

JUS SUFFRAGII,

MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

EDITOR: MARTINA G. KRAMERS, 92 KRUISKADE, ROTTERDAM.

FOURTH YEAR No. 8.

APRIL 15, 1910.

Ty när äro väl kvinnornas fordringar
opportuna i en politikens ögon? Aldrig
om de sakna rösträtt, *sällan* om de
besitta den.

ANNIE FURUHJELM.



What Christianity cannot do; what
all the thunders of your Carlyles and
Ruskings cannot do; a simple vote
can do.

ISRAEL ZANGWILL.

PRICE PER YEAR 2 DUTCH FLORINS (= 3 Sh. 6 d. = 0.82 \$ = 3 Kr. = 4.25 Frs. = 3½ Mk.)

Announcements.

LITERATURE.

At the office of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London S. W. may be obtained for *one Shilling* plus postage the second revised edition of **Women's Suffrage in Many Lands**, by Alice Zimmern, the well-known brief review of the status of woman suffrage in the 22 countries affiliated to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. (See "Jus Suffragii" III p. 78.) The necessary corrections and additions, mostly from this paper, have been made; and we need not say more to recommend the little handy booklet than that within ten months from its appearance a second edition has been called for. It may be obtained at the same price from the Woman Citizen Publishing Company, 13 Bream's Buildings Chancery Lane E. C., and it is going to appear in French in Paris.

The *French Women Suffrage Association*, 49 rue Lafitte Paris, publishes **Le Suffrage des Femmes en France** for 15 centimes = 1½ d, which briefly gives the text of Mr Dussaussoy's bill and the arguments why women demand the vote, comparing the status of women in the enfranchised countries with that in France. Finally it shows what rights Frenchwomen already possess and what organisations for suffrage exist in France. For more publications of the Propaganda Committee of the F. W. S. A. see page 59.

The *Prussian W. S. A.* sends some new publications to be ordered from Frau Minna Cauer, 5 Wormserstrasse, Berlin: 1. **Denkschrift betr. Gemeindewahlrecht** by Mrs. Cauer (0.10 Mk) containing arguments for municipal suffrage addressed to a meeting of representatives from Town Councils in 1908. 2. **Die Notwendigkeit der Forderung des allgemeinen, gleichen, direkten, geheimen Wahlrechts** by Mrs. Tony Breitscheid (10 Mk) shows that the suffrage movement can only be strong, if supported by those professional and wage-

earning women who would remain voteless under the present Prussian system if the vote were extended to women on the same terms as men have it now. 3. **Der Weltbund für Frauenstimmrecht** (0.10 Mk) by Else Lüders treats of the I. W. S. Alliance and its Conventions. 4. **Erziehung zum Stimmrecht der Frau** (0.20 Mk) by Hedwig Dohm, with portrait, is written in a more stirring tone and shows how education and pursuits of women cannot fail to bring them to claim full citizenship, since the female sex is not in reality feebler than the male sex. 5. **Frauenstimmrecht und allgemeines Wahlrecht** by Dr. Heinz Potthoff (0.20 Mk) states that the suffrage which the Association claims for women should be on the terms and conditions on which the political organisations of genuine supporters of women's enfranchisement demand it. That means that in Prussia the demand should be for adult suffrage, as claimed by the Radical Party.

On peut échanger ce numéro contre l'édition française en le renvoyant à la rédactrice.

Have you back numbers to spare for the editor?

Great Britain.

For workers of the **National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies** exhausted by the exertions of the General Election there has been much encouragement in the presentation to the House of Commons of the voters' petitions.

Glasgow and the neighbourhood sent in petitions signed by 25237 voters, the Edinburgh Society was responsible for the work in eleven Constituencies and sent in 13732 names, Dundee presented 5000, and altogether we find that our friends among the men entitled to vote at Parliamentary elections are ¼ of a million. These petitions have been presented publicly in the House of Commons and we learn that the members are much impressed by the number of our supporters.

The National Union reckons that 342 of the members of present Parliament are in favour of Woman's

Suffrage and the tests by which we try our friends are far more searching and consequently more reliable than in the old days.

On March 19th the annual meeting of the National Union took place. The Union has increased enormously during the year and it has been decided to federate local Societies together for the better organisation of a common district so that the expenses of workers, speakers etc. may be shared.

We have had two by-elections since the general election, from one a petition was obtained from one in every seven voters and in the other a notorious anti-suffragist has been replaced by a valuable ally.

Outside direct Suffrage work we are pleased to chronicle that two women have been elected members of the London County Council. This is the first time women have been allowed to sit on the Council, and Lady Frances Balfour has been placed in the Commission of enquiry into the Divorce Laws, together with another lady.

Oxford University has now at last officially recognised the desire of women for better education and has appointed a joint delegacy of women and officials of the University to regulate the admission of women to the University Examinations.

The Union is now collecting and organising its forces for the general election threatening us in the near future.

MARGERY I. CORBETT,
Member of the Executive Committee.

The fourth annual Report of the **Women's Social and Political Union** has just been issued, and shows a remarkable record of work and activity, during the financial year which has just closed over £ 31,600 has been raised. The salaried staff of the Union has been augmented till it now numbers ninety-eight. (This, of course, does not include the large number of voluntary workers, who give their services free to the Union) and twenty-one rooms are occupied at the headquarters of the Union, at 4 Clement's Inn, Strand. In addition to these, premises have been taken in fifteen of the principal towns of the country and in several London districts. The total number of meetings held during the year, is over 20,000; these range from small street-corner meetings, attended by from 60 to 100 persons, to mass-meetings, like that recently held in the Royal Albert Hall, which seats from 7000 to 10,000 people. The organisation throughout the country is worked from twenty-three centres, to which organisers are appointed by the Executive Committee of the Union; whilst the campaign in London is worked from head-quarters and from twenty or thirty local branches. The circulation of the official organ "Votes for Women" is now between thirty and forty thousand. When it is remembered that at the beginning of the year 1909, it barely amounted to sixteen thousand, this is a striking proof of the growing interest taken in the women's question. Over 294 women were arrested during the year 1909 to 1910, of whom 163 suffered imprisonment (107 were never sentenced). The aggregate of sentences served reaches a total of eight years' imprisonment, bringing the grand total served since the beginning of the agitation to thirty years. On 110 occasions the prisoners adopted the hunger strike, and 36 times the Government responded by forcible feeding.

On March 18th the first meeting since the General Election was held in the Albert Hall,

and was attended by a very large number of members and friends of the Union. At this meeting, the plan of campaign for the summer months was sketched out. Mrs. Pankhurst was in the Chair, and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, as Treasurer of the Union, presented the Balance Sheet and gave a brief summary of the Annual Report. Mr. J. Castberg, Ex-Minister of Justice of the Liberal Government in Norway, and member of the Norwegian Parliament which carried the Women's Suffrage Bill, was the principal speaker, and sketched the rise of the Women's Suffrage agitations in that country. The following resolution was supported by Miss Christabel Pankhurst, and carried with four dissentients:—

"That the reform of the House of Commons, by making it representative of the women of the country as well as of the men, is far more fundamental and essential to popular Government than the reform of the House of Lords, or the limitation of its Veto".

One of the principal events in the immediate future of the Union is to be a great Demonstration of Women on May 28th. A procession has been arranged to march through London, terminating at the Albert Hall, where a mass meeting will be held. The last week in April will see the annual Self Denial Week of the Union, when every member will do her utmost to raise funds to swell the war chest. Last year close on £ 6000 was collected, and it is hoped that this sum will be greatly increased this year.

EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.
London, April 1910.

Just now all progressive movements are to some extent compelled to "mark time" as far as active agitation is concerned, while the two parties are squabbling in Parliament over important questions of constitutional procedure. This leaves, however, more opportunity for educational propaganda work and the **Women's Freedom League** is conducting a systematic campaign so as to be ready for a general advance as soon as the signal for attack is given.

The most noteworthy incident of the month arose out of the question put by Mrs. Manson, on behalf of the W. F. L., to Mr. Lloyd George at the great meeting in London to inaugurate the Gladstone League. Mrs. Manson asked whether Mr. Lloyd George would pledge himself to relieve Suffragists from further political agitation by the introduction of a Woman Suffrage Bill. Mr. Lloyd George avoided a direct pledge but while indulging in some superfluous criticisms of militant methods declared: "I have always been in favour of the extension of the vote to women. I have always voted for it. I have never been able to appreciate the strength of the arguments against Woman Suffrage and as a Liberal I believe that the presence of women on the register of electors would be an enormous advantage in the solution of every great problem that affects the lives and homes and condition of the people. If women will only pursue the present sane and rational course I believe that in a very short time they will witness a triumph in what I regard as the cause of justice."

A special campaign has been undertaken in Ireland by Mrs. Despard with a view to securing Irish support not only outside but inside Parliament, where at the present stage it promises to be particularly valuable. The At Homes have proved very attractive, several notable speakers

including Mr. H. W. Nevinson, the well known publicist and journalist, having lent their aid to the Cause.

B. BORRMANN WELLS.

France.

The annual meeting of the **French Woman Suffrage Association** on March 13 had an attendance of 250 persons, on whom it made an excellent impression. After the opening remarks made by the President, Mme Schmahl, in her usual eloquent and spirited way and the report of the Hon. Secretary Mme. Misme, which gave a review of the growth of the Association, came most interesting speeches by the two Vice-Presidents. Mme. Blanche Schweig spoke in behalf of the women employees, whom she represents with so much authority on the Executive of the W. S. A., and the Dowager Duchess d'Uzès spoke on behalf of the ladies of the aristocracy. They explained their ideas on the relationship of the Association with those two classes of women. Both were warmly applauded.

An important amendment to the constitution was adopted, to which we call the attention of all women's associations of whatever nature they be, provided they stand for woman suffrage. The W. S. A. will henceforth receive as members societies which pay a membership-fee of 5 francs. They will be entitled to one delegate and one alternate each. The new constitution will be printed and distributed on application.

The meeting rejoiced to hear that the membership of the Association is now over six hundred. It is satisfactory that we should have got so far in one year of existence.

The electoral campaign is going to be a brief one, for the Chamber is still in session and the elections have to take place on April 24. The Association has not taken any active part in them; it keeps quiet and says nothing beforehand of its plans of work. And of course it has nothing to do with the female candidatures which fill the papers with so much noise. This manifestation was organised by Miss Pelletier M.D., who represents among the women of France the *Suffragette*-party, together with the oldest of them all, Mme Hubertine Auclert, and a handful of feminists. A woman candidate was nominated in each of the twenty districts of Paris. Four or five only are prominent women, the rest are mere puppets. No doubt these candidates are zealous and in earnest, and they showed a certain amount of prudence by announcing that they did not seriously aspire to a seat in the Chamber but only sought an opportunity for sensational agitation. The bulk of women organised for their rights, consider this departure dangerous. Its provoking prominence actually revives the old ridiculous objections which one would have thought dead and buried and excites the ill-will of the enemies; and, worse than that, its result may prove fatal. If the friends of women's rights do not vote for the women candidates, it will be said that the cause lacks friends, and if they do vote for them, they withhold their votes from the advocates of woman suffrage and risk to deprive the cause of its defenders in Parliament. Naturally the majority of the friends of women's rights, with the French W. S. A. at their head, abstain from supporting this manifestation.

The success of the meeting on March 11, or-

ganised by the Women's Rights League and several other women's societies has surpassed all expectation. The big hall was full of sitting and standing hearers and many people could not even find room. At the beginning of the session Mr. Marcel Sembat offered the chairmanship to Marie Bonneval whose lifelong devotion to all noble causes merited this recognition. A number of prominent politicians and notorious defenders of women's rights spoke in turn to claim enfranchisement for women. Beside the Socialist Sembat, whose eloquence was convincing, moderate politicians like d'Estourneilles de Constant and Louis Marin gave welcome support to the suffrage cause. Ferdinand Buisson advocated with striking fervour the expediency of the municipal vote for women. Except these eminent men speakers, some talented women made speeches: Mmes Hubertine Auclert, Odde Defflou, Nelly Roussel and Maria Vérone whose precision and humoristic clearness met with a most ready success.

The serious and attentive audience gave during three hours no sign of fatigue and greeted the majority of the speakers with warm applause.

It was a beautiful meeting, fertile in encouragement, for whose organisation we may well congratulate the courageous women who took the initiative.

The report of Mr. Ferdinand Buisson M. P. on Mr. Dussaussoy's bill has at last been distributed to the Members of Parliament. It is a highly important report, for it gives the history of the suffrage-claim with the official documents relating to it in different countries, and constitutes a powerful argument for votes and eligibility of women for Municipal Councils, District Councils (conseils d'arrondissement) and General Councils (conseils généraux). Unfortunately it will not be discussed before the end of the parliamentary session. But a simple formality, which we hope will be easily accomplished, may bring it up again in the next Parliament.

Another deputy who is a staunch supporter of woman suffrage, Mr. Louis Marin, gave two reports on behalf of the Committee on Petitions. Both decidedly in favour of political equality for men and women. One, on a petition for votes and eligibility of women presented to the Chamber by the woman suffrage society "Le Suffrage des Femmes", advocates emphatically the adoption of the petition, though approving the action of the feminists in only demanding their municipal rights first. The other report, addressed to the Minister of Public Education, advocates, according to a petition from the Women School Teachers, equality of salaries for men and women teachers.

It is evident that our legislators are prepared to further our interests seriously.

The Propaganda Committee of the French W.S.A. edits propaganda-postcards with short and telling mottoes. They may be obtained from the Committee, 21 Villa Dupont, or from "La Française" for 50 centimes per dozen, postage to be added. The Committee has also published a pamphlet on woman suffrage in France which is a very clear and concise statement of the question. It is to be ordered at the same addresses for 15 centimes plus postage.

The Bibliothèque féministe, under Mme. Marbel's direction edits humorous postcards after the

example of the London Artists' League for W. S. They are to be had at "La Française" for 75 centimes per dozen or 40 centimes for six.

The **Congrès Permanent du Féminisme International** had its last session on the 21st of March with Mrs. Marya Cheliga in the chair. The speakers were: Mme. Heineken-Daum from Holland; Mme. Jane Misme, editor of "La Française" and Vice-President of the C.P.F.I.; Mme. Berdt-Berger, President of the "Mutualité Maternelle"; Mme. Haman, teacher at the Sorbonne; Mr. Charles Briand, editor of the "Spectateur"; Mlle Rissagesky, a Russian author. Mme. Orka, secretary of the C.P.F.I., read a letter from Ellen Key, who sent the Congress an address on Women and Antimilitarism, and an interesting communication from Mme. Gilain, President of the Belgian Woman Suffrage Association. The Congress has also received an invitation to participate in the international congress at Buenos-Ayres, which begins on the 18th of May. Some precious documents on women's municipal rights in Germany had come from Mrs. Apoland from Frankfort. On Mme. Orka's suggestion, beside the Congress, the ladies are going to have *international archives on the women's question* for the purpose of collecting documents concerning feminism. The readers are requested to address all sorts of documents: constitutions, posters, programmes, sample-copies of papers, portraits with biographical notices, pamphlets, postcards, etc., to the Hon. Secretary: Mme. Orka, 31 rue de Penthièvre, Paris.

Communication from the
French W. S. A.

Hungary.

Since our last report we made the greatest progress and suffered the deepest loss of our whole movement. To begin with the latter, as the reader will remember, our Government fell in April 1909 just during the London Congress. From that time till the end of December the *parties* of the old government, which was formed out of a coalition of all the parties, competed to get the government for their own party alone, without sharing the power. As we were told, not officially, but by our good friends of the various parties, every political party considered the matter of women's suffrage, as a useful piece of politics and everyone was prepared to *do something* in this matter.

Our greatest hope was the Justh-party. This was the most numerous and had the greatest chance of getting the government.

Most of the good old friends of woman suffrage, as the leader Mr. Justh himself, Mr. Szasz Zsombor, the greatest Hungarian suffragist, and lots of others are in this party. After our parliamentary rules the Justh party had to get the government, — but the King disagreed with him in some points and we got into an awful political scrape. None of the parties could accept the unconstitutional wishes of the King, so he looked for a government outside the possible parties and got it in the beginning of January.

The new Government has no parliamentary party but is conducting new elections and will surely get a sufficient majority into the Parliament.

For us no worse government could be found. In expecting Justh's triumph we were at the top of our hopes, and the government we got

put us in the worst situation possible. But as cats always fall on their feet, we are again ready for energetic agitation. And hard as it is to be defeated with the old Government and the former parliament, the whole result of all our efforts, is a splendid progress of our cause in such circles of Hungarian society as were only to be won by the hardest efforts.

And now the signs of progress. The National Council of Women, consisting of 83 women's societies, formed by unanimous vote its Political Committee. It works under the presidency of Mrs. Flora Penczel-Kozuna and the secretaryship of Mrs. Elemér de Békássy.

The Committee, in which 25 societies are represented, adopted the splendid working-programme of its President. First of all the Committee asked Rosika Schwimmer to give a course of lectures on the ancient political rights of Hungarian women and on the history of the Hungarian suffrage movement. This course was very successful. We are very glad to see in this committee many ladies who frankly admit, that they were formerly quite opposed to the suffrage but have changed their minds. The formation of the N.C.W.'s political committee impressed the whole press in a very favourable way. People said, if the movement was able to reach even the conservative women of the N.C.W. they must believe in its extraordinary force. Nowadays many prominent men, who formerly didn't care much for W. S. begin to advocate it very strongly. So one of the principal bishops of the Roman Catholic church, Ottokár Prohaszka, often speaks quite spontaneously about the urgent need of W. S. for the moral betterment of society. Another prominent member of the Roman Catholic Church, Alexander Gieswein, imitates this attitude.

No change comes in the feelings and actions of the Socialdemocratic Party with respect to W. S. In January we held a mass-meeting in the townhall, especially for working women, on the subject: "Why working women need the vote." We invited all trade unions, and to be sure to get an audience from the working classes, 40 members of our society distributed 10,000 leaflets at different factories of Budapest. The hall was crowded but we had more bourgeois people than working women in the audience. The resolution stating that working women need the vote harder than any other persons, because they are oppressed as labourers *and* as women, was adopted nearly unanimously. Only *two Socialists* voted against it, declaring that they were opposed to W. S., because women are not yet ripe, and that especially working women should struggle first(!) for better economic conditions. One of our famous antis is the chief woman of the Socialist Party. Their press naturally continues to denounce the Suffrage Movement and calumniates it as much as possible. So we had no reason to be astonished, that at the last streetdemonstration for universal suffrage the Socialist procession had not one word, not one banner mentioning W. S.

We continue to distribute leaflets at every political meeting. During the formation of the new governmental party in February we had for this work the kind help of some international friends, of Miss Cicely Corbett, who was lecturing here at that time, of Mrs. van Loenen-de Bordes, from Holland, who spent some weeks in Budapest, and of Miss Helga Gill, from Norway.

The new party seems not to like our distributing leaflets, because the announcement of a very important meeting of this party to be held in

Arad on the 6th of this month, declares: women are not admitted to the hall of the meeting. This is the first time in Hungary that women are excluded. The leader of the party, Count Tisza, seems to be a kindred spirit of Mr. Asquith. As we didn't do until now other than "constitutional" quiet work, we must take this novelty as a challenge to provoke us into militant methods, so we have to try to prevent such measures. But if the party should go on in this way, we should be obliged to discuss a change of tactics. We hope that it will not prove necessary.
Budapest, March 1910. ROSIKA SCHWIMMER.

The latest events of Finland have, to our greatest regret, justified our endeavours to call forth an international and imposing demonstration of women's solidarity and sense of justice. In the beginning of March, the Feministák Egyesülete in Budapest held a protestmeeting, at which the speakers as well as the whole audience expressed in their speeches and resolution that the annexation of Finland is not by any means a question of the interior affairs of a nation, but it is clearly an international question, as Russia's act of violence results in the oppression of one nation by another. The resolution of protest was sent to the Russian Consulate at Budapest by the Feministák Egyesülete.

On the 17th of March took place the elections for the Industrial and Commercial Chamber of Budapest. The Feministák Egyesülete, having found out lately that by law women possess not only the right to vote, exercised up to now, but have eligibility as well, put up a woman candidate, Mrs. Branner, owner of ice-factories and other commercial enterprises. She got by 600 votes, which is a good result for a first woman candidate. Another result of our suffrage-work is that women got elected all over Hungary into the National Committee for Sick-funds. A novelty is that Hungarian women, though having the same legal right of attending political gatherings as men, are lately prevented from taking part in public meetings, which is clearly in contradiction with the law.

The first attempt was made in Arad, where on the 6th of March the Government "Working party" was constituted. We arranged a lively agitation, members of the Association distributing leaflets in the streets round the meeting-hall and at the banquet held on the previous day. The only woman in the meeting was the reporter of our suffrage paper "A Nő és a Társadalom".

The same order to exclude women had been issued for the Conservative suffrage-meeting, held on the 19th of March, a demonstration against universal suffrage. Yet some of our members succeeded in getting tickets for the galleries. New leaflets printed for this occasion were again distributed lavishly.

On the 27th a protest meeting of the citizens of Budapest was held against the brutal assault practised by Members of Parliament upon the Prime Minister Count Khuen Hédervary and the Minister of Agriculture Count Serényi. Our members distributed leaflets, showing the necessity of woman suffrage, in order to bring better morals into politics and introduce quieter and less rude methods of discussion into Parliament.

For the 30th of March some progressive citizens of Budapest advertised a meeting for universal suffrage, in which we expected to take a prominent part; and though every district, club and corporation—in many of which we have done years of

preparatory work with good result—had been canvassed for it in advance, we could not get in a single delegate or propose a single resolution. We were excluded from the Arranging Committee, being women, and when one of the Club-chairman, the architect Mr. Dezsö Benedek, one of our members, was appointed to represent the Feminists' Association, they would not allow him to speak, because he intended to propose the inclusion of woman suffrage in the three resolutions. The progressive citizens appreciate only such freedom of speech, as does not contradict their own opinion. Women were not allowed to enter the hall, even Miss Glücklich, delegate of the Teacher's Union, whose address had been announced, was not admitted. Several of the gentlemen present, e.g. Mr. János Benedek M.P. B.L. left the hall in indignation, saying that such "universal" suffrage as excluded women was not the suffrage which they advocated.

Formerly women were admitted at least as a gallery decoration, but now they were refused entrance on pretext that the galleries were full, though they were empty. Only some of our woman members were introduced by friends who, being members of the Committee of Arrangements, felt ashamed of themselves. One officer of the police, Mr. Beniczky, procured us some tickets for the empty boxes, where our members were closely guarded by nervous and frightened stewards. One captain of the police, Peregrényi, was brutalizing the women, driving them away from step to step, and when Miss Schwimmer at last refused to leave her place where she did no harm and was in nobody's way, he ordered two of his men, who followed his orders but reluctantly, to take her out, which was done. Two minutes after this happened, Miss Schwimmer quietly took up her former position again. During the meeting we distributed leaflets and sandwich-boys carried about posters telling the public, to the arrangers' great indignation, what treatment women might expect and were already experiencing at the hands of the "progressive citizens". Only one speaker, Dr. Kreutzer, professor at the Commercial Academy in Kolozsvár, declared himself and the Private Clerks' Union in favour of women suffrage. Our ladies were impatiently expecting the address of Dr. Dirner, professor at the University of Budapest, who was to speak for the Feministák Egyesülete, but when his purpose was suspected, and he, on inquiry, corroborated it, he was not allowed to speak either.

Our women refrained from violence, as their methods up to now have always been constitutional, but men seem willing to drive them to take illegal measures.

There is a general muddle in politics in Hungary, no budget, no Parliament (which was dissolved), no date fixed for the new elections, dissension in every party. Nobody knows how and when this poor country will come to a more orderly state of affairs.

Mrs. EUGENIE MISKOLCZY-MELLER.
Budapest, 7th of April 1910.

Australia.

Since the Women's Political Association of Victoria nominated its President, Vida Goldstein, as a candidate for the Senate in the election for the Commonwealth Parliament on April 13th, an active agitation has been carried on, e.g. by portrait-postcards containing a motto from Vida Goldstein and the principal reasons why a woman

should enter Parliament. The W. P. A. also edits a monthly organ "The Woman Voter", which announces Miss Goldstein's lectures and advocates her candidature by showing how much harm party politics have done Australia and giving the following reasons for her election:

1. Because even the men most sympathetic towards women's interests cannot represent Home Children and Women Workers as a woman can.

2. Because it is desirable, it is necessary, that Parliament should reflect the opinions of women as well as those of men.

3. Because the Home System of Government is the best system—the co-operation of men and women for the general good.

4. Because the Non-party attitude towards legislation is entitled to representation. Party adherents, Conservative, Liberal and Labor, have 36 representatives in the Senate; Non-party adherents are entitled to at least one voice in National Affairs.

5. Because the Women's Political Association is working for a Federal Equal Marriage and Divorce Law, Equal Parental Rights over Children, Equal Pay for Equal Work, and Equal Opportunities for Women under Public Service and Industrial Laws, and it is essential that a woman should be in Parliament to protect the interests of women under such laws.

6. Because Australia led the way in granting National Suffrage to women, and it should not lag behind Europe and America in recognizing the justice of women having direct Parliamentary representation.

On the other hand the **Women's Liberal League** of N. S. Wales in its "Monthly Record" advocates loyalty to the Liberal Party, a defence system as suggested by Lord Kitchener, and the election of Mr. Patten.

M. G. K.

Sweden.

In the last number of *Jus Suffragii* an account was given of our new municipal laws with their various important changes and of the excitement that prevailed among all socially interested women in Stockholm as to the coming election of City-councillors, among whom we soon hoped to number several women. The election is now a thing of the past, and we have begun to settle down to the inevitable—namely that only two of our eight women candidates have been elected City-councillors. Of these two, the one was nominated by the Conservatives and the other by the Socialdemocrats. Of the six candidates nominated by the Liberals, all fell through in the elections. To understand how such a thing could come to pass, it is necessary to know something of how the position of our three political parties has been affected by the new laws.

By stipulating that no person can have more than 40 votes—instead of formerly 100—the new laws have to a certain degree diminished the influence of the Conservatives. But on the other hand this party has rallied its forces and got up a powerful agitation, helped by plenty of money and by the terror of the Socialdemocrats, that after the great (general) strike last summer now prevails among certain classes in our country. The Socialdemocrats have in reality got the best out of the new laws—issued by a Conservative government!—and helped by their great number and their iron discipline they have got in no less than 16 representatives, whereas they formerly had only 5. As to the Liberals, they are no doubt

placed in a very difficult position between those two extreme parties. They number among them a great many of the smaller taxpayers, and can not dispose of so much money for agitation as the Conservatives; and on the other hand, they have much to learn from the Socialdemocrats as to discipline and unity. Their organisation was also new and unproved, and the new mode of election made all calculations of probability uncertain. The Liberals had given their women candidates very good places on their lists and were absolutely sure of the nomination of at least two of the most prominent—Mrs. Broomé and Miss Hesselgren. No less than 18 women had been elected into the different boards of their new organisation: „Stockholms liberala valmansförening", and 5 of these belong to the Central board. All this proves that the fault of the Liberals does not lie in underrating the women, but in overrating their own forces.

It is to be regretted that this first time no larger number of women were elected City-councillors, but at the same time we are happy to have got two such very good representatives as dr. Valfrid Palmgren (Conservative) and Miss Gertrud Mansson (Socialdemocrat). And it is to be hoped that next year, the Liberals in Stockholm—men as well as women—will do their utmost for their women candidates.

In the country the elections to the „Landsting" have now taken place, though the result can not be definitely known before the beginning of May. But it looks as if the Liberals could hope for a majority in the „Landsting" and thereby gradually change the character of the First Chamber—this mighty bulwark of opposition to women suffrage.

On the 4th March, the well known enthusiast for women suffrage, the burgomaster of Stockholm, Carl Lindhagen M. P. asked for and got permission to interpellate the Prime minister in the Second chamber concerning the investigation on women suffrage, that had been recommended by the Riksdag in 1906. On the 17th of the same month Mr. Lindhagen got an answer to his interpellation. The Prime minister declared that the statistical part of the investigation was already finished, but that an investigation as to the results of women suffrage in those countries where it had been carried through, was still going on. It were impossible to say when the inquest could be finished. Not satisfied with this answer Mr. Lindhagen pressed the Prime minister for further information and finally got this astonishing answer that, as the Riksdag had asked for a *thorough* investigation, he had found it necessary to investigate into the connection between the questions of nativity and marriage-rate on the one side and women suffrage on the other! This answer called forth angry protests from several members, who held forth that these were questions of social economy and had nothing whatever to do with women suffrage.

At the annual meeting of the Stockholm W.S.A. the following resolution was passed: „Because of Mr. Lindhagens interpellation concerning the investigation on women suffrage, the Stockholm W.S.A. assembled for its annual meeting on the 22th of March 1910, protests against the tendency to retarding matters, that—with the investigation as pretext—seems more and more to manifest itself in the Government."

The Executive Committee of the Central board has urged all the local W.S.A. to follow the example of Stockholm and send in their resolutions to the Prime minister.

On this point we now stand with regard to the

question of investigation. If the government really hopes to get something out of this absurd mixing together of facts, the investigation must be continued through generations and none of us can hope to live to see the results. And meanwhile the Swedish women would have to wait for their enfranchisement.

Stockholm, April 1910. EZALINE BOHEMAN.

Denmark.

The **Danske Kvindeforeningers Valgretsforbund** takes much pleasure in answering the following questions put by the editor of "*Jus Suffragii*":—

1. The number of adult men and women in Denmark? According to the census of 1901:

	Men	Women
15—20 years of age	118.764	118.045
20—23 " " " "	100.228	106.100
Above 25 years of age	555.217	620.786
Above 15 years.	775.209	844.981
2. How many „municipal" electors are there? In March 1909: 456.281 men and 422.999 women. Total: 879.280.
3. How many electors are there for the "Folketing"? In May 1909: 460.553, men only.
4. How many electors cast their votes in the municipal elections on March 15 1909? 328.315 men and 199.239 women.
5. How many voted for the Folketing in May 1909? 327.384 men cast their ballot.

TH. DAUGAARD, secr. D. Kv. V. Copenhagen, April 1910.

The **Landsforbund for Kvinders-Valgret**, affiliated to the S. W. S. A., has now ended its winter-campaign after a useful and successful session. Especially the Copenhagen branch has worked faithfully, gathering its members by hundreds every second Tuesday in its rooms, where a series of interesting and enlightening lectures has been given by prominent men and women, such as the leaders of different social institutions, members of the town-council and the parliament, and even the Minister of the Interior has delivered an address on the amendment of the Constitution and the probability of obtaining woman suffrage in Denmark, attended by so numerous an audience, that the meeting had to be held in a larger building. The subjects chosen for these lectures have generally been either a question of present political importance or some social question concerning women's labour and earnings, the factory laws, the protection of children and so on. Quite an exciting and amusing meeting was held shortly before Christmas, when an antagonist of woman suffrage, Dr. phil. Birck, member of the Folketing, told the audience „Why women should *not* be allowed to vote". Though very eloquent, he was not able to make propaganda for his views, and he was met by so able an opposition, that the press congratulated the women upon their success, and next day in the Folketing a Socialist offered greetings to „what was left of him" after the encounter.

We are now preparing for the summer-campaign, in which we are to have our annual meeting. The 5th of June is the Danish Constitution-day, which is generally celebrated throughout the country by large meetings in the open air. The **Landsforbund** however, has chosen it for a „Demonstration day", and as we are often asked to send our speakers to these meetings, we take the opportunity there to battle for our cause.

It is gratifying to observe how the agitation spreads: on the 19th of March an organisation, called „The Small Farmers", counting about 40.000 members, held an annual meeting in Odense, and among the resolutions carried there was also one claiming votes for women!

Just in these days the second reading of the bill to amend the Constitution and confer the vote on women, moved by the Radicals, has begun in the Folketing. I am sorry that, because of the date, I cannot postpone my report a few days, so that I might be able to tell the result—though I think I can do so beforehand.

Ringsted, April 5th 1910. CLINNY DREYER.

Finland.

"Nutid" gives the following synopsis of the number of women M. P.'s elected in Finland. The numbers in parenthesis give the strength of the whole party.

	in 1907	in 1908	in 1909	in 1910
Swedish Popular Party	1(24)	3(25)	4(25)	3(26)
Young Finnish Party	2(26)	2(27)	1(28)	2(28)
Old Finnish Party	6(59)	6(54)	4(48)	2(42)
Socialdemocrats	9(81)	13(83)	12(84)	10(86)
Agrarians	1(9)	1(9)	0(13)	0(17)
Christian Party	0(1)	0(2)	0(2)	0(1)
Total	19	25	21	17

Since last autumn our Diet was again dissolved, and of course in all our political parties an active agitation was begun for the elections to be held in February. The Conservatives made a bitter opposition against the election of women, pretexting that, as the uppermost interest was now the defence of our menaced political independence, men were fitter than women to safeguard the rights of the country. People seemed to have entirely forgotten that one of the principal reasons for granting the Finnish women political suffrage had been their active devotion to the country's welfare in the critical political circumstances of some years hence. Even among the women themselves there was an inclination for the doctrine of men's superior efficiency in politics, and our organisations of women had to do their utmost to resist the growth of this silly belief. Our women's union "Kvinnosaksförbundet" published in the papers a call addressed to the women voters, and the political women's associations developed great activity. A very energetic agitation was conducted by the Swedish association „Svenska Kvinnoförbundet" under the presidency of Miss Annie Furuholm. They succeeded in the district of Nyland in obtaining the reelection of the former women deputies, Miss Vera Hjelt, factory-inspector, and Miss Hedvig Sohlberg, head of a normal-school. But unfortunately this newly-formed association could not yet extend its activity in the North of the country, where this time no women were elected. But then in the South-western District, where in the former elections Miss Dagmar Neovius fell through, she was elected this time. So the Swedish Popular Party now numbers 3 women among its 26 representatives. In the Young-finnish party too the result of the election was a good one from the women's point of view, as now two of their 28 representatives are women. The success was not so great in the Oldfinnish and in the Socialdemocratic parties, where 2 out of 24 and 10 out of 86 M.P.'s are women. The Agrarians, who won four new

seats, have not found a place for a woman in their ranks.

On the women's part, this time few petitions for new laws have been sent in. All interest is now concentrated on the momentous national questions, concerning which all parties have made known their wishes.

We were agreeably surprised to see in the women's papers that in the two big international organisations of women voices have been heard advocating active intervention in our behalf on their part. I believe I am justified in stating that the joy we felt at this expression of sympathy is not of an egoistical character, occasioned by our own profit. There is always great strength and encouragement in the feeling of solidarity, but it is especially elating to know that the sense of justice is common to all women of every nation. Helsingfors, March 27, 1910. ANNA LUNDSTRÖM.

Italy.

The Turin W. S. A. published on the occasion of the parliamentary election in the fourth district (collegio) of the city the following manifesto, which made a great impression and had much success:—

„Citizens! A most important political combat is going on at this moment in the 4th district of our city among *men* electors. The Committee „Pro voto donne” (W. S. A.), considering that women at present are simply an aggregate in the political parties and not responsible comrades of war held to constitute a force, cannot and will not adopt any political attitude. Yet—reminding you that already the Italian law recognizes women as entitled to administrative rights, in making them eligible for Charity Boards etc.; to juridical rights, in giving them suffrage and eligibility for Trades Councils (Proviviri); to business responsibility and rights, by recently conferring on them commercial votes—the Committee states the expediency of granting parliamentary suffrage to women as the only means of making them capable of promoting and defending their highest interests. Women claim the vote 1. to combat analfabetism and alcoholism, the principal causes of criminality among young people, 2. to further the best interests of the family by establishing divorce and legal liability of illegitimate fathers and abolishing marital authority, 3. to protect the dignity and independence of women against hunger-salaries which drive her into prostitution and death.

The Committee „Pro voto donne”, in expectation that a suffrage reform will confer on half the citizenship of Turin the power of expressing its will on political issues, recommends that the electors of the 4th District, animated by a spirit of true civilization, will return to the Chamber the candidate who offers the best prospect of promoting those democratic and civil reforms which constitute the base of a programme founded on free and modern life.

Fraternity — Liberty — Justice!”

* * *

The Committee „Pro voto Donne” of Turin resolved in its session to take part in the great labour manifestation of May 1st, which will present this year the character of a demonstration for Universal Suffrage.

Turin, April 5, 1910.

TERESA MOGLIA.

The *Alleanza* regrets that the fall of Sonnino's Cabinet defeated the hope of Italian suffragists,

especially of the privileged classes. On March 19th a resolution of the Lombardian W. S. A., re-affirming the principle that women should be given parliamentary and municipal votes on the same terms as men, recommended warmly the adoption of Mr. Gallini's bill, which unfortunately has now become obsolete. M. G. K.

Russia.

The reaction in Russia has been particularly fatal to young people, school girls and boys, as well as students. The general feeling of depression and the fall of social and political ideals could not fail painfully to impress the most sensitive and nervous amongst them. This explains the downfall of morals among the young generation in the years 1907—9; as well as the enormous progress of suicide. The statistics of suicide in these last three years show that the number of victims has lately especially risen in the female part of the young generation, while in older times the number of girls who resorted to suicide was but small as compared to that of boys. In 1904—6 their number was doubled as compared to that of the years 1901—3, and was particularly high in 1907. Taking both sexes, we find that the number of suicides for young people not older than 18, in the lapse of time from 15 June 1908 to 15 June 1909 has risen to an unheard-of cipher: 776 in one year!

What are the main reasons that bring these young people, often children, to such an extremity? Many end by suicide through disappointment in love; others on account of family disagreements. But the greatest part are brought to this fatal issue because they see no sense in life: neither the family, nor the school has developed in them higher ideals and the sense of duty.

Is it not wonderful, that, in spite of these, the Board of Education, with Mr. Schwartz at the head, instead of reforming the school, continues its strife against all progressive measures in education,—against self-government in Universities, against the “parents' circles”, which endeavoured to improve the secondary schools etc. Instead of reforms, the educational authorities try to introduce everywhere the same bureaucratic spirit which is the curse of the whole country... Mr. Schwartz has found a faithful ally in the ill-famed Mr. Purishkewitch M.P.,—the same who wrote last year an insulting letter to Mme Philosofoff, the first pioneer of women's rights in Russia. About three weeks ago Mr. Purishkewitch, speaking in the Douma on University Education, publicly insulted the students, men and girls, and delivered such calumnies on their morals, that even members of his own party were quite indignant... All the progressive M.Ps. of the Douma passionately protested against Mr. P.'s cynical speech, and a whole scandal ensued, the president of the Douma showing himself very partial to Mr. Purishkewitch. The result of the incident was that this president, Mr. Vlowiadoff, had to retire from office... however, in spite of all the facts, which I mentioned, even in Russia the spirit of progress cannot be quite stopped. And even Mr. Schwartz, the reactionary Minister of Education, is sometimes forced to give way before public opinion. Thus, he has lately issued a circular according to which women in Russia have the right to pass the state examinations in the Universities; that is already a great step forward in the sphere of women's rights.

Moscow, 4 April 1910.

ZÉNÉIDE MIROVITCH.