

JUS SUFFRAGII.

The International Woman Suffrage News

The Monthly Organ of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

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AUGUST, 1920.

THE MANDATE FROM GENEVA.

PREPARING FOR THE AUTUMN CAMPAIGNS.

The new Board of Officers are already hard at work getting ready for the autumn, when, in real earnest, each nation within the I.W.S.A. will settle down in harness to carry out in practice the high ideals set before them at Geneva. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, the new First Recording Secretary, is busy preparing the Report—that Report which will serve as a kind of Feminist Bible, at once a record of work done and an inspiration for work still to do. Mrs. Fawcett, now, alas, no longer in name an officer of the Alliance, still gives to Headquarters the inestimable support of her counsel, and Miss Chrystal Macmillan, who has been elected to fill the vacant chair, will carry on with courage and insight the building up of the new structure upon foundations well and truly laid. A perfect continuity is secure, for Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, by her gracious act in consenting to remain our President, has shown that even despite her own special national responsibilities she feels still a mother's care for the women of the whole world.

Mrs. Stanley McCormick, who has taken up the duties of Treasurer so devotedly fulfilled by Mrs. Stanton Coit, shows herself Mrs. Catt's worthy lieutenant by the rousing call to the women of the Alliance, which we print below.

THE NEW TREASURER'S APPEAL.

MRS. STANLEY McCORMICK SAYS: "NEVER WAS THERE A GREATER OPPORTUNITY."

May I have this opportunity, through the columns of *Jus Suffragii*, to send a greeting to the members of the I.W.S.A. from my newly acquired seat at the Treasurer's desk in the London Headquarters?

The post-Congress meeting of the Executive Committee at Geneva appointed me to the duties of treasurer, and I have just begun to try to occupy Mrs. Coit's post. I cannot fill Mrs. Coit's place. I think it would be almost an impossibility for anyone to do so. In these many years the work of the Treasurer's office has been done with an efficiency, a quietness and promptness, and an unselfish dignity, of which few would be capable. During the early years of its growth and during the difficult period of the war the Alliance has been served with an unselfish devotion and skill so unassuming and retiring in spirit that few except those close at hand can appreciate the benefit conferred.

I am happy and proud to sit in Mrs. Coit's seat in the London office, and am so not because I can offer equal capacity of services, but because of the traditions to which I thus fall

heir, and because by being at this post I remit in some ways the burden of work and responsibility which Mrs. Coit has carried so splendidly this long time with unfavourable circumstances in health and parental anxiety. I am hoping that the former Treasurer will return to Headquarters to give once more the benefit of her advice and her experience towards the future plans of the Alliance. Her chair awaits her always.

No one can have left the Geneva Congress without an almost startling mental vision of the possible future of our Alliance. What was first dreamed by one woman has become the dream not of the few but of the many. We see nearly within our grasp a world league of enfranchised women. While the glimpse stirs our pulses with awe, yet at the same time it sends our imagination leaping forward to meet the possibilities. The labours and responsibilities of an international society always come in addition to and on top of the crowded work of national societies, and thus sometimes suffer from being classed as supernumerary. It is only by holding at the back of your eyes a clear picture of international co-operation and world union that we can put the Alliance in the place of importance to which it belongs.

We have seen how difficult it is for men to think internationally, and this sight should be a lesson to teach us that women must educate themselves to think internationally. The women of Europe come to this more naturally because their countries are placed internationally, but the women of America must learn it, and I am glad to believe that it will not be a hard lesson, for their capacity for interest is unbounded, and their spirit far-reaching. Our effort for the Alliance must be to make its activity measure up to its opportunity. For such effort finances are of course the bones and sinews, and finances we must and shall, I feel sure, obtain. We shall have them by each one remembering to give her portion. By such giving we shall prove strong and equal to certain of our imperative needs, of which an adequate Press Department and a Data Department are shining examples.

May I say, in conclusion, this word of greeting, that never, in my estimation, was there a greater opportunity before the women of the world than that lying in the development of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. I have, moreover, full confidence that the eyes and brains of women are cute enough to perceive this opportunity, and that they will set their hands and hearts to its development. By so doing they will earn and deserve the gratitude of future generations of women and of their children.

KATHERINE DEXTER McCORMICK.

Officers of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, elected at the Eighth Congress, Geneva, June 6-12, 1920.

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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.

Mandate from Geneva: Treasurer's Appeal	167
New Board of Officers	168
Nationality of Married Women. By A French Woman	168-9
Outlines of the History of Norway. By Margit Sahlgaard Børresen	169-70
Austria: Report	171
Italy: Death of Mme A. M. Mozzoni	171
French Page	172
France: Progress Since 1913. By Suzanne Grinberg ..	173-5
Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. By Annie Christitch	175
United States of America. By Ida Husted Harper ..	175-7
Great Britain	177
Ukraine	178

EDITOR'S NOTES.

Heartiest congratulations to Denmark, and to Frau Elna Munch, on her re-election to the Danish Parliament for the third time.

We offer our sincere apologies to Mrs. Jennie G. Smillie, Government delegate from Canada to the Eighth Congress of the I.W.S.A., for the inadvertent omission of her name from the list of Government delegates. As the *Jus Suffragii* editorial office is within the British Empire, we can only attempt to excuse ourselves by supposing this serious omission arose from an excess of modesty. Mrs. Smillie was also a representative of the Canadian Suffrage Association.

We regret that owing to certain labour difficulties, and to the holiday season, the July and August numbers are a little late in appearing. We are looking for great news from America, and shall therefore go to press as late as possible also for the September issue; but after that we hope that the paper will again appear at the beginning of each month. Owing to changed conditions it takes somewhat longer than formerly to pass it through the press, and we trust that all contributors will send their matter at the very earliest date, and, when possible, typed.

Most of our readers are having a well-earned holiday, and we shall be glad if they will use part of this leisure to think out plans for the winter, and will communicate them to us, for the encouragement of others.

THE NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

By A French Woman.

REPORT PRESENTED TO THE EIGHTH CONGRESS.

Before the war, feminists of every country had already energetically protested against the special hardness of that law which opposes patriotism and private feeling, and which obliges a woman animated by the double love for her country and for a foreigner, to face this cruel dilemma: "If I marry the man I love, I must give up my country; if I remain a citizen of my own land, I must lose my right to happiness."

At the time when peace reigned in the world, the sufferings of women married to foreigners remained latent and obscure; but at the hour of Europe's catastrophe, when the peoples of the world stood ranged in different camps, the law which rules that a woman married to a foreigner must take her husband's nationality gave rise to sorrows that were overwhelming.

The women of belligerent countries understood better than any others the horrors of a situation which compelled certain of their compatriots to live in internment camps, and see their property sequestered; on the other hand, women living in countries with which their own were at war were left their liberty, no doubt, but became the objects of suspicion and hatred, and were afflicted by the imposition of a nationality they had neither asked nor wished for.

It is useless to relate here details of the situations to which I allude; women of belligerent countries are sufficiently familiar with them, and women of neutral countries are most certainly aware of them.

The whole theoretical evil of the law, which has been denounced by feminists, showed itself therefore in practice during the war, and it is superfluous to lay any further stress on its unjust and revolting character.

It is a very great misfortune that this law obtains in most of the great and small European countries, and in North America. The following are the names of the countries in alphabetical order, in which it is in force:—Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Switzerland, United States.

It also obtained in Russia under the Czars.

The legal codes of Denmark, Holland, and Sweden make no specific mention of the subject, but according to a report sent to *Jus Suffragii* by Mme. Mata Hansen, Assistant to the Statistical Department at Copenhagen, the general rule mentioned above seems to be followed in Denmark.

In the South American States also legislation is silent on this subject. We must note, however, that according to an Argentine law, a foreigner who marries an Argentine woman becomes Argentine. We have discovered no text relating to the situation of a woman who marries a Brazilian.

One country alone—the Republic of Haiti—has enacted that a Haitian woman who marries a foreigner keeps her nationality.

If all feminists are agreed in demanding that the woman who marries a foreigner should keep her nationality, jurists and legislators, on the contrary, are in favour of a single nationality in marriage.

The chief argument invoked is the necessity of a common country, and this country cannot be the woman's because she must obey her husband, and follow him in all his changes of residence.

M. Cogordan, the author of an important French book on nationality, writes: "This rule is a corollary of the principles on which marriage is founded. On marrying, the woman submits herself to her husband as head of the conjugal community or association; it is therefore natural that the married pair should have the same nationality."

Besides, the author goes on to explain, the fact that she marries a foreigner shows a desire on the part of the woman to change her nationality.

"This desire is clearly manifested by the fact itself of the marriage; the woman, who is free not to marry, knows what she incurs by marrying."

This is not the case. The woman who marries a foreigner does not clearly manifest her desire to take another nationality; the desire is not expressed either by acceptance or by declaration. A great many women of all countries, moreover, are in ignorance of the laws, and have married foreigners without knowing that by this act they became foreigners themselves. A woman, when she marries a foreigner, marries a man, and not the citizen of a country; her decision rests on the individuality of her future husband, and not on his nationality.

This principle has become a matter of *ordre public*, and we have not been able to discover, in our study of French and foreign legislations, a single derogation from it.

In law a principle of *ordre public* means a rule of such a nature that it cannot be altered by any agreement between the interested parties. In French law, besides the law on the nationality of married women, we may quote those which refer to the rights of husbands and fathers. The French civil code does not recognise as having any validity an agreement between husband and wife, by which, for instance, the husband should delegate the whole or a portion of his paternal rights to his wife.

In all matters except conjugal matters the general rule is that agreements freely entered into are binding upon those who make them. In marriage, though it is represented as an association, there can be no agreements between the associates; the laws will not take into consideration any understanding come to by the parties; they decide sweepingly that there must be a master to give orders and a subordinate to obey.

The juridical theory of the necessity of a common country might be defensible if a change of nationality on the husband's part necessarily brought about a change of the wife's nationality. But naturalisation affects only the individual who solicits it, so that one can perfectly imagine the following case: A man marries a foreigner, and settles in a country which is neither his own nor that of his wife. For some reason or other he asks to be naturalised, and becomes a citizen of this country. Henceforth his wife will have neither her own nationality nor her husband's. Is this what is called a common country?

On the other hand, the woman can generally be reinstated in her original nationality, under certain conditions of residence. In this case, again, "the common country" is nothing but a word.

During the war, the consequences of the law against which we protest did not escape the notice of legislators. We have no accurate information as to the parliamentary state of the question abroad, but in France two Bills were put forward, one by M. Honorat and the other by M. Ernest Lafont. A committee of the Chamber of Deputies commissioned M. Lafont to draw up a definitive text, and he submitted to the committee the following draft, which has been accepted.

Article 1.

A woman of foreign nationality who marries a Frenchman keeps her nationality, unless she expressly declares before the civil government official (the *maire*) that she opts for her husband's nationality.

When the marriage is contracted according to the forms of foreign law, the woman may make the declaration referred to in the preceding article before the French consul, or before the civil government official of her new domicile in France. This declaration must be made within two months of the date of marriage.

Article 2.

A French woman who marries a foreigner remains French unless she expressly declares before the civil government official that she opts for her husband's nationality.

When the marriage is contracted according to the forms of foreign law, the woman may make the declaration of option referred to in the preceding paragraph before the French consul, or before the French civil government official if her domicile is in France.

Article 3.

He (the *maire*) shall read aloud Articles 12 and 13 of the *Code Civil* relating to married women's nationality, and shall ask the future wife if she intends to exercise the right of option which the above texts confer upon her.

This law satisfies our wishes, except that it is silent as to the retrospective effect which it might have, and which we ardently desire. During the war there were a number of marriages between citizens of the allied countries. In France, in particular, the number of women united to our friends from Belgium, from America, or from England, was very great. All these new Belgian, American, and English women would wish that the new rules concerning nationality should take account of previous marriages. We should wish, therefore, that all women who have married foreigners within the last ten years should be allowed to reassume their original nationality within the year that shall follow the passing of the Bill, by making a declaration before a competent authority, to be expressly designated for that purpose in the text of the law.

Before coming to Geneva, we asked M. le député Lafont what he considered were the chances for his Bill. He answered that his colleagues fully recognised its importance and its justice, but that they were afraid that French legislation might not be followed by the Parliaments of other countries.

This objection will, we believe, be general. For this reason we, of all nationalities, must continue to strive for this much desired reform, since we all wish to remain citizens of our own country.

NORWAY:

Outlines of Its History and Constitution.
 RIGHTS OF WOMEN.

By Margit Sahlgaard Børresen.

[NOTE.—Nothing about Norway appeared in the Congress number of *Jus Suffragii* because nothing reached us in time. Nothing appears about Norway in the list of newly enfranchised countries published last month, because, as Madame Børresen herself points out, Norway was among the first, not the last, countries to enfranchise the women. But it is with much pleasure we print the following spirited and lucid history of this great little country, and if any seeming fault of ours has called it forth, we can only exclaim: "Oh, happy fault!"—Ed.]

In the eighth number of *Jus Suffragii* (May-June, 1920), which gives such interesting accounts of the Congress Week at Geneva, I regret to find that Norway is not mentioned at all, though we, too, sent delegates. Thus, Mrs. F. M. Quam was the Norwegian Government delegate. But this is, of course, our own fault, who sent no correspondence to the Editor.

Norway the First Constitutional Country to Enfranchise Its Women.

Norway is also omitted in the summary of the suffrage position in newly enfranchised countries appearing in the July number, though Norway was the very first constitutional country in Europe to give the right of voting to women. Of course our country has a very small population, about two millions and a half of inhabitants (about the same as in Denmark), and therefore is not so well known abroad as we might wish; but as the position of women in Norway is better than in most countries, and as the quinquennial meeting of the International Council of Women is this year to be held in Christiania, the capital of Norway, I thought that the readers of *Jus Suffragii* might be interested to learn a little of the history and the constitution of the country.

The founder of the kingdom of Norway was Harald Haarfagre ("Harald with the fair hair"), who met the other "district kings" in battle and defeated them all. The final battle was fought in 872 A.D., from which year we can speak of a kingdom of Norway. From 872 to 1319 we had our own kings, all of them descendants of Harald Haarfagre. About 1000, Norway was christianised by Olav Trygvasson (1000) and Saint Olav (1030), who had both been vikings before they embraced Christianity, the first in England, the other in Normandy, and both brought English clergymen to Norway, who helped them to christianise the people. At this distant period the kings of Norway had extended their possessions to some of the groups of islands in the North Sea, such as the Orkneys, the Shetland Islands, and the Faroe Islands. To these were added, about 1100, the Hebrides and the Isle of Man. Three of the present Swedish provinces (Jemtland, Herjedalen, and Bohuslen) also belonged to Norway then, as well as Iceland and Greenland, which two islands had both been discovered and inhabited by Norwegian settlers. By the treaty at Perth (1266) the Hebrides and the Isle of Man were given up to the Scottish king, who was to pay an annual tribute to the King of Norway instead. This tribute, however, ceased when, in 1469, King Christian I. of Denmark and Norway married his daughter to James III. of Scotland, to whom at the same time the Orkneys and the Shetlands were mortgaged, as King Christian had no other "trousseau" to give his daughter. During the long union with Denmark the three Swedish provinces were also lost, and in 1814, at the separation from Norway, Denmark kept Iceland, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands. For when the male issue of Harald Haarfagre had become extinct in the year 1319, Norway was first united to Sweden for about fifty years; then, after a short period of independence, under Haakon VI., to Denmark. Then, for a time, all three countries were joined under one king, and finally Norway and Denmark set up an act of union in Bergen in 1450, according to which the two countries were to be united "for ever." In 1814, however, the union was broken. The Danish king (Fredrik VI.) had been the ally of Napoleon, and was therefore to be punished with the loss of Norway, which was ceded to the Swedish king by the treaty of Kiel (January 14, 1814). The Swedish king had joined the allied forces against Napoleon, and was now going to reap his reward. But the Norwegians would not be ceded to another country, and were of opinion that they themselves alone could decide about the fate of their country.

Norway's Independence Day.

Resolutely they elected representatives from the whole country, who met at Eidsvold in April. These representatives agreed upon a Norwegian constitution, and chose their own king on May 17, which is still celebrated as our independence day. The newly elected king, the Danish Prince Christian Fredrik (afterwards Christian VIII. of Denmark), who had acted as vice-king of Norway since 1813, would not or could not meet the Swedish Crown Prince Karl Johan (Bernadotte) in battle, when the latter resolved to conquer Norway by armed force. But the Norwegians themselves were eager to fight, and were also victorious in some places, where a few minor battles, or rather skirmishes, were fought. The consequence was a compromise. Christian Fredrik gave up every right to the Norwegian throne, and Karl Johan promised to acknowledge the Norwegian constitution if Norway was united to Sweden under the Swedish king. A Storting, or Parliament, met in Christiania in October, to decide upon the matter, and on November 4, 1814, the Swedish king was chosen King of Norway. The union between Sweden and Norway lasted from 1814 to 1905. Since then we have had our own king, the Danish Prince Charles, who, as King of Norway, has taken the name of Haakon VII., and our queen is Maud of England, the second daughter of Edward VII. Their only child, Crown Prince Olav, is a great favourite, both in Norway and in England.

The constitution of Norway, which was founded at Eidsvold in 1814, chiefly rests upon the French one of 1791, and the Spanish one of 1812, but has in some respects become more democratic in the course of time.

The King executes the power through the Government and the civil servants, but the balance of power is placed in the hands of the Storting, which consists at present of one hundred and twenty-six members, elected for three years, by all men and women past twenty-five, provided they have

lived in the country five years, and have not lost their vote by committing crimes.

The Next Elections to be on the Proportional Representation System.

The next general election will take place in the autumn of 1921. Then a new electoral system, that of proportional representation, will be tried. The final form of this system is not known as yet, but the constituencies will be larger, and the age will be lowered to twenty-one or twenty-three; it has not yet been decided which.

How the Constitution Works.

Hitherto every constituency has elected a representative and a proxy; the latter replaces the representative in case of unavoidable absence. If, for instance, a representative becomes a member of the Government, the proxy takes his seat in the Storting, as a member of the Government cannot also be a member of the Storting; but the Government may be present during the debates and take part in the discussions. Both the legislative power and the control of the national purse are in the hands of the Storting.

As soon as the new Storting has been opened by the King, it selects one-fourth of its own members to form the Lagting; the remaining three-fourths are called the Odelsting. It is when Bills are going to be discussed that the Storting thus divides into two "houses"—the Odelsting and the Lagting,—and the Bill is first discussed in the Odelsting. Then, if passed there, the Bill goes to the Lagting, and if passed there too, it is sent to the King to receive the Royal Assent, when it becomes law. The King has the right of refusing to give his assent to a Bill twice, except when the Bill concerns the constitution; in that case it becomes law without the Royal Assent.

Should the Lagting reject a Bill which has been carried in the Odelsting, the Bill is discussed by the whole Storting, but must then be carried by a two-thirds majority in order to pass. The Bills are generally brought in by the Government.

The Women Have the Franchise on the Same Terms as Men, and Nearly All Other Equal Rights.

As already mentioned, the women of Norway have the franchise on the same conditions as the men. The Norwegian women have obtained their present social and political rights gradually. Thus, already in 1857 the daughters were placed on equal terms with the sons as to the share of the inheritance. In 1866 women were enabled to obtain licence for trade. In 1882 the university was opened to women students, and from 1884 we have had the right of passing the University degree examinations (*embedseksamen*). In 1889 the women became eligible to the Board of Education, and in 1900 to the Board of Guardians (of the poor). In 1901 the women of Norway got a limited local government franchise; in 1902 women became eligible as jurors; in 1904 women solicitors were allowed to be authorised; in 1910 the authorisation was extended to women barristers, and in the same year Mrs. Betsy Kjelsberg was appointed as the first woman inspector of factories, and in that year, too, the women got the general local franchise (like the men). In 1907 we had got a limited parliamentary vote, which was made general in 1913, and now the women of Norway have obtained nearly all the rights of the men. They are only excluded from the clergy, the army, and the highest posts in the (foreign) diplomacy. But a woman can be made a member of the Government, though it has not been done yet. Three women, however, have met in the Storting: Miss Anna Rogstad (from Christiania), Miss Sara Christie (from Trondhjem), and Miss Karen Platou (from Christiania).

One Woman Member of the Storting.

The last-named is at present the only woman member of the Storting. She was originally elected as a proxy (*varmann*), but as the chosen representative (Mr. Halvorsen) became Prime Minister last month, Miss Platou was summoned to take his seat.

The principle of equal pay for equal work has been officially acknowledged. Thus, for instance, the highest posts in the schools, and at the colleges or in the university, may be held by women as well as men, provided they have taken their university degrees, and the salary is the same, no matter the sex.

Christiania, July 10, 1920.

AUSTRIA.

REPORT OF THE AUSTRIAN AUXILIARY.

An uncompromising change in the political standing of women has taken place in Austria, owing to the complete transformation of all conditions of life, in consequence of the breakdown of the old Austro-Hungarian monarchy and the establishment of the Austrian Republic.

Women Voters for State and Municipalities.

Article 30 of the Law on Association has been first abolished; women were restrained from constituting political associations or becoming members thereof. In the autumn of 1918 at last resulted the transformation of the Committee for Women's Suffrage into a legal association long ago aspired to.

But the most significant conquest was the new election law, voted by the National Assembly in November, 1918, which establishes elective franchise for the House of Representatives to female citizens from twenty-one years of age. The same right for the Diet and the Municipal Boards has been granted to women in consequence. Therefore, the old claim of women for equal political rights, suffrage, and eligibility, for all representative councils of the republic, has been complied with without exception.

Female voters have, furthermore, for the first time, exercised their new right of suffrage at the elections for the legislative body in 1919, and shown their full intelligence as to the importance of the duties arising therefrom. There was, in proportion, a larger share of female than of male votes. Nevertheless, an insignificant number of women has been elected, as the different political parties did not allot women too many conspicuous positions on the candidates' lists, and even women hesitated to propose candidates for good positions thereon. Yet a small number of female candidates have been conceded by every party and placed on the list; also, women took the floor successfully at all caucuses and conventions.

A special headquarters was installed by both the Society for Women's Suffrage and the Austrian Council of Women, to make women familiar with the details of voting, as well as the particulars of the proportional voting scheme. The leading principles of the different parties and platforms have also been given the widest publicity among women voters, and meetings were called to accomplish those efforts, and to secure a full gathering at the polls. The Society for Women's Suffrage did not work for any partisan vote, but only stood by the general female point of view, as stated in the leading programme of women.

Public Offices, Government and Municipal Service.

On other departments of public life the women of Austria may be proud of having realised some important results. Abolition of celibacy, forced upon female teachers, post office clerks, etc., has at last been brought about.

Education, Professions.

A widening of the professional spheres has as yet not been achieved, yet all educational institutions hitherto closed against women have been opened to them. Study of law, political economy, technical science, agriculture, and fine arts are now accessible to female as well as to male candidates. It will be our effort in the near future to secure to female graduates admission to the respective offices, such as lawyers, judges, professors at colleges, etc.

Industry, Trades, Trade Unions.

Owing to the pressing situation caused by the war, all protective measures in favour of women and children had been suspended, and were, on demand of the women's societies, restored soon after the armistice. Night labour of female and juvenile labourers is prohibited now, as well as labour in insalubrious manufactures. Women work 44, men 48 hours a week, as a rule. Women with child are not called to work six weeks prior to parturition, as well as six weeks after.

Female labourers yield less than male ones; this has not improved as yet, owing to the most unfavourable conditions. There is a strenuous competition, rather getting sharper, between male and female workers; even trade agreements, now generally in force, are decidedly to the disadvantage of women. Consequently efforts will be needed to enforce the principle: "Equal wages for equal work."

Marriage, Divorce, Guardianship.

The position of women in civil law has improved, at least partially. Immediately after the commencement of the war, the Women's Suffrage Society petitioned the Secretary of Justice, that women might be entitled to function as guardians of their own children, and also of other minors. Owing to the woeful actuality of that question, an amendment to civil law has been passed, granting the said demand. Women can now be guardians, but if for children other than their own, a married woman has to get the assent of her husband. Women have been furthermore entitled to function as witnesses. When husband and wife have been divorced, formerly boys from their fourth year, and girls from their seventh year, were, as a rule, assigned to the father. Now the court has to decide upon the assignment to one or the other of the parents divorced, the interest of the children being the one essential. Prescriptions of the law concerning children born out of wedlock have been materially improved—however, as yet without levying equal obligations upon father and mother. Still, a child born out of wedlock has exclusively a title against its mother and her relatives only; against its father it is solely entitled to an alimony, to be fixed by the court in proportion to the father's income. Alimentation is to be paid until the child is capable of earning its living, and might be exacted by seizure. Guardians of illegitimate children are instituted by the respective court or judge, the mother of the child being eligible. The tutor has to look to the father for alimony. Illegitimate children bear the name of their mother's family.

Actual Position and Work of the Auxiliary.

In general, it may be stated that there is an improvement in the situation of women in Austria, owing to the efforts of the women's associations. Yet there is a great deal of work left to be done. The task of the Women's Suffrage Society has not at all been exhausted by the amendments stated above. The Society will go to the root of the matter by instructing their members as to the carrying out of said law, and the most advantageous use of the new privileges and rights. The society, without being in any way dependent on any political party, will have to awake in women the sense of their natural competence in regard to politics, to free them from all demagogic influence and party phrases. They will be instructed to respect the political opinion of any party, even of the opposite one, and led to a feeling of responsibility and duty. Whenever women fully recognise their duties towards their own nation, the conception of an international unity of the whole world will be more easily impressed upon them.

ITALY.

The Death of Mmc. A. M. Mozzoni.

In the Policlinico Hospital at Rome there has died, at the age of eighty-four, the *doyenne* of Italian Suffragists, Anna Maria Mozzoni. It is many years since she withdrew from the active work of the associations, but her soul and spirit were always among us. In September, 1919, on the day on which the Suffragist law was to be voted on in the Chamber, her young friends begged her to be present at the sitting. When the mover, as he was sketching the history of the Suffragist movement, named Mme. Mozzoni, someone whispered that she was in the ladies' gallery. All eyes turned towards the little wrinkled face, and she received a most charming manifestation of sympathy from all sides of the Chamber.

The Suffragist petition of 1905 was, in fact, the real starting point of the discussion of the question of Woman's Suffrage in Parliament. But Mme. Mozzoni had been working since 1865 at the feminist cause; as lecturer, polemist, and writer, she put forth her energy, more especially during the years in which the Italian code was being compiled. Her studies on the legal position of women, on marriage, divorce, and many other subjects are very remarkable. She collaborated with Agostino Bertani in the compilation of the sanitary code, but the work she liked best was her translation of John Stuart Mill's "Subjection of Women," since she was more than all else a Suffragist.

She died with the consolation of seeing some of the articles, which she had proposed in 1870, inserted in the civil code, but without the vote for which she had striven during half a century.

M. ANCONA.

Milan, June 26, 1920.

IV.—Industry, Commerce, and Trade Unions.

The regulation of work is evidently not the same for women as for men, because of the obligation to protect women, to whom employers might be tempted to give work too hard for them. Except in factories with continuous processes, night work is forbidden for women (there is the same prohibition for boys less than eighteen); in the day time working hours are the same for both sexes since the Eight-Hour Act was passed.

Apart from laws, special regulations for women were made during the war regarding work in factories.

With regard to minimum wages, French labour legislation contains only one law, which deals with the home work in the needle trades.

During pregnancy, the working woman, married or otherwise, has the right to apply for a period of rest for four weeks preceding confinement, and is forbidden to work during the four weeks following the birth of the child. In State factories, nursing-mothers receive an increase in wages.

There are some trades which it is unusual for women to enter; most often it is because it has not yet become the custom. Sometimes, however, it is caused by masculine opposition (typographers). During the war women worked very frequently in the mechanics and metal trades; at the present time they are still working in them, and many dress-makers, seamstresses, and domestic servants are now drivers, welders, etc.

Evidently, during the war, as the men were at the front, and as the needs of national defence obliged everyone to work, the men did not boycott the women; but before the war, and even after the demobilisation, some incidents have marked the struggle between male and female workers, the former always fearing that the employment of female labour would bring about a decrease in wages.

V.—Marriage, Divorce, and Widowhood.

The Civil Code at present in force dates from 1804. Doubtless since that date many modifications have been made in it, but the principle of subordination of the wife to the husband remains intact. The Code declares, in fact, that the wife "owes obedience to her husband."

It follows that the woman may not act freely in the pursuits of private life without the authorisation of her husband. She may not, without this authorisation:—

- (1) Have a separate legal domicile (except in the case of application for divorce, in which case she is authorised to that effect by the President of the Court).
- (2) Bring a suit nor defend herself.
- (3) Validly sign a contract.
- (4) Become an heir or accept a legacy.
- (5) Dispose to the profit of anyone during her life of a part of her fortune (donation between living parties).
- (6) Be guardian, member of a family council, nor a testamentary executrix.
- (7) Mortgage her goods and chattels.
- (8) Part with any real estate, even if her property has been kept distinct from that of her husband.
- (9) Choose a profession.

A law of 1907—voted, thanks to the efforts of a feminist society, "L'Avant-Courrière," presided over by Mme. Schmahl, who was also one of the founders of U.F.S.F.—allows women, whose occupations are distinct from that of their husband's, freely to dispose of their earnings. This law is a great blow to the principle of the husband's authority.

But the rights that a woman may have on her salary are refused to her in regard to her personal patrimony. However, the capacity of the woman may be more or less developed, pursuant to her having or not having any marriage settlement, and in this last case according to the articles of this contract. When a couple is married without marriage settlement, but only under the common law, which provides for a joint ownership of all articles of property, the powers of the husband on the goods thus held in common are of the most sweeping character.

Notwithstanding the attempted efforts by the feminists in order to obtain a law allowing the French woman who marries an alien, or the alien who marries a Frenchman, to keep their respective nationalities, we are still waiting to see these longed-for modifications brought into force. The position of the question in Parliament, however, forebodes an early reform.

We are working hard to spread the idea of equal rights of the father and the mother on their children; but this matter will require increased efforts on our part, for it has, up till now, been the subject of no legislative proposition. Paternal authority belongs exclusively to the father, the mother is entitled to it only after the death of the father.

Divorce, established in France under the Revolution, suppressed during the Restoration of the Bourbons, re-established in 1884, may be called for by one of the parties—indifferently husband or wife—for one of the following reasons: Adultery, debauch, ill-treatment or outrage, or condemnation to a grave penal punishment. The organisation of the judiciary assistance in France enables everybody, rich or poor, to sue for divorce.

The guilty party (indifferently husband or wife) is sentenced to pay alimony if the other party is without sufficient resources. Generally, it is the husband only that is called upon to pay this alimony.

If the husband has not made any will, making his wife heir of his property, the wife inherits only in the case of her husband having no heirs called by the law to succeed him. The law is the same with regard to the husband who succeeds his wife.

VI.—Illegitimate Children.

Unmarried parents may have on their children all the rights recognised to lawful parents, provided they declare their paternity. The parent who is first in doing so has on the child the rights involved in paternal authority. In case of simultaneous declaration by the father and the mother, the paternal authority is attributed to the father.

If the father does not willingly declare his paternity the law authorises the child at his majority, and the mother during the two years after the child's birth, or the giving up of the joint life, to introduce the quest as to the father-ship; any lawsuit against a man already married at the time of the conception of the child is impossible. If there is a declaration, either voluntary or as a result of a lawsuit, the father is legally bound to give to the child alimony, according to his (the father's) resources.

The rights of the illegitimate child to the inheritance of its parents vary according to the eventual rights of other heirs. In case there are legitimate children, the illegitimate one has a right to half the share of the legitimate child; in consequence, if the deceased parent leaves a legitimate child and a natural one, the latter will have a right to a quarter of the inheritance, and the former to three-quarters. If the other heirs are not legitimate children, the illegitimate child has a right either to three-quarters or to the whole of the estate.

When the father has declared his paternity, the illegitimate child bears the father's name, otherwise it bears the name of its mother, unless the mother refuses to make her identity known; in that case, the child receives any name which is given it by the administrative authorities.

VII.—Legislation Concerning Morals.

In respect to morals the regime is a most arbitrary one. The regulation of prostitution exists, but it is only a police regulation, and it is not a law; besides, it regulates only women. As a matter of fact, prostitution is not a misdemeanour; women misbehaving in the street are prosecuted on a charge of vagrancy. This kind of misbehaviour, when it is practised between men, is equally prosecuted.

The law protects young girls aged less than 13 years; above that age, and until 17, the verdict passed against the man who has misled a young girl varies according to the circumstances of the misdemeanour. The sentence is harder for masters, servants, government officials, clergymen.

The prostitutes may live freely or in closed houses. In both cases they are registered at the Prefecture de Police. In case they have been brought to closed houses as a result of white slave traffic, it is extremely difficult for them to liberate themselves.

They have to be regularly examined, though there is no obligatory declaration of venereal diseases.

Institutes for the treatment of venereal diseases have been erected, with the hope that both men and women would spontaneously resort to them; but these institutes, which are often called dermatologic institutes, in order not to frighten people, are still far too few.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The Women Still Waiting for the Thirty-sixth State.

In looking over my letters for the last few months to the *International News*, I notice that on April 16 I wrote: "The Federal Suffrage Amendment may have passed through the last stage of ratification before this letter is read." At that time 35 of the necessary 36 State Legislatures had ratified, and it was expected that almost any day the Delaware Legislature, then in session, would be compelled by the party leaders to do so, or else that the Governors of Connecticut and Vermont would have to yield to political exigency and call special sessions of their Legislatures, which would ratify at once. That was three months ago, and the women of the United States are still waiting for the action of the one Legislature which will make them enfranchised citizens and end their continuous struggle of seventy years. The women of other countries can hardly measure the resentment which fills our hearts.

Many Words, But Not the Great Deed.

Now in looking back over the last four months, since our hopes were raised to the highest point by the 35th ratification in the State of Washington last March, we are amazed at our credulity, our naïve confidence, our touching faith that the leaders of both political parties were working for us, and most desirous that we should be able to vote at the general election in November. It is only within a very short time that we have awakened to the fact that neither party has intended that we should vote at that election, and that both have been equally interested in preventing it. Many women still believe that all those resolutions of the National Committees, those telegrams from party leaders, those strenuous efforts by politicians, were honest and genuine, but Suffragists who are working from the inside have had a revelation. Its first dawning came with the defeat in Delaware, when leaders of the majority party there, who never failed to put any measure they wished through that State's notorious Legislature, were apparently unable to do so with the suffrage ratification. At first it was incomprehensible, and then the question began to filter through the minds of the women: "Did they really want to?" The light grew stronger after the performance took place in Vermont that I described in my last letter, when eight hundred cheering, enthusiastic Republicans in their State convention called on Governor Clement, who sat smiling on the platform, to summon the Legislature at once to ratify the Amendment. The women felt that it was just as good as ratified, but on the contrary that was the end of the whole thing. They then looked at each other and asked: "What does this mean? Governors are not in the habit of ignoring such a demand as this if it is genuine."

Then came the great Republican convention in Chicago, to nominate the candidates for President and Vice-President. Women had been put on all the committees; 126 had been elected delegates; the Suffragists were told to ask for anything they wanted in the platform and they should have it. The National American Suffrage Association, through its second Vice-president, Miss Mary Garrett Hay, who was also Chairman of the National Republican Women's Executive Committee, then presented a strong plank endorsing the Federal Amendment, and calling on Governor Clement, of Vermont, and Governor Holcomb, of Connecticut, to summon special sessions for its ratification. The Resolutions Committee modified the plank, and eliminated the names of the Governors, saying simply: "We welcome women into full participation in the affairs of government, and the activities of the Republican Party. We urge the Republican Governors, whose States have not yet acted on the Suffrage Amendment, to call special sessions, etc." This is the wording that was given to the Press (and that I sent to the *International News*), and as there were only two such Governors in the whole United States, the women did not see why their names should be so carefully concealed. But, behold! when the platform was presented to the convention for its acceptance, their tender susceptibilities were still further regarded, and the plank said only: "We earnestly hope that Republican Legislatures in States which have not yet acted upon the Suffrage Amendment will ratify it."

Could anything be weaker and more inane? Only two such Legislatures in the entire country, and they couldn't act until they were called in session, yet the party platform

In conclusion, if we look back on the seven years elapsed since the Congress of Budapest, we may be satisfied with the spreading of our ideas, with the reception they receive now, and with the different turn minds have taken regarding our propaganda. This report mentions only generalities, and does not admit any figures. A longer one would have permitted some precisations which would have been of a nature to impress the readers favourably, but we have been asked to word it as shortly as possible.

Therefore, we must be satisfied to certify, in the name of a French group the action of which spreads all over France, and whose work and propaganda are active, that feminism is making headway, and that, according to a celebrated word, "nothing will stop it." The time for queries and sarcasms is past, another has come, which teems, perhaps, with more difficulties than the old one, and which calls on the part of women for a still greater effort, both of brains and of hearts.

Indeed, the women of all countries of the world have to struggle, not only to defend their unacknowledged or violated rights, but also for the maintenance of peace, of which they understand the meaning and the value so much better after having endured for four years all the anxieties of the war.

The young French feminine generation is ardently feminist. Enlightened by the teaching of their seniors, by every day events, well prepared by a rational education, practical, it seems ready to answer all the hopes that we have rightly put in it.

And doubtless the time is not far off from the victories which will establish definitely the equality of sexes. The sooner this hour strikes, the sooner humanity will have to rejoice for it, as in every country woman will be able to complete any achievement undertaken by man.

THE KINGDOM OF THE SERBS, CROATS, AND SLOVENES.

Notes of the Speech Delivered at the Eighth Congress by Miss Annie Christitch, Government Delegate for the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

Miss Annie Christitch, delegate for the Government and for the Council of Women of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, speaking at the Palais Eynard, Geneva, on June 12, greeted the audience, and above all, as she expressed it, the women, to whom the Serbian women felt special gratitude, and with whom they had a special bond of sympathy. It was the Swiss women who, during the terrible years of the war, had helped to relieve the ills and the sufferings of Serbia. "It is remarkable," she continued, "that the Swiss woman, so cultivated, so able, and so industrious, has not yet the vote. But we Serbian women can easily find the explanation. It is, we say, that you Swiss work so hard for others that you have no time to work for yourselves. We are so profoundly conscious of all you have done for us that we wish, as the best reward, that you may win the vote as soon as possible. As for us, in Serbia, in Croatia, and in Slovenia, we shall have it without much delay. You must understand that we have only just formed our young State, and that there are questions of foreign affairs to settle before we can introduce this reform, but under the able presidency of Mme. Danitsa Hristitch, an organisation works and agitates for the enfranchisement of women, and just lately a group of university women has begun to publish a monthly feminist review, and the editor, Mlle. Zorka Kassner, has already succeeded in winning to our cause many and important adherents. In fact, with us we have more propaganda to do among women more or less elderly than among the men, for a large proportion of the men are in favour of the suffrage. We have already received the municipal vote in certain provinces, and the Government employs a considerable number of women in the Civil Service on the same terms as men. In July, a congress of women—Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes—will be held at Zagreb, when many questions will be decided affecting the condition of women in Jugo-Slavia, and the vote will be once more energetically demanded. The fact that I represent our Government, as well as our National Council of Women, is sufficient proof of the sympathy and the encouragement we receive from our statesmen."

would not mention the names of the obstructing Governors, or even their States. No "demand," no "call" for action, merely an "earnest hope." It was then that the scales fell entirely from the eyes of the women, and they saw clearly. The "militant" branch of the movement summoned its "picket brigade," and throughout the convention stood in front of the big hall with banners inscribed: "When will the Republican Party stop blocking Woman Suffrage?" "Vote against the Republican Party while it blocks suffrage," and similar mottoes. Many of the "constitutional" Suffragists would like to have joined the picketers, who were justified by public sentiment generally. But they did not stop here. As soon as Senator Harding, the Republican candidate for President, reached his home in Washington, a large delegation of women called on him, to inquire whether he would use his influence with the two obstinate Governors. He answered: "If any State executive should ask my opinion about extraordinary efforts to consummate Woman Suffrage, I will commend the thing you wish." He then made many protestations of his own wish for the success of the Amendment, but said: "This desire, sincerely spoken, does not conflict with my determination that I could not with propriety attempt to force any Governor to hasten action in violation of his own sense of duty." Governor Coolidge, of Massachusetts, candidate for Vice-President, well known as an advocate of the Amendment, declined to receive the deputation, and sent a telegram, through his secretary, that he "Would not interfere with other States on the Woman Suffrage issue."

The situation had by this time become acute. Women all over the country were thoroughly aroused, and so were the men who wanted the Federal Amendment ratified. Republican politicians saw that some kind of a "grand stand play" would have to be made before the Democratic National Convention acted, so on July 1 the newspapers came out with blazing headlines: "Vermont will vote on the suffrage issue," over an account of a conference which Governor Clement had just had with Senator Harding in Washington on the Suffrage Amendment. Both men gave out statements to the Press which could not be construed in any other way than that a special session would be called at once. This was on July 1. The Democratic Convention came and went. Governor Clement arrived at his home in Vermont July 8, and when eagerly asked about the special session, he answered: "I am still undecided, and that Washington matter was given altogether too much publicity." So the matter rests as far as the Republican Party is concerned.

The Democrats at San Francisco Speak Fairer than the Republicans at Chicago.

The Democratic National Convention met in San Francisco, the first week in July. The party had elected more than twice as many women delegates as did the Republican, and had given women a far larger representation on committees. This might have been because it did not feel so sure of the support of women, but perhaps there was a better reason—it is entitled to the benefit of the doubt. The Woman Suffrage plank, adopted without any quibbling, was far stronger:—

We endorse the proposed Nineteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States granting equal suffrage to women. We congratulate the Legislatures of thirty-five States which have already ratified said Amendment, and we urge the Democratic Governors and Legislatures of Tennessee, North Carolina, and Florida, and such States as have not yet ratified the Federal Suffrage Amendment, to unite in an effort to complete the process of ratification, and secure the thirty-sixth State in time for all the women of the United States to participate in the Fall election.

Only those who know the century-long opposition of the Democratic Party to any Federal supervision of the suffrage can realise the full import of this endorsement without dissent. The women were not welcomed into the Democratic Party only, and the Governors called on for assistance were plainly designated. Of course, in this connection it must be remembered that the Democrats have not a great deal to their credit in connection with the Federal Suffrage Amendment up to the present time. It received a far larger proportion of Republican than Democratic votes in Congress: 29 of the 35 Legislatures which have ratified it are Republican, and 7 of the 8 which have rejected it are Democratic. At this convention was the only chance for the Democratic

Party to redeem itself. Whether it was sincere in calling upon those three States to ratify is open to question, as their doing so is doubtful. The convention was spurred to action by Governor Clement's visit to Senator Harding, and the prospect that Vermont would give the final ratification.

After the Democratic convention closed it seemed necessary that its presidential candidate, Governor Cox, of Ohio, should make some sort of a "grand stand play" to offset the one made by Senator Harding in having that conference with Clement. It was not sufficient that he was known to be in favour of Woman Suffrage, something vital must be done quickly. The Legislature of Louisiana was still in session. Both Houses had defeated ratification of the Amendment, but no matter, it could be easily reconsidered. The Chairman of the Democratic State Committee of Louisiana telegraphed Governor Cox to know what he thought its Legislature ought to do, and he answered: "My opinion is that the Legislature owes it as a duty to the Democratic Party to ratify the Federal Suffrage Amendment at once." This message was received the evening of the day before the Legislature was to adjourn. To reconsider would require a two-thirds favourable vote of both Houses, which at that late date would be impossible. The matter was brought up the next day and defeated, but it gave the Democratic candidate for President a chance to match his record with that of the Republican candidate. And both parties think the women can be fooled by this sort of camouflage.

Women Not Wanted in the Fall Election: They Think Too Much About the League of Nations and Prohibition.

The question naturally will be asked why the two parties want to defer the universal enfranchisement of women when so many millions are already entitled to vote next November. It is because of the entire uncertainty as to how they will cast their ballots. While about half of them, through special legislation in different States, can vote for the presidential candidates, not more than a fourth can do so for other officials. One-third of the United States Senate, and all of the House of Representatives are to be elected, and in nearly all of the States the Governor and other officials and the Legislature. It would be a serious thing to have about 25,000,000 voters suddenly added to the electorate, of whom nothing could be predicted. In the presidential election of 1916 only three or four million women voted, and, while it was thought their votes elected President Wilson, conditions were not normal, as the women fully believed he would keep the country out of the European War. Therefore no precedent exists by which either party can make any estimate as to the women's votes, and both fear to take the chance.

The two leading issues of the campaign will be the League of Nations and Prohibition. By the failure of the Senate to ratify the League, it has gone before the people for a decision. While party lines were not strictly drawn in the Senate, the Republicans were responsible for its defeat. The present platform of this party, defining its policy for the coming four years, gives no hope that the League will fare any better. The Democratic platform makes a strong declaration in favour of it. It is generally believed that the large majority of women want the United States to accept the League, because they think it will be a guarantee against future wars. This is the principal reason why the Republicans do not want women to have a vote at the coming election.

The United States Supreme Court has made a sweeping decision that the Federal Prohibition Amendment, and the so-called Volstead Act for its enforcement, are constitutional in every particular. There is no possible way in which the Amendment can be repealed or nullified, but the Volstead Law, being simply an Act of Congress, could be repealed or modified by the next Congress. It not only provides for a rigid enforcement of the amendment, but it fixes the amount of alcohol which any manufactured drink can contain at 1½ per cent. The opponents are now determined to elect an administration which will do away with the Volstead Act (named from its author). The sentiment of the country on Prohibition may be judged by the fact that neither platform dared to mention it. It did not even come before the Republican convention. In the Democratic, William J. Bryan made the supreme effort of his life to have a plank endorsing it, but was defeated by an immense majority. The attempt to

have an endorsement of "light wine and beer" met the same fate, and the platform was silent on the subject. Nevertheless the convention was dominated by the Tammany Democrats of New York, and the presidential candidate was dictated by them. Governor Cox, now serving a third term as Governor of Ohio, has always been identified with the liquor interests. The influence behind him, if he is elected, will be in favour of weakening the Prohibition Amendment to the farthest extent. It does not need any more explanation to show why the Democratic leaders do not want 25,000,000 women to vote in November. This reason also applies to many Republicans, for a hard and fast line cannot be drawn between the two parties on either of these two issues. Many Republicans want this country to enter the League of Nations. Many Democrats are for absolute prohibition of the liquor traffic. But the leaders of the two parties, who carry the responsibilities of the campaign, do not want them still more complicated by that vast unknown element in politics—the woman vote.

The present situation is as follows: The decision of the United States Supreme Court, as related in my last letter, that the voters cannot pass on an amendment to the Federal Constitution, is held by high legal authority to nullify the provision in the State constitution of Tennessee that it cannot ratify any amendment until a Legislature has been elected on that issue.

All Eyes on Tennessee and North Carolina.

The Governor, therefore, has called a special session for August 9, to act on the Suffrage Amendment. This decision has also made it possible for the Governor of Florida to call a special session, as he has heretofore said he would like to do. Many of the Suffrage leaders believe that one or both of these States will ratify. The Governor of North Carolina has called a special session for August 10 to consider various matters, and, at the earnest request of President Wilson, the Amendment will be one of them. The President is believed to be perfectly sincere in his many efforts for ratification. The Governor of North Carolina is very much opposed to Woman Suffrage by any method, and there seems to be little hope of ratification in that State. Republicans still believe that Governor Clement will not let a Democratic Legislature have the glory of being the thirty-sixth to ratify.

Legal Subtleties Less Important Than That Thirty-sixth State.

To add to the general confusion and uncertainty, the National Men's Anti-Suffrage Association, which masquerades under the name of American Constitutional League, and claims to be organised in seven States, has brought injunction proceedings in the Federal Court at Washington, to restrain the Secretary of State from declaring that the Amendment has received the necessary number of ratifications, and is now a part of the National Constitution. This is done on the ground that some of the ratifications are illegal. Just at present the Suffragists are most interested in getting that thirty-sixth Legislature.

IDA HUSTED HARPER.

New York, July 9, 1920.

[The injunction proceedings referred to in the last paragraph of my letter were brought in the Federal Court of the District of Columbia. The judges rendered their decision at once, which was to refuse to grant the injunction. The members of the League immediately took an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States from this decision. Their case was so weak that they must have known they would lose it, but their object in bringing it was to get the question into the Supreme Court, which does not meet until next October. They thought that it would be impossible to get a decision in time for the general election, November 2, and that, while the case was pending, women would not be allowed to vote. It is too soon to know whether or not this game will succeed. I said in that letter that Governor Clement, of Vermont, had just had an interview with Senator Harding, Republican candidate for President, which seemed to indicate that the Governor would call a special session to ratify the Federal Suffrage Amendment. All the newspapers in the United States took it for granted that this would be done, and there was great rejoicing among the Suffragists. On July 12, about ten days later, Governor Clement issued a proclamation stating that he had fully determined not to call a special session, although he understood that "a majority of the members of the Legislature were pledged to ratify." This was a heavy and unexpected blow. Mrs. Catt immediately issued a statement, in which she said: "This decision of Governor Clement is so contrary to the dictates of justice, common-sense, and expediency, it convinces me that there is a sinister and far-reaching influence behind it. To uncover that influence and spread it on the record is one of the immediate tasks of Suffragists." Mrs. Catt then issued an official bulletin addressed to Senator Harding, in which she said: "You are about to come before the women voters of this country as the choice of the Republican Party for the next President of the United States. . . . You will make representations to the women voters on behalf of this party. . . . You will expect the voters of the country to consider that where you lead the lesser politicians of your party will follow. . . . Your party stands committed to the ratification of the Federal Suffrage Amendment. You stand committed to it. Governor Clement, of Vermont, refuses to be guided by either you or the Republican Party. . . . It is not Governor Clement whom the women voters of the country must hold responsible for the failure of the Republican Party to complete this ratification in time for the women to take part in the 1920 election. He is not the nominee of the Republican Party." When the readers of the *International Suffrage News* consider that only five days have elapsed between the writing of my letter and this postscript, and yet these important events have taken place, they can realise the constant anxiety of the Suffragists of the United States.—I. H. H.]

GREAT BRITAIN.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL.

The fate of this Bill has been a very tragic one. Readers of *Jus Suffragii* will remember that the Bill passed its second reading in the House of Commons in March with a large majority, and was referred to a Standing Committee of the House of Commons. The Government representative on this Committee stated that the Government was opposing this Bill on the ground that it is customary, when a large number of fresh voters are added to the electorate, to call a general election, which the Government is by no means ready to do. The N.U.S.E.C. promoted, in order to meet this objection, an amendment, which was passed, to the effect that the Bill should be postponed until the time that a general election would in any case have to be held.

Finding that time was getting so short, the Labour members in charge of the Bill—our readers will remember that the Bill was inaugurated by the Labour Party—desired to present it to the House without any further delay, and were prepared, therefore, to accept various amendments. Owing to their ignorance of parliamentary procedure, however, the Chairman of the Committee was able to induce the Labour members themselves to propose an obscurely worded resolution, which meant that the Committee did not desire to proceed further with the Bill.

As this was directly contrary to what had been proposed by the Labour members, it is no exaggeration to say that the Bill was killed at this point by sheer trickery. All women suffragists in England will have to make a very great effort next session to have another Bill introduced, which, it is hoped, will meet with a more timely fate.

GUARDIANSHIP OF INFANTS BILL.

This Bill, which has been promoted by the N.U.S.E.C., in order to give the mother equal rights with the father over their legitimate children, and to put upon both parents the duty of supporting their children according to their own means, has passed its second reading in the House of Commons, and has been referred to a committee.

TREASURY COMMITTEE ON EX-SERVICE MEN AND THE CIVIL SERVICE.

A Departmental Committee has just been appointed by the Treasurer to enquire into the position of ex-Service men in the Civil Service, and to make suggestions as to future methods with regard to their employment therein. As the fate of women in the Civil Service is closely bound up with that of the men, we are pleased to be able to report that one of our own members—Mrs. Strachey—has been appointed on to this committee. It is Mrs. Strachey's debut on a Departmental Committee, we therefore wish to offer her and the Committee every congratulation.

WOMEN AT OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.

The University of Oxford has at last opened all its degrees, and all possible administrative and other posts in the University to women. Two women have already been appointed University Lecturers, and many women are taking their degrees, as the granting of degrees has necessarily been retrospective. As our readers know, Oxford and Cambridge are the only universities in England which have not up to the present admitted women on equal terms. Cambridge University is considering the question now, and a special committee of its governing body has been appointed to report on the question.

JUVENILE COURTS (METROPOLIS) BILL.

A Bill has been introduced into the House of Lords, and has passed its second reading, to reorganise the administration of Children's Courts in London. It provides for the appointment of specialist magistrates, who will visit special Courts for Children in different parts of London. As two Justices of the Peace are to sit with the Stipendiary Magistrate at each Court, and the Bill lays down that one of these is to be a woman, this Bill, when passed, will enable women in London to take a real share in the administration of justice to children.

ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE OF WOMEN COMMITTEE.

Since the reconstitution of the union after the passing of the Representation of the People Act, 1918, the reforms on the programme have been referred to special committees of

the Executive Committee. It was decided, after the last council meeting, to refer the whole question of the economic independence of women, including Equal Pay for Equal Work, and National Family Endowment, to one of these committees.

The Committee is very anxious to collect information about any schemes which may have been brought forward in other countries relating to family endowment in any form, and will be grateful if members of societies in other countries will forward to them, as soon as possible, any details they may be able to collect, addressing to 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.

UKRAINE.

Report Presented to the Eighth Congress.

It is for the first time that a Ukrainian woman speaks at the International Congress.

I am very happy to tell here that women in the Ukraine have the same political rights as men have.

We have obtained the right of vote as result of the Revolution of 1917, and also because for a long time Ukrainian women have worked side by side with men in the struggle for the national freedom, against the autocratic regime of the Russian Empire.

Thus Ukrainian women conquered a place equal to that of men in the new state created by their common efforts.

Though our Constitution is not yet settled, we are certain to have our rights assured as long as our National Government is in power.

In the first Ukrainian Parliament, the so-called "Central Rada," there were nine women members.

Ukrainian women have taken part at the elections for the Constitutional Assembly, and also for the Municipal Councils, and there were several women candidates.

I cannot give you exact figures, because the conditions of our unhappy country do not permit to have reliable statistics, but as far as I know several women have been elected members of municipal councils.

All posts in the Civil Service are accessible to women, and we have the same pay as men have.

In the Ministry of Public Education and other Ministries several women occupy responsible and important posts.

The result obtained in the Ukraine must not be attributed to the efforts of Ukrainian women alone. It is one of those conquests the credit of which must be given to all women who have worked for our common ideal.

Madame HANNA TSCHIKALENKO-KELLER.

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