

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

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COURAGE AND VISION.

'Where there's a will, there's a way.'

Few of us will lament the passing of 1932 with its slow fading hopes of achievement in disarmament, the paralysis of constant elections, the growing number of unemployed and the crushing burden of debt. Yet 1932 will long be gratefully remembered because it brought us all together, women of every kind and type of organisation, to work together at Geneva. We sank our differences, accepted new leaders, built up wider friendships. It is but a beginning but how magnificent! And 1933 will surely bring us the reward.

And now, just at Christmas, comes the good news of Germany's return to the Conference Table, and with it hopes of some real reduction in armaments—surely the key to unlock the door leading to peace, revival of confidence, economic sanity and renewed prosperity.

To all my fellow-workers I wish the New Year to bring the courage and vision for which I long myself, that all together we women may keep our faith and guide public opinion into wise and courageous decisions. We must recognise that this is no passing crisis, but a complete transformation of society as great as that of the so-called industrial revolution. Mankind's marvellous inventions which promised plenty and leisure have brought hunger and unemployment because our political ideas are nationalist and anarchical. Our only hope is to find ways to lift the blockade which is paralysing world trade.

This year we need both courage and vision in directing our own affairs. In March we meet to consider the

future of the Alliance, how it is to continue and what should be its programme of service to women of all lands. Is the work for which the Alliance was called into being finished? Have women real equality with men? Twenty-eight years efforts have secured us the vote in 32 countries; equality is written into the constitutions of several new republics, including that of Spain. Practice is different from theory! How hard we have to struggle not only against the prejudices of men, but of other women when we claim for married women the elementary right to work even at the worst paid occupations. The status of the home-keeping married woman is horribly insecure—she is utterly dependent on the health and success of another.

No other general feminist organisation exists to take our place, with a programme neither too wide on social or philanthropic lines, nor too specialised. We welcome those that concentrate on some special problem, equal right to work or an equal moral standard, or which appeal to a special section such as professional or university women, but no specialised body can hope for success unless organisations exist for general education and propaganda, bent on prevention rather than cure.

The women of the world will lose a great champion if the Alliance ceases its activity. Our difficulties are many, but the English proverb says: "Where there's a will, there's a way."

MARGEY I. CORBETT ASHBY.

ALLIANCE CONFERENCE AT MARSEILLES.

Arrangements for this Conference are going forward well. The date of the official meetings in Marseilles itself will be from March 18th-22nd inclusive, but the days immediately preceding and following will be very delightfully and usefully occupied in little excursions to some of the neighbouring towns, where the pleasure of seeing the beautiful country of the Riviera at its fairest moment will be combined with practical help to French suffragists in the form of meetings, informal and otherwise. We hope later to publish a full programme of these excursions. This month we give the preliminary Programme of the Conference itself, and also a note on the prices of Hotels in Marseilles which will help intending delegates and visitors to estimate the cost of their stay.

The Conference meetings will be held in the Splendide Hotel, Boulevard Dugommier, where the Local Organisation Committee's Secretariat is already established, and where any enquiries as to local organisation questions may be addressed to Madame L. Beddoukh, who has been appointed as the Organising Secretary by the Committee, which represents the local groups of both the Alliance affiliated societies in France. During the Conference the International Secretariat will also be in this Hotel.

In order to enable the Alliance to meet the cost of this installation Madame Leclerc, the Directrice, has promised a donation which will cover it. Every member of the Alliance will surely join in the thanks already expressed to Madame Leclerc for this more than generous gift, and will certainly feel inclined to stay at the Splendide if they can manage to do so. Negotiations are in progress for the use of other halls for the semi-public Conferences and public meetings, and already we have cause to admire the energy and organising ability of the Committee and its Secretary. As far as success depends on them, we need not fear. It only remains for our Societies to realise fully the importance of this meeting and to determine to make the necessary sacrifice in order to ensure that every country shall be represented.

PROGRAMME.

- I. Meetings to be held in other towns on the days preceding and following the Conference in Marseilles.
- Wednesday, March 15th.** Meeting at Montpellier.
- Thursday, March 16th.** Meeting at Nîmes.
- Friday, March 17th.** Meeting at Avignon.
- Thursday, March 23rd.** Meeting at Toulon.
- Friday, March 24th.** Journey to Nice, with calls at St. Raphael, etc.
- Saturday, March 25th and Sunday, March 26th.** Meetings etc. at Nice.

II. PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE.

- Saturday, March 18th.**
- 10 a.m. Board Meeting
- 1 p.m. Lunch in common of Board Members and Presidents of Affiliated Societies.
- 2-30-4-30. Official Reception. Greetings followed by brief speeches from Representatives of the different Continents.
- 5-7. Simultaneous meetings of:
(a) Board (b) Presidents.
- Evening. Reception to Delegates and Press.
- Sunday, March 19th.**
- Morning and Afternoon:
1. President's Opening Speech.
 2. Report based on replies received from the Auxiliaries to Questionnaire on the Alliance Programme.
 3. Objects of the Alliance: brief statements on work for: Suffrage, Equal Moral Standard, Economic Equality, Civil Rights, including Nationality, Peace, Work with the League of Nations. Discussion.
- 5 p.m. PUBLIC MEETING ON SUFFRAGE.
- Evening: Free for Committee Meetings.

Monday, March 20th.

- Morning and Afternoon:
1. Statement on present budget.
 2. Report on proposals made by Auxiliaries.
 3. Discussion on International Co-operation.
- 5 p.m. **Semi-Public Conference on Equal Moral Standard and Women Police.**
- Evening: PUBLIC MEETING AGAINST TRAFFIC IN WOMEN.

Tuesday, March 21st.

- Morning: Simultaneous Meetings of Board and Presidents.
- Afternoon: Discussion and vote on Programme and Budget.
- 5 p.m. **Semi-Public Conference on Women's Right to Work.**
- Evening: Free for Committee meetings.

Wednesday, March 22nd.

- Morning: Conclusion of Conference.
- Midday: Peace Luncheon with speakers.
- Afternoon: Meeting of Statutory International Committee (Board and Presidents sitting together).
- Evening: PUBLIC MEETING ON PEACE.

HOTELS AND PENSIONS IN MARSEILLES.

- Hotel Splendide.**—Headquarters of the Conference, First Class Hotel, near Station and centre of town. Single rooms from 20 frs., or with bath room from 55 frs. Double rooms from 40 frs., with bath from 75 frs. En pension terms from 70 frs. Service 10%.
- Hotel Astoria.**—(second class) single rooms from 20 frs., double from 30 frs; with bath from 55 frs. No pension terms.
- Hotel Bristol** (second class) single rooms from 30 frs., with bath 45 frs. Double rooms from 50, with bath 65. Pension from 70 frs.
- Rome and St. Pierre:** single rooms from 18 frs., double from 25. Pension 40.
- Hotel Guillon:** single rooms from 15 frs., double from 20. Pension terms 45 frs. Service 10% excluding tax.
- Pension "Les Arcades":** 1st floor 50 frs., 2nd Floor 45, 3rd Floor 40. Service 10%.
- Hotel Paradis:** single room 8 frs, double 10. Pension 22 frs.
- Hotel des Familles:** from 14 frs.
- N.B.—Enquiries are being made with a view to securing exemption for Conference members from the Visitors' Tax.

RESTAURANTS.

The **Hotel Splendide** will offer meals at fixed prices as follows: Light breakfast, 6 frs; lunch 25 frs; dinner 28 frs. Also a reduction of 10% will be made on both the menu and the wine list in the Restaurant.

Restaurant Raguenu provides a six-course meal including wine for 13 frs; or separate dishes from 1.50 to 12 francs.

"**La Crêmerie**" provides early breakfast from 2.50 frs., and dishes from 1.50 to 6 frs.

NOTE.

In case some of our delegates may desire to prolong their stay on the Riviera, our French colleagues can recommend the following hotels at two popular resorts:

- CANNES: Hôtel Gallia, Beau Site, des Pins.
- HYERES: Golf Hôtel.

THE GERMAN CONSTITUTION AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

A widespread movement in Germany to alter the Constitution is nothing new. The idea that the change from an only partially constitutional monarchy to parliamentarism in its purest form, based moreover on proportional representation, was too abrupt, has prompted certain groups to work for revision. It will be remembered that Herr von Papen's Government ventilated several ways and means for such revision, and although at the moment other questions are in the foreground, the problem remains acute.

There are three main points: a change from proportional elections to single constituencies, or perhaps a combined system; additional votes for certain cate-

gories and the raising of the age for voting and for eligibility; lastly a First Chamber in addition to the Reichstag.

It is not possible here to consider the question from the legal or political point of view: we will merely consider the outlook for women and the steps they have taken in the matter. Apart from work done in the Parties, action has mainly come from the Bund Deutscher Frauenvereine (National Council) which has worked out a Memorandum, and from the Staatsbürgerinnen Verband which at a Conference in Leipzig considered the different points. We would add, however, that the Government has distinctly denied any intention to abolish woman suffrage.

A return to single constituencies would doubtless lead to a distinct decrease in the number of women members. Nevertheless there are women in favour of such a system as they think it a better system politically. The great majority in the woman's movement, however, is of opinion that the proportional system is both the most just and is also to be preferred on account of the chances it gives to women candidates.

The former Minister of the Interior has touched on the possibility of giving ex-frontline soldiers and heads of families (men or women) an additional vote. This would give a great advantage to those classes who are in a position to marry young (i.e., the working classes) and would moreover tend to undervalue the work women are doing for the family, since the "Head of the Family" is as a rule considered to be the wage-earning man. One hundred men would on the average command nearly double the number of votes of one hundred women, and women protest strongly against this possibility.

A raising of the political "coming of age" on the other hand is considered useful and as likely to benefit young people, although opinions differ as to whether the proper age would be 21 or 25 as against 20 at present.

A First Chamber that would be partly elected by professional bodies, institutes (e.g., Universities), the Churches, etc.; and partly nominated by the territorial governments and the Reichspresident would of course offer very few chances to women. We would, therefore, if such a change in the constitution were to take place, urge that there should be laid down a certain legal minimum number of women members among those to be elected to the Chamber.

The variety and complication of these constitutional problems are sufficient to keep us women busy throughout the winter. D.v.V.

DISARMAMENT.

Miss Rosa Manus, in the name of the Alliance Peace Committee, has made a proposal which has been accepted by the International Women's Disarmament Committee, that the 6th February next, the anniversary of the presentation of the Petitions to the Disarmament Conference, be observed as a Day of Mourning, Protest and Indignation. Proposed action in the different countries is as follows: Joint Demonstrations on that day by the organisations which collected the signatures to the petitions; Peace messages given from every Church; articles on disarmament in every Sunday paper; special films in the Cinemas. The Disarmament Committee is also considering the possibility of some form of Demonstration in Geneva on that day if the necessary funds can be collected and voluntary help is available.

Miss Manus has suggested in a communication sent to all Alliance Auxiliaries that for this Day the following Slogan should be used: "The Day of Judgment: A Year gone and Nothing done." She calls on women to unite to arrest the process of ruin and revolution which is threatening to destroy our whole civilisation.

THE POST WAR GENERATION DEMANDS DISARMAMENT.

In his recent speech in the House of Commons Mr. Baldwin issued a challenge to the youth of this country: they will make their answer plain at a Post War Generation Meeting on Disarmament which is being organised by the Women's International League and which will be held at the Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, on Tuesday, January 31st at 8 p.m.

On the platform there will be young men and women representing the Churches, music, art literature, the theatre, the cinema and sport.

This is the second meeting of the kind that has been organised by the Women's International League. Last February a similar meeting was held, and so successful was it that hundreds had to be turned away.

EVENTS OF 1932.

The year 1932 having been one of unprecedented and universal depression it is not possible to present a striking catalogue of "Victories," rather might we sadly note it as a year of more or less openly defined re-action. In the brief list of events re-capitulated below, we must call attention, however, to one outstanding victory, the grant of woman suffrage in Brazil, which has necessarily a particular significance as being the first big breach in the non-suffrage line in South America.

League of Nations. Five women were appointed as delegates to the Disarmament Conference: Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the Alliance, for Great Britain; Dr. Paulina Luisi, our Board Member, for Uruguay; Miss Winifred Kydd, Canada; Mme. Szalagowska, Poland, and Dr. M. W. Woolley, U.S.A.

Another "event" in connection with the Disarmament Conference was the presentation in February of over eight million petitions collected by women's organisations.

The Assembly endorsed the view that women should be given a larger share in the official work of the League of Nations, and its Resolution on Nationality, though it advocated ratification of the unsatisfactory Hague Convention, was certainly inspired by a certain recognition of the importance of women's claims.

A woman was appointed to the Temporary Committee on Slavery.

Abyssinia. The first School for Girls was opened this year.

Austria. For the second time Frau Rudel Zeynek was elected as President of the Upper Chamber.

Brazil. Women granted the vote and eligibility on practically equal terms with men.

Burma. Woman elected to Council.

Ceylon. Second woman elected to Council.

Denmark. Four women elected to Lower House as against three in last Parliament.

Germany. In the most recent elections, 36 women were elected as against 37 in the last Reichstag.

Ireland. Two women elected to Dail. (Lower House in Irish Free State).

Japan. Women granted right to practise law.

Peru. Municipal suffrage and married women's nationality rights granted.

Poland. A second woman appointed Judge in Children's Courts.

Roumania. Grant of full civil rights to women.

Siam. Women Suffrage said to be included in new Constitution.

Sweden. Five women elected to Lower House as against 3 in last Parliament.

Switzerland. Canton of Berne makes women eligible to sit on Guardianship Councils.

U.S.A. Mrs. Hattie Caraway first woman to be directly elected to Senate, and also the first woman to preside over a senatorial session.

Woman diplomat acts as Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S. Legation in Stockholm.

OBITUARY.

The year just passed witnessed the passing of many pioneers and friends of the Alliance. We re-call with gratitude the names of Mrs. Marie Corbett, Mrs. Stanton Coit, Mrs. Nevinson, Miss Julia Lathrop, Mrs. Elisa Petersen, Mme. Casertelli Cabrini, Dr. Lanteri Renshaw—all of them closely connected with the suffrage movement.

We regret to announce the death of Carmen de Burgos the President of the Spanish Iberian Women's League. Our Board Member, Dr. Paulina Luisi, who is closely associated with the work of this League tells us that Mme. de Burgos' death occurred suddenly as she was addressing a meeting against State Regulation of Prostitution, and adds truly and characteristically: "What a beautiful death." Mme. Carmen de Burgos was a well-known feminist and writer.

NATIONALITY.

In our last issue we published in the French Section an account of what happened at the recent Assembly of the League of Nations on this question. That article mentioned again the fact that the Alliance is a member of the Consultative Committee on Women's Nationality, and re-called that two separate Reports were presented to the Assembly by the member organizations of that Committee, each signed by four organizations. Since the Assembly adopted its Resolution on Nationality the Consultative Committee has not met. We were therefore much surprised to learn that a Sub-Committee for Propaganda appointed in any case in a way which the Alliance did not regard as valid, at a meeting after the Assembly proceeded itself to vote its own continuance without any further reference to the Consultative Committee and with no mandate for the carrying out of any agreed policy. The Alliance had no option but to inform this Sub-Committee that it could not recognise its validity, and that it must ask to be formally and clearly dissociated from any connection with the Committee or any action it might take.

We think that it is desirable to give publicity to this matter so that the position of the Alliance may be clear to anyone who may be approached by the Propaganda Sub-Committee with a request for co-operation.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The election on November 8th which designated Franklin D. Roosevelt, as the next president of the United States resulted also in the election of six women to the new Congress.

Mrs. Hattie Caraway, who in January of this year was elected to the U.S. Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her husband, became through the results of last week's elections the first woman ever to be elected to a full term in the Senate.

Mrs. Mary Norton, Mrs. Florence Kahn, and Mrs. Edith Nourse Rogers, incumbents in the House of Representatives, were re-elected for another two-year term. Mrs. Norton and Mrs. Kahn have served as Congress women for the past seven years, while Mrs. Rogers has been a member for five years.

The two new women members elected to the House of Representatives are Miss Kathryn O'Laughlin of

Kansas and Mrs. Virginia Jenckes of Indiana. Miss O'Laughlin is a tall, slender woman lawyer who has had experience in legislative work, first as a volunteer worker in the Illinois League of Women Voters and later as assistant legislative counsel for a national association of insurance companies. Mrs. Jenckes is the mother of an eighteen year old daughter and her chief interest is the prevention of floods and the development of the rivers and harbours in the United States.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt and the eleven co-operating women's organizations have issued a call to the *Eighth Conference on the Cause and Cure of War* to be held January 17th-20th, 1933, in Washington. Mrs. Catt's message on the call says:

"It is well to remember that the cause of the great depression which is at present overwhelming the world with its terrors, was a war too great for the nations to conduct or to pay for. The depression is the penalty. It is well to resolve that there shall not be another war with another depression to follow. The programme of the Conference will try to teach those who come why there is a depression, the way out of it, how to prevent the 'next war,' how to lead the way toward peace."

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Bulgaria. For the third time a Bill is being submitted to Parliament to give women the right to practise law. Women may be doctors, chemists, teachers, etc., but for some reason the legal profession is still closed to them in spite of many efforts on the part of women's societies.

China. It is stated that under the new Civil Code monogamy is to be the only legal form of marriage, and wives whose husbands now take secondary wives can sue for divorce. Equal rights of inheritance and equal citizenship rights are also granted to women.

Great Britain. Women telephonists are in future to work till 11 p.m. The interesting part of this announcement is that the Department states that "unnecessary artificial protection of women must no longer be considered since the Royal Commission recommended a 'fair field and no favour'." What a feminist pronouncement for a Government Department, but nothing is said about equal pay or the marriage bar. At least on the latter point, there is a slight amelioration in new regulations shortly to be issued which, it is stated, are to permit the Head of a Department to retain the services of a married woman if her special qualifications or experience render it desirable.

Miss Barbara Flower is the first woman to win the Craven Scholarship at Oxford, for which women are supposed to be "insufficiently trained" to enter. This curious phrase apparently refers to the fact that Latin verse is optional in most women's colleges.

Guernsey. There has recently been an election of Deputies to the States, the Parliament of Guernsey. Although women may only vote at 30 while men vote at 21, there was a preponderance of women voters. One woman candidate was re-elected.

India. Begum Shah Nawaz, the only woman member of the Third Indian Round Table Conference now sitting in London is making a brave fight to secure equality of franchise for women in

the new Indian Constitution. If that is impossible, however, some form of franchise giving women adequate voting strength must be found. The Begum in a speech at a City Dinner said "Your dictionary describes a woman as 'the better half.' In Russia she is the 'sweeter half.' I have yet to discover the dictionary that describes her as the 'equal half.'"

Persia. While waiting for fuller news of the Women's Conference in Teheran which was to be the conclusion of the Damascus and Bagdad Conferences described in our last issue, we see in the Press a reference to this meeting which states that the Delegates were received by His Highness Teymourash, who gave them a hearty welcome and wished them success.

U.S.A. It is estimated that there are four million married women who go out to work from sheer necessity, and that working wives represent thirty-seven per cent of employed persons.

Sweden. The well-known author, Selma Lagerlöf, has received yet another distinction, the University of Kiel having made her Honorary Doctor of Theology. She and Ann Margaret Holmgren are among the women members of the Order of St. Olav.

Spain. The little town of Gallur, in Zaragoza, can claim the distinction of having appointed the first woman Mayor in Spain, Maria Dominguez Remon. Though no longer young, she is much admired for her vigorous personality which has carried her triumphantly through many hard struggles. She is well known as an enthusiastic journalist writing for the cause of the Republic.

HUNGARY.

A Third Woman M.P.

A third woman member was brought into Parliament by the most recent by-election, Madame Lilla Melczér. She was elected unopposed and her nomination papers were signed by practically all the voters in the district so that her mandate could be drawn up and signed straightaway. She owns and manages an estate and is herself the welfare centre of the district. She is a member of the United (Government) Party and her two colleagues are Miss Anna Kethly (Social Democrat) who has been three times re-elected to the House and was for long the only woman member, and the Baroness Orosdy (Christian Socialist) who came in at the last General Election.

The main points of our work in the past year have been the extension of woman suffrage and of the secret ballot over the whole of Hungary; equal nationality rights for women; the abolition of capital punishment and of martial law (the only successful campaign); and work for Peace and Disarmament. We made representations to our Government on all these subjects, and also, on the occasion of a brutal arrest of two young children, a girl and a boy, we asked for the employment of women in the Police Force. In reply to this latter application, the Chief of Police refused our request on the grounds of police administration, but he made flattering references to the services of women as detectives and in the administration.

An Enquête on Peace.

The Feministak Egyesulete has introduced an innovation in the form of an invitation to members of Parliament to answer a couple of questions on matters which are arousing the strongest interest in public opinion. We asked: Whether they consider that there is imminent danger of war as suggested by certain papers abroad: what in their opinion are the causes of war;

what can be done to prevent it, and what they individually and their respective parties are doing and intend to do to prevent war. Count George Apponyi, Dr. Eugen Gal, Anna Kethly and Dr. John Vazsonyi spoke on the question, four excellent orators who all dealt with the subject on different grounds but who all agreed that war must absolutely be prevented. Count Apponyi, who professed to take his stand on the basis of capitalism, yet stated that war industries must become a State monopoly; at the same time the spirit of peace must be created in the peoples as in individuals. Mr. Gal considered that the best anti-war propaganda is the sight of war invalids and the owners of devaluated war loan bonds; he urged for democratic equality in each State. Anna Kethly gave us the most precise answers, point by point. She affirmed the danger of war, recognising as the cause the legal injustice committed by the Peace Treaties and socially by the capitalist system, and the fatal influence of war industries. She urged the education of the public in the sense of responsibility and of world solidarity. Mr. Vazsonyi's heartfelt speech emphasised that we must not develop the animal side in our children, and recommended that those who declare war should have to fight in the front ranks. He finished with a tribute to the late lamented Father Giesswein. A proposal was unanimously passed that a memorandum should be sent to the Government urging the elimination of all causes of friction in and outside the country; universal suffrage by ballot; the right of free assembly and the liberty of the press; an endeavour to create employment to appease unrest; education in the spirit of the Kellogg Pact; and the prevention of international conflicts by the cultivation of commercial agreements to put trade on a sound footing.

Our next plans are based on proposals for a Peace School or course of lectures from January to March made by some of our active Committee members.

EUGENIE MISKOLCZY MELLER.
Feministak Egyesulete.

SWEDEN.

The new Swedish Minister of Communications, Privy Councillor Leo, has acceded to the request of women employed in the Post and Telegraph Offices to be eligible for higher posts than at present, and the Government decree has now received Royal Assent. His Majesty's approval of women being given equal opportunities with men of applying for administrative posts is the more remarkable as the Telegraph Office has declared that women are not suited to the extensive practical training, mostly of a technical nature, which is considered essential for nomination to the post of "Assistant" and for further promotion. The Governing Board of the General Post Office, however, have declared that they consider women should be eligible for these posts.

The significance of this law is not that Swedish women have gained new rights, as already in 1925 a law was passed decreeing that women should be equally eligible with men for posts in the Civil Service, but rather that it ensures that the various State Departments shall not evade this previous law. This has been done by excluding women from the full training courses arranged by the Departments, so that they could not reach the standard required for high administrative posts and many protests have been made by women employees and women's organisations against this injustice. It is therefore of the greatest importance to women in the Civil Service that the Royal Assent has been given to the government announcement that women shall not be excluded from any training courses arranged by the State Departments and that eligibility for such courses shall be determined only by the personal suitability of the applicant.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

From the Résumé Français so thoughtfully included in the Czech woman's paper, Zenska Rada, we learn of the active and effective steps taken to combat projects for dismissing or penalising women in the public service as remedies for the economic crisis. A Bill to this effect was successfully opposed and these were the means adopted: First a meeting of representatives of all women's organisations which succeeded in coming to unanimous decisions to prepare a statement setting out the common objections to women's employment with the answers to them, to be sent to all the societies in the National Council of Women and to other women's organisations not directly concerned with the woman's movement, to the whole press and to every Member of Parliament. It was then decided to invite the women's principal opponents to a meeting where the question could be debated, and to broadcast a number of pamphlets. The Press was also invited to a big meeting and both at this meeting and the one referred to above, it was found that the sense of the meeting was overwhelmingly in favour of the women's claims.

However, the battle was not yet won, as the Minister of Finance proceeded to submit to the Cabinet another bill proposing drastic and unjust economies at women's expense. The representatives of the N.C.W. immediately demanded interviews with Ministers, and Madame Plaminkova succeeded in convincing the President of the Personnel Committee that the provisions of the bill were contrary to the principles on which the Republic is founded. M. Franke thereupon with several of his colleagues declared that the clauses in the bill referring to women were unacceptable, and thanks to them the danger was averted.

Another Public Meeting was also held, where Madame Plaminkova affirmed the right of woman to the free disposal of herself and their labour, and where it was shown that, in fact, the dismissal of married women would effect no real saving in the public service.

They do not let the grass grow under their feet in Czechoslovakia, and under the leadership of Mme. Plaminkova there seems to be a refreshing spirit of solidarity and determination among the women.

WOMEN IN COAL MINES.

The Soviet Government has—temporarily at any rate—withdrawn the prohibition against women working underground in the coal mines, and it is stated that the experiment of so employing women has been so successful in the form of increased output that it is to be extended.

In Great Britain women are not permitted to work underground, but in spite of periodical outbursts of protest women are still employed as pit-head workers. There appeared recently in a Manchester paper a brief but interesting account of the work of these women by one of them. Their first job is to "screen" the coal—that is, remove the dirt and stone from the load which comes past them on a moving belt; this rubbish is accumulated in heaps, which when the screening is completed must be shovelled back on to the belt for removal. As the writer of the article says: "The work is hard, but we are getting fresh air and exercise and develop a mighty physique."

RESUME DU MESSAGE DE MRS. CORBETT-ASHBY.

L'année 1932 nous a apporté peu de résultats et bien des désillusions. Accroissement du chômage, des dettes, des frictions politiques rien ne nous a été épargné.

Et pourtant c'est 1932 qui a vu toutes les organisations de femmes se réunir et fraterniser dans leur

travail de Genève. Noël nous apporte l'espoir du retour de l'Allemagne à la Table de la Conférence, l'espoir aussi d'une réduction d'armements.

La crise que nous traversons n'est pas une phase transitoire. La société est en train de se transformer complètement. La productivité intense de l'homme intelligent qui devait lui apporter loisir et richesse aboutit à l'inertie et au sombre désespoir. C'est pourquoi, nous femmes, devons nous armer de courage et tenir haut notre lumière pour éclairer l'Avenir. Nos organisations féministes sont en péril. Le principe de l'égalité du travail est plus que jamais menacé. Celui de l'égalité civile et politique n'est encore inscrit que dans la Constitution de 32 pays. Cela représente pourtant 28 ans d'efforts dont l'Alliance internationale a pris sa large part. Aucune autre organisation féministe ne peut nous suppléer pour l'universalité et l'éclatisme de nos buts et de nos moyens d'action.

Mettons donc toute notre énergie à conserver l'Alliance et à la remettre sur pied. "Qui veut la fin veut le moyens".

CONFERENCE DE MARSEILLE, MARS. 1932.

PROGRAMME.

I. Réunions en d'autres villes pour les jours qui précéderont et suivront la Conférence à Marseille.

Mercredi, 15 Mars. Meeting à Montpellier.

Jeu, 16 Mars. Meeting à Nîmes.

Vendredi, 17 Mars. Meeting à Avignon.

Jeu, 23 Mars. Meeting à Toulon.

Vendredi, 24 Mars. Parcours en auto-car à Nice; arrêt St. Raphael, etc.

Samedi, 25 et Dimanche, 26 Mars. Meeting à Nice.

II. PROGRAMME DE LA CONFERENCE.

Samedi, 18 Mars.

10 h. Réunion du Comité Exécutif (Board).

1 h. Déjeuner en commun des membres du Board et des Présidentes des Sociétés affiliées.

2-30. Réception officielle. Discours de bienvenue et des représentantes des 5 continents.

5-7. Réunions simultanées du Board et des Présidentes. Soir. Réception offerte aux déléguées et à la Presse.

Dimanche, 19 Mars.

Matin et après-midi:

1. Discours d'ouverture de la Présidente.

2. Rapport introductif basé sur les réponses faites par les Sociétés au questionnaire relatif à l'avenir de l'Alliance.

3. Les buts actuelles de l'Alliance: brefs exposés sur son activité en faveur du suffrage, de l'unité de la morale, de l'égalité économique, des droits civils de la femme (y compris la nationalité), de la paix, et sur ses relations avec la S.d.N. Discussion.

5-7 h. MEETING PUBLIC SUR LE SUFFRAGE.

Soir: Libre pour séances de Commissions.

Lundi, 20 Mars.

Matin et après-midi:

1. Situation financière actuelle.

2. Rapport sur les propositions financières formulées par les Sociétés.

3. Discussion sur les possibilités de collaboration avec d'autres organisations internationales.

5-7 h. Réunion semi-publique: Unité de la Morale et police féminine.

Soir: MEETING PUBLIC CONTRE LA TRAITE DES FEMMES.

Mardi, 21 Mars.

Matin: Séances simultanées du Board et des Présidentes.

Après-midi: Discussion et vote du programme et du budget.

5-7 h. Réunion semi-publique: Le Droit des femmes au Travail.

Soir: Libre pour séance de Commissions.

Mercredi, 22 Mars.

Matin: Fin de la Conférence

Midi: Déjeuner organisé par la Commission de la Paix

Après-midi: Réunion statutaire du Comité International (Comité et Présidentes siégeant en commun).

Soir: MEETING PUBLIC: LA PAIX.

NOUVELLES BREVES.

Bulgarie. Pour la troisième fois un projet de loi est présenté au Parlement pour donner aux femmes le droit d'entrer dans la profession juridique, qui pour quelque raison mystérieuse leur demeure encore fermée.

Chine. On nous dit que d'après le nouveau code civil, la monogamie est désormais la seule forme du mariage légal et qu'une épouse peut intenter un divorce à son mari si celui-ci prend une seconde femme. La femme se voit aussi accorder des droits égaux à l'héritage, et les mêmes droits civils que les hommes.

Grande Bretagne. Les demoiselles du téléphone pourront à l'avenir travailler jusqu'à 11 h. du soir, le Ministère ayant déclaré que depuis le Rapport de la Commission royale, aucune protection artificielle n'est nécessaire, et que la plus grande largeur d'esprit et impartialité doit régner désormais. C'est presque une profession de foi féministe et nous serons ravis de la voir mise en pratique dans la question de l'égalité des salaires, hélas! pas encore discutée.

Au moins est-il dit qu'une fonctionnaire dont les services auront été reconnus indispensables sera autorisée à conserver sa situation, même après mariage.

Guernesey. Une élection de Députés a eu lieu récemment. Les femmes votent à 30 ans, les hommes à 21, mais il y avait prépondérance de femmes électeurs. Une candidate a été élue.

Inde. La Begum Shah Nawaz, la seule femme membre de la Troisième Conférence de la Table Ronde lutte de tout son pouvoir pour assurer aux Hindoues l'Egalité de Franchise dans la nouvelle Constitution. Si cela est impossible, on trouvera une formule pour donner cependant aux femmes une représentation adéquate.

Perse. Nous attendons des nouvelles de la Conférence féministe de Téhéran, plus explicites que celles données dans la Grande Presse où nous apprenons que sa Seigneurie Teymourash a reçu les déléguées et leur a souhaité plein succès.

U.S.A. On dit qu'aux Etats Unis, quatre millions de femmes mariées sont contraintes par la nécessité à travailler hors de leur foyer et que les ouvrières mariées représentent 37% des travailleurs.

Suède. La célèbre femme écrivain Selma Lagerlof vient de recevoir le titre de Docteur de Théologie honoraire de l'Université de Kiel.

Le nouveau Ministre des Communications vient d'accéder à la requête des Femmes employées dans les Services des Postes et Télégraphes, que les plus hauts postes techniques et administratifs jusque là réservés aux hommes, leur soient ouverts. L'égalité dans le Service Civil était déjà acceptée en principe, mais en fait les examens d'entrée et la préparation spéciale aux Services supérieurs étaient fermés aux femmes, sous le prétexte que ces fonctions réclamaient une habileté technique qu'elles ne pouvaient atteindre. La signature royale au Nouveau Décret leur donnera désormais l'occasion, au moins de prouver leurs capacités sur le même plan que leurs collègues masculins.

Tchécoslovaquie. Sous la direction de Mme. Plaminkova le Conseil National des Femmes Tchécoslovaque s'a engagé une victorieuse bataille contre l'Administration en général, et le Ministère des Finances en particulier au sujet du

maintien des Femmes fonctionnaires mariées. Par des réunions publiques et des interviews personnelles tous les membres du Parlement et de la Presse ont été touchés. Un formulaire définissant les objections et leurs réponses a été circulé parmi toutes les Associations féministes. Une délégation a approché les Ministres, faisant remarquer que la révocation des femmes mariées était contraire au principe d'égalité et de liberté du travail inscrits dans la Constitution. Le résultat donna gain de cause au Conseil National des Femmes et nous ne pouvons que les féliciter du succès de leur énergique et intelligente activité.

Hongrie. Une troisième femme vient d'entrer au Parlement hongrois: c'est Madame Lilla Melezer. Elle fut élue sans opposition par les électeurs du district où elle a une position prépondérante comme propriétaire, et directrice d'oeuvres philanthropiques. Madame Melezer appartient au Parti Gouvernemental. Avec elle nous avons Miss Anna Kethly (Social Démocrate) trois fois élue et la Baronne Orosdy (Parti Socialiste chrétien). La Feministak Egyesulete a comme articles de propagande les mêmes que ceux de l'Alliance et son seul succès cette année, à côté des revendications féministes a été l'abolition de la loi Martiale. Elle a organisé des conférences où nous relevons les noms de Sir George Paish, Prof. Ludvig Quidde, Sil Vara et Ingeborg Walin sur des sujets de portée économique et internationale. Enfin la Feministak Egyesulete a entrepris une effective propagande pour la Paix, par le moyen de lettres, interviews, et de conférences publiques.

d'après EUGENIE MELLER.

LA GENERATION D'APRES—GUERRE ET LE DESARMEMENT.

La Ligue Internationale Féminine doit organiser un meeting à la Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, le mardi 31 Janvier à 8 h-du soir où les jeunes gens seront particulièrement invités à faire connaître leur avis sur le désarmement. Ce sera leur réponse à l'appel lancé récemment par Mr. Baldwin à la Chambre des Communes. Un meeting analogue organisé l'an dernier avait fait salle comble. Il est bon que les hommes d'Etat sachent que la jeunesse actuelle est prête à une démonstration énergique pour faire connaître son opinion.

LA CONSTITUTION ALLEMANDE ET LE VOTE DES FEMMES.

L'agitation pour la réforme de la Constitution allemande n'est pas chose nouvelle. Bien des gens pensent que le passage d'une monarchie partiellement constitutionnelle à un parlementarisme intégral a été plutôt brusque, d'où le malaise actuel.

Trois points sont en discussion: (1) l'abolition de la représentation proportionnelle, en faveur du scrutin de district a beaucoup d'adhérents. Cela simplifierait le système électoral; d'autre part le nombre des femmes candidates et élues serait certainement restreint. Les sociétés féminines préfèrent la proportionnelle.

(2) On a proposé le vote plural pour les anciens combattants et chefs de famille. Cette mesure diminuerait énormément la proportion des femmes électeurs.

(3) On propose aussi d'avancer l'âge des électeurs ce à quoi les femmes ne sont pas opposées. Les discussions au sujet d'une chambre Haute représentant des corporations officielles rencontrent peu de faveur auprès des femmes.

d'après D.v.V.

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