

THE INTERNATIONAL

WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

The Monthly Organ of THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE

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STUDY CONFERENCE, ZURICH.

FEBRUARY 25th to MARCH 1st, 1937.

We regret that we have not space to republish the Programme of this Conference, the preliminary form of which was given in our December issue. The main lines have not, however been changed, but for the purpose of the Round Table Groups, the sessions have been sub-divided.

For the first session in the morning of February 27th, under the general title: How can Nations ensure their Freedom and Independence to-day:

- (a) Can treaty obligations be regarded as sacred unless there is effective machinery available for peaceful change?
- (b) Should we favour the summoning of the Disarmament Conference to attempt the achievement of a limited Convention?
- (c) How can we strengthen the organisation of collective security and mutual assistance?
- (d) How can we establish within the framework of the League of Nations effective machinery for remedying international conditions which might lead to war?

The afternoon session will now appear as being on: "The best means of Winning Votes for Women":

- (a) How the Vote was won: What the Vote has done.
- (b) Our best means of propaganda: Our Chances of success.

We would briefly recall that the Alliance Board is to meet on February 25th, and again on March 1st and 2nd, the International Committee, Members of the Board and Presidents of Auxiliaries sitting together, on February 26th. Several luncheon and other parties are being planned, arrangements are being made to show visitors some of the interesting things in Zurich, as well as several of its well-known institutions. In nearby towns such as St. Gall, Winterthur and Baden, the suffrage groups are planning meetings so that their members may have a chance of hearing some of the international speakers.

The full panel of speakers is not complete, but we may mention the names of a few of those who have announced their intention of being present: Mrs. Corbett Ashby,

of course, Frau Adele Schreiber, Miss Rosa Manus, Mme Plaminkova, Mme Malaterre Sellier, Mlle Gourd, Miss Piepers, Mlle Atanatskovitch, Mlle Ginsberg, Frau Ivanova, Mlle Renson, Mrs. Spiller, Mme Szelagowska—all members of the Alliance Board and needing no introduction to our readers. Then Mme Georgette Ciselet is coming from Belgium; Mme Brunschvicg—one of our rare women Ministers of State—and Mme Vérone from France; the Hon. Mrs. Franklin from Great Britain; Mrs. Bakker van Bosse (Vice Chairman of the Alliance Peace Committee) from Holland; Mrs. Quincy Wright from the U.S.A., and we hope many others. For the public meeting we have had the good fortune to secure a promise to speak from M. Maurette, Assistant Director of the International Labour Office.

Hotels, etc.

The Conference Hôtel will be the Hôtel Eden au Lac, though most of the actual sessions will be held at the adjoining Hôtel Bellerive under the same Direction. Prices at these Hôtels are as follows:

Eden:

Bed and Breakfast:	
front rooms ..	8.00 Swiss frs. per day
back rooms ..	6.50 " " "
Bathroom for one	
person ..	3 frs. extra per day
Bathroom two persons	
sharing ..	2.50 per day each.
Meals: Lunch and	
dinner (3 courses)	
Provided 20	
people are present	3 frs.
Special luncheon on	
Sunday ..	4 frs.

Bellerive:

Bed and breakfast:	
single room ..	8.50 per day.
double room ..	17 " "
Baths ..	3.00 frs. extra per day.

The above are special terms (plus 10% for service) and the use of the Conference rooms is being given free. We hope therefore that as many as possible of those attending the Conference will stay at once or other of these hotels. We give, however, some particulars of two Pensions nearby:

Pension Beau-Site, Dufourstr. 40.

Room and breakfast from 5.50
 Midday dinner .. 3.50
 Supper .. 3.00

Pension Cecil Dufourstr. 31:

Room and breakfast from 8.00

Will all intending visitors please note that they should make their own arrangements for accommodation.

For information as to the Conference, enquiries should be addressed to the Organiser: Miss Dorothy A. Heneker, Hôtel Eden au Lac, Geneva.

Fees. The Conference fee has been fixed at 3.30 frs. inclusive of all meetings; for one session, the fee will be 1.10 frs.

WOMEN'S MISSION IN EUROPE.

By COUNT COUDENHOVE KALERGI.

This extract from a lecture recently given in Zurich by Count Coudenhove Kalergi, well-known President of the Pan European Movement, is given with his permission. It shows his opinion as to women's high mission.

Life and death, suffering and well-being, barbarism and civilization—everything which concerns every one of us depends on politics. Political developments will decide whether our flourishing capitals shall shortly be annihilated by bombs, or whether they shall become the pillars of a new and better life. All we have gone through, shows that it is the duty of women, mothers, and housewives, to join the political front unless they wish to be guilty of the catastrophes which threaten Europe. Napoleon said to Goethe: "Politics are destiny." Let us add "Participation in politics is duty."

Certainly the world is full of more beautiful things: love, art, sport, but that does not excuse those who make their own lives easy by remaining outside politics. When a fire breaks out, every man and woman must do their utmost to help and to rescue, even though they are not trained firemen. So today we must demand the same attitude in face of the terrible danger of Europe going down in poison, fire, and blood. None may refuse to help with the poor excuse: "I am so weak," or "I understand so little of politics." Women are specially prone to conceal their inertia by such poor excuses, which they may think are true, but which they should recognise as an inferiority complex disguised as modesty. Every woman in Europe should realise that she can help forward salvation if she strives to do so. Public opinion is after all the strongest political force, stronger than modern armaments, and this applies not only to democracies but to dictatorships as well. Even a dictator cannot remain in power if he is not supported by a strong public opinion in his own country.

Who makes this public opinion which is as necessary to every regime as oxygen to the lungs? Public opinion is a mosaic of innumerable private opinions held by millions of unknown men and women; it is an ever-changing kaleidoscope. Therefore every single private opinion has an active part in public opinion and thus influences the fate of the state of the world. Private opinion developing into a firm political conviction is

apt to influence weaker opinions within its reach. It spreads by contagion and has creative power. Hence every single woman in Europe can contribute to political opinion and political action, and has the power to help in the salvation and regeneration of Europe. In some respects woman has the greater power because of her influence on the minds of the children, the young generation on whom depends a new period of history and the evolution of humanity.

The fundamental political problems of our day are easy enough to grasp; the folly of the race in armaments; the disastrous effects of national autarchy; the intolerable splitting up of Europe into small economic units as rivals instead of collaborators; the impossibility of handing over the same territory to different nations each eager to have what belongs to their neighbour—it is a mistake to believe that political leaders need genius. In fact politics demand but mediocre gifts of the mind, but extraordinary qualities of character.

Women are still excluded to a great extent from influential political positions, not owing to their less capacity, but because men cling to their privileges, as the feudal caste in former times when it excluded the bourgeoisie from participation in politics. This unjustified monopoly is based on force. The long list of women who have governed the destinies of their people, from Semiramis to Queen Victoria, proved them equal to the best of kings.

Women's emancipation does not aim at the imitation of men. A complete adaption to male forms of life would mean not victory but bankruptcy for women, subjugating them to male ideals in thought and action. The more women preserve their distinctive gifts, their independent way of judging and acting, the less they assimilate, the higher their achievements will be. At the bottom of the male soul lies the instinct and the idea of war, the moral code of the warrior. At the bottom of the woman soul lies the instinct and ideal of motherhood, the moral code of the mother. The will to fight, to destroy belong to the primary instincts of the male sex, the will to preserve, to nurse, to save, are characteristic of the female, the sex that gives life, and naturally tend towards compassion and humanity. Men are dominated by the desire for power, women demand security and peace. Imperialism is the expression of male politics, pacifism that of women's politics. Men become pacifists by reason or on moral grounds, but warlike instincts survive at the bottom of their hearts whilst a majority of women instinctively abhor war. Therefore the evolution of Europe towards a policy of peace cannot come from the intelligence of men but only from the growing influence of women. We know little of the remote times of the matriarchate, but human civilisation seems to have started in those times when motherhood ruled. We are also ignorant as to what lead to the collapse of women's domination, and the taking of its place by men's. Today however we are facing a collapse of our entire civilisation and perhaps this is due to the one-sided dictatorship so long exercised by men, which has fostered the spirit of war, of imperialism, of revolutions, of "records" and of egotism. This male world where everyone is fighting everybody, is condemned to ruin unless women can save it at the last minute.

The claim to more political influence for women does not of course mean a revival of the matriarchy, nor the dictatorship of women over men. It means an even distribution of power, harmony between the two elements, men and women being the poles of nature, the source of all strength and beauty.

Women should strive for the Pan European ideal which would lead to salvation and peace by creating a European economic unity as a means for doing away with poverty as well as war. Technical development

would for the first time in history allow Europe to give plenty to all its inhabitants. There is no limit to the possibilities of production if consumption can be widely regulated. Our economic crisis is not one of want, but of over-production. All this is connected with the exclusion of women, the main consumers, from the one-sided dictatorship of men.

The Pan European campaign is directed against three evils: war, want and the revival of ancient barbarism. All women should co-operate in this campaign. Every woman, even if she has believed her sole duty was house-keeping, must understand that her political co-operation is necessary to defend the highest ideal of humanity against barbarism and destruction. We are near the decisive battle: are women ready to fulfil their mission and save the sacred flame of human civilisation?

BULGARIA.

Under the new Municipal Election Law, women who are legitimately married and mothers are to be given the vote for municipal elections. It is indeed a much restricted right, but it is, we will hope, the thin edge of the wedge and the precursor of full rights for women.

OBITUARY.

We deeply regret to see in the January issue of "Kvinden og Samfundet" the announcement of the death of Marie Hjelmer. This has reached us too late for us to obtain any direct information and we do not unfortunately read Danish beyond being able to glean this sad news. Fru Hjelmer was the President of our affiliated Society in Denmark, Dansk Kvindesamfund, from 1931 to 1936, and a member of the Landsting from 1918 to 1936. Many of us will remember her dignified and charming personality, and will wish to join us in our expression of deep regret and sympathy with our Danish colleagues.

U.S.A.

Miss Schain has kindly sent the text of a proposed "Women's Charter" which has been drawn up by a Joint Conference Group in the U.S.A. The text is as follows:

Preamble.

This charter is a general statement of the social and economic objectives of women, for women and for society as a whole, in so far as these can be embodied in legislation and governmental administration. It is put forward in order that there may be an agreed formulation of the purposes to which a large number of women's organisations throughout the world already are committed. It is recognised that some of the present specific needs which it seeks to remedy should disappear as society develops the assurance of a more complete life for every person; and some of its objectives would establish conditions which should be attainable for all persons, so that in promoting them for women it is hoped thereby to bring nearer the time of their establishment for all.

Women's Charter.

Women shall have full political and civil rights; full opportunity for education; full opportunity for employment according to their individual abilities, with safeguards against physically harmful conditions of employment and economic exploitation; they shall receive compensation, without discrimination because of sex. They shall be assured security of livelihood including the safeguarding of motherhood. The provisions necessary for the establishment of these standards shall be guaranteed by government, which shall insure also

the right of united action towards the attainment of these aims.

Where special exploitation of women workers exists, such as low wages which provide less than the living standards attainable, unhealthy working conditions or long hours of work which result in physical exhaustion and denial of the right to leisure, such conditions shall be corrected through social and labor legislation, which the world's experience shows to be necessary.

This text is accompanied by a long explanation of the reasons for and aims of the Charter, which is to be submitted for study to as many organisations in the U.S.A. as desire it. Each such organisation will be invited to send a delegate to a national conference sometime after April 1st of this year. It is hoped that a similar process of study and eventual endorsement will be initiated in other countries, and suggestions are made to as the eventual adoption of the Charter "nationally and internationally," the latter presumably through existing international organisations.

We have no space to quote the arguments given for the initiation of this scheme, nor for the terms of the present preliminary form of the Charter, with part of which probably many of us may not agree. Further information may be obtained from: The Committee on Plan and Organisation, Room 700, 130 East 22nd Street, New York.

INTERNATIONAL ARCHIEF VOOR DE VROUWENBEWEGING, AMSTERDAM.

The formal opening of this Library took place on Saturday, December 19th, 1936, at Amsterdam. The Library is housed in a suite of rooms in the International Archief, a well designed modern building on the Keizersgracht. On the opening day the rooms were gay with flowers and full of people gathered together from all parts of Holland, to wish success to the new Library. Two delegates from English societies were present: Miss Norton, Chairman of the Library Committee of the London National Society for Women's Service, and Miss E. M. Turner, Librarian of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene. Miss Rosa Manus, President of the I.A.V., was in the Chair and speeches were made by Dr. W. H. Posthumus van der Groot, the Hon. Secretary, Miss Johanna Naber, the celebrated writer and pioneer of the feminist movement in Holland, Dr. Frida Katz, President of the Dutch National Council of Women, Mrs. Cohen Tervaert, and Dr. Posthumus, who is Director of the International Archief Institute. In addition representatives were present from the Society for Equal Citizenship, The National Council of Women, the National Council of University Women, The National Union of Dutch Soroptomist Clubs, The National Bureau for Business Women, The Jewish Women's Council, The Christian Federation of Girls and Women, The Dutch Federation of Business and Professional Women, The Dutch Federation of Housewives, The Women's Reading Club, The Federation of Women Electricians, The Dutch Lyceum Club, and the University Students Federation, and several spoke briefly, wishing success to the new venture, on behalf of their Associations. During the afternoon a message of loyalty and congratulation was sent to Princess Juliana, as the opening of the Library coincided with the opening ceremonies of her marriage with Prince Bernhard: "A historic day," as Miss Manus said. This function at the Hague prevented a considerable number of people from attending the opening of the I.A.V. Library in Amsterdam, but it also ensured that the library began its career auspiciously in a blaze of brilliant "Orange" sunshine, which streamed in at the tall windows and filled the lofty rooms with light and air.

A portrait of Dr. Aletta Jacobs painted by her

famous brother, Josef Israels, and presented by her sister, Mrs. Cohen Tervaert occupied a place of honour.

The Library, which owes so much to Miss Manus and Dr. Posthumus and its enthusiastic Librarian, Miss Ferf, is now open, but its further success, and the measure of its use to students and historians, depends to a large extent on the enthusiasm and support which it will receive from countries outside Holland. It is well housed, and well officered, and possesses a useful nucleus of books. But it has little money to spend. Is it not possible for the I.A.W.S.E.C. branches in every country to gather together the books and pamphlets dealing with the social and feminist conditions in their respective countries, and send them to the I.A.V.? Then, in time the idea of the founders will be realised and the I.A.V. will contain on its shelves an epitome of the history of the woman's movement from its beginning; a mine of information to the student and historian alike.

E.M.T.

REVIEWS.

THE LIVING OF CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN: An Autobiography with Foreword by Zona Gale. D. Appleton, Century Co. New York—London.

Many of us remember the striking and interesting personality of Charlotte Perkins Gilman, who died last year after having dedicated her whole life to the women's cause. Her name was well-known as an author and lecturer, and she was a brilliant and original writer and a distinguished and cultivated speaker. Her book "Women and Economics" was at the time of its publication quite a sensation and was translated into several languages. Though many have read her books or followed her lectures, yet few know how pathetic this life of hers was: that of a woman fighting for her independence, unwilling to compromise, standing for the liberty of her personality and the right to remain faithful to her convictions. She bore the heavy burden of the struggle for life carried on by a woman alone, she underwent the disillusion of an idealist and bore the attacks of the narrow-minded and yet remained to the end an upright fighter for the cause of women and humanity, unbroken by moral, material and physical sufferings. As Zona Gale says in her foreword: "She has sought to give out the sovereign knowledge that life has meaning and that human growth is the chief flow of the spirit to awareness of what that meaning may be."

A.S.

OUR CAUSE: Edited by Shyam Kumari Nehru.

Like the double headed Janus of the Romans, "Our Cause," by 28 eminent Indian women looks both backwards and forwards. It is itself a monument of the amazing attainment in scholarship of Indian women today, written as it is in a language not their own. The book is divided into thirteen main divisions, dealing with home life, health, education, art, industry, rural life, prostitution, child marriage, purdah, marriage and divorce, legal rights, political rights, and the future. There are two or three divisions under most of the headings, and each has been written by a well-known expert. We are given glimpses of India in Vedic times, when woman's place was one of responsibility and honour; then followed foreign invasions—warlike times when women began to be kept more and more indoors, dependent upon men for sustenance and even safety; which condition brought about the idea that "man was a god to be worshipped and served; if he made a joke she must be overpowered with happiness; if he sang a song she must leap for joy." Ignorant, dependent, unenterprising, how difficult for such women to rouse themselves into the free healthy, alert life that is essential if the nation is to be free and healthy too.

And yet it has been done, and done well—by a small minority. As early as 1886 Indian women had degrees; they go to school and the universities, they travel and do pioneer work. Women's organisations have come into being—the All India Women's Conference, the Women's Indian Association, and the National Council of Women in India. But this is only a small minority, and the authors of "Our Cause" face the facts. Prejudice and poverty are the two great enemies of progress. Prejudice in favour of outlived social customs keeps women shut away, dependent upon marriage for a livelihood, worn out early by bearing children too soon and too frequently, tended often by untrained midwives, with no energy left for learning to bring up the children properly. . . . A hundred out of every thousand girl-wives are doomed to die in childbirth.

Among the lower classes where these customs are not so strict, poverty is the great difficulty. As Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya says, "It is nothing short of cruelty to compel starving children to study; nor can poverty make for cleanliness, much less fit women to become mothers. . . . Statistics prove that 90% of the prostitutes seek that profession from economic pressure."

This black picture is not true of all India as conditions vary from province to province and from class to class, but they are facts none the less and our authors face them. They press for legislation, Government assistance, voluntary workers, to bring about the necessary reforms. Mrs. Shareefa Hamid Ali urges specialised study of the problems and the psychological approach—"only by rousing a passion for improvement in the minds of the men and women we deal with shall we achieve our end." Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, who so brilliantly represented her country during the Round Table Conference has contributed a valuable section on "Women under the New Constitution."

"Our Cause" is an invaluable handbook for all the details of the laws relating to marriage, divorce, suffrage, property, etc., and in fact supplies in a compact form the data for every viewpoint of the Indian woman's problem. The enthusiasm, ability, patient study, and research that have made the book possible are the greatest encouragement to all those who make this Cause their own.

MARGARET MATHIESON.

FACTORIES BILL, 1937, published by the Open Door Council, 4 Idlesleigh House, Caxton Street, London, S.W.1. Price 6d.

This pamphlet and a smaller leaflet have been prepared in view of the fact that the British Government has announced the early introduction of a new Factories Bill. It is claimed that for ninety years, from 1844 to 1937 women have been treated as minors under industrial legislation and the results on their status have been disastrous. Had the policy of special restrictions on women only been a sound one in principle, then we would expect to find that by this time the woman worker would be in a sound and steadily improving position. What are the facts? Woman remains the bottom dog in the labour market; her wages bear no relation to her work or its value, the lowest paid grade of man worker being often better paid than the skilled woman in the same trade. Women remain unorganised, and are largely kept out of skilled processes.

After nearly a century's trial of the policy of special restrictions, is it not time to admit failure and try another system? That system is briefly indicated as follows: The new Factories Bill should restrict and regulate hours of labour as such; they may vary for different industries or processes, but they should apply equally to adult men and women. This equality should also apply to regulation of night work, cleaning of machinery, dangerous work etc. Special regulations for young persons should also be the same for both sexes. The regulation of working conditions is now universally regarded as necessary, why not make a good thing applicable to all? And if the claim that special restrictions on women were justified on the ground that they would lead to protection also for men, surely in 90 years this would have happened if it was ever going to? And if it has not done so, then let us wait no longer but see that by the law itself men may claim every real advantage of legislative protection.

WOMEN'S PLACE IN WORLD PROGRESS TODAY.

Under this heading the National Broadcasting Corporation of the U.S.A. afforded the National Council of Jewish Women an opportunity to arrange a most interesting broadcast on January 11th. For an hour prominent women from different countries gave short addresses, each from her own point of view. Three of the speakers belonged to the Board of the Alliance: Senator Plaminkova (Czechoslovakia), Marie Ginsberg, Member of the Secretariat of the League of Nations, and Winnfred Kydd of Canada. Our well-known suffrage leader, Madame Brunschvicg, Under Secretary of State, spoke for France, while Harriet Cohen, the Hon. Mrs. Ernest L. Franklin and Mrs. Israel Zangwill gave messages from London, Mlle van Tyn from Holland, Sonya Branting from Sweden and Miss McPhail, Member of the Canadian House of Commons, from Ottawa. Our Honorary President, Mrs. Chapman Catt, headed the United States participants: Mrs. Arthur Brin, Mrs. Maurice L. Soldman, Mrs. R. Kohut, Mrs. M. C. Floss, Mrs. H. S. Solomon and Mrs. Marion M. Miller. This international programme was an excellent example of how women can make use of the radio in the service of their aims and ought to encourage further attempts on similar lines.

We are glad to add here that owing to the efforts of the Swiss suffragists, Madame Weidemann has been appointed member of the Programme Committee for German Broadcasting Programmes in Switzerland.

THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN FOR SUFFRAGE AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1936.

GENERAL FUND.

TO BALANCES, 1st JANUARY, 1936:		By Jus:—	
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
£500 Brazil 6½% Loan Bearer Bonds		Printing and Dispatch ..	89 6 11
at Cost	495 13 6	Translations	11 11 0
£600 2% Treasury Bonds 1935-38	608 11 9	Blocks, Wrappers, Postage, etc.	8 2 2
Army and Navy Stores Deposit			109 0 1
Account	800 0 0	.. GENERAL:	
Current Account—Barclays Bank	469 13 5	Salaries and National Insurance	554 8 10
Petty Cash	1 2 9½	Light, Heat, and Cleaning ..	31 8 10
	2375 1 5½	Rent	72 7 0
.. Jus:—		Printing and Stationery ..	29 12 4½
Subscriptions	95 5 1	Telephone, Telegrams, and Mes-	
Cash Sales	2 0 7	sengers	19 4 11
Advertisements	2 18 3	Insurances	1 10 3
	100 3 11	Mlle Gourd's Expenses ..	17 0 7
.. DONATIONS	28 6 4	Postages	28 10 4
.. MEMBERS' FEES	100 17 9	Geneva Office	36 0 0
.. AFFILIATION FEES	112 19 7		790 3 1½
.. ISTANBUL CONGRESS PLEDGES ..	177 15 4	.. MISCELLANEOUS:—	
.. DIVIDENDS	9 19 9	Subscriptions	5 10 2
.. DEPOSIT INTEREST:—		Income Tax and Corporation	
Army and Navy Stores ..	23 15 2	Duty	5 19 0
Barclays Bank	1 13 6	Audit Fee	2 2 0
	25 8 8	Press Cuttings	7 12 3
.. REPORTS	1 4 0	Travelling Expenses	16 8 3
.. SALE OF LITERATURE	4 10	Expenses of Speaking Tour in	
.. MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS ..	1 19 0	Holland	4 15 0
.. LEGACY—J. PRELOOKER ..	200 0 0	Cheque Books and Stamps ..	1 9 2
		Typewriter	9 3 0
		Furniture for New Offices ..	52 10 3
		Decoration of New Offices, etc.	28 15 4
		Legal Expenses for Lease ..	2 2 0
		Loss on Redemption of Treasury	
		Bonds	5 0 10
		Sundry Expenses	20 5 8
			161 12 11
	£3134 0 7½	.. BALANCES, 31st DECEMBER, 1936:	
		£500 Brazil 6½% Loan Bearer	
		Bonds at cost	495 13 6
		Abbey Road Building Society	
		Deposit	500 0 0
		Barclays Bank Deposit Account	900 0 0
		Current Account—Barclays Bank	177 9 5
		Petty Cash	1 7
			2073 4 6
			£3134 0 7½

PEACE COMMITTEE ACCOUNT.

TO BALANCE TRANSFERRED FROM AMERICA		By Salary and Expenses of Organiser	
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
752 0 8		19 17 0	
		.. Donations	19 7 3
		.. Cheque Book	4 2
			39 8 5
		.. Balance—Barclays Bank Current	
		Account	712 12 3
	£752 0 8		712 12 3
			£752 0 8

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

106, St. Clement's House,
Clements, Lane,
Lombard St., London, E.C.4.
January, 1937.

(Signed) HOMERSHAM AND Co.,
Incorporated Accountants,

HUNGARY.

The audience at the Annual General Meeting of the Feministák Egyesülete that crammed its Headquarters, seemed to leave with a very good impression of the activities of this organisation, although for half a year it was doomed to silence by the prohibition of public meetings that was specially enforced on political corporations, which the Feministák Egyesülete was considered to be. The leaders of the Feministák Egyesülete take it as a compliment to its work, that of all women's organisations it is the one to which the prohibition was particularly applied.

After the usual business of the Annual Meeting several Resolutions were passed. One proposed by Dr. Margaret Vági-Ungár instructed the F.E. to present to the Government a Memorandum on the Status of Hungarian women, urging an early answer to the League of Nations Questionnaire by the Hungarian Government. Dr. Ungár gave a very interesting extract from this Memorandum which she had prepared. Another Resolution was proposed by Mrs. Osváth, who reminded the General Meeting that in 1940 it would be 150 years since, some years prior to the memorable publication of Mary Wolstonecraft's famous book from which the history of the modern women's movement for their rights is dated, the first appeal of the Hungarian women was made to the National Assembly asking for more rights for women. (This document was published by Rosika Schwimmer in the first decade of this century.) The General Meeting resolved to celebrate this Jubilee.

Another Resolution ratified the activities of the Executive to have Equal Suffrage for Women adopted by all political parties as an integral part of their programme, as Suffrage Reform seems likely to become a reality.

An appeal was made and adopted that the F.E. should watch the attitude of politicians and journalists on questions concerning women so as to be able to advise voters at elections. This is a task always exercised by the Office of our F.E., but recent events gave a special actuality to this proposal. In the Lower House of Parliament an altogether retrograde Bill was passed, called the "Reform" of the Order of the Lawyers' Chamber. One paragraph barred from the profession all women other than those already members of the Chamber. The discussion on this Bill in the Upper House has not yet taken place, and we hope for a protest from important Members. Women's rights were valiantly defended by a number of M.P.s in the Lower House, the one woman Member of the Government Party voted against the Party's Bill, but many men M.P.s when driven in by the party whips stole away by another door.

At the end of the General Meeting Jolanda Földes to whom an international prize for novels was awarded, fascinated her audience by telling how she was induced to write her novel on the sufferings of the emigrants and stateless exiles.

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

Nous avons publié dans notre No. de décembre le programme de la Conférence de Zurich. Ajoutons simplement ce mois-ci que, afin de faciliter les sessions des groupes de la Table Ronde, celles-ci ont été subdivisées.

Pour la première session de la matinée du 27 juin, sous le titre général: Comment les nations peuvent assurer aujourd'hui leur liberté et leur indépendance.

- (a) Les obligations d'un traité peuvent-elles être sacrées s'il n'existe pas de procédure qui en permette l'amélioration d'une manière pacifique?
 (b) Devons-nous favoriser la convocation de la Conférence du Désarmement si celle-ci ne doit aboutir qu'à une convention de limitation?

- (c) Comment pouvons-nous fortifier l'organisation de la sécurité collective et de l'assistance mutuelle?
 (d) Comment, dans le cadre de la Société des Nations pouvons-nous établir une procédure effective pour porter remède à certaines conditions internationales susceptibles d'entraîner la guerre.

La session d'après-midi est placée sous la rubrique: Les meilleurs moyens pour obtenir le Vote des femmes.

- (a) Comment avons-nous fait pour gagner le vote? Ce que le Bulletin de vote nous a fait obtenir.
 (b) Nos meilleurs moyens de propagande; nos chances de succès.

Le Bureau de l'Alliance doit se réunir le 25 février et de nouveau le 1er et le 2 mars, le Comité International, les Membres du Bureau et les Présidentes des Auxiliaires siégeront ensemble, le 25 février.

On est en train d'organiser des banquets, etc. réunions et visites, soit à Zurich, soit dans d'autres villes voisines.

Le tableau des oratrices n'est pas complet mais parmi ces dames qui ont l'intention de se rendre à Zurich, citons: Mrs. Corbett-Ashby, notre Présidente, Frau Adele Schreiber, Melle Rosa Manus, Mme Plaminkova, Mme Malaterre-Sellier, Melle Gourd, Miss Piepers, Melle Atanatskovitch, Melle Ginsberg, Frau Ivanova, Melle Renson, Mrs. Spiller, Mme Szelagowska qui sont toutes membres du Bureau de l'Alliance. D'autre part Mme Georgette Ciselet arrivera de Belgique; Madame Brunshwicg, une des rares femmes ministres d'Etat et Madame Vêrone de France, Venant de Grande Bretagne, nous aurons Mrs. Franklin; Madame Bakker van Bosse de Hollande, Mrs. Quincy Wright des Etats-Unis et bien d'autres. Nous aurons en outre la bonne fortune d'entendre un discours de M. Maurette, le Directeur Adjoint du B.I.T.

CONGRÈS INTERNATIONAL DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT TECHNIQUE.

ROME, DECEMBRE 1936.

Note sur les travaux de la 40 Commission "Préparation de la Femme à son Rôle Spécial dans la vie Economique."

Dès la séance officielle d'ouverture, il nous a paru que l'attitude de M. Scanga, Rapporteur général du Congrès, s'était légèrement modifiée. Dans ses remarques préalables, * parlant des professions "propres aux femmes," M. Scanga avait déclaré: "en sont nettement exclues les professions qui, tout en pouvant être exercées par les femmes sont davantage indiquées pour les hommes, comme les professions libérales, les emplois commerciaux et similaires"; et il faisait allusion aux "directives actuelles du régime (italien) qui veulent surtout replacer la femme à la maison et lui donner des métiers plus conformes à sa nature." Or, dans son rapport préliminaire, M. Scanga, relevant la réaction de certains rapporteurs, précise: "Le 2° argument... a fait naître dans l'esprit de certains congressistes le doute qu'on tende à exclure la femme de certaines professions qui, jusqu'ici étaient presque exclusivement réservées aux hommes, mais que, de nos jours, elle exerce aussi, en s'affirmant très dignement" . . . "Nous ne voulons guère exclure la femme des professions libérales, ou même commerciales, auxquelles elle se prépare avec les hommes, en suivant des cours d'études qui, en principe, tendent vers une solution du problème économique intéressant les femmes non moins que les hommes".

Dès lors il devenait difficile d'instituer une discussion générale, puisqu'il semblait que, d'avance, on nous eut donné gain de cause. Le Rapporteur ayant, ailleurs vivement insisté sur la nécessité de s'en tenir aux

* (Voir Jus Suffragii, Juin, 1936).

questions "essentiellement techniques" et de seulement "délimiter le champ ou l'emploi du travail féminin est techniquement et socialement justifiable," la réponse à toute objection de principe était facile à prévoir. Par exemple, j'aurai voulu faire adopter une déclaration sur

"le droit des femmes au complet épanouissement de leur personnalité, sans qu'aucune restriction puisse être apportée, au cours de leurs années d'études ou d'apprentissage, au libre développement de leurs dons, aptitudes et vocation" mais on a considéré que ce n'était pas du domaine technique.

A tout le moins, aurais-je souhaité qu'on s'occupât des "salaires de famine" réservés aux travaux considérés comme "spécialement féminins": couture, broderie, etc., et que fut exprimé le voeu que "les moyens soient étudiés d'arriver à établir des taux suffisamment rémunérateurs pour que les travailleuses qui les choisissent puissent compter sur leurs gains pour subvenir dignement à leurs besoins et à ceux de leurs familles." Mais on a objecté que ceci était l'affaire des Syndicats et non de l'Enseignement Technique.

Nous avons donc porté notre attention sur le texte des voeux "strictement techniques" de façon à y introduire les indications et réserves nécessaires.

M. ANGLES,

Déléguées, de l'Alliance Internationale et la Fédération Internationale de Femmes Universitaires.

TEXTE DES VOEUX.

I. Orientation Professionnelle.

Le Congrès International... émet le voeu que dans tous les pays, l'orientation professionnelle des jeunes filles soit développée en tenant compte de leurs aptitudes particulières, (vocation) de leurs possibilités physiques, des débouchés.

II. Enseignement Professionnel.

Le Congrès International... qui s'attache spécialement à l'étude des professions manuelles ou techniques — sans préjuger des autres carrières ouvertes aux femmes: Enseignement, Carrières Libérales ou Administrative etc.

émet le voeu

que, dans un intérêt individuel et national, les services de l'enseignement technique de chaque pays contribuent à développer des Ecoles et des Cours Professionnels féminins, ou accessibles aux femmes.

III. Enseignement Ménager.

Le Congrès International... considérant que la femme gardienne du foyer, doit, quelle que soit sa situation sociale ou professionnelle être capable de remplir ses devoirs domestiques,

émet le voeu

que la préparation familiale et ménagère soit rendue obligatoire dans les établissements scolaires.

LA PLACE DE LA FEMME DANS LE PROGRES DU MONDE.

Tel fut le titre d'une causerie radiodiffusée aux Etats-Unis, organisée par le Conseil National des Femmes israéliennes. Pendant une heure, des femmes notables, représentant divers pays exprimèrent tour à tour leurs points de vue en une courte causerie.

Trois des oratrices appartiennent au Bureau de notre Alliance: Madame le Sénateur Plaminkova, Marie Ginsberg de la S.D.N. et Winifred Kydd du Canada. Madame Brunshwicg sous secrétaire d'Etat parla pour la France tandis que Harriet Cohen, Mrs. Franklin, Mrs. Israël Zangwill furent entendues de Londres.

Melle van Tyn de Hollande, Sonya Branting de Suède et Miss MacPhail, députée aux Communes du Canada, parla d'Ottawa.

Notre Présidente honoraire Mrs. Chapman Catt tenait la tête des participantes américaines.

Ce programme international montre quel excellent usage on peut faire de la radio pour la propagande suffragiste.

Nous sommes heureuses d'annoncer ici que, grâce aux efforts des Suffragistes Suisses, Madame Weideman a été nommée membre du Comité organisateur des Programmes radiodiffusés en allemand, pour la Suisse.

CHARTRE DE LA FEMME — PROPOSEE PAR UN GROUPE ISSU D'UN CONGRES D'ASSOCIATIONS FEMINISTES DES E.U.A.

Le Préambule définit les objectifs sociaux et économiques des femmes, susceptibles d'être formulés dans la législation et l'administration gouvernementale.

La Charte de la Femme. Enumère les droits civils et politiques; l'égalité d'opportunité avec l'homme dans le travail et l'exploitation économique, sous sauvegarde de conditions sanitaires mais sans discrimination de sexe.

La Charte demande que les Gouvernements garantissent la sécurité de la maternité et de l'existence et une législation ouvrière qui réglemente les heures de travail, le tarif des salaires et assure le droit au loisir.

Ce texte, dont nous ne pouvons donner qu'un aperçu est accompagné d'une invitation à toutes les organisations féminines des Etats-Unis, d'envoyer une déléguée à une Conférence Nationale qui se réunirait au mois d'Avril.

LES ARCHIVES INTERNATIONALES DE LA FEMME A AMSTERDAM.

Cette Bibliothèque fut inaugurée le 19 décembre 1936 à Amsterdam, le jour même où était célébré à la Haye le mariage de Juliana de Hollande avec Bernard de Lippe. Une excellente bâtisse moderne dans la Keizersgracht abrite nos Archives. Deux déléguées britanniques étaient présentes: Miss Norton, Présidente du Comité de la Bibliothèque de la Société Nationale pour le Service Féminin et Miss Turner pour la Société d'Hygiène Morale et Sociale. Toutes les Sociétés féminines hollandaises étaient représentées. Un portrait de Dr. Aletta Jacobs par son célèbre frère le peintre Josef Israëls occupait la place d'honneur. La Bibliothèque qui doit tant à l'activité infatigable de Miss Manus, de Dr. Posthumus et de Miss Ferf à un utile noyau de livres qu'il faudra augmenter.

NOUVELLES EN QUELQUES LIGNES.

Australie. Les deux femmes députées de l'Assemblée législative de l'Australie occidentale, Miss Holman et Mrs. Cardell Oliver ont réussi à faire adopter le principe du salaire égal pour les travailleurs juveniles des deux sexes dans une loi industrielle récente, mais on s'attend à ce que la Chambre Haute mette son veto sur la loi.

Miss Holman, avait précédemment, fait mettre en minorité une motion qui proposait le renvoi des femmes de certaines positions, comme remède au chômage.

Bulgarie. D'après la nouvelle loi municipale, les femmes qui sont légitimement mariées et mères obtiennent la franchise municipale. Même ainsi restreint, nous félicitons les femmes bulgares de ce premier succès dont elles ne manqueront pas de réclamer l'extension.

Canada. Nous avons reçu un exemplaire de l'Annuaire féministe du Canada pour 1936

qui est plein de détails sur toutes sortes de questions touchant le travail des femmes.

Inde. Au moment de la campagne électorale qui commence dans l'Inde, on note que, d'après la Nouvelle Constitution il y aura cinq millions de femmes sur un total de trente millions de votants. Cette proportion qui ne reflète nullement celle des sexes, marque pourtant un véritable triomphe, si l'on songe à l'effort que les femmes ont dû déployer pour surmonter les difficultés de l'inscription électorale.

L'AIDE DES FEMMES AUX ENFANTS ESPAGNOLS.

Le Fonds International pour le Sauvetage de l'Enfance a envoyé en Espagne, Mrs. Small qui a déjà tant fait pour les enfants d'Ethiopie. Elle a travaillé de concert

avec la Croix Rouge, la Société des Amis, le Gouvernement de Valence (où une femme Madame Huici a la Charge de l'Aide à l'Enfance) et aussi les autorités militaires de Burgos.

Son rapport sur les souffrances des populations évacuées sous le bombardement, spécialement à Madrid vous brise le cœur. Les dons de lait et de vêtements envoyés par les organisations internationales, bien qu'insuffisants ont été d'un grand secours. Madame Pictet de Genève, docteur en médecine vient de partir à Barcelone, et prouvant sa neutralité, le Fonds de secours envoie une autre délégation dans le territoire occupé par les insurgés. La Vice-Présidente de notre Alliance, Madame Malaterre Sellier est allée à Madrid en avion, afin de se rendre compte sur place des besoins de la population et des secours nécessaires.

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