

JUS SUFFRAGII,

MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

EDITOR: MARTINA G. KRAMERS, 92 KRUISKADE, ROTTERDAM.

SIXTH YEAR No. 6.

FEBRUARY 15, 1912.

Framåt bjuder vårt standar,
Framåt genom moln och dimma
Mot den nya dagens strimma.
Så i molnhöjd dag som klar

(Inscription on our I. W. S. All.
standard).



Die Hausfrauen müssen mitarbeiten,
sie müssen die Interessen der Familie,
der Konsumenten, wahrnehmen; und
Staat und Kommunen verschwenden
Kraft und Zeit, wenn sie nicht die
Frauen zur Unterstützung heranziehen.

TONY BREITSCHIED.

PRICE PER YEAR 2 DUTCH FLORINS (= 3 Sh. 6 d. = 0.82 \$ = 3 Kr. = 4.25 Frs. = 3½ Mk.

Announcements.

Dear Correspondents and Readers!

If you wish to have a most interesting letter from Mrs Catt on Egypt and the paragraphs: Literature, Lecturers, Propaganda, etc. published in „Jus Suffragii“, and wish to have both the editions in French and English kept up, you are urgently requested to take care that the *subscription-fee be paid* and to augment the number of subscribers.

MARTINA G. KRAMERS, Editor.

Sweden.

With this year the suffrage movement of Sweden has entered into a new era.

In his speech from the throne at the opening of Parliament His Majesty the King mentioned the question of woman's suffrage in the following words:—

„The change in the Franchise Law concerning the elections to the Second Chamber has abolished the hitherto existing, electoral inequality based on the economical conditions of the citizens. But women are still lacking the most important of a citizens' rights. Justice, as well as the interest of the State require that this wrong should be redressed. Therefore it is my intention to present to you during this session of Parliament a Bill proposing to change the election law to the effect, that women may obtain suffrage and eligibility for Parliament on the same conditions as men.”

There is no need to comment this speech „Suffrage and eligibility for women on the same conditions as for men”—what is it but just the first paragraph on our national suffrage programme as well as on the international, the aim for which we all work. And for the suffragists all round the world it must be gratifying to hear that the Government Bill on woman's suffrage, which is to be presented to the Swedish Parliament, has taken up our claim without any restrictions.

Because of the still existing though considerably diminished Conservative majority in the First Chamber, there is not much chance that the Bill can pass

this year. But as the women—both directly and indirectly—can influence the elections for the First Chamber, a sixth of which is elected each year, we may hope to conquer its resistance. And it is an indisputable fact that in our country woman's suffrage has become one of the most important actual political questions of the day.

* * *

On the 9th and the 10th of January the Central Board of the N. W. S. A. held its 9th annual meeting in Stockholm. The N. W. S. A. now consists of 171 Local Societies, which had sent 76 representatives to the meeting.

At the opening of the first session the Vice-President made a strictly confidential announcement of the coming Government Bill on woman's suffrage, which news gave a special festive character to the whole meeting.

Then followed the usual elections. Miss Anna Whitlock was elected President, Miss Signe Bergman, Vice-President, Mrs Ezaline Boheman, Secretary and Miss Thorborg Widebeck, Treasurer.

The Vice-President of the financial committee of the congress gave an interesting and elating account of the finances of the congress. The total of the incomes amounted to 26,568 kronor—besides the guarantee fund of the local societies amounting to 14,619 kronor—and the expenses to 26,838 kronor. To cover the deficit 251 kronor was taken from the guarantee fund, and the rest of this fund, 14,367 kronor was made over to the N. W. S. A. to be used for the common cause.

A considerable part of the first session was taken up by a discussion on the tactics for the coming elections to the Landsting, which is to elect members for the First Chamber. Half of the Landsting is going to be elected in March, and the result of these elections is of the utmost consequence for our cause.

At the evening meeting, which was open to all members of local societies, the following questions were discussed:

- 1) How to awaken a sense of solidarity among the local suffrage societies.
- 2) The suffrage movement and the young.
- 3) Experiences of women town-councillors.

At the next day's private meeting many questions

of interest were discussed, among others that of starting a suffrage paper. It was decided that the N.W.S.A. should publish a fortnightly paper, „Rösträtt för Kvinnor" (Votes for women), under the supervision of the Executive Committee. Editor of this paper will be Miss Elizabeth Krey, who is on the editorial staff of Svenska Dagbladet. The subscription fee will be 75 öre for the first year, and the first issue will appear on the first of March. The new paper has already caused a good deal of attention in the press, and it is to be hoped that it will be of great use to the suffrage movement in Sweden.

It may perhaps interest the readers of „Jus Suffragii" to hear how very highly our present Minister of War, Mr. David Bergström, thinks of women as citizens and future legislators. At a meeting, arranged by an association of Liberal young men and women he said among other things:

„It is quite natural at a time when so many new interests are coming up and so many new fields are waiting to be ploughed, that the young should wish to take part in the work. They are going to reap what is now being sown.

And it is also natural that the young women should take more and more interest in the work, since the question of women's political equality with men has now advanced so far as to be one of the great actual questions of the day. Just now even for women a new time is coming up with new duties, new tasks and greater responsibility.

But we must recollect that the end is not yet gained. A sharp fight may still have to be fought for women's franchise and eligibility for the Swedish Parliament.

The Liberal Swedish youth—and specially the young women—has a great task to fulfil. What we want now is a well prepared, far-reaching work of organisation and information, extending to all parts of our country, so that when women have been granted their political rights they may use them with the same clear insight of what is good and useful to the country that they have shown in the exercise of their municipal rights.

I am convinced that the part which the Swedish women are going to play in our political life will be of the greatest consequence to our people.

Considering all the social problems that are now awaiting their solution, I judge it necessary that the women of Sweden should be allowed to participate in the legislation as soon as possible. In many of these questions they have a larger experience and are better qualified to judge than the men. Even concerning a general interest in social problems I believe that the women legislators with show themselves as good as, if not better than the men."

EZALINE BOHEMAN.

Great Britain.

The *National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies* says, it is difficult at the present moment to write of the position of Women's Suffrage in England and of the outlook in the coming session. Rumours of all kinds are in the air and the position to-day may be completely changed by the time that „Jus Suffragii" appears. The reassembling of Parliament on Feb. 14th is awaited with the most intense interest; for not until then will it be possible for Suffragists to frame any definite programme of procedure for the coming session.

Meanwhile educational and propaganda work is being carried on in the country with unflagging

vigour. At the end of January a procession was organised through Richmond, one of the Suburbs of London, by the London Society for W.S. (N.U. W.S.S.). About 1,000 women and men took part, and nearly every society represented marched under its own banner. At the meeting which was afterwards held in the theatre, these banners were massed upon the platform, and the effect from the audience was very beautiful. There was a happy omen in the fact that on the previous day the Labour Party had passed a resolution at its Annual Conference to the effect that no Electoral Reform Bill would be acceptable to the party, which did not include women.

Suffragists have great cause to be grateful to the members of the Labour Movement for the attitude which they have adopted on the question of Women's Suffrage.

We hope in next month's issue to be able to give a much more definite report on the situation than is possible at present.

M. L. MACKENZIE.

London, February 1912.

The Labour Party Rejects Manhood Suffrage.

An important step was taken on Jan. 26 by the Labour Party in conference at Birmingham, when a resolution was carried demanding Adult Suffrage for all men and women, and definitely rejecting Manhood Suffrage. The precise terms of the resolution were as follows:—

„That this Conference, in harmony with its previous decisions, is of the opinion that the enfranchisement of all adult men and women should be included in the Reform Bill to be introduced by the Government in the coming Session of Parliament. It further requests the Labour Party in Parliament to make it clear that no Bill can be acceptable to the Labour and Socialist movement which does not include women."

There was no difference of opinion expressed on the principle of Adult Suffrage, but the miners' representatives demurred to the categorical refusal of Manhood Suffrage contained in the second half of the resolution; nevertheless, after a spirited speech by Miss Mary MacArthur (Mrs Anderson), the resolution was carried on a card vote by 919,000 to 686,000. A special meeting to demand Adult Suffrage is being held in the Albert Hall, on Febr. 13, by the Labour Party, the I.L.P. and the Fabian Society.

At this crucial period in the fight for Woman's Suffrage it is necessary to bring every possible force to bear on the present Government. The *Women's Social and Political Union* therefore are carrying on their campaign with even more energy than usual. The meetings at the Pavilion and other regular London meetings have started again but with the possibility of a near outbreak of militancy, should the Government's attitude continue to be as unsatisfactory as it is at present. Many big provincial meetings are being held.

A By-election took place in Carmarthen, and the W.S.P.U. held a very successful campaign there. The people received them with the greatest interest and enthusiasm and many big meetings were held. Notwithstanding these facts, the London papers asserted that the Suffragettes met with a hostile reception. The electors had the anti-Government policy very clearly pointed out to them and we are leaving a branch of the W.S.P.U. behind us to keep up the interest in our fight.

Mrs Pankhurst landed from America on January 18th and at once proceeded to Carmarthen—her tour was most successful and she was able to help the

Suffrage Cause very greatly in both America and Canada. In British Columbia the first branch of the W.S.P.U. outside Great Britain was started at Victoria, as the result of her visit here.

The Secretary of the W.S.P.U.
London, Febr. 1912.

The *Women's Freedom League* held its Seventh Annual Conference in January during the Parliamentary recess, and many strenuous discussions took place on the political and militant policy of the League. The following resolutions were carried unanimously:—

1. This Conference relies on Mr Asquith to carry out his pledge to give facilities for the Conciliation Bill in 1912, and calls upon Members of Parliament to support this Bill through all its stages.

2. This Conference expresses its indignation at the proposal of the Government to introduce any Franchise Reform Bill without including women, and calls upon the Government to incorporate votes for women on equal terms with men in any such Bill.

3. This Conference calls upon Members of Parliament of all parties to vote against the Third Reading of any Bill dealing with Franchise Reform which does not include Women's Suffrage.

It was generally felt by the delegates who represented English, Scottish and Welsh branches, that we must reiterate our demand for full equality in any Franchise Bill which may be brought forward, and at the same time hold to the pledge for facilities for the Conciliation Bill.

An attempt has been made in a section of the Press to influence public opinion in favour of submitting the question of Woman Suffrage to a Referendum. Liberal papers which had denounced the Referendum in the most scathing terms when it was proposed in 1910 by the Conservatives, have now held up the Referendum as a most suitable way of dealing with Woman Suffrage. The suggestion originated from certain members of the Government who were anxious to shelve the whole question of Woman Suffrage, and thus avoid any division in the Cabinet on the subject. Mr. Lloyd George and many other leading men are however, standing firmly to their promises, and Mr. Asquith did not hold out any hope of a Referendum when approached by the Anti-Suffragists.

The political position is continually fluctuating, but our position has not actually altered very much from that taken up by the League immediately after the proposal to introduce a Manhood Suffrage Bill, and the *Women's Freedom League* has issued a call to its members to be ready for militant protest in case it becomes necessary.

London, Febr. 1912. EDITH HOW MARTYN.

Germany.

The recent parliamentary elections occasioned an unusual excitement in the German nation in which the women participated to a high degree, this election being the first since the new Imperial Law on Assemblies made it possible for women officially to share in the country's political life, be it only in a limited measure. We may remind the reader that since 1908 women are permitted to be ordinary members of political parties, and now women have gained admittance into *all* parties; most of them of course joined the Socialist party which gives full political equality to women. Many women also joined the Democratic Association (demokratische Vereinigung), which has woman suffrage on its

program as well. The women of the Progressive Popular Party (Fortschrittliche Volkspartei) put themselves at the disposal of this party in a Special Committee whose central point was Berlin and in the Liberal Women's League (Liberale Frauenpartei). All these women showed by their zealous canvassing and by courageous and efficient advocacy of their political opinions that they are quite worthy of being admitted to share the public life of the nation and to play a part in politics. Also on the part of the Conservatives and the Roman Catholics (Centrum) efforts were made to persuade the women of their circles to come forth and canvass for them.

Even those women's associations that stand outside the parties have taken up a position with respect to the elections and have put forward their special women's claims on the new Representation of the People. The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (Verband für Frauenstimmrecht) as well as its affiliated National and Local Associations arranged numerous and crowded meetings, in which they treated of the women's reasons for discontent with the old Parliament and of the women's claims concerning the different Bills which are to be introduced into the new Parliament. Questions as to their attitude on the enfranchisement of women have been addressed to all parliamentary candidates and the answers were partly favorable, but all of them were in the most courteous terms.

In a number of towns the women protested most vigorously against their disfranchisement, e.g. in Munich, Nürnberg, Hof, Metz, Bochum, Bielefeld, Düsseldorf, Essen, Frankfurt a/M, Magdeburg and other places. They distributed a written protest at the polling-booths. At Bremen, on election day articles on the desirability of the enfranchisement of women appeared in the papers, at Hamburg posters were carried in the streets and leaflets were distributed.

The result of the elections was a great augmentation of the Socialist vote; probably to be chiefly attributed to a wide-spread discontent with the enormous burden of taxes put on the nation by the late Parliament.

ADELHEID VON WELCZECK.

Dresden, February 1912.

Mrs Louise Zietz writes in „Die Gleichheit" of Febr. 5:—

„The extensive participation of women in the electoral campaign has surely contributed much to give it a new and lively interest, and at the same time it has been in great measure instrumental in furthering the political education of the Socialist women. Since Socialism appeals to the great mass of the people, to men and women alike, and not to the electors only, it creates thereby a mighty echo for its opinions, its claims and its ideals, and has thus gained adherents and fresh workers. This new collaboration, which of course presupposes a certain degree of class-consciousness, strengthens the party and benefits the workers themselves by fortifying their revolutionary instincts and developing their personality. . . . The S.D. Party is now bound to be as true to the women as they to the party; it will consider one of its most sacred duties to *throw the whole weight of its strength into the scale for women's enfranchisement* in the struggle for the democratisation of our political institutions. And so the women's efforts to gain the brilliant victory of Socialism in these elections has proved at the same time the most efficient step towards their enfranchisement."

Bei Gelegenheit der Reichstagswahlen wurden die bürgerlichen Kandidaten in Schlesien im Auftrage des „Schlesischen Verbandes für Frauenstimmrecht“ nach ihrer Stellung zum Frauenwahlrecht befragt. Die Stellung der sozialdemokratischen Partei in Deutschland zur Frauenstimmrechtsfrage ist bekannt, deshalb unterblieben die Anfragen an die sozialdemokratischen Kandidaten.

Die zirka 50 Antworten der Kandidaten aller Parteien beweisen, dass im Allgemeinen das Verständnis für unsere Forderungen in den letzten Jahren ein viel grösseres geworden ist. Von einigen ausweichenden Antworten und einigen uns bekannten Einwendungen abgesehen, treten selbst viele konservative Abgeordneten für Erweiterung der Frauenrechte im öffentlichen Leben, in einzelnen Zweigen der kommunalen Verwaltung, der Schulverwaltung, für das kirchliche Stimmrecht der Frau, ein. Man billigte vielfach den Frauen das aktive und in einzelnen Fällen sogar das aktive und passive Wahlrecht zu den beruflichen Interessenvertretungen, Kaufmanns- und Gewerbeberichten, Handels- und Landwirtschaftskammern zu.

Nur ein Freikonservativer trat indessen für das kommunale Wahlrecht der selbständigen Frau ein. Ich musste bei Durchsicht dieser Antworten an den verstorbenen Führer der Freikonservativen, Von Kardorff, denken, der mir vor sechs Jahren sagte, dass er der Frau damals schon das aktive, politische Wahlrecht zubilligen wollte, und mir von *Freunden in England* sprach, die im Gegensatz zu seinen *Parteifreunden in Deutschland* grosse Anhänger des Frauenstimmrechts seien.

Die Antworten der Nationalliberalen unterscheiden sich in Bezug auf Zusagen nicht wesentlich von denen der Konservativen. Sie weisen sogar einen entschiedenen Gegner der Erweiterung der Frauenrechte auf, was aus den konservativen Antwortschriften nicht ersichtlich ist. Zwei Nationalliberale traten für das kommunale Wahlrecht ein.

Die Mehrzahl der Antworten der Zentrums-kandidaten, teils vorsichtig, teils entgegenkommend gehalten, sprechen sich für Gleichstellung der Frau in der beruflichen Interessenvertretung, mehrmals jedoch nur für das *aktive* Wahlrecht, für die Heranziehung der Frau zur Schulverwaltung und in zwei Fällen für das kommunale Wahlrecht der Frau, aus.

Besonders entgegenkommend zeigen sich die Polen, die der Gleichstellung der Frau in der beruflichen Interessenvertretung und dem kommunalen Wahlrecht der Frau zustimmen. Zwei Kandidaten traten auch für das politische Wahlrecht der Frau ein.

Mehrere Kandidaten der Fortschrittlichen Volkspartei berufen sich auf ihr Parteiprogramm, das bekanntlich sehr dehnbar ist.

Einige Herren, die im Reichstag und Landtag bereits für Erweiterung der Frauenrechte eingetreten sind, versprechen das auch künftig zu tun. Ein Kandidat will politische Rechte nur selbständigen, unverheirateten und verwitweten Frauen, *aber keineswegs der Ehefrau*, bewilligen.

Für die volle politische Gleichberechtigung der Frau sprechen sich nur drei Kandidaten aus.

Ein reiches Feld der Tätigkeit, die *Bearbeitung der nunmehr gewählten Kandidaten*, bietet sich jetzt unseren Mitarbeiterinnen. Noch wichtiger ist zur Zeit in unsern Verhältnissen die *Bearbeitung der öffentlichen Meinung*, denn viele Kandidaten würden bei ihren Wählern in Ungnade fallen, wollten sie offen fürs Frauenstimmrecht eintreten. Deswegen wurde die Gelegenheit der Reichstagswahl, namentlich von den grösseren Gruppen zu einer lebhaften Propaganda nach Aussen benützt. Tausende von Flugblättern wurden in manchen Städten auf Strassen, Plätzen, vor den Versammlungslokalen der politischen Parteien verteilt, und in die Häuser

getragen. Dieser lebhaften Propaganda muss eine unermüdliche Kleinarbeit folgen. Wir haben ja in Deutschland noch einen weiten Weg um die Frauenstimmrechtsfrage zu einer ausschlaggebenden Frage zu machen.

ELSA HIELSCHER—PANTEN.

United States.

There is no reform movement which brings the women of the whole world into such close comradeship, which so fills them with one mutual, unselfish purpose, as that for the suffrage. We of the United States especially, who have no ill feeling against any country, are just as happy over the victories won by the women of other nations as over our own. We understand that every separate gain is a gain for the whole cause, as it helps to overcome that opposition which is the same everywhere—prejudice, conservatism, disbelief in woman's equality, fear of results. Every battle won hastens the day when there will be complete victory all along the line.

And so we have held meetings during the past week to rejoice over the news, told by cable dispatches in all our large newspapers, that the King of Sweden, in his speech opening Parliament, announced a Government bill to enfranchise women! Many of our papers have had editorials on the subject, as our understanding is that, with the sanction of the Government, the bill is sure of a majority. We shall watch anxiously for the vote on it, and shall rejoice more than ever when the news comes that the noble women of Sweden are at last politically free.

We have been rendered very happy too by the cable news from Norway that the Storting has made women eligible to the offices, and now we are hoping that it will conclude its good work by removing the tax qualification for voting and giving women exactly the same political rights as men. Then we can say to our legislative bodies, „How can you refuse to us what has been given to Norwegian women by their Government?“ The cable tells us also this same week of the victory of the Social Democrats and the Liberals in the German elections, and we are wondering if this will not be to the advantage of the women in that country who are working for the franchise.

With the most intense interest are we watching the development in Great Britain. At first we shared in the despair of the women there when Premier Asquith announced his Manhood Suffrage Bill which included no women. Now we are hoping with Mrs Fawcett and those allied with her that it is going to be possible to secure an amendment of that bill which will give at least some measure of suffrage to women. We look eagerly for the English papers every week, for in addition to our keen desire to see our British sisters win, is the thought of how much help this would be to us who are in every way so closely connected with them.

On this side of the water we have only encouraging things to relate. Every day shows progress and often in the most unexpected places. States which a year or two ago seemed absolutely dead on this question have awakened suddenly into active life and scores of women who never had shown the slightest interest have all at once placed themselves at the head of the movement. The number of prominent men who are declaring themselves in favor is positively bewildering, while it is hardly possible to meet the requests from men's clubs and societies

of all kinds for speakers to present the subject to them. Connecticut, for instance, one of our smallest States, is just beginning a series of forty-five mass meetings to be addressed by twelve or more noted men and women. The large amount of space given by the press has often been referred to. There is scarcely a large, influential paper in the country that can be considered as relentlessly opposed to woman suffrage, and certainly not one of any consequence that does not give full and fair reports of our meetings. A very significant indication is that a few years ago, when any subject of public interest was being discussed, the reporters were always sent to interview the prominent clubwomen; now it is always the leading suffragists whose opinions are asked. A few weeks ago the *New York Times*, which is not outranked by any paper in the United States, interviewed five of the suffrage leaders on the five great questions now before the country—the tariff, trusts, initiative and referendum, direct election of U. S. Senators and trade unions. The paper gave its entire front page and two columns of the second to their pictures and interviews, and a number of other papers had editorials complimenting the breadth and vigor of the latter.

What a joy it would be if we could talk and do something besides suffrage, but always we must harp on that one string and devote all our powers to getting the one chief power with which to work. How we envy those women of California, who have audited their books, sent all their banners and literature to the other States that are in the thick of the struggle and closed their suffrage headquarters forever! They will be opened again but this time for constructive work that will be felt to the uttermost limits of the big State. The suffrage societies of San Francisco and Los Angeles, the two great centers, are keeping their organization intact, adopting the names of Civic Clubs, Municipal Leagues, etc., and preparing to organize the women of the whole State as thoroughly as the political parties are organized, but in a vast non-partisan body which shall introduce municipal reforms, study the character of candidates, see that all laws are changed which discriminate against women and new ones enacted for the better protection of home and children. This organization will hold the balance of political power and promises to be the greatest force for good in both local and State affairs that California has ever known.

At the time the suffrage amendment was adopted there it was supposed that about 400,000 women were enfranchised. As soon as they become electors, however, statisticians were put to work and it was ascertained that there are 670,987 women of legal age (over 21) and that at least 90 per cent, are fully qualified to vote. This is almost exactly the same number as of qualified men, and California therefore will offer an ideal experiment in woman suffrage. In the other States where women are enfranchised they are out numbered by men and for various reasons have not the organization and co-operation of California women.

All that was expected from the victory in that State has thus far been realized. The revision of the returns from the Los Angeles election shows that if women had not voted the Good Government party would have lost by over 5,000 majority. In all the elections that have thus far taken place in smaller cities and towns the women have registered in large numbers and voted for progressive measures. They are now registering for the spring elections and the first day the books were opened in San Francisco three times as many women as men

registered. This proportion is holding good in Sacramento, the capital. There can be no question that the situation in California has raised the status of the woman suffrage movement throughout the entire country.

The campaigns are now getting under headway in five other States: Oregon, Kansas and Wisconsin where an amendment to the constitution giving the franchise to women will be voted on next November, and Ohio and New Hampshire, where new constitutions will be submitted in a few months.

IDA HUSTED HARPER.

New York, January 1912.

The Holy Land.

(Continuation.)

We did not expect to carry the woman suffrage movement to Jerusalem. It is a poor, sorrowful appendage of Turkey, without a government of its own, with no daily newspaper and not one public telephone. Its people are poor, illiterate filthy. Those familiar with this country and its history say the people to-day stand exactly where they did two thousand years ago. They are doing the same things and in the same old way. The only thing which has changed is religion. Mohammed has arisen since the days of Christ and counts millions among his followers. This is now a Mohammedan land, and the customs common in lands of that faith prevail there. But these customs, generally speaking were usual to this part of the world in Christ's day, so after all, even the changes brought by religion have not been very important. Nor does it seem to have any immediate future. Missions without numbers have been established and long ago realized that education was the only function they could perform. They furnish practically all the educational advantages the country affords. Among Christians, there is such hopeless disunion that their collective efforts are most ineffectual, but single groups are exerting helpful influences. Many Jewish colonies in response to the „Jerusalem for the Jews“ movement have been established and appear like bits of the new world transplanted into the old. The solace of all these outside workers is found in the query which they invariably put to strangers: What would these people be had there been no missions and no mission schools? It is difficult to conjecture. Certainly there are many self-sacrificing, consecrated men and women who are doing their utmost to leaven this lump of fossilized humanity. Those which especially appealed to me were the medical missionaries and hospital workers who are trying to teach needed lessons in cleanliness and sanitation.

Where men in the masses are illiterate, unambitious, superstitious, creed-bound, we can expect little better of women. We wondered what the veiled women we met in the street were thinking and when we had the opportunity of visiting the women of four Moslem families we availed ourselves of the privilege with much anticipation. The outcome was, that we made the important discovery that the seeds of rebellion have already been planted in the hearts of those mysterious women behind the veil. We could give them a word of encouragement and this was all we could hope to do in that land. If the time ever comes, when the Jews will cease from their lamentations, when the priests will turn aside from the sacred spots they are guarding and the Moslems will cease praying long enough to give a day's serious consideration to the needs of present day

humans, there may come a new and better time to this land; and when it comes, women will be ready to take their proper places in the re-adjustment which will follow. Among the Syrians there is a little more modernity. One feels the onward movement there. The best service we can render these women, is to convert the *missionaries* to a realization of present day movements among women. Too many of them are appallingly ignorant of what is really going on in the world, and the education they are giving boys and girls is not what most of us would call „up-to-date“. The reflex of this reasoning is that we must convert the churches which send the missionaries to believe in the equality of men and women. They are converted rapidly enough in the countries where women vote; so I say to you, suffragists of the world, if you want to uplift the women of Palestine and Syria get the women of your own country enfranchised!

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT.
Cairo, Egypt, Dec 25th 1911.

France.

During the month of February our Parliament is going to discuss the Electoral Reform Bill. The Chamber of Deputies is much divided on the question whether or not to vote for the Proportional Representation System.

Suffragists thought they might take the occasion to make themselves heard, on Jan. 29 a deputation went to the Palais Bourbon in order to have an interview with the feminist deputies. Mr Justin Godart, Member for Lyons, one of our best suffragist speakers, undertook to introduce an amendment to the Proportional Representation Bill which would enfranchise women. Several M.P.s of different parties agreed to support it, and so suffragists may hope to have the principle of their rights advocated.

After the step taken on Jan. 29 all the papers discussed the question of votes for women. Big dailies as „Le Temps“ and „Les Débats“, although refraining from giving an opinion on the parliamentary vote, have declared in favour of municipal suffrage for women. This double concession shows great progress in public opinion; we may well rejoice at this success.

The President,
V. VINCENT.

On Jan. 22 the Chamber of Deputies passed the Bill on the Fathers' Liability, which had already been carried in the Senate, with an amendment which gives women great cause of discontent. Indeed the Chamber has judged necessary to make a reserve in the law respecting the relations between coloured women and Europeans, thus debarring from justice those aborigines in order to protect the white profligates. The women's societies have all joined in protest and we hope that the Senate will reject this amendment.

„If there had been women in Parliament,“ said Mme W. Frappier who is very competent in colonial matters, „they would not have suffered a law to pass which excludes native women and their children from benefiting by the Fathers' Liability Law.“

The French W. S. A. will hold its General Meeting on March 3rd during the morning and the afternoon at 5 rue Las Cases under presidency of Mme Vincent.

The Men's League for Women's Suffrage will hold its Annual Meeting on Febr. 11. Mr Louis

Marin M.P. will speak on the Bulletin of the League, Mr du Breuil de St Germain on the Stockholm Congress and the Men's International Alliance. Rev. Wilfred Monod will give a lecture of which the title is: „Masculine and Feminine“.

Iceland.

On January 27 the elections for the Town Council of Reykjavik took place. Among the five members that went out of the Council there were two women, Mrs Briet Asmundsson and Mrs Gudnin Björnsdóttir. They were not re-elected, but another lady, Mrs Gudrun Lámsdóttir, a curate's wife, was elected. For the time being there are two women Town Councillors in Reykjavik.

At Isafjörður and at Hafnafjörður, two other Iceland towns, where the elections had already taken place, no women have been elected.

Alkmaar, Febr. 1912. THORA FREDRIKSSON.

Austrian Empire.

VIENNA.

Die Vorgänge der letzten Zeit haben den Frauen recht augenfällig dargetan, dass ihre politische Rechtlosigkeit ihre Benachteiligung auf der ganzen Linie zur Folge hat. Das Demonstrationsobjekt waren die Wiener Lehrerinnen, die von der Gemeinde angestellt und besoldet werden. Durch das Reichsvolksschulgesetz vom Jahre 1867 wurden die weiblichen Lehrer in ihren Bezügen den männlichen vollkommen gleichgestellt. Das war nur gerecht, denn man verlangte von ihnen die gleiche Vorbildung und die gleiche Leistung. So blieb es, bis die christlich-soziale Partei, die noch jetzt die Gemeinde beherrscht, an das Ruder kam. Das Schwergewicht ihrer Parteipolitik wurde stets auf den Wählerfang gelegt und nachdem die Lehrerinnen, durch eine gleichfalls von dieser Partei beschlossene Gemeindevahlreform für Wien, ihres Wahlrechts beraubt worden waren, ihnen also im Wahlkampf eine Bedeutung nicht mehr zukam, begann ihre Benachteiligung zu Gunsten der männlichen Lehrer, die sehr einflussreiche Wähler und rührige Wahlagitatoren waren. Bei jeder neuen Gehaltsregulierung vergrösserte sich immer mehr die Differenz zwischen den weiblichen und männlichen Lehrergehältern. Nun stehen wieder einmal Gemeinderatswahlen vor der Tür, die sich allem Anschein nach zu einem Strafgericht für die im Niedergang begriffene christlich-soziale Partei in Wien gestalten dürften, sie sucht also, in Vorahnung der kommenden Dinge die Wählerscharen durch Konzessionen an sich zu fesseln. Diesem Zwecke sollte auch die wegen der Teuerung von der Lehrerschaft dringend geforderte neuerliche Gehaltsregulierung dienen. Der in der letzten Dezemberwoche vergangenen Jahres vom Gemeinderate gefasste darauf bezügliche Beschluss begünstigt die männlichen Lehrer gegenüber den weiblichen in einer ganz unerhörten Weise. Wird diese Vorlage (die vom niederösterreich. Landtag genehmigt werden muss) Gesetz, so wird die Lehrerin nach 30-jähriger Dienstzeit nur 68—70 % vom Gehalte ihres gleichdienenden Kollegen beziehen. Als Begründung für die Besserstellung des Lehrers wird angeführt, dass er Familienerhalter sei; sie ist aber nicht stichhältig, denn auch der unverheiratete und der zur Ehelosigkeit gezwungene katholische Religionslehrer (Priester) bezieht nicht etwa den geringeren Gehalt der Lehrerin, sondern den der männlichen Kollegen. Es wird ferner darauf hingewiesen, dass die Frau öfter Krankheitsurlaube beanspruche, als der Mann, und

dann eine Vertreterin für sie bezahlt werden müsse. Es ist nun ausgerechnet worden, dass die Differenz zwischen dem Gehalte der Lehrerin und des Lehrers während ihrer Gesamtdienstzeit so gross ist, dass sie hinreichen würde eine Substitutin durch 11 Jahre zu besolden; eine Urlaubszeit die natürlich von keiner Lehrerin jemals beansprucht oder erreicht wird. Noch merkwürdiger ist eine dritte Ausflucht. Die Mädchenschule, an der die Frauen wirken, macht höhere Kosten als die Knabenschule, weil der obligatorische Handarbeitunterricht extra bezahlt werden muss; man sagt nun, um diese Kosten wieder hereinzubringen, müssen die Lehrkräfte der Mädchenschulen — die Frauen — geringer entlohnt werden. Das heisst, die Lehrerinnen sollen aus ihrer Tasche einen Unterricht bezahlen, den das Gesetz dem Schulerhalter zur Pflicht macht. Man kann den Cynismus, der sich der Frau gegenüber ungescheut hervorwagt, nicht besser kennzeichnen, als durch eben diese offizielle Begründung, und es ist nicht die Lehrerin allein, sondern das ganze weibliche Geschlecht das durch ihn getroffen wird. Für die Bildung der Frau einen Heller mehr auszugeben als für die des Mannes, erscheint als etwas unerhörtes und man berücksichtigt dabei nicht, dass während den Knaben ungezählte vom Staate, Lande und der Gemeinde errichtete Mittel- und Fachschulen offen stehen, die Volksschule, von ganz wenigen Ausnahmen abgesehen, die einzige *aus öffentlichen Mitteln erhaltene Bildungsanstalt für das weibliche Geschlecht darstellt*, während alle ihre anderen Lehranstalten aus Privatmitteln erhalten werden müssen.

Es ist nur zu begreiflich, dass sich der Lehrerinnen angesichts dieser neuerlichen Zurücksetzung, die grösste Erregung bemächtigte, die in einer Reihe von Protestversammlungen starken Ausdruck fand. Auch das Wiener Frauenstimmrechts-Komitee erachtete als seine Pflicht an der Seite der Bedrängten öffentliche Stellung zu nehmen. Es veranstaltete deshalb am 16. Januar eine eigene Protestversammlung, die von Lehrerinnen und anderen Frauen massenhaft besucht war. Frau Schuldirektorin Schwarz zeigte an der Hand eines reichen Tatsachen- und Ziffernmateriale die immer mehr zunehmende Entrechtung und Bedrückung der weiblichen Lehrerschaft; Frau Schriftstellerin Berta Pauli sprach vom Standpunkte der Frau und Mutter, die es nicht gleichgültig lassen könne, wenn die Erzieherinnen ihrer Kinder durch Ungerechtigkeit und Nahrungssorgen verbitterte Frauen seien. Die Ausführungen der beiden Rednerinnen fanden stürmischen Wiederhall im Auditorium und ihre Wirkung äusserte sich in dem sofortigen Beitritt von 120 Frauen zum Stimmrechtskomitee, eine für unsere Verhältnisse ausserordentlich hohe Ziffer, die bisher noch nie zu verzeichnen war. In der Debatte forderten mehrere Rednerinnen die Frauen auf, bei den kommenden Gemeinderatswahlen durch eifrige Agitation mitzuhelfen, dass die christlich-soziale Partei von der Bildfläche verschwinde und in diesem Bemühen werden sich wohl die Frauen aller Richtungen vereinigen, denn die Christlich-Sozialen sind eine Partei der schlimmsten Korruption und keine vor ihr hat an Misachtung und Benachteiligung der Frauen auch nur ähnliches geleistet.

HENRIETTE HERZFELDER.

Wien, Januar 1912.

GALICIA.

On the occasion of the opening of the Galician Parliament on Jan. 14, a striking manifestation took place at Lemberg. Ten thousand men and women teachers of elementary schools from the whole country had come in one long silent procession up

to the House of Parliament to remind the law-givers of the urgency of a better regulation of their salaries, which are at present on the verge of famine wages. This multitude of men and women of different age, to whom the nation owes affection and respect since they are instrumental in delivering the people from ignorance, and the sight of the crowds of sympathetic spectators bordering the way, made a spectacle not easily forgotten and impressive to the imaginative mind!... This great demonstration was a sort of rebellion against the Legislating Aristocracy, whose assendency begins to be broken by the evident lack of confidence on the part of the people. The Government cannot fail to take this lesson to heart!...

The women teachers should realize of what interest the ballot is to them and join the Polish League for Women's Rights, and thereby make it a powerful association of quiet but innumerable suffragists. The League must grow to make it a great power for obtaining better salaries for teachers.

At the same time a deputation of women, arranged by the Polish Suffrage Association, composed of twenty women representing all sorts of women's associations, Polish and Ruthenian ones, was received in the Diet to present a petition requesting the enfranchisement of women. The Deputation came to see the Marshall of the Diet and the deputies of the different parties in order to ask that political equality for women should be made part of the projected electoral reform. All the deputies with whom the Deputation had an interview declared themselves personally in favour of our demands.

Jasto, January 1912.

MARIE GERZABEK.

Hungary.

The Congress of the National Union of Commercial Employees carried a resolution in favour of woman suffrage on the 22nd of January and thus returned to its former platform, abandoned for a time by adverse influence. We hope that the Commercial Employees will be true to this resolution in future.

The inquiry of the Prime Minister brought some unasked-for answers: several declarations in favour of woman suffrage. Besides the Feministák Egysülete and the Men's League, the Law Academy of Kassa and the Law Academy of Eperjes are both for woman suffrage. The Socialdemocratic party boasts also to have woman suffrage in its programme, but unfortunately forgets this every time it earnestly works for the so-called „universal“ suffrage in popular meetings and other opportunities of strong propaganda. This inquiry is not considered as such, which the S.D. party expressly mentions.

There are weekly lectures about universal suffrage in both the Reform Club and the Juridic Club, in which woman suffrage is frequently mentioned. The vice-president of the Feministák Egysülete, Dr Desider Márkus, Judge at the High Court, gave a splendid and much applauded lecture in the Jurists' Club, but there are also unknown friends of our cause turning up quite unexpectedly. Lately a well-known orator of the S.D. party, who, but some years ago, ridiculed woman suffrage, spoke for it with great force and conviction, which fact is due to our propaganda in the popular meetings of last year. Woman suffrage is the actual question of the day.

A great popular meeting for universal suffrage is going to be held in a not particularly large hall by the Universal Suffrage Block, composed of two

parties and the Reform Club. We are preparing for it and Miss Glücklich is to be our delegate.

* * *

Miss Corbett's stay was as great a success as two years ago and was quite up to our not at all modest expectations. We are thankful indeed for her untiring work in Hungary and hope to see her soon again, when she will continue her successful propaganda for our congress.

We are expecting Dr Robert Michels, Professor at the University of Turin, who will lecture about the „limits of sexual morals”, the important question about which he published a book lately. We remember him since the lecture he gave us some years ago as a splendid orator and are looking forward to his new visit, both as a moral and a financial success.

* * *

The organisation of the Committee of Arrangements for the Congress is progressing, and the Committee for propaganda-work was formed in the presence of Miss Corbett, who encouraged and inspired both members and officers. These are: Mrs Békássy, Mrs Perczel, Mrs Szegvári and Miss Zemnitz. It was resolved to request from the Burgomaster of Budapest, from scientific and other institutions lantern slides of Hungarian scenery in country- and watering-places, social establishments etc., to be sent to the affiliated National W. S. Associations of the I. W. S. A.

The Financial Committee has the Countess of Haller for its leader who is assisted by Mrs Kern, Miss Scenger, Miss Istvánffy, Mrs Ban and others. Other Committees will be organised in February. Conversation courses are held to practise foreign languages by the President of the Interpreting Committee, Mrs Scirmai. On the 29th the drawing of our lottery of Willy Pogány's (London) beautiful picture, given to the Congress-fund by Miss Pogány, will take place. Our collection will be soon ended and we are bound to make as much money as possible by it. The Christmas bazar led by Miss Francziska Schwimmer closed with a profit of over 8000 crowns, the remaining goods were sent to our provincial members for sale.

February is the Hungarian self-denial month, the members are expected to give up to the cause the savings of the days February is shorter than other months.

EUGENIE MISKOLCZY MELLER.
Budapest, February 5th 1912.

Russia.

If a progressive representative of Western Europe would undertake a journey across Russia, as Arthur Young did in France before and during the Great Revolution of 1789-94; and if this traveller would spend some time in different Russian provinces with the purpose of studying the political and social status of the country, he would be struck by the absence of a definite plan and unity in the governing mechanism. No regular laws and rules, obligatory for the whole country, no firm foundation in any administrative department; but, instead, a heap of circulars, edited by the central as well as local governments, circulars which often contradict each other and lead to anarchy. If this modern Arthur Young would continue his investigations he would discover that about 82 % of the population is uneducated; and that, owing to the general state of autocratical chaos, famine has become quite an ordinary event in this country, one of the richest in

the world. . . And our traveller, after his first journey across Russia, would conclude that this country is one of the most barbarous of all he had ever visited.

However, such a conclusion would be premature. For, on the other hand, if the same traveller were able to study the literature and arts, as well as the history of the same country, if he could mix with the elements of the educated as well as of the uneducated classes; if he would follow the development of self-consciousness in Russia; he would abstain from any rash judgement. And, finally, he would declare that Russia is the most puzzling country, quite unlike all he had previously seen.

Just at present, in the midst of reaction, when people are every day arrested by order of police, when newspapers are fined 50 L. for reproducing articles, which, in another neighbouring town are authorized by the local administration; when the word „individual liberty” means nothing and the constitution is a mere mockery: just at the same time laws are passed, which would do credit to a nation much more advanced in civilization than Russia. Such are the laws which have been lately passed by the State Council with regard to women; and which constitute a most important reform. The new law has the very modest name of „Examinations for women on the subject of highest education and women's right with regard to scientific degrees and to the employment of teachers in secondary schools.” According to the new law, a diploma of a highest school gives to women the very same rights as to men with the exception of grades and orders, for which women, happily, do not care. With regard to remuneration women have also the same rights as men. They do not lose their rights with regard to allowances after their marriage. Girls-orphan get a part of the allowances, due to both their parents. With regard to the right of teaching, women who have passed the examinations for the grade of teachers of secondary schools, have the same rights as men-teachers. Henceforth, women-teachers shall teach in all the classes of schools for boys, a reform which, we hope, will bring life and love in the sphere of secondary education. Equality is further introduced in the highest education. Women who have satisfactorily passed the University examinations, can get the degrees of Teachers of arts and Doctor. These diplomas confer on women all the rights, which have previously been the privilege of men: the right not only to teach, to be engaged as a University professor, but also to occupy the office of University rectors, deans etc. It may even happen that women can be elected as members of the State-Council.

All these reforms, which now await only the Emperor's sanction to become law, come as the result of public opinion; also of petitions, presented to the government by deputations from University Courses for Women etc. Thus the question of women's rights is steadily progressing in Russia; but this progress is following its own peculiar way. As I have said before—we have no women's movement in Russia just now; but we have the women's question, which has the sympathy and support of nearly all the progressive elements of the whole country.

ZENEIDE MIROVITCH.

Moscow, 20 January (2 February) 1912.

The INTERNATIONAL BADGE, a brooch with the above figure and of half its size, may be ordered from Mrs J. Pedersen-Dan, 39 Griffenfeldtsgade, Copenhagen.