

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

The Monthly Organ of THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE

Volume 31. No. 7.

PRICE 6d. Annual Subscription, 6/-

APRIL, 1937

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ZURICH STUDY CONFERENCE.

There can be no two opinions as to the immense success of the Conference held on February 27th and 28th in Zurich. The method adopted was that of the "Round Table" with the desire to make it easy for a number of people to take part in a somewhat informal discussion on different aspects of the main subjects on the programme. Thus the first session on "A Practical Peace Policy" was divided into the four points of the Programme of the International Peace Campaign, viz: (a) Chairman: Mrs. Quincy Wright (U.S.A.), "Can treaty obligations be regarded as inviolable unless there is effective machinery available for peaceful change?" (b) Chairman: Dr. Grütter (Switzerland), "How can profit be eliminated from the manufacture and traffic in arms?" (c) Chairman: Mrs. Bakker van Bosse (Holland), "How can the organisation of collective security and mutual assistance be strengthened?" (d) Chairman: Mrs. Corbett Ashby, "Should we favour the re-summoning of the Disarmament Conference to attempt the achievement of a limited convention?" (e) Chairman: Mme Malaterre Sellier, "How can we establish within the framework of the League of Nations effective machinery for remedying international conditions which might lead to war?"

The Suffrage Session dealt with two aspects, (1) "How the Vote was won: What the Vote has done" with speakers from enfranchised countries; and (2) "Our best methods of propaganda: Our chances of success," with speakers from unenfranchised countries.

For the session on "Women's Work and Unemployment," the Round Tables came into play again with six discussions: (a) Chairman: Mme Plaminkova, "The economic consequences of sex distinctions in the Labour Market;" (b) Chairman: Mme Brunschvicg, "The Married Woman Worker;" (c) Chairman: Mme Thibert "Women and Trade Union and professional organisation;" (d) Chairman: Dr. Dora Schmidt, "How to secure equal opportunities for training;" (e) Chairman: Mlle Atanatskovitch, "Equal Pay;" (f) Chairman: Mlle Ginsberg, "Women workers and family responsibilities."

Even with this division into far more groups than were originally contemplated, the object of the Round Tables was not fully met, because instead of the expected

attendance of 150 people, there were between three and four hundred! This did not prevent extremely lively and interesting discussions, nor the presentation of valuable summaries of that discussion by the Rapporteurs, whose work was, however, made extremely difficult by the number of groups and the necessarily crowded condition of the rooms, the single hall originally taken being quite inadequate for the numbers present.

The resolutions adopted are given below.

In addition to the Conference meetings proper, there were two public meetings, one for Youth where again an attendance of between five and six hundred young people strained the capacity of the Hall to the utmost; and the second a Public Meeting for which the Organiser Miss Heneker, had prudently provided a second Hall for the "overflow." Mme Leuch, President of the Swiss Suffrage Association and Mlle Gourd respectively presided, and the speakers were Dr. Schudel Benz on "Federal Constitutional Questions;" Mrs. Corbett Ashby on "Woman Suffrage and Democracy;" Mme Brunschvicg on "Is there a Place for Women in the Government of a country?" Mme Thibert, who kindly took the place of M. Maurette prevented from coming by illness, on "Women's Work and Unemployment," while Mrs. Bakker van Bosse on "International Solidarity," received the ovation of the evening.

The two luncheons, one given by the Peace Committee with special invitations to representatives of women's societies, and the other by the Alliance, to representatives of the Swiss authorities and of Men's Societies, were really more than social occasions, being an integral part of the scheme to arouse interest in the peace and suffrage movement. They were extremely successful, the big dining room of the Eden Hotel being as full as it would hold, many people who would have liked to attend being unable to get tickets.

The women of Zurich were full of enthusiasm and showed the kindest hospitality. The international visitors were invited to dine at the Lyceum Club, where they were entertained with some wonderful music; they lunched at the Nurses' School and were shown the up-to-the-minute hospital attached; they enjoyed a delightful tea-party given by Mme Hämmerli-Schindler in one of the old "family houses" of Zurich;

and last but by no means least, the Swiss Auxiliary gave a "family party" with an amusing sketch showing the good effects of new subscribers on the two women's papers, "Le Mouvement féministe" and the "Schweizerfrauenblatt" when they are lying sick and exhausted; charming folk-songs, some given by a group in the old local costumes, the whole accompanied by tea and talk in a really intimate atmosphere.

Other kindnesses which were greatly appreciated were the gift of beautiful pots of cyclamen to decorate the luncheon tables, and the loan of cars for the use of the international guests.

We cannot close this brief account, without mentioning the wonderful press notices which the Conference received. The Zurich and other papers carried long accounts and excellent pictures, and we understand that we created something of a record for publicity about women's doings. It will surely be a real help to the Swiss suffrage movement that so many readers of all the many papers have been bound to acquire some knowledge of what a big thing the women's movement is. The Swiss women have a very hard task in winning over the great proportion of their countrymen to the idea of the justice of woman suffrage. We hope that they have received encouragement from the success of this international conference.

A Report of the Conference, with many of the speeches etc., is being prepared by the Organiser, Miss Heneker, and will shortly be available. That is why we only give the "high-lights" now. And we will end on the pleasant note of gratitude to Miss Heneker herself, whose weeks of work were shown to have been so well worth while; to all her helpers, both professional and voluntary, and to the societies and individuals in Zurich and from the Central Committee, who worked so hard and so loyally to make the Conference the success it was and to give us all a good time.

RESOLUTIONS.

Peace.

The Study Conference organised in Zurich by the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship,

DECLARES THAT the maintenance of peace is in the interests of all the peoples of the world;

DECLARES THAT any international order which desires to achieve peace must be based on international solidarity and implies a system of collective security;

DECLARES THAT as the League of Nations, though it has achieved some progress in this direction, has not gained a victory over national egoism, a further effort is required;

DECLARES THAT the need to reach universality, which alone will allow the organisation of real collective security, must not entail the abandonment nor the weakening of the mechanism of the League of Nations;

DECLARES THAT public opinion should exert more active pressure on each government to use every means provided by the Covenant to deal with international conditions likely to lead to war;

DECLARES THAT rearmament only provides a temporary and fallacious remedy for the unemployment crisis, and asks governments to apply all the remedies proposed by the International Labour Organisation in the fight against this social scourge.

Woman Suffrage.

The Conference

Having heard from the representatives of the enfranchised countries of their struggle to obtain political equality, and also of the results they have achieved in the legal, economic and social domain,

ASKS the women who are not yet enfranchised to choose from among the methods which have proved successful elsewhere, those energetic measures which they consider would meet conditions in their respective countries, and

URGES them to continue the fight until the final victory is won.

Women's Work.

Faithful to the principle that every woman, married or not, has an inalienable right to the same educational facilities and the same access to professional work as a man under the same conditions,

The Conference

I. Recognising the loss to the community by the exclusion of women from responsible posts, both manual and intellectual;

II. Recognising the loss, both moral and material, which women suffer from a limitation of their right to take paid work;

III. Recognising the fact that the low wages paid to women do not as a rule allow of a normal standard of life, and that moreover they lead to a general lowering of wages;

IV. Recognising that to take employment from a woman in order to give it to a man is no solution of the problem of unemployment, but merely shifts its incidence;

V. Recognising that the exclusion of married women from paid work has the inevitable result of undermining the whole economic position of the working woman;

VI. Recognising the necessity of effective professional organisation, both nationally and internationally;

The Conference DECLARES THAT

I. (a) All schools, colleges, universities and other educational establishments should be open to women on exactly the same terms as men, with an equal right to employment on the teaching staff for both sexes, and the same diplomas for both sexes.

(b) professional training for commerce, trades, handicrafts, etc., shall be open to women under the same conditions as for men, with the same diplomas;

(c) vocational training for both sexes should be developed, and should be available under the same conditions and with the same examinations for men and women;

II. All forms of work, including the higher and responsible posts shall be open to women, married or not, under the same conditions of salary and promotion as for men;

III. It is urgent that all women engaged in paid work should belong to professional organisations and should work within them for the common interest of the members of their profession, with equal rights and responsibilities as their men comrades, while keeping within the framework of these mixed organisations, the contacts necessary to attract to these organisations all the women workers by ensuring that their special interests are recognised;

IV. Propaganda should be undertaken both among young people and with public opinion by whatever means are best suited to each country.

TURKISH STAMPS.

Any one who would like to obtain specimens of the Commemorative Stamps issued by the Turkish Government for the Alliance Congress at Istanbul, should write to:—

M. Muriset, 4, Place du Molard, Geneva.
Naturally these stamps will now fetch a higher price than their nominal value.

Meeting of the Board and of the International Committee.

There were two main questions before these two meetings: The next Congress of the Alliance and the Status of Women and the League of Nations.

The President announced the good news that Dansk Kvindesamfund, the Danish Society affiliated to the Alliance, has invited us to hold the next Congress in Copenhagen—an invitation which was accepted with acclamation. As our readers will know, this Congress should be held in 1938, the statutory three years after the Istanbul Congress in 1935. We know, however, that the International Council of Women is moving its Congress which would normally take place in 1939, to the previous year which will mark the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation. It was felt that for very many people it would be a great burden to have to try to attend two international women's congresses in the same year, necessarily at a very short interval apart, and the Board with the agreement of the International Committee, decided to ask the Auxiliaries to agree to a postponement of a year, from 1938 to 1939. The Danish Society will be equally ready to welcome the Alliance that year and we think that everyone will be in agreement with this change of date.

The question of the Status of Women was discussed at great length, one point being the general lines to be followed in the Memorandum which the Alliance, as one of the big international organisations of women, will submit to the Assembly of the League of Nations. Mrs. Spiller and Mlle Renson, the two members of the Board entrusted with the task of drafting this Memorandum, had proposed to the Auxiliaries beforehand that there should be a recommendation for the adoption of an International Convention on equal rights for men and women. This policy was adopted by the International Committee, and confirmed by the Board. So as to ensure that in the event of such a general Convention failing to receive the approval of the Assembly, some constructive proposal may nevertheless emerge from the discussion, the Alliance Memorandum—on the advice of Maitres Verone and Renson—will also include suggestions as to separate conventions or agreements on concrete points in connection with women's legal disabilities.

A further matter was that of what form of propaganda the women's international organisations should, jointly if possible, plan to carry on in Geneva during the Assembly, if, as we hope, Status of Women will be fully discussed. Several suggestions were made which the Alliance will lay before the Liaison Committee. Further details will, therefore, be given later when we know to what extent common action proves possible. Among matters of internal administration discussed by the Board, there was the important question of nomination of Chairmen to the International Standing Committees on Suffrage and Citizenship and Like Conditions of Work for Men and Women. We are very happy to be able to announce that Madame Plaminkova accepted the post as Chairman of the latter, Madame Szelwowska taking her place as Chairman of the Suffrage Committee.

The postponement of the Congress leaves the Treasurer face to face with the problem of making the funds cover another year's work before being able to appeal direct to the societies. The possibility of providing for this without leaving the Treasury completely empty when the Congress is over, exists only because of the substantial sum received as a result of the sale of the commemorative Turkish Stamps. Since the meeting in Brussels when a net contribution to Alliance Funds of 27,000 Swiss francs was announced, this sum has been paid over to us. Plans were made at Brussels to spend some of this money on special propaganda, and

half the cost of the Zurich Conference will be met in this way, the Peace Committee contributing the other half. The above considerations, however, among others lead to the postponement of the second similar Study Conference in Warsaw this year. It was considered that the postponement of the Congress would in any case make it desirable to space out any interim meetings, and the Polish Society, as always, showed a sympathetic comprehension of the circumstances.

The meeting of the International Committee was attended by the Presidents or Proxies of the societies in the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia (Vybor), France (both societies), Great Britain (N.C.E.C. and the W.F.L.), Holland, India (Women's Indian Association), Jugoslavia (both societies), Poland, Roumania (Ass. for Women's Emancipation), Sweden (Frederika Bremer), Switzerland and the U.S.A.

MADAME BRUNSCHVICG'S VISIT TO LONDON.

The Alliance and all the three societies affiliated to it in Great Britain participated in the pleasure of entertaining Mme Brunshvicg, the Under Secretary of State for National Education in France, during her recent visit to London. Her first and most formal engagement was to speak at the Public Luncheon organised by the National Council for Equal Citizenship in connection with its Annual Meeting; the following day, there was a less formal gathering given by the Women's Freedom League and St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, followed by a very informal tea-party at the Alliance Office.

Mme Brunshvicg spoke to us all in just the way best fitted to the occasion, told us something of her work as a Minister, of her long connection with the French Suffrage Movement, and of her interest in international work. We hope that she enjoyed her visit as much as we enjoyed the opportunity of greeting her. To our admiration for her achievements and her many-sided ability, is added an almost breathless acknowledgment of her marvellous energy.

GERMANY.

Owing to a printer's error, it was stated in the last issue of the paper that Frau Scholz-Klink, the woman leader, was in favour of equality for men and women in professional work. Unfortunately this is not the case: she was arguing in favour of "quality."

A sentence of similar importance has been pronounced by the Berlin Kammergericht and published with high approval: the Bürgerlich Gesetz Buch provides for safeguarding education (Fürsorgeerziehung) "if the physical or mental welfare of a child is gravely endangered." This danger was recognized as existing in a case where the mother of a boy of twelve was pampering him to such an extent that "it kept him below the standard of what the nation may expect from its young male citizens." Dr. Ilse Eben-Servaes, to whom we referred in the last issue as a member of the Academy for German Law, has stated in a Memorandum that women should actively co-operate in creating and applying this new law, especially in cases where it deals with family or private life. She also argues strongly in favour of women advocates, a profession still nominally open to German women but gravely threatened.

A new profession for girls has developed in the widely spread service camps (Arbeitsdienstlager). The camp leader must be trained for two years in a social, domestic or agricultural school, with six months' practical camp work to follow. As camp leader, she enters the civil service, a status which is seldom granted, for

instance to social workers. Special provision is made for a change to other posts as a girl grows older. Girls' camps and their organisation are throughout in women's hands, although the actual chief is a man, namely the leader of the boys' camping service.

D.V.V.

LIKE CONDITIONS OF WORK FOR MEN AND WOMEN.

At its recent meeting, the Alliance Board instructed the Editor to publish a summary of the replies from Auxiliaries to the Questionnaire sent out in order to ascertain the general opinion as to the main lines of policy to be followed in regard to labour legislation affecting women. The Editor is extremely conscious of the difficulty of preparing such a summary within the limits of space available, as it is impossible to present in this form all the shades of opinion. She begs for indulgence in any case where compression may seem to have conveyed an inadequate presentation of the views given.

QUESTIONNAIRE.

- I. What do you consider should be the basis of policy in regard to labour legislation of an equality organisation such as the Alliance?
 - (a) Should its aim be to educate women to take full responsibility for their own conditions?
 - (b) Should its policy be based on the opinion of the women workers directly affected by such legislation, whatever their employment, as far as this can be ascertained and as it may be expressed in their general attitude (Congresses, Resolutions, Petitions, Papers, etc.)?
 - (c) Or should it be based on the view that all legislation affecting women concerns all women, because though laws may actually deal only with certain women's occupations, the indirect effect of classing women apart from men has a repercussion on the status of every woman, whether she be a paid worker of any kind, a housewife, or a woman of independent means?
 - (d) Can the Alliance without abandoning the policy of equal rights for all women, work for the exemption from restriction of the non-manual woman worker only?
- II. Do you consider that equality in the economic field must mean that all legislation for the protection of the worker must apply equally to men and women?

or
- III. Do you consider that women should be subjected to special legislation
 - (a) During a certain period with a view to:
 - i. a progressive change in their position so that they may be enabled to assume for themselves the defence of their conditions of work as men have done?
 - ii. the application by degrees to men of the special legislation first applied to women only, thus securing both equality and better social conditions?
 - (b) Or do you consider that a woman must always by the fact of her sex require special legislation?
- IV. Do you consider that in regard to:
 1. The protection of maternity:
 - (a) There should be a system of insurance which would permit a woman to give up her employment if she so desires without any legal prohibition and uninfluenced by direct economic pressure?
 - (b) A system of insurance which at the same time prohibits the continuance of employment?

- (c) Prohibition of continued employment without any guaranteed benefit?
 - (d) What action do you suggest should be taken in countries where neither maternity insurance nor social services are likely to be obtained within a short period?
2. Conditions of work:
 - (a) That there should be prohibitions for women only of
 - i. night work;
 - ii. dangerous or unhealthy work?
 - (b) or that all protective legislation should apply to all workers, being based on conditions in the different industries and not on sex?
 3. Hours and Wages:
 - (a) That minimum wages and hours laws and regulations should apply to women only?
 - (b) or that where legal enactments are necessary to protect the working day and earnings, they should apply equally to men and women?

IMPORTANT: In replying to the above questions we beg you not simply to put down what may have been the traditional policy of your Society in these matters, but to consider afresh what really are the implications of one view to the other, and what should therefore be the policy of the Alliance on broad questions of principle.

SUMMARY OF REPLIES.

This compilation has presented great difficulties owing to the different forms of reply. The following countries did not reply in detail but by a general statement of policy:

Australia. Mrs. Rischbieth stated that in the time available, she had not been able to consult her affiliated groups, among which two schools of thought exist. As a Board Member she considers that the Alliance policy should be that of basing legislation on work and not on sex. Maternity protection should be through insurance.

Bermuda. The Chairman also stated that she had not been able to consult her society, and that in any case Bermuda would not be qualified to reply as it has practically no industry.

Dutch East Indies. Equality in everything, with identical conditions for men and women. Maternity to be covered by ordinary sick insurance.

India. In full agreement with the principle of the same conditions for men and women "on the basis of quality and output of work." Maternity preferably dealt with by insurance.

Poland. Necessary to consult workers and social workers in order to get real knowledge of conditions. Legislation should apply to both sexes, but special legislation may be required for maternity, preferably through insurance, as also for men to carry out their military service without prejudice to their employment.

Syria. Explains that conditions cannot be compared to those in Europe. Favours special legislation for women owing to their special maternal function.

U.S.A. Generally speaking, conditions vary so much that each country must deal with them, and a general international policy would seem inadvisable. (This reply was almost impossible to summarise as it dealt at some length with each question).

Replies Question by Question.

Note. Throughout "Great Britain" means St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance and the Women's Freedom League, which gave identical replies, Sweden means both the Frederika Bremer and the Medborgarforbund, except for one note on maternity.

Question I.

- (a) All the countries replied "yes," viz.: Argentine,

Belgium, Ceylon, Czechoslovakia (2 societies), Denmark, Finland, France (2 societies), Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland.

(b) The following replied "yes": Argentine, Switzerland. The following said "no": Belgium, Ceylon, Czechoslovakia (2 societies), Denmark, Finland, France (the U.F.S.F. stating that it is essential to influence women workers in the feminist direction), Great Britain, Hungary (but policy based on both principle and practice), Ireland (but opinion of workers must be considered), Netherlands, Sweden.

(c) All the above countries replied "yes," with similar reservations as those given in the reply to the preceding question.

(d) The following said "yes": Czechoslovakia (Frauenfortschritt), Netherlands, Switzerland.

The following said "no": Belgium, Ceylon, Czechoslovakia (Vybor volebni pravo zen), Denmark, Finland, France (2 societies), Great Britain, Hungary, Sweden.

Ireland replied that each question must be dealt with on its merits.

Question II.

The following replied "yes": Argentine, Belgium, Ceylon, Denmark, France (L.F.D.F.), Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland (except where work is different), Netherlands (small exception for maternity), Sweden (Frederika Bremer with possible exception for maternity), Switzerland (exception for maternity).

"No" was the reply from both societies in Czechoslovakia, and the French U.F.S.F. stated that working women must be consulted, while Finland stated that a difference of opinion prevented direct reply.

Question III.

(a) The following replied "yes": Argentine, Czechoslovakia (Fr. Fortschritt), Ireland (as an instalment), Netherlands (on basis of par ii).

The following replied "no": Belgium, Ceylon, Czechoslovakia (Vybor), Denmark, France (U.F.S.F. in principle—protection possibly necessary sometimes in practice), Gt. Britain, Hungary, Sweden, Switzerland.

Finland referred to reply to previous question.

(b) The following replied "yes": Argentine (for maternity), Czechoslovakia (Fr. Fortschritt—on medical grounds), Ireland (as above).

The following said "no": Belgium, Ceylon, Czechoslovakia (Vybor—but maternity must be taken into account), Denmark, France (L.F.D.F.), Gt. Britain, Hungary, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland.

Question IV.

i. (a) "Yes" from Argentine, Ceylon, Czechoslovakia (both societies), Finland, France (L.F.D.F.), Gt. Britain, Netherlands, Sweden.

"No" from: Belgium (referring to whole paragraph), Ireland, Switzerland.

Denmark stated that help in maternity should be available for all mothers from special funds. France (U.F.S.F.) stated that this should be dealt with by Trade Unions, and Hungary said it could not reply.

(b) "Yes" from Argentine, Ireland, Switzerland. "No" from Czechoslovakia (both), Denmark, Finland, France (L.F.D.F.), Gt. Britain, Netherlands, Sweden.

Hungary said that it is a matter for medical advice, and allowance must be adequate.

(c) All replies received were in the negative.

(d) The following stated that women should work for system of maternity insurance: Ceylon, Brazil, Czechoslovakia (Vybor), Finland, Gt. Britain, Hungary, Switzerland. The Fr. Fortschritt of Czechoslovakia stated that it preferred private associations for maternity aid; Ireland that women should be consulted as to what is most desirable; Sweden (Medborgarforbund)

emphasised the necessity of guarding against special disabilities in guise of benefit.

2. (a) "Yes" from the Argentine (but only for mothers in case of (i), France (U.F.S.F.), Ireland, as an instalment of general prohibition.

"No" from Belgium, Ceylon, Czechoslovakia (but Fr. Fortschritt excepted some cases of dangerous or unhealthy work), Denmark, Finland, France (L.F.D.F.) Gt. Britain, Hungary, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland.

(b) All replies were in the affirmative, except that Argentine and Ireland referred to reply to previous question.

3. (a) All replies were in the negative.

(b) All replies were in the affirmative.

MUI TSAI IN HONG KONG AND MALAYA.

Our readers will remember that Miss Picton-Turbervill was a member of the recent Commission sent out by the British Government to study the conditions of these so-called "adopted" children. The Report of the Commission was recently published—a Majority Report signed by the two men members, and a Minority Report signed by Miss Picton-Turbervill, the only woman. At a meeting organised by the British Commonwealth League to hear Miss Picton-Turbervill speak on the work of the Commission, she stated that while the recommendations in the Majority Report were in the nature of useful administrative Reforms, she regarded them as quite inadequate and she advocated fresh legislation for the protection of all girls under 12 years of age, transferred from their own homes, on the Lines of a Female Child Protection Ordinance already drafted by Sir George Maxwell. The whole question will come before Parliament and it is hoped that something really effective will be done to protect these children, who are often little else than slaves.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Factories Bill is now being discussed in Parliament. In the debate on its second reading some sound remarks were made by Sir E. Graham Little, a distinguished doctor, and by Mrs. Tate. The first said "I do not think there is any medical reason to differentiate between men and women. Pregnancy should be regarded as in the nature of an illness and treated according to the individual case. There ought to be no hard and fast rule such as four weeks rest before and after delivery. Medical supervision should be provided for all workers irrespective of sex." And Mrs. Tate deplored the fact that women and young persons are classed together "You will never get better conditions for the workers until you treat them on the same basis. You will not have women in competition with men in industry if you do the only thing that will cure it, and that is give equal pay for equal work. If you really want to protect women that is the way to do it—not by putting restrictions on women's labour."

At its recent Annual Meeting, the Open Door Council adopted a Resolution protesting against the perpetuation of the policy of classing adult women with adolescents, to the detriment of both, and demanding that adolescent workers of both sexes be dealt with in a separate section. The Resolution also demanded the regulation of hours of work, including overtime, and the regulation of conditions as to health, safety and welfare identical for all adult workers and that the Secretary of State should not have power to make orders and regulations applying to one sex and not the other.

A rather apt comment on the ability of women to protect themselves far better than the male worker

comes, ironically enough, from a notice of a Home Office pamphlet on weight-lifting. This states that women seem naturally attracted by work for which they are physically fitted. The weight-carrying capacity of these "self-selected" women is remarkable. They seem to know their capacity to a nicety and in spite of the undoubtedly heavy work they undertake in certain industries, they are rarely in accidents due to weight-lifting and carrying. So the Home Office does really know, when it studies facts instead of blindly continuing a fallacious tradition, that women need legislative protection—in this instance at any rate—less than men!

In the recent elections to the London County Council, 22 were women elected as against 24 in the last elections.

On March 12th, there was a rally of former suffrage workers, including many ex-prisoners, for the presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence of their portrait painted by Dame Laura Knight, the only woman member of the Royal Academy, as a tribute to their long service to the cause of suffrage, freedom and international good-will. It is hoped that the picture will be on exhibition at this year's Academy.

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

La Conférence qui s'est tenue à Zurich les 27 et 28 février a eu énormément de succès. Nous y avons adopté la méthode de "la Table Ronde" de façon que différentes personnes puissent prendre part à la discussion. La première séance fut consacrée à élaborer un Plan Pratique pour la Paix. Quatre points furent étudiés:

- 1°. sous la présidence de Mrs. Quincy Wright (E.U.A.): "Les obligations d'un traité peuvent-elles être considérées comme inviolables, sans qu'une organisation effective de la paix soit établie?"
- 2°. Présidence: Melle Grütter, Suisse. Comment les bénéfices de la manufacture et du trafic des armes peuvent-ils être éliminés?
- 3°. Présidence: Mme Bakker van Bosse (Hollande). Comment peut-on réaliser l'organisation de la sécurité collective et de l'assistance mutuelle?
- 4°. Présidence: Mrs. Corbett-Ashby (Grande Bretagne). Devons-nous favoriser la reprise des travaux de la Conférence du Désarmement pour arriver à une convention limitée?
- 5°. Présidence: Mme Malaterre-Sellier (France). De quelles manières peut-on prendre des mesures effectives, dans le cadre de la S.D.N. pour remédier aux conditions internationales qui pourraient mener à la guerre?

La séance du Suffrage se subdivisa en deux sections:

- (1) La conquête du vote des femmes — ses résultats, analysée par des délégués des pays ayant obtenu la franchise.
- (2) Nos meilleures méthodes de propagande. Nos possibilités de succès — par des déléguées des pays non affranchis.

La séance du 28 février fut consacrée au sujet suivant: Le travail féminin et le chômage — et se subdivisa en six sections:

- (1) Présidente: Madame Plaminkova. Conséquences de la différenciation des sexes sur le marché du travail.
- (2) Présidence: Mme Brunshvigg. Comment assurer aux femmes, légalement et pratiquement, l'égalité de préparation professionnelle.
- (3) Présidence: Melle Atanaskovitch et Ginsberg. Comment assurer aux femmes au double-point de

vue légal et pratique, l'égalité en matière d'emploi.

Trois groupes de participantes discutèrent séparément les divers aspects de ce sujet: (a) Syndicats et organisations professionnelles — avec Mme Thibert. (b) Egalité dans la préparation professionnelle avec Dr. Dora Schmidt. (c) Egalité des salaires — avec Melle Atanaskovitch — et la Responsabilité familiale des Femmes qui travaillent avec Melle Ginsberg.

Même avec cette méthode de discussions par groupes, le nombre des participantes demeura restreint; car au lieu des 150 personnes attendues il en vint trois ou quatre cents. De ce fait plusieurs salles se trouvèrent trop petites pour contenir l'assistance.

En plus des réunions spéciales à la Conférence, il y eut concurremment à Zurich deux meetings publics: un pour la jeunesse qui fut suivi par 5 ou 600 jeunes gens des deux sexes, et un autre énorme meeting où Mme Leuch, Dr. Schudel Benz, Mrs. Corbett-Ashby, Mme Brunshvigg, Mme Thibert, et Mme Bakker van Bosse traitèrent de questions constitutionnelles, de la place de la femme dans une démocratie et de la solidarité internationale.

Deux banquets eurent lieu dans la vaste salle à manger de l'Eden Hôtel, l'un offert par la Commission de la Paix avec invitations spéciales pour les représentantes des sociétés féminines, et l'autre offert par l'Alliance aux notabilités suisses et aux sociétés masculines, les intéressant ainsi au mouvement suffragiste. L'hospitalité des dames de Zurich fut des plus généreuses: dîner et musique au Lyceum Club; lunch à l'Ecole des infirmières, thé chez Mme. Hämmerli Schindler, soirée récréative intime organisée par notre Auxiliaire suisse; joignez à cela le prêt de voitures, les fleurs offertes et vous aurez une idée de l'amabilité extrême avec laquelle les visiteuses internationales furent reçues à Zurich.

Pour clore ce bref compte-rendu, disons que notre Conférence créa une véritable sensation dans la Presse et que les nombreux reportages, les prises de photographies etc. montrent l'intérêt que la population masculine jusque là si retardataire, a pris à nos délibérations. Nous ne saurions conclure sans payer notre tribut de reconnaissance à Miss Heneker, l'organisatrice de la Conférence, dont le succès éclatant est dû à plusieurs semaines de travail intelligent et inlassable.

RESOLUTIONS.

La Paix.

La Conférence d'études organisée à Zurich par l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage et l'action civique et politique des femmes.

DECLARE que le maintien de la paix est conforme aux intérêts de tous les peuples du monde;

DECLARE que tout ordre international voulant réaliser la paix doit être basé sur la solidarité internationale et comporter un système de sécurité collective;

DECLARE que la Société des Nations tout en réalisant un premier progrès dans cette voie n'a pas encore réussi à remporter une victoire sur les égoïsmes nationaux et que de nouveaux efforts s'imposent pour le succès desquels le concours des femmes organisées est extrêmement précieux;

DECLARE que le désir d'arriver à l'universalité qui permettra seule l'organisation d'une véritable sécurité collective ne doit entraîner ni l'abandon, ni l'affaiblissement du mécanisme de la S.d.N., dont la réforme ne peut être envisagée que dans le but d'en renforcer l'efficacité.

DECLARE que les opinions publiques doivent agir plus énergiquement sur leurs gouvernements afin qu'ils utilisent toutes les possibilités fournies par le Pacte

pour remédier aux situations internationales qui pourraient entraîner la guerre;

DECLARE que le réarmement n'offre qu'un remède momentané et illusoire à la crise du chômage et demande aux gouvernements d'appliquer toutes les solutions proposées par l'Organisation Internationale du Travail dans le but de combattre ce fléau social.

Le Suffrage des Femmes.

La Conférence

après avoir entendu les représentantes des pays affranchis faire l'exposé des luttes qu'elles ont dû soutenir pour faire reconnaître l'égalité politique des sexes, et indiquer les résultats obtenus dans les domaines juridiques, économiques et sociaux,

DEMANDE aux femmes non affranchies d'employer des méthodes qui ont réussi ailleurs, ceux des moyens énergiques susceptibles de s'adapter à leurs pays respectifs;

et les engage à soutenir le combat jusqu'au succès complet.

Le Travail des Femmes.

Fidèle au principe du droit imprescriptible pour toute femme, mariée ou célibataire d'avoir les mêmes possibilités d'éducation et le même accès au travail professionnel que les hommes, et aux mêmes conditions, La Conférence

I. Constate la perte que fait la collectivité en excluant les femmes des postes comportant des responsabilités, et cela aussi bien dans le champ du travail manuel que dans celui du travail intellectuel.

II. Constate la perte subie par les femmes aussi bien moralement que matériellement, par une limitation du droit au travail rémunéré;

III. Constate le fait que les bas salaires payés aux femmes ne leur permettent pas généralement un niveau de vie normale, et qu'ils contribuent en outre à l'abaissement des salaires en général;

IV. Constate qu'enlever un emploi à une femme pour le donner à un homme n'est en aucune façon une solution au problème du chômage, mais constitue seulement un décalage;

V. Constate que l'exclusion des femmes mariées au travail rétribué a pour résultat inévitable de saper toute la situation économique de la femme qui travaille;

VI. Reconnaissant la nécessité d'une organisation professionnelle efficace sur le terrain national et international,

LA CONFERENCE DECLARE

I. (a) que toutes les écoles, collèges, universités et autres établissements d'enseignement doivent être ouverts aux femmes exactement aux mêmes conditions qu'aux hommes et avec la participation égale des deux sexes dans le corps d'enseignement et que les mêmes diplômes soient accordés aux femmes et aux hommes;

(b) que la préparation professionnelle au commerce, aux métiers, à l'artisanat, etc. soit ouverte aux femmes aux mêmes conditions qu'aux hommes et que les mêmes diplômes leur soient accordés;

(c) que l'organisation professionnelle des deux sexes soit développée et leur soit donnée dans les mêmes conditions et avec le même concours des femmes et des hommes;

II. Que toutes les possibilités de travail, postes supérieurs et de responsabilité y compris, soient ouverts aux femmes, mariées ou célibataires, et cela aux mêmes conditions de salaires et d'avancement que pour les hommes;

III. Qu'il est urgent que toutes les femmes exerçant une activité retribué appartiennent aux organisations

professionnelles et y travaillent activement aux intérêts communs des membres de leur profession dans l'égalité des droits et de responsabilité avec leur camarades de travail, tout en maintenant entre elles à l'intérieur des organisations mixtes les contacts nécessaires pour attirer plus fortement à l'organisation toutes les travailleuses et y faire reconnaître leurs intérêts particuliers.

IV. Qu'une action de propagande soit entreprise aussi bien auprès de la jeunesse que dans l'opinion publique générale par les moyens les mieux appropriés dans chaque pays.

REUNION DU BOARD ET DU COMITE INTERNATIONAL.

Deux questions principales furent discutées à cette réunion: (1) le prochain congrès de l'Alliance; (2) le Statut de la Femme à la Société des Nations.

Notre auxiliaire danoise a invité l'Alliance à tenir son prochain congrès à Copenhague. Celui-ci régulièrement devrait avoir lieu en 1938. Mais il se trouve que l'année prochaine verra le cinquantenaire du Conseil International des Femmes, et il nous paraît préférable de repousser à 1939 le Congrès de l'Alliance. Cette décision accroît quelque peu les responsabilités de notre Trésorière, qui se voit obligée de couvrir une autre année avec les mêmes fonds. Heureusement la vente des timbres turcs qui nous a apporté un appui substantiel, nous permettra d'attendre 1939, tout en couvrant les dépenses de la Conférence d'études de Zurich. Nous devons toutefois renoncer à une autre conférence d'études projetée à Varsovie, au moins pour cette année.

La question du Statut de la femme fut discutée tout au long, notamment les grandes lignes du Mémoire que l'Alliance en tant qu'organisation internationale doit soumettre à l'Assemblée de la Société des Nations. Mrs. Spiller et Melle Renson à qui est confiée la rédaction du mémoire proposent aux Auxiliaires que l'on recommande l'adoption d'une Convention internationale des droits égaux pour l'homme et la femme. Ce plan est approuvé par le Comité et confirmé par le Board.

Egalité des conditions de travail pour les deux sexes.
La Rédactrice de Jus a été chargée par le Bureau de l'Alliance, de publier un résumé des réponses fournies par les Auxiliaires au Questionnaire sur la Législation du Travail. L'espace restreint dont nous disposons pour la Section française ne nous permet pas de publier ce résumé en français.

LA VISITE DE MADAME BRUNSCHVIG A LONDRES.

L'Alliance et les trois sociétés qui lui sont affiliées en Grande Bretagne ont eu le plaisir de recevoir à Londres Madame Brunshvigg, sous-secrétaire d'Etat à l'Education, en France. Elle prononça un discours au Banquet de la réunion annuelle de l'Union des Sociétés pour l'Egalité civile; le jour suivant, 6 mars, un lunch plus modeste lui fut offert par la Women's Freedom League et l'Alliance Ste. Jeanne, suivi d'un thé au Secrétariat de l'Alliance. Madame Brunshvigg parla de son travail ministériel, de sa longue carrière suffragiste et de son intérêt dans tout ce qui est international. Son activité et son énergie font l'admiration de tous.

MUI TSAI A HONG KONG ET EN MALAISIE.

La Commission Mui Tsai vient de publier son rapport — l'un, majoritaire, signé par les deux hommes, membres de la Commission, l'autre minoritaire signé par Miss Picton-Turberville la seule femme déléguée à l'enquête sur la situation de ces petites filles dites

"adoptées" mais qui ne sont le plus souvent que des esclaves. Miss Picton-Turberville propose une nouvelle législation pour la protection des fillettes au-dessous de 12 ans, qui ont quitté leurs parents.

ALLEMAGNE.

Une erreur d'impression nous a fait dire, dans le dernier numéro de JUS, que Frau Scholz - Klink, le leader féminin avait réclamé "l'égalité" pour hommes et femmes dans les professions libérales. Ce n'est pas le cas. Frau Scholz - Klink parlait seulement de "qualité."

Une sentence d'une égale importance a été prononcée par la Berlin Kammergericht et hautement approuvée dans la Presse. Il s'agissait de la mère d'un enfant de 12 ans, par trop gâté disait-on. L'éducation d'un tel enfant doit être sauvegardée afin que ce garçon

"ne soit pas au-dessous du statut normal que l'Etat est en droit de trouver chez ses citoyens mâles." Les nouveaux camps de service pour jeunes filles offrent aux femmes la nouvelle profession de "leader."

GRANDE BRETAGNE.

La législation ouvrière des usines, se discute en ce moment au Parlement. Sir Graham Little, un médecin distingué, a affirmé "qu'il n'y avait aucune raison médicale pour différencier le travail de la femme, de celui de l'homme. La grossesse devrait être considérée à l'égal d'une maladie pour laquelle on ne peut établir une règle stricte s'appliquant à toutes les ouvrières."

Madame Tate a ajouté; Vous n'aurez plus à vous plaindre de la concurrence des femmes dans l'Industrie, quand vous aurez appliqué le seul et véritable remède: Egalité de salaire pour égalité de travail.

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(Organ of the St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance).

PUBLISHED ON THE 15th OF EACH MONTH.

PRICE 2d. (Annual Subscription, post free, 2/6).

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance

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Telegrams: "Vocorajto."

Telephone: Victoria 0285.

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