

The International Woman Suffrage News

The Monthly Organ of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

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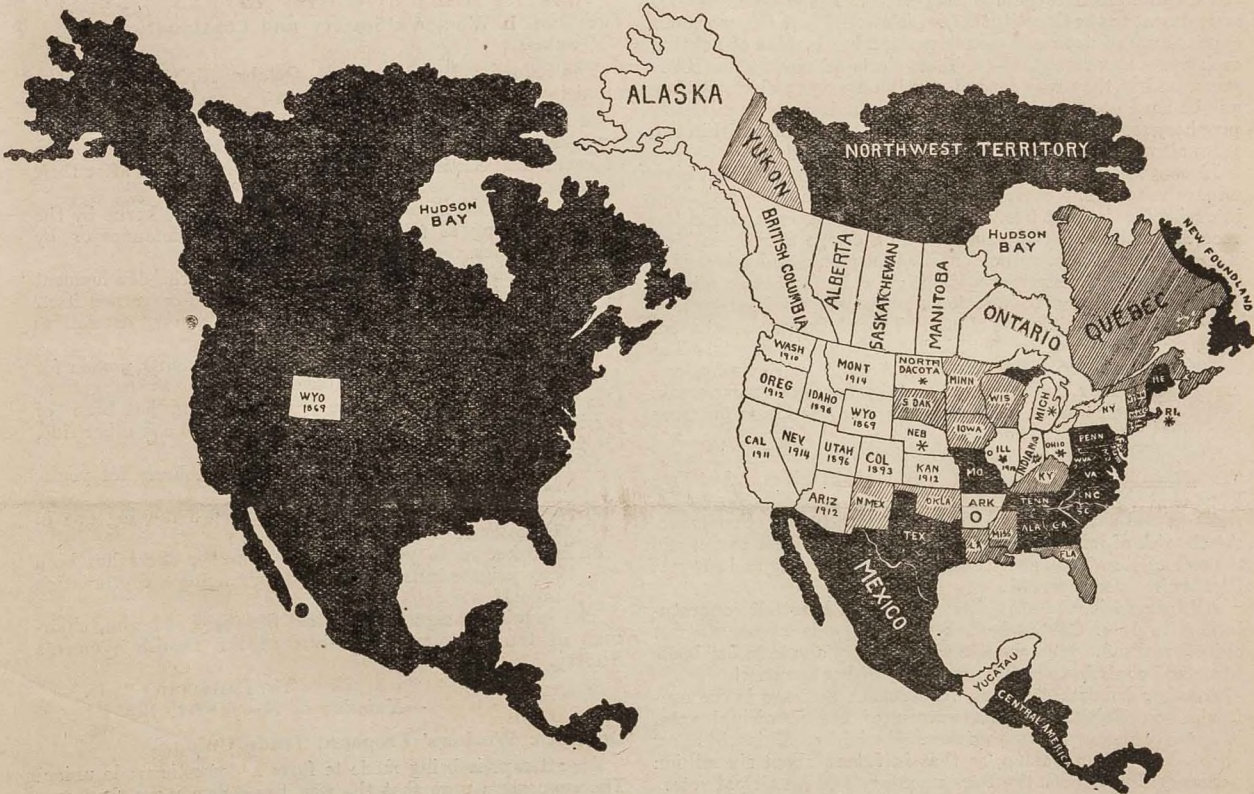
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FIRST SUFFRAGE MAP OF AMERICA, 1869

LATEST SUFFRAGE MAP OF AMERICA.



THINGS LOOKED AS BLACK AS THIS FOR NEARLY A QUARTER OF A CENTURY.

Full Woman Suffrage	...	White
Presidential and Municipal	...	White with ring ○
Some form of Local Government Suffrage	...	Grey
Primary Suffrage	...	White with Star ✦
No Woman Suffrage	...	Black

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FEATURES OF THE MONTH.

November, 1917, has brought to the cause of Woman Suffrage one of its greatest triumphs; indeed, if we except the first granting of the Parliamentary vote to women in any country—viz., in Australia, which first put this great human principle into operation,—we may say that this is the greatest victory won yet. It has enfranchised the largest number of women who have ever got the vote at one time—about three million,—and it has been won on a referendum in which over a million men voted. It is far the most important win ever scored in the United States, being in the "Empire State," and including New York City, the second largest city in the world. It is likely to prove the decisive factor in the struggle of American women to gain nation-wide Suffrage by a Federal amendment to the Constitution, which would save the enormous expenditure of work and money exacted by the plan of fighting each State separately. New York elects 43 members of Congress, and as they will depend partly on women electors, they will be bound to vote for the Federal amendment. Mrs. Catt's prophecy seems to be on the way to realisation: that within two years all women in America will be enfranchised.

If the victory is great, the efforts to gain it have been unparalleled. The campaign, carried on with ever-increasing intensity for the past five years, has been unprecedented in the records of political campaigns. The Suffrage Society in New York City had half a million enrolled members, and upwards of twelve thousand voluntary workers; it collected over a million women's signatures to petitions. It left no honest stone unturned in pursuit of its object. The whole movement more than merited the success which has crowned its efforts. The ablest and most brilliant women in America were its leaders. Mrs. Catt and Dr. Shaw worked as only superwomen can work, and threw their unrivalled powers of oratory and their immense personal prestige into the scale.

The campaign came when America was absorbed in war; the women had innumerable calls on their patriotism, but they knew that the cause of democracy, of popular self-government, was a sacred charge that could be set aside for no other cause. At the risk of misconception they had faith in their cause, and the men of New York gave them the understanding and support that their cause deserved.

All international Suffragists will join in heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Catt, who has now seen one of her dearest objects realised. May she live to cast many a vote in her home State and contribute to the prosperity of her country!

Another important success for Woman Suffrage is the conferring on British married women of the municipal vote, hitherto confined to single women and widows. This will affect about five million women, so that in future about six million women will have both the Parliamentary and municipal vote.

In Switzerland women have voted for the first time, in the elections of Prud'hommes in Neuchâtel.

Canadian women in the overseas forces are voting for the first time in a Federal election.

M. S.

DENMARK.

Claim of Women to be Members of the "Central Labour Information Bureau."

The Danish Women's Society has received the following answer to its proposal to the Copenhagen Municipality that the "Care-Council" for the "Central Labour Information Bureau" should be extended to admit of two women members:—

"With regard to the proposal submitted by the respected directors asking that the Care-Council for the 'Central Labour Information Bureau' may be enlarged to admit two women members, we have to inform you that after having taken opinions concerning it from the Care-Council and from the assembled Municipality, our assembly at its meeting on the 24th instant has declared itself in agreement with the above-named authorities, that at the moment there is no occasion to increase the number of the members.

"ANTHON ANDERSEN.

"To the Directors of the Danish Women's Society." It is not surprising that the members do not wish for a change, especially if it should mean that two male members had to resign to make room for the two proposed women members. But women were represented formerly before the Copenhagen Communal L.I. Bureau became the Central L.I. Bureau for the whole country.

Doubtless the men on the Care-Council think themselves entirely able to look after the interests of women, but some years since a deputation of working women applied to a woman municipal representative with complaints about the Bureau, which they did not wish to produce before the gentlemen who managed the Care-Council.

It is a pity that when the new municipal representatives elected the members of the Care-Council the women municipal representatives did not make their male associates understand that the time had come for doing away with the sole management of women's interests by men, and that the interests both of women workers and employers demanded representation by women. The Danish Women's Society will by no means let this matter drop.

—Kvinden og Samfundet, November.

The Danish Women's Society and Continuation Schools.

The following leaflet was sent, October 15, 1917, to all the municipalities in the country:—

In the Budget for 1917-18 a sum amounting to Kr.25,000 was granted as a contribution to the establishment and upkeep of commercial continuation schools for young people after their confirmation.

75% and 50% respectively of the expenses are borne by the grant according as they are arranged by communes or by private societies.

The Danish Women's Society has followed the development of this matter with the greatest interest, and concerned itself with it repeatedly, at meetings, in the papers, as well as through various committees.

It is, of course, especially the training of young women for house work which is of interest; and so as to get an idea to what extent this side of the question has been or possibly will be taken up by communes or from any other side, the following questions are raised:—

1. Has your commune had continuation schools for young children?
2. If not, does your commune think of arranging one in the near future?
3. Is it known to your commune whether there has been any private initiative towards arranging a continuation school?

The inquiry is signed by Astrid Stampe-Fedderson, chairman of the Common Directorate of the Danish Women's Society.

TH. DAUGAARD,

—Kvinden og Samfundet, November.

Domestic Workers' Proposed Trade Union.

An attempt is being made to form a domestic trade union. The supporters urge that the war has shown more than ever the value of domestic labour, and that the long hours and overwork of household workers make it essential that they should combine to improve their conditions.

—Kvinden og Samfundet.

FRANCE.

Repopulation.

Dr. Doisy is proposing a Bill for granting a sum of money to pregnant women. M. Cosnier is proposing a Bill to encourage repopulation by special grants to the mothers of large families.

Mme. Aurel, author of "le Couple," is lecturing for a repopulation policy and urging young mothers to bear children. The Academy of Medicine closed its discussion on repopulation with the following resolution: "In every department there should be established at least one home to receive mothers during the last months of pregnancy, where every woman, whatever her social position, may, if she wishes, be received in conditions of privacy. Public maternity homes should receive without inquiry every woman who requests admission and who conceals her identity."

Women Students at the Ecole des Chartes.

One young woman has finished a three years' course at the school of charters, and passed out among the first. Now three more women students have been admitted, of whom one, Mme. Suzanne Solente, passed in first out of seventeen competitors. When the students have completed their course they are qualified for posts in the Archives, in libraries, and in State departments.

GREAT BRITAIN.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOTE FOR MARRIED WOMEN.

The Representation of the People Bill is now in the report stage—the final stage before it is sent up to the House of Lords.

The day before the Bill entered report stage deputations from the Parliamentary Labour Party and organisations of women waited upon Sir George Cave (Secretary of State for the Home Department) to urge him to give his consent to the amendment to confer the Local Government franchise upon the wives of men who were entitled to be registered as local government electors.

Mr. Adamson, M.P., and Mrs. Fawcett (President of the N.U.W.S.S.), introduced the deputations. Among the speakers were representatives of large groups of women with varying points of view and of considerable experience in public work. All of them laid stress on the need of giving married women a voice in deciding those questions which were of vital concern to the future of the nation, such as housing, child welfare, and public health. On all these subjects married women might be regarded as experts, and were eminently fitted to have a voice in determining them.

Miss Eleanor Rathbone member of the Liverpool City Council assured the Home Secretary that no one desired to jeopardise in any way the success of the Bill. By adding the amendment, which to some extent was outside the terms of the Speaker's conference, the Bill would be more rounded off and complete.

Sir George Cave in his reply to the deputations said that he had received a great number of communications from all parts of the country in support of the amendment, and that both inside and outside the House of Commons there was a large body of opinion in favour of the proposal. He was, however, unable to give a reply to the request of the deputation or to give his personal opinion because it was a matter for Parliament to decide.

The objections to the amendment as stated to Sir George Cave were that it did not assimilate the Local Government franchise with the Parliamentary franchise, and that unless it also introduced the age limit of 30, more women would have the Local Government franchise than the Parliamentary franchise. The conference had recommended that the local franchise would stand as at present, and to strike out the limitation would be a departure from the terms of the conference. The first consideration would be the safety of the Bill, and he could not hold out any hope of the Government giving support to the proposal.

THE AMENDMENT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A remarkable debate followed the moving of the amendment by Mr. Acland. That is to say remarkable for the unanimity of the support given by the members of the House to the extension of the local government to married women. Only four anti-Suffragists spoke against the amendment; one gentleman dolefully confessed that he was "old-fashioned."

He referred to the amendment as "an extremely revolutionary one," and the fact that one revolution had already been made by giving the Parliamentary vote to women was no reason for making another.

The majority of the anti-Suffragists supported the amendment, among the most noted being Mr. Arnold Ward, Colonel Sir C. Seely, and Sir Charles Henry.

The Home Secretary, yielding to the appeals of the House, announced his intention of withdrawing the Government "Whips" and leaving the House free to vote on the question. The amendment was thereupon immediately agreed to without a division.

As it now stands Sub-section 3 of Clause IV. runs as follows: "A woman shall be entitled to be registered as a local government elector for any local government electoral area where she would be entitled to be so registered if she were a man, or where she is the wife of a man who is entitled to be so registered in respect of premises where they both reside and when she has attained the age of 30 years."

This victory in the House is another significant sign of the changes being brought about in public opinion as regards women, and to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies belongs a large part of the credit for having organised and concentrated the support given to this amendment in the country.

An interesting point was raised in the House of Commons on Sub-section 2, Clause IV., of the Bill, which dealt with the extension of the university franchise to women.

An amendment was moved to enable women who had passed examinations qualifying them for a degree to be registered as Parliamentary voters in university constituencies. This amendment was intended to meet the case of those women who although qualified are refused their degrees by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Mr. Hayes Fisher (President of the Local Government Board) said he was heartily in sympathy with the object of the amendment, but was unable to accept it, as the conference had definitely laid down in their recommendation that votes should be limited to women who had taken degrees, and in spite of difficulties the Government desired to adhere to the decisions of that conference. He expressed the view that the force of public opinion would in all probability lead these Universities (Oxford and Cambridge) to reconsider their attitude to women, and that before long the object of the amendment would be attained, namely, the admission of women to the degrees which would enable them to vote.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Fisher's views will prove to be correct, and that the oldest universities in the kingdom will not add to their present injustice of excluding women from the degrees to which they are entitled, by the further injustice in the future of withholding from them the Parliamentary vote.

PROSPECTS OF THE BILL.

The Parliamentary session promises to be a long one, extending beyond Christmas. The Times understands that the House of Lords intends to give very thorough consideration to the Reform Bill, and may "devote three weeks or a month" to this measure. It is, however, certain that the Government itself and both Houses of Parliament are anxious that the Bill should become law in time to begin the registration of voters in the spring. Unless some utterly unexpected difficulty intervenes, the Bill will receive the Royal assent in January, and the new register, which includes women, will be made up in for a possible election in the summer. EDITH PALLISER.

Women Welders.

The Ministry of Munitions has shown its appreciation of the training school for women welders, which was organised by the London Suffrage Society, 58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1, by taking over all payments and expenses in connection with it. The Ministry will not interfere with the running of the school, which is acknowledged to be the best of its kind, nor with the selection of the pupils and their subsequent placing. The Ministry took this step as the result of an inspection of the school, when it was found that not only were the pupils, all educated women, better taught, but that the school was run more economically than those already under the control of the Ministry.

About 200 skilled welders have been trained in the school. When trained they receive a wage of 8d. an hour, and after three months the men's minimum rate, which gives them an average of £2 10s. to £3 a week.

Aluminium welding is also being taught with success. It is difficult, but the women are doing well in aeroplane factories.

The National Council of Women. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

The annual business meeting of the National Council of Women (National Union of Women Workers) was held in London in October, under the presidency of Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon. In her address to the delegates, the President called attention to the increased responsibilities conferred on women by the Representation of the People Bill, which it was hoped would become law, and so qualify some 6,000,000 women as Parliamentary voters before the end of the year. She urged the need for educating women in these new responsibilities.

The annual report showed that the Union had through its organisation assisted various Government Departments, including the National War Savings Campaign and the Food Economy Campaign, and the National Service Department, for which it had interviewed applicants for National Service; while the Ministry of Munitions had been supplied with a list of hostels for women workers.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Through its Legislation Committee resolutions had been forwarded to the Government urging it to make itself responsible for the Women's Suffrage clauses in the Representation of the People Bill, and representations had been made advocating that the Bill should be amended so as to extend the local government franchise to the wives of the men on the local government register, provided that this proposed amendment did not in any way endanger the political Suffrage claims.

NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

Through the same Committee, the following memorial, addressed to the British Imperial Conference, has been circulated among women's organisations:—

We, the undersigned, representing Women's Societies throughout the British Empire, having noted that the Imperial War Conference held in London in March and April, 1917, expressed the desirability and importance of securing uniformity of policy and action throughout the Empire with regard to the laws of naturalisation, and commended to the consideration of the respective Governments summoned to the Conference a Memorandum and Draft Bill proposing amendments to the nationality laws of the Empire, have the honour to submit to you our claim that any amendment of these laws should include the grant to women, in those parts of the British Empire where such amendment is necessary, of the right to retain their British nationality on marriage with an alien, a right enjoyed by them under the laws of the United Kingdom until 1870.

We further urge that uniformly throughout the Empire the laws should provide that a woman shall not on marriage with an alien be deprived of her British nationality against her will, but that she shall be given the same choice of nationality as a man.

WOMEN POLICE.

The Women Patrols Committee, set up more than two years ago to train women voluntary patrol workers, was able to report that 2,338 women are now working in 92 places, 85 of them being engaged in special full-time work and paid from police funds. They work seven hours six days a week, and are paid 32s. Two are at work in Woolwich Arsenal, and two have been appointed as park keepers at 35s. a week.

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION.

In view of the probable extension of the Union's work as a result of the enfranchisement of women, a Special Committee was appointed to consider its constitution and to report to the Council. An important amendment to the constitution, which gives to the national affiliated societies the right to elect twelve additional members to the Executive, was adopted, and also a resolution encouraging the granting to societies, both affiliated and non-affiliated, the right to appoint members to the sectional committees.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

The following resolutions were adopted:

1. SPECIAL WORK ON THE WOMEN'S VOTE.

That during the forthcoming year the N.U.W.W. shall endeavour:

(a) To bring before the women of the country the new powers and responsibilities granted by the extension of the franchise to women under the Representation of the People Bill.

(b) To distribute information as to the qualifications for the women's Parliamentary vote; to appeal to women voters to use their vote for national purposes, and to bring prominently before them legislative measures of the first rank of importance in national reforms.

(c) To appeal to all women, both voters and non-voters, to relax in no way their efforts to help their country during these years of great danger, until the security of a lasting peace has been attained.

(d) To make widely known the industrial and economic position of women, as modified by and dependent upon the war conditions; and to prepare women for careful consideration of the national, imperial, and international issues involved in the problems of reconstruction that will arise after the war.

2. MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

That the National Council of Women urges the Government:

- (a) To establish a Ministry of Health.
(b) To include women in such Ministry.

3. MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SCOTLAND).

That a separate Ministry of Health be established for Scotland, with the Secretary for Scotland or some other member of the Government as Scottish Minister of Health directly responsible to Parliament, and that women be included in such Ministry.

4. LAWS RE SOLICITATION.

That the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland affirms its unshaken belief in an equal moral standard for men and women. Since present laws relating to solicitation and riotous conduct in the streets are complicated, unjust, and ineffective in practice, the National Council of Women urges that a law on an equal basis for men and women with regard to administration, evidence, and penalties, should be substituted to deal with molestation or annoyance by any persons in the streets.

5. REFORMATIVE AGENCIES.

Since the duty of the State towards young people who are drifting into criminal courses is to restore and reform them, and since experience shows that moral reformation is more likely to be brought about by voluntary methods than by compulsion, the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland urges the Government to improve and co-ordinate existing agencies, official and voluntary, and with this in view calls for an authoritative inquiry as to:

- (a) How far the present methods of prisons, courts, and police help or hinder such reformation.
(b) How the laws and their administration can be improved.
(c) Whether the co-operation of voluntary educational and reformative agencies can be more largely utilised.

6. PROTECTION OF CHILD LIFE.

(1) That the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland urges the Government to amend the Notification of Births Act, 1907, and the Children Act, 1908, so as to ensure:

(a) That if an infant under the age of one month be removed, the mother or occupier of the house or room in which the infant is born shall notify the local authority, before the removal of the infant, and give the name and address of the person to whose house the infant has been transferred.

(b) That in the case of removal from one local authority to another the removal shall be notified to the new local authority.

(c) That the local authority where the infant is removed shall notify the Infant Life Inspection Authority on the infant's arrival.

(d) That the Infant Life Inspection Visitor shall, on receipt of the notification of the infant's arrival, visit it within forty-eight hours.

(2) That the National Council of Women draw the attention of the Government to the great increase in the number of advertisements containing offers to adopt children, and to the necessity, therefore, of providing some method for safeguarding the interests of such adopted children.

(3) That the National Council of Women is of opinion that the time has arrived when some fundamental changes in the law are urgently needed, with the object of increasing the responsibility of the fathers of illegitimate children.

7. URGENCY RESOLUTION.

The National Council of Women protests against any difference being made between men and women of equal qualifications in the framing of a scale of salaries for teachers in elementary and secondary schools.

8. URGENCY RESOLUTION.

That in view of the acknowledged responsibility of the Government of India to make provision for female education

in India, this Council respectfully urges the Secretary of State to add women to the Commission lately appointed under the chairmanship of Dr. Michael Sadler, to inquire into the educational policy of the University of Calcutta.

NORAH E. GREEN, Secretary.

Women's International League.

The W.I.L. held its annual Council on October 16th and 17th in London.

The following members of the Executive Committee were present: Mrs. Swanwick (in the chair), Councillor Margaret Ashton, Miss I. O. Ford, Lady Courtney, Miss K. D. Courtney, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Catherine Marshall, Mrs. Philip Snowden, Mrs. Charles Trevelyan, and others, and representatives from Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, Norwich, Oxford, the London boroughs, and many smaller towns and country districts.

Resolutions were passed against the use of the economic boycott as an after-war measure, against reprisals and revenge, and in favour of free speech and free press.

The following is the text of other resolutions passed:—

5.—PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

That it is fundamental to the democratic principle to insist upon the rights of minorities, and therefore this Council supports Proportional Representation as a means of securing the representation of minorities, whilst ensuring the representation of the full strength of majorities, and thus the more complete representation of all citizens.

6.—INTERNATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION.

That as the attempts of financiers and Governments to restrict to themselves and their national groups concessions, trading rights, and access to the raw materials of industry, are amongst the most potent causes of war, this Council of the Women's International League urges that the new international order shall include the widest possible application of Free Trade, some scheme for the equitable apportionment of the raw material of industry amongst the nations of the world, and the abandonment of the principle of exclusive concessions.

7.—NATIONALITY AND TERRITORY.

This Council of the Women's International League urges that when peace negotiations are instituted all contentious questions of nationality and territory be submitted to an International Commission for deliberate consideration and adjudication.

9.—INTERNATIONAL.

(a) That the Women's International League in Annual Council assembled sends affectionate greetings to its honoured International President, Jane Addams, and expresses its admiration for the good fight for our common principles put up by the Women's Peace Party under her leadership.

(b) That the Women's International League in Annual Council assembled expresses its warm appreciation of the work of Dr. Aletta Jacobs and Miss Rose Manus in conducting the International Headquarters and publishing the *International*.

(c) That the Women's International League in Annual Council assembled sends its sisterly greetings to the other National Committees of the International Committee of Women for Permanent Peace.

Note.—The two following, which were sent to International Headquarters by the Executive Committee of the Women's International League for the agenda of the International Congress of Women after the War, were passed by the Council, and are now part of the policy of the League:—

10.—POPULATION IN RELATION TO WAR (as amended by Council).

That as war, disease, and famine are three great irrational checks on population, and tend to lower rather than to raise the type of the survivors, this Council of Women declares that it is the duty of humanity to strive for the elimination of these checks, which involve waste and needless suffering, and to consider the whole problem of population in the light of reason, knowledge, and self-control, rather than in a spirit of blind submission to catastrophic forces. It asserts that upon women lies a special responsibility with regard to the birth-rate, and urges them to study the connection (a) between militarism and the overstrain and enslavement of women for purposes of reproduction in order to make good this waste, and (b) between the pressure of population upon the means of subsistence and war.

11.—STANDARD OF LIFE.

The concentration of enormous wealth in the hands of a few and the low standard of life among the masses of the people, being themselves the product of war within nations, is also one of the chief causes of war between nations. This Council therefore resolves to work for a more equal distribution of the products of industry, and for its direction and organisation by the people.

Note.—The following, which was sent to International Headquarters by the Executive Committee of the Women's International League for the agenda of the International Congress of Women after the War, was endorsed by the Council for discussion at the post-war Congress, but is not adopted as part of the policy of the League:—

12.—MAINTENANCE.

Since women who are mothers perform a service of supreme importance to the State, and have in the past been reduced to a state of economic dependence by reason of the very service they

have rendered, this Council declares that some scheme for the endowment of motherhood by the State is both just in principle and necessary to secure the status of women as free citizens.

IRELAND.

Joint Committee of Irish Suffrage Societies.

This Committee has made every effort to impress on the Irish leaders the urgent need for enfranchisement of Irish women, and the claim of this reform to have precedence of any other question connected with registration in Ireland. On October 18th, when the clause including Ireland in the Representation of the People Bill was under consideration in the House of Commons, the Committee wired to the Home Secretary, who is in charge of the Bill, urging the immediate application of the franchise clauses to this country.

The Committee was represented on the united deputation of different women's organisations which endeavoured to impress on the authorities the need for conservation of the home supply of milk.

M. GWYNN, Hon. Secretary.

The Suffrage Position in Ireland.

The week of October 15th to the 19th was trying for Irish Suffragists. We had known there would be an attempt to postpone the application of the Representation of the People Bill to Ireland on the plea that the difficulties of redistribution should be dealt with before any steps were taken affecting the Parliamentary register in Ireland. But the opposition on this score suddenly revived, and seemed to threaten disastrous delay, if not shipwreck of all our hopes. Exclusion of Ireland from the Bill until after that momentous General Election which will decide so much: this was a prospect which struck dismay into the stoutest heart.

Every effort was made in Ireland to avoid this disaster. The action of the Joint Committee is recorded above. Belfast Suffrage Society wrote and wired to the local M.P.'s, keeping the claim of Irishwomen constantly before them. They were reminded that the issue concerned men as well as women, and that disfranchisement of Irish soldiers and sailors who had voluntarily entered the Service would not be a wise step. Perhaps this last reminder was effective. In any case, the thing was done. The clause defining the application of the Bill to Ireland is through, and it will be impossible in the future to propose any franchise for Ireland less democratic than that established by this Bill.

Now all our energies will be concentrated on organisation of the new voters. There is a growing desire for united action in this country on such urgent questions of social reform as re-organisation of the Poor Law, housing, education, etc. The Royal Commission on Housing in 1914 declared this question could not be adequately dealt with apart from the problem of Poor Law reform. The present Poor Law has invariably broken down at any period of special stress, such as the outbreak of war in 1914, or early periods of agricultural depression. With these questions is inseparably connected the problem of educational reform, provision of adequate facilities for technical education, and a genuine enforcement of school attendance. At present the fine for non-compliance with the law is half-a-crown! We must no longer have boys and girls of twelve years old working half-time in the Belfast mills, or running the streets of Dublin selling matches or newspapers, learning with fatal ease the trade of the casual worker. The existence of the Suffrage movement in Ireland, which has been very largely worked on non-party and non-sectarian lines, and which has steadily grown in strength even during the recent years of stress, is evidence that such united action is possible. We look forward with confidence to the future now so near at hand, when Irishwomen will be able to take their due share in constructive work for the welfare of the country.

DORA MELLONE, Hon. Press Secretary,
Belfast Suffrage Society.

Belfast Suffrage Society.

The winter's work of this society has been arranged with a view to the approaching enfranchisement of Irishwomen, and special prominence has been given to educational propaganda dealing with the questions which press for solution in Ireland. The most urgent of these are the problems connected with the reform of the Poor Law and the safeguarding of child life. Mrs. Stephen Gwynn, of Dublin, gave a lecture on "Methods of Foreign Poor Law," which was felt to be of special value.

Ireland is a country of small farms, where the bulk of the population is agricultural, and the study of what has been done in countries such as Denmark is of special interest in connection with the problem of "relief" in Ireland. Mrs. Gwynn in another address also dealt with the question of infant welfare, explaining what had been done by the different infant aid societies, and the necessity for municipal control of milk supply, medical inspection of schools (at present unknown in Ireland), and more adequate provision for those mothers who are unable to support their children. These lectures were followed by a public meeting organised by the Suffrage Society, the Irish Co-operative Guild, and the Women's Labour League, to hear an address by Judge Henry Neil on the scheme for mothers' pensions. As an outcome of these meetings, a joint committee for mothers' pensions was formed, and it is hoped practical work will be done to promote the establishment in Ireland of some scheme similar to that outlined by Judge Neil. A lecture on methods of Irish poor law dealt with the history of the poor law in Ireland, and summarised existing methods. The speaker, Miss Dora Mellone, pointed out the grave disadvantages of the present workhouse system, which broke down on every occasion of special stress, and made special relief organisations necessary. A scheme was suggested under which workhouses should be abolished, the aged poor cared for on the Danish system, all children boarded out, and special schools provided for the physically handicapped and for the mentally deficient; at present there are no schools of this latter type in Ireland. There will be further lectures during the winter on different aspects of social reform.

The society also organised a campaign on the part of many women's societies to secure a rescinding of the action of the Belfast Corporation in appointing two men doctors under a new child welfare scheme. Public feeling was roused to an unusual extent, especially as two well-known medical women had been passed over, and it is possible the Corporation may decide to reconsider their action in the matter.

The society has also carried on active educational work among the working women, a very large proportion of whom will be voters under the Representation of the People Bill. Addresses on the work of the woman voter were given to the Workers' Educational Association, the Committee and members of the Textile Operatives' Society of Ireland, the Woman's Labour League, the Independent Labour Party, and to members of the adult school. Throughout all this work it was most satisfactory to note the keen interest felt by the audience in the new possibilities opening before them, and their eager appreciation of the power soon to be put into their hands.

CANADA.

A correspondent writes as follows from Toronto (October 3rd, 1917):—

The War-time Franchise Act has become law. It grants the Federal franchise to the female relatives otherwise qualified of soldiers *actually overseas*, and it disfranchises any man of alien enemy birth who has been naturalised since 1902; also conscientious objectors, Mennonites, and Doukobors. The women here are divided in opinion. I object, personally, to tampering by any Government with the franchise on the eve of an election, especially when it is openly avowed that the franchise has been so arranged that the maximum of votes may be cast for the late Government. It is a dangerous precedent to set. Imagine a Liquor Government in power which might pass a Franchise Bill on the eve of an election disfranchising Prohibitionists; also it is unfair to the women. *The vote should be given as a right, and not as a reward for relatives overseas, or any other consideration.* It would have been perfectly simple to have let the old Dominion Franchise Act stand, with a rule that the word "person" include both men and women. This old Act enfranchised all "persons" for the Federal Parliament which were enfranchised for other Provincial Governments (except in the case of Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Yukon, which were added later, and in which the words "male person" were used). This would have enfranchised the women of Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia, and would have been a fulfilment of Sir Robert Borden's earlier statement to women that he would act when the Provinces did. Such a simple ruling would have excluded the foreign-born women of Saskatchewan and Alberta, whom the Government fears would vote against conscription, and the French women of Quebec (presumed anti-conscriptionists), also the women of the Maritime Provinces; but they really would have had no grievance until they won the provincial vote.

The Premier, in reply to protests from women, has replied that this is a war-time emergency measure only, and that if he is elected he will confer the franchise on all women on the same terms as men. One thing he did say that was pleasing was that the Government intends to amend the Nationality Act to allow women to choose their own nationality on marriage, so the National Equal Franchise Union has forwarded both to him and the Home Secretary in England a resolution urging that this should be done.

Nova Scotia has formed a Provincial Franchise Society, and is organising a campaign to get the franchise when Parliament reopens.

Mrs. Ralph Smith has been nominated Parliamentary candidate for Vancouver.

Manitoba has already got a grant for Mothers' Pensions since the women voted.

Nationality of Married Women.

The Canadian Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, in outlining the policy of his Government before the general election, makes an important statement on the Nationality of married women. It is included in his long programme as the third item, which reads as follows:—

"The extension of the franchise to all women, with suitable provision for enabling married women to determine their nationality and to obtain naturalisation notwithstanding marriage."

An article in our October number drew attention to the claim of the Australian women to certain rights of nationality independently of their husbands, which had been in part conceded by the authorities. If Canada definitely brings in legislation giving married women the right to independent naturalisation it will mean the amendment of the married-women section of the Naturalisation Act of 1914, which was adopted then in Canada in order to bring the Dominion into line with the United Kingdom British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act of the same year.

It is impossible to overestimate the importance of the proposal of Prime Minister Borden when it is remembered that the Imperial War Conference of the British Empire at its meeting in London this year adopted a resolution on the desirability of having uniform nationality laws throughout the Empire: this promise will be an encouragement to women in other parts of the Empire to urge their respective Governments to bring in uniformity on the lines proposed in Canada, rather than a uniformity law on the submerging of the nationality of a married woman in that of her husband.

(Signed) CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN.

Canada's First Woman M.P.

(Toronto Press).

The fact that emerged at the meeting of the Ontario Women's Citizens' Association, held in the Y.M.C.A., was that Mrs. Louise McKinney, member of Parliament for Alberta, and the first woman member of Parliament in Canada, is an impassioned orator who could hold her own in any assembly, and who can grip and move an audience as few men, either at Ottawa or in the provincial parliaments, can. The speech should have been heard in the largest hall the city has to offer. Mrs. McKinney spoke for ninety minutes without a note and without a moment's confusion; she speaks with the utmost deliberation, and with a rich, deep voice that has not the smallest suggestion of stridency; she marshals her facts with the skill of a life-long parliamentarian, and rises from periods of quiet statement to crises of passionate appeal and declamation where masculine strength and womanly moral earnestness blend into effects that throb with power.

NEW FORCES IN CANADA.

No one could doubt that a new force has come into Canadian politics that is charged with immeasurable potentialities of good. Mrs. McKinney told her audience that a young soldier boy had said to her: "Don't you think that your mere presence in Parliament will mean a great deal even if you do nothing?" and that she had said that such was her hope; but if a dozen such women were there, infused with the ethical aspect of politics, impatient with party strife and corruption, and gifted with the magic of effective speech, an epoch of political history would be at hand such as no change of parties could ever equal.

In speaking to a Toronto audience, said Mrs. McKinney, it was fair to say that the first woman member of the Legislature in Canada was an Ontario woman, a fact for which she was profoundly thankful. "In all our work in the West," she said, "the women of the West have not forgotten for any considerable period that what we have owe to the pioneer work done here by you. We came into our inheritance with much less effort because of the work done by you." When the women of Alberta got the franchise, said Mrs. McKinney, they were approached by the advocates of party alliance, but some of them were not much in love with either party, and they formed a non-partisan league. At the time of the election that league was threatened with extinction. "If you believe in such a thing," said Mrs. McKinney, "the question is: How much do you believe in it? Do you believe in it enough to give yourself to it?" Mrs. McKinney stood as a non-partisan candidate and was successfully returned.

WOMEN CAME TO UNDERSTAND.

With much quiet and racy humour Mrs. McKinney traced the natural history of the Canadian woman's relation to politics. Political meetings were left to the men. But there came a time when women began to understand that politics signified the science of government—the management of a country's domestic affairs and its relations to its neighbours. Women had much experience of their own domestic affairs, and there seemed no reason why they should not take some part in the domestic affairs of the country in which they lived. The war had demonstrated that it matters a great deal to everybody what the policy of a country is. Then it begins to look as if it were a serious business what the political policy of Canada is to-day. It is a task big enough for men and women combined in devotion to their country to see that that policy is right.

NO TIME FOR SELF-ADMIRATION.

But looking into the political life of to-day, what was to be found? Much good work has been done, "but we have not time to stop and admire ourselves, because there is much work to be done. I asked a Calgary audience what was the outstanding thing in Canadian politics, and they said 'graft.'"

Mrs. McKinney gave a masterly analysis of graft. Not the mere appropriation of public funds, though she did not spare reference to certain notorious episodes, but the conscious arrangement of political circumstances so that the politician should benefit at the public expense.

Next came the patronage system, where votes were deliberately pledged for a *quid pro quo*. "This means that when the party goes out, everything goes out. To-day our political life is honeycombed with those two evils. Men in our political life realise that their hands are tied fast by the patronage system. How did it grow up?" Mrs. McKinney described the natural history of the patronage system with amazing cleverness and incisive humour that stayed but for a moment, for she would not have it a laughing matter. She had told her own constituents that she had no bridges or telephone poles in her pocket.

A REVOLUTION IN PUBLIC MIND.

"The spirit of the people has seemed to justify this terrible position. That Canada will end in revolution, is the thinking of the people. It will mean that the average citizen will go into politics with changed ideals. Not what I can get out of it for myself or my friends, but what I can put into my political life for the benefit of the people. This is the revolution that I believe the women have in their power to usher in."

ORGANISING WOMEN WORKERS.

The Trades and Labour Congress of Canada met in Ottawa in September. Alice Henry, writing in *Life and Labour*, says:—

"The question of the woman worker came up time and again, and many of the delegates showed a growing sense of the urgent need of their own efforts in that direction. This feeling was reflected in the close attention given to the United States Women's Trade Union delegate, Alice Henry, when she told what progress was being made in the United States.

"The congress unanimously passed the resolution 'that this convention appoint a committee of men and women to work continuously upon the question of women in industry in Canada, with a view to co-operating with the National Women's Trade Union League in order to hasten the organisation of the women workers, whose exploited condition is pitiful in the extreme, besides forming a continual menace to the existing standards of their brother wage-earners.'

"Miss C. H. Grant, of the Typographical Union of Ottawa, was elected as a member of the Provincial Executive Council for Ontario, the first time any woman has occupied such a position."

British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union.

The Hon. Secretary of the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union desires to acknowledge with the warmest thanks the kindness of the Headquarters Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in allowing her for the work of her Union the use of a room in their office until June next. The Hon. Secretary earnestly hopes that the work of the B.D.W.S.U., in drawing closer together the women of the far-sundered parts of the British Empire, will help more and more towards the realisation of the International ideal.

November 27, 1917.

INDIA.

The Release of Mrs. Besant.

Reports and newspapers from India continue to describe the unparalleled enthusiasm with which Mrs. Besant's release has been hailed.

Our special correspondent writes:—

"Constantly India was cited as objecting to women getting the vote, which showed how slight the writers' knowledge was. Indians revere man or woman who earns their respect and love. India at present is in a most critical *passé*; and is it not strange that Mrs. Besant, a woman, is the nation's chosen leader? She is the uncrowned Queen of India. . . . She knows the people and their needs, she leads their life and is in touch with all their movements, all their aspirations; she is trusted implicitly; she is clever and far-sighted. . . .

Indian ladies (they who are so secluded) are standing by the men shoulder to shoulder in all great national movements. The suffrage campaign has taught Indians many things. India should have free compulsory education. Indians are so clever; they study hard, and all examinations have to be passed in English, which is not their language. Many students have poor physique from over-work, and many die of consumption.

There must be co-operation and trust, and Indians must break down *purdah*!"

Mrs. Besant is being acclaimed as president-elect of the National Assembly. In Calcutta she was driven in a carriage drawn by sixteen horses, and had a triumphal progress. Bengalee ladies scattered flowers on her. At Allahabad she received addresses of welcome, one of which was from the women of Allahabad.

CALCUTTA LADIES' CONGRATULATIONS.

A largely attended meeting of Indian ladies of Calcutta was held this evening to thank the Government for releasing Mrs. Besant and her associates, to express sympathy for their sufferings, to express their desire that the Congress should be held in Calcutta with Mrs. Besant as president, and to protest against the policy of internment, and demand release of all interned people. There were over 300 ladies present, representing many of the influential Calcutta families. Sreemati Priyam Vada Devi, niece of Justice Sir Ashutosh Chandrahri, presided.

Sreemati Pretima Devi, wife of Mr. Rabindra Nath Tagore, son of Sir Rabindra Nath Tagore, moved a resolution condemning the policy of internment and demanding release of all interned.

The President moved from the chair a resolution appealing to the leaders to make up differences and hold the Congress in Calcutta with Mrs. Besant as president.

—*Tribune*, Lahore, September 26, 1917.

What the Women of the West Can Do for the Women of the East.

Mrs. Mary Caleb, writing in the *Lahore Tribune*, urges the importance of better acquaintance and closer intercourse between European and Indian women. Many Indian men receive a European education, and unless their wives receive the same freedom there is apt to be misunderstanding. Modern conditions in India make the seclusion of women a barrier to progress; women need equipping to fight disease and infant mortality. Indian women have much to offer to European women; they are dignified, proud, sensitive, intelligent, warm-hearted, trustful, sympathetic in trouble, eager to learn; they make very true and devoted friends. They ask eager questions; they like to hear about the women of other lands. But they need educational advantages.

Mussoorie Women's Suffrage Society.

The only Suffrage Society in India held its annual meeting and gave an "at-home" in September. Mrs. Hallows, the president of the society, was in the chair, and was supported by Mrs. Mary Caleb and members of the committee. Mussoorie is a large hill station where people from all parts of India spend the summer. It is therefore to some extent representative of India.

Mrs. Hallows, as a Suffragist of forty years' standing, described the historic development of the British Suffrage movement, culminating after 67 years in this year's success in the House of Commons, which, if carried into effect, will enfranchise 6,000,000 women. It was to congratulate British women that this meeting was held in India. Mrs. Caleb then addressed the meeting on "What the Political Vote will Mean to Women."

She said, amongst other things: "This terrible, agonising war has demonstrated that women are holding together the civilisa-

tion for which men are fighting. A great searchlight has been thrown upon the business of nation building, and it has been demonstrated in every land of Europe that it is a partnership with equal but different responsibility resting upon the two partners. So it happens that above the roar of cannon one who listens may hear the cracking of the fetters which have long bound the European women to outworn conventions. It has been a frightful price to pay, but the fact remains that a womanhood well started on the way to final emancipation is destined to step forth from the war. It will be a bewildered, troubled, and grief-stricken womanhood, with knotty problems of life to solve, but it will be freer to deal with them than women have ever been before."

A Woman Lecturer in Baluchistan.

Kumari Pandita Lajjawati, after having visited some of the towns in the Punjab, went to Quetta, where she delivered three lectures to large audiences on female education. Her lectures were heard with rapt attention, and the people of Quetta met her appeal for the Vidyalya with a liberal response of about Rs. 2,000. After having worked at Quetta, the deputation visited Karachi. The Hindus, Parsis, and other communities of the place, eager to hear Pandita Lajjawati's eloquence, assembled in large numbers on each of her lectures—two of which were delivered in the Khalik Dina Hall, two to ladies alone and one to Parsi ladies and gentlemen, under the auspices of the Zoroastrian Association. These lectures left a very healthy effect on the people who heard them, and resulted in the form of an active sympathy for the K. M. Vidyalya with an aid of Rs. 4,100.—*Tribune*, October 6th, 1917.

A Numinous Endowment of Girls' Education.

Friends of women's development in India would be glad to know that one of the minor Princes of the North—the Maharaja-Kumar of Tikari—has made over by a deed of trust the whole of his estate for the erection of an institution which shall educate Indian girls from the age of five to that of eighteen, in all the modern systems of progressive knowledge. The gross value of the estate is £95,000, and the institution can count on a clear £7,000 for its recurring annual expenses. The institution will be open to girls from all sects and sections of India, and will keep in mind the past traditions and the future needs of the great Indian nationality. Begun in Mysore, copied in the metropolis of Madras, and advanced by the movement of Mr. Karoe in the University of Poona, Indian women's education bids fair to reach all heights and parts of India. God speed it.

G. R. JOSYER.

Mysore, India, 5th October, 1917.

ITALY.

For the Research of Paternity.

A Congress for the federation of founding hospitals was held at Rome on the 19th and 20th September last. The federation was not the only object for which it was held, and at the end of a series of deliberations the research of maternity and paternity was asked for. That is the subject on which I wish to write to *Jus Suffragii*—a subject which was publicly discussed a few months ago, after stirring revelations on mortality in founding hospitals, especially in that of Rome. As they were forced to cultivate the ground the nurses gave up this source of earning their living, and the artificial feeding of children has consequently increased. This has raised the infant mortality in the hospitals nearly 100 per cent. In Rome in July, out of 71 foundlings 69 died. Moved by these facts, the research of maternity has been asked for, and a Commission of the Provincial Deputation decided to force the mothers to feed their children themselves during the first four months, and to give them a maternity benefit and compensation every month. Some generous people also asked for the research of paternity. I am not alluding now to the work of the *Associazione per la Donna* (Association for the Woman). Your August number published correspondence on the subject of its active propaganda.

What struck us most was that several men raised the question of the research of paternity. Lastly, also in the above-mentioned Congress, which was composed of all the directors of Italian founding hospitals, the question was raised with such spontaneity, such frankness, that a unanimous vote was given that the present Government should bring in a Bill, and was received with the most enthusiastic applause. No doubt this applause was the echo of part of public opinion which admits that parents who bring children into the world are responsible for them.

It is the war which, in ravaging populations, has brought this question before us; but, having succeeded in the research of paternity and maternity, does it not show us that the responsibility of men and that of women are equal, and does it not at the same time bring before us the important question of an equal moral standard? For myself, I think it does.

ELISA LOLLINI AGNINI.

THE NETHERLANDS.

The *Standard*, which is the organ of the "Anti-Revolutionary" or extreme Conservative party, published, in its issue of October 29, an article by the ex-Premier, Dr. A. Kuyper. Dr. Kuyper points out that hitherto his party opposed Women's Suffrage. But as it is bound to come now, they will not allow the measure to be passed without their having a say in it. Attempts seem to be made for restricting the vote to a portion of womanhood. But the A.R. party's attitude will be, "No Women's Suffrage, or universal Women's Suffrage."

The *Maandblad* considers that the parties of the Right, which were considered once as being the opponents of Women's Suffrage, and the attitude of whom the decision to restrict the new measure of Women's Suffrage to the "passive" Suffrage was apparently due, are now more and more rallying to the cause of Women's Suffrage. A marked movement in this direction can be discerned in the rank and file of the Roman Catholic clergy.

Replying to the letter addressed by the secretary of the *Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht** to the parties of the Right, inviting them to open their membership to women, the Christian-Historic Union replied that its intention was to examine the question whether they could not admit to membership non-voters, irrespective of sex, above a certain age.

The *Maandblad* of November again opens its columns for the discussion of the question whether women should join political parties. The views of correspondents are divergent, some wishing, by abstention, to penalise the political parties, which, all of them, left the cause of Women's Suffrage in the lurch. Other correspondents consider that joining a party will be at the same time a useful work of propaganda and an excellent way of training women for political life.

The Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht.

Amsterdam, November 14, 1917.

Before the end of this month the First Chamber will have accepted, without doubt, the new Constitution in second and last reading. The result will be that in the spring of 1918 general elections will be held under the new law. All men, with the exception only of those who are at the moment of the election in prison or in a lunatic asylum, have to elect the members of the Parliament which will be in power from 1918—1922.

The men have to elect, because the new law obliges the men to vote, or at least to go to the ballot-box and drop in the ballot-paper. They can vote "Blanco," but they have to vote. Women have no vote, but are eligible.

Where the new Constitution enables Parliament to introduce Women's Suffrage by a simple majority of votes, and all political parties have declared themselves in favour of Women's Suffrage, it is for the women of the greatest importance how the Second Chamber in 1918 will be composed. It is now not enough that one of the political parties will be in the majority, but it is for us of more importance who the different delegates are. The principle of Women's Suffrage is in general adopted, but there is a difference about the time of introduction of a Bill for Women's Suffrage. That it must be between 1918 and 1922 nearly all the parties agree, but if it must come direct in the first, or, better, in the last year, opinions differ greatly. Another difference exists about the question if all women ought to be given the vote at once, or whether they should begin with a certain group, and which group. It seems strange, but it is true, that our greatest opponents in earlier times, the Roman Catholics and the Calvinists, now are the strongest advocates to give at once the vote to all women.

But in each party there are some Conservatives among the members who still oppose Women's Suffrage, and, although their number decreases daily, we must be careful and use our power to prevent such men or women becoming delegates.

Some months ago the *Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht* sent a letter to the different political parties, as far as they had not yet allowed women to become members, to change their

* This letter was published in last month's *Jus Suffragii*.

rules in order that women could enter their party, and all but two have now opened their doors for women members. Being members of a political party means to have a full vote at the election of the candidates of that party, and if there are only enough women members we can get one or more women candidates upon the list of candidates for M.P., and we can prevent such men being chosen who are not warm advocates of our cause.

It will be nearly sure that the Social Democrats, the Radicals, and the Modern Liberals each will leave a place open on their list of candidates for a woman candidate.

This change of circumstances makes it a matter of course that we had also to change our propaganda methods. We now need not so much to enlarge the membership of our Association, or to propagate the principle of Women's Suffrage in the country, as to influence the different political parties to come as soon as possible after 1918 with a Bill for Women's Suffrage. For that purpose it does not make a big difference if we have 25,000 or 28,000 members in our Society for Women's Suffrage, and to propagate for the idea of Women's Suffrage now is to force an open door.

But we must keep the cause lively. Therefore we have to bring for discussion in our different branches such questions as arouse the members and are of interest to the political parties. The question we are now discussing is: "Whether it is better to become members of political parties or to remain outside." At such a meeting the question is introduced by a pro and a con, and then free discussion is allowed. There are strong opponents of going into political parties, and many others believe it now the only way to get Women's Suffrage in the near future. The meetings where this question is discussed are always crowded, and that keeps the cause lively.

ALETTA H. JACOBS,

President of the Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht,
Affiliated to the I.W.S.A.

NORWAY.

Woman M.P.

Miss Sara Christie takes her seat to-day in the Norwegian Parliament as the Conservative representative of the City of Trondhjem. At Parliamentary elections in Norway substitutes are always elected at the same time to take the member's place in case of illness or death—by-elections never take place. Miss Sara Christie was one of the six women who were elected substitutes at the last elections, and is now summoned to take the place of Professor Saland, who was representative of Trondhjem. All members of the Storting are engaged in special committees to prepare the legislative work, or discussing the Government's proposals before they are submitted to the Storting. In this way Miss Christie now will take her seat in the Defence Committee instead of Mr. Saland.

Miss Christie has been a director of a girls' school in Trondhjem, and has been a member of the town council for several years, in which she has taken a very active part. She is generally esteemed as a prominent teacher and organiser.

Letter from the Norwegian Women's National Council to the Storting.

October 18th, 1917.

We saw with great astonishment that in the Commission for the Regulation of Elections there is not any representative of women. At this moment, when women constitute a very great part of those entitled to vote, and precisely of those voters who have chiefly been alive to the defects of the present election regulations, it would seem especially obvious that women representatives should have had seats on the Commission.

The Women's Suffrage Society has worked for a long time at the question of an altered regulation of elections, for, as things now are, women are practically shut out from the Storting. And that was not the intention when the Storting repealed the law about women's political right to vote and their eligibility. A resolution as to a reform in election regulations lies before the House from the National Women's Suffrage Society, dated October 20th, 1914, to be brought forward by J. Zooland.

Whilst we point to this resolution, which is an opportune proof of the interest women have in getting the question solved in the best way, we permit ourselves to request the Storting to nominate women members for the Regulation of Elections. It is true that it has already begun its work, but it is not so far advanced that women could not still have occasion to bring forward their views and take their part in this important work.

We hope, therefore, that the Storting will immediately remedy the defective composition of the Commission, and yield women the justice which is their due as enfranchised citizens.

For the Norwegian Women's National Council: Signed by
NICO HAMBRO, President.
KAREN GRUDE KOHT.
—*Nylænde* (November).

Equal Pay for Post Office Functionaries.

After long struggles the new regulations may be said to represent a victory, though the present high prices modify its benefits. We have now as an adopted principle "equal work for equal wages," as well for men as for women, so we are comparatively well off, without any special regulations for women. Our present wages conditions, compared with the earlier ones, are approximately as follows:—

	1913.	1917.
POSTAL ASSISTANTS:		
II.—Minimum wage, Kr. 900.		Kr. 1,400.
I.—Minimum wage, Kr. 1,000.		In addition, the old-age supplement of Kr. 300 after 3 years of service.
In addition, a time-of-service supplement of Kr. 100 after three years of service.		Kr. 1,700.
Maximum wage, Kr. 1,100.		
POSTAL FORWARDING CLERKS (Post-expeditors):		
Minimum wage, Kr. 1,500.		Kr. 2,000.
In addition, four time-of-service supplements of Kr. 250 per annum, after 3, 6, 9, and 12 years' service, with a fifth at Kr. 300 per annum after 15 years' service.		In addition, five age-supplements of Kr. 300, after 3, 6, 9, 12, and 15 years' service.
Maximum wage, Kr. 2,800.		Kr. 3,500.
HEAD CLERKS, II.:		
Minimum wage, Kr. 2,600.		Kr. 4,000.
In addition, four age-supplements of Kr. 200 per annum, after 3, 6, 9, and 12 years' service.		
Maximum wage, Kr. 3,400.		
HEAD CLERKS, I.:		
Minimum wage, Kr. 3,200.		Kr. 5,000.
In addition, time-of-service supplements the same as for Class II.		
Maximum wage, Kr. 4,000.		
POSTMASTERS, according to the size of the post-office, from Kr. 2,000 to Kr. 7,000 per annum.		Kr. 3,500 to Kr. 9,000.
Bergen, October 1, 1917.		EDEL FALCH.
<i>Nylænde</i> , November.		

Women's Work for Getting Women into the Storting and More Women on Municipalities.

The Women Electors' Society in Kristiania had a little pamphlet printed last year—a sort of programme of what it was thought women should combine about, etc., etc. This is given both to members and to non-members.

SWEDEN.

A Swedish Woman Appointed to a Lectureship at the University of Copenhagen.

Dr. Walfrid Palmgren Munch-Petersen is the first woman who has been appointed to a permanent post as lecturer at the University of Copenhagen. Dr. Palmgren has for a few years lectured occasionally at that University on Swedish literature, and when a lectureship of the Swedish language was recently created she was selected for this appointment.

—*Rösträtt för Kvinnor*.

The Women's Suffrage Day was opened in Stockholm on October 7th with a very successful festivity, the hall being decorated with flowers and the flags of the Suffrage Societies. The attendance was very large and enthusiastic.

The meeting was opened by Dr. Gulli Petrini, who briefly reviewed the present political situation, which, notwithstanding the bitterness of the recent defeat in the Riksdag, is not unhopeful. An address was then given by Dr. Lydia Wahlström on "The Woman's Question and the Philosophy of Politics."

At the close of the meeting the following resolution was carried unanimously: "The Swedish women assembled at a meeting in honour of St. Birgitta's Day, express their deep sorrow at the refusal of the First Chamber to accept even a limited measure of Women's Suffrage. The Riksdag had formerly asked that proof should be given that women really desired the right of having a vote in the affairs of the country. Women answered with an expression of their opinions at mass meetings in 1914. The Riksdag demanded an investigation. Such an investigation was carried out in 1911. All the other Scandinavian countries have given full political rights to their women; during the war the United States have bestowed on women the right to vote at Presidential elections in seven new States of the Union; Canada has given full political rights to women in six States. In Austria and Hungary this reform is included in the Government programme of electoral reform; in England, Russia, and Holland, the

solution of the question is imminent. In Sweden this question is just as ripe for settlement as in these countries. We demand that a measure of enfranchisement for women shall be passed by the next Parliament in preparation for its final acceptance by the following Parliament, so that Swedish women shall not have to wait longer than necessary for this act of right and justice."

—Rösträtt för Kvinnor.

Dr. Lydia Wahlström writes to *Rösträtt för Kvinnor* deeply regretting that Burgomaster Lindhagen has not been re-elected to the Riksdag. She regrets his loss not only on account of Women's Suffrage, which he has always supported, but because he is a fearless independent idealist who is always ready "either to turn his back on the old school or to show his teeth to the new," and his absence will be seriously felt in a democratic Parliament.

—Rösträtt för Kvinnor.

After reviewing the political situation created by the recent Government crisis, *Rösträtt för Kvinnor* says: "We have at all events some reason for hope in the near future. As far as we can see the Conservative party has not included the question of Women's Suffrage, and the eligibility of women for election to the Riksdag, in the other constitutional questions. Under these circumstances even a Liberal Government ought to be able to gain the consent of the Conservatives to the extension of the franchise to women."

—Rösträtt för Kvinnor.

After an address from Fröken Tilli Borg, a new branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage was formed at Harplinge, Holland, with 22 members. Fröken Terese Bengtsson was elected chairman.

SWITZERLAND.

The Suffrage Movement.

Little by little each of our twenty-two cantons catches the contagion of Suffrage, and not a month passes without its being debated in one or other of our cantonal Grand Councils (Parliaments).

In October it was Zurich. M. Greulich, the Socialist Deputy, proposed the following motion in the name of his party:—

"The Council of State is invited to present a report and a proposal to modify the cantonal constitution to give equal political rights (franchise and eligibility) to Swiss citizens of both sexes in all circumstances, and for all functions of the canton of the districts and of the commune."

An interesting discussion followed, in the course of which, it is true, a country deputy, who is at the same time a poet, M. Bopp, brought up the eternal arguments on women's sensibility, her task at home, etc. But the other speakers showed themselves more progressive and more enlightened, and finally the Greulich motion was passed by 108 votes to 70, but in rather a different form, proposed by the Government:—

"The Council of State is invited to study, then to present a report on, the possibility of a modification of the Constitution giving, etc."

It is seen that the text passed is less affirmative than that proposed by the Socialist Party, since it is above all a question of studying and examining Woman Suffrage. Moreover, it does not mean that Woman Suffrage is adopted at Zurich, for the State Council, the Cantonal Government, will perhaps wait a certain time before presenting its report, and even if it decides in favour of Woman Suffrage, the Grand Council, then the people, must still pronounce in the last resort. Anyway, it is a step in advance, for which we are very glad. The Zurich Suffrage Association addressed a petition to the Grand Council reminding them that for nearly 50 years the question of Woman Suffrage has been raised, and that consequently it is not a staggering novelty.

In Bâle, where the motion of M. Welti, Deputy, for full political rights for women was rejected last year, a second campaign is going to take place, M. Welti having returned a second time to the charge, and counting on the fact that the Socialist Party is much more strongly represented on the Grand Council since the elections. At Soleure, a Socialist Deputy has also proposed a motion for the same object, but which does not seem for the moment to have great prospect of success in this canton, which is overwhelmingly Catholic. At Neuchâtel, on the other hand, which decidedly leads the movement in Switzerland, there was a debate on November 6 on the motion of M. Schurch, another Socialist Deputy, to accord women full political rights. An unhoped-for number of

deputies showed themselves sympathetic to the proposal, which was referred to the State Council for examination by 69 votes to 27.

Several speakers suggested a consultation of the women by popular vote. If the Council of State adopts this idea it would be like a preliminary women's vote, which would not be without interest.

All this confirms the idea which many of us uphold—that we should proceed by stages, and first claim the Suffrage in the cantons before claiming the Federal vote, as some wish. However, on the occasion of the Federal elections on the 27th and 28th October, several Suffrage groups protested against the exclusion of women from these elections. At Chaux de Fonds (an industrial town in the Canton of Neuchâtel) especially, the local suffragist society published several times and in several papers the following announcement:—

1. The elections to the National Council are made on a numerical basis of the population.
2. Women who make part of this population are in a majority.
3. Thus more than half the national councillors are elected taking into account the number of women.
4. And this number of women has no voice in the choice of its representatives.

When I add that at the election of a pastor in Neuchâtel 379 women out of 600 voters took part in the ballot, you can see that the month of October has not been bad for our cause in Switzerland.

EMILIE GOURD,

President of the Swiss Association for Woman Suffrage. Affiliated to the I.W.S.A.

Women and the Tribunals of Prud'hommes.

On October 6, 7, 13, and 14, the women of Neuchâtel had an opportunity of taking part in the elections to the tribunals of prud'hommes, and to nominate the men and women candidates of their choice.

The readers of *Jus Suffragii* will perhaps be astonished that we take the trouble to record in this paper an event of such slight importance, for they belong perhaps to countries which, like Italy in 1893, and after it Austria, France, Spain, and Belgium, have admitted women to more or less complete participation in these professional tribunals. But in Switzerland, in the oldest democracy in the world, this simple affair is quite a novelty. The canton of Neuchâtel is still the only one where women have the right to nominate prud'hommes and to take part in these tribunals. So that the elections at which we have just assisted have a certain historic interest, as it is the first time that in Switzerland women have had a chance of exercising a public right. The canton of Neuchâtel has tribunals of prud'hommes in four towns and villages. In no place have women in industry and commerce themselves taken the initiative in obtaining representation in accordance with the decree of November 21, 1916; everywhere it has been the feminist and Suffrage Societies who have given the impetus. Since the spring of 1916 Neuchâtel and la Chaux de Fonds have organised lectures and public meetings. But it was on the eve of the elections that activity has been most intense. It has been a question of finding candidates, of nominating them, of instructing and mobilising the women electors, and finally, of taking all possible measures for the success of the candidates. On the workmen's side, propaganda was facilitated by the existence of trade unions, with which an agreement was arranged in most cases.

At Chaux le Fonds, 17 women were elected out of 168 prud'hommes; at Locle, 10 out of 150; at Neuchâtel, 19 out of 120. In considering this result we must take account of the fact that the building and machinery groups only represent the barest fraction of women. (In these elections occupations are represented.) At Neuchâtel there was no contest in many groups, as only the number of candidates were nominated for whom there were vacancies. The only groups in which there was a contested election were: (IV.) Watchmaking and machinery, workmen's candidates, and (V.), various liberal arts and professions, workers' and employers' candidates.

All efforts could therefore be concentrated on group V. The Feminist Union drew up a list of 5 women's names and 10 men's, for the employers' side and for the workers. This list obtained a majority over the official list of 100 votes, a success which surpassed all expectations, and in an election which never has many voters in any country.

The proportion of women voters was very high—in this group 220 out of a total of 344.

The admission of women to the ballot gave an unusual animation to these elections, and everyone realised that those who made use of their new right wished not only to have prud'hommes who suited them, but to give evidence of their interest in this first grant of political rights, and to show their wish for more complete emancipation. One characteristic of these elections was the good order which prevailed, and the complete absence of hostility between men and women. The latter also had an opportunity to convince themselves that the exercise of political rights is not a task which absorbs every instant of life, and which does not jeopardise their home life, as some would have them believe.

EMMA PORRET,

President of the Feminist Union of Neuchâtel.

The International Feminist Bureau for the Benefit of War Victims.

This bureau was opened at Lausanne in October, 1914. Its name describes its object. The bureau is international by reason of the situation of Switzerland, surrounded by belligerent countries; for this reason the founder of the bureau, Mme. Girardet Vielle, hoped to succeed in her appeal for pity for war victims.

The bureau is *feminist*, although devoted men co-operate in the work, because the first object was to put in motion the existing women's societies all over the world.

The war victims to whose help the work is devoted are mainly the families separated by the declaration of war on August 4. The work is carried on not in a bureaucratic spirit, but by women, mostly mothers, who have been spared by the war, and who try every possible means rather than accept the cruel sufferings of other women, which break their heart.

An appeal addressed to all women's societies was replied to by 95 societies who offered co-operation. These correspondents inserted articles in the newspapers of their countries, and for three years requests have flowed in to the Lausanne bureau; it has traced nearly 200,000 persons out of 500,000 inquiries. As the frontiers are closed, many difficulties have had to be surmounted in order to inform so many families.

Later on, owing to the pressure of inquiries, search has been made for missing soldiers. The following departments of work have been undertaken:—

1. Search for civilians and soldiers.
2. Correspondence.
3. Care for refugees from evacuated districts and transmission of letters to invaded departments.
4. Repatriation: Civil and military prisoners, severely wounded; families of those interned in Switzerland; children.
5. Finance.

SEARCH FOR CIVILIANS.

Women's societies have been specially useful in finding persons whose fate was unknown in the invaded departments, in Belgium, and in the Colonies. In countries where women are enfranchised, it is interesting to note that they have been more helpful than elsewhere in corresponding with the secretaries of the Governments—e.g., in Australia, in Queensland, Canada, Natal, etc.

Replies have come from China, Japan, Madagascar, and all parts of Africa.

The requests are very different: identification papers to be furnished; certificates of birth, marriage, death; powers of attorney; last messages; sad confidences to be transmitted; searches for graves, for houses, for boats, for cattle; forwarding luggage, keys, books, and money.

In all countries other societies have co-operated generously by replying to our inquiries.

SEARCH FOR SOLDIERS.

The results obtained encourage us to continue. The internment in Switzerland of invalid prisoners and the repatriation of wounded have been allowed over and over again.

CORRESPONDENCE.

When a missing person is traced, correspondence is established through Switzerland as far as the censorship permits. More than 50,000 people correspond through the International Bureau; that represents some softening of the torture of absence for a great number of families of all nationalities. The Red Cross of Cologne facilitates relations with the Slav countries, Poland and Galicia. Unfortunately, poor Belgium remains sorely tried.

Correspondence with Serbia is fairly regular; more than 600 families are at this moment in correspondence with their relatives.

Correspondence with the invaded districts of France has been a source of joy to the Lausanne office. The Red Cross of Frankfort, which was aware of all the efforts made for so long by this office in order to establish this correspondence, gave it permission from January 20, 1916, to send messages of 20 words. It has sent about 40,000 messages and received about 30,000 replies.

Since the French Government claimed the exclusive rights to this correspondence, this branch of our activity has greatly diminished, and the bureau only sends messages from Switzerland.

REFUGEES FROM INVADDED DISTRICTS.

Our task is to question the unfortunate people who pass through Switzerland for news of families remaining in the North of France. The work began in May, 1915, and the results were so happy that it has been entirely re-organised. Errors are prevented by threefold inquiries. The Lausanne office began its work with a fund of 300 francs; and as it is entirely dependent on a few gifts and the money sent it to cover the expenses of correspondence, it has been obliged to ask 50 centimes a message for an inquiry. Even after the Frankfort Red Cross had given its services gratuitously, the office expenses have to be met. The transmission of money to Belgium and to the invaded provinces has developed greatly, thanks to the good offices of the Frankfort Red Cross. Similar transmissions are arranged for all countries.

REPATRIATION.

The demands for repatriation of the families of interned Belgians and French residing in Switzerland, and of families inhabiting the invaded departments, have lately become so numerous that the Bureau has had to organise a special service with the Royal Secretariat of Spain at Madrid and the Frankfort Red Cross. The results are extremely satisfactory, thanks to the devotion of these two humanitarian institutions.

REPATRIATION OF CHILDREN.

The work that interests our International Bureau most particularly is that of the repatriation of children, mostly French, separated from their parents by the declaration of war, and remaining in Belgium or in the invaded parts of France. More than six hundred children, coming from Belgium, Alsace, the invaded Departments, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, have been restored to their families; fifteen children have been restored to Germany. More than 1,500 dossiers, case papers of children, have been made out, and are at once the hope and the torment of the ladies of the Bureau. Will these little ones return to cheer their mothers' hearts, or will these long months of work be in vain?

In September, 1915, the President of the International Bureau went to Berlin with the object of securing the repatriation of children. She succeeded in handing to the War Ministry a request supported by several German women's societies and by societies for the protection of children.

This request accepted, the Hotel de Ville of Lyons, under MM. Picard and Legrand, came to the assistance of Lausanne, and undertook to provide the necessary papers and to help the unfortunate parents who could not pay their children's travelling expenses. Swiss or German ladies fetch from Belgium the children whose repatriation is allowed; but in the invaded Departments of France repatriation is only allowed when the children form part of convoys of refugees and the children are under proper guardianship. The representative of the Lausanne Bureau, Dr. Elizabeth Rotten, who is at the head of the repatriation service in Berlin, has obtained permission for the return of most of the children whose papers have been sent to her, and the promise that they should not be kept in quarantine in Germany. She has accomplished a considerable work in the three years, and her colleagues in other countries are profoundly grateful to her.

Miss Zirker, of the Cologne Red Cross, undertakes to get for our Bureau news of children remaining in the invaded districts. Thanks to her, more than three thousand French and Belgian children have been traced, and also Polish. Very often the parents had been without news since 1914. This "Children's Service" is considered by the International Bureau one of its most precious tasks, to which no woman's heart can be indifferent. From the beginning up to August 31, 1917, we have received 143,088 francs, and spent 142,524 francs, leaving in hand 564 francs. Of this, 109,768 francs only have passed through our hands, being retransmitted as above described. The rest of the receipts are donations or cost of messages. For every sum transmitted above 25 francs we obtain a receipt. The Committee is glad to state that donations continue to cover general expenses.

UNITED STATES.

WOMEN'S VICTORY IN NEW YORK.



MRS. CHAPMAN CATT,
President National American Women's Suffrage Association.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.

"We regard this as the greatest victory for Woman Suffrage ever achieved, for this reason, that it is the result of a majority vote of 1,188,670 men, and those in all other countries have been the result of action by Parliament only. The number of women affected is larger than ever have been enfranchised at any one time."

"It is much the greatest gain ever made in the United States. New York largely dominates the country. The opponents have always said that we could not carry an Eastern State. We have carried the most thickly populated State in the Union, and by the vote of the second largest city in the world. What, perhaps, is most important of all, we shall have forty-three members of Congress elected largely by women's ballots, and therefore under obligations to vote for the Federal amendment. We launched our campaign for the Federal amendment the day after election. It is going to be a big fight, and we may not win it at this session of Congress, but we certainly will at the next. Our New York majority is so large—about 94,300—that there is no possible danger of the soldiers' vote overturning it."

"You may be sure that it has been an exciting time here, and we have been almost overwhelmed with congratulations. We have received as high as 850 newspaper clippings a day. The support of the Press has been unparalleled. President Wilson was one of the prime factors in helping us to win. Our petition of 1,015,000 names of women over twenty-one years of age was another. Probably the greatest of all was the *war work* that has been done by the women of the State. We have not yet had time to make a thorough analysis."

"We have no doubt that at the opportune time President Wilson will recommend a Federal amendment, but possibly it may not be wise to do this in his Message to Congress, December 3."

The Suffrage Amendment.

The text of the Woman Suffrage amendment of the State Constitution, in relation to qualification of voters, voted upon on November 6, follows:—

"Every citizen of the age of twenty-one years, who shall have been a citizen for ninety days, and an inhabitant of this State one year next preceding an election, and for the last four months a resident of the election district in which he or she may offer his or her vote, shall be entitled to vote at such an election in the election district of which he or she shall at the time be a resident, and not elsewhere, for all officers that now are or hereafter may be elective by the people, and upon

all questions which may be submitted to the vote of the people, provided, however, that a citizen by marriage shall have been an inhabitant of the United States for five years; and provided that in time of war no elector in the actual military service of the State or of the United States in the Army or Navy thereof, shall be deprived of his or her vote by reason of his or her absence from such election district; and the Legislature shall have power to provide the manner in which and the time and the place at which such absent electors may vote, and for the return and canvass of their votes in the election districts in which they respectively reside."

In the present, unamended law the word "male" is used between "every" and "citizen" in the first line, and the words "or she" and "or her" are not used. The clause, "Provided, however, that a citizen by marriage shall have been an inhabitant of the United States for five years," is also new in the amendment.

On the ballot used on election day the question was, "Shall the proposed amendment to Section 1 of Article 2 of the Constitution, conferring equal Suffrage on women, be approved?"

Three causes are said to have contributed largely to the great majority won: (1) The splendid support of President Wilson (backed also by most of the members of his Cabinet); (2) women's war service; (3) Governor Whitman's insistence that the women of the State should register last spring in the military census—this established equality of responsibility, and men who previously opposed Woman Suffrage thought the vote should accompany that registration. All political parties gave women great support in the election.

GREAT REJOICING IN NEW YORK CITY.

General rejoicing greeted the result. Suffrage offices were snowed under with flowers. Buttons inscribed "I'm a voter" were worn, and the proud victors marched through the streets thus decorated.

FUTURE WORK OF NEW YORK SUFFRAGISTS.

Miss Mary Garrett Hay declared, on behalf of the New York City Woman Suffrage Party with its 500,000 enrolled members, that it would keep up its organization, and educate women for the vote. Women, of course, would not all vote one way, but would probably unite on such questions as child welfare and food questions. Their first object would be the obtaining of the Federal amendment. Miss Hay, at a luncheon at the Women's City Club, one day following the election, urged the new voters not to be captured by party politicians, and above all only to co-operate in men's political work on an equal footing.

12,000 WOMEN WORKED IN THE ELECTION.

More than 12,000 women took an active part in the practical work of carrying on the election; hundreds were busy all over the city making sure that all Suffragist voters reached the polls. Women of every class and race were represented—rich and poor, and of all politics and religions. Forty headquarters offices were kept going in the city, 4 million leaflets were distributed; all voters were circularised, and half of them interviewed; 10,000 posters were exhibited.

GREAT VICTORY MEETING ADDRESSED BY MRS. CATT.

Thousands flocked to the victory meeting in Cooper Union. Sixty police reserves had to be called out to handle the throng, and immense overflow meetings were held. Mrs. Catt was received with overwhelming applause as she addressed her audience as "fellow citizens!" Her first words were: "The children of the centuries to come will learn that on November 6, 1917, a great step in human freedom was accomplished in the State of New York." Dr. Anna Shaw reminded her hearers that such victories as that of New York are only won by the accumulation of years of effort.

People had come from half the towns in the State to celebrate the victory, and stood for hours to get a glimpse of the leaders, whom they greeted with wild enthusiasm. The object of the meeting was to use the victory as an impetus to the passage of the Federal amendment. A resolution was passed providing that Dr. Anna Shaw and Mrs. Catt be appointed to carry to the President the women's gratitude for his assistance, and to urge him to recommend in his Message to Congress



REV. DR. ANNA HOWARD SHAW.

that the Woman Suffrage amendment to the Constitution be adopted.

NUMBER OF WOMEN VOTERS IN NEW YORK STATE.

There are over 3,000,000 women of voting age in New York State, but Mrs. Catt reckons that as some of these are not citizens the actual number of voters will be less.

From innumerable Press tributes to the victory we select the following:—

The victory for Woman's Suffrage in New York State can fairly be described as one of the most extraordinary and decisive achievements in the history of American politics. It is extraordinary because the large number of referenda taken on the Suffrage question in the different States of the Union have proved to the hilt the sheer, dense inertia with which the majority of men in the older communities have opposed the granting of votes to women. It seemed almost impossible to break through their masculine complacency, and stab them into interest in and sympathy with the political aspirations of their wives, mothers, and daughters. Yet the feat has been accomplished in the most populous and one of the most conservative American States. Within two years what was apparently a 57 per cent. majority against Suffrage has been converted into a 54 per cent. majority in its favour, and the result has been accomplished by the hard, thorough, intelligent, and devoted work of a fine and able band of women. If ever in the history of democratic institutions the disfranchised part of the population have earned the opportunity of exercising the privilege claimed by them, it is the women of New York State. The vote has not been conferred upon them by the uninstructed good nature or good sense of the New York male electorate. They have conquered it by the skilful and spirited use of the very political weapons which in the opinion of their opponents they are incompetent to wield. No State political organisation in the American Union contains half the political ability and intelligence of the group of Suffrage workers who, under the leadership of Mrs. Norman Whitehouse, have succeeded in enfranchising at one stroke a tenth of all American women.

Besides being extraordinary, touching, and convincing, the victory for Equal Suffrage in New York State is decisive. Its effect upon similar contests elsewhere in the Union will be prodigious, but the women of the other States should not, and will not, be obliged to repeat the exhausting and harassing struggle of their sisters in New York. The submission of the Federal Amendment has been made politically inevitable, and hereafter the efforts of the Suffragist workers all over the country should and will be concentrated upon the job of getting it passed by Congress with the least possible delay, and accepted by the States. The enfranchisement of women on the same terms and to the same extent as the men deserves to be incorporated in the fundamental law of the American nation as a vital principle of the American democracy. Nothing less will satisfy the profound sense which this war has brought with it of a joint responsibility for the welfare of society, which must not be impaired by distinctions of class or sex. The recognition of that principle will ultimately give to the relations between men and women a new meaning. They will hereafter be held together not only by bonds of affection and passion, not only in the task of building homes and raising families, but in the arduous work of political and social construction. Every phase of their relationship will be intensified and liberalised by the effect of adding to it a common absorption in the practical promotion of disinterested social purposes.

—The New Republic, Nov. 10.

WOMAN REPRESENTATIVE.

The United States Government has appointed Miss G. Harpur as one of the U.S. representatives on the Permanent Committee of the Allied Conference on Pensions, now meeting in London.



MISS MARY GARRETT HAY,
Chairman New York City Woman Suffrage Party.

The Campaign in New York.

It is necessary to send this letter before the vote is taken on Woman Suffrage in New York State, November 6, and the cable will have told the result long before it is read. As the women of European countries do not have to obtain the franchise through a referendum to the voters, they can scarcely comprehend the difficulties to be faced in the United States, where all the complete suffrage that the women possess has had to be gained by this method. This greatest campaign ever made for the franchise is drawing to a close, and a brief résumé of its activities may be of interest to the members of the International Alliance. It has really continued four years, for there was no cessation after the defeat of 1915, which came after two years' strenuous effort. The very next morning work was begun in the campaign which is now ending, and it has never stopped. Headquarters have been maintained in all the cities in the State, and a large force of workers has been employed. Everything possible has been done in the way of publicity through newspapers, on the bill-boards, by huge banners across streets, blazing electric signs, posters in the street-cars and elsewhere, and letters to the voters. To circularise every voter in the State costs about \$20,000, and this has been done several times.

The entire State has been divided into election districts with officers in each. These alone number about 6,000, and all have served without pay. This is true of hundreds of thousands who have given time and labour to the cause, but nevertheless it is estimated that the campaign will cost not far from half a million dollars, practically all of which has been given by women. Not a stone has been left unturned. Hundreds of public meetings have been held in every available place. Mrs. Catt and Dr. Shaw have been speaking every night in the largest halls throughout the State. There has been speaking on the street corners; every kind of an organisation has been appealed to; not one of the 2,000,000 voters of the State has been left in ignorance. By far the greatest achievement has been the collecting of 1,014,000 signatures of women over twenty-one years of age asking the men of New York to give them the Suffrage. On October 27 a parade of 20,000 women representing every class, every trade, every profession, passed up Fifth Avenue before a million spectators. These signatures, pasted on heavy cardboard, county by county, were carried in this procession in plain view. Those of New York City, which comprised about half of the whole number, were carried in ballot-boxes, borne on the shoulders of women, with the figures on the outside showing that in many districts the number of women asking for the ballot was larger than the number of registered male voters in that district. The object of this immense petition was to answer for all time the stereotyped objection that the majority of women do not want to vote. Not as many men have ever voted in any election in New York State as women who signed this petition.

SUFFRAGE AND WAR SERVICE.

While this colossal work has been in progress, the suffragists, through their State and local branches, have responded to every call made by the Government for service in connection

with the war. By tens of thousands they assisted in the census and registration of both men and women; they sold millions of dollars' worth of war bonds; fitted out hospital units; raised thousands of dollars for the Y.M.C.A. work in the camps; united in the work of the Red Cross. They answered the call of their country in exactly the same measure as they would have done had they not been in the midst of this vital campaign, and everywhere made the work for Suffrage secondary to the work for the Government. Their services have had the fullest recognition from the President and his Cabinet, from the members of National Committees, from the Governor of New York, and local officials without number. Now the time has come for this recognition to take the definite form of giving them a voice in the Government which they have served so loyally. If this could be done by those in authority, the result would not be in doubt, but it is the individual voters of the State who will pronounce the verdict through their secret ballots.

There never was a Suffrage campaign which received such distinguished support. The President of the United States has shown repeatedly that, in the midst of his almost overwhelming duties, he has followed every phase of it and fully understands the difficulties which the women are facing, among the most serious of these the action of the "militant" branch in Washington. Hoping to counteract this, he wrote, to be read to the State Suffrage Convention at Saratoga Springs, October 13, the following unsolicited letter:—

The White House,
Washington, D.C.

My Dear Mrs. Catt,—May I not express to you my very deep interest in the campaign in New York for the adoption of Woman Suffrage, and may I not say that I hope no voter will be influenced in his decision with regard to this great matter by anything the so-called "pickets" may have done here in Washington? However justly they may have laid themselves open to serious criticism, their action represents, I am sure, so small a fraction of the women of the country who are urging the adoption of Woman Suffrage, that it would be most unfair and argue a narrow view to allow their actions to prejudice the cause itself. I am very anxious to see the State of New York set a great example in this matter.—Cordially and sincerely yours,

(Signed) WOODROW WILSON.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

As the campaign neared the end he realised the tremendous fight which was being made by the opponents, and when he was obliged to decline the invitation of the suffragists to speak at the final mass meeting in New York City, he caused to be known that he would be pleased to receive a deputation. The State president went to Washington October 25, accompanied by nearly one hundred of the most prominent women in the State, and they were cordially received at the White House. In an address of some length the President said, in referring to the present world-wide contest: "It is a struggle which goes deeper and touches more of the foundations of the organised life of men than any that has ever taken place before, and no settlement of the questions that lie on the surface can satisfy a situation which requires that the questions which lie underneath and at the foundation should also be settled and settled right. I am free to say that I think the question of Woman Suffrage is one of those. . . . I feel that I am standing upon the firmest foundations of the age in bidding godspeed to the cause which you represent, and in expressing the ardent hope that the people of New York may realise the great occasion which faces them on election day, and may respond to it in noble fashion."

This address was published in every newspaper in the country, and called forth long, and with but few exceptions commendatory, editorials. Every paper in New York City, except the *Times*, endorsed it without reservation. The part of the speech which gave the suffragists most satisfaction was the one in which he said it seemed to him that "this is the time for the States of the Union to take favourable action," and added: "I perhaps may be touched a little too much by the traditions of our politics which lay such questions almost entirely upon the State." They hope it foreshadows the President's endorsement of Woman Suffrage by Federal action when he is thoroughly convinced that it is impossible through action by the States.

Members of the President's Cabinet, United States Senators, and members of Congress have strongly endorsed the President's position, and a number of them are speaking at the Suffrage meetings. William Jennings Bryan, formerly Secre-

tary of State, is speaking nightly for the amendment, as is his wife, who not only is a graduate of the same university as her husband, but also of the same college of law. The Governor of New York State, the Mayor of New York City, and public officials almost without number, are advocating the amendment. The city is in the midst of a municipal campaign with four candidates for Mayor, and all of them have declared in favour of it. The president of the Men's State Suffrage League is also president of one of the largest banks in the State, and men prominent in all kinds of business are members of this league. Many religious, educational, and other organisations have declared in favour. At the recent meeting of the New York City Federation of Women's Clubs, with a hundred thousand members, the attempt of the anti-suffragists to speak was met by such a storm of protest that they were not able to finish. Not one organisation of either men or women in the State has expressed itself in opposition except the Anti-Suffrage Association.

SUPPORT OF LABOUR UNIONS.

Perhaps the most important pronouncement has been that of the State Federation of Labour, which has an immense membership. Its president issued a letter to the unions which said in part:—

"The New York State Federation of Labour has pledged its support to the New York State Woman Suffrage Party. This means that if the membership of the State Federation makes good, the women will win the vote on November 6.

"As a powerful trade union organisation we can win or lose a referendum, as was shown when we turned down the proposed State Constitution in 1915. Let us show again that the Labour men stand solidly behind real democracy. Giving the women the vote will more than double our Labour vote.

"Attempts will be made to destroy the legislation protecting working men, women and children, which for more than a generation the Labour men have worked so hard to establish, and only got because they had the vote.

"Women deserve the vote. We can give it to them. Don't let us fail."

HARMFUL INFLUENCE OF PICKETS.

The majority of the newspapers of the State have for months been supporting the amendment, and there is only one paper in Greater New York, which includes Brooklyn, that opposes it—a paper published in the support of vested interests.

We have greatly appreciated the letters of encouragement from Mrs. Fawcett, of Great Britain; Mme. De Witt Schlumberger, of France; and Dr. Aletta Jacobs, of Holland, which have been given wide publicity in the newspapers to show how eagerly the women of other countries are watching the action of New York on this question. The excellent articles published by the *Christian Science Monitor* from Miss Chrystal Macmillan and Miss E. M. Goodman, editor of the *Englishwoman*, describing the situation in Great Britain, have had a large circulation and influence.

By every effort that could possibly be made, the National and the New York State Suffrage Associations have tried to make the voters understand that they are not in the slightest degree responsible for the "picketing" in Washington, and have largely succeeded, although some votes will be adversely influenced by it. The situation there has not improved, and has resolved itself into a struggle between the "pickets" and the police and the courts. They are arrested now every time they start out from their headquarters, and sentenced to from 30 to 60 days in the workhouse or the goal. Miss Alice Paul, the leader, is now in gaol for seven months. They have filed serious charges against the officials of the workhouse as to food, sanitary conditions, treatment, etc. On one occasion they had a physical encounter with these officials, in which other prisoners joined. The trial on the charges was conducted secretly, which prejudiced the public against the institution. Considerable personal sympathy is felt for the imprisoned women, but the feeling is almost universal that nothing ever has happened in this country which has so greatly injured the cause of Woman Suffrage. The press now is giving little publicity to the matter, but the "militants" are planning a demonstration of some kind for November 10, which will probably be good for considerable newspaper space.

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION.

As soon as the election is over, attention will be concentrated on the National Suffrage Convention to be held in Washington December 12-15. The Congress will meet December 3, when the new Woman Suffrage Committee will be announced and a hearing will be granted. It is probable that a vote will be

taken in both Houses, but whether it will be wise to have this done in December or not until later will have to be determined. Some of the leaders in the movement think that a favourable vote can be secured from this session for submitting the Federal Amendment, but others feel sure that this will not be possible until the next session.

This letter is so long that it will be necessary to defer until the next one the story of the action that has been taken in the various States in regard to the partial suffrage which was granted by their legislatures last winter. The Supreme Court of Indiana has decided that it was unconstitutional. The voters of Ohio will pass upon it at the coming election.

IDA HUSTED HARPER,
Chairman Editorial Correspondence, Leslie
Suffrage Bureau.

New York, November 1, 1917.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NEO-MALTHUSIANISM DEFENDED.

In *Jus Suffragii* of September we find two great international interests for all women discussed under the heading "France." The first is Neo-Malthusianism, or the right of parents to limit their family to the number of children which they can bring up with a chance of breeding, feeding, and educating them so as to give them a good opening in life. Mme. Schlumberger, whom none of our fellow-workers for Suffrage can ever suspect of narrow-mindedness or levity where the wellbeing of countless mothers is concerned, says these excellent things—*e.g.*, that mothers should certainly be protected by every possible means, and that maternity should be consented to and not imposed. Yet I feel called upon to offer a remark concerning her article. She praises the theories of Malthus, who prophesied great evils if humanity continued to increase beyond the limits of the available means of subsistence, but she condemns Neo-Malthusianism as a harmful encouragement to great selfishness. I cannot help thinking that here the author—or, perhaps, the meaning which the French attach to the term "Neo-Malthusianism"—runs the risk of inducing the reader into false conclusions. For Dutch, and perhaps also for other readers, "Neo-Malthusianism" means the practice of family limitation and the propaganda of its desirability for conscientious parents among the people, and not, as Mme. Schlumberger says, "the horrible and revolting theory of the only child, closely allied to vice." The International Ligue de la Régénération Humaine, which had its last international congress at The Hague in 1912, attaches no other significance to the word than voluntary limitation of families by avoiding conception so as to prevent abortion. If this were such a mean and harmful doctrine, there would not be so many flourishing Neo-Malthusian Leagues in the world. The Dutch one, founded in 1881, with the co-operation of the late Prime Minister, Mr. S. van Houten, has now over 5,000 members, and its scientific teaching concerning the population question, parental responsibility, and the use of means for preventing conception that will not injure the mother's health, is much sought after.

It is true that some prejudiced people will not hear parental prudence mentioned; but that is their affair. The Dutch Neo-Malthusian League only offers teaching and help to those who ask it, and many are the wives and mothers, mostly of the working class, whose grateful blessings reward the medical experts of the League. Mme. Schlumberger, who says "a country will not be enriched by a host of children of beggars, drunkards, and wretched people," would be the first to appreciate the work of our Dutch Neo-Malthusians, who have nothing to do with vice.

Certainly the question of agreed and not enforced motherhood is a great problem of the future, as more and more women are becoming enfranchised citizens.

MARTINA G. KRAMER.

NEO-MALTHUSIANISM. MME. DE SCHLUMBERGER'S REPLY TO OBJECTIONS.

The enemies of feminists and Suffragists often accuse them of professing Neo-Malthusianism, and of spreading opinions unfavourable to large families, and, in consequence, of en-

couraging vice and abortion. That is why we have thought it necessary to declare our attitude on this question, and I have done so in the name of the Executive Committee of the French Woman Suffrage Union and as President of the Section for the Equal Moral Standard of the French National Council of Women. At the same time, it is not possible to enter into the question fully in *Jus Suffragii*; the question is too complex, and requires thorough treatment. I will only say a word in reply to the numerous objections raised in the October *Jus Suffragii* to my article of September; that word is that I am not concerned with the theory of Neo-Malthusianism set forth by persons with a high moral standard, but with the positive, practical results its propaganda has produced. These results are well known by those who are occupied with the question of social and moral hygiene in France, and it does not seem to me probable that they are different in other countries: they are simply newer.

Neo-Malthusian propaganda has produced the one-child family, which is no healthier than large families, but, on the contrary, brought up in cotton-wool, and with an exaggerated idea of its own importance. It has developed intense and short-sighted selfishness, for if the child dies the family perishes. It has not developed wealth, but, on the contrary, poverty; for where there are many consumers, the land is not neglected, as so often it is in France. It has developed an excessive taste for personal enjoyment, which, with its sister selfishness, leads to vice. It has encouraged abortion, now frequent, and often inexcusable.

This is not a question of theory and principles, but of brutal facts, which we observe and which force us to fight against the evil. The question of depopulation is, above all, a moral question, a question of duty and of knowing how to understand and combine duties—duty to country, to wife and children. We shall all agree so far; but as for me—for I have six children—I am persuaded that it is not by not having children that one brings them up best!

DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER,

President of the U.F.S.F.

REVIEWS.

THE FRANCHISE BILL: ITS PROGRESS THROUGH PARLIAMENT: WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE. Published by the National Council for Adult Suffrage, 27, Chancery Lane, W.C. 2. Price 3d., post free.

This useful pamphlet gives an outline of the main provisions of the Bill, and indicates amendments which may be introduced on Report stage.

In view of the complexity of the Bill, which is based on a compromise, this pamphlet is valuable as putting the matter clearly and concisely.

MOTHERS' PENSIONS. Published by the Workers' Suffrage Federation, 400, Old Ford Road, Bow, E. 3. Price 2d.

These pensions, which are now given in 30 States of America, should rightly be called children's pensions. They supplant the cruel and extravagant plan of placing poor children in institutions; instead of that the children are boarded out with their own mothers. The scheme is a success wherever it is in force, and does away with child poverty and juvenile crime. Judge Neil is in Great Britain at present expounding it, and has the support of numerous public men and women and organisations.

This pamphlet describes the scheme and its working, and gives in small compass the essential facts needed by those who are studying the question.

INDUSTRIAL WOMEN AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

The Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations has issued a memorandum on behalf of the 300,000 organised working women represented by it, urging the formation of a Ministry of Health, the Ministry to include all health functions, sick insurance, and housing, and especially a strong maternity department largely staffed by women. The Committee asks also that the powers of local public health authorities in regard to maternity and infancy work should be extended.

HONOURS—"ORDRE DE L'ARMÉE."

Miss Olive Irene Miles, an English nurse, distinguished for great energy, devotion, and courage in Serbia and Macedonia. She took part in the mission to Serbia in 1914-15 to fight the typhus epidemic; in November, 1915, offered her services to the Eastern Army, and remained at Ghevgegi during the occupation, and is still at the front.

A young Portuguese botanist, Miss Bensande, has made some interesting discoveries on the sex of mushrooms. The "thalles," or products of the germination of the spores, are of two sorts, which was hitherto unknown, and their marriage results in the formation of umbrella-shaped fruits. Miss Bensande's learned study has been presented to the Academy of Science.

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