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JUS SUFFRAGII

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MEMORANDUM ON THE DRAFT PROTOCOL ON TRAFFIC IN WOMEN OF FULL AGE.

Women in the various countries are aware that under the International Conventions of 1904, 1910 and 1921 traffic in women is only regarded as a punishable offence (*délict*) when the woman concerned is under the age of 21. If she is over 21 and is a consenting party, it is not an offence to procure her for another person for immoral purposes. All the voluntary organizations in the Alliance have supported a demand that the age limit of 21 shall be removed so that it shall be an offence to procure a woman for immoral use by third parties *at all ages either with or without her consent*. This demand for the abolition of the age limit has been pressed very strongly on the Advisory Committee of the League of Nations and, in 1932, the Advisory Committee of the League of Nations expressed the opinion confirmed by the Assembly,

"that the traffic in women is always and in all circumstances a profoundly immoral and anti-social act, and that this traffic should be punished even if the victims are over age and consent."

If this opinion were embodied in a Protocol it would make it a punishable offence at all times and under all conditions to procure a woman for immoral purposes in order to gratify the passions of another person. But it is evident that the countries which still retain the system of "*maisons de tolérance*" could not sign such a Protocol because they allow the keepers of the tolerated houses to procure women to "*gratify the passions of another person*," and if they signed such a Protocol they would be obliged to close the houses. Now, no country desires to be held up in the public view as a country which cannot sign an International Agreement

to prevent traffic in women because it prefers to keep its system of licensed brothels and, in consequence, this demand from the women's organizations for the elimination of the age limit in the International Agreements against Traffic in Women has been a very powerful argument, which has slowly been forcing *réglémentarist* countries into a difficult and invidious position. They had to come to Geneva and admit, in effect, that they could not strike a truly effective blow at the traffic in women because their hands were tied to the hands of the brothel-keepers.

The position of the *Réglémentarist* Governments at Geneva had thus become uncomfortable. They were to some extent publicly isolated. The situation forced upon them by their inability to sign an International Agreement for the punishment of *all* traffic in women for third parties, provided a splendid opportunity for Abolitionist workers in each of the countries concerned to make a great propaganda against the licensed houses, and to show how this system of "*maisons de tolérance*" affected national prestige abroad.

But, suddenly, a way out appears! The French delegation at Geneva in March produced a draft Protocol which makes it possible for all countries to sign quite happily and still keep their houses of prostitution. The new draft Protocol reads as follows:—

"Whoever, in order to gratify the passions of another person, has procured, enticed or led away, even with her consent, a woman or girl of full age for immoral purposes *in another country* shall be punished, notwithstanding that the various acts constituting the offence may have been committed in different countries."

Mark well these words "*in another country*," it is

the insertion of these words which has solved the difficulties of the Réglementarist Governments. This means that if a Frenchwoman is procured for a brothel in France, or in any French territory abroad such as Morocco, Cochin China, Madagascar, etc. etc. that will not be an offence because she has not been taken to "another country," in other words, she has remained on French territory. In consequence all Réglementarist countries can sign this proposed Protocol and can still permit traffic in women to continue as freely as before within their own territory at home or abroad.

The Advisory Committee on Traffic in Women hopes the Governments may sign the draft Protocol in September, 1933, so action must be taken quickly, and I beg all the women's organizations to write to their Governments and to ask that their national representatives at Geneva shall not sign the draft Protocol but shall propose instead that signature of the draft Protocol be postponed for another year, and that in the next twelve months the question of the elimination of the age-limit be further explored. If postponement of signature for twelve months is not accepted then, in each country, women will do well to ask their Government representatives not to sign the Protocol.

ALISON NEILANS.

Secretary General British Branch of the Abolitionist Federation.
Member of the Board of the International Alliance.

Traffic in Women in the Far East.

We have been asked to insert the following Resolution, which is similar to that adopted by the Alliance Conference at Marseilles, but which in the last paragraph indicates action which might usefully be taken by our affiliated societies:—

"This Annual Meeting of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene records its appreciation of the work done by the Travelling Commission of the League of Nations investigating the Traffic in Women and Children in the East, and welcomes its Report which places the facts before the world, stating, *inter alia*, that 'the most effective remedy against the evil is, in the Commissioners' opinion, the abolition of licensed and recognised brothels in the countries concerned.'

"This meeting congratulates the Women's Associations in the East on the important part which they are taking in work against tolerated brothels and the traffic in women and children, and urges all such organisations to do all in their power to give publicity to this valuable Report.

"This meeting further notes that the Commission urges the need for more practical and regular international co-operation and consultation between the Central authorities in the countries concerned; this meeting, therefore, suggests to the British Government the desirability of asking the League of Nations to call an official conference, in Hong Kong or some other suitable centre, of representatives of all the countries concerned, with the object of arriving at joint organised efforts for the suppression of this traffic in the East."

DISARMAMENT.

The news that our President, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, has been elected Chairman of the Moral Disarmament Committee of the Conference came just too late for inclusion in our June number. The fact is therefore doubtless well known to our readers, but we cannot pass over the event without a word of congratulation and the expression of our good wishes to our President.

The Study Conference arranged by the Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organisations, from May 24th to 27th, was also still in progress when we had to go to press. The meetings were planned to follow closely the sessions of the Disarmament Conferences and fortunately coincided with discussions following on the Roosevelt communication and Hitler's speech in the Reichstag. In the mornings there were informal discussions, under the leadership of Miss K. D. Courtney, with the help of Mrs. Puffer-Morgan. There were two public meetings, addressed by M. Maurice Bourquin, Belgian delegate, on "Control as a Measure of Security," and M. de Madariaga, delegate of Spain, on "Military and Civil Aviation," and M. Kormanicki, delegate of Poland, on "Traffic in and Manufacture of Armaments." The climax of the Conference was the public luncheon at the International Club, with an address by Viscount Cecil of Chelwood.

GREAT BRITAIN.

National Baby Week.

As usual, we have been asked to call attention to National Baby Week, which this year will be held from July 1st to 7th, and we are always glad to do so because, although this is a British week, the movement for the improvement of the health of the child and for the prevention of infantile mortality is world-wide. Every year the National Baby Week Council calls special attention to some one aspect of its work for the welfare of mothers and children, and this year the two subjects thus emphasised are "Preparation for Parenthood" and "The Father's Responsibility." The Week is celebrated by a Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare, by the display of special propaganda films, by Competitions, by lectures and by the co-operation of the Churches. Also the results of the Imperial Baby Week Challenge Shield Competition will be declared, for the best Baby Week held in any place in the British Empire exclusive of the United Kingdom. Since 1926, when it was first awarded, this Shield has been won by places in India, South Africa, Ceylon, Kenya and Western Australia.

It is not possible for us to publish a long article on this activity, but we are sure that if there are those among our readers who would like further details of the objects and methods of the National Baby Week Council, the Secretary would be most glad to give them. The address is 117, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

The League held its Ninth Conference in London from June 13th to 15th with its President, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, in the Chair. The Opening Reception was marked by a presentation to the Honorary Secretary, Miss Daisy Solomon, in tribute to her devoted work for the past six years. Forty Societies sent delegates, Australia, Canada India and South Africa being represented.

Suffrage Resolutions in regard to Bermuda, India, Malta, Palestine and Quebec were adopted. Raj Kumari Kaur made a comprehensive statement as to the demands of Indian women for franchise rights under the new constitution.

There was an exceedingly interesting programme which space forbids us to deal with in detail. "World Unity and the British Commonwealth" included discussion on inter-racial contacts, speaker, Mrs. Jean Macmillan, who has unique experience of native races in Africa; the New Vision in Discipline was the subject of a fine speech by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who dealt with the tendency towards dictatorship and the need for individual self-discipline if democratic government is to

survive. Dr. Gooch spoke on the New Vision in History, and Mr. Pethick Lawrence on the New Vision in Economics. Under the general heading of the "Mother of To-day" there were speeches on the custody and guardianship of children, and the rights of the native mother, and an exposition of various proposals for family endowment given by Miss Rathbone, M.P. Mrs. Rama Rau made a moving appeal for the support of women for the Indian women's campaign for enforcement of the Sarda Act to prevent child marriage.

The last day was given up to a celebration of the Centenary of the Abolition of Slavery within the British Empire, Lady Simon being the chief speaker.

This brief review can give no adequate idea of the variety and interest of the Conference, which always strikes a slightly different note from the ordinary run of women's association meetings. The League's programme is wholeheartedly feminist but it does not confine its proceedings to the mere re-iteration of resolutions on familiar lines. Those who attend really hear first-hand information on the conditions affecting women in different parts of the Empire and get a glimpse of what citizenship does or should mean to women.

GERMANY.

All professional women's organisations and most of the social ones (Red Cross, etc.) have been re-organised under N.S.D.A.P. (National-Socialist) leadership. A "Deutsche Frauenfront" has been created within the N.S.D.A.P. on the same principles as in most other domains of political and public life: appointed, not elected, leadership, and strict adherence to party principles. The aim is to make the Frauenfront all-embracing and representative of women's share in the life of the nation. The leader of the Frauenfront is Frau Gottschewsky, her deputy Freifrau von Hadeln, leader (formerly President) of the Königin Luisebund (attached to the Stahlhelm).

The Allgemeiner Deutscher Lehrerinnen Verein (teachers' organisation) comprising 40,000 members, dissolved on May 7th; founded by Helene Lange 50 years ago, its strength lay in being a purely woman's organisation. It had been requested to join the N.S.D.A.P. Teachers' Union, which comprises men and women. It is to be hoped that its branches for specialised work (high-school teachers, gymnastic teachers, etc., etc.) will be allowed to join as a whole the new general organisation to come. We hope that it will be possible for women to have an influential share in the work.

The National Council of Women dissolved on May 15th, as it could not pursue its work owing to all its professional organisations, and a good many general ones as well, having dissolved or having been dissolved.

Among the measures against unemployment enacted by the Government, some are of special importance for women, namely:

1. Domestic Service. Income and capital tax is lowered for people employing up to three domestic servants, and insurance is largely modified. It remains of course to be seen if the tendency to do without domestic help (small apartments, labour-saving devices, etc.) can be counteracted by such means.

2. Marriage Loans. Every woman who has been working professionally for at least six months within the past two years and gives up her post in order to get married, has a right to receive 1000 M. (£50) worth of goods (furniture etc.), this being a loan repayable at the rate of 1% per month. It is a condition that she shall not enter professional work again before the loan is paid off, as long as her husband's wages do not exceed 125 M. a month. It is hoped that such measures will

increase the population and give work to industry. The funds for the loans are to be raised by an additional tax on the unmarried.

As to the increase of population, procreation by the physically and mentally defective (or transmission of physical and mental defect) is to be restrained in favour of the racially superior types; social measures, welfare work, etc. are to be increased for the promising and healthy part of the population, if necessary at the expense of the incurably weak and morally unhealthy.

A National Trade Union of Employees has been founded under national socialist leadership. It is divided into 9 columns, the 9th comprising women employees under the leadership of Frau Katharine Müller, a well-known trade unionist.

IRELAND.

Married Woman Teachers.

The married woman resembles the poor in more than one respect. She is always with us. The eye of the economist is always on her! Northern Ireland last year decided to press its policy of "Step by step with Great Britain" at the expense of the married woman teachers, who are now subject to dismissal on marriage. The Irish Free State followed this example. At the Annual Congress of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation, at University College, Galway, the marriage ban on women teachers was described by the President as a gross invasion of rights, and could not be defended on economic, educational or ethical grounds. There was no recognition of the fact that a married woman who set out to make education her life work might be expected to become a better teacher than one who regarded teaching as a state of suffering and trial until an avenue of escape presented itself.

Women of Ireland Council.

A meeting of the Board of Officers of the National Council of Women of Ireland was held recently at the office, 5, Leinster Street, Dublin, the President (Prof. Mary Hayden) in the Chair.

It was reported that the National Council was arranging for a visit to Ireland of Miss Alison Neilans in November. It is hoped that the President of the Cork Council of Women will be able to attend the Chicago Congress of the National Council of Women of the United States.

The agenda of the forthcoming meeting at Stockholm of the International Council of Women was considered. The Council was much interested in the proposals regarding improvement of transport conditions for animals, especially in connection with the export of worn-out horses from different countries. Action on the lines recommended by the Rome Cinema and Broadcasting Conference was approved.

Resolutions regarding disarmament and general work for peace were endorsed. It is hoped a delegation of three will be able to attend these meetings.

SWEDISH WOMEN IN FORESTRY.

Among the many professions practised by women in recent years may be counted forestry. In former as in present times there have always been many women land owners, but, though the property usually included forest land, very little importance was attached to the care of it. When timber or other forest products were required the requisite number of trees were felled without any steps being taken for re-forestation. In the beginning of the 20th century, however, certain laws were passed for the protection of private forest land and Boards of Forestry were simultaneously set up in most of the counties to ensure that these laws were

enforced. These Boards were particularly helpful to women landowners, who could obtain the advice of experts on their difficult problems. Previously there had been practically no profits made on forestry other than a small trade with occasional ships bound for Stockholm and other Baltic ports, whereas for many centuries there have been inspectors to supervise and assist women landowners in profitable farming. In 1920 there were 988 women in one single county who owned property with small or large areas of forest, and there has been an increasing demand for technical and practical knowledge of forestry.

Fredrika-Bremer-Förbundet was among the institutions which realised the need for greater knowledge among women farmers; an agricultural school was founded at Rimforsa, and women were admitted to the State schools at Ultuna and Alnarp, women experts were procured, and finally women were allowed to enter for the theoretical courses. In the case of forestry, however, greater difficulty was encountered. Although help could be obtained through representatives of the Boards of Forestry, this became very expensive in the long run, and for the modern woman it cannot be satisfactory to work under such supervision.

There are at present many notable women doing admirable forestry work without having had technical training at any institution or school—women who have been obliged by circumstances to take over the administration of their father's or husband's property, or who have been driven by a deeply rooted love of forest life to study the ways and means of its care by long practical experience. It is now possible, however, for women to get admission to forestry schools, as in the case of a woman who is at present receiving instruction at Omberg. The school routine affords a healthy pleasant life—the day begins at 7 o'clock with four hours' theoretical instruction indoors, followed by five hours' practical work in the open air.

It would hardly be possible for the average woman to qualify fully as a forester, as it is necessary to have practical experience of tree felling and timber floating, which would be difficult to acquire. But the chief point is that women who own forest land should be able to gain a certain amount of knowledge which will enable them to cultivate it profitably, and it is satisfactory to learn that these facilities are now being offered to them.

—Hertha.

THE UKRAINE.

The Sojuz Ukrainok (Alliance of Ukrainian Women) recently held its Annual Meeting in Lemberg, with 200 delegates from its branches and local organisations including some 40 peasant women. The following questions were on the Agenda:

1. Amendment of the Constitution to meet the provisions of the new Associations Law, the opportunity being taken to widen the constitution to cover the whole field of women's demands.

2. The position of Ukrainian women in regard to the economic crisis. It was decided that it was necessary to keep an even stricter watch to ensure that the rights of the woman worker are not endangered, and to be ready to take whatever steps may be necessary with institutions or firms.

3. The work of younger members. It was decided that it is better to get the younger women and girls to work with the existing Committees and other bodies of the Alliance, rather than to form separate youth groups.

4. Finance. The financial position is difficult and branches were asked to make a special effort so as to enable the Alliance to undertake necessary work.

5. It was decided to hold a Universal Ukrainian

Women's Congress in Stanislaw in the summer of 1934, to include Ukrainian women from all parts of the world. A Special Committee was formed and has already set to work.

6. International affiliation. The Committee was instructed to support in every way co-operation with the International Alliance.

Frau Milena Rudnycka, M.P., was again elected President, and the other existing members of the Committee were also re-elected, with some additions to meet the conditions of the new law.

The society can mark a great achievement in its intervention with the authorities of the Greek Catholic Church. The marriage ceremony has been modified in woman's favour and the passage in which the woman swears obedience to the man will no longer be included.

DR. DARIA DZEROWYCZ.

UNITED STATES.

Miss Mary Anderson, chief of the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labour, heads the American delegation to the conference of the International Labour Office in Geneva. The delegation which includes in addition to Miss Anderson, the following members, sailed for Europe early in June: E. S. Smith, Commissioner of Labour of Massachusetts; W. H. Stead of the University of Minnesota; Hugh Frayne, New York State Organizer for the American Federation of Labour.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Ceylon Miss Avabai Mehta has just taken her final examination for the Bar in London. As she is only 19 she cannot be 'called' for another two years, but she then intends to return to Ceylon to become the first woman barrister there.

Great Britain A Bill has been introduced to amend the law as to Jury Service, which would among other things tend to greater equality in conditions for men and women and would remove the present provision by which women may be excused from serving in what are known as "unpleasant" cases.

A Bill has been introduced in the House of Lords to give effect to the articles of the Hague Nationality Convention regarding married women. This would provide that a British woman marrying an alien would not lose her nationality unless she acquired by marriage the nationality of her husband, with other similar provisions. This Bill will not only fail to satisfy the demands of the women's societies for equal nationality rights for women with men, but will undoubtedly be regarded as worse than nothing, in that it will, if passed, tend to delay the granting of those full rights which alone can satisfy women's just demands.

The English Women's Co-operative Guild is celebrating its Fiftieth Anniversary in London. It started with seven members and now numbers over 72,000, and during those fifty years it has done a great work for working women.

India. A law to permit the re-marriage of widows has been adopted in Kashmir, and in Nepal the marriage laws have been amended with a view to preventing early marriages.

Roumania. The Union of the Women of Roumania has just held a grand Congress in Bucarest, organised by the Association pour l'Emancipation civile et politique des Femmes, one of the affiliated societies of the Alliance. Among the speakers are many well-known to our readers, notably Mme. Eugénie de Reuss Jancolesco, who spoke on woman in the public service, and Mme. Hélène Meissner, on the Roumanian woman's part in international action.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT IN GERMANY.

The reports of the dismissal of women from Government and other posts in Germany has been widely felt to be a menace to women's freedom everywhere, and at a recent meeting of the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations, held in London, the following Resolution was adopted:

This Committee of Women's International Organisations, profoundly shocked that the services of women in social welfare and in educational and professional work are being dispensed with in Germany, expresses deep regret at the suffering and loss thus involved and earnestly hopes that this reactionary policy will be discontinued by the German Government.

A Conference of British Women's Organisations called by the National Council for Equal Citizenship also adopted a somewhat similar Resolution:

This Conference of Women's Organisations and of Women Members of Parliament in Great Britain desires to put on record the feelings of deep concern with which they have learned of the dismissal of many German women from administrative posts and their exclusion from other opportunities of public service. The Conference expresses its deep sympathy with those so deprived.

While recognising that the internal affairs of every nation must be mainly its own responsibility, the Conference holds that any injury done to the women of one nation must be deeply felt by the women of all nations and must prove an obstacle to the increase of good-will and to the maintenance of peace among nations.

CHRONIQUE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL.

La XVII^e session de la Conférence Internationale du Travail siégeant au moment où ces lignes sont écrites, et devant vraisemblablement durer jusqu'au 1^{er} juillet, il ne nous est donc malheureusement pas possible de donner aujourd'hui aux lectrices de *Jus* un aperçu de ses travaux. Bornons nous donc seulement, en attendant un prochain article, à relever que cette année 11 femmes font partie des délégations de 11 pays, soit

Danemark: Mme. J. Arenholt, inspectrice du travail, conseillère technique gouvernementale.

Brésil: Mlle. Odette de Carvalho, conseillère technique gouvernementale.

Espagne: Mme. de Palencia, inspectrice du travail, conseillère technique gouvernementale.

Etats-Unis: Miss Mary Anderson, directrice du *Woman's Bureau*, première représentante accréditée.

France: Mme. Letellier, inspectrice du travail, conseillère technique gouvernementale.

Grande-Bretagne: Miss Loughlin, conseillère technique ouvrière.

Norvège: Mme. Betsy Kjelsberg, inspectrice du travail, déléguée gouvernementale.

Pays-Bas: Mlle. J. Steemberghe, conseillère technique gouvernementale.

Pologne: Mme. Eugénie Wasniewska, députée, conseillère technique gouvernementale.

Suède: Mlle. Kerstin Hesselgren, sénateur, inspectrice du travail, déléguée suppléante et conseillère technique.

Suisse: Mlle. Dora Schmidt, secrétaire à l'Office fédéral du Travail, de l'Industrie et des Arts et Métiers, conseillère technique gouvernementale.

Le recul est marqué sur les années précédentes, car

en 1932 16 femmes avaient représenté 12 pays, et en 1931 surtout, 27 femmes représentaient 17 pays. Nous ne croyons pas toutefois qu'il faille attribuer uniquement ce recul au vent de réaction antiféministe, car si personne ne s'étonnera que l'Allemagne n'ait pas envoyé de femmes déléguées à Genève cette année, l'absence que nous déplorons vivement de déléguées femmes de Yougoslavie et de Hongrie est plutôt due, croyons-nous, à des raisons d'ordre pratique, et est compensée d'autre part par la présence d'une femme à la tête de la délégation des Etats-Unis. Ceux-ci en effet, absents depuis bien longtemps des Conférences internationales du travail, sont revenus cette année collaborer dans ce domaine, comme ils l'ont déjà fait dans celui du désarmement, des questions économiques, ou des problèmes sociaux; et ils ont confié la direction de leur délégation à Mary Anderson, si connue par l'admirable activité de son *Woman's Bureau*. Ceci est à relever du point de vue féministe.

L'ordre du jour de cette Conférence comporte plusieurs questions intéressant directement les femmes, si bien que le Directeur du B.I.T. avait, dans sa convocation aux gouvernements spécialement attiré leur attention sur les articles des traités qui ouvrent toutes grandes aux femmes les portes des délégations. Ces questions sont: (a) *la suppression des bureaux de placement payants* (nous avions dit l'an dernier l'intérêt direct qu'ont une foule de femmes professionnellement occupées à la bonne organisation de ces bureaux, comme nous avions relevé l'importance de leur surveillance pour la moralité publique); (b) *l'assurance invalidité-vieillesse et décès* (et nous apprenons au moment de fermer cette lettre que Mme. Kjelsberg vient de remporter un succès féministe en faisant accepter le principe de l'égalité entre les sexes en matière d'assurance); (c) *l'assurance-chômage* et (d) *la semaine de 40 heures*: deux remèdes à la crise, qui touchent les femmes autant que les hommes. On s'est étonné dans quelques cercles féministes, et une note dans *Jus* (No de juin 1933) s'est faite l'écho de cet étonnement, que ne figurât pas à l'ordre du jour de cette session—ci de la Conférence la revision de la Convention sur le travail de nuit des femmes, revision demandée par l'Alliance à Marseille notamment, après l'interprétation donnée par la Cour de la Haye à l'application de cette Convention aux femmes occupant des postes de surveillance et de direction. Mais, pour celles qui sont au courant de la procédure réglementaire de l'Organisation Internationale du Travail, il était entièrement hors de question à Marseille à la fin de mars que cette question pût être ajoutée à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence qui devait se réunir en juin: 6 à 8 mois étant en effet nécessaires pour qu'une question, quelle qu'elle soit, puisse figurer à l'ordre du jour d'une Conférence, la date la plus rapprochée à envisager pour la discussion qui nous occupe se trouve de ce fait la Conférence de 1934. Il était donc impossible au Conseil d'Administration du B.I.T. lorsqu'il s'est réuni en avril 1933 d'inscrire encore la revision de la Convention de Washington à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence actuelle.

Ajoutons, car ceci ne peut manquer d'intéresser nos lectrices qu'à cette même session d'avril du Conseil d'Administration—session à laquelle, pour le dire en passant, notre amie et collègue, Mme. Palencia, a représenté officiellement le gouvernement espagnol—ont été portées, non seulement les conséquences de l'interprétation donnée par la Cour de la Haye à la Convention sur le travail de nuit des femmes et la demande du gouvernement britannique d'ouvrir une procédure de revision, mais encore une résolution du gouvernement allemand, demandant d'exclure du champ de cette même Convention les femmes qui, dans les établissements industriels, sont occupées totalement ou partiellement à un travail de nature

commerciale (travail de bureau, etc.); mais plusieurs délégués se sont déclarés dans l'impossibilité de discuter cette dernière proposition, faute d'avoir reçu les instructions nécessaires. Depuis lors, et dans sa session de juin dernier, le Conseil d'Administration a envoyé aux gouvernements des Etats membres une circulaire leur demandant leur avis au sujet d'une révision éventuelle de la Convention, et leur signalant comme revisables les deux points discutés en 1931: l'exemption des femmes occupant un poste de direction, et la possibilité de déplacer de 23 heures à 6 heures, au lieu de 22 heures à 5 heures, l'intervalle pendant lequel l'emploi des femmes est interdit. Il sera intéressant de connaître les réponses que feront les gouvernements à cette demande et les renseignements sur lesquels ils les baseront: est-il nécessaire de dire ici qu'il semble élémentaire qu'avant de répondre ils consultent les premières intéressées, soit les organisations professionnelles directement visées?

E.G.D.

SECTION FRANCAISE.

FRANCE.

La proposition de loi suivante a été présentée par un groupe nombreux de députés:

Article premier.

Les femmes auront les mêmes droits de vote et d'éligibilité que les hommes.

Art. 2.

Elles pourront exercer ces droits dès les élections municipales de 1935.

Cette proposition a été renvoyée à la Commission du Suffrage Universel.

Il est probable qu'une proposition analogue du groupe socialiste sera déposée ces jours-ci, et c'est vraisemblablement M. Cathala, député de Seine-et-Oise, ancien ministre, qui rapportera ces différentes propositions devant la Chambre.

EGYPTE.

Un groupe de jeunes filles égyptiennes vient de se former dans l'intention de fonder une Association qui serait une filiale de "l'Union Féministe Egyptienne" et qui prendrait pour nom "l'Association des Cadettes de l'U.F.E."

Son but serait d'aider par une coopération étroite, "l'Union Féministe Egyptienne" à réaliser son programme qui est d'élever et d'améliorer la condition de la femme égyptienne.

Cette collaboration sincère et spontanée offerte par nos jeunes filles à la Présidente de l'Association, Mme Charaoui Pacha, a été accueillie par elle et les dames du Comité de l'Union avec joie et approbation.

Après lecture, et acceptation de la demande d'affiliation et des statuts de la jeune Association, les membres du Comité de l'Union ont tenu à remercier les cadettes du noble sentiment de zèle et de solidarité qui les a poussées à collaborer avec leurs aînées, sentiment qui présage les plus heureux espoirs dans l'avenir du mouvement féministe.

Aussi les membres de l'Association des Cadettes se sont-elles réunies pour la troisième fois chez la Présidente de l'Union Mme. Charaoui Pacha.

"L'Union Féministe Egyptienne" annonce donc avec joie cette bonne nouvelle, persuadée qu'elle aura la plus heureuse répercussion chez tous ceux qui apprécient l'influence de l'évolution féminine dans l'avancement et le progrès des peuples.

Une Nouvelle Doctoresse Egyptienne.

En 1926 nous avions le plaisir d'annoncer à nos lecteurs l'envoi d'une première mission médicale de jeunes filles à l'école de médecine de Londres. Ces futures étudiantes comprenaient: Mlles Kawkab Hefni

Nassif, Fathia Hamed, Rawhida Abd el Rahman, Anissa Naghi, Habiba Ewess et Hilana Sidarouss.

C'est avec fierté que nous applaudissons aujourd'hui au brillant succès de Mlle Kawkab Hefni Nassif, la toute jeune doctoresse de l'école de médecine de Londres. Fille d'un de nos meilleurs écrivains égyptiens, Mlle Kawkab Hefni Nassif a décidé de continuer ses études afin de se spécialiser en gynécologie.

Nous rappelons, avec non moins de plaisir que deux autres étudiantes de la mission 1926 ayant terminé leurs études sont déjà attachées à notre hôpital Kitchener. Ce sont: les doctresses Hilana Sidarouss et Tawhida Abd-el-Rahman.

L'Egyptienne.

L'AFFORESTATION EN SUÈDE ET LES FEMMES.

On sait que la question forestière est un point capital dans l'agriculture et l'industrie de la Suède. Le Gouvernement a établi des écoles forestières à Ultuna, Alnarp et autres lieux.

D'autre part le recensement de 1920 a révélé que, dans une seule province, 988 femmes étaient propriétaires de terrains plus ou moins boisés. La Fredrika-Bremer Forbundet fit apprécier au public combien il serait nécessaire d'instruire ces femmes dans l'exploitation judicieuse des forêts et par son intermédiaire des femmes furent admises aux écoles agricoles et forestières de l'Etat.

d'après "Hertha."

DESARMEMENT.

Nos abonnées savent toutes désormais que Mrs. Corbett Ashby a été élue Présidente de la Commission du Désarmement moral. Nous lui offrons tous nos vœux de succès. La Conférence d'études arrangée par le Comité des Organisations féministes Internationales a relayé toutes les sessions de la Conférence et a heureusement coïncidé avec les discussions qui ont suivi les discours de Roosevelt et de Hitler. Le point culminant de la Conférence a été un lunch public avec discours de Lord Cecil of Chelwood.

IRLANDE.

L'Irlande du Nord ayant suivi l'exemple de l'Angleterre et forcé à la démission les institutrices qui se marient, l'Etat libre n'a pas manqué de l'imiter — et c'est une vague d'économie qui déferle sur le pays au mépris des droits des femmes citoyennes et pour le plus grand mal de la corporation enseignante. Les Associations professionnelles protestent en vain.

Conseil des femmes d'Irlande.

Une réunion s'est tenue récemment à Dublin présidée par le Professeur Mary Hayden. Le rapport dit qu'on espère une visite d'Allison Neilans et que la présidente du groupe de Cork doit se rendre au Congrès des Femmes américaines à Chicago.

On considéra le programme du prochain meeting international à Stockholm; on discuta certaines propositions touchant le trafic des animaux et la question du Cinema et de la Radiodiffusion.

UKRAINE.

L'Alliance des Femmes Ukrainiennes a récemment tenu sa réunion annuelle à Lemberg — 200 déléguées dont 40 paysannes y assistaient.

Les questions portées sur l'Agenda comprenaient (1) une révision de la Constitution en accord avec la nouvelle loi sur les Associations, et les réclamations féminines; (2) la position de la femme ukrainienne au regard de la crise économique; (3) le travail des plus jeunes membres qu'il est souhaitable d'incorporer aux

Comités déjà constitués; (4) la position financière de la Société; (5) le prochain congrès qui doit se tenir à Stanislaw dans l'été de 1934; (6) l'Affiliation à l'Alliance internationale. Frau Milena Rudnycka, M.P., fut réélue Présidente. L'intervention de la Société auprès des autorités de l'Eglise orthodoxe a réussi à faire modifier l'article du mariage ayant trait à l'obéissance de l'épouse.

ALLEMAGNE.

Toutes les associations professionnelles de femmes et la plu part de celles ayant un but social ont été d'abord dissoutes, puis réorganisées sous l'égide "national socialiste" en un Frauenfront avec des chefs désignés pour leur foi dans les principes directifs du Parti.

Le leader est Frau Gottschewski et la vice présidente Freifrau von Hadeln, elle même leader de la Königin Luisebund, une section de la Stahlhelm.

L'Association nationale des Institutrices fondée par Hélène Lange il y a 50 ans a été dissoute et sollicitée de se joindre à l'Union des membres de l'Enseignement qui comprend hommes et femmes.

Le Conseil National des Femmes s'est dissous au mois de Mai dans l'impossibilité où il était de continuer son travail, toutes ses sociétés affiliées ayant disparu.

Parmi les mesures prises contre le chômage en Allemagne, certaines ont une importance spéciale pour les femmes. Par ex: l'impôt sera diminué en faveur des contribuables qui emploient de un à trois domestiques.

Des prêts en nature comme par ex. du mobilier sont consentis à l'intérêt de 1% aux femmes qui laissent leur emploi pour cause de mariage. Le fond de ce prêt sera prélevé par une taxe additionnelle sur les célibataires.

Des mesures définitives sont prises pour assurer la procréation d'un type racial supérieur et arrêter autant que possible la propagation de types à mentalité déficiente.

Les emplois de femmes en Allemagne.

L'annonce que presque toutes les femmes employées ont été révoquées de leurs postes a vivement impressionné les Associations féminines des autres pays et à la dernière réunion du Comité de liaison des organisations féminines internationales à Londres une résolution fut votée exprimant leur désapprobation de l'attitude du Gouvernement allemand et leur sympathie pour celles qui ont souffert de cette nouvelle politique.

Une résolution dans le même sens a été également votée par une conférence des diverses branches du Conseil national pour l'Egalité civique.

ETATS-UNIS.

Miss Mary Anderson, chef de la Section féminine du Ministère du Travail, est celle qui conduit la délégation américaine à l'office international du Travail à Genève.

NOUVELLES BRÈVES.

Ceylan. Miss Avabai Mehta vient de passer avec succès son examen d'avocate au barreau de Londres; comme elle n'a que 19 ans, elle ne peut être avocate en titre avant deux ans, mais elle compte alors retourner à Ceylan pour y exercer.

Grande Bretagne. Un bill a été présenté à la Chambre des Lords pour faire passer à l'état de loi les articles de la Convention de La Haye relatifs à la Nationalité de la Femme Mariée. Ceux-ci assurent à la femme une nationalité quelconque mais ne lui laissent pas comme à l'homme le droit de la changer. Les Sociétés féministes sont opposées à ce bill qui méconnaît l'égalité de droits entre les époux.

La Guilde Coopérative des Femmes Anglaises célèbre cette année à Londres son cinquantième anniversaire.

Débutant avec 7 membres elle a atteint le chiffre de 72,000 et a fait d'excellent travail pour les femmes des classes laborieuses.

Inde. Une loi qui permet le remariage des veuves a été adoptée dans la province de Kashmir et dans le Nepal les lois du mariage ont été modifiées afin d'empêcher les mariages juvéniles.

Roumanie. L'Union des femmes roumaines vient de tenir un grand Congrès à Bucarest. Mme. de Reuss Jancoulesco parla de la femme dans les services publics et Mme. Hélène Meissner de la part prise par la Femme roumaine dans l'activité internationale.

Allemagne. Klara Zetkin vient de mourir à l'âge de 76 ans, près de Moscou. Ayant ardemment combattu les nazis, elle s'était enfuie en Russie au moment où Hitler arriva au pouvoir.

On se souvient, qu'à titre de doyenne du Reichstag, elle avait présidé la séance d'ouverture qui suivit les élections du 31 juillet 1932.

France. Maryse Hilsz, qui a accompli le trajet Saïgon-Paris en moins de 6 jours, s'est classée parmi les meilleures aviatrices du monde.

MEMORANDUM SUR LE PROTOCOLE DE LA QUESTION DE LA TRAITE DES FEMMES MAJEURES.

Nos lectrices savent sans doute que d'après les Conventions de 1904—1910—et 1921—la Traite des Femmes est considérée comme un délit, uniquement si elle est pratiquée sur des mineures. Au-dessus de 21 ans, si la femme est consentante, le commerce des prostituées n'est pas légalement punissable. Toutes les Associations volontaires de l'Alliance réclament l'abolition de la limite d'âge et en 1932 une Commission de la Société des Nations a exprimé l'avis que "cette traite des Femmes est profondément immorale et que les auteurs en devraient être punis, même si les victimes ont plus de 21 ans."

Tout le monde est d'accord en principe, pour flétrir le système de la traite — mais les Gouvernements de plusieurs pays se trouvent dans une situation difficile, du fait que la prostitution est réglementée par la loi — et que les maisons de tolérance (source de profits énormes pour leurs tenanciers) sont entrées dans les mœurs. Ces Gouvernements n'osent pas signer un protocole qui, abolissant d'un coup les maisons de tolérance, dresserait contre eux de puissants intérêts.

Mais il paraît que la délégation française a trouvé le joint qui doit ménager à la fois l'intérêt et la morale. Le nouveau projet de Protocole porte ce sera un délit, "de procurer dans un but immoral et même avec son consentement, toute femme ou fille pour un usage dans un pays étranger à sa nationalité."

Et voilà la difficulté résolue pour les Gouvernements réglemmentaristes! Trafic interdit à l'extérieur, mais couvert par la loi à l'intérieur de la métropole... et de ses colonies.

Ce projet de Protocole doit se signer en Septembre 1933. Tous ceux et celles qui tiennent au triomphe de nos idées feront donc sagement de commencer sans tarder une action directe auprès de leurs gouvernements pour obtenir que la signature de ce protocole soit ajournée. Sinon il est préférable d'insister pour que chaque délégation ne signe pas le Protocole avant que cette question de la limite d'âge ait été pleinement discutée.

d'après ALISON NEILANS,
Secrétaire générale de la Section britannique
de la Fédération abolitionniste.

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