

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

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A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO.

Many newspapers of long standing make a feature of publishing in their current issues a brief extract from their corresponding issue of a hundred years earlier. Jus Suffragii has not yet reached its century, but it has passed its Silver Jubilee, and it has occurred to the Editor that it might be interesting to see what women were doing in 1910, just twenty-five years ago.

In Great Britain interest was centred round a Private Members' Bill for Woman Suffrage known as the "Conciliation Bill." The constitutional suffrage societies report a deputation to Mr. Asquith, which was not very satisfactory since he would not promise government support, and which was followed by an anti-suffrage deputation which received a much more encouraging reception from the Prime Minister. The militant groups report one of their great London Processions to the Albert Hall in support of this Bill, which was headed by a section of women carrying silver broad-arrows (the government mark on convict dress), 617 strong, to show the number of women already imprisoned in the cause. There was an International Section, and the length of the procession was estimated at from 2 to 2½ miles and the number taking part at 10,000. The Men's League for Women's Suffrage was also in full activity in support of the Bill.

In France, there is something familiar in the report that a woman suffrage bill (for municipal, General and District Councils only) had been referred to a Committee. The suffrage society reports progress in obtaining support from deputies both of the Left and Right. An interesting little note tells that "La Française" had given a reception to Grazia Deledda, the celebrated Italian novelist, with the information that she had been the first woman candidate for a Legislature established

in Sardinia. This piece of information about one of the women winners of the Nobel Prize whose portrait appears on the Commemorative Stamps issued for our Istanbul Congress will surely interest our readers.

Sweden gives an analysis of the recent elections to the "Landstings" from the point of view of the support for woman suffrage likely to be obtained from the new members—a very important matter as the Landstings were to elect the members to the First Chamber. An interesting point is that this was the first occasion on which the system of proportional representation was employed.

Norway already almost fully enfranchised, tells of the effort made by Fru Qvam, then as now President of the Suffrage Society, to make use of a visit to Kristiania (now Oslo) of ex-President Theodore Roosevelt, of the United States, to obtain his support for woman suffrage, but the text of his reply has a very old-fashioned as well as distinctly cautious ring about it. He says that "whenever the *good* woman feels that to the vital and exhausting duties which she already performs she can with wisdom and profit add yet another duty, that of the suffrage, I shall be most glad to see her assume it." Women in 1935 must be much stronger than they were in 1910, as the exhausting effort of recording a vote has never, so far as we are aware, caused a single one of them the slightest physical or mental strain.

Hungary reports an active and stimulating election campaign, with a distribution of 200,000 leaflets and 10,000 posters. The report, signed by Rosika Schwimmer, ends with the words: "We are awfully tired, our cash is exhausted, but our spirits are unabated. As long as this holds we shall not cease to go onward."

Dr. Aletta Jacobs tells of the celebration of the Anniversary of the 1908 Congress of the Alliance in Amsterdam as "Suffrage Day" in Holland. Amster-

dam had an electric sky sign, and a fleet of steam boats on the canals. The newspaper the "Handelsblad" said that it was impossible to give an adequate idea of what had been done as propaganda by the 83 Branches of the Suffrage Association.

Serbia recalled that the new President of the Society, Mrs. Milovick, had already nine years earlier, sent a petition to the Senate protesting against the fact that women were not allowed to vote although the Law spoke only of "citizens."

Germany reported briefly on its difficulties with the Diet of Baden, and a victory in the Diet of Wurtemberg which had agreed to make women eligible to sit on, as well as to elect the members of Agricultural Boards.

The Editor hopes that readers will not be bored by this glimpse into the past. She hopes on the contrary that a reminder of what women have done, may be something of a stimulus. If one or two of the countries mentioned have not yet won the fight they were already waging, they will be able to see that others then in the same position have triumphed. And where women have won that particular fight they may perhaps recall with profit just how much enthusiasm and effort it took.

ALLIANCE OFFICE IN GENEVA.

The International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship will as usual open a Temporary Office in Geneva during the Assembly of the League of Nations in September, as a centre for the numerous feminists who come to Geneva at that time. This Office will again be in the rooms of the Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organisations at 6, rue Adhémar Fabri (Place des Alpes) so as to establish contact with one of the most active and well-known women's movements. The Office will thus be but a few minutes from the League Secretariat, so that visitors will be close to all the interesting events which occur during this time of international activity. As before visitors can obtain entrance cards for the Assembly, see women's papers, obtain addresses and other information, have tea; there will also be meetings and talks which will give opportunities for meeting well-known feminists who will be staying in Geneva.

The Office will open a week before the Assembly, on Monday, 2nd September, and every day thereafter (except Sundays) from 2 till 6. The fact that the Alliance Board is to hold an important meeting on September 5th assures the presence not only of those members who live in Geneva, Frau Adele Schreiber, Mlle. Gourd, Mlle. Ginsberg, but of the President, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, the Vice-Presidents: Miss Manus, Mme. Plaminkova, Mme. Malaterre Sellier, and others. So will all members and readers take note of the address and opening date for the Office where they will be assured of a warm welcome for themselves and their friends, and of many opportunities for making their stay in Geneva pleasant and profitable.

ALLIANCE HEADQUARTERS.

Would members please note that for the first fortnight in August the Alliance Office will not be able to deal with general correspondence. A Junior Clerk will be there who will issue receipts for fees, etc., and fill any orders for the Congress Report, etc., but the Headquarters Secretary and her Assistant will be away and all correspondence calling for other than routine treatment will have to await attention on their return.

BRAZIL.

We have received from Dr. Bertha Lutz, now a member of the Alliance Board and President of the Brazilian Federation for the Advancement of Women,

a very interesting statement, in parallel columns, of the proposals for the new Constitution made by her, and the actual clauses of the Constitution. It is astonishing to note how closely the Constitution followed these 13 feminist principles: in only one clause, namely, the prohibition of unhealthy work for women and children, is there any sex inequality. It is the one trace of special industrial limitation. Or we ought rather to have said that there are 2 clauses, the second being that referring to military service. Over this there was a great fight, as the Minister of War was determined to include women among the citizens liable to military service, or to exclude them from voting by restricting the franchise to those who had performed their military service. The women defeated him, though they did not succeed in winning their whole point. The proposal made by Dr. Lutz was as follows:

Women, members of the clergy and all those who are conscientious objectors for religious or philosophical reasons shall be exempted from any form of military service.

Compulsory military service is abolished. What was eventually inserted in the constitution was:

Women are exempted from military service. The military service of the clergy shall consist of spiritual assistance and hospital service for the troops. It was unfortunately impossible to abolish compulsory military service for men.

Now that these measures are inscribed in the new constitution, organised women will through the Brazilian Federation for the Advancement of Women try to secure complementary legislation in the State Constitutions now being voted and in the Common Laws. They will also work for the establishment of special government bureaux to put them into practice, especially a Bureau similar to the Women's Bureau in the U.S.A.

The new equality in economic matters is well summed up in the following paragraph which the Federation attached to the Right to Work Petition adopted by the Istanbul Congress of the Alliance, when it signed and sent it to the International Labour Conference.

I would like to add that the New Constitution of Brazil ensures equal rights to all residents in this country, independent of sex or nationality, and forbids discrimination based on sex. Among these rights it includes that of earning a living honestly, and adds that any right not explicitly mentioned, but arising from these stated in the text, shall also be assured. The Constitution states that all Government posts are filled without regard to sex or civil status, and that difference of salary for the same work is not permitted. I would further add that all amendments making the generally accepted rules of international law binding, were deliberately rejected by the Constituent Assembly, after long debates. The women of Brazil to whose 15 years of constant endeavour the above mentioned measures are due, hope and beg the Labour Conference to resist all efforts to go on record for legislation which will not only be unconstitutional in this country, but will set an international standard less just, less human, and less progressive than that upheld by Brazil.

HUNGARY.

The Hungarian Auxiliary of the Alliance, after telling us of the prompt action taken on some of the urgent Resolutions adopted by the Istanbul Congress, informs us that it was successful in urging upon the Annual Meeting of the Hungarian National Council of Women that its special Suffrage Committee should take up active work again.

The society also presented a Petition to Parliament on the Air Defence Bill, asking for its rejection on the

grounds that there is no adequate defence against aerial gas attacks, and that the citizens of any country can only be protected by a policy abolishing air warfare.

The recent lecture programme included an address on "The Crisis of Democracy" by Prof. Rustem Vambery, and on "What the last elections have taught us" by several speakers, which led to an enthusiastic decision to take active steps to increase the participation of women in politics.

GREAT BRITAIN.

It is comforting in these days to be able to report certain signs of grace in important bodies. The University of Oxford has passed a Statute providing that all degrees in the University shall be equally open to men and women. The practical effect of this is that women will now be able to take degrees as Bachelors of Doctors of Divinity. This does not mean of course any change in the direction of throwing open to women any religious ministry still closed to them, but it removes one of the few remaining sex distinctions at one of the senior universities.

Secondly, the London County Council proposes to reverse its policy of making married women doctors and teachers in its service resign on marriage. This will not, however, apply to resident doctors in institutions and hospitals, as the Council is of opinion that the married woman could not easily be available at all hours as is necessary owing mainly to her "special responsibility for her children." Again that vision of the woman perpetually burdened with an infant in arms! The marriage bar is not to be removed in the case of other Council appointments on the old ground that allowing married women's employment excludes from employment those who are dependent on their own earnings, which the married woman for the most part is not. The ground for the alteration in the rules for doctors and teachers is that these are occupations "where the value of an officer is enhanced by marriage." This may very well be true, but it will be seen that though women must be very glad that any breach in the marriage bar has been made, the grounds for it are not those of that justice and economic fair play which are the real basis of our demands for its abolition.

EQUAL PAY AND RIGHT TO WORK.

Women Civil Servants in England are indignant at the way in which the Government spokesman during a recent debate on this question in the House of Commons dealt with the matter. Misstatements, inaccuracies and vague and unfounded statements are simply "not good enough" to wind up a two-hour debate in which five men and three women members supported the principle of equal pay, already affirmed by a Resolution of a previous Parliament.

One Member of Parliament warned correspondents who wrote to him in this connection of the danger to women of the granting of equal pay, which might lead to the closing of many forms of employment to them. The Women Civil Servants' paper "Opportunity" quotes in this connection the words of Mrs. Tate, M.P., in the House that "she would far rather see fewer women employed on fair terms than a large number of women employed on unfair terms." It may be true that with men so immensely in a preponderance as employers of labour, and with the deep seated belief in the man's first claim on employment, equal pay in industry and commerce might lead to the displacing of women in considerable numbers. But in the Civil Service where men and women enter under a common competitive examination, it is difficult to see any danger. And it must be remembered that equal pay and equal opportunities for women would certainly tend to remove some

of the greatest obstacles to organisation. It is the low-paid worker who is difficult to organise.

The recent International Labour Conference was remarkable for many pronouncements showing that the problems summarised in the title of these paragraphs are receiving intelligent attention. "The Catholic Citizen" has an interesting article which quotes from the Report of the Director to the Conference some wise and thoughtful words. There are also quotations from the article on "Unemployment and Employment among Women," by Henry Fuss, published in the International Labour Review, and from speeches made by the Dutch Workers' Delegate Mr. Kupers, and Miss Abbott of the U.S.A. We have space only to copy two of these. Mr. Kupers asked whether "it does not fall within the scope of the activities of the I.L.O. to consider what measures can be taken to protect the right to work which in the course of years women and girls have acquired in almost all countries of the world." And Miss Abbott: "Women welcome the study of their problems because they believe the truth will make them free." Yes, indeed, we are not afraid of facing any facts, human or economic, our enemies are prejudice and sentimentality, without mentioning those darker elements of jealousy and greed which sometimes masquerade in the garb of protection and humanitarianism.

INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION FOR WOMEN.

14. SWEDEN.

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

(a) **Night Work.** The Bakery Law prohibits any making of bread, cakes, etc., in bakeries between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m., with a few exceptions. Indirectly night work is forbidden in shops and some other enterprises by a law regarding the hours when they may be kept open.

(b) **Weight-lifting.** No regulations.

(c) **Dangerous or unhealthy work.** The Law for the Protection of Workers (1912, with some amendments, 1931) is applicable to any enterprise where workpeople are employed.

(d) **Limitation of Hours.** Working hours are limited by the following laws:

Eight-hour Day Law, 1930.

Bakery Law, 1919.

Shop Law, 1919.

Law for Hours of work on board ship.

(e) **Minimum Wages.** No regulations.

II. Protection only for Women Workers.

(a) **Night Work.** Since 1909 night work has, by a special law, been forbidden to women in industrial undertakings employing 10 or more workers. At least 11 hours unbroken rest must be accorded to women workers in such undertakings, and the period from 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. shall be included among those 11 hours. This law was adopted by the Swedish Riksdag as a step towards ratification of the Berne Night Work Convention, which was actually ratified by Sweden on January 14th, 1910. Exceptions from the operation of the law are granted for work for preserving perishable goods, as for instance fish, fruit and vegetables. Since 1931 this law has become part of the general law for the Protection of Workers, clauses 19 and 21.

(b) **Weight-lifting.** No regulations.

(c) **Dangerous and Unhealthy Work.** The Law for the Protection of Workers contains the following provisions:

1. Women may not be used for work under ground (mines, etc.), cl. 18.

2. If the employment of women in certain occupa-

tions entails special risk of accidents, or is particularly heavy or unhealthy, the Government can prescribe certain conditions for such work for women, or can altogether prohibit their employment, cl. 22.

3. In application of this paragraph of the Law, the Government has prohibited the employment of women under 21 years of age in the loading and unloading of certain ships.

(It should be noted that in the Law of 1931, there has been dropped from the regulations contained in point 2 the original wording by which "morally dangerous work" might be forbidden for women).

(d) **Limitation of hours.** See above under I. (a) and (d), and II. (a).

(e) **Minimum Wages.** See above.

Additional Protective Measures for Women.

(a) **Maternity Regulations.** A woman may not be employed in industry, in the Building Trade and in Transport work during the first six months after child-birth, unless a doctor certifies that she may take up her work at an earlier period without harm to herself or her child.

Until recently there was no compulsory allowance during this time, only a very small sum for the somewhat small number of women who happened to belong to a Health Insurance Fund. Since a couple of years ago women with a taxed income of not more than 500 crowns get a very small compulsory maternity allowance.

(b) **Prohibition on the work of married women.** None.

III. Effects of Protective Legislation for women only.

(a) **Has such limitation resulted in men or boys taking the place of women?**

Yes, in the Printing Trade and in the Crisp Bread Bakeries there has been a decided loss of work for women to their male comrades as a result of the Night Work Law. In the Printing Trade during the first 10 months after the Law was passed, the number of women workers (which in 1930 had been 12% of the total number of workers in this trade) was lowered by 1%, and in 1935 it had sunk to 6% of the total number of workers employed. Also a very few women are now recruited to this trade their wages having been cut down and the possibilities of promotion having been drastically diminished.

(b) **What restriction, if any, has been caused by such limitation on the opportunities of women for securing employment?**

Opportunities have diminished in the above named trades, but in other occupations no very evident difficulties seem to have occurred.

(c) **Have these limitations favourably affected the position of women workers?**

They are said to have helped to limit unnecessary night work.

(d) **Have there been official or unofficial protests against protective measures for women only?**

In the Riksdag the Burgomaster Lindhagen has made several motions against special Legislation for Women and put forward a demand for a general prohibition of night work. Many women's societies protested against the Night Work Law when it was first proposed, among others the Social Democratic Women, the women workers themselves, the Frederika Bremer Forbund, etc. Later protests against the Law have come from several Women's Trade Unions, mostly in the form of demands for revision of the Law in certain points, and also protests against the ratification of the Washington Convention on Night Work as representing a more all-

embracing and drastic form than the Berne Convention.

The latest protest was made in January, 1935, by the Social Democratic Women and the Stockholm Central Organisation of Women's Trade Unions, against the ratification of the Geneva Convention of 1934 (the revised Washington Convention), and in the resolution adopted it was stated that women did not object to a prohibition of night work if it were the same for men and women.

Since 1930 protests against the Law have also been made by the Swedish Women Citizens' Association and the Swedish Open Door Group in several letters to the Government, called forth by the question of a revision of the Night Work Convention. As late as in March, 1935, the Central Council of Women Officials Associations protested against the prohibition of night work for women only in connection with an enquiry from the Royal Social Board as to the possible effect on women other than industrial workers of the ratification by Sweden of the Geneva Convention on Night Work of 1934.

DESTRUCTION OF FOODSTUFFS.

The "Mouvement féministe" quotes from "The Industrial Worker" of the United States some striking figures of the destruction of food stuffs in an effort to raise prices. These statistics come to us, therefore, at third hand so that we cannot quote the source of the original information, but when such destruction and artificial limitation is common knowledge, it is no bad thing to have it brought home to us by such a list.

Barley: used for fuel in Canada.

Carrots: In Florida almost half of the total production was thrown back on the hands of the producers.

Celery: In Florida, in February, 1933, 30,000 baskets were destroyed.

Coffee: In Brazil, in December, 1933, 7,750,000 sacks were destroyed.

Pigs: In the United States in 1933 6,300,000 hogs and 220,000 sows were killed and burnt. The sowing programme for maize for 1934 entailed the destruction of 2 millions of sows.

Milk: In Los Angeles 200,000 litres of milk were thrown down the gutter.

In Hartford, 20,000 litres per day. The programme of 15% reduction in dairy produce meant the destruction of 600,000 cows.

Oranges: A million and a half were destroyed in Spain in 1933; in California they have been destroyed wholesale.

Peaches: 80,000 peach trees destroyed.

Pears: In Oregon half the harvest was given to dogs.

Salmon: In the Bay of Karchekan (Alaska) alone, 40,000 were destroyed.

Sheep: In Chile 225,000 were destroyed in June 1933.

In the States hundreds of thousands have been killed and left for the vultures.

Spices: In the Dutch East Indies, hundreds of tons were destroyed.

Strawberries: 10,000 hectares (more than 20,000 acres) were left to rot.

Tea: In Ceylon, 30,000 tons destroyed. In India, Ceylon and the Dutch East Indies production will be reduced 15% in 4 years.

It may be noted that where dates are given, the figures refer to 1933. But the sinister feature of such destruction is the fact that the producer must inevitably cut down his production, which may mean that the following year, destruction on this scale is not necessary, but which must also mean growing artificial scarcity. It may even mean some day real scarcity, because agricultural production is not built up in a day.

The very economic system which countenances or encourages this senseless destruction, is now becoming alarmed at the steady decrease in consumption. In the name of common sense, do they expect consumption to increase under a system of prices artificially raised by false scarcity?

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Argentine. It is stated that a new marriage law will come into force this year, under which a medical certificate will be obligatory for a valid marriage. We do not know whether the new law is progressive as regards the legal and civil status of women.

France. A woman has been appointed to the Chair of Organic Chemistry at the Sorbonne.

Great Britain. Miss Dorothy Spicer has just gained Flying Licence "D" qualifying her to pass aircraft and engines after an overhaul. She already possesses the A.B. and C. Licences, and is the first woman to complete the series by obtaining D.

The result of the Peace Ballot showed that over 11 million people filled up the ballot paper, and that over 97% of the voters desired to support the League of Nations.

Greece. Athens is overhauling its Social Service and has appointed a woman, Mme. Gatopoulos, at the Head of it.

Kenya Nairobi is to have a woman Mayor for the first time in the person of Gladys, Lady Delamere.

Russia The Soviet vessel "Sura" has women as Chief Engineer, First Mate and First Wireless Operator. We believe that at least one Russian woman has been the Master of a ship, but such a little group of women officers must be rare at present.

New Zealand. Miss Jessie Mackay has sent us the sad news of the death of two pioneer women, Mrs. Kate Edwards, who was the first woman to take a university degree in the British Empire, B.A. in 1877, M.A. in 1881; and Mrs. Elizabeth Reid McCombs, the first woman M.P. in New Zealand. Both were devoted workers for women, for peace and for prohibition, and we regret that the late date on which we received this news makes it impossible to insert in full Miss Mackay's note on their special activities.

BUREAU DE L'ALLIANCE A GENEVE, SEPTEMBRE 1935.

(6, rue Adhémar Fabri, Place des Alpes).

Comme toutes les années précédentes, l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage et l'Action civique et politique des Femmes ouvrira à Genève pendant l'Assemblée de la Société des Nations un Bureau temporaire, destiné à servir de centre de ralliement et de rencontre à toutes les nombreuses féministes de passage dans cette ville à ce moment-là.

De même que l'an dernier, c'est dans le local même du Comité des Organisations féminines internationales pour le Défense, 6, rue Adhémar Fabri (Place des Alpes) que l'Alliance a décidé d'installer son Bureau, établissant de la sorte un contact étroit avec un des mouvements féminins les plus actifs et les plus connus. De plus, ce Bureau étant situé à quelques minutes à peine du Secrétariat de la S.D.N., ses visiteuses seront donc à proximité immédiate de tout ce qui se passe d'intéressant à Genève durant cette période de vie internationale intense. Comme d'habitude, on

trouvera au Bureau de l'Alliance des cartes d'entrée pour l'Assemblée de la S.D.N., des journaux féministes; on pourra s'y procurer des renseignements et des adresses, y prendre du thé; et enfin, des réunions et des causeries familiales y seront organisées qui permettront de rencontrer les personnalités féministes les plus en vue de passage à Genève.

Ce Bureau sera ouvert une semaine avant le début de l'Assemblée, soit dès le lundi 2 septembre tous les après-midis, sauf le dimanche, de 14 à 18 heures. Le fait que le Comité Exécutif de l'Alliance est convoqué à Genève le 5 septembre pour une importante session assure dès maintenant à ce Bureau la présence, non seulement de ceux des membres du Comité qui habitent Genève, tels que Mme. Adele Schreiber, Mlle. Gourd, Mlle. Ginsberg, mais aussi celle de notre Présidente, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, de nos vice-présidentes Mlle. Manus, Mmes. Plaminkova et Malaterre-Sellier, et de plusieurs autres encore. Nous engageons donc vivement non seulement les membres de l'Alliance, mais encore toutes les lectrices de ces lignes à prendre note dès maintenant de l'adresse et de la date d'ouverture de ce Bureau où elles trouveront, de même que toutes les amies qu'elles voudront bien y adresser, l'accueil le plus sympathique en même temps que toutes les possibilités pour rendre leur séjour à Genève facile et intéressant.

BELGIQUE.

M. Van Zeeland, premier ministre, MM. Paul Hymans, Emile Vandervelde et Poulet Vice-Présidents du Conseil, accordèrent audience le samedi 8 juin à une délégation conduite par Mlle. Germaine Hannevert, Présidente de la Fédération Belge des Femmes universitaires, et composée des représentantes de la plupart des grandes associations féminines de notre pays.

Mlle. Hannevert au nom de toutes les déléguées remercia M. le Premier Ministre et MM. les Vice-Présidents de leur bienveillant accueil. Elle exposa ensuite le point de vue des associations féminines en matière économique tel qu'il est résumé dans la requête ci-dessous.

Bruxelles le 7 juin 1935.

Monsieur le Premier Ministre,
Nous avons l'honneur d'attirer votre attention sur la situation infiniment grave et douloureuse qui émeut à juste titre les femmes travailleuses, quelle que soit leur profession et à quelqu'part qu'elles appartiennent.

Depuis un an diverses mesures aussi injustes qu'arbitraires ont frappé les femmes. Une décision ministérielle et quatre arrêtés-lois les ont atteintes dans un de leurs droits les plus essentiels: celui de gagner dignement leur pain et de vivre honnêtement de leur travail.

Nous nous permettons de vous demander l'abrogation de ces dispositions, à savoir:

1^o de la décision du Conseil des Ministres du 12 avril 1934 portant que "tous les emplois, y compris ceux de dactylographe et de sténodactylographe seront dorénavant réservés aux hommes aussi longtemps que des candidats qualifiés se présenteraient en nombre suffisant."

Il va de soi que l'interdiction de recruter des femmes ne vise pas le personnel affecté au nettoyage des bureaux ajouta le secrétaire du Conseil, dans une lettre adressée le jour même aux chefs de nos départements.

Cette exception n'atténue en rien l'injustice de la mesure prise.

Une communication du cabinet du Premier Ministre précisa quelques jours plus tard que la décision avait une portée générale et qu'elle était applicable à tous les services de l'Etat.

2^o de l'arrêté-loi n° 40 daté du 8 décembre 1934 et autorisant le Ministre du Travail et de la Prévoyance Sociale à déterminer le nombre proportionnel de femmes

mariées ou non mariées pouvant être occupées dans les diverses entreprises industrielles ou commerciales.

Législation qui, ainsi que le fait remarquer le rapport au Roi, assimile les femmes belges aux travailleurs étrangers. 3^e a. de l'article 29 alinéa 1er de l'arrêté-royal n° 77 du 23 janvier 1935 modifiant notre loi organique sur l'enseignement primaire et portant que "les institutrices jouiront d'un traitement de base de 13,000 fr., les substitutrices d'un traitement de base de 12 mille seulement."

b. de l'article 2 dernier alinéa de l'arrêté-royal n° 79 du 28 janvier 1935 relatif au régime des rétributions du personnel de l'Etat et portant que "le traitement initial des agents féminins est réduit d'une quotité égale à deux augmentations annuelles."

Differences de rémunération que ne justifie aucun argument sérieux ainsi que nous l'avons démontré dans des protestations antérieures.

4^e du troisième alinéa de l'article 1er de l'arrêté-royal du 5 février 1935 relatif aux cumuls des fonctions et emplois publics et permettant au Roi d'étendre individuellement ou collectivement les interdictions prévues aux professions exercées par les conjoints.

Mesure qui prête à l'arbitraire le plus inquiétant.

Vous comprendrez aisément, Monsieur le Premier Ministre, que nous n'avons cessé de protester soit contre une décision qui accorde en fait aux hommes le monopole des fonctions publiques, soit contre une mesure qui entame notre droit au travail, soit contre des dispositions qui, en fixant pour les femmes une rémunération moindre que pour les hommes, déprécient notre travail et blessent notre dignité.

Nous espérons que vous voudrez bien accorder à notre requête votre bienveillante attention.

Nous vous prions de croire, Monsieur le Premier Ministre, à notre très haute considération.

Association Générale des Étudiantes de l'Université Libre de Bruxelles.

Comité National des Femmes Socialistes.

Comité des Femmes contre la Guerre et le Fascisme.

Comité de Vigilance de Liège.

Conseil National des Femmes Belges.

Égalité (groupement féministe) A. S. B. L.

Fédération belge des Femmes Universitaires.

Fédération nationale des Femmes Libérales.

Féminisme chrétien.

Groupement belge de la Porte Ouverte ("Open Door").

Groupement Professionnel Féminin.

La Ligue belge du Droit des Femmes.

La Ligue belge des Droits de l'Homme.

La Ligue des Femmes Travailleuses contre la Guerre et la Misère.

La Ligue de l'Enseignement.

La Ligue des Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté.

M. le Premier Ministre exprima toute sa satisfaction de recevoir une délégation représentant toutes les tendances, toutes les nuances de l'opinion féminine belge. Il laissa aux déléguées le plus grand espoir dans le succès de leurs démarches.

—Egalité.

LEGISLATION INDUSTRIELLE POUR LES FEMMES.

15. TCHECOSLOVAQUIE.

I. (a) Tous les décrets concernant la durée du travail sont réglés par la loi recueil 91/1918. On y trouve également le règlement du travail de nuit des hommes et des femmes. Le Travail de nuit est en outre traité dans les anciennes lois, surtout dans la loi industrielle; la loi du 21 juin 1884 concernant le travail de jeunes ouvrières et de femmes; la loi du 21 février 1911 concernant l'interdiction du travail de nuit dans les entreprises industrielles. Ces lois ont été remplacées, c'est vrai, mais leur abrogation n'a pas encore eu lieu

en forme, et en conséquence elles sont en vigueur en tant qu'elles ne contredisent pas les lois susmentionnées régulant la durée du travail. Pour le travail des enfants et des jeunes ouvrières il y a un règlement spécial, la loi recueil 420/1919. Du reste, la loi concernant la durée du travail comprend également des prescriptions au sujet du travail des jeunes gens.

(b) Il n'y a pas dans nos lois aucun règlement concernant les poids lourds.

(c) En ce qui concerne les travaux malsains et dangereux, il y a des règlements spéciaux dans quelques branches de l'industrie.

(d) Comme tous les autres règlements concernant les heures du travail, la limitation de la durée du travail est contenue dans la loi recueil 91/1918.

(e) i. Il n'existe pas dans notre pays des règlements concernant les salaires minima. Il est vrai qu'il y a des règlements concernant les salaires des ouvrières à domicile et des salaires des couturières employées à la confection des textiles (surtout pour les commandes de l'administration militaire), qui fixent quelques prix à forfait, mais non pas sous la forme de salaires minima.

(e) ii. La Convention internationale sur les salaires minima adoptée par la Conférence du Travail à Genève, en 1928 n'a pas été ratifiée par notre pays.

II. (a) Sauf pour les règlements mentionnés ci-dessus, le travail des femmes n'est pas sujet aux règlements spéciaux, mais en partie il subit des règles particulières, comme par exemple l'interdiction du travail des femmes le samedi après-midi entre 2 heures et l'interdiction complète du travail de nuit. En raison d'un accord entre les patrons et les employées, il est d'usage de ne pas employer les femmes les 6 semaines précédent et suivant l'accouchement. Art. 94 du règlement de l'industrie ne contient que la prescription qu'il n'est pas permis d'employer les accouchées qu'au bout de 6 semaines après l'accouchement.

Dans le République Tchécoslovaque tout homme et femme ont le droit de toucher des allocations en cas de maladie (60%), s'ils ont travaillé au moins 100 semaines et s'ils ont été membres de la caisse 6 mois avant d'être malades.

La femme ouvrière ou employée privée a le droit de toucher les allocations, aussi 60%, pendant 6 semaines avant et après l'accouchement, mais pour conserver ce droit elle ne doit pas travailler à cette époque. Aussi est-elle obligée d'être occupée et par conséquent membre de la caisse au moins pendant 6 mois au courant de l'année précédant son accouchement.

La femme employée publique de toutes les catégories, fonctionnaire ou travailleuse, occupée dans l'administration, ou entreprise, etc. de l'Etat ou de la Ville, a le droit, au temps de 5 mois entourant son accouchement, de toucher 80% de son traitement habituel.

II. (b) Il n'existe aucune interdiction spéciale du travail des femmes mariées.

III. (a) Sans doute l'interdiction du travail de nuit des femmes a eu comme résultat que les hommes ou les jeunes gens effectuent maintenant des travaux autrefois exécutés par des femmes. L'interdiction du travail le samedi après-midi a eu comme résultat que dans l'industrie (industrie textile) où les femmes prévalent, qu'il fallait fermer ces entreprises pendant cette période. Par cette interdiction le maintien de la deuxième tâche complète a été rendue impossible, ce qui a causé de grandes difficultés dans l'industrie, entraînant un renchérissement de la production.

III. (b) (c) Par la réponse en (a) s'expliquent les possibilités limitées d'emploi des femmes.

IV. Cette question est déjà répondue par celles qui précédent.

(Reponse de la Société "Frauenfortschritt," à laquelle sont ajoutés des renseignements fournis par Mme. Plaminkova.)

HONGRIE.

L'Auxiliaire hongroise de l'Alliance n'a pas tardé à agir d'après le programme tracé par les Résolutions du Congrès d'Istanbul. Le Comité Spécial pour le Suffrage du Conseil National des Femmes va recommencer sa propagande. D'autre part la Société a présenté une pétition au Parlement demandant le rejet du projet de loi sur la Défense aérienne, insistant sur le fait que seule une entente internationale pour l'abolition de la guerre aérienne peut être efficace. Prof. Rustem Vambery a donné deux conférences sur "La Crise de la Démocratie et "la Leçon des Elections" dont le résultat a été d'activer la participation des femmes à la vie politique.

GRANDE BRETAGNE.

L'Université d'Oxford vient de passer un Statut qui ouvre également tous les grades aux hommes et aux femmes. Il s'ensuit que les femmes peuvent désormais aspirer au Doctorat de théologie qui leur était fermé.

Autre décision importante: le Conseil municipal de Londres propose d'abolir le règlement qui oblige les institutrices et les femmes médecins des écoles à démissionner pour cause de mariage, sauf exception dans le dernier cas pour les doctores internes dans les hôpitaux de la ville.

Pour les autres emplois municipaux la restriction demeure, mais dans le cas de l'enseignement et de la médecine on a remarqué que "la capacité de la personne est plutôt accrue par le mariage." Ce qui est vrai; il n'en reste pas moins qu'en l'occurrence, c'est l'opportunité et non notre principe d'égalité économique des sexes qui a influencé la décision du Conseil municipal.

DESTRUCTION DE DENREES ALIMENTAIRES.

Le Mouvement féministe cite des chiffres venant des Etats-Unis et qui sont éloquents dans leur simplicité. Les voici, provenant d'une statistique de 1933.

Orge. — Utilisée au Canada comme combustible.

Carottes. — En Floride, près de la moitié de la récolte a été retournée par les commissionnaires aux producteurs.

Celeri. — En Floride, 30.000 paniers détruits en février 1933.

Café. — Au Brésil, 7.750.000 sacs détruits de mars à décembre 1933.

Porcs. — Aux Etats-Unis, en 1933, on a tué et incinéré 6.200.000 porcs et 220.000 truies. Le programme des ensements de maïs de 1934 a exigé la destruction de 2 millions de truies.

Lait. — A Los Angeles, 200.000 litres de lait par mois sont jetés à l'égout. A Hartford, 20.000 litres par jour. Le programme de réduction de 15 pour cent de la production laitière et beurrerie entraînera la mise à mort de 600.000 vaches.

Oranges. — Un million et demi d'oranges détruits en Espagne (août) 1933. En Californie, on les détruit en masse: on signale, sur un seul point, un tas d'oranges d'un kilomètre de long qui est en train de pourrir.

Pêches. — 80.000 pêches détruits.

Poires. — En Oregon, la moitié de la récolte de la vallée de la Rogue a été donnée aux chiens.

Saumons. — Dans la seule baie de Karchekan (Alaska), 40.000 ont été détruits.

Moutons. — Au Chili, 225.000 ont été détruits (juin 1933). Aux Etats-Unis, des centaines de mille ont été abattus, puis abandonnés aux vautours.

Épices. — Aux Indes néerlandaises, des centaines de tonnes ont été détruites par la Dutch East India.

Fraises. — On a laissé pourrir, sur pied, aux Etats-Unis, 10.000 hectares de fraises.

Thé. — A Ceylan, 30.000 tonnes détruites. Aux Indes, à Ceylan, aux Indes néerlandaises, la production sera réduite en 4 ans de 15 pour cent.

BRESIL.

Dr. Bertha Lutz, aujourd'hui membre du Board de l'Alliance et Présidente de la Fédération brésilienne pour l'Avancement des Femmes nous envoie un mémoire qui met en parallèle les demandes de la Fédération et les résultats obtenus. Il est intéressant de remarquer combien la nouvelle Constitution suit de près les 13 principes féministes énoncés, sauf pour deux clauses qui sont (dans la Constitution) la prohibition du travail insalubre pour les femmes et les enfants — et le service militaire. Les femmes voulaient l'abolition générale du service militaire obligatoire. Le ministre de la Guerre voulait les enrôler; finalement leur point de vue a prévalu, mais partiellement puisque seules les femmes sont exclues du Service militaire.

Les membres de la Fédération vont veiller à ce que la législation des Etats soit en accord avec la Constitution et elles travailleront à l'organisation de bureaux spéciaux analogues à ceux des Etats-Unis, pour mettre les nouvelles lois en pratique.

L'égalité en matière économique est fort bien résumée par un paragraphe que la Fédération brésilienne a ajouté à la Pétition pour le Droit au Travail que le Congrès d'Istanbul a envoyé à la Conférence internationale du Travail.

"La Nouvelle Constitution du Brésil assure des droits égaux, sans distinction de nationalité ou de sexe à tous les résidents . . . une différenciation dans le salaire pour le même travail n'est pas permise. — Les amendements sur l'obligation d'adopter des mesures internationales ont été rejettés car les femmes du Brésil qui depuis 15 ans ont travaillé pour l'égalité absolue, adjurent la Conférence du Travail de ne pas voter une législation qui non seulement serait inconstitutionnelle au Brésil, mais adopterait une coutume internationale moins juste, moins humaine et moins progressive que celle actuellement en vigueur au Brésil.

NOUVELLES BREVES.

Argentine. Il est dit qu'une nouvelle loi, sera mise en vigueur cette année obligeant les futurs conjoints à présenter un certificat médical pour assurer la validité de leur mariage.

France. Une femme a été nommée Professeur de Chimie organique à la Sorbonne.

Grande Bretagne. Miss Dorothy Spicer vient d'obtenir sa licence d'aviation D. comme examinateur d'engins d'aviation. Elle avait déjà ses licences A, B et C.

Vote pour la Paix Le résultat du référendum pour en Angleterre. La Paix a montré que plus de 11 millions de citoyens ont pris la peine de remplir le formulaire et que 97% des votants soutiennent la Société des Nations.

Grèce. Athènes est en train de réorganiser son Assistance Publique et une femme Mme. Gatopoulos en est nommée Directrice.

Kenya. Nairobi aura pour la première fois une femme maire dans la personne de Lady Delamere.

Russie. Le navire Soviétique "Sura" a des femmes comme Ingénieur, sous-officier et Radio-télégraphiste. Nous croyons qu'au moins une femme russe a été capitaine d'un navire.

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