

WOMEN'S SERVICE

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THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

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WOMEN'S NATIONALITY.

We learn from recent issues of "Equal Rights," the organ of the National Women's Party of the United States of the triumph of the Inter-American Commission of Women in securing the adoption by the recent Pan American Conference at Montevideo of the following Treaty.

"The contracting States agree that from the going into effect of this Convention there shall be no distinction based on sex in their law and practice relating to nationality."

It appears that all the 20 States represented at the Conference signed this and though we do not know what conditions are required before it does actually "go into effect," presumably the practical steps required are for each of the respective countries to ratify and introduce the necessary national legislation. The terms of the Treaty are those of the statement of a principle, and the Inter-American Commission of Women are to be congratulated very warmly on getting that principle of equality recognised by the Governments of a whole half of the world at a moment when it is being widely challenged.

The Conference also recommended to its members to grant equal civil and political rights to women as soon as possible, and voted for the continuation of the Inter-American Commission itself.

WOMEN IN DIPLOMACY.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Great Britain has appointed a committee, consisting of well-known men and women, to review the question of the admission of women to the Consular and Diplomatic

Services. Its proceedings are to be private, so that presumably we shall have to wait for some time before learning of its views. The Press has made a good deal of comment, and on the whole not unsympathetic comment. The old bogey that women cannot keep a secret is indeed resuscitated, but for the most part it is treated with scorn as hopelessly out-of-date. Another objection, which some instinct tells us is much more likely to be brought forward officially, is that if women were admitted there would be a tendency to appoint them to posts in countries where conditions of health and security are good, with the result that the men would get all the bad jobs. And yet the only recent example of a woman in the British service who may be said to have held a diplomatic post, the late Gertrude Bell, did not work under conditions which would be considered very suitable for the supposedly delicate and timid female. Women missionaries are found in countries where both climate and social conditions are far from perfect, while long before women had attained the freedom they enjoy to-day, English women have proved themselves intrepid travellers and explorers.

One paper states that it has spoken by telephone to the three women now in higher diplomatic posts in Europe, Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen, United States Minister to Denmark; Mme. Kollontai, Soviet Minister in Sweden (we were under the impression that she no longer held this post), and Mme. Lucila Godoy, better known as Gabriel Mistral, Consul General for Chile in Madrid. They all with one accord stated that they met with no special difficulties due to sex, but found that they were treated as essentially the representatives of their countries.

In presenting a case to the Committee, the women civil servants will not have a very large mass of evidence of experience from other countries to put forward,

the United States being the country that has perhaps so far most definitely given women a place in their foreign service. But in the form of Viola Smith, who is United States Trade Commissioner in Shanghai, they can show an example which seems to meet most of the difficulties usually advanced.

AN APPEAL FROM ITALY.

The very active President of the Alliance affiliated society in Italy, Dr. Ada Sacchi Simonetta, has almost succeeded in achieving a very interesting project for organising periodical prize competitions for the best feminist essay on the programme of the Alliance. Already a considerable sum has been collected which, together with the accruing interest, would form the prizes, but owing to the sharp drop in interest rates, this does not reach the required total. The Italian Society is willing to make the competition international if support is forthcoming from other countries. If any of our readers or societies agreeing that this is a good method of arousing interest in the woman's movement would care to make a contribution, this condition would rapidly be fulfilled. The special feature of the plan is that it would ensure a form of permanent propaganda for the cause.

We shall give further details, but in the meantime any contributions should be sent, marked "International Feminist Literary Competition" to: Dr. Ada Sacchi Simonetta, Via Carlo Poma 20, Mantova, Italy. Or they could be sent through Alliance Headquarters, but this would probably involve loss on exchange.

OBITUARY.

We are sorry to announce the death just at Christmas of Mrs. Dora Montefiore, at the age of 83. She was one of the founders, with the late Miss Rose Scott, of the Woman Suffrage League of New South Wales. On her return to England from Australia, she joined the constitutional suffrage movement, but later became a militant and was imprisoned in Holloway. She was also a prominent tax-resister and for six weeks resisted the bailiffs, being besieged in her house in London.

She was present at the Alliance Congress in Berlin in 1904, and was one of the honoured pioneers who attended the Twenty-Fifth Birthday Congress there in 1929.

Owing to the gradual loss of her sight, she had to retire from the more active work but she remained a keen member of the Women's Freedom League, and was President of its Bexill Branch until her death.

REVIEW.

"LA FEMME ET DIEU," by Avv. Giorgio Quartara, Au sans Pareil, Paris. 15 fr.

While this book may, nay almost certainly will, offend the susceptibilities of believers of many faiths, it is a remarkable work worthy of the attention of objective feminists. Signor Quartara is an advanced and powerful opponent of both Jewish and Christian theocratic legislation as affecting women and in this book he joins to these both Brahmin and Buddhist systems. On the other hand, he points to the very fair and equal position of women under Mussulman law, not always by any means carried out in practice, and claims that a similar equity existed in ancient Egypt, ancient Hellas and ancient Rome, owing to the survival among them of living traces of matriarchy. To these he joins China, but curiously omits the marked sexual equality prevalent among the Norsemen.

The book seeks to elucidate the main causes of the subordinate position of women since the break-up of the Roman Empire, causes which are still operating in varying degrees in different countries.

M.M.H.

AUSTRALIA.

A deputation led by Mrs. Rischbieth, President of the Australian Federation of Women Voters and a member of the Alliance Board, has petitioned the Prime Minister, Mr. Lyons for an amendment to the nationality law in order to permit an Australian woman who marries an alien to retain her citizenship. It is stated in the brief press notice that Mr. Lyons promised to give the petition his careful attention, but women in Australia fear that their Government probably has a tacit agreement with the Imperial Government so that any amendment will most probably be on the lines of the recent unsatisfactory British Act which gives effect to the Hague Nationality Convention on lines which made it universally disliked by all women's organisations.

AUSTRIA.

In the December issue of the *Oesterreicherin* is published an article on the new law against "Double Earnings," i.e., the joint employment of both husband and wife in state service. It is not quite clear whether the law has actually come into force or not, but the National Council of Women is making energetic protests against its unjust and rather curious provisions. Apparently the capacity and value of the individual counts for nothing, and in the case of women, academic attainments are also not regarded. Women teachers, for instance, who have brilliant careers behind them may be dismissed without regard to the very real loss to the community, very slenderly offset by any possible saving on their already low salaries. The fact that a couple, both of whom are state employees, have children modifies the decree, so that those who have three children will not be affected—a curious inversion of the general cry that the mother's place is at home! Possibly the most serious clause, however, is that in future the marriage of any woman official will be tantamount to her instant resignation, because while the other cases apparently may be regarded as definitely emergency measures, this is a provision which cuts at the whole principle of the married woman's right to earn and is but too likely to be a permanent rule. We sincerely hope that the women may be successful in fighting the law, or in securing its modification if it is in fact actually in force.

BURMA.

It appears that the proposals for women's franchise under the new Constitution for Burma now under consideration do not give that absolute equality to which the position of women in the ordinary social and business life of Burma would seem to entitle them. It is not clear from the press report exactly what the position of the woman voter would be, but there is included a suggestion that certain seats in the legislature should be reserved for women, a suggestion which though it may possibly have something to recommend it on the practical grounds that at present it would seem the only way to make sure of women members being included, is surely not a desirable principle to embody in a constitution.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Mass Meeting held in November on the Right to Earn of the Married Woman was such a success, that the organising Committee has decided to organise a second meeting on March 12th on Equal Pay for Equal Work, where a Resolution will be proposed calling on the Government and Local Authorities to put this principle into practice as an example they are called upon to give to the private employer.

We deeply regret that our valiant contemporary

The Voice, the organ of the Women's Freedom League, has had to suspend publication after appearing regularly for twenty-four years. It is hoped that the financial difficulties which have led to this decision may be solved so that the paper may re-appear. In the meantime the Freedom League is distributing a weekly bulletin in typescript.

WOMEN AND HONOURS.

The publication of what is known in England as The New Year's Honours List has again served the Women's Freedom League as a text for its regular protest against the exclusion of women from all the higher orders. And yet this year's list includes perhaps a greater number of women than ever before, women from all parts of the British Empire, but for the most part the awards are to the lower orders of the Order of the British Empire. The records of the recipients are interesting reading and show what a volume of valuable social work women contribute to the community. Perhaps the most remarkable is that of Miss Daisy Bates, now 80 years old, who has for years spent her life living in a tent among the aborigines of Australia, helping them in many ways and amassing unique material concerning their customs and folklore. There are women from Canada, Kenya, the Malay States and India, who have devoted their lives to work for the welfare of women and children specially, but to whom in many cases the whole community is indebted. These are the kind of people who do indeed deserve recognition, but the higher orders go to men; politics, big business and the wider opportunities for administration or the making of money are still almost entirely the prerogative of men.

INDIA.

The Sixteenth Annual Report of the Women's Indian Association has just reached us, and once more shows the value and variety of the work undertaken. There is of course the question of woman suffrage, so much to the fore in the past year in connection with the proposals for the new Indian Constitution. The Association stands fast to its equality programme: adult suffrage and no special representation for women. Social work plays a great part, for instance, support of the Sarda (Child Marriage) Act. The administration of this Act has not been effective and amendment is called for as well as real enforcement. There are also other questions affecting marriage and divorce, and the whole problem of prostitution and rescue work. The Association is also concerned with the problem of untouchability and the right of Temple Entry: with support of "swadeshi," the encouragement of Indian manufactures; educational work, including the maintenance of a Montessori School and the provision of scholarships for girls; etc. etc. There were also protests against Government by Ordinances and other political abuses. Finally great interest has been taken in labour questions, both child labour and the conditions among women mill workers which are often very bad. And all this is not merely a matter of Resolutions, it represents a great body of devoted personal service.

ITALY.

It is stated that in future the proportion of women employed in Government Departments will be limited, apparently by limiting the number of women candidates admitted to entrance examinations. This together with the fact that it is also stated that Fascist Women's Organisations are to forbid many forms of sport to their members, shows a regrettably increasing anti-feminist attitude on the part of the Fascist Government. That Government could never be considered favourable to equality of the sexes, but in the economic

field women fared better than might have been expected. Is it possible that "evil communications corrupt the good manners" of Governments and that the example of Germany, though a so much younger fascist brother, has been hailed as a good one?

GERMANY.

The new regulation for local elections in Prussia avoids any discrimination of sex as far as active suffrage goes; it merely requires inhabitants to have been living for at least a year in the town or rural district. Eligibility, however, for the different boards, that are to replace the former local parliaments (with purely advisory power) is reserved to men, thus tacitly changing a vital part of the constitution.

The throng to university education and the ensuing careers that has set in since the war, has proved so difficult to handle, that the government has taken to most drastic means: only 15,000 students will be admitted to the universities in 1934, and of those only 10% will be girls. The number is to be taken from all young people having passed their exit examinations ("Abiturium"); they are to be chosen not only according to their capacity for studies, but also with reference to physical training, development of character and national reliability. In December 1933 the chief organisation of medical men and apothecaries who work in official posts (in insurance, in public hospitals, etc.) met in Berlin. Reichsführer Dr. Wagner proclaimed as one of the objects of their work "to strangle women's medical studies." The low percentage of girls admitted to universities will doubtless be only part of those measures.

Concerning the problem of "double gain" (husband and wife in paid positions) the Cabinet has fortunately refused to solve the difficulties by merely pressing for the dismissal of women. Likewise several ministries have issued ordinances in order to put a stop to the indiscriminate dismissal of women. (For text and dates see "Die Frau," Dec. 1933.)

A most interesting pamphlet "Deutsche Frauen an Adolf Hitler" has been issued by well known women of the former Deutsch-nationale (conservative, nationalistic) party. It claims full equality for women and all opportunities to develop their abilities and feminine forces and qualities. (Verlag Adolf Klein, Leipzig S. 3; 1 M.)

The law "To Combat Hereditary Disease" (Die Bekämpfung der Erbkrankheiten) came into force on Jan. 1st. It meets wishes often voiced by the German woman's movement, i.e., protection of the family from destructive diseases, although the form of combat may not always be in keeping with our principles; the Roman Catholic Church for one has voiced serious apprehensions against compulsory measures. On the whole, however, the law must be regarded as a step forward. It is meant to safeguard society against incurable diseases and hereditary disabilities, such as idiocy, mental illnesses of several kinds, epilepsy, blindness, etc. The afflicted (or their guardians on their behalf) have the choice between life in an asylum or sterilisation; the latter can be enforced. The old claim of social workers for protection of the family against the drunken father and husband is likewise fulfilled to a certain degree.

On the same lines is the new possibility of castration in cases of repeated indecent assault. The sentence has for the first time been inflicted by a German court of law.

One of the first measures of the German government in power was to ordain a Voluntary Year of Public Service (Freiwilliger Arbeitsdienst) for all young people on leaving school. The plan could, of course, not be effected all at once, and so the girls' service, where it existed, was being run more or less on the lines of

N.S.D.A. Party tradition: washing and mending for the boys in service. A new ordinance, however, gives orders to the effect that the girls' service is to cover training for the work of housewife and mother, including that necessary for life in the country (poultry-farming, gardening, etc.) The organisation of the girls' service is in the hands of a woman expert.

D. v. V.

POLAND.

In "La Femme Polonaise" there is a long and interesting account of the Second Congress of the Women's Association for Social Service, the Alliance Auxiliary in Poland, which brought together more than 2,000 delegates. The wide hold that this organisation has gained is indicated both by the number of branches and also by the extremely varied programme as indicated by the different sections, which include education, social work among women, protection of children, press, production, art and culture, rural work (work among peasant women), foreign affairs, emigration and finally a Young Girls' Circle, to interest and instruct those too young to be eligible for full membership. In addition to resolutions on the married woman's right to work, equal civil rights, etc., etc., the Congress dealt with a question which is perhaps more novel, namely, the need for educating young people, both boys and girls, to understand and accept the new conditions created by women's emancipation. The report truly says that in the teaching of history and of literature it is the rôle of men which alone is emphasised, and that throughout the supremacy of the male is at least tacitly taken for granted. Efforts are therefore to be made to bring together women teachers to discuss how this may be remedied.

In the same issue there is an account of a woman engineer, Mme. Marie Kubaszewska, who, having passed brilliantly her examination as an engineer for bridges and roads, is now attached to the Ministry for Railways, where her most striking works have been the construction of an iron viaduct and a tunnel of re-inforced concrete. She has many other achievements to her credit, but we think that in this field of heavy engineering she must be something of a pioneer.

INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION FOR WOMEN.

No. 5. Denmark.

Laws and regulations in regard to adult workers, both men and women.

I. *Night Work* is prohibited in bakeries from 8 p.m. until 4 a.m.

No provision concerning *weight lifting* exists.

Concerning *dangerous or unhealthy work* the factory law has a general provision that the health, life and limbs of the workers during work must be sufficiently protected. Special regulations are in force regarding the measures required, for instance, in cigar and cigarette factories, in the rag industry, for excavations of clay, sand, etc.

Limitations of hours may be introduced so far as unhealthy work is concerned when the Home Office so decides. No provision of this kind has been introduced.

In workshops with continuous work the hours are limited to 8 hours a day and night.

No law concerning *minimum wages* exists.

II. *Protection only for women.* The factory law has an article according to which special work that is *unhealthy or is of such a nature that carelessness of one worker may be dangerous to the other workers* may be prohibited to young men under 18 years of age or to women workers—irrespective of age. This article has been used in one case. In a little factory of explosives where an accident took place employment of men under 18

years of age and women under 25 years of age has been prohibited.

Maternity regulations. Women workers under the factory act—i.e., these working in mills and workshops where more than five workers are employed—are prohibited from working during four weeks after confinement unless a certificate from a physician is procured. Allowances are only given to those without means and have *not* the effect of poor relief. The sickness insurance organisations (voluntary) give their members a small benefit. A bill is before parliament by which the sickness insurance allowances will be greatly increased and a daily benefit will be allowed every woman worker during the whole time work is prohibited and still longer—until six weeks after confinement—if she nurses her child.

Prohibitions on the work of married women according to law do not exist.

III. There was a protest against prohibition of night work for women only, when a new factory bill was submitted to parliament in 1912 containing an article about such prohibition. The protest was made by some of the women's trade unions and also women's organisations fighting for women's rights such as Dansk Kvindesamfund. The article was dropped.

IV. As a matter of fact special legislation for women in Denmark is insignificant. An extraordinarily large proportion of the industrial women workers are members of trade unions. Equal pay for equal work does nevertheless not exist in industry, generally speaking. There are exceptions, however, as for instance, the cigar industry, where piecework is usual and where the same rates exist. In this trade women as well as men must be apprenticed. In general industrial women workers' earnings are two-thirds of those of the men workers.

A PEACE DEMONSTRATION.

An international demonstration will be held in Brussels from the 15th to 17th February, with the special purpose of giving support to the work of the League of Nations at this critical moment. The programme will cover three main points: The strengthening of the League of Nations (Speakers: Viscount Cecil, Albert Jansen, Lord Lytton, M. Politis, Georges Scelles, Clara Campoamor); Security (Speakers: M. de Brouckère, Philip Noel-Baker, Wickham Steed, M. Delaisi); Disarmament and the Private Manufacture of Armaments (Speakers: M. Henri Rollin, M. de Madariaga, etc.). There will also be a big public meeting on the last evening.

KASHMIR.

It may be remembered that, following on a considerable agitation by the Moslem community, a Commission was appointed to consider various reforms. These are now being gradually put into practice, including the setting up of a form of constitutional government, with a State Assembly with a certain proportion of elected members. But women will not vote, because the Commission stated that the vast majority are illiterate. Well, if the suffrage is to be on a literacy qualification, then why not let the alleged small proportion of literate women vote? If there is no literacy qualification, then why is illiteracy to be a disqualification for women only.

WOMEN ENGINEERS.

The installation of electric light is not perhaps such an unusual piece of work for women as the railway work carried out by a Polish woman to which we refer elsewhere, still it is remarkable that it is a woman, Miss Dicks, who has secured the contract for such installation in Winchester Cathedral, one of England's great historical treasures. Such work in old buildings calls for both great care in avoiding the risk of fire and in securing that an essentially modern development is in harmony with the ancient beauty it is to illuminate.

THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN FOR SUFFRAGE AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1933.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To BALANCES, 1ST JANUARY, 1933:—		By Jus:—	
£500 Brazil 6½% Loan Bearer		Printing and Dispatch	106 18 7
Bonds at cost	495 13 6	Blocks	0 6 9½
Army and Navy Stores Deposit		Translations	11 11 0
Account	800 0 0	Postages	4 1 6
Barclay's Bank Deposit Account	962 10 0		122 17 10½
Disarmament Committee Fund	3 0 0	.. GENERAL:—	
Current Account—Barclay's Bank	516 7 9	Salaries and National Insurance	569 10 0
Petty Cash	2 5 5	Light, Heat and Cleaning	32 6 7
	2779 16 8	Rent (five Quarters)	102 10 0
.. Jus:—		Printing and Stationery	29 10 9
Subscriptions	118 0 1	Telephone, Telegrams and	
Cash Sales	1 18 11	Messengers	25 0 0½
Advertisements	3 19 6	Insurances	1 4 9½
Y.W.C.A. Supplement	24 0 0	Geneva Office	3 10 1
		Mlle. Gourd's expenses	11 10 5
.. DONATIONS	147 18 6	Postages	26 12 7½
.. MEMBERS' FEES	128 3 7		802 4 3½
.. AFFILIATION FEES	108 17 4	.. EXPENSES OF MARSEILLES CONFERENCE	93 16 11
.. MARSEILLES CONGRESS PLEDGES	110 1 6	.. DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE	2 14 6
.. TWELFTH CONGRESS FUND	174 0 4	.. MISCELLANEOUS:—	
.. DIVIDENDS	5 0 0	Subscriptions	3 0 0
.. DEPOSIT INTEREST:—	19 1 10	Income Tax	1 15 0
Army and Navy Stores	27 0 0	Audit Fee	5 5 0
Barclay's Bank	4 15 10	Press Cuttings	7 12 3
	31 15 10	Nationality Reports	1 10 0
.. SALE OF ITALIAN BADGES	2 7 6	Travelling	9 14 8
.. SALE OF LITERATURE	2 13 2	Cheque Books and Stamps	1 7 4
.. DONATION TO GENEVA OFFICE	3 12 4	Equal Moral Standard Committee	
.. MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS	12 3 8	Postages	2 18 1
		Sundries	19 0 4
			52 2 8
		BALANCES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1933:—	
		£500 Brazil 6½% Loan Bearer	
		Bonds at cost	495 13 6
		Army and Navy Stores Deposit	
		Account	800 0 0
		Barclay's Bank Deposit Account	962 10 0
		Disarmament Committee Fund	0 5 6
		Geneva Office	0 2 3
		Current Account—Barclay's Bank	201 16 5
		Petty Cash	0 8 4
			2460 16 0
	£3534 12 3		£3534 12 3

We have examined the above Receipts and Payments Account with the Books and Vouchers of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, and find it to be correct and in accordance therewith. We have verified the cash at Bank, and the Securities.

106, St. Clement's House,
Clement's Lane,
Lombard Street, London, E.C.4.

20th January, 1934.

HOMERSHAM & Co.,
Incorporated Accountants.

RUSSIA.

Two items of news about Russian women have recently appeared in the English Press. It is stated that the Finance Minister, or People's Commissar for Finance in Soviet Russia is Madame V. N. Yakolovleva, who is considered one of the greatest financial experts in Europe.

Nina Riabstova Lovilev, who was a member of an exploration party to Franz Josef Land a year or so ago, has been appointed Governor of Severnaia Zemlia, the northernmost district of Siberia. As she only took her degree at Leningrad University three years ago, she must be one of the youngest of governors.

SWEDEN.

At a recent meeting of Swedish women's organisations a Broadcasting Committee was formed to voice the demand that women should have the right of collaboration in the executive work of broadcasting. A Resolution was passed and subsequently placed before the Government demanding that women experts be appointed to assist in the survey and re-organisation work which the Broadcasting Corporation is at present undertaking.

The Resolution points out that women take as active a part as men in most of the fields covered by the wireless. Nevertheless no woman has as yet had the opportunity of taking part in the executive work. The fact must be considered that about half of the listeners are women, and the programmes would certainly gain by taking into account women's experience and opinions on questions arising, not only those which are usually considered to be in woman's domain and on children's and school programmes, but also on the many other questions of national importance which are dealt with on the wireless.

The women feel that it is necessary they should be represented among the experts dealing with questions of organisation and especially on the Board or Executive Committee which will in future be responsible for the administration of the broadcasting work and for the arrangement of the programmes.

The Broadcasting Committee consists of representatives of 14 of the leading women's organisations with Ruth Stjernstedt as President, Ingeborg Walin and Eleanor Lilliehöök as Vice-Presidents, Hedvig Dernby as Secretary, and Margareta von Konow as Corresponding Secretary. The Committee will continue the work which was commenced in the summer by Fredrika-Bremer-Förbundet and which has aroused considerable interest and sympathy all over the country. The Committee point out very strongly that they do not desire to have a special women's section to deal with the arrangement of programmes but rather that women should be allowed to give their full collaboration and the benefit of their experience in all the important work undertaken by broadcasting.

PORTUGAL.

We learn from the most recent of a series of articles on Portugal appearing in "La Française" that on the 27th December the text of the Electoral Law was published in the official journal. Whether this means that its provisions thereby come into force, is not clear, but this is what it grants to women:

The Parish Vote (vote paroissial) is given to heads of families, which includes women (widows, divorced or separated wives, single women of full age) who have a family dependent on them and who have a *good moral reputation* (the italics are ours).

The municipal vote is granted partly to corporate bodies (parishes, corporations), partly to individuals:

men able to read and write or paying taxes to a certain amount; women with a secondary or upper education certificate, or fulfilling a public function.

The political vote (for the Chamber and the presidency of the Republic) is granted to those who have the municipal vote.

Criminals, bankrupts and lunatics are deprived of the right to vote, as also all those in receipt of public assistance.

The electoral register is to be made up by the 31st August in each year.

SWITZERLAND.

Frau J. Schwyzer-Vogel, who is well-known to Alliance members, has been named as the representative of women among the members of the new Council of Administration of the Swiss People's Bank appointed by the Federal Council. We offer to Frau Schwyzer all our good wishes for the success of this responsible work.

UN APPEL D'ITALIE.

L'active Présidente de notre auxiliaire italienne Dr. Ada Sacchi Simonetta a presque achevé son projet d'organiser un concours littéraire international. Il s'agirait de donner un prix au meilleur essai féministe sur le programme de l'Alliance. Dr. Sacchi a déjà réuni des fonds importants mais la baisse des valeurs et des dividendes ne lui a pas permis d'atteindre le chiffre nécessaire. Toute société ou personne qui désirerait envoyer une contribution en argent pour une cause aussi intéressante doit l'adresser sous la rubrique "Concours littéraire international" à Dr. Ada Sacchi Simonetta, Via Carlo Poma 20 Mantova, Italie ou au Bureau Central de l'Alliance à Londres.

DÉCÈS.

Nous regrettons d'annoncer le décès à l'âge de 83 ans à Bexhill (Angleterre) de Mrs. Dora Montefiore qui avec Miss Rose Scott fut la fondatrice du mouvement Suffragiste de la Nouvelle Galles du Sud en Australie. Militante de la première heure Mrs. Montefiore se distingua par son attitude à l'égard des agents du fisc qu'elle battit en brèche pendant 3 semaines dans sa maison d'Hammersmith, à Londres.

NOUVELLES BREVES.

Portugal. Le texte de la nouvelle loi électorale a été publié le 27 décembre, dans le Journal officiel. Le vote paroissial est donné aux chefs de famille, ce qui comprend aussi bien que les pères de famille, les veuves, les divorcées ou séparées, et les célibataires d'âge requis si toutefois elles ont "bonne réputation."

Ont droit au vote municipal:

- (1) les associations corporatives (paroisses ou corporations);
- (2) les hommes pourvus d'une instruction primaire et payant un certain chiffre d'impôt;
- (3) les femmes qui ont une instruction secondaire, ou un titre universitaire, ou qui occupent une fonction publique.

Le vote politique est accordé à ceux qui ont droit au vote municipal.

Les criminels, les faillis et les fous n'ont pas le droit de vote, ni ceux qui sont sur la liste des indigents secourus.

Russie. Le Commissaire du Peuple aux finances dans la République des Soviets est Madame V. N. Yakolovleva, qui a la réputation d'être un des plus grands experts financiers de l'Europe. Nina Riabstova Lovilev, qui avait fait partie d'une tournée d'exploration

à la Terre François Joseph est nommée Gouverneur de Severnaia Zemlia (la Nouvelle Zemble?) au nord de la Sibérie. Comme elle a pris son titre universitaire à Leningrad il y a tout au plus trois ans, elle doit être la plus jeune des gouverneurs.

Australie. Une députation conduite par Mrs. Rischbieth a demandé au Premier Ministre, Mr. Lyons, d'introduire un amendement à la loi de nationalité autorisant la femme australienne qui épouse un étranger à garder sa nationalité. Mr. Lyons a fait certaines promesses mais la Fédération des Femmes australiennes a bien peur qu'un accord tacite avec la Grande Bretagne, suivant les données de l'indésirable Convention de la Haye, rende leur pétition inutile et irréalisable.

Pologne. L'Association des femmes pour le Service Social vient de tenir son deuxième Congrès qui a réuni 2,000 déléguées. En dehors des résolutions sur le droit de la femme mariée au travail rétribué, sur l'égalité des droits civils etc., le Congrès a mis à l'étude un programme d'éducation pour accoutumer garçons et filles aux conditions nouvelles créées par l'émancipation de la femme.

Madame Marie Kubaszewska, ingénieur des Ponts et Chaussées est maintenant attachée au Ministère du Transport. Elle a construit un viaduc métallique et un tunnel en béton armé.

Les Femmes et la Diplomatie. Le Ministre des Affaires étrangères de Grande Bretagne vient de nommer une commission qui doit étudier la question de l'entrée des femmes dans la carrière diplomatique.

Trois femmes ont déjà des postes diplomatiques importants en Europe. Ces sont Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen, ministre des Etats-Unis au Danemark; Mme. Kollontai, ministre des Soviets en Suède; Mme. Lucila Godoy alias Gabriel Mistral, Consul Général du Chili à Madrid.

En Chine, à Shanghai, la carrière de Viola Smith, attachée commerciale des Etats-Unis prouve que des difficultés et dangers de toutes sortes n'empêchent pas une femme de mener à bien sa mission.

Birmanie Anglaise. La nouvelle constitution birmane ne semble pas devoir donner aux femmes la part qui leur revient quand on considère leur place dans la vie sociale et politique du pays. Un certain nombre de sièges leur serait réservé dans l'Assemblée législative. C'est mieux que rien mais nous espérons l'égalité absolue de suffrage et d'éligibilité.

Allemagne. Le nouveau règlement pour les élections locales en Prusse évite toute discrimination de sexe quant au vote. Mais l'éligibilité aux commissions, rurales ou urbaines qui vont remplacer les parlements locaux, est réservée aux hommes. C'est un changement tacite de la Constitution. L'encombrement des carrières libérales est sans doute la raison du décret qui restreint à 15,000 le nombre des étudiants admis aux Universités et les filles n'ont droit qu'au 1/10 des places. Ce nombre sera choisi parmi les jeunes gens ayant passé l'examen de sortie (Abiturium). Le concours de sélection tiendra compte non seulement des capacités intellectuelles des candidats mais aussi de leurs aptitudes physiques, de leur caractère et de leurs qualités civiques. En décembre 1933 l'organisation centrale des médecins et apothicaires annonça comme un de leurs buts; l'étranglement des études médicales pour les femmes.

En ce qui concerne le "gain double" de l'homme et de la femme qui travaillent, on ne peut dire qu'il y ait eu un décret l'interdisant. Les ministères ont dû même arrêter le zèle intempestif de certains fonctionnaires qui forçaient par trop de femmes à démissionner. (Voir Die Frau, Dec. 1933.)

Une intéressante brochure Deutsche Frauen an Adolf

Hitler vient d'être publiée par des femmes notables des anciens partis conservateurs.

On y proclame l'égalité absolue des femmes et la possibilité de développer les aptitudes et qualités qui leur sont propres.

La loi qui combat les maladies héréditaires prend force à partir du 1er janvier. C'est à notre avis une loi progressive bien que les associations catholiques protestent contre la compulsion qu'elle implique. Un tribunal a déjà infligé la stérilisation à un criminel convaincu d'inceste et de viol.

Une des premières mesures du nouveau gouvernement a été de décréter une année de Service public volontaire. Le plan n'a pas pu être partout et immédiatement mis en pratique surtout dans le cas des filles mais on les occupe à faire le lavage et l'accueil des garçons. Une nouvelle ordonnance cependant ordonne que le service des filles couvre l'apprentissage domestique, le jardinage, l'école des fermières etc. Ce programme est organisé par une femme - expert.

d'après D.v.v.

Suisse. Frau J. Schwyzer Vogel bien connue des membres de l'Alliance a été nommée déléguée des femmes au Nouveau Conseil d'administration de la Banque Suisse Populaire.

Inde. Le 16ème rapport annuel de l'Association des Femmes de l'Inde vient de nous parvenir et une fois de plus montre la valeur et la variété du travail entrepris. Le but de l'Association est l'égalité complète en matière de suffrage et pas de représentation spéciale pour les femmes. Un programme social très étendu comprend les lois qui affectent le mariage et le divorce, le "swadeshi" la réduction de l'intouchabilité et l'obligation scolaire pour tous. La réglementation du travail et la condition des ouvriers et ouvrières du textile a fait l'objet d'une enquête.

Suede. Les femmes suédoises se plaignent que le Gouvernement les aient complètement laissées à l'écart dans la réorganisation du système de Radio-diffusion. Elles sont consommatrices de Radio autant que les hommes et on devrait au moins consulter quelques expertes déléguées féminines avant de composer les programmes. Une commission de Radio a été formée et représente 14 associations féminines.

Nationalité de la femme. La Revue américaine "Equal Rights" nous apprend le succès de la Commission Inter-américaine des femmes en faisant adopter par le Congrès pan-américain de Montevideo le Traité suivant qui a été signé par vingt Etats:

"Les Etats contractants s'engagent qu'aussitôt cette Convention promulguée il n'y aura plus de distinction de sexe dans la loi sur la nationalité."

Italie. On nous dit qu'à l'avenir le nombre des femmes candidates à des postes de fonctionnaires dans l'Administration sera strictement limité. Les Associations de Femmes fascistes ont également paraît-il, l'ordre d'interdire aux femmes certaines formes de sport. On ne pouvait considérer le gouvernement italien favorable à l'égalité des sexes mais jusque là, en pratique, les femmes n'avaient pas à se plaindre. L'Italie serait-elle influencée par les décrets réactionnaires de sa voisine d'outre-monts?

Autriche. Ainsi que dans d'autres pays l'attaque contre le double gain de la femme et du mari est arrivée à son but: supprimer le travail de la femme. Nous ne voyons pas clairement si la loi est déjà en vigueur et le Conseil National des Femmes autrichiennes proteste énergiquement. Toute femme fonctionnaire sera tenue de démissionner, si elle se marie. La loi a des tempéraments pour celle qui ayant des enfants, serait menacée d'une trop grande diminution du revenu familial.

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