

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

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PEACE.

The Peace and Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organisations has sent a further appeal to the Governments Members of the Council of the League of Nations as follows:—

"We women cannot resign ourselves to the horrors of a new war. In the anguish of our hearts we repeat to the Council of the League of Nations the appeal which we sent to the Governments of all countries on September 13th last. At this difficult moment we desire to express once more our confidence that the Council will do everything possible under the Covenant to settle the conflict and thus to bring a new hope of peace to the world."

"Nous, les femmes, ne pouvant pas nous résigner à accepter passivement les horreurs d'une nouvelle guerre, nous répétons au Conseil, dans l'angoisse de nos coeurs, l'appel que nous avons adressé aux Gouvernements de tous les pays en date du 13 septembre dernier. Nous tenons à exprimer encore une fois au Conseil, en ces heures difficiles, notre confiance qu'il fera tout, selon les dispositions du Pacte, pour régler le conflit et faire luire un espoir de paix dans la monde."

The decision to issue this appeal was taken in the hope of demonstrating very specially to the women of Italy that all women are urging the means of restoring peace.

The Committee have reported two interesting communications from women of Poland and of Holland; the first was an ardent appeal to all women, and especially to the women of Italy, to prevent a war, recalling their own personal experience of a fight for national independence as an example of what a nation feels when that vital right is denied or threatened. The women of

Holland have responded to the Appeal of the Empress of Abyssinia by holding on October 20th an hour of meditation and prayer for peace. Other countries are asked to make similar plans, but of course at the time of going to press we cannot hope to obtain fuller news.

A brief account has reached us from another source of a meeting of the Women of Jerusalem, of different races, to protest against aggression and to pray for peace. Many Arab women spoke and the notes end with an unanimous recognition of the wickedness of war and of sympathy with the victims.

Just as we were going to press, the news came of the death of Mr. Arthur Henderson, and we desire to add a brief tribute to his memory. As President of the Disarmament Conference his ability and sincerity won universal recognition, and he went out of his way to show his appreciation of the value of women's work for peace and disarmament.

STAMPS AGAIN.

It is very satisfactory to learn from the Stamp Office in Geneva that sales outside those in Turkey itself have completely covered the whole expenses of printing, etc. That means that every stamp sold now will bring in a clear profit, and if, during these two last months during which the issue is available, the members and friends of the Alliance will do their best to spread the knowledge of this unique issue, the Alliance can look forward to a really substantial contribution to its funds.

We will not take up space by repeating all the information given in our last (October) issue, but will just remind readers of the fact that stamps may be obtained either from the Alliance Stamp Office, 4, Place du Molard, Geneva, or from Alliance Headquarters, 190, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1. Requests for information should be made to the former address.

WELL-EARNED RECOGNITION.

Miss Rosa Manus has been made an Extraordinary Member of the Amsterdam Soroptimist Club in recognition of her years of work for women. She is the only such member and it is very pleasant to record this mark of appreciation by her fellow-countrywomen. For once a prophet has found deserved honour in her own country. Miss Manus is also a member of the International Soroptimist Club.

OBITUARY.

The early death of Winifred Holtby is a great loss to the woman's movement in Great Britain. It is only a month or so ago that this paper gave a review of her book "Women," and as a writer, lecturer and speaker she gave her time and great gifts unsparingly to this cause. Miss Holtby was a woman of great charm and wide sympathies, and the tributes paid to her from all sides are striking evidence of the feelings of affection and admiration she inspired.

As our last proof is being sent to the printer, we learn with deep regret of the death of Mr. Jaakoff Prelooker, a very old and staunch friend to the Alliance and the women's movement. We hope to publish a fuller memorial article in our next issue.

CORRECTION.

We regret that in the paragraph headed "Germany" in the October issue (page 6, 5th line) the word "also" was omitted after "approval," thus giving the impression that the inclusion of women in the Law on Military Service was *not* approved by the N.S.D.A.P. This would of course be manifestly absurd since it was naturally a National Socialist Law, but we are very sorry for the mistake.

THE RIGHT TO WORK.

In our last issue in a brief account of the Open Door International Conference, we referred to the strange fact that women have never been united in their determination to win economic equality. It is tragic that in comparatively prosperous times women did so little to consolidate their economic position, so that when depression came they were easy victims. The bald truth is that women in the mass do not see themselves as coming as directly as men under the ancient commandment "He that will not work neither shall he eat." On the contrary, they remember rather that the curse of Eve was the pain of child-bearing, and that of Adam the earning of his bread in the sweat of his brow. But assuredly woman was not spared her full share of the hard labour, but has herself not had the wit to do as Adam has done, and endeavour to sweeten the labourer's lot by seeing that she also was counted worthy of her hire.

It is human nature to exert effort only in the expectation of a corresponding gain. Women have sinned against nature in allowing themselves to get into the habit of making efforts without ensuring that they themselves enjoyed the reward. The consequence is that there is a general impression that a woman's convenience, happiness and well-being, really don't matter very much. And women have let things go until they find themselves up against obstacles so immediate that they must revolt, but they revolt too often in their desperate weakness instead of in their potential strength.

It is good news that in *Belgium* the Order fixing a lower salary for women teachers has been repealed, and that reducing the salaries of women in public service has also been repealed. Further, the decree authorising the fixing of the proportion of women to be employed in

industrial and commercial undertakings has been suspended. This is due to the magnificent and concerted efforts of Belgian women, and we congratulate them. But those ordinances were an insult to women which ought not to have been possible.

The women of Ireland combined to ensure that the constitution of the *Irish Free State* gave equality between men and women, but they have not been able to prevent the introduction of a Clause in the Conditions of Employment Bill giving powers to the Minister of Labour to prohibit or restrict the employment of women in any form of industrial work. Let us hope that they will prevent the adoption of the Clause, but how is it possible that where citizens are equal, injustice can be offered to the half of them?

In *Italy* both in State Service and in industry women are being hounded out of work, with how great a fatal acquiescence we do not know.

In *Luxembourg* women have to obtain special labour permits, and yet they send no women to Parliament for which they have equal voting and eligibility rights.

Netherlands women are making a brave fight against dismissal of women in order to give jobs to men, but how many women are taking part?

Norway is a country where women have a high status, but that has not prevented the production of a Draft Bill seeking to make special regulations for women's work.

In *Yugoslavia* the employment of women has been restricted in many branches of public service.

The tale might be almost indefinitely spun out. There is hardly a country in the world today where women, so far from being able to march forward to the conquest of the last barricades erected against equality, are not fighting with their backs to the wall to retain vital and indeed elementary economic rights.

If the experience of today is going to make women aware of their humiliating position; if it is going to make them say not only will we resist the immediate threat to our right to work but we will see to it that we gain once for all a proper recognition of our productive importance and instil into the minds of men the fact that we are human beings and intend to enjoy every human right that mankind as a whole has instituted—then the crisis will have done for women in the economic sphere what the great war in many cases did for them in the political sphere.

But there remains with us the terrifying vision of the rows of little houses, the blocks of flats, the isolated cottages where women sit apart. Doing good, useful work? Oh yes, no doubt, but how isolated, how unaware of where their own wider interests lie. Do not think that this is a sneer or a reproach to the "woman in the home." It is the women who have got out, who know that primarily the home is a place to go back to and not to stay in, who have got to see their duty towards those others who maybe have not had the chance.

The problem: to move an immense, inert mass, practically without any machinery to do it with!

K.B.

SPAIN.

The Regulation of Prostitution has been abolished in Spain and "the exercise of prostitution is no longer recognised as a legitimate method of earning a living." The treatment of venereal disease is to be made obligatory. Free treatment centres are to be established, but hospitalisation is to be enforced if necessary. Whatever views one may hold on compulsory treatment, there is nothing inherently anti-feminist in the system. But it carries with it a possible danger that in the operation of the law, compulsion may be applied mainly to women, and in fact to prostitutes, thereby

re-establishing something which is dangerously akin to regulation. The *Bulletin Abolitionniste* in reporting the matter rightly calls attention to two dangers which must be guarded against, not particularly of course in Spain, but in any country which suddenly abolishes the regulation system. One is that the new law may be applied in such a way that its failure is certain, and the authorities may return to the old evil ways. The other is that indicated above; that health regulations unequally applied, may in practice prove to be but regulation thinly veiled.

CANADA.

The recent General Elections in Canada have brought for the first time a second woman Member of Parliament. Miss McPhail was re-elected as she has been in every election since 1921, and Mrs. Black was one of the small band of successful conservative candidates.

We also learn from the I.C.W. Bulletin that a second woman, Mrs. Howard T. Fallis, has been nominated to the Senate, which in Canada is not an elected body. Immediately after Canadian women had won their fight to make women eligible as senators, Mrs. Wilson was nominated as reported in our paper at the time. There are, therefore, now two women in each of the two Houses of the Canadian Parliament. It is not a very large proportion, but it is something to report progress, even if slow, rather than retrogression.

FRANCE.

Though we do not know to what extent the recent elections to the Senate may have affected the woman suffrage position, we regret to learn that M. Martin, leader of the Woman Suffrage Group and a staunch friend, was defeated. Regret is somewhat balanced by rejoicing that M. Duplantier, the women's chief opponent, was also defeated. M. Duplantier's speeches were of a nature that one would hardly expect to hear—or to be listened to with complacency and even applause—in any Parliamentary Assembly, and we feel that the Senate will be a more dignified gathering without him, and that future suffrage debates will at least be free from his most offensive type of opposition.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

The German Society "Frauenfortschritt," which is affiliated to the Alliance, has kindly sent us a copy of a Memorandum they have addressed to the Minister for Education pointing out the fact that the ordinary population is often entirely ignorant of the complicated laws and regulations governing their national and civic rights and obligations. The Society desires to propose that in the elementary and other schools there should be introduced instruction on these personal rights and obligations in such a simple form as children could understand.

The three special questions on which such instruction should be given are summarised as follows:—

The Rights of Citizenship. Every individual must have a nationality, and must see that he does not lose it. Should he do so, he must at once take the necessary steps to regain it or obtain another. A stateless person is in a most unfortunate position.

Domicile or Settlement. Every person must have a local settlement and must be able to prove it. If he cannot do so, he must take the necessary steps to obtain it, as without it he has no right to assistance in case of need.

Identity Papers. You are a member of the State and the evidence of that membership is your Identity Papers: Birth or Baptism Certificate, Vaccination Certificate, Certificates of Marriage or Death, Certificates of Settlement, Naturalisation (or Nationality) Certificate, Passport, etc. You must not lose your Identity Papers, but should you do so you must at once take steps to replace them.

The school curriculum already contains courses on civics, but it is pointed out that these are too general and historical, and do not give the simple practical instruction in how to avoid actual personal difficulties. The Memorandum gives admirable suggestions as to methods of making these matters clear and vivid to the children, and also how the teachers should be trained and should make contacts also with the parents.

It seems an admirable and practical idea that training in civics should not be confined to making the child realise that he is a member of his State and Community, but should include the procedure which governs that membership. We must all at some time or other have seen the bewilderment and confusion in the mind of simple people when they are brought up against the necessity of *proving* their status. "Of course I belong to such and such a country, and such and such a village: every one knows it, how can I bring proof?" Much time would be saved, in some cases much misery avoided, if the knowledge of practical details of procedure were imbibed as a matter of course.

One matter specially affecting women is mentioned, namely that girls should be made aware as to how their nationality may be affected by their marriage with a foreigner.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS.

This title sounds as if we were going to speak of radio, cables, fast ships and faster aeroplanes. But those wonders are not the affair of this paper, and our message is to the members societies of the Alliance in regard to those rather drab-looking envelopes they receive from Headquarters, and which we sometimes fear remain unopened, or worse still, are allowed to fall into the waste-paper basket. Members and supporters of the League of Nations are constantly emphasising that the League is and can be nothing other and above the Governments which form it. The Alliance is and can be nothing but the national societies which form it. There is no shadowy abstraction of a supernatural kind working through super-human agencies to direct an international woman's movement. There is just a group of national societies which must pool their efforts and experience to *make* an international movement.

These societies have formed of their own volition an international Board and Headquarters as a machinery for just that purpose. That machinery is the heart to which and from which the life-blood must run to the members. And in between those Congresses which are a visible symbol of life, the channel of communication must be correspondence: personal as far as possible, but in many cases necessarily in the form of general letters which for the sake of economy are in circular form.

Those circular letters contain information as to what the Board is doing to carry out the mandate given to it by the Societies. They contain proposals and suggestions for action in the national field which alone can build up an international movement. Not every society on every occasion can take the action suggested. But surely the whole and only point of their belonging to the Alliance is that they should give consideration to every proposal made; see whether it may be valuable for their national work; judge whether they can forward the international idea.

The despatch of letters of this kind is not a mechanical function of the machine. It represents the thought of the Board or of the Officers conveyed to those whom they serve by the only means open to them. To an over-worked national President or Secretary they may sometimes seem a "bore," but perhaps her Committee may see them a little differently. Is the Alliance to cease to communicate with its members for the three-year interval between Congresses? If not, has anyone a brilliant idea as to a fresher and more inspiring method of inter-communication than the cheap if not enticing circular letter?

K.B.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Women's Freedom League.

We were delighted to have the opportunity of meeting Mrs. Corbett Ashby, our new President, at an At-Home at the Minerva Club, 28a, Brunswick Square, when Madame Pektash, the Turkish woman M.P., who was in London for the International Parliamentary Conference, gave us a most interesting account of the life and work of modern women in Turkey.

On October 18th we had another At-Home at the Minerva Club to meet the President (Miss Gosling), the Hon. Secretary Mrs. Butterfield, and another member of the Committee, Mrs. Tucker, of the Bermuda Woman Suffrage Society, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.P. and Mrs. Corbett Ashby. The ladies from Bermuda explained that the Constitution of Bermuda had not been changed in substance for the past three centuries. Under it no woman could vote or be eligible for election even to our equivalent of a Parish Council, let alone the Assembly. The Bermuda women are putting up a big fight for their enfranchisement and they are prepared to go to prison in their protests against continued disfranchisement. It is hoped to arrange a deputation to the Colonial Office, of representatives of women's organisations in Great Britain, to see whether any pressure can be brought from this country in securing the revision of Bermuda's Constitution, so that the women of Bermuda may exercise similar rights to the women here.

As the General Election is to take place in the near future our League has arranged a whole-day Conference at Caxton Hall, to discuss what organised women's demands shall be at this election, the Chair to be taken at both the morning and afternoon session by Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

We have arranged a two-days' "Fair" at Caxton Hall, Westminster, for Friday and Saturday, November 15th and 16th. If the General Election is then over we hope to record at that "Fair" the successes of women at the polls.

FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

BRIEF NOTES.

Hungary. The women of Hungary are up in arms against a proposal to abrogate women's right to become lawyers. The Alliance Auxiliary, the Feminist Egysesulete, held a protest meeting, where the women lawyers themselves gave a convincing demonstration of their power to plead a cause.

Ireland. The Catholic Citizen tells how the Catholic mill girls of Belfast were terrorised during the recent riots there, and feared to go back to the mills. But when their priests made them see that they held a key position and must brave the danger for the sake not only of their own employment but that of all Catholic workers, they hesitated no longer: "If they tear us to pieces, we'll go back" was their response.

Netherlands. The I.C.W. Bulletin reports an Indonesian Women's Congress recently held in Batavia, and widely attended by native women. Some 25 women's organisations were represented and an exhibition of handicraft was organised. There is no woman suffrage in the Dutch East Indies, and it is good news that these women are showing their determination to take an active part in public life.

Great Britain. Women workers in offices have been discussing their working conditions. The increasing use of machines for statistical and other work is largely in the hands of women, and they want to take stock of the position in

regard to salaries, promotion, etc., caused by this mechanisation. There is also the question of a decent standard of accommodation. There are no laws governing office conditions parallel to the factory acts. Clerks often work in very unhealthy conditions as to space, air and light.

The National Council of Women held its Annual Meeting this month, the first resolution to be adopted supporting the Government in its efforts to maintain the system of collective security through the League of Nations. The Meeting also urged a Government enquiry into the law on abortion, and also into its growing incidence. There is no doubt that the time has fully come for serious consideration of this problem with its disastrous effects on the health of women. Other matters dealt with were unequal pay, and the unhappy effects of "ribbon building" along the new arterial roads.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor,

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS.

Dear Madam,

In the October number of your paper, the question is raised "Why cannot women unite to get the same economic rights as men with the power that the winning of those rights would give them to plan their lives as they like and not as some one else likes?"

The writer refers to the uniting of women in Great Britain to win suffrage. There was no real driving force in the British suffrage movement until Mrs. Pankhurst initiated and led a militant campaign. To win economic equality requires a more militant leadership than we have at present.

Writing as one who is concentrating on another aspect of the fight for equality, I think there are two main explanations why there is not more concentration on winning economic equality. To be able to control her motherhood is a more fundamental need in the ordinary woman's life than is economic equality. This kind of sexual equality is possible only through easily accessible and reliable knowledge of contraception and after a thorough revision of the laws concerning abortion and sterilisation. The feminist movement practically ignores the question of sexual equality.

The other problem is that of slavery. Women are still bought, sold and inherited like chattels, yet the feminist movement gives hardly any attention to this absence of all freedom for millions of women, many of whom are living under the protection of the British flag. Miss C. Nina Boyle is almost alone in her persistent campaign against this degrading form of slavery.

Let us realise that it is only a small percentage of women in the world who have the personal and political freedom without which they are helpless in the fight for economic freedom.

Some of us feel we are serving the feminist movement best by concentrating on helping women to win personal freedom.

Yours faithfully,
EDITH HOW MARTYN.

To the Editor,

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS.

Dear Editor,

An appeal, signed by Maud Wood Park, Ada L. Comstock, Andrew J. Peters and Larue Brown, has just reached me stating that a Committee has been formed to pay a tribute to Miss Alice Stone Blackwell, in the form of a fund to assure her economic security during her remaining years. We all know that Lucy Stone was one of the great pioneers of the Women's Movement in America and that her influence was world-wide. Her daughter, Alice Stone Blackwell, has also been one of the greatest pioneers for women, as well as a distinguished American citizen, ever active and vigilant in the cause of human progress.

The Committee aims at collecting 15,000 dollars, and two-thirds of the money has been collected. I feel sure that British women will desire to subscribe an appreciable share of this international fund. The Secretary of the Committee is Mrs. Guy W. Stantial, 21, Ashmont Street, Melrose, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

Yours sincerely,
E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

REVIEWS.

The National League of Women Voters of the United States is kind enough to supply Alliance Headquarters with copies of its varied and useful publications. Two booklets have just reached us which are excellent examples of the work the League is doing to educate women as citizens, one on "Taxes and Tax Trends," and the other on "Government and the Consumer." Taxation is, of course, a matter which ought to be of interest to every citizen, but it is a subject which most of us dismiss with a grumble; to read the Questionnaires at the end of this booklet is to realise one's culpable ignorance, and though, of course, the information given on facts applies to the States, the duty of the citizen is everywhere the same. The worst of it is that one feels that being a citizen ought to be a full-time job!

The smaller pamphlet on the Consumer is really absorbing reading, and should interest women particularly because they represent the largest body of individual consumers, and almost the only class which provides a considerable number of people who are more concerned with the spending than the getting of money. It is, of course, true that, as the writer says, everyone is both a consumer and, directly or indirectly, a money getter, but there must be many women who really do have to concentrate on thinking of income in the terms of spending. Perhaps that is one of the reasons why emphasis in people's minds is on the getting of the money mainly, since the housewife is the least considered and the least vocal class in the community.

It is impossible to deal with the question of how protection can be given to the consumer in the matter of quality, quantity and fair prices. We can only quote from the short Conclusion, in which, after briefly summarising what steps should be taken to protect the consumer, the writer says: "Only as people learn to think of themselves as consumers and to work together as consumers can the problem of consumer protection be solved. For attitudes are more fundamental than actions. What is needed is a change of emphasis in public thought from production to consumption, and a new understanding on the part of the public that, since the purpose of all economic activity is the satisfaction of human wants, production and distribution must be carried on with the consumer uppermost in mind."

LA SOCIETE DES NATIONS ET LES FEMMES

La XVIème Assemblée de la Société des Nations avait à son ordre du jour les questions de la nationalité et du statut de la femme.

Ces deux questions furent discutées par la 1ère commission de l'Assemblée qui s'occupe des problèmes juridiques. Les rapports et résolutions adoptées sont le résultat des délibérations de plus de cinquante juristes y compris quelques femmes déléguées siégeant à la commission. L'influence de plusieurs organisations féminines travaillant dans la coulisse s'est aussi faite sentir.

La résolution adoptée est la suivante:

"L'Assemblée,
Après avoir étudié le point de son ordre du jour: "Nationalité de la femme: Convention sur la nationalité de la femme conclue le 26 décembre 1933 à la Conférence des Etats américains à Montevideo";

"Rappelant ses résolutions des 12 octobre 1932 et 11 octobre 1933 par lesquelles elle a demandé aux gouvernements de faire savoir quelle suite ils auraient

pu donner au vœu No. VI de la Conférence de codification de La Haye de 1930;

"Rappelant sa résolution du 10 octobre 1932 au sujet de la collaboration des femmes avec la Société des Nations;

"Considérant que la collaboration des femmes est spécialement souhaitable dans l'étude des questions les intéressant particulièrement;

"Consciente de l'importance de cette question:
1° Signale avec intérêt l'effort accompli par les Etats américains en élaborant une convention dans le sens du vœu No. VI de la Conférence de La Haye de 1930;

2° Rappelle aux Membres de la Société des Nations que la Convention de Montevideo est ouverte à l'adhésion de tous les Etats;

3° Remercie les Associations féminines internationales de l'aide qu'elles ont bien voulu prêter jusqu'à présent et continueront à prêter à la Société des Nations dans ce domaine;

4° Renouvelle le vœu que les Etats qui ont déjà signé la Convention de La Haye de 1930 effectueront prochainement le dépôt de leurs ratifications;

5° Prie le Conseil de continuer à suivre l'évolution de cet important problème, tant dans le domaine national que dans le domaine international, afin de déterminer le moment auquel cette évolution aura atteint un stade permettant de prendre d'autres mesures concertées d'ordre international."

Pour commenter justement de la discussion il faut dire qu'il n'y eut pas au sein de la commission de majorité en faveur du Traité de Montevideo de Décembre 1933, ni en faveur du principe qu'il contenait "Il ne sera fait aucune distinction entre les sexes en ce qui concerne la nationalité ni dans la législation ni dans l'application de cette législation." Et cependant 19 états avaient déjà signé et quelques uns ratifié cette convention, et plusieurs avaient une législation presque conforme, et approuvaient pleinement les principes énoncés. Parmi ces états on entendit les délégués du Chili, du Danemark, du Mexique, de la Norvège, de l'Irlande, de la Tchécoslovaquie, de l'Espagne, de Cuba, de la Chine, de la Turquie, de la Lithuanie, et de l'U.R.S.S.

La France par la voix de M. Paul Boncour ne désapprouva pas le principe, et déclara que la France avait déjà donné à la femme française le droit de garder sa nationalité si elle réside en France après avoir épousé un étranger.

La Hongrie désira s'en tenir à la Convention de la Haye.

La Grèce se refusa à toute action internationale. La Yougoslavie ayant une législation nationale avancée demanda aussi que la question reste dans le domaine national.

Certains pays pour d'autres raisons nationales exprimèrent le désir de remettre à plus tard la discussion de la question sur le terrain international. Ils proposèrent seulement d'attirer l'attention des Gouvernements sur les facilités que leur offre la Convention de Montevideo qui est ouverte à l'adhésion de tous les Etats. Parmi ces pays on compte le Royaume Uni, la Finlande, l'Australie, le Canada.

Enfin certains délégués s'opposèrent au principe de l'égalité des sexes en matière de nationalité: L'Albanie, l'Autriche, la Pologne, les Pays Bas, le Portugal, la Suisse.

L'influence internationale s'est néanmoins faite sentir et plusieurs délégués se sont déclarés prêts à accepter, plus tard, comme guide, l'attitude des gouvernements vis à vis de la Convention de Montevideo.

Le point plusieurs fois soulevé "que l'égalité des deux sexes en matière de nationalité porterait un grave préjudice à l'unité de la famille" fut réfuté par M. Paul Boncour et M. Politis; un état n'étant pas tenu d'inclure

l'égalité et l'indépendance dans sa législation; ces deux questions n'étant pas corollaires l'une de l'autre. Par exemple; un état pourrait rendre obligatoire pour la femme et pour le mari de n'avoir qu'une nationalité, mais ce pourrait être indifféremment celle du mari ou celle de la femme. C'est pourquoi l'Alliance a toujours maintenu que le principe de la nationalité indépendante de la femme répondait seule à ses desiderata.

La Résolution adoptée par l'Assemblée concernant le Statut de la femme est la suivante.

L'Assemblée,

"Constatant que la question du statut de la femme a été inscrite à l'ordre du jour de la présente session de l'Assemblée, sur la demande d'un certain nombre de délégations, pour être examinée en tenant compte notamment du Traité relatif à l'égalité des droits, signé à Montevideo, le 26 décembre 1933, par des représentants des Gouvernements de Cuba, de l'Equateur, du Paraguay et de l'Uruguay;

"Considérant que les termes du Traité relatifs à l'égalité des droits devraient être examinés par rapport au statut politique, civil et économique actuel de la femme, déterminé par les législations des pays du monde;

"Reconnaissant que la question des conditions d'emploi, qu'il s'agisse d'hommes ou des femmes, rentre à juste titre dans la sphère d'activité de l'Organisation internationale du Travail;

"1° Décide que la question du statut politique et civil de la femme sera renvoyée par le Secrétaire général aux gouvernements, qui seront priés de formuler leurs observations, et notamment les observations relatives aux mesures qu'à leur avis la Société pourrait prendre à ce sujet; décide de demander aux gouvernements d'adresser au Secrétaire général, en même temps que leurs observations, des renseignements sur le statut politique et civil actuel de la femme aux termes de leurs législations nationales respectives;

"2° Recommande aux organisations internationales des femmes de poursuivre leur étude de toute la question du statut politique et civil de la femme;

"3° Demande que les observations et renseignements transmis, ainsi que les exposés des dites organisations internationales, soient adressés à temps au Secrétaire général pour que ces documents puissent être examinés par l'Assemblée de la Société des Nations à une session ultérieure;

"4° Exprime le vœu que, de son côté, l'Organisation internationale du Travail, selon sa procédure normale, entreprenne un examen des aspects du problème qui relèvent de sa compétence — à savoir l'égalité en matière de droit du travail — et examine, en premier lieu, la législation qui comporte des discriminations dont quelques-unes peuvent porter préjudice au droit des femmes au travail."

Les féministes peuvent se réjouir du résultat car cette résolution conduira, nous l'espérons, à une étude approfondie de la question sous ses angles différents et montrera les faits tels qu'ils sont en réalité, c'est à dire peu édifiants dans bien des pays. Cette étude sera une base solide sur laquelle une législation internationale pourra être établie et mènera à plus de justice, et plus d'égalité. Les ardentes féministes (ni meilleures ni plus mauvaises pour cela) avaient lutté depuis des mois pour que la question fut posée, même si elle devait montrer des différences d'opinion sensibles. Comme par exemple entre l'Union Chrétienne des Jeunes Filles, l'Open Door International, et les Associations des femmes ouvrières. Et sur ce point il est important de constater que cette dernière Association déclara dans son memorandum "être d'accord avec la déclaration du Traité de Montevideo concernant l'égalité civique et du travail, mais se réservant le droit de soutenir ou de promouvoir des lois protégeant la maternité et le travail en général." Montrant ainsi qu'il n'y a pas de

divergence fondamentale entre les organisations féminines.

La discussion passionnante resta dans un cadre très élevé. On entendit Melle. Reutz représentant la Norvège dire que "son gouvernement pourrait facilement accepter le principe du traité de Montevideo." Mme. Yen Chen pour la Chine expliqua que la nouvelle constitution de son pays prévoit que tous les citoyens sont égaux devant la loi, et le code civil assure l'égalité entre les 2 sexes en ce qui concerne le mariage et la succession. Son pays serait disposé à participer à toute mesure adoptée par la S.d.N. sur la base du Traité de Montevideo. Madame Kollontai Ambassadeur de l'URSS. souligna que le Pacte même de la S.d.N. avait sanctionné ce principe de l'égalité en assurant aux femmes l'accès aux fonctions de la S.d.N. et elle insista finalement pour qu'une déclaration fut insérée dans le rapport qui précède la résolution adoptée par l'Assemblée... "espérant que cette résolution ne soit que le début d'une initiative que la délégation soviétique aimerait voir prendre par la S.d.N. en vue de la réalisation du principe de l'égalité des femmes dans tous les domaines."

Il est nécessaire maintenant que pression soit faite sur tous les gouvernements nationaux pour qu'ils collaborent effectivement avec le Secrétariat de la S.d.N. et du B.I.T. et collationent toutes informations nécessaires.

Nous espérons que les sociétés affiliées voudront bien faire tous leurs efforts dans leurs pays respectifs pour continuer sérieusement l'étude de cette question, et pour insister auprès de leurs gouvernements afin qu'ils remplissent la tâche qui leur incombe d'envoyer à la S.d.N. les informations détaillées sur le statut civique et politique des femmes. N.S.

NOS TIMBRES TURCS DU CONGRÈS.

C'est avec satisfaction qu'on nous apprend, à Genève, que les ventes de timbres dans les pays en dehors de la Turquie ont complètement couvert les dépenses d'imprimerie, etc. Dorénavant, tous les timbres vendus représenteront un bénéfice net pour l'Alliance. Nous ne saurions trop recommander à nos associées et à leurs amis de compléter leurs collections, dans les deux derniers mois où ces timbres, uniques en leur genre, peuvent encore être distribués et vendus. S'adresser soit au Bureau Central de l'Alliance: 190, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1, soit à Genève, 4 Place du Molard.

NOUVELLES DE TOUS PAYS.

France. Bien qu'il nous soit impossible d'évaluer la portée des nouvelles élections sénatoriales, au point de vue féministe, nous regrettons d'apprendre la défaite de M. Martin, promoteur du Suffrage des Femmes au Sénat. Ce regret est tempéré par le plaisir que nous cause la nouvelle que M. Duplantier n'est pas réélu. Une Assemblée parlementaire ne peut que gagner en dignité par l'absence d'un membre dont les discours anti-féministes étaient notoires pour leur mauvais goût et leur étroitesse d'esprit.

ESPAGNE.

La réglementation de la prostitution a été abolie en Espagne et "l'exercice de la prostitution n'est plus reconnu comme gagne pain." Le traitement des maladies vénériennes va être rendu obligatoire. Il y aura des centres de traitement gratuits, mais l'hospitalisation peut être forcée, suivant les cas. Le "Bulletin abolitionniste" craint que cette clause amène une discrimination, et ne s'applique en fait qu'aux prostituées. Auquel cas ce serait encore une réglementation, à peine dissimulée. La mise en pratique de la loi nous apprendra si nos craintes sont justifiées.

TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE.

La société allemande "Frauenfortschritt" qui est affiliée à l'Alliance, nous a envoyé la copie d'un

Memorandum adressé au Ministère de l'Education Nationale où il est remarqué que la population en général ne connaît point les lois compliquées et les règlements qui déterminent les droits et les obligations de tout citoyen. Dans les écoles primaires, il est vrai, les enfants reçoivent un enseignement civique, mais qui est dans l'ensemble trop historique et général et n'est d'aucune utilité dans certaines circonstances définies, où le citoyen doit prouver son statut individuel, et faire valoir ses droits.

Il est trois questions notamment sur quoi l'Association demande que des instructions précises soient données:

(1°) les droits de tout citoyen; droit à la nationalité avec étude spéciale du cas de la femme, célibataire, ou mariée à un étranger.

(2°) Etablissement et domicile; façons de rechercher et de donner les preuves à l'appui. Tout citoyen doit avoir un domicile pour obtenir l'assistance en cas de besoin.

(3°) Papiers d'identité; ceux-ci sont la preuve de votre statut de citoyen — préoccupez vous donc d'avoir à votre portée: acte de naissance ou de baptême, certificat de vaccination; acte de mariage—ou de décès, acte de naturalisation, passeports, etc.

Le memorandum montre le souci qu'a la "Frauenfortschritt" de faire pénétrer des connaissances pratiques de civisme dans les masses populaires.

CANADA.

Les récentes élections au Canada ont amené une seconde femme comme membre du Parlement. C'est Mrs. Black, du parti Conservateur. Miss McPhail a été réélue; elle l'est toujours depuis 1921. Nous apprenons aussi que le Sénat compte maintenant deux femmes; Mrs. Howard T. Fallis vient d'y être nommée, Mrs. Wilson l'était déjà depuis la date où les femmes avaient gagné le droit d'éligibilité au sénat.

NOUVELLES BRÈVES.

Hongrie. L'Auxiliaire de l'Alliance, la Féministak Egyesulete vient d'organiser un meeting de protestation contre la proposition qui avait été faite d'interdire aux femmes la profession d'avocat. Les discours prononcés ont amplement montré que les femmes avocats savent plaider une cause.

Irlande. Le Bulletin de l'Alliance Ste. Jeanne nous raconte comment, lors des récents troubles de Belfast, les ouvrières catholiques des filatures, étaient terrorisées et n'osaient retourner à l'usine. Un prêtre leur montra leur responsabilité à l'égard de toutes les ouvrières catholiques, qui étaient sûres de perdre leur place, si elles mêmes hésitaient à reprendre le travail. Les courageuses femmes répondirent; Nous irons, au risque de nous faire mettre en pièces. Cette attitude fut décisive et influença le maintien de la population ouvrière catholique de Belfast.

Indes néerlandaises. Un Congrès de femmes indonésiennes vient de se tenir à Batavia; l'assistance comprenait un grand nombre de femmes indigènes. 25 organisations de femmes étaient représentées et il y eut une exposition de travaux manuels. Les Indes néerlandaises n'ont pas le suffrage féminin, mais ce Congrès montre la détermination des femmes de se faire une place dans la vie du pays.

Grande Bretagne. Les femmes employées de bureau se sont réunies pour discuter leurs conditions de travail. Une certaine anxiété se manifeste à voir la mécanisation du travail pour statistiques, calculs, etc., et sa répercussion sur les salaires et promotions. D'autre part il n'y a aucun règlement applicable aux conditions matérielles des employées, comme il en existe depuis longtemps dans les usines.

Le Conseil national des femmes a tenu sa réunion annuelle en octobre. La 1ère résolution adoptée a été pour approuver l'attitude du Gouvernement et son

effort pour maintenir le système de sécurité collective représenté par la Société des Nations.

L'assemblée manifesta son désir de voir le gouvernement faire une enquête sur les règlements actuels qui concernent l'avortement dont l'incidence est de plus en plus fréquente. D'autres sujets de discussion touchèrent au salaire égal pour travail égal, et la désastreuse coutume de bâtir des maisons le long des grandes routes artérielles.

LE DROIT AU TRAVAIL.

Nous apprenons avec plaisir la nouvelle qu'en **Belgique** la proposition qui avait pour objet la réduction des salaires des femmes fonctionnaires a été repoussée—et le décret autorisant la fixation du nombre des femmes employées a été suspendu. Ces deux ordonnances étaient une insulte aux droits élémentaires des travailleuses et nous complimentons les femmes belges sur le succès et la bonne organisation de leur propagande.

Les femmes d'**Irlande** qui avaient réussi à faire inscrire dans la Constitution l'égalité civile et politique n'ont pu empêcher l'inclusion d'un article autorisant le Ministre du Travail à défendre ou à restreindre le travail des Femmes. Espérons que cet article ne deviendra pas force de loi, car il serait vraiment ironique d'accorder l'égalité sur un point et de la retirer sur un autre.

En **Italie**, que ce soit dans le Service de l'Etat ou dans l'Industrie, les femmes sont renvoyées; nous ne savons malheureusement pas si leur acquiescence est volontaire.

Au **Luxembourg** les femmes doivent obtenir des permis spéciaux de travail, et bien qu'elles aient des droits égaux de vote et d'éligibilité, elles n'envoient pas des représentantes au Parlement.

Les féministes de **Hollande** résistent avec vigueur contre l'assaut des forcés conservatrices qui veulent limiter le droit des femmes au travail rétribué, et les remplacer par des hommes. Mais combien peu d'entre elles sont vraiment militantes!

En **Norvège** le statut des femmes est très avancé. Cela n'a pas empêché cependant l'apparition d'un projet de loi dans le but de réglementer le travail des femmes.

En **Yougoslavie** l'emploi des femmes a été restreint dans plusieurs branches de l'Administration.

Il n'y a pas un coin du globe aujourd'hui où les femmes, loin de marcher de l'avant, ne luttent et ne perdent pied. Se rendent-elles compte de la position humiliante qui est la leur? sont-elles prêtes à prouver qu'elles ont le droit de jouir et de vivre comme le reste de l'humanité? Il est difficile hélas! d'unir toutes ces individualités, isolées dans leurs ménages, leurs appartements, aux prises avec la besogne quotidienne; de leur faire comprendre que des femmes souffrent de l'injustice et que l'humanité tout entière bénéficierait de cette égalité qui nous est retirée jour par jour avec une telle apreté.

COMMUNICATIONS INTERNATIONALES.

Ceci est pour rappeler à nos associées que l'Alliance n'est pas une entité en soi, et ne peut vivre que par l'activité globale de ses Auxiliaires. Celles-ci ont formé un Comité International et un Bureau Central qui sont le cœur de notre mouvement—et les Congrès sont le symbole visible de cette existence. Dans l'intervalle des Congrès le Board a pensé que la lettre circulaire servirait de lien entre les Associations, qu'elle leur apporterait les suggestions et les informations émanant du Bureau central. D'autre part, elle sollicite leurs avis et leurs informations sur leurs préoccupations nationales. Les Présidentes et secrétaires des Associations sont elles satisfaites de cette lettre circulaire? Voient-elles un moyen de l'améliorer ou de créer une nouvelle intercommunication plus vivante, et créatrice d'intérêts nouveaux?

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