

SPECIAL CONGRESS NUMBER.

JUS SUFFRAGII.

# The International Woman Suffrage News

The Monthly Organ of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

FRENCH EDITION.

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## CALL TO THE EIGHTH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

MADRID, SPAIN, MAY 2nd to 8th, 1920.

The Officers of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance hereby call its twenty-six National Auxiliaries to send duly accredited delegates to the Eighth International Congress, convening in Madrid, Spain, May 2 to 8, 1920.

The affiliated National Woman Suffrage Associations of Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America are each entitled to twelve delegates; and those of Austria, Bohemia, and Galicia are each entitled to two delegates. Applications for affiliation will be received from National Woman Suffrage Associations in Argentine, Cuba, Spain, and Uruguay.

A special invitation to send official delegates is extended to all the Governments of the world. National Associations which are in sympathy with our movement are invited to send fraternal delegates. Specially invited delegates are also expected from Burma, China, India, Japan, and the Dutch East Indies. Individuals of whatever race, nativity, or creed, who believe in the rights of the woman citizen to protect her interests in society by the ballot are invited to be present.

Since the last Congress, held in Budapest in 1913, the greatest of world wars has devastated the earth. Out of its cruel sorrows and tragedies women of many nations have emerged politically free. The last seven years have witnessed victories for the cause of woman suffrage in no fewer than sixteen countries. In Austria, Belgium, Bohemia, British East Africa, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain and Ireland, Holland, Hungary, Iceland, Jamaica, Poland, Rhodesia, Russia, and Sweden, women have been wholly or partially enfranchised, and in the United States of America, Arizona, Nevada, Montana, New York, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Michigan have been added to those States which have given full equal suffrage to women: the Federal Amendment has passed both Houses of Legislature and has been ratified by twenty-two of the necessary thirty-six States. This triumph of justice is assuredly one of the most definite and permanent results of the world war now visible. There is universal regret among women that their political liberty has come through the suffering of others, but they rejoice that it is here. No more shall effort be wasted in the struggle to secure to women the rights of responsible citizens. Instead, endowed with new privilege and power, they are free to turn their hearts and hands to the great problems of their national life.

Is our work together at an end? Or shall we go on until the women of every land are likewise emancipated? Is the emancipation of women complete, or is there other work yet to be done before that end is attained? Do the women of the world send a call to us for additional service which bids us march on farther?

These are serious questions which we must ask ourselves, and we shall ask them in a Latin country, so that the gospel of our faith in women may be heard where it is needed.

Come, fellow suffragists of all lands, send your delegates to the great Congress in Madrid, that we may hear together the marvellous story of our movement since last we met, and that we may counsel together how best to use our newly won power for the good of all nations.

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December, 1919.

11, Adam Street, Adelphi,  
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INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS.

11, Adam Street, Adelphi, London, W.C. 2.

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Bye-law of I.W.S.A. Constitution.

"The International Woman Suffrage Alliance, by mutual consent of its auxiliaries, stands pledged to preserve absolute neutrality on all questions that are strictly national."

CONTENTS

	PAGE.
Call to Eighth Congress of the I.W.S.A.	49
The Feminist Movement in Spain. By Chrystal Macmillan.	50
The First Woman Member: An Appreciation. By the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton.	51
Lady Astor's Message to the I.W.S.A.	52
Demobilisation of Women in Great Britain. By Ray Strachey.	52
Demobilisation of Women in France. By Therese Caspitz.	53
Impressions of a Woman Candidate at the Paris Municipal Elections. By Mme. Alice La Maziere.	53
Women in the U.S.A. Civil Service.	53
International Conference of Women Physicians in U.S.A.	54
Afghanistan: Women's Emancipation Movement Begins.	54
Belgium: After the Ballot.	54
Canada: First Woman Registrar.	55
Czecho-Slovakia: "Zensky Obzor" (Women's Review).	55
Denmark: Police Women.	55
Equal Pay.	55
France: Position of the Woman Suffrage Bill.	56
Germany: The National Union for Woman Suffrage Dissolves.	56
Great Britain: N.U.S.E.C. Report.	58
Letter sent to the N.U.S.E.C. by Lady Astor.	58
Seven Women J.P.'s Appointed.	58
Police Women in Edinburgh.	58
New Posts for Women.	58
The Displacement of Women Workers.	58
W.F.L. Report.	58
Iceland: Two Women's Papers.	59
India: Mrs. Sarojini Naidu.	59
Defeat of Woman Suffrage Amendment.	59
Woman Suffrage Not Contrary to Religious Neutrality in India.	59
A Letter from the Punjab.	59
The Indian Government and Women's Education.	59
Italy: Woman Suffrage and the General Election.	60
Fiume Election.	60
La Recherche de la Paternité.	60
New Zealand: Woman Candidates Nominated.	60
Divorce Law Amended.	60
Women Eligible for Lower House.	60
First N.C.W. Conference.	61
Prohibition Campaign.	61
Palestine: The Women's Question in Palestine.	61
South Africa: S. African Party in Favour of W.S.	61
Spain: Arrangements for the Convention.	61
Government Interest in the Convention.	61
The Spanish Woman Suffrage Bill.	61
The Feminist Movement in Spain.	61
Sweden: New Woman Alderman.	61
Turkey: Sultan Desires Emancipation of Turkish Women.	61
Uruguay: White Slave Traffic.	62
Conservatives Oppose Municipal Suffrage for Women.	62
United States America: Monthly News Letter.	62
Government Pays Women Less than Men for Equal Work.	63
All Civil Service Examinations Opened to Women.	63

SPECIAL SPANISH NUMBER NEXT MONTH.

THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT IN SPAIN.

By CHRYSYAL MACMILLAN, M.A., B.Sc.

If Spain has been one of the latest countries in Europe in which women have begun to organise to improve their own status, now that the first steps have been taken the women there are certainly making rapid progress. In different towns within the last two years societies, having for their object the emancipation of women, have sprung up. The oldest is the Liga Espanola para el Progreso de la Mujer, with its headquarters in Valencia. Its president, Senora Ana Bernal, is editor of a suffrage paper, *Redencion*. On a somewhat similar basis is the Union de Mujeres de Espana, the society which has invited the International Woman Suffrage Alliance to hold its next congress in Madrid. This society has as its president the Marquesa del Ter, and has its headquarters in Madrid. Still another national

organisation, which like the above-mentioned has also branches in different parts of the country, is the Asociacion Nacional de Mujeres Espanolas, whose president is Maria Espinosa, an outstanding Spanish business woman, who is the manager of a large typewriter business, with branches throughout Spain. Still another society with feminist objects is the Federacion Internacional Feminina, under the presidency of Celsia Regis. She is the editor of a feminist organ, *La Voz de la Mujer*, which is printed in her own printing shop, where at the same time women are trained as compositors.

These independent societies felt the need of some co-operation for national purposes, and recently an effort was made to form them into one federation. There was, however, found to be not sufficient common ground to make this possible, but the conversations have resulted in the formation of two national organisations. These are, first, the National Council of Women, under the Presidency of the Marquesa del Ter, which includes the Union de Mujeres de Espana and the Federacion Internacional Feminina, and, second, the Consejo Supremo del Feminismo en Espana, under the presidency of Senora Maria Espinosa, which includes the Asociacion Nacional de Mujeres Espanolas, the Liga Espanola para el Progreso de la Mujer, and three other organisations.

Another interesting development of the feminist movement is the Accion Social Catolica, a society under the presidency of the Countess de Guira. Its formation is apparently a direct consequence of the setting up of these other independent feminist societies.

While the first-named societies admit women, whatever their creed, and include Catholics, Protestants, and what in Spain are called Freethinkers, this society admits Catholic women only, and is under the direct patronage of the Catholic Church. Like the corresponding Action Sociale of France, it urges Catholic women to join for the study of social and political questions.

The recent statement of His Holiness the Pope that "nous voudrions voir les femmes electrices partout" (we would wish to see women electors everywhere) is evidently having a direct influence on the work of these organisations of Catholic women, for a manifesto, recently published in the press, definitely urged the necessity of giving the vote to women. That the Catholic Church is alive to the importance of organising its own members into their own societies is evident by the fact that the formation of an independent group of feminists is sometimes immediately followed by the organisation of a special Catholic feminist society.

It would seem as if the Congress were about to take place at the psychological moment, when so many women of all creeds and political opinions are beginning to feel the need of working in association for the improvement of their status.

It is difficult to foretell the fate of the Franchise Bill, referred to in our last issue, since the existence of any government in Spain is at present so uncertain.

Many Spanish Suffragists, however, are against the proposals in that measure, because they do not give the direct vote to women. That is to say, it allows that women shall have the power to vote indirectly, by delegating their vote to others. When it is realised that the position of a married woman in Spain is to-day so low that she has not the right to her own property, that she can only enter business with her husband's consent, that he has the right to shut her up in a convent if she does wrong, and that he is the judge of what constitutes wrong, it is easy to see that the woman's vote, as provided for in the present Bill, would hardly be independent.

December 30, 1919.

THE FIRST WOMAN MEMBER.

AN APPRECIATION.

By THE HON. MRS. ALFRED LYTTTELTON.

I have been asked to write a few words about the first woman who has taken her seat as a member of the British Parliament, because she happens to be a great friend of mine. In fact, I am so fond of her that I feel it rather difficult to stand a short distance away from Nancy Astor and try to describe her. She has many gifts; she is brimming with vitality; she is witty; she is fearless. She can be mordant, even a little cruel in her laughter, but never so by intention, for above everything else she has a heart. Many people are kind and generous, many love their friends with intensity, but few love all men and all women as she does. No one is old, dull, or dim to her; literally, every time she comes into

and is not afraid to tell a slatternly woman that she need not be dirty, any more than she would be afraid to tell a war profiteer he has no business to spend his money on luxuries. She can lash out with her tongue, and hecklers are justly afraid of her. Yet all the time her heart is burning. She will notice someone in the crowd who is sad, or another who is ill, and she will get into touch with them somehow; she will find time afterwards to go and see them, to help them in far more exacting ways than by giving money.

Her entry into the arena is something of a sacrifice for she comes out from a very full and happy life; she adores her home, her husband, and her children, and is at her best with them; and though she is hospitable to a fault, is always ready to put the home claims first. She takes religion, home, children, friends, work, amusements, games, talks, in her stride, and carries everything along with her in a gay turmoil. Thus, many of her friends grudge her to political life, and are afraid that her particular gifts will not have their best setting. This may be true, but, on the other hand, her passionate sympathy with suffering of all kinds, her moral fervour, her radiant faith, are needed in politics as elsewhere.

I have often heard people discuss how it is that an American by birth, and a woman whose influence has been more conspicuous personally and privately than publicly, should come to Parliament as the first woman, and with a majority of 5203.

Various explanations are given. "She has spent money freely," is the most common one; "her husband's popularity helped"; "her wit amused the electorate"; "there was not a strong enough Labour candidate against her," and so on. But none of these facts explain what has happened.

One word first as to her nationality. She belongs to an old Virginian family; she comes of pure British stock, and I doubt if there is a drop of blood in her veins that is not British. Even if this were not so, even if she were an American in the sense of having different strains of heredity in her, is there



VISCOUNTESS ASTOR, M.P.

Her most common mood is one of gaiety and comradeship. She does not suffer gloom or depression, and I have seen her change the whole atmosphere of a hospital ward in a few minutes. But she is capable of other moods too. She can—and often has she done it—sit for long stretches of time by the sick or dying, soothing, uplifting, helping. She is capable, too, of sustained effort to rescue some weakling or derelict. I have known her take such a one into her home as guest, no mean sacrifice this of time and energy, and spare neither trouble nor money to start him or her again on

anything to be vexed about here?

No: the daughter of those who went out from Plymouth to form a new country has come back through Plymouth to help in building another new England, in which women will have their legitimate place.

Nancy Astor got in for the Sutton Division of Plymouth because she is loved there, because during ten years she has worked for the good of the town and the people, and the people know her heart. That is why they elected her. I was present at one of the greatest tributes a woman could receive, a meeting got up entirely by men of the Lower Deck, to thank her publicly for what she had done to help them in getting their grievances before the public. It was impossible to mistake the genuine affection in all the speeches, impossible not to realise that here there had been not merely political insight and sagacity, but heart, and the understanding born of love. Nancy Astor has got back from Plymouth what she

a fresh path. She is an ardent Christian; Christ is her Captain: she has made Him, if it can be said without irreverence, her Political Chief, in the sense that, I am very sure, she pledges herself to no opinion or promise, she goes to no meeting, and makes no speech, without inward prayer. Yet was there ever a gayer, a more amusing and quicker-witted candidate? I was present at one or two of her meetings: they were full of life; everyone expected to be amused, and was; many were stirred and stimulated. She is able to stretch her power of intimacy with individuals into intimacy with great crowds. Hear her address twenty or thirty women at a street corner, and you will assist in a long, detailed conversation, full of plain speaking on both sides. For she meets complaints and attack with fearless courage and truth; there is no wishy-washy sympathy or apologetic attitude, or concealment of her greater good fortune. She hits out at all selfishness and all bitterness, in whatever class she finds it,



has given to it. That is the explanation of her election. Now it is possible that a woman and a nature of this kind may not always be the best judge of how to translate sympathy, and desire to reform or help, into legislation. She may be too impetuous, she may make mistakes, as many others have done, she may be carried away by her own vehemence. But women should do their best to help her, and to use her for their own help. She is accessible, she is ready to listen; once convinced and enlisted she will spare no trouble or energy, and she will be essentially courageous. She is glad to get into Parliament because she wants to urge certain reforms. She takes her privilege in a great seriousness of endeavour; she intends to represent women and their work as far as she possibly can.

The new member is a wife, a mother of six children, and a woman through and through.

#### LADY ASTOR'S MESSAGE TO THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

House of Commons, S.W. 1,

December 10, 1919.

"The more the women of all the world can work together for the things that are right, the better it will be for the children and men."

NANCY ASTOR.

#### DEMobilISATION OF WOMEN IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The employment of women has gone through a number of difficult phases since the signing of the Armistice, and none of them has been either agreeable or encouraging. At the present moment the extreme pressure of unemployment has been slightly relieved by the approach of Christmas, which has brought temporary work in certain trades, but this is not to say that the problem of the resettlement of women is satisfactorily solved, for it is not. Hundreds and thousands of women who for the first time found a little economic freedom during the war have been pushed back into the overcrowded and underpaid women's trades, and it is only the vigilant activity of the Trade Boards, with their wide new extensions, that prevents a recurrence of the worst forms of sweating among women.

The outstanding industrial fact is that women have been pushed out again from almost all their war-time employments, with the consequence that the nation has lost a great body of efficient workers. It is better, no doubt, that a skilled woman fitter who could earn 1s. 6d. should do the stitching of slop clothing at 7d. an hour, than that she should starve, but it is miserable folly and waste, and leaves her rightly and bitterly discontented.

One of the most exasperating features of the situation is the fact that women have not been turned out only to replace returned soldiers. If that were so no one would grumble, but in point of fact the soldiers are almost as tightly barred out of the skilled trades as are the women. Unless they came from those trades before there is the very greatest reluctance to admit them. It is quite usual to find an employer anxious to employ both ex-soldiers and women, and yet obliged to keep his works idle owing to the scarcity of the only labour that his skilled men will admit. In many other instances the old system of apprentices has been restored, and women are turned out to make room for boys who are not old enough to have seen any war service at all.

All this is deeply discouraging, and at first sight it would seem that we had lost all that we had gained, but fortunately this is not so. For we have gained not only experience, but enfranchisement, and with these two has come a new discontent with the narrow and hopeless conditions of a working woman's life. Organisation is still strong, in spite of past war poverty, and in the determination of women lies their best safety.

The position of demobilised educated women is considerably worse, in its degree, than that of industrial workers. During the autumn unemployment among them has reached a great height, and even temporary and unsatisfactory fields for their work are hard to find. The problem is most acute as regards the thousands of women who worked as temporary Government servants during the war, as clerks in the new Ministries and in all the Government undertakings throughout the country—in the Army Pay Office for example, where 13,000

women remained to be demobilised at the end of November. These women have done magnificent and essential war work, but it has been dull work. They have spent upon its routine and repetition the years when they might have been training for better paid work. Now they come out to find themselves competing with a largely increased class of women workers (since the level of prices forces many previously unoccupied women to earn), and with other as yet unabsorbed thousands of ex-officers whose employment is, of course, of great urgency. And in this difficult time they have found a new enemy rise up against them, namely, the totally unexpected enemy of public opinion.

It seems almost incredible that it should be so, but nevertheless it is true that, owing to the state of public opinion on this point, employers are refusing to consider the applications of women if they have a record of war service behind them; and to have come out of one of the auxiliary services, or still more out of a Government office, is a serious handicap to the woman with her living to earn. This state of affairs, which is as foolish and irrational as it is shocking, is directly due to the action of the daily Press. In the summer, during the "silly season," it started a series of articles and letters about the "Whitehall Flappers," making out that they did nothing in the way of work but powder their noses and make clothes for themselves. This idea, blending in with the still strong prejudice against women's work, has had a most cruel result, and has not unnaturally made the woman war worker extremely resentful.

As with the industrial, so with the professional woman, the outlook is dark. But in both cases the war has taught women their own power, and in this fact there lies the great hope of the future economic freedom of women.

RAY STRACHEY.

December 23, 1919.

#### DEMobilISATION OF WOMEN IN FRANCE.

In France, as in all those countries which during the war employed vast numbers of women in factories and for transport and administrative work, etc., there has naturally been a certain displacement and consequent discontentment among the women workers at the return of men to employment and the cessation of munition making, etc. This dissatisfaction has been lessened by the bonus given to women who were doing Government work.

In addition, many factories, such as arsenals and gun-powder factories, did not dismiss their women workers in order to replace them by men. They were dismissed simply because the work upon which they were employed ceased. The factories which had women superintendents were, thanks to these energetic and devoted women, able to find work for their former employées. One of these superintendents told me, "I am so happy for I have been able to place all my employées in new jobs."

A most valuable organisation was also set up which filled, and indeed still fills, a very great need, namely, The Women's Information and Labour Bureau, which gives women who are looking for work information as to situations, and indicates to them the employments which are the least crowded. Attached to this Information Bureau, as a necessary complement to its excellent work, have been apprenticeship workshops.

The other Labour Bureaus, which have been organised in recent years, have also been most useful during this time of re-organisation. It was above all necessary to point out to the women who had been working in factories that the pay—small, certainly, in comparison with war pay—which they could get in their former employment had been affected by the general rise in wages, and that they were striking no very bad bargain in taking up once more the work they had done before the war. As a matter of fact, many are now returning to their previous work.

There is, indeed, work for every man and every woman. Never has our country stood so much in need of increased production, and, alas! there is many an empty place to fill. There is therefore no crisis of unemployment; rather do we need still more hands at the plough, and many trades are still short of workers. I may add that the lack of domestic servants in France is a serious matter, and one which is creating much anxiety among those families which have but a modest income.

We are still in the middle of a time of social re-organisation, and it is only when this is over that we can have any clear and precise views about the vast evolution through which we are passing.

December 19, Paris.

Thérèse Casévitz.

#### IMPRESSIONS OF A WOMAN CANDIDATE AT THE PARIS MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

BY MADAME ALICE LA MAZIÈRE.

When my Party did me the great honour of nominating me as candidate for the Municipal elections in the Quartier Saint-Georges, I must admit that I could not have any illusion as to the fate which awaited me. The state of the law had made my success impossible.

Then I said to myself that, on the morrow of the anti-suffragist demonstration in the Senate, it was right and necessary that the question of Suffrage and eligibility for women should be brought before the general public, and that in the capacity of a candidate I should be able to explain our programme, and make plain that our object was to co-operate with men in the administration of the State and the business of the Republic.

Therefore I accepted the offer that had been made me. My campaign—if I may use such a big word for such a little thing—was brief: one week. It was unexciting and quiet. I did not send any election address or leaflets to the electors. My posters were few and modest in form. I only held two meetings—one in Rue de Bruxelles, and the other in Rue Blanche.

Confronting the public of election meetings in the capacity of a candidate for the first time, I asked myself how they would receive me; how they would react; whether I should have to struggle against obstruction; whether I should be called upon to refute any of the amusing and novel arguments which have been used against us for so long?

I was met at first with distrust—why should I not admit it? But I very soon found a current of sympathy flowing between me and my audience. I was heard to the end with interest, and if any of those who were present read these lines, they can bear witness that I am not departing from the truth when I write that I was often applauded. This applause was, of course, not meant for me: it was meant for the ideas that I was putting forward, which were those of feminism.

I think I made the electors of the Quartier Saint-Georges realise that a Frenchwoman has a right to take an active interest in the welfare of women and children, to participate in educational and social efforts, and to offer friendly help to men in the great struggle against the scourges of our race—infantile mortality, tuberculosis, alcoholism, and overcrowded homes. As I talked and explained my views on these subjects, I perceived on the faces of those who surrounded me signs of growing interest. Several times I heard the gratified and surprised exclamation, "Why, that's perfectly true!" And if questions were asked after the meeting, it was to enquire into points of detail. During the meeting at Rue Blanche, a lively but courteous controversy arose between me and the Assistant Mayor of the *neuvième arrondissement*. I am not sure that I converted my heckler, but I have reason to think that my arguments went home with the audience. What impressed me most of all was that not only did no one make any objection to the Suffrage and eligibility of women, but that the resolutions demanding these reforms were carried unanimously.

After this I shall be believed when I say that it was never necessary for me to use my fists to defend my ideas, or to drive them into the heads of my listeners. (This is said to reassure M. le Sénateur Alexandre Bérard, who, in his report to the Upper Chamber, states that "women's hands are not made for the prize fighting of the public arena.") Like so many others in the past, M. Bérard writes that the immense majority of Frenchwomen do not desire the vote. Why did not the Honourable Senator do me the honour of taking part in my two meetings; he would have seen, sitting on school benches, many women belonging to all classes of society; he would have seen how attentive they were; he would have observed, as I did myself, that as I explained the self-interested and disinterested reasons which combined to make it necessary for us to take part in public life, their faces brightened, and

their eyes began to shine with a mighty hope. Above all, I should have liked him to hear the tone of voice in which a lady said to me at the end of the meeting in the Rue Blanche: "Madame, my son was not able to come and hear you this evening, but I will do my best to give him an account of what you said, and he will certainly vote for you."



MADAME LA MAZIÈRE.

The total number of my audience, including women, was seven hundred; there were about five hundred women. I polled 390 votes. This result was a valuable encouragement for the cause which I serve. If only Suffrage and eligibility are at last given to Frenchwomen, as they have been given to English, American, Swedish, Austrian, Russian, and Czecho-Slav women, men and women electors will unite to send us to the Municipal Councils and to Parliament. This is my earnest hope, and one which I trust will be realised when at the next elections we once more descend into the "public arena," where experience is demonstrating that in spite of M. Alexandre Bérard's fear, we shall not be compelled to defend our ideas with our fists.

Common Cause, December 12, 1919.

#### WOMEN IN THE U.S.A. CIVIL SERVICE.

##### Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Employment Policies.

A new kind of civil service commission, to be composed of representatives of administrative officials of the Government, the employees, and the outside public, with at least two women members, is one recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Employment Policies, which has just reported to the Joint Congressional Commission on Reclassification of the Civil Service. This recommendation is embodied in the report of a sub-committee on employment conditions of women in the civil service, of which sub-committee the chairman is Miss Gertrude McNally, Secretary of the Women's Union of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, Vice-President of the National Federation of Federal Employees, and a member of the executive board of the Washington branch of the National Women's Trade Union League. Miss McNally and her committee have assembled a mass of data showing the discrimination that exists in the Government departments against the women employees in respect to pay and opportunities for advancement, and one emphatic recommendation in the report is for "legislation to forbid discrimination between men and women in respect to opportunity for entrance, pay for work of the same character or correspondence skill, and opportunity for advancement."



Then follows a recommendation:—

"That in order to make the law effective and overcome the practice so clearly evident in the departmental service to give preference to men in appointments, salary and opportunities for advancement, the Commission recommend to Congress that the administrative agency of the civil service be composed of not less than two persons representative of the management, not less than two representatives of the employee, and possibly a similar representation of the public, one member of each of the two former groups to be a woman. This central administrative agency should have the functions of an employment bureau, and the authority, where one sex or the other is specified by the department, to throw the burden of proof as to the propriety of such requirement upon the appointing officer."

In its findings of fact the report states: (1) That men are given preference over women in Civil Service appointments and in entrance pay. Until its recent issue the Civil Service Manual itself called attention to this difference, men stenographers being offered \$900 to \$1000, as compared to \$720 to \$900 for women eligibles from the same examination. (2) Men are given preference in promotion to such extent that few women, however highly qualified, are allowed to reach executive or technical positions and the better salaries. (3) Women are paid less than men for the same job, both at entrance and afterwards. (4) Skilled women are paid less than unskilled men in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, for example, in the Government Post Office, the Mail Bag Repair Shop of the Post Office department, and throughout the clerical service.

In view of these facts the Committee recommends:—

"Because of the traditional attitude towards women's work which tends to undervalue it because it is done by women, and because of the weaker bargaining power of women, which has led them to accept less for their work than men receive, it is recommended that the Reclassification Commission, in fixing the salary scale, give special study to these classes of positions chiefly or entirely filled by women, in order that the pay therefor shall not be less than is due for the skill or training required, and not less than is paid to men for work of corresponding skill. We refer especially to the clerical service, the women's work in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Government Printing Office, Mail Bag Repair Shop, all the libraries, the schools, and similar branches employing large numbers of women."

On the subject of the cost of living in its relation to wages, and "inasmuch also as the common assumption is that working women in most instances have not the family responsibilities that men have," the Committee refers to figures showing 70 and 75 per cent. of two large groups of women as having dependents, and adds:—

"The sub-committee call attention to the fact, apparent by observation, that the dependents of women workers are usually not children but older members of their families—father, mother, sisters or brothers—and therefore are more expensive than the typical man's family of five with three minor children. The needs of adult dependents are greater, as a rule, than the needs of children, but the expenses of the mother who works include very often the cost of assistance in caring for her children.

"It should also be noted that such studies as have been made show that the wage-earning woman's responsibilities tend to diminish as she grows older, because of the fact that her dependents are so often older than herself. Her heaviest financial burden, therefore, is likely to come in her early working years, instead of at the time when a man's family expenses are at their normal."

N.W.T.U.L., Washington.

November 18, 1919.

#### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF WOMEN PHYSICIANS.

Doctors of Y.W.C.A. Conference Adopt Findings and Agree on Social Hygiene Programme.

The International Conference of Women Physicians, held under the auspices of the Social Morality Committee of the National Board of Young Women's Christian Associations, in New York, during September and October, at which upwards of seventy representatives from fourteen nations were present, adopted the following findings at its final session:—

##### Health Section.

Recommendations for teaching of health education by physicians. Periodical physical examinations for all. Improved conditions for workers. All workers to be insured against accident and sickness.

##### Psychological Section.

Recommendations for teaching sex education in normal schools, colleges, medical schools, and universities, with a view to training parents and teachers for the future.

Recommendations to continue with such sex education as is possible at the present time.

##### Link Between Psychological Section and Legal Section.

Inasmuch as mental health is fully as important as physical health, we, as medical women, place ourselves on record in support of a movement to make all schools and colleges responsive to the emotional and instinctive as well as the intellectual needs of children and young people, to the end that education may become an instrument for teaching the best social adjustment possible.

##### Legal Section (Findings Relating to Social Hygiene).

Resolved, that we affirm our conviction that morality makes equal demands on both sexes.

Recognising that prostitution is not a social necessity, we resolve that the most important measure towards its abolition is sex education towards a single standard of self-control.

In the conviction that regulation is unjust and in no sense preventive of disease, we recommend that it be abolished wherever it exists.

Further, we recommend:—

1. Severe punishment acting equally on both sexes for the exploitation of persons for vice in any of its forms.
2. Early and sufficient care of subnormal individuals.
3. Establishment of accessible and free clinics for those suffering from venereal disease.
4. Education of the public to the need of early and prolonged treatment for venereal disease.
5. In all social legislation women should participate, not only in all law-making, but also in all preventive, curative, and law-enforcing bodies.

*Illegitimacy.*—Believing that no child should be stigmatised because of the circumstances of its birth,

Resolved, that the paternity of the illegitimate child be investigated;

That support be shared by the parents according to economic status of each;

That material rights be the same for the illegitimate as for the legitimate child.

*Marriage.*—Whereas, monogamous marriage seems the most desirable ideal to uphold,

Resolved, that this conference go on record as approving those factors in education and economic conditions which make early monogamous marriage possible.—*The Social Hygiene Bulletin*.

December, 1919, New York.

#### AFGHANISTAN.

##### Women's Emancipation Movement Begins.

*The Englishman*, a Calcutta paper, says that a remarkable rumour has reached them from the frontier to the effect that the Amir, who is supported by Mahomad Tarzi, the Foreign Minister, and several other important persons in Kabul, has begun some kind of movement in favour of the emancipation of women. The result has been to start a fierce controversy, because the movement is opposed by the Queen Mother, by Abdul Kaddus, one of the most powerful men in Afghanistan, and by practically the whole body of Mullahs. It would seem that in all parts of the world, and with all races, this question raises strong feelings. For the moment, in Kabul, foreign politics are in abeyance before this domestic and social matter.—*The Common Cause*.

December 12, 1919.

#### BELGIUM.

##### After the Ballot.

The debate on the communal vote for women was adjourned in October.

For this reform a majority is enough, and it may be regarded as already won, since the Socialists, on April 10—when the political parties came to an agreement on the question of electoral reform—declared their willingness to pass it before the forthcoming new elections to Communal Councils. So if a solemn promise is binding in politics women may expect to participate in the Communal Elections of 1920.

As to the parliamentary vote, it needs a majority of two-thirds, and it would therefore be premature to look upon it as won. Nevertheless, its most passionate opponents are

compelled to recognise that the result of the ballot of November 16 points to a speedy establishment of universal suffrage in accordance with the feminist formula: one man, one vote; one woman, one vote. The new Government, supposing it will be composed of representatives of the three parties—and everything seems to make this supposition probable—will have to declare clearly its views on the question. It will find it morally impossible to evade it, as was done at the constitution of the late National Cabinet. It is known that the mandatories of the Liberal Left now stipulate for their collaboration in a Coalition Government that the reform of universal suffrage pure and simple, excluding women, should figure on the Government programme. But the serious losses which the Liberal party has suffered reduce considerably the number of systematic opponents to the reform. The Liberals at the present moment do not find themselves exactly in a good position for continuing a stubborn resistance to which public opinion has ceased to accord the support of a sentimental sanction. Further, they have to reckon with the resentment of Liberal women, who will not easily forgive them for obliging them to look upon the weakness of their party as a pledge for the fulfilment of their hopes. These women have the right to accuse Liberals of fighting Woman Suffrage, not in the field of ideas, but in that of electoral competition.

A democracy which excludes women from the popular government is nothing but a feudal State, with the right of man replacing the right of the lord. By its unjust opposition to a new state of things—the logical outcome of democratic evolution—the Liberal party has stained its noble past, a past that lifts it so high in everybody's respect, just because on more than one decisive occasion, when the future of Belgium was at stake, it proved that it could sacrifice party interests. After having treated women as gamekeepers, who guard the reserves of their lord against poachers, how shall it be able to ask them, future electors, to work for it? Will the Liberal party deliberately alienate forces with which it will soon have to reckon, forces which would help it to keep pure and bright the light of patriotism, by failing to understand that a just cause soars above the reach of all timid utilitarian objections? We refuse to believe that it has definitely unlearned the truth, without which every party dies: adaptation to new needs, exploitation of new forces. We do not think it an illusion to hope that Liberals will at length begin to show greater deference towards a reform dictated by equity, and treat it as a matter of conscience.—*Le Soir*.

November 26, 1919.

JANE BRIGODE.

#### CANADA.

##### First Woman Registrar.

Miss Minnie Walker has been appointed Registrar of East Middlesex (Ontario), the first woman to be selected for such a position.—*Times*, December 24, 1919.

#### CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

*Zensky Obzor* ("Women's Review"), the organ of the Czech women, is a review containing essays, stories, poems, a translation of an article by Ellen Key, long reviews of music, books, and extracts from *Jus Suffragii*.

#### DENMARK.

##### Policewomen.

*Tidens Kvinder* devotes an article to Miss Peto's visit to Copenhagen and her lecture on the English policewomen:—

It must, however, be said that circumstances are very different in England and in Denmark, and especially submission to authority is not so innate in the Danish people as in the English.

A great part of the examples which Miss Peto brought forward to show how easily the English street public is influenced would be very difficult to apply here in Denmark.

As a practical result of Miss Peto's work amongst us we hope to see in the near future the foundation of a police school for the training of women in the police service; nothing of the kind as far as we know exists for policemen.

At one of Miss Peto's meetings Inspector Keogh said that women in the Danish police service began at a higher wage than men.

This is only true with certain modifications. The women do not do the two years of service as patrols which form the beginning of a policeman's training. They were put to the more theoretic indoor work, for which their previous training was sufficient, and which was carried out by men in a higher category than the beginners who patrol the streets. We are sorry that none of the experts who were present corrected Mr. Keogh's statement. To Miss Peto we were able to clear up the misunderstanding, so that she has not gone home with the impression that Danish women demand a higher wage than men. Here, as in her own country, the general introduction of the equal wage is all that we are striving for.—November 29, 1919.

##### Equal Pay.

*Extracts from a speech by first Burgomaster Ernst Kaper on the question of the Equal Wage.*

The Mothers' Union in Copenhagen held a debate on December 9, in which the opening speech was made by the first Burgomaster of Copenhagen, Herr Ernst Kaper.

If only one voice—his own—had been uplifted against the introduction of the principle of equal wages in the State and the commune, yet women must not believe that the demand had met with universal acceptance.

The point from which he started was the guardianship of the home in view of its social value. It is a misfortune for society when one cannot give women a home and children. The speaker did not belong to those who always said "things are going backwards," but the wages law which had just passed he must characterise as a retrograde step.

The wages reform was stamped by three things:—Hand work was paid better than brain work; women had the same wages as men; and the young the same wages as the old.

This was simply a device on the part of the returning soldiers to get back the places from which war had forced them, and which women had taken in the meantime. The only thing which could give the market back to men was the principle of equal pay, a sure means of getting women turned out. They would always be underdog in the struggle, on account of their higher sickness rate, and the fact that they were longer lived, and therefore costly in pensions.

In practical life they will disappear, that went its way apart from phrases. Therefore women would flock into the State and the municipal service, which had the attraction of an assured pension. But here, also, men would have to be convinced that they were as good as they were costly.

Behind the phrase equal pay there was a debasing flavour. The demand had been caused without consideration as to its effect in the future, and yet its opponents—as, for example, the speaker himself—had declared their willingness to consider an eventual form for balancing the wage of the married and the unmarried man. They could have provided additions for dependents, bonus in case of need, and so on; but no time was allowed for this. The municipality of Copenhagen flung out to the teachers a million kroner, all to no purpose, and that at a moment when the tapscrew could not be further tightened, and there was no more to take.

The Burgomaster reproached the debaters that not one of them had faced the concrete question that the married teacher who, with a wife and six children, has to live on the same sum as an unmarried teacher, loses caste.

In answer to the Burgomaster it must be said that in this country we have always had a law that did not take into consideration whether a man was married or not. All that it considered was whether the individual was a man or a woman. We have always seen the situation that the male married teacher or civil servant with six children had to live on the same pay as the unmarried.

If Burgomaster Kaper had only studied the matter on which he undertook to speak he would have found the leaders of the women's cause fully occupied with this problem. He would have found that the question of provision for dependents is a question quite apart from the wages question, and one, moreover, that must be solved.

Gyuthe Lemche, as president of the Danish Women's Society, at their meeting in 1918, brought up this very question for public consideration.—*Tidens Kvinder*, December 13, 1919.



## FRANCE.

L'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes, as we have already said, carried on a big campaign in connection with the elections of candidates to the Chamber of Deputies, and sent to them a questionnaire to which a great number answered favourably.

However, the Bill passed by the last Chamber of Deputies giving complete suffrage to French women has no need to be confirmed by the new Chamber. The Bill should go straight to the Senate, and it is therefore on the senatorial election that we are focussing all our efforts.

Senators are elected by senatorial delegates, who are Councillors-General, District Councillors, and the delegates chosen by the Municipal Councils of each Commune. Questionnaires, asking for a promise to support Woman's Suffrage, are therefore being sent, not only to the actual senatorial candidates; we are also sending a circular letter to all the Councillors-General and District Councillors, begging them to nominate only such senators as are in favour of Woman Suffrage.

This is a heavy task, which we are accomplishing partly through our provincial societies, but the central organisation and a very great part of the actual work falls on our Paris office.

Public opinion goes forward steadily in our favour, but what of the opinions of the new senators? Only the future will show. MARGUERITE DE WITT DE SCHLUMBERGER. December 17, Paris.

## GERMANY.

## The National Union for Woman Suffrage Dissolves.

At its convention on the 5th of October this year the German National Union for Woman Suffrage was dissolved after three and a half years as a united organisation. At Weimar, on the 19th of March, 1916, it absorbed the two largest Woman Suffrage organisations, namely, the German Association, founded in 1902, and the German Union for Woman Suffrage, founded in 1911. It saw the fulfilment of its most ambitious demands after the general political upheaval, caused so suddenly and unexpectedly by the Revolution. In the ordinary course of events this progress would have taken centuries to accomplish. As a result the German National W.S. Union, having seen its desires come to fruition, has dissolved.

At first there was strong opposition against this action, which arose through the conviction—in itself quite legitimate—that although women had the vote, their necessary political education, and the fulfilment of all the other just domestic and legal claims of women had not yet been accomplished, and that therefore there was still a big field of action for the National Union.

The Chairman, who had to support the executive's proposal for dissolution, against nine proposals for the continuance of the National Union, acknowledged all these facts, but emphasised that the Union was neither the right body nor in the right position to tackle this new work; work which would have to be carried out on a much broader basis. Apart from the fact that from all its previous development and traditions, it was primarily an organisation for propaganda work, it also lacked the necessary money, and would probably lack the suitable personnel for the more educational work which had to be taken up; since it is generally just those most energetic members of the Woman Suffrage movement—as is in the nature of things—who are the very first to be gripped by party politics and completely absorbed by them. They are no more use for a politically neutral Union. The lack of interest and financial difficulties of the National Union was also felt in the affiliated organisations, a great many of which had already dissolved, and many more were about to do so. For these reasons the Executive therefore urged the dissolution of the National Union instead of a slow devitalisation and disintegration, which would prejudice all its former activity.

At the conclusion the Chairman pointed out that at this moment it was mad, even wicked, to keep on an organisation only for the sake of the organisation. All the vital energy of women was so much needed for the motherly hearts and hands of women. For this reason it was very much to be desired that the strong groups in the various districts should not

be affected by the dissolution, but should continue as independent local organisations for the political instruction of women, and for the preservation of the various women's interests. But they were warmly recommended, instead of affiliating to the State Union, to which the same reasons for dissolution applied, to join the National Council of Women of Germany, who in the future would be the supporters of the social and non-party activities of women. The result of the discussion, which lasted for several hours, and in the course of which loyalty and gratitude towards the National Union were amply demonstrated, was a majority in favour of dissolution. It was not, however, the necessary three-quarters majority. The next morning, however, at the request of the minority, who had in the meantime realised the extraordinary difficulty of the situation, another vote was taken, which resulted in a unanimous vote for dissolution.

An important development of the German Women's Movement has hereby been brought to an end. In Germany the efforts towards the attainment of the full citizen rights of women as the foundation for the fulfilment of all other women's demands came comparatively late. A relatively small group took up the campaign, and even among the organised Women's Movement it received very little help, although one or two people did occasionally receive marks of sympathy. In spite of this we could observe, from year to year, an encouraging progress, and sometimes even an unexpected change in public opinion in authoritative quarters. But not by its own power, as elsewhere, has the German Woman Suffrage Movement finally attained its victory, a victory won so amazingly quickly, and affording an emancipation more complete than that gained by women in any other country. The great flood of revolution brought it to us as the consequence of the democratising principle, which came to rule with it. That German social democracy (unlike the democracies of other countries) did not waver for a minute in granting this logical reform will remain its special merit throughout all ages. We may however, take one thing to our credit; namely, it was we who with unrelenting propaganda for this object actually prepared the ground and converted this careless, uncomprehending world to such a degree that already, though scarcely a year has passed, the political equality of women is taken quite as a matter of course. We have nearly forgotten that a short time ago things were quite different. We can, at the close of the work of our Union, feel with just pride that we have accomplished the full object of our work. And so the ending of our work in common could, in spite of a natural regret, be accomplished with a certain satisfaction.

The thing which threw a shadow on our feelings at Erfurt was the fact that with this dissolution of our National organisation the right to belong to the *International* one was entailed, namely, the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. To our work in common with the women of many other countries we owe many unforgettable impressions. In spite of the terrible experiences of the last five years—just especially, perhaps, when looking back on that—we would have welcomed most heartily the taking up again of the old associations after the long separation. As that is no longer possible, we say farewell to our dear International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and to all its dear members, with the very best wishes for the success of their future work. We do this with the hope that with the victory of Woman Suffrage throughout the world the Alliance may reconstitute itself in such a way that we can all work together again.

MARIE STRITT.

November 17, 1919.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

## National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

## A SURVEY.

The headquarters office of the N.U.S.E.C. is occupied at the moment of writing in finishing off its session's parliamentary work before Christmas. The session has been a busy one, and of the greatest importance to women, since it has seen the passage into law of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill and the entry into the British Parliament of the first woman M.P. But besides being a session of achievement, it has been a session of preparation as far as concerns the National Union. Much useful work has been done in preparing for the introduction into Parliament of feminist

legislation next session. Readers of the *International Women's Suffrage News* will remember that we hope to have introduced next session a Bill providing State Pensions for widows with dependent children, and a Bill reforming the Guardianship Laws, so as to make British women equal joint guardians of their children with their husbands. The drafting of these Bills has required much care and consideration, and Friendly Societies and members of Parliament have been consulted. At last, however, both Bills are drafted and await the opening of the next parliamentary session early in February.

## THE WIDOW'S PENSIONS BILL.

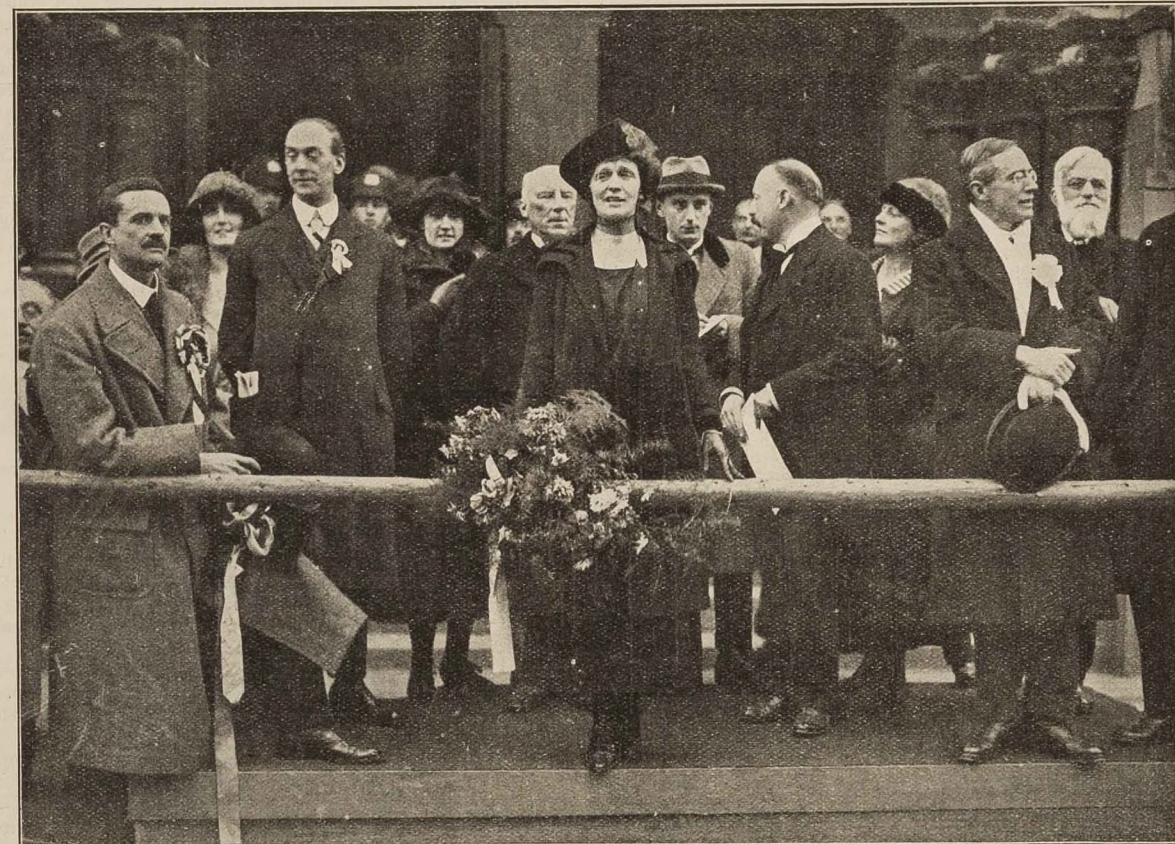
It is surprising how many vexed questions an apparently simple parliamentary Bill can bring to light. In drafting its Widow's Pensions Bill the N.U.S.E.C. has had to make up its mind on a number of points apparently simple in themselves, yet complicated, costly, and controversial when multiplied in effect by the number of destitute widows in the country, and very likely to affect the whole future and fate of the Bill. Some of these points may interest foreign readers in the light of their past or probable experience.

With these changes the Union's Widow's Pensions Bill remains as originally outlined by the N.U.S.E.C. and described to foreign readers, providing State pensions as a right for all civilian widows with dependent children. The pensions are based on the present scale of pensions for soldiers' and sailors, widows and children, and carry with them no stigma of pauperism.

A conference of members of Parliament will be called early in the new year to consider the Bill as finally drafted.

## REFORM OF THE GUARDIANSHIP LAWS.

The conference on the N.U.S.E.C. Guardianship of Infants' Bill, announced in the last number of the *International Woman Suffrage News*, took place in the House of Commons on the evening of December 10. Several members of Parliament were present, including our first sitting woman M.P.—Lady Astor—and representatives of various organisations interested in the reform. The Bill which proposes to remove the present legal injustice, whereby married mothers are not in this country recognised as the legal guardians of their children, nor entitled to any voice in their education or



LADY ASTOR ADDRESSING HER CONSTITUENTS AFTER HER ELECTION.

One point which had to be determined in drafting the Bill was whether or not a widow's pension should terminate when her youngest child ceased to be dependent upon her. It was finally concluded by the Special Committee set up by the N.U.S.E.C. to conduct our Widow's Pensions campaign, that one Bill should provide for the continuation of the pension, in cases of infirmity only, until the widow should be of age to entitle her to an old age pension.

Another doubtful question was when a child should cease to be considered dependent. There was a general agreement that dependence should be held to cease when a child left school, and the advantages of having a definite date fixed for the cessation of the pension decided the Union to provide that the termination of compulsory school attendance for the youngest child shall coincide—except in cases of infirmity—with the termination of the mother's pension.

A third point discussed was what should become of the children of a destitute widow in receipt of a State pension, should the widow die and leave her children motherless and destitute. It has been decided to insert a clause in our Bill continuing the pension to the children.

upbringing, was very fully discussed in general and in detail. It was recommended that a sub-committee should be appointed to consider the final details of the drafting of the Bill, and this will probably be done early in the new year, so that the Bill will be ready for introduction by the time Parliament re-assembles.

## ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING.

The dates for the Annual Council Meeting of the N.U.S.E.C. have been fixed for March 10, 11, and 12. This will be the first re-union of the affiliated societies of the Union since March of last year, when our constitution and methods of work were altered so as to admit into the Union any society having our object among its objects, and to concentrate our activities on six feminist reforms during the year. We had hoped to hold a half-yearly Council last October, but at the last moment were obliged to cancel it on account of the railway strike. The coming Council will therefore be of particular interest, since delegates from our societies all over the country will have their first opportunity of comparing criticisms of the working of the new constitution of the Union. Resolutions for the agenda have not yet reached the office, so



that we are unable to predict the chief business of the Council. It is, however, hoped to arrange at headquarters conferences and informal debates on the most interesting points in the programme of the Union to take place at the time of the Council, in order to give delegates an opportunity of comparing notes without the formalities of Standing Orders of Council.

INEZ M. FERGUSON, Secretary.

#### Letter from Lady Astor to the N.U.S.E.C.

4, St. James's Square, London, S.W. 1,  
December 2, 1919.

Dear Madam,—Since I am the first woman to take her seat in the House of Commons, I feel that I have a special opportunity of helping women's societies, and I am therefore anxious to be thoroughly in touch with their opinions and wishes. I am writing to you now to ask whether your Committee will send me the current reports and publications of your society, and to ask if they will keep me informed of their opinions and wishes with regard to parliamentary matters.

I think that the fact of having a woman in Parliament ought to be of considerable advantage to women's movements, and I trust that I may be able to be of service, both by asking questions and by affording an easier channel for making representations to the Government.

I cannot, of course, guarantee that I shall always agree with the opinions and policy of your society, but I can assure you that I shall honestly endeavour to understand the reasons for every matter you may put before me, and that when I shall feel able to act I shall do my utmost to be useful.

It is a serious responsibility to be the first woman in the British Parliament. I hope that even when we do not agree we may succeed in working together with mutual understanding, and I believe that in the majority of cases we shall be entirely at one.

I am determined to do my best to be useful to the causes and interests of women. I hope and beg that your organisation will back me up in so far as it politically can. What I hope is that we women will be able to act up to our beliefs, irrespective of party politics. I see no political salvation until we do.—Yours truly,

(Signed) NANCY ASTOR.

#### Seven Women J.P.'s Appointed.

The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, which enables women to become J.P.'s, has come into force, and the Lord Chancellor has decided to place some representative women on the Commission of Peace. These women J.P.'s will also form a Women's Advisory Committee, which will assist the Lord Chancellor in the method of selection of women magistrates for the Children's Courts. These first women J.P.'s are the Marchioness of Crewe, the Marchioness of Londonderry, Mrs. Lloyd George, Miss Elizabeth Haldane, Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, Mrs. Humphry Ward, Mrs. Sidney Webb.  
December 24, 1919.

#### Police Women in Edinburgh.

Edinburgh has now two policewomen. This is largely due to the National Vigilance Association, which paid for two trained and uniformed women, who have patrolled the streets and attended police courts for the past eleven months, and by this means have educated public opinion as to the necessity of this reform. One of these women is continuing in her work, and is to be one of the new municipal policewomen; the other is doing excellent service as propaganda officer on the staff of the Scottish Training School for Policewomen. The Sex Disqualification Bill having lessened the previous difficulties, Edinburgh policewomen intend to hold out for equal pay and status, including being sworn in. The policemen of this town have shown themselves in favour of the employment of women as police, provided that the women do not undercut them by working for less pay.—*Common Cause*, December 15, 1919.

#### New Posts for Women.

##### HEAD OF INSURANCE SECTION FOR HER SEX.

One of the big insurance companies in Great Britain has recognised the growing importance of their insurance business among women by appointing a woman manager, Mrs. M. R. Verden, for a special woman's section.

December 23, 1919.

#### WOMAN CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT.

The Incorporated Society of Accountants and Auditors has decided to admit women to membership, and Miss Harris-Smith, who has been practising for over thirty years, is to be made an honorary member.

December 23, 1919.

#### The Displacement of Women Workers. Protest by Representative Women.

We print elsewhere an article by Mrs. Oliver Strachey on the displacement of women workers in Great Britain, and we print below a letter which has been widely circulated to the British Press on this subject:—

We are anxious to bring before the attention of your readers the increasing anxiety felt by organised women at the scale upon which women are being dismissed from every sort of employment—industrial, commercial, and professional. We fully appreciate and share in the desire to provide for discharged service men who, during the last five years, have risked their lives, and in many cases sacrificed their health, on active service. We recognise that their claims must stand before those of women. We emphatically protest, however, against the discharge of women in favour of men and boys who have never seen service. These dismissals are even taking place in occupations acknowledged before the war to be women's work, and we have incontestable evidence that cases are common where wage-earning widows, with children to support, are being superseded by young single men. No reason of less efficiency on the part of the women is given, but rather the course appears to be pursued in response to a growing demand of men to monopolise all trades and industries, except those so underpaid and unskilled that no man desires to enter them.

In face of the experience gained during the war of the industrial capacities of women, we regard this tendency to segregate them in a small group of overcrowded unskilled occupations as not only a cruel injustice to them, but a menace to the economic welfare of the country, which urgently calls for a greater national productivity. How can this be obtained if large sections of producers are artificially debarred from using their energy and strength?—Yours, etc.,

DOROTHY EVANS, Secretary, Association of Women Clerks.

FLORENCE ROCH, President, Catholic Women's Society.

LILIAN DAWSON, Secretary, Fabian Women's Group.

L. CORBEN, Secretary, League of the Church Militant.

MAY OGILVIE GORDON, D.Sc.Ph.D., F.L.S., President,

National Council of Women, Chairman National Women's Citizen's Association.

ELEANOR F. RATHBONE, M.A., C.C., President,

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

GERTRUDE E. SPIELMAN, President, Union of Jewish Women.

E. KNIGHT, Hon. Treasurer, Women's Freedom League.

RHONDDA, President, Women's Industrial League.

MARY WILLIAMS, President, Women's Local Government Society.

B. M. PORTSMOUTH, National President, Young Women's Christian Association.

62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1. December 17.

#### The Women's Freedom League.

##### THE I.W.S.A. CONVENTION.

We have every reason to hope that the woman's movement will make rapid progress in the year 1920, and this will be much accelerated by the convention which the International Women's Suffrage Alliance has arranged to take place next spring in Madrid. It will give an impetus to our cause in every country and rekindle all the old enthusiasm for women's complete emancipation.

##### INDIAN WOMEN'S FRANCHISE.

During the last three months the Women's Freedom League has worked to secure the inclusion of Indian Women in the Government of India Bill. As they were not included, we cabled to the President of the Indian National Congress, to be held December 25, at Amritsar, asking that this congress should ratify its resolution regarding women suffrage, and we can only hope that Indian women will be admitted to citizenship by Indian men at the earliest possible date.

#### GIVE BRITISH WOMEN THE VOTE ON EQUAL TERMS WITH MEN.

We are pressing on members of all parties the necessity of the introduction of a Franchise Bill giving votes to women on equal terms with men at an early date next session, and we hope that our friends in the House of Commons who secure a good place in the ballot will make themselves responsible for such a Bill.

#### THE POSITION OF ARMENIAN AND ASSYRIAN WOMEN.

We are also taking up the cause of the Armenian and Assyrian women, between 4,000 and 5,000 of whom are still shut up in harems in different parts of Persia, and we are urging that every possible means shall be used to secure their immediate release.

#### OUR WOMAN M.P.

We are all delighted that we have now a woman M.P. in the House of Commons, and on receipt of the news, which came to us when we were holding our Green, White, and Gold Fair at the Central Hall, Westminster, we sent her our most cordial congratulations. We hope that at least one hundred women will stand as candidates at the next General Election, and our great desire is to see every one of them in Parliament.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

December 23, 1919.

#### ICELAND.

Two Icelandic papers have been received, 19th June (the Icelandic women obtained the vote on that day), and a women's newspaper, *Kvennabladid*. The elections for the Alting were to take place on November 15th. Advice to the women electors and particulars of the Women's House fill these papers.

#### INDIA.

##### Mrs. Sarojini Naidu.

We publish this month a portrait of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, who is well known as poetess, publicist, and orator. Mrs. Naidu will be one of the representatives of India at the Madrid Convention.



MRS. SAROJINI NAIDU.

#### Defeat of the Woman Suffrage Amendment.

All feminists would regret to hear that the Woman Suffrage amendment to the Government of India Reform Bill had been rejected by the House of Commons. Several women's societies, including the N.U.S.E.C. and the Women's Freedom League, have sent messages to the President of the Indian National Congress, which is meeting at Amritsar this month, expressing their regret and affirming their belief in the rightness of Woman Suffrage on equal terms in India. The I.W.S.A. sent the following cable to the President of the Indian National Congress:—"The International Woman Suffrage Alliance, representing twenty-six affiliated countries, trusts the Indian National Congress will vote solidly for Woman Suffrage in India."

December 24, 1919.

#### Woman Suffrage Not Contrary to Religious Neutrality in India.

Dear Madam,—I am asked by the Bombay Women's Franchise Committee to bring the following cable (received by me on the 29th November) to your notice:—

Bombay, November 22, 1919.

"Bombay Women's Franchise Committee unanimously decided religious neutrality entirely unaffected by Women's Franchise. Circulate this if necessary."

"Mrs. PETIT, President of the Bombay Women's public meeting and President of the Committee."

This Standing Committee was formed by the women of Bombay (of all classes and nationalities), assembled in public meeting, to help to carry on the franchise work in England, with full powers to decide urgent questions in the name of the women of Bombay, when the time would be too short to call a public meeting. You will see that the cable is an answer to the report of the Joint Select Committee on the Government of India Bill from the women of Bombay.

We shall be obliged if you will kindly publish it in the next issue of your paper.—I remain, faithfully yours,

HERABAI A. TATA, Representative of the Women of Bombay and 45 branches of Women's Indian Association.

November 30, 1919.

#### A Letter from the Punjab.

Dear Mrs. Abbott,—We have moved forward rapidly since your visit. Indeed, we may ask in amazement whither are we going? The women are moving fast, and before long will be a force to be reckoned with. Their vote is to be left to local governors to grant if there is a great demand. Will it ever be considered big enough? I doubt it. The educated men are asking for them to have it, greatly, I think, because they want our help, and Suffragists had said they would aid them if they helped the women to get education, etc. Also, they recognise that the forward nations give great liberty to the women. It is mostly self-interest, for India means to come up. She is ashamed when she sees the strides that a small nation like Japan has made. There is a great, vibrating, pulsating spirit from end to end of the land. There are insistent demands for education, mass education, better houses, factory laws, etc. India is now a huge problem. Food is very dear, clothes prohibitive. The poor (the greater number are that) suffer greatly. My work for the babies and women goes on apace, and is being taken up throughout the land.

Our first baby show in the Punjab was appallingly big. About 1,500 babies and 3,000 women, and now they ask for another, when ALL will come. The Society for Promoting Scientific Knowledge is a great education centre for hygiene, mothercraft, etc. One hundred and six certificates of St. John Ambulance have just been given away to the women in my classes, and six medals. The women are so bright and keen. As all the work is in the vernacular, and competent workers are few, this has been rather uphill work, but it has been going for six years now, and is established.

Our women in the Punjab are not political yet, for the men are backward in this way, but they will be when there are more college educated women. At present they are just feeling their feet.

MARY CALER.

Ashfield, Lahore, November 25, 1919.

#### The Indian Government and Women's Education.

The recent order of the Government of India supplies one point of interest and provides a tardy recognition of Government responsibility in the development of the feminine intellect.

The Government of India have resolved, on the 1st of October, 1919, that Government action is necessary in the matter of girls' education in India, owing to the large disparity in the numbers of the male and female school-going population. Government recognises that the educational difficulties of the present course of female education are: (1) Lack of enough teachers, (2) unsuitableness of curriculum, and (3) the failure of the examination system. It hopes that the new powers of compulsory education obtained by Bombay and Governments will be utilised to press girls of school-going age into the schoolroom. It is found that five lakhs (some 33,000) of girls are at present attending boys' schools, and



facilities must be created for such girls where it is not possible to start independent girls' schools.

Improvement of secondary education and large encouragement of arts' colleges intended for girls are recommended. The Government have finally resolved that girls' education must be given substantial financial fostering. Primary education must be mainly free, studentships and scholarships must be made more lavish, and grants-in-aid calculated more generously. The resolution closes with the hope that "the demand for girls' education, and the supply of means to foster its growth, may in the future so react upon each other as to provide for an early and substantial development of this important factor in the progress of India." This contribution of the Imperial Government will give a further impetus to the activities for the education of women already taken up by local governments.

Sometime ago readers were told of the appointment of a lady to the senate of the Mysore University. Recently the Bombay and Madras Governments have followed suit, and nominated women senators. Whatever the trend of the Southborough Committee women are slowly gaining ground in Indian public life.

G. R. JOSYER, M.A.  
Bangalore, India, November, 1919.

### ITALY.

#### Woman Suffrage and the General Elections.

The results of the General Election on November 16th, which took place under the systems of Proportional Representation and Adult Manhood Suffrage, were very much what I predicted in my last letter—i.e., about three hundred new Deputies were elected, of whom some one hundred are Catholics; but the number of Socialists is very much greater than we had anticipated, since they number about one hundred and fifty.

From the Suffragist point of view the situation is a rather complicated one. The Catholics are solid for Suffrage, and so are the Socialists, but apparently the Socialists are not anxious that Italian women should have the vote before the elections of 1920, since the women of their own party are not yet well organised!

Among the other two hundred and fifty Deputies there are many good Suffragists, including SS. Gasparotto and Sandrini, but there are also anti-Suffragists among the new Deputies. We fear particularly the influence of some of the journalist Deputies, among whom are two editors of the *Corriere della Sera*, of Milan, SS. Amendola and Zanini, who have always been very zealous and powerful opponents of our cause. We are sure that we shall have a good deal of unpleasantness from this quarter.

We have also, in these elections, lost several friends; S. Martini has not been elected, and S. Sonnino did not stand for election. The conditions, therefore, under which we have to begin our campaign are new, and we scarcely know yet where we stand.

In the speech with which the King opened the Legislature, not a word was said about Woman's Suffrage. It is true that the whole speech was very general in tone, and no particular bill or social reform was mentioned. Nevertheless, we know that the bills for Workers' Pensions, and for the reform of the Senate, are already drafted.

S. Nitti, the Prime Minister, has not yet received our deputation, and we do not yet know if he is willing to pledge himself to help us with the same earnestness that he showed some months ago. Personally, I am quite sure that he does not wish to desert us and at the same time to drop the Bill which he had helped to pass through the Chamber; but the political situation is very difficult, and it is quite possible that the Ministry may fall. The Socialists also may continue to be obstructive, and make it impossible for the Chamber to work quickly enough to get the Bill passed at an early date. Suffragists are certainly very worried about the position of their reform; but, on the contrary, public opinion, the Press, and the political parties, seem to take it for granted that we shall have the vote by 1920. The political associations have already organised sectional associations for women, and every day we receive letters and telephone messages from women, who ask for our help with regard to getting their names put on the electoral lists!

### Fiume Election.

S. Rizzo was unanimously elected by the men and women voters of Fiume, but he was not successful at Messina, where he was also a candidate. This is a great pity, as he cannot now sit in the Chamber of Deputies, and we have therefore lost the only chance of having a Deputy elected, even if only under exceptional circumstances, by women.

### La Recherche de la Paternité.

S. Meda, one of the leaders of the Catholic party, has just brought forward in the Chamber a Bill for the Recherche de la Paternité. So far so good, but we should be much more grateful to S. Meda if he would, at the same time, help us to obtain the vote in 1920.

December 16, Milan.

M. ANCONA.

### NEW ZEALAND.

#### Women Candidates Nominated.

Three women candidates have been nominated in the New Zealand elections.—*Times*, December 12, 1919.

#### Widows' Pensions Act Amended.

The session just concluded has seen two Bills passed of interest to women, in addition to the Women in Parliament Bill. The Pension Acts have been amended. The two years' duration of pension for a miner's widow is altered to the term of her widowhood. The Widows' Pensions Act, which gave 5s. weekly to each child, leaving the mother out, now allows 7s. 6d. to the mother and the same to each child. This is not affected by the family receiving other pensions, save that the aggregate sum for the widow must not exceed 25s. a week, and for a child the limit is 10s. Men who fought in the South African War are now included in the war pension scheme, and so are policemen when injured on duty; if killed on duty, the widow is pensioned as if she were a soldier's widow. Wives of soldiers who married outside of New Zealand are also included on widowhood.

#### Divorce Law Amended.

The Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act has been amended to allow wives of enemy aliens who have left the country the right to divorce after three years' absence. In such a case the mother is granted sole guardianship of her children, a precedent for the right of equal guardianship, a reform for which New Zealand women have long petitioned.

November 8, 1919.

#### Women Eligible for Lower House.

On October 17 a Government Bill making New Zealand women eligible for Parliament was passed, the Legislative Council (Upper House) throwing out the clause allowing women to be nominated for that Chamber. A Bill, however, is now being brought forward in the Council itself to remedy that restriction. The Bill was carried handsomely, without a division, in the Lower House, all parties paying tributes to the women of the country. Special credit is due to Mr. James McCombs, who has kept the matter before the House for years in one private Bill after another. An Auckland candidate is already in the field, Mrs. Baume, a leader thought and reform in the northern city.

#### First N.C.W. Conference.

The first conference of the National Council of Women (founded last year) took place in Wellington last month. Great regret was felt at the absence, owing to illness, of the President, Mrs. K. W. Sheppard. Mrs. Sheppard has been constrained to resign her position, which is now filled by Miss Ellen Melville, of Auckland. Mrs. Sheppard's long and arduous labours for women and humanity entitle her to the honoured rest which broken health compels her to seek. It was fitting that she who had so nobly borne the burden of the franchise battle should at least have inaugurated this great, new, forward movement among New Zealand women.

The conference had a strongly educative effect in Wellington, treating of many questions then before Parliament. The Council affirmed the need to raise the age of consent from sixteen to eighteen, to provide widows' pensions, as well as the existing pensions for widows' children, to give women the right to a legal share of their husbands' income,

to appoint women police, and to hold juvenile courts elsewhere but in magistrates' courts, to establish farm colonies for male and female degenerates, to make old age pensions reciprocal in New Zealand and Britain, to improve the conditions of female factory workers, and give a higher status and a wider scope to the present women inspectors of factories. Dissatisfaction was expressed with the management of our schools for feeble-minded and defective children. An important resolution was passed, calling on the Government to refuse to employ indentured labour in Samoa, and to induce the Samoans to work, as American Samoa is reported to have done, by eliminating private trade.

#### Home Economics Clubs Formed.

An approach to the constructive activities of American women, domestically and civically, is made in the founding of the Home Economics Club in Auckland. This week a branch is being formed in Christchurch. The club will assist to uplift, extend, and popularise home science, both privately and in the schools, while considering municipal and national improvements in sanitation, food handling, food supplies, etc. The club, it is designed, will move towards the reforms shown to be necessary during the influenza epidemic last year.

#### Prohibition Campaign.

The Women's Efficiency League, founded last winter by Mrs. Kineton Parkes, is doing excellent work in the Prohibition campaign prior to the December poll.

All points towards a strong advance in the woman movement next year.

JESSIE MACKAY.

November 8, 1919.

### PALESTINE.

#### The Women's Question in Palestine.

The situation in Palestine with reference to the Women's Question is as follows:—

There is at present in Jerusalem a Provisional Council which represents every Jewish body in Palestine, including the various workmen's organisations. At the time when this Provisional Council was set up it was agreed that an election of the Constituent Assembly should take place as soon as possible. It was proposed that Women's Suffrage should be granted immediately. The Mizrahi, or the ultra-orthodox party in Palestine, called a meeting, at which the question of Women's Suffrage was discussed, and decided to take the opinions of the orthodox Rabbis of Jerusalem. These Rabbis took up a position against Women's Suffrage. For the present the elections to the Constituent Assembly have for various reasons been postponed, and there is no doubt that when the elections do take place these differences of opinion will be amicably settled. In this connection it is interesting to note that the Mizrahi or orthodox organisation of England have said that: "The Mizrahi as an organisation has never declared itself against the granting of the franchise to women in a properly constituted Jewish Parliament in Palestine." The General Zionist organisation has from the very beginning always been in favour of equal rights for women, and the leaders of the movement at present in Palestine are using all their influence on the side of women's rights.

A. L. HAWKINS,

Librarian to the Zionist Organisation.

London, December 23, 1919.

### SOUTH AFRICA.

#### South African Party in Favour of Woman Suffrage and Eligibility.

We are delighted to learn that General Smuts has at last become a suffragist. The *Times* of December 19, informs us that resolutions in favour of Woman Suffrage, and in favour of election to the Senate, have been adopted by the Congress of the South African party.

### SPAIN.

#### Arrangements for the Convention.

Miss Macmillan writes enthusiastically from Spain of the splendid welcome given to her by the Spanish Suffragists, many of whom waited at the station at Madrid till close on midnight to receive her.

Intense interest prevails in connection with the convention of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and a representative committee is in course of formation to carry out the local arrangements for the convention.

A printers' strike in Madrid has made preliminary organisation difficult, but notices of the convention, in Spanish, have been printed in London and sent post-haste to Madrid.

#### Government Interest in the Convention.

The Minister of the Interior has expressed himself warmly in support of the convention and its objects, and has promised to do all in his power to make it a success.

#### The Spanish Woman Suffrage Bill.

The proposed Woman Suffrage Bill would give women the right to delegate their vote to a relative. As in Spain a wife has no right to her own earnings or income, and can have no banking account, and where a husband can place a wife who displeases him in a Convent for life, this would not constitute an independent vote, and the Bill is therefore not acceptable to many feminists.

#### The Feminist Movement in Spain.

The Suffrage and Feminist movement in Spain is growing by leaps and bounds, and societies have sprung up all over the country. Among these are the Union de las Mujeres de Espana, and the newly formed Consejo de las Mujeres de Espana, under the presidency of the Marquesa del Ter; the Asociacion Nacional de Mujeres Espanolas, under the presidency of Senora Maria Espinosa; La Liga Espanola para el Progreso de la Mujer (Valencia), of which Senora Ana Bernal is president; the Asociacion Concepcion Arenal (Valencia); the Progreso Feminino de Barcelona; La Mujer del Parvenir (Barcelona). A Supreme Feminist Council for Spain has also lately been formed, with Senora Maria Espinosa as president.

December 23, 1919.

### TURKEY.

#### Sultan Desires Emancipation of Turkish Women.

The *Manchester Guardian* of December 17 reports that a correspondent of the Associated Press has been granted an interview with the Sultan, who, among other things, said:—

"As soon as peace is signed we shall tackle the solution of our internal affairs. One big field open to us is the emancipation of Turkish women. I believe it is through our religion that we can best accomplish this, by giving them the status of their American sisters, preserving their honour and probity, and assuring their welfare as family builders."

### URUGUAY.

#### The White Slave Traffic.

The National Council of Women is putting up a big fight against the White Slave Traffic. None of the Latin-American countries, with the exception of Brazil, joined the International Convention against the White Slave Traffic, signed in Paris in 1910. The President of the Equal Moral Standard Committee, Dr. Pauline Luisi, is therefore working hard in order that Uruguay may adhere to this Convention.

Since last year she has had several interviews with the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, but without result, and she finally decided, therefore, to ask for an interview with the President of the Republic, and to place before him, in the name of women, the urgent need for our country to signify its adherence to the International Convention against the White Slave Traffic.

Letters were also sent to the President of the Republic, and to the President of the Administrative Council. Both considered the facts laid before them by the National Council of Women, and have promised their support, and the Minister of Education has drawn up a report advising the adherence of Uruguay to the Paris Convention. We expect that a Bill to this effect will shortly be laid before the Chamber of Deputies, and there is little doubt that it will pass.

Our work in favour of Abolition continues. Dr. Pauline Luisi had a vigorous campaign in the Argentine, especially at Buenos Aires. As she had to stay there for several months,



she organised a Joint Abolitionist Committee, representing both Uruguay and the Argentine. Many Abolitionist meetings were held, and public opinion thoroughly awakened. The secretaries of this Committee are Dr. Angel M. Gimenez, for the Argentine, and Dr. Pauline Luisi for Uruguay.

Though it is very difficult to interest women in this movement, Dr. Luisi persuaded several women to approach the Municipal Council and demand their approval for the Abolitionist Bill presented by Dr. Angel Gimenez. The Bill passed by a very small majority, but it was suspended by the Municipal Commissioner.

#### Conservatives Oppose Municipal Suffrage for Women.

The suffrage question has suffered a slight set-back. We hoped that the Chamber would pass a Bill this year giving the municipal vote to women, but the Conservative party have shown such strong opposition that we fear the question will now be deferred until next year. However, the Uruguayan Alliance for Woman's Suffrage has decided to send a petition to the members of the progressive party and to the President of the Chamber of Deputies, demanding that this matter should be discussed during the current year, and another letter of protest to the deputies of the Commission on Legislation, who caused this set back.

#### National Council of Women and Primary Education.

The N.C.W. has approached the Department for Primary Education, with a request that in Primary Schools girls should be taught the outlines of civil, penal, and commercial law as it affects women.

October, 1919.

PAULINE LUISI.

### THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

#### Three More Ratification Victories.

There are three more victories to report to the friends across the seas who are interested in the movement for woman suffrage in the United States, the ratification of the Federal Amendment by the Legislatures of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Colorado, making twenty-two in all.

#### Humours of the Anti-Suffrage Campaign.

These three ratifications occurred within two weeks, and to use a bit of American slang, "made suffrage stock boom." There is, however, not the least doubt by anybody that this amendment will become a part of the National Constitution before the presidential election in November, 1920, except by some amusing little groups of women in several States, the remnants of the Anti-Suffrage Association. In New York City their headquarters occupy one floor of a former private residence, with a big sign over the door, "Women Voters' Anti-Suffrage Party," which has the good effect of bringing a smile to the face of every one who sees it. Their object, as announced, is to repeal the suffrage amendment in New York State and prevent the Federal Amendment! This makes people laugh outright. On one wall is a sign reading: Politics Are Bad for Women and Women Are Bad for Politics; on another wall is one which reads: You Must Register to Vote in the Spring Primaries for President and U.S. Senators. When their attention is called to this discrepancy, they say: "Of course, now that New York women have the ballot it is their duty to use it." When asked how it can be a "duty" to do something which is bad for women and bad for the State, they answer that the "antis" must vote for Senator Wadsworth's re-election to prevent his being defeated by the Suffragists. And when someone persists: "But you say in all your speeches and documents that women have far more influence without the ballot," they answer with a contemptuous sniff. No outsider can buy a piece of literature without rigid cross-questioning as to whether she belongs to the association, what she intends to do with it, etc., and if the answers are not satisfactory she cannot get it.

The "antis" hold their society together in Connecticut with a list of names of wealthy and prominent women, headed by the wife of former President Wm. Howard Taft. Their only daughter, Helen, who is now acting-president of Bryn Mawr College, is a Suffragist, and Mr. Taft declares himself in favour of woman suffrage, but he did not do so when he could have been of great assistance. The Governor of Connecticut and his family belong to the exclusive social set,

and they have thus far prevented him from calling a special session to ratify the amendment, but their influence will be wholly discounted when this becomes a party necessity, as it surely will.

The Anti-Suffrage Society of New Jersey is very active, as this is a doubtful State for ratification of the Suffrage amendment. It is one of the three States which did not ratify the Prohibition amendment, and has always been in control of the liquor interests to a very large degree. As long as there is any hope of in some way getting rid of this Prohibition amendment they will fight woman suffrage, and the anti-suffrage women will support them in it. Here also the latter are largely women of wealth and social prominence, and here also the wife of a former president is the "star" member. She is always and everywhere spoken of as "Mrs. Thomas J. Preston, formerly Mrs. Grover Cleveland," and one paper this week termed her Mrs. Grover Cleveland Preston! As their principal war cry was that "the women of New Jersey did not want the vote," the State Suffrage Association decided to take a poll of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, comprising about 20,000 members. Every Club in the State was requested to take a vote as to whether it did or did not want woman suffrage for New Jersey. The result was overwhelmingly in favour, and at its State convention a resolution for it was adopted by a majority so large that the few who voted in opposition were greeted with laughter and jeers.

After the representative women of the State had declared themselves in favour, and both of the United States Senators from New Jersey had voted for the submission of the Federal Amendment, the "antis" began a demand that this should be referred to the voters before the Legislature had a chance to ratify it. They thought they would have a better chance with the men than they had with the women. The Republican party, which is largely under liquor influence, agreed with them, put a referendum plank in its platform, and elected the majority of the Legislature. It should therefore send the Federal Amendment to the voters, but a Democratic Governor was elected on a platform calling for ratification, and would veto a referendum Bill. The President of the State Suffrage Association says that the new Legislature has been carefully polled, and it will ratify the amendment. Should it do so, the battle will be almost won, as New Jersey has been considered an almost hopeless State. The Legislature meets in regular session in January.

The National Anti-Suffrage headquarters in Washington were closed soon after the amendment was submitted by Congress last June, and the "archives" moved to New York. Mrs. Wadsworth, the national president, resigned her office, but she continues to publish her paper, the "organ" of the association, which violently abuses the Suffragists and calls them Bolsheviks, anarchists, "free-lovers," and other unpleasant names. Meanwhile her husband is coming up for re-nomination to the United States Senate at the primaries next spring, and is already beginning his campaign. He represents the reactionary, non-progressive element of the Republican party that was responsible for its defeat in 1912. As soon as the United States entered the war he resigned from the National Guard, whose members entered the army, saying that he could be of more service to the country by remaining in the Senate! He is at present allied with the Lodge forces there to kill the Peace Treaty and the League of Nations. He voted against the Prohibition amendment, the Bill to abolish child labour, and various others which had the support of the women of the country. From first to last he has been the uncompromising enemy of woman suffrage. He and his wife fought it to the very end in New York State in 1917, and to the very end in the United States Congress. Now the liquor interests and the capitalistic interests are determined to return him to the Senate, where he has served them so well. Just one obstacle stands in the way—the woman's vote of the State. Aside from all questions of party politics, if the women do not retire Senator Wadsworth to private life they will be unworthy the great privilege which has been conferred on them.

#### Annual Convention of League of Women Voters.

The State Suffrage Association, now called the League of Women Voters, with many thousands of members, held its annual convention recently, and passed unanimously a reso-

lution to work and vote to defeat Senator Wadsworth for the nomination. They elected as their new president Mrs. Frank A. Vanderlip, wife of the president of one of the largest banks in the city until within a few months. Both husband and wife have been devoted workers for woman suffrage for a number of years. Of course there are some Republican women who are so blindly partisan that they will vote for any candidate the party puts up. Under the direction of its leaders these women have even denounced the newly-formed League of Women Voters, which is to take the place of the old National Suffrage Association, because it is non-partisan, and asks its members to vote for the candidates who represent the highest principles and policies, no matter to which of the parties they belong. The hope of the Suffragists is to prevent the nomination of Wadsworth at the primaries next spring. The election will not take place till the autumn.

#### Mrs. Chapman Catt's Tour of the Western States.

It was my hope that Mrs. Chapman Catt, our national president, would return from her seven weeks' tour of the Western States, referred to in my last, in time to give an account of it in the space allotted for this letter, but she will reach New York the day the mail steamer must carry it away. In all the cities she has been enthusiastically welcomed with banquets and receptions in her honour, and large audiences to hear her public addresses. A paragraph or two will give the keynote of her message to the people.

"We are entering a struggle in which constitutional and political methods of evolution are in conflict with direct methods of revolution. This is no time for neutrality. Looking backward over the past hundred years, it is not difficult to point out many serious and lamentable mistakes men voters have made. Women voters will be doubly culpable if, knowing these facts of history, they make the same sort of mistakes. Neither State nor nation should temporise with the problems of government before them. Lynchings, compelling the kissing of the American flag, deportation, are not meeting the situation. The nation is suffering from having so long kept the tools of government from women. Home means more to woman than it ever can to man. Since the earliest forms of civilisation, when a dugout with its wood fires was the centre of the home, woman with her children has been the defender of that spot, and she will continue to defend it to the last.

"The League of Women Voters is not to dissolve any present organisation, but to unite all existing organisations of women who believe in its principles. It is not to create sex antagonism, but to develop co-operation between men and women. It is not to lure women from partisanship, but to combine them in an effort for legislation that will protect coming movements which we cannot even foretell, from suffering the untoward conditions that have hindered for so long the coming of equal suffrage."

#### Survey of the Political Situation.

All of the political parties have accepted the new women voters on complete equality; have placed them on national and State committees, and shown them the same consideration as they have men in the plans for the approaching presidential campaign. President Wilson has not left his room for over three months, except to be taken to the porch of the Executive Mansion in a wheeled chair. Entire secrecy has been maintained, and the anxiety of the people has been intense. Of late his physicians have permitted him to transact some public business, and his messages to the Congress show that his mental faculties are not at all impaired. The trouble now, whatever it may be, is physical. Even without this attack of illness he would not have been a candidate for the presidency, as the country would not tolerate the idea of a third term. At the present moment both Republicans and Democrats are without a candidate. Various attempts at coalition of the minor parties, and at forming a new party out of the dissatisfied elements of the old ones, have shown little strength. There is no question, however, that all parties will stand for woman suffrage.

To end this letter as it began—with the ratifications—the amendment passed in the Legislature of North Dakota in the Senate on November 26, by a vote of 38 to 4, and in the Lower House on December 1 by 103 to 6. It passed both Houses of the South Dakota Legislature on December 3 by

unanimous vote. As the Governor had hesitated to call a special session on account of the cost to the State, the members generously paid their own expenses. The amendment passed the Colorado Legislature on December 10 by a unanimous vote of both Houses, making the twenty-second State. The Governor of Oregon has called a special session for January 12, but the Suffragists still hope for one more ratification in December, so that Oregon may make the twenty-fourth State—two-thirds of the number required.

IDA HUSTED HARPER.

New York City, December 11, 1919.

#### U.S.A. Government Pays Women Less than Men for Equal Work.

That the U.S. Government pays men more than women for the same or comparable work is shown by an official report, made public to-day by the Woman's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labour, of which Miss Mary Anderson is director. The report is based on studies of the Civil Service Commission's records made by the Woman's Bureau, with the co-operation of the Commission. The data has been transmitted to the Joint Congressional Commission on Re-classification of Civil Service, for its use in revising the Government salary scale.

The records compiled, the report states, show that for the first two months of 1919 (which is the period studied) 86 per cent. of the 4,689 women appointed entered the service at salaries of \$900 to \$1,299, while only 36 per cent. of the 3,270 men appointed entered at those rates, the men's pay running much higher.

The prevailing rate for women typists was \$1,000 to \$1,099, for men typists \$1,100 to \$1,199.

Men who passed the examination as law clerks were appointed in the War Risk Bureau at salaries ranging from \$1,200 to \$3,500, but women taking the same positions were paid \$1,100 to \$3,000.

Women statisticians, work requiring college training and some practical experience, were appointed at salaries as low as \$1,200, while men received \$1,800, \$3,000, and \$4,000. Only one of the fifteen women appointed to managerial, supervisory, office organising, or secretarial positions, received as much as most of the men received, namely, \$2,000 and over. The other women received \$1,200, \$1,400, and \$1,600.

N.W.T.U.L., Washington.

November 17, 1919.

#### All Civil Service Examinations Opened to Women.

Women will hereafter be admitted to all examinations held by the U.S. Civil Service Commission, according to a decision made public to-day. This decision follows recent studies of the Civil Service Commission records, made in co-operation with the Commission by the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labour, which revealed that women had been excluded from 60 per cent. of the examinations held during the first six months of 1919.

The Civil Service Commission decision quoted from the minutes of the meeting of November 5, reads as follows:—

"The following will be inserted in all announcements of examinations—

"Both men and women, if qualified, may enter this examination, but appointing officers have the legal right to specify the sex desired in requesting certification of eligibles.

"Wherever the appointing officer indicates, however, that only men or women, or only men and military preference men, will be appointed, then a statement to that effect shall be added to the above in the announcement.

"This minute does not apply to a case where there is an ample register of one sex, but eligibles are needed of the other sex, in which case an examination may be confined to applicants of the sex for which eligibles are needed, the announcement to contain the statement that there is an ample register of the sex not admitted."

NAT. WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE.

Washington, November 15, 1919.

#### Senator McLean Champions Women in Civil Service.

Senator McLean has introduced a Bill providing "That nominating and appointing officers, when requesting certifications from the eligible list of the Civil Service Commission, shall not specify sex, unless sex is a physical barrier to the proper performance of the duties of the position to be filled."



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"Debussy as related to the Past and Present Progress of Music."—Mrs. F. SHIRLEY LIEBICH.  
Piano illustrations by Mr. Frank Liebich.

Wednesday, 28th January, 8-15 p.m.

"The Middle Classes Union."—Mr. KENNEDY JONES, M.P.  
Chairman—Mrs. T. Dexter.

Wednesday, 4th February, 7-15 p.m.

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Wednesday, Jan. 21.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "Mothers' Pensions." Chair: Mrs. Tanner. 3 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 28.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Miss Raleigh. Subject: "The Rights of Animals in Ancient and Modern Times." 3 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 30.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Debate: "Does Mme. Montessori Preach a New Gospel in Matters Educational?" 7 p.m.

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