

# THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

## JUS SUFFRAGII

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### THE CENTENARY OF A GREAT WOMEN'S COLLEGE.

MOUNT HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS, 1837-1937.

It was a wonderful experience to be present at this celebration of a hundred years' service to the cause of women's education, to missionary enterprise at home and abroad, to research, to administration and to social service. To a European the scene was bewildering in its variety. Between the stately buildings of library, laboratories, theatre and observatory flitted the 1000 present students, eagerly helpful, always at hand—smiling and devoted hostesses to the 2000 graduates who thronged from all over the world to pay homage to their *Alma Mater* and to the retiring President, eminent and beloved Dr. Mary Woolley. After a "student frolic" at 7 a.m. of country dances round the maypole, a service followed, and then Miss Frances Perkins, Secretary of State for Labour, outlined the need for a new spirit in state administration and asked for sympathy and collaboration from educated women. President Dr. Mary Woolley, who was greeted with a resounding and affectionate demonstration, spoke of the international contribution of Mount Holyoke. Three hundred and sixty seven missionaries have gone forth to the Indians of the U.S.A., to China and Burma, Ceylon and India, South Africa, Hawaii, and Japan. Colleges on the Mount Holyoke model have been founded in S. Africa, India and Spain. Miss Helen Monchow, editor of the *Journal of Land and Public Utilities*, gave a fine picture of Mount Holyoke scholarship.

At luncheon, Mrs. Beard traced the descent of learned women from Greece to the present day. Women, some women, have held high the torch of learning in every country. A pageant and garden party gave variety to the programme, and thousands at the reception paid homage to Dr. Woolley.

On May 8th a long academic procession entered the vast hall where 45 presidents of American Universities and representatives of other universities from Oxford to Japan were already gathered. I made the first speech to bring the greetings of my own college, Newnham College, Cambridge, 29 years younger than Mount

Holyoke, and next I gave greetings from our International Alliance. Uppermost in the minds of every woman present was the miserable thought that fifteen men and three women had betrayed their trust. To celebrate the centenary of Mary Lyon's college, founded to educate women for service and leadership, this small band of reactionaries had selected an unknown man to succeed the magnificent pioneer women who had led the college for 100 years of ever increasing growth and prestige. I had the pleasure of speaking of women's contribution to public affairs, and brought before my audience the figures of Senator Plaminkova, Mme Brunschvicg, Dame Rachel Crowdy, Mme Charaoui, Dr. Lutz and many more. From the bottom of my heart I pleaded to the women of the U.S.A. to be true to themselves and to help us who are under the menace of fascist and nazi contempt of women's intellect and service.

Dame Virginia Gildersleeve spoke of women's contribution to knowledge and research, inspiring us with a great vision, and Mr. Sayres, Under Secretary of State, spoke on women and peace.

If there was any doubt in men's minds as to the quality and ability of American womanhood, the wonderful array of 20 women on whom Honorary Degrees were conferred should have dispersed it. Administrator or actress, poet and scholar, writer and scientist, they stood up one by one, greeted by rounds of applause. Miss Eileen Power of Cambridge, Mlle Villard of the Sorbonne and Lyons University, Miss You Tsit Law of China, were among the foreign recipients and your President is now Doctor of Laws *Honoris Causa*.

It was significant of the temper of the assembly that no word of tribute was paid to the trustees and by no word of confidence or otherwise was the new but absent president mentioned. Women here are determined to fight to the last ditch to secure that the tradition of women presidents shall be observed.

M. I. CORBETT ASHBY.

## IN MEMORIAM.



Swedish women have again suffered a great loss by the death of Anna Abergson, one of the pioneers of the Swedish Suffrage Movement. Since her youth she worked for obtaining the same rights for women in every field with men: educational facilities, access to professional work, equal pay, etc., and she strove always for freedom, but a freedom based on responsibility. Having been entrusted with several confidential posts, as for instance in the matter of popular pensions, she worked indefatigably for equal rights and she lived to see the triumph of her principles. As a Board Member of the Swedish Committee for International Suffrage Work, the Swedish Branch of the Open Door, the Swedish National Council, she also furthered the cause of women. Internationally she was very well known, having assisted at every Congress of the Alliance from 1906 to 1929.

Her main social activity was, however, devoted to the creation and furtherance of the so-called "colony gardens" to enable workmen and employees in the town to obtain their own patch of land to cultivate, thus getting a healthy and useful occupation for their spare time.

She was highly cultivated, clever and well-informed, but so kind and tender, with a standard of high ideals now becoming more and more rare, that she is sorely missed by her many friends and in all the different fields of her activity.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Madame Clara Guthrie d'Arcis, the Founder and President of the World Union for International Concord, and the Honorary Treasurer of the Committee for Peace and Disarmament of Women's International Organisations. For some time, Mme d'Arcis has been very ill, but she had wonderful vitality and until recently it was hoped that she could win her fight.

Born an American citizen, she became Swiss on marrying Ludovic d'Arcis and lived in Geneva. She was a woman of great energy, being her husband's partner in a large Swiss import firm for the distribution of automobiles and labour-saving machines, etc. As a business woman she did much to help economic relations between Switzerland and the U.S.A.

She was one of the founders of the Save the Children

Fund, and for many years devoted much time and energy to the Peace Movement. She will be greatly missed.

We have just learnt with deep regret of the death of Mrs. Lucretia L. Blankenburg at the age of 91. She was named after Lucretia Mott and was a leader of the suffrage movement, and had for very many years been a personal member of the Alliance. Mrs. Blankenburg's main activity was in connection with the Women's Club movement and she was recognised as the oldest active club woman in the States.

## PHILIPPINES.

Our readers will remember previous articles about the suffrage campaign in the Philippine Islands, where the women were faced with the necessity of obtaining a favourable vote in the plebiscite of qualified women of at least 300,000. The task seemed overwhelming, as less than that number recorded their vote in the Constitutional Plebiscite at which women voted for the first time. But it has been done as we have learnt with real joy from a cable kindly sent to us by the General Council formed to organise the campaign. Details are still lacking but the good news has come to us so directly that we can confidently wait to know just how big a margin the women achieved.

## HOLLAND.

Mme Brunshvieg, Under Secretary of State for National Education in France, recently visited Amsterdam. Though they had but one day's notice, the women arranged a reception of forty well-known women at the offices of the International Archives of the Women's Movement, of which Miss Manus is Chairman. Mme Brunshvieg spoke of her official work and the function was a great success.

STOP PRESS—Miss Manus has sent a telegram to say that 4 women, Dr. Bakker Nort, Miss Katz and Mmes Devries and Dejong have been elected to the Second Chamber. We fear that this number is one less than in the last Parliament.

## THE ZURICH CONFERENCE.

It is hoped that by the time this issue reaches our readers, the Report of the Study Conference in Zurich will be issued. Miss Heneker has met with some difficulty in compiling this Report owing to the fact that the unexpected number of people attending the Conference and the increased number of groups thus made necessary, made the work of reporting extremely difficult and much reference to speakers was required.

The Alliance Board decided that this Report should not be sold but distributed free to the Auxiliaries and those who took part in the Conference. There will probably be a certain number of surplus copies available for which application should be made to Alliance Headquarters (12, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.). As the cost has been somewhat heavy, we need hardly say that we should much appreciate a small donation from anyone desiring to have a copy of the Report.

## ALLIANCE PEACE COMMITTEE.

The Alliance Peace Committee is utilising the services of Miss Heneker for a tour to Norway and the Baltic States, to make contacts with existing members and others to arouse interest in its work. It has long been a cherished wish that such personal contacts could be more frequent than they can be through actual international meetings, or the visits which the President and other members of the Board are able to make at times, and we are very glad that it is possible for Miss Heneker

to put in a few weeks in carrying the greetings of the Alliance, through its Peace Committee, to these countries.

## A MUSICAL INTERLUDE.

On April 30th, under the auspices of a very distinguished Committee of Patrons, which included a large number of diplomatists, with Madame van Swinderen, wife of the Netherlands Minister as Chairman, Madam Marguerite Couperus, assisted by the young violinist Orea Pernel, gave a delightful recital at the Wigmore Hall for the Alliance. Mme Couperus sang groups of old songs from many countries and of many periods, in appropriate costume, and with dramatic expression which was never allowed to interfere with the true musical interpretation of each item. She was perhaps at her best in the "Marie Antoinette" group of milk-maid songs, where her charm and humour found a delightfully light and rapid expression, but the audience thoroughly enjoyed the whole programme. Miss Pernel also played old music with a tone and smoothness which brought out all its charm.

The proceeds will go towards the annual sum promised jointly by the three British Auxiliaries at Istanbul. Both the English Committee and the Alliance feel very deeply grateful to Madame Couperus and the other artistes who so generously gave their services and provided us with such an enjoyable afternoon.

## PEACE.

On April 30th there was a big meeting at the Queen's Hall in support of the International Peace Campaign. Over 7000 people were present to hear speakers from five different countries: Lord Cecil, M. Pierre Cot, Dr. Alice Masaryk, M. Hambro and Senator Rolin. The following Resolution was unanimously adopted:

That this meeting notes with great satisfaction the progress of the International Peace Campaign on the Continent and pledges itself to support the object of that Campaign as stated in its Four Principles by every legitimate means in its power.

In the Peace Pavilion of the Paris Exhibition, constructed by the efforts of the I.P.C., the Alliance will be represented as a member organisation of the Women's International Peace and Disarmament Committee. The following is the text of its own "panel":

International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship.

President: Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

Committee for Peace and the League of Nations  
Chairman: Miss Josephine Schain.

Representation in forty countries.

"Equal Rights are Human Rights: Your Vote is your Voice in the Work for Peace."

"Where the Women's Movement is strong, the Peace Movement is strong"—(Lord Cecil).

May 18th was Goodwill Day, and once more the Children of Wales sent out their message of peace to the children of the world by radio. We take the text from a bulletin issued under the auspices of the R.U.P. and other associations in French:

"Filles et Garçons de partout! Nous, les Garçons et les Filles du Pays de Galles, nous vous envoyons une fois encore notre message d'espoir et d'amitié.

Dans ce monde si plein de luttes et de souffrances, nous pensons avec joie que l'air va s'emplier des souhaits que les enfants s'envoient les uns aux autres: à travers les continents, par dessus les mers, la Jeunesse appelle la Jeunesse à vivre pour la Paix.

Nous sommes heureux d'apprendre que dans tant

de pays, des hommes et des femmes se lèvent qui, loin de céder au désespoir, appellent les peuples de toute la terre à rebâtir ensemble les fondements de la Paix. La foi et une ferme volonté le pourront! Crions au monde entier qu'il le faut!

En ce jour de Bonne Volonté, en cette année mémorable, nous nous consacrons avec vous tous, au service de l'humanité. La science nous a faits voisins: que la bonne volonté nous maintienne amis!

## THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL QUESTIONS.

This Committee has taken the place of the Advisory Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Children and Young Persons which comprised two Committees: on Traffic in Women and Children and on Child Welfare. It held its first session in Geneva at the beginning of May under the presidency of Dr. Estrid Hein. The system of appointing assessors to represent private international organisations with the right to attend meetings, etc. has been abolished and the Committee now consists only of Government representatives with the right to invite the attendance of experts on any special problem under discussion.

It can well be believed that the amalgamation of the work of two committees led to a very heavy agenda. The Information Section of the League has sent out a brief review of the work done, which it has divided into three main sections: (a) The normal life of the child in the family; (b) children and young persons in danger of neglect and delinquency; (c) traffic in women and children. Under the first heading came questions of health, nutrition, housing, physical education, employment and the cinema. Under the second there were discussed questions relating to the functioning of juvenile courts and similar bodies; the placing of children in families; the age of criminal responsibility; Child Welfare Councils. In connection with traffic in women, the Committee received a report on measures for the rehabilitation of prostitutes and on work in connection with the traffic done by women's international organisations. These included reference to such problems as the conditions of domestic workers, the necessity of supervision of modern forms of transport. The Conference of Bandoeng was discussed and the Committee unanimously adopted the resolution recommending the creation of a Bureau of the League of Nations in the Far East to assist in concentrating activity in regard to the suppression of the traffic.

The Committee discussed at length the question of a new international convention for the suppression of the exploitation of prostitution by third parties. A sub-committee last year submitted a report recommending that a new convention should be framed on abolitionist principles and a draft has been submitted to Governments. The Committee had not time to conclude its detailed examination of the replies and appointed a sub-committee for this purpose. It adopted a resolution requesting the League Council to submit the proposed convention to all Governments for a new examination and to instruct the Secretary General to place on the Agenda of the 1938 Assembly the question of the convocation of an inter-governmental conference for the conclusion of a convention for the Suppression of the Exploitation of Prostitution of other Persons.

## THE BANDOENG CONFERENCE.

From the *Bulletin Abolitionniste* we take the following notes on this Conference on the Traffic in Women.

Nine Governments sent representatives (The United Kingdom, China, France, India, Japan, and Netherlands, Portugal, Siam, and the Malay States) and the

United States sent an observer. There were also representatives of several private international organisations.

On the general question of traffic in women, the following Resolution was adopted (translation from the French):

The Conference,

Recalling the resolutions adopted in 1934 by the Traffic in Women and Children Committee of the League of Nations on the subject of the suppression of licensed houses,

And considering that the Assembly of the League, approving the report of the Fifth Committee in 1934, invited the States Members to take into careful consideration these resolutions adopted by the Traffic in Women and Children Committee,

1. Pronounces itself in favour of abolition as an ultimate aim,
2. Recommends that educative measures be adopted for the formation of public opinion in this sense in all the countries of the East where licensed houses still exist,
3. And recommends that abolition should in all cases be preceded or accompanied by administrative, medical and social measures designed to secure its lasting success.

In regard to the unfortunate Russian women refugees in the Far East, the Conference adopted a resolution recalling previous proposals for dealing with this tragedy, regretting that efforts so far made to procure funds for the purpose had met with a very partial success, and calling upon all organisations interested to recognise the urgent necessity for collecting such funds so as to permit the League of Nations to send an agent to deal with the problem on the spot.

The Bulletin rightly expresses its indignation that after four or five years of pious aspiration, this Conference could do nothing more than repeat its hope than funds might somehow and somewhere be forthcoming. Only 20,000 Swiss frs. are needed, the Secretariat of the League says that the situation is even worse than when the commission of enquiry was sent in 1932, thousands of women are the victims of the traffic and an important official Conference can do no more than call the attention of good citizens to this scandal, and express the hope that they will put their hands in their pockets so that the League of Nations shall not have to spend a franc of its annual budget of 20 million francs on this little matter on soil so far from Europe, affecting such humble creatures as women. Not that the League has any intention of doing so: there are no women in the Council, nor any on the directing bodies which advise the Council.

#### STATUS OF WOMEN.

By the 1st June the Alliance Memorandum on the Status of Women must be sent to the Secretariat of the League of Nations. For some months Mrs. Spiller has been engaged on collating the reports received from our societies, and with the help of her fellow Rapporteur, Mlle Marcelle Renson, hopes to be able to present a memorandum giving a wide and accurate survey of the political and civil rights of women in different parts of the world.

As all our readers know, this question is on the Agenda of the League Assembly for next September, and the question of some joint work in support of women's claims to equal status by women's international organisations is being discussed by the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations towards the end of May. The question of equal status may be said to be the very object of our Alliance, and we therefore feel under a peculiar obligation to follow the discussion in Geneva with the closest attention and to be ready to

demonstrate women's keen interest in it. By next month we may hope to be able to give further details of plans for Geneva as a result of the Liaison Committee's discussion. In the meantime one thing is certainly essential, and that is that as many women as possible shall be there in person to join in any action which may be taken to impress delegates or the Assembly with a sense of the importance of this question. We hope that this does not suggest something very "militant": there is certainly no question of storming the Assembly but merely of proving that it is not only a few isolated women who are depending on the League to help forward the cause of women's fair share in national and international life. We hope, therefore that any reader who can do so, will consider spending some time in Geneva next September. As usual the Alliance will open a Temporary Office there where any member or friend can obtain full information on what will be going on. The address and details of hours, etc., will appear in our next issue.

#### HOUSEKEEPING—A PROFESSIONAL ESTATE.

The necessity of a representation of housekeeping in the State was recognized in Germany and Austria during the war, still more in the following years when the world's economic blood circulation was impeded and the reciprocal connections between national economy and home-economics suffered in consequence. In Germany this recognition engendered the idea of establishing *Chambers of Housekeeping* in order to give home economics a possibility of working for their own interests in the same official way that was opened to business economics a long time ago. On my proposal the National Council of Austrian Women resolved to demand the establishment of chambers of housekeeping. After having given some propaganda lectures and written a great many articles on this subject, I worked out model statutes for Chambers of Housekeeping, which were accepted by the big Austrian women associations who also joined in the demand of the National Council of Austrian Women.

Hard times, urgent work to help women in their struggle for life, and the fight against the organised effort to remove women from professional life, hindered us from pursuing endeavours for the establishment of Chambers of Housekeeping in an efficient manner. But the propaganda for this purpose, made in Austria, was carried to other countries which demanded instructions from Austria, and finally Estonia was the first country to establish a Chamber of Housekeeping, now active for more than one year and satisfying people and government.

Encouraged by this success the National Council of Austrian Women took up their old demand again. But meanwhile the situation in Austria had changed, a new order, based on professional estates had been established. Besides, the National Council of Austrian Women realised that the existence of a professional organisation of housewives has to be the basis for the foundation of Chambers of Housekeeping. There are in Austria some housewives' organisations, but only smaller groups. We do not have the advantage of an organisation embracing all housewives or at least a majority of them. Therefore the National Council of Austrian Women looked for another way to reach their aims. Now the professional estates are organised in seven groups, which are represented in the Bundeswirtschaftsrat (Federal Economic Council) and by delegations of their representatives also in the highest State organisations, the Bundestag and the Bundesversammlung (Federal Diet and Federal Assembly). In view of this situation the National Council of Austrian Women proposed the organisation of an eighth Federal Estate, an *Estate for*

*Housekeeping*. A petition containing this proposal was sent to all members of the Government, but as yet an answer has not been received. This demand of the National Council of Austrian Women excited the greatest interest among the public.

Of course, the National Council of Austrian Women intend to stand for this demand, even if the first petition should not be considered. It is clear that a recognised Professional Estate of Housekeeping could work more successfully for Chambers of Housekeeping, which are the ultimate aim of all endeavours of the National Council of Austrian Women to procure for home economics an official representation in the organism of the State. Such a position is due to the importance of the household as the last stage in production, as the chief factor in consumption and as the place from which all mankind must spring.

GISELA URBAN.

#### IRISH FREE STATE.

All women's organisations in Southern Ireland have united to protest against the omission of the principle of equal rights and opportunities enunciated in the proclamation of the Republic, 1916, and confirmed in Article 3 of the Constitution of Saorstát Éireann, in the proposed new Constitution. Articles 40, 41 and 45 of the latter leave the door open for reactionary legislation against women in every department, and women's organisations are calling for their deletion.

1916 *Proclamation* states: "The Irish Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, and equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens . . . elected by the suffrages of all her men and women."

1923 *Constitution Free State*. Clause III: "Every person, without distinction of sex domiciled in the area of the State Free . . . is a citizen of the Irish Free State and shall enjoy the privileges and be subject to the obligations of such citizenship."

*Clauses in Draft Constitution Referring to Women.*

#### FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS.

40. All citizens shall, as human persons, be held equal before the law.

This shall not mean that the State shall not in its enactments have due regard to differences of capacity, physical and moral and of social function.

#### THE FAMILY.

41(2) 1. In particular the State recognizes that by her life within the home woman gives to the State a support without which the common good cannot be achieved.

2. The State shall therefore endeavour to ensure that mothers shall not be obliged by economic necessity to engage in labour to the neglect of their duties in the home.

45. 4. *Sub-Section 2*. The State shall endeavour to ensure that the inadequate strength of women shall not be abused and that women or children shall not be forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their sex, age, or strength.

The women rightly regard these draft articles as an attack upon their fundamental rights as human beings and contrary to the principles of the founders of the Irish Free State.

—*Bulletin of the Women's Freedom League.*

(*Editor's Note*.—We regret that we received a special note from the Secretary of the N.C.W. of Ireland too late for inclusion. We are glad to note that the women's societies are united in opposition to these proposals in the constitution, and a woman member of the Dail has tabled an amendment on lines proposed by the Joint Committee of Women's Societies.)

A Public Meeting was recently arranged in Dublin by the Joint Committee of Women's Societies, at which Miss Tancred, former Director of the Scottish Training School for Women Police, spoke with a view to forwarding the agitation for the formation of a Women Police Force in the Irish Free State. Miss Tancred stated that since the recent reorganisation of the police system, the Irish Free State possesses the most up-to-date methods and a high standard of efficiency; but women police are absolutely necessary and the provisions of the Criminal Law Amendment Act will be unworkable unless women police are appointed to carry them out.

On the following day, Miss Tancred was received by the Minister for Justice.

L. O. KINGSTON,  
Hon. Sec. N.C.W. of Ireland.

#### FRANCE.

*La Française* gives the text of a Bill presented to Parliament by the Government for regulating the guardianship of illegitimate children. A former Bill on lines suggested by Mme Kraemer Bach and the Countess Hocquart de Turtot was not adopted, being replaced by a hasty decree which was not satisfactory. It is hoped that the present Bill may be rapidly passed through Parliament and made law. Briefly its provision include the appointment of a special officer to advise on the education of each illegitimate child except in cases where the child has been recognised by both parents. The parent who has charge of the child will administer its property only in the rôle of a legal tutor and under the control of an official tutor formally appointed. The Family Council will be replaced by a Board of Guardians in each canton under the presidency of the Juge de la Paix, from among whose members the special officer referred to above will be chosen. This officer will not actually exercise paternal authority, but will advise the parent or guardian and see that the child is properly cared for and not abandoned.

#### WOMEN WORKERS IN GERMANY.

The Nation of the U.S.A. has published an extremely interesting article on this question with figures taken from the statistics of the German Department of Labour. After referring to the Nazi creed of sending women back to the home, and the frank admission of relieving unemployment by the elimination of women workers, the author surveys the actual position. In June 1936, there were 1,200,000 more women employed than in January 1933, when Hitler came to power. Not less than 31% of German workers are women, which is a higher percentage than obtains in the U.S.A., Great Britain or France, and there is greater unemployment among men than among women.

The reason is not far to seek. Women have not been sent back to the security of the home, but they have been squeezed out of the higher paid work, their status has been lowered so that their wages show a monstrous disproportion with those of men, being between 40 and 50% lower. It is not surprising that employers, themselves faced with many economic difficulties, have turned to this reservoir of cheap labour. And clearly the Government cannot prevent it because only so can Germany produce arms and goods for export at rates which enable her to undercut other countries.

So women are not "enjoying a woman's life" in the happy security of the home supported by the male wage-earner. They are the universal drudge, at home and in the factory. They must feed their families on bread, potatoes, cabbage, and the cheapest margarine. We do not give the actual figures quoted, which are calculated on an exchange from the mark to the American dollar, but which show an alarming discrepancy.

ancy between wages and the cost of living as instanced by the prices for staple foods.

The article quotes many protests from Nazi women. "Women today" says a Nazi woman journalist "are handed over defenceless to the men." And in an appeal to Hitler there appear the following: "China, Japan, and Turkey are far more advanced today in regard to the position of women than we are, and not to their loss." "Men have led the world to an abyss and the danger still continues if one-sided rule by men is set up." "Thinking national socialist women begin to regret that in their national feeling they raised men to be unrestricted masters of the destiny of women and the nation." The whole article is indeed a warning to women who, in other countries, are dazzled by appeals to patriotism and national feeling made by would-be fascist dictators, to learn from the actual experience of German women what their fate will surely be if they too hand over their destiny to men without the safeguard of democratic rights.

### NEWS IN BRIEF.

**Albania.** The King has signed a decree already in force, forbidding women to wear the veil.

**Bolivia.** A recent Decree grants civil rights to women, modifying no less than 102 of the Articles of the existing Civil Code in regard to marriage.

**Denmark.** Dansk Kvindesamfund announces a Summer School for young women at Frederiksborg High School from August 1st to 7th.

**Hungary.** Last issue we noted the "Women's International Week" in Budapest from August 5th to 12th. Now we have received notice that the International Club of Budapest (Deak Ferenc-utca 2.III) is organising a Hungarian Cultural Week from August 21st to 30th.

**India.** At the first meeting of the Punjab Legislative Assembly under the new Constitution, one of the two muslim women members, Mrs. Latif, who wore a black burqa had to have a separate chair as she felt it unsuitable to sit with the men of her party. Begum Shah Nawaz, however, did not recognise this difficulty, and the two Congress women members also sat with their party.

**Iran.** Mme Seyah, whose speech at the Reception to women delegates last September we reported, presides over a women's society, "Woman and Home" which has sections for sport and physical culture, charity—especially assistance to women and children, literature and science, and theatre and music.

**Spain.** It is stated that the Spanish Government has recognised absolutely equal rights between men and women, declaring that any form of marital authority is contrary to women's dignity. It would seem a reason for women to support the Government, as though we do not know Franco's views, we imagine that they would quite certainly not be feminist.

**Switzerland.** The Administrative Council of the City of Zurich had appointed a woman, Mme Amanda Gossweiler, as Secretary for Municipal Public Assistance.

**U.S.A.** Mrs. Florence J. Harriman has been appointed United States Minister to Norway.

**Hungary.** The distinction "Signum Laudis" has been bestowed on Mrs. K. Greilinger Hetényi, owner of a metal polishing enterprise, for her independent industrial activities for 47 years.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

It is impossible to write anything about Great Britain this month without referring to the coronation. The Women's Freedom League organised a most happy and successful Coronation Dinner, which sent a message of loyalty to the King and Queen and received a gracious reply. The speakers for the most part looked back to the position of women at the last Coronation with justifiable satisfaction, tempered with a sober recognition of the need for continued vigilance. Miss Nina Boyle in particular made a real fighting speech, reminding us all of the fact that in this Year of Grace Parliament can bring forward such Bills as the Factory Bill, classing women with children to the detriment of both, and the Contributory Pensions Act which introduces a definite sex discrimination into the pensions system. Now women are voters, but their interests and their human rights are flouted with as much assurance as in 1911. Their protests have as much and as little effect as those of the suffragettes over 25 years ago. This vote, which should be our weapon in defence of our rights, seems to be wielded by powerless hands. So while we loyally rejoice that once more we have a King and Queen upon the throne, with a Princess as heiress apparent, it is still very much "up to us" to see that this reign also shall show a mighty advance in the position of women.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance is to hold its Coronation Dinner on May 31st, after this issue must be in the press. It is again welcoming as its guests of honour, Mr. and Mrs. Lyons, the Premier of Australia and his wife, and all those who were present to hear them at the Alliance's Jubilee dinner two years ago, will welcome the opportunity of hearing them again.

### SECTION FRANÇAISE.

#### SUCCEES FEMINISTES.

#### La suppression de l'autorisation maritale pour le passeport de la femme mariée.

Nous sommes heureuses d'annoncer qu'à la suite des démarches faites par Mme. Brunshvieg, Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat à l'Education Nationale, la question de l'autorisation maritale concernant le passeport de la femme mariée va enfin être réglée. Après consultation du Ministre de la Justice et avis favorable du Conseil d'Etat, le Ministre de l'Intérieur a décidé d'envoyer une circulaire aux préfets pour leur indiquer que les femmes mariées pourraient désormais obtenir un passeport sans autorisation maritale.

#### Le Ministre des Colonies ouvre ses concours aux femmes.

Le Ministre des Colonies vient d'aviser Mme. Brunshvieg qu'en réponse à sa demande il admettra désormais les femmes à prendre part aux concours de son Ministère.

Nous enregistrons avec grand plaisir ces deux succès bien faits pour donner confiance et courage à nos amies féministes.

—La Française.

#### NOUVELLES BRÈVES DE TOUS PAYS.

**Irlande.** Une réunion publique a été récemment organisée à Dublin par le Comité directeur des Associations féminines pour y entendre Miss Tancred ex Directrice de l'Ecole des Policières d'Ecosse. Elle dit que les dernières mesures ont mis la police de l'Etat libre d'Irlande sur un pied excellent mais une police féminine est indispensable si on veut appliquer strictement toutes les modalités du Code Civil et criminel.

**Hollande.** Mme. Brunshvieg Sous-secrétaire d'Etat à l'Education en France vient de visiter Amsterdam, où une réception lui fut offerte, quarante femmes notables étant présentes, au siège des Archives internationales du Féminisme, dont Miss Manus est la Présidente.

**Philippines.** Nos lecteurs se rappellent le cas particulier des Philippines où d'après la Constitution les femmes ne pouvaient obtenir le droit de vote qui si 300,000 d'entre elles le demandaient par plébiscite. Le Conseil général des Femmes a assumé la tâche énorme d'organiser la campagne préparatoire. Nous venons d'apprendre par câblegramme que le succès a couronné leurs efforts. Nous attendons avec impatience le détail des chiffres.

**Albanie.** Le roi a signé un décret interdisant le port du voile, aux femmes d'Albanie.

**Bolivie.** Un décret récent accorde les droits civils aux femmes, modifiant en cela pas moins de cent articles du Code civil existant.

**Danemark.** Dansk Kvinde Samfund annonce une Ecole d'été pour jeunes femmes à Frederiksborg High School du 1er au 7 août.

**Hongrie.** La Semaine Internationale des Femmes aura lieu à Budapest du 5 au 12 août. Le Cercle International de Buda-Pest (Deak Ferenc-utca—2—III.) organise aussi une semaine Intellectuelle du 21 au 30 août.

**Inde.** A la première réunion de l'Assemblée législative du Punjab, sous le nouveau régime, une des deux députées musulmanes Mrs. Latif, demanda un siège à part de ceux des hommes. La Begum Shah Nawaz cependant ne souleva aucune difficulté—quant aux deux autres femmes, députées congressistes, elles siègèrent parmi les hommes de leur parti.

**Iran.** Mme. Seyah dont nous avons rapporté le discours à la réception des femmes déléguées en Septembre dernier—est la présidente d'une Société: La Femme et le Foyer qui a plusieurs sections: sports, culture, physique, assistance charitable, classes pour illettrées, aussi une section d'art et littérature.

**Espagne.** Le Gouvernement espagnol a reconnu absolument les droits égaux entre hommes et femmes, déclarant que toute forme d'autorité maritale est contraire à la dignité féminine. Nous ne connaissons pas les vues du Général Franco mais nous doutons qu'elles soient féministes.

**Suisse.** Le Conseil administratif de la ville de Zurich a nommé une femme Mme. Amanda Grossweiler, Secrétaire de l'Assistance publique.

**Etats Unis d'Amerique.** Mrs. Florence J. Harriman vient d'être nommée Ambassadeur en Norvège.

**Le dîner de l'Alliance.** le 31 Mai fêtera à la fois le Ste. Jeanne— Couronnement et la venue de Mr. Lyons et de Mrs. Lyons premier Ministre d'Australie.

**La Conférence** pour l'Abolition de la Traite des **de Bandoeng** Femmes réunit les représentants de neuf gouvernements, Grande Bretagne: Chine, France, Inde, Japon, Hollande, Portugal et les Iles Malaises. Les Etats-Unis avaient un observateur ainsi que plusieurs organisations privées.

Le Bulletin abolitionniste déplore que la Conférence n'ait pu faire autre chose qu'espérer—encore—un envoi de fonds et des souscriptions. Les résolutions de 1934 furent rappelées et on signala que la situation est pire aujourd'hui qu'en 1932. Des milliers de femmes sont victimes de la Traite et une Conférence qui n'a pas de moyens pratiques à sa disposition ne peut que

signaler le danger. Les résolutions sont en faveur de l'abolition; de la formation d'une opinion publique qui rende difficile le maintien des maisons de tolérance; et de mesures administratives et médicales pour assurer le succès de l'Abolition.

La situation des infortunées réfugiées russes de l'Extrême Orient a fait l'objet d'une résolution spéciale.

**Le Rapport de la Conférence de Zurich,** compilé par les soins de Miss Heneker va être distribué aux Auxiliaires et aux déléguées. Le Secrétariat de l'Alliance tient à la disposition des membres, un certain nombre de numéros supplémentaires.

**Statut civil de la Femme.** Le mémoire de l'Alliance sur le Statut Civil de la Femme doit être envoyé au Secrétariat de la Société des Nations, au plus tard le 1er juin. Voilà plusieurs mois que Mrs. Spiller et Melle Renson collationnent les rapports envoyés par nos diverses sociétés.

Cette question est à l'ordre du jour de l'Assemblée pour Septembre prochain et une coopération possible de toutes les organisations féminines est envisagée par le Comité de liaison. La question du statut civil égal pour l'homme et la femme étant le but principal de l'Alliance, nous devons suivre les discussions de Genève avec la plus grande attention.

**France.** Un projet de loi régularisant la tutelle des enfants naturels vient d'être présenté par le Gouvernement. Un autre projet avait été suggéré par Mme. Kraemer-Bach et la Comtesse Hocquart de Turgot mais ne fut pas adopté, et fut remplacé par un décret hâtif et insuffisant. Il est à espérer que ce projet deviendra loi. Le principe est que chaque enfant naturel a un tuteur légal ou un Conseil de Tutelle sous la présidence du Juge de Paix, sauf dans le cas où l'enfant est reconnu par les deux parents.

**Propagande pour la Paix.** Le 30 avril dernier un meeting au Queen's Hall de Londres réunit 7,000 personnes en faveur de la Propagande Internationale pour la Paix. Les orateurs représentaient cinq pays différents: Lord Cecil, Mr. Pierre Cot, Dr. Alice Masaryk, Mr. Hambro et le Sénateur Rolin.

Au Pavillon de la Paix de l'Exposition de Paris, l'Alliance sera représentée comme étant un des membres faisant partie du Comité pour la Paix Internationale et le Désarmement.

**Grande Bretagne.** A été fêté avec loyalisme par **Le Couronnement** nos associations féministes. La Women's Freedom League a organisé un dîner et envoyé un message de fidélité au Roi et à la Reine qui ont gracieusement répondu. La plupart des discours ont évoqué le dernier Couronnement avec une satisfaction évidente, en mesurant le progrès accompli, mais en reconnaissant toutefois la nécessité d'une continue vigilance. Miss Nina Boyle en particulier a protesté contre l'indignité des nouvelles loi sur la Protection du Travail et sur les Pensions.

**Nécrologie.** Nous venons d'apprendre avec regret la mort de Mrs. Lucretia Blankenburg, membre de l'Alliance et l'un des chefs du Mouvement en Amérique. Une autre Américaine dont la disparition nous attriste est Madame Clara Guthrie d'Arcis, devenue Suisse par mariage, une des fondatrices du Secours aux Enfants, et Présidente de la Concorde Internationale. Les femmes suédoises déplorent en même temps la perte de la distinguée Anna Abergson, une des pionnières du mouvement suffragiste et des "colonies jardins."

## LE TRAVAIL DES FEMMES EN ALLEMAGNE.

"La Nation" (U.S.A.) a publié un intéressant article sur cette question, avec chiffres provenant des Statistiques du Département du Travail. Quelle est la position actuelle, maintenant que suivant la philosophie nationale-socialiste, la femme a été "renvoyée au foyer" et que, soi-disant pour remédier au chômage, on a réclamé à cor et à cri l'élimination des femmes des métiers et professions?

En Juin 1936 il y a un excédent de 1,200,000 femmes employées sur le chiffre de Jan. 1933 lors de l'accession d'Hitler. Pas moins de 31% des travailleurs en Allemagne sont des femmes, pourcentage plus élevé qu'en Grande Bretagne, U.S.A. ou France et il y a plus de chômage parmi les hommes que parmi les femmes.

La raison est facile à trouver. Les femmes ne sont point retournées à la sécurité du foyer, mais leur position civile et sociale a été abaissée; on les a bannies des meilleures positions et leurs salaires sont environ 40 ou 50% plus bas que ceux des hommes. Il n'est pas surprenant que les patrons, eux-mêmes aux prises avec combien de difficultés économiques, se sont tournés vers

ce réservoir de travail à bon marché. Et le Gouvernement ne s'y oppose pas, car comment pourrait-on autrement fabriquer des armes, et des produits d'exportation en concurrence avec ceux des autres pays?

La vérité est que, plus que jamais, la femme est le manoeuvre et la servante. Et les revenus familiaux sont si maigres que la mère de famille n'a pour nourrir sa maisonnée que des pommes de terre, du chou et de la margarine. Les prix, constatés dans les magasins montrent qu'en regard des salaires, le coût de la vie est très élevé. L'article cite des protestations, "Les Femmes aujourd'hui" écrit une Journaliste nazie "sont entièrement sous le joug des hommes." Et dans un appel à Hitler on lit: "La Chine, le Japon, la Turquie sont beaucoup plus avancées aujourd'hui que nous—en ce qui concerne la femme."

Les femmes du parti national socialiste, qui ont conservé la faculté de penser, regrettent amèrement que leur patriotisme les ait conduit à faire des hommes les uniques arbitres de la destinée de la nation."

Cet article, en vérité est un avertissement aux femmes de tous pays de se garder de ces agitateurs fascistes quand ils font appel au sacrifice et au sentiment national.

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