

WOMEN'S
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THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE NEWS



THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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"PIONEERS, O PIONEERS!"

Two pieces of reading which fell by chance into the same week have raised an interesting point. It is not a new one, nor, one supposes, is it capable of being satisfactorily dealt with and put out of the way; it is as old as the truth that a prophet has no honour in his own country—the ignorance and ingratitude of the heirs of all the ages with regard to the work of reformers. It may be useful to deal with it once again.

The first thing, then, was the story of Caroline Norton, as told by Mrs. Ray Strachey in her book, "The Cause," and the second, an article by a gifted actress, contributed to the Sex Equality Debate which has been raging in the "Daily News," and headed: "But We Don't Want Sex Equality." What is the connection between the two?

Caroline Norton was a beautiful, brilliant creature who took London by storm in 1826. She married at nineteen and had three children. The marriage proved unhappy, and her husband, seizing an opportunity when she was out of the house, carried away the children, gave them to a cousin of his to care for, and would not let their mother see them. "Caroline," writes Mrs. Strachey, "then found out the dreadful situation in which the law placed her. Not only was she penniless, and unable to keep any money if she earned it, but she had absolutely no rights in her children and might never see them again if her husband so decreed." Her husband brought an action accusing her of "criminal conversation with Lord Melbourne." Caroline found that in this trial which concerned her honour and her good name she had no standing at all. Being a married woman, she could neither sue nor be sued, and could not be represented by counsel in the trial. Legally it was no affair of hers, for legally she could have no affairs, if she was a virtuous and a married woman. . . . Her husband refused to give her any allowance, and retained, as was his legal right, the furniture and all the property that was hers." An insulting attack on

her was published and when, "furious to the last degree," she prepared to bring an action for libel, it was only to realise that, as a married woman, she could not sue. "I have learned the law respecting married women piecemeal," she wrote, "by suffering every one of its defects of protection." Yes, protection, for, as Sir Wm. Blackstone wrote in 1765: "The disabilities a woman lies under are for the most part intended for her protection and benefit, so great a favourite is the female sex in the law of England." But it did not work out so well in practice as it sounded, as Caroline Norton and countless other unhappy women learned "piecemeal." So much for the eighteen thirties. The Woman's Movement has since then gained power, flourished, come within sight of the goal. And what is Miss — writing in the "Daily News" in 1929?—"I gather that the law to-day, while accepting Sex Equality as a general principle, does still persist in regarding a woman as something different from a man. For it seems that we women still enjoy, as women, certain privileges. . . . The trouble is, of course, that Sex Equality is already much too firmly established to be uprooted. . . . The people who asked for Sex Equality, and fought for it, and won it, were the Feminists; and the Feminists were, in my opinion, entirely unrepresentative of the women who were at last granted Sex Equality. . . . The ordinary woman never asked for Sex Equality but had it thrust upon her." Well! It is not clear what this lady thinks she has lost, or what exactly she thinks the Feminists have thrust upon her, but it is obvious, is it not, that she has little idea of the changes these women have wrought in the ordinary lot of women. Probably to her Sex Equality implies a set of dull political duties which she does not care to perform, and she is evidently haunted by the idea that there were some fine perquisites in law reserved for women in the old days. All the other things: the right to keep

one's own money, the ability to divorce, and the re-which, by the efforts of feminists, have been squeezed painfully into the Constitution in the time between Caroline Norton's and our own she must believe to have been there since Magna Carta. But, after all, is not this perhaps a good sign—that the fruits of recent victories should seem such a natural inheritance to a woman of great gifts, for Miss — is one of the finest actresses in the country, that she does not even know they are the result of a bitter struggle?

FORCED LABOUR AND SLAVERY.

In 1925 the Slavery Commission of the League of Nations made its report to the Council. The members of that Commission pointed out to the League that it would be necessary to deal not only with Slavery, but with Forced Labour. In pursuance of this, the League brought in and passed a Slavery Convention, and requested the International Labour Office to undertake an enquiry, and possibly a Convention, on Forced Labour. With the assistance of an expert Committee, a Report on Forced Labour has been prepared for consideration, and will be brought to the notice of the International Labour Conference which opens at Geneva on the 20th May next.

Forced Labour takes two forms:—

- (a) That for public purposes.
- (b) That for private profit.

There is nothing to be said in favour of Forced Labour for private profit. It can have no ethical justification, whilst from an economic standpoint this form of labour is difficult and expensive to control, and its productive results are far inferior to contented free labour. It is, indeed, claimed that forced labour for private profit can only be called by one word—Slavery. This fact is emphasised in the Report by the International Labour Office when drawing attention to a memorandum placed before it by the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, in which was quoted the statement of Lord Cromer, as to what we mean by Slavery. The builder of modern Egypt said:—

"Here, therefore, is the explanation of British views which M. de A— seeks. The answer to his question, what we mean by slavery? is that we reluctantly admit the necessity of compulsory labour in certain cases, and that we do not stigmatise as slavery such labour when, under all possible safeguards against the occurrence of abuses, it is employed for recognised and indispensable purposes of public utility. On the other hand, we regard the system when employed for private profit, as wholly unjustifiable and as synonymous with slavery."

The Convention on Slavery passed by the League of Nations incorporates in this Slavery document the question of Forced Labour for private profit, and lays down the following:—

Article 5.

"(2) In territories in which compulsory or forced labour for other than public purposes still survives, the High Contracting Parties shall endeavour progressively and as soon as possible to put an end to the practice. So long as such forced or compulsory labour exists, this labour shall invariably be of an exceptional character, shall always receive adequate remuneration, and shall not involve the removal of the labourers from their usual place of residence."

This article, it was admitted at the time, is not wholly satisfactory, and it is hoped that if and when the Slavery Convention comes up for re-consideration, a definite period will be put to the employment of Forced Labour for private profit, even under the foregoing conditions laid down in the Convention.

But the question now arises whether every form of forced labour should be abolished, and in asking this question one is bound to ask another, namely: By what right do the nations exact labour for public purposes from the natives? In theory, modern Governments merely succeed to the title of former rulers, and if they kept their demands within the circumference of their "inherited powers," very little objection could be taken to Forced Labour for public purposes, because a Chief was severely restricted by his tribe as to the form of labour he could call out. The following are the most important conditions which governed activities by native rulers:—

- (1) The labour was not "called out" at harvest time, nor upon occasions when exceptional domestic demands were made for hunting, community fishing, and so forth.
- (2) It was never called out for service which involved the break-up of family life, and therefore was only employed at a reasonable distance from home.
- (3) Where a Chief requisitioned labour for his own land or cattle, he did so in virtue of his public position and its obligations.

But the interpretation by modern Governments of "public purposes" is exceedingly wide. A simple native bridge, generally a few hundred tree trunks placed across streams, which would involve native tribes in only a few days' labour, has become, under modern developments, a stone bridge, requiring labour from the tribe for months on end. The native track for foot passengers, seldom more than about 18 inches wide, has to-day become the broad metalled road, 20 feet wide, mile on mile long, involving hundreds of labourers for months in the year. In some parts these public services are extended to Government portage, Government houses, Government fishing, hunting, "beating the bush," and indeed, anything that the local autocrat may feel he needs.

It therefore becomes necessary to insist that every form of Forced Labour should now be abolished, excepting only for purposes of national emergency—and what is meant by national emergency?—only this—When epidemic threatens, that the creeks and stagnant pools should be cleared—when fire breaks out that every villager should be called out to assist.

Admittedly, however, some time must elapse before this is possible. Pending that time, it is hoped that certain conditions will be attached to the employment of Forced Labour.

Wages. Wages should be paid at the market rate payable for work of a similar nature in the same territory.

Sustenance and Medical Assistance should also be provided.

Age and Sex. In no circumstances should women and children be called out for public works; moreover, demands should be limited to able-bodied males between the ages of 16 and 40.

Distance and Time. One of the most important conditions should be a limitation of distance and time, because by taking the worker too far away from his home for too long a period, family life is completely broken up.

Discipline and Penalties. Punishments should be limited to fines, or prolongation, at the instance of a Judicial Officer, of the period of engagement. Flogging and imprisonment should be definitely forbidden.

The final and most important condition is that laid down in the Slavery Convention, namely, that in all cases the responsibility for any recourse to compulsory or forced labour should rest with the competent central authority of the territory concerned.

JOHN M. HARRIS,

BERLIN CONGRESS.

(We published in the January issue of the paper a draft programme of the forthcoming Congress: this programme has been enlarged and amended and delegates and visitors will now be able to study in detail the arrangements for meetings and social intercourse.)

DRAFT PROGRAMME.

Preliminary meetings: June 12-16, 1929.

The World's Y.W.C.A. Supplement will be issued with the April number, instead of this month.

Afternoon Simultaneous meetings of three international Committees (members only), viz.:
Committee for Like Conditions of Work for Men and Women.
Committee for Family Allowances:
Committee on the Nationality of Married Women.

Evening President and Board's dinner to prominent personalities (Kaiserhof).
Excursions, etc., available: Sightseeing tour round Schoeneberg.

Saturday, June 15.
Morning Simultaneous meetings of three international Committees (Committee members only), viz.:
Committee for the Equal Status of Women under the Law:
Committee for Women Police:
Committee for Work in the Enfranchised Countries.

Afternoon Leaders of delegations to summon delegation meetings.

5-10 Frau Schreiber's reception to Board and Presidents. Other receptions, etc., to delegates.
Excursions, etc., available: Sightseeing tour through the City. Tea-parties by professional organisations. Lantern lecture in the Town Hall on Welfare Work in Berlin (evening).

Sunday, June 16.
Morning Meeting of Finance Committee.
Afternoon President and Board free to see delegates.
Evening Board's reception to delegates.
Excursions, etc., available: Excursions to the environs; visits to various institutions.

CONGRESS SESSIONS.

June 17-22.

Staatliche Festsale, Platz der Republik, Berlin.
(Kroll Hall).

Monday, June 17.

Morning 10-1 Opening of Congress.
President's speech.
Official speeches of welcome.
Report of Admissions Committee.
Roll-Call with procession.
ANNIVERSARY SESSION.
"The Twenty-five Year's Triumph of Woman Suffrage," MRS. CHAPMAN CATT.

1-0 Luncheon given by City of Berlin to delegates.

Afternoon 4-6 "Twenty-five Years of Work and Progress towards Legal, Economic and Moral Equality."

Evening Concert at the Schloss Monbijou.

Tuesday, June 18.

Morning Nomination of candidates for new Board during the day.
Report on Rules of Order.
Report of Board; Resolutions submitted by Board.
Report of "Jus Suffragii."
Report on League of Nations and International Labour Office.
Amendments to Constitution.

Afternoon Nationality of Married Women, Report and Resolutions of Committee.
Equality under the Law, Report and Resolutions of Committee.
Official reception.

5-30 Evening Public meeting: "Women Leaders: their work in Parliament and Local Government."
Chairman: Senator PLAMINKOVA: in the Reichstag.
Excursions, etc., available: This day and daily visits to museums and social institutions.

Wednesday, June 19.

Morning Family Allowances, Report and Resolutions of Committee.
Unmarried Mother and Her Child, Report and Resolutions of Committee.
Like Conditions of Work for Men and Women, Report and Resolutions of Committee.
Gala Performance in the State Opera House, Unter den Linden.

Thursday, June 20.

Morning Elections 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Planning and financing of future work of the Alliance for Suffrage and Equality.

Afternoon Women Police, Report and Resolutions of Committee.
Public meeting on Women Police.
Chairman: MISS ROSA MANUS: the Lehrervereinshaus Alexander-Platz.
Official reception.

Friday, June 21.

Morning Equal Moral Standard, Report and Resolutions of Committee.
Report on Bibliographical Bureau.
Peace and the League of Nations, Report and Resolutions of Committee.
Official reception.

5-0 Evening Public Meeting for Peace.
Chairman: MISS RUTH MORGAN: Kroll.

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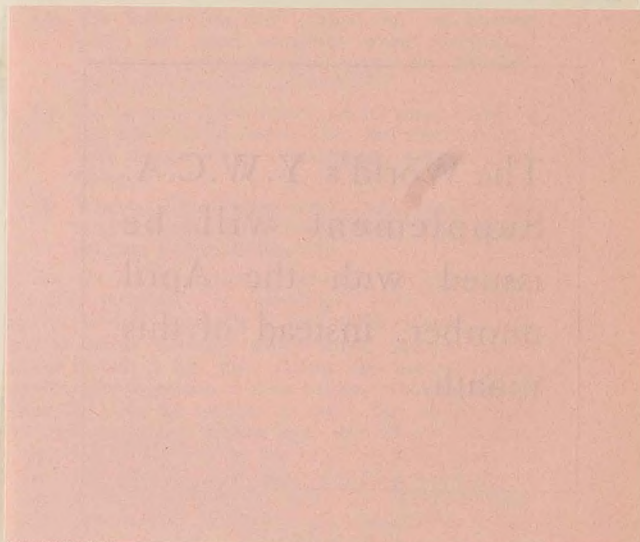
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Hotel Kaiserhof, Wilhelmsplatz.

Wednesday, June 12.

2-5 Board Meeting.
Evening Reception to Press.

Thursday, June 13.

10-0 Board Meeting.
2-30-6 Meeting of International Committee (Board and Presidents or their proxies).
7-0 Mrs. Ashby's dinner to Board and Presidents (Kaiserhof).
8-30 Continuation of Board meeting if necessary.
Excursions available: Sightseeing tour round Charlottenburg.

Friday, June 14.

Morning Simultaneous meetings of three international Committees (Committee members only) viz.:
Committee for Peace and the League of Nations:
Committee for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child:
Committee for an Equal Moral Standard and against the Traffic in Women.
Afternoon Simultaneous meetings of three international Committees (members only), viz.:
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Committee for Family Allowances:
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Official reception.

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Report on Bibliographical Bureau.
Afternoon Peace and the League of Nations, Report and Resolutions of Committee.
5-0 Official reception.
Evening Public Meeting for Peace.
Chairman: Miss RUTH MORGAN: Kroll,

Saturday, June 22.

Morning Unfinished business.
 Afternoon Women Voters.
 Result of elections.
 Evening Youth's Call to Youth; Midsummer-night's Fire, Sportforum.
 Chairman: Mlle. Atanatskovitch.

Sunday, June 23.

12 noon. Peace Festival: Volksbühne.
 Afternoon. Party for all Congress members and workers at Schloss Charlottenburg.

Monday, June 24.

Final Board Meetings, Kaiserhof.

REPORT OF THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE.

The Entertainment Committee considers it to be its special object to offer opportunities for establishing personal contact and the exchange of thought and opinion between delegates, visitors to the Congress, and the women of Berlin. For this purpose and for the purposes of recreation, excursions are planned to the surroundings of Berlin, which will probably be unknown to many visitors, as well as receptions in private houses.

For the first Sunday an excursion to Potsdam in comfortable charabancs has been planned to visit the castles and the fine parks, followed by a steamer-trip on the surrounding lakes and tea-receptions in various private houses in Potsdam, Wannsee and the neighbourhood.

We think that this first day will give opportunities for personal acquaintanceship, which will be valuable for the coming week's work. In the course of the week a special programme will provide for visits to Museums and other places of interest under expert guidance. The Directors of the various Museums have kindly promised their assistance. Visitors to the Congress will have free admittance to the Museums or be admitted at reduced fees and experts in the History of Art will accompany each group.

Theatre and Concert Parties will also be arranged; on Monday evening there will probably be a Concert in the rooms of the little castle of Monbijou, which can be visited at the same time, and with its adjoining park will form a suitable background for a social gathering.

For the Gala Performance on Wednesday evening at the State Opera House delegates will be given special cards, but we hope that a number of cards will be given out at special rates for visitors too. It is also hoped that tickets at special rates will be secured for the various other Theatres during the week. For the different Tea-Receptions during the week, not only delegates, but visitors also will as far as possible receive invitations, so that we can promise them an interesting and varied week's programme. The Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, Frau Hildegard Abegg, is being assisted by a number of co-workers who have divided up the work among themselves.

Notice of Hospitality Committee.

The Berlin Local Committee for the Congress of the Alliance has formed a Hospitality Committee. This Committee aims at providing quarters for all delegates and visitors, including juveniles. In Hotels and Boarding-Houses rooms will be secured at reduced rates, and guest-rooms will be provided in private families. Bookings should be early, not later than the beginning of May. We ask all intending visitors to write as soon as possible to the Hospitality Committee.

Chairman: Frau Luise von Leyden, Dahlem, Falenried 18.

FOURTH CONFERENCE ON THE CAUSE AND CURE OF WAR.

Up on Capitol Hill the United States Senate ratified the Kellogg peace pact and passed to its "unfinished business"—the cruiser bill.

Down in the Hotel Washington one thousand women assembled for the Fourth Conference on the Cause and Cure of War hailed the Kellogg pact, in resolutions of congratulation to Secretary Kellogg and President Coolidge, as "the most important single step ever taken by the United States toward establishing the peace of the world." But they, too, had work to face, and after this moment of rejoicing they passed to their unfinished business of studying, encouraging and supporting "all movements to build up the institution of peace until," as Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, their chairman, urged, "the last loopholes for war are closed."

When the Conference met a year ago, the Kellogg multilateral treaty was under severe criticism at home and abroad. At that time the delegates voted to make it their first business to educate sentiment for the treaty. So strenuously did they work through their organisations that this year they met in Washington not only as a conference but as a crusade carrying the fruits of their labour to Congress.

The first morning's programme was not a discussion of peace issues but a procession of delegates from forty-five out of forty-eight states to call on their respective senators with resolutions passed by women's meetings in their states. The Cause and Cure of War Conference does not claim the slightest influence in hastening the vote on the pact the next morning or in strengthening the courage of wavering senators to vote for it without reservations. But no senator could have failed to be impressed by the tremendous evidence of resolutions in favour of the pact from an aggregate of 12,533 women's meetings, representing hundreds of thousands of women's voices lifted for peace.

Thus the first work that the Conference laid out for itself in 1928 came to a happy ending on the third day of its 1929 gathering. The passing of the Pact for the Renunciation of War removes, as one speaker put it, "the threat lurking in American isolation and although we are still *outside* the League, puts us *inside* the will to peace."

But then to the loopholes.

Professor John Holladay Latané, head of the History Department of Johns Hopkins University, and Professor of Law Edwin M. Borchard of Yale University, pointed out the dangers to peace in the desire to control territories for the sake of raw materials and to protect American investments. "Foreign investors feel safer when backed by a big navy," declared Dr. Latané, and he proposed, as the only way to stop up this source of trouble, to make governments not responsible for squabbles that arise over private investments. Dr. Borchard appealed for some regulation of international competition, like the Sherman anti-trust law over domestic trade.

An insidious menace to peace was described by John Nevin Sayre, vice-chairman of the Committee on Militarism in Education, as the growing strength of compulsory Reserve Officers Training Corps in hundreds of our colleges and high schools, which breeds, he showed convincingly, "the militarist maladies of conscription, censorship and war spirit."

The whirl of wings over America from military airplanes; chemical researches that "have invented mustard gas which can and will be sprinkled from all airplanes upon a wide area, causing untold suffering to combatant and non-combatant alike; war publicity methods; big naval aspirations when our renunciation

of war should be the cause of diminishing need of armament; the misunderstanding that our undefined Monroe Doctrine causes in Latin-America—all these loopholes through which wars might burst were examined by the delegates. Nor were they content with a cursory glance—they looked at both sides, they pried into each "loophole" with searching questions.

But over one gap yet to be closed in order to make world security bomb-proof, the delegates disagreed.

"The loophole of self-defense," declared Mrs. Catt in her opening message, "greatly weakens existing treaties and will prove a constant menace to the security of nations, and may, despite the peace agreements, involve the world in international war, each state claiming self-defense as its excuse."

When, however, on the last day, the Findings Committee submitted as part of the programme for future work "an examination of the fallacies that support self-defense as a necessary exception to the operation of peace agreements," the majority of delegates voted to strike out this section as "confusing the constructive work" before them. Mrs. Catt herself, in a fearless and spirited statement after the vote was taken, repeated her own strong conviction that "self-defense" as an excuse for war should be submitted to arbitration like other causes.

"I realize," she said, "that I am ahead of average public opinion. But I know I am right. I would die for it. And sooner or later every woman in the world will come to it."

Fearing to impose her will on the Convention as its leader, Mrs. Catt would not agree to a proposal to reconsider the vote. The "unfinished business" of the Conference on the Cause and Cure of War is mapped out, therefore, along two lines: "the support of movements to build up the institution of peace through more complete world agreements, and the frank discussion of policies and practices which continue the war institution and postpone the building of the peace institution."

The emphasis of study for the coming year and of the fifth conference, which will again be held in Washington, will be United States relations with other countries on this continent—Canada to the north and Mexico and Latin-America to the south. Another educational campaign will be undertaken for ratification of the new arbitration and conciliation agreements of the Pan-American Arbitration Conference.

The Woman's Journal.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

We are supporting two Bills which have recently been introduced into the House of Lords—one by Lord Astor to enable Peeresses in their own right to become members of the House of Lords, and the other by Lord Buckmaster to raise the age of marriage for boys and girls in this country to sixteen years of age.

We have arranged a series of meetings to be addressed by women who have recently returned from visits to countries overseas. Mrs. Cannon, who has made a long stay in India and a study of conditions there, recently spoke on Social Conditions in India; Miss Chave Collisson, who organised Miss Maude Royden's tour in Australia and New Zealand, was the principal guest at a dinner arranged by us at the Minerva Club, and gave an address on Miss Royden's successes in Australia and New Zealand, and her own impressions gathered during a visit to India, Ceylon, Singapore and Hong Kong. In the near future Mrs. Dore, who has just returned from South Africa, will speak on "The Position of Women in South Africa," the Chair being taken by Miss Daisy Solomon, whose father was for many years a Member of the Legislative Assembly in South Africa. Later on, Mrs. Archdale, who has just returned from a visit to

Canada and the United States of America, will speak at a meeting at the Minerva Club on "Nationality."

In our paper "The Vote" we have had an article by Miss Maxse, the Chief Organiser of the Conservative Party, on the Conservative policy; by Dr. Marion Phillips, Chief Woman Organiser of the Labour Party, on the Labour policy; and by Miss Margaret Harvey, Secretary of the Women's National Liberal Federation, on the Liberal policy; and in London and the Provinces our Branches have arranged public meetings at which protagonists of each of the three parties put forward the policy of the Party to which they belong. Opportunity is then given for questions and discussion. In the meantime, all parties are being urged to include equal opportunities, equal pay and equal responsibilities for men and women in their programmes for the coming General Election, and at that Election candidates of all parties will be closely questioned as to their attitude towards equal rights for men and women.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

NEWS IN BRIEF.**Women Estates Managers.**

Chesterfield, Chester, Liverpool and West Bromwich Corporations have recently appointed women managers. The City of Leeds has also been searching for a woman trained in house property management on the Octavia Hill system to help in the supervision of their housing estates.

In London, too, there are increasing demands for educated women who have been properly trained and have some practical knowledge of house repairs.

Mrs. Margaret Wintringham is taking a special interest in this question, which affects not only the future of many housing estates, but is also providing a new career for women interested in social work. Mrs. Wintringham is President of the Association of Women House Property Managers and is now trying to arrange an organisation to train more candidates and provide women managers when suitable posts offer.

Women's Progress in Spain.

"Women in Spain and Latin America" was the subject of an address delivered in Glasgow to the members of the Spanish Society of Scotland by Miss Olga de la Barra. Dr. Frances Melville presided. The lecturer said that the progress of women in Spain had advanced very slowly and with great difficulty owing to customs, traditions, and laws. Until recently in Spain and in all Latin-American Republics the only girls who attended public schools were the daughters of middle-class parents. The daughters of society received their limited education in the convents, in foreign schools, or with governesses in their own homes. To-day, however, the younger generation in the Latin-American Republics had entered body and soul into all modern ways.

Pan-Pacific Conference—Mrs. Rischbieth's Impressions.

Mrs. B. M. Rischbieth, J.P., leader of the Australian delegation at the Pan-Pacific Conference held recently at Honolulu, has returned to Australia greatly impressed with the importance of international co-operation. Since her arrival in Sydney by the steamer Aorangi in September, Mrs. Rischbieth has visited each State of the Commonwealth, except Tasmania, and spoken on the work of the Conference and the pressing need for immediate preparation for the next Pan-Pacific Congress, which it is expected will be held in Australia. As a result of a conference of representatives of the five international bodies which nominated the Australian delegation, Mrs. Rischbieth, said in the course of an interview, an Australian co-operating committee of women's organisations had been formed, with a nucleus of four of these associations, and would keep in close touch with Honolulu.

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

AUSTRIA

MARIANNE HAINISCH.

On March the 25th Marianne Hainisch will celebrate her 90th birthday. Austrian women will keep this day as a holiday, as it offers them an opportunity to express the deep love and gratitude they feel for their venerable leader.

It is nearly sixty years since Marianne Hainisch, on the occasion of a devastating economic catastrophe which forced many well-to-do women to leave their homes and to earn money, pointed out in a meeting the insufficiency of women's education and the necessity for its development. By this appeal, which found a lively echo in public opinion, she laid the foundation for the Austrian women's movement. She had no revolutionary effect, she did not theorise, the sources of her strength lay in her personality, her great initiative and her sincerity. A great number of people were fascinated by her fresh enthusiasm, by the force of her impressive words, and by the convincing power of her appeal. These people became her faithful adherents through life, united in endeavour against the paralyzing inertia of indifference and prejudice.

From that day, Marianne Hainisch has worked for women's development with a fixed aim. At first, she endeavoured only to promote the educational and professional interests of women, but before long she recognised the importance of the social development of women, the necessity that women should co-operate with men as equals in the tasks of general human progress. She never tired of pointing out that only mutual understanding, mutual promotion and mutual work of men and women can be beneficial for all. In consequence of this clearly fixed attitude Marianne Hainisch stood not only for girl's education, but also for a reform of boys' schools, whose development is much indebted to her perseverance. Wherever progressive movements began, enlightenment was being spread and burning questions were discussed, Marianne Hainisch was at work. She served the Volksbildungverein, (Association for People's Education), the Settlement, the Verein für erweiterte Frauenbildung (Association for Extended Women's Education), the Women's Club, the Women's Suffrage Association, etc., and a great many social and welfare enterprises. Her most important work is the National Council of Austrian Women. For years she worked at the foundation of this organisation, and in spite of her modesty she felt great jubilation when she succeeded in bringing about the affiliation with the International Council of Women. It is not possible to enumerate here the positive achievements of the Council. It may only be mentioned that Marianne Hainisch took upon herself the work of numberless crusades against Ministers and official Boards, of endless meetings and enquetes, in order to lead the Council from success to success. Lectures and meetings made her acquainted with the whole of Old Austria. Several pamphlets and a great many newspaper articles proved her ability as an author, and give proof of the clarity of her mind, her judgment, and her wide social outlook. In the International Council of Women she held the place of a Vice-President for years. Since 1925 she has been Honorary Vice-President of this organisation.

In 1918 Marianne Hainisch retired from her work as President of the National Council of Austrian Women. The burden of her age caused her to renounce this labour, but as a Honorary President she still takes part in their activities. Marianne Hainisch, who had the satisfaction of seeing her only son, Dr. Michael Hainisch, elected as the first President of the new Republic, is a shining model of an unswerving worker and idealist.

GISELA URBAN.

GREAT BRITAIN.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

The Age of Marriage Bill.

We had hardly dared to hope that an opportunity would be found for discussion in Parliament on any of the reforms for which we have been working, as the time of the Government is so carefully rationed until the General Election. It came therefore as a pleasant surprise when we were informed that Lord Buckmaster, one of our best friends in the House of Lords, proposed to introduce the Bill which we have promoted to raise the legal age of marriage in this country to 16 for girls and boys alike. We admit with shame that it is as low as 12 for girls and 14 for boys at present. Lord Buckmaster moved the second reading on February 19th; he is always a moving and eloquent speaker, and never more so than when his sympathy is stirred by injustice or wrong. As he pointed out, the fact that marriages under the age of 15 were very rare made no difference to his case against this blot on our statute book. No one spoke against the Bill, and Lord Buckmaster urged the Government to allow it to pass through all its stages before the dissolution. But our hopes were somewhat dashed to-day (February 22nd) when we heard that in spite of Lord Buckmaster's remonstrance the Committee stage which follows the second reading has been postponed.

Women Students in Medical Schools.

In a leading article in this paper last month reference was made to the forthcoming report of a committee appointed by the Senate of the University of London on the subject of women medical students. At a recent meeting of the joint Committee of Women's organisations to deal with this subject, of which Miss Eleanor Rathbone is Chairman, the report was fully considered. Much gratification was felt at the unanimous finding in favour of Co-education in Medical Schools under the University as being in keeping with the general policy of the University in recognising no distinction of sex. The Committee also welcomed the complete refutation of the favourite arguments against the admission of women, such as the 'wastage' due to marriage and supposed difficulties of discipline. It felt, however, that certain dangers lurked in the suggested compromise of three types of schools, for men only, for women only, and mixed, and urged that whatever solution be adopted women should not only have equal freedom with men to choose whichever type of school they may prefer, but also equal opportunities of competing for appointments in medical schools after training. The whole matter is arousing a great deal of attention in the Press and elsewhere, and the Joint Committee of Women's Organisations referred to above are keeping a vigilant eye on possible developments.

Another Woman in Parliament.

We are glad to welcome another woman member of Parliament—Mrs. Hugh Dalton. Mrs. Dalton is a member of the Labour Party, and has already gained experience by her work on the London County Council. Of the nine women at present in the House of Commons the numbers of Conservative and Labour women are now equal—four each. There is only one Liberal, making nine in all. The N.U.S.E.C. has for some time been at work on the constituencies of women who propose to stand at the General Election. It is earnestly hoped that the number of women may at least be doubled.

The Annual Council Meeting.

The Annual Council Meeting of the N.U.S.E.C.

HUNGARY.

IMPOSING DEMONSTRATION BY THE REPRESENTATIVE WOMEN OF HUNGARY.

Joint Meeting of the National Council of Women.

Whatever the result of to-day's meeting may be, we may boldly consider it as a milestone in the woman's movement in Hungary. For the first time women of all shades of opinion and of different creeds: militant, national, conservative, pacifist, international, liberal and radical, Roman and Greek-Catholic and Jewesses, united their forces for one purpose and succeeded in passing a unanimous resolution. This may be an ordinary thing in other countries, but with us a considerable feeling of reluctance had to be surmounted and self-abnegation exercised on this first occasion of united action. All those colleagues who since the war have visited Hungary will appreciate the importance of this event in this unfortunate country, the citizens of which up to the present could not realize the absolute necessity of internal peace and co-operation in the present state of Hungary.

Let us hope that what was possible for the first time to-day will become a matter of course in the future.

The eligibility of women in local elections.

A Bill for the Reform of the Administration of the country was several times presented to Parliament, recalled and modified and presented again. At last, on the 29th of January, it reached the Committee discussion stage which, with us, precedes the general discussions. This Bill, so often modified by succeeding ministers, was left unchanged in one item: women are not to be eligible in county, province, town and village elections. The explanation—perfectly absurd to our minds—of this offending paragraph is that affairs deliberated in these corporations are not within the sphere of women's interests.

Resolution and Protest of the Political Committee of the Feministák Egyesülete.

As soon as the Bill was delivered to the Parliamentary Committee, before the discussions began, our Political Committee was speedily convened and we passed a resolution of protest to be presented to the Members of Parliament. The resolution runs as follows:

The Political Committee of the Feministák Egyesülete, at its meeting of January 26th, 1929, has learned with great amazement that the Administration Reform Bill which was presented by the Minister of the Interior to the Parliament on the 15th of January contains an item which is offensive to the principle of women's rights. According to this Bill, women would not be eligible for the provincial local corporations.

The Political Committee of the Feministák Egyesülete protests against this offence to the country-women's political rights, on the following grounds:

1. In the local corporations in the province are discussed and resolved all those affairs which concern women most closely, i.e., public health, education, market administration, cleanliness, public morals, protection of mothers and children, and many other similar questions which interest them as mothers of the family as well as organisers of the household, and also as breadwinners.

2. The women serving in the Municipal Parliament of Budapest for many years have given proof of their efficiency, reliability, zeal and knowledge. Therefore it is quite reasonable to expect the best results from women's work for the administration of the country.

3. The women in the country are eligible for Parliament. Now, eligibility for municipal elections, as a rule, precedes eligibility for Parliament, but there

will be held in London from March 6th to 9th. This will be the first Council since Equal Franchise has been attained and the main subject of interest will be the future policy of the Union and the forthcoming General Election. The thorny subjects which caused so much discussion in recent years do not appear on the agenda, so that delegates can give their full attention to the drawing up of a programme of constructive work for the future.

The Berlin Congress.

The International Committee which is formed by the three British Auxiliary Societies of the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship has met regularly recently to discuss matters relating to the coming Congress. An appeal for funds has been issued and it is hoped that Great Britain will do its due share towards bearing the expense of that great gathering. It is hoped that a strong delegation and many visitors from this country will find their way to Berlin, especially if the General Election takes place as now appears to be probable sometime in May.

Dame Millicent Fawcett.

Dame Millicent's many friends all over the world will be interested to hear that she and her sister, Miss Garrett, have been away for two months on a visit to Ceylon. Her visit has not been entirely a holiday, as we have received news of meetings at which she has taken part.

E.M.

GREECE.

MR. VENIZELOS PROMISES TO GIVE THE MUNICIPAL VOTE.

On the 30th January a delegation of 17 women's organizations was received by the Prime Minister of Greece, Mr. Venizelos. Mme. Theodoropoulos, President of the Greek auxiliary of the Alliance, addressed him in the name of the organizations, and introduced the delegates. She expressed the hope that he would recognize that the feminist movement in Greece had made enormous progress since the time she had first appealed to him for the vote in the name of only one society, the League for Women's Rights, in 1920. She also presented to him the resolution of the big public meeting of March, demanding equal political rights for women, in the name of 50 women's organizations and professional unions of both sexes.

Mr. Venizelos admitted that feminism had made great progress, that he considers Greek women, both the women of the towns as well as the peasant women, quite ripe for the municipal vote, which he is most willing to grant as soon as possible.

Mme. Theodoropoulos explained that it is only a question of a Government Act, as the law had already given the Government the power to grant the municipal vote to women from the year 1927. She hoped there would be no further delay, so that Greek women might be able to take part in the next municipal elections, which will be held this year in June.

Mr. Venizelos promised to bring the matter before the Council of Ministers and assured the delegates that he personally was perfectly in favour of the vote, but that they should try to convince the other members of the Government.

Mr. Venizelos' declarations made a very deep impression on public opinion. The Press is full of long articles, interviews, comments for and against the vote, but the majority of the most important papers acknowledge that women are perfectly ripe for the municipal vote in Greece.

is practically no precedent for the ruling that women may be elected to Parliament but shall be excluded from corporations.

4. Members of Parliament elected by women will compromise themselves if they have to regard their own constituents as officially lacking in judgment.

5. Since the women inhabitants of the capital, Budapest, are eligible for their Municipal Parliament, the present ruling will be signalling women in the country as their inferiors.

This resolution was in the hands of all members on the eve of the discussions, and Members of the Parliamentary Committee were called upon by our members who pressed them to attend the meetings and to defend the women's cause.

At the same time, having been called upon by all women's societies to co-operate with the National Council of Women in the organization of a joint meeting of protest by women' a lively exchange by mail and wire with other members in the country was entered upon. The result was this joint meeting, in which about 700,000 women voters were represented, organised in the following associations: The Catholic Women's Party, the Feminists' Society, the National Alliance of Catholic Women, the National Alliance of Hungarian Women, the National Alliance of Hungarian Greek Catholic Women, the Jewish Women's Societies, the National Alliance of Catholic Young Women, the Alliance of Catholic Women Clerks and Shop Assistants, the Society of Catholic Housewives. The largest towns of Hungary sent representatives: Szeged, two women, a feminist and a Catholic woman; Debreczen was represented ably by the first woman lawyer, a graduate of the Debreczen University; the delegate of Gyár Szt. Márton was a prohibitionist and emphasized arguments against the saloons which are especially disastrous for women; Kalicsa sent another able woman, and from Nagykanizsa came an admirable educationist.

Four telegrams proved that, had not the grippe had so many victims, this meeting would have been still more numerous and complete. Three Members of Parliament, representing three different parties, made very good speeches and pledged themselves and other colleagues to the fight for the eligibility of women.

It is impossible to quote all speakers here, also most arguments are well known to our colleagues abroad, but we cannot omit a little speech made by a former woman member of the Budapest communal parliament, as her experiences are certainly very valuable.

She stated that the women's contribution was generally and unanimously appreciated both by the Mayor and all members of the Council. That women always regarded the merit of a proposal and never allowed themselves to be coerced by party interest, but voted for or against it regardless of the quarter it came from; that women never considered the presence of influential personages, but always said what they considered was for the truth and right; that women never allowed a person to be expelled for political reasons if his activities were beneficial for the community, but not only voted for him, but also persuaded other members of their party to vote in favour of such. These are indeed valuable and weighty arguments.

It is interesting to note that organizations and women who years ago were frightened or repulsed by the very idea of political rights for women, and who, even after suffrage was gained, protested against more women members in Parliament, now all unanimously claimed the rights of eligibility for women. There was one woman who went so far as to ignore the fact that the struggle for women suffrage was necessary in Hungary, and startled us with the statement that it had come as an unexpected gift from Heaven! Beware of history forgers!

The attitude of the Press has also greatly changed.

From a besieged and closed fortress it has become a very hospitable and amiable home indeed!

But the great importance of the day was: all Hungarian women united in one effort. Now I wish only to pay all due honour to Countess Apponyi and Mme. Augusta Rosenberg, President and Vice-President of the National Council of Women, to whom we owe this success.

EUGENIE MISKOLCZY MELLER.

February 3rd, 1929.

IRELAND.

VISIT OF MISS NANCY STEWART PARNELL.

Equal Franchise in Northern Ireland.

The Equal Franchise measure came into force in Northern Ireland on Dec. 31st. Registration lists are now closed and the usual horrifying discovery has been made that the women voters outnumber the men. To mitigate the horrors of this state of affairs the Belfast Women Citizens' Union is making especial efforts to interest the new voters. The real danger is, of course, not that the women will come out in a solid body to carry measures which, to quote one authority, aged twelve, will make it impossible "for us men to walk down the street," but that women, over and under thirty, discouraged by the long continued and increasing unemployment and the slow progress of social legislation, will simply not take the trouble to vote at all.

To combat this danger, the Union arranged for a course of meetings to be addressed by Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell during the week of Jan. 7th. A large public meeting was held, and proved one of the most successful ever held under the auspices of the Union. The hall was packed and people were turned away at the door. A feature of this meeting was the "youth" platform, representing the younger women in the Civil Service, from the University, from business and from the professions. The chairman was a young woman barrister, and speakers and stewards were alike "under thirty." Miss Parnell's subject was the work of the younger generation in public and the simplicity and directness of her appeal had a deep effect on her audience who were largely new voters.

Miss Parnell's visit was also made the occasion of a public luncheon to representative people. Various private functions were held, and a meeting of the Queen's University Club where a large audience of women graduates listened to Miss Parnell's appeal to the younger women to work for the cause of international peace. One of the large secondary schools also asked for an address on the same subject.

The whole effect of Miss Parnell's visit was most gratifying as numbers of new members among the "younger hearers" were enrolled and enquiries have been received since as to possibilities of action.

Meetings in Dublin.

While franchise in the Irish Free State is ancient history now, as it was established by the Constitution of 1923, there is, however, great need to interest women voters and perhaps even greater need to attract the attention of a Government whose record from the feminist point of view is not everything that might be desired. Arrangements were therefore made for Miss Parnell to visit Dublin and a successful and crowded meeting was held in the Mansion House. Private meetings were also arranged for the women graduates both in the National University and in Trinity College, where a large number of young men were included among those invited.

Miss Parnell's subject at the Mansion House was the same as in Belfast, and on this occasion also there were many young people in the audience. In addressing the women graduates Miss Parnell dealt again with the

peace work of women, especially in connection with the League of Nations.

Those "over thirty" among the listeners were gratified by the stress Miss Parnell laid on the work of the suffragists in the early days. Recognition of the work done by the older women, hope, stimulus and encouragement for that which lies ahead, these were the notes of Miss Parnell's addresses, both in Dublin and in Belfast. Such inspiring thoughts conveyed in such beautiful and simple words, cannot fail to have a lasting effect.

DORA MELLONE,

Hon. Press Secretary, National Council of Women of Ireland.

ITALY.

The Elections: Not a single woman!

The Italian Chamber of Deputies has risen, and the Grand Fascist Council will meet shortly to examine the final list of names which will be put before the electorate; the electoral lists are ready, but in them there will be no women, neither as electors, nor candidates, nor as members!

The number of electors is 9,460,722. They are divided into four great categories, according to the Franchise Law:

- (1) Syndical Contributors: 6,922,307.
- (2) Contributors to direct taxes: 1,653,016.
- (3) Salaried officials and various wage-earners: 829,128.
- (4) Roman Catholic Clergy: 55,706.

Manhood suffrage would give a total of 12,424,183 votes. The vote is given to producers and syndicalists, but women are excluded, as if they were not productive, and as if they were not part of the Italian working population. The elections will take place on March 24th, and the new Chamber will meet on April 20th.

Signor Mussolini, in concluding the business of the 20th Session, which has been called the Parliament of the Fascist Revolution, reviewed and praised the work done by the Chamber elected in 1924, and announced that the next would be a "new 100 per cent. Fascist Chamber" consisting of 400 members, all belonging to the Fascist Party. This Chamber will be able "freely to discuss" the Government's proceedings, with the idea of "criticism and collaboration." It will be the medium for the promised "legislative collaboration" between the representatives of the nation and the Government.

Thus, in the new Fascist programme, women count directly even less than they did before, but they have great scope for direct action in municipal affairs. The place that has been found for women in the politico-social scheme is as the producers of children. This has benefited them to the extent of allowing them to keep their posts as clerks or factory hands if they marry. It has also encouraged schemes for increased maternity benefits which would guarantee the working mother the necessary rest before and after the birth of her child, and a minimum wage during the time she must be absent from work.

Activities of women under the Fascist régime are La Piccola Italiano (Girls of Italy) and La Giovane Italiano (Young Women of Italy), a woman's athletic association with about half a million members.

Finally there are the Militant Fascist Women who have a place in the very heart of the Fascist Military Movement.

But Fascist women, even in the heart of the Party, are not on an equal footing with men, and are not entrusted with any purely political office—they are

administrative officials, and their duties are clearly defined. The Fascist party has created within itself a special place for women—their business is to occupy themselves with schools, with domestic economy, with factory work and social questions, and to leave actual politics to men.

There still exist a few women's organisations of pre-Fascist days, but they have been superseded, and have no authority. There exists, for instance, the National Council of Italian Women, once widely known, but now moribund. Lately there has been reformed a Suffrage Association (though the name is now an anachronism) called The Women's Federation for Political and Civil Rights. There is also an Association of Women Graduates, but these are not reckoned among the Unions who are invited to propose names for the 1,000 parliamentary candidates.

Under the new procedure the Elective Chamber is chosen by a method unlike that obtaining in any other country. The country is joined into a single constituency for the nomination of the four hundred deputies. The new electoral body is composed of municipal electors. These are divided into 13 confederations and numerous associations, corresponding to 7 district branches of activity—Banks, Transport, Arts, are some of the categories and the employers and employees are separately represented. Each of these confederations is able by law to propose a given number of candidates, altogether they propose 800, exactly double the number of deputies to be elected, and the associations propose 200 candidates. There are thus 1,000 names from which the Grand Council chooses the 400 who are submitted to the electors.

The Grand Council is the supreme body which organises all the activities of the Fascist régime. It was formed after the revolution of 1922. It has judicial functions, and, moreover, gives advice on any question, political, economic, or social on which the Head or the Government seeks advice. The Head of the Government, who is also Prime Minister and Secretary of State is President of the Grand Council. The Grand Council draws the list of the 400. This list is put before the Electors—the voting citizens must answer yes, or no—that is, they must accept or refuse the list en bloc. This in brief, is the new Constitution of Italy.

Women do not count at all in it, there is no place for them, even if they are Fascist. Offices, under the Fascist regime are not elective, even for men—how much less for women. They are filled from above, and all officials are chosen from members of the Fascist Party. Nevertheless women, even if enrolled in the Party are excluded from the executive and can scarcely have any post of a public character. Does the future hold any prospect of a change from this position? When we read of activities of other nations in the feminist cause, we may think we live in Darkest Africa—or in the Kingdom of the Sun, according to our views.

Progress or retrogression? Certainly our sacred Tables have been broken, for they preached the active life, they taught that a wider field must be opened to women, and that we must advance. These principles are now despised, and our suffrage movement on its old lines cannot be adapted to the Fascist régime, neither its substance nor its terminology can be reconciled with Fascism. But Italian women of spirit cannot live by repining, and if there is a place for a serious woman's movement it must become more vital, with a more living contact with the times, and must feed itself not only on traditions, but must grapple with the problems of the new national life and must make itself Fascist. Perhaps a strong women's movement could once again ascend the Holy Mountain, and persuade the leader of the Fascist Movement to give them new Tables.

UNITED STATES. HONOURING MRS. CATT.

On January 9th fifty or sixty women made their way quietly to the home of Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt in New Rochelle, to offer congratulations on the occasion of her seventieth birthday. They were women bound to Mrs. Catt by the ties of work together for great causes—women to whom she had been leader or fellow-worker in crusades for suffrage, prohibition and peace. A representative of each of the organizations co-operating in the Cause and Cure of War Conference, of which Mrs. Catt is founder and chairman, paid her brief tender tribute. Then the birthday party took on an international aspect. That morning a hemlock tree had been planted in the lawn; in the afternoon, a bronze tablet for the tree was presented, on behalf of the international women whose leader Mrs. Catt was, as founder and president of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. Then Rosa Manus, prime mover and hostess of the surprise party, brought other tributes from abroad. Miss Manus, a vice-president of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, came from Holland for this occasion and for the Cause and Cure of War Conference. She brought from the women of the International Board—along with a charming story of how the plan grew—(1) a fascinating seed basket, gay with the flags of many nations, in which were assembled for Mrs. Catt's garden choice seeds from the flower gardens of her friends overseas, (2) a collection of recipes, also international in range, (3) a hand-made, beautifully illuminated album bearing the tributes of all the organizations with which Mrs. Catt has worked or works—page after page of love, admiration, gratitude. A be-candled birthday cake of enormous proportions, done in suffrage yellow and blue, was the centre of the surprise tea table. And the final touch was the presentation of a movie taken last summer to show Mrs. Catt, peace leader, in her home and in the midst of Conference activities.—*Woman's Journal*.

For Argentine Educators.

The National League of Women Voters entertained a group of Argentine educators, who are touring this country, at a tea at the League headquarters in Washington early in February. In the absence from the city of Miss Belle Sherwin, President, Mrs. Maud Wood Park, former League President, received the guests.

In addition to the guests in the Argentine group, other guests included Miss Rosa Manus, of Holland, a director of the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship; Miss Mary Anderson, director of United States Women's Bureau; Miss Katherine Lenroot, assistant director, United States Children's Bureau; Miss Agnes Peterson, assistant director, United States Women's Bureau; Miss Ann Larrabee, of the United States Women's Bureau, and Mrs. Henry Grattan Doyle, President of District of Columbia League of Women Voters. The visitors are touring the United States under the auspices of the American Cultural Institute.

Final Election Returns.

Eight women instead of seven will sit in Congress. On January 9th, Mrs. William A. Oldfield was sent to the House by a special election which was held, according to State law, to confirm her appointment as Governor as successor to her late husband. She will sit in the present Congress and the next.

Fuller or revised reports increase by eight the number of women in State legislatures. In New Mexico: State Senator, Mrs. Louise Coe (Democrat). State Representatives: Mrs. Cavanaugh, Mrs. Trigg (Democrats) and Mrs. Foraker (Republican), in Colorado; Mrs. Brighten (Democrat); in Nevada: Lillie Pinger and Nena Waters (Republicans) and in Utah Mrs. Purcer (Democrat).

DAME MILLICENT FAWCETT IN CEYLON.

Under the auspices of the Women Citizens' Association, Dame Millicent Fawcett delivered a lecture on "Social Work of Women" at the Ceylon Labour Union Hall, Consistory Buildings. Mrs. Geo. E. de Silva, the President, occupied the chair, and there was a large gathering of ladies present.

The President, in welcoming Dame Millicent Fawcett, said their visitor had grown grey in the service of women-kind, and not merely of women-kind. Her interest in public causes had been deep, abiding and many-sided.

The title that Dame Millicent Fawcett had earned was a title that a gracious sovereign had bestowed on her for services personally rendered to womenkind and also to mankind.

Speaking of the Women Citizens' Association, Mrs. de Silva said it was composed of all sections of the people. They were all working women in one way or another. Their aim was to make Ceylon safe for the workers. To do this they would have to educate themselves to make the most effective use of the vote. On behalf of the members and of herself she offered Dame Millicent Fawcett a most cordial welcome and requested her to address a few words of counsel and of good cheer to speed them on their way to make Ceylon a better place to live in.

Dame Millicent Fawcett thanked all present heartily for their splendid welcome. She was a stranger among them, having only been able to look round their beautiful Island during the last ten days and having to leave again the day after to-morrow, though she hoped to return.

It seemed to her that she had to congratulate them that day in that they had after so short a struggle succeeded in gaining the franchise for women.

They began their struggle for it in England in 1867, but it was not till the day before yesterday, so to speak, or not till 1917 that they had attained their goal. They took 50 years to do what it seemed to her the women of Ceylon were going to do in a year. Perhaps they in Ceylon were 50 times cleverer than they were in England.

When they began they had no public education—no University education for women and there were great restrictions on married women's property. Yet they fought steadily year after year and succeeded in winning their rights in the end. They did not tie themselves to any Party. They found friends everywhere and they took friends as they came. They had John Stewart Mill, and her husband and others among the Liberals who supported them.

Five successive Prime Ministers were favourable to Women's Franchise. The Labour Party as a Party was pledged to Women's Suffrage. They formed Women Citizens' Associations such as she had the honour of addressing that day and they had succeeded in raising the whole tone of village life. By means of the Carnegie Trust, they had opened schools, women's clubs, libraries, etc. If their President was interested, she would very gladly send her literature in regard to these activities of the Women Citizens' Associations so that they could model theirs on the same lines in this beautiful Island. She thanked the President for what she had said and all present for their cordial reception.

Dr. Mary Ratnam proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Dame Millicent Fawcett, which was seconded by Miss Hunt.

Mr. A. E. Goonesinha, President of the Ceylon Labour Union, also spoke.

The speeches throughout the evening were interpreted into Sinhalese by Mr. Marshall Perera.

The audience was most appreciative and greatly enjoyed the privilege of hearing Dame Millicent Fawcett.

SECTION FRANCAISE.

CONGRES DE BERLIN.

PROGRAMME PROVISOIRE.

12 au 16 juin : Réunions préliminaires: Hotel Kaiserhof, Wilhelmsplatz, Berlin.

Mercredi, 12 juin.
2—5 h. Séance du Comité Exécutif.
Soir Réception de la Presse.

Jeudi 13 juin.
10—1 h. Séance du Comité Exécutif.
2—30—6 h. Séance du Comité International (Comité Exécutif et Présidentes (ou leurs remplaçantes) siégeant en commun.
7 h. Dîner offert par Mrs. Ashby au Comité Exécutif et aux Présidentes (Kaiserhof)
8 h. 30 Séance éventuelle du Comité Exécutif.
Excursion: visite de Charlottenburg.

Vendredi, 14 juin.
Matin Réunions simultanées de la Commission de la Paix et de la Société des Nations; de la Commission de la Situation de la Mère non-mariée et de l'Enfant illégitime; de la Commission pour l'Egalité de la Morale et contre la Traite des Femmes. (Réunions réservées aux membres des Commissions Seulement).
Après-midi Réunions simultanées de la Commission de l'Egalité des Conditions du Travail entre Hommes et Femmes; de la Commission des Allocations familiales; de la Commission de la Nationalité de la Femme Mariée. (Réunions réservées aux membres des Commissions).
Excursion: visite de Schoeneberg.

Samedi 15 juin.
Matin Réunions simultanées de la Commission de l'Egalité légale de la Femme; de la Commission de la Police féminine; de la Commission des Femmes électrices. (Réunions réservées aux membres des Commissions).
Après-midi Réunions des délégations sur convocation de leur présidente.
5—10 h. Réception offerte par Mme. Schreiber au Comité et aux Présidentes. Invitations particulières, etc., pour les déléguées.
Cours de la Ville.
Conférence illustrée sur l'oeuvre berlinoise de bienfaisance (Hotel de Ville).

Dimanche, 16 juin.
Matin Réunion de la Commission des Finances.
Après-midi réservée par la Présidente et les membres du Comité pour recevoir les visites des déléguées.
Visite de Berlin et excursions dans les environs.
Soir Réception offerte par le Comité aux déléguées.

REUNIONS PLENIERES DU CONGRES.

Salles des Fêtes de la place de la République (Salles Kroll).

Lundi, 17 juin.
Matin Ouverture du Congrès.
10—1 h. Discours de la Présidente.
Discours officiels de bienvenue.
Rapport de la Commission des Admissions.
Appel des déléguées et défilé des délégations.

Séance d'Anniversaire.

Lundi, 17 juin.
Matin (suite) "Vingt-cinq ans de Triomphe du Suffrage féminin."
Oratrice: Mrs. Chapman Catt.
1 h. Lunch offert par la Ville de Berlin aux déléguées.
Après-midi "Vingt-cinq ans de Travail et de Progrès vers l'Egalité légale, morale et économique."
4—6 h. Progrès vers l'Egalité légale, morale et économique."
Soir Libre.

Mardi, 18 juin.
Matin Les annonces de candidatures pour le Comité Exécutif seront reçues ce jour-là.
Adoption par le Congrès de son règlement.
Rapport du Comité Exécutif et Résolutions proposées par le Comité Exécutif.
Rapport sur "Jus Suffragii."
Rapport sur les relations de l'Alliance avec la S.d.N. et le B.I.T.
Modifications aux Statuts.

Après-midi Nationalité de la Femme mariée: Rapport de la Commission et résolutions.
Egalité légale de la Femme: Rapport de la Commission et résolutions.
5 h 30 Reception officielle.
Soir Meeting public: "L'Activité des femmes parlementaires et membres de Conseils municipaux," sous la présidence de Mme. Plaminkova, Sénateur (Reichstag).

Mercredi, 19 juin.
Matin Allocations familiales: Rapport de la Commission et résolutions.
La Situation de la Mère non-mariée et de son Enfant: Rapport de la Commission et résolutions.
Après-midi Egalité des Conditions de travail entre Hommes et Femmes: Rapport de la Commission et Résolutions.
Soir Opéra.

Jeudi, 20 juin.
Matin Les élections du Comité auront lieu ce jour-là de 9h. à 3 h.
L'avenir de l'Alliance. Son programme de travail pour le suffrage féminin et l'égalité des droits de la femme. Sa situation financière.
Après-midi Police féminine: Rapport de la Commission et résolutions.

- Soir Meeting public: "La Police féminine" sous la Présidence de Mlle. Rosa Manus. Lehrervereinshaus Alexanderplatz.) Réception officielle.
- Vendredi, 21 juin.**
Matin Egalité de la Morale et Traite des Femmes: Rapport de la Commission et résolutions. Rapport du Bureau bibliographique. Paix et Société des Nations: Rapport de la Commission et résolutions.
- Après-midi Meeting public: "La Paix" sous la présidence de Mlle. Ruth Morgan. (Salle Kroll.)
- Samedi, 22 juin.**
Matin Affaires imprévues.
Après-midi Session des Femmes électriciennes. Résultat des élections.
- Soir Appel de la Jeunesse à la Jeunesse: Feu de la St. Jean (Sport forum.) Présidente: Mlle. Atanatskovich.
- Dimanche, 23 juin.**
Midi Fête de la Paix (Théâtre populaire).
- Lundi, 24 juin.**
Matin et après-midi Dernière séance du Comité (Hotel Kaiserhof).

CHRONIQUE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

Une bonne partie de ces dernières semaines a été occupée à la Société des Nations par les séances de la Commission de l'Opium, dont ma précédente chronique avait annoncé les travaux. Travaux importants, et qui ouvrent de vastes perspectives à l'activité du nouveau Comité Central de l'Opium: en effet, d'après notre confrère anglais *The Woman's Leader*, toujours très bien informé, un délégué a rapporté à la Commission que son gouvernement avait reçu d'un maison d'un pays voisin la demande d'autorisation de transporter en transit quatre tonnes d'héroïne! L'héroïne est, on le sait, beaucoup plus dangereuse encore que la morphine, et la quantité à transporter représentait, selon les calculs effectués, la valeur de 240 millions de doses! L'autorisation de transit fut refusée, mais qui peut garantir que cet envoi ne trouvera pas son chemin à travers un autre pays qui, ou bien n'est pas membre de la S.d.N., ou bien n'a pas signé la Convention de Genève?

Un autre fait frappant mis en lumière par ces séances de la Commission (et c'est aussi notre confrère de Grande-Bretagne qui is signale), c'est que la quantité de morphine saisie durant les derniers dix-huit mois est officiellement évaluée à 9 millions de doses. Et encore des experts affirment-ils que ce chiffre inquiétant ne constituerait pas la dixième partie des quantités passées en contrebande. D'après les statistiques présentées par le représentant des Indes à la Commission, l'importation illicite de cocaïne dans ce seul pays excéderait quarante-quatre fois les besoins médicaux autorisés. A Hong-Kong, on peut dire que l'on consomme de cinq à dix fois le montant de l'opium dont la vente est autorisée par le gouvernement. Le reste à l'avenant.

C'est tout simplement effrayant. Aussi n'y a-t-il rien d'étonnant que la Commission ait décidé d'établir des "listes noires" sur lesquelles figureraient les noms des fabricants dont les produits sont impliqués dans ce trafic illicite. On espère qu'en les signalant ainsi à l'indignation publique, on parviendra plus efficacement à arrêter ce commerce scandaleux.

La constitution du Comité Central de l'Opium a

forcément amené la création de nouveaux postes au Secrétariat. On trouvera plus loin les indications de mise au concours d'un poste de Secrétaire, et d'un poste de statisticien. Tous deux sont ouverts aux femmes comme aux hommes, et tous deux peuvent être extrêmement intéressants pour des femmes bien préparées et répondant aux différentes qualifications demandées. Mais rappelons aussi que la concurrence est très forte et que par conséquent ce sont les personnalités de premier plan qui ont le plus de chances d'être nommées.

Tout ce mois de février durant ont eu lieu diverses sessions de Commissions, à Genève, à Paris, à Londres. Citons notamment la rencontre à Paris des experts de l'Office international des Musées, et des experts des grandes bibliothèques; celle des juristes pour l'étude des ententes industrielles internationales, à Paris également, et des experts ouvriers en matière charbonnière à Genève. Le Comité financier va siéger à la fin du mois; un Comité technique maritime s'est tenu à Gênes, un autre à Londres, et un Comité technique encore, spécialisé pour les questions d'émigration, est convoqué pour ces jours-ci à Genève. N'est-il pas frappant et intéressant de se rendre compte, par cette simple énumération, de la continuité des travaux de la S.d.N. dans tous les domaines, et des fils serrés qu'infatigablement elle tisse à travers le monde, l'entourant ainsi d'un filet de relations internationales de tout ordre qui, en nous rendant toujours plus solidaires et interdépendants les uns des autres, contribue ainsi à étayer solidement l'idéal de paix.

Et le 4 mars, c'est le Conseil de la S.d.N., qui va ouvrir à Genève sa cinquante-quatrième session sous la présidence de M. Scialoja, représentant de l'Italie. Vingt-cinq questions environ figurent à son ordre du jour. En premier lieu, celle des minorités, conformément à la demande de MM. Dandurand, représentant du Canada, et Stresemann, représentant de l'Allemagne. Question qui prend actuellement une importance de premier ordre, et qu'il serait sans doute intéressant d'étudier à fond aussi dans nos organisations féminines internationales; question qui ne se présente plus peut-être maintenant comme au lendemain immédiat de la guerre, mais sous la forme plus profonde, non plus d'une revendication, mais du coopération et d'une émulation féconde, dont bénéficient à la fois la majorité et la minorité nationales d'un pays. C'est du moins ce qui est ressorti de la remarquable conférence qu'a faite dernièrement sous les auspices de l'Association pour la S.d.N., M. Wilfran, président du Congrès des minorités nationales, et qu'il n'était peut-être pas inutile d'entendre à Genève en ce moment.

Le Conseil devra encore s'occuper de l'affaire des optants hongrois; il devra décider de la composition d'un Comité fiscal, chargé de mener la lutte contre la double imposition et l'évasion fiscale qui en est la contre-partie; et décidera également comment sera composée la Commission d'enquête sur le contrôle de l'opium à fumer en Extrême-Orient. Nous venons de voir que cette Commission trouvera largement matière à un rapport! Pas question de nominations de femmes dans ces Commissions et Comités, qui ne peuvent évidemment être composés que de spécialistes comme on n'en rencontre guère encore parmi nous. En revanche, on pourrait espérer que des nominations féminines interviennent lorsque le Conseil devra désigner quatre experts dans le Conseil d'administration de l'Institut international du Cinématographe éducatif, à Rome; et nous croyons savoir que nos grandes Associations féminines internationales s'en sont préoccupées en temps utile. Enfin, le Conseil aura à prendre connaissance d'un bon nombre de rapports de Commissions permanentes ou temporaires; Commission des Mandats; Commission préparatoire de la Conférence de Codification de Droit International; Comité Economique; Conférence de Statistique; Commission de l'Opium; Comité Financier. Voilà largement du travail de quoi remplir une semaine de session.

Voilà pour le présent. Dans l'avenir, signalons, au même moment que la réunion de la Commission préparatoire du Désarmement, que nous avons déjà annoncée, la session de la Commission consultative pour la Protection de l'Enfance, le 12 avril, puis celle de la Commission consultative contre la Traite, le 19 avril. Et le B.I.T. annonce pour le 30 mai la XIIIe Conférence Internationale du Travail, avec plusieurs questions importantes et intéressantes à l'ordre du jour; prévention des accidents du travail (2e discussion); travail forcé (première discussion); durée du travail des employées (première discussion). Nous y reviendrons une autre fois plus longuement.

E. GD.

Société des Nations.

Avis de Vacance de Poste.

Le Poste de Secrétaire du Comité central permanent de la Société des Nations (prévu dans la Convention de l'Opium de février 1925) est vacant. Ce poste est accessible aux candidats des deux sexes.

Le traitement offert est de 25,000 francs suisses par an. Les candidats, qui doivent être âgés de moins de 45 ans sont tenus de remplir les conditions suivantes:

- (1) Posséder une connaissance complète des langues française et anglaise, tant écrites que parlées. Il sera tenu compte également de la connaissance d'autres langues.
- (2) Avoir la connaissance et la pratique des travaux administratifs et des travaux de secrétariat.
- (3) Posséder des qualités de discrétion, de tact et d'activité, et être apte à remplir un poste de toute confiance.
- (4) Être capable de manier et de comprendre les statistiques.

Les conditions énumérées ci-dessus sont essentielles, mais il sera également tenu compte des titres spéciaux d'ordre scientifique, juridique et commercial, de la connaissance théorique ou pratique de la question technique dans diverses parties du monde, ainsi que de la connaissance des langues des pays d'Orient et d'Extrême-Orient.

Les demandes, rédigées en français ou en anglais, et accompagnées d'un *curriculum vitae*, devront être adressées, aussitôt que possible, à la Secrétaire du Comité des Nominations, Secrétariat de la Société des Nations, Genève, et, en tout cas, lui parvenir le 15 avril 1929 au plus tard.

Les candidats devront être prêts à se rendre à Genève vers le 25 avril 1929, pour une entrevue personnelle, au cas où ils y seraient convoqués à cet effet.

La Secrétaire en fonctions du Comité central.
RACHEL CROWDY.
Genève.

le 26 Janvier, 1929.

Avis de Vacance de Poste (II).

Il est prévu un poste de Statisticien au Comité central permanent de la Société des Nations (institué par la Convention de l'Opium de février 1925). Ce poste est accessible aux candidats des deux sexes.

L'échelle de traitement afférente à ce poste est la suivante:

Si le candidat choisi vient de l'étranger, le traitement de début sera de 8,700 francs suisses et s'élèvera, par augmentations annuelles de 250 francs, jusqu'à un maximum de 11,250 francs suisses par an.

Si le candidat est choisi sur place, le traitement de début sera 5,000 francs suisses et s'élèvera, par augmentations annuelles de 200 francs, jusqu'à un maximum de 8,000 francs suisses par an.

La différence entre ces deux barèmes représente l'indemnité d'expatriation.

Les candidats, qui devront être âgés de moins de 45 ans, sont tenus de remplir les conditions suivantes:

- (1) Connaître parfaitement l'une des deux langues officielles de la Société (qui sont l'anglais et le français) et avoir une bonne connaissance pratique de l'autre.

Il sera également tenu compte de la connaissance d'autres langues.

- (2) Avoir la connaissance théorique et pratique du maniement, de l'analyse et de l'interprétation des statistiques, particulièrement des statistiques commerciales.
- (3) Posséder une certaine expérience des questions internationales.
- (4) Avoir reçu une bonne instruction générale.
- (5) Présenter toutes garanties d'intégrité en ce qui concerne les travaux de nature confidentielle.
- (6) Posséder de grandes capacités de travail.

Les demandes, rédigées en français ou en anglais, et accompagnées d'un *curriculum vitae*, devront être adressées aussitôt que possible à la Secrétaire du Comité des Nominations, Secrétariat de la Société des Nations, Genève, et, en tout cas, lui parvenir le 1er avril 1929 au plus tard.

La Secrétaire en fonctions du Comité Central.
(Signé) RACHEL CROWDY.
Le 26 Janvier 1929.

GRÈCE.

M. VENIZELOS PROMET DE DONNER LE VOTE MUNICIPAL.

Une délégation de 17 organisations féminines de toute la Grèce s'est présentée le 30 Janvier devant le Président du Conseil M. Vénizélos. Mme Théodoropoulos, présidente de la L.H.D.F. présenta les déléguées des différentes organisations d'Athènes et des provinces et soumit la résolution de la Conférence Publique de Mars 1928 ainsi que la liste des cinquante organisations qui y avaient pris part. Elle ajouta qu'elle espère que M. le Président est convaincu, en voyant le nombre des représentantes, que l'idée de l'affranchissement politique des femmes grecques a gagné énormément du terrain depuis 1920 lorsque pour la première fois une seule société féministe, la L.H.D.F. s'était présentée pour lui demander le vote.

M. Vénizélos reconnut que le féminisme avait fait de grand progrès en Grèce, comme il devait le faire, qu'il trouve que la femme grecque des villes et des villages est absolument mûre pour le vote municipal et communal, qu'il serait très disposé de leur accorder après s'être entendu avec ses collègues du Conseil des Ministres.

(La lettre qui suit a été adressé par M. Vénizélos à Mrs. Corbett-Ashby à la fin de l'année passée. Nous croyons qu'elle aura son intérêt pour nos lectrices.)

Chère Madame,
Il ne m'a pas encore été donné de vous remercier pour votre message du 31 août et pour votre lettre du 8 octobre. Je vous prie de trouver ici l'expression de mes remerciements chaleureux.

Vous n'ignorez peut-être point la sympathie attentive avec laquelle j'ai toujours suivi, de près ou de loin, les progrès de la femme grecque dans la voie de l'action organisée, et son achèvement progressif vers la maturité politique; j'ai en particulier très nettement conscience de ses besoins immédiats, surtout sans le domaine de l'instruction publique et de l'éducation sociale.

J'ai manifesté des 1920 mon intention d'accorder à la femme grecque le droit de suffrage municipal, qui ne lui ouvrira pas seulement un vaste champ d'activité, mais pourra la préparer à l'exercice de droits politiques plus étendus. Mais avant de proposer les mesures législatives nécessaires à la réalisation de ces desseins, je voudrais pouvoir constater qu'ils répondent aux aspirations réelles des femmes de Grèce.

Je vous prie d'accepter, chère Madame, l'expression de mes sentiments dévoués.

E. K. VENISELOS,

NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

Grande Bretagne.

UNION NATIONALE DES SOCIÉTÉS POUR L'ÉGALITÉ CIVIQUE.—Le projet de loi que l'Union nationale a inspiré, proposant que l'âge du mariage soit élevé à 16 ans pour les deux sexes (il est actuellement de 14 ans pour les garçons et 12 ans pour les filles), a été présenté par Lord Buckmaster et a passé à la première lecture, mais la seconde lecture a été remise à plus tard.

Les Etudiantes dans les Ecoles de Médecine.—On sait qu'une Commission a été nommée par le Sénat de l'Université de Londres pour faire une enquête sur ce sujet. Le Rapport de la Commission est en faveur de l'accès des femmes dans les Ecoles de Médecine et les Hôpitaux, fidèle en cela à la conception de l'Université qui ne fait pas de différence entre les sexes. Mais il y a un certain danger dans le compromis suggéré par la Commission: trois espèces d'écoles, écoles d'hommes, écoles de femmes et écoles mixtes. L'Union nationale demande que, quelle que soit la solution, les femmes aient non seulement le droit, comme les hommes, de choisir leur école, mais qu'elles aient les mêmes facilités pour concourir à une nomination dans les écoles médicales. Ce sujet soulève un grand intérêt dans la Presse.

Une autre femme au Parlement.—Une femme vient d'être encore élue au Parlement, ce qui porte à neuf le nombre des femmes députées: 4 conservatrices, 4 socialistes et 1 libérale. La nouvelle députée, Mme. Hugh Dalton, est socialiste. Elle a été membre du Conseil municipal de Londres.

Assemblée annuelle.—Elle aura lieu à Londres du 6 au 9 Mars. C'est la première assemblée depuis que l'égalité politique a été accordée et l'objet principal des discussions sera la politique future de l'Union nationale et les élections prochaines.

Dame Millicent Fawcett.—Dame Millicent Fawcett est à Ceylan pour deux mois avec sa sœur, Mme. Garrett. Dans un discours fait à l'Association des femmes citoyennes, sur "l'Oeuvre sociale des femmes," elle félicita les femmes de Ceylan d'avoir obtenu leurs droits politiques en si peu de temps. En Grande-Bretagne, a-t-elle dit, la lutte a commencé en 1867 et ce n'est qu'en 1917 que le suffrage restreint a été accordé. Les femmes de Ceylan ont tout obtenu en un an. (d'après E.M.)

LIGUE DE LA LIBERTÉ DES FEMMES.—La Ligue soutient deux projets de lois qui ont été présentés récemment à la Chambre des Lords: Un par Lady Astor pour permettre aux paires de siéger, l'autre par Lord Buckmaster sur l'âge minimum du mariage. (Voir plus haut.)

La Ligue a organisé une série de conférences sur les Dominions, par des femmes qui y ont séjourné: sur les Indes par Mme. Cannon; sur l'Australie et la Nouvelle-Zélande par Miss Chave Collisson; sur l'Afrique du Sud par Mme. Dore; sur le Canada par Mme. Archdale. "The Vote," le journal de la Ligue a publié trois articles de représentants des trois partis: Conservateurs, libéraux, socialistes, et des meetings sont organisés à Londres et en province, où des représentants des trois partis exposeront leur programme. Aux élections, la Ligue s'efforcera d'obtenir des candidats des trois partis leur amis au sujet de l'égalité des deux sexes. (d'après F. A. Underwood.)

Irlande.

La loi sur l'égalité de Suffrage est entrée en vigueur dans l'Irlande du Nord, le 31 Décembre. Les listes électorales sont closes et, comme toujours, le nombre

des femmes l'emporte; mais le danger est que les femmes, découragées par l'aggravation du chômage, ne se dérangent pas pour voter. L'Union irlandaise pour le Suffrage a organisé une série de meetings dans la semaine du 7 Janvier, pour entendre Miss Parnell. Un grand meeting public a eu tant de succès qu'on a refusé du monde. Les oratrices étaient toutes des femmes au-dessous de 30 ans appartenant au Civil service, aux professions libérales ou au commerce. La Présidente était une jeune avocate. La visite de Miss Parnell fut l'occasion d'un lunch public et d'un meeting au Queen's University Club. Miss Parnell fit un appel pour la Paix internationale.

Puis Miss Parnell visita l'Irlande du Sud et parla sur les mêmes sujets à l'Hôtel de Ville de Dublin et à des meetings privés qui furent organisés à l'Université nationale et à Trinity Collège. (d'après D. Mellone.)

Congrès de Berlin.

Commission des fêtes.—Cette Commission qui a pour Présidente Frau Hildegard Abegg, a pour objet d'établir des relations et un échange d'idées entre les Déléguées et les membres du Congrès, d'une part, et les femmes de Berlin, de l'autre. A cet effet, elle organise des réceptions et des excursions.

Le 1^{er} Dimanche, excursion générale en motocars à Potsdam, suivie d'une promenade en bateau sur les lacs. Des thés seront offerts dans plusieurs maisons privées de Potsdam, de Wanssee et des environs. Dans le courant de la semaine, visites accompagnées, gratuites ou à prix réduits, dans les Musées et autres places d'intérêt et, le soir, dans divers théâtres et concerts. Le Lundi soir, concert dans les salles du petit château de Monbijou et visite du château et du parc. Le Mercredi, soirée de gala à l'Opéra. En outre, des thés seront offerts, pendant toute la semaine, aux déléguées et aux membres.

Commission des logements.—Le Comité local de Berlin pour le Congrès a formé une Commission des logements. Cette Commission assurera un logis à tous les membres du Congrès, dans les hôtels, les pensions de famille et les maisons privées. Prière de retenir ses chambres avant le début de Mai, en s'adressant à la Présidente: Frau Luise von Leyden, Dahlem, Falenried 18.

Erratum.—Dans le dernier article sur l'Allemagne (Police), lire: "Les candidates doivent avoir entre 25 et 30 ans." (No. de février.)

Autriche.

Le 25 Mars, Marianne Hainisch célébra son 90^{ème} anniversaire. Les femmes autrichiennes feront de cette date un jour férié. Il y a 60 ans, à l'occasion d'une catastrophe économique qui força beaucoup de femmes ruinées à trouver du travail, Marianne Hainisch démontra, dans un meeting, l'insuffisance de l'Enseignement féminin. Par cet appel qui eut un écho retentissant dans l'opinion publique, elle inaugura le mouvement féministe autrichien. Depuis ce jour, elle a travaillé au développement intellectuel des femmes. Elle reconnut vite l'importance de leur rôle social et la nécessité d'une coopération entre les deux sexes; ce qui l'amena, non-seulement à préparer la réforme de l'Enseignement des jeunes filles, mais encore celle des garçons. Elle s'occupa de beaucoup d'œuvres féminines et sociales, mais son œuvre principale fut la fondation du Conseil national des femmes autrichiennes dont elle fut Présidente jusqu'en 1918, et son affiliation au Conseil international. Elle a organisé des meetings et des conférences dans presque toute l'Autriche et écrit nombre d'articles et de brochures sur le mouvement social. Son fils unique a été le premier Président de la nouvelle République, (d'après Gisela Urban.)

Hongrie.

L'Éligibilité des femmes dans les conseils municipaux.—Le projet de loi pour la réforme administrative du pays va être mis en discussion à la Chambre. Ce projet exclut les femmes des conseils municipaux. L'Union hongroise pour le Suffrage, la "Feministak," a envoyé à tous les membres du Parlement la déclaration suivante: "La Feministak proteste contre l'affront infligé aux femmes de province (celles de Buda-Pesth restent éligibles)—1. Dans les Conseils municipaux de province, sont discutées et résolues toutes les questions qui concernent les femmes: Hygiène publique, Enseignement, Administration des Marchés, Propreté, Morale publique, Protection des mères et des enfants, etc. 2. Les femmes Conseillères municipales de Buda-Pesth depuis des années ont donné des preuves de leur habileté, de leur conscience, de leur zèle et de leur savoir; on peut donc en espérer autant des femmes de province. 3. Les femmes de province sont éligibles au Parlement. Il n'y a pas de précédent que les femmes soient éligibles au Parlement et pas aux Conseils municipaux. 4. Les Membres du Parlement élus par des femmes paraissent considérer leurs électrices comme dépourvues de jugement. 5. Les femmes de Buda-Pesth étant éligibles, la nouvelle loi paraît considérer les femmes de province comme inférieures.

Les déléguées de la Feministak ont rendu visite aux membres de la Commission parlementaire pour les presser de soutenir la cause des femmes.

De plus, le Conseil national des femmes a organisé un important meeting de protestation comprenant les déléguées des principales Sociétés féministes qui représentent 700,000 électrices. Les grandes villes avaient envoyé des représentants, trois membres du Parlement, appartenant à trois partis différents, firent d'excellents discours et s'engagèrent à soutenir la Cause. C'est la première fois, dans l'histoire de la Hongrie, que des membres de tous les partis et de toutes les religions se sont trouvés réunis pour la même cause.

De plus, on remarque que les Sociétés féminines qui étaient les plus réfractaires au Suffrage, le réclament maintenant avec insistance. La presse, aussi, lui est devenue favorable. (d'après E. Miskolczy Meller.)

Italie.

Les élections.—Les élections auront lieu le 24 Mars et la nouvelle chambre se réunira le 20 Avril. Le Grand Conseil fasciste va se réunir pour examiner la liste définitive des noms qui seront soumis aux électeurs. Les listes électorales sont prêtes, mais elles ne contiennent pas de noms de femmes, ni comme électrices, ni comme candidates. Les 9 millions et demi d'électeurs sont divisés en quatre catégories: Contribuables des syndicats, contribuables aux impôts directs, fonctionnaires et travailleurs divers, clergé catholique. Le vote est accordé aux producteurs et aux syndicalistes, mais il est refusé aux femmes comme si elles ne produisaient rien et ne travaillaient pas. Le nouveau corps électoral se compose des électeurs municipaux. Ils sont divisés en 13 confédérations et en associations correspondant aux différentes branches d'activité; les premières doivent proposer 800 candidats et les secondes 200; soit 1,000 sur lesquels le Grand Conseil en choisit 400 qui sont soumis aux électeurs; mais ceux-ci ne peuvent qu'accepter ou refuser la liste en bloc.

La nouvelle chambre de 400 membres aura le droit de discuter les actes du Gouvernement dans un esprit de "critique et de collaboration." Elle préparera la future "collaboration législative" promise entre la Nation et le Gouvernement. C'est le Grand Conseil qui dirige toute l'activité du régime fasciste; il a été formé après la révolution de 1922. Il est le conseiller du gouvernement; le Premier Ministre en est le Président.

Dans toute cette organisation, le seul rôle laissé aux femmes est de faire des enfants. On leur a accordé le droit de rester dans leur emploi, au bureau ou à l'usine, quand elles se marient. On élèvera le taux des secours de Maternité, ce qui leur permettra de se reposer avant et après l'accouchement. Elles toucheront un salaire minimum pendant leur absence.

Deux Sociétés féminines du régime fasciste sont: La Piccola Italiano (jeunes filles d'Italie) et la Giovane Italiano (jeunes femmes d'Italie), société de sports d'un demi-million de membres; puis les femmes fascistes militantes, qui n'ont qu'un rôle secondaire et administratif: elles s'occupent des écoles, de l'Economie domestique, des travaux d'usine, des œuvres sociales. Il reste encore quelques sociétés d'avant le fascisme, comme le Conseil national des femmes, mais elles disparaissent. Une Association suffragiste appelée "Fédération féminine pour les droits politiques et civils" et une Association de femmes diplômées se sont formées, mais elles n'ont aucune influence. Au point de vue féministe, le pays a donc rétrogradé.

Etats-Unis.

La Ligue nationale des Electrices a reçu, à son siège central de Washington, une délégation des femmes universitaires argentines, auxquelles s'étaient jointes des suffragistes étrangères, entre autres, Mmes. Rosa Manus, de Hollande, Mary Anderson, directrice du Bureau féminin des Etats-Unis, K. Lenroot, Directrice adjointe du Bureau de l'Enfance, Agnès Peterson, Directrice adjointe du Bureau féminin, Ann Larrabee, du Bureau féminin and H. Gratton Doyle, Prés. du District de Columbia de la Ligue des Electrices. Ces Déléguées visitent les Etats-Unis sous les auspices de l'Institut argentin-américain fondé pour l'encouragement des relations intellectuelles et l'échange de Professeurs et d'étudiantes des deux pays.

Le 9 Janvier, 50 à 60 pionnières du Suffrage ont rendu visite à Mrs. Chapman Catt pour fêter ses 70 ans. Parmi elles, Mme. Rosa Manus qui était venue aux Etats-Unis pour le Congrès sur les Causes et les Remèdes de la guerre et pour cet anniversaire, apporta à Mrs. Chapman Catt, en même temps que les félicitations de l'Alliance internationale: 10 Une corbeille garnie de drapeaux des nations affiliées et qui contenait des graines choisies dans les jardins de ses amies d'Europe; 20 Une collection de recettes de différents pays; 30 Un album illustré contenant l'hommage de toutes les sociétés auxquelles Mrs. Catt s'est intéressée. Un énorme gâteau d'anniversaire, pavoisé aux couleurs suffragistes (jaune et bleu), occupait le centre de la table. Enfin, un film représente Mrs. Catt dans sa maison ou au milieu des Assemblées féministes qu'elle a présidées. (d'après le Women's Journal.)

Travail Forcé et Esclavage.

C'est en 1925 que la Commission sur l'esclavage a fait son rapport au Conseil de la Ligue des Nations. Elle a fait remarquer que la question de l'esclavage était liée à celle du travail forcé. Un rapport sera présenté à la Conférence du Travail International de Genève en Mai. Le travail forcé peut l'être: (a) pour utilité publique; (b) pour entreprise privée. Ce dernier est une forme de l'esclavage et ne se justifie point. L'article 5 (2) de la convention sur l'esclavage ne l'autorise qu'à titre exceptionnel et avec un salaire adéquat. Pour le travail (a) d'utilité publique, il ne devra être imposé que par les autorités centrales et dans les mêmes conditions qu'il l'était par les chefs indigènes. Il ne sera exigé que dans les cas urgents et les conditions de salaire, de travail, d'âge, de sexe, de distance, etc., devront être équitables. (d'après John M. Harris.)

MADELEINE RUDLER.

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