

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

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KING GEORGE V.

Since our international paper is published in Great Britain, it is but fitting that we record our deep regret at the death of the King. We recall that it was during his reign that women won equal political rights and a great measure of equality with men in other forms.

As a King and as a man, in circumstances of special difficulty and with that constant attention focussed on him which is one of the penalties of his position, he so acted that no breath of criticism touched him. We quote a few words from the tribute of the Prime Minister, Mr. Baldwin, broadcast on the day following his death: "Great power which corrupts weak natures, ennobled our King's character and made him subdue passion and will and energy to his duty to his country. He brought the dispositions that are lovely in private life into the service and conduct of the Commonwealth, and not only in virtue of his office, but in virtue of his person was he the first gentleman in the land."

We respectfully offer our deepest sympathy to the Queen, who has given a noble example of devotion to the duties of her high station, as a wife and mother and as a woman of wide and deep sympathies.

MADAME MARIA VERONE.

We offer our heartiest congratulations to Mme. Maria Vérone on the award by the French Government of the Légion d'Honneur, and regret that we are not able to quote the citation of the reasons for the award. We can think of many reasons why Mme. Verone should receive recognition from her country, and we hope that all of them were duly remembered.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

In the Bulletin for January, Lady Aberdeen, in her President's New Year Letter, announces her resignation at the Plenary Council Meeting to take place in Jugo-Slavia (Dubrovnik) this year. In the retrospect she gives of her work for the I.C.W., of which she became President in 1893, an office she has held ever since with the exception of two short periods, Lady Aberdeen speaks of the earlier years and shows how of all the work done by the Council in many fields, that for peace has always had the predominance.

It is indeed to a long life of service to others, and above all to women, that Lady Aberdeen can look back, and if there will be universal regret at her decision, no one can grudge her a well-earned rest. Her work for the international women's movement is familiar to all of us, but less well-known perhaps is the noble use she made of the opportunities given for service by her husband's tenure of the offices of Governor-General of Canada and Viceroy of Ireland, as well as in her own Scotland and in England. The community owes much to her in many fields.

MRS. W. W. WIJNAENDTS FRANCKEN-DYSERINCK.

1876—7TH FEBRUARY—1936.

One of our foremost social workers, Mrs. W. Wijnaendts Francken-Dyserinck, will celebrate her 60th birthday on February 7th. Her numerous friends and collaborators in the Netherlands and all over the world are taking this opportunity to pay homage to her and her 40 years' work for a better world. For Mrs. Francken entered public life in 1894 and has given her energy and drive to the cause of justice, whether the

oppressed were women or children, manual labourers or animals. She was among the first propagandists for Toynbee work in the Netherlands; she carried on a fervent campaign against the re-legalisation of prostitution; she was one of the well-known champions of votes for women; she took the part of those that wanted a more practical, hygienic and aesthetic mode of dressing for women; she stands in the breach for liberty of work and development for the married as for the unmarried women; she has demanded the preparation of women for their tasks as housewives and mothers; she pleaded for compulsory service for women in order to impress upon them their responsibility towards the community, and as the problem was not very popular in the Netherlands, she later on joined the Girl Guide movement and is still one of the leading members of the Executive of the Dutch section of the World Federation of Girl Guides.

She seriously studied the problem of over-population and is deeply interested in many other actual social, economic and political problems.

She has done useful work for the fusion of some of the liberal parties, and promoted a women's group of the liberal party, in the conviction that women wanted special education for their task as citizens.

She has introduced Soroptimism into the Netherlands, and recently established at the Hague a branch of the Federation of Business and Professional Women.

This long list of her activities is far from complete, but may give a small impression of the vitality and marvellous talents and capacities of this wonderful Dutch pioneer, who as a political woman ought to have had a better chance than party complications, etc., have allotted her.

As a witty and fascinating orator, as a voluminous, many-sided publicist, as a gifted organiser, she has been appreciated in the Old as well as the New World.

Notwithstanding this long list of services in public life, she has always found time for developments in private life. She is a perfect homemaker, and her cosy home is her castle; she loves working in her garden, a small paradise! She is a charming hostess, is fond of dancing and an excellent horsewoman. She is always ready to help her friends and her house has always been an asylum for neglected dogs.

She has a large vision and has the gift of originality in a greater measure than most women.

She is a Convener of the I.C.W.'s International Press Committee, so Lady Aberdeen is among the Committee of Honour; among the other women on the mixed international committee we cite Mrs. Corbett Ashby, as it is impossible to enumerate all the names of representatives of associations and federations all over the world who were instantly ready to join in the tribute to her. A big and cordial reception will be held on Saturday, the 8th of February, in the Hotel de Witte Brug (the Hague), where many international friends will be present. EMMY J. BELINFANTE.

RUSSIA (U.S.S.R.)

As the result of friendly contact established in Geneva with Madame Kollontai, we have established an exchange of documents with the U.S.S.R. organisation for cultural relations with foreign countries. This body has sent us a very long and documented article about the Protection of Women from which we can only give a few extracts.

From the beginning the Government has aimed at giving women the opportunity of combining work in socialist construction with the honourable duties of motherhood. Lenin's plan of drawing millions of women into the work of economic construction has been carried into effect during the First and Second Five-Year Plans, and on January 1, 1935, over 7 million women were employed in production exclusive of agriculture.

Female labour has been firmly entrenched in a number of new industries such as metallurgy, mechanical engineering, mining and so on. Mechanisation, division of labour and healthy labour conditions have been instrumental in bringing about the employment of a large number of women without detriment to their maternal functions. The number of skilled women grows, thanks to the wide application of vocational and industrial training. The training of skilled female workers and the advancement of women to leading positions is a policy which is systematically and resolutely carried into effect.

Legislation on the protection of female labour is part of the general labour legislation. The seven-hour day, annual leaves and general improvement of labour conditions have a decisive effect on the life of the working woman. The legislation relating to the labour of minors is of similar importance to women. (Presumably simply because girls come under it as well as boys—there is no attempt in the articles quoted to assimilate women to young persons. *Editor's Note.*)

We must point out that women receive equal pay with men for equal work, which is of tremendous importance in the protection of female labour.

The next Section deals with "Special Legislation for the Protection of Female Labour" which is for the most part on such familiar lines that it does not seem necessary to quote it at length. For instance women are not to be employed in particularly harmful or heavy work; the weight of loads they may carry is limited; women and minors may be submitted to special periodical medical examination; there are special maternity regulations for periods of rest before and after child-birth, varying in length according to occupation; pregnant women and nursing mothers may not work overtime, nor in many cases on night work; special facilities are provided for nursing mothers. This maternity legislation is accompanied by a system of maternity insurance and allowances, including special benefit for mothers who have to be absent from work to nurse a sick child.

We would call special attention, however, to a rather curious special provision for women tractor drivers and chauffeurs. Such drivers, where their vehicles have not been equipped with soft spring seats, must be employed on other lighter work for three days during the period of menstruation, or released from work altogether with pay.

There is an interesting account of the provision of medical aid, and here in the form of Women's Medical Advice Bureaux there is an opportunity for the individual doctors to study the effects of their occupation on the individual women coming under their care. It is stated that the rate of sickness and mortality among working women and their children has sharply declined the expectation of life having risen from 33.9 years in 1907-10 to 46.8 in 1926-27.

In regard to prohibition of employment, the Commissariat of Labour has published a list of trades and professions in which the employment of women is forbidden. This list enumerates trades and professions in the mining, metallurgical, metal working, chemical, textile, leather, printing and paper industries, in railroad, river, and marine transport, the building industry and municipal economy (? drainage, refuse collection, etc?) timber-felling and hauling.*

It is stated that while prohibiting the employment of women in specially injurious and heavy trades adversely affecting the maternal functions of women, the legislation of the U.S.S.R. does not limit itself to the prohibition of women in such trades. Seeking to give women wide access to all branches of national economy the Soviet Government follows also the road of the introduction of rationalisation and health measures which elim-

* See comment below.

inate all the specifically adverse effects of labour conditions on the health of women. Instances are then given of the introduction of mechanical appliances which have permitted the employment of women in many large plants where no women were formerly employed.

There is attached to the article an extract from the Labour Code giving the text of laws and regulations for the protection of female labour referred to in the body of the article.

We regret that space only permits of these brief extracts from this comprehensive document.

SOME COMMENTS.

It will be seen from the above that the claim to absolute equality of the sexes in Soviet Russia, is not interpreted in the sense of identical legislation for men and women; on the contrary there is a considerable volume of special regulations for women workers. It would be interesting to know whether these restrictions have been laid down as the result of a thorough, original and scientific study, both medical and sociological, carried out by trained observers—preferably women, or whether they have for the most part simply followed the lines of existing legislation in other countries.

It would also be interesting to know whether they interfere with women's opportunities in certain fields of labour. Obviously this would not be very easy to determine as conditions of labour from the point of view of freedom of choice in work, etc., must differ in a communist state both for men and women from those obtaining in other countries.

The list of trades and professions forbidden to women (see footnote above) seems in contradiction to the statement in the first paragraph quoted from the original article to the employment of women in new industries. This may be due to some failure in the admirable translation into English and perhaps it only means that certain processes in the list of trades enumerated are forbidden to women. Certainly in other paragraphs cases are cited of women employed in metallurgical plants. But as it stands, this list seems as formidable a limitation on women's work as could possibly exist in any capitalist country where women are not encouraged to participate in economic construction.

SWEDEN.

The Population Commission has made various suggestions to the Minister for Social Affairs with regard to making alterations in the regulations governing women's and particularly married women's, employment and wage conditions.

In accordance with these suggestions certain restrictions on women who have charge of children under 15 will be removed and certain paragraphs relating to married women in State schools will also be removed. Further, the Population Commission consider that during absence for childbirth, salaries should not be cut so extensively and employed women receiving regular salaries should during such absence (for a period of not more than three months) come under the rules of B reductions instead of the C class. Employees with irregular salaries should during such period forfeit one half of their remuneration. Also it is proposed that any illness in connection with childbirth shall be regarded as any other illness and that further reduced wages shall not apply as hitherto.

The Commission points out the necessity of making extensive enquiries into the question of improving industrial women's positions which would need considerable time and involve much work. The Commission, however, sees nothing to prevent immediate investigations to establish whether the State as an employer is following the principles which the Commission up-

holds as being in the general interest of the population question and of the family from a social point of view.

At the same time the Commission considers it desirable that, if the proposed alterations receive the sanction of the State authorities, the principles governing the treatment of women employees shall be properly made known to the public as follows:

- (a) that women employed by the State have the right to obtain and to hold positions irrespective of their civil status or of motherhood;
- (b) that during childbirth they should be entitled to not more than 3 months leave, at the same time receiving a certain portion of their wages; and that during absence through illness in connection with childbirth they shall receive compensation on the same scale as during other illness.

The desirability of such a statement of principle by the State is emphasised by the Commission because restrictions on married women's work had been notified by the authorities in several different towns; also it had been urged from a certain quarter that regulations should be adopted to the effect that women dispensers should be unmarried.

The questions raised by the Commission are in the first place being dealt with by a panel of experts on the protection of women in industry.

THE NETHERLANDS.

In this country an important step has been taken towards the creation of a permanent and scientific basis for the history of the emancipation of women, by the foundation of an institute called "International Archives of the Women's Movement." Founders of the new Institute are the well-known historian Miss Johanna W. A. Naber, Miss Rosa Manus, whose deep interest in woman's struggle for freedom has thus found a fresh outlet, and Dr. W. H. Posthumus-van der Goot, one of Holland's first woman economists. The aim of the institute will be to collect manuscripts and books, photographs and all other material which can contribute to the knowledge of the Women's Movement in its widest sense. For this purpose it has at its disposal two large rooms in the building of the International Institute of Social History at Amsterdam, and close collaboration with this institute of very wide scope will enable the Archives to collect material from all over the world and make the contents available to students who up till now have found the greatest difficulty in tracing their sources.

Therefore one of the chief aims of the Archives will be to publish or assist in the publishing of text books and works on the emancipation of women. The Board has been lucky to secure the collaboration of the Trustees of the Dr. Aletta Jacobs Fund, who have arranged that the proceeds of this Fund shall be available for the purpose of publishing the results of research work on the women's movement. In this way the name of one of Holland's great women will be permanently attached to a branch of studies which no doubt would have had her deep interest and loyal encouragement.

Holland has always been internationally minded and has been proud of it. Dutch women have played and are still playing an important part in the international work for women's complete freedom and social and economic equality with men. The new Archives in Amsterdam also will be entirely international in scope, and the Board solicits the collaboration of the women of all countries in its attempt to create in Amsterdam, which is no doubt favourably situated to this end, a permanent scientifically managed Library and Record Office where printed and MS. material relating to this important and very much neglected branch of social history—woman and her struggle for freedom—shall be brought together. Further details regarding the work

of the Institute will be gladly given by the President of the Board, Miss Rosa Manus, 67, Jac. Obrechtstraat, Amsterdam, or by the Secretary, Dr. W. H. Posthumus-van der Goot, 72 Apollolaan, Amsterdam.

We have unfortunately received from our kind correspondent, Mrs. Polak Rosenberg, a much less happy piece of news from Holland, namely that the Second Chamber in discussing the Budget for Education, adopted an amendment that all married women teachers who are not the breadwinner, are to be dismissed. In 1934 a law dismissing women teachers on marriage was passed, but it was hoped that the married women actually in the service would not be interfered with. Now they are also to go on the pretence of creating vacancies for unemployed teachers, and the protests made by 18 societies united in defence of women's right to work were unavailing. Women continue to lose all that they fought so hard to gain.

EGYPT.

The *Egyptienne* gives a long and interesting study by Mlle. Céza Nabaroui of the still existing opposition to the prohibition of polygamy. She points out that economic conditions already make marriage difficult for many young men, and for that reason the custom is dying out among the better-off people. If it still subsists in the working and agricultural community, it is obviously simply because in this way the women are exploited as "free labour."

Mlle. Nabaroui points out that in Egypt there is no such disproportion of women to men as has made some theorists advocate polygamy, while the economic circumstances of the people would certainly not justify the argument that a rapid increase of population is desirable. But the great arguments against this custom which so many Mussulman countries are recognising as out-of-date, are the injury to the dignity of womanhood and the evil results on the whole life of the family.

INDIA.

The Native State of Baroda has just been celebrating the Jubilee of its Ruler, the Maharajah Gaekwar. From *Stri Dharma* the organ of the Women's Indian Association, we learn that this State is far in advance of most other parts of India, whether the Native States or British Provinces. The article does not give information as to the marriage age, but it gives interesting details as to improvements in the property rights of women, especially for widows, and also in the divorce law.

In the same issue there is a very interesting article on the States of Travancore and Cochin, which must also be amongst the most advanced in India. In these States the matriarchal system has been in force from time immemorial, and under it the women of the Nair community, the majority, have escaped the evils of child marriage and of purdah, and there is a complicated system of inheritance through women. In both States the school attendance figures are very high and Cochin leads all India, 70% of girls are attending schools.

The All India Women's Conference is this year being held in the capital of Travancore, Trivandrum, but news of it will reach us too late for this issue. No place could be more suitable, as Travancore has a wonderful record of women rulers. Both the Mahaarani Ex-Regent and the present Queen Mother have great influence, and the Legislative Council was the first in India to have a woman member, Dr. Poonen Lukhose, who became Minister for Health—the first in the world?

India has great problems, problems made more difficult by her vast territory, by the magnitude and variety of her population and traditions. But one never reads about Indian women without feeling that they hold the solution to those problems.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The New Year Honours List contains the names of a good many women, but as usual the names of women do not figure among the recipients of the highest honours. The most striking award is certainly that to Miss Christabel Pankhurst, who has become a Dame Commander of the British Empire "for public and social services." This recognition of work for woman suffrage which when it was performed was punished with imprisonment, is certainly a curious example of "time's revenges." The Begum Shah Nawaz and Mrs. Subbarayan have received the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal of the First Class for public services in India, doubtless mainly for their work at the Round Table Conference. Among the names of some 50 or more other women, we note two which give a hint of interesting work: Mrs. Gimson for services during the malaria epidemic in Ceylon, and Miss Bourchier for work in connection with the Girl Guide movement in Mexico. Ceylon, yes, but we are intrigued with the award of a British Order to a British woman, presumably for work in a foreign country. The brief mention of the services rewarded is tantalisingly meagre.

The inclusion of so many women shows what good service they do in all parts of the British Empire, and we offer our congratulations. If women merit reward in the spheres in which they are allowed to give their services, it does not seem unreasonable to suppose that they would gain recognition and benefit the community if they were allowed to do the things for which men get peerages and knighthoods.

LUXEMBOURG.

L'Action Féminine has an article on a Bill for reform of the Divorce and Separation Law which has passed its first reading. This is interesting because it proposes a breach in the Code Napoleon. The Chamber was in favour of the grounds for divorce being in future the same for men and women; it also proposed to abrogate the prohibition on the re-marriage of divorced persons. On the other hand it decided to retain the prohibition of the marriage of the defendant and co-respondent during the lifetime of the petitioner.

IRELAND.

The National Council of Women of Ireland has sponsored the formation of a Standing Committee whose chief function is to study existing and proposed legislation from the point of view of women's rights and interests and to endeavour to secure such improvements as they deem desirable. Their work will be both national and international.

The 16th Assembly of the League of Nations, meeting September, 1935, decided to refer the question of the political and civil status of women to the various Governments for their observations and recommendations, and further, recommended the International Organisations of Women to continue their study of this question and to forward statements to the League for consideration by the next Assembly. The Standing Committee have been entrusted by the National Council of Women of Ireland with the task of collecting information on the status of women in Ireland. They appeal for the assistance and co-operation of other women's organisations as well as of individuals, in order that a comprehensive statement may be prepared for presentation to the next Assembly of the League of Nations through the International Organisations of Women.

The first activity of the Standing Committee was in co-operation with the Irish Women Workers' Union in a campaign to obtain the deletion of Clause 16 from the Conditions of Employment Bill, and they will continue to use their influence to secure for women as workers, both professional and industrial, the rights and privi-

leges to which all workers are entitled. In this connection, they will keep in touch with the International Labour Organisation.

THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD.

The third Triennial Conference of this organisation is to be held in Washington, U.S.A., from June 1st to 9th, and we have received a copy of the preliminary programme of the Conference and also of the very attractive travel arrangements, which include the crossing of the Atlantic in the Bremen, sightseeing in New York and Philadelphia en route to the Conference, and in Ithaca, Buffalo, Niagara, and Canada on the way back to Europe.

The Programme includes the study of economic problems as they specially affect the countrywoman: rural unemployment, use of natural resources, assimilation of town population by the countryside, etc. There are also sessions on handicrafts and cultural subjects and of course on administrative matters. The whole programme is most attractive and offers a wonderful occasion for a trip to the United States. Miss Zimmern is the Secretary, and the address of the Association is 26, Eccleston Street, London, S.W.1.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

The Twelfth Annual Conference will take place in London from May 26th to 28th. The preliminary programme is outlined as follows:

Women at Work in Government Services, Diplomatic, Trade and Consular, Civil Service; Changing Africa, with special reference to women's part in shaping African policy; Geneva Resolution on Equality of Status.

These Conferences are always interesting and stimulating affairs, and anyone who may be in London at the time should apply to the Secretary, 17, Buckingham Street, London, W.C.2.

PEACE AND DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE OF THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

We have received from the above Committee, through its Treasurer, Mme. Guthrie d'Arcis, a copy of the communication setting out the plan for a Peace-Roll of Industry, which she has evolved on behalf of the Committee. As our readers already know, the General Motors Corporation when making a very generous contribution to the funds of the Committee made an important declaration that "the interests of industrial and commercial activity are best served by peace rather than by the destructive pursuit of war activity." Now the plan is to achieve a Plebiscite of the Business World, by finding out which among great industrial undertakings realise that "peace is an urgent and basic necessity to sane prosperity." To seek their declarations that war is bad business and that peace is an integral part of their international policy; to convince them of the value of practical co-operation with the Women's Peace and Disarmament Committee; to get them to give moral and financial support to the work of that Committee; and to encourage public opinion with a view to the re-establishment of a spirit of mutual confidence.

While the name "Women's International Peace Roll" covers the plan as a whole, it will be composed of several distinct "peace-rolls" beginning with the Peace Roll of Industry, there will follow the Peace Roll of Transportation, of Insurance, etc. The Committee will accept, record and publish the declarations of business men in relation to peace. It has no intention of inaugurating an inquisition to discover enemies, but rather to extend an invitation to discover friends. It is not a condition of enrolment that contributions

should be made but naturally we hope to obtain gifts as well as names.

After a statement on economic barriers and the danger they present to peace, the communication states; This Committee states that great international business constitutes the most effective force in favour of an armistice in this terrible economic world war actually being waged. We believe that business men accustomed to practical planning and forecasting and to obtaining results, could, through pressure on their national governments in different parts of the world, hasten a gradual reciprocal and balanced reduction and limitation of these restrictions, quotas, tariffs, etc. which are today strangling the world. These are essentially business problems rather than political, and as business problems they will have to be dealt with.

Mme. d'Arcis is setting out on a mission to secure adherents to this Peace Roll and the good wishes of all women will surely go with her.

PEOPLE'S MANDATE TO GOVERNMENTS.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, which has Sections in a large number of countries, is sponsoring a world-wide campaign for a fresh appeal for the abandonment of the war method and for constructive peace.

The Campaign, which goes under the name of the People's Mandate to Governments, has a four-point programme. It demands that the Governments in common action to fulfil their international pledges:

1. Stop immediately all increase of armaments and armed forces;
2. Use existing machinery for peaceful settlement of present conflicts;

and, at the first opportunity,

3. Secure a world treaty for immediate reduction of arms as a step towards complete world disarmament;
4. Secure international agreements founded on recognition of world interdependence to end the economic anarchy which breeds war.

Different countries are pursuing different methods. In America individual signatures are being collected. Great enthusiasm is being shown and already a long list of organisations who have agreed to co-operate is being published. In Sweden more than 20,000 people have signed the Mandate.

It will be remembered that the W.I.L.P.F. sprang to birth as a result of that dramatic Congress held at the Hague in 1915, when envoys were sent to carry the message expressed in the Congress resolution to the governments of belligerent and neutral nations. It is now proposed to send deputations to present the Mandate to the various governments.

Copies of the Mandate can be obtained from the Women's International League, 55, Gower Street, London, W.C.1, in English; and in French from Madame Camille Drevet, 9 rue du Dr. Jacquemaire Clémenceau, Paris 15e.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Czecho-slovakia. The women of Czechoslovakia have recently been celebrating the 60th birthday of their first woman doctor, Dr. Honzakova, who, surmounting the forces of prejudice, took her degree in 1902. Today she has 1500 women doctors as her colleagues. (*Zenska Rada*).

Iran. The Government has enacted a law prohibiting polygamy, and has under consideration a programme of social reform. It is hoped that the veil will shortly disappear with all that that symbolises for women's freedom. (*L'Egyptienne*).

Japan. It is stated in the Labour and Socialist International Woman's Supplement that the women of Japan have organised a monster collection in order to set-up a wireless transmitting station of their own. Only women will be employed and only women will broadcast. This will indeed be a striking experiment.

Switzerland. In the recent elections of Prud Femmes in Geneva, the only elections in which women vote, 30 women representing different trades were elected, as against 23 in the last election. These are a kind of industrial tribunal which have no exact parallel in many countries and the title of which cannot be precisely translated into English.

U.S.A. Two well-known women's deaths are recorded in December: Dr. Katherine Bement Davis, a leader in prison reform, and Lizette Woodworth Reese, a well-known poetess.

An influential Committee is organising a dinner to celebrate the 80th birthday of Mrs. Harriot Stanton Blatch, the daughter of Elizabeth Cady, the well-known pioneer, and herself a great figure in the suffrage movement in the States.

Norway. Fru Betzy Kjelsberg has retired under the age limit from her work as Chief Factory Inspector.

Canada. Lady Tweedsmuir, the wife of the Governor-General, has accepted honorary membership of the National Council of Women.

Greece. A Bureau for Educational and Instructional Cinematography has been set up under the State Department of Public Instruction, this being due to steady pressure from the National Council of Women. A prominent member of the Council, Mme. Coromila, has been appointed Director.

JOIN THE CIRCLE and correspond in English, French, German, Esperanto, with cultured bi-lingual foreigner interested in your subjects. Apply to Mr. G. Hammond, 876, Forest Road, London, E. 17.

SECTION FRANCAISE.

LE ROI GEORGE V.

Notre Bulletin, publié en Grand Bretagne, se doit d'exprimer l'émotion de toutes les féministes à l'annonce de la mort du Roi d'Angleterre. Nous n'oublierons pas que sous son règne les femmes ont conquis leurs droits politiques et une grande mesure d'égalité sous d'autres formes.

Dans des circonstances souvent délicates et difficiles, où tous les regards convergent vers la couronne, George V. a toujours été au dessus de toute critique.

Mr. Baldwin le louait ainsi, au microphone: "Dans l'exercice de ses devoirs de Chef, il apportait les dispositions aimables de l'homme privé—et non seulement en vertu de sa haute fonction mais aussi par le mérite de sa personne, il était en vérité le premier "gentleman" du pays."

Nous offrons respectueusement notre profonde sympathie à la Reine qui donne un noble exemple de dévouement à ses devoirs, comme épouse et mère, comme femme aussi par la diversité d'intérêts et la largeur d'idées dont elle fait preuve.

Inde. L'Etat de Baroda qui vient de célébrer le Jubilé de son chef est aujourd'hui, nous annonce "Stri Dharma" fort en avance sur les autres Etats ou provinces britanniques, quant au Statut de la

Femme. L'article donne des précisions intéressantes sur les progrès apportés dans la condition des veuves, de leurs droits de propriété; et aussi sur la loi du divorce. Les états de Travancore et de Cochin gardent encore le matriarcat et les femmes de la communauté Nair ont échappé aux misères du mariage puéril et du purdah. L'héritage est par filiation féminine. Dans ces deux Etats 70% des filles reçoivent une éducation scolaire. La Conférence Pan-indoue se tient cette année dans la Capitale de Travancore ou la Maharani Ex. régente et la présente Reine-Mère ont beaucoup d'influence. Le Conseil législatif fut le premier dans l'Inde à compter une femme parmi ses membres; Dr. Poonen Lukhose qui devint, du reste, Ministre de l'Hygiène.

Tchecoslovaquie. La mère femme docteur, Mme. Honzakova vient de célébrer son 60ème anniversaire. Elle a aujourd'hui 1500 collègues femmes.

Iran. "L'Egyptienne" nous annonce que le Gouvernement vient de déclarer la polygamie illégale et prépare un programme de réformes sociales. On espère que le voile disparaîtra bientôt.

Japon. Des Japonaises ont organisé une vaste souscription, en vue de monter une station de radio-diffusion indépendante, dont toutes les employées seront des femmes.

Suisse. Aux élections des Conseils de Prudhommes les seules où les femmes sont électrices, 30 femmes, représentant plusieurs branches du commerce, furent élues contre 23 aux dernières élections.

Etats Unis. Le décès de deux femmes notables est d'Amerique, survenu au mois de décembre. Ce sont: Dr. Katherine Bement Davis, bien connue comme réformatrice des prisons et Lizette Woodworth Reese, poète.

Egypte. Melle. Céza Nabaroui étudie dans "l'Egyptienne," les facteurs qui rendent difficile la prohibition totale de la polygamie. Dans la classe moyenne et les professions libérales, la coutume est à peu près morte, car avec les conditions économiques actuelles, pour beaucoup de jeunes gens, le mariage n'est pas chose aisée. Dans la population agricole si la polygamie subsiste, c'est parce que c'est un moyen simple de se procurer pour rien la main d'oeuvre familiale.

Le nombre des femmes n'est pas tellement supérieur à celui des hommes pour justifier la polygamie; un accroissement de la population n'est pas aujourd'hui désirable, et surtout, cette coutume, que le monde musulman en majorité reconnaît comme désuète, est une atteinte à la dignité de la femme et à son autorité dans la famille.

Grande Bretagne. Les "Honneurs" du Nouvel An ont été accordés à quelques femmes; titres mineurs bien entendu, mais le plus remarquable est celui de Dame Commandeur, décerné à Christabel Pankhurst pour "services, publics et sociaux." Reconnaissance du dévouement à la cause suffragiste qu'il y a un quart de siècle on punissait par la prison! La Begum Shah Nawaz et Mrs. Subbarayan reçoivent des distinctions, sans doute pour la part qu'elles ont prise aux Réformes de la Constitution indoue. Il y a une cinquantaine d'autres femmes parmi lesquelles nous relevons le nom de Mrs. Gimson, pour services durant l'épidémie à Ceylan et Miss Bourchier pour son travail avec les éclaireuses (Girl Guides) du Mexique.

Norwege. Fru Betzy Kjelsberg, Inspectrice Chef du Travail, prend sa retraite, ayant atteint la limite d'âge.

Grèce. Grâce à l'insistance du Conseil National des Femmes grecques un Bureau pour l'étude des possibilités éducatives du Cinéma vient de se former au Ministère de l'Instruction publique et Madame Coromila en a été nommée Directeur.

France. Nous offrons nos plus chaleureuses félicitations à Madame Maria Verone pour la décoration de la Légion d'Honneur que le Gouvernement vient de lui décerner.

Suède. La Commission qui étudie les problèmes de Population a suggéré au Ministre des Affaires Sociales diverses modifications au statut qui régit l'emploi et les salaires des femmes mariées. Elle recommande l'abrogation de certaines restrictions se rapportant à l'emploi des femmes qui ont la charge d'enfants au dessous de 15 ans, et à l'emploi des institutrices mariées. Elle propose également que l'arrêt du travail pour femmes en couches soit assimilé à une maladie ordinaire, ne comportant pas la suppression du salaire, mais seulement une diminution. L'importance de cette déclaration de principe par un ministère d'Etat, serait notoire, au moment où plusieurs municipalités suédoises interdisent l'emploi des femmes mariées.

Hollande. Une étape importante vient d'être atteinte en Hollande avec la création d'un Institut International des Archives du Mouvement féministe—dont les organisatrices sont l'historienne bien connue Miss Johanna W. H. Naber et Miss Rosa Manus. Pour renseignements sur la travail de l'Institut, s'adresser à la Secrétaire: Dr. W. H. Posthumus-van der Goot 72 Apollolaan, Amsterdam. Notre correspondante Mme. Polak Rosenberg nous apprend que la deuxième Chambre, lors de la discussion du Budget de l'Instruction publique a passé un amendement déclarant que, toute institutrice mariée, qui n'est pas le principal soutien de sa famille, doit être destituée. C'est un décret réactionnaire que nous regrettons profondément.

L'une des plus ardentes travailleuses sociales de la Hollande, Madame Francken Dyserinck va célébrer son soixantième anniversaire le 7 février et ses amis et collaborateurs veulent lui apporter d'une façon marquante leur hommage pour 40 années d'une activité incessante qui embrasse le suffrage, l'hygiène morale et sociale, l'art, l'économie domestique et tous les mouvements sociaux et sportifs.

Russie (U.R.S.S.) Nous avons eu la possibilité d'établir à Genève un contact amical avec Mme. Kollontai et les quelques notes abrégées que nous donnons sur la position des femmes dans l'Union Soviétique sont le résultat d'un échange de documents.

Dès l'aurore du régime communiste l'objectif du gouvernement a toujours été de donner aux femmes la possibilité de jouer leur rôle de mère, de citoyennes, et de travailleuses dans la communauté socialiste. Le plan de Lénine, dans les deux périodes de cinq ans, introduisit plus de sept millions de femmes dans l'économie industrielle russe—et le nombre des spécialistes formées dans les écoles techniques, au même titre que les hommes, va croissant.

La législation et la protection du labeur féminin sont partie de l'organisation générale du travail: journée de sept heures, congé annuel, il n'y a pas d'assimilation de la femme à la catégorie des jeunes personnes. Il y a une législation spéciale pour les mineurs. L'identité du travail masculin et du travail féminin est cependant loin d'être complète—car une section du document traite de provisions spéciales, pour les travailleuses enceintes, avec indemnités de couches, pour les femmes employées dans les industries de produits nocifs ou les travaux lourds; à certaines périodes de fatigue l'extension de la journée ouvrière et le travail de nuit sont

interdits aux femmes. Une partie intéressante du rapport est celle qui traite de l'aide et des Bureaux d'Information médicale. Des médecins peuvent y étudier sur le vif l'influence de tel métier ou de telle profession sur la santé des femmes et établir ainsi les statistiques de l'état sanitaire de la population ouvrière féminine.

Conseil International des Femmes. Dans le Bulletin de Janvier, Lady Aberdeen, présidente depuis 1893 annonce qu'elle offrira sa démission à la séance plénière qui aura lieu en Yougoslavie. La vie de Lady Aberdeen a toute été consacrée au service social, soit par elle-même soit aux côtés de son mari quand il était Gouverneur Général du Canada ou Vice Roi d'Irlande. Sa décision causera des regrets, mais on ne saurait lui refuser le repos qu'elle a si bien mérité.

LEGISLATION INDUSTRIELLE POUR LES FEMMES.

17. URUGUAY.

En termes généraux on peut dire que la législation ouvrière de l'Uruguay ne prévoit pas de régime d'exception en ce qui concerne les femmes. La loi de huit heures, le repos dominical obligatoire ou le repos rotatif tous les six jours, la prohibition du travail nocturne dans certains industries, s'appliquent dans les mêmes termes aux hommes et aux femmes.

Seulement dans la loi d'accidents de travail il y a une disposition par laquelle on interdit aux femmes et aux enfants les travaux de nettoyage et réparation des moteurs en marche, machines ou appareils de transmission dangereuse.

La seule loi d'exception est la Loi de la Chaise, en vertu de laquelle dans tous les établissements industriels, commerciaux, ateliers ou locaux où travaillent des femmes l'on devra compter avec un nombre suffisant de chaises afin que les ouvrières et employées puissent s'asseoir à tout moment que leur travail n'exige pas d'être debout.

Il existe dans le bureau de la Chambre plusieurs projets de loi de réglementation du travail des femmes contenant des dispositions en contradiction avec les principales soutenus par l'Alliance, et dont l'approbation sans modification viendrait à léser les intérêts économiques des travailleuses. L'on prévoit le repos obligatoire pendant six semaines avant et après la délivrance, l'employeur devant payer les 2/3 du salaire, ce qui produirait fatalement la désoccupation féminine. Il existe aussi un projet de loi qui prévoit une journée de six heures pour les femmes employées dans l'industrie, ce qui aurait les mêmes effets.

Aucun projet de loi n'établit le principe féministe "A travail égal, salaire égal," mais le projet de salaire minimum actuellement en discussion à la Chambre de Députés, fixe un salaire minimum de \$70 par mois ou \$2.60 par jour pour toute personne majeure sans distinction de sexe occupée dans l'Administration Publique, l'industrie ou le commerce, et prévoit aussi des salaires minima pour les mineurs sans distinction de sexe et d'accord avec l'âge.

SARA REY ALVARES.

18. YOUGOSLAVIE.

I. a. **Travail de nuit.** Le travail de nuit est interdit aux femmes sans distinction d'âge et aux garçons au dessous de 18 ans. Quant aux hommes, le travail de nuit n'est interdit que dans les boulangeries.

b. **Poids lourds.** Aucune loi.

c. **Travail malsain et dangereux.** D'après la loi sur la protection des ouvriers on peut interdire de

travail dans les usines qui emploient des matériaux dangereux pour la vie et la santé du personnel.

d. **Limitation de la durée du travail.** Pour l'industrie et les mines il existe une loi de travail de 8 heures, 48 heures par semaine. Dans les autres branches (sauf les communications) les ouvriers travaillent de 8 à 10 heures.

e. **Salaires minima.** Non.

II. a. **La Maternité.** Il existe une loi interdisant le travail aux mères 2 mois avant et 2 mois après l'accouchement. Pendant ce temps les mères touchent une allocation spéciale d'après le règlement dans la loi sur les assurances des ouvriers. Lorsque l'ouvrière allaite son nourrisson elle a droit à un repos spécial toutes les 4-5 heures; ce repos ne peut mener à un raccourcissement du repos habituel, ni à la diminution du salaire.

b. **Interdiction du travail de la femme mariée.** Non.

III. **Effets de la législation s'appliquant seulement au travail des femmes.**

a. On n'a pas remarqué que des hommes ou de jeunes garçons effectuent maintenant des travaux autrefois exécutés par des femmes.

b. Les limitations n'ont eu aucune influence sur les possibilités d'emploi des femmes, ni sur le chiffre de leurs salaires. D'après les documents officiels du bureau central des assurances ouvrières le nombre des ouvrières ainsi que les salaires ont augmenté.

c. **Résultats favorables.** Il n'y a aucune enquête officielle ou privée qui pourrait les démontrer.

d. **Protestations officielles ou officieuses contre ces mesures.** Aucune.

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