

JUS SUFFRAGII.

# The International Woman Suffrage News

The Monthly Organ of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

FRENCH EDITION.

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## VICTORIES IN NORTH DAKOTA, OHIO, INDIANA, AND ONTARIO.



White=Full Woman Suffrage.  
Grey=Some Form of Local Vote.  
Black=No Suffrage.  
White with \*=Presidential and Municipal Suffrage.

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## Features of the Month.

The great events of the month are, of course, the victories for Woman Suffrage in the three important American States of North Dakota, Ohio, and Indiana, and the passage of the Suffrage Bill in Ontario, Canada. According to cablegrams received from Mrs. Catt, women have won the Presidential vote in these three States. American Suffragists are following many parallel lines of action. While doing their utmost to obtain the Federal amendment to the United States Constitution, which would enable them to get nation-wide Suffrage without fighting a referendum in each State, they have also been working for the Presidential vote on the same lines as in Illinois. The National American Woman Suffrage Association recently announced that a Bill for Presidential Suffrage would be introduced in practically every State legislature in session this winter, and that the Illinois Act, which grants the franchise to women in Presidential and municipal elections, would be used as the model measure. Besides the powerful influence exerted by women in the fully enfranchised States of Western America during the Presidential election last November, the vote of the Illinois women was of very great importance.

It was universally recognised that women played a very large part in the momentous election which sent President Wilson to the White House for a second term, and it is felt that the United States cannot much longer tolerate a condition of things which makes perfectly artificial distinctions between women of the same nation, giving the vote to some and denying it to others.

By the victory in Ohio, Woman Suffrage gains a far-eastern State of great importance, with the large towns of Cincinnati and Toledo, and Columbus University; moreover, a neighbour State to Pennsylvania, and only separated by a short strip on Lake Erie from New York State. The Republican Convention of Ohio last year formally included Woman Suffrage in its programme.

Municipal Suffrage was won by women in East Cleveland, Ohio, last year.

North Dakota is on the northern frontier, and adjoins Manitoba, where the women were so recently enfranchised, and this has doubtless helped. One of the cheering features of Woman Suffrage is that it is contagious; when one State gains it, those nearest to it find the result satisfactory and follow suit. A great influence in North Dakota is the Farmers' Non-Partisan League, which in the primary elections of last year elected 80 per cent. of its candidates for the Legislature in the districts where it had organisations, as well as its candidate for Governor, the Supreme Court, and other officers. The League candidates are almost a unit for Woman Suffrage. This Non-Partisan League has been in control of the House—i.e., the Lower House of the Legislature—by a large majority. Woman Suffrage passed the Senate more than two years ago, but after an all-night conference of leaders a motion to reconsider carried the following day, and the legislation was lost.

Indiana women have won Presidential and Municipal Suffrage; also, for the first time in the world's history, the right to enfranchise themselves by voting for delegates to the coming State Constitutional Convention, which will ratify the new constitution containing provision for full Suffrage.

From Canada comes excellent news. Suffrage, as in the United States, is flowing strong from West to East.

Mrs. Erichsen Brown, of the National Equal Franchise Union, has sent a wireless to Headquarters saying that the Woman Suffrage Bill for Ontario has passed its second reading unanimously, and that its passage is certain. The Premier has promised that the Government will support it. Woman Suffrage will be in operation from the Great Lakes to the Pacific.

The map on our front page was prepared when the news came of victories in Dakota and Ohio. Subsequently the victories in Ontario and Indiana were cabled. Maps cannot keep pace with Suffrage victories.

Another event likely to have great results for Woman Suffrage is the report of the Speaker's Conference on Electoral Reform in Great Britain. This report was issued on January 31st, and briefly mentioned in our February number, but it was too late for comment. The report from Great Britain this month explains the situation.

The Conference consisted of members of Parliament, under the chairmanship of the Speaker, who was asked by the late Prime Minister to make recommendations for reform of registration and electoral laws. The Speaker (who is himself a strong opponent of Woman Suffrage), in nominating members of the Conference, selected half from supporters and half from opponents of Suffrage. They have now by a majority reported in favour of the principle of Woman Suffrage. Their suggestion is that women who already have the local government vote, and the wives of men who have the local government vote, should be enfranchised, but with a higher age limit than in the case of men; they suggest 30 or 35. This is, of course, proposed in order to meet the objection of those who fear putting women in a large majority on the electorate. This proposal does not establish the full sex equality, which is, and must be, the unalterable aim of Suffragists. Nevertheless, it destroys the sex barrier, and by enfranchising six million women would ensure women's voice being heard in measures for reconstruction after the war.

Another success is that scored by the French women in their struggle for the municipal vote. The Commission of the French Chamber for Universal Suffrage has reported in favour of granting the municipal vote for women.

The women's case has been well presented by the Suffrage Societies and by its friends in the Chamber, and has been placed in a new light by the need for women's help in rebuilding the ruined towns and villages of the invaded districts.

There is great reason for encouragement and hope when the women's movement can show such progress in Europe and America, in spite of the urgent problems of war.

In Great Britain two items of social legislation have been introduced (not yet carried), of very great importance to women. One is Lord Buckmaster's Bill, introduced into the House of Lords, to enable women to practise as solicitors, which was carried without a division, and now goes to the Commons. Lord Buckmaster, Lord Sumner, Lord Selborne, and Lord Loreburn supported the Bill. Lord Loreburn said he had heard no argument why women should be hindered in entering on the same terms as men a profession for which they were just as well qualified as men. *He had heard arguments at the Bar of that House by women, and he had never heard a case better argued.* This was a reference to the case in which Chrystal Macmillan and Frances Simson pled in the House of Lords to have it declared that under the existing law women had the right to vote in the Scottish University Parliamentary constituencies.

The other is the Bill introduced into the House of Commons by Sir George Cave, the Home Secretary—the Criminal Law Amendment Bill for dealing with sexual offences. The Bill is the outcome of the evils of prostitution and the dangers from the spread of venereal disease, which have been brought into prominence by the war and the danger to the Army. The Bill makes punishable offences to girls under sixteen, and abolishes the defence, formerly admitted, that the defendant had reason to believe the girl was over sixteen. It greatly increases the penalties on brothel-keepers. With these clauses the women's movement will be in sympathy, but other clauses will meet with determined opposition, as they revive the power of the magistrates to order compulsory physical examination, against which degradation Josephine Butler fought for nineteen years, with ultimate success; moreover, there are provisions which make any diseased person guilty of soliciting liable to severe sentences of imprisonment, and this class of case relies on police evidence only, and is therefore a serious threat to the liberty of the subject. Suffrage Societies and other organisations have already entered emphatic protests against these objectionable features, which threaten to bring back the old evils of State regulation of vice.

## THE WORLD'S YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION DURING THE WAR.

E. I. M. BOYD, M.A.\*

Founded in 1895, the World's Y.W.C.A. has now a membership of at least 780,000 young women in local branches in some thirty countries, and the war has inevitably affected its work in many directions, although not as yet, we are thankful to say, in that of dismemberment of the international organisation. By mutual consent all question of withdrawal from the World's Y.W.C.A. Committee has been postponed until after the war by the representatives of the belligerent countries. Also it is the earnest hope of the Executive Committee, based on the extraordinary amount of international service rendered during the war by the various national groups, that the organisation may be saved, and play its part in the new time that will emerge out of the present distress.

The Associations most nearly affected by the war have, of course, been those of Belgium, Northern France, Austria (especially Galicia), Russia, Bulgaria, and the Turkish Empire, especially Asia Minor. Words simply fail to describe the terror that it has meant to live as a woman, and a young woman, in the war zone in some of these countries. Stories have come through from Syria and Asia Minor which would be incredible were they not corroborated by independent witnesses, American and Moslem, and it is probable that the branches of the Y.W.C.A., which were well established in a number of places among the Armenians and Protestant Christians of the Turkish Empire, have been entirely wiped out in the massacres.

But in Belgium, Northern France, and Galicia also there have been days of terror, for it was in the towns most often mentioned in the newspapers as having been taken and retaken by the belligerent armies that the Y.W.C.A. had some of its strongest branches—e.g., Liège, Lille, Stanislaw, and Lemberg. Their well-attended meetings have become little groups of weary, half-starving girls, coming together to underground cellars from ruined homes, and the pathetic gratitude expressed for such relief as it has been possible to convey to them has shown in what straits they are living.

In Paris the World's Y.W.C.A. has this winter made a special effort also on behalf of the 200-300 English-speaking women and girls who are in the city more or less by reason of the war for business purposes. After careful investigation by two representatives, sent by the World's Executive Committee, a restaurant is to be opened for them as soon as possible, with rest rooms adjoining, and once started the enterprise will be run on democratic lines. Owing to war prices, which are tremendous at present in Paris, help from outside friends must be found, and is in fact largely secured, but the girls are to be represented on the committee and will share in the management of the house.

In Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Holland, and the Scandinavian countries, the Associations have been specially active on behalf of refugees and repatriated individuals and families. The wonderful organisations of the Amies de la Jeune Fille and the Bahnhofsmission, both closely allied with the Y.W.C.A., and in many places served by the same workers, have brought all their resources into play. Also the holiday homes of the Y.W.C.A. in Germany were largely employed in co-operation with the Government for housing and giving instruction in domestic science to the refugees from the Eastern Provinces, who flocked in thousands towards Berlin, especially at the beginning of the war.

In Great Britain the war has inaugurated social service in the Y.W.C.A., which marks a new period in its history. For, just as the Y.M.C.A. has so greatly served the interests of soldiers in the training camps and out at the front, the Y.W.C.A. has undertaken to provide for the welfare of women munition workers. At the request of the Government an entirely new department has been added to the other well-known activities of the Association, and by the war it has gained a new place in the world of industrial women. Thousands of young women have been getting their meals day by day in Y.W.C.A. canteens, hundreds are using its hostels

\* Member of the World's Y.W.C.A. Executive Committee, and Editor of the *Women's International Quarterly*.

and huts, and some of the leaders of the British National Council have spent practically their whole time and energy finding funds and staff for this new work.

Similar departures have also been taken by the Y.W.C.A. in Australia, among the munition workers of Melbourne more especially, and in Canada a War Purposes Committee is tackling the same problem.

Out beyond the war zone, however, the World's Y.W.C.A. has been brought face to face with yet another set of problems to be traced to the war. As the Bishop of Madras has said, a new era dawned for India when the Indian troops landed at Marseilles, and a new era more particularly for Indian women. They were brought into personal contact with Europe as never before, and hundreds, even thousands, of them have joined in making garments for soldiers, and equipment for war hospitals. Lady Willingdon, with just pride in their achievements, claimed our appreciation for this service the other day in her letter to the *Times*, and the World's Y.W.C.A. has already received urgent appeals that clubs on Christian lines be started for these women in different parts of India, and that it no longer confine itself to the special communities which it has hitherto served there.

It will not be easy work: it demands the learning of Indian languages, the utmost adaptability and sympathy, as well as definitely Christian principles, but if undertaken it may mean untold services to the women who have caught the vision of serving the community as never before.

Even this brief sketch shows, I think, that the Y.W.C.A. as an international movement has stood the test of war, and is proving itself at the same time adaptable to new conditions and new problems. But if the movement is to answer the appeals which are constantly coming into the World's Y.W.C.A. Executive, it must have many more helpers—those who will join its committees, who will supply it with funds, who will undertake secretaryships, whether as voluntary or salaried workers. There are openings for practically every kind of service, and training schools in New York and London provide for the development of one's special gifts, as well as the study of methods and principles.

Does it seem a vain appeal to ask for workers of the circle of *Jus Suffragii* during the war? It may be, but of the fourteen new secretaries required in 1916 for the Y.W.C.A. in India, twelve were forthcoming: six from Great Britain, three from the United States of America, one from Canada, and two in India itself. We may venture to hope, therefore, that it is possible for some to consider the question, and we would urge it upon those who will. All inquiries may be sent to the Secretaries, World's Y.W.C.A., 22, York Place, Baker Street, London, W.

## Headquarters Office.

Good progress is being made with the indexing of Suffrage papers for the Inquiry Bureau; but, in order to index the accumulations of back numbers, additional help is necessary. Suffragists in London who can spare even an occasional hour are invited to help in this work, and in that of indexing press cuttings.

A number of inquiries have been dealt with this month, and have included the following subjects:—

- (1) German marriage service.
- (2) Age of consent in U.S.A. and British Dominions.
- (3) Californian laws supported by women voters.
- (4) French municipal vote.
- (5) Women lawyers in many countries.

We are frequently asked for biographical details of women prominent in the Suffrage movement in various countries, and earnestly beg the Suffrage Societies in each country to send us a good supply of biographical material. If any ladies feel too modest to offer to give an account of their life and activities, we beg them nevertheless to do so for the good of the cause, as it is good propaganda material.

The New York office of the *International Woman Suffrage News* is at 171, Madison Avenue, where all American orders may be sent direct.

## Women in Local Government in Sweden.

Fröken Elisabeth Timm has been elected chairman of the communal council in the parish of Julita. Fröken Timm has occupied the position of vice-chairman of the council.

New Town Councillor.—Gothenburg: Fru Nelly Göransson-Thüring, Photographer. Socialist List.

**Treasurer's Report**

For the Year Ending December 31st, 1916.

By common consent of the affiliated countries with which we have been able to communicate, it has been decided to postpone the Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, which according to our constitution ought to have taken place in 1917. Instead of a verbal report to Congress the Treasurer therefore wishes to present appended the Financial Statement for 1916.

We feel that there is much cause for gratitude when we review last year's work. A large influx of new hon. associates—186 in the United States alone!—has put our yearly income on a much safer basis, and the generously expressed appreciation of our work shown by friends in all countries, belligerent and neutral alike, has brought cheer to our hearts. It made us feel that the message of unity of effort amongst women of all nations which this paper carries to its readers forms a valuable link in these times of general disruption.

In July last we moved into our new office, situated on the third floor of No. 11, Adam Street, close to our former quarters. Whilst our new rooms are less imposing to the visitor than our aristocratic first floor at No. 7, Adam Street, they have proved at least as convenient, if not more so, for our purpose, and give us the advantage of reducing our rent from £150 to £65 per annum. This reduction does not show clearly in the financial statement, as the expenditure on rent comprises five quarters' payments, and the first six months' rent—till July, 1916—was still at the old rate.

In the reorganisation of the new office we have made a special point of arranging our accumulated material in an easily accessible way, with a view to making it available for reference. Fifty feminist papers from twenty-two countries are filed, and an index of their contents is in course of compilation. To make this reference library more useful we should be glad to receive from our Auxiliaries all their own publications and other books and pamphlets on questions bearing on the woman's movement as they appear.

*Jus Suffragii* is steadily gaining new subscribers. The circulation of the English edition now amounts to about 1,500 copies. It must also be noted that *Jus Suffragii* reaches a very much larger public than is indicated in its subscription list. It goes to editors of Suffrage and other papers all over the world, and its articles and news are reproduced in the papers of many countries. It is taken by Suffrage secretaries,

**INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.**

Cash Account for twelve months ended December 31st, 1916.

Receipts.		Payments.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Affiliation Fees .....	18 3 6	By Office Rent, Lighting, and Cleaning .....	152 15 5
„ Honorary Associate Members' Subscriptions...	320 0 0	„ Salaries .....	366 9 8
„ Special Fund Donations .....	6 5 0	„ Stationery .....	6 13 0
„ <i>Jus Suffragii</i> , Subscriptions .....	£151 14 10	„ Postage and Telephone .....	33 6 0
„ „ „ Cash Sales .....	10 1 9	„ Petty Expenses .....	3 13 3
„ „ „ Advertisements .....	3 4 10	„ <i>Jus Suffragii</i> , Printing & Postage .....	£240 5 5
	165 1 5	„ „ „ Special Postage to	
„ Literature Sales .....	6 19 5	„ „ „ Neutral Countries .....	5 9 6
„ Refund from French Edition <i>Jus Suffragii</i> .....	37 1 9	„ „ „ French Edition .....	30 14 6
„ Rent Received, and Sale of Furniture and		„ „ „ „ „ Grant .....	24 0 0
„ Sundries .....	3 7 2		300 9 5
„ Interest on Bank Deposit and Gain on		„ Bank Charges, Insurance, and Income Tax .....	4 7 11
„ Exchange .....	15 1 2	„ Advertisements .....	0 6 3
	571 19 5	„ Press Cuttings .....	3 3 0
		„ Books and Periodicals .....	1 9 5
		„ Office Furniture, Fittings, and Repairs .....	12 2 0
		„ Telegraphic Address .....	1 1 0
		„ Binders for <i>Jus Suffragii</i> .....	7 5 10
		„ Removal Expenses .....	6 10 0
			899 12 2
		„ Cash at Bank on Current Account, December	
		„ 31st, 1916 .....	401 8 10
„ Cash at Bank and in Hand, January 1st, 1916	729 7 5	„ Cash in Hand .....	0 5 10
	£1,301 6 10		£1,301 6 10

It will be noticed that the sum of \$4,333 referred to above is not included in this statement.

I have examined the foregoing account with the books and vouchers relating thereto, and find it to be correct and in accordance therewith. I have verified the cash balances.

5, 6, and 7, Hampden House, Kingsway, W.C.  
February 14th, 1917.

ETHEL AYRES PURDIE, Auditor  
(Certified Accountant).

speakers, and writers, and provides them with propaganda material. The French edition, published since January, 1916, in Geneva, holds its own very well, though struggling with many difficulties. We hear that it is contemplated starting a German edition! This would be a most welcome extension of our international propaganda, and we trust that the idea may take shape. The sum of £30 14s. 6d. for the printing of the French edition of *Jus Suffragii*, though appearing in this year, really covers the four last months of 1915, when the paper still was printed in England, previous to being transferred to Switzerland, and the sum of £37 1s. 9d. was refunded to us by the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes. The increase in our own printing expenses is accounted for by the greater cost in production.

Our list of honorary associates, including those in belligerent countries, whose subscriptions cannot reach us for the time being, stands at 420.

U.S.A. heads the list with 224	
Great Britain follows „ 119	
Germany „ 25	
Netherlands „ 19	
Hungary „ 9	
South Africa „ 6	
Sweden „ 3	
Austria „ 3	
Australia „ 2	
Denmark „ 2	
France „ 2	
India „ 2	
Russia „ 2	
Finland „ 1	
Switzerland „ 1	

420

Through special efforts the National American Woman Suffrage Association have raised a fund of \$4,333, which is deposited in the name of the Alliance with a bank in New York. We are setting aside this sum with a view to its helping us meet the expenses of the first post-war Congress.

When one considers the anxieties felt by all of us responsible for the continuance of Alliance work at the beginning of the war, there is, as we said before, much occasion for thankfulness. The work has gone on during all this time of upheaval, and will go on steadily till the goal is reached.

ADELA COIT, Hon. Treasurer.

**AUSTRIA.****Careers for Women.**

Marie Klausberger, lecturing on November 19th in Brünn, on "Questions of Women's Training and Careers in Austria of the Future," pointed out that there were two currents of thought—one demanded that women should remain in industry, the other that she should devote herself to the family. In any case girls should be trained to be self-supporting, but not estranged from home life. The lecturer warned girls against crowding to the universities, as there were few openings for them. The doors of Government service must be thrown open to women, who must no longer be limited to subordinate positions as typists. They have since the war acquitted themselves well in responsible positions, and must be given possibilities of promotion.

**Women and Patriotic Auxiliary Service.**

Women's service is invited voluntarily, but is not made compulsory. It is calculated that there will be a great increase of women's work, especially as substitutes for men. Women will be drafted from the textile and clothing industries by intensifying the work in these industries, which had been spread out so as to spare material and avoid unemployment. Leading German women like Helene Lange think that women, who would have welcomed the demand to place their life and powers at the disposal of the common duty, will voluntarily accomplish as much as men will under compulsion. It is expected that the War Office will organise the recruiting of women.

Women's work, already enormously extended by the war, will be still further mobilised. It is the bounden duty of all in public life to improve the conditions of women's work, and to find a solution for the important question of organising and absorbing the large number of female workers after the war.

"This war has conclusively proved the civic consciousness of women, who without compulsion have placed their person and powers at the disposal of the commonwealth; there is, moreover, the fact that the State for the attainment of just ends needs, in peace as well as war, women's co-operation just as much as men's. Try in thought to exclude women from the labour world of to-day, and then answer the question how long in that case the war could be carried on by any country in spite of the heroic sacrifice of the troops. But people who contribute to the maintenance of the State, not only by child-bearing and tax-paying, but by personal work, can no longer be excluded from full citizen rights."

—H. H., in *Zeitschrift für Frauenstimmrecht*, Vienna.

**FRANCE.****The Question of Municipal Suffrage for Women.**  
A BIG STEP TOWARDS THE SOLUTION.

The Committee of Universal Suffrage of the Chamber of Deputies, after having heard the feminist delegation who had come to ask it to declare itself on the question of Women's Suffrage, has just, by its vote, shown itself in our favour.

It is evidently only a sort of principle, but as it emanates from a group of deputies belonging to every political party, it constitutes an event the importance of which is undeniable.

The readers of *Jus Suffragii* know that this is not a surprise for us. In the February number they had been informed of the efforts of the Union of Suffrage to bring about this vote. The president of the U.F.S.F. (Madame de Witt Schlumberger) and the general secretary (Madame C. L. Brunschwig) had obtained from the president of the Committee (M. Alexandre Varenne) a promise to receive the delegation; but in order that the members of the Committee should accord it a favourable reception, each of them had previously had a visit from two feminist delegates who had come to discuss with him the opportuneness of the discussion of the question. After the visits we realised that Woman Suffrage had in Parliamentary circles new and unexpected partisans. Deputies who were hostile to votes for women before the war seemed disposed to concede it, but only to certain classes of women—widows of soldiers killed on the field of honour, mothers of families, or women possessed of a university diploma. As very few of them showed themselves hostile, we foresaw a good result of the reception of the delegation. Nevertheless, we did not know how the French Press would receive this decision. An official

vote, even on the principle, was to invite public opinion to pronounce itself. Let us say at once that, to our great satisfaction, the review of the papers permitted us to realise that nearly all the big dailies resolutely took our side. In *L'Evenement*, M. Alexandre Varenne wrote: "The war has been for everybody in France a great school and a great experience . . . It has revealed to men, it has revealed to women themselves, their social value. Many have learned to command where before they had obeyed. They have acquired a taste and liking for responsibility and action. They are incontestably more prepared than before the war to play their part in the ordering of public affairs. The time has perhaps come to make a loyal trial, on a limited ground, of Woman Suffrage."

Limited ground, indeed! Even in what is concerned only with Municipal Suffrage, two restrictions are made. First of all, in order to keep the balance between the two electoral bodies, masculine and feminine, the Committee asked the reporter, M. Flandin, to make a proposal containing a minimum age limit. On the other hand, in order that Woman Suffrage should have no political character, women will not be appointed Senatorial delegates. The Senators are elected in France by general councillors, councillors of a district, and by delegates elected amongst the electors of each commune by each municipal council. It does not seem to us that the Republican régime would have been imperilled by a few women's votes at the election of Senators. The desire for prudence which has guided the members of the Committee was perhaps somewhat great. It comes, we think, from a desire to remove the best arguments in favour of political Woman Suffrage. If women can compete at the election of Senators, why should they not elect the Deputies?

The law of 1900 which allowed women to register for the Bar contains a clause which is not without its analogy to this one. Women lawyers enjoy the same privileges and prerogatives as those accorded to men lawyers, except the right to complete a tribunal when one of the three magistrates who compose it is lacking.

This temporary magistrature might have been an argument without answer against the exclusion of women from senatorial delegation; we do not possess it.

Although Municipal Suffrage may not be our only desire and our only ground of propaganda and struggle, we are persuaded that we shall be already able to do a very useful work by sitting on municipal councils, of which the powers are great, and who possess possibilities of amelioration of bad social conditions.

The best thing we can do at present is not so much to protest against restrictive measures, which in any case would not be at all intelligent, as to show that we are worthy of what the country expects from us. Patience, then, and, above all, perseverance.

SUZANNE GRINBERG,

Avocate à la Cour de Paris,  
Membre du Bureau du Comité Central de l'U.F.S.F.

The delegation received at the Committee of Universal Suffrage represented the following societies:—

Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes.  
Conseil National des Femmes Françaises.  
Fédération Féministe Universitaire.  
Union Fraternelle des Femmes.  
Vie Féminine.  
Amélioration du sort de la Femme.  
Ligue d'Electeurs pour le Suffrage des Femmes.

The following is the official report issued to the Press:—

**Electorate of Women.**

The Parliamentary Committee of Universal Suffrage heard a delegation of the Union for Women's Suffrage on February 14th, on the proposal of a law having for its aim to confer the electorate and eligibility on women in matters of municipal elections.

After the discussion the Committee pronounced itself in favour of the admission of women to the right of voting for municipal elections, and their eligibility to municipal councils.

It charged M. Pierre Etienne Flandin, reporter, to present a text allowing of a minimum age limit, so that after the war the masculine and feminine electorate would be equalised.

It decided, moreover, that women should not be able to fill the function of Senatorial delegates.

**Better Professional Training After the War.**

Mme. Jane Misme, in an excellent article in *La Française* of February 17th, deplors the sad waste of women's capacities through want of proper training, which has been brought into relief in France (and the same is true of England) by the numbers of willing women who have volunteered for work, but for whom no place can be found owing to their lack of training, although the need for workers is so great. These women seek work, partly from patriotic motives, partly from the need to become self-supporting. They need work, and the State needs their work, but the prejudice against extending women's work has been so great in the past that women are not equipped to meet the new demands. This must in future be remedied. For twenty years France will need skilled women to replace men in developing industry. Although the lack of labour is admitted, there is a tendency to overlook women and rely on immigration.

A combine of metal firms, needing skilled hands who had gone through an apprenticeship, considered the possibility of founding a women's training school, but ancient prejudice was too strong, and the idea was abandoned. M. Henri Joly, commenting on this, approves their action, and says women must not be encouraged to enter such skilled trades. Prejudice and jealousy combine to exclude women from well-paid employments, and this barrier must be removed.

Many factories are now actually training and employing women in the skilled branches, with the best results.

The "Central Office for Women's Activity" and "Association for Women's Voluntary Enrolment for Patriotic Work" find that the demand made upon them for skilled workers far exceeds the supply. What is needed is a vast educational organisation to train women to meet the demand.

**Repatriation of Refugee Children.**

One of the most piteous effects of the war has been the sufferings of children in invaded districts. In Poland the deaths from starvation of millions make a story of unparalleled horror. But in the invaded districts of France many hundreds of children have been lost by their relations for two and a half years. The women's inquiry bureau in Lausanne has done splendid work in tracing many of these lost children and sending news to their anguished parents. Many have now been repatriated through Swiss efforts, and on their passage through Switzerland are lovingly tended and supplied with food and necessaries.

**Women and Architecture.**

To-day, when the field of feminine action seems to be extending further and further, it is astonishing that the woman architect should still be an exception—any way, in France.

There seems, indeed, to be no obstacle to a woman's entering upon a career where her practical common-sense and her love of comfort will be of considerable use to her. In America and in England the woman architect specialises in interior decorations and drawings of gardens; her thorough studies permit her to adapt her art with amplitude and harmony to the buildings which she decorates. These openings are reserved, it is true, for those gifted specially with the artistic temperament; but other openings, less conspicuous, perhaps, but still lucrative, will be open to the young architect who has studied fearlessly. Collaboration in an architect's office with the master's work assured young men a salary which varied in time of peace, according to the work and the capacity, from 1fr. 25c. to 3fr. an hour. Besides the material advantage, there was the acquiring of practical knowledge which prepared young men for the responsibility of private work.

There will be opposition, no doubt, at the idea of seeing a woman at the head of an architect's office; difficulty for her to direct her own work on the scaffolding. Why always separate the work of the man from that of the woman, instead of uniting in an association which would keep each in her or his own place—the woman in the office, her collaborator on the scaffolding?

The School of Fine Arts receives men and women impartially in its section of architecture. The very special entrance examination demands a particular preparation, and the length of studies varies according to the work produced. The detailed time-table of the School will give the future candidate

a very clear idea of the organisation of this course of study, which is completed by an examination giving the title of architect.

The special School of Architecture, 254, Boulevard Raspail, admits to its course students of both sexes who have passed their baccalauréats or diplomas of secondary education. The studies last three years, and are completed by a diploma for architecture obtained after a competition. There, again, an acquaintance with the syllabus alone permits one to realise what the studies comprise. In order to be a good architect one must have a sufficient knowledge of science to be able to attend the classes of geometry, construction, stereotomy, etc., which is really the basis of the study. Many women who have a talent for drawing will do nothing but decoration, a career full of risks. Would it not be advantageous for them to fill up the gaps caused by the war by a thorough study of architecture, since in the near future the work of reconstruction will demand in architecture, as everywhere else, workers?

**History of the Municipal Suffrage Bill.**

In 1906 M. Dussaussoy, deputy for the Somme, presented a report to the Chamber recommending women's franchise for municipal councils, arrondissement councils, and general councils.

M. Ferdinand Buisson, entrusted with the report, prevailed on the Committee for Universal Suffrage to add eligibility (*i.e.*, the right to be elected members of the councils as well as to vote for them).

This report was presented on July 16, 1909, and could not be discussed before the elections of 1910. In order that the report might be taken up by the new Legislature at least 20 deputies had to demand it. The French Suffrage Union, with a certain number of other women's societies, approached all the deputies and received the support of nearly 200.

The Bill Dussaussoy-Buisson was taken up by the Chamber on June 10, 1910. From 1910 to 1914, in spite of all efforts, the Bill made no progress.

M. Ferdinand Buisson could only add a second report, presented on July 29, 1913. The only gain was that the report was put down for discussion for February 3, 1914. The Bill was taken up on June 16, 1914, and as M. Buisson was no longer a deputy the reporter chosen was M. Etienne Flandin. The war prevented further progress. In June, 1916, the Suffrage Union requested M. Flandin to take up the question again. In the middle of January, 1917, they requested M. Alexandre Varenne, President of the Committee on Universal Suffrage, to receive a deputation, and on February 14 the deputation was received by the Committee, which the following day made the report to the Press given above.

**Problem of the Married Woman Wage-earner.**

The Section d'Etudes Feministes du Musée Social devoted a recent meeting to the discussion of the question of the care of children of factory workers. Mme. Avril de Sainte Croix has taken an active interest in the provision of children's nurseries in the factories. Mme. Moll Weiss and Mme. Nathan made reports on the subject. It was proposed that the provision of a room for the infants of nursing mothers should be compulsory on the factory owner, and that the women should contribute to the cost.

Professor Pinard thought the only satisfactory solution was an allowance of five francs a day after six months' pregnancy, to be continued for a year to nursing mothers.

**Marcelle Semmer at the Sorbonne.**

At a national matinée at the Sorbonne, M. Klotz celebrated the heroism of Mlle. Marcelle Semmer, who at the age of 21 has been decorated with the Croix de Guerre and the Legion of Honour, the youngest person in France to have that honour. Mlle. Semmer opened the lock gates and threw the key into the canal when the last French soldiers had passed, and thus gained twenty-four hours for them. Later on she saved sixteen French soldiers. She was captured and condemned to death, and said to her captors: "I am an orphan, my only mother is France, *et ça ne me dérange pas de mourir.*" Her execution was only prevented by a shell which burst on the firing party.

When the district was occupied by British troops the general in command gave orders that his men were to salute her whenever she passed.

—*La Française.*

**GERMANY.****Women in Municipal Life.**

The question of the inclusion of women on local bodies has occupied attention since 1914, and although accepted in principle, certain legal difficulties have blocked the way, as paragraph 5 of the Municipal Ordinances does not recognise women as citizens.

On January 18th, Herr Ladning made a report on the legal aspects of the case which have been discussed in the Town Council Committee. He explained that in the committee it had been declared that women were not capable of being elected, as they were not citizens. The only exceptions were the committees for poor relief and schools, which were on a different legal basis. There was, however, no difficulty about allowing women to be present without vote and in a consultative capacity. This proposal was not adopted by the committee, which preferred the following resolution:—"This meeting requests the Town Authority (Magistrat) to lay a proposal before it as soon as possible to enable women to be elected to the deputations established by the paragraph 59 of the local government ordinances." An amendment to this resolution was moved by Herr Galland, who supported the proposal rejected by the committee that women should only be allowed on in a consultative capacity and without vote. Another amendment was moved by Herr Rosenow:—"This meeting requests the Town Authority to support an alteration in the local government ordinances by the Prussian Government, so that women may sit on administrative committees of town councils with a vote." Dr. Hirssekorn, on behalf of the town council, said that women's co-operation would be welcomed, but that the law did not permit them to be on the committees with a vote, and the change could not be carried out by the local authorities. Therefore, the town council could not accept the recommendation of the committee; but there would be no objection to the other proposal. Oberbürgermeister Wermuth spoke in support of the amendment by Herr Galland, which was carried with Herr Rosenow's addition.

**Suffrage Debate in Parliament.**

A motion to admit women to municipal committees was debated in the Prussian Diet on January 20th. Herr Cassel supported the proposal. He pointed out that already teachers were on the education committees, and that mothers would be useful; women were also on poor relief committees, continuation schools, and for the care of orphans and old people. The present time was specially suitable, as women were proving their worth in all kinds of war work, and have shown great powers of organisation. Without women's help the municipalities could not carry out their work. If women were included it ought to be with a vote, otherwise their position would be inferior. Only members with equal rights could put their whole strength into the work. Herr Kessel (Conservative) said that women should be kept out of political life. Dr. Kauffmann said that woman's place was in the family. Herr Ludicke said that it would be important to limit the spheres of women's activity. Herr Heins said that Denmark was a warning example of what might happen if women were given rights. There they can be even ministers. And in England family life has been broken up by the suffragettes; more married men than single have enlisted for that reason. If Germany gave votes to married women it would break up the German family. The political women's movement is an assault on the family. If women are allowed the municipal vote they will go on and demand it for the State; therefore it must be opposed. Herr Hirsch (Socialist) said, that the experience of the war showed that the tiny rights which women had should be extended, and town councils should be allowed to avail themselves of the services of capable women; this would be not to give way to shrill demands, but to serve the fatherland. Herr Rosenow said that the war had shown that women's co-operation was necessary in municipal work. It was an insult to compare German women with the brutally destructive suffragettes. German women had always shown themselves deserving of recognition in social welfare work, and in the care of the sick; their latent powers should be used for the good of the community. The resolution was referred to a committee.

It is encouraging to note the increasing interest of women in political life. The world of women stood on one side, it worked, it suffered, and was silent.

The world of women was the helper wherever help was needed; it was, and is, the brave combatant at home, and yet without any influence worth mentioning. We may be allowed the question: What would have happened to home conditions if women had not in the most admirable way placed themselves at the service of the community and proved their capacity? And now women's world wants to know why the State does not consider it a citizen with equal rights with men. We have now to seek ways and means in every field, and not least in the political field. We must and will make definite claims, for this is a decisive point in women's destiny.

MINNA CAUER in *Erauenbewegung.*

**GREAT BRITAIN.****National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.****ELECTORAL REFORM AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.**

The report of the Conference on Electoral Reform was published on January 31st, and tells that the recommendations made with regard to the franchise as it affects men were unanimously agreed to by the Conference. Briefly stated, these recommendations are that every man of full age not subject to legal incapacity, who has resided for six months in premises of a yearly value of £10, shall be entitled to register and vote at Parliamentary elections. Provision is also made for soldiers and sailors now serving with His Majesty's forces to be registered and vote in Parliamentary elections.

On the question of granting the franchise to women, the Conference was not able to come to any unanimous conclusion, but it was decided by a majority that some measure of Women's Suffrage should be conferred, and it was suggested that if Parliament should accept the principle of Women's Suffrage, the most practical form would be to confer the vote on women on the following terms:—

Any woman on the local government register who has attained a specified age, and the wife of any man who is on the register if she has attained that age, shall be entitled to register and vote as a Parliamentary elector.

The age at which a woman might be entitled to vote was discussed, and the proposal most favoured was the age of 30 or 35. The Conference further resolved that if Parliament decides to enfranchise women, a woman of the specified age who is a graduate of any university having Parliamentary representation shall be entitled to vote as a university voter. Although the Conference failed to recommend with unanimous voice the acceptance of the principle of Woman's Suffrage, the fact that the principle was carried by a large majority in a body composed of almost equal numbers of Suffragists and Anti-Suffragists is a very significant one, and marks the great advance made in the direction of this reform. There is also reasonable ground for belief that the recommendations of the Conference reflect the opinion of the House of Commons, and all evidence points to the conclusion that the country and the public Press are convinced that some measure of Women's Suffrage should be granted to women.

The first action of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies was to welcome the inclusion in the report of the principle of Women's Suffrage. A resolution in the following terms, signed by the N.U.W.S.S. and seventeen others represented on the Consultative Committee of Constitutional Women's Suffrage Societies, was sent to members of the Government and the Press:—

That we, the undersigned societies, recognising that a Bill based on the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference will confer the Suffrage upon women, even though not upon the terms for which we stand, determine that if no wider measure of Women's Suffrage can be secured, we will support the proposals of the Speaker's Conference, and we urge the Government to introduce without delay a Bill embodying the general lines of those recommendations, and containing as an integral part provisions for the enfranchisement of women.

Subsequently twenty-eight Suffrage Societies, including the N.U.W.S.S. and large organisations of women who have

adopted Women's Suffrage as one of their objects, sent the following resolution to Mr. Bonar Law, M.P.:-

We, the undersigned, recognising that a Bill based on the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference will confer the Suffrage upon women, though not upon the terms for which we stand, urge the Government to introduce such a Bill without delay, provided that it contains as an integral part provision for the enfranchisement of women.

On February 20th a public demonstration of women workers organised by the N.U.W.S.S. was held at the Queen's Hall, London. Representative women from seventy trades, professions, and organisations, and official representatives of the Women's Liberal Federation, the National Union of Women Workers, the British Women's Temperance Association, and the national organisation of Girls' Clubs, were present on the platform. The speakers were Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., who presided, Mr. Walter Runciman, M.P., Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., Mrs. Creighton, and Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Hon. Parliamentary Secretary of the N.U.W.S.S.).

Alluding to the Report of the Conference, Mrs. Fawcett said: "It would be impossible for the House of Commons to touch the subject of Parliamentary representation without giving representation to women. The terms suggested for Women's Suffrage at the Speaker's Conference were not the terms for which they stood. They fell short of the plain and simple equality they had always asked for, but Suffragists, not those of the National Union only, believed that the breaking down of the sex disability and the prospect of placing 6,000,000 women on the register were so valuable that, though not fulfilling the terms for which they stood, they should urge the Government to introduce a Bill without delay, based on the lines of the Speaker's Conference, and containing as an integral part provisions for the enfranchisement of women."

Mr. Walter Runciman, M.P., moved a resolution, as follows:-

That this meeting, holding that no measure of electoral reform which omits the enfranchisement of women is now possible, welcomes the Report of the Speaker's Conference on Electoral Reform, and believes that by including in its majority report the principle of Women's Suffrage, it has truly interpreted the feeling of the country at large.

In seconding the resolution, Mr. J. H. Thomas said that if in the next election women were not enfranchised, then women were not going to have any part in the reconstruction problems that would follow the war. If women were enfranchised they would prevent the repetition of another war of this kind.

This resolution, and one calling upon the Government to introduce without delay an Electoral Reform Bill to include as an integral part a provision for the enfranchisement of women, were carried unanimously.

Mrs. Oliver Strachey spoke on behalf of the representative women workers and their services to the nation.

Commenting in a leading article on the Report of the Conference, the *Times*, hitherto an uncompromising opponent of Women's Suffrage, now expresses the opinion that the real case for women's enfranchisement "rests on the palpable injustice of leaving the women, who have been for the first time an essential factor in the national effort, to fight their industrial battles hereafter without such help as the vote provides. And their case rests, further, on the value of their help in maintaining those far-reaching social reforms—in such matters as drink control, child welfare, education, and housing schemes—which the war has already brought about as emergency measures. We doubt very much whether there is any great hostility left in this country to the principle of Woman Suffrage. Its advocates are almost forcing an open door."

The arguments here employed are the time-honoured ones of Suffrage advocates, to which prejudice turned a deaf ear, and Suffragists welcome them from the pen of a former opponent.

#### THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ADULT SUFFRAGE.

This Council held a public meeting in London. The speakers were Sir John Simon, M.P., Mr. Percy Alden, M.P., Mr. W. C. Anderson, M.P., Miss Macarthur (Women's Labour League), Mrs. Barton (Women's Co-operative Guild), and Miss Margaret Ashton.

Resolutions were passed welcoming the recommendations of the Conference as a step on the way to a national franchise, but urging the Government to introduce a simple and generous measure of franchise reform on the basis of Adult Suffrage for men and women, and stating that no franchise reform could

be satisfactory which did not provide for the complete inclusion of wage-earning women and the wives of wage-earners.

#### PARLIAMENTARY LABOUR PARTY AND THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE.

At a joint meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party and the National Executive a resolution was passed urging upon the Government the necessity for early legislation on the general lines of the Report of the Conference.

#### SUFFRAGE MEMORIAL.

A memorial signed by thirty-seven prominent men and women in Oxford has been sent to the Government. It calls attention to the point that the changes proposed by the Conference would practically establish Manhood Suffrage, and that it would be a grave injustice to give no effect to the claim of women to be admitted to the franchise.

#### CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

This Bill, introduced by the Home Secretary, makes further provision with respect to the punishment of sexual offences and the prevention of indecent advertisements. Under *Clause 1* of the Bill it is made an offence punishable with hard labour for six months for any male person of sixteen years and over to commit an act of indecency with a girl under sixteen. It will be no defence to plead that the girl consented to the act. *Clause 2* makes it a punishable offence to have sexual intercourse with persons suffering from venereal disease. On the conviction of persons for this offence the Court, for the purpose of ascertaining whether such offenders are suffering from venereal disease, may order a physical examination of those convicted. In the case of a woman she may have the services of a woman doctor. *Clause 3* provides that any man convicted of seducing a girl under the age of sixteen will not be able to set up the defence that he had "reasonable cause to believe" she was over that age. *Clause 4* makes provision for the punishment of the keepers of brothels or premises for the purposes of habitual prostitution. *Clause 6* gives power to impose penalties on persons convicted of loitering for the purpose of prostitution and solicitation. *Clause 7* deals with penalties for the publishing of indecent advertisements and pictures, the maximum penalty being a fine of £100 and six months' imprisonment.

On the whole this Bill will be welcomed by all engaged in the work of combating the social evil, but there is one clause which will provoke considerable opposition—namely, that which gives power to the Court to order a physical examination of persons convicted under it. There can be no doubt that this provision will bear more hardly on women than men, and will reintroduce under another form some of the most objectionable features of the abolished Contagious Diseases Act.

Although the age of consent has not been raised, the abolition of the former proviso that a man could plead that he had "reasonable cause" for believing a girl to be over sixteen years of age, will result in bringing offenders to justice who formerly found an easy method of escape from the consequences of their crime. The extension of the limit of time in which proceedings can be taken against the seducer of a girl under sixteen to twelve months remedies another injustice which pressed heavily on the victim.

#### ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE N.U.W.S.S.

A very large number of delegates attended the Council meeting of the N.U.W.S.S. in London, extending from February 21st to February 23rd.

Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., in her presidential address, gave a brief survey of the progress made by the Woman's Suffrage movement, pointing out how the industrial capacity shown by women, and their improvement in their industrial position, had reacted on their political position. She dwelt on the necessity of women being enfranchised in order that they might take their full share in the work of reconstruction, and in dealing with those problems which would immediately arise after the conclusion of peace.

A resolution on electoral reform, as follows, was carried:-

That the N.U.W.S.S. aims at securing a real equality of voting rights between men and women, but holds itself free to support, as it has always done, any measure of electoral reform which is brought before Parliament, provided that it seems likely to give the best immediate opportunity of obtaining votes for women on the most favourable terms that are practicable for the time being. It instructs the Executive Committee to carry out this principle in regard to any measures of electoral reform that may be introduced during the present session.

In view of the fact that the Criminal Law Amendment Bill was now before Parliament, and that it might be rushed through the House before the country had an opportunity of considering its bearings, the following urgency resolution was moved and carried:-

We are unalterably opposed to any compulsory physical examination for venereal disease, and we object to the whole of Clause 2 of the Bill; at the same time, we recognise that the actual communication of venereal disease to another person is a crime by whomsoever committed, and we should be glad to see it punished like other acts of cruelty if an equitable law can be devised for the purpose.

This resolution was followed by another, proposed by Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D.:-

That this Council gives general support to the recommendations of the Royal Commission as to the best methods of combating venereal diseases, but considers that those relating to Poor Law patients and prisoners are likely to lead under present conditions to sex differentiation. On the same ground this Council opposes the adoption of any scheme for compulsory notification of venereal diseases.

#### WAR SERVICE FOR WOMEN.

The Director-General of National Service has appointed Mrs. H. J. Tennant Director of the Women's Department of National Service, and Miss Violet Markham as Assistant Director. Miss M. M. Paterson, Lady Mackworth, and Miss Mona Wilson have been appointed Commissioners for Women's National Service for Scotland, Wales, and London, respectively. These appointments have given great satisfaction because the women chosen are experienced, having been actively engaged in Government schemes concerning the work of women since the beginning of the war. Their appointment, and the invitation extended by them to women who can give them the best administrative help, give assurance of some practical scheme being at length formulated for making the most effective use of women's services. Mrs. Tennant has already shown in two interviews she gave to the *Times* and the *Observer* that she is not going to repeat the mistake made in the earlier period of the war, by calling on women to come forward with offers of help before first ascertaining in what direction women can best serve the State.

#### WOMEN AND THE LAW.

Lord Buckmaster has introduced a Bill into the House of Lords in favour of opening the profession of the law to women, which passed its second reading without a division.

EDITH PALLISER.

#### A WOMAN ORGANISER FOR THE ARMY WOMEN.

The Government has appointed Dr. Chalmers Watson to organise the women employed on Army work. Mrs. Gwynne Vaughan will have charge of the organisation in France. Already 30,000 women are employed, and large additional numbers will be engaged to replace men. The rates of pay are to be fixed by the War Office.

#### Women's Freedom League.

During the Labour Conference at Manchester the Women's Freedom League organised a successful Woman Suffrage campaign, culminating in a crowded indoor meeting in that city, at which a resolution demanding votes for women on the same terms as men was passed unanimously.

At the end of January we organised a joint deputation of women's societies to Lord Rhondda (President of the Local Government Board) on the question of Venereal Diseases, and pointed out the injustice of compulsorily detaining women patients in Poor Law infirmaries, and the necessity of making it possible for every woman patient suffering from venereal disease to see a woman doctor if she so desires.

After four years of refusal to pay income-tax, as a protest against women's unenfranchised position, Dr. Winifred Patch has been declared a bankrupt by the authorities; and her public examination before the Official Receiver took place at Bankruptcy Buildings, Carey Street, on February 6th. As Dr. Patch refused to recognise the authority of the Court or to make any statement in regard to her position, the case was adjourned until February 27th—Women's Day! The Court was crowded by Suffragists, who supported Dr. Patch's protest on the ground that taxation and representation should go together; and in the evening the Women's Freedom League held a successful meeting, the speakers at which were Dr. Patch, Mrs. Despard, Mr. Pethick Lawrence, Miss K. Raleigh,

and Miss F. A. Underwood. After the Court proceedings on February 27th the Women's Freedom League arranged a lunch at the Minerva Café (144, High Holborn), the guest of honour being Dr. Patch. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

#### The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

An important public conference in the Church House, Westminster, on the position of the laywoman in the Church of England took place on February 3rd. The Bishop of Willesden presided over a crowded audience. Dr. Letitia Fairfield pointed out, when moving the resolution welcoming the Statement of the Women's Movement adopted by the Central Council of the National Mission, that the presentation of such a statement meant that the point of view the Church League for Women's Suffrage stood for, and the principles it endeavoured to apply, had conquered. It was not so much a question of women's rights as of God's rights over our lives. Miss A. Maude Royden hailed the fact that the Statement of the Women's Movement, referred to above, had been drawn up by a man, who put the right of woman to develop her personality in the foreground, as a very healthy sign. In the course of her inspiring speech she insisted on the absolute equality of laymen and laywomen in the Church, and made an eloquent plea for the Church to lead. She urged that the Church had suffered and was maimed and had lost in power by the want of the experience and genius of women in its councils and administrations.

Mr. Douglas Eyre touched upon St. Paul's attitude, and stated his belief that women should be admitted to all functions in the ministry for which laymen are admitted, as spiritual powers are among those things unseen and eternal, and admit of no material distinctions whatever.

After some discussion, in which opposition was conspicuous by its absence, in spite of pressing invitations to make itself heard, the following resolution was put to the meeting and enthusiastically carried:-

That this meeting welcomes the Statement of the Aims of the Women's Movement adopted by the Central Council of the National Mission in July, 1916, and urges upon the Church the necessity of putting into practice the resolutions following therefrom, which were passed by the Council—

- By throwing open to Churchwomen all opportunities for service now enjoyed by laymen; and
- By impressing upon clergy and laity the duty of considering the Women's Movement "in the light of the principles of Christianity."

This resolution was forwarded to the Archbishops, Bishops, Prolocutors of the Lower Houses of Convocation, and the Leaders of the Houses of Laymen in the provinces of Canterbury and York.

The Church League is arranging a scheme by which the position of Churchwomen in each diocese will be reported upon by diocesan correspondents. Further conferences will be held during March, on "Women and the Prophetic Ministry," "Church Government," "Missionary Work and Status of the Church-worker."

#### Workers' Suffrage Federation.

On Saturday, the 17th of February, we joined in the Conference called by the London Labour Council for Adult Suffrage, at which the following resolution was passed:-

This Conference considers that the proposals contained in the report of the Speaker's Conference are unsatisfactory, and hereby declares that no franchise measure will be satisfactory to the working-class unless it provides for—

- Complete Adult Suffrage for men and women both for Parliamentary and Local Government purposes.
- The abolition of plural voting and of the University franchise.
- The abolition of the pauper disqualification.
- Continuous registration to secure that removal from one part of the country to another shall not disqualify.
- Provisions to enable absentee voters to record their votes to their home constituency in the place where they happen to be at the time of the election.

In East London and elsewhere we have held successful Peace meetings and demonstrations. A Peace Conference was held at Headquarters on the 14th January, at which a committee was appointed to organise a campaign in East London, to culminate in a procession and demonstration.

M. LANSBURY.

## IRELAND.

## Belfast Suffrage Society.

This society held its fifth annual meeting on February 8th, and the report showed that Suffrage propaganda had been steadily carried on even under war conditions. During the last year special courses of lectures have been given by Miss Nina Boyle, of the Women's Freedom League, and Mrs. Herring, of the British Dominions Overseas Suffrage Union. The object in the first case had been to emphasise the new industrial conditions arising out of the war, which are of especial importance for Belfast, where before the war there were about 24,000 girls employed in the linen industry. Mrs. Herring's lectures dealt especially with the problems of infant life and the drink traffic, in the light of Australian experience. The infant death-rate for 1915 was 137 per thousand, a very serious figure in view of the general prosperity of the city. The half-time system still exists, with its resultant evils of an often permanent injury to the health of the child and an insufficient education. School accommodation is very defective, as there are more than 8,000 children who can by no means be provided for in the present school buildings. Under these circumstances the Suffrage Society has worked for the establishment of a municipal scheme for infant welfare, for the provision of increased school accommodation, and admission of girls to the local Day Trade School. The failure of these efforts furnished arguments for the urgent need of enfranchisement, and gained recruits for the Suffrage cause.

The recommendations of the Electoral Reform Conference do not apply to Ireland. The injustice thus involved to Irish women was the special subject of the speakers at the annual meeting. Arguments have been advanced by politicians of both parties that the Suffrage question must naturally wait until the whole Irish problem comes up for consideration. This argument ignores the very important fact that delay involves the exclusion of Irishwomen from any share in this settlement. The British Parliament will presumably decide whether legislative action is to be taken in connection with the Government of Ireland, and what form this action, if any, is to assume. The British members of this Assembly will either be elected by constituencies in which women are included, or will know that in the very near future they will have to face women voters. The Irish members will vote knowing that they have no responsibility to the women in their constituencies. If the question be decided by an Imperial Conference, the members of this Conference will be chosen probably by Parliaments responsible, in the case of Australia, New Zealand, four provinces of Canada, and Great Britain, to women as well as men. Irishwomen will therefore be refused a share in the settlement of the government of their own country, which will be possessed by the women of other countries in the Empire. The following resolution was therefore carried unanimously at the annual meeting: "That the members of this society desire to congratulate the women of Great Britain on the near prospect of enfranchisement. They desire to emphasise the fact that the exclusion of Ireland from the recommendations of the Conference will be at once a great injustice to the women of this country, and a disaster for its future welfare. For this reason the society calls on its members to use every effort to render public opinion sufficiently strong to make such an injustice impossible."

DORA MELLONE, Hon. Press Secretary.

## CANADA.

## Victory in Ontario.

A Marconigram received on February 18th at the I.W.S.A. Headquarters from Mrs. Erichsen-Brown, of the Equal Franchise Union of Canada, announces that the Ontario Woman Suffrage Bill passed its second reading unanimously.

A press telegram of the same date in the *Times* says that Premier Hearst has announced that the Government mean to grant Woman Suffrage.

A Reuter telegram from Toronto states that interviews with leading members of the Ontario Legislature belonging to both parties indicate a practically unanimous sentiment in favour of Women's Suffrage in the provincial elections.

## ITALY.

## Women's War Work.

The following is a summary of what has been done during 1916 by different feminine institutions in Rome:—*Associazione "Per la Donna."*—Its principal aim has been to work for the equality of wages between men and women. *Equality of titles, equality of work, equality of wages.*

In November the *Associazione* held a meeting of women working in the different ammunition manufactories, and decided to take an interest in this class of women.

Mrs. Lollini showed the necessity that the Assoc. should send some representatives among all the Governmental, District, and Provincial Commissions, so that it may bring its moral and technical contribution when needful.

The Assoc. "Per la Donna" has sent, during this year, its adherence to:—

1. La Fédération Feministe Universitaire des Femmes.
2. The National Congress for Popular Education.
3. The Meeting for Civil Assistance.
4. The Meeting held at the Capitol for the orphans of peasants fallen on the field of battle.

The Assoc. "Per la Donna" has participated in meetings whenever it was necessary to protect women's rights.

We must, says Mrs. Lollini, encourage women who are suffering but who haven't courage enough to speak; we must awake women's conscience, and for this reason we must bring together the working-class women. That's why we have formed a Commission for the protection of women's work.

*National Committee for Legal Assistance to Soldiers' Families* (a Branch of the Assoc. "Per la Donna")—is in a very flourishing condition. More than 100 marriages concluded, and more than 150 children legitimatised. Mrs. Lollini, the president of the Committee, is greatly interested in the matter of pensions to be granted to soldiers' families, even if they are not legally constituted. Therefore she sent the Government a memorial, and she set down the argument at the meeting of the Federation P.S.F. on the 1st and 2nd November, when it was unanimously approved.

In December a decree was published by which pensions were conceded to natural children of soldiers fallen on the field of battle; and also to mothers of illegitimate children killed on the field of battle. But for women there were certain restrictions, and therefore we asked some Members of Parliament to have the decree amended.

I have been appointed secretary of the Committee of Legal Assistance since September, 1916, and I can say that it is getting on very well.

The Assoc. "Per la Donna" has just formed the *Union of Home Workers*, which held its first meeting on January 14th.

Several members of the Assoc. spoke to the workwomen. Miss Casartelli, who had the idea of forming the Union, said that the Secretaryship for Emigration had kindly put its rooms at the workwomen's service, so that they may show work executed for their own profit and have more chance to sell it.

Miss Casartelli advised the workwomen to inscribe themselves at the Maternity Private Fund, and she promised to get manufacturers interested in the matter, by inducing them to pay a contribution. All this will be done with the help of the working people. Miss Casartelli has exhorted the workwomen to become attached to the Union and to get fond of each other, so that they may enjoy all the advantages granted by the Society.

Mrs. Schiavoni promised the workwomen to let them and their children have medical assistance, and one of the *ouvrières* propounded that there should be head-groups to strengthen and to propagate the institution.

*Registry Office* (another Branch of the Assoc. "Per la Donna")—Very flourishing. Nearly two thousand women obtained a situation, number far superior to 1915.

This office is highly appreciated by all classes of people, and is very well directed by Mrs. Schiavoni Bosio. The chief aim of the office is to study the conditions of all sorts of workwomen. It has also obtained subventions for women who were in need. Several institutions and the chief newspapers kindly helped the office in this matter.

The greatest part of those who inscribed themselves at the registry office belong to the lower classes, and they turned

into very clever workwomen for ammunitions and other military manufactories.

Lately some of them have been taught by Judge Majetti to make pasteboard for toys. As for women working at ammunitions, the office was on most friendly terms with the National Ammunition Committee.

Also General Dallolio greatly favoured the office by recommending it to the Direction of the Governmental Ammunition Manufactory.

Mrs. Schiavoni Bosio tries to help morally all classes of workwomen by developing the conscience of their duty and of their responsibilities.

*Sewing School or Laboratory* (an outcome of the Assoc. "Per la Donna")—In this school the wives, daughters, mothers, and sisters of our soldiers are admitted to work, and fugitives from our unredeemed countries are sometimes admitted. Many of them have learned to manufacture military clothes owing to lessons received at this school. Workwomen contract by the job, and the whole profit is left to them.

*Wool Branch* (connected with the school)—Is a very important one; and the benefit of the work, instead of being left to the workwomen, who are well paid, is spent for buying cloth for the confection of goods which are given as presents to the children of soldiers in need.

Thousands of women are working in both branches, and Miss Laura Casartelli, who directs everything, is a splendid organiser.

*Branch for the Distribution of Clothes* (connected with the school)—It is a very expensive one, because it consists of various kinds of assistance, such as parcels to be sent to our soldiers and to their children. This school has been the first one which paid of its own will a tax to the Committee of Civil Assistance, and it never refused to participate in public subscriptions.

In order to increase the industrial development of the school, a cutting machine has been introduced.

## THE PRIME MINISTER ON VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Our Prime Minister on several occasions, said:—"The work done by women during the present war has shown that the work accomplished by men in Government must be connected with a feminine electorate. All your deeds are wonderful, but I am glad to point out those for civil and political propaganda, which can be accomplished exactly by women."

The Turinese Committee, P.S.F., to testify its gratefulness to the illustrious Piedmontese patriot, has sent him the following telegram:—"The Turinese Committee, P.S.F., sensible and grateful for the words privately said by your Excellency in behalf of a feminine electorate, does itself honour to declare that its work will always be carried on in favour of its own country, for which it does not wish to work only, but also to assume civil and political responsibilities, by co-operating assiduously in the patriotic propaganda necessary for obtaining complete victory.—The President, Emilia Mariani."

Our Prime Minister has thus answered:—"Grateful for your patriotic telegram, I confide in propaganda for Italian resistance, which is fervently animated by the work accomplished by this Committee, to whom I send a warm, approving salutation.—Boselli."

The following extract from the "Messaggero" of November 14th is of interest:—

"A deputation, composed of Dr. Teresa Labriola, general secretary of the Suffrage Society; Professor Anita Pagliari, of the law section of the National Council of Women; and Miss Laura Costa, secretary of the Suffrage Committee, was received by the Right Hon. Sacchi. This deputation was sent to inform the Minister of the wishes expressed at all Women's Congresses and by various Feminist and Suffragist Associations on problems that may shortly come up for solution, as public opinion on them is now ripe: (1) The abolition of the old institution of marital authorisation; (2) the admission of women as employees in public offices, with equal status and responsibility with men. Dr. Labriola, in a few telling words, put forward various arguments that will shortly be set forth in a memorial, and the Minister showed himself fully informed on the subject and sincerely interested. His words proved how modern and broad his ideas are on the subject of women's

emancipation, and he convinced the deputation that one of these problems is already solved, and that the others will be seriously studied with a real sense of altruism and of justice."

N.B.—The problem which is likely to be solved is the abolition of marital authorisation. This question has been seriously studied by several members of Parliament, especially by the Hon. Sandrini and Hon. Lapegna.

I send you a paragraph from "Il Giornale d'Italia," January 18th, 1917. There was a meeting of the Committee of Civil Assistance, and the President, addressing himself to our Prime Minister, Boselli, said: "I must draw attention to the splendid work done by women in the noblest of all spheres, maternity. They deserve the admiration not simply of Rome, but of all Italy. With tender love they have relieved all the evils of the present time. Let us pay to women the same honours paid to men who are fighting. Let us grant women more moral and material privileges. Considering that our ancestors placed women in the highest position, surrounding them with the greatest respect and privilege in the institution of the Vestal Virgins, we should also give them a higher status so that they may with enthusiasm and devotion minister to the dearest and noblest of institutions—our country." These words, received with tremendous applause, and spoken by such a man as Adolfo Apolloni just at this moment, have great importance.

MARIA BIANCHI MIANI,  
International Secretary, Federazione Nazionale  
pro Suffragio Femminile,  
Affiliated to the I.W.S.A.

## SWEDEN.

## National Swedish Woman Suffrage Association.

## ANNUAL MEETING.

The Central Board of the National Swedish Woman Suffrage Association, familiarly known as the L.K.P.R. (Landsförening för Kvinlig Politisk Rösträtt), held its fourteenth annual meeting in Stockholm on the 8th and 9th of January.

The meeting was opened by the president, Miss Signe Bergman, who greeted the assembly and gave a short survey of the past year. In spite of the fact that their meeting again took place under the dark cloud of the war, the question of Woman Suffrage had made progress, and a change of opinion was noted even in Sweden. As the last Riksdag of our three-years Parliamentary period is now in session, it is essential that the Government should bring forward a Bill on Woman Suffrage, or else we will have to wait for it another six years. To that purpose a deputation waited upon the Prime Minister, and was well received, the Prime Minister promising that the question should be taken into serious consideration. Miss Signe Bergman concluded by saying that even if we, compared with our Scandinavian sisters, had no victories to register, the great wave carrying Woman Suffrage on its crest had also reached us and brought new life to our movement, which she hoped every woman would further by keeping our aim high and our 'scutcheon banner bright, even at the sacrifice of personal ties and ambitions.

Then followed the elections. Miss Signe Bergman was by acclamation re-elected president of the L.K.P.R.; Miss Karolina Widerström, M.D., vice-president; and Miss Signe Jacobsson, secretary. On the Central Board were elected: Miss Signe Bergman, Dr. Karolina Widerström, Baroness Ebbe Palmstjerne; Dr. Gulli Petri, Mrs. Anna Wicksell, Mrs. Ester Brisman as deputies.

From the secretary's report we gather that the printing of literature and leaflets has greatly increased, reaching a total of 51,715 publications. To all the candidates of the Landsting\* leaflets were sent asking them to declare their views on Woman Suffrage. The answers showed that almost all the Liberals and Socialists were partisans of Woman Suffrage, whereas the Conservatives were generally opposed to it, though even among their ranks Woman Suffrage can register some friends. Six new local Suffrage societies had been formed during 1916.

The neat little Suffrage Calendar started last year had been a great success, and was again recommended to members' attention.

## MEMORIAL TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

The Chairman then proceeded to read the memorial presented to the Prime Minister, and, as the Government had declared that a Bill on Woman Suffrage would not be sub-

\* Landsting: County Councils electing the First Chamber.

mitted to the Riksdag this year, the meeting adopted the following resolution:—

“Among the arguments used against Woman Suffrage, the principal has been the interest of the State—the services of women are supposed not to be as indispensable as those of men. We have always opposed this argument, and considered that women's work in and outside the pale of their homes, in tending the land, or in various professions, practical or intellectual, is as essential to the State as the work of men. But the fallacy of this argument has been brought into vivid light by all experience in the terrible war that is still raging—when there is national danger, and every energy has to be strained to the utmost, the service of women has proved indispensable. This experience has received its clearest utterance in Mr. Asquith's declaration—Asquith, who has always opposed Woman Suffrage—that, if political Suffrage be founded on services rendered to the State, then the claims of women are irrefutable.

“The help of women has always been needed in our country for the State and the commune, in organising relief and in the distribution of the necessities of life. We hope with all our hearts that Sweden will be saved the agony of war; but, should this calamity befall us, we know that we would meet the claims put on us with an equal spirit of sacrifice—equal to that of our sisters in the belligerent countries.

“Under these circumstances it is with deep regret that we learn that our Government has refused to take the necessary steps to solve the question of Woman Suffrage. In the hope of winning a hearing in the Riksdag for our claims, the L.K.P.R. has charged the Central Board to address a circular to all three political parties, requesting them to bring in by party motion to the Riksdag in session the question of Woman Suffrage on the same conditions as the male Suffrage.”

In the session of the afternoon, Miss Gertrud af Klinsey put forward her scheme for an intensified propaganda. Stockholm, and gradually the other Swedish towns, were to be divided into districts with local centres that would undertake not only propaganda for Woman Suffrage, but also practical philanthropic work for alleviating the distress caused by the war.

#### EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

Two interesting topics were under discussion during the evening meeting: Mme. Gabrielle Duchesne's project of an international action demanding equal wages for equal work, and the new Swedish law on illegitimate children. Miss Anna Kleman showed how the question of women's wages has not only an economic, but also a moral, aspect, affecting their social status and their comradeship with the male workers. The chief reason of underpaid woman labour is the want of Woman Suffrage.

In England, Mme. Duchesne's scheme has found great support among the Suffrage societies. When one bears in mind how easy it is for the employer to press down the wages of women—ill-prepared and ill-organised as they often are; that their wages are generally 40 per cent. lower than the workmen's, in France 50 per cent. for the men's work they are now doing; one understands how important it is that women should form a defensive alliance and safeguard their interests, not least on behalf of the men returning to their work from the trenches.

#### NEW LAW ON ILLEGITIMACY.

The new law on illegitimate children evoked lively discussion. Miss Anna Lindhagen, the first speaker, pointed out that one of the chief features of the new law was the appointment of a children's inspector (male or female), nominated by the Child Welfare Committees, whose duty it is to stand by the mother and help her to her right. Though the Norwegian law is far more radical than the new Swedish law, and though the Danish law goes further in some essential points—*i.e.*, in allowing the parish to dispose of the father's contribution before he has been forced by law to any payment,—Swedish women have much to be grateful for. The law has cancelled a mother's right to remain anonymous, which the speaker approved of; but she wished the mother's right to her child to be emphasised, and the entry of the father's name in the church registers to be obligatory.

Miss Eva Andén, barrister, spoke about the child's right to a family name. By previous use, a child has had its father's name if the fatherhood was acknowledged, whereas the new law states that the child must have its mother's name, even if she were unwilling, because, as the mother generally takes care of the child, it is better that they should have the same name.

Miss Andén showed that this might have its disadvantages, especially in the case of children the issue of an engagement, which formerly ranked as legitimate with right to their father's name and position, but now were declared illegitimate, though with the right to inherit from their father, but not members of his family. Miss Andén did not approve of the new law preserving the old statutes, excluding illegitimate children from any inheritance from their father, and was of opinion that the reason given for this by the law commission—namely, the probable increase of free unions—was not to be feared.

Dr. Anna Clara Romanus Alfoin proposed that a notice be sent to every local Woman Suffrage society, so that advice could be tendered and resolutions passed in this so important question.

In the meeting of January 9th, opened by Miss Signe Bergman, Dr. Karolina Widerström gave a report of the highly successful Northern Congress for Women Suffrage held in Stockholm in November, where a common organisation for the Northern Suffrage Societies had been formed.

Dr. Widerström further pointed out the need of women representatives in the committee discussing the training of youth after finishing school, and, alluding to a recent much-discussed case of assault on a board school mistress living in a lonely district, stated that ten Suffrage societies had given a petition to the Government, asking for due protection.

Baroness Ebba Palmstjerna gave an account of the social lectures instituted thanks to the legacy of Mrs. Bergman-Osterberg, well known in England as the founder of the College for Swedish Gymnastics, now by her will the property of the English State. Two hundred and eighteen lectures, ranging all over Sweden, had been held and been very well attended, especially in the far north.

In the following discussion—Woman Suffrage and the Press—Mrs. Gulli Hertzman-Ericson, editor of the Swedish Suffrage Women's vivacious little paper, gave an account of its doings during 1916. Mrs. Gerde-Modén told the meeting that the article series on Woman Suffrage had secured a wider range of newspaper subscribers, thereby reaching no fewer than 268,000 persons; and the Secretary pleaded for increased subscriptions to *Jus Suffragii*, an organ of which every Woman Suffrage woman can be proud.

#### TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT WILSON.

The meeting decided to send the following telegram to President Wilson: “The National Swedish W.S. Association, assembled in Stockholm, expresses to the President of the United States their deep gratitude for his efforts to bring about a lasting peace.

“SIGNÉ BERGMAN, Chairman.”

#### CONGRESS AFTER THE WAR.

After reading the resolution as to the status of illegitimate children adopted on the previous day, the Chairman declared that the Central Board had withdrawn the proposal of a congress to be held whenever the Peace Congress should meet, and had in its place proposed a simple working congress, possibly in Sweden. No answer had as yet been obtained, but it was known that Mrs. Chapman Catt did not deem it necessary to hold the ordinary yearly Congress, 1917, being of opinion that it could be postponed. The International Central Board in London had proposed a general Women's Congress where delegates from the different societies could discuss the questions arising. But as this proposal met with opposition in France, it was abandoned.

The Northern Women's Suffrage Association, assembled in Stockholm in November, agreed upon the following pronouncement as representing the opinion of the Scandinavian countries:—

(1) The decision to hold a Suffrage Congress simultaneously with the European Peace Conference, as proposed by Sweden, is cancelled.

(2) No meeting of the I.W.S.A. to take place as long as the war lasts.

(3) A meeting of the Administrative Councils in the countries affiliated to the I.W.S.A. to be summoned in a neutral country as soon after the war as circumstances permit. This meeting to decide upon when and where the I.W.S.A. is to meet.

(4) The best place for the meeting would be Stockholm.

Mrs. Augusta Jonning proposed a summer meeting in pretty Ronneby, on the Swedish South Coast, similar to the meetings of the two last years, which proved such a success, and she painted it with such glowing colours, and invited members so heartily to her own Jusculum, where every Woman Suffrage

woman is a dear guest, that she earned the assembly's grateful cheers.

Dr. Gulli Petrini, considering that the work of women members of municipal communal boards often lies on the same lines, advocated the establishment of a closer connection between them, and an organisation was formed to that end.

#### PROPOSED CHURCH LEAGUE.

Miss Anna Montelius opened a discussion on the desirability of instituting a Christian group within the Woman Suffrage movement, after the example of Denmark and England, where the Kristelig Valgretforening and the Church League for Woman Suffrage had been of great value to religious women. The lively discussion showed the general opinion to be that, much as there was to be said for Miss Montelius's proposal, and though it would be advisable to come into closer contact with the Christian societies, it was feared that if a special Christian section be formed it would draw a line between religious and non-religious people and be a discordant element.

Mrs. Ellen Hager reminded the meeting of last year's departure in commemorating St. Brigitta's Day with meeting and festivals all over the country, and wished it to be kept up, so that this day should always be fixed for commemorating one of Sweden's great women—for example, next time Queen Margareta, who did so much to unite the North. Other members were of opinion that Woman Suffrage ought to be the chief topic of the lectures on St. Brigitta Day, as it was chiefly instituted to be a Suffrage day.

#### POLITICIANS AT A SUFFRAGE MEETING.

The last meeting on the night of the 9th had assembled enthusiastic crowds, which filled to overflowing the hall, tastefully decorated with banners and flowers in Suffrage colours. Several members of the Riksdag and the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hasselrof) attended. Three speakers, each representing one of our political parties—Liberals, Labour, and Conservatives,—gave their views on Woman Suffrage, were eagerly listened to, and frantically cheered.

Mrs. Karin Fjällbäck-Holmgren (Liberal) reminded the audience of the two periods in Woman Suffrage. The first one, a period of argument; the second, of facts. The first period had been an arduous one, as an argument had no sooner been slain with figures before a new one arose. The arguments were ever changing, but one thing never changed, and that was the belief of our opponents that they had the monopoly of truth. She hoped that we were now reaching the period of facts, which the Riksdag would take into serious consideration. The war must have led to a readjustment of their judgment, so that there could be a hope for the women of Sweden.

Mrs. Julia Ström-Olsson (Labour) pointed out that women have never known equality, because it had been denied to them by the law. The law of evolution is hard, and does not spare the weaker. Women need Suffrage for self-protection. Industrialism has come to the women, it is not the women that have brought it. Women have not made the laws they have to obey. We appeal once more for our Suffrage in the consciousness of our just cause, and this time not without hope. We know that the Suffrage will not give us the keys of paradise, but we want to share men's responsibilities. We have been warned that political life is full of thorns, but nothing equals the thorns of a life uncared for by the law. It is on a basis of economical and humanitarian justice that women ask the 1917 Riksdag to give them the vote.

Dr. Lydia Wahlström (Conservative) cited an utterance of Professor Reuterskjöld's report on Woman Suffrage, stating that it was as impossible to give reasons for Woman Suffrage as against it. Law cannot follow the evolution of ideas, because law is always retrospective. Already the self-supporting and the married women are a power strong enough to be represented. Their common interests are more than economic, and women belonging to the most different classes have been unanimous in their claims regarding the factory laws, pensions, insurance, etc. There can be no conflict between the interests of the State and the interests of women. There are two theories as to Woman Suffrage—the Liberal theory, based on individual rights; the Conservative one, deeming that the State has a right to ask for qualifications. A woman's greatest qualification is her unlikeness to man. Now that the State encroaches on ever new spheres, the demarcation line between home and State has ceased to exist. But the State does not represent the nation as long as women are denied the vote. The greatest change in our culture has been the arising of the desire to take things into our own hands, the creation of an independent

woman's opinion that will have to be consulted when the new ideals born out of the darkness of the trenches have to be built up. Women will help to remodel the idea of the State. There must be a reevaluation of values. The State and the fatherland are not to be the highest good to which everything is sacrificed. “The aim of the State is to perfect the natural disposition of a people,” as Professor Kjellén has put it. If that is true, if the aim of politics is education, then the contribution of woman is as important as that of man.

The following resolution was carried unanimously: “In neutral, as well as belligerent, countries, the indispensability of women's work for the State has been brought into sharp relief by the war. Accordingly we Swedish women, assembled in Stockholm on the 9th of January, ask that political Suffrage and eligibility should by the present Riksdag be granted on the same conditions as to men.” E. GADOLIN-LAGERWAK.

#### Protection for School Teachers who Live Alone.

A large number of the Women's Suffrage Societies have sent in a memorial to the Government asking that provision shall be made without delay for the safeguarding and protection of women teachers living alone in country districts. After enumerating the insufficient safeguards already provided, they point out the dangers and inconveniences which are the consequences of the present housing arrangements. Not less than 184 women live out in the country, one kilometre and more from the nearest neighbour, and 44 have to go more than five kilometres to reach a human dwelling. It is also a fact that no profession has such a large proportion of the mentally affected as that of the elementary school teachers.

Every day that is allowed to pass without the Government taking steps for the efficient protection of these homes against outrage endangers the reputation of the Government as a protector of the people; and, moreover, the quality of the work paid for by the nation must be diminished by these unfavourable conditions.

It is generally thought, therefore, that it is high time for something to be done. This can only be done by Government action in order to afford effective protection.

—Rösträtt för Kvinnor.

#### Technical Training.

The Central Society for Women's Suffrage has sent in a memorial to the Government in reference to the postponed new legislation dealing with the technical training of young persons of both sexes after the school age. After dwelling upon the great importance of such training, for women as well as men, the memorialists petition the Government to provide for the inclusion of women amongst the experts who are appointed by the Ecclesiastical and Educational Department to deal with this matter. A similar memorial has been sent by the Frederika Bremer Society, dwelling especially on the importance of appointing women experts on domestic economy to sit on the Advisory Committee.

—Rösträtt för Kvinnor.

#### SWITZERLAND.

##### Penalising Motherhood.

The Women's Union of St. Gall has sent a petition to the Grand Council of St. Gall, demanding the abolition of Paragraph 177 of the Criminal Code, which runs as follows:—

“Simple immorality will be punished in the first instance by the police with a fine of 20 to 40 francs; in the second instance, with a fine of 40 francs alone or in addition to imprisonment up to three months.”

By “simple immorality” the St. Gall criminal code means sexual intercourse outside marriage, and, as there is usually no evidence of the actual occurrence, punishment only follows nine months later, and *only to one party*, the mother, whose newborn child is taken as witness. So that, added to the terrors of childbirth, desertion, and poverty, the helpless young mother is pursued by the police immediately after delivery, and has to face criminal proceedings. Such survivals of medieval ferocity and hypocrisy seem well-nigh incredible; nevertheless the women's petition for the removal of this abominable law has been in vain.

The Cantons of Appenzell and Obwalden have similar enactments. Well-to-do persons escape penalty by moving to neighbouring cantons.

##### Swiss Women's Year Book.

A lengthy review of the admirable Swiss Suffrage Year Book is unavoidably held over owing to pressure on space.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

## President Wilson Congratulates North Dakota.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, has received the following letter from President Wilson:—

My Dear Mrs. Catt,—May I not express to you and your organisation, as well as to the women of North Dakota, my congratulations upon the passage by the Legislature of that State of a Bill granting to the women of the State the right to vote for Presidential electors and for municipal officers? As you know, I have a very real interest in the extension of the Suffrage to the women, and I feel that every step in this direction should be applauded.

Cordially and sincerely yours,  
(Signed) WOODROW WILSON.

Mrs. Catt says that the President's letter "will exert a profound influence in all the States where Bills for Presidential Suffrage are pending."

Under the provisions of the North Dakota Presidential Suffrage Bill North Dakota women can vote for Presidential electors, county surveyors, county constables, and for all officers of cities, villages, and towns (except police magistrates and city justices of the peace), and for the township clerk, overseer of highways, assessor, treasurer, and constables. That is to say, North Dakota women can vote for all officers that are not created by the State Constitution.

## Women Attend Formal Signing of North Dakota Suffrage Bill.

The Bill enfranchising the women of the thirteenth "white" State was the first to be signed by Governor Frazier. It goes into effect July 1st.

## Ceremony at Signing.

An impressive ceremony attended the signing. The Bills were first presented to Lieutenant-Governor Kraabel, who, in the presence of the Senate, signed them with a pen presented by the women who worked for their adoption. He then presented the pen to Mrs. Elizabeth Preston Anderson, President of the State Women's Christian Temperance Union.

"I want to congratulate the women of the State on the successful passage of these Bills," said the Lieutenant-Governor. "I hope that they will be approved by all the people of the State."

Mrs. Anderson, in behalf of her organisation and the women of the State, thanked the Senate for the passage of the measures. The pen with which the Bills were signed will be kept in the archives of the State Women's Christian Temperance Union. In a short address, she mentioned that twenty-four years ago she was sent to work for the passage of a Suffrage Bill. It was introduced, and passed the House. When it was up for consideration in the Senate, the House had a change of heart, and after much discussion the Bill was returned to the House, where it was killed, and all mention of it was expunged from the records.

## Three Pens Souvenirs.

"We are grateful to you for these splendid endorsements," Mrs. Anderson told the Senate. "The Suffrage Bill, I believe, has broken all records for Suffrage Bills in any State. Ten days ago the Bills were first introduced, and within that time they were passed. We hope that the concurrent resolution for full suffrage will be passed by the next Legislature, and adopted by the voters of the State."

The Bills were then taken to the House, where they were signed by Speaker Wood in the presence of the House. He presented the pen to Mrs. Grace Clendenning, of Fargo, President of the Votes for Women League.

She briefly thanked the House for its action.

A large crowd witnessed the signing of the Bills in both Houses.

## In Governor's Office.

The Bills were then taken to Governor Frazier in his office, where he signed them in the presence of twenty women and several men.

In presenting the pen with which he signed the Bills to Mrs. Weible, daughter of the lamented Mrs. Clara Darrow, the late President of the Votes for Women League, Governor Frazier said: "I trust that the Bills will accomplish all that you ladies wish them to."

Mrs. Weible thanked the Governor, and said: "We hope you will be here two years from now, so that you will be able to sign the full franchise measure."

## The Lesson of North Dakota.

More lessons than one may be drawn from the triumph of popular government in North Dakota—followed, as it so soon and so appropriately was, by a triumph for equal Suffrage.

For years the plain people of North Dakota had been ruthlessly exploited by a partnership between unscrupulous business and corrupt politics.

The farmers have been robbed both outside of the law and inside of it. The railroads, the wheat and milling trust, the great agricultural implement concerns, and a banking combine worked together, it is said, to gather all the farmers' cash into their own pockets. With wheat bringing enormous prices, the farmers of North Dakota, who feed a large part of the world, could hardly feed their own families. All the profits were soaked up by a greedy combination of middlemen.

The farmers wanted a terminal grain elevator, to be owned or supervised by the State, to protect them against the cheating of the grain speculators. Twice they voted for it on a popular referendum, by huge majorities. The Legislature refused to carry out their wishes. The cup overflowed when a legislative leader told an indignant delegation of farmers to "Go home and slop the pigs." That started the Farmers' Non-Partisan League, which has swept the State.

Two lessons in particular the Suffragists may draw from the outcome. First, it was distinctly a non-partisan movement that won the victory. The farmers elected men whom they could trust to give them what they needed, with absolute disregard for the candidates' party labels. The new Legislature is made up of men of all parties.

In the second place, the farmers' victory shows the worth of a vote when independently used. It is the habit of the opponents of equal rights to belittle the ballot. In the teeth of history they assure women that it has done little or nothing for working men, and hence cannot be expected to do anything for working women. Men who are suffering from political and economic oppression can help themselves to a very large degree by the ballot—when they learn how to use it. The farmers' victory in North Dakota is an illustration.

This Legislature of farmers is made up mainly of men inexperienced in politics. They may be expected to make some mistakes; but they made no mistake when they enfranchised North Dakota's women. If any women on earth deserve the ballot, it is the hard-working farmers' wives.

Now let the Suffragists all the country over turn to and celebrate the North Dakota victory.

The signing of the Suffrage Bill by Governor Frazier of North Dakota recalls the act of another Governor, a very different type of man.

Before the Territory of Dakota was divided into the States of North and South Dakota, the Territorial Legislature passed a Bill giving full Suffrage to women. Governor Gilbert Peirce vetoed the Bill. In later years he became a Suffragist, and expressed regret for his action, but it was too late to undo it. But for the illiberality of that one man both of the Dakotas would have enjoyed the advantages of equal Suffrage for a generation, and the women would have been spared their many laborious campaigns.

When the two Dakotas, with Washington and Montana, were preparing to come into the Union as States, Henry B. Blackwell, as representative of the American Woman Suffrage Association, went out and laboured with all four Constitutional Conventions in behalf of equal Suffrage. The Montana Convention gave tax-paying women a vote upon all questions submitted to the taxpayers, but the opposition to full Suffrage was too strong.

Now, so far as Washington, Montana, and North Dakota are concerned, those old defeats are swallowed up in victory, and so will every Suffrage defeat be in course of time. "Truth often loses a battle, but never loses a war."

—A. S. B., in the *Woman's Journal*.

## Votes in Electoral College.

N. Dakota has five votes in the Electoral College, making 96 votes from Woman Suffrage States, not counting Ohio (of which no detailed news has yet reached us).

The N. Dakota Bill passed on January 17th, and on January 19th its example was followed by the Lower House of Tennessee, where Presidential Suffrage was voted by 59 votes to 25, and will now come before the Senate.

The N. Dakota Senate has passed an amendment to the Constitution giving women of the State complete Suffrage. This amendment will have to take the regular course of constitutional amendments, and be submitted to a referendum. In the last vote, in 1914, women lost. There is every hope of better luck next time.

## Ohio Resolution Introduced.

A joint resolution providing for the submission of a full Suffrage amendment for Woman Suffrage in Ohio was introduced in the Senate on January 23rd by Senator Holden.

Supporters of the measures then pending for Presidential Woman Suffrage declared that the resolution was introduced with a view to defeating the Reynolds Bill on Presidential Franchise.

The women themselves worked for the limited franchise measure. Four speakers talked for an hour on January 25th, explaining to the Lower House why they ought to favour the Reynolds Bill. There will be another hearing soon.

The Presidential franchise for women was supported in Ohio by Wm. J. Bryan, who addressed the Ohio Legislature on January 18th: "I'm in favour of Woman Suffrage, both State and National, and until it is secured everywhere I'm in favour of every step proposed, whether it be a long or a short one. Every foot of ground gained will be held, and will help to gain more." Mr. Newton Baker, the United States Minister of War, is an Ohio man, and warmly supported Presidential franchise for women. "Presidential Suffrage should be given Ohio women as a matter of justice and right." It has been!

## Campaign States.

There are after Ohio and N. Dakota still other States in which a Presidential Suffrage Bill has been introduced. They are:—Indiana, Connecticut, Minnesota, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Tennessee. In Tennessee it has already passed the Lower House, and is on its way to the Senate. In five Southern States suffragists have taken the initial step towards presenting Presidential Suffrage Bills—viz., in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, and Arkansas. An amendment to the State Constitution, whereby women would get full Suffrage, has been introduced in eleven States during January. The States are:—Arkansas, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, N. Dakota, New York, S. Dakota, and S. Carolina.

## Eleven Women Legislators.

Figures in the hands of the National American Woman Suffrage Association show that there are eleven women in the Lower House of five different States, in 1917: Washington has one, Mrs. Ina P. Williams (R.); Montana has two, Mrs. Maggie Smith Hathaway (D.), and Mrs. Emma A. Ingalls (R.); Arizona has three, Mrs. Rosa McKay (D.), Mrs. Geo. B. Marsh (D.), and Mrs. Pauline O'Neill (D.); Utah has four, Mrs. Elizabeth T. Hayward (D.), Mrs. Grace Stratton-Airey (D.), Mrs. Daisy C. Allen (D.), Mrs. Alma Greenwood (D.); Oregon has one, Mrs. Alexander Thompson (D.). It will be seen that nine of the eleven are Democrats and two Republicans. No Senators were elected in any State.

## And Montana Won.

Three States contested for the right to claim the first woman Congressman. The women who ran for United States Congress were: Mrs. Frances C. Axtell, Progressive, of Washington; Dr. Eva Harding (D.), of Kansas; and Miss Jeannette Rankin (R.), of Montana. Only Miss Rankin was elected.

## First Woman Given Privilege of Senate Floor.

For the first time in American history a woman, Miss Jessie Simpson, has been granted the privilege of the floor of the Senate of the United States. Miss Simpson was appointed secretary to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on January 2, by Senator Stone, chairman of the Committee. She is the first woman to serve as secretary of a Senate Committee, a position carrying with it the privilege of the floor. Her position is in many ways the most responsible of all Senate clerkships, as she will be in intimate touch with the work of the Committee, which has more confidential and secret matters entrusted to its care than any other. In her hands will be treaties with foreign Governments pending before the Senate, and much other information of a delicate nature. She will be the second highest paid woman in the Government's service. Her salary of \$3,000 a year is exceeded only by that of Miss Julia Lathrop, chief of the Children's Bureau, who receives \$5,000.

## BOOKS TO READ.

WOMEN'S OCCUPATIONS AND POPULATION POLICY. Yearbook of the Bund Deutscher Frauenvereine, 1917. Edited by Dr. Elisabeth Altmann-Gottheiner.

Among the war problems behind the front and in the front rank pointing significantly to the future are those of women's work and population policy. There are none which concern women more closely. It is, therefore, important to hear their opinions on these important questions. It is warmly to be welcomed that the German Federation of Women's Societies has decided to publish the addresses given at their last meeting in Weimar on Women's Occupations and Population Policy, in a collection by Teubner. The literary section of the book includes contributions by Dr. Marie Elisabeth Lüders, on "The Economic Significance of Skilled Women's Work in Industry"; Elisabeth Boehm Langarben, on "The Economic Significance of Skilled Women's Work in Agriculture"; Josephine Levy Rathenau, on "Labour Exchanges and Expert Advice as a Means of Selecting Occupations"; Dr. Elisabeth Altmann-Gottheiner, on "The Transition of Women's Work from War Conditions to Peace Conditions" (from the German standpoint); Maria Klausberger, of Vienna, "Transition of Women's Work from War to Peace Conditions" (Austrian standpoint); Anna Lindemann, on "Women's Attitude to a Population Policy"; Dr. Gertrud Bäumer, on "State and Family"; Dr. Marie Bernays, on "Women's Wage-earning and Motherhood"; Dr. Marie Baum, on "A Social, Hygienic, Population Policy." The book is a useful memento for those who were present, and a valuable substitute for the spoken word for all those who are interested in the questions treated.

THE STRUGGLE TO AVOID THE WORLD WAR (Der Kampf um die Vermeidung des Weltkrieges), 1892 to 1900, and 1907 to 1914. By Bertha von Suttner. Edited by Dr. Alfred Fried. 2 vols. Vol. I., From the Caprivi Army Increase to the Transvaal War. Vol. II., From the Second Hague Conference to the Outbreak of the World War. Price 16 marks or francs. Published by Orell Füssli, Zurich.

This work is a history of the political events of the last two decades before the world war, seen and criticised by a personality who saw the disaster approaching and fought to avoid it. It is not written in retrospect, but a critique of events born out of the actual time week by week, month by month. But the great importance of the work lies in the drawing together of this daily task; what demonstrates now, in view of what has happened, the greatness of the prophetic, who saw it all coming, was the gigantic mass of faithful work done by one who, in the service of humanity, set herself against the disaster and warned against it. So the book is a thankoffering to the great German woman who devoted her life to an idea once ridiculed, and, alas! only now understood; it is a literary monument to Bertha von Suttner. It is also a key for the understanding of this war, and of the necessity for preventing similar catastrophes in future.

—From *Frauenbestrebungen*, Zürich.

## "Jus Suffragii."

"Often we have been asked whether our connection with women of other countries, especially enemy countries, has been broken off, whether the International Woman Suffrage Alliance has been interrupted, or possibly destroyed? Apart from occasional short messages from personal friends, we have been kept regularly supplied with news from all countries through the organ of the Alliance, *Jus Suffragii*...."

"The organisation of the I.W.S.A. was purposely left elastic. The common idea which binds its Auxiliaries together is the right of women to citizenship. Each country is left free to fight its own fights, true to its national individuality. Thus even these times, which seemingly have torn asunder all ties, have not succeeded in disrupting the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. We look back wistfully upon the Congresses where women of many nations in various countries became acquainted with each other, and where many a lasting friendship was formed...."

"The longing for peace is strong amongst all peoples. It will become overpoweringly so, and women, silent no longer, will raise their voices and speak—speak to demand their rights. A wide outlook alone sustains our hope!"

MINNA CAUER, in *Frauenbewegung*.



### Tyranny to University Women.

The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge still deny justice and equal opportunities to women. No woman may be a member of the University. There are women's colleges, and women may study and enter for examination, but only with the permission of the male authorities. Women now studying classics and wishful to attend the lectures of the Professor of Archaeology, Professor Ridgway, must each obtain his permission. Professor Ridgway disapproves of a society called the Union of Democratic Control, and refuses permission to any woman who belongs to this society to attend his lectures. Pro-

fessor Ridgway is an examiner as well as a lecturer, and there is no other teaching in the subject available. These women are therefore seriously injured in their studies and in their future careers. Professor Ridgway is unable to exercise the same tyranny where men are concerned, as men, being members of the University, have a right to attend all University lectures. This petty persecution of women on a question of opinion shows the lengths to which bigotry can go, and how much "freedom" and "democracy" exist in this ancient University.

Meanwhile the only safe course for women is to attend more modern universities where they will get fair play and equal treatment with their male fellow-students.

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