Danish Commission was submitted to a Women's Committee designated by the Danish Women's Society, and the views of these women were printed with those of the Commission.

In June, 1914, the Danish Women's Society assembled a Norwegian Women's Congress, where the question of rights in the family was discussed by representatives from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, and Finland. The Congress demanded that women should be elected on the Commissions for considering rights in the family. This demand was conceded, and a woman was elected on each of the three Commissions; with respect to Denmark, the present President of the Danish Women's Copenhagen Circle was elected—the oculist Estrid Hein.

—*Kvinden og Samfundet* (January 15, 1918).

What all women ought to demand: Alteration in the law! Law as to conditions for the holding of property by married people.—April 7, 1899.

Chapter 2, §11:

The authority over the joint dwelling-place belongs to the man—and the wife in fellowship.

Legal Position of Married Women.

The battle for the vote waged by the Danish Women's Society is won. The work to be done in future will be done by men and women together. True, but we will not demobilise at once like rash Bolsheviks before agreement has been reached on all the fronts. In all parties men have made promises as to the campaign for legal equality between the sexes, but the new proposals for reform exclude women to a fabulous extent and have taught us the value of such promises. Nothing but binding promises will do for the future. Therefore, until the 1918 elections *Kvinden og Samfundet* intends to come forward regularly with "conditions of peace," and point out the passages of the law which are inconsistent with the legal equality of the sexes.

In the first place the word which robs wives of their independence and responsibility must be expunged from the law. The hand then does not tremble when it writes on the wall, "Equality of rights of property for married folk." That is the price of women's votes, and those who court them can win them in no other way.

EDITORIAL.

—*Kvinden og Samfundet* (January 15, 1918).

Parental Authority.

As long as parents live together each of them exercises full parental authority over their joint children. If division of opinion arises between the parents, either of them can demand to have the question settled by the arbitration of the magistrate of the district as president, together with one man or woman chosen by the parents.

Many mothers will cry indignantly that, of course, women already have by nature a share in decisions as to their children. But the learned professors interpret the law differently. "As long as parents live together in wedlock it must undoubtedly be assumed, quite independently of the husband's rights over the wife, that in case of differences the father's will is the decisive one, in consideration of his position as head of the family which he occupies in the eyes of the law."

Thus and in like manner speak Professors Deuntzer and Bentzon, and these learned men are doubtless quite correct, for no manifesto or royal order or judgment of the highest laws, not to mention any resolution of the Parliament, has made any alteration in the prevailing line of thought in the Danish law of Christian V., nor presumably either of Valdemar the Conqueror's Jutland law that the mother who has given everything for her child should only have as much right in her child as its father chooses of his good pleasure to give her.

Men and women repeat glibly that she who rocks the cradle, etc., etc., but they forget that till the law is changed the father can banish the mother from the cradle and put a strange woman there, or send the child from home against the mother's will. It is true that as a rule men are better than the laws, but in the not infrequent cases where they are not, the mother can only run her head against a stone wall.

Let all women join to banish from the law this overlordship of the father as to the power over the children. Let no candidate have a single woman's vote who has not given a clear promise to support the reform of this law.

—*Kvinden og Samfundet* (January 30, 1918).

FINLAND.

A letter dated January 1 has reached the office from the Finnish members of the I.W.S.A. signed by Jenny af Forselles, Ph.D., M.P., describing the difficulties and obstacles that Finnish enfranchised women have had to face in political work, owing to Finland's lack of independence and the check exercised by the Tsar's Government on their legislation.

"What is the good of our Suffrage, so long as it does not imply the right of acting, so long as it is choked by foreign violence?"

At present the great object of Finnish women, as well as men, is to have their independence acknowledged by other Governments, and they appeal to the I.W.S.A., which at Congress has always shown sympathy for Finland, to support its claim. "Our Government, supported by our National Assembly, has applied to the Governments abroad requesting them to acknowledge our right to independence as a State. We do not know how long this appeal of ours is to remain without an answer, we do not know whether the nations mean to give a thought to any interests but their own. . . . Our existence now depends on the opinions of the civilised nations."

All who have the fate of Finland at heart must be touched by the appeal of its women.

FRANCE.

Deputation to the Parliamentary Group for Women's Rights.

A deputation from the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes, composed of the President and members of the Executive Committee, was received on February 21 at the Chamber of Deputies by the Group for Women's Rights, presided over by M. Jules Siegfried. This group, recently formed, already includes sixty members, and we are persuaded that the individual campaign that we shall carry on amongst the deputies will rapidly increase the number of members of the group.

The President of the U.F.S.F., after thanking the deputies for receiving the deputation, and expressing the great importance that French Suffragists attach to the formation of the Group for Women's Rights, explained the international position of Woman Suffrage, the number of women already voting in

the whole world, and the new and important successes in England and America.

The General Secretary explained the reasons why in our opinion Woman Suffrage is urgent in France, and why we demand universal Parliamentary Suffrage, although we would accept for the present the Municipal Suffrage that is promised. We demand, however, of the Group for Women's Rights, as well as from the Reporter of the Commission on Universal Suffrage, to pronounce clearly in favour of the principle of full Suffrage, Municipal Suffrage only being considered a first step. This assurance having been given us, we insisted strongly that M. Flandin, who is secretary of the Group for Women's Rights, as well as secretary of the Commission on Universal Suffrage in the Chamber, should present to the Chamber without further delay the report which was prepared a year ago, which was approved by the Commission and which only needs some touching up.

Monsieur Marin, a Deputy, and one of the oldest friends of Woman Suffrage, heartily supported our contentions. M. Flandin, who always shelters himself behind the fear of a false move in the Chamber, and who fears to present a Bill which would risk being rejected, nevertheless finished by promising to present his report shortly.

We assured him that of the two dangers, we preferred to be killed rather than buried alive. We also raised the question of electoral lists of women, which should be prepared, and we asked whether, as we are assured that we shall have the municipal vote before the next elections, the Group of Women's Rights will not see whether this considerable piece of work could not be commenced at once, so as not to leave it till the last moment, when it may be too late.

Altogether a useful day and a first satisfactory meeting with the Group for Women's Rights.

DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER,

President of the U.F.S.F.
(Affiliated to the I.W.S.A.)

A New Suffrage Bill.

M. Magniez, Deputy for the Somme, has presented a Bill demanding the vote for women in municipal, cantonal, legislative, and senatorial elections on the same conditions as for men. But an exception is to be made in the case of registered women prostitutes and owners of immoral houses. [Would M. Magniez disfranchise the men who are the clients and co-partners of these women?]

Equal Pay for Equal Work.

The Shirt and Underclothing Union of Paris proposed a resolution at the Clothing Union Congress on February 10, which was passed, affirming that "low wages and inequality for identical work—according to whether the work is done by a man or a woman—can have the gravest consequences—viz., lowering the general level of wages, and competition between the sexes instead of co-operation"; and demanding that "minimum wages based on the principle of equal pay for equal work be introduced into all contracts between employers and employed, and that international agreements should be introduced into the peace treaties, guaranteeing to both sexes the fixing of minimum wages and equal pay for equal work."

Comité d'Action Suffragiste.

A Woman Suffrage meeting was held on February 10 in the Hall of Sociétés Savantes in Paris. M. J. J. H. Moreau presided, and the speakers included Marcelle Crémieux, Edouard Valentin, Jeanne Melin, who demanded full political rights for women.

The following resolution was passed: "French women, considering their intelligence equal to that of the women in Finland, Norway, Russia, who already have political rights; considering that the British House of Lords has passed the Woman Suffrage Bill in war time, faced by the disastrous results of masculine Governments, demand of Parliament: (1) To prepare at once a Woman Suffrage law, which shall give all women in possession of civil rights full political rights; (2) to give them eligibility to all legislative and administrative bodies, in equal numbers with men; (3) not to revise any law, nor to reform the Constitution, until women can share in this work as enfranchised citizens."

Parliamentary Group for Women's Rights.

The Women's Rights Group has elected the following committee: President, M. Siegfried; vice-presidents, M.M. Doizy, Marin, Andrieux, and Merlin; members, M. Etienne Flandin, Roulleaux Dugage, Gilbert Laurent, Lancien, Mauger.

The group has decided to support:—

- (1) The municipal vote for women.
- (2) Admission of women to University degrees and employments.
- (3) Equal pay for equal work.
- (4) Substitution of the system of separation of property for that of common property in the case of married couples when there is no marriage contract.

A society has been formed to promote the League of Nations.

GERMANY.

Women in Foundries.

It is stated that women are employed at almost all descriptions of work except the heaviest. It is found advantageous to put women into gangs; their anxiety to do equally well or better than the others increases their output. In the foundries women have been employed for fettling at the emery wheel, and for sand blasting, but it is not always easy to find women physically suitable for these purposes. As regards the wages of the female hands, the German practice in engineering or mechanical works is to fix the female piece tariff about one-third lower than the male tariff. This has not been found satisfactory in the foundry, where women have the same tariff as the men. Women would probably not accept work in foundries if it were not better paid than on machine tools.

—*Engineering*, February 15.

Increase of Women in Industry.

The "Frauen Beilage" (Women's Supplement) of the *Leipzig Volkszeitung* gives the following interesting statistics: The sick insurance offices reported on November 1, 1917, that out of 8,321,561 members, 4,291,700 were women, making 51 per cent. of the total of all those industrially employed and insured; these figures do not include those too ill to work, nor home workers. No figures are available to show how these numbers are apportioned to various industries in the Empire, but figures are published for Berlin which show an interesting comparison between 1914 and 1917.

In December, 1914, the total of insured persons was 1,166,270, of whom 549,855 were women. In December, 1917, the total was 1,362,436, of whom 846,580 were women. The percentage of women shows an increase of 47 to 22 per cent.

The various industries show the following:—

Occupation.	Percentage of Women.	
	1914.	1917.
Agriculture and gardening	43.0	48.2
Stones and earth	12.9	34.8
Metals and machines	26.1	51.0
Chemicals	18.6	51.0
Textiles	61.0	73.5
Paper and leather	44.0	64.5
Wood	6.7	13.2
Food	45.0	48.8
Hairdressing and cleaning	29.8	44.7
Building	4.0	16.4
Printing	35.0	47.8
Warehouses and shops	73.0	84.7
Transport, including post	17.6	69.5
Hotel and bar	37.2	64.2
Municipal service	23.9	55.4
Various	54.7	63.9

No doubt the increase is similar all over Germany, in all industrial centres. The consequence? The Prussian Electoral Reform does not mention women. That shows how the authorities value women's self-sacrificing war work. It is only an "emergency substitute" which the capitalist State will shake off as soon as the demobilised soldiers fill the gaps of labour. Dr. Helfferich said so openly in March, 1917, in the Reichstag Committee:

"When one looks at the women who are so active in all these heavy services, women in munitions, driving vans, cleansing the streets, one sometimes has to gaze hard to know whether it is a man or a woman. Women's personality and ideas are being turned into other channels by their entrance into men's occupations, and that shows itself externally. We must seriously determine to put an end to this." "M. W.," writing in the "Frauen Beilage," says: "We hope, on the contrary, that women's ideas will not be forced into other channels, but that they will remain conscious of their equal value with men, and win corresponding equal rights."

GREAT BRITAIN.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

The Political Situation: The Royal Assent.

More pageant than politics, the last stage of the Representation of the People Bill, but of absorbing interest to the women who have followed with unflagging watchfulness the progress of Women's Suffrage in Great Britain. It was on February 6 that the Representation of the People Bill, along with one or two others—mere trifles in comparison!—received the Royal Assent. Spectators were denied the dramatic satisfaction of seeing the King himself put pen to paper, for the Royal Seal, as is now usual, was in commission, and the Bill was therefore signed by a body of imposing looking proxies. Even so the scene in the House of Lords was sufficiently dramatic, with its scarlet robes, its gigantic hats, its bowing Black Rods, and no one who was present felt, as the ceremony came to an end, that any of the magic had gone from the old phrase which changed the Representation of the People Bill to the Representation of the People Act—"Le Roi le Veult."

The New Era.

With the signing of the Bill a change has come over the spirit of our dream. Women are beginning to view themselves, and, still more important, political parties are beginning to view them, as citizens possessed of opinions worth considering, which they certainly intend to have considered.

In speaking on the Bill last December, Lord Bryce referred to the new women voters as having "no knowledge and very little interest," and prophesied that "not having any opinions of their own they will be easy victims of any representation which is made to them."

Somehow events seem to be belying that prophecy. Women are showing no inclination to wait quietly to be victimised. They are displaying the liveliest interest in the exactitude of their qualifications and the best way to get their names on to the Parliamentary register. The N.U.W.S.S. is already inundated with inquiries. There has not been time to judge whether women are really lacking in political knowledge, but lacking in political interest they evidently are not, and their interest they are already using to remedy their ignorance of technicalities.

The political parties fully realise and appreciate the vitality of the new voter. They are aware that any attempt to herd women like sheep into the party pen would be as useless as it would be ill-advised. They understand, too, the value of this new quota of intelligence that is to hand. And the result of party meditation is already appearing in notices welcoming women as members and officers of Conservative and Unionist Associations, or inviting them to conferences to discuss the future of the Liberal party.

Here is recognition with responsibility, the political freedom that woman wants. Here is the new era of womanhood. It remains to be seen what use woman is going to make of her opportunities.

Scottish Women's Hospitals.

There is news this month of the Scottish women at work in Corsica and Salonika. As usual, their hands and hospitals are full, and just now they are hard at work combating those stubborn enemies, malaria and tuberculosis. Even so they have time both for other work and for a measure of play. The "other work" is educational, and takes the form of teaching the convalescent boys English, a process which apparently both convalescent boys and S.W.H. teachers thoroughly enjoy. The "play" we hear of now was Christmas-time festivity. The hospital at Salonika gave a Hogmanay party for the Scottish troops, to which they literally came "in their thousands." It was followed by an equally successful Christmas party for the Serbian soldiers upon their own Christmas Day.

Clubs for Boys and Girls.

Among the ridiculed multiplicity of standing committees which exist in this country there is one which is doing particularly interesting and valuable work. A Standing Committee representing the different organisations which provide recreation for young people has been in existence since 1916. It has recommended the establishment of Juvenile Organisation Committees in all large towns, and a number have already appointed them. They are composed of representatives of all the voluntary organisations working in the town, and delegates from the local education authorities, juvenile employment and after-care committees, school-teachers' asso-

ciations, magistrates, and probation officers: they deal with schemes for providing recreation for boys and girls, the opening of new clubs and the maintenance of old ones. The falling-off in the numbers of suitable men and women with time to devote to young people's clubs, boy scouts, girl guides, etc., is hampering the work of such organisations seriously, and is held accountable in part for the recent increase in juvenile delinquency.

RAY STRACHEY.

CORRECTION.

In the "History of the British Suffrage Movement" which appeared in the February issue a few minor inaccuracies occur, to which our attention has been drawn.

1. Mrs. Fawcett was not President of the London Society, but a member of its committee, and President of the National Union.

2. The Parliamentary struggle for Woman Suffrage dates from 1867, and lasted consequently 50, not 60, years.

3. The appeal to "use every available woman" was sent out, not by Mr. Asquith himself, but by the National Liberal Federation while Mr. Asquith was Prime Minister.

The Millicent Fawcett Scholarships.

Bedford College for Women, University of London.

In order that the fifty years' work of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, may have a permanent memorial in the University of London, and be gratefully remembered by generations of future women students, it has been decided to create an endowment for scholarships at Bedford College, to be named "Millicent Fawcett Scholarships." Bedford College is the oldest of the women's University Colleges, and Mrs. Fawcett has been for many years a Governor of it.

Eight years ago Miss Philippa Fawcett, herself a former student, promised to give £100 to Bedford College when the Suffrage was won. Now this gift can be claimed, and it has been suggested that it should form the nucleus of a fund for the above purpose to commemorate the enfranchisement of women in the United Kingdom. £2,000 duly invested provides a scholarship of £100 a year.

It is confidently anticipated that the cause will appeal to all Suffragists who desire to carry on the good work in which Parliamentary enfranchisement is so important a step, and to express in enduring form their gratitude for the devoted life and leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett.

A letter of appeal has been circulated, signed by the Duchess of Marlborough, the Marchioness of Londonderry, Countess Selborne, Lady Frances Balfour, Lady Robert Cecil, and Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher, and subscriptions will be gratefully received by the Hon. Treasurer, Fawcett Scholarship Fund, c/o Bedford College for Women, London, N.W. 1.

Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

Thanksgiving Mass at Westminster Cathedral.

Sunday, February 17, must always be a Red Letter Day in the calendar of members of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, for they had the happiness of attending Mass at Westminster Cathedral offered up as "an act of thanksgiving for the passing into law of the Representation of the People Bill, and to beg a blessing on the new electors in the discharge of the duties and responsibilities which they are now called upon to undertake."

The Mass was at 10.30, and by the kind permission of Mgr. Howlett, seats were reserved for all C.W.S.S. members on the front benches of one side of the nave. Several distinguished representatives of other Suffrage Societies came to share in this joyful thanksgiving, amongst them being Mrs. Fawcett and her sister, Miss Garrett.

After the Mass a procession was formed to the shrine of Blessed Joan of Arc, patroness of the Society, Miss Gabrielle Jeffrey carrying a beautiful laurel wreath to be placed on the shrine. Miss Jeffrey was chosen for this pleasant duty as being the founder of the Society.

Copy of resolution passed on Saturday, February 16, at the annual general meeting of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society:—

"That this meeting of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society approves of the continuation of the Society, with the

intention of working for the further extension of the franchise to women on the same terms as it is, or may be, given to men; to establish political, social, and economic equality between men and women, and to further the work and usefulness of Catholic women as citizens."

Women in Government Service.

The official *Labour Gazette* states that it is calculated that 700,000 women are now employed on munitions, 650,000 on other industrial Government work, and 40,000 on Government work in commercial occupations and transport. Over 1,413,000 men have been directly replaced by women.

Votes for Women.

With the British Suffrage victory the brilliant Suffrage paper *Votes for Women* ceases publication. It was founded ten and a half years ago by Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, and edited by them until 1914. Since then Miss Evelyn Sharp has been editor, and has maintained the high reputation of the paper. The Suffrage cause owes a great deal to the vigorous and well-informed prosecution of its case in *Votes for Women*.

National Council of Women.

In view of the extension of the franchise and of the approaching general election, women citizens' associations are being formed over the country by the National Council of Women, to which 153 societies are affiliated.

The National Union of Women Workers has received with much appreciation the following telegrams of congratulation on the passage of the Representation of the People Bill:—
From Madame Tilma Hainari, Helsingfors, President of the National Council of Women of Finland.

"National Council of Women of Finland send heartiest Suffrage congratulations."

From the Finnish Women's Association, Helsingfors.

"Wishes for successful work in consequence of your great victory."

From Madame Pauline Luisi, President of the National Council of Women of Uruguay.

"The National Council of Women of Uruguay sends to the great and noble England its enthusiastic greetings on the passage of the Bill establishing not only the right of women to vote, but also the equality of men and women before the nation."

From Miss Henni Forchhammer, President of the National Council of Women of Denmark.

"With great satisfaction we have learned the good tidings that the untiring efforts of British women have at length overcome the everlasting conservatism of British men."

"The victories of women far and near stand out like bonfires against the night of universal misery."

Woman Deputy Chairman to London County Council.

For the first time in the history of London government a woman has been appointed deputy chairman of the London County Council.

Miss Katherine Wallas has done excellent work on the Education Committee. Before devoting herself to this work, Miss Wallas taught at a large secondary school for girls.

The London County Council administers an area of 117 square miles, and has an annual expenditure of over £14,000,000. It controls all such questions as Housing, Communications (roads, bridges, tunnels), Drainage, Tramways, Old Age Pensions, Finances of Borough Councils, Weights and Measures, Gas, Slaughter Houses, Theatres and Music Halls, Fire Protection, Education, and numerous other services.

The Education Committee is responsible for the education of about 750,000 children in elementary schools, besides secondary, technical, and higher education. The annual expenditure on education is about £7,000,000.

These few figures are a slight indication of the extent and importance of the work of the Council which now has a woman as deputy chairman.

Women Solicitors Bill.

A Bill to enable women to become qualified as solicitors was introduced by Lord Buckmaster in the House of Lords on February 19 and read a first time.

Church League for Women's Suffrage.

The services of thanksgiving and dedication held by the Church League for Women's Suffrage at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on the Saturday following the passing of the Representation of the People Act were very largely attended. At the sung celebration of the Holy Communion the preacher was the Bishop of Stepney, whose father, Sir James Paget, had been one of the first medical men to welcome Mrs. Garrett Anderson and her fellow-pioneers in their struggle to open the medical career to women. The celebrant was most appropriately the Rev. Maurice Bell, who, when vicar of St. Mark's, Regent's Park, had held the first C.L.W.S. service ever arranged in London. Several Church societies (such as the Mothers' Union, the Church of England Men's Society, Life and Liberty Movement, etc.) were officially represented at this solemn act of dedication. In the afternoon the predominant note was that of thanksgiving for the granting of the vote. At the opening of the service banners from various Suffrage societies (including the N.U.W.S.S., the U.S., and the W.F.L.), headed by the St. Margaret banner of the C.L.W.S., were carried in procession up the aisle and placed against the wall of the chancel, where their vivid colouring gave the right festive note to the scene. At the conclusion of the processional hymn the Bishop of Willesden read the Bede Roll: "Let us remember with thanksgiving and all honour before God"; and then followed the honoured names of John Stuart Mill, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, Henry Fawcett, and many other men and women who had toiled for the cause, and had passed away without seeing the fruit of their labours. Then followed the Te Deum, which seemed to link together the living and the departed in a great act of praise. The service was taken by the Rev. F. M. Green, another stalwart friend of the woman's movement; and the Bishop of Willesden gave an address, taking as his text, "Much Given—Much Required." Many well-known Suffragists were present, among them Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Emily Davies, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Mr. H. W. Nevins, Miss C. Macmillan, and Miss Abadam. At evensong, which brought the day to a fitting close, the address was given by the Rev. Dr. Lyttleton. Thanksgiving services are also being held in the Cathedrals of Manchester and Sheffield, and in churches in Birmingham, Walsall, and many other centres. The C.L.W.S. is co-operating with the N.U.W.S.S. in the Women Suffragists' Celebration to be held at Queen's Hall on March 13. Like other societies, the C.L.W.S. is now considering the further development of its work, and its future action will be determined at the General Council of the League to be held in the early spring.

IRELAND.

Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association.

At a meeting of the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association, held on February 7, Mrs. Haslam presided. There was a large attendance.

Before opening the proceedings the Committee united in a few minutes' silent thanksgiving for the passing of the Representation of the People Bill, while remembering those who had not lived to see the reward of their labours.

Mrs. Haslam stated from the chair that this Association was the oldest Suffrage association in Ireland. It had been in uninterrupted existence since 1876, and was instrumental in having two Acts of Parliament passed for the benefit of women.

The meeting then discussed the future of the Association, and the following resolution, proposed by Lady Dockrell and seconded by Mrs. Townshend, was unanimously adopted:—

"That the Committee, in consequence of the passing of the Representation of the People Bill, resolve to call a conference of the several Suffrage societies in Ireland to consider the future, with a view to possible amalgamation, and invite each society to send three delegates, who will each be entitled to a vote. The conference to be held on February 21."

The report and statement of accounts were read and adopted. Miss M. Hayden, M.A., proposed a vote of congratulation to Mrs. Haslam on seeing the triumph of her life work, with an expression of deep gratitude for all that she has done in the cause of women.

It is generally felt amongst the Suffrage Societies here in Ireland that one stage on the road to enfranchisement having been accomplished in the passing of the Representation of the People Bill, there should be made an endeavour to weld together in closer union the various Suffrage organisations

throughout Ireland. The Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation and the Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association have intimated the idea of calling an All-Suffrage Conference in Dublin, to which delegates from every Suffrage Society are invited to attend, in order to consider the present position and future of Suffrage work in Ireland, and the feasibility of the amalgamation of societies. Details of this Conference, which will be held on the 21st inst., may be forthcoming next month.

L. O. KINGSTON
(Hon. Sec., Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation).

AUSTRALIA.

New South Wales: Family Maintenance and Guardianship.

The report of the National Council of Women for 1915-16 states that the Testators' Family Maintenance and Guardianship of Infants Bill, for which women have worked for 28 years, is now law. The law can now set aside any will which leaves wife, child, or husband without adequate support. Although equal guardianship of children is not even now provided for, the iniquitous law that permitted a husband to will away the children from the mother has been set aside in favour of the mother becoming the legal guardian of her children on the death of the father, and enabling her to make a will to appoint a guardian to act with the father.

Victoria.—State Elections: Women's Programme.

Extension of federal powers, and reduction of State Parliaments to status of a county council, to deal with domestic legislation.

Abolition of profiteering in necessities of life.

Reconstruction of land, education, and penal departments, and their development to be wholly in the interests of the masses of the people.

Age of consent for boys and girls to be 21.

Eligibility of women as members of State Parliament, as judges, magistrates, and jurors.

Equal parental rights.

Legalising of equal pay for men and women, instead of leaving the question to the whims of wages boards or industrial courts.

Victoria Labour Women's Convention.

The resolutions passed at the Victoria Labour Women's Convention advocated:—

Women to have seats on Central Executive;

Equal pay;

Extra women police;

Women municipal inspectors of sanitation of private houses;

Municipal milk depôts with authority over producers and consumers;

Government assistance for unmarried mothers;

Effective treatment of venereal patients;

Labour peace proposals to be pressed in every Parliament;

and other reforms.

Babies on Life's Battlefield.

Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson, wife of the Lieut.-Governor: "Babies seem to run as great a risk in coming into the world as soldiers do in fighting. Dangers lurk in the home as surely as on the battlefield. In two and a half years 17,672 Australian soldiers were lost on the battlefield. In Australia the number of deaths of children under five is 32,000 annually. Of these, 23,000 are under one year. The causes could be classified under twelve headings, all of which, except that of inherited disease, bear relation to food, milk, hygiene, fresh air, and such simple reasons."

CANADA.

The *Times* reports that the Government has definitely decided to grant women the Federal vote, and it is likely that a Bill will be introduced in the coming session of Parliament.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Woman Suffrage Defeated.

A Reuter's telegram from Cape Town, February 13, states that in the House of Assembly a motion for incorporating women's franchise in the Electoral Bill was rejected by 54 votes to 39.

ITALY.

To the Women of Great Britain.

The splendid victory obtained by Englishwomen in the House of Lords has greatly rejoiced the Italian Suffragists, who can at last greet the triumph of a just cause in one of the noblest countries in the world.

The Italian Suffragists now feel that they are more strictly bound to their British sisters, who will surely never fail to help them for the attainment of their aims.

During this war, Italian and English women have been working in every way for the triumph of justice and liberty; they have always been sisters in ill and good fortune, and the women of Italy now hope that in the near future they will be able to follow the English women on the path of their glorious conquest.

TERESA LABRIOLA.
ROMELIA TROISE.
MARIA BIANCHI MIANI.

THE NETHERLANDS.

Holland Urged to Follow the Track of Great Britain and the United States.

Wishing to celebrate the Suffrage victories achieved on January 9 in the Parliaments of the two principal English-speaking States, the Dutch W.S.A. held a national meeting to call attention to the contrast between the complete, true democracy of nations which, recognising the needs and utilising the political teachings of modern times, give full franchise to their women, and the semi-democracy of the Netherlands, whose new Constitution gives them eligibility without the vote.

The people of the capital had flocked to fill the hall; the front rows were occupied by some guests, a few English and Americans living in Holland, delegates from Suffrage sections all over the country, and two or three of the State Ministers and M.P.'s, who had all been invited.

Dr. Jacobs, the president of the Dutch W.S.A., gave the opening address, stating the nature of the victories achieved in England and America, and hoped for in Hungary and Sweden. She trusted that Holland would not long remain content with a substitute for democracy, especially since the reigning sovereign of our land is a woman. A burst of applause showed the sympathy of the audience, and the enthusiasm rose still higher when an American and two English ladies addressed the meeting, and a choir sang "The Star-spangled Banner" and "God Save the King." A speech from one of our vice-presidents, calling upon the women to feel their dignity and demand their rights, since they are one-half of humanity, and the unanimous adoption of a resolution and congratulations to the Woman Suffrage Associations of Great Britain and the U.S.A. terminated the proceedings.

MARTINA G. KRAMERS.

RESOLUTION.

This meeting, called together at The Hague on January 28, 1918, by the Association for Woman Suffrage, in order to celebrate the victories gained by the cause of Woman Suffrage in the United States and in Great Britain during the past year—further progress being expected in North America, Hungary, and Sweden,

Congratulates the National Associations for Woman Suffrage of the said countries on the success of their work,

Expresses its thanks to the Governments of those countries for the very thorough insight into the requirements of modern times which they have evinced, which proceeding will set an example to other nations,

Appeals to the Dutch nation that they may this year be successful in electing a Government which will also grant to women their due, the right to participate in the Government of State and Commune,

And expresses its firm belief that in the first year of the session of the newly elected States General a Bill for Suffrage will be brought in through which active Suffrage will be granted to all women of the Netherlands.

NORWAY.

Law as to Industrial Home Labour.

Whilst treating of this part of the "Law for Employees," Herr Castberg spoke warmly for all women employees and agents. He directed attention to a collection of statistics on wages which was simply shocking. There are great businesses here in Christiania which pay their employees so terribly badly, said Herr Castberg, "that they are either driven to want or else to take to dishonourable or immoral gains. Names could be mentioned, but I will abstain from that for the present." He then brought forward a resolution that the Government should consider the question of introducing a minimum wage for women who are employed in offices, shops, warehouses, and the like, and, if necessary, bring forward such a Bill. After some debate Herr Castberg's resolution was unanimously adopted.

—*Nyelaende* (February 1).

The Christiania Communal School for Women Tailors.

On January 12 the young girls who last year left the tailor school as the first remove went up to the technical drawing class in the Industrial School of Arts and Crafts, whose directors have hospitably opened their doors to them.

For 1½ years they have had instruction in freehand drawing and construction in the same school, and now in the new 1½ years they will undergo a course of technical drawing, whilst at the same time they have work in one or other of the town's sewing-rooms. Not until they have perfected themselves in this department will they be able to present themselves for their journeyman's probation work.

The technical school is the first of its kind. It has grown out of the demands of the age: that "only by acquiring the most perfect training in one's department can one succeed in achieving anything really excellent."

The Industrial School of Arts and Crafts is now frequented by a whole mass of crafts' pupils, who are to be trained as cabinet-makers, smiths, goldsmiths, tailors, shoemakers, etc. Masters in these different trades have their pupils there. The age demands more beauty and prettier shapes in all branches, and the teachers keep this point of view in mind.

The young women who will be dressmakers will here learn to study both individuality and *tout ensemble* in designing garments.

The course is under the same management as the tailors' school, and Fröken Laura Knudsen teaches the technical drawing.

F. M.

—*Nyelaende*, (February 1).

Shall Women Form a Subordinate Class in the Telegraphic Department?

Fru Mörck reviews in an article the employment of women in the telegraphic department since the first women were appointed as telegraphists in Christiania in 1858, sixty years ago, beginning with a yearly wage of 800 and 600 kroner.

The wages have steadily increased, but have always been lower than those of the men, except in the case of pupils who give their services, and who receive the same as the men.

Women employees in the telegraphic department are to a greater extent its step-children, than are the employees in any other departments where the sexes compete. All the best-paid posts are kept for men.

It is true women have been allowed to qualify for the higher telegraphic examinations, but there is a strong prejudice against appointing them to the higher posts.

In the business budget for 1915-16 the telegraphic directors argue that it is more advantageous to the State to keep the higher posts for men, as they have families, and the salaries would spell luxury for single women.

Fru Mörck argues that many bachelors enjoy this luxury while many women support parents and other dependents on the lower salaries.

It is admitted on all sides that the women's work is good, and the Storting expressly stipulated that women shall be admitted to the higher posts, and yet the opposition is so stubborn that a pretext has been hit upon: Women are given a new kind of post—"women head-clerk posts" (*kvindelige fuldmaegtigposter*). These are offered to women in flattering terms instead of the technical experience which would really be of value to them. But it is unfair to give women nothing but drudgery, and yet expect more results than the pound of flesh.

In the war countries women have shown that they can do heavy night work and the like, and they could doubtless do it in Norway, too.

The women telegraphic functionaries (*telegraffunktionærer*) are treated with more sympathy than the women in the management section, but Fru Mörck sums up the position by saying that women must insist that in the lowest and highest posts the women must be treated the same as the men, and must be paid according to the work done, and not according to plans with a view to marriage on the one hand and to a little pension on the other. The many women in the department should have some women supervisors, and it is unfair that as now so many capable veteran women in the service should always have men supervisors, often younger than they are, and preferred only on account of sex.

We must use our new weapon of the vote, and see the dangers that threaten us. This time they are in the telegraphic department. Another time it will be somewhere else. In any case, "Shoulder arms."

—*Nyelaende* (February 1, 1918).

RUSSIA.

Conscription of Labour.

In the West the conscription of labour is at the present time one of the most important tasks incumbent on the Government. In Germany, in the autumn of 1916, a Bill was brought in for labour conscription, which was to come into force in the spring of 1917. Labour conscription would seem to be an even more pressing necessity here in our immense, neglected, distracted country. Immense tasks lie before Russia, and only friendly, orderly, and patient work can cope with them. In such moments the State has a right to ask help from all its members. Each citizen ought to understand that, as well as rights, he has duties towards his country.

Until now the world has only known of military conscription, and this exclusively for men. It is difficult to suppose that with the end of the war, militarism, and consequently military conscription, will cease to be. If militarism remains, and, in consequence, military conscription for men, then it is evident that industrial conscription will be chiefly for women. But industrial conscription becomes an important State question only when it is established on a compulsory basis in accordance with the following scheme: Every woman on attaining the age of 18—20 years must put 1—1½ years of her work at the disposal of the State. She is bound to appear before the department managing labour conscription, which is to make the best use of her labour, and to take into account any previous professional training and the individual capabilities of the labour conscripts. Women who have not finished their education may have an extension, and their different family circumstances ought also to be taken into account.

It is very important so to arrange labour conscription that women should not only give their labour to the State, but should receive some sort of practical training during their service, so that cadres of qualified workers in this or that department could thereby be created—a question specially important for Russia in view of the absence of trained workers. Therefore the department controlling labour conscription should not fail to provide the means for the creation of a technical apparatus in direct connection with the factories and rural husbandry, and giving effect to the recent proposals for combining education and work.

The introduction of labour conscription is a very complicated piece of work for the State, one that can only come into being where there is a good system of organisation. It is therefore necessary to begin without delay the preparations for summoning labour. . . . The women's organisations ought to take upon themselves the preparatory work, the propaganda, collection of material, etc.

HELENA MOLLESON (*Nasha Gazeta*, Dec., 1917).

First Provincial Congress of Peasant Women.

On the initiative of the Perm Provincial Executive Committee of the Council of Peasants' Deputies, there was summoned at Perm on October 21 the first Peasant Women's Congress, which lasted for three days, and consisted of 304 delegates from all the parishes of the province—peasant women, workers, teachers, and students.

The following questions were on the orders of the day:—

1. The economic and political and social position of women.

2. Propaganda in connection with the election for the Constituent Assembly.
3. Organisation of the Council of Peasants' Deputies and its programme.
4. Question of supplies.
5. The completion of the Provincial Executive Committee of the Council of Peasants' Deputies by the admission of elected women.

The instructions brought by the delegates from different localities touched a variety of other questions: (i.) The war; (ii.) the position of the families of men called to the colours; (iii.) the collection of wheat and money for the army; (iv.) the appeal of the All-Russian Women's League for the discussion of the question of women's participation in political and social organisations and for the drafting of an appeal to the women of the foreign Powers asking them to bring pressure to bear on their own Governments in order to put an end to fratricidal war, and make speedy peace, without annexations and indemnities; (v.) the protection of women's and children's labour; (vi.) the protection of motherhood; (vii.) popular education; (viii.) the immediate summoning of the Constituent Assembly; (ix.) the suppression of violence and anarchy.

After a many-sided discussion as to religion, the Congress brought in the following resolution: "Recognising freedom of conscience and differences of creed, we hold that censure and banter on the subject of any religion are both alike inadmissible."

After listening to a series of representative speakers of the different parties, the Congress decided by an overwhelming majority and seven abstentions to join in supporting the programme of the Council of the Peasants' Deputies, and to vote at the elections for the Constituent Assembly for the list of the Council of the Peasants' Deputies or the party of the Socialist Revolutionaries.

With a feeling of the deepest satisfaction and the most lively mutual sympathy, the members of the Congress separated, and went home to take up their important work among the vast army of women at this most critical moment for the country and future ages.

—*Nasha Gazeta* (Dec., 1917).

List of Women Candidates.

Vote for List 7 of the All-Russian League of Women's Rights Candidates of the League for the Constituent Assembly from Petrograd:—

1. Shishkin Yabeyn, Polyxena. Doctor; author of a Bill for abolishing State regulation of prostitution and suppression of disorderly houses; President of the League of Women's Rights, and organiser of the co-operative courses of the League.
2. Kouskoff, Ekaterina Dmeticevna. A publicist and political and social worker.
3. Ephenenko, Alexandra Yakovlevna. Professor of the Kharkoff University and the Petrograd Higher Education for Women; author of eminent scientific historical works.
4. Kalmykoff, Alexandra Mihailovna. Teacher, writer, and well-known social worker, and for eighty years active in promoting after-school education and popular libraries.
5. Shepkin, Katharine Nicolaevna. Lecturer in the Higher Education of Women, Petrograd.
6. Gorolitz Vlassoff, Lynboff Mihailovna. Tutor in the Petrograd Institute of Medicine for Women.
7. Chekhoff, Maria Alexandrovna. Teacher; worker in infants' welfare generally.
8. Zhouravsky, Zenaida Nicolaevna. Litterateur; translator, and social worker.
9. Klyatchkin, Vera Grigoyevna. Doctor, President of the Society for Protecting Women in Kieff.
10. Mollison, Helena Ivanovna. President of Women's Labour Union.

(Results not yet published by *Nasha Gazeta*.)

SWEDEN.

Government Woman Suffrage Bill.

The King in his Speech from the Throne on the opening of Parliament, January 16, announced the introduction of a Government Woman Suffrage Bill.

National Swedish Woman Suffrage Association.

Annual Meeting of the Central Board.

The Central Board of the National Swedish Woman Suffrage Association held its fifteenth annual meeting in Stockholm on January 8 and 9. In spite of the present hard times, and all the difficulties of a railway journey in snow and cold, a great number of delegates had assembled from all parts of our large country. A small local society north of the Polar circle had even sent two delegates.

The meeting was opened by the vice-president, Dr. Karolina Widerström, who gave a short account of the most important events during the last year, both in Sweden and abroad. She reminded her audience of how the Executive Committee of the Central Board, together with eighteen other societies of women, had appealed to the then Prime Minister, Mr. Swartz, to introduce a Bill for Woman Suffrage, and how our hope that the Suffrage question should be solved by the Riksdag, 1917, had been disappointed. She spoke further of the appeal that was made to the Liberal and Social Democratic leaders, when the Swartz Government resigned, not to couple the Woman Suffrage question with other constitutional questions; and, last, of the appeal to the new Government to introduce a Woman Suffrage Bill which had brought forward their promise for such a Bill. At last she mentioned the great loss the Association had suffered through the resignation of its president, Miss Signe Bergman, who during the last ten years has given all her intelligence, all her strength, and all her free time to the Suffrage work.

As members of the Executive Committee of the Central Board were elected Dr. Karolina Widerström, Baroness Ebba Palmstierna, Dr. Gulli Petrini, and Mrs. Anna Wicksell, with Mrs. Ester Brisman and Miss Gerda Planting-Gyllenbaga as alternates. Dr. Widerström was elected president, and we were all glad to be able to lay the management of the N.S.W.S.A. into her good and wise hands. Miss Bergman was then elected permanent member of the Central Board.

After the usual elections and reports had taken place, a very interesting lecture on "Some Desiderata with Regard to the Laws Concerning Children" was given by Miss Ebba Pauli, who has been a member of the Royal Committee on Poor Laws, but has resigned on account of illness. She showed the insufficiency of the present laws, and pleaded chiefly for the following three things: (1) Children over two years should not be brought up in the poor-houses; (2) more institutions should be established, so that physically and psychically maltreated children might be placed and taken care of in different establishments; (3) children ought to be considered as being under age till they are 16 years (at present the line is drawn at 15 years). She spoke very warmly of the new institution, "Guardian of the Child," which was instituted by last year's Parliament, and which means that every child born outside of marriage is entitled to a special guardian, and she hoped that thousands and thousands of women would present themselves as guardians, as the need for them would be very great.

At the first evening's meeting, which was open to all members of Suffrage Societies, Miss Kerstin Hesselgren, our first and hitherto only lady factory inspector, gave an interesting account of the women's position to the technical schools for girls. Afterwards Mrs. Ellen Hagen gave a brilliant and enthusiastic lecture on "The Present Situation with regard to the Suffrage Question." She spoke of the newly gained victories in England, America, and Holland; she spoke of Russia, where the women have bought their political rights with their blood; of Hungary, Austria, and France. Then she spoke of how the world just now presents a black spectacle, and how it is necessary that humanity should put an end to the war before the war puts an end to humanity. In this work the women are needed, but they cannot do their work without having a voice in public things. The meeting ended with the unanimous carrying of the following resolution:—

"The Swedish National Woman Suffrage Association expresses its deep gratitude to the Government for their promise to introduce this year a Bill on political Suffrage for the women of Sweden, and especially for their willingness not to mix this question with other constitutional ones."

Considering that during the war several countries have been ready to meet the claim for Woman Suffrage, especially in Denmark, where since 1915 women are the political equals of men; in England, where the reform has passed the House of Commons, and stands before its immediate realisation; in Holland, where during 1917 the women have got eligibility to both Chambers, and the constitutional barrier against the

Suffrage has been removed; in the United States, where the most important of the Eastern States, New York State, has now given women their full political rights; in Russia, where women lately have voted at the elections for the Constituent Assembly; and in Hungary, where a Government Bill among newly enfranchised groups includes special categories of women; the Swedish N.W.S.A. hopes and expects that also the Parliament of Sweden shall give to the Swedish women the political influence which is rightly theirs, the men having got their universal Suffrage, so that Sweden may not be standing as the only country in Northern Europe where women are still considered political minors."

On the last day of the meeting Mrs. Anna Wicksell spoke of what we are to do when we have got the vote. She pointed out that it was the duty of the Association still to exist with a real and positive life, so as to be able to be still affiliated to the I.W.S.A. We can achieve this by trying to unite women of all political parties. This we can do partly for the sake of political information, through lectures and articles, either without party colour or from all parties, and partly for purely feminist questions, which as a rule are not party questions. Mrs. Wicksell expressed the belief that many women would be grateful for such a school of preparation before they went into political life.

Afterwards, Mrs. Caroline Benedicks-Bruce gave some advice on the subject, "How Are We to Secure a Majority for Our Suffrage in the First Chamber?" and as the last thing on the programme Mrs. Wicksell gave an account of the peace situation.

ESTER BRISMAN.

Stockholm, January 20, 1918.

Swedish Suffragists Honour Signe Bergman.

At the meeting of members of the Central Board at Stockholm there could, in spite of all outward life and all interest called forth by the discussions, be observed a certain dejection. The reason was easy to find. It was the loss of our popular president, Miss Signe Bergman. For ten years Signe Bergman has been a member of the Executive Committee, at first as secretary, then as vice-president, and after 1914 as president. For ten years she has been a centre of energy from which strength and enthusiasm have emanated. For ten years she has helped us Suffragists with advice and information which we have taken as a matter of course. For ten years she has more than anybody else carried on her shoulders our movement for Woman Suffrage. Now, when she is gone, we best see how important she has been for this movement; she has left behind her a great void. It is the great geniuses who emit the kindling sparks, the great fertilising ideas. But what would be the result of these ideas if they were not taken up by the clever and practical, the unselfish and warm-hearted leaders, who, laying the yoke of labour on their shoulders, walk, at the head of the troops, the heavy roads towards the goal looming in the distance.

At the banquet that was given for Signe Bergman on January 9th the gratitude of the partakers was manifested in a beautiful and impressive way. A numerous and distinguished society, representing both Stockholm and all the country, filled the saloons of Hotel Rosenbad. At first a programme of amusement was performed, composed of music and a little witty comedy, amusing the public with some of the anti-orators in our "Riksdag." Afterwards, at supper, Dr. Karolina Widerström, the newly elected president, expressed in an eloquent speech the gratitude of the Executive Committee and the signification for the country of the work of Signe Bergman. Another speech was made by Mrs. Tonning. To Signe Bergman was presented a beautifully illuminated and bound address and a jewel.

The banquet gave a strong and living impression of the affection, the gratitude, and the estimation that the members of our movement feel for Signe Bergman. In the heavy days of battle and work she has led the way; in the glorious days of victory and triumph she ought to be at the head of us, next to our Suffrage banner.

ELIN WAHLQUIST.

The Fight Against Prostitution.

The Royal Speech from the Throne comes with the long-expected announcement of the introduction of a Bill to give the political franchise to women. At the same time a Bill, which has long been delayed, is introduced dealing with measures to prevent the spreading of venereal diseases.

The juxtaposition of these two measures is strange and odious. The one measure gives to women the key to the future for the benefit of humanity; the other proposes to put

one class of women outside the law. The question is virtually whether the stamp which men in society have fixed on a certain class of women is to be legalised.

From a practical point of view it might seem that the introduction of these two measures in the same Riksdag might be untoward, as the interest for Women's Suffrage might overshadow the other question, to which women have sometimes shown a disposition to close their eyes, and which is yet of fundamental importance for the cause of women. It will be necessary for women to grasp the situation quite clearly, and be prepared to act with all their strength. This is the more necessary because, whilst Woman Suffrage has had a large and powerful organisation at its back, the abolitionist movement is backed only by a weak and poor organisation which is not supported by any influential body of public opinion. After fifteen years of official investigation into the question of venereal diseases, a Bill has at last been introduced which will have the effect of practically legalising the regulation of prostitution. For the valiant little band which set on foot the agitation in opposition to the principle of regulation, the delay of fifteen years has been inauspicious, for many of the principal champions are dead, and only a few old veterans remain. But these who remain have a powerful ally in one of the members of the Royal Commission, Professor Johansson, who is bringing forward an amendment on abolitionist lines.

Hitherto Swedish women have not taken any very active part in the battle for the abolition of regulation; there have been spontaneous outbursts of indignation, but not strong enough to influence public opinion permanently. Now at the eleventh hour it would be unworthy of responsible women if they did not hurry to the assistance of the abolitionists and endeavour to create a strong body of public opinion. It is hardly a favourable moment for rousing public opinion on a question which is looked upon with so much disfavour, for the majority of the people are suffering from lassitude, and it is consequently not easy to kindle the fire of indignation and the impetus to action; but still it must be done, and it must be done quickly, for time is precious.

—*Rösträtt för Kvinnor*.

The Task of Our Organisations After We Have Received the Vote.

This was the principal subject of discussion on the programme at the annual meeting of the Central Council of the National Society for Women's Suffrage. It may seem somewhat premature, but we have the feeling that Suffrage is casting its shadow before it, and it may be useful to consider the alternative paths which may be taken when it has come.

We might, of course, dissolve. When the object has been attained for which this Association was created, we might return to our private vocations and cast off all further activities. Thus think the weary souls. But, as may be seen by the report of the meeting, the weary souls are surprisingly few. Those who know what work has been done in keeping the movement going during all these years against so many reverses and disappointments will understand that some may find it a relief to have the prospect of a time of rest after all these exertions.

The great majority were willing, more than willing, to start afresh after drawing breath for a time. They were encouraged to perseverance by the thought that women of all political parties and shades of opinion should hold together for ever after. And whoever saw with what joy the prospect was greeted of continuing the common work, and not only being forced to join the different parties and fight with each other, was thoroughly recompensed for all the wear and tear of Suffrage work. The points on which women could still co-operate with one another are: First, political education; and secondly, what are called women's questions in the truest sense. When we have once got the vote the question will be to use it as well as possible, and in order that this may be done, political education is necessary. The education which is given by the political parties themselves does not reach any but those who have chosen their standpoint and chosen their party. It can do nothing but increase their faith in their own party and its treatment of the different questions. What we hope to do is to train women to examine for themselves the standpoints of all parties before they come to a conclusion. For this an organisation is needful which stands outside all parties. By this it must not be understood that we wish to form a non-political women's party. On the contrary, we expect that the enfranchised women will, like the men, play their part in the different parties and work within the parties. When we wish to concentrate on actual women's questions it

is our object that women shall, within their respective parties, gain a hearing for these questions, the majority of which need not be party questions, and there is a better chance of getting them carried through if they are placed on the different party programmes.

—Rösträtt för Kvinnor.

Mrs. Wicksell writes to Mrs. Fawcett as follows:—

January 29, 1918.

"We are expecting the Government Bill for Women Suffrage, and have rather good hopes of getting it passed this year; in the Second Chamber, of course, we have a good majority, but with us the First Chamber still has the power to veto absolutely every Act which is not purely financial, passed by the Lower House. I cannot say that the Conservative political leaders have given any promise of accepting the Bill this year; but there are several signs that they will let it pass, probably—*claris majorum exemplis*—in stipulating a higher age for women than for men. If so, we mean to accept it, making a little fight for the Danish and Icelandic line, with the age-limit automatically sinking till it reaches the level of the ordinary voting age. Our Conservative members are working hard to get a special Conservative motion about this sort of Woman Suffrage; if they do not succeed, the higher age-limit will probably be raised simply as an amendment to the Government proposal."

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

This letter has been delayed in the hope that the Senate might take action on the Federal Suffrage Amendment. The Committee having it in charge could have called it up any day, but all of them wanted it to pass, and the necessary number of votes had not been secured. Our National President, Mrs. Catt, has been in Washington since December, and has just come to New York for the first time. She reports that apparently a two-thirds majority has at last been obtained, but in the meantime some of the most important measures relating to the war have come before the Senate and must take precedence of all else. They are likely to consume two or three weeks, and, when disposed of, the Suffrage resolution will probably reach a vote, so the story of it will be told in my next letter.

We are glad to have a little more time, as now we have only a bare majority pledged, and illness or death or something else might happen to reduce it. Four of our supporters in the Senate have died during the present session; two have been replaced with our friends, but there is no telling who will fill the other vacancies, and we shall be most anxious until the vote is taken. In the House of Representatives not one man failed to keep his pledge. The Republican leader came from a hospital in Baltimore, was assisted to his seat, cast his vote, returned to the hospital, and has not left it since. Two others were brought from sick beds, voted, and were immediately taken home. Another, who lives five hours by railway from Washington, left his wife in her coffin, was in the city just one hour, voted, and returned home on the next train. Another left the deathbed of his mother. Still another came from his home on the Pacific Coast, leaving unfinished business, to record his vote. As the Amendment was carried by only one vote (not two, as I said in my last letter), it can be understood why each of these members realised the necessity of being present.

VOTE OF SENATE ASSURED.

There is every reason to believe that the Senators will prove equally dependable. On February 12 the Republican National Committee, composed of one man from each State, will hold a most important meeting in St. Louis. Several Senators, who are members, said to Mrs. Catt that if the Suffrage Amendment should be set down for a vote on that date they would remain in Washington. Fortunately they will not be called on for this sacrifice. As each State has just two Senators, the large States cannot outvote the smaller ones, as in the House of Representatives. There are 96 altogether, but they are never all present. The Amendment must have two-thirds of all who actually vote. Both Senators in 24 States—just half of the whole number—will vote for it, and those of the other States will be divided. Public sentiment continues to increase in our favour, and the feeling grows that now the victory is so near the matter should be settled forever. The united service of women is needed for the war, but it will continue to be divided so long as thousands of them must give

a part of their time and energy to the struggle for the franchise. The women themselves feel that they cannot afford to lose all the ground they have gained, and have to begin all over again when the war is ended. Unless something entirely unexpected happens, the Federal Amendment will receive the approval of the Senate before the end of February.

DILEMMA OF SENATOR WADSWORTH.

An amusing situation has developed in New York. While one of its two United States Senators, Mr. Calder, is loyal to the Federal Amendment, the other, James W. Wadsworth, is its bitterest foe. He is strongly opposed to Woman Suffrage by any method, and at the National Republican Convention in Chicago in 1916 tried hard to keep it out of the platform. He threatened to bring it up on the floor of the convention, but the older and wiser members of his party sat down on his aspirations. He made speeches against it in the New York campaign last autumn, and, in order to injure it as much as possible, he consented that his wife should become president of the National Anti-Suffrage Association. She is the daughter of John Hay, former Secretary of State and Ambassador to Great Britain, and the "antis" thought her wealth and social prestige would exert great influence. She also made speeches throughout New York during the campaign, saying that she was most reluctant to leave her home to fight Woman Suffrage, but she did it just as she would make a sacrifice "to save her family from smallpox," and much more of the same sort.

Both Senator and Mrs. Wadsworth expected a smashing defeat of Suffrage in New York, and came up from Washington to help celebrate it on election night. They were almost paralysed at its overwhelming victory. They then spoke and worked against the Federal Amendment in the Lower House of Congress, and met another defeat. Mrs. Wadsworth then assisted in getting up a meeting in New York to demand that the Legislature should resubmit the question again and let the women vote on it! She appealed to the men to save the "antis" from the other women of the State, and the meeting telegraphed to the Legislature, then in session, not to endorse the Federal Amendment. This was in the afternoon, and that evening it adopted by a large majority a resolution in favour of it, and directed Senator Wadsworth to vote for it! The New York papers that support it are now calling on him to obey the mandate of the voters of his State and of its Legislature or resign his office! The story comes from Washington that he says he does not see how he can vote for it when his wife is president of the Anti-Suffrage Association!

AMAZING PERFORMANCE OF THE "ANTIS."

The Suffragists are having no end of fun out of the situation, in which the public joins. New York furnishes the first instance on record of a body of women trying to disfranchise itself, and the first movement in any State to repeal a Suffrage Amendment. After the election in November the State Anti-Suffrage Association met in New York City and officially went out of existence with fitting obsequies. Two months later it had a resurrection in Albany, the State capital, and, its former president having already allied herself with the Republican party, the ex-vice-president gave out a long address declaring that "representative government had been wrecked"; that "the people would not tamely submit to the yoke of Woman Suffrage"; and that "the 'antis' must use their ballots to put men in office who have not yet lost the male instincts of domination and sovereignty"! The *Times* was the only New York paper that published it. This was followed by the meeting already referred to, at which the men urged the women to "drop their knitting for the soldiers and abandon some of their war work until by their votes they had got rid of Woman Suffrage"! This may seem incredible, but one of the men thus quoted in the press was a member of President Cleveland's Cabinet.

This was probably the last despairing wail of the "antis," as they are flocking in droves to the thousands of meetings which are being held in New York City and all parts of the State to prepare women for their new duties of citizenship. Lectures and classes are being held daily and nightly by college professors, city officials, and women experienced in civic work. The women even without all this education were better prepared for the exercise of the franchise than any class on whom it ever was conferred. The various political parties also are having meetings of instruction and are welcoming women into their ranks. Many are affiliating with them, but the State and city Suffrage Associations of nearly a million members are keeping their organisation intact and non-partisan, so they

will be free to vote independently. Four of what in Great Britain are called "by-elections" will take place in New York City next month to fill vacancies in the Lower House of Congress, and women will vote for the first time.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GREAT BRITAIN.

The cable has just brought the glorious news that the Representation of the People Bill went through the House of Lords by a large majority, and has received the sanction of King George. Our papers publish His Majesty's speech proroguing the Parliament and expressing his pleasure at the enactment of the law. And so the long struggle of the women of Great Britain is practically ended! We women of the United States would not be human if we had not a feeling of regret that our own country did not lead the way, but our rejoicing is none the less enthusiastic. The movements in the two great English-speaking countries have run side by side. Both took organised shape in 1867—1869. When in 1883 Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Miss Susan B. Anthony conceived the idea of an International Suffrage Convention they could not find a Woman Suffrage Society in any country except Great Britain. The story of their visit there and the arrangement for an international meeting is told in the "History of Woman Suffrage," Volume III., page 952, and the "Life of Miss Anthony," Volume II., page 578.

While the women of these two countries have been making the long struggle for the vote, they have seen Finland, Norway, and Denmark grant equal Suffrage to their women, and also the large British colonies of New Zealand and Australia, while Canada has given a considerable measure and promised the whole in the near future. After the Congress of the United States has submitted the Federal Amendment it must be ratified by 36 State Legislatures, and most of these do not meet until 1919, so it will probably be 1920 before universal Suffrage for women on precisely the same terms as exercised by men will be declared. Perhaps by that time the British Parliament will not yet have removed the age-limit of 30 years, and the United States can move up to the head of the procession!

In one respect there will be no difference between the women, and that is in their determination to give their assistance to those of other countries until in all of them women have exactly the same voting rights as men.

IDA HUSTED HARPER,
Chairman, Editorial Correspondence,
Leslie Suffrage Bureau.

February 8, 1918.

Suffrage States and Childhood.

Every full Suffrage State but one has a law making mothers equal guardians with the father over their own children. Every one has a mother's pension law.

One of the first acts of women voters of Washington State was to promote a Lazy Husband Act, by which a father who refuses to support his family is made to work for the State and give half his earning to the support of his wife and children.

Every full Suffrage State has a compulsory education law, and the percentage of illiteracy in all women-voting States, except Arizona and Nevada, is lower than in Massachusetts.

Colorado is said by Dr. Owen Lovejoy to have one of the best, if not the best, juvenile court laws in the United States.

Many equal Suffrage States have passed special legislation for the care of dependent and feeble-minded children. One of the first acts of Montana women voters was a Child Welfare Division of the Department of Public Health, and an expert survey of the State's feeble minded.

The food-inspection law of Idaho is said to be better enforced than anywhere in the Union.

Suffrage "Pickets" and Prison Reform.

In America, as in England, the imprisonment of women for technical and political offences seems likely to lead to a demand for prison reform. As long as only poor and obscure and unpopular culprits suffer from the usual horrible conditions of prison life, no one cares. But now many public-spirited, energetic, and influential members of the more privileged classes have had brought home to them in a vivid way the hopeless and degrading nature of punishment in prison.

In a recent American trial, it is stated, three men owe their lives to the White House Suffrage pickets. These men assaulted the prison guard at Occoquan; one of the guard was struck a blow from which he died, and the prisoners were charged with murder. The Suffragists who have been incar-

cerated in the same prison have made such effective revelations of the brutal conditions that public attention was aroused, the husband of an imprisoned Suffragist engaged legal assistance for the "murderers," and the jury acquitted two of the prisoners and convicted the one who struck the fatal blow of common assault. The Judge sentenced him to three months, and pointed out that the sentence was light because of the intolerable conditions of the jail.

The boy was only 20 and had been starving, and stolen bread; for this he was sentenced to a year's imprisonment. His treatment in prison was so inhuman that he and others attempted to escape and struck down the guard.

Penal Reform is one of the many urgent problems awaiting the woman voter.

Illinois Women Demand Woman Representative at Peace Negotiations.

Illinois Suffragists, at their 49th annual convention in November, adopted a resolution directing that a petition be presented to the President of the United States and Congress, asking that at least one woman shall be appointed to the Commission which shall represent the United States when this Government shall meet with the representatives of other nations to consider the terms of peace that will mark the conclusion of the war.

—*Woman Citizen*, December 15, 1917.

URUGUAY.

Mme. Docteur Pauline Luisi, President of the National Council of Women, Uruguay, writes from Montevideo to Miss Macmillan, January 12, as follows:—

"I am pleased to inform you that we founded in Uruguay a National Council of Women, affiliated to the International Council, by permission of Lady Aberdeen, in August, 1917. We publish a review, *Accion Femenina*, of which the six numbers that have appeared have been sent to you at the Headquarters office—the first numbers by the kindness of Mme. de Witt Schlumberger, the others direct. I have seen in *Jus Suffragis* for December, 1916, French edition, a note on Uruguay quoted from the *Woman's Journal*, in which, unfortunately, there was more zeal than accuracy.

"A motion was proposed in Congress to confer political rights as well as equality of civil rights on woman (Miranda Report, 1914). Unfortunately, our constitution absolutely prevents this, and the motion did not pass: it is held up in the office of the Chamber of Deputies. In 1917 the constitution was amended and accepted by popular sanction, November 25, 1917. The question of women's rights was passed as follows:—

The recognition of women's right to the active and passive vote in national and municipal affairs, or for both at once, can only be settled by a majority of two-thirds of all the members of both Chambers.

You see that we are, unfortunately, very far from the enfranchisement announced in *Jus Suffragis*.

"On December 18 we convoked the first Woman Suffrage Assembly in the country, and elected the Committee for the Suffrage Section of the National Council of Women, which is to work under my direction. In the sixth number of our paper you will see a note on this point, and in No. 4 you will find the memoranda that we addressed to the National Constituent Assembly, entrusted with the amendment of our constitution, and other documents.

"We beg you to send us papers on the women's movement in England. . . .—Yours, etc.,

PAULINA LUISI.

"Paraguay, 1,286, Montevideo."

New Constitution Removes Obstacles to Woman Suffrage.

The popular plebiscite held on November 25, 1917, ratified the new constitutional charter of the country, in which the part referring to Woman Suffrage reads as follows:—

Article 10.—The adoption of Woman Suffrage and eligibility (the active and passive vote) in either national or municipal affairs, or in both at once, can only be made by a majority of two-thirds of the total members of each Chamber.

No sooner had the new constitution been approved by the people than the National Council of Women, through its Suffrage Section, began its special task of working for citizen rights, the pivot on which feminine emancipation turns. On

the 18th of this month the Suffrage Committee, in co-operation with the Permanent Committee, called at the Women's University a conference of all the members and societies belonging to the Council, with the object of planning a campaign in favour of the citizenship of women. Senora Cuestas de Nery, President of the Suffrage Commission, was in the chair, and there were also present Dr. Paulina Luisi, President of the N.C.W.; Dr. Beretervido, General Secretary; and Senoras Quintela, Gallardo, and Brito Foresti, of the Permanent Committee. Plans were made for carrying on a propaganda through the Committees on Suffrage, Conferences, and Press.

In opening the meeting, which was well attended, and the first held in Uruguay in favour of the political rights of women, Dr. Paulina Luisi spoke as follows: "The popular ratification of the new constitution, of which the main principles have been adopted as the result of an agreement between the different political parties, has modified in a favourable way the situation with respect to the possibility of the political emancipation of women. The constitution of 1830 flatly denies to women any share in political affairs, notwithstanding the arguments by lawyers such as Hector Mirande, the defender of our rights, so prematurely taken from us and his noble work for social justice. The new constitution no longer declares that a woman shall be permanently a minor; but, while it makes her emancipation possible, it has put such difficulties in the way that much work and persistence will be necessary before it can be attained."

"The petition presented to the Constituent Assembly by the National Council of Women made the voice of Uruguayan women resound for the first time in the history of the Republic, declaring clearly and firmly its desire to be made effective in the national Council Chamber. In spite of the incredulity of the malevolent, this public demonstration is for our women an important moment in the history of our country, though in many other countries Woman Suffrage is already an accomplished fact. This day's meeting will be consecrated in the annals of the Republic as the first held in support of Woman Suffrage. May it be inaugurated under happy auspices, and may its labour be fruitful as the fields of our country, and as calm as the sky of to-day, which lights the horizon with the glorious colours of our flag."

—*Accion Femenina* (Dec., 1917).

GREAT BRITAIN.

Victory Greetings.

Mrs. Fawcett has been inundated with telegrams and letters from all over the world, congratulating her on the Suffrage victory. The Norwegian Minister called officially to offer the congratulations of the Norwegian women.

DENMARK.—Dansk Kvindesamfund telegraphs: "Heartiest congratulations on victory at last." Danske Kvinde Foreningers Valgretsforbund: "We rejoice in your victory." Congratulations also from Johanne Minter.

FINLAND.—"Finnish Delegation of International Suffrage Congress, 1913, sends warmest congratulations for the English women's victorious struggle in gaining Suffrage."—(Signed) Nadine Topelius, Berta Tabelle, Jenny Forselles, Cely Mechelin, Aina Aminoff, Olga Cincla, Helmi Tengen. "Swedish Women's Association express hearty congratulations that victory is yours at last."—(Signed) Annie Furuhjelm, Emma Salzmänn, Lilly Krogius, Anna Lundström, Karin Boisman.

NORWAY.—"Norwegian National Council felicitates victorious British women on the Suffrage."—(Signed) Nico Hambro.

NETHERLANDS.—"Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht, assembled in The Hague to celebrate the victories of the women in Great Britain and U.S.A., all rejoice with you on the success of your efforts."—(Signed) Jacobs, Manus.

SWEDEN.—"Swedish National Association for Woman Suffrage thanks English women for fifty years' faithful struggle, and sends warmest congratulations on victory at last. Congratulate England on having one people with equal rights and equal duties."—(Signed) Karolina Widerström, Ebba Palmstierna, Gulli Petrini, Ester Brisman, Anna Wicksell. "All hail on the great day of victory."—(Signed) Signe Bergman. "Swedish Suffragists all rejoice."—(Signed) Widerström. "After more than fifty years' noble work you are rewarded. Heartiest congratulations."—Louise and Ernest Beckman.

U.S.A.—"Congratulations to women of Great Britain from the women of the United States."—(Signed) Carrie Chapman Catt.

International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

The close of the financial year 1917-18 shows little to report. The natural development of work is checked by the impossibility of holding the biennial congresses which have hitherto been the chief means of propaganda, and have afforded opportunities for enlisting new subscribers and for the sale of literature.

An economy of £100 a year has been effected since the removal into smaller offices, and as in these days we have few visitors, the fact of three flights of stairs to climb is a minor inconvenience.

The main work of Headquarters is, of course, the publication of *Jus Suffragii* (the *International Woman Suffrage News*), which so far has succeeded in publishing news from all affiliated societies, in spite of the difficulties of communication and of paper shortage. Many letters from subscribers testify to the increased interest taken in the paper, and all that is left us to wish for is increased circulation.

We appeal to the affiliated society in each country to take this matter earnestly in hand. The United States, by skilful advertisement and by urging the claims of *Jus Suffragii* at their National Convention, has succeeded in largely increasing the number of American subscribers, and if similar efforts are made in other countries, the situation can be greatly improved and the usefulness of the paper extended.

	Subscribers to <i>Jus Suffragii</i> .*	Hon. Assoc. Members.
Australia	13	3
Austria	—	3
Bohemia	1	—
Bulgaria	1	—
Canada	17	—
China	1	—
Denmark	14	2
Finland	20	4
France	2	2
Germany	9	25
Great Britain	146	109
Hungary	5	6
Iceland	1	—
India (British)	3	2
„ (Dutch)	1	—
Italy	3	—
Japan	1	—
Netherlands	29	12
New Zealand	12	—
Norway	2	—
Philippines	1	—
Russia	1	3
South Africa	15	9
South America	1	—
Sweden	27	5
Switzerland	9	1
U.S.A.	381	234
	716	320

Societies in the following countries are also affiliated: Austria, Belgium, Galicia, Portugal, Roumania, and Serbia.

U.S.A. Women's Oversea Hospitals.

The National American Woman Suffrage Association will now have sent off its hospital unit to France. It is under Drs. Gregory, Edward, and Van Sholly, three of the women doctors of the New York Infirmary for Women and Children, founded by the pioneer woman physician, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell.

Dr. Caroline Finley, director of the unit, has been in France some time to make preliminary arrangements, and has cabled: "Great need for unit. Civilians taken many miles for hospital treatment. Must do much surgery; need specialists, dispensaries, ambulance service. Bring doctors, nurses, aids, an aurist, dentist, and mechanics."

A fifty-bed hospital is to be established at Guiscard, in the Department of the Aisne, about ten miles back from the junction of the French and British forces. Besides the buildings there is a garden, which will be cultivated, and seeds are being taken out.

The wounded of the shelled towns will receive first attention, but all sorts of civilian cases, including obstetrical, will be received.

The staff includes twelve physicians and surgeons, twenty-one nurses, three clerks, a dietician, housekeeper and her assistant, a seamstress, six chauffeurs, a plumber, mechanic, pharmacist, laboratory technician, an X-ray technician, a number of nurses' aids, and every member of the staff, including the plumber, is a woman.

* English Edition.

INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.
CASH STATEMENT FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1917.

Receipts.		Payments.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Honorary Associate Members' subscriptions	377 8 0	Office rent, lighting, heating, and cleaning	86 15 2
Affiliation fees	29 9 1	Telephone	6 10 0
Donations	10 15 9	Telegraphic address	1 1 0
Transfer from Special Fund raised by National American Women's Suffrage Association (\$2,333.00)	490 12 10	Salaries	332 16 0
U.S.A. Bank interest (\$95.63)	20 2 3	<i>Jus Suffragii</i> —Printing and postage	176 14 0
<i>Jus Suffragii</i> subscriptions	104 8 5	Special postage to neutral countries through Messrs. W. H. Smith & Son, in accordance with War Regulations	62 15 6
Cash sales	5 18 6	Grant to French edition	51 8 0
Advertisements	8 5 6		
Literature sales	2 10 6		
Interest on deposit	14 13 0		
	1,064 3 10	Printing and stationery	10 6 2
Cash at Bank, 1st January, 1917	401 8 10	Office postage	24 15 4
Cash in hand, 1st January, 1917	0 5 10	Petty expenses	3 2 2
		Advertising in U.S.A.	3 9 0
		Press cuttings	3 3 0
		Books and periodicals	1 17 9
		Bank charges, insurance, and income tax on interest	3 8 4
		Oliver typewriter, office fittings, and repairs	19 1 0
			787 2 5
		Cash at Bank on deposit, 31st December, 1917	535 0 0
		Cash at Bank, current account	143 15 10
		Cash in hand	0 0 3
	£1,465 18 6		£1,465 18 6

U.S.A. SPECIAL FUND.

Receipts.	\$.	Payments.	\$.
Cash on deposit with Astor Trust Co., 1st January, 1917	4,333.00	Remittance to London Office as above	2,333.00
Interest	95.63	Remittance to London Office as above	95.63
		Cash on deposit Astor Trust Co., 31st December, 1917	2,000.00
	\$4,428.63		\$4,428.63

ADELA COIT, Hon. Treasurer.

The foregoing accounts have been compiled by me from the books and vouchers of the Alliance, and I certify that they are correct and in accordance therewith.
5, 6 and 7, Hampden House, Kingsway, W.C.
E. AYRES PURDIE, Auditor,
21st February, 1918.

Treasurer's Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
Denmark: Danske Kvindeforeningers Valgretsforbund	2	0	0
France: Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes	2	0	0
HONORARY ASSOCIATES' SUBSCRIPTIONS.			
Sterling, Miss Frances	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Alee, Mrs. W. H.	1917	U.S.A.	1 0 0
Houghton, Mrs. M. S.	1917	U.S.A.	1 0 0
*Lawson, Miss Edith	1918	U.S.A.	1 0 0
Harris, Miss E. G.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Pott, R. H., Esq.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Osmaston, Mrs. E.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Boyle, Miss C. Nina	1917	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Murray, Miss E. G.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Franklin, Hon. Mrs.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Zimmern, Miss E. M.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Osler, Mrs.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Ford, Miss E. H.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Ford, Miss E. S.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Pilcher, Mrs. Giles T.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Boden, Mrs. Shuttleworth	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Seyd, Mrs. R.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Zimmern, Mrs.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Zimmern, Miss Edith	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Druce, Miss E. M. C.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Bage, Mrs.	1918	Australia	1 0 0
Fyffe, Mrs. C.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Mair, Miss S. E. S.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Ford, Miss I. O.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Newcomb, Miss H. C.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Chadwick, Miss Helen	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Royden, Mrs. A. Maude	1918	Gt. Britain	2 0 0
Hodge, Miss Margaret	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Worswick, Miss Amy H.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Chadwick, Miss Marion	1918	Gt. Britain	1 1 0
Playne, Miss Anne	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Pollock, Mrs. A. G.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Montgomery, Miss E. S.	1918	Ireland	1 0 0
Rackham, Mrs. C. D.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Loppé, Mrs. E.	1918	France	1 0 0
Sotheran, Miss B.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Sotheran, Miss F.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Bury, Miss Mary	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Naish, Miss R. V.	1916-7-8	Gt. Britain	3 0 0
Zimmern, Miss D. M.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Lawrence, Miss Dorothy	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Clark, Miss Alice	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Heron, Miss S.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Renold, Mrs. M. S.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 1 0
Richardson, Mrs. F.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Auerbach, Mrs. H.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Rathbone, Miss E. L.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Smithwick, Mrs. Webb	1918	Ireland	1 0 0
Snowden, Mrs. Philip	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Marshall, Miss C.	1917	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Boxall, Geo. E., Esq.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Corbett-Fisher, Mrs.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Greg, Miss E. M.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Villiers, Miss Susan	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Clough, Miss B. A.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Eckhard, Miss E. V.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
De La Warr, Muriel Countess	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Hoc, Miss Mary	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
*Norbury, Mrs. M.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
Schlumberger, Mme. de Witt	1918	France	1 0 0
Gatliff, Miss Susan	1916-7-8	Gt. Britain	3 0 0
Muntz, Miss Jessie E.	1918	Gt. Britain	1 0 0
			£71 3 0
		Acknowledged in February	47 1 0
			£118 4 0
		ADELA COIT, Hon. Treasurer, February 28th, 1918. * New members.	

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 Wednesday, March 6th—"Humours of Business." Miss MILDRED RANSOM. 8 p.m.
 Saturday, March 9th—"Mrs. FAWCETT, LL.D., and THE EARL OF LYTON (engagements permitting). 4 p.m. (No guests owing to lack of space.)
 Thursday, March 14th—"The Social Evil: A Suggested Solution." Staff-Serjt. JOHN SIMPSON. 8 p.m. Chair: Mrs. M. Nash.
 Saturday, March 23rd—"Exit Mr. Bumble." Mrs. NEVINSON. 4.30 p.m.

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March 6th.—Miss Lind-af-Hageby, "Marriage and Divorce Reform." Chair: Mrs. Despard.

„ 13th.—For Speaker see the "Vote." Chair: Mrs. Despard.

„ 20th.—Mr. Joseph King, M.P., "What the Liberal Party Has to Offer Women." Chair: Miss Underwood.

For further particulars see the "Vote."

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