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THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

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THE PEACE MEETING AT BELGRADE.

The International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship held a Conference under the auspices of its Peace Committee from May 17th—19th in Belgrade. The Alliance believes that courage and energy are necessary to-day as never before for the solution of two great problems—Peace and Prosperity. It believes that these two problems are linked together with a third: the profound conviction that women can contribute to both. Its recent meetings in Yugoslavia were evidence of that conviction.

In the very heart of this new kingdom, the Alliance went to discuss the problems of War and Peace with a full realisation that it was at the spot where old quarrels culminated in the World-War. Old enmities and present difficulties were alike forgotten in the expression of the sincere desire for international co-operation and a genuine advance towards disarmament; and one of the most pleasant features was the specially warm welcome given to the Turkish delegate and the little contingent of Bulgarian women, intent on taking their share in the common work. Besides, there were leading feminists from the other Balkan countries, Greece, Roumania, Czechoslovakia and Poland, and from France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Switzerland, the U.S.A. and Uruguay, to talk to each other of "the things which belonged unto their Peace." Above all, it was the coming Disarmament Conference of the League of Nations which commanded their attention. They were wholly bent on furthering international disarmament and especially by means of signed declarations by women in each country demanding real disarmament. To this end the Conference passed the following resolutions to be signed in each country belonging to the Alliance:—

Résolution de Désarmement.

La Conférence de l'Alliance Internationale des femmes exprime sa profonde satisfaction à l'annonce de la Conférence du désarmement pour 1932. Elle compte que celle-ci répondra à la grande espérance des peuples en réalisant une première et importante réduction des armements.

Le Traité de Versailles qui a désarmé certaines nations n'est que le prélude d'un désarmement qui doit être universel. Le Pacte de la Société des Nations l'a solennellement promis et le Pacte Briand-Kellog a prononcé la condamnation de la guerre.

Ne pas réaliser une large réduction des armements constituerait une violation des traités pouvant entraîner de nouvelles catastrophes. Au contraire, si les Gouvernements représentés à la Conférence de 1932 réalisent un véritable commencement de désarmement, les garanties de la Paix en seront considérablement accrues. Et les gouvernements agiront ainsi si les peuples, dont les femmes sont un des principaux éléments, les y obligent.

Résolution Economique.

La Conférence de l'Alliance Internationale des Femmes constatant que la crise économique mondiale marque la faillite des anciennes méthodes de concurrence commerciale et financière appuie de tous ses moyens les efforts faits par la Société des Nations pour réaliser un système de coopération internationale. Elle demande que les décisions des Conférences économiques soient appliquées et s'adresse tout particulièrement à ses Sociétés européennes en leur demandant d'intensifier leur activité, car il est certain qu'une Europe qui n'est pas économiquement organisée compromet la paix mondiale.

Had we forgotten the great petition of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom? Not

at all: this effort was to add strength to the movement, to show the union of all women in the cause of disarmament. And how did the women of Yugoslavia further the cause? With a warmth of cordial greeting, with a generosity and cordiality impossible to describe. If one thing can be found wanting in the reception accorded to us, it would be a genuine surprise to the present writer. I had the honour to preside at this Conference and I can bear testimony.

At the opening meeting the representative of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and the Mayor of Belgrade, joined with the women's organisations and the University in welcoming us. In a row on the platform sat the women representatives of fourteen countries and a man delegate from Italy and from the League of Nations, who were presented to the vast audience by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the Alliance. In a great first row of gilded chairs, sat the first lady-in-waiting to the Queen, the Archbishop of the Orthodox Church and representatives of the Ministry for the Army, the Foreign Office and the Diplomatic Corps.

The next issue of the paper will be specially dedicated to a full account of the proceedings of the Conference, but we do not want to wait a long month before expressing our gratitude to our kind hosts. The Alliance knows well what hospitality means and we do not forget the many, many occasions on which other countries have showered kindness on us, when we say that never have we been more touched by the warmth of the welcome extended to our Board and to our delegates.

We were honoured by an invitation from the Queen to tea at the Palace where members of the Board and the delegates were presented to her Majesty. Many of them had also the opportunity of personal conversation with her. The President du Conseil gave an interview to our representatives and listened very sympathetically to the feminist doctrine of suffrage and Equality in Civil Rights and in the public services. The Minister for Foreign Affairs gave us a magnificent luncheon at the Foreign Office in a beautiful suite of apartments dedicated to the purpose and made a speech of welcome and sympathy with the cause of Disarmament. The Vice-Mayor, who seems equally at home whether he speaks his own language or French or German, entertained us royally. The National Council of Women gave a delightful reception in the Art Gallery, where we listened enchanted to singers from the Opera, to a choir of delightful school girls and to an exquisite programme of national and other songs by the Women's Musical Society of Belgrade. There was a Gala Performance at the Opera, where a fine single-act Opera, composed and conducted by the last of the noble Dalmatian family with which it deals, was followed by a brilliant and amusing ballet with a delightful mixture of fantasy and many-coloured peasant costumes, chosen as significant of local tradition. Zenski Pokret gave us a luncheon in its own "Home"—the Zenski Klub, where we had the great pleasure of being introduced to those who had been doing the heavy work of organisation. An exhibition of women's work made all our mouths water with the desire to take home masses of the exquisite embroideries and beautiful carpets so enticingly displayed.

Our colleague, Mlle. Atanatskovitch, gave us the specially intimate pleasure of receiving us in her own home and treated us to a hospitality we shall not forget. Mme. Albala, the representative of the International Federation of University Women, gave us a similar pleasure. The Anglo-American Yugo-Slav Club gave us tea in their historic house, formerly the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Our own Peace Committee tried to return some of the hospitality by a luncheon to delegates and a dinner to which many of the diplomatic corps and representa-

tives of the Government and municipality were good enough to come.

And all this in the brilliant sunshine of Belgrade and in the atmosphere of energy and hope so amazingly displayed everywhere in the work of reconstruction of roads, houses and social institutions which is changing Belgrade under one's eyes into a large modern city!

This is necessarily a brief and hastily written note on a most memorable occasion. If we have omitted to mention, as we fear we may, many who showed us kindness and hospitality we beg them to believe it is not real forgetfulness but the exigencies of time and space. Out of the many who gave unstinted time and energy to making the Conference a brilliant success and to giving us that "good time" which we so much enjoyed, we can name only Mme. Petkovitch, President of the National Council of Women, and Mlle. Atanatskovitch. They were always there to welcome us, to help us, to give information, to introduce us, to make our way smooth. It is safe to assume that they and others had their part in the official welcome and hospitality offered to us. We have tried to give an idea of the brilliance of our entertainment, it is not so easy to express the more less material and yet even more precious kindness we received, the fore-thought, the warmhearted sympathy which met us on every hand. We would like to mention every one of our friends by name and we hope that every one of them will take this brief expression of our gratitude as meant specially for herself.

In all this brilliant hospitality, were the great underlying aims of the Conference forgotten? By no means. The delegates pursued a genuine purpose through every meeting. They appreciated the eloquent information on the Disarmament Conference brought them by distinguished speakers from the League of Nations and the League of Nations Societies. They considered the difficult problem of security, presented by the former Foreign Secretary, Monsieur Minchitch, and they remained long after the allotted time to discuss with Monsieur Delaisi of France and Dr. Ulich-Beil of Germany the world economic crisis and Monsieur Briand's proposal for the reconstruction of Central Europe.

There was only one cloud on the Conference and that was a black one indeed. The day before the Conference was to begin, our dear Rosa Manus, the indefatigable Secretary of the Peace Committee, in whose hands the threads of the organisation were held together, was taken seriously ill and had to go into a Nursing Home. We are glad to say that she is recovering steadily but we all felt the loss of her presence at every turn. All our sympathy goes out to her.

Before the Conference, the Board of the Alliance had a long and busy meeting. Its main business was the coming Congress. It was decided unanimously and with acclamation to accept formally the invitation from the Greek Auxiliary to go to Athens in 1932. We hope soon to send out the Call, so as to turn the thoughts of all our Auxiliaries to preparation for the Congress.

RUTH MORGAN,
Chairman of the Peace Committee and
Member of the Alliance Board.

WOMEN AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The Board of the Alliance at its recent meeting in Belgrade was deeply interested to learn from one of its Auxiliaries that a proposal may be made in the Assembly of the League of Nations to call a Conference of Women to deal with the immense concern of women for peace. The Board was aware that there may be a misconception in thinking that the League could take action on exactly these lines. The Committee on Nationality already planned may have given rise to this misconception but, as our readers know, that

is not a Committee of the League, but has been formed by women's international organisations themselves, on the suggestion of the Secretary General as the most convenient way of presenting their views on women's nationality to the Assembly. It will be recalled that direct action on the codification of international law, which includes the whole question of nationality, has been taken by the Council only in the form of calling the attention of Governments to the results of the Hague Codification Conference and to the Report of the First Committee of last year's Assembly which recommended that the question be remitted to the coming Assembly. It was as a separate question that the Council at its meeting last January adopted a Resolution (published in our March issue) that women's international organisations be asked to give their views on women's nationality to be annexed to the Secretary-General's Report on Nationality as a whole, in connection with the questions of codification of international law.

This shows that the League is anxious to take women's opinion, and it is a hopeful augury that on the all-important matter of peace some way will be found, even though not through the direct appointment by the League of an official committee of women, to ensure that due recognition is made of the pre-occupation of women with peace.

MUI-TSAI.

An important debate took place recently in the House of Commons (Great Britain) on the system of Mui-Tsai as it exists in Hong-Kong. Sir John Simon made an eloquent speech appealing to the Government to take more adequate measures than they had taken up to now to bring the system to an end. He said there were thousands of little girls in Hong-Kong in homes other than their own under conditions which sometimes led to the most deplorable cruelty. The system of Mui-Tsai was an ancient and widespread Chinese custom; it had been described as a system of adoption, but adoption and domestic servitude were not synonymous terms. The Mui-Tsai were not the object of adoption, but the object of purchase. Sir John then produced a bill of sale made by a Chinese husband and wife who described themselves as "joint makers of this deed for the sale of our daughter." He called upon the Government to provide inspectors and additional police officers with the special duty of seeing that the local laws and regulations on the subject of Mui-Tsai were carried out. Registration was obviously of little use unless efficient steps were taken to make it complete. The reply of the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies was most unsatisfactory. Miss Picton-Turbervill, Member for the Wrekin, pointed out that

THE OPEN DOOR INTERNATIONAL
for the Economic Emancipation of the Woman Worker.Second Conference, Strand Hotel,
Stockholm, August 17th to 21st

Among the subjects for discussion at the Conference will be the text of a Draft *Equal Pay Convention* and the formulating of a detailed policy with regard to *Maternity and Childbirth*.

The Conference will be followed by
A SUMMER SCHOOL AT THE PEOPLE'S HIGH SCHOOL, SIGTUNA, AUGUST 24th—31st.

Men and Women invited to attend as Members or Visitors to the Conference and as Students to the Summer School.

All particulars from the Hon. Secretary, O.D.I.,
3, Idlesleigh House, Caxton Street,
London, S.W.1.

for ten years such debates had taken place in the House and the evil was still rampant.

On the other hand, the new Chinese Government's attitude to the question is more encouraging. A recent order of the Ministry of the Interior forbids the practice of keeping slave girls. These girls must forthwith be returned to their parents unconditionally, or, if orphans, must be allowed to marry when they reach the proper age. It is difficult to believe that girls whose parents have been prepared to sell them will find themselves happily received in their homes when they are returned to them, and a suggestion that the Government should establish a home for emancipated slave girls who have no families ready to take care of them was rejected. But if the new Government really sets its face against the taking of new slave girls it will strike the bad system at its root.

REVIEW.

LEGAL DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN THE SEXES—THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN ENGLISH LAW.

Law relating to Women.—by E. Ling-Mallison, Barrister-at-Law. (The Solicitors Law Stationery Society Ltd. 8/6 net).

Principles of law, whether they be embodied in codes and statutes or in a system of progressive judicial decisions, tend inevitably to become stereotyped and immutable, and that, regardless of great changes in the structure of society and the status of the individuals composing it.

In no case is this truer than in that of the legal position of women in English law; in little more than a generation the position of women has changed from one of almost feudal subjection and inferiority to one of equality and comparative independence. Many revisions have taken place in English law to conform to and carry into effect this change—revisions which to the older generation of lawyers would seem almost revolutionary—but yet the law, notoriously a laggard in keeping pace with progress in affairs outside its own confines, contains survivals and anomalies which still make it possible in 1930 to entitle a work "Law relating to Women" and to explain and comment on the discriminations of the law sometimes against, but more usually in favour of women.

Mr. Ling-Mallison hopes, in the foreword to this work, that it will be "a help to numbers of women in their daily occupations as well as a guide to members of the legal profession." He has written an admirable treatise on an involved and complex subject, a work clearly invaluable to the practising lawyer; how far the layman—using the word "man" in the generic sense as applicable to either sex—would be able to grasp the subtleties of distinction and argument set forth in somewhat technical language in this work may be open to question. There can be no doubt however that the book is worthy of study by layman and lawyer alike.

Space forbids any detailed examination of the argument of the book; the author has divided it into appropriate sections and deals with the law relating to women under the headings of Tort, Crime, Contract, Employment, Property, Bankruptcy and Nationality with a supplemental chapter on practice and procedure.

If it be possible to generalize adequately and safely on a subject so complex it may be permissible to note that the specialized treatment of women in English law falls roughly into two classes. The first class is that of the survivals from the old law, dealing almost exclusively with married women, dating from the period when a wife, both in person and in property, was deemed to "belong" to her husband. The second class, applicable to all women whether married or unmarried, comes

within the commonly used definition of "protective legislation," a modern branch of law peculiar to the highly industrialised state which seeks—rightly or wrongly—to protect the physically weaker sex against exploitation. Much remains to be done in the way of giving women a genuine legal equality with men by the abolition of the anomalous survivals coming within the first class above mentioned. This work sets out in detail the series of great legal enactments and decisions which have marked such progress as there is to record: the Married Women's Property Acts of the last century, culminating in the Act of 1882, which deprived the husband of his automatic right to the whole of his wife's unsettled property on marriage; the famous case of *Regina v. Jackson* in 1891 in which it was held that a husband had no "property" in his wife's person and could not forcibly compel her to live with him against her will: the "Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act" of 1919, which threw open the professions and vocations generally to all regardless of sex: the "Matrimonial Causes Act" of 1923, which placed the sexes on a basis of equality in regard to the right to divorce for matrimonial infidelity.

As to the second class, that of protective legislation, this is a matter which has been the subject of much argument and discussion and it is felt by many that in principle all legislation which discriminates in favour of one sex is unsound.

It rests now with the coming generation so to use the political and social equality which has been won for them as to press for such changes in English law as will make it conform both in principle and in practice more nearly to 20th century views on the relative position of the sexes. K.M.M.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Madam,

On page 99 of your April issue, we find the following note:

"Women are still denied admission to the Bar in New York. A proposal to admit them was carried at a meeting of the Bar Association to-day by 136 votes to 113, but a two-thirds majority is necessary."

May we make a correction. Women have long been admitted to the bar in New York and many are in successful practice. The Association of the Bar of New York is our oldest and most conservative association of lawyers and it is membership in this association, which has of course nothing to do with the right to practice, that was denied.

Naturally this seems to us regrettable since women lawyers are in good and regular standard and since the Association of the Bar has a fine law library in a convenient location, which would be as great use to the women members of the profession as it now is to the men.

May I take this opportunity of telling you with how great interest I read the INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS, each month and how often I find news in it which is useful in our own work here and how inspiring is the sense of solidarity in world wide interests that it gives.

Yours, etc.,

EVELINE W. BRAINERD,
Editor, *Weekly News*.

(We regret that our information, which came from what appeared to be a reliable source, was inaccurate. We entirely agree with our Correspondent that it is regrettable that women are not admitted to membership of the Association of the Bar of New York; the position seems to be similar to that of women stockbrokers in this country, where we had recently the case of a woman stockbroker who had practised her profession successfully for nineteen years, refused admission to the London Stock Exchange.—Ed.)

NOTES AND NEWS.

Miss Henni Forchhammer has been awarded a gold medal for merit by the King of Denmark. She was, as many of our readers will remember, the first woman to speak at the Assembly of the League of Nations, which she attended as a member of the Danish delegation as early as 1921. The medal, which was instituted by Christian VII. in 1792, has only been awarded 125 times. Miss Forchhammer received it in recognition of many years' devoted and disinterested public service.

The tenth session of the Committee on traffic in women and children concluded last week with the adoption of a long report to the League Council.

The report states that the Committee regret to learn that representations to the Egyptian Government urging the importance of acceding to the 1921 Convention and setting up a central authority had no result.

The report states that many Governments omit in their annual reports to mention cases of national trafficking and procuring. The report emphasises the importance of limiting the validity of passports issued to minors with a view to preventing frauds which may facilitate the traffic.

The report also deals with the suppression of obscene publications. A resolution moved by the British delegate expressing the hope that all Governments would co-operate to bring the traffic to an end was adopted.

The report recommends that women police should be more widely employed in the campaign against the traffic in women and children.

The following resolution was passed at a Public Meeting, convened by the National Union of Women Teachers (Great Britain) held on Friday, May 15th, at the Central Hall, Westminster, when the speakers included Mr. Fenner Brockway, M.P., Mrs. F. E. Kay, (Vice-President, N.U.W.T.); Miss Monica Whately, Miss Agnes Dawson, J.P., L.C.C., and Miss S. M. Burls

"This Meeting draws attention to the fact that, although approximately 70% of teachers are women the Standing Joint Committee on Teachers' Salaries consists of 46 men and only 4 women. It asserts that any joint committee dealing with the professional interests of women teachers should contain a fair proportion of women among its members; and emphatically protests against:—

- the exclusion of any representative of the National Union of Women Teachers from the Standing Joint Committee on Teachers' Salaries;
- the unsatisfactory attitude adopted by the board of Education and the Standing Joint Committee, each of which disclaims responsibility for the constitution of the Committee."

By an Order in Council women over 30 years of age who possess the necessary qualifications will be eligible for election to the Legislative Council of St. Vincent and Grenada (West Indies).

Dr. Sophie Bovet, who took her degree at Basle University, has lately been appointed magistrate at Basle. She is the second woman magistrate in Switzerland, the other being Dr. Margaret Schlatter in Hagen, who judges children's cases. An interesting dilemma is thus created as, by law in Switzerland, every magistrate has a right to vote; but as no woman has a vote these two judges have, so far, been prevented from exercising their rights. It remains to be seen whether the precedent of women voting will be allowed and the way paved for women's suffrage.

The Delhi Municipality has decided to grant to women residents, aged 21 and over, the right to vote in muni-

cipal elections. Several Moslem members vainly opposed the proposal on the grounds of the backwardness of Moslem women in *purdah*.

The Executive of the British Commonwealth League has forwarded to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for India the following list of names for consideration as delegates on the British side of the forthcoming Round-Table Conference on India:—Mrs. Corbett-Ashby, Mrs. Pethwick Lawrence, Miss A. Maude Royden, C.H., Lady Irwin. The League has also cabled the Viceroy supporting a list of names submitted by the Women's Indian Association of suitable women to sit on the Indian side.

We regret to have to announce the death of Dr. Harriet Clisby in her 101st year. She was the oldest woman doctor. Dr. Clisby's family migrated to Australia when she was 7 years old, and it was there that she was inspired to study medicine through the influence of a pamphlet received from Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell. At that time the United States was the only country which offered openings to women doctors, and after many years, some of which were spent at Guy's Hospital training as a nurse, she saved enough money to go to New York, where she qualified in 1865. She founded the Education and Industrial Women's Union in America, and in 1880 went to Geneva where she founded the Union des Femmes. In the nineties she came to London, and lived to see the fruition of her work for women both in medicine and in politics.

Jeanne Garola, has been appointed by the French Department of Agriculture as the first woman director of a Government agricultural station—an important one in a great wheat-growing area.

The claim put forward by the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries and Ministry of Labour Staffs Association for increases ranging from 5s. to 8s. a week in the scales of pay of temporary women clerks, typists, and shorthand typists, was further considered yesterday at a meeting held at the Treasury. As an agreed settlement could not be reached on the basis of the claim put forward and the Treasury were unable to make a counter-proposal, it was decided to submit the matter to arbitration.

Unique among governmental jobs is that of Miss Margaret Stoughton, of Asheville, North Carolina. Miss Stoughton is the first woman in the United States to pass a Civil Service examination in forestry. Ranking as junior forester, she has recently been appointed one of the staff of an experimental station in the Appalachians.

Miss Grier, the Principal of Lady Margaret Hall, moved a resolution in Congregation in Oxford on Tuesday of this week, which was passed unanimously, to the effect that women should be allowed to compete on the same conditions as men in various subjects, including, mathematics, Spanish, classics, economics, Sanskrit, and Hebrew. This decree merely regularizes the present position, as women have already won scholarships in some of these subjects.

Appointed as a European investigator by the National Committee on the Cause and Cure of War, Mrs. Randolph Palmer Nason sailed from the United States early in May to spend six months in Europe. The object of the scholarship under which Mrs. Nason was appointed by the twelve organisations composing the Committee is to obtain information on one of the "Causes of friction" in Europe for the 1932 Conference on the Cause and Cure of War. The particular situation selected for

Mrs. Nason is the Polish Corridor. After three or four months in Poland she will attend the conference of the League of Nations in Geneva.

The plan of sending an investigator to Europe was developed by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt with the dual idea of adding to the committee's investigations of war problems and of training younger members of the organizations to take part in its programme.

Mrs. Nason is a graduate of Wellesley College and holds an M.A. degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Miss Margaret Gordon is the first woman to win the diploma of the Incorporated Sales Managers' Association of the United Kingdom. Miss Gordon, who is still in her early twenties, competed with forty-one other candidates—all men—and passed with distinction in the highest grade.

The Six Point Group has prepared a memorandum for submission to the Royal Commission on Unemployment.

The Group recommends that the unemployment schemes should be re-organised on a basis of equality between the sexes. It urges that the benefit received by women and girls should be raised to that received by men and boys respectively, that all contributions should be in proportion to pay, and that the benefit for dependents should be granted without distinction of sex.

The appointment of more women police and the appointment of women advisers at Employment Exchanges is suggested, and the training of women in trades and professions in which there is a shortage of women is recommended.

Baby Week is a British event now thoroughly established. In 1917 the first National Baby Week in England was celebrated—a week during which intensive propaganda on maternity and child welfare matters is conducted from the central headquarters, the offices of the National Baby Week Council, 117, Piccadilly, London, W.1. Local Baby Weeks are held up and down the country, in some cases coinciding with National Baby Week—the first week in July—in other cases taking place during a week more suitable to the interests of the area concerned. More than that, the Baby Week movement has spread to other countries. The National Baby Week Council conducts the Imperial Baby Week Challenge Shield Competition, under which a handsome silver and enamel Challenge Shield, donated by the "News of the World" to the Council, is awarded for the best Baby Week held throughout the British Empire, but excluding the United Kingdom. This Shield is now in the hands of the Panadura (Ceylon) Baby Week Committee. Previous holders have been Bellary, Madras, India; Benoni, Transvaal, South Africa; Kulatara, Ceylon.

This year, in the British Isles, attention is to be specially concentrated on:—

- (a) The physical, mental and spiritual care of the child from one to five years of age.
- (b) National Maternity Service Scheme.

Miss Dorothy Straus, a young woman lawyer of New York City who represented the League of Women Voters on the Committee on the Nationality of Married Women at the Berlin Congress of the International Alliance, has been appointed vice-chairman of the Committee for the Civil Status of Women. Judge Florence Allen is the chairman.

In the recent County Council elections women were well represented among the candidates.

As for results at the L.C.C. elections, 13 women stood for Municipal Reform of whom the very good proportion of 9 were elected; 8 stood for the Liberal interests,

of whom 2 were elected: while Labour, evidently possessed of great expectations which were not to be realised, had 29 women candidates, of whom only 7 were elected.

Of the other counties of England and Wales, six only—Isle of Ely, Isle of Wight, Leicestershire, Westmorland, Montgomery and Pembrokeshire—have elected no women to their Councils.

Middlesex County Council, with 11 women members heads the list. Sussex, East and West, can together muster 11; and Suffolk, East and West, and Yorkshire, East, West and North Riding, have both 10 women County Councillors.

Miss Mary Anderson, director of the women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labour and Miss Elizabeth Christman, Executive secretary of the National Women's Trade Union League will be present as unofficial observers in Geneva at the time of the May meeting of the International Labour Office at which possible revision of the night work convention will be discussed.

A communication from eight national women's organizations in the United States in support of the principle of special legislation for women was sent to the director preceding the opening of the meeting. The statement set forth the importance of special labour legislation to women of the United States where, it is asserted, the conditions of women workers, as well as all labour and social conditions, are undoubtedly improved by the protection it affords.

The Treasury on the recommendation of the Home Office has made an exception to the normal rule that requires women to resign their appointment in the Civil Service upon marriage. This exception has been made in favour of Dr. Sybil Overton, Medical Inspector in the Factory Department of the Home Office.

Mme. Alexandra Kollontay, who formerly represented the Soviet Government in Norway, has been appointed Plenipotentiary for her country in Sweden.

A deputation of M.P.'s waited on the Home Secretary yesterday with representations for improving the conditions of women police. Mr. Clynes, who said that steps are being taken to give effect to the promised increase of Metropolitan women police, said a considered reply would be sent on other points raised.

Nearly half a million British people have now signed the International Declaration in support of World Disarmament which is to be presented to the World Disarmament Conference next February. This Declaration, promoted by the Women's International League, is being signed in over thirty countries and the grand total of signatures is expected to reach several millions.

Over 50 organisations are now officially helping to collect signatures in Great Britain and over 170,000 Declaration forms are already in circulation, which, if all were returned filled, would mean a total of 3½ million signatures.

Declaration forms and leaflets are gladly sent free of charge on application being made to the Secretary, Women's International League, 55, Gower Street, W.C.1.

Married women are barred from teaching in the public schools of more than 50 per cent of representative American cities, it was announced orally on behalf of the Federal Office of Education April 24th.

A resolution "That this annual meeting of the Glasgow Society for Equal Citizenship and Glasgow Women's Citizens' Association, believing that the religious and moral tone of the community would be fundamentally

NEWS OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



Published by the World's Young Women's Christian Association
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President: JONKVROUWE C. M. VAN ASCH VAN WYCK. General secretary - MISS CHARLOTTE T. NIVEN.
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MRS. LUXMOORE. FRAULIN HULDA ZARNACK.
Treasurer - MADEMOISELLE CATHERINE PICOT.

GENEVA AND ITS CO-OPERATIVE POSSIBILITIES.

UNA M. SAUNDERS, Vice-President World's Y.W.C.A.

The day of isolation of any body of women workers is past. Especially is that true of any international society, for the very word "international" presupposes a welding together of groups between whom common interests make a possible bridge, but who possess also characteristics and tendencies which have for centuries been held to be sufficient cause for some national isolation, and perhaps for suspicions and animosities which are the antithesis of co-operation.

Sitting in Geneva, the city that is now an emblem of the refusal of isolation, the writer of this article is striving to give a glimpse of the opportunities of co-operation which are opening before one of the international organisations. Co-operation of many kinds has been carried on in our local and national Young Women's Christian Associations ever since they were created, for how could a body of women aiming at education, at character training, fail to find itself working with other educational bodies, with social science training departments, or with religious groups—whether inside or outside the actual Churches—to attain these objects? Nor can active Associations fail to make contact with societies aiming at meeting the physical needs of young women, the housing bodies—those responsible for finding employment—the social hygiene workers of some parts of the world—the enthusiasts for physical culture. For many years and in many countries our National Associations have had definite links with others interested in all women's questions through their affiliation with the National Councils of Women. In some countries our Association has entered into vigorous fellowship with other bodies which have made "the cure of war," or industrial betterment the goal of activity. Certain other countries are always concerned with migrants, whether coming in or going out, and their Association Committees are in continuous communication with societies which work for the welfare of such migrants. Nowhere can our type of work fail to have a network of relationships of varied kinds, while still maintaining its own distinctive character.

An international society such as our World's Y.W.C.A. therefore inherits, through its various members, an immense wealth of interests and it often finds it difficult to choose where, with limited resources of time and personnel and money, it can best do its co-operative work. Nor can it take for granted that its various national branches are at all on a level in the values they

would attach to the various projects that call for international links and co-working.

It seems as if for the moment there are three special classes of co-operative work which are claimant on our World's Council of Y.W.C.A., with Geneva as its centre; co-operation with other women's international organisations, wherever their headquarters may be; co-operation with the group of men's and women's societies of a definitely Christian character which have also chosen Geneva as their headquarters; and such friendly aid as a voluntary society with world-wide connections can give at times on special points to the two great bodies, the League of Nations Secretariat and the International Labour Office, which on the other hand are continually setting the wealth of their researches at the disposal of such bodies as ours when anything concerning our field of work is at stake in any part of the world.

Our relationship to the International Labour Office was most interestingly illustrated a few weeks ago at a small Round Table Conference held in our World's Y.W.C.A., Council offices at 2, rue Daniel Colladon. It was organised by Miss Mary Dingman, Secretary for Social and Industrial questions for our organisation; with her that evening sat the following members of the staff of the International Labour Office, each a specialist on the particular subject dealt with—Mr. Tait (Unemployment); Mr. Weaver (Native Labour); Madame Thibert (Women's Questions); M. Thélin (Relations with the Churches). A small but interested group of varied nationality gathered round to hear of the industrial work carried on in many lands by the Y.W.C.A., and then to listen to discussion by the guests from the International Labour Office as to ways in which we might each be of greater value to the other.

It became clear that the International Labour Office needed all possible channels for the wide dissemination of the results of the studies such as voluntary activities like ours provide and that we had available great resources of immense value for the education and inspiration of our membership.

On quite another question, that of the suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children we have co-operated with Madame Avril de Sainte Croix, our representative on the League of Nations Advisory Committee, by sending a résumé of her report each year to our National Associations and asking for information for her. When the enquiry into this Traffic was extended

into the Far East this past autumn, in response to the letters sent from the World's Y.W.C.A. Headquarters, the Y.W.C.A., together with other groups of women in at least two important cities, was able to render real service to the one woman member of the Enquiry. These are illustrations of the links binding the women of the world together for common unified action.

Let us turn next to the co-operation with other movements which have a clear Christian basis like our own, and for which Geneva gives a new opportunity for understanding. To see this in action a visit must be paid to newly acquired premises called the "International Christian Study Centre," at 2 rue de Montchoisy. A library, two communicating rooms together making a small hall, and a secretary's office complete at present the actual "joint centre." In the same building are the offices of three of the six organisations which share responsibility for it—the World's Y.M.C.A., the Research Institute of the International Council of Missions, and the Universal Christian Council for Life and Work. The other three organisations—the World's Student Christian Federation, the World's Y.M.C.A. Training College and the World's Y.W.C.A. have each very delightful headquarters in old Genevese houses, some little distance away.

A few details will show what this can mean for the sharing of experience and help, whether it is given by past or present leaders of one or other of the six organisations, or by speakers from outside their ranks. Last autumn an opportunity suddenly came of meeting Mr. K. T. Paul, one of the Indian Christian delegates, on his way to attend the Round Table Conference in London. His death soon after his return to India makes still more memorable than it would be otherwise, that evening, when representatives of all our organisations and other men and women interested in Indian politics, asked him question after question on the type of constitution which would be likely to be acceptable to the Indian delegates, and on the communal and other difficulties to be surmounted. Quite recently the same subject, viewed from another side, brought us together to listen to a series of addresses by Dr. S. K. Datta, recently back from a tour of India as part of a Commission studying the future of Christian Colleges there. Chinese national problems and their reaction on Christian missions have also been unfolded in a series of lectures by Dr. Hsu, Professor of Yenching University, Peiping, with a wide experience of Chinese educational questions. The most distinguished outside speaker at the combined meetings so far held has been Lord Cecil. On his invitation the representatives of the co-operating organisations were called together very suddenly so that he might lay before them the problem of the future Disarmament Conference, its dependence on the awakened public opinion in all countries, and the responsibility of such bodies as ours for taking a full share in the enlightenment of our membership, through conferences and all our other means of education. Following such a meeting it seemed clear that, quite apart from such propaganda, it was essential to form a study group to enable some of the leaders of our various organisations to grasp some of the intricacies of the disarmament problems. Already several meetings have been held, the group consisting of men and women of a variety of nations and led in each case by someone thoroughly competent, because of his relationship to the League, to give information and answer questions.

Two other subjects are attracting such study groups at this moment; one very vital subject is that of unemployment, and its relation to the complicated international economic situation; the other is the cleft between the religious position expressed in the humanistic and the more transcendental forms of Christian thought. The lack of understanding and sympathy between those

representing these different schools of thought in our Christian international bodies is often a detriment to our unity of purpose and work, and frequently springs from lack of personal and spiritual contact between persons brought up in completely different religious traditions.

A vital moment of collaboration in this new Centre is the monthly devotional meeting held from 8-15 to 8-45 a.m. before the office work of the day begins. Its language varies, but there is a power of spiritual affinity which transcends the barriers of language, and in devotion to the One Lord and Master lasting roots of unity are being laid.

We have left to the end the type of collaboration probably best known to the readers of this article—that which has taken shape in the last few years with the large international organisations of women. It may be worth while to remind ourselves that the definite urge towards such co-operation arose from the need that the women's organisations should be ready when opportunity arose to send suggestions as to especially qualified women, from any country, as candidates for commissions, committees and other posts under the League of Nations. Thus came into existence the "Joint Standing Committee" of Women's International Organisations, which has met as a rule in London, but also occasionally in Geneva itself. Growing co-operation in this matter has brought an increasing sense that there are other projects in which, from time to time, most of these societies may want to co-operate, and there has just come into existence a Liaison Committee between some of those same bodies which should, as time goes on, enable them to take united and prompt action on some point which concerns them all, or to form *ad hoc* committees of those members specially concerned with some important question of the day, such as Disarmament, or the Nationality of Married Women.

To some of the societies specially formed to further the cause of women's freedom, a body such as ours may seem too slow in declaring itself on some particular issue. Perhaps this slowness will become more comprehensible to those who have sympathetically followed this article and realise how varied must be our co-operation, having on one side the Church bodies and the varied Christian youth movements, and on the other side the group forming the Liaison Committee. We are also a body primarily concerned with large executive work in many lands, and it is a later growth for our National Committees in some countries to be willing to declare themselves on public questions. Rightly or wrongly, they have not felt it to be a part of their Christianity to do so. In other countries, however, the National Associations have from time to time taken a stand on a variety of questions. All leaders of international societies know how great a problem arises as to the extent to which the international officers and executive can speak for national committees which vary so fundamentally in their attitude on some problems of the day. Moreover, in some countries ours is largely a membership of girls, many of whom would indeed be amazed could they hear themselves quoted as favouring some special solution of a problem which so far has scarcely entered into their experience at all. It should be said, on the other hand, that when these problems are laid before them their capacity for grasping them and their interest in them is remarkable. Our scope is, as a rule, that of a body for stimulating thought in its membership, while those of our senior members who have already arrived at a decisive position will voice their decision and wishes through those other societies which exist for the very purpose of taking common action on matters of public concern.

WOMEN IN DIPLOMACY.

(We are glad to publish the following extracts from the speech which Lady Muir, whom our readers will remember as the brilliant Nadedja Stancioff, First Secretary to the Bulgarian Legation in Washington, delivered in connection with the Foxcombe Hall Appeal for funds for the establishment of an International Club.—Ed.)

Since the term "diplomacy" first came to be applied in the days of Richelieu to the art of conducting international relations, many definitions of the word have been given by master minds.

I have the greatest respect personally for the art of Diplomacy, which, though in a sense is as old as history, yet—as a uniform system, based upon generally recognised rules and having a fixed international status,—is of quite modern growth in Europe. Diplomacy has inspired great talents and given great opportunities to many remarkable personalities.

It might be more interesting to review the lives of some European diplomatists than to discuss the *obscure* role of women in this realm. But, as "the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light," may I be allowed, as regards diplomacy, to place the women under the first category, endeavour to examine their possibilities, past and present, and to come to an eventual conclusion.

Before starting, I wish to say that we hear a great deal since the War about the tremendous changes that the art of Diplomacy has undergone. These changes are entirely on the surface; the principle remains the same except for one important new factor: the increasing responsibility of Diplomacy to public opinion. This, in itself an improvement, gives Diplomacy a wider and more interesting scope. But as for boasting that the days of "secret" diplomacy are over—what could be more obscure than the "open" diplomacy practised at the endless conferences which have followed the Treaty of Versailles? What could be more tortuous than the "Combinazione" of the Little Entente? And when Monsieur Briand addresses the world from the pulpit of Geneva, he shows himself a master of the diplomatic art of Metternich in veiling his purpose under a cloud of magniloquence and falling back on the force of personal fascination! A few differences perhaps nowadays in the methods, but no fundamental changes; in the halls of the great international hotels, Statesmen and diplomatists serenely go on lying to one another, till, as Bismarck once said, "The best way to deceive is to tell the Truth."

With regard to the part played by women in Diplomacy before the War, there are few instances of its having been very direct; but it would be impossible to deny the great importance of the unofficial influence of women over diplomatic relations in Europe, especially during the 19th century.

You might find it irreverent if I evoked the perturbing visions of Helen of Troy, Dido, and Cleopatra, though if they had never existed, history might have followed a very different course!

Before returning to the 19th century may I mention that Queen Elizabeth was the greatest diplomatist of her time, that Mary Queen of Scots would have found it quite easy to out-wit even Mr. Lloyd George, and that many of the diplomatic successes of the reign of Louis the XIV. were due to the "grandes dames de la Cour de Versailles."

There is, however, only one instance of the employment of a woman as regularly accredited diplomatic agent: I refer to the appointment of Catherine of Aragon, when Princess of Wales, as representative of her father, Ferdinand the Catholic, at the Court of Henry VIIIth.

Some of the outstanding women of the early 19th century were Madame de Stael, the Baroness Von Krudener, Princess Lieven, Princess Paul Metternich, to name only a few. Madame de Stael, 1766 to 1817, lived through one of the most interesting periods of French history, and is known as a clever novelist and a famous wit; the daughter of the great financier Necker and of Suzanne Curchod—the early love of Gibbon—had unusual intellectual gifts, but unfortunately no beauty. Married to a Swedish diplomatist, she reaped all the advantages derived from her title of Ambassador, but her husband was of

improved were the artificial inferior status of women in the Church removed, called upon those in authority in the Church of Scotland and in the Episcopal Church in Scotland to make the full ministry of religion open to women," was received unsympathetically at the meeting of the Glasgow Presbytery: Immediately the clerk of the Presbytery had read aloud the letter there was unanimous approval of the suggestion that it be 'allowed to lie on the table.' The matter will not be allowed to rest at that.

Miss Ruth Nichols who hopes to fly the Atlantic this month has beaten Colonel Lindbergh's trans-Continental speed record across the United States; two months ago she created a new world altitude record for women by climbing 28,743 feet above New York City; and she equalled Captain Hawk's record flight from New York to Washington in one hour five minutes.

Mrs. Alexander M. Hadden has been appointed as representative for the United States to the Police Committee of the Alliance in place of Mrs. Simkhovitch, who has resigned.

The Guild of Insurance Officers (Great Britain) at its annual conference this month passed the following resolution, only two members voting against it.

"That this conference notes with regret the increasing tendency to relegate women in business to purely routine work and to positions of minor importance, and urges employers to give similar rates of pay and equality of opportunity to all employees competing for any responsible administrative posts available. Insurance offices should offer their women employees the same inducements to take professional examinations as are afforded to their men colleagues, both as regards remuneration and opportunities of promotion."

Fuad Hanem has become the first woman surgeon in Turkey. She satisfied a jury of eminent specialists, acquitting herself brilliantly.

Miss Gudrun Trogstadt has passed the examinations necessary to qualify her to hold the rank of captain in the Norwegian Mercantile Marine. She has purchased a ship and will run a regular service on the Norwegian lakes.

ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN IN PORTUGAL.

We learn at the moment of going to press, too late to give the news the prominence it deserves, that by a decree of the Portuguese Government a limited form of franchise has been extended to women in Portugal. The legislative and municipal franchise is granted subject to an educational qualification; the administrative and parochial franchise is limited to women who are heads of families.

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little importance or interest to her. In the early days of the Revolutionary period she led a sensational political life in Paris, taking a part in the Councils and efforts of the Moderates. She had soon to take refuge at Coppet, her father's estate on the Lake of Geneva, and made the place famous by gathering around her a considerable number of fellow refugees. In 1794 Monsieur de Stael was accredited to the French Republic by the Regent of Sweden; his wife re-opened her salon, and a period of considerable political importance was started by her. Under the influence of Benjamin Constant, and led by political and personal reasons, she opposed the regime of Bonaparte. A real duel with Napoleon thereafter filled her life and we can imagine all the resources of diplomacy being used by the two adversaries! We are not really concerned with the rest of her life; she travelled extensively in Italy, Germany, Russia, Finland and Sweden. Her duel with Napoleon never had a definite end; but after Waterloo she returned to Paris and during the winter of 1816-1817 her salon was the diplomatic rendezvous of Parisian Society. The best result of her diplomatic friendships, missions, activities, is the book which she has left to posterity, "De l'Allemagne," "the best and most remarkable account," to quote a British author, "of one country, by a native and inhabitant of another," which exists in literature.

No woman could have been more dissimilar in all ways to Madame de Stael than the Baroness Von Krudener, her contemporary (1764-1824). "Russian, religious, mystic and author," to quote the dictionary, but in truth the Egeria and inspirer of a Czar, and, as regards diplomacy, the real founder of the idea of the Holy Alliance. You will recall that Alexander I of Russia was the contemporary of Napoleon. The strange contradictions of the character of this Imperial dreamer make Alexander one of the most interesting, as he is one of the most important, figures of the 19th century. He was also a typical Russian, autocrat and a lover of the humble, man of the world and mystic, called by Napoleon a "shifty Byzantine," by Metternich "an amiable madman," by the Russians "a great Tzar." When he mounted the throne after the murder of his father in 1801, he was discovered to be suffering from a mystic melancholy liable at any moment to provoke extravagant action. This curious monarch became pulp in the hands of the Russian ex-Ambassadress, the widowed Baroness Von Krudener, the mystic preacher, a friend of Madame de Stael, well known to the Coppet circle and who has lived in Germany since 1813.

The Empress of Russia thought that the Czar might find peace at the hands of the Visionary Lady. They only met once in the spring of 1815, but the interview was fateful. We are told that for three hours the prophetess preached strange gospels while the most powerful man in Europe sat sobbing like a child, until at last he declared that he had "found peace." The result was that, at the Czar's request, the Baroness followed him to Paris, and started her mystic and diplomatic activities in a house next door to the imperial headquarters, with a private door connecting the two dwellings. The Baroness became a political force to be reckoned with, and she soon grouped around her Chateaubriand, Benjamin Constant, Madame Recamier; in this religious hot-bed the idea of the Holy Alliance germinated and bloomed! On the 26th of September, 1815, the famous proclamation, which was to herald the opening of peace and goodwill on earth, was signed by the Sovereigns of Russia, Austria and Prussia. What interests us to-day is that the draft had been dictated by a woman, and that actually it was not a draft at all, but a declaration of Christian principles originally based on a Committee of the Great Powers. But it gained its political importance from the persistent efforts of the Czar to replace this Committee by a "Universal Union" of all the powers, great and small, and thus to establish a "Confederation of Europe." The Czar's ideals are embodied in Art. VI of the Quadruple Treaty, Paris, 20. XI, 1815.

Draft of the Holy Alliance.

Art. VI of the Quadruple Treaty signed at Paris 20. XI. 1815 runs: "In order to consolidate the intimate ties which unite the four Sovereigns for the happiness of the world, the High Contracting Powers have agreed to renew at fixed intervals, either under their own auspices or by their respective ministers, meetings consecrated to great common objects, and to the examination of such treasures as at each one of these epochs shall be judged most salutary for the peace and prosperity of the nations and the maintenance of the tranquillity of Europe." (Replace four Sovereigns by Wilson, Clemenceau, Lloyd George, Orlando, and meetings by Council of the League!)

Great Britain, represented by Castlereagh, protested against this conception of the autocratic idealist, and Castlereagh actually called the Holy Alliance "a piece of sublime mysticism and nonsense."

France was admitted to the Holy Alliance in 1818, just as Germany was admitted to the League of Nations a few years after its birth. In 1818, at the time of the admission of France, a secret treaty renewed the Treaty of Chaumont between the four other Powers against any fresh outburst of the French revolutionary spirit; at the time of the admission of Germany to the League of Nations, certain small powers were covering Europe with a network of military conventions really directed against Germany!

I apologise for having somewhat deserted Madame de Krudener, but I really could not resist drawing your benevolent attention to the above facts! Meanwhile, other women diplomatists had been working for Metternich, including Princess Lieven (née Benkendorff), against the Holy Alliance in Vienna, and on the 19th of November, 1818, the disillusioned Czar signed the Troppau Protocol, which consecrated the principle of intervention and wrecked the harmony of the Alliance. Let us beware of possible Troppau Protocols in 1931 and 1932.

Madame de Krudener's influence was weakened, but not destroyed, and her name will for ever be associated with the idealistic inspirations of the Holy Alliance. She died in 1824; George Canning's principle of "every nation for itself and God for all" prevailed over the dreams of a noble mystic; but the conception of "Europe" as a political entity none the less survived.

We have, unfortunately, no time to survey the careers of the Princess de Lieven, of the Princess Paul Metternich and so many others, used by the Statesmen of the 19th century as diplomatic weapons easy of disguise and potent for service.

In the latter part of the 19th century we could name the following as some of the greatest unofficial women diplomatists: Princess Clementine of Orleans, daughter of Louis Philippe, King of the French, and mother of the ex-King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, an exceptionally gifted Princess with the brain of a Statesman, who steered her son's boat in the troubled waters of European politics from 1889 to the year of her death in Vienna in 1906; the students of Bulgarian history will be able to prove that Bulgaria scarcely committed one diplomatic mistake during that period; on the contrary, she scored success after success without having to resort to warfare and managing to avoid internal complications. After the death of Princess Clementine, her son committed many an error of judgment with regrettable consequences for his country.

One can find almost an exact historical parallel in Spain, and I have no hesitation in calling Queen Marie-Christiana (a Habsburg), Mother of King Alfonso, and Regent of Spain till the coming of age of her son, one of the greatest diplomatists of the last century. After the death of this trusted counsellor, King Alfonso, just like King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, was unable to avoid some of the pitfalls of European diplomacy. A European Prime Minister went as far as to say last week that the last upheavals would never have occurred in Spain if Queen Marie-Christiana had still been alive.

But, after this rapid survey of past years, I must endeavour to remain diplomatic myself by refraining from studying some of the very interesting unofficial Women Diplomatists of our times! There might even be some amongst this audience! Therefore, let us instead remain objective and remember that so far the Diplomatic Career is closed to women in most countries.

France has partially thrown open her Diplomatic Service to women by a special decree limiting the appointments of French women who have passed the F.O. examination to service at Home. The first official woman diplomatist was Miss Henrietta Hoegh, appointed in 1914, by the Norwegian Government, as first Secretary to the Norwegian Legation in Mexico. Later, it was to Norway that Madame Kollontay was sent by the Soviets as Ambassador. Several American young women now belong to the Staff of the F.O. at Washington, and there are a few Hungarian ladies who have been appointed Attachés to their Legations abroad; but, as you see, these are mostly exceptions.

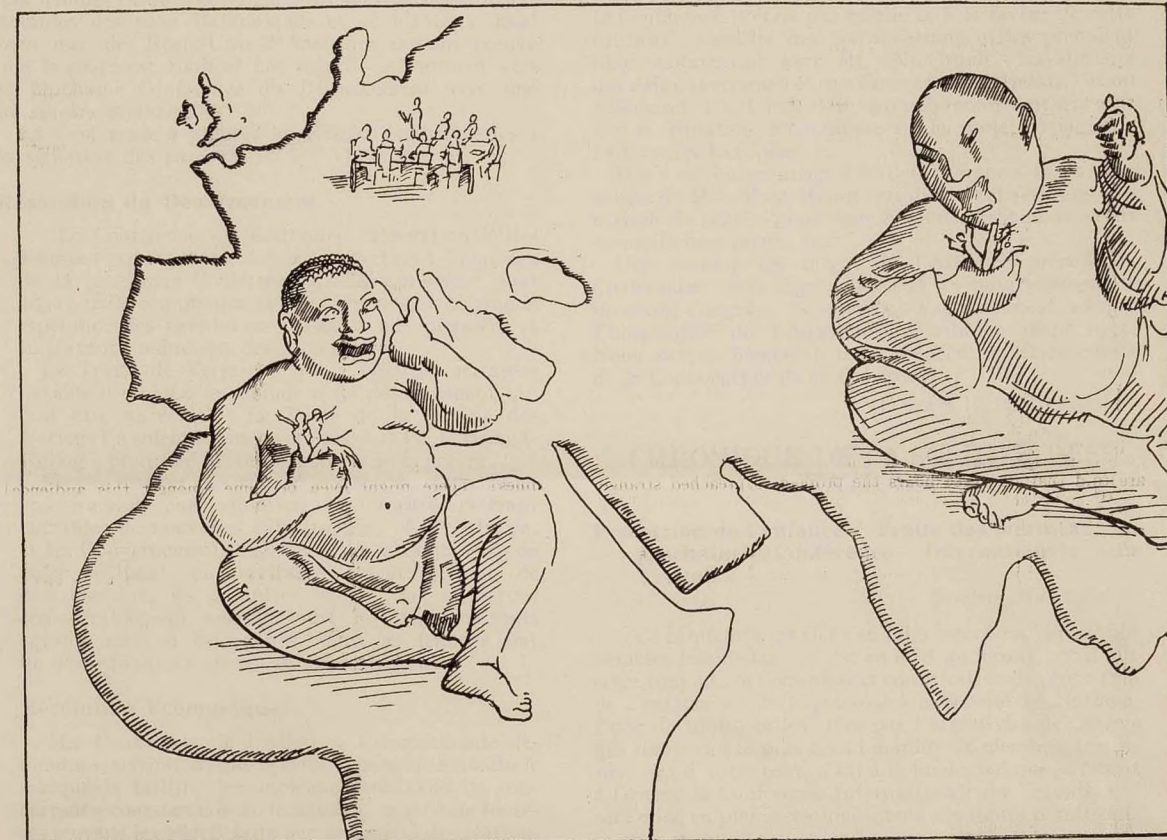
There are no serious reasons against women entering the diplomatic career. In fact, women might introduce the "human touch"; just as well as men they would, moreover, be able to study their surroundings and the country to which they would be accredited, in order to derive benefits from them for their own country. Women might be used with profit in the spheres of education, or for questions concerning foreign women and children or the Red Cross abroad, and so forth. The duties of a diplomatist are manifold; as all the other professions are open to women, the woman diplomatist would necessarily have to possess the same equipment as a man, and without any difficulty would then be able to cope with questions concerning law, etc. They might also, after serving in the hospitals during the last wars, be more inclined to work for the prevention of any fresh conflicts and the preservation of peace.

It is remarkable that Great Britain, which has given so many seats of honour to women, should still debar them from her Diplomatic Corps. With the one exception of the late Miss Gertrude Bell, the well-known explorer and traveller who acted as secretary at the Baghdad Legation, no British woman has ever been allowed to perturb the rarefied atmosphere of the British Foreign Office. . . .

I am very confident that women possessing the necessary technique could use their natural gift of intuition with real benefit to their country, were they admitted to the Diplomatic Corps. . . . Lord Newton describes the perfect diplomatist as follows in his pen portrait of the late Lord Lyons: "Profound mastery of detail, sound judgment, inexhaustible patience, an almost inhuman impartiality and an obviously single-minded desire to do his best for his country." The same could have been written about Lord Curzon; but I believe that it might still be written about some gifted British woman. . . .

NADEJDA MUIR.

JUS CARTOONS: No. XV.



Slavery in Asia to Slavery in Africa: They go on making speeches against us in Europe, but we still manage to find our prey!

SECTION FRANCAISE.

LA CONFERENCE FEMINISTE POUR LA
PAIX A BELGRADE.

La Commission pour la paix de l'Alliance vient de réunir une Conférence à Belgrade du 17 au 19 mai inclus.

Au cœur de ce nouveau royaume de Yougo-Slavie, au point même où s'enflammèrent les querelles qui conduisirent à la Guerre mondiale, des femmes de tous les pays viennent se jurer un appui fraternel dans la propagande pour la paix—La bienvenue offerte aux femmes turques et bulgares ainsi qu'aux féministes notables des pays Balkaniques et occidentaux aussi bien que des Etats-Unis d'Amérique est une preuve que le passé est aboli et nos regards se tournent vers la prochaine Conférence du Désarmement avec une foi sincère et unanime.

La Conférence a proposé les Résolutions suivantes à la signature des pays affiliés à l'Alliance:

Résolution du Désarmement.

"La Conférence de l'Alliance Internationale des Femmes exprime sa profonde satisfaction à l'annonce de la prochaine Conférence du Désarmement pour 1932. Elle compte que celle-ci répondra à la grande espérance des peuples en réalisant une première et importante réduction des armements.

Le Traité de Versailles qui a désarmé certaines nations n'est que le prélude d'un désarmement qui doit être universel. Le Pacte de la Société des Nations l'a solennellement promis et le Pacte Briand-Kellog a prononcé la condamnation de la guerre.

Ne pas réaliser une large réduction des armements constituerait une violation des traités pouvant entraîner de nouvelles catastrophes. Au contraire, si les Gouvernements représentés à la Conférence de 1932 réalisent un véritable commencement de désarmement, les garanties de la Paix en seront considérablement accrues. Et les gouvernements agiront ainsi si les peuples, dont les femmes sont un des principaux éléments, les y obligent."

Résolution Economique.

"La Conférence de l'Alliance Internationale des Femmes, constatant que la crise économique mondiale marque la faillite des anciennes méthodes de concurrence commerciale et financière, appuie de toutes ses moyens les efforts faits par la Société des Nations pour réaliser un système de coopération internationale. Elle demande que les décisions des Conférences économiques soient appliquées et s'adresse tout particulièrement à ses Sociétés européennes, leur demandant d'intensifier leur activité, car il est certain qu'une Europe qui n'est pas économiquement organisée compromet la paix mondiale."

Notre effort vient s'ajouter à celui tout récent de "la Ligue pour la Paix et la liberté" et manifeste l'union de toutes les femmes en faveur du désarmement.

Nous ne saurions trop insister sur la magnifique réception qui nous avait été préparée à Belgrade par la Municipalité, l'Université auxquels se joignirent des grands dignitaires de l'Eglise orthodoxe, de la Cour et du Corps diplomatique.

La Reine nous invita à prendre le thé au Palais et nous questionna tout particulièrement. Le Président du Conseil écouta avec sympathie nos revendications suffragistes. Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères nous offrit un déjeuner et le Conseil National des

Femmes organisa pour nous une réception charmante; les sociétés artistiques, musicales, les Ecoles de travaux féminins s'ingénierent à nous distraire, et à nous montrer de quoi les femmes yougo-slaves sont capables.

Mlle. Atanatskovitch notre collègue et Mme. Albala représentant la Fédération internationale des Femmes Universitaires nous reçurent dans l'intimité de leur home. Le Club yougo-slave anglo-américain nous souhaita aussi la bienvenue par un thé d'honneur, dans leur historique Maison. En retour notre Comité offrit un lunch que les hautes personnalités sus-nommées honorèrent de leur présence.

Au milieu de ces brillantes réceptions, le travail de la Conférence n'était pas oublié et à la faveur de cette intimité naissante des conversations utiles prenaient place notamment avec Mr. Ninchitch, Ex-Ministre des Affaires étrangères, un Français, Mr. Delaisi, et un Allemand, Dr. Ulich Beil, qui nous donnèrent leur avis sur la situation économique et le projet Briand de Fédération Européenne.

Il n'y eut qu'un nuage à cette Conférence: la maladie subite de Miss Rosa Manus qui dut se retirer dans une maison de santé—mais dont heureusement nous avons de meilleures nouvelles.

Une réunion du Board de l'Alliance précéda la Conférence. Son objet principal est naturellement le prochain Congrès. Nous avons nominalement accepté l'hospitalité de l'Auxiliaire d'Athènes pour 1932. Nous aurons bientôt à nous préoccuper sérieusement de la Convocation de ce Congrès.

D'après RUTH MORGAN.

CHRONIQUE DE LA SOCIETE DES
NATIONS.**Protection de l'enfance. Traite des femmes. La
prochaine Conférence Internationale du
Travail.**

Genève, Mai 1931.

Ce printemps est riche en faits intéressants pour nos Sociétés féministes. C'est en effet au mois d'avril que siège toujours la Commission consultative de protection de l'enfance et de la jeunesse à la Société des Nations, l'une de toutes celles créées par l'organisme de Genève qui comprend le plus grand nombre de membres féminins. Et d'autre part, c'est à la fin de mai que se réunit à Genève la Conférence Internationale du Travail, qui sera donc en pleine session, quand ces lignes paraîtront, et qui a inscrit à son ordre du jour, comme le savent mes lectrices, deux questions de grand intérêt pour nous.

Douze gouvernements sont officiellement représentés à la Commission de la S.d.N. pour la protection de l'enfance et de la jeunesse, et six l'ont été cette année, soit uniquement, soit partiellement, par des femmes. Citons en particulier l'Allemagne, qui avait envoyé cette fois à Genève trois femmes membres du Parlement (Dr. G. Bäumer, Dr. Elsa Matz, et Mme. Zillken); le Danemark (Dr. Hein), l'Uruguay, représenté par Dr. Luisi, présidente de notre Commission pour l'Unité de la Morale, et la Roumanie; alors que la France et la Pologne avaient, toutes deux, adjoint des femmes à leur délégation masculine, la première Mlle. Chaptal, la présidente bien connue du Conseil International des Infirmières, et la seconde Mlle. Grabinska, la jeune femme juge du Tribunal d'enfants de Varsovie. En outre, chacun des deux Comités entre lesquels se divisent les travaux de cette Commission comprend un nombre important de femmes membres assesseurs: quatre au Comité contre la traite, dont Mme. Avril de Ste. Croix, qui y représente plusieurs grandes organisa-

tions féminines, et entre autres l'Alliance; et cinq au Comité de protection de l'enfance, dont la signataire de ces lignes, nommée pour représenter les huit organisations internationales de femmes membres du "Joint Standing Committee." En outre, et à côté de M. Eckstrand, le nouveau Directeur de la Section sociale, dont la courtoisie, la largeur de vues et la compréhension des problèmes qui nous préoccupent, ont immédiatement gagné toutes les sympathies, et avec qui nos Associations féminines trouveront le plus grand intérêt à collaborer, le Secréariat de la S.d.N. était représenté par des femmes spécialistes des sujets traités: pour la protection de l'enfance, par Mlle. Colin, dont les compétences de premier ordre sont depuis longtemps connues et appréciées à l'Alliance, et pour la traite des femmes par Mlle. de Romer, qui porte à tous ces problèmes douloureux, complexes, une intelligence vive et claire, et une compréhension élevée. Mlle. Radziwill, qui vient de quitter la Section d'Information pour la Section sociale, a également assisté aux séances de ces Comités, qui, présidés avec distinction et cordialité par le féministe convaincu qu'est le Dr. Chodzko (Pologne), peuvent donner une idée très-juste de la collaboration féminine et masculine au sein de la S.d.N.

Il faudrait plus de place que celle dont nous disposons dans un seul numéro de "Jus," pour rendre compte du travail accompli durant cette double session. Travail qui consiste plus à mon avis, dans les échanges d'idées, les suggestions formulées, les inspirations reçues, la riche moisson de documents et de renseignements fournis, que dans des résultats positifs et pratiques: il est difficile en effet d'obtenir ceux-ci d'un Comité international officiel, dont la moitié des membres représentent des gouvernements qui ne peuvent modifier leur législation ni procéder à des expériences sociales aussi promptement que le voudraient les membres officieux; ceux-ci ont d'autre part le privilège de pouvoir parler au nom d'une opinion publique éclairée et désintéressée. Au Comité de Protection de l'enfance, le sujet central de cette année a été la protection de l'enfance en danger moral et social, sujet amené soit par les très-belles enquêtes faites par Mlle. Chaptal pour le compte du Comité aux Etats-Unis, au Canada, au Danemark, en Allemagne, en Italie, etc. soit par la grosse question des services auxiliaires des tribunaux d'enfants, traitée magistralement par Mlle. Grabinska (Pologne), et Mme. Vajkaj (Union Internationale de Secours aux Enfants.) A cette occasion la représentante des grandes organisations féminines avait réuni toute une documentation sur la collaboration des femmes à ces services, et en particulier sur le rôle de la police féminine, qui a été communiquée au Comité. Une autre documentation, également fournie par des Sociétés féminines sur l'assistance aux mineurs étrangers dans quelques pays (Allemagne, Autriche, etc.) lui a également été très utile; mais malheureusement, le Comité, devant l'opposition de certains gouvernements qui continuent à objecter qu'il sort de ses compétences en s'occupant de cette question parce qu'il est impossible dans la pratique d'assister les enfants sans assister aussi leurs parents, a estimé plus sage de ne pas poursuivre ses travaux, mais de les confier plutôt à un Comité spécial, qui serait chargé alors d'étudier tous les problèmes de l'assistance aux étrangers, mineurs et adultes. Cette décision de demander la création de ce Comité spécial désappointera vivement plusieurs Sociétés féminines, de par le retard qu'elle entraînera. La question du cinéma, et celle de la tutelle officielle et de l'assurance-maternité, considérées à la demande de l'Alliance et du Conseil International des Femmes, comme moyens d'améliorer la situation des enfants illégitimes, ont dû, faute de temps, être remises à l'ordre du jour de l'an prochain, de même que celle des

enfants aveugles, qui n'a pu être qu'effleurée cette fois-ci.

Au Comité contre la traite, la lutte habituelle s'est engagée comme chaque année entre les partisans de la réglementation et de l'abolition. Non pas tellement sur la question, qui avait vivement inquiété de nombreuses Sociétés féministes, et l'Alliance en particulier, du rapatriement obligatoire des prostituées, telle quelle était posée par le Bureau International de Londres contre la traite, et qui était une atteinte directe aux principes de Joséphine Butler: la décision est en effet très-vite intervenue de charger notre collègue au Board de l'Alliance, Dr. Luisi, d'un rapport général pour l'an prochain sur l'ensemble de la question. C'est là à la fois un succès pour Dr. Luisi, dont nous la félicitons, et une manifestation des sympathies abolitionnistes de ce Comité. C'est plutôt sur un projet de Convention internationale sur les sanctions à infliger aux personnes vivant de la prostitution (souteneurs), qu'eurent lieu les débats les plus vifs, surtout lorsqu'il s'est agi de définir le terme de "souteneur" que les représentants des pays réglementaristes ne voulaient pas voir confondre—on devine pourquoi!—avec celui de tenancier de maison close. La question de l'emploi des femmes dans la police a été également traitée à ce Comité, et le Secréariat de la S.d.N. avait préparé un fort intéressant mémoire, à la documentation duquel l'Alliance avait contribué par l'intermédiaire de sa Commission spéciale de la police féminine. Invitée à participer aux débats sur ce sujet, la Secrétaire de l'Alliance a eu la satisfaction de voir voter par le Comité les quatre résolutions suivantes:

"Le Comité ayant pris connaissance avec un vif intérêt des rapports qui lui ont été soumis par le Secréariat, constate que les pays dans lesquels la police féminine a été instituée déclarent qu'elle rend d'excellents services. Il recommande donc que son emploi soit étendu."

"La police féminine doit être spécialement utilisée pour la protection des femmes et des enfants en danger moral, et des femmes et des enfants, auteurs, victimes, ou témoins d'infractions. Son rôle est particulièrement utile dans la lutte contre la traite. La police féminine doit avoir également une compétence générale qui permette de l'employer dans d'autres domaines."

"Le Comité est d'avis que la question de l'organisation de la police féminine ne peut recevoir une solution uniforme s'appliquant à tous les pays, et que cette organisation doit s'adapter aux conditions nationales."

"La majorité du Comité estime que la police féminine a fonctionné de la manière la plus efficace lorsqu'elle a été placée sous la direction d'un chef féminin. Les agents féminins doivent être recrutés très-soigneusement, et recevoir une formation sociale et une préparation professionnelle générale semblable à celle des agents masculins."

Pendant qu'à S.d.N., siégeaient ces Comités, on travaillait aussi fort et ferme au B.I.T., pour les derniers préparatifs de la Conférence Internationale du Travail. Des trois questions figurant à l'ordre du jour de cette dernière, deux nécessitent la présence de femmes parmi les délégués des différents pays: aussi espérons-nous que les rappels du Directeur du B.I.T., dans ce sens, comme les lettres envoyées par l'Alliance à ses Sociétés affiliées pour leur demander d'agir auprès de leurs gouvernements auront d'heureux résultats.

L'âge d'admission des enfants au travail dans les professions non-industrielles est en effet une question qui touche directement nombre de femmes, travailleuses sociales, institutrices, ou mères de famille, et qui en

un certain sens et pour certains pays a une portée féministe très-marquée: car comment développer des jeunes filles, les instruire, les préparer à l'exercice, soit de professions nouvelles, soit de leurs responsabilités de citoyennes, si elles peuvent déjà, toutes petites, être attelées à un travail absorbant, fatigant, ou démoralisant? Le B.I.T. a réuni toute une documentation des plus intéressantes sur ce sujet du travail des enfants dans les professions commerciales, les professions ambulantes, les spectacles, les cafés et restaurants, etc., et je ne saurais trop conseiller à celles que ces questions préoccupent d'y recourir (rapport gris.).

Quant à l'autre question de grande importance pour nous que discutera la Conférence, c'est la révision de deux points de la Convention internationale de Washington de 1919, interdisant le travail de nuit aux ouvrières. Sur deux points seulement: la stipulation à introduire dans la Convention que cette interdiction ne s'appliquera qu'aux ouvrières manuelles, et que par conséquent les femmes occupant des postes supérieurs de contrôle ou de direction n'y seront pas soumises. Et d'autre part, l'introduction dans la Convention d'une disposition autorisant les gouvernements qui le désirent, et moyennant certaines garanties, à "décaler" légèrement la période d'interdiction du travail de nuit, c'est à dire à la retarder d'une heure et à la fixer entre 11 h. du soir et 6 heures du matin, au lieu de entre 10 h. du soir et 5 heures du matin. C'est peu assurément, mais c'est cependant introduire dans cette Convention une certaine souplesse à laquelle les femmes auront tout à gagner. En outre, et vu les craintes manifestées par certains gouvernements (consulter à ce sujet le rapport bleu préparé par le B.I.T.), et l'opposition des milieux ouvriers ("Le groupe ouvrier à la Conférence s'opposera à cette révision," écrit le rédacteur d'une revue syndicale, membre du Conseil du B.I.T. "le mouvement syndical, qui a réussi après bien des efforts à faire interdire le travail des ouvrières avant 5 heures du matin et après 6 heures du soir, ne voudra certainement pas abandonner cette conquête"), il est de meilleure politique de ne pas demander trop sous peine de voir tout échouer. Et c'est pour cela, il est permis de le craindre, que la campagne menée par certaines organisations féministes nationales et internationales, pour demander la révision totale de la Convention n'aboutisse au contraire au résultat fâcheux de dresser en même temps délégués ouvriers et délégués gouvernementaux contre les modestes mesures destinées à une amélioration, et de faire échouer la révision sur les deux points indiqués. Et enfin, il nous semble qu'il est une voix qu'il serait nécessaire d'entendre, et que l'on n'a pas peut-être consultée partout: celle des ouvrières elles-mêmes, que l'on a tendance à passer trop facilement sous silence, quand bien même elles sont les premières intéressées!

E.G.D.

NOUVELLES D'ESPAGNE.

Señora Isabel de Palencia est bien connue dans les milieux internationaux, comme journaliste, écrivain et auteur dramatique réputé. Ses sympathies et intérêts féministes étaient déjà manifestes au 1er Congrès de Genève d'après-guerre en 1920. C'est pourquoi à l'aube de la jeune république espagnole les opinions d'Isabel de Palencia sur la situation et l'avenir de la femme et de la famille en Espagne sont du plus haut intérêt.

D'une interview publiée dans un journal espagnol nous détachons quelques remarques—

Notre premier devoir en tant que femmes, dit Isabel de Palencia, est de travailler à la consolidation du nouveau régime.

A cet effet, nous, femmes des villes devons aller

dans les villages, parler aux paysannes, et mettre à leur portée la propagande républicaine.

Quant au droit de vote, le temps viendra—prochainement espérons-le—où nous l'obtiendrons, sans doute; mais il faut pour cela attendre la réunion des Cortes. Alors constitutionnellement nous réclamerons que cette vieille injustice soit réparée.

L'autre injustice flagrante est celle du code Gallican qui en certains cas d'adultère donne aux maris jusqu'au pouvoir d'homicide. Nous travaillerons à établir plus d'équité dans le Code. La participation des femmes aux jurys est déjà un progrès dans cette voie; nous nous inspirerons des réformes sociales accomplies dans les autres pays pour améliorer l'hygiène, la condition de la veuve, de l'orphelin et des déshérités. Et nous réclamerons la recherche de la paternité.

Sur les questions d'éducation, Isabel de Palencia maintient des vues très larges. Née au sein d'une famille bourgeoise, instruite dans un couvent, elle n'a pas abandonné les convictions religieuses de sa jeunesse, mais il faut, dit-elle, faire la part de la religion, de l'école et de la famille.

Le programme d'instruction laïque initié par les républicains lui paraît un "système admirable" et qui promet d'excellents résultats.

La religion, dit elle, est l'affaire de la famille et encore dans certaines limites. Car l'autorité parentale et la persuasion même doivent respecter la liberté de l'enfant, et la conscience de sa personnalité.

Par excès d'autorité, dit elle, les parents se déshumanisent; lorsque plus tard les yeux des enfants s'ouvrent et qu'ils découvrent les imperfections de leurs parents, le respect disparaît comme s'il avait été adressé à de fausses idoles. Señora de Palencia conseille aux parents de laisser paraître leurs imperfections, d'agir en toute franchise et de s'efforcer de suivre avec leurs enfants une ligne de conduite sincère, se laissant guider par le bon sens et la vérité.

Elle approuve une éducation sexuelle, qui simplement, sans mystère, appréhende les sources de la vie et fait comprendre les fonctions de la nature et la solidarité des êtres. Education surtout nécessaire pour les filles, ajoute-elle, dont l'existence est si souvent ruinée par l'ignorance des faits qui sont la base de la vie même.

Isabel de Palencia ne croit pas que cette éducation scientifique et naturelle présente aucun danger pour l'avenir. La moralité doit y gagner avec plus de dignité et de respect mutuel pour les hommes et les femmes.

Elle-même a élevé ses enfants suivant ces principes et l'atmosphère familiale a gagné en sincérité, cordialité, bonheur.

UNE FEMME L'HONNEUR.

Mme. Henni Forchhammer vient de recevoir du roi de Danemark une médaille d'or de mérite, en reconnaissance de longues années de services dévoués.

Mme. Forchhammer, membre de la délégation danoise à la S.D.N., fut, à ce titre, la première femme qui y prit la parole.

La médaille d'or dont fut honorée Mme. Forchhammer a été instituée en 1792 par le roi Christian VII.; il n'y eut jusqu'ici que 125 personnes qui aient été jugées dignes de la recevoir.

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RÉPONSES AU QUESTIONNAIRE.

VIII. URUGUAY.

I.

En l'Uruguay il n'existe pas encore de vote féminin, en matière législative ou municipale. L'article X de la Constitution en vigueur prévoit le suffrage féminin par 2/3 des votes de l'Assemblée Législative sans que pour cela il soit nécessaire de réformer la Constitution. L'Alliance Uruguayenne des Femmes a présenté plusieurs fois au Parlement des pétitions réclamant les droits politiques des femmes, notamment en Février et Avril 1927, Juin 1921, Novembre 1923 et Juin 1926.

En ce moment l'Alliance présente une nouvelle pétition signée par 2 mille personnes, hommes et femmes.

III.

Les membres des Assemblées Législatives et Municipales, du Conseil National d'Administration et des Conseils d'Administration Départementale, sont élus; les membres de la Cour Suprême de Justice sont nommés par le Sénat.

Le système électoral est le scrutin de liste proportionnelle, par vote secret. Les listes ne peuvent pas être modifiées par les électeurs.

Les candidats sont d'abord élus par les partis politiques en se soumettant aux dispositions particulières du statut de chaque parti. Les listes des candidats élus par chaque parti sont formées de cette façon et soumise au suffrage de l'électorat. Dans certains cas, quand il n'y a pas de possibilité pour un parti ou pour les diverses fractions d'un parti de réunir les votes nécessaires pour obtenir l'élection de leurs candidats, ils s'arrangent entre eux pour inclure les mêmes candidats dans leurs respectives listes.

Pour être élevé à la dignité de Président de la République, être membre de Conseil d'Administration, député, sénateur, la Constitution n'exige que la condition de citoyen et l'âge minimum de trente ans; pour les députés la limite d'âge est fixée à 25 ans.

IV.

Même sans le vote, les femmes peuvent être désignées comme membres des Conseils, Commissions d'enseignement, assistance sociale et hygiène, etc. Actuellement il y a une femme dans le Conseil d'Instruction Primaire et Normal (il y en a eu jusqu'à trois); dans le Conseil de Protection pour Mineurs abandonnés et délinquants, il y a une femme. Elles sont nommées par le Gouvernement. Dans la pratique les femmes peuvent occuper toutes les charges et fonctions administratives dans les mêmes conditions que les hommes, sauf pour les Ministères d'Etat et la Magistrature. La proportion des femmes fonctionnaires occupant des postes de responsabilité augmente tous les ans.

SARA REY ALVAREZ.

Portugal.

(Nouvelles reçues au moment de l'impression).

Par un décret de 5 de mai dernier le gouvernement Portugais vient d'accorder le vote aux femmes dans les conditions suivantes:

Voteront dans les élections municipales et législatives les femmes diplômées par des études secondaires ou supérieures, sans aucune condition d'état civil.

Voteront, dans les élections administratives, pour les élections des membres des commissions paroissiales les femmes chefs de famille, et les femmes mariées dont les maris sont absents aux colonies ou à l'étranger.

ELENA GUIMARAES.

NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

La "British Commonwealth League" a adressé au Premier Ministre une liste de noms, désignant certaines femmes notables qu'on souhaiterait voir siéger à la prochaine Conférence de la Table Ronde pour l'Inde. Ce sont: Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mrs. Pethwick Lawrence, Miss A. Maude Royden, Lady Irwin. L'Association des femmes de l'Inde a aussi soumis une liste, pour le même objet, côté Inde.

Nous regrettons d'annoncer la mort de Dr. Harriett Clisby dans sa cent-unième année. Elle fut la première et la doyenne des doctresses. Elle fit ses études à New York où elle fonda une Association féminine industrielle. Vers 1890 elle vint exercer la médecine à Londres.

Sur la recommandation du Ministère de l'Intérieur britannique, une exception à la règle que toute femme fonctionnaire doit démissionner le jour de son mariage, a été faite en faveur de Dr. Sybil Overton, Inspectrice médicale du Travail au Ministère de l'Intérieur.

Jeanne Garola a été nommée par le Ministère de l'Agriculture français au poste de directeur d'une entreprise agricole de l'Etat.

Aux récentes Elections de Comté, (Grande Bretagne) les femmes ont remporté des succès appréciables.

Dans le Comté de Londres sur 13 femmes réformistes, neuf ont été élues. Deux Libérales ont eu du succès sur 8, et 7 seulement sur 29 pour les Travailleurs. Six comtés seulement dans l'Angleterre et le Pays de Galles n'ont pas de représentation féminine. Le Comté de Middlesex à lui seul a onze conseillères—le Sussex, est et ouest, onze aussi—et le Yorkshire en a dix.

Une députation de femmes M.P. a présenté une requête à Mr. Clynes, ministre de l'Intérieur, demandant certaines améliorations dans le Service de la Police féminine. Mr. Clynes a promis de prendre la requête en considération.

Unique parmi les postes de gouvernement est celui de Miss Margaret Stoughton, d'Asheville, North Carolina (U.S.A.). Miss Stoughton, qui a subi avec succès l'examen d'ingénieur forestier, vient d'être nommée membre du personnel d'une station expérimentale dans les forêts des Monts Appalaches.

Presque un demi-million de signatures britanniques ont déjà été réunies en faveur de la pétition pour le Désarmement général qui doit être présentée à la Conférence mondiale du Désarmement au mois de février prochain. 50 organisations, sous les auspices de la *Women's International League* travaillent à réunir les signatures en Grande Bretagne. On escompte un total d'au moins trois millions.

Dr. Sophie Bovet, diplômée de l'Université de Bâle vient d'être récemment nommée Juge à Bâle. Elle est la deuxième femme qui ait occupé cette position, la première étant Dr. Margaret Schlatter à Hagen pour les tribunaux d'enfants. Un dilemme intéressant est ainsi créé: car, de par la loi, tout juge a ipso facto le droit de voter aux élections. Mais comme ces deux juges sont des femmes, elles ne peuvent exercer leurs droits à moins qu'elles insistent sur leur prérogative de juge, et dans ce cas un précédent de valeur aura été créé, qui préparera la voie pour la franchise féminine.

Mme. Alexander M. Hadden représentera les Etats Unis à la Commission de l'Alliance pour la Police féminine, à la place de Mrs. Simkhovitch, démissionnaire.

La Municipalité de Delhi a décidé d'accorder le droit de vote aux femmes de 21 ans qui possèdent la condition de résidence requise. Cette proposition a été vivement combattue par plusieurs conseillers Musulmans qui alléguèrent l'ignorance des femmes vivant en "purdah."

Le *Six Point Group* a préparé un mémoire qui sera soumis à l'examen de la Commission royale sur le Chômage, recommandant que tous projets de travail, d'emploi, ou de secours soient établis dans un esprit de parfaite égalité entre les sexes.

Le mémoire recommande une extension de la police féminine et l'organisation de centres d'instruction préparant aux métiers, emplois, ou professions qui réclament particulièrement des femmes.

L'Association des Femmes enseignantes a protesté contre le fait que, sur les 50 membres de la Commission, pour la révision des salaires, il y a 46 hommes et 4 femmes seulement, alors que 70% des membres de l'enseignement sont du sexe féminin. (Angleterre).

Les femmes de plus de 30 ans qui possèdent les conditions requises, seront désormais éligibles au Conseil Législatif de St. Vincent et Grenade. (Antilles.)

A la réunion annuelle de l'Association des Electriciennes de Glasgow (Ecosse) un vœu en faveur du pastorat des femmes fut adressé au Consistoire.

Sitôt que le secrétaire du Consistoire eût lu la résolution, tous les membres par vote unanime décidèrent que "la résolution demeurât lettre morte." Mais l'Association des Electriciennes de Glasgow reviendra à la charge.

La semaine nationale des Bébé pour la Grande Bretagne se tiendra au mois de juillet prochain. Des "Semaines des Bébé" locales ont lieu de temps à autre, mais la Semaine nationale est une occasion de propagande pour tous les services de santé et d'assistance organisés par les municipalités. Ce mouvement s'est étendu à d'autres pays et dans l'Empire. Le Journal "*The News of the World*" promet un bouclier d'argent à qui gagnera le prix du plus beau bébé dans les pays de l'Empire britannique. Ce prix est aujourd'hui détenu par Panadura (Ceylon).

La dixième session du "Comité contre la Traite," à la Société des Nations s'est terminée par l'adoption d'un long rapport à remettre au Conseil.

Le rapport dit que le Comité regrette son impuissance

après du Gouvernement Egyptien, qui n'a pas encore voulu adhérer à la Convention de 1921.

Plusieurs gouvernements omettent de mentionner dans leurs rapports annuels les cas de traite et de prostitution. La validité des passeports délivrés aux mineurs devrait être strictement limitée en vue des fraudes fréquentes.

La question des publications obscènes est également discutée.

Le rapport conclut par un vœu que l'emploi de la police féminine soit étendu et généralisé.

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