

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

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NOTES OF THE MONTH.

Zurich Conference. Owing to the fact that this Conference is being held on the last two days of the month, it is impossible to include in this March number even the briefest account of its opening.

We hope next month to make up for this, but we do not want the Alliance paper to seem to ignore an Alliance activity, even if to those of our readers with experience in producing a paper, these few words may seem painfully obvious and unnecessary.

Bulgaria. The news of the grant of the municipal vote to Bulgarian women reached us last month only just in time for the insertion of a brief paragraph. Now we have received fuller particulars from Madame Dimitrana Ivanova, Member of the Alliance Board and President of the Union of Bulgarian Women, whose portrait we publish on this page.

Art. 5 of the new law states that electors shall be all citizens having attained the age of 21, men or women, but the latter must be or have been mothers legally married. Art. 82 says that the vote is personal and secret, voting being compulsory for male but not for female electors.

Women are not eligible for election to communal bodies under this law, but as Mme. Ivanova says, by this first step in enfranchisement the principle of women's participation in political life has been recog-

nised. And the Minister for the Interior and for Public Health in a radio talk, declared that this is only a first instalment of "votes for women," and that the second instalment will bring them complete rights.

The measure brings the women of Bulgaria a victory already won in Roumania and Greece — at least in theory, and it really means that in Europe, France, Switzerland and Jugoslavia will be the only countries left where women have not, or have not at some time had, the principle of women's enfranchisement recognised by the grant of some form of suffrage, however restricted.

Brazil. The Editor thoroughly enjoys the privilege of informal correspondence with many Alliance members, and with none more than with Bertha Lutz, President of the Brazilian Auxiliary and Member of the Brazilian Congress, but it is not always quite easy to "isolate" the parts of the letter which can be used as news. However in the Chamber Dr. Lutz has been carrying on two major campaigns: one in connection with the reform of the Ministry of Education, where she succeeded in

keeping in being the Public Health Nursing Department, in assuring that women shall be given preference in posts dealing with maternity and child welfare, in securing that the official High School shall have a boarding school for girls as well as boys, etc. Now comes the reform of the Universities.



Mme. Ivanova, Bulgaria.

Readers may remember that some time ago we announced that a special committee had been set up to study the Status of Women. It appears, however, that owing to opposition this Committee had never actually met, until January 6th, when it proceeded to elect Dr. Lutz as its President, Prado Kelly as Vice-President, with Abelardo Marinho, Ascanio Tubino, Bias Fortes, Camillo Mercio, Carlota de Queiroz, Homero Pires and Olava de Oliveira as members. It will be noted that the only other woman member of the Chamber, Carlota de Queiroz, is a member, but unfortunately a less feminist one than most of the men.

Miss Alzira Vargas, the daughter of the President of the Republic, has been appointed one of his official secretaries. Women are pleased at this appointment and hope to see Miss Vargas make a distinguished career for herself.

Brazil sent two women official delegates to the Pan American Conference in Buenos Aires last December: Dr. Maria Luisa Bittencourt, and Mrs. Rosalina Coelho Lisboa Miller. These two together with Elise Musser, Senator in the State of Utah, delegate of the U.S.A., formed the total number of women official delegates.

We have never ventured to deal at any length with this Buenos Aires Conference in the absence of direct news, and because we have never been clear as to whether there were not two conferences, the official and at least one unofficial Peace Conference. Senora Horne de Burmeister, President of the Argentine Auxiliary, sends us the news that "the Conference" adopted a Recommendation that the Governments of the American Republics should adopt legislation to secure that the rights and duties of women as citizens be fully recognised. We presume that this was at the official Conference as she speaks of waiting to see what the attitude of her Parliament will be when it meets again in May, since it was the Argentine Foreign Minister, Saavedra Lamas, who, as president of the Conference, signed this declaration as part of the Acts of the Conference.

India. Every year the Report of the Women's Indian Association comes to remind us of the importance and variety of the work done by this, the pioneer association of women for India as a whole, and it was with great regret that we read the note that for the present the Association's paper, *Stri Dharma*, is ceasing publication owing to the difficulty of finding a full-time editor. We shall greatly miss this publication, though we have been glad to receive as a substitute the Bulletin of Indian News sent out by the British Liaison Group working in co-operation with the other great organisation of women, the All India Women's Conference. That Conference met in Ahmedabad at the end of December, when Mrs. Margaret Cousins, so well known throughout India and in Europe too as a real pioneer, was elected President for the coming year. We have not space to refer to the many resolutions adopted, but we see that one of them was for the setting up of a regular Central Office for this steadily growing organisation.

It is interesting to see the Indian poet, Tagore, saying that "women alone can save civilisation"—just what we heard from Count Coudenhove Kalergi last month. When we contemplate the material and moral problems of India or Europe, we wonder indeed whether a company of Archangels could straighten them out, and while faith in women has a touching aspect, this despairing cry seems just a little bit unfair. After allowing graft, mismanagement, lack of elementary foresight, greed and hatred, to be the main driving forces in politics, after grudging to women education, participation in public life, any training in the control of either large expenditure or large agglomerations of personnel and production, there is something naif in

turning to woman, so lately and so partially emancipated, and saying: "get us out of this mess." Women are very patient, very much more simple and direct than men, so perhaps if they were given the power they might really effect improvement in the present distraught condition of the world. But if they are first to fight to the point of exhaustion for elementary rights, and then with their half victory to redeem the world, one feminist at any rate is inclined to disclaim a responsibility too heavy for poor human beings, whose sex does not and cannot turn them into super beings, and rather to say: "Give us freedom, reform yourselves, and you shall find in us good comrades to help you to shoulder the burden which we too are not absolutely guiltless in fastening upon humanity."

INDIA.

It must always be a thrilling experience to visit one's homeland after a prolonged absence in a foreign country, especially if during the time of one's absence rapid changes have been steadily taking place. I was fortunate enough to visit India last September after a four years' sojourn in England, and although I could spend but two months there I had opportunities of travelling widely and making renewed contacts with women's organisations to which I have belonged for many years, and visiting new institutions that have sprung up during the time that I have been away. India is passing through an extremely interesting time in her political and social career at present. Preparations for the new Constitution, which comes into being next April, were in full swing, and women's organisations were actively interested, for under the new régime women in each province of India will play a much larger part than they have ever done before. A far larger number of women have been granted the franchise and each province will have a certain number of women eligible for election, who will be returned to the Reformed legislatures of the country. It was feared that it would be difficult to find suitable women candidates to stand for the seats reserved for them; that these women, should they be forthcoming, would not be able to conduct their electioneering campaigns, lacking such experience; and lastly that orthodox opinion against women in public life would act as a deterrent against their election. Fortunately I found that none of these fears had the slightest foundation. I met, during my travels, a good many women candidates, highly qualified women capable of organising meetings and conducting their electioneering campaigns and quite able to overcome whatever prejudice they might meet from the more conservative. It was both stimulating and encouraging to find that although they do lack experience in this field of work, they have courage and determination, which will help them to play their part worthily in the political work that lies ahead of them. When next April the new Legislature begin to work there will be about 40 such women who will take their places in the new Councils along with the men of India.

Women's organisations are naturally taking a lively part in framing questionnaires for both men and women candidates, and in educating and encouraging the new and wider electorates to vote intelligently at Election time. This is no mean task in India considering the size of each electorate and the large number of inexperienced people that have to be dealt with.

It gave me intense pleasure to visit new institutions started by the initiative of women's organisations in various parts of India—which, one feels sure, will play an increasingly useful part in women's affairs. I will mention only a few of them. The Delhi Women's College for Home Science, started by the Educational Section of the All India Women's Conference, has over forty students studying child psychology, Domestic

Hygiene, and dietetics suited to Indian conditions. The object of this institution is to train young women for teaching work in the villages of India; it is a practical expression of what organised women in India feel is a vital need in the country, for village reconstruction work must include a scheme for suitable education. This college has been established on a secure foundation and is governed by a Committee of women who are playing an important part in women's work. The Avvai Home and Orphanage in Madras is an institution started by the Women's Indian Association to give shelter and protection to destitute girls, irrespective of caste. They are given free boarding and a suitable education to make them useful and respectable citizens. There is a nursery section, and a senior section where older girls are trained to be nurses, midwives, housekeepers, or domestic servants. There are about fifty girls here who seemed happy, healthy and well cared for when I visited them.

A new Birth Control Clinic, established by a group of women in Bombay, is an interesting venture. It has as its President a very well-known Doctor and a young medical woman who visits the clinic regularly. A great deal of propaganda work must be done to make such clinics popular in India, for this field of work is comparatively new to the country. I also visited a new Intermediate College for women in Morabad, where the young women on the Staff impressed me greatly with their intelligent schemes for the progress and welfare of the students of the college. These are only a few of the new ventures women are engaged in all over the country.

During the time I spent in India Women's Organisations in every province were busy conducting the many Constituent Conferences that must be held before the All India Women's Conference takes place at the end of December. At these Conferences delegates must be chosen for the All India Conference and Resolutions to be sent up to the All India Body must be passed. Programmes before the Constituent Conferences were interesting, for every one of these strongly supported the Bills affecting women that are before the Central Legislature in the country; namely, the Child Marriage Amendment Bill that seeks to strengthen the Act as it exists at present; the Hindu Woman's Inheritance Bill which aims at making more equitable the Law of Inheritance for Hindu Women; and thirdly the Marriage Bill, legalising marriages between men and women of different communities.

Every women's organisation, following the lead of the nationalist movement, sought ways and means of helping on the work for Village Reconstruction and insisted on a scheme for Compulsory Primary Education for Girls in each province of India.

Wherever I travelled I met ardent young women fired with the desire to serve their country and community, studying provincial needs and requirements, planning new schemes for social and educational work, and yet never losing sight of the necessity to coordinate that work and keep in touch with the All India Organisation. In a country like India, which is really a sub-continent, and where the large majority of the people are still illiterate, it is essential that organised women should work together, should demand with one voice a remedy for common ills, to help forward the progress they desire with co-operative effort. It is the only effective way, for the voice of the Women of India must make itself heard.

And so I returned to England, realising the enormity of the task before my countrywomen, and yet encouraged by the strength of our organisations and the methodical way in which the work for better conditions is being undertaken and persevered in. God help them in their task and crown their efforts with success.

DHANVANTHI RAMA RAU.

POLAND.

The General Assembly of the Women's Union for Civil Work was held in Warsaw last December. The 51,000 members of the Union were represented by 295 delegates, together with 12 delegates of the Polish Silesian Women's Association of 45,000 members, which collaborates closely with the Union.

The activities of the Women's Union for Civil Work in Poland are divided into the following departments: (1) Civic and Political, (2) Women's Problems, (3) Protection of women and children, (4) Physical Education, (5) Rural Problems, (6) Press, (7) Finance, and (8) Foreign Affairs.

The educational work embraces the following institutions: 220 infant schools for 6,000 children; 20 professional schools for 1000 children; 300 clubs for 15,000 pupils; summer colonies and daily colonies for 50,000 children; several primary schools for 1000 children, besides shelters, popular hostels, and educational and agricultural courses.

Our political activities include among many others, energetic efforts to retain the rights granted to us by our Constitution. The Women's Union works on the principle of equal rights for all citizens of Poland, and tends toward their good understanding and friendly collaboration.

The Assembly voted, among others, the following resolutions:

1. To secure rights for women to take part in parliamentary life as members of the two Houses, the Sejm and the Senate. It is important to enlighten the women as to their rights.
2. A special section to study municipal and communal problems in Poland.
3. To realise equal rights for men and women in laws and in practice according to the Constitution.
4. Special propaganda for future elections to Parliament, perhaps by means of our own List of women candidates.
5. To demand equal rights with men in work and in choosing our professions; to ask for the development of professional schools for women; for equal pay for equal work and equal possibilities of promotion.

The two days of debate in the Assembly passed in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and perfect solidarity. A new President was elected in the person of Dr. Hanna Pohoska, agregé of Warsaw University, specialist in Pedagogy, and a candidate for the Senate. The newly elected Board will continue with energy the great and valuable work of our Women's Union.

A. SZELAGOWSKA.

GERMANY.

The Government Act of December, 1936, by which the high schools course for boys closes one year earlier by uniting into one the two upper forms because military service in addition to labour service sets back professional training by two and a half years, has a strange effect on girls attending boys' schools. They are not allowed to leave school at the same time as their boy schoolfellows, and have to do the top form twice over. A definite settlement of this problem is however expected before long. Throughout the Reich (statistics for 1935), 31,102 girls attend boys' schools (with a boy population of 427,187) owing to lack of high schools for girls. From now onwards, girls are allowed to enter boys' schools only if no high school for girls exist in their town, even if such a school does not provide for university training. Consequently university studies will in future be still more difficult for girls. It must be noted that on the average girls take higher honours in examinations than boys. There exist in Germany 269 schools for girls preparing for university studies, a

number that is far exceeded by high schools of another type, laying stress on the so-called "feminine professions."

A striking feature in modern girls' schools is the prevalence of male teachers, owing to the tendency to give men a fixed income and thereby the opportunity of founding a family. (There are hardly any private schools left either for boys or girls). More than 50% of the teachers are men; the "head" in 405 out of 448 cases is a man, notwithstanding the official claim that girls are to be trained according to the abilities and characteristics of their sex. This state of things is not taken lying down by the new women's organisations, but so far they do not seem to have produced any effect. (Statistics taken from an article in "Die Frau," Jan., 1937.)

A short time ago Frau Scholz-Klink, the leader of the Deutsches Frauenwerk, in addressing girl students at Berlin, argued strongly in favour of equality in professional and academic training, whereas up to now the official tendency was all towards domestic and social duties.

The Arbeitsdienst (Labour Service) for girls has not yet been made compulsory, except for students, although the girls themselves wish for it. The number for voluntary service has however been raised to 25,000. It stands to reason that it is more difficult to organise social and agricultural work for girls, than military and agricultural service for boys.

The Academy for German Law, the most important body of its kind, comprises two women, Frau Scholz-Klink and Dr. Jur. Ilse Eben-Servaes.

WOMAN CHAMPION.

Christl Cranz, woman skiing Champion in the German and Olympic Games of 1936, has become general champion in the International Academic Winter Games at Zell (Austria). She beat the academic men, among them the 1936 champion, by 3 seconds.

IRELAND.

The Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women of Ireland took place on January 22nd and was well attended. In the course of an address on Dubrovnik, the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair gave an interesting account of her personal experiences at this I.C.W. Congress, and said that the year 1936 had been memorable in the history of the I.C.W. by reason of the number of important conferences at which it had been represented in different parts of the world.

The annual Report of the N.C.W. was read, in which was incorporated the Report of the Cork Council of Women, the Belfast Women Citizens' Union and the Save the Children Fund. It was stated that the agitation for the formation of a women's police force in the Irish Free State was being pushed forward by the National Council in conjunction with its Dublin unit, the Irishwomen's Citizen Association. The Standing Committee on Legislation concerning Women and Children had sent a memorandum on the subject of women's conditions of work in the Irish Free State to the League of Nations Secretariat. It was interesting to note that the general conditions of women's work throughout the world would be discussed when the Assembly met.

On January 29th the National Council took part in a Deputation of women's organisations to President de Valera in order to discuss the status of women in the Irish Free State with special reference to the composition of the new second chamber in the Oireachtas. The Deputation strongly urged that if the selection of members of the Second Chamber were to be made on a vocational basis, a panel for Health and Social Services be inserted under which women would stand a chance of inclusion. The Deputation was sympathetically received and a lengthy interview granted.

LUCY O. KINGSTON, Hon. Sec.

I.P.C.—R.U.P.

The Nobel Committee has made a grant of £2,000 for the international work of the I.P.C. This is doubly welcome, because it helps to show that such an important body fully recognises the absolutely non-party nature of the Peace Campaign.

The International Secretariat has now removed from Brussels to Geneva, Palais Wilson.

PEACE AND DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE.

On February 12th the Peace and Disarmament Committee of the International Women's Organisations held a very successful meeting at Copenhagen, admirably organised by Miss Thora Daugaard and under the chairmanship of Miss Mary Dingman. Ten organisations out of the seventeen were represented, and in addition to valuable Committee work an all day Conference on the contributions of economics to peace was held, in which many of our Copenhagen friends took part and a brilliant address on the Colonial problem was given by Professor Nielsen. It was an innovation that no resolutions were passed, but those present felt that the exchange of views had been more realistic and free and the time that would have been given to verbal amendments was used to better purpose for frank discussion. The meetings took place in the Kvindernes Bygning, the Woman's Building; Miss Hansen and others have designed and built this centre, which comprises the offices of the Kvindesamfund and other women's societies, the offices of Miss Hansen and other professional women, beautiful meeting halls, an admirable restaurant and delightful hotel. We hope to make much use of it on our next visit to Copenhagen.

A Public Meeting was held at which representatives from the U.S.A., France, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Czechoslovakia, Holland, and Great Britain spoke, under the spirited chairmanship of our Geneva friend, Miss Thora Daugaard, of the Women's International League. The members enjoyed the hospitality of the Town Hall where they were entertained to a wonderful "tea," including the pancakes wrapped round with whipped cream for which the Town Hall is famous. It added enormously to our pleasure that the Burgomaster himself graciously showed us the treasures of the building. Of the 55 Councillors 14 are women, and several of them helped to entertain us.

Mrs. Edel Saunte, President, and the members of the Alliance Society gave a tea at which I could meet my feminist friends, and I shall never forget Miss Ingeborg Hansen's delightful dinner party, when sixteen leading women of Copenhagen, including Miss Henni Forchhammer, were present and I was the blushing recipient of the thrilling and elaborate Danish song which is equivalent to the British "For he is a jolly good fellow." It was most stimulating to be in contact with such varied talents, ranging from Member of Parliament to astronomer, and covering practically all the women's organisations.

M. I. CORBETT ASHBY.

EQUAL MORAL STANDARD.

"La Française" recently published a circular issued to all Prefects by the Ministry of Public Health, which after calling attention to a Government Bill for the punishment of procurers, etc., stated that "I invite you as from this date to refuse to authorise the opening of any maison de tolerance." It does not appear that the Minister felt empowered to propose the closing of existing houses of this kind, as he goes on to speak of the necessity of strict application of the law of all "regulated" establishments. He then speaks of the necessity at the same time for developing research and anti-venereal social services, which we take it to mean the provision of voluntary treatment.

It would appear that as far as the Ministry is concerned, there is a real disposition to hasten the disappearance of the regulation system in France.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Australia The new Nationality Bill is a disappointment to women. It is designed to put into force the Hague Nationality Convention for the prevention of statelessness. The only amendment which the women were able to obtain from the Government was a clause permitting an Australian woman married to an alien to retain her rights as an Australian subject while actually in Australia. That is to say that while she would have lost her actual nationality, she would not be treated as an alien as long as she resided there.

Miss Julia Flynn has been appointed Chief Inspector of Secondary Schools, being the first woman to achieve such a high executive post. The only sad thing about it is that as a woman she will receive a considerably lower salary than her male predecessors.

Dr. Georgina Sweet has been elected to the University Council in Melbourne, and this is also a "first occasion."

Belgium We noted that there was no woman elected to the Bureau of the General Council of the Belgian Labour Party. But the women were not discouraged and have succeeded in securing the presence of some ten women as members of the General Council itself, as delegates or special representatives.

France A woman, Mlle Schmidt, has been appointed as Pastor in the Parish of Saintes-Croix-Vallées-Françaises (Gard).

A new wing of the American Memorial Hospital in Rheims has been opened as a tribute to the distinguished services of the Director of the Hospital, Dr. Marie Louise Lefort.

Great Britain. The Women's Freedom League is organising a Coronation Dinner, to be held on Friday May 7th, at the First Avenue Restaurant, London. Mrs. Corbett Ashby was to preside but it appears probable that she will be in the United States at that date. Applications for tickets should be made to the W.F.L., 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

Dr. Dorothy Brock, headmistress of the Mary Datchelor School, has been made an honorary member of the Clothworkers Company, which is a very rare distinction for a woman in these days. In former times, it is believed that women shared with men the membership of these old Companies or Guilds, but nowadays women are only members by "patrimony," that is they can inherit membership from their fathers.

Sweden In April, Mrs. Hildur Humble, a member of the Social Democrat Party, will take her place as the eleventh woman Member of the Riksdag.

THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

The League will hold its Thirteenth Annual Conference from May 26th-28th, at the Y.W.C.A. Central Club, Great Russell Street, London. This year the programme covers: "The Duties and Rights of Women under Democracy;" "The Need to claim and maintain a just Position for Women, socially, economically and politically;" "Social Services;" "The Contribution of Democracy towards the Peace of the World."

On March 3rd, the League is organising a Public Meeting on the Work of the Mui Tsai Commission, when Miss Picton-Turbervill will speak on the report of the Commission of which she was a member.

Last month the League held a one-day conference on Australia's Aboriginal Problem, with many interesting addresses on the culture and conditions of these very primitive people. Australian women feel their responsibility for these native people of Australia who have suffered so much in earlier days from the invasion of the white races, and who present problems which call for both wisdom and generosity.

PHILIPPINES.

We have received a mass of interesting material from The General Council of Women of the Philippines, showing the tremendous campaign they are conducting for the Plebiscite on April 30th of this year. On the 30th September last, the President signed the Woman Suffrage Plebiscite Bill, which fixed this date and set out the qualifications of voters, and the rules governing the polling. The voters in this Plebiscite are: "every female citizen of the Philippines, twenty-one years of age or over, who shall have been a resident of the Philippines for one year and of the municipality wherein she proposes to vote for at least six months next preceding the plebiscite, and who possesses the qualifications required by the existing law for male voters."

In order to gain the vote, 300,000 women must vote "yes" in the plebiscite. It will be no easy matter to get that number of women to the Polls, as in the Constitutional Plebiscite, in which women were permitted to vote, only 200,000 registered their votes. But the campaign is being most carefully and thoroughly organised mainly through the Women's Clubs, and evidently a thorough canvass is being carried out. Surely if there were 200,000 women who voted for the Constitution, there must be a large enough proportion ready and able to bring with them to the polling booth at least one friend on this occasion so vital to the whole future status of women in the Philippines? Then, success would be assured.

In addition to the special propaganda material for the Plebiscite, we have read with interest the Woman's Home Journal, the organ of the National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines, which is a well-produced and illustrated monthly magazine, catering for all women's interests. The fact that the women of the Philippines support such a paper is a proof that their movement is a live one. Surely they will ensure a triumphant majority for Women Suffrage! The good wishes of every feminist in every country go out to them.

THE PRESIDENT.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby will attend the Jubilee Celebrations at Mount Holyoake College on May 8th, in order to represent the Alliance and Newnham College, Cambridge. We offer congratulations and good wishes for a pleasant journey across the Atlantic and a safe return to Europe in time for the Study Conference in Warsaw, which will now take place early in June.

We hope to give fuller particulars of this Second Conference in our next issue.

FRANCE

According to French law the married woman owes obedience to her husband in everything. The terms of Article 213, framed by Napoleon I, are absolute and provide for no exceptions, and the whole civil code where it concerns the married woman is based on this principle. She can neither engage in paid work nor contract, nor enjoy her own property, nor administer it, without the authorisation of her husband. She has no power over her own children. "The father alone may exercise paternal authority." The term "maternal authority" does not exist.

For several years now workers have been accorded the free disposal of their salary, and householders latitude in the use of "biens communs." But in spite of these few exceptions accorded through necessity, the married woman remains in principle in the same class as minors and criminals; she is "incapable."

The Renoult Bill, now before Parliament, aims at remedying this state of affairs without, however, interfering with male privilege. The wife shall no longer owe obedience to her husband. But the husband shall

be "head of the family" and for this reason "the right of decision shall belong to him." At least this is what M. Georges Pernot demanded as champion of the family, and his demand was received amid the applause of the Assembly.

"The married woman shall have full exercise of her civil capacity" (Art. 215), but this shall be "subject to the terms of the various marriage settlements" (ditto), and further (Art. 216): "The husband may ask the civil Court to enforce, in the case of his wife's exercise of her capacity, restrictions justified by the interest of the household." M. Georges Pernot insists that instead of this restriction, the husband shall simply have the right of veto, the wife retaining the right of legal appeal in case of abuse. A very illusory right since this procedure would entail the use of funds only to be obtained through the authorisation of the husband.

The question of the right of the wife to enjoy and administer her own property remains untouched, as also the question of the right of the mother over her own children.

If the amendments proposed by M. Pernot are excluded, the Renault Bill will be accepted by some feminists as a step in advance, but others will consider that such an inadequate law passed in the year 1937 would only block further reform.

M. LENOEL,
—The Catholic Citizen.

SECTION FRANCAISE.

Zurich. La Conférence devant se tenir dans les deux derniers jours de février, il nous est manifestement impossible d'en donner le moindre compte-rendu dans ce numéro qui doit être imprimé avant la date de la Conférence.

Bulgarie. Depuis le mois dernier nous avons reçu de plus amples détails sur l'accession des femmes bulgares à la franchise municipale; accession partielle s'entend, puisque ce ne sont que les mères, légalement mariées qui ont le droit de vote. Madame Ivanova Présidente de notre Auxiliaire bulgare, ajoute que bien que les dites électrices n'aient pas le droit à l'éligibilité, un pas important a été franchi, et les discours radio-diffusés des Ministres de l'Intérieur et de l'Hygiène laissent entendre que la franchise électorale complète ne tardera pas à être inscrite dans la constitution.

Brésil. Dr. Bertha Lutz informe régulièrement l'Editeur de "Jus" des progrès du féminisme au Brésil. Dr. Lutz est elle-même membre du Congrès Brésilien et est particulièrement active à la Chambre, dans les questions d'Education et d'Hygiène. Elle a réussi à faire adopter une préférence pour les femmes dans les Postes d'Assistance maternelle et infantine; elle a aussi fait adopter le principe d'égalité d'éducation; et des pensionnats seront désormais attachés aux Ecoles secondaires de filles, comme ils le sont déjà aux écoles secondaires de garçons.

Un Comité constitué pour étudier le Statut de la Femme a commencé ses séances le 6 février avec Dr. Bertha Lutz comme Présidente. Mlle. Alzire Vargas, fille du Président de la République a été nommée une de ses secrétaires officielles.

Le Brésil a envoyé deux femmes déléguées officielles à la Conférence pan-américaine de Buenos Aires en décembre dernier: Dr. Maria Luisa Bittencourt et Mrs. Rosalina Coelho Lisboa Miller. Avec Elise Musser, elles formaient le seul contingent féminin de la conférence.

Inde. Tous les ans nous lisons avec intérêt le rapport de l'Association des femmes de l'Inde; c'est avec regret que nous apprenons que leur excellent journal Stri

Dharma a momentanément cessé de paraître. Le Bulletin des Nouvelles de l'Inde qui nous est envoyé par le Groupe britannique de liaison avec la Conférence féminine pan-indoue, devra pour le moment suppléer Stri Dharma. La dite Conférence s'est tenue à Ahmedabad à la fin de Décembre et Mrs. Margaret Cousins, bien connue dans toute l'Inde a été élue Présidente pour cette année.

Il est intéressant de noter que le Poète hindou Tagore écrit que "seule la femme peut sauver la civilisation" et c'est exactement la pensée du Comte Coudenhove Kalergi dont nous parlions le mois dernier. La femme est loin d'avoir conquis les mêmes droits que l'homme: on avouera qu'il y a quelque ironie à lui demander de sauver cette civilisation que l'homme a dirigée depuis des siècles, avant même qu'elle ait eu le loisir d'exercer ses droits élémentaires d'être humain.

Pologne. L'Assemblée générale des femmes pour l'Action dans le Domaine Civil s'est réunie à Varsovie au mois de Décembre. Les 51,000 membres de l'Union étaient représentés par 295 déléguées plus 12 déléguées de l'Association polonaise de Silésie qui collabore étroitement avec l'Union.

L'activité de l'Union féminine se répartit entre les départements suivants: (1) civique et politique. (2) Problèmes féminins. (3) Protection de la femme et de l'enfant. (4) Education physique. (5) Problèmes ruraux. (6) Presse. (7) Finance. (8) Affaires étrangères. La partie éducative comprend les institutions suivantes: 220 écoles maternelles pour 6,000 enfants; 20 écoles professionnelles pour 1,000 enfants; 300 clubs pour 15,000 élèves—des colonies de vacances et d'excursions pour 50,000 enfants; des écoles primaires pour 1,000 enfants, et en outre, des refuges, foyers, et des cours d'éducation et d'agriculture. Notre activité politique s'attache surtout à retenir les droits qui nous ont été accordés par la Constitution. Le principe directeur de notre Union est que tous les citoyens polonais ont des droits égaux et qu'ils doivent travailler en étroite collaboration.

Nous demandons que les femmes aient le droit de siéger dans les deux assemblées; nous avons formé une section spéciale pour étudier les problèmes municipaux; nous préparons nos listes de femmes candidats et organisons une propagande; nous demandons le salaire égal pour travail égal et les mêmes chances de promotion pour les deux sexes.

Notre nouvelle Présidente est Dr. Hanna Pohoska, agrégée de l'Université de Varsovie, candidate au Sénat.

d'après A. SZELAGOWSKA.

ALLEMAGNE.

Un acte gouvernemental de Décembre 1936 décrète que les deux dernières années des écoles secondaires de garçons seront réunies en une seule; le temps du service militaire et du service social devant être pris quelque part sans retarder par trop la période de la préparation professionnelle. Comme dans les villes où il n'y a pas d'école secondaires de filles, celles-ci doivent suivre les cours des garçons, elles sont obligées de redoubler la classe supérieure. Toutes les écoles secondaires de filles ne préparent pas à l'Université; le plus grand nombre prépare aux professions, dites féminines.

Il y a maintenant un très grand nombre de maîtres du sexe masculin dans les écoles de filles (tout homme qui a une famille devant être pourvu d'abord). Plus de 50% des membres de l'enseignement sont des hommes; quant à la direction, dans 405 cas sur 448 elle est confiée à un homme en dépit de l'argument que les filles doivent être formées d'après les capacités spéciales de leur sexe. Cet état de choses ne semble pas réjouir absolument les nouvelles organisations féminines et il

y a quelque temps le leader du Deutsches Frauenwerk, Frau Scholz-Klink argumentait en faveur de l'égalité dans la formation académique et professionnelle. Jusqu'à maintenant la tendance officielle était d'incliner les filles vers les occupations sociales et domestiques.

Le Service du Travail n'a pas encore été rendu obligatoire pour les femmes, bien que les volontaires soient maintenant 25,000—mais ce service féminin est bien plus difficile à organiser que le service militaire pour les garçons.

L'Académie de Droit Allemand comprend deux femmes; Frau Scholz-Klink et Dr. Ilde Eben-Servaes.

TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE.

Il s'agit de créer à Praha un foyer de jeunes femmes qui grouperait les jeunes filles les plus pauvres, en particulier les apprenties, sans distinction de parti politique et de confession religieuse. Ce sera un bâtiment à deux étages avec un grand jardin, des vestiaires, salles de bain, installations modernes et chauffage central. Il y aura au total 60 lits. Le Foyer doit permettre aux jeunes filles des familles les moins aisées de faire un apprentissage régulier et de se maintenir jusqu'au moment où elles auront un revenu suffisant de leur travail.

ZENSKA RADA.

FRANCE.

Du vote des Indigènes au suffrage des Femmes.

On s'attendait à voir le Gouvernement du Front populaire déposer un projet de loi établissant l'égalité politique de tous les Français sans distinction de sexe, mais les illusions se sont envolées. Cependant le Gouvernement a pensé à étendre le suffrage dit universel, malheureusement ce ne sont encore que des hommes qui en profiteront, car il s'agit des indigènes musulmans non naturalisés de l'Algérie. Oh! il ne s'agit pas de tous les indigènes, mais de certaines catégories, notamment de ceux ayant un diplôme dont le moindre est le brevet élémentaire, des ouvriers ayant la médaille du travail, des secrétaires de syndicats régulièrement constitués après 10 ans d'exercice de leur fonction.

Ne croyez-vous pas que les femmes françaises sont capables de remplir toutes ces conditions? Osera-t-on prétendre qu'au point de vue de l'instruction et de l'éducation politique nous sommes, dans l'ensemble, inférieures aux diverses catégories d'indigènes appelés à devenir citoyens? Les soldats indigènes auront le droit de vote, à condition d'avoir quitté l'armée avec le grade d'officier ou de sous-officier, ou d'avoir obtenu tout à la fois la médaille militaire et la croix de guerre. Ceci, paraît à titre de récompense.

En somme, le droit de suffrage, dit M. Maurice Viollette, dans l'exposé de son projet, intervient dans notre pensée comme une récompense, soit des services rendus, soit de l'effort intellectuel réalisé.

Mais il nous semblait qu'en 1919 le Sénat avait reconnu que les femmes et les jeunes filles françaises avaient justifié la confiance du pays. Est-ce que ça ne compte plus aujourd'hui? Que fait-on de celles qui ont reçu la croix de guerre, la médaille des épidémies ou la médaille de la reconnaissance française, et de celles — fort nombreuses — qui, bien que n'ayant aucune décoration, ont inlassablement apporté leur dévouement aux œuvres les plus diverses. M. Maurice Viollette les a-t-il donc oubliées? Et il ne s'est trouvé aucun membre du Gouvernement pour lui rappeler l'immense effort accompli par les femmes pendant les années les plus douloureuses que la France ait connues depuis des siècles.

Mais, écrit encore l'auteur du projet, nous ne pouvons méconnaître les industriels, les commerçants, les agri-

culteurs et les artisans indigènes qui, par leur travail, ont su créer des entreprises qui profitent à la Nation.

Compris. Il faut que les entreprises soient dirigées par des hommes pour qu'ils profitent à la nation; le travail des femmes, de quelque nature qu'il soit, est sans intérêt. Il serait facile cependant de citer en France et en Algérie des noms féminins parmi les commerçants, industriels, agriculteurs et artisans. Mais le moindre indigène sera de plus en plus persuadé de la suprématie masculine quand il ira porter son bulletin de vote dans l'urne, et qu'il verra la Française continuer à être traitée en quantité négligeable.

MARIE VERONE—Le Droit des Femmes.

L'Art Féminin a L'Honneur.

Au Jeu de Paume, la très intéressante exposition de Femmes Artistes d'Europe, a été inaugurée le 12 février, par M. Jean Zay ministre de l'Education nationale et Mme Brunschvicg, sous-secrétaire d'Etat. Cette manifestation fut organisée par M. André Dézarrois, conservateur du musée des écoles étrangères contemporaines, avec le concours de Mmes Paoli Pogliani, présidente de la section internationale des Beaux-Arts et Laure Albin Guillot, présidente de l'Union Féminine des Carrières libérales, aidées de Mme Croulard, directrice de la section française des Beaux-Arts.

Les salles contiennent les œuvres d'une centaine d'artistes de tous les pays. Nous en reparlerons plus longuement la semaine prochaine, mais dès aujourd'hui nous avons voulu indiquer le succès de cette exposition et dire à nos lectrices d'aller la visiter avant la fin du mois de février, aucune manifestation ne pouvant prouver avec plus d'évidence la valeur artistique des femmes de tous les pays.

—La Française.

PHILIPPINES.

Nous avons reçu une énorme correspondance des Philippines qui nous montre la campagne sans précédent, conduite par les féministes, pour la préparation du Plébiscite qui se tiendra le 30 avril de cette année. Les conditions requises pour le vote individuel du Plébiscite féminin sont les mêmes que celles exigées des électeurs masculins. Nos lectrices savent déjà que la nouvelle Constitution des Philippines, pour laquelle les femmes ont voté, ne leur octroye cependant pas le droit de suffrage à moins que 300,000 résidentes des Philippines, le demandent par plébiscite. Or pour le vote de la Constitution 200,000 électrices seulement s'en servent. C'est pour conquérir ce dernier tiers que les Sociétés et Clubs féministes des Philippines font un suprême effort. La Fédération nationale des Clubs féminins nous a envoyé sa publication le Home Journal, qui est fort bien édité et illustré.

NOUVELLES BREVES.

Le Comité Nobel. a fait un don de 2,000 livres sterling pour la Propagande internationale de la Paix.

Egalité de la morale en France. Le ministre de l'Hygiène, dans une circulaire récente aux Préfets, attire leur attention sur une loi qui punit les proxénètes, entremetteuses, etc.—et les invite à refuser les autorisations pour l'ouverture des maisons de tolérance.

Le Ministre n'a évidemment pas le pouvoir de fermer les maisons existantes mais il a l'intention d'exiger la "stricte application de la loi."

Australie. La nouvelle loi de Nationalité est une déception pour les femmes. Elle ne fait que mettre en vigueur la Convention de La Haye sur le manque de Nationalité. Elle déclare aussi que toute

Australienne mariée à un étranger, pourra garder sa nationalité tant qu'elle résidera en Australie.

Miss Julia Flynn a été nommée Inspectrice des Ecoles secondaires.

Dr. Georgina Sweet a été élue au Conseil de l'Université de Melbourne.

Belgique. Le Conseil administratif du Parti socialiste belge comprend dix femmes.

France. Melle Schmidt a été nommée Pasteur de la Paroisse de Saintes-Croix Vallées Françaises (Gard). Une section de l'Hopital de Reims (donation américaine) vient de s'ouvrir en reconnaissance des distingués services du Directeur de l'Hopital Mme Marie Louise Lefort.

Irlande. La réunion annuelle du Conseil National des Femmes irlandaises s'est tenue le 22 janvier.

Lady Aberdeen vint parler du Congrès de Dubrovnik.

Le rapport annuel fait remarquer entre autres que la formation d'une Police féminine est activement poussée par le C.N.F. en coopération avec l'Association des Citoyennes de Dublin. Un memorandum sur les conditions du travail des Femmes et des Enfants a été adressé au Secrétariat de la Société des Nations. Le Conseil a fait partie de la députation qui rendit visite au Président de Valera afin de discuter le Statut de la Femme et sa participation possible à la Seconde Assemblée. La Députation fait remarquer que si cette Assemblée doit représenter les professions, des femmes devraient y rentrer sous la rubrique Hygiène et Services Sociaux. Le Président écouta ces propositions avec sympathie.

Suède. Au mois d'avril, Madame Hildur Humble, membre du Parti social démocrate, siègera comme onzième membre féminin du Riksdag.

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