

# JUS SUFFRAGII,

PUBLISHED BY THE  
INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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

SECOND YEAR No. 7.

MARCH 15, 1908.

Men, as well as women, do not need political rights in order that they may govern, but in order that they may not be misgoverned.

JOHN STUART MILL.



We weaken ourselves by imagining ourselves weak. We are strong—I had almost said invincible—as soon as we have cast out fear.

ELIZABETH ROBINS  
(in "Votes for Women",  
March 1908).

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## Editorial Announcements.

The **Hon. Treasurer** is glad to state that her last month's notice in this paper has brought her various contributions and communications from members who, not having been aware of the change of treasurer, had not known where to direct their letters. She takes this opportunity of again explaining to the Secretaries of Affiliated Nations as well as to individual members of the I. W. S. A. that, owing to sudden severe illness of the former Hon. Treas., she has taken over the office from Miss Rodger Cunliffe without the possibility of getting full information as to date and amount of subscriptions due. She therefore cannot send out individual reminders and will be thankful to receive communications from all those whose subscriptions are due for the current year.

In view of the coming congress at Amsterdam she also wishes to remind the secretaries of the following paragraph of the Intern. Consitution. "Nations who by the time of congress are in arrear with their subscriptions lose their right to vote."

All communications please adress:

(Hon. Treas.) **Mrs. ADELA STANTON COIT,**  
30 Hyde Park Gate,  
London S.W.

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

- Austria,** *Der Bund*, 2 Kronen, 7 Rochusgasse, Wien III.  
**Belgium,** *De Stem der Vrouw*,  $\frac{3}{4}$  franc, Ons Huis, Gent.  
**Bulgaria,** *Jenski Glas*, 6 francs, Mrs. Bojilewa, Burgas.  
**Denmark,** *Kvindestemmerets bladet*, 2 Kroner, 34 Bredgade Kopenhagen.  
—, *Kvinden og Samfundet*, 3,10 Kroner, Kongens Lyngby 5.  
—, *Kvindevalgret*, 1 Krone, Skindergade 271, Kopenhagen.  
**Finland,** *Nutid*, 6 Mark, 21 Alexandersgatan, Helsingfors.

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

—, *La Suffragiste*, 4 francs, 62 rue Damrémont, Paris.

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

**Great Britain,** *Women's Franchise*, weekly 1 d. 13 Bream's Buildings Chancery Lane, London,  
—, *Votes for Women*, 4 Sh., 4 Clement's Inn, London W. C.

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

**Iceland,** *Kvennabladid*, 2 Kroner, Fru Briet Asmundsson, Reykjavik.

**Italy,** *La Voce della Donna*, 12 Lire, 100 Corso Vitt Emmanuele, Bari.

—, *L'Alleanza*, 6 Lire, 2 Corso Garibaldi, Pavia.

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

—, *De Ploeger*, irreg. f 0.60, 53 Avenue Concordia, Rotterdam.

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

**Poland,** *Ster*, 10 francs Boduena 2, Warsaw.

**Russia,** *The Women's Union*, 4d per number, 84 Nicolaewskaya, St. Petersburg.

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

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

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

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

—, *Progress*, \$ 0,25 N.A.W.S.A. Headquarters, Warren, Ohio.

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

## The Netherlands.

The preparations for the reception of the Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance are rapidly proceeding. The program of business and of festivities promises to be very interesting. To facilitate the coming of all sympathisers with

the great cause, arrangements are being made for obtaining special tickets to Amsterdam for congressionists; if these succeed it will be published in this paper, and also a list of hotels and boarding houses meeting the demands of larger and smaller means. Sympathisers who are not delegates will be recognised as **members of the Congress** by paying an entrance-fee of 5 Dutch florins to be sent beforehand by postalmandate to the address of the 1st Secretary of the Central Committee: **Mejuffrouw Johanna W. A. Naber, 5 van Eeghenstraat Amsterdam.** Tickets for the farewell-dinner and for the boat excursion should be applied for at the same address, at the price of 5 Dutch florins each.

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*Arrangements for special boat-fares for those who wish to attend the Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance at Amsterdam in June 1908.*

On the *Zeeland Steamship Co.* (Flushing Route). No individual reduction will be granted.

On day-steamers a reduction of 25% will be granted to persons travelling in groups of 10-20; more than 20 persons travelling together pay only single for return.

On night-steamers persons travelling in groups of at least 20 will have to pay single for return. The return may be made individually or in smaller groups. The retailed price includes the right to 25 Kgr. of luggage free.

These tickets should be taken at the City Office London, (Electra House Finsbury Pavement, Moorgate).

On the *Batavier-Line.* (Rotterdam-London Route). No individual reduction will be granted.

A reduction of 10% will be granted if a group of at least 20 persons come by this line, provided tickets be taken at the London Agency, Custom House & Wool Quays, Lower Thames Street.

The aforesaid reduction will be paid back on the return when the London Agency will have stated to the Direction that the above-said number of tickets has indeed been taken.

JOHANNA W. A. NABER,  
1st Secr. Centr. Congress-Comm.  
Amsterdam, March 7, 1908.

## Great Britain.

### NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

February 28th 1908 marks a very important event in the history of the Women's Suffrage Movement in England. This was the day appointed for the Second Reading of a Bill introduced by a private member, Mr. Stanger, "to Enable Women to vote at Parliamentary Elections". This is the text of the Bill: Be it enacted... etc.

1. (1) In all Acts relating to the qualifications and registration of voters or persons entitled or claiming to be registered and to vote in the election of members of Parliament, wherever words occur which import the masculine gender the same shall be held to include women for all purposes connected with and having reference to the right to be registered as voters and to vote in such election.

(2) A woman shall not be disqualified by reason of marriage from being so registered and voting notwithstanding the provisions of any law or custom to the contrary.

2. This Act may be cited as the Women's Enfranchisement Act 1908.

A Parliamentary Committee for Women's Suffrage composed of Members of the House of Commons who are keen supporters of our cause, and the National Union worked hard for weeks before the Bill was introduced to try and ensure a favourable division by obtaining the promise of all friendly Members to be there and vote for the Bill.

There was an interesting discussion, in which the advantage in style and logic of speech was certainly on the side of our supporters; a division was reached and whilst 271 voted for the Bill only 92 opposed it; that is to say it passed the Second Reading by a majority of 179.

It was, however, referred to a Committee of the whole House; which, we fear, may mean that pressure of public business will oust it for this Session. However every effort is now being made to get the Government to grant a day for the discussion of the measure.

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Our By-election work continues. Since our work at Mid-Devon we have been to Leeds, to Newton-Abbot and to Hastings, and have everywhere met with a great deal of sympathy and support, both moral and financial.

At Hastings, as neither candidate was prepared to give a sufficiently satisfactory pledge, our work was confined to propaganda. We took a Committee Room—a large shop on the Sea-Front—and there we held meetings, two or three every day, distributed our pamphlets and sold a large number of suffrage post-cards. All our meetings were crowded, the people standing as close as they could pack and listening with the greatest attention and interest. During the day a constant succession of men and women passed in and out, asking questions and taking pamphlets, and our window, in which were displayed some of the effective posters designed by the Artists' Suffrage League, was never deserted.

MARGERY CORBETT.  
London, March 1908.

On February 11th, 12th and 13th, the **National Women's Social and Political Union** held their great Women's Parliament in Caxton Hall, Westminster. This Parliament was attended by many hundreds of women, not only from London, but from all parts of the Kingdom. Delegates came from Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds and many other large towns, and representatives also came from Scotland. On the opening day, the gathering was presided over by Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, supported by Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Christabel Pankhurst and others. A resolution was passed protesting "against the unconstitutional action of the Government in refusing the Parliamentary vote to the women tax-payers of the country and demanding the immediate enactment of a measure granting the parliamentary franchise to duly qualified women." After several speeches from various women, it was moved that the meeting should convey the resolution to the Prime Minister immediately. This was carried unanimously, and the greater part of those in the Hall left the building in order to go to Westminster in procession. They proceeded down Victoria Street, but, on reaching the House, were refused admittance. The women insisted on their right to enter and, being again refused, attempted to make their

way in. They were then taken in custody. Altogether 50 women were arrested, and, on the next day 47 were brought up in the police court and sentenced to six weeks imprisonment. That afternoon the Women's Parliament carried unanimously a resolution deploring "the lowering of the British standards of justice and equity in the estimation of the world through the treatment meted out to voteless women demanding their civil liberties by a reactionary Government." On the afternoon of the third day Mrs. Pankhurst told the crowded audience of women in the Caxton Hall her experiences in Leeds. She told how, in the course of a recent election, 100,000 men and women had gathered together in an outlying part called Hunslet Moor to listen to herself and her colleagues and received them with attention and enthusiasm. Mrs. Pankhurst spoke of the fear lest this movement, which had hitherto been completely under the control of the leaders, should by its very magnitude get out of hand. The movement had hitherto been unmarked by violence or harm to life or property, but everywhere there were ominous signs that the patience both of men and women had reached its limit, and she had had to plead with the crowd in order to prevent serious injury being done to a band of thoughtless students who had endeavoured to annoy herself and her colleagues.

"I feel the great responsibility," said Mrs. Pankhurst, "and if this great meeting will carry unanimously the resolution which I am going to put to you I shall carry it, as chairman, to the House of Commons. She then put the resolution which was as follows:—

"This Meeting of Women is of opinion that the most urgent of all constitutional reforms is to make the House of Commons representative of the people by enfranchising the women of the country. This meeting therefore calls upon the Government before dealing with the position of the House of Lords to secure that the will of the people shall prevail in the House of Commons by granting the Vote to duly qualified women."

(Signed) EMMELINE PANKHURST, Chairman.  
It was carried unanimously and with immense enthusiasm. There were many cries of "We can't spare you, Mrs. Pankhurst, let anybody go but you," but with a smile Mrs. Pankhurst prepared to leave the platform, with the resolution in her hand. She was followed by 13 women, who were all prepared to serve a term of imprisonment of 3 months if tried under the Act of Charles II with which they had been threatened by Mr. Muskett, the public prosecutor, the previous day. Outside the Hall an extraordinary scene took place. The trap into which Mrs. Pankhurst got was stopped and she was ordered to walk. This she agreed to do. The women were then told they must walk in single file. This they also agreed to do. Then they must not walk in continuous file. This order too they obeyed. Finally they were forbidden to approach Westminster, and on showing persistency, they were arrested while but a few steps from the Hall from which they had emerged. A few days previously two deputations of unemployed men had been received by representatives of the Government in the House of Commons. There was absolutely no reason why Mrs. Pankhurst should not have been received by one of the Government Ministers or some representative. Mrs. Pankhurst carried in one hand the resolution that had been passed at the meeting, and in the other a bunch of lilies which had been given her as she took her place in the

chair, and she arrived at the police Court after her arrest with both Resolution and lilies undamaged, a fact which in itself is sufficient to prove that on her part no violence was used and no resistance of any kind was made.

The 13 ladies obeyed every instruction of the police, except only the final one which forbade them to approach Westminster. The next morning the prisoners were put through a trial which was a pure farce. Mrs. Pankhurst asked to hear the charge under which she was being tried. The Magistrate said it was not necessary for her to know it. Any statement made by the women was ignored, and the same sentence passed as on the previous day—6 weeks imprisonment as common criminals. Numerous meetings protesting against the injustice of the sentence passed on the women have been held in various parts of the country.

On March 19th a great mass meeting will be held in the Albert Hall, the largest in the country, holding from 9-10,000 people, every seat will be filled and there is an enormous demand for tickets. On the following day Mrs Pankhurst will be released.

E. PETHICK LAWRENCE.  
London, March 1908.

The most important event in the past month has been the carrying of the Second Reading of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill in the House of Commons by a majority of 271 to 92. The members of the **Women's Freedom League** are not unduly elated over this victory, as they feel sure that this Government does not intend to grant the Bill those facilities which are necessary in order that it shall pass successfully through the later stages. As a pious resolution however it is of value, in that it reveals to us the strength of our friends, the weakness of our enemies, and the cowardice of those members who are sitting on the fence, waiting to fall over on to the side which promises the greatest advantage to themselves in the future. The bitterest opposition came from a man whose private relations with the sex he attempts to traduce, will not bear the search-light of investigation.

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At the moment of writing these lines our last two prisoners are being released from Holloway Gaol.

Ten of our members spent last month in prison in connection with demonstrations held outside the houses of the Cabinet Ministers to protest against the exclusion of a "Votes for Women" measure from the King's Speech. They were arrested, tried and sentenced to imprisonment in the Second Division in default of paying a fine. In vain were efforts made to get them transferred to the "First Division" and treated as political offenders. It does not suit the Liberal Party for the world to know of the political discontent among those it governs, so our members have been treated as drunken brawlers. Nevertheless our work goes forward. We are gaining fresh converts among both sexes every day. Our Hon. organizer, Mrs. Billington Greig, is nightly addressing enthusiastic audiences up and down the country. "Votes for Women" is the most keenly discussed political question of the day. The excitement inside and outside of the House of Commons on the day our Bill was debated was in marked contrast to the usual apathetic and sleepy fashion in which the work of legislation goes forward—or more frequently stands still—in this

country, and the militant methods of the "un-lady-like Suffragettes" have brought about this great change!

Abused, insulted, imprisoned, they care not as long as they feel assured that their enthusiasm has galvanized into life the organisations of women who only lacked enthusiasm; but who, lacking this, lacked all that makes for success in a movement.

The militant methods shock and annoy respectable men and women, but shock them into action — therefore must be continued.

MAUDE FITZ HERBERT.

London, March 1908.

On Febr. 24 a largely-attended drawing-room meeting, under the auspices of the **Irish Women's Suffrage Association**, was held, in Dublin. The hon. secr. Mrs. Haslam spoke of the Bill to be discussed on the 28th, and Mr. Thomas J. Haslam read a paper of great interest, in which he dealt with the objections usually urged against the granting of the Parliamentary Suffrage to women, and answered them seriatim. The tactics of the suffragettes in England was discussed at great length, and it was generally conceded that their motives were of the highest and most disinterested kind, and that by their action more had been achieved in regard to bringing the injustices under which women suffered in being denied Parliamentary suffrage into public notice than had been gained by almost half a century of peaceful agitation.

Several ladies joined the I. W. S. A.

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The **Men's League for Women's Suffrage** has held an open air meeting at Liverpool, which is to be followed on March 17th by a special meeting for men to consider the formation of a branch. Another branch, at Edinburgh, held a meeting on Febr. 27th., where officers were appointed and telegrams despatched to the Edinburgh Members of Parliament, urging them to support the second reading of Mr. Stanger's Bill.

M. G. K.

### Denmark.

On Wednesday the 26th of February the Bill of Municipal Suffrage was passed by the „Lands-thing“ (Upper House) with 32 votes against 29. The bill has, however, yet to be passed by the „Folkething“ (Lower House) and thence to be signed by the King. There is, luckily, the greatest chance that no difficulties will arise, and that Danish women will in the nearest future get municipal suffrage; but so far they have not definitely got it.

LOUISE NEERGAARD,

p. t. internat. secr. of the Danish W. S. A.

Kopenhagen, March 4, 1908.

The „**Landsforbund for W. S.**“ is growing and progressing rapidly. It now comprises 60 branches scattered all over the country, and with the exception of two, all formed in the course of a year. It has over 6000 members at present. The organisation claims political neutrality and has to an unusual degree succeeded in gathering members of all political parties.

A number of lectures about political and social topics have been given in the different branches. Great interest has been aroused lately by the elections to the board of the municipal charity funds, „Hjælpekasser“, an institution for which women now have a right to vote and are eligible.

Their object is to give temporary help to needy and worthy people in cases of emergency, without enlisting them in the ranks of paupers.

In March 1908 Danish women will give their votes for the first time for this institution and have candidates of their own sex alongside with the men.

In the Kopenhagen branch of the „Landsforbund“ which has now over 1400 members we have had a series of meetings that have been attended by a very large audience,—so large that we have found difficulty in finding assembly rooms large enough to accommodate the crowd.

CLARA TYBJERG.

Kopenhagen, Febr. 1908.

For five years the Bill for extended Suffrage including Women Suffrage has been treated in the Lower House and sent to the Upper House; has got amendments here, which have been rejected in the Lower House, and this moving from the one House to the other seemed to be a chronic disease. We were therefore very thankful, when the Bill got in the hands of leaders, who in committee have found amendments acceptable to the different parties, which have led to agreement. But after this two more readings were necessary in the Upper House, where the votes of friends and opponents seemed almost to balance. It might perhaps have been lost in spite of all assertions to the contrary. But it did not shripwreck, and it was carried. The Bill gives Municipal Suffrage and Eligibility to all men and women, married or unmarried, who have passed 25 years of age, and have an untarnished character and pay taxes of an income of 800 Kroner a year. When a man pays taxes, his wife can vote as well as himself without doubling the sum. The sessions last for four years. To be electors in March 1909, it is necessary to be registered before the 1st of February 1908. If this has been neglected, there is no chance, until the next election in 1913. Married women, whose husbands pay taxes, need not be registered, they have their rights even if passive now.

The election in March 1909 will be made after the proportional method, which is calculated to assure the different parties their rights. All the seats on the different Boards or Councils for the four years' session are to be filled at once, which is thought to be more favorable for the proportional method than to elect half of the Board or Council at a time, as we have done hitherto. But the law we have not got as yet. Our expert readers will of course know that this takes a good deal of time and they would never suspect the suffrage to be given in a couple of days! We are satisfied to have the certain prospect. Once more it shall be discussed in Parliament. This time in the Lower House, where the government party—our friends—has more than sixty out of the 116 representatives in sympathy with their views.

JOHANNE MÜNTER.

Kopenhagen, March 1908.

### Germany.

At Frankfurt a. M. the three progressive fractions of the Liberals held a monster meeting to protest against the Prussian system of voting by three classes, in which they proposed a resolution which did not mention political equality for men and women. Then Mrs Helene Lewison, the Treasurer of the German W. S. A. called upon the

numerous women in the audience to vote against that resolution on account of this omission. Her appeal caused the resolution to be amended so that it contained the demand of universal suffrage for men *and women*, and in this form it was carried unanimously. This may well be considered the first official recognition of women's claim to enfranchisement on the part of the three Liberal groups.

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Der Vorstand der Berliner Ortsgruppe des Deutschen Verbandes für Frauenstimmrecht hat nachfolgende Resolution an die Parteileitungen der Freisinnigen Volkspartei und der Freisinnigen Vereinigung sowie an die grösseren Berliner Tageszeitungen geschickt:

„Die Ortsgruppe Berlin des Deutschen Verbandes für Frauenstimmrecht erklärt das Verhalten der Vertreter der freisinnigen Parteien im Abgeordnetenhaus bei der Debatte über die Reform des Landtagswahlrechts für unwürdig. Sie spricht den Abgeordneten, die nicht ein energisches Wort der Absage an den Fürsten Bülow fanden, das Recht ab, sich Volksvertreter zu nennen, da sie durch ihr Verhalten Verrat an dem höchsten Rechte des Volkes geübt haben.“

Gleichzeitig erklärt sich die Ortsgruppe gemäss der auf der Frankfurter Tagung des Verbandes angenommenen Resolution bereit, jede ernsthaftige Agitation zugunsten des allgemeinen, gleichen, direkten und geheimen Wahlrechts in Preussen zu unterstützen, gleichviel, von welchen Parteien oder Personen sie ausgeht. Sie verbreitet auch einen Aufruf für das allgemeine, gleiche, geheime und direkte Wahlrecht in Preussen und giebt eine Propagandamarke heraus.

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On Febr. 17th. at Berlin a National Prussian Woman Suffrage Association has been constituted. Mrs Minna Cauer was elected president and four other ladies were appointed to form with her the Executive. On the same evening the Berlin branch held a public meeting where Dr. Breitscheid spoke and a resolution for adult suffrage was adopted.

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Petitions have been sent by the N. W. S. A. to the Bavarian House of Representatives to claim votes for women in the election of an Agricultural Council (Landwirtschaftskammer); by the Badonian W. S. A. to the Diet of Badenia to demand municipal suffrage for women, and by the Hamburg W. S. A. to the Town Council (Bürgerschaft) to request the introduction of civic education in girls' as well as in boys' schools.

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The Committee for the Revision of the Constitution in Oldenburg has given serious consideration to the claim of votes for women for the Diet. There were different views, and no sounder arguments in opposition than fear of such an unprecedented innovation.

Dr. ANITA AUGSPURG

(in „Zeitschrift f. Frauenstimmrecht“).

The Women's Liberal League, in its meeting of 11 Jan. in Berlin, expressed in a resolution its regret that the Prussian Government had not granted universal suffrage, and its hope that the Liberal party may prove unanimous in an effort to promote Labour representation in the Diet. On the 15th the League resolved to send to the Reichstag (Parliament) a resolution hailing with joy the proposed bill on the Right of Assembly

which abolishes the disqualification of women, yet urging more freedom of union for foreigners.

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The Municipality of Kattowitz resolved after a rather long debate to make women eligible in the Schoolboard (Schuldeputation), and appointed one lady teacher.

M. G. K.

### Norway.

„Kvindestemmeretsforeningen“ (The Woman Suffrage Association), in Kristiania, held some time ago a meeting, to which the president, Miss Anne Holsen, had invited all the nominated women candidates for the Municipality. The president gave a review of the result of the elections for Kristiania. She expressed the disappointment and bitterness the women felt, because most of the nominated women had not succeeded, and because it was only a small minority that had been elected. She requested all the women present—from all the political fractions—to imitate her and express their indignation and disappointment. This they did. As this meeting was held immediately after the elections took place, no statistics from other towns of Norway were known. The president therefore announced that the Executive of „Kvindestemmeretsforeningen“ intended to arrange a big public meeting in the middle of February.

This public meeting took place on the 21st of February. The president and also woman speakers from all political parties made splendid speeches. Earnest and jest and irony together! The president gave now a very concise review of the result of the municipal elections all over the country in the larger towns. From this it was seen that proportionally no Municipality has obtained fewer women representatives than that of the capital. Here we have 84 representatives; of these for the years 1908—10 there are only elected 5 women! =  $\frac{1}{17}$  of the whole Municipality!! It is very noticeable that it seems to be a rule here in Norway, especially in Kristiania, that when we get any progress, the liberal party always makes a step backward. This time after the women of Norway have obtained political suffrage! None of the 4 nominated women candidates of that party was elected. Only one of the socialists, 27 candidates was a woman. Now, what do the women of Kristiania intend to do in order to prevent a repetition of such a defeat? They intend to organize. By forming groups of all the women within each political party. When the election time comes, the different groups will nominate their own candidates, and beforehand procure them as many pledges of votes as possible, and then go to the male members of their respective parties and say to them: we will have these women on your list, for we assure you there are a number of electors pledged to vote for these women candidates, and we will not and cannot give your party our votes in case you do not back up their candidature with as many votes of your party as possible!—This is at present only a proposal — or if you like, a project! All the women speakers agreed, and it was decided that „Kvindestemmeretsforeningen“ should arrange another meeting and then a discussion, only for members in order to make the first preparations for the execution of this plan.

If it interests the readers of our dear „Jus Suffragii“ to hear a little more about this, I will send another letter about this meeting. This only as a „fore-runner“.

FREDRIKKE MÖRCK.  
Kristiania, March 2nd 1908.

The Lillehammer branch society of the N.W.S.A. (Landskvindestemmeretsforening) has agreed not to dissolve, after an address from Mrs. Keilhau, who pointed out that the object of the Association—political equality of men and women—had not yet been reached and that the international movement for woman suffrage would be surprised and disappointed to miss the help of the Norwegian women. Besides all the women of the country, irrespective of party, wanted education to feel and know the weight of their new duties and get a clear understanding of the good that the enfranchisement of their sex might bring the community, and the N.W.S.A. might help to procure all Norwegian women that education.

M. G. K.

### Iceland.

On January 24 the election of the Town Council of Reykjavik resulted in the appointment of 11 men and 4 women. Of the 2850 voters, 1220 were women, and Fru Katrín Skuladóttir Magnússon got the largest number of votes. The other three ladies are Fru Thórunn Jónassen, Fru Briet Bjarnehedinsdóttir, Asmundsson and Fru Gudrun Bjarnsdóttir. A lady from Reykjavik writes: „Are we not successful workers, now that — 23 days after having obtained an extension of suffrage and eligibility — we have managed to get more than one fourth of the elected Town Councillors to be women?“

M. G. K.

It is touching to see how much interest even the poorest women showed in the election. On behalf of the Women's Rights Association I had requested some jurists to give a course of lectures on different subjects, f. i. on the legal position of women, on proportional representation and on municipal politics. The admission-fee was 10 öre (= 1 1/2 d.) Generally earnest lectures attract few hearers here. But the women crowded to these conferences in such numbers that it was well-nigh impossible to procure seats for all the hearers, although I had hired the biggest room in the town. On the second evening there was such a storm and snow that we countermanded the meeting. But the women came all the same. They said they were accustomed to be out in stormy weather and that was not to be counted a hindrance. And they enjoyed the lecture and felt they were our fellow-workers. We had the usual discussion after the conferences.

BRIET BJARNEHEDINSDOTTIR ASMUNDSSON.  
Reykjavik, Febr.. 7 1908.

### Russia.

The first congress of Russian women, fixed on the 1/4 of June 1908, is convoked by the Society for Mutual Beneficence of Russian women in St. Petersburg in order to treat the following questions indicated in its programme, concerning the position of Russian women:

1. The activity of women in Russia in different professions: beneficence, education, science and literature, arts, medicine, agriculture and commerce; measures against alcoholism, prostitution, illness and mortality of children.

2. Economical position of women in Russia: peasants, working-women, factory-hands, domestic servants, women employed in government and private offices or occupied in intellectual work.

3. Civil and political position of women in Russia: the existing laws that regulate the position of women in family, society and state; their property rights; their partaking in municipal, communal and Zemstvos Selfgovernment.

4. The movement for women suffrage, political and civil in Russia and abroad; the necessity of equal rights with men and admission of women to all professions and positions in public service.

5. Education of women in Russia: Inferior, Secondary and High schools; professional schools; compulsory education; co-educational schools. Admission of women on the same terms as men to all state universities.

6. Questions of ethics in family and society. Family, marriage, equal moral standard, prostitution.

7. Organisation of the Russian National Council of Women. The International Council; the importance of the union of all women's organizations in Russia; the draft of a declaration of principles for the Russian women's National Council.

ELISABETH GONTSCHAROFF.

Riasan, February 27th 1908.

Three months since I last wrote have brought much work in our "Polish Women's Union for Equality of Rights". I feel happy to give you some notes about it. The present Duma in St. Petersburg awakens no confidence or hope. The reaction is felt at every step and in a hard way. We live in a horrible state of anxiety; every day brings police-searches and arrestations; a police-spy watches each step almost of every so-called free citizen. Each social agitation meets with dangers and difficulties. It is worse than ever. Notwithstanding this we work as best we can. The Union has organised series of lectures (meetings are forbidden by the Government). Since November we gave six lectures about Legislation and women, twelve on Ethics and Life. One on free thought and women, one on the position of illegal children, one on women in pharmacy, three on salary law and women, one about the Men's League for Women Suffrage in England, one on the child's and girl's hygiene on the basis of sexual ethics, and thirteen on women's hygiene. The total number of lectures till to-day was 39 (since autumn 48). The hygiene lectures were the most popular ones. The lady-doctor who gave them was invited in seven towns of the Kingdom of Poland to repeat them. The children's hygiene was treated by a mother not a doctress. The lecture about illegal children aroused much interest. Our Union is engaged by the Law Society to collect materials on the subject and publish desiderata for reforms in the law concerning illegal children. Besides this our president and vice-president (Mme Kuczalska Reinschmit and Miss Bojanovcka) lectured in Polish women's circles in St. Petersburg, Kieff and Radow. The Union published four inquests concerning: "the conditions of women's labour", "the culture and education of women", "the legal restrictions in the Civil Code, which are injurious to women" and "the conditions of hygiene in villages". Already a good many answers have come in—very interesting ones—but till now they cannot be published. After a hot discussion the lecture about the Men's League in London, which was an excellent propaganda, had the result to engage some men as members in our Union. This is a great deal more than could be expected. The Union was obliged to arrange a monster-

concert to raise money for the Sunday-school for working-women, and a literary evening for the same purpose. At the latter I had the pleasure of reading a translation of the splendid legend by Olive Schreiner "The Hunter". We published this winter some pamphlets: "Women in Pharmacy" by Miss Lesniewska "The Women's political position" by Miss Dulenba, "Women's Suffrage" by Mrs Kuczalska Reinschmit, "Sexual Ethics", by Miss Lubinska (your servant). The last month brought two new affiliations of organisations to the Union, in Kieff and in Radow (the former in Western Russia, the latter in the Kingdom of Poland—both for Polish women of course) our president celebrated the opening. In Galicia (Polish province of Austria) the government („Sejm" in Leopol) is elaborating a reform in the suffrage. As the Galician women did but little for women's enfranchisement on this occasion, the Warsaw Union sent to all women's circles in Galicia a fervent appeal to gather their strength and make a vigorous agitation and take part in the strife. Judging from the private answers our president has got, the appeal has found ready response. Maybe that our sisters there will be more lucky in their work than we! On the 29th of January in the Union's rooms, fourteen invited women's societies which have in their platform women's suffrage discussed the amelioration of women's labour's conditions and some cultural, moral and educational issues. We sent 21 invitations. The object of this meeting was to constitute a National League of Polish Women for a more concentrated action for suffrage. Three Councillors lawyers have given good hope as to the influence of such a League on the government, if some societies would only start with a petition and if the paragraphs on legislation did not claim other than educational and moral objects. The fourteen invited societies seemed all deeply interested and sympathising.

On the 31st of March the next Assembly takes place. On that day delegates will bring us definitive answers and plans of action. Our Union has already elaborated a programme of articles to be eventually proposed. Our "Ster" (the Rudder)—though in constant need of material support—makes its way pretty well. It does not appear very regularly, but gives excellent articles. Since New Year the Union has its own column in it; the students (girls) and the working-women also. The last thing to tell you is our little victory. Mrs. Kuczalska Reinschmit (our dear President) became member of the "Law Society". She is the first woman in our land that got this honour on account of her great law knowledge though she is not a lawyer.

THERESA LUBINSKA,  
Corresponding Secretary.

Moscow, Febr. 1908.

### Finland.

Die Frauen Finnlands fügen sich schon nicht mehr so ganz passiv allem, was "ein höherer Wille" beschlossen. Schon im Herbst hat der Frauenbund Unionen in den Tageblättern einen Protest veröffentlicht gegen eine Verfügung unsres Senats, der ein Komitee eingesetzt hatte für die Revision der Gemeindeverfassung und zu diesem Komitee keine Frauen einberufen. Jetzt hat derselbe Frauenbund dem Senat ein Schreiben eingereicht wegen der in unserem Gesetze noch existierenden Vormundschaft des Gatten über seine Gattin. Man hat darin die Hoffnung ausge-

sprochen, dass die Regierung, um den Gang der Sache zu beschleunigen, es möglich finden werde schon diesem Landtage eine Vorlage einzureichen und hat sich die Vermutung erlaubt, dass an dem Komitee, dem die Sache wahrscheinlich zur Vorbereitung übergeben wird, auch Frauen beteiligt sein werden.

Auch an die Eisenbahndirektion ist ein Schreiben eingereicht worden. Bei uns ist es nämlich der Fall, dass die an der Eisenbahn angestellten Frauen verabschiedet werden, sobald sie heiraten, ohne sogar das Geld zurückzubekommen dass sie der Altersversicherungskasse bezahlt haben. Unser Bund hat es sich angelegen sein lassen hierin eine Aenderung zu bewirken, leider aber mit wenig Erfolg. Unsr wohlweise Eisenbahndirektion scheint den Schlaf des Gerechten zu schlafen und hat es nicht bemerkt, dass Finnlands Frauen während der Zeit erwacht sind und mündig geworden. Sie hat sich vorbehalten was diese Sache betrifft für jeden besonderen Fall selbst die Untersuchung in casu zu übernehmen. Einem Uneingeweihten ist es etwas schwer zu verstehen, was unter ihr Urteil eigentlich fallen soll — ob die Fähigkeit der Betreffenden den Dienst und den Haushalt mitsamt den etwaigen Kindern gleichzeitig zu besorgen, oder etwa die künftige eventuelle Mutterschaft oder Kinderlosigkeit der Zuheiratenden.

Unser Landtag hat Anfang Februar wieder mit seinen Sitzungen angefangen. Dieselben Petitionen über Fraueninteressen wie voriges Mal wurden auch jetzt wieder eingereicht und ausserdem folgende: von Hilja Pärssinen um Einführung von Mutterschaftsversicherung, und von Lucina Hagman und Alli Nissinen um Anstellung von Frauen als Gesundheitsinspektorinnen.

Leider ist unser politischer Horizont für den Augenblick wieder so trübe, dass sich alle Kräfte zur Verteidigung des Bestehenden anspannen müssen, und da bleibt wohl für kulturelle Fortschritte wenig Zeit übrig.

ANNA LUNDSTRÖM.

Helsingfors, den 25. Februar 1908.

This year the Diet has appointed five women in the General Committee (Stora Utskott). They are not the most conspicuous party-leaders, but Dagmar Neovius (Swedish Popular Party), Iida Vemmelpuu (Finnish Party), Hilma Räsänen (Agrarian) and Maria Raunio and Jenny Nuotio (Socialists) have been appointed. At least some of the law-projects introduced by women last year are sure to be treated this session. The question of the husband's guardianship over his wife will presumably awaken the greatest interest.

M. G. K.

### Hungary.

We are now doing our utmost to gain visitors for the approaching Amsterdam congress. We also draw people's attention to it by means of the press. Up to this moment the following ladies have announced their intention of attending: Mrs. Berta Engel from Nagysurány, Miss Ilona Geinessi, a teacher from Nagysurány, Dr. Charlotte Steinberger M.D., Mrs. Sidonie Szegvari, Mrs. Eugenie Meller, Miss Margit Szemzy, a post-clerk, Miss Nelly Schnur, Miss Margit Taubner, Miss Janka Grossmann, Miss Klara Mautner, Miss Paula Pogany, all from Budapest and Miss Fran-

ziska Schwimmer, a piano-teacher from Kaposvar.

To be sure, all these ladies are not yet certain of going, but we may hope that not only these, but a great many more, may be able to attend the congress.

Budapest, Febr., 1908.

ROSIKA SCHWIMMER.

### Austria.

Mitte März beginnt wieder die Parlamentssession und da werden wir wieder gegen § 30 demonstrieren. Wir veranstalten jetzt auch kleine Versammlungen in den einzelnen Bezirken der Stadt, allerdings nicht unter der Flagge des Komitees, sondern unter dem immer zugkräftigen Schlagwort „Lebensmittelteuerung“. Zum Schlusse wird aber immer wieder auf das Stimmrecht hingewiesen. Bei der ersten dieser Versammlungen meldeten sich 37 neue Mitglieder für das Komitee.

H. HERZFELDER.

Wien, 29 Febr. 1908.

### BOHEMIA.

(Czechish women).

The elections for the Diet of the Kingdom of Bohemia took place on Febr. 20 and 27. We have already mentioned in the former number the eagerness with which the women participated in these elections, and how they meant to make use of their right of *eligibility*. Accordingly they set up women candidates, in which action they are the first women of the middle of Europe. As we presumed, they did not succeed in getting them elected.

The situation of the independent woman candidate, Miss Tumova, was very unfavorable. In her district, which is 147 K. M. distant from the capital, the central point of the activity for women's enfranchisement, there were three men candidates, one of whom—the victor—was the burgomaster of the town and president of several associations, therefore the appointed candidate of the townspeople and of the Government-party into the bargain. Miss T. was chiefly supported by the progressists backed up by a rather strong organisation of women, but small in number and power. The number of votes polled in the principal ward gives a good opinion of the situation: the Burgomaster 592, the Liberal candidate (the strongest party in the country) 4, the Socialist 30, the Woman 144, among which number were 80 or 90 votes from male electors. The Government-party made an energetic agitation—having to oppose a woman candidate! Coercion, menaces of a boycott, a pretended order to elect no other candidate than the burgomaster, etc. All this made the timid women rather abstain from voting than disobey. If we bear in mind that it is only since three or four years that we are systematically working for the political education of Bohemian women and that the idea of voting by women is still new—we do not wonder that the female electors were not yet equal to the circumstances. Eyewitnesses assure that it was a hard but honorable struggle for the women. Those 144 votes mean 144 intelligent persons, who have worked with admirable energy; and after the election they said to us: „We cannot thank you enough that you have directed your noble efforts for women's enfranchisement to this place; they will surely not have been in vain and will bear fruit one day. We are defeated but not humiliated; we stand at

the beginning of an uncompromising struggle against presumptuous obscurantism and pusillanimity”.

The second woman candidate, Miss K. Máchová, who had been put up by the Socialists whose number of adherents is not great among the tax-paying electors, got the considerable number of 20 % of the votes (there were five candidates); all from male voters, since the women in Prague, where Miss M. was nominated, lack the suffrage. The third woman candidate, Miss Zelinková, had withdrawn from the list.

The number of women that went to poll their votes in this election was remarkably great, which proves that our propaganda was not lost.

Before the elections we started a questioning-campaign all over the country. At the meetings of electors the women questioned the candidates as to their attitude with respect to woman suffrage and political equality of the sexes,—the answers were *more than satisfactory*, and this is an important fact, because the newly elected Diet will have to deal with a *suffrage-reform*, whilst in the neighbouring countries (parts of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy) during the last decade *all* changes of the suffrage have curtailed women's right to vote.

So we have much work before us, but we undertake it with courage, for in the recent campaign we have manifestly gained many a point. And the graver newspapers, which were formerly indifferent brought extensive and rather favorable articles on our claims in the electioneering time. The only exception was the clerical press, which tried to ridicule our demand of eligibility for women,—yet in this way it only helped to our claim's bring out progressive character.

FRANCISKA PLAMINKOVA.

Prague, March 1908.

### Belgium.

The National Woman Suffrage Association met at Brussels on the 22nd of February. Martina Kramers gave an address to encourage the Belgian suffragists to attend the Amsterdam congress and explain the present situation of the suffrage movement in Holland and the chances of a revision of the constitution there.

Then it was decided: 1) to request all the trades unions in the country to petition to the Legislature (*chambres législatives*) in favor of suffrage and eligibility for women in the Trades' Councils (*Conseils de Prud'hommes*); 2) to send a memoir to the Municipalities (*Conseils Communaux*) to endorse their expected action for the extension of the suffrage, and claim votes for women on the same terms as for men; 3) to advocate woman suffrage in all public meetings, held to discuss electoral reform; 4) to promote the establishment of local branches of the N. W. S. A. throughout the country.

JULIE GILAIN L.L.D.,  
Brussels, March. 1908. Pres. Belgian W. S. A.

The international badge, which should be worn by every woman believing in woman suffrage, is to be ordered from **Mrs. J. PEDERSEN-DAN, Nørrebrogade 183, Copenhagen, 50 bronze badges 22 sh., 6 d., postage prepaid. Reduction in price for orders exceeding that number.**

\*) Sweden, Switzerland and United States have been crowded out by Great Britain. ED.