

# JUS SUFFRAGII,

PUBLISHED BY THE  
INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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

No. 12.

AUGUST 15, 1907.

The change which nearly the whole of civilised society throughout the world is conscious of in its estimation of the duties, rights, occupations, and sphere of women is not due to any individual or set of individuals.

MILlicENT GARRETT FAWCETT.



Tous les jours s'accroît le nombre de ceux qui comprennent que la femme ne cessera d'être l'ennemie que lorsque nous aurons su, à force de tendresse, de loyauté, de justice, en faire l'amie.

VICTOR MARGUERITTE.

PRICE 2 DUTCH FLORINS PER YEAR.

## Editorial Announcements.

List of Woman Suffrage Papers in different countries, with address and price per annum.

**U.S. America,** *The Woman's Journal*, \$ 1,50, 3 Park Street, Boston.

—, *Progress*, N.A.W.S.A. Headquarters, Warren, Ohio. . . . cents.

—, *The Woman's Tribune*, \$ 1,00, Clara Bewick Colby, Portland Ore.

**Belgium,** *De Stem der Vrouw*,  $\frac{3}{4}$  franc, Ons Huis, Gent.

**France,** *Le Journal des Femmes*, 5 francs, 31 rue Francoeur, Paris.

**Denmark,** *Kvindestemmerets bladet*, 2 Kroner, 34 Bredgade Copenhagen.

—, *Kvinden og Samfundet*, 3,10 Kroner, Kongens Lyngby 5.

**Finland,** *Nutid*, 6 Mark, 21 Alexandersgatan, Helsingfors.

**Netherlands,** *Maandblad voor Vrouwenkiesrecht*, f 1.—, 43 Linnaeusstraat, Amsterdam.

**Norway,** *Nylaende*, 4,70 Kroner, 3 Edvard Stormsgade, Kristiania.

**Sweden,** *Dagny*, 5 Kroner, 54 Drottninggatan, Stockholm.

—, *Morgonbris*, 50 Öre, Folkets Hus, Stockholm.

—, *Svenska Folket*, 2 Kroner, 36 Vasagatan, Stockholm.

**Germany,** *Zeitschrift für Frauenstimmrecht*, 2 Mark, Post Ebenhausen, Ober Bayern.

**Hungary,** *A Nő és a Társadalom*, . . . 41 Nefelets u. Budapest VII.

**Austria,** *Der Bund*, 2 Kronen, 7 Rochusgasse, Wien III.

**Iceland,** *Kvennabladid*, 2 Kroner, Fru Briet Asmundssen, Reikjavik.

**Italy,** *La Vita*, 37 Lire, 87 Via S. Claudio, Roma.

**Great Britain,** *Women's Franchise*, weekly 1 d. 13 Bream's Buildings Chancery Lane, London.

**Switzerland,** *Frauenbestrebungen*, 3,10 frs., Zürichbergstr. 10, Zürich V.

**Poland,** *Ster*, . . . Boduena 2, Warsaw.

The international badge, which should be worn by every woman believing in woman suffrage, is to be ordered from **Mrs. J. PEDERSEN-DAN, Griffenfeldtsgade 39, Copenhagen.** 50 bronze badges 22 sh. 6 d., postage prepaid. Reduction in price for orders exceeding that number.

Dear Correspondents and Readers!

Many of you have obliged me by sending back numbers of *Jus Suffragii*, and have thereby made it possible to me to comply with the requests of some students. This makes me bold to ask another favour, which is to help Mme J. Oddo Deilou, 55 rue de Seine, Paris, to a copy of the Copenhagen Report, which she wants for an essay she is going to write.

Since the appearance of the July-number I have received many more subscription-fees and offers from friends to collect them in their country. I will now follow the advice given me by Mrs. Fawcett and others, and enclose a slip of colored paper as a reminder to those that have not paid. Then with the next issue, in those countries where it is possible, I will collect the dues by post-order; and finally devise other means, if that should prove necessary still.

May I again ask you to send news for the September-number, and entreat you to let me have it *before the sixth*.

Believe me yours faithfully,

MARTINA G. KRAMERS,  
Editor *Jus Suffragii*.

## Australia.

The elections for the Victorian Legislative Council, the Upper House that has blocked woman suffrage for so many years, proved an unprecedented wholly unexpected triumph for our cause. Our first victory came at a by-election. Three candidates contested the seat, two of whom were suffragists. Even on a split vote the anti-suffragist could not win. The elections relegated him to his "proper sphere"—private life.

We decided to concentrate our energies in one electoral province represented by a strong opponent of Woman Suffrage. We set committees

at work in the chief divisions of the province, and at the same time announced in the Press that we would make special efforts to secure the defeat of this member. A deputation then waited on him, representing the women in the most important division of his constituency. To their amazement he announced himself "converted" to Woman Suffrage, because the federal elections had shown plainly that women do want the vote. He added that he had hitherto opposed woman suffrage because the women he knew socially (the fashionable society women) did not desire the vote, but at all the federal elections the women of all classes had proved by their hostility to candidates who had previously opposed women suffrage, that they did want it. I interviewed him a couple of days later; every argument that had had no effect in former interviews, when a vote on our bill was pending in the Upper House, he now largely conceded, especially that women earning their own living ought to have the vote. At first thought, this conversion may seem to be of purely local interest, but the same result will follow the same tactics in any part of the world. The average antisuffragist is a weakling, and if he is fought by determined, resourceful women, he will soon "climb down".

In the other electorates our task was an equally easy one. There were 18 candidates in the field. Only 4 of them were anti-suffragists, they were all defeated. The net result of the elections was a gain of 4 seats, which means that we have now 16 votes in the Council favourable to women suffrage — only 2 more are required to carry our bill!

The recent magnificent victories in Finland and Norway should give us the two coveted votes.

\*\*\*

In "Jus Suffragii" for May we reported that we contemplated inducing women to refuse to pay Income Tax. The work of many weeks revealed the fact that the great majority of women in the suffrage ranks do not possess taxable incomes. That those who do are either public servants or business women who are not free to defy a law they had no share in making. Finally we decided that, as there are now only two votes required to carry woman suffrage in the Council, it would be unwise to run counter to any law, no matter how unjust it may be. As we have won so many members of the Upper House by peaceful means and dogged perseverance, we hope no other weapons may be needed to obtain complete victory as soon as Parliament re-opens.

\*\*\*

The Queensland state-elections, at which women voted for the first time, took place on May 18. The official returns are not yet available, but the unanimous testimony of the Press was that "the women voted in surprisingly large numbers".

\*\*\*

The New South Wales State Elections will take place in about two months. The women are busy marshalling their forces for the fray.

\*\*\*

Miss Catherine Helen Spence, of Adelaide, known as the "Grand Old Woman of Australia", has recently published a book entitled "State Children in Australia". It is generally admitted that South Australia has the best boarding-out system in the world, and I confidently recommend this book to every man and woman who feels that the hope of the future lies in our children. The book is full of valuable points for suffrage propaganda. The

Book Lovers' Library, Melbourne, Australia, will mail the book to applicants on receipt of money order for 2 sh. 5 d.

Melbourne.

VIDA GOLDSTEIN.

## Finland.

The Women's Cause Union's (Kvinnosaksförbundet Unionens) last meeting for the season took place on May 13th, at which meeting I had the great pleasure of communicating the news that the Union has been affiliated to the Alliance. The feeling of satisfaction at this news was unanimous, and I was charged by the members to express our feelings of sympathy to our president Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt and to all the other countries affiliated to the Alliance. We all sincerely hope that our victory, gained under such exceptional circumstances, will help our sisters all over the world to gain the right of full citizenship.

The Landtag (parliament) was opened on the 22d of May, and as many false reports have been spread through the press, I think it may interest the readers of this paper to get an authentic report of this historical moment in the life of the Finnish nation, and also important on account of its being the first time women have taken seat in a Parliament. The ceremony though simple was impressive: at the steps of the throne stood the Governor General of Finland Mr. Ghérard, and on his right side his suite and on the left the members of the Finnish senate (our government). A few minutes earlier the deputies had entered grouping themselves in a semicircle before the throne. The galleries were filled with ladies, and newspaper correspondents from all corners of the world.

It was with a strange feeling of excitement I recognised the familiar faces of the members of the Women's Cause Union (K. U.), four of whom have been elected out of the eight that were candidates. Of the 19 women members all were present, they were all dressed in black.

After the Governor General had read the Emperor's message to the Landtag, the president Mr. Svinhufvud answered, laying much stress on the Emperor's promise to keep the promise of political autonomy given to Finland. The president's speech created much satisfaction amongst all those to whom the constitutional principle of self-government is dear. The ceremony finished with cheers for his Majesty. I noticed that some of the social democrats joined in the cheers.

\*\*\*

The Landtag has one president and two vice-presidents. Miss Lucina Hagman got 6 votes for the second vice-presidency. She has been elected president of one of the select committees of the Landtag, the committee of petitions, to which amongst other matters all petitions concerning schools are sent. This makes Lucina Hagman member of the "talmanskonferens" (a word which may perhaps be translated by "presidents' council") and to which belong the president of the Landtag, the two vice-presidents and the presidents of all committees. No doubt a great honour, as she is the only woman member of this presidents' council.

As an interesting detail I may add that the socialdemocrat members of the committee of petitions gave their vote to Miss Hagman because they wished that also a woman should be member of the presidents' council.

Three women are members of the great committee of sixty, that has a very important function

in the Landtag, viz. Baroness Alexandra Gripenberg (old Finnish party), Miss Lucina Hagman (young Finnish party) and Miss Miina Sillanpää social-democrat.

Women are members of all the standing committees, such as the committee of Fundamental Law, The Law committee, The Trades committee, The committee of Ways and Means and the Bank committee. The social democrats have put women deputies belonging to their party into all these committees, and also several of the select committees, such as the Agrarian committee, and the committee for Labour questions have women members.

The first month of the sitting of the Landtag has been nearly entirely devoted to the first reading of all the many petitions and motions, (26 of which have been introduced by the women deputies) before sending them into committee.

The interesting debates are to be expected at the second reading. As far as one can judge, the men seem ready to acquiesce to the reforms urged by the women. In that respect there will be smooth sailing. Our political difficulties lie in the direction of our relation to Russia, and as reaction is making rapid progress in Russia, we have every reason to expect hard times for us too.

Hongola, Urdiala July 9. 1907.

ANNIE FURUHJELM.

Von den weiblichen Abgeordneten im finnischen Landtage sind nicht weniger als 26 Petitionen und Motionen eingereicht worden.

Für Abschaffen der Vormundschaft des Ehemannes über seine Gattin und neue Verordnungen die ehelichen Gütergemeinschaft betreffend, wurden drei verschiedene Petitionen eingereicht und zwar von Lucina Hagman, Alexandra Gripenberg und Anna Huotari.

Um grössere Rechte für die Mutter über ihre Kinder petitionierte A. Gripenberg.

Betreffs ein Erhöhen des Heiratsalters bei den Frauen zu 17 oder 18 Jahr (es wird bei uns jetzt nur 15 J. gefordert) petitionierten L. Hagman und Evelina Ala-Kulju.

Um ein Erhöhen des Schutzalters (gegen Schändung) bei Mädchen zu 17 Jahr waren da vier Petitionen, nämlich von Dagmar Neovius, Alli Nissinen, Hilma Räsänen und A. Gripenberg.

Betreffs der gerichtlichen Stellung unehelicher Kinder wurden Petitionen eingereicht von Hedvig Gebhard, A. Nissinen und H. Räsänen, wozu noch eine Petition Hilja Pärssinens für die Einrichtung von Schutzanstalten für schutzlose Kinder ebenso wie auch für uneheliche Mütter nebst deren Kindern kommt.

Um das Recht für die Frauen im Staatsdienste erweiterte Anstellung zu finden petitionierten L. Hagman und H. Kakikoski.

Frau H. Gebhard petitioniert um Unterricht in der häuslichen Ökonomie und eine Unterstützung dafür aus der Staatskasse.

Eine Unterstützung von 20,000 M. jährlich für die Temperanzbewegung verlangt H. Räsänen und dazu noch Veränderungen in der Gesetzgebung was die geistigen Getränke anbetrifft.

Für die Verpflichtung der Gemeinden in jedem Kirchspiel eine Hebamme anzustellen ist von H. Gebhard eine Petition eingereicht worden, und ebenso wird von ihr ein Vorschlag gemacht zur Aenderung des 16 Kap. § 15 „vom Grund und Boden“, worin bestimmt ist, dass der Verkauf eines Grundbesitzes alle Mietsverträge bricht.

Für Begünstigung und Entwicklung der gemischten Schulen petitioniert L. Hagman. Miina

Sillanpää will die Dienstbotenordnung abgeschafft haben, und H. Räsänen und Ida Wemmelpuu verlangen neue Eisenbahnen.

Wie man hieraus ersehen kann, sind die weiblichen Abgeordneten besonders darum beflissen gewesen Verbesserungen in der Stellung des weiblichen Geschlechtes zu bewirken. In dieser Hinsicht hatten wir nicht weniger als 14 Petitionen.

Auch die Kinderpflege fand, wie das sich ja wohl vom selbst versteht, bei ihnen grosse Berücksichtigung, was sich aus den Petitionen wegen der unehelichen Kinder und der Schulpetition ergibt.

Fragen direkt ökonomischer Natur sind die beiden Eisenbahnpetitionen und die Petition auf Aenderung des Mietgesetzes.

Die Temperanzbewegung findet in den beiden Petitionen H. Räsänens einen Ausdruck, so wie die sozialistische Tendenz in der Petition Miina Sillanpää's.

Das Schicksal aller dieser Petitionen ist wohl noch nicht zu prophezeien. Einigen Einfluss muss man doch davon erhoffen können. Auch sind die meisten auch von anderen Personen als die Einreicherinnen unterzeichnet worden. So z. B. wurde die Petition Lucina Hagmans auf Abschaffung der Vormundschaft, u. s. w. von allen Mitgliedern der jungfinnischen Partei unterzeichnet.

Helsingfors, den 19 Juli 1907.

ANNA LUNDSTRÖM,  
Schriftführerin des Frauenbundes  
Unionen (Kvinnosaksförbund).

## Russia.

On 8 and 9 June a Conference of Members of the "Russian Union for Women's rights" took place in Moscow. Considering the time of the year, not many members attended the meeting, about 30 in all. However several interesting questions on the women's movement were raised and discussed. According to the report of the representatives of the Union in the provinces, the interest in the women's question is great; but the activity of the provincial branches is stopped by the persecutions of the Administration. The meetings of the Union are almost everywhere forbidden and persecuted; much more zealously than in former "unconstitutional" times. Lectures on the women's movement were also forbidden in many towns.

Thus in Ivanovo-Vosnesensk (a town with many big factories), where Mme Mirovitch was invited to lecture on the women's movement in England, the head of the police answered (2½ months after the local organizers applied to him) that such a lecture could not be allowed as it might have a bad (!) influence on the local women-workers. In the town of Riazan the official to whom the local organizers applied on behalf of the same lecture, demanded the program of the lecture; and finding in it the words "propaganda" and "Women's Social political Union", — thought them dangerous, and declared that "such a lecture could never be allowed!"\*)

Still more sad were the results of the R.W. Union's activity in Taganrog. There the Union's branch prospered until it had the audacity (in 1906) to protest against the exceptional police measures, introduced by the local administration. From that moment the branch of the W. Union become in Taganrog the object of relentless persecutions;

\*) This very same lecture was allowed in the towns of Moscow, Vitebsk and Serpouhoff.

and when, a little later on, the martial law was introduced in Taganrog, the local branch of the "Russian Union for Women's Rights" was obliged to stop its activity and direct it exclusively to the propaganda for women's equal rights in the different classes of the population. However the interest for the question of women's rights was not quenched in spite of all the difficulties lying on its way. And when a political club was started in Taganrog, the friends of women's equal rights organized in it a special fraction for the propaganda of their opinions. Almost at once, the enemies of liberty—i.e. the local government—pronounced a veto on all club-meetings with guests. And a little later the club itself was stopped and closed.

In another town (Morshansk) an official was turned out for no other reason but that his wife belonged to the "Russian Union for Women's Rights". — We have given only a few facts, characterizing the position of the Administration in Russia towards all progressive elements.

Very naturally, such facts stop the zeal of many provincial social workers. Not many have the courage to organize meetings, lectures, etc. and of running the risk of being turned out of the town or thrown into prison.

The conference which met in Moscow on the 8—9th of June, discussed the means, which might be tried by the "R. Union for Women's Rights", for the furthering of its aims. It was almost unanimously decided, that the Union must be legalized in order to be able to advance its activity.

And as the government would not sanction the Union with its present constitution, it was decided to introduce some alterations in its regulations. A week after this measure was decided on, the 2d Douma was dissolved. Reaction is now triumphing in Russia. Progressive papers are persecuted almost everywhere; and new means of killing all free thought, all protest against Tyranny, are devised by the enemies of liberty in Russia. Progressive papers are now subjected to heavy penalties for every printed word, which displeases the representatives of the local government, the governor of a province, the chief of the police in a town etc. And such punishments are inflicted quite autocratically, without any judgement whatever. Thus during a few weeks the progressive and liberal papers—in Moscow and St. Petersburg alone—were forced to pay a penalty of about 2800 pounds in all, with the result that several of these papers were obliged to close being unable to subsist under such circumstances.

All these events had a great influence on the "Russian Union for Women's Rights". It is quite unlikely that the Union may be legalized during this period of reaction, unless it changes its constitution altogether and takes up another flag; but that would mean self-murder...

What is to occur further, we cannot say: time will give an answer to that question.

Z. MIROVITCH.

The Congress of Zemstvos, held in Moscow in June, has declared itself in favour of women suffrage, not eligibility. This is a great step forward, considering that the Zemstvos were always reactionary and were, two years ago, almost the only body that pronounced itself opposed to women's political rights. I think this is a great success; and if it does not bring us practically nearer to the realization of our claims, yet it will serve to spread our ideas and awaken more understanding for the women's rights movement among the popular classes. In the congress took part so-called "17 October-party", which at first refused to take

up woman suffrage among its claims, the Zemstvos, and the noble landowners.

All the progressive political parties have now endorsed woman suffrage without restriction.

\*\*\*

In June there appeared in St. Petersburg a new women's paper called "Woman's Union" twice the size of "Jus Suffragii" and decorated with our I.W.S. Alliance's badge, which is published by the Russian Union of Defenders of Women's Rights and edited by its Secretary Mrs. Tchekoff.

The leading article, commenting on the meaning of the Russian women's movement in relation to the general political emancipation, its factors and problems, says: — that only the partaking of women in political equalization can realize the ideal of socialism; but unfortunately this movement in Russia is as yet in a state of primordial chaos. We are aware of different currents that embrace wide democratic circles whose claims they must put forward and formulate". Further the paper brings an article about the needful changes to be made in our legislation for the equalization of the sexes, and gives an account of the preliminary work done for this purpose, the results of which were presented to the first Douma on the eve of its dissolution. Then follow some articles about our social work, reports from women's societies and work abroad.

Our progressive press welcomes this young sister-organ, and in No. 11 *Nakanouné* ("On the Eve") says: "The claim for women's political franchise is contrary to no political party, whether left or right, and if the latter failed to insert this claim in their program, that is only an omission by lack of fairness; the denial of political rights to women stands in no organic connexion with the political and economical program of the reactionary parties, and is regarded as an unnecessary injustice and cruelty, as among those parties there are many women working as hard as men... The campaign of the new paper must be directed to enlighten the reactionary side, as other parties admit woman suffrage as a dogma". The author of this article then gives us the good advice that women should not wait for help or generosity from men, that they should count only on their own forces; that in the strife for political emancipation there is no given order of succession in solving problems, the sex struggle is and must remain a war, but waged on different planes, and if simultaneously waged, the more profitable to all. The range of the woman question embraces all classes of the population, for the sex struggle divides it vertically from the summit to the foot.

ELISABETH GONTSCHAROFF.

### Great Britain.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies held its Quarterly Council Meeting on Tuesday July 9th in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall, Cambridge.

The chair was occupied by Mrs. Fawcett. Amongst other satisfactory features mentioned in her opening address were the return of Mr. Curran for Jarrow, the formation of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, and the usefulness of the experience of election work gained in the late contest at Wimbledon.

Miss Mason (Treasurer) then gave an account of the Wimbledon by-election. \*) "Mr. Henry

\*) To my great regret, I am obliged to shorten this account and advise the curious reader to order "Women's Franchise". — Editor.

Chaplin was chosen as conservative candidate. On the Liberals deciding not to run a candidate, a board appeared over the Conservative rooms, 'To let.' The Executive Committee of the Union met on May 1st, and the whole situation was carefully discussed. We came to the conclusion that, however difficult the conditions, however unfavourable the constituency—and indeed it was all this—a firm opponent of Women's Suffrage must not be allowed to be returned to Parliament unopposed. If nothing else were done, he could fight for his seat. If no other candidate favourable to Women's Suffrage were forthcoming, the moment had arrived for the National Union to place a candidate in the field. The next step was to find the candidate. Mr. Bertrand Russell, one of your own Committee, consented to contest the seat on behalf of the National Union.

"It is only those who worked through this Wimbledon election who can in the least understand the difficulties which had to be surmounted. I will put before you a picture. A straggling country constituency fifteen miles long, 23,664 electors, 5,000 of whom were out-voters. The removals had to be traced, meetings had to be arranged, and all done in eight days, excluding Sundays, with practically no previous organization, with no official party or local official support. By picturing this, you will get some faint conception of the situation, and also of the almost insurmountable difficulties to be faced. The report which appeared, that 1,000 women had arrived in the field, only increased the difficulties; it was, of course, understood that no further help was required, whereas our efforts were most seriously handicapped by the lack of workers.

"The Suffrage workers were reinforced by workers from other Societies, from the Women's Liberal Federation, the Artists' League, &c. The Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Women's Liberal Associations sent their organizer. There was much to cheer and encourage. Our own workers came from almost every part of the country—Edinburgh, Newcastle, Bristol, Hull, Manchester, &c. The canvassing was done almost entirely by women; for while we must acknowledge the help given by many individual men, we had mainly to rely on our own efforts. Amongst other pleasing features was the fact that two aged ladies over eighty were to be found working in the election, and they spurred others on to greater efforts. A band of workers was out as early as 5 o'clock in the morning to catch the men going by the workmen's trains. Literature was distributed in this way and information given. Meetings were held indoors and out of doors all over the constituency. Members of Parliament came to help in the speaking, and there was no lack of help in this direction. A visible change came over the scene, and many people who came to wonder stayed to listen. Jokes and horse-play, which were a feature of the campaign at the beginning, ceased absolutely, a respectful hearing was given to the speakers, especially to those who dealt with the question of Women's Suffrage."

Miss Sterling briefly reported upon other work of the Executive Committee. The Artists' League had been formed, over 70 members of which had voluntarily offered to help in propaganda. Many valuable posters had been sent by the League to Wimbledon, and other assistance was promised.

\*\*\*

During the month of June the membership of the Central Society (the London Branch of the Union) has been increased by fifty-eight new members and during July by fifty-two.

The Society is carrying on an active propaganda work and within the last few weeks has held twenty drawing-room meetings, in addition to a large at "home" given by the Hampstead Branch. Other public meetings have been held under its auspices at Ealing, Reigate, Sutton, Willesden and Cosham, and two highly successful open-air meetings were organized by the North Kensington local Committee.

\*\*\*

At Llandudno, by invitation of the local Committee a gathering of members and friends took place on the 5th of July at Llwyn Onn, to meet Mr. and Mrs. Haslam, the veteran Irish workers for Women's Suffrage. Miss Walton Evans presided. Mr. Haslam dealt in a vigorous and interesting way with the usual objections to Women's Suffrage, Mrs. Haslam gave an interesting account of the Irish society of which she is the secretary, and showed the advantage of having combined women's local government work with the suffrage work. She described some curious anomalies in the working of the lodger vote, and showed the necessity of being very wideawake to secure registration. *The fact that Mrs. Haslam is one of those who signed John Stuart Mill's petition to Parliament for Women's Suffrage in 1866, adds to her most interesting personality.*

\*\*\*

At the Council Meeting of the National Union the following resolution with regard to the position of Women Rate-payers at Worcester, arising out of the Election Petition, was passed:

"That the National Union urge the rate-payers of Worcester, as a national duty, to make public protest against the injustice of levying a bribery rate upon women rate-payers who, while denied the Parliamentary vote, should at least be exempted from penalties for corrupt practices at Parliamentary elections."

Mr. Philip Snowden, M.P., at the request of the National Union, agreed to call attention to the matter in the House of Commons. He asked the following question on Tuesday, the 16th of July: "If the Prime Minister is aware that the overseers of the city of Worcester have levied a rate of 3½d. in the pound on the municipal rate-payers to meet the cost of the Election Petition proceedings, and that women rate-payers are being called upon to pay this rate; and whether he will consider the desirability of introducing early next Session legislation which will relieve women from having to pay for the consequences of male political corruption, or a measure by which women may have the rights as well as the duties of citizenship."

The reply was as follows:—

Sir H. Campbell Bannerman said he was afraid he could make no promise on this subject.

July's work of the Women's Social & Political Union, apart from the three bye-election campaigns at Jarrow, Colne Valley and North West Staffordshire, has been confined principally to open-air meetings in the public parks, at the seaside, at street corners and at specially arranged garden parties. Despite the holiday season great activity has been shown resulting in a further important extension of the movement; indeed the women in vacation are permeating the country with their enthusiasm.

In view of the fact that the bye-elections have filled so large a place in the month's work, some explanation of this part of the campaign may be of interest. Nearly two-thirds of the members of Parliament at their election pledged themselves to support woman suffrage, but, whenever a bill

is introduced, some facetious opponent prevents discussion, or, by an abuse of parliamentary procedure, stops its progress. This opposition the Government alone can overcome and as long as it refuses to do so, it is, despite all the friendly protestation of the Prime Minister, ipso facto, against the women.

*Therefore the women are against the Government,* or rather against every Ministry which refuses to exert its constitutional powers to allow a fair course to a woman suffrage bill. The mere fact of any candidate being in favour of woman suffrage avails but little until the Government moves, and the Women's Social & Political Union (in this respect adopting a different policy to that of the older body, the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies, which recently chose to contest the Wimbledon bye-election, with their nominee, a Liberal supporter of the Government) opposes every Government candidate irrespective of his personal views.

This consistently adopted policy, based as it is on the lessons of successful reform agitation of the past, has also the advantage of uniting in one camp women of every shade of political opinion. Vigorously carried out it is, judging by the embarrassment caused to the Government, proving most effective.

The following bye-elections have been fought since the beginning of the year, viz. Stepney, where the majority against the Government was increased from 637 to 949; Rutland where the Conservative majority rose from 483 to 851; Jarrow, where a seat held for 25 years by the Liberals was won by a Labour Candidate, the votes recorded for the Liberal dropping from 8047 to 3474; Colne Valley, another safe Liberal seat which in this instance was lost to a Socialist, and North West Staffordshire where the Government candidate managed to retain the seat.

In every instance the active work of the women had a great influence on the election, and abundant testimony of this has been forthcoming in the shape of comments, some indignant, some tearful, on the part of the Liberal organizations and periodicals. The new members for Jarrow and Colne Valley, in particular, go to the Houses of Commons with the definite undertaking to agitate and work for Woman Suffrage. As Mr. Victor Grayson declared on his election for the latter constituency, they go there "to represent the voteless and outlawed women of England".

5-8-'07.

B. BORRMANN WELLS.

### The Netherlands.

The W. S. A. had its summer-meeting at Assen, a provincial town with beautiful environs. It was altogether a pleasant reunion, not so much of a straining business-character as an occasion for comparing results of propaganda in the different branch-societies. We began by writing a hearty congratulation to our sisters in Norway, and then we agreed on a line of action for our winter-propaganda and for the preparation of next year's congress. The President, Dr. Aletta Jacobs, had also to thank the members for their continued trust in and help to the Association's Executive in the hard times it had lately had.

The Dutch National Committee for Universal Suffrage will hold provincial meetings in August, as a preparation for the national meeting which is to take place in September. In its propaganda for the extension of the suffrage ( $\pm \frac{7}{10}$  of the adult men are electors), the Committee does not altogether neglect the women's claims, for three

prominent members of the N. W. S. A. and two other women have been invited as speakers for the meetings, and in most of the Committee's manifestoes the lack of votes for women is mentioned. In the street-demonstrations, organised by the same body, thousands of women, mostly socialists, accompany their men-folk. Yet, for impartiality's sake, the N. W. S. A. does not form part of the N. U. S. Committee.

There is some probability that the project of changing the State-Constitution may be issued by the Government not later than October, and be discussed in the Second Chamber. After that the First Chamber will have to adopt or reject it; and finally it must obtain a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority in the United Chambers. The N. W. S. A. naturally attaches the highest importance to having its aims well-known and its views presented to the different deputies before the discussion takes place.

### Norway.

The Norwegian Suffrage Association (Landskvindestemmeretsforeningen) thanks very heartily for greetings and congratulations with the victory of 14th of June. Our warmest thanks for telegraphic greetings from the Dutch W. S. A. sent by miss M. Kramers; to the same W. S. A. from the meeting in Assen, sent by the President Dr. Aletta Jacobs and 32 other members; to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies in Great Britain sent by the President, Mrs. Fawcett.

The Women's Social Political Union working for votes for women in England, by Mrs. Pankhurst.

A Feministak Egyesulete nek Politikal Bizottságe sent by miss Rosika Schwimmer, President, and miss Eugenie Heller, Sekretary.

Danske Kvindeforeningers Valgretsforbund, National Danish Woman Suffrage Association, sent by Mrs. Johanne Münter.

Landsforeningen for Kvinnans Politiska Rösträtt sent by Fröken Anna Whitlock, President.

New-York State Federation of Women's Clubs sent by miss Mary G. Hay, general Federation Secretary.

Editor of Jus Suffragii, miss Martina G. Kramers. Mrs. M. W. H. Rutgers-Hoitsema, Holland.

Mrs. Louise Nörlund, Denmark.

Mrs. Johanne Blauenfeldt, Denmark.

Miss Antonie Borchsenius, Denmark.

Mrs. E. Lange-Aus, America.

Mrs. Gudrun Drewsen America.

Mrs. Ann Margret Holmgren, Restatere in Foreningen for K. P. R., Sweden.

Mrs. Aletta Bjercknes, Sweden.

\*\*\*

To assure her associates in the strife for woman suffrage all over the world that the Norwegian W. S. A. is not going to be dissolved, now that a partial victory has been won in Norway, the President, Fru Qvam, writes: "The program of L. K. S. F. has always been to work for equal suffrage. I hope we will continue to do our best in order that all our sisters, the Norwegian as well as the foreign women, may soon obtain the same success in which we now rejoice. We do not at all cease our work. L. K. S. F. has immediately after our victory sent to the Storting a petition, which claims full suffrage for all women. This amendment is the same, that L. K. S. F. has sent at every new triennial session of Parliament to the Storting since the Association was formed."

From 3-7 July took place in Trondhjem the annual meeting of the Norwegian Council of

women, now justly called "The Women's Storting", since the women's interests and activities it represents are now no longer to remain strange to the national parliament. This meeting had a special character, being the first after the recognition of women as citizens. It was also a new proof of the help and support which the enfranchisement of women and the solidarity of women, expressed in National Councils, are to each other.

### Sweden.

The Central Bureau for Statistics is going to publish a Report on the exact number of women over 25 years old, and of women who would be entitled to vote in each district under the provisions of the present law, taking the population of 1900 as basis. Further an inquiry is to be instituted as to the number of women who are self-supporting, married or living with relatives.

The Report will be offered to the Government before the end of the year.

\*\*\*  
An important anti-alcohol society, Verdandiorden, has endorsed woman suffrage and adopted the following resolution:—"Convinced that universal suffrage is a powerful means to fight alcoholism the National Society resolves to express its discontent with the proposed law on elections. Moreover the meeting expresses its disapproval of the question of women's suffrage being left so long undecided, and it recommends the members, in the interest of temperance, to work unceasingly for universal, equal and direct suffrage, that every adult Swedish citizen, man or woman, may obtain a vote."

\*\*\*  
After on 8 July a W. S. A. had been formed in Skelleftea, Miss Anna Lindhagen went on a lecturing tour to Norrland, and on 17 July three new associations were formed, which brought their number up to 86.

### Germany.

In Heidelberg a new Association for Women's Suffrage was constituted in July as a branch of the National Union. Together with a social students' club the Association arranged a meeting to discuss women's suffrage with the university boys and girls. It was a pity to see how much more eager about the question the former were than the latter, who even declared by their club-president that students had to learn and study and nothing else. There was the best opportunity to give them a lecture on the danger of narrowness for their future lives and on the historical fact that these girls of today would never have gained the possibility to study at the universities, but for the women of our movement who opened the doors for them some years ago, and continue to fight for their professions and their rights in the commonwealth. At any rate the new association in Heidelberg has an important task in trying to overcome aversion and prejudice, where they least ought to be met with.

\*\*\*  
The German suffragists will have the pleasure of welcoming at their annual conference in Frankfurt, Septbr. 24th and 25th. Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and Annie Kenney, who promised to give a report of their campaign in a public meeting. Visitors from other countries are most welcome at the conference.

A very valuable friend of women's suffrage has just arisen in the person of Dr. Hermann Popert, a judge and deputy of Hamburg and prominent abstainer (Abstinent, Antialkoholiker). According to an essay just published, he is a sincere suffragist and intends to take an active part in our combat from his special standpoint. As there is, among the great number of men in Germany who know and profess women's suffrage to be a matter of justice and wisdom, scarcely one, who goes out fighting for it on his own impulse, we are very much pleased to find so active a support, where it was not expected at all.

Dr. ANITA AUGSPURG.

In September 1906 an action for municipal suffrage was commenced at Danzig by two women who accused the registrars of having neglected to enter their names on the list of electors. The town-council having refused their plea, they appealed to the Court (Bezirksausschuss), and recently it has pronounced against them, condemning them to pay the cost of the process. The solicitor for the municipality, Justizrat Behrendt, said that it was impossible to suppose the law of 1853 could have meant both sexes by the term "every Prussian", as no reasonable creature in Germany and Prussia could have thought of women in this connection. The initiators of the action mean to appeal to a higher Court to judge their cause.

\*\*\*  
The National Liberal Association of Germany met at Heidelberg in the latter part of June and defeated a resolution to admit only voters as members, which would have excluded women from membership. Even two women were elected as Officers of the Association.

Moreover in the evening-meeting, at which assisted over 2000 persons, the claims of women on the Liberal Party were urged by Frau Marianne Weber, and the local press says that her address made a strong impression.

The same may be said of Dr. Strecker's defence of women's rights in a meeting of Hessian Liberals.

### Denmark.

The ancient Danish Women's Society "Dansk Kvindesamfund", founded in 1871 and now spreading all over the country with its many organisations, had its yearly meeting in the town of Svendborg on the 16th 17th and 18th of July.

This society has always shown great activity in all branches tending to increase the welfare of women. It has given lessons in many practical branches, as cooking, sewing, tailoring etc. and it has with great success had a registry-office for servants for many years. In latter years it has taken woman suffrage on its program and in January joined the "Danish Association for Woman Suffrage" besides doing its own work for many aims not belonging to women's political rights.

Several members of parliament were present at the meeting; and even the Minister of Traffic, who, many years before taking his seat in the cabinet, was a supporter of the society, favored it now with his presence.

\*\*\*  
At the same time as giving this brief account of the yearly meeting of this prospering society we can bring the news, that one of the former organizations of the Danish Association for Woman's Suffrage—which in the fall of 1906 retreated from the Association intending to form an independent

circle of pure Suffrage organizations all over the country—has succeeded so well, that it now contains 30 branches, and is going on and on to spread the propaganda for woman suffrage in the country, systematizing the work for this end. It follows the example of Sweden in the system of the whole organization, and we have reason to hope that Denmark—in organizing its association—will soon be able to follow in the track of the other scandinavian countries, which now have taken so prominent a part in Europe in the cause of woman suffrage.

JOHANNA MÜNTER.

The 2000 Kroner, which Fru Berg-Nielsen, the first woman „Statskonsulent”, has received for her courses of cookery from the State, were intended not for a salary but for scholarships.

\*\*\*

On 16 July the Danish Women's Association Dansk Kvindesamfund held its annual meeting. The Vice-President, Fru Stampe Feddersen, opened it with an allusion to the victory of woman suffrage in Norway, which cannot fail to be a good example to the neighbouring countries. She said: „If in our country woman suffrage had not been joined in one bill with an extension of suffrage for men, we might be sure of obtaining votes for women in the next parliamentary session. But the question is important enough to be treated in a separate bill, and we may now hope that our law-makers will agree upon the present bill. We women must show that we are awake, and spread the interest for the question in wider and wider circles of women.” Then a report from the delegate of *Dansk Kvindesamfund* in the National W. S. Association, Fru Vibeke Salicath, who is its President, was read.

It stated that in September the N. W. S. A. sent a circular to its associated societies to encourage them each to call the deputies' attention to women's claim of citizenship, as well for married as for unmarried women, then it recalled the fact of Dansk Kvindesamfund's affiliation in January, and of new efforts made to urge the members of the Parliamentary Joint Committee (Faellesudvalg) not to forget the women's claim, for which end a combined meeting had also been held. Finally the report mentioned the negotiations which had been initiated with the Copenhagen suffrage society *Köbenhavns Kvindevalgretsforening*, which was establishing a national federation of suffrage societies. The report ended with an encouragement closing with Susan Anthony's word: „Failure is impossible.”

### Italy.

The first annual report of the N. W. S. A. (Comitato Nazionale „Pro voto alle donne”) has been printed and published. It begins with an address from the President, who clearly demonstrates that in the cause of woman suffrage women of all social ranks should show an equal interest. The secretary's report gives the facts known to the readers of „Jus Suffragii” and then terminates: „In order to train the women in electioneering work, the N. W. S. A. encourages them to take part in the campaign for the approaching municipal elections, each for her party. Now that the Chamber had discussed the question of municipal woman suffrage and appointed a Committee for its investigation, it was expedient, as our President truly said, to extend our propaganda, and it has been decided to do this especially among the working classes. To this end we appointed a Committee to penetrate into the various women's organizations and persuade the women to join in our work for suffrage. The working women,

by indifference, apathy or suspicion, have not been eager to respond to our appeal, and so an untiring and patient propaganda will be necessary, which will be the beginning of our second year's work. Surely in our first year our task has not been small, consisting of organising the suffragists from one end to the other of Italy; influencing public opinion, which was hitherto so opposed to our ideas; extending the movement, and shaking off the universal indifference. Now that the magistrates, the Chamber, the press, the political parties, the Government itself, have shown that they take our just claims into consideration, we are at liberty to try new ways, which may help us more directly to the obtention of our aim.”

### Belgium.

The socialist organ „Le Peuple” of 5 June protests in its editorial against a resolution adopted at the 12th congress of Belgian cooperative societies, which declared: „La place de la femme est au foyer”, and expressed a wish to expel women from factory-work. This seems to denote a change in the opinions of the Belgian Socialdemocrats, which is confirmed by the congress of the women of their party on June 9th at Ghent. A delegate from the Belgian women will attend the International S.-D. congress at Stuttgart; and the monthly review „De Stem der Vrouw” advocates the appointment of a paid secretary for the federation of S.-D. women's clubs.

The national congress of Belgian Socialists held on June 30th has passed the following resolution: „Considering that in the interest of the community as well as in their own, women should be acquainted with the laws under which they live and should take part in framing them, the congress adopts four means of action.” These are: 1 active propaganda among men for woman suffrage, 2 the social education of the women, 3 a direct campaign for suffrage and eligibility of women in Trades- and Municipal councils, 4 an investigation to determine the proper time for urging full political suffrage for all women.

### United States.

The officers of the American Federation of Labor are carrying on an educational campaign this summer by sending tracts and circulars to workmen and women in every part of the country. One sample of this literature is a terse statement of the principles that the Federation stands for. These declarations include: Woman suffrage equal with man.

The Ohio and Kentucky socialists adopted resolutions in favor of equal suffrage, at their State Conventions.

\*\*\*

The press often circulates slanderous and untrue reports on far-off countries where woman suffrage exists; so f. i. it was reported that the husband of one of the Finnish ladies M.P.'s committed suicide because she neglected her family. Nobody cared to ascertain the source of the news, which was a reactionary St. Petersburg paper.

Recently the *Exchange* contained the following paragraph:

„In Australia, 212,000 women are qualified to vote, but only 174 have exercised the right. The rest probably couldn't make up their minds how to vote before the polls were closed.”

The above misstatement is going the rounds. And what is the truth? In Federated Australia about one million women are voters. Of these more than 800,000 voted at the last election.