

— Les hommes n'ont-ils pas violé le principe de l'égalité des droits, en privant tranquillement la moitié du genre humain de celui de concourir à la formation des lois, en excluant les femmes du droit de cité? — CONDORCET (1789).



— The enfranchisement of women upon the same terms as men is as certain to come as the sun is sure to rise to-morrow. The time must depend upon political conditions, and the energy and intelligence with which the movement is conducted. — CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT (7 Aug. '06).

# Internat. Woman Suffrage Alliance

## Bulletin or Monthly Correspondence.

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The President of the Internal Woman Suffrage Alliance, Mrs. C. Chapman Catt, has been suddenly called home from Vienna, where she was with Dr. Aletta Jacobs giving lectures on woman suffrage. Her address is now *2407 Park Row Building New-York, U. S. America.*

Dr. Käthe Schirmacher is on a tour of lectures in Servia and Hungary, and is fast gaining sympathy for the cause of woman suffrage and collecting Hon. Associates and subscribers to the Bulletin of the I. W. S. Alliance.

### Great-Britain.

Mrs. M. Garrett Fawcett L. L. D., the President of the National Union of Woman Suffrage Societies, writes:

„During the last fortnight the suffrage has been advancing here by leaps and bounds.

On Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October at the first meeting of Parliament for the autumn session, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Mrs. Montefiore, Miss Billington, Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Adela Pankhurst, Miss Gawthorpe, Mrs. Baldock, Miss Miller, Mrs. Martyn and Miss Sylvia Pankhurst went down to the House of Commons and made a scene in the Lobby. They were carried out by policemen and were sentenced next day to two months' imprisonment, the magistrate refusing to hear evidence. The newspapers were most extraordinarily violent and abusive, but since that time there has been a „boom” in Woman Suffrage. New members are pouring in to the societies, demands for literature come by every post, and cheques and banknotes flow in to the treasury. I have spoken at 5 meetings which have been crowded and enthusiastic, and meetings are being held all over the country.

Three eminent literary men, Bernard Shaw, Zangwill and George Meredith, have written to the Times in support of woman suffrage; no one of any importance has written against it. Mrs. Creighton, the Bishop of London's wife, and Mrs. Sidney Webb, who is well known as an author on social and economic questions, have changed their former attitude into a sympathetic one.”

The imprisoned „suffragettes”, as they are termed, were treated in Holloway Gaol with the utmost

severity, experiencing all the hardships of prison-life—including rats in the cells—, until order has been given to consider them as „first-class misdemeanants”. Some of them, being too delicate of health, have now been released on caution. The eyes of the whole world are upon these courageous women, and from every country greetings of sympathy are pouring in to them, for instance I (Editor) know of two resolutions of sympathy voted in Rotterdam by federations of workmen's and women's societies.

The National Council of Women of Great-Britain, generally called National Union of Women Workers, had its annual meeting at Tunbridge Wells on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>—26<sup>th</sup>. It proved also to be affected by the topic of the day, woman suffrage, and it carried the following resolution with regard to Local Governing bodies:—

„That, in view of the supposed intention of the Government to bring in a Local Government Bill next session, and also in view of the Triennial Elections to County Councils to be held next March, the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland re-affirms the principle of the resolutions already passed at previous meetings, and calls upon the Government to adopt as a Government Measure the Local Authorities (Qualification of Women) Bill, with a view to its being passed in the Autumn Session.”

The following Resolution was passed on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> by the Executive Committee of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies:

„That the National Union adopt the policy of running a Women's suffrage Candidate whenever a suitable opportunity occurs at a by-election, and where none of the Official Candidates are prepared actively to support Women's Suffrage.”

### WHITBY AND DISTRICT WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

The above Society held two very successful meetings on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> in the Lecture Hall, Silver Street, Whitby. At the afternoon meeting, the Annual Report of Treasurer and Secretary were presented and adopted, and the officers and Committee for the ensuing year were elected.

After tea, Mrs. Henry Fawcett L. L. D. and Mrs. Phipson M. D. briefly addressed the members.

In the evening, Mrs. Fawcett and Mrs. Phipson addressed a large audience.

A resolution, calling upon the Honourable Geroose Beckett, M. P. for the Whitby Division, to use his influence in the House of Commons to induce His Majesty's Government to include the enfranchisement of Women in the Plural Voting Bill, was carried nem. con.

F. H. PRINGLE, Hon. Sec.

On November 8th Keir Hardie introduced into the House of Commons a bill for woman suffrage, which then went through its first reading. The second reading is fixed for the 15th.

#### MANIFESTO OF THE WOMEN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UNION OF 29 OCT. 1906.

##### *Women and Men of the United Kingdom!*

How much longer will you tolerate a House of Commons which refuses to obey your will?

How much longer will you tolerate women being sent to prison for demanding political justice?

Men! are you satisfied with the laws your representatives have made? You are not. You know that your children are starving. You know that aged workers have to end their lives in the work-house. You know that industrious workers, women as well as men, are unemployed.

You know that sweated women labour for one penny an hour. You know that women in despair are selling their bodies on the streets. You know that these things are, because women are refused their rights as citizens.

And you have demanded and obtained pledges from 420 of your M.P.'s that they will give these women the vote. Force them to carry out their promise to you.

Women! Forget party-politics and unite in demanding the vote. Women should have no political party, until they are citizens. Join our union and work with us for freedom.

Eleven women are now in prison for two months each for your sake. They suffer in Holloway Gaol the fullest rigour of prison discipline because they went to the House of Commons to demand your citizenship, and because they refused to remain silent.

The message has come from them: "We go to prison gladly, because we go on behalf of our sisters. We shall fight on till we win. Women must fight for the laws they have to obey, and the taxes they have to pay."

They fight for you. Will you fight for them and for yourselves? Every day women are joining our union, but we shall not rest content till we have every woman in the land in our ranks. To stay outside is to be traitor to our sex.

(signed by the pro tem. board.)

#### BOTHA URGES WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Pretoria, Nov. 8

Addressing a meeting of the Dutch Women's Federation, General Botha urged that the franchise should be extended to women. Fifteen thousand Dutch children, he declared, were not receiving education. In conclusion, General Botha appealed to the British and the Boer races to co-operate in making a united nation, as it was God's will that they should live together. — Reuter.

#### TWO BITS OF NEWS, RECEIVED FROM LONDON IN OCTOBER.

Mrs Dora B Montefiore, who, after acting as fraternal delegate at the Copenhagen Congress

for the Women's Social and Political Union, and for the Hammersmith Suffrage Society, visited and spoke to large audiences in Stockholm and Finland, returned to England in September; and after addressing in Manchester six open air meetings, and three drawing room meetings, has now settled down in Westminster London, where she is busy forming a Branch of the W. S. P. U. She holds two outdoor meetings a week in the streets of Westminster, sometimes going out by herself with a lighted lantern, bearing the motto "Votes for Women", and sometimes accompanied by members of the party, who are not engaged in speaking elsewhere. She and Jessie Kenney had a curious experience on October 16th, when they used as a platform a heap of tram rails (that had been piled on the Embankment in readiness for laying down the new tramlines) and began to address a large and interested meeting just under the statue of Boadicea, and facing the House of Commons. For nearly an hour the police were non-plussed, and the attentive crowd grew larger and larger as Mrs Montefiore criticised Mr Asquith's reply to the recent women's deputation; proving by facts that if he had attended the meeting at the Treasury, in the spring, of women from all over the country, representing tens of thousands of women in professions, industries and political organisations, he would have known better than to say "there was no demand for the vote on the part of the women of England". At the end of nearly an hour a special detachment of police arrived in full force from Scotland yard, and told the crowd to move away, though they did not dare to remove forcibly the speakers and the lantern. Mrs Montefiore therefore continued to speak, though her audience was forced by a picked and specially heavy band of constables to "pass along"; but those who wished to hear her out moved backwards and forwards at the end of Westminster Bridge, or "passed along" in the same fashion on the Embankment. It was quite evident that the Liberal Government though persisting in its attitude that "women must go on educating the nation and the House of Commons", does not intend that education to be given in the precincts of Westminster. Anyhow Mrs Montefiore kept on speaking for a quarter of an hour after her audience was temporarily dispersed, and when she had finished what she had to say, she and Miss Jessie Kenney marched off with their lantern and leaflets, with their audience at their heels, to hold a meeting elsewhere. Thus does the Woman's cause prevail.

The Women's Social and Political Union are as active as ever. After having an interview with Mr. Asquith in his own constituency, and having made him display his ignorance of the real strength and force of the women's demand for the removal of the political disability, their organiser, Miss Gawthorpe, broke up a meeting of Mr. Sam Evans, the Member who talked out our Resolution last session. They are now calling a conference of all their branches to meet in London on October 20th to discuss future policy, and to demonstrate at Westminster on October 23rd. the date of the opening of Parliament.

Mass meetings will be held on Sunday 21st in Hyde-Park, Victoria-park, Battersea Park, and Finsbury-Park, presided over by Miss Pankhurst, Mrs. Montefiore and others, whilst motor cars, specially lent for the purpose will take Organisers and Speakers from one meeting to another, so that all London may be linked up in its knowledge of women's urgent political demands.

## Finland.

### FINNISH WOMEN PREPARE FOR THEIR NEW RIGHTS.

The 1st of October was a day of festivals for the women of Finland. The first of these occasions was held the evening before, in Helsingfors, the capital, when the old-Finnish Women's Political Federation had arranged a festival. When the clock struck twelve a solemn pause entered, then the new law was greeted with a hearty cheering of men and women and the national anthem sung. Both women's rights organizations (The Finnish Women's Association founded 1884 and The Union founded 1892) and the Finnish Girls' Highschool had also arranged festivities on this day. In several places in the country the event was celebrated by the women who by speeches and telegrams honoured those women who had been pioneers in the suffrage-cause.

Already last winter when there seemed to be hope for women to gain full rights, as citizens, the women's papers began to prepare women for the new rights. But since the law became a reality, courses and lectures of all kinds were diligently arranged to instruct the electors in the new election law, by both the women's rights organisations, the old-finnish women's political federation, the Y. W. C. A., the lady students, temperance unions and others. There is quite a cohort of professors, lawyers and young students, also ladies, who are leaders of these classes. Usually these are made as popular and amusing as possible. In a great hall women of all standards of life gather, old and young, high and low are represented; usually the hall is crowded. When the law is explained, the teacher shows on a great blackboard the leading principles of the proportional election-system. Then the president of the meeting, a lady, announces that party-agitation and canvassing is now allowed. Usually there are 8-12 candidate-lists. The agitators—all ladies—step on the platform and speak cleverly for their candidates, among whom there are always a considerable number of women. The walls are decorated with the emblems and devices of the different parties. The audience laughs, cheers or shows signs of impatience. Then the canvassing, according to the law, must end, and the election begins. Six ladies—"the board"—enter the separated part, of the hall where the election takes place, the women come, get their voting tickets, draw a line with a red pencil on the list which they wish to support and bring their tickets to the polls.

While "the board" counts the votes, the audience sing national songs and listen to lectures on political or social subjects held to them from the platform. Then the lecturer explains on the blackboard the results of the election, the national hymn is sung, and the meeting is ended. But sometimes the audience is taught how to form habitations and electoral divisions and other details of an election campaign. Then this is taught after the agitation is ended, and the election takes place the following day. — There is a strong desire manifested among the women to learn how to vote and how to understand the new law. Servants ask their mistresses leave to go to the meetings, and the mistresses encourage them to go. — The men have been very eager to help and advise the women. All parties have elected women into their executive committees. As to women candidates, all parties will no doubt put women on their lists,

but there are not yet any such lists *officially* published. Also peasant—and workingwomen will be among the candidates. There seems to be a general tendency among the women not to refuse the candidacy.

ALEXANDRA GRIPENBERG.

Helsingfors (Finland), October 20 1906.

The Swedish Popular Party has issued a list of possible candidates, from which the Executive request the Local Branches to make a choice of their definite candidates. The list contains 19 names, among whom are two women: Miss Helena Westermarck, journalist, and Miss Neovins, headteacher of a school. In case of refusal of any of the nominees, another supplementary list is added, containing six names, among whom are Miss Annie Furuholm, journalist, and Hedvig Sohlberg, principal of a Normal school.

The *Boston Woman's Journal* of 20 Oct. says: Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg has been nominated for the Finnish Parliament. Under the new constitution of Finland, women not only have the full ballot, but are eligible to all offices.

## Russia.

After the dissolution of the Duma, social life in Russia is going through a period of comparative calm. The whole country is under the exclusive laws; all meetings are forbidden, and the works of all unions—and that of women's suffrage in particular—is made very difficult.

No public meetings, no general manifestations of unions' activity were possible. Lately all our work centred in small groups and in the central office. The Central Committee, since the dissolution of the Duma, had three meetings and planned the work to be done in the nearest future.

The chief points of the work are the convocation of a Pan-russian Congress on the woman suffrage question, the organisation of special lectures in the provinces and conferences in capitals, and the publication of a special organ of the Union. It is proposed to begin at first with the publication of separate collections.

The newly organised People's Socialist party has included in its programme women's complete political and civil emancipation.

Since the present semester women have been admitted to attend university lectures on the same footing as other high-schools; which is the result of the high schools' autonomy.

Of 150—the total number of women students—the greater part are enregistered in the law-faculty. The newly opened law-faculty at the women's high school is also very numerous.

Since the current semester by order of Government the women are allowed to be teachers in the four first classes of boys' schools.

Some of the district Zemstvos have presented petitions for admission of women to participate in the organs of the Local Self-Government.

Our Central Office's activity includes also the popularisation of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance and of the Women's Congress in Copenhagen.

Reports of the congress been published by Miss Wolkenstein and Mrs Mirovitch, an article by Mr. Chekhov has also been written, followed by an

indication of the sources where further details of the organisation are to be obtained. Two articles will be published shortly in monthly reviews. The Russian delegates made reports on the Copenhagen Congress and a translation of the Congress Report is in preparation.

St. Petersburg.

MARIE TCHEKOFF.

## Sweden.

The contents of the coming Government Suffrage Bill is not yet known, but the Swedish suffragists do not hope very much from the Cabinet after the answers of the king and the premier minister to the deputations of women, which were received in audience on the 6th and 9th of Oct. From the whole country deputies were elected, and not less than 49 women came from all parts of the country, sacrificing time and money. The old king Oscar II expressed in warm words his deep sympathy for our cause, but added that it would probably augment the difficulty for the Suffrage Bill to pass, if suffrage for women was added to it. The Chief of the Cabinet, Mr. Lindman, told us that he could not give us any answer, before the investigation into the operation of women suffrage, required by Parliament, had been concluded. But as we all know that this investigation is very easily done, it is not difficult to understand the scarcely hidden meaning of this answer. But the deputations have had the effect of rousing the public opinion. The speeches held by P. Adelborg and A. Whitlock at these occasions were reproduced in almost all newspapers, and the public and private discussion about woman suffrage has been very lively. It is a curious fact that our cause is gaining more supporters among the Conservatives than among the Liberals, who as a political party are our antagonists, though we can count many staunch supporters among them.

The local societies have now grown into 68 from 65 at the beginning of September. The petition from Swedish women has now 83,359 signatures.

The Swedish suffragists will gladly support Dr. A. Augspurg's proposition of inviting representatives from foreign National Associations for Woman Suffrage to their big meetings. The annual meeting of the National Association for woman suffrage will take place in the first fortnight of January 1907 in the town of Karlstad (Värmland). It seems to us that the most practical way to invite representation from other countries to such meetings is by announcing the time and place in the Bulletin. Are not other countries willing to adopt this mode of invitation?

ANNA WHITLOCK.

## United States of America.

Miss Estelle Reel, who has for some years worked in connection with the Indian Schools, has now been made Commissioner of Indian Schools in Wyoming with a salary of over three thousand dollars (15,000 francs). Her work is arduous as she has to make trips sometimes over three months in duration, to visit and inspect the Government Schools in districts distant from all railroads and part of her travelling must be done on horseback. She has received great praise for the carefulness and thoroughness of her work. Wyoming, remember, is one of the four States where women have the full right of suffrage.

In Portland, Oregon, there is one woman occupying the position of Inspector of Markets. Having found that her work could not be fully successful because of the refusals of many market people to allow her to thoroughly examine their wares, she reported this to the official from whom she received her appointment. Mrs. Evans has now been made a policeman with full authority to demand access to every part of the market and legal power to enforce her demand to see everything offered for sale. This is certainly a part of the city house-keeping which can be well done by a woman.

The *Woman's Journal* of Oct. 6th says that at a meeting of the executive committee of the Anthony Memorial Association the Treasurer reported that more than \$ 5000.— had been promised for the building to be erected for women students on the Campus of Rochester University. The women of the Assoc. however have done scarcely any canvassing to raise the money. The gifts include two \$ 1000 checks.

## A VICTORY IN IDAHO.

The women voters of Moscow in Idaho won a decided victory in the school election of September, and proved besides that they understood the value of the ballot and that they knew how to use it.

The women wanted a new school superintendent, and they got him — by electing a new school board. During the preceding school term they had heard a great many disquieting reports of this official, both from their own children and from the young women teachers.

Investigation proved that these reports were well founded, and when the man's term expired, the women petitioned the board not to return him to office. The board not only ignored their petition but increased the objectionable official's pay by three hundred dollars.

This gave the women the opportunity of proving the superiority of the ballot over their much-lauded "right of petition". They made a house-to-house canvass of the town, routed out every voter, irrespective of sex, who had a child in school, and laid the case before him or her. The consequence was that, when the votes were counted, it was found that a new school board had been elected. This board is already pledged to give the mothers of the town the school superintendent whom they wish to have in charge of their children.

The precarious position of voteless municipal or state-employees is well illustrated by the treatment of married women teachers in New York.

The New York City Board of Education is disturbed over the number of married women listed on its teaching force. The *New York Post* says:

"Of the twelve thousand women who are teaching in the elementary schools, it is stated that many hundreds are married. Superintendent Maxwell reported to the Board of Education at its first meeting since the vacation that seventy-four women teachers of Greater New York had taken unto themselves husbands during the past summer. Nor was he sure that his list was complete, for many teachers consult their own convenience about reporting a

change in their conjugal condition to the superintendent. Of course, the usual question is raised in New York whether a married woman teacher ought to be retained in the service. The Board of Education, in fact, has a rule penalizing marriage of a woman teacher by making it a cause for discharge. But there is no prohibition of the appointment of a married woman as teacher. To add to the quandary in which the Board of Education finds itself, the Court of Appeals has said that its prohibition of the marriage is null and void".

The Board of Education created a bye-law in 1902, declaring: "Should a woman principal, a woman head of a department, or any woman member of the teaching or supervising staff, marry, her place shall thereupon become vacant". In 1903 the bye-law was amended so as to give the Board of Education authority to "direct that charges be preferred against such teacher by reason of such marriage".

Then a married teacher who had been dismissed from the service because of her marriage, took her case to court and won. The Court of Appeals decided that the marriage of a woman teacher does not work the forfeiture of her position. This decision affords a good precedent whereby to sustain the right of women to teach though married.

Thus are the voteless employees thrown down and taken up again like play-things. Would their position be as uncertain, if they possessed the suffrage and were citizens?

## Canada.

A warm discussion took place on Political Equality at the session of the National Council of Women, held in Centenary Church in Hamilton on 12 October. It was introduced by Dr. Augusta Stowe Gullen, of Toronto, who read a paper on the subject. By a vote of 52 to 22, a resolution was passed to appoint a standing committee on Political Equality.

The paper called attention to the rights obtained by the Finish women, in securing equal political rights with men.

After referring to the municipal franchise granted to some women, the speaker said:

"Then the ballot is given to a limited class—unmarried women and widows—the class least likely to be keenly interested in the protection of home and nation. Woman suffrage, like manhood suffrage, must come through the generous thoughts of those who possess the power to extend the ballot."

In conclusion, the speaker urged harder work in this direction, and asked those who had a vote to use it.

After the reading of the paper the following resolution was passed:

"Resolved, that at this annual meeting of the National Council of Women of Canada there be appointed a standing committee upon political equality."

## Belgium.

The Université Nouvelle at Brussels is going to give a series of conferences on the women's question this winter: Mme Gilain will lecture on women's work in Belgium, Martine Kramers on woman suffrage and Mme Oddo-Deflou and Mme Souley-Darqué on other subjects connected with feminism.

## Hungary.

The sympathetic attitude of the press towards woman suffrage, which preceded our President's visit to Budapest, has persisted during the series of lectures and receptions, and continues still.

On 12 Oct. the hall in which Mrs Chapman Catt and Dr Jacobs were to speak was quite crowded and many persons had to be refused admission. Some members of Parliament, supporters of woman suffrage, were present and there was an interesting discussion at the close of the meeting. On the day after there was an afternoon-tea in the palace of Countess Batthyány, the President of the National Council of Women of Hungary, who showed more sympathy for the political rights of women than hitherto. The big popular meeting in the Town Hall was so great a success, that the Government press-organ had a leading article on the following morning, which said that every politician should have been there, for they could learn from women in many respects. There is no need to say that the reception in the Feministenverein (N.W.S.A.) was a very cordial one.

Miss Rosika Schwimmer, one of the best workers for our cause in Hungary, is now making a tour of lectures in Germany and Holland. She is expected at Rotterdam soon after 21 November.

In Budapest the municipal elections are soon to take place, and on this occasion the Club of the Party of Independence in the fifth district of Budapest has taken up into its program adult suffrage without difference of sex. Accordingly the N.W.S.A. (Feministenverein) will support this party in the municipal elections. The N.W.S.A. has addressed to all the political clubs of the capital the question whether they were likewise prepared to take up this point in their program of action, and were disposed to do all in their power to realize it? In case of an affirmative answer the Ass. offers the help of its members in the canvassing.

The W.S.A. now publishes in the form of a post-stamp its celebrated poster with the words: "Suffrage, to be Universal, should bring votes to women".

## Austria.

The lecture-tour of our President and Dr. Aletta Jacobs from Amsterdam in Austria and Hungary began on Oct. 8th with a conference at Prague, of which the German Women's Union had every reason to be content. Then on Oct. the 10th they visited Brünn, where the newspapers say there was a crowded hall and an attentive audience. After that, Budapest was the theatre of their triumphal march — as one would say according to the accounts of the newspapers, — and on 17 Oct. they reached Vienna. Here a committee, headed by Frau Hainisch, the President of the National Council of Austrian Women, who, although suffering in health, would not be hindered from presiding on this occasion, gave Mrs. Chapman Catt and Dr. Jacobs a cordial reception. The hall was so crowded that many listeners had to stand, and the audience was composed of all sorts and conditions of people: there were deputies, school-teachers, women of high rank and labourers. The subject of the discussion was: "why should women

demand the vote?" Mrs. Catt answered this question by plainly showing what women had done with the vote in the countries where they possess it, and her speech was so ably translated that it received twice a hearty applause. Dr. Jacobs explained how great the importance of the ballot was to women, and she too made a great impression on the audience. Frau Hainisch called the public's attention to the fact that § 30 of the Austrian law on unions forbids women to participate in public affairs, and that the women of Vienna were going to address a petition with thousands of signatures to the governing bodies in order to get this antediluvian law abolished. There was an animated discussion in which Dr. Oiner, a member of the Austrian parliament, said that women might do more to show their desire of the suffrage. He was answered by a reference to all the efforts of the working women to strengthen the movement for universal suffrage. Then the attitude of the socialists was criticised and defended. Finally Frau Glöckel proposed a resolution to form a Woman Suffrage Society, which was carried.

On 19 October a deputation of the Vienna Committee for Woman Suffrage consisting of twelve ladies, among whom were Frau Hainisch and Frau Glöckel, waited upon seven members of the Austrian parliament and presented two memorials. In the first they demand the cancelling of the word "female" in § 30 of the Law on Unions and Assemblies, in the second the introduction of universal suffrage for women. With respect to the latter demand, the deputies alleged that, for the present, there was little chance of its being realised and that a decision in this matter would have to be postponed. On the other hand they declared their readiness to bring the former demand before the House on the first occasion and to do everything in their power to fulfill it.

Accordingly on 26 Oct. Dr Oiner c.s. proposed a change of § 30 of the Law of 15 Nov. 1867.

### Italy.

On 13 October the Italian suffragists received disappointing news. The reader will remember that the Italian Report in Copenhagen spoke of many women who had requested inscription on the lists of electors, as the law was silent in this respect. For instance the Municipal Electoral Committee had registered Professor Beatrice Sacchi on the list at Mantua. The Provincial Committee gave the verdict that her name should be cancelled; so she laid her case before the Court of Appeals of Brescia (Corte d'Appello) and this tribunal has decided against her. The refusal of her claim was based on the consideration "that woman was not equal with man as to the exercise of political rights, as it was not conceded to her that she should participate in the representation of the state or in the government of the community etc." This sentence however is not a definitive one, we can yet abide the decision of the Cassation Court (Corte di Cassazione) which is the supreme tribunal.

On November 5th the Court of Appeals at Naples took the same attitude against the claim of the doctress Elisa Nacciarone, alleging that it would be a too arbitrary interpretation of the law, even "in fraudem legis", if the Court were to concede electoral rights to women only on the ground

that they possess equal personal rights with men. And Prof. Teresa Labriola writes. "In my opinion the existing law cannot be interpreted in favour of women; we shall have to wait for a new law."

### Germany.

The Union for Women's Welfare (Frauenwohl) in Berlin held a meeting on 15 October, in which Fräulein v. Welczek proposed the formation of a Prussian Committee on Woman Suffrage, showing how much the interest of women was involved in the questions that were being decided by the Government. Many persons adhered to the committee, whose task was thus described: "to win new members for the National German W.S. Association, and encourage the Prussian members to take an active part in the political proceedings, in Prussia, and especially to advocate the abolition of the law against unions and assemblies of women. Mrs. Cauer then spoke warmly in favour of woman suffrage. If there was no other way, the women should march in a body to the Reichstag, as they had done in Norway. Without such a demonstration people would not believe that the women were earnest in their claim.

### Denmark.

Fru Nörlund sends the following account of parliamentary procedure in her country.

"The right to give laws belongs to the King and the Parliament (Rigsdag) which is composed of the Lower House (Folketing) and the Upper House (Landsting).

A bill may be introduced into Parliament both by the Ministers and by any member. The members of the Folketing put their projects before the Folketing and those of the Landsting before the Landsting; the Government, (that is the Ministers appointed by the King,) can go to either House with their bills. However a financial law has first to be proposed and discussed in the Folketing, whose members are elected by universal direct suffrage for men over 30 years old. For the election of the Landsting however, there is a census, so that the rich possess a greater influence there than the less wealthy electors. A project of law may immediately be rejected by simply voting to take the order of the day. In that way the Landsting voted down a bill sent up by the Folketing twenty years ago to extend municipal suffrage to women.

If a bill is not immediately rejected by the House in which it is presented, it shall be discussed in three consecutive readings in which amendments may be put and either adopted or rejected. Then the bill with eventual amendments is sent to the other House, where it has again to go through three readings, which may take place on one day or may be protracted as long as the President of the House shall decide.

During these repeated discussions of the project, it may be sent, by resolution of a majority of the House in which it is being considered, to a Committee which may keep the bill during the whole session of the Rigsdag, without again presenting it for renewed discussion in the Ting. If this takes place, the bill may be presented anew in the next session, in case there is a wish to promote the object of which the bill treats.

When finally a bill has gone through three readings in either Ting, without having reached

unanimity in both Houses respecting all its articles, a Joint Committee (Faellesudvalg) may be appointed, consisting of an equal number of members from either House, which has to reconsider the bill. Should it prove impossible to arrive at a unanimous decision in this Committee, it may be considered impossible for the time being to carry the bill. Yet it may very well be taken up again and presented in the next session.

At last, when the bill has been adopted, the Government submits it to the King for his signature. But, seeing that the Crown is not responsible for acts of government, it has also to be signed by a responsible Minister.

This year the Government has again proposed a bill to the Folketing on a change in the municipal elections. It contains the proposal to give women suffrage and eligibility on the same terms as men.

The Government has introduced a project of law on Charity Funds, from which assistance may be given to the needy, outside of the poor-law. The Government proposes that women as well as men be made eligible for the committees which are to manage these funds, and several members of the Landsting have pronounced themselves in favour of this measure. As the Landsting hitherto has generally been opposed to women's participation in public life, these utterances give us all the more joy.

Denmark is at present occupied in changing its organisation of woman-suffragists: there are federations, societies and clubs, all more or less working for our common aim, and occupied during October and November to find out the form of coöperation that will prove the most convenient for them. More news may be expected next month. Let it suffice now to announce that two suffrage-clubs in Copenhagen, the one meeting at Bredgade 34 and the other at Store Kongensgade 92, which have a limited number of members and hold drawing-room meetings, will be glad to be informed, when any suffrage-workers pass through Copenhagen.

### WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN THE DANISH PARLIAMENT.

On the 26th of October the Government introduced its Municipal-Suffrage-Bill in the Lower House called by us the "Folketing". In the first paragraph of the Bill the Franchise is given to any woman of 25 years of age who pays taxes on a minimum income of 1000 Kroner a year. When the husband pays taxes to the Municipality on the common property of both or on the private fortune of his wife, they are both considered as tax-payers; and accordingly a married woman has the same right to vote as her husband.

The second paragraph grants eligibility to those women who fulfil the required conditions to vote. And consequently, if the Bill is passed, both married and unmarried women will obtain franchise and eligibility in local matters throughout the whole of Denmark. Meanwhile the hope of the success of the Bill is not so very promising. The chief point of the Bill is the abolition of the census which divides the municipal electors into two classes of tax-payers. And, as earlier debates have shown, the conservative majority in the

Upper House, called by us the "Landsting", will resist this alteration.

Therefore the "Danish Woman's Suffrage-Association" was justified in concluding its appeal to the Committee of the "Landsting" on the 24th of January 1906 with the following sentence: "If you think that Parliament will not consent to carry the Government's Bill through, then propose a separate Bill for the enfranchisement of women, so that we in this respect may obtain the same citizen-rights as men."

In the present sitting, which was opened on the first of October, the Bill was read the first time in the "Folketing" on October 26.

The discussion was only brief, as the Bill had previously been discussed in 1903. There was a general wish to shorten the proceedings.

§ 1b. "Neither can people who earn their living by profligacy be looked upon as respectable", caused some remarks to be made, as profligacy as a profession has lately been forbidden by an Act of Parliament. The question will probably be discussed by a Committee.

On the 5th of November the Government brought in a Bill respecting the legal position of illegitimate children and their mothers, and another respecting women deserted by their husbands and women separated from their husbands.

A. M.

### Norway.

Minister Michelsen in his speech in the Storting on 27 October, while discussing the program of the Progressive (Left) Party, gave the following declaration: With respect to art. 6 (women's political enfranchisement) the Government does not consider expedient as yet to put this question before the nation, seeing that the reform is not yet so well-prepared and ripe that it is susceptible of being taken up as an essential part of a political program. Personally I have, during the elections, declared myself in favour of the reform, and the same thing was done by a number of my colleagues; so the collective majority of the parties that support the Government will certainly not put any obstacles in the way of its adoption, if it succeeds in obtaining the majority in the Storting, which the Constitution demands. Berner made a point of this declaration from the Government not to oppose woman suffrage, and Livland said the question of the vote was the only point of interest on the program for this year.

The Norwegian Woman Suffrage Association sends out a form to be filled in by adult women, in which they can sign a request to the representative of their district in the Storting, to promote the introduction of woman suffrage. Much canvassing is done in this way; and in a small village like Lillehammer, with 3500 inhabitants, as many as 300 women municipal voters have signed the request.

On 28 Oct. the National Synod (Kirkelige Landsmøde) took place in Kristiania. Miss Dorothea Schjoldager, seconded by the Association for the Good of the Home (Hjemmenes Vel) had presented a resolution to give adult women the same rights as men in the government of the church. Professor

Odland strongly opposed the new measure as being against God's Word. He remembered how his preceptor had said that he would rather quit the church than see women put on an equal footing with men, however he was not himself prepared to go that length; and that was fortunate for him, for by 44 to 16 votes not only the right to vote but also that of eligibility was accorded to women. Minister Kielland showed by texts that St. Paul was not averse to letting widows take part in the government of the community, and convinced the meeting that the functions of an Elder were much more onerous than the simple casting of a vote. He felt sure that the apostle himself would not have voted against the proposed measure. So at last he persuaded the assistants, and they adopted, first women's qualification to vote in church-matters, and then their right to be elected members of Church Councils.

In many branches of the L. K. S. F. (National W. Suffr. Ass) the reports of the delegates to the Copenhagen Congress gave a welcome occasion to call a meeting; f. i. at Hamar on 5 Oct. and at Drammen on 21 Oct. Fru Louise Keilhau gave addresses which interested the public.

Strange and incalculable is the way in which the ruling sex metes out to the other sex the occasions of making itself useful in public functions: the Educational Board (Tilsynsudvalg) recommended to Schoolboards (skolestyr) only to appoint *men* as headteachers of schools; the Department of Justice however announces that women may be appointed in two kinds of juries.

### Switzerland.

The Cantonal Council of Zürich began the discussion of a new electoral law on 25 Oct. Among the principal reforms was the eligibility of women for church-, school- and charity-boards. The Cantonal Council recognized the growing desire and capability of women to take part in public affairs. They were conceded the right, not the duty, of being appointed to church-, school- and charity-boards. One speaker thought the Council could not admit that women, in quality of church-servants, should present the Lord's Supper to the congregation, to which another speaker answered that this might be for some people a motive to go to church more often. The proposed clause that no Board should be permitted to consist in majority of women was not seconded.

### The Netherlands.

The Dutch Woman Suffrage Association will hold its annual meeting on December 16th at Rotterdam. Those who have communications to make should address them to No. 92 Kruiskade.

### Number I of the Bulletin.

The September-issue of this Bulletin was never printed, as the news was scarce, so soon after we had all heard from each other at the Copenhagen congress. It contained a detailed account of the parliamentary procedure in Great-Britain, and for the rest it was mostly a review of how the press reported the congress. It was only type-written and each president received one copy, from which, as I have heard, some have translated the most important part for publication in the women's papers of their nation.

## Report of second and third conferences of the Intern. Woman Suffrage Alliance.

The Reports of the Copenhagen Congress have been all sold off, so that they can no more be ordered from me.

### The cost of the I. W. S. All-Bulletin.

No question has been asked me so often as that concerning the price of the bulletin; so I will here answer it to the best of my knowledge, although I request the reader to remember that the definite settling of size, frequency and price of our Monthly Correspondence is to be done by the President after having taken votes.

Meanwhile I will here communicate to you how matters stand, reckoning in Dutch money.

The printer charges f 29,— for 500 copies of a bulletin of 8 pages. Suppose we issue 12 per year and that I send them all 500 from Rotterdam; that comes to f 41,50 per month or f 498,— per year. Add to this my salary of f 250,— and the expenses of my correspondence (which is really not small), then you see that the cost amounts to about f 800. So, if we succeed in getting 400 subscribers, they will have each f 2,00 to pay.

By the help of some zealous friends I have got 286 subscribers now, except the Honorary Associates of the Alliance, who receive its literature free. Now, if the different women's papers in all our countries will take care to publish the probable price, and, if possible, add a few words of recommendation; I am confident that we shall soon gain the necessary number of readers. Let each reader do her best and ask for sample-copies at my address:

MARTINA G. KRAMERS,  
92 Kruiskade, Rotterdam.

### Letter from the editor.

Dear Presidents and other Correspondents!

Do not be surprised at seeing again a number of 8 pages. It is because I had much news sent me that I thought I might as well try the German plan another time. Besides many readers, among whom are four Presidents (those of England, Hungary, Sweden and Holland) and two Hon. Associates, have declared their strong wish always to have the bulletin in its present form.

For this bulletin I had so much of importance to print, that the printer asked to give 12 pages instead of eight, which, to my displeasure, I had to refuse. That is why the parliamentary procedure of Canada had to be left out with many other interesting communications.

May I request the Presidents to send me a list of the addresses of the subscribers to the bulletin.

Does it not save trouble if I send these their copy direct from Rotterdam, instead of forwarding a packet to the Presidents to distribute?

In that way I shall also know more exactly the number of the subscribers.

With best greetings, yours sincerely

MARTINA G. KRAMERS.

Rotterdam, 12 November 1906.