

JUS SUFFRAGII.

# The International Woman Suffrage News

The Monthly Organ of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

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**Bye-law of I.W.S.A. Constitution.**

"The International Woman Suffrage Alliance, by mutual consent of its auxiliaries, stands pledged to preserve absolute neutrality on all questions that are strictly national."

**Notice on the Policy of Jus Suffragii**

In the present critical position of affairs, when any reference to political conditions may hurt national susceptibilities, it must be clearly stated that the International Woman Suffrage Alliance maintains a strictly neutral attitude, and is only responsible for its official announcements. Reports from affiliated societies are inserted on the responsibility of the society contributing them. Other articles are published as being of general interest to our readers, and responsibility for them rests solely with their signatories.

**Features of the Month.**

The Danish women have for the first time taken part in the general elections, and it is said that the elections turn on their vote. We hope to have fuller accounts in next month's issue. Several women candidates stood for election, but we have no news of the results.

The Canadian Conference between the Government and leading women from all parts of Canada marks a new phase in women's political development. The Bill to give all Canadian women the vote for the Dominion Parliament is in process of passing into law, and the Government has shown an intelligent anticipation of events in summoning women to their counsels and discussing with them questions of policy. Such a step forward is highly significant and hopeful: women's stake in the country is recognised, their claim to citizenship is honoured, the value of their advice and co-operation is admitted, their powers are utilised. All this is bound to have the happiest results. In Canada each Province has its own Legislature, and the women of each Province are divided from each other by vast tracts of country. The drawing of them all together in mutual consultation is much, but the grave responsibilities entrusted to them are far more. The Government's appeal to them for co-operation will rouse and stimulate their energies to the utmost, and will give better results than the mere exhortation to work, which in countries where women are unenfranchised is all that male Governments think good enough for women. In Canada Ministers join in the women's deliberations, and show full confidence in them.

We hope the Canadian victory number of *Jus Suffragii* will not be long delayed, and that Canadian women will send us their experiences for the benefit of readers in all countries. Lieut. Catherine Roberta MacAdams, M.P., writes from Alberta, where she is doing the legislative work for which she was elected, and promises a contribution.

British women are registering and preparing for the coming elections. Everywhere Women's Citizen Associations are being formed to give the new women electors opportunities to discuss their policy. The political parties are appointing woman organisers, and efforts are being made on all sides to gain the women's support. Already women see their status improved by such signs of the times as the passing of the Solicitors' Bill by the House of Lords, the memorial by members of Cambridge University for the opening of membership

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of the University to women, and perhaps above all in the space devoted in the Press to women's real interests and activities as distinct from the usual food and fashion page devoted to women by men journalists. Questions of prime importance to women, such as the economic question of the relations of women's wages to men's, and the cognate question of State endowment of motherhood, are seriously discussed. The meeting of the National Union of Teachers, which counts nearly 100,000 members, has resolved to put the question of equal pay for equal work to a referendum, and meanwhile has voted that women cannot fairly receive men's wages until a man is relieved of family maintenance by a State endowment of motherhood. The question of women's eligibility to Parliament is still unsolved. One registration officer has declared his willingness to accept a woman's nomination papers if otherwise in order, but the law has not yet been tested. The well-known Suffrage and Labour speakers and workers, Miss Margaret Bondfield and Mrs. Philip Snowden, are on the Labour Party's list of candidates, and it is hoped that in due course they may stand for election.

America is still anxiously awaiting the vote on the Federal Amendment in the Senate, but scores a big victory by the grant of the vote for Primaries to women in the vast State of Texas; this breach in the solid South is significant and hopeful.

In Hungary women's prospects seem temporarily clouded by the change of Cabinet and the dropping of the Franchise Bill. We regret to hear from Sweden that their Woman Suffrage Bill has been defeated in the First Chamber by 62 votes to 36.

#### Appeal to Women Voters in Denmark.

Women have voted for the first time in Denmark, but *Jus Suffragii* has received no news from them, and has had to glean what it could from the papers. Will Danish women be kind to readers in other countries who would like to hear of their doings and wishes?

#### Canadian and South African Suffragists!

The Dominion Parliament in Ottawa is debating a Federal Woman Suffrage law. Canadian women have recently been called to important consultation with their Government. All this we hear from the general Press and the American women's papers. Will Canadian women enlighten us?

South Africa has recently discussed a Suffrage measure, but for many months our appeals for news are unanswered.

### EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK. U. S. A.

#### District of Columbia.

Miss Ethel Smith, of the Committee on Women's Labour of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, sends the following information on Equal Pay for Equal Work in the district of Columbia, which is the political district of the City of Washington, the centre of Government service.

#### 1. EXAMPLES OF EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

I am unable to name any trades, professions or employments where the rule of equal pay for equal work prevails. I do know of individual firms or corporations whose officers state that the principle prevails in their establishments. As such I can name the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the Lehigh Valley Railroad, the Erie Railroad, the Standard Aero Corporation of Elizabeth, N.J., the Crocker-Wheeler Company (manufacturers of electrical equipment, 30, Church Street, New York City), and the Ingersoll Watch Factories. We have in this office letters from these concerns stating that they pay their women employees at the same rate they pay their men.

(a) *Government Service.*—No survey of the present conditions in the Government service has been made to my knowledge, and it is certain that many changes have taken place since the beginning of the war. Great numbers of women have been employed, and apparently they enter at the same salaries that men receive at entrance. Many inequalities that existed before the war, however, still exist, and the extent of these up to date of February 1, 1917, may be gathered from the accompanying sheets, which were compiled at the time the Keating resolution referred to therein was passed in Congress.

(b) *Municipal and Local Government Service.*—Generally speaking, women and men have not been on the same basis

of pay in the district of Columbia, but specific information has not been compiled.

(c) *Industrial Workers.*—The district of Columbia has relatively few factories, the largest being the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and the Government Printing Office. In these two institutions the women and men are not usually employed upon the same work, but the scale of pay for women is very much lower than is just in comparison with the men's wages, or as gauged by the cost of living.

In the mercantile establishments women receive very low pay indeed, sales girls in shoe stores having been advanced from \$4.00 to \$6.00 a week last winter only after a strike by the organised men clerks. The men themselves gained a minimum of \$10.00 per week. In one large department store I know of a woman floor-walker who receives one half the pay the men floor-walkers receive.

(d) *Liberal Professions.*—I have no information whatever in regard to these.

#### 2. LEGAL DECISIONS AND GOVERNMENT ORDERS.

There are no courts or arbitration bureaux with power to fix wages in the district of Columbia.

#### 3. TRADE UNIONS.

The American Federation of Labour and a great many of its affiliated organisations have adopted resolutions demanding equal pay for equal work. I do not know of any trade unions that exclude women, although I have found that the District of Columbia Local Machinists' Union is not favourable to the idea of equal pay for equal work. The constitution of the International Machinists' Association, however, provides that women must be admitted to the organisation on equal terms with men. The printers were, I believe, the first Union which admitted women and demanded equal pay for them.

In addition to the machinists and the printers, various other trade unions admit women on the same terms with men. I cannot give a list of these, but one example in Washington is the Federal Employees' Union, a branch of the National Federation of Federal Employees, which has a strong plank in its constitution requiring equal pay for equal work for women, and women have been not only members, but officers, in the organisation from its beginning.

#### 4. WAR CONDITIONS.

(a) The large numbers of women who have been brought into the Government service since the beginning of the war have entered, generally speaking, at the same salaries that men enter. This applies to the great numbers of clerkships and not to the highly specialised positions. Some women have been appointed to the specialised positions at good salaries, but it is doubtful whether those salaries were as much as would be offered men for the same positions.

(b) No investigation has been made in the district of Columbia which would reveal the extent of employment of women in men's places since the war began.

#### 5. ACTION BY SOCIETIES OR UNIONS.

The National American Woman Suffrage Association at its forty-ninth annual convention held in Washington, December 12 to 15, 1917, adopted a resolution demanding equal pay for equal work. The National Federal Employees, organised as a National in September, 1917, adopted a similar resolution. The American Federation of Labour, at its annual convention in Buffalo, renewed its declaration on the same point. The National Women's Trade Union League, of course, is built on that platform, and unquestionably many of the local national and international labour organisations have reaffirmed the principle within the last year, but I have not the records on them.

ETHEL M. SMITH.

#### WOMEN IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

The Keating resolution, referred to in Miss Smith's statement, was the resolution brought forward in the House of Representatives on January 29, 1917, by Mr. Keating, of Colorado, with the object of securing fair terms for women in the Federal Civil Service. It was urged that all Civil Service examinations should be open to women, that appointments and promotion should be made without regard to sex, and that women and men should receive equal pay for equal work in the Civil Service.

In the Treasury Department the average salary of the male force is \$400 greater than the average for the women employed there.

The Civil Service Manual of Examinations for autumn, 1916, states that the usual entrance salary for men is \$840 to \$900 per annum, and for women \$720.

Women are excluded from a large number of Civil Service examinations, and from those for most of the better positions. In certain offices women are denied promotion because of an admitted policy that \$1,200 is enough for a woman. In positions where they do the same kind and quality of work that men are doing they are generally paid less.

#### SUFFRAGE CAMPAIGN FOR EQUAL PAY.

In April, 1917, the N.A.W.S.A. launched a campaign for industrial safety as part of its war service programme. Mrs. Chapman Catt issued a widespread appeal to trade bodies to secure equal pay for equal work. The letter said: "The work performed, not the sex of the worker, should determine the pay"; and, "We recognise the unfairness to men and the injury to industrial standards in general resulting from the competition of low-paid woman labour."

A widespread propaganda was conducted through every available agency to induce the women workers themselves, as well as the employers, to maintain proper standards in the interests of public health and efficiency.

Mrs. Catt's letter to 500 Chambers of Commerce brought a large number of favourable responses. Mrs. Catt also called upon the Suffrage leaders in each locality to appoint vigilance committees to watch conditions and report to Washington headquarters.

In August, 1917, the N.A.W.S.A. Committee on the Protection of Women's Labour, on hearing that the Washington Railway and Electric Company was going to employ women to replace men who had gone on strike, wrote to the Public Utilities Commission requesting it to obtain and publish the women's wage scale of that Railway. The letter stated: "Our Association stands not only for political rights, but also equal economic rights for women, which means equal pay for equal work."

The National Union of Federal Employees endorsed the principle of equal pay at their first national convention in September, 1917.

#### EQUAL PAY FOR TEACHERS.

No male-Suffrage State has an equal-pay statute among its school laws. Of the twelve equal-Suffrage States, five—Nevada, California, Illinois, Oregon, and Utah—have equal-pay statutes. In Arizona, Kansas, and Montana the particular class of position carries its own salary, regardless of sex, and appointments are made on the basis of experience and record. (Some male-Suffrage States also attempt to follow this rule.) The four equal-Suffrage States which remain have no equal-pay law, but there is little need for special legislation to protect women on this point, for these are four of the States in which women are the most completely in control of the educational system. Where the women hold, or have equal share in the higher executive and supervisory educational positions, the tendency is to equality through the system.

#### Germany.

1. It must always be emphasised how difficult it is to find a standard of measurement for the equality of men's and women's work—e.g., among wage-earners—and in accordance with it to realise the principle of "Equal Pay for Equal Work." If one wished to demand equal piece rates for men and women, that would not attain the object. There would have to be taken into the reckoning at the very least, quantity and quality of the whole day's production (with a smaller daily production the total expenses of the industry rise), differences in the number of overseers and inspectors required by men and women, frequency of interruptions in work, and so on. A mechanical measurement of equal work, like the equality of piece rates, can easily become a weapon not for but against women's work, as there is in reality a difference of output, and under certain circumstances in this way women's work may turn out dearer than men's. An example of this is the tariff agreement of the printers. It demanded for skilled workwomen equal wages as for skilled

men. The consequence was that before the war women compositors were employed only in firms outside the tariff. These are quite isolated cases. On the average women's wages are so far below men's that there can be no question of equal pay for equal work, and still less of a falsely high value put on women's work.

(a) and (b) Teachers in State and municipal service have a lower salary than their male colleagues. Their working hours are shorter than men's, but, taking this into account, women's salaries are lower than men's.

In the postal service women's earnings are lower.

Men and women assistants in university institutes receive equal pay.

(c) In industry women's wages are almost everywhere less than men's. One of the few exceptions was mentioned in the introduction (printers).

(d) In the liberal professions—e.g., women doctors—the deciding factor is the fee demanded. Here, in general, the amount is the same for men and women. We have no women lawyers.

2. We have no wages boards. Before the war there were local conciliation boards for the settlement of disputes. Through the national auxiliary service law special conciliation boards have been established for the same object.

A decision of the industrial tribunal in Frankfurt-a-M. in 1916 is noteworthy, when it was decided that the tariff agreements concluded for the breweries applied to women.

N.B.—See *Jus Suffragii*, April, 1917, p. 98.

3. Nearly all the trade unions try with all their might to carry through the principle of equal pay for equal work. It is in their own interest to combat all undercutting. A certain raising of women's wages—above all during the war—is due to their efforts; but we are still very far from the goal aimed at. Men's and women's minimum wages differ very considerably.

Although some few trade unions have until lately been opposed to women's work, they have not succeeded as far as I know in closing any occupation altogether to them. The printers' union has in particular fought against women's work. Even during the war the wages board of the German printers demanded of employers who engaged women a statement that in consequence of the lack of male personnel an emergency had arisen. It also established certain conditions for the appointment of women, and claimed to have the final decision. The position of the building union is also noteworthy. It has actively helped the women who have streamed into the trade since the war, but has barred its organisation to them on the ground that women's work in the building trade is to be taken as transitory. The conditions of entrance to the trade unions are in general such that women can very well conform to them.

(Apprenticeship conditions are, however, arranged only for manual trades. But in a whole number of occupations the learners' positions are open to girls on the same terms as boys.)

4. In the war the principle of equal pay has penetrated further in the higher professions. Women who work in the Food Offices of local councils receive the same salary as the assessors whose place they take; the same is the case with the women doctors in the clinics. Women teachers who take the place of men in public or private schools earn, on the whole, less than the men they replace. The numerous women in war offices get only two-thirds of what their male colleagues in similar position get.

In the case of wage-earners the gulf between men's and women's wages has slightly diminished, but there can be no question, except in quite isolated cases, of equal pay, and in them it is not always possible to decide whether it exists more than in appearance.

5. The Women Jurists' Union and the Women Economists' Union of Germany presented a petition to the War Ministry in July, 1917, in which they demanded equal pay for women and men in the subordinate positions in the War Office. They received a refusal—only two-thirds are paid. The Saxon Women Teachers' Union demands equality of pay of the woman teacher with the unmarried man teacher. In cases where the woman has necessitous dependents they demand the pay of a married man.

DR. HILDE OPPENHEIMER.



## Great Britain.

## II.—WAR CONDITIONS.

Turning now to war conditions, we will deal again with some of the employments mentioned in the last article, and with others not available as employments for women before the war, and see how far there has been an improvement towards equality of pay for equal output. It will be seen that where women are doing men-substitution work they are, on the whole, faring better than they did in their old employments. This has been due in some cases to the action of the women themselves, who, when they have been strong enough, have been able to form a union, or to the men who, sometimes but not always, have been far-sighted enough to see that equal pay is the one remedy against the lowering of wages by the exploitation of female labour, and have stipulated for equal pay on the introduction of women into their departments. As will be seen below, the improvement towards equal pay is least marked amongst clerical workers in Government offices.

**The Post Office.**—The Secretary of the National Joint Committee of Post Office Associations reports that since the war a very large number of women have been employed on work formerly done by men. The wages paid to temporary women substitutes are lower than those paid to temporary men, save in exceptional cases where owing to shortage of labour the temporary women have been able to obtain rates equal to those paid to the temporary men. These cases are, however, so few in number as to make no real difference to the general fact of unequal pay. War bonuses have been granted on four occasions to the staff, and on every occasion the women have received less than the men. The only case of equal rates of war bonus is in the payment of sub-postmasters and sub-postmistresses (shopkeepers who attach Post Office work as an adjunct to their business).

**The Clerical Staff in the Civil Service.**—The Secretary of the Federation of Women Civil Servants reports that in most departments since the war men and women are doing exactly the same kind of work. In no grade in the service do they receive the same pay.

**National Health Insurance Commission.**—Women officials receive a war bonus which is, roughly, two-thirds that of the men.

**Medical Officers of Health and Inspectors of Schools.**—The women's war bonus granted in 1918 was two-thirds of the men's.

**Teachers.**—The subject of equal, or more nearly equal, pay is now under revision, but the increase of salaries recently proposed by the London County Council, enhancing as it did the differentiation, has been energetically opposed by a large body of women. The suggested annual increase was £10 for a man and £7 for a woman (previously £5 for a man and £4 for a woman).

**Tram Conductors** (under the London County Council).—Men and women receive equal pay for equal hours of work.

**Railway Women.**—The Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen reports that in order not to prejudice the return of the men after the war the Union agreed with the Railway Companies that the women should be paid the minimum rate for the grade.

**Bus Conductors.**—Women receive equal pay with men.

**Gas Works.**—The South Metropolitan Gas Company report that the women are not individually capable of accomplishing so much work as the men, but they are paid on the principle of "equal work, equal pay." They employ women on the heaviest work—that is to say, in the retort houses.

**Shop Assistants.**—The General Secretary of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks estimates that there is a difference, roughly, of about 25 per cent. between the rates paid for men and women assistants, though, "as this is one of the branches of work which can be performed equally by both sexes, we consider that it should be classified with those grades in which equal pay should be given." He says that doubtless there are establishments where women members of the staff are receiving more than other establishments are paying to their male staff, because they have a higher standard of wages all round. This, however, does not affect the inequality of pay in any one establishment.

**Window Cleaners, Lift Attendants.**—Each firm makes its own bargain. In each case less is paid to the woman, though usually it is more than she would earn in a woman's job.

**Bank Clerks.**—Women start at a higher rate of pay than men (35s. to 40s. a week), but are not on the same ladder of advancement. The reason given is that they have not had the length of training entitling them to it.

**Printers.**—In the highly skilled posts, such as composing, linotype and monotype work, women receive the same pay.

**Engineering Trades.**—We will now look at conditions in the engineering trades, a collective industry that, with the allied metal trades and including women employed in filling shells, is responsible for well over half a million women workers.

The improvement in women's wages here is due to the fact that the engineers have only permitted dilution of skilled labour on condition that it "shall not affect adversely the rates customarily paid for the job." The improvement amounts to equal pay for the work or portion of the work "customarily done by a fully skilled tradesman," and 6d. an hour for a week of 48 hours for women employed on time on work customarily done by men (unskilled and semi-skilled work). The starting rate is 24s. a week plus a bonus granted in January, 1918, of 3s. 6d. for women over eighteen; and since a week of 48 hours permits most women to earn a few shillings on overtime, it may be said that the earnings for the mass of unskilled women in the engineering trades amounts to between 30s. and 33s. a week. Semi-skilled women workers get a slightly higher rate of pay "according to the nature of the work and the ability of the women." Women employed in the place of a fully skilled tradesman—e.g., fitters and tool-setters—whose work is paid for at the piece-work rate, earn a sum as high as £5 and £10 a week at the rate "customarily paid for the job," but it must be remembered that these women are a small minority.

Disputes which have arisen between employers and employed over women's pay in the engineering trades are mostly over the vexed question of the definition of "fully skilled" and "semi-skilled" trades. Oxyacetylene welding, for instance, is defined by the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges as a skilled trade. Since the war most employers, partly by reason of the adaptability of female labour to the trade, have defined it as semi-skilled. In 1917 it was decided by a special arbitration tribunal that processes in oxyacetylene welding should be divided into a fully skilled class and a semi-skilled class. The commencing rate on processes of the fully skilled class should be 8d. an hour rising to the fully skilled tradesman's rate at the end of a probationary period of three months, with a deduction of 10 per cent. for additional cost incurred by the employment of women—i.e., for skilled supervision or extra setting-up of machinery. Processes of the semi-skilled class should be paid for at the usual time-rate, rising to the rate of 8d. an hour. It was further decreed that women normally employed on processes in the semi-skilled class who are put on to processes in the fully skilled class shall, for as long as they are employed on the latter, be paid at the rate for such processes. The Society of Women Welders, therefore, by appealing to arbitration, have obtained a clear definition of the nature of their work and improved wages for women-members of this trade.

It is unquestionable, then, that women doing men-substitution work in the engineering trades are getting, in some cases, equal pay, in all cases more nearly equal pay than in their old employments. Their time-rate has risen from 2½d. an hour to 6d., and the principle has been definitely laid down in statutory orders dealing with the employment and remuneration of women on munition work "of a class which prior to the war was not recognised as women's work, that on systems of payment by results equal payment shall be made to women as to the men for an equal amount of work done." That these conditions obtain "for the period of the war only" and for work "not recognised as women's work" prior to the war does not affect the important fact that on a system of payment by results the principle of equal pay for equal output has been acknowledged in a statutory order for the first time in the history of women's labour. As a result of improved rates for women engaged on men's work, the pay for women employed on women's work in the engineering trades—i.e., "filling," fuse and cartridge making, gun engraving—work not recognised as men's work before the war—has also improved, and a rate of 5½d. an hour has been fixed as the statutory standard. The discrepancy between

pre-war and post-war rates, between the rates paid to women on women's work, and those paid to women on men's work, has therefore been largely levelled by statutory order. It is, however, important to note that these rates are due to and depend on "the exceptional conditions resulting from the present war"—in other words, they are not expected to obtain on the return of normal conditions. Whether women will ever work again at sweated rates in this industry must depend almost entirely on their own attitude towards effective organisation, and their realisation of what it was able to accomplish for them during the period of war. The succeeding and last article will attempt to show how far the trade unions have helped or hindered the movement towards equal pay for equal work.

[The above is the second of a series of three articles written by Mrs. Marillier from material collected by the Women's Industrial Council.]

## Italy.

The lack of women's organisations makes it impossible to collect accurate data on the salaries received by women in industrial work and in the public services. I have therefore had to turn to municipal and Government bodies and to private societies, but all have male organisations and administrations. Perhaps for this reason they are reluctant to explain clearly the conditions of women's wages. I have also had a direct refusal, and this refusal was from a firm who had declared that they paid women at the same rate as men.

This makes one suspicious that the equal wages are declared as right, but not put into practice, because the minimum and maximum wage offers a way of escape, and in this way a woman could perhaps rise above the minimum wage, but scarcely reach the maximum. The same may be said of the metal war industries, and other industrial manufactures where the same system prevails.

However, I reply to the I.W.S.A. questionnaire with the data I have been able to collect, but with the warning that where there is apparently equal pay, minimum and maximum rates easily lead, on the contrary, to unequal wages.

## Answers (Arranged Numerically) to the I.W.S.A. Questionnaire.

1.—(a) Teachers receive equal pay, so do school inspectors and the employés in the administrations of Antiquities and Fine Arts. But women teachers cannot leave the reversion of their pensions to their husbands, and women employed in Antiquities and Fine Arts cannot enter for competitions for which "juridical personality" is necessary, and this Italian women have not yet got.

(b) Equal wages (but with minimum and maximum) are paid to tramway workers and street sweepers, and in the following industries: Manufacture of projectiles, manufacture of paper money, manufacture of cinematograph films.

(d) Women doctors of medicine receive the same fees and salaries, and can gain the same degrees as men. Women can graduate in law, but may not practise it, and cannot enter a legal career.

2.—There do not exist courts of arbitration or wages boards.

3.—Commercial unions (? trade unions) have never taken action for or against equal pay.

Women are not excluded from any trade. To exercise any trade a woman must have her husband's consent.

The General Society of Mutual Help for Commercial Employés at Rome admits women, but they are very unwilling to take part in a class movement.

Women in commerce have a vote in the Chambers of Commerce.

Education and training are open to both sexes on equal terms.

4.—Women who have replaced men during the war are considered adventitious, and receive special rates of pay. In municipal employment women are paid less.

In the manufacture of munitions, in the tramways, and in street cleaning, the same wage is paid, but with the system of maximum and minimum.

5.—The International Council of Women at Rome in 1914 passed a resolution proposed by me in the name of the Associazione per la Donna.

The Italian Socialist Party put on its programme in May, 1917, the giving of men and women equal pay for equal work.

The Women's Socialist Union has always made it one of the chief items in its programme.

The National Congress of the Associazione per la Donna, in October, 1917, in view of the present urgency of protecting women's work, passed a resolution proposed by me for equal pay for equal work.

ELISA LOLLINI AGNINI  
(for the National Woman Suffrage Federation).  
Rome, April 2, 1918.

## SUFFRAGE NEWS.

## DENMARK.

## Women Voters Demand Changes in Law.

The Danish Women's Society publishes each month in its paper, *Kvinden og Samfundet*, reforms in the laws which women should unite in demanding.

**Women on School Committees.**—The proposed change is that, whereas in 1904 the law of 1867 which increased the number of members of an elementary school commission for a rural commune to four, provided that two should be fathers of families or widows, an alteration should be made substituting the word "mothers" for widows. Ever since the 'eighties the question of women sitting on the school commissions has been mooted, but C. Plong then belittled the influence of women as educators of the young. Ludvig Schröder replied that the community could not dispense with the help of mothers, and what has happened since shows that he was right.

Technically, the law of 1904 only left the door so far ajar that one widow could slip in, but the parish councils did not look at the letter of the law, and time and again a parish council has chosen a woman who, without being a widow, was the mother of children liable to schooling. Was this done out of ignorance or defiance of the law? It is impossible to say, but such women have continued to help the community until an officious successor to C. Plong, pointing to the letter of the law, is trying to rob the community of the services of such women.

The community cannot put off any longer the change in the law as to superintendence in elementary schools. The demand for the admission of women to sit on school commissions on the same footing as men is among our twelve orders of the day; therefore we will not let any candidate slip into the Rigsdag without taking up a definite attitude as to this demand.

—*Kvinden og Samfundet* (February 28).

**Free Admission to All Occupations.**—As the Maintenance Law of December 29, 1857, at present stands, "Widows, deserted and separated wives, and unmarried women who are 25 years old and of age (with or without a guardian), shall have the same access as men to trades, if they fulfil the conditions laid down."

But in the law of the new constitution we read: "All limitations to free and equal access to means of earning which are not founded on public advantage shall be rescinded by law." So we shall be perfectly justified if we scratch out all the exceptions, and claim to write instead: "Women shall have the same access as men to trades," etc. We desire that the conditions for the acquisition of citizenship and right to trade should be the same for women as for men—namely, to be of age, to manage one's own dwelling, to have unimpaired rights of a citizen, and residence of at least five years in the country.

Every woman ought to protest against losing by marriage a means of livelihood in which she may have been practised for long years, and from being hindered from helping to support her family and use her talents.

We would like to see anyone dare to insist that the limitations to the trade law affecting the liberty of married women to engage in trade are in the public interest, and we demand that the law of 1857 and the supplement of 1873 should be so altered that men and women may have equal access to discharge the duties of citizenship.

—*Kvinden og Samfundet* (March 15).

**Women on Small Holdings.**—The June 13, 1914, Law on the Institution of Cottage Holdings runs: "Every man or unmarried woman is entitled to come under the application of this law who mainly support themselves by generally performing the work of a cottage holding, as which paid horticultural work also counts." When women were first allowed to have cottage holdings in 1908, the Folksting made no distinction between married and unmarried women. But when the matter



came before the Upper House (Landstinget) the well-known distinction between married and unmarried women in our law was introduced.

Is there any sense in maintaining this distinction? Of course, only a woman with independent means for working a small holding or allotment could come into question. Moreover, in the law there is an enactment that if a man or a woman who each independently own a state holding marry each other, one of the two cottage holdings must be wound up at the latest two years after the marriage, and Dansk Kvindesamfund proposed besides, in 1914, that it should be added to the law that "only one of the people belonging at the same time to a household can get a cottage holding on the terms of that law." The danger of a combination of two cottage holdings would thus be excluded.

Many a woman practised in the cultivation of the land, and married to a sailor or fisherman or artisan, could help to support her family with great advantage by the cultivation of the land, not to mention wives who are deserted or separated.

The decisions of constitutional law as to the free access of all citizens to means of maintenance is irreconcilable with the exclusion of married women.

—*Kvinden og Samfundet* (March 30).

#### Women Candidates for the Folkting.

Three women, Julie Arenholt, Elna Munch, and Vibeke Salicath, are now standing for Parliament; moreover, the three whom we have described so often. Unfortunately, we have to add that none of them have a good chance of being elected.

Julie Arenholt is a member of the General Management of the "D.K.S." (Danish Women's Society) and the Executive Committee, and is so popular as a worker that even her political opponents would rejoice in her election. But she has been given a constituency to contest where the Radical Party to which she belongs has no chance of victory. She is put forward by the Radical Left Society for Gentofte, and will get a number of votes, especially women's votes, as she has worked hard for getting women better wages and chances of promotion, and has thus won over many women bread-winners. But also in the general sphere of Radical politics Julie Arenholt has done yeoman's service, and the Radical Party may regret not having put her up for a more likely seat.

Elna Munch is put up as Candidate 3 on the list of the Radical Party in Copenhagen. *Politiken* has therefore congratulated the party as having always been foremost in following up fully the consequences of the victory of Women's Suffrage. But we consider a third place to be anything but the full consequence, and not even a quarter of it, since it probably means that not a single Radical woman will get into Parliament. We know the difficulty of getting men to vote for women, and if *Politiken* had expressed its repentance in sackcloth and ashes, we could have understood, and would not have said a word. But when, into the bargain, *Politiken* boasts about the quickness with which the party has taken the full consequence of Women's Suffrage, etc., we have to state the truth in its nakedness, which is that not even the Radical Party could do its women the justice they deserved.

Vibeke Salicath is put forward by the "New Right" at Slagelse. We do not yet know if she will be put forward by other districts in the neighbourhood, but repeated experience gives us little hope of her election. She is well known as a lecturer, and she was also for a time the editor of this paper, and sat on the board of management of the Copenhagen district. She has politically always been a Conservative, and she helped to found the Conservative Women's Society at Copenhagen, and has taken part in municipal activities there. But as in the meantime she disapproved of the increasing moderation of the Conservative People's Party, she joined the "New Right" Party, and is going to work hard at collecting votes for the supplementary constituency for which she will perhaps be the candidate, since she is put forward in the district where the president and founder of the "New Right" has his domicile.

—*Kvinden og Samfundet* (March 15).

The "New Right," which has now obtained 10,000 signatures, which entitle it to a share in the additional seats if it gets a candidate chosen, has outstripped all the other parties with regard to putting forward women candidates, by putting a woman at the top of its list in Copenhagen. Even if it does not get a candidate elected, it has given a woman its best chance. And as the second female candidate of the party, Vibeke Salicath, will stand not only at Slagelse, but in all the districts in the jurisdiction of Soroe, so as to be able there to

collect votes for an additional seat, we may say that at the beginning the party has made a record in putting up women which will be a splendid example for other parties.

Agnes Stott-Moeller is well known as an artist, as an author, and a lecturer. Her great zeal for the public weal has justly gained for her the wreath of honour handed to her by the "New Right." As president for many years of the Danish Women's Defensive Union she has shown her capacity as a leader, and for a party whose main plank is national defence she fits as the glove does the hand. But she is not known in the ranks of the Women's Cause.

Helga Larsen is put tenth on the Social Democrats' list of candidates. She is a member of the Social Democratic group of municipal representatives, and is certainly a valued member of the party. In the Women's Movement we do not know her, and so regret very much that Andrea Brochmann, with whom we have often worked, and whom we have joyfully put forward for long in this paper as the candidate nominated by the Social Democracy as woman candidate for the Folketing, has been dumped on the list as No. 15.

—*Kvinden og Samfundet* (March 30).

#### Women as "Substitutes" for M.P.'s.

The Upper House (Landstinget) has now nominated its eighteen Parliamentary members and their substitutes. That any party in the Rigsdag should have nominated a woman as Parliamentary member of the Landsting we never deluded ourselves by imagining. But the new election law demands that substitutes for the Parliamentary members of the Landsting should also be chosen, and here some parties have gone so far as to venture on a woman, not, of course, in the first place, but in the case of one party in the second.

The Radical Party has nominated Julie Rambusch as second substitute. The party occupies two of the Parliamentary seats for the Landsting, and as both the candidates are beyond the time-limit, and it is an eight-years term, there is some probability of the woman substitute managing to get in as successor. At any rate, no other party has put forward a woman in a similar case. Camilla Christensen, from Koege, stands in the fifth place. There are six substitutes nominated there.

The Party of the Left has put Marie Lassen in the fifth place among seven substitutes. Less honour a party could not show to a valued member of the party, and the concession to women could not be smaller.

The Conservative People's Party has encircled each of its Parliamentary members with a defensive hedge of two male substitutes. Here no woman will slip in. "When the old ones fall out, There are men all about."

The same is true of the Free Conservatives and the Nordby Group.

The Social Democrats, who have only one of the 18 Parliamentary seats, have also been only able to bethink themselves of a male representative.

—*Kvinden og Samfundet* (March 30).

### FRANCE.

The March number of *Jus Suffragii* published a resolution passed by a small new society called the "Comité d'Action Suffragiste." The Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes, the only French society affiliated to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, wishes to point out that whilst maintaining good relations with other Suffrage societies it does not at all support their resolutions or wishes. In particular it entirely disapproves articles 2 and 3 of the published resolution as unreasonable and unrealisable.

The Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes remains true to the only principle and the only object of the constitution of the I.W.S.A., "to obtain for the women of its country the vote as it is or may be granted to men" without entering into other details.

DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER.

#### Annual Congress of the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes.

The Union held its Annual Congress on March 28, under the presidency of Mme. de Witt Schlumberger, who warmly welcomed the delegates who had assembled from all parts in spite of the bombardment and the difficulties of travelling. "We thought it our duty," said the President, "to meet in spite of the present anguish; it is in grave hours that we must

show firmness and energy." Mme. Brunschvicg read the report, and insisted on the need for strong financial support if French Suffragists are to ensure the success of their movement. She then gave an account of the war work undertaken by the various branches. Thanks to the appeals of the Executive Committee the branches have seen the necessity for taking up their Suffrage work in the interests of the country itself. The following were elected to the Executive: M. Busquet, Mmes. Casevitz, Clement, Compain, Cremnitz, Furstoss Berteau, Max Lazard, Legrand-Falco, Marguerite Martin, Pichon Landry, de Witt Schlumberger, and Raspail.

#### Work of Children in Factories.

Mme. Brunschvicg gave a full report on the work of children in factories, and after a lively discussion the following resolutions were passed:—

1. "That the compulsory school period should be prolonged."

2. "That compulsory continuation education should be established immediately for young persons, which should be combined with apprenticeship so that half-time should be devoted to manual work and half-time to general and technical education."

3. "That school commissions should be established immediately to report to factory inspectors the cases of children of school age who are being illegally employed."

4. "That night work should be abolished for all young people under the age of sixteen, and after the war for those under eighteen."

5. "That the supervision of young persons under sixteen should be entrusted to the lady superintendents in factories in conjunction with the doctors and foremen, so that they shall not be employed on work for which they are physically unfitted."

6. "That to encourage apprenticeship legislative steps should be taken."

7. "That maintenance grants should be given to children so that they may not be forced into blind-alley occupations."

8. "That mechanical work should be done not by children, but by machines or by unskilled adults."

The speaker insisted on the necessity for skilled training so that children should not be forced into unskilled trades.

A resolution was also passed unanimously that the same regulations that apply as to age-limit in factories should also be enforced in offices which should be under the factory inspectors.

#### American and British Suffrage Victories.

The President gave an account of the recent Suffrage triumphs in the United States and Great Britain, victories without tears or ruin, and in which the vanquished share the benefits.

#### Education of Young Persons.

Mme. Pauline Rebour spoke on the education of adolescents and the project of continuation schools proposed to Parliament. Mme. Compain gave an account of her scheme for clubs in country districts, introducing an element of communal life into rural life. The following resolutions were passed:—

1. "That compulsory education should be of the same duration for girls and boys."

2. "That they should follow the same programmes, civic instruction being just as necessary for women as for men, and hygiene and domestic economy as necessary for men as for women."

3. "That professional (or trade) training should be provided for women as for men."

4. "That local, departmental, and national committees should be obliged to include women as well as men in organising the education of adolescents."

Among other resolutions passed on this subject one declared:—

"That precise instruction should be given to young people over sixteen combating the false idea of necessary vice and of two different codes of morals for the two sexes; that young people of both sexes should be taught the danger to the race of venereal diseases, against which the only protection is moral purity."

#### Miscellaneous.

Miss Stephens gave an account of the English Suffrage victory. Mme. Simon, who had just returned from America, gave an account of the Suffrage there, especially of the National American Woman Suffrage Association Congress, at which she had been present. The Versailles Society protested

against the salaries paid to women in the Government financial department. Men and women begin with 1,800fr. and rise to 2,400fr. There the women stop, while the men continue to be promoted until their salaries rise to 10,000fr. and ultimately 30,000fr. The Congress decided to protest to the Budget authorities. A protest was received from the telephonists as to rates of pay. The Congress decided to bring the protest to the notice of the Administration.

#### Suffrage Proposals.

Mlle. Jeanne Mélin proposed that the U.F.S.F. should study the question of demanding the full Parliamentary vote immediately. The President replied that as the constitution of the U.F.S.F. demanded the vote on the same terms as men there was nothing to study. Mme. Crémieux demanded an intensive propaganda in France as in England and America. The Basses Pyrénées branch asked that a delegate should be sent to each canton to carry on propaganda, distribute pamphlets, and enrol subscribers. This was approved. The Secretary said that a letter was being sent to every Deputy inviting them to join the Parliamentary group for women's rights, of which M. J. Siegfried is President.

The invitation from Lyons for the next Congress was accepted. The Executive recommends all branches to make a thorough inquiry into the question of Women Suffrage in working-class circles with a view to a full report to the Lyons Congress; this will afford an excellent opportunity to get into touch with trade unions and Bourses de Travail to suggest speakers to them and distribute pamphlets. The Congress approved activity in temperance work, especially that of the Union des Françaises contre l'alcool.

—From the *Française* (April 13).

#### Women on the Council of Wards of the Nation.

The ninety-nine men who form the chief Council for the wards of the nation have co-opted twelve women distinguished for their knowledge and experience in the care and relief of children. The names include Mme. Jules Siegfried. The proportion of twelve to ninety-nine seems ridiculously inadequate to give to the mothers of the race in a question concerned solely with the care of orphan children.

#### Women Secretaries to Magistrates.

In Algeria qualified women are to be allowed to act as clerks to magistrates, but not more than a quarter of the total appointments may be held by women.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

#### National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

##### The New Registration Form.

Political news there is none this month, as Parliament has not been sitting, and now that it is once more at business is so immersed in war legislation that measures of particularly feminist interest are taking a back seat. The only indirectly political matter of recent interest has been the issue of forms to be filled up by would-be voters. These forms are not drawn up with the clarity one could desire, nor is it evident how they will materially help the Registration Officer in his arduous task of compiling the new Register. For they only ask under five broad headings for the names of those who claim the vote, and not for particulars of the grounds on which, under these headings, they are claiming. We therefore suppose that we must still look forward to a further issue of forms, or else to a house-to-house visitation. The National Union is still the recipient of numerous letters of inquiry, some definitely connected with filling up the form, some more general on the line of "What is Mrs. A. to do?"

##### The Kitchen.

During this month the National Union has been instigating a Press campaign for the extension of the Communal Kitchens scheme to all parts of the country. British women have been calling out for Communal Kitchens for nearly a year, but it is only recently that there has been any signs of the cry being answered. Our hopes were first raised when a Public Kitchens Department of the Ministry of Food was established, but they were speedily dashed to the ground when it was discovered that there was no woman in the Department, and that no woman had been consulted about the Department, and that no woman was to be consulted about the execution of the scheme.



It was then that our endurance reached breaking point. We had been told too often that "Woman's place is the home," had heard "home" too often interpreted as "the kitchen." We raised our voices in the Press and demanded our kitchens.

The results are promising. There are increasing signs of life about the Public Kitchen Department, a regular training is being opened to women as supervisors of kitchens, and several highly successful public kitchens have already been started in London and elsewhere. In these days of food coupons, coal shortage, and gas restrictions, all are only too ready to save time and money for themselves and the nation, and to bring their dinner home under their arm.

#### Scottish Women's Hospitals.

The fierce fighting on the Western Front has had a great effect on the work of the Royaumont Unit. It is now a first-line Evacuation Hospital, and streams of wounded are constantly passing through. The staff is working night and day, and fresh workers are being sent out to cope with the rush. The authorities have increased the accommodation of the hospital by another 100 beds. The cases are coming from a part of the line where French and British are co-operating, and French and British alike are coming in to Royaumont. It is a deep satisfaction to the staff and to the committee to know that for the second time the Scottish Women's Hospitals are serving British officers and soldiers. Villers Cotterets is also very busy.

The hurricane which struck Macedonia in February wrought havoc in the Scottish Women's Hospitals Camp. A detailed description has just been received from Dr. de Garis. A week before the gale there had been three days of snow, and the tents had to be dug out. Then came a week of alternating snow and thaw, and then heavy rain. The whole camp was muddy; the tent pegs would not hold. About 2 a.m. on Sunday the hurricane began, and soon most of the Unit were at work trying to save the tents. By 8 a.m. practically every tent in the place had collapsed. Only the telephone tent was saved by the devoted exertions of the operator. One ward tent with twenty beds remained intact. Other portions of the camp suffered heavily. The X-ray and Dark Room tents were blown to ribbons, and linen, splints, etc., were scattered abroad. The Unit, scantily clad, toiled through the night. Mercifully it was moonlight, and there was no rain. The patients stuck to their beds to the last possible moment. Fortunately, owing to the great care taken, there were no fires. Next morning the patients were moved, the work of reconstruction began, and it was then that the losses were realised. In spite of all that can be done to repair the tents, the total loss is so great that it will cost about £1,000 to restore. The C.M.O. speaks warmly of the pluck and devotion of her Unit, and members of the Unit have written enthusiastically of the self-forgetfulness of the C.M.O., so that the friends of the Unit at home may well be satisfied.

#### The Women's Roll of Honour.

A Memorial Service was held at St. Paul's Cathedral on April 10 to do honour to the 350 nurses who have lost their lives during the war. The preacher was Archdeacon Holmes, who took as his text, "Not one of them is forgotten before God." The service was beautiful and impressive, and the great cathedral was filled with an audience wonderfully representative of the Allied cause. Not only were all the leading women's organisations of this country represented, but there were also representatives of the organisations of the other Allied nations and of the Dominions Overseas. Over 5,000 nurses were in the cathedral, including a large contingent of American nurses. Queen Alexandra attended the service, accompanied by Princess Victoria and the Princess Royal with her two daughters.

RAY STRACHEY.

#### Position of Women in Cambridge University.

The ancient Universities of Oxford and Cambridge have so far alone among British Universities refused to confer degrees and full membership on the women who study there and pass examinations on sufferance. Women have only been able to attend lectures by permission, and have been debarred from all University honours and appointments. Recently the great National Union of Teachers met at Cambridge. Its President was a woman, Miss Conway. The University conferred honorary degrees on the three vice-presidents, who were men; and on the man who was the unsuccessful candidate for the presidency, but ignored the chief official because she was a woman!

At the passing of the Representation of the People Bill, which gives the Parliamentary vote to University women, the Government gave a strong hint to the Universities to abolish women's disabilities, and a strong effort is being made by the more progressive University leaders to have women granted degrees and admitted to full University membership on the same terms as men, with eligibility for the Senate and University office.

#### Women Clergy.

Several women have lately received appointments as pastors and preachers in Protestant Free Church bodies.

Mrs. Constable has been invited to be co-pastor with her husband in a Congregational Church at Sheffield. The Rev. Margaret Crook is preaching in Unitarian Churches. Miss Isabella Brown has been elected President of the Walthamstow Free Church Council.

#### Teachers' Equal Pay and Endowment of Motherhood.

A striking indication of economic and feminist tendencies was shown at the recent meeting of the National Union of Teachers, when prominence was given to two burning controversial subjects which are likely to make a great stir in the near future. The women teachers have been making a great stand for equal pay for equal work, and on bringing the matter to a vote an amendment to the equal-pay resolution was carried deferring equal pay until such time as the State shall make adequate financial provision for wifehood and motherhood. There was general agreement that the only justification for the usual higher scale of men's salaries was the tradition that a man's wage is a family wage. The President, in her opening speech, said: "When we have schemes established for State endowment of motherhood and increased relief in taxation for those responsible for the rearing of children, women will expect and claim equal pay as a right." This point of view was evidently endorsed by the majority of those present, and as the Union numbers nearly 100,000 members it is clear that the two movements—which to many people seem interdependent—of equal pay for equal work and endowment of motherhood are well advanced in public opinion. Endowment of motherhood has been advocated for some time by women pioneers, and the practical advantages have been brought home to thousands of families during the war by the system of separation allowances, where the State grant is adapted to the size and needs of the family. Mothers have been relieved from the harassing uncertainty as to what the man's weekly contribution to the family support would be. Knowing with certainty what they would have to spend and that it would continue, they have been able to lay out their money to the best advantage, and the result has been that school children have shown a marked improvement in nourishment and clothing, and the condition of the homes has shown all-round improvement.

The success of schemes of pensions to widows with children has been amply demonstrated in the United States, and fortified by experience the advocates of endowment of motherhood are pushing their campaign vigorously. Miss Eleanor Rathbone and Miss Maude Royden are among the foremost champions of the cause in Great Britain.

#### A Woman on the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress.

Margaret Bondfield is the first woman member of the above committee. She is well known internationally as a leading trade unionist, Suffragist, and Socialist.

She is a leading member of the Independent Labour Party, and has worked for the Women's Labour League and the Women's Co-operative Guild. She was assistant-secretary to the Shop Assistants' Union. She is chairman of the Women's International Council of Labour and Socialist Organisations (British Section).

She is one of the most loved and respected women leaders in England.

#### INDIA.

The Kathiawar State of Gondal has introduced compulsory education for girls in all villages where there are schools. If parents do not bring a reasonable excuse they are fined one anna for every day the girl is absent. The experiment does not apply to boys, who, it is said, go to school as a matter of course, and if they do not, they will now be shamed into doing so by the activity of the girls!

#### AUSTRALIA.

##### Western Australia.

A correspondent writes:—

"It is a victory for women to have at last gained the Suffrage in England, and I hope they will use it well. The West Australian women are alive to the value of it, and at present are fighting a Health Bill which is now being considered by a Select Committee of the Legislative Council. Mrs. Rischbieth, President of the Women's Service Guild, was called to give evidence before the Committee, and could do it well; she is one of our magistrates. I append a cutting about a meeting held in reference to the infamous Bill. Women take a very different position in public and political matters when they have a vote, and must be listened to by the politicians. It is so absurd for Englishmen to say that the women in Australia don't value it and that it has made no difference, as we see quoted in the papers! It makes a big difference, and legislators have to listen to the women's voice on some matters."

##### The Health Act: Women's Protest.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of women assembled at 140, Barrack Street, the headquarters of the Women's Service Guild, recently, to discuss the proposed amendments to the Health Bill and its possible effects on women.

The President of the Guild (Mrs. Rischbieth), who occupied the chair, pointed out that it had yet to be shown that compulsory methods had been successful in any part of the world in the stamping out of venereal disease, while there was plenty of evidence to prove that official recognition of vice always tended to create a degraded sisterhood. A greater sense of equality than had ever existed before had grown between men and women during the progress of the war, and keen disappointment was felt by many women in the State that the present Health Act did not embody that principle. Reference was made to the far-reaching power which it was proposed to place in the hands of the Commissioner of Health. Exception was taken also to the detention-of-prisoners clause, and it was pointed out that such charges as "soliciting" and "loitering," under which most of the arrests would be made, only applied to women, who would be convicted on the evidence of one policeman, and possibly released again when hygienically safe, thus only to be arrested again and the same treatment rehearsed a few weeks later. Thus it would be made possible to introduce into the State the system of "ins" and "outs" which had always characterised the operations of the C.D. Acts throughout the world. Strong exception was taken to the fact that the Government had not touched the fringe of the liquor problem since the outbreak of war, and as all authorities were agreed that this was one of the main causes of the spread of venereal disease, the first duty of Parliament was plainly to deal with this destructive traffic.

The speaker urged those present to demand that the 1915 amendment should be given a fair trial before further legislative powers were granted. In the meantime a committee of men and women, social workers, would be given an opportunity of getting into touch with such societies as the American Social Hygiene Association and the British Moral Hygiene Association. Both these societies gave valuable information to the Royal Medical Commission, and as they were headed by men and women of unquestioned ability, they should have valuable data to meet the present world emergency. Such a committee in this State would soon be in a position to present recommendations to Parliament, having taken into consideration the problem in all its bearings, from the ethical and economic as well as the medical and military points of view.

Two delegates from the W.C.T.U. then addressed the meeting, conveying a message from the organisation that they would assist to the utmost of their power. A message was also received from Mrs. Amelia Macdonald promising her continued sympathy and support. An animated discussion then took place, during which it was abundantly evident that the subject is arousing State-wide interest among the women folk.

Finally, the following resolutions were carried, with four dissentients: (1) "That this public meeting of women, recognising that the extraordinary powers which the Government propose to vest in one man, and the detention-of-prisoners clause, which is also embodied in that measure, will be mostly operated against the poorest and most defenceless women and girls in the community, hereby registers its indignant protest against the passage of any such legislation, and calls upon the

Government to accord a reasonable trial to the 1915 Act before initiating further experiments." (2) "That this public meeting of women hereby forms itself into a general committee to defeat the proposals of the Government in this connection." From *The West Australian* (February 16).

Mrs. Cowen enumerated some flagrant disabilities which the women of the West still suffer, in a recent address before the Citizens' National Movement. Women cannot sit on juries, nor on municipal councils, nor in the State Parliament. Mothers have no legal right over their children during the father's lifetime. A married woman cannot own shares in the West Australian Bank, and if she be foolish enough to invest money in bank shares, they belong to the husband, who can do exactly as he likes with them. Women cannot be J.P.'s in the police court, although they are appointed to the position in the children's court. Women are arrested for solicitation, but men cannot be punished for the offence. Illegitimacy laws place the whole onus of proof on the woman. In divorce cases the wife only gets sufficient allowance for her child. In cases of intestacy the property of a deceased minor belongs to the father, but if the father dies before the mother, the latter has to share the property with the other children. Women are not paid the same as men for doing the same work; they do not get the same opportunities as men for promotion. In the Commonwealth public service women are never promoted to the higher positions in the service, and they are lower paid for temporary employment. Entrance examinations for women are stopped periodically, whilst for men they are never stopped. Men are constantly appointed by the Government to the Senate of the University, though women are eligible.

#### Victoria.

##### Venereal Diseases.

The Board of Health, in discussing recently the Victorian Venereal Diseases Act, stated that it was a complete failure—as we predicted it would be. The Women's Political Association and Women's Peace Army were the only political organisations that opposed the passing of the Act.

One councillor said his investigations had led to the discovery that 80 per cent. of the cases at a military camp had contracted disease while in a drunken condition.

Other councillors pointed out that no proper hospital treatment for women was provided, and that many of the girls in question would gladly avail themselves of treatment if provided.

—*The Woman Voter.*

#### CANADA.

##### The War Times Election Act.

Mrs. Hector Prenter, President of the Political Education League of Toronto, writes to *Jus Suffragii*: "May I say how many of us appreciated your article *re* our disgraceful War Times Election Act. It was not the disfranchising we objected to, though that was vicious, but the tampering with the principle of democracy was the serious part of it all."

Miss Alberta Cundall, Prov. Supt. Franchise of Alberta, writing from Mannville, also protests against the "iniquitous Election Act," and the "thousands of loyal, nation-serving, Canadian-born women who were disfranchised thereby," and the "cheap patriotism of the next-of-kin cry." She writes: "It was a straight case of making the vote not a right, but a favour."

[N.B.—Sir Robert Borden introduced on March 20 into the House of Commons a Bill to give women the franchise for the Dominion Parliament on an equal basis with men. The only women barred are women married to enemy aliens.]

##### ONTARIO REJECTS WOMEN M.P.'S.

The Provincial Legislature of Ontario has refused women eligibility, although the Western States have granted it, and women have already been elected in British Columbia and Alberta.

##### FIRST WOMAN ON A GOVERNMENT BOARD.

Mrs. Plumtre has been appointed on the Board of Registration, the first woman to be on a Government Board in Canada.



**The Federal Franchise Bill.**

In March the Women's Franchise Bill conferring full Parliamentary Suffrage on the women of Canada, which had reached the Committee stage, was the subject of earnest debate in the Ottawa House of Commons. Not one member arose to say that women should not have the vote, and only the Quebec contingent in any way opposed the Bill. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who stood upon a State's rights point, thought it might be better if Parliamentary Suffrage were granted only to such Provinces as have already given women the provincial vote. And Mr. Ernest La Pointe brought out the age-old argument—always pronounced without the consent of the persons most interested—that the women of Quebec do not want to vote. Even at that, "Mr. La Pointe did not oppose the Bill. No one did," says the *Toronto Star*. Woman Suffrage had no fighting opponent in the Parliament of Canada.

"What is more, the Bill now before the House gives women the franchise where men would not get it. It actually grants a wider suffrage to women than is now enjoyed by men, and this the Premier, Sir Robert Borden, excuses on the ground that they have had to wait a long time to get it."

In urging the second reading of the Bill Sir Robert explained why it should be passed at this time. "I do not even base it on the wonderful and conspicuous service which women have rendered to the national cause in this war," he said. "Apart from all these, I can see that women are entitled to the franchise on their merits, and it is upon that basis that this Bill is presented to Parliament for its consideration."

"It is our belief that the influence of women exercised in this way will be a good influence in public life. We believe that beneficial results have ensued wherever the franchise has been granted to them; indeed, the principle of granting the franchise to women generally was practically affirmed in the last Parliament."

Several questions, such as women's eligibility for Parliament and the problems arising from the present nationalisation laws as applied to married women, still remain unsettled.

The women found a hearty supporter in Sir Sam Hughes. And so surcharged with the spirit of democracy was the whole discussion that it excited no hostility when Joseph Read, of Prince Edward Island, pointed out that the Micmac Indian women of his section ought to have a vote, too, as over eleven per cent. of the tribe had been recruited for the front. A surprising response to Woman Suffrage as a policy not only for war time, but for all time, was demonstrated.

"Five years ago," said the *Toronto Star*, "no one would have dreamed that a Bill conferring the franchise upon women throughout the length and breadth of Canada would go through the House of Commons without a single member protesting against the principle of the thing. Yet that is what is happening."  
—*The Woman Citizen* (April 6).

**Government Summon Women's Conference to Advise on War Situation.**

For the first time in the history of Canada women in various walks of life have been invited to the councils of the Government of the Dominion. That these councils have to do with the solving of some of the most important problems ever faced by the country makes the innovation all the more significant. The deputation of 60 which invaded the capital was composed of representatives of the leading women's organisations of Canada, and comprised women who have in the past few years risen to positions to which their mothers in years gone by would never have aspired, but in which they have proved themselves the equals of the sterner sex. To the delegates was given, by the members of the Government, information as to the country's need for men for military and industrial purposes, and before them was laid the request for suggestions as to the steps to be taken in the making of the pending registration of man-power and woman-power and to meet the requirements of the day.

The delegates met in eight sections to consider various subjects. The agenda provided for the formation of an advisory committee of heads of national organisations, with Mrs. F. H. Torrington, of Toronto, as convener, and Mrs. Walter G. Murray, of Saskatchewan, as secretary. The committee considered "whether any greater co-operation between women's societies is possible, or desirable, in order to ensure greater efficiency and economy of time and efforts during the war."

The advisory committee was also ready to give any other committee of the conference assistance or information as to the scope of the work of any women's organisation in Canada.

Another committee was asked to consider what women could do to promote a spirit of co-operation with the Government's scheme of national registration, and to create an atmosphere favourable to its success. The committee was also requested to suggest what information could be elicited from women at the national registration, what part voluntary assistance could take in the compilation of the national register, to what extent teachers, their pupils, nurses, and social workers could be utilised in the registration, and, finally, to what use could the national registration be put in so far as women were concerned.

**WOMEN IN INDUSTRIES.**

The part which women are playing or might play in industry was assigned to a third section. That section was asked in what trades in Canada women are now being most usefully employed; in what other trade occupation could be successfully employed, thereby releasing men for necessary war work; on what terms women should be employed. Further, on this phase of the conference, information was sought as to the training necessary to fit women for various trades and as to the manner in which such training should be afforded. The section was also asked to formulate views as to whether private employment agencies should be abolished, a Central Federal Exchange be established, and the scope of provincial labour exchanges be extended.

What women are doing in agriculture and what they can do was the subject for consideration by a fourth section. The committee was asked in what agricultural activities women were now employed, and in what further activities they might be utilised. What special provisions, if any, should be made for women employed in agriculture, and should any additional provision be made for training women for any class of agricultural work, were other questions. Finally, the section was asked to consider whether or not provincial labour exchanges should be established to deal with agricultural labour.

"What are luxuries?" was the riddle put to the committee on "Thrifty," with Mme. Gerin-Lajoie, of Quebec, as convener, and Mrs. Dayton, of Manitoba, as secretary. Having laid down a definition the members of the section were requested to suggest to what extent the manufacture and purchase of luxuries could be reduced in Canada. "What principles should govern true war economy in private households?" was the final inquiry on the questionnaire.

Propaganda through women's organisations was the theme for a sixth section.

**SERVICE IN HOMES.**

The section was asked to indicate what existing provincial or national organisations could carry out the requests of the Government for assistance in Canada's war activities, and what was the total membership of such organisations. It was, furthermore, to state how such organisations could be utilised to carry the call for further services and sacrifice into Canadian homes, and to summon women, when and where necessary, to assist in war work.

A co-ordination committee, consisting of Mrs. Dennis, of Halifax; Mrs. John Scott, of Montreal; Mrs. McWilliams, of Manitoba; Mrs. W. E. Sanford, of Hamilton, and Mrs. Nellie McClung, of Alberta, was given the task of combining the resolutions of all the sections into a statement to be presented for confirmation at a meeting of all the delegates.

Before any sectional meetings took place, however, the delegates assembled together to discuss the agenda and the organisation of the conference. There was some objection to the plans prepared for the gathering. Certain delegates felt that an advisory committee, composed only of heads of national organisations, would not have all the data necessary for the performance of the functions assigned to it. It was argued that certain members of the conference were possessed of information on special features of the questions under consideration which would be of use to the advisory committee.

Questions such as these occupied the general meeting this afternoon. Meetings of sections took place in the evening, at which features of the agenda were discussed.

**MINISTERS ADDRESS WOMEN.**

The deputation was welcomed by the Governor-General and the Duchess of Devonshire. Afterwards they were addressed by Hon. N. W. Rowell, President of the Privy Council, who spoke on the general situation; Major-Gen. Mewburn, who spoke on the urgent need for reinforcements at the front; Hon. T. A. Crerar, Minister of Agriculture, who urged the necessity

for greater production; Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, who spoke on thrift and economy; and Senator Robertson, who outlined the forthcoming registration of man-power.

The Governor-General, in tendering a welcome to the delegates, spoke of the work accomplished by women in the Dominion since the war. The spirit of Canadian womanhood, he said, might be truly said to have entered into the tremendous struggle. More and more as time went on the struggle was becoming a test of endurance. The spirit was here. It was now a question of staying power. What was essential was co-ordination of every form of activity. There was no cause for panic, but it was urgent that every effort should be made by every man and every woman in the Dominion to ensure the war being carried through with success. This was a time when courage and spirit were needed, and the Governor-General felt sure that the ladies present would return home filled with renewed hope and courage.

Hon. N. W. Rowell, President of the Privy Council, sketched the subjects which would be brought before the conference. The reason why it had been called, he said, was that suggestions might be invited whereby Canada could throw her whole activity into the war. Further:

1. One way, and the most important way, of supplementing the man-power of the country was by the assistance which women could render in taking the place of men.

2. In view of the full, hearty service which women had rendered, the Government felt that it could rely on the patriotism and spirit of Canadian women to respond to every demand.

Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, drew a distinction between war-time and peace-time thrift. Economy, he said, was essential to the prosecution of the war. Sir George criticised the use of unnecessary and expensive fashions in clothing, such as furs in July, and as a further instance of expensive fashions, Sir George mentioned recent fashion shows in Ottawa. Sir George emphasised that every unnecessary article imported was adding to the burden.

Following the submission of statements by members of the Government outlining the war situation, the women met together at the Regal building and appointed sections to consider the various problems at issue. These sections met in the evening to formulate their resolutions. These they submitted to a further general conference of women.

The following women were in attendance, representing Dominion-wide organisations:—Mrs. F. H. Torrington, president National Council of Women of Canada; Lady Falconer, president National Council Y.W.C.A.; Lady Pellatt, president Dominion Council Canadian Girl Guides; Mrs. L. A. Hamilton, president Women's Equal Franchise League; Miss Una Saunders, secretary National Council Y.W.C.A.; Mrs. Albert E. Goderham, president I.O.D.E. of Canada; Mrs. Gordon Wright, president W.C.T.U.; Mrs. Arthur Murphy, president Canadian Women's Press Club; Miss Jean I. Gunn, president Canadian National Association Trained Nurses; Mrs. MacIver, editor *Women's Century*; Mrs. R. D. Fairbairn, secretary National Council of Women; Mrs. H. P. Plumtre, corresponding secretary Canadian Red Cross; Dr. Margaret Gordon, Canadian Suffrage Association.

**INVITED BY GOVERNMENT.**

In addition to the above, a number of ladies were invited, who were of great assistance to the conference through their experience in practical organisation in agricultural work, through their knowledge of industrial problems, and through their connection with the press, or through some other form of women's activity. Their names are:—

Ontario—Miss Hannah, Miss Winnifred Harvey, Miss Strong, Mrs. William Grant, Mrs. W. T. Herridge, Mrs. Adam Shortt, Mrs. W. Buchanan, Mrs. Brodie, Mrs. James George, Miss Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Harry Carpenter, Mrs. Arthur Van-Koughnet, Mrs. C. R. Crowe, Mrs. Sanford, Miss Marty, Mrs. R. V. Fowler, Mrs. L. A. Smith, Mrs. L. A. Gurnett.

Quebec—Dr. Ritchie England, Lady Hingston, Miss Helen Reid, Mrs. A. B. McDougald, Madame F. L. Beique, Mrs. Huguenin, Mrs. Rose Henderson, Madame Gerin-Lojole, Mrs. Huntley Drummond, Mrs. Colin Sewel, Madame Alexandre-Taschereau, Madame J. Anctil, Mrs. Arthur Drummond, Mrs. John Scott, Mrs. W. P. Hodges, Madame Laviolette, Madame Labelle.

Nova Scotia—Mrs. William Dennis, Miss Caroline Carmichael.

Prince Edward Island—Miss Hazel Stergs.

New Brunswick—Countess of Ashburnham, Mrs. W. H. Jones, Mrs. G. F. Smith, Mrs. John McAvity.

Manitoba—Mrs. Charles Robson, Mrs. R. F. McWilliams, Mrs. H. Dayton, Miss Cora Hind, Mrs. Henry Stephens, Mrs. Colin Campbell, Mrs. J. S. Wood.

Saskatchewan—Mrs. Walter C. Murray, Mrs. John McNaughton, Mrs. J. R. Peverett, Mrs. Cleveland, Mrs. S. V. Haight.

Alberta—Mrs. Parly, Mrs. Nellie McClung, Mrs. N. M. Davidson, Miss Mary McIsaacs, Mrs. Dr. Edwards, Mrs. Emily F. Murphy.

British Columbia—Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Irene Moody, Miss Mabel Durham.

From *The Mail and Empire*, Toronto (March 1).

**WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.**

Sir George Foster, addressing the final session of the Women's Conference, spoke of men and women as "equal parts of the body politic," and urged them to discard sectional and party spirit and to purify politics.

The women then presented the resolutions upon which they had been working in committee and in general meetings for two days. The Thrift and Economy Section put forward a number of practical proposals. A general resolution urged that "women should be given the opportunity for continued co-operation with the Government."

Ministers were present and discussed the resolutions with the women.

The principle of equal pay for equal work was emphasised; a minimum wage for women was advocated, and also the placing of women on any wage board appointed either federally or locally. The report of the Section on Agriculture advised extensive training and employment of women and that boys and girls of school age be not taken out of school to do farm work.

A resolution was passed that grain be not sent overseas to be converted into alcoholic liquor, but only in the form of flour; Canadian prohibition was endorsed.

A final resolution ran: "Resolved that this conference desire to express to the War Committee of the Cabinet their great appreciation of the recognition shown of the place of women in Canada by the invitation issued to some among them to meet in conference in Ottawa. They feel that their admission to a fuller knowledge of the war crisis and the opportunity of conferring with Ministers of the Crown will mean a new era in the life of the nation, and they most earnestly hope that they may be able to bring before the women of Canada a yet fuller call to service and sacrifice. They also cannot adequately express the deepened sense of unity which has come to them from this meeting of women from all parts of the country."

Mr. Calder and Mr. Rowell replied.

Mr. Calder said: "I cannot but feel that it has done great good to you women. I am quite certain that it is going to do the men a great deal of good. . . . I feel that the effect of this meeting will go through the length and breadth of the country and set forces at work that we have never known before."

Mr. Rowell said: "You have accomplished the primary objects we had in view by meeting here and making recommendations; we wanted your advice. It necessarily follows that this is but the initiation of a larger measure of co-operation in the future. . . . The Government will take into consideration the resolutions you have submitted and will let you know our decision either at one time or from time to time. . . . You have given us of your best. We shall receive in the spirit in which you have given and try to make the very best use of it in the best interests of our common country."

**ITALY.****Salandra Forecasts Votes for Women.**

The *Giornale d'Italia* of April 21 published an interview with the ex-Premier, Signor Salandra, in which he says that the problem of giving the political vote to women is now ripe for solution, and he expresses the hope that during the life of the present Legislature it will be possible to extend the franchise to several million women; and on April 27 Signor Orlando, in asking the Chamber to postpone a Woman Suffrage amendment to a Franchise Bill, declared himself emphatically in favour of Woman Suffrage.



## THE NETHERLANDS.

**The Celebration of the British and American Women's Victory, in Holland.**

On January 28 a gathering was held at The Hague to celebrate the introduction of Woman Suffrage in the United Kingdom and in several American States. There was a concert, and speeches were made. Dr. Aletta Jacobs welcomed those present, and expressed the opinion that in comparison with the women whose victory formed the object of the meeting, the Dutch women cut a poor figure. Two British and one American delegate also spoke.

In the *Maandblad* of February, however, there is an interesting protest from Mrs. Pabon van Itersen, the president of the Kampen section of the Vereeniging, who in the name of that section declares that it is impossible to congratulate British and American women, because the Suffrage was not granted them as a right, but as a consequence of their fitness and willingness to do war work. The Kampen section therefore even declined to send a delegate to the celebration. The editor appends a note declaring herself unable to admit Mrs. Pabon's criticism. The Suffrage has been granted, she says, in consequence of Mr. Asquith's support. And he declared that after the war women required a voice in the decisions on social problems, where their interests would be continually involved. It is clear, therefore, that the Suffrage was not a mere reward for war work.

In the March number of the *Maandblad* another correspondent remarks that this statement of Dr. Aletta Jacobs does not correspond with an article from her pen in a Radical paper, where she practically admitted beforehand Mrs. Pabon's contention. The discussion is closed with a note from Dr. Jacobs, deploring this hairsplitting, and appealing for a true rejoicing at their sisters' victory rather than chicanery about Mr. Asquith's motives.

**The Coming of the Active Suffrage.**

When will the active Suffrage be conferred upon Dutch women? To the discussion of this burning question Mr. Gomperts contributes a letter in which he pleads for Fabian tactics. It is a tradition in Dutch political life, he says, that whenever a modification is introduced in the electoral laws, Parliament should be dissolved forthwith to enable the new electorate to be consulted. (This tradition is, of course, not to be confounded with a dissolution after a modification of the constitution, which is a statutory obligation.) Though personally disapproving of that tradition, Mr. Gomperts is convinced that the majority of politicians are unwilling to depart from it. Now it is clear, in the light of this consideration, that to ask for the introduction of the active Women's Suffrage within a year, as the Vereeniging is doing, implies the acquiescence in a new dissolution and new elections within that period. But who will, in the present circumstances, think of such a thing? Mr. Gomperts concludes: No blame can attach to the political parties if they merely promise to fight for the introduction of the active Suffrage within the life of the present Parliament—i.e., before 1922. The *Maandblad's* editor promises a reply to this in the next number.

That the view expressed by Mr. Gomperts is not that of the Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht appears sufficiently from the letter sent by its Executive to the various political parties. The text of it is as follows:—

"Now that the new constitution has been promulgated, whereby the obstacles have been removed to the introduction of the active Woman Suffrage, it will be of the utmost importance to our nation that the ordinary law should as soon as possible grant women the active vote. Not considering even the fact that as abroad one country after another has given women the fullest political equality with men, it will only be an act of justice to Dutch women, it will also be of incalculable value to the country that the electoral strife should now at last come to an end. The various problems which during the war require a solution in this country will need all our available strength—that of the women as well. It would, therefore, be unwarranted to leave part of it unemployed."

The letter then invites each of the parties: (1) To adopt as an important plank to its platform the introduction of active Suffrage within a year; (2) to accept as candidates for Parliament only such persons as declare their willingness to contribute to the realisation of (1).

## NORWAY.

**Norwegian Ambulance to Finland.**

Last week two ambulance corps started to Finland—from the Norwegian Red Cross and from the Norwegian Women's Defensive Union. There accompanied them in all twelve nursing sisters, with Drs. Thrup-Meyer and Harald Natvig as leaders.

We have just heard that the Norwegian Ambulance was very well received, that the medical chest was praised as being especially well stocked, and that much satisfaction was called forth because the members had brought food with them to last six weeks.

As it was Fru Ida Konow who supported the big collection for funds for survivors of torpedoed sailors, it was by her initiative that the N.W.D.U. got their ambulance started. Thanks to Chief Health Inspector Daes' persistent interest, it was ready to start in two days. We shall soon hear again and learn what it is able to do. Our good wishes follow it.

R. B.

(After the remarkable recent news from Finland, we wonder what the present state of things may be?)

—*Nygaende* (March 15).

## SWEDEN.

**The Government Franchise Bill.**

The substance of the Bill for conferring the active and passive Parliamentary franchise on women is:—

Men and women can be elected to the First Chamber if they have attained the age of 35, and have for three years owned landed or house property to the value of fifty thousand kroner (about £2,700), or have for three years paid taxes on an income of three thousand kroner (£160).

**The Electoral Franchise.**

Any person of either sex who has attained the age of 24, and who is not deprived of his or her civil rights, is qualified to record a vote for the Second Chamber, with the exception of:—

- Those who are under guardianship or in a condition of bankruptcy.
- Those who are in the receipt of poor relief in respect to his or her husband, wife, or children who are not of age.
- Those who have not paid their taxes either to the State or Commune for a period of three years.
- Men liable to conscription who have not fulfilled their obligations.

A married woman whose property is not settled on her loses her vote if her husband becomes bankrupt or neglects to pay his taxes.

No person, of either sex, can be elected as Member of the Second Chamber who is not an elector in the constituency.

A man who has been elected to the Second Chamber is unable to resign his seat except:—

- If he is subject to any legal disqualification.
- If he is over 60 years of age.
- If he has served as Member of the Riksdag for three electoral periods.

A woman is, however, entitled to refuse a mandate without any restrictions.

NOTE.—The new legislation in regard to Parliamentary Franchise does not introduce any changes except those which refer to women.

The First Chamber is elected by the Provincial Assemblies (Landstring) for which women have had the vote on the same terms as men for several years.

Hr. Hage has introduced a motion into the Second Chamber on behalf of the Left Wing of the Social Democratic Party with the object of amending the Government Franchise Bill by eliminating the clause which deprives the married woman of the vote if the husband has not paid his taxes, and it is pointed out that this disqualification has never existed in the Communal Franchise.

—*Rösträtt för Kvinnor*.

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

A series of meetings in support of the Government Bill for conferring the Parliamentary Franchise on women have been held all over the country. They were inaugurated by a meeting in Stockholm on March 8. The speakers were Baroness Ebba Palmstierna and Emilia Fogelklou, Candidate of Theology. The following resolution was passed:—

"In these times of unrest at home and abroad, we, being Swedish women who are in favour of Women's Suffrage, feel the necessity for standing shoulder to shoulder with our husbands, fathers, sons, and brothers, in order to secure the safety and inner development of our country, and it has been humiliating and embittering not to be able to do this by means of the full rights of citizenship. Under the pressure of this unrest an increasing number of countries in Europe and America have either bestowed the full rights of citizenship on their women or are preparing to introduce this reform.

"We are very grateful to the Swedish Government for the Bill which has been introduced into the Riksdag bestowing on women the active and passive Parliamentary Franchise. The decision now rests with the Swedish Riksdag, and we hope and expect that both Chambers will comprehend that Swedish women, not less than the women in other countries, are ripe for complete citizenship, and that further delay would be prejudicial to Swedish political life as well as to Swedish women.

"We demand therefore that the Riksdag of 1918 shall pass the Bill conferring the active and passive Parliamentary Franchise on Swedish women." —*Hertha*.

**An Extension of the Field of Activity of Medical Women.**

The Medical Board has laid a recommendation before the Government to the effect that unmarried medical women shall be admitted to many official appointments from which they have been hitherto excluded, and that married as well as unmarried medical women shall be eligible for Government and municipal appointments as temporary substitutes in cases when they are not eligible for permanent appointments.

Eva Andén Jur. Kand. has been elected a member of the Swedish Society of Advocates, being the first woman member of that body. —*Rösträtt för Kvinnor*.

**Women and the Normal Working Day.**

The Frederika Bremer Society has sent a memorial to the Government asking that qualified women shall be immediately included in the Committee which is entrusted with the preparation of the Bill regulating the normal working day. The Frederika Bremer Society suggests that the interests of women may be suitably represented by a woman factory inspector, a representative of the working women and a medical woman.

A similar memorial has been sent in by the Central Council of Social Democratic Women and the United Organisations of Social Democratic Women. —*Hertha*.

## SWITZERLAND.

**Women University Professors.**

Mlle. Lina Stern has been appointed professor of physiological chemistry at the University of Geneva, where she has for many years been assistant to the professor.

Up to now the only other woman professor in Switzerland was Mlle. Tumarkin, professor of philosophy at Berne.

**Equal Pay for Equal Work.**

The tramway company at Neuchâtel, foreseeing an exodus of men at the end of the war, has decided to employ women conductors, who are to be paid at the same rate as men.

**Women Clergy.**

An interesting advertisement in a religious newspaper of Geneva is that of "a woman theologian seeks employment."

Rosa Gutknecht, having passed the theological examinations of Zurich University and filled minor church offices (preaching and catechising) for which she was authorised by the Church Council of Zurich, seeks an appointment. She adds that she can produce good references from clergy who heard her sermons.

Mlle. von Auw has entered for the theological faculty of Lausanne; after finishing her studies she wishes to be a missionary.

Mlle. Pfister has preached as a candidate in the parish of Wipkingen (Zurich).

Another letter must go to the friends of Woman Suffrage the world around without the long-wished-for news that the United States Senate has voted to submit the Federal Amendment. We are very happy, however, to announce a substantial victory in a section of the country where its influence is much needed. The Legislature of Texas has conferred on woman full Primary Suffrage, which in that State is virtually complete enfranchisement! It is one of the States which hold primary elections several months in advance of the regular elections, at which the voters choose the candidates for all the offices. Those in each party receiving the highest number of votes are put on the ticket, and then at the general election in November all parties vote, and the candidates of the one which polls the largest vote are elected to the offices. In most of the Southern States the Democrats are so greatly in the majority that whoever is put on their ticket at the Primary is the same as elected. Therefore when women can vote at these Primaries it is practically voting at the general election, which is a mere formality.

The Texas Legislature defeated this Primary Suffrage Bill in 1917, and now one year later it is passed by 17 to 4 in the Senate and 84 to 34 in the House of Representatives. This shows the rapid progress of public sentiment on Woman Suffrage. The legislators were so desirous for the women to vote at the Primaries in July that they excused them from paying a poll tax this year. When the final vote was announced, the Committee of Suffragists, who had been in attendance every day during the session, rose to leave the gallery, and the entire body of legislators rose also and gave them a round of hearty cheers. One of the United States Senators from Texas has all the time been pledged to vote for the Federal Amendment, but the other was non-committal. It is thought that this action in his State will induce him to vote for it.

It will be remembered that among the many legislative victories of 1917 was that of Arkansas, whose Legislature gave the Primary vote to women. It could not grant the full Suffrage, nor can the Legislature of any State, as this requires the amending of the Constitution, which can be done only through a referendum to the voters. The Arkansas women have voted at a few local elections, but on May 28 they will for the first time use their Suffrage at a general election, and vote for United States Senators and Representatives, the Governor and all State officials, the Legislature, and the county and municipal officers. Texas women will have the same privilege.

If the *International News* should republish our map, it would be seen that Texas is as large as any two of the equal-suffrage States, having an area of 265,896 square miles. Nearly 1,000,000 women are enfranchised, making over 11,000,000 who may vote for the President of the United States. Twenty-eight Senators and 108 members of the Lower House of Congress will now be elected partly by the votes of women. There is great rejoicing over this Texas victory.

**The Senate and the Federal Amendment.**

Our disappointment is keen over the delay of the Senate in voting to submit the Federal Amendment, which it is sure to do ultimately. After the favourable vote in the Lower House of Congress we hardly expected to wait three weeks for the same action by the Senate, and now we have waited three months. Our indignation was almost boundless when Woman Suffrage became the law of the land in Great Britain, while we were kept waiting at the door of the Senate. Now we are humiliated by still waiting while the Government in Canada has introduced its Bill giving Suffrage to all women 21 years of age; its second reading has been moved by Premier Borden, and scarcely one opposing voice was raised in the Committee debate. Probably it will have been enacted into law before this letter is read.

In my last letter I spoke of the fatalities among our friends in the Senate. The four who have died this session have now been replaced by four who will vote for the Suffrage measure. The New Jersey "lifelong anti," of whom it was said in my letter "he may be converted overnight," has announced that he will vote for it! It is rumoured that the Republican Governor of New York said to the Republican Governor of New Jersey: "Our party cannot afford to have your appointee vote against the Woman Suffrage Amendment." The fact that he will not do so is sufficient: we are not inquiring as to reasons.



In Wisconsin the Governor cannot appoint a Senator, and the election of one occurred this week. There were three candidates—Republican, Democratic, and Socialist,—and all were in favour of the Federal Suffrage Amendment, so we had no anxiety on that point. Mr. Lenroot, the Republican, won by a majority of about 12,000. A singular circumstance is that as a member of the Lower House he voted last January to submit this Amendment! Every seat in the Senate is now filled, and while the members are never all present, we must be absolutely sure of 64—two-thirds of the whole membership of 96. Doubtless we can now depend on that number—a poll will soon be taken,—but we will not run any risks. For a month there has been a shortage of only two votes, and the strength of the opposition is illustrated by the fact that the great influence of President Wilson has not been sufficient to obtain these votes from the Senators of his party.

It is not the lack of public sentiment or newspaper support that is responsible for any Senator's opposition to submitting this Amendment, as it has both in a very large degree; but it is usually an obligation to some power in his own State. It is quite apparent, however, that with the elections coming on in the autumn, this will have to yield to the best interests of his party. One-third of the Senate and all of the Lower House will be elected. Women will vote for them directly in fourteen States, and wield a strong influence in others, and the organised bodies of women in every State are demanding this Federal Amendment.

#### Important Suffrage Conventions.

The National American Suffrage Association's Executive Council of One Hundred is called to meet at Indianapolis, April 18th, 19th, and Mrs. Catt and the other officers are exceedingly anxious to have the Amendment pass the Senate before this meeting. It is composed of the chairmen of committees, presidents of affiliated organisations, and one delegate for each 1,500 members, and they will plan the work for the approaching national political campaign. Should the Amendment have passed the Senate, the Association will take no part in the State elections for members of Congress, as it will need no further assistance from that body. In this case it will concern itself with the election of the Legislatures in all the States, as three-fourths of them must ratify or approve this Amendment before it can become law. If the deadlock in the Senate should continue, however, plans will be perfected for going into every congressional district and working for the election of men who will have the Amendment submitted. As the politicians are very anxious to keep the Suffrage issue out of the campaign, they will make every possible effort to get the measure through the Senate and out of the way. My next letter surely will relate that this has been accomplished.

This Executive Council will arrange for co-operating with the women in the four States where the Legislatures have submitted the question of Woman Suffrage to be voted on next November—South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Michigan. Mrs. Catt and Mrs. Shuler have just returned from Michigan, where they attended the State Convention which opened the campaign. Mrs. Shuler had already spent six weeks in Oklahoma, where she found the situation very encouraging. It was due less to the women than to the political parties that the Amendment was submitted, and the leaders of all of them have promised to support it. The victory in Texas on the southern border will have great influence, as Oklahoma is now entirely surrounded by equal-suffrage States.

What is known as the Mississippi Valley Conference, an important part of the Suffrage movement, will hold its annual convention May 26th—28th, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. This Conference is composed of Western and Southern States in the great basin between the Rocky and Allegheny Mountains, excluding the extreme East and West, but closely affiliated with the National American Association. It will have a large part in the plans and work of these four State campaigns.

#### Forlorn Hope of the Anti-Suffragists.

I was mistaken, when describing the meeting of the Anti-Suffragists to arrange for having the New York Amendment re-submitted, in saying: "This is probably their last despairing wail." On the contrary, they are still wailing and gnashing their teeth. They have been trying ever since that February meeting to get their scattered forces together and re-organise their State Association, which disbanded after their smashing defeat last November. At last they succeeded in collecting about a hundred women of wealth and social promi-

nence in the drawing-room of an aristocratic home in New York City, April 2nd, with none from any other part of the State. Up to this time they have not been able to find any legislator rash enough to introduce their resolution for repeal in either House, and the Legislature adjourns next week! But they are going right on just the same. They dropped the name "association," and became the Anti-Suffrage Party, and their new president announced: "We shall make a political enrolment of the vast mass of women who have not been heard from . . . and do not wish to enter the political arena. We believe their numbers will be overwhelming. We shall get them to promise to vote, and shall keep them informed of the legislation which upholds American institutions and which the Anti-Suffrage Party will support!" And it was also announced that they would be instructed to vote for legislators who would submit an amendment to take away this vote which they were to use for "upholding American institutions!"

The national president, the wife of Senator Wadsworth, who came on from Washington, said of the Federal Amendment: "We are doing all we can to hold this thing back, but our task is a colossal one and seems hopeless. Our band seems so small and ill-equipped." Then she called on God to "touch our tongues with a divine fire of eloquence to go into every corner of the land with such an inspiring trumpet-call that a mighty army of believers will rise and follow our flag to victory!"

The imported organiser from Massachusetts who is to sound the trumpet-call then dropped a bomb into the assembly by saying: "When the President of the United States refuses to welcome the head of a great national organisation, the wife of the senior Senator from New York State, and the daughter of John Hay, whom can we get to represent us?"

This piece of news was announced by all the New York papers, and capped the climax of a satire that exceeded anything ever attempted by Gilbert and Sullivan.

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

April 6, 1918.

#### Women in War Industries.

The Women's Trade Union League is taking pains to safeguard women who are taking men's places. In Kansas City the street railways company attempted to replace men by women at half the men's rate of pay. The scheme was exposed and defeated by the League, which showed that there was abundance of male labour available, and no need for the substitution of women.

The New York League has held a conference on war work, and recommended the following legislative measures:—

(1) An 8-hour day for all women workers, with Saturday half-holiday and one day's rest in seven.

(2) Immediate passage of Federal Eight-hour Bill for women.

(3) Appointment of 25 additional factory inspectors.

The Conference also demanded equal pay for equal work, State-regulated health insurance, including maternity benefit.

The Conference also demanded equal pay for equal work, and the leisured class as volunteers in industry, thus robbing the working women of the chance of a fair wage, and expressed disapproval of women being engaged as street-car conductors, which the Conference thought an occupation tending to brutalise them.

[To European women this stricture seems astonishing, \*as women are successfully acting as bus, tram, and underground-train conductors, and elicit nothing but praise for their courtesy, kindness, and efficiency.]

The Conference recommended that women under twenty-five years of age should not be employed as messengers; but there was considerable opposition to this restriction, in view of the rough and undesirable work generally enforced on women.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

##### WOMEN'S ECONOMIC POSITION.

To the Editor of *Jus Suffragii*.

Dear Madam,—In your report of the proceedings of the Conference of the N.U.W.S.S. I note what appears to me to be a very important omission in the programme for future work sketched out by the Conference. That omission is the absence of any demand for the alteration of the laws of inheritance and intestacy in order to remove the iniquitous system of masculine preference manifested in these laws.

There is a widely spread feeling that the economic position of women is extremely unsatisfactory—indeed, that it is rotten from its foundation; and yet women appear to me almost never to recognise what is the fundamental injustice, stereotyped in the law, which sets the example and creates the spirit which governs those economic and financial customs which bear so hardly upon women.

This fundamental injustice appears to me to be found in the laws of heredity and of inheritance. If there should be preferential sex inheritance, it should be feminine preference, not masculine. Mr. Cecil Chapman, in an address on "The Position of Women Under the Law of England," called attention to the necessity of altering the law of intestacy and inheritance, as well as the marriage and divorce law.

It is the principle which these laws embody, it is the example set by these laws in feminine depreciation, which has done so much to impress upon the minds of many men, and of some women, the idea that women ought not to receive "equal pay for equal work."

The principle of maternity endowment is not a satisfactory solution of the problem of women's economic position. It is a useful temporary measure for the "duration of the war," and until such time as the feminine outlook has adjusted itself to her better opportunities. As such, it may doubtless be of service, but as an abiding principle in a future social scheme it would indeed be for women to sell their birthright (of equal inheritance) for a mess of pottage.

It cannot be a dignified position for a woman citizen to sell her maternal function any more than her sexual function.

I look forward in the future to all women being able, either through inheritance, education, training, etc., to render such service to the community as shall enable them to earn enough to supply their own needs, and very much more, without starving themselves socially, intellectually, physiologically, artistically, or otherwise, as well as to save up for future emergencies, conjugal union, old age, or otherwise.

Thus the woman could and should be in a position to make reasonable terms for herself from the man whom she elects to marry and whom she permits to become the father of her children. She should be able so to arrange the terms of her association with him that he is not only willing but anxious to supply her needs in her time of stress, and more than anxious to contribute his full share, according to their relative circumstances, toward the maintenance, education, and life establishment of the children for whose existence they are jointly responsible.

If a man marries a woman in the full knowledge that she is not likely and does not expect to contribute toward the support of the family, he, of course, takes the full responsibility and burden upon himself.

Nevertheless, the woman can never feel, and ought never to feel, entirely free from responsibility. Accident or misfortune may befall the man, and then the burden of maintaining the family falls necessarily upon the woman. No woman ought ever to forget that the responsibility for the family maintenance is a joint responsibility, which she ought and must be prepared to meet when occasion demands.

It may suit the joint partners that the husband should be the provider, and the wife devote her attention to the home and to social needs, so long, but only so long, as nothing occurs to interfere with the husband's ability to provide.

But if, and when, he fails, she must be ready and willing and able to take the place of chief provider, either by means of her own energy and capacity, or by means of whatever capital she may have contributed to the joint resources or have been able to accumulate.

It is amazing what in a number of cases women in various ranks of life have been able to accomplish when the burden of maintaining the home has suddenly fallen upon them; how they have triumphed over adverse circumstances, have educated and set their children's feet upon the rung of the ladder of success in life, in spite of obstacles.

These possibilities should not be absent from the minds of women when they enter upon a conjugal union. The idea that marriage is a joint pilgrimage for life, a joint co-partnership for mutual help and support, must entirely replace the old idea of the marriage market, where the wife sold herself and her maternal possibilities for a home and a provider and dictator.

The mutual arrangements should be discussed and agreed upon by the conjoints themselves—not by the law for them. All that law and society need to do is to set a stamp upon the contract, which must not be dissolved without a period of one year's probation and complete separation, and without just and ample consideration and provision for the claims and well-being of the children.

One word more: New laws should only be made for limited experimental periods. Often it is a mere suggestion of a complete change in outlook that is needed, after which, in many cases, the law might be allowed to lapse and become a dead letter, instead of remaining to cumber our Statute Books and helping to dehumanise and demoralise the legal mind.—Yours,  
(Dr.) ALICE DRYSDALE VICKERY.

#### REVIEWS.

"THE SCIENCE OF POWER." By Benjamin Kidd. (Methuen and Co. 6s. net.)

Last month saw the appearance of a book by the well-known social philosopher, the late Mr. Benjamin Kidd, which looks as if it might exercise a great influence in the progress of the woman's movement—"The Science of Power" (Methuen and Co., Ltd.). It is a small volume, but it represents the final judgment of one of the great minds of our time. Though it is stiff reading, it makes no strain on ordinary faculties.

To Mr. Kidd the rise of woman in the modern West is the greatest event in all social history, and is fraught with untold significance for the future. "It is not in the fighting Male of the race; it is in Woman, that we have the future centre of Power in civilisation."

In Mr. Kidd's social philosophy as outlined in his previous books, "Social Evolution" and "Principles of Western Civilisation," and as continued in the present volume, "The Science of Power," human progress falls into two stages, a lower or individual stage and a higher or social stage. The struggle between these two stages of evolution is represented in every phase of human activity, in politics, in religion, in art, in economics, and in national policies. It forms the main content of Western history and of the modern world.

It is characteristic of the lower stage that the *fittest* in it are those who are most efficient in the interests of *self*. The struggle for survival tends towards *individual efficiency*. The centre of gravity in all institutions which bear the stamp of this lower stage, is in the *present*, and they represent the ascendancy of limited interests, which rest on *force*, and which are all driven inherently towards *Absolutism*. The chief motive in action is *reason*—the scientific formulation of the knowledge of force. *The dominant factor is the capacity of the fighting male.*

In the higher or social stage the most efficient are those who possess in the highest degree the capacity for *sacrifice*. In social evolution the premium is always upon those qualities in the individual contributing to his subordination in the interests of *collective efficiency*. The centre of gravity lies in the *future*, and hence the mark of institutions characteristic of this higher stage is *Tolerance*, and they are driven inherently towards *Freedom*. The chief motive behind progress is now *The Emotion of the Ideal*, and the dominant factor is the *mind of the woman*.

"Man has been engaged in discussing woman in the past from the point of view of woman's case with man or of man's case with woman. But civilisation is not ultimately concerned with either of these issues. The central problem is the relation of woman, not to man, but to the needs of society."

The need of society to-day is that the capacities of the mind of woman should be projected into all the activities of the world at the same plane and on the same scale as in the past those of man have been.

"Woman throughout her history," says Mr. Kidd, "has ever been the creature of the long-range emotions through which the instant needs of the present are subordinated to the meaning implicit in the long sequences of cause and effect through which maximum Power expresses itself in the social integration."

*The mind of woman has in reality outstripped that of man by an entire epoch of evolution in the development of those characteristic qualities upon which Power now rests in the social integration.*

The axiom upon which Mr. Kidd insists is that Power in the highest form of integration always wins. Power, as distinct from Force, is for Mr. Kidd the essential quality of the social organism. The Emotion of the Ideal, of which great religious systems are the widest expression, is the only sufficient subordinating cause. And, according to him, it is the mind of woman which alone to-day possesses the ability of putting the emotion of the ideal into operation on a requisite scale in civilisation. Those who can impose ideals upon the young and maintain them in the adult hold the levers which



control the world. By her relationship to man and to the coming generation these levers are in the hands of woman.

We do not wish here to criticise this testament of a great author, nor have we space more than to indicate a few of the main themes of the book. But we are convinced of its importance, and leave it in the hands of our readers.

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