

THE VOTE,
MAY 25, 1923
ONE PENNY.

THE HOUSEWIVES' CAMPAIGN.

By MRS. JUSON KERR

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1923

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

ROME CONGRESS, MAY 12th—19th, 1923.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS, BY MRS. CHAPMAN CATT.

The International Woman Suffrage Alliance is indeed grateful to the Government of Italy and to its citizens for the cordial welcome we have received. Our Congress represents the world's movement among women, which demands the repeal of antiquated so-called "woman laws" and customs, and their substitution by a modern civilised recognition of the fact that a woman is a human being—a female human with the same brain and conscience, strength or weakness, aspiration or indifference, as a male human. Our movement is old. The oldest of us is too young to have been a part of its beginning. Then, we know, the brave woman souls who led the way were not greeted as are we to-day. For them were ridicule and abuse, mobs and fusillades of decayed vegetables and eggs. But because they were right, and dared to brave the scorn of a hostile world, kings, premiers, presidents, and mayors to-day do honour to our cause.

We do not come to Rome in 1923 to hold our ninth Congress as timid suppliants for small favours.

Our Congress Represents Women of Forty Nations,

and there are only sixty nations in the world. Women of two-thirds of the nations of the world are represented in this gathering. Of these the delegates of twenty-five nations are voters on equal terms with men, and among them are Members of Parliaments and Councillors of great cities. The delegates from two countries are voters in their municipalities. The delegates in this Congress who are still pleading for the vote represent fifteen nations only. The majority of us are enfranchised. We, too, are a part of the collective rulers of nations.

Your Excellency, Signor Mussolini, you are the most talked-of man in all the world to-day. To millions of men you are a great hero, and all the world knows that you are afraid of nothing—not even public opinion when it is wrong. Men tell us that you stand for order, for unity, for patriotism, for a better and a higher civilisation in the world. These are our ideals, too. We stand for educated men and women, for schools for every child, for work and good wages for all, for better homes, for more tender and scientific care of children, that they may grow up to build a better order of things. We stand for the abolition of those old codes of law which, all the world around, kept women in perpetual tutelage and allowed them no independent individuality. These codes have made many men cruel masters, and women timid and shrinking dependents. "Male and female created He them," says Genesis, "and gave them dominion over the earth." Alas! the males took all the dominion to themselves, and we stand for getting back our half of it. We stand, too, for the principle of self-government, and for votes for men and women on equal terms.

We make no political intrigues. We shall not disturb the peace of Italy. We have, however, asked all the civilised Governments of the world to endorse our plea and our programme. We ask this Government to do so, with a new and very special emphasis, for Italy, the proud equal of the great nations of the world, is now in the minority on the woman question, and we dare to hope that it will be your Government, most honoured, most excellent Signor Mussolini, that will lead this land of ancient renown into the modern majority.

Men and nations are not thinking the same thoughts about women as before the war. It is an entirely new and different world for women. The 32 nations engaging in the greatest of world wars, in addition to the obvious first cause, alleged many other reasons for their action. These were objects which they hoped to achieve through victory, and nations held them worthy the waste of wealth and men. In the list of these causes and aims

no nation included the civil rights and political liberty of women. Not a general under any flag thought of the degraded status of women throughout the world when he led his men into the thick of slaughter. Not a man in any army preparing to offer his life for his country dreamed that he might be making the supreme sacrifice to right the wrongs of women. Not a weeping father or mother watching their loved son go forth to marching music and flying colours, perhaps never to return, had a vision that women's place in their own nation and the world bore relation to the patriotism that inspired their common service. Woman, too, was declared a "war power," and great men of great nations generously acknowledged her as a determining factor in that reserve behind the ranks which made possible the Army at the front; yet these women at home, giving their all and counting no service too great, thought no word of rights of self or sex. Nevertheless, when time has stabilised governments and finance, when commerce, trade, and business have resumed their old-time activity, when the restless, unhappy present has given way to peace and order, and great men ask each other the puzzling question, "What good did the world get out of the war?" the answer most obvious will be:

"The greatest thing that came out of the War was the emancipation of woman."

No one aimed to secure it or expected it as a result of war, no one fought for it, yet it came. How did it happen? It happened because the years of struggle, sacrifice, agitation, education, and organisation had made this movement ripe for victory.

Very many years ago, Victor Hugo declared the nineteenth century to be "the Century of Woman." When, however, that century closed, the emancipation of women was so far from achieved that the prediction seemed an error. Yet during the years of that century the leading nations of the world had conceded the righteousness of the woman's demand for education, the primary preparation for individual liberty. Indeed, one distinguished man declared that the vote for women became inevitable at the moment when it was conceded that they should be permitted to learn the alphabet. When the year 1900 closed the nineteenth century, primary and high schools were very generally established for girls, and the doors of colleges and universities were not only opened to them, but women composed a large part of the teaching force of the schools of many nations. Women had advanced from an illiterate to an intelligent sex within a century. The right of women to enter the professions was conceded, and, after a bitter struggle, often rendered bitterly difficult by the opposition of reaction, women in 1900 were practising their professions with freedom and profit in many countries. Women also were everywhere writing for newspapers and magazines, speaking from platforms, and leading movements for the betterment of human society. The law, too, which denied married women the right to their property, persons, wages, and children, had been repealed or modified in many lands, and public opinion controlling customs and conventions granted a liberty of action to women at the close of the century unknown and undreamt of at the beginning. Although the emancipation of woman was nowhere complete, we now know that the nineteenth century was, in truth, the "Century of Woman," for no factor of advancing civilisation during that century showed such rapid evolution as the status of women. So much of the woman's programme had been conceded in that century that the remainder became inevitable. The momentum gathered in the nineteenth century drove the movement forward into the twentieth with continually accelerating numbers of advocates and diversity of method. The end was in clear sight when the war began.

The vote has been the climax of the struggle of every class for liberty, and naturally the grant of this privilege was longest delayed and most grudgingly given. When, however, the Alliance met in Geneva in 1920, in its first after-war Congress, it celebrated twenty-two new national suffrage victories. The constitutional barriers holding fast against the logical demands of women for political liberty had been swept away by the wave of liberal emotion which overspread the world during the first months after the war. Nations wherein the organised demand had been slight, and others where there had been none at all, yielded to that influence. The nations where the organised movement was oldest granted the vote to women as an act of delayed justice; the new republics of Eastern Europe adopted it as a matter of course, and to others it came by revolution.

We who had laboured long in the thick of the struggle were also caught in the emotion of the moment, and when we celebrated the amazing list of woman suffrage victories at our Congress of 1920, we were no more able to comprehend the exact status of the entire movement than were the workers at the close of the nineteenth century. In 1900 the final victories seemed farther away than they were; and in 1920 the whole world campaign seemed more nearly complete than it was. Some could conceive no methods for useful further work, and others, thinking our task quite finished, proposed to dissolve the Alliance. Now that we have had three years in which to survey the movement as a whole, it becomes our duty to ask again,

Where does it stand?

There are six continents. In Australia all women vote. In Europe, from points above the Arctic circle down to a line bordering Jugo-Slavia, Italy, Switzerland, and France, all women vote, and, in my judgment, woman suffrage is securely and permanently established. In North America, from the northernmost tip of Alaska to the border of Mexico, all women vote. In Asia, the ancient Indian civilisation with modern democratic aspirations has shamed more youthful nations in generous justice to its women, and has granted the vote in several Provinces. Not only do we welcome delegates for the second time from that far-away mystical country, but we receive a new auxiliary from Burma, where tax-paying women have voted on equal terms with men for forty years. Palestine, too, the storm centre of age-long struggle, sends us a delegate. In Africa, most British Colonies have already extended the vote to women, while South Africa alone hesitates. We are especially proud to welcome to this Congress delegates from that wonderland of Egypt. In ancient days there were Egyptian queens and women military leaders of great renown. Why not heroines to-day, bearing aloft the standard of civil and political equality for modern Egyptian woman? Bravo, women of Egypt!

Of all the continents, South America is the only one where no woman votes, yet it is a continent of republics, many of which have celebrated their centenary of independence. Here the Napoleonic code in strictest form operates from Panama to Cape Horn, with the exception of Uruguay. Here not only does the restraint imposed by the law upon the married woman concerning the control of her property, wages, person, and children render her well-nigh helpless if her husband chooses to play the master, but a stern public opinion, far less liberal than that of Europe, restricts her ordinary freedom of action to an unbelievable degree. Your President, accompanied by Miss Manus, of Holland, Miss Babcock and Mrs. van Lennep, of New York, has spent four months in making a survey of conditions there. We were able, in the time at our disposal, to visit six only of the eleven republics, but these included the countries of largest population, most stable government, and those of acknowledged progressiveness. In every one we found the woman movement growing and spreading, a liberal sympathy expressed by Presidents of the Republics and by many Members of the Congresses. Organisation lags far behind the general sentiment, and education for women, which must everywhere be regarded as the primary qualification for improved status, offers neither the facilities nor the stimulus found in Europe.

In every country visited we found a suffrage movement, although usually small and timid, but an unmistakable beginning. These countries of South America look to Europe for leadership. The republics along the east coast, Brazil, Argentine, and Uruguay, place great emphasis upon the example of France, and so long as France does not enfranchise its women, South America will make no haste to do so. An immigration so enormous has gone to Argentine from Italy that it has even modified the Spanish language, and, so long as Italy delays the enfranchisement of her women, her sons, the voters of another land, will see no need for urgent action. The women leaders of many movements there are of French or Italian birth, and feel keenly the effect of the hesitancy of their homelands to catch step with the rest of the world. Spanish America and Southern Europe are bound together by many common ties. Their nationalities and their languages are closely related, their religion is the same, they love the same kind of poetry, literature, music, and art, their educational system has followed the same models, and even politics, although it has taken its form from the North, draws its inspiration and methods chiefly from the South. They think and build ideals along the same lines.

The Woman Suffrage movement has won its victory in all the northern countries; not one now holds out against the logic of its demand. The southern lands, France, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Bulgaria, Spanish and Portuguese America, compel the movement to pause. Over the ramparts of Southern conservatism the Alliance extends the hand of friendship, and cries to the women of all these nations: "Awake, arise, take courage!" Already their women have so far heard and answered, that I believe I speak strictly within the truth when I say that every independent nation in the world with a stable government has now its Woman Suffrage Society. The movement has begun, even where it has not travelled far. Startling though it may seem, our suffrage movement has in truth girdled the earth, and spread from Arctic North to Antarctic South. It now counts among its auxiliaries those whose members represent the five great races of the world, Caucasian, Mongolian, Malay, Polynesian, and Indian. Its membership embraces the five great religions: Christian, Hebrew, Buddhist, Confucian, and Mohammedan. No such organised movement among men has yet come into the world. It is something new—a phenomenon—this arising, uniting, and marching forward together of a sex. We are an army, but our only weapon is an appeal for justice. We go forward with confidence, for no government can long withstand our plea. Time, however, must pass before the movement comes to its final victory, and education, work, and sacrifice must do their part. Meanwhile it needs the encouragement and inspiration of our common union, the morale aroused by the fact that the women of all nations, races, and religions are united together in the demand for the abrogation of outworn bondage and the demand for individual freedom.

We thank your Excellency, Signor Mussolini, and you, the Royal Commissioner and Mayor of the most wonderful of the world's cities, Rome the Eternal, and you women of Italy, for your warm greetings. We shall be happy in your city, and we shall make great plans. All over Italy are the ruined relics of ancient days. We shall ask you, fair Italy, to make another ruin, a destruction of all the "woman laws" which deny to women the half of the world's dominion God gave them.

Our motto, adopted twenty years ago, came from ancient Rome, and no wiser guidance for human action has been spoken through the centuries: "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

So, whilst we differ in many things, in race, religion, and politics, we are a unit in our demand for a woman's share in all privileges, opportunities, and responsibilities the world has to offer.

Rome old and hoary, with memories of bygone greatness, we greet you with admiration and with reverence; Rome young and modern, we ask that we may march with you in a great world army of men and women whose aim is only to create a happier life for all nations and peoples of earth.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Jewish Women's World League.

At the last sitting of the World Congress of Jewish Women in Vienna it was resolved to found a World League of Jewish Women and a central office for the protection of Jewish emigrants. Other resolutions adopted referred to the participation of Jewish women in the reconstruction of Palestine, to measures against the white slave traffic and Anti-Semitism, and to special protection of Jewish children and women.

Labour Women Fly to Hamburg.

Dr. Marion Philips, chief woman officer of the Labour Party, and Miss Susan Lawrence, L.C.C., decided to travel by air to attend the Conference of Socialist and Labour women at Hamburg, last week. This will be the largest Socialist women's Conference ever held. Delegations are promised from almost every country in Europe, even to the new nations created at Versailles.

Woman Traffic Manager.

Miss Hendrick, who has been sent to America to deal with ocean cargoes, is probably the first woman traffic manager in the world. She is a shrewd business woman and a great expert on ocean traffic, and is acting for her firm in the capacity of an inspector of the Pacific Coast agencies. She will be specially concerned in obtaining trans-Pacific freight landed on the west coast for carriage across the Atlantic to Europe, and it will be Miss Hendrick's business to get this trade.

British Woman Sculptor.

Mrs. Phoebe Stabler has been elected a Member of the Royal Society of British Sculptors. She is exhibiting at the Royal Academy this year.

Women in the Civil Service.

The Board of Inland Revenue have appointed Mrs. E. M. Garner, Deputy Principal of woman staff, to be Principal of woman staff, on the resignation of Mrs. F. D. S. Anderson. Since the appointment of the Hon. Maude Laurence to the Treasury, the employment of women in a controlling capacity has been extended to include now almost all the big departments.

The Marriage Ban.

The handicap of marriage is fast becoming an international question. Following upon Mr. Justice Eve's recent decision in the Rhondda Vale teachers' case, comes the news from Austria that all the married women teachers in the Tyrol, Vorarlberg, Salzburg, Upper Austria, Carinthia, and Styria have already been dismissed.

An Historic Spot.

The second Equal Rights Conference, convened by the American National Woman's Party, will be held at Seneca Falls, New York, on July 20th and 21st. This date has been specially chosen so that this year's Conference will exactly coincide with the 75th anniversary of the first Conference, called by Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1848 at Seneca Falls. It is hoped that the original hall used in 1848 will be available for this year's meeting.

A Gifted Translator.

Mme. Masaryk, wife of Professor Masaryk, President of Czecho-Slovakia, whose death was recently recorded, was a very gifted American woman. She translated some of the works of John Stuart Mill into Czech, and also wrote a study of Smetana, the Czech composer.

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EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

THE WASTE OF WOMEN.

Slowly but surely, unemployed women are forcing the world to recognise their sufferings and their rights. Our readers will have noticed, week by week, questions on their behalf, by Members of Parliament, to Government Departments, but it was not until the eve of the recess that a serious discussion took place. Rather appropriately, on the motion for adjournment for eleven days' holiday, Mr. Sidney Webb called attention to one million homes where absence of work may be said to bring perpetual holiday, but with all the privations due to absent wages. We quite agree with Mr. Sidney Webb that the difficulty with many people is that they have not grasped the world they live in; for them the woman is still in the home, except in isolated and regrettable instances of rather eccentric females, and with the further exceptions of actresses and domestic servants. The truth is, that, as there are 4,000,000 women wage-earners, and the working-men of the country number 12,000,000, the women workers form a very great multitude—no less than one-quarter of the whole great army of sixteen million wage-earners of our nation, upon whose hands and brains our whole national fabric of prosperity depends. Some 250,000 of these women are unemployed, about the same proportion as in the case of men, but it is not diminishing, as is men's unemployment. Half of these unemployed women, too, are not included in the unemployment scheme, which has eased the worst sufferings in the case of some three-quarters of the unemployed men and their families.

We are glad to see that Mr. Sidney Webb scorned the common assumption that a woman always has some kind of a family belonging to her, and can in times of starvation slip into a corner somewhere and share the family crust already being shared by too many of the family mouths, whereas the truth is that many women workers are without relatives, and a great many more have delicate or worn-out parents, or young brothers and sisters, or children to support. Many schemes of relief work have been undertaken by local authorities, with Government help, almost entirely for men. A woman's unemployment benefit, when she receives it, is only 12s. a week, and she cannot hang about and pick up odd jobs, and live anyhow, as a man can do at a pinch, or move to another part of the country. £46,000,000 has been spent in training 200,000 unemployed officers and men, but a few hundreds of thousands only in training unemployed women. These women made the shells for these men who fought, but their service received less recognition, "perhaps because we have not got accustomed to realising that women are electors as well as men." These unemployed women include 40,000 skilled Lancashire cotton-spinners, 25,000 dressmakers, 12,000 milliners, and thousands of typists. An adequate Government grant for maintenance-training in their own trades and in homecraft is the right of all these women, whose skilled work will soon again be needed, and who will be the mothers of the next generation.

NATURAL DIPLOMATS.

During the whole of her three months' tour in the United States, and since her return to this country, Miss Royden has been playing, just as Lady Astor did a few months ago, an active, though unofficial, diplomatic part in trying to bring about a better understanding between England and America. In spite of the recent Orders in Council, which rigidly rule out British women from official positions in the diplomatic world, the fact remains that women are natural diplomats, with or without training. In the old days, women wielded enormous unofficial influence in the affairs of State, even if they occasionally proved themselves mistresses of intrigues of a somewhat doubtful character. To-day, with greater opportunities of light and learning, they are fast making themselves a force in citizenship, which men are realising they must begin to reckon with. The Woman's Movement is the chief camp of modern woman's diplomacy, a camp in which women of practically all nations are struggling to achieve the same definite aims. American women are proverbially freer from male prejudices, compared with the women of most nations, but, according to Mrs. Oliver Strachey, also recently returned from America, our sisters across the water still have much leeway to make up. Mrs. Strachey asserts that American women are faced with identically the same problems as British women are up against, and that the Blanket Amendment, which corresponds to our Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, is being twisted and evaded by the Powers that Be, in exactly the same way as in this country. Some three years ago, too, American married women were prevented, as far as possible, from entering the labour market, but they fought this injustice so persistently that now the question is never raised, and numbers of married women are being employed in the States in various capacities.

VILLAGE PARLIAMENTS.

Though a large part of the Agenda at last week's Seventh Annual Meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes was naturally occupied with questions of constitution and internal management, the discussion of public questions was by no means a mean feature. These discussions, which grow keener every year, have become a marked characteristic of the Institutes ever since women's partial enfranchisement in 1918. It would be difficult to plan a better training for the exercise of the vote than the present scope of these village Parliaments, which now number 2,736 in English and Welsh villages, with a membership of 180,000. For it is a training entirely free from all party or sectarian bias, based on the actual experience of home life and home needs, and working outwards through a sense of responsibility educated not to take but to give. Last week's resolutions on public matters included two on Local Government, one urging the Government to change the method of voting by show of hands at Parish Council elections to that of secret balloting, and the other suggesting that County Federations, Groups, and separate Women's Institutes should be prepared, when advisable, to nominate at by-elections for the various Local Government bodies. The Housing problem was the subject of much eager discussion, members being urged to investigate the conditions prevailing in their districts in special relation to the new Government Housing Bill. Protests were made against inadequate sentences in cases of the grossest cruelty to children, the Home Secretary being urged to issue a circular to Justices pointing out that adequate sentences should be passed against persons guilty of serious offences against children. The Humane Slaughter of Animals was unanimously approved, and the Government urged to afford facilities for the "Slaughtering of Animals" Bill, now before the House of Commons.

THE HOUSEWIVES' CAMPAIGN.

By EMILY JUSON KERR (President of the Housewives' Union).

When Mrs. Wintringham fearlessly informed the assembled House of Commons that the Budget was a "man-made" one, she earned the gratitude of every woman in the country. While men rejoiced over their penny gain on beer, women's hearts sank with dismay at the prospect of no relief from the highly priced sugar and tea. With wages reduced all round, what were they to do? Our "Housewives' Union" promptly arranged a Protest Meeting. On the day fixed, the welcome news came that our American sisters, 250,000 strong, had decided upon a "sugar boycott." Shortly after, news was cabled that sugar had gone down in price in New York.

Our meeting resulted in a Resolution to pledge ourselves to "restrict our purchases of tea and sugar to the smallest possible extent until prices became once again normal." This was eagerly taken up by the women of Kent, with the surprising result that, before a week had passed, the central wholesalers in the county informed our retailers that the expected rise of tea (4d. per lb.), due on May 1st, would not take place; also, there would be no further rise in the price of sugar—they might instead expect a decrease! As we had been threatened with 10d. per lb., we were more than satisfied with the effect of our agitation. If this can happen in one corner of the country, it can happen everywhere. We feel assured, if other women will do as we have done, the high cost of living must speedily be checked.

We find men are keen on "signing up," and our retail grocers are on our side. Some are already order-

ing only hundredweights where before they ordered tons, and they tell us they are delighted to be able to do so. A trade journal, *The Grocer*, in a recent issue, has gone so far as to fear our "Housewives' Protest" may not become universal enough, and suggests grocers helping us by "selling out all their present stock, and buying no more until prices come down."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was pressed to state his reasons for "forgetting the women" in his Budget, at the great annual meeting of Women Conservatives and Unionists at the Queen's Hall. He gave two reasons—First, there is a world shortage of sugar, and payment goes into the hands of the foreigners, not ours. Second, the tax on tea was reduced last year; a reduction this year should not be expected.

Experts were immediately set to inquire into the question of shortage, and reported: "There is a world shortage at present of all food commodities; the shortage of sugar is neither grievous nor threatening." In face of this report, with our working women beside us, and their men "out of a job," it is obvious "someone must do something." We who buy for our households must be the ones. Of what value sugar commissions, speculations, and revenues from high taxation, if women refuse to buy? We must make every woman—the poorest as well as the richest—realise the strength of the weapon that lies in her hands. Before the campaign ends, we anticipate every Member will be in possession of protests from each individual constituency, conveying the message, *Woman counts*.

SPEECH OF SIGNOR S. E. MUSSOLINI.

ROME CONGRESS, MAY 12th—19th.

The Fascista Government, over which I have the honour of presiding, wishes to express to you its great pleasure at your having chosen Rome as the seat of your Congress, and welcomes you in the most cordial and warmest way.

The problems of your Congress are most important from a political, economic, and social point of view. We might say indeed that they concern all the life and activity of women. The principal object of this international gathering is once more to call the attention of Governments and of public opinion to the necessity of granting to women a larger participation in the political activities of nations by means of the vote.

All its possible consequences must be considered, but I can state that the Italian public spirit and the tendency of our policy will not offer any preconceived opposition to the enfranchisement of women. As far as I am concerned, I feel authorised to declare that the Fascista Government, if nothing unforeseen happens, will undertake to grant to several categories of women the right to vote, starting from the administrative vote.

I wish to believe that none of you will be surprised by this prudent policy in regard to the matter of elections, especially as it is accompanied by the most optimistic anticipations. In fact, I believe that by granting women the right to vote, first in municipal and next in political elections, no disastrous effects will ensue, as is predicted by some pessimists. But very probably it will have beneficial consequences, because woman will bring into the exercise of this new right her fundamental qualities of foresight, balance, and wisdom. I wish to remark, nevertheless, that the vote cannot end, and does not end, in fact, the political activity of the citizens. In many other ways, and by different means, one may influence the course of events

and the development of political situations, for elections are but a more or less noisy and insignificant episode. Outside of the electoral problems there are many other problems whose solution affects women, and their domestic and social position. You have then done well in putting these problems on your agenda.

I wish to state that everything which attempts to raise the moral position of women will have the cordial support of the Fascista Government. Recently this Government approved the Washington Convention concerning night work of women and of young persons, and by this act it has placed itself in the first rank among civilised nations. It has also been one of the first to accept the resolutions passed by numerous International Congresses, and has adopted the law against the traffic in women and children, thus giving the legal protection to women which is a duty among civilised people, and which for a long time has been demanded by all who have studied this problem.

And now let my thoughts go, apart from any point of view on these different questions, to all the mothers, to all the women, who have suffered in silence and in dignity the sacrifices and the sorrows of the Great War—to all the women, even those who are not represented here, who have powerfully contributed during that period to ensure the stability of national life. Let my thoughts go to all the other women, who, every day, give to humanity the precious contribution of their ceaseless work in the schools, in the workshops, in the homes, in the hospitals, and in the fields.

I wish you, ladies, to carry to all your countries, even to the most distant, my greetings, and I trust this Congress will mean an essential advancement of the status of women, and a new step forward in the history of civilised nations.

FRIDAY,
MAY 25
1923.

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