

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

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THE STATUS OF GERMAN WOMEN

In the September issue of the periodical "*Die Frau*," Dr. Gertrud Bäumer publishes a most interesting and valuable study of the present status of German women. Basing a comparison on the documents published by the League of Nations in this connection, she acknowledges the great set-back in professions and in political and civil rights. But she points out the change in public management and administration which depriving the government service of large spheres of activity, has handed them over to newly-formed corporations which include a great number of women.

For instance: the work hitherto exclusively performed by sanitary and factory inspection is now one of the enterprises of the "Arbeitsfront," the organisation comprising all workers, male and female, the women forming a special department administered by themselves. The head of the whole is, it is true a man in accordance with the prevailing system and as is the case throughout.

Another example: public welfare work has to a large extent been handed over to the "N.S. Volksfront" (National Socialist Public Welfare), in which men and women work in collaboration. This is the case also in the "Reichsjugendführung," a closeknit educational organisation reaching downwards from the party centre to the smallest village, which performs duties formerly undertaken by Ministries and local boards.

The "Reichsmütterdienst" is a mainly feminine organisation which has taken over work for Mother and Child which used to be done by public bodies of the Health Service.

In all these spheres of activity—new, as far as the body performing them is concerned, old inasmuch as they have taken over the experience and to a certain extent the personnel of former societies—the two exclusively feminine organisations have their full share. The "N.S. Frauenschaft" (National Socialist Womanhood) trains women for public duties, and the "Deutsches Frauenwerk" (German Women's Work) comprises all women's societies, not only those on party lines but also church organisations, those dealing with cultural questions, etc. Frau Scholz-Klink is leader of both.

A few data will give a clearer picture. These two women's organisations employ about half a million honorary officers ("Anwalterinnen," i.e. office-holders) and an adequate staff. The smallest local organisation, the "bloc" (a house or series of houses) leads up to the "cell," the "group," the "Gau" (District) and the "Kreis" (circuit), culminating in the central "Reichs" leadership (Frau Scholz-Klink). Each nucleus has its own leader responsible only to her superior. The figures are:

- 360,000 leaders of blocs.
- 72,000 leaders of cells.
- 21,000 leaders of groups.
- 714 leaders of districts.
- 32 leaders of circuits.
- 1 leader for the Reich.

The central and the larger local organisations have in addition to their staff a series of experts (over 71,000) mostly honorary workers. Country women are represented by 21,000 "Ortsbäuerinnen" (farming women, the word "farming" being applied without distinction of class) on the staff of the "groups." The expert work comprises besides administration: press, propaganda, education, training (mental and physical), racial politics, folklore, housekeeping (in connection with political and national economy), care for Germans abroad, etc.

For training leaders and experts, thirty-four schools have been founded, and general training has been given to over a million women in 45,000 courses. For Mother and Child there exist a further 190 schools of varying types.

So much for the purely women's organisations, and now an example of a mixed one. In the management department of the Arbeitsfront about 22,000 women are working as local leaders, experts, factory inspectors, etc., the female membership being about 25% of the total number. The leaders also represent women in the "Chamber of Labour."

The specific organisation for girls, the B.d.M. (Bund deutscher Mädels, "Mädels" being a colloquial name for

a girl) with about two million members and 125,000 leaders; the Arbeitsdienst (Public Service) with 20,000 girls in 480 camps and a corresponding number of leaders; the purely agricultural or "food-producing" organisation, the "Reichsnährstand," with its women's sections—all these are enlarging the sphere of woman's public activities.

Even if it is very probable that some of the branches are not yet in full swing, it must be admitted that women are being trained for impersonal duties to an extent hitherto unparalleled in Germany. Numbers of those who were most reluctant to embrace ideas outside their private lives have now been roped in.

Gertrud Bäumer points out that whereas one trend of the women's movement from the beginning aimed chiefly at women's rights, considering equal rights to be the crux of the problem, other circles held another point of view, namely a distinction of sex with clearly defined aims. The latter idea is at present completely prevalent in Germany. The State as such and its authority is reserved to man, including the legislature and the judiciary. In administration, however, where actual practice comes in, this point of view is not rigorously maintained. A system of co-ordination is coming into being, which gives woman a certain amount of influence, and it is to be expected that this will expand. For instance, whereas in the beginning there was a violent reaction against women doctors, it is now generally recognised that the health service cannot do without them. Women lawyers are required in social and welfare work, and so on.

The general dismissal of women (and men!) from posts they owed to the parliamentary system of government has not altogether done away with women's work in governmental bodies. It is to be hoped that the sphere of public activity open to women and the training they receive, as described above, will widen their opportunities for co-operation even though the ruling principle is not favourable to them. It is in the main a question of whether women themselves display the capacity and the will-power to achieve this end.

D.V.V.

STATUS OF WOMEN AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

We are glad to be able to report that the Fourth (Finance) Committee of the Assembly voted the sum of 25,000 Swiss francs for the Committee of Experts on Status of Women, specifying 20,000 francs for two meetings, and this on the recommendation, and not merely acceptance, of the Supervisory Committee. So the means have been found and interest now centres on the appointment of the members.

The form of Resolution adopted by the Assembly will permit the whole Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations as such, and not only a group of its member organisations, to work together again on this question which is of such interest to them all. At its last meeting the Committee adopted a plan of work designed to ensure that now that the League is giving expert consideration to the question, the women shall do their part, which is first and foremost to show that public opinion can be roused in favour of raising the status of women.

First, the member organisations have been asked to secure publicity in all countries through their national sections for the Resolution and proceedings at the League Assembly. Then during the next two years the women in each country, through their organisations, should undertake an educational campaign so as to make their public aware of women's disabilities, how they operate to the public disadvantage, and, on the other hand, show the value of women's co-operation in every sphere where it has been welcomed. So that this

national work may be unified, it is suggested that there should be formed:

- (a) Study Groups to study material on the status of women in their own and in other countries, and to make proposals as to the changes necessary if that status is to be improved.
- (b) Panels of men and women lawyers, to advise concerning the application of existing legislation affecting women, and to watch proposals for new laws and for amendment in existing laws.

And then, in order that this national work may be collated for international use, each member organisation of the Liaison Committee would be asked to make an annual report to the Committee on what has been done and how it has been done.

The Liaison Committee is also planning to submit for the consideration of the Council of the League the names of experts whom it would like to see appointed to the Committee of Experts. It will also approach the Committee, when formed, to express its interest in the work to be done and ask in what way its members may be able to collaborate with that work.

The article on this question in our last issue had to be in the nature of "stop press news" and we were not able to give details of the discussion at the Assembly. Nor will we now go into such details, but one thing we feel we do want to do is to express gratitude to those delegates who were specially helpful. First, of course, must come Miss Hesselgren, who consented to act as Rapporteur for the question in the First Committee, and Mr. Hearne (Irish Free State) and Mme. Kollontay (U.S.S.R.), who stepped in to prevent the question from being put aside at the first meeting. Mr. Beckett (Great Britain) was of great help in ensuring an eventual concrete result by making a proposal for an Enquiry by the League. We must also mention M. Pella (Roumania), Vice-President of the Committee, whose help was invaluable; Professor Bourquin (Belgium), M. Cassin (France), Professor Bailey (Australia), Monsieur Soubbotich (Jugoslavia) and many of the women delegates, notably Dr. Bernadova (Czechoslovakia) and Mme. Kollontay, whose name we have already recalled.

M. Gorgé (Switzerland) was the only delegate who opposed in principle action by the League to raise the status of women. Perhaps in a way this did no disservice to the cause in Switzerland, as we have read with interest an article on this question in the Swiss paper "L'Action," which is a most direct exposure of the out-of-date and unjust attitude towards women of the Swiss constitution. We sometimes hear that the Swiss Code is so fair to women that it helps them to feel they do not need the vote, but the writer of this article speaks of inequalities in divorce, the guardianship of children and property rights, which suggest that, after all, they may well need this weapon for the things that directly affect their individual lives.

IRELAND AND STATUS OF WOMEN.

The National Council of Women of Ireland sent a telegram to the Irish Free State delegate at Geneva, Mr. Michael Hearne, approving of his draft resolution to the Assembly which was in part as follows—

"That the League should continue its study of the political and civil status of women with a view to securing the acceptance by as many States as possible of the principle of sex equality in the matter of civil and political rights."

A letter was published in the principal daily papers stating that the documentary evidence which the League had before it on the question of Equal Status of Women had been largely supplied through the International Council of Women and the I.A.W.S.E.C. It was

explained that these organisations in their Memoranda of 1935 and 1937 had analysed the position of women in forty-five countries, and detailed the claims of the women's organisations to complete equality of status.

L. KINGSTON,
Hon. Sec., N.C.W.I.

OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the death at the age of 81 of Miss Margaret Ashton, after a long career of public work and work for women. Miss Ashton was a very notable suffrage worker and was for many years a member of our Alliance. She herself used to say that it was only "her tiresome conscience" that forced her to do all the valuable work she accomplished. She started at 19 by becoming a school manager. She was the first woman to become Chairman of a public education committee, and was the first woman to sit on the Manchester City Council. In recognition of her work for housing, the first municipal women's lodging house in Manchester was named after her.

She was brought up as a liberal, but the discovery that the Liberal Party had no intention of bringing forward a bill for woman suffrage was such a blow that she left the party in order to work for that cause. She was always a "constitutional suffragist," but in those stirring days it meant speaking from lorries, giving out handbills and chalking pavement. She moved into a smaller house, which her mother described as a "hovel" in order to have more money to give to the cause. When the War put a stop to suffrage work, she was among those who in 1915 helped to found the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, whose first object was to seek for a basis for negotiating peace.

Her views about woman suffrage and peace led to her eventually joining the Labour Party, although she had been active in organising women's trade unions years before that. A very full life was hers and one made happy by a lively and generous disposition which made her a good friend and interesting companion. She belonged to a generation which produced many fine and noble women. May those who have succeeded them and who because of them have wider opportunities, not find that those very opportunities plunge them into a life so preoccupied that disinterested effort and the development of their own gifts and personality are rather hindered than fostered.

ARGENTINE.

We have just received from the President of our affiliated society in the Argentine the news that in the Province of La Rioja, the vote has been given to women who have a Normal School or University diploma. We presume this refers to the franchise for the Provincial Legislature, but we have not been able to get further details in time for publication. Although we believe that similar rights have previously been granted in the States of Santa Fé and San Juan, it is encouraging that the idea is thus progressing and it must be a great encouragement to the women who are working for full political rights for women.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Madam, 15th October, 1937.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance notes with pleasure that the Editor of "Jus Suffragii" re-asserts the position of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance on the question of Birth Control stating that this is a question on which the Alliance "has not and cannot take a position because of a fundamental principle held by Catholic members." (This "fundamental principle" applies also, of course, to abortion.)

The Editor proceeds to point out that there are two

matters which call for consideration of women citizens. One is the question of population as an economic and political question. The other is the damage done by illegal and unprofessional abortion. The Editor adds that the first is beyond our scope and that the second is a matter that ought to be faced by women. We wonder why the Editor differentiates between the two subjects removing the first from our more immediate consideration. The question of birth limitation may be considered to lead up very fairly to a contemplation of dwindling population and to its consequences immediate and remote. The Editor tells us that the second matter "is being faced by those who advocate birth control, on the lines that if proper information for birth control—not simply the avoidance of motherhood were available, the cause of this terrible practice (abortion) would be largely removed." The Editor adds with deep wisdom and great felicity of expression that this is a big claim because whatever facilities may be available, the emphasis must always be on "control," and in the end that means "self-control." It seems almost a pity to add anything to this perfect presentation of a difficult question. But the Editor invites those who cannot agree to any artificial birth-control methods, and therefore presumably limit control to abstinence, to face up to the "very real horrors and dangers of abortion."

We may fairly ask (1) If the introduction of artificial birth-control methods is likely to increase the necessary self-control and discipline required for unselfish and wise spacing of children? If the readiness of parents to face discomfort and hardship and to accept disability or suffering entailed by pregnancy and labour are likely to be made easier by propaganda favouring facile avoidance of inconvenient pregnancies? (2) If better birth-control facilities would be likely to reduce the incidence of illegal abortions? There are no facts which would lead one to accept this conclusion at first hand. There is certainly no indication that the numbers of illegal abortions are decreasing, any available evidence is of their increase and certainly there are at present not less but more facilities for obtaining information on birth control, even among the poorest. The increase in abortion (if any) cannot be attributed to greater want and poverty, as the available evidence is that poverty and bad living conditions although still appalling in their magnitude, are less than they used to be. There is also a very strong suggestion, inherent in the facts that abortion may be resorted to when other methods of prevention conception have failed. The most eminent exponents of birth control admit that failures do occur, that they are not very rare and probably unavoidable owing to lack of care in applying the methods advised, lack of self-control and other human factors, coupled with defects in the methods advocated.

Appalled by the loss of life and human suffering entailed by the practice of illegal abortion and recognising that maternity is associated with unavoidable and necessary hardships we, all women—of all creeds—must unite to minimise these hardships by our concerted efforts. While extolling self-control and Christian prudence we must see to it that injustices in our wage-system are righted, that health services are perfected, that housing is improved and that women's function of child-bearing is honoured as an essential and honourable service to society.

Yours etc.,

F. M. SHATTOCK, M.B., B.S.,
St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

(Editor's Note.—In stating that the wide question of population was beyond our scope, we meant to indicate that women as women have no such special concern with it as they must have with all questions directly touching the immediate problems of motherhood for the individual woman.)

REVIEWS.

SOVIET WOMAN: A Citizen with Equal Rights. By N. K. Krupskaya.

This pamphlet in English has been sent us by the U.S.S.R. Society for cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. It is a collection of lectures, speeches and articles, the former for the most part given at various women's conferences. This form inevitably leads to a certain amount of repetition and a good deal of what may be termed though not in a critical spirit, "propaganda" such as must form a necessary ingredient in all political speeches, but which makes it read less interestingly to those who are rather in search of definite information about the conditions of Russian women. Certainly it shows to what an extent the Russian woman has been drawn into vital economic work, and what importance the State attaches to women's rôle both as a mother and as a citizen and producer. What is interesting is to find how often the author refers to the necessity of getting rid of those old ideas which linger on in the minds of men years after the law has swept away legal inequalities. It seems that even in Russia there are still men to look on women as "toys," and women who cling to the tradition of a more passive life. Indeed perhaps the strongest impression left after reading these papers is of how strenuous a lot is that of the Soviet citizen, and that in spite of sex equality, the woman is still expected to do "just that little bit more" in the care of children as a whole.

A pamphlet on "The Political and Civil Status of Women" has been sent to us by the International Council of Women for review. It is the Memorandum submitted to the League of Nations plus a brief review of women's status in twenty-five countries. This inevitably gives to a large extent the same information as was collected by the Alliance for its Memorandum to the League, but it is in a form less tabular and therefore in some respects easier to follow. When reading this pamphlet one is again struck by the fact that in "advanced" and "backward" countries alike it is difficult for a woman to achieve the higher posts in public service or indeed in most other careers, whatever may be the wording of the law.

THE PHILIPPINES.

We are glad to learn from the Woman's Home Journal, organ of the National Federation of Women's Clubs, that the difficulty of the proposed imposition on women of the Cedula or Poll Tax has been solved. The National Assembly on September 9th adopted the Election Bill which ratifies women's right to vote but contains a provision by which all voters, men and women, must pay a sum of 20 centavos for documentary stamps on birth certificates, baptismal certificates of identity affidavits when registering as voters. This provision was inserted because the President stated that he would veto the Bill unless women voters were required to pay at least a nominal sum. The women consider that the exercise of a constitutional right ought not to be dependent on payment, but they accept this condition taking the payment as a contribution to the funds of the State.

On December 14th elections will take place for provincial, city and municipal officials and it is hoped that there will be a heavy poll of the women now qualified to vote.

The Federation of Women's Clubs after their strenuous campaign for the Suffrage Plebiscite are able to devote their attention to education for citizenship and social work. A very interesting activity is the provision of cheap and nourishing mid-day meals for the women working in factories who cannot get home in the middle of the day. Then they have a School Service,

under which they have a worker to whom may be reported children who are obviously underclad and undernourished and whose behaviour presents a difficult problem. If poverty is the cause, the case is referred to the Social Health Centre or Associated Charities, while a psychologist is consulted on behaviour problems. The Home Institute of the Federation makes clothes for necessitous cases from gifts of old clothes or remnants given by textile dealers. One result of this work is to make the poorer mothers better acquainted with the opportunities offered to them by the social services, of which they are gradually making more use.

For their citizenship work, the Federation has a programme of lecture meetings addressed by experts on different aspects of national legislation. The radio is also used as a basis for discussion on current events. Members are encouraged to attend sessions of public bodies and to study their budgets.

Then there is a section on "Block Housekeeping," under which a dietician works in a given district who after getting to know the housewife, helps her to plan her home and start a garden for which the Federation supplies seeds in necessitous cases.

Lastly the Home Institute is to be installed in a house where a maximum of 25 girls can be trained in various household tasks, including nursery work, either for marriage or for salaried positions.

Through the kindness of Mrs. How Martyn, we have received a copy of an article in the *Pasadena Star News*, giving a most interesting account of how the women of the Philippine Leper Colony on the small island of Culion recorded their votes in the plebiscite, told by the writer who had visited them and repeated to them through an interpreter some of the suffrage speeches made on the mainland by the suffrage leader Mrs. Pilar Lim. It was found that there were approximately 1,500 women of voting age, but a third of them were illiterate and it was two months to the polling day. So literacy classes were started, but on the day before registration the official forms had not been received from Manila. But a nurse had a sample copy of the form and a Boy Scout sat up all night and duplicated 1000 copies so that on the following day 952 women registered as voters for the plebiscite as a result of the house to house, bed to bed (for these are lepers) campaign, and of teaching even old women to read and write. They had no campaign funds but the nurses (an important element in this sad society) got up a dance and raised \$27, and the chief of the colony and a missionary offered buses to take the women to the polls on April 30th, and we gather that the Boy Scouts were pressed into doubtless willing service to help the infirm. The result was impressive. Out of the 952 registered voters, 918 voted "yes" and 5 "no". The writer states that only one other place in the Islands came closer to a 100% vote: Hungduan up in the mountains where there were four women eligible to vote, who voted unanimously to emancipate themselves.

INDIA.

The Bulletin of the British Group for Liaison with the All-India Women's Conference gives much interesting information about the first activities of women in the Indian Legislatures. (Last month we gave a list of the women in Office in the different Provinces.) For instance in Bombay, Mrs. Lilavati Munshi is to sponsor a Bill to amend the Municipal Act, one of the provisions of which would be to extend the municipal franchise to all literate adults over the age of 21. In Bihar, Lady Imam and Srimati Saraswati Devi protested against the totally inadequate budget provision for health and education services for women, and this action in the Assembly was supported by a criticism in the Council (Upper House) from Mrs. Sinha on the lack

of interest shown in female education. In Bengal, it was this same question of women's education which was dealt with in the speeches on the budget of Miss Mira Dutta Gupta and Mrs. Hashim Morshed.

In Sind and the United Provinces, women were chosen to move the Congress resolution rejecting the present Constitution and demanding its replacement by one framed by a Constituent Assembly.

It is distressing to learn that in Bengal the Governor has made a long list of posts in the public service from which women are to be excluded. This sort of irritating action seems inexcusably stupid when one reflects that at the present time the number of women in India qualified for such posts must still be relatively small, so that any woman who succeeded in securing appointment in face of a probably quite considerable competition, would with reasonable certainty be a person of rather outstanding merit.

UNITED STATES.

We are very glad to give below the statement sent to us by the League of Women Voters, and issued before Mr. Roosevelt made his now famous speech which must have still further heartened his countrywomen.

Reaffirming the consistent stand of her organisation against "the ostrich policy of isolation" Miss Marguerite M. Wells, president of the National League of Women Voters, on September 21st, commended the action of Secretary of State Hull in accepting the League of Nation's invitation for the United States to sit as a non-voting member on the League's Advisory Committee investigating the far eastern crisis.

Miss Wells' Statement follows: "The League of Women Voters has assured Secretary Hull of the approval of its members of acceptance of the opportunity for consultation with other nations in an effort to avoid war and effectuate a return to peace between China and Japan.

"Since the League of Women Voters' inception, it has worked consistently for international co-operation for the prevention of war. It has maintained that war anywhere concerns the United States, and that the pursuance of 'the ostrich policy of isolation' would prove disastrous to the cause of peace.

"The crux of the present crisis has been nowhere better stated than in two sentences of Secretary Hull's own statement of July 16th, 1937, regarding the position of this country when disturbed situations arise in other parts of the world: 'There can be no serious hostilities anywhere in the world which will not in one way or another affect the interests or rights or obligations of this country,' and 'We advocate adjustment of problems in international relations by processes of peaceful negotiation and agreement.'

"The League of Women Voters welcomes this opportunity for a further international effort against war."

We wish also to express appreciation of the valuable Survey of Women in Public Office also sent by the League. This survey cannot include particulars of all the women employed, now a very large number, but it shows the wide nature of the work now done by women. For instance it opens with a list of 14 women in higher posts in the State Department; then it refers to the one woman Minister (Mrs. Harriman, Minister to Norway), and to other women serving as consuls or vice-consuls. Then there are 12 women high up in the Treasury, including Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross who is Director of the Mint, and 8 women Collectors of Customs. And so it goes on through all the Government Departments, the War and Navy Departments being the only ones where women hold no positions of importance. We all know, of course, that Miss Frances Perkins is the Secretary for Labour and therefore at the head of that Department.

Women in Congress (October, 1937) numbered two

in the Senate, and five in the House of Representatives. Women in the State Legislatures number 140. The report adds "In the state senates there are 18 women," but we are not sure if these are additional to or included in the 140.

In the Judicial Service, Florence E. Allen and Genevieve R. Cline hold the highest judicial posts ever held by women, the former as Judge of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, and the latter as Judge of the United States Customs Court in New York. These high spots are followed by a list of numerous women as Judges in different state courts, as justices, etc.

The survey closes with accounts of women in State, County and Local Government. At present no woman is Governor of a State, though two have acted in that capacity. Women are State Secretaries of State in two States, New Mexico and South Dakota, and several are assistant or deputy secretaries. There are numerous other offices held by women in these States and other services listed above.

The United States is such an enormous country and its federal form of Government offers such wide opportunities for public service, that one would expect that no other country could in any event compete in the number of women employed. But the record shows, not only the heights reached by a few women, but the really unexpectedly wide range of service given. One certainly feels that they have demonstrated beyond possibility of argument that there is simply nothing a woman cannot tackle, and as presumably in one way or another all these posts are competitive, tackle as well as a man. Which is no news to readers of this paper, but which is a fact still needing demonstration to a good many people whose minds adjust themselves extremely slowly—and reluctantly—to the change which has taken place.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Mexico. In his message to the Mexican Congress, the President, Senor Cardenas, spoke of the urgency of reforming the code in order to give women equal rights including the suffrage.

Argentine. The Senate approved a motion to forbid foreign companies from dismissing their women employees on marriage, on the grounds that such action is opposed to the establishment of new families. A most enlightened view.

Bulgaria. The Cabinet has adopted a new Electoral Bill which would give the vote to "every Bulgarian subject" over the age of 21, with eligibility at the age of 30. This sounded rather good, but alas, the next sentence shows that women are not Bulgarian subjects in the universal sense, as they are only to get the vote if they are married women or widows over the age of 21, and they are not to be eligible, although there is still a possibility that the unmarried woman may be slipped in as a voter before the Bill is finally presented.

Japan. "L'Egyptienne" in an interesting note states that Japan does not even take note in its census returns of the "old style" woman, she who is over 45, but only of the "new women" who has some form of university diploma. There are four and a half millions of these young women of whom 53% earn their own living, and of whom 10% are either qualified or pupil air pilots.

Iran. From the same paper we learn that Khanoum Agha Emam Zadeh who has just qualified as a doctor of medicine in Paris, is the first Iranian woman doctor. She intends to work in her own country and has good sound views about the futility of sex distinctions.

FRANCE.

The Minister for Public Health, in consultation with the Ministers for Justice and for Education, has established a Council for the Protection of Children, of which Madame Brunschvicg and Mme Lacore, the two former Under Secretaries of State have been appointed Vice-presidents. These two appointments were made with a view to permitting these two distinguished women to continue the work they had been doing during their too short period of office. Moreover both the General and Administrative Secretaries are women.

The object of the Council is specially to co-ordinate the work of different departments in assisting, protecting and where necessary re-educating children and young people. It will be specially charged with the liaison between government departments and private organisations doing this work, especially as concerns juvenile delinquency. In an article on the question by Mme Brunschvicg in "La Française" she explains that the appointment of herself and her colleague may in some sort be taken as a recognition of the value of women in official positions, and a complete démenti of the charge of anti-feminism on the one hand, and of any failure in practical results in the work of their departments during their term of office, on the other.

HOLLAND.

We learn from the I.C.W. Bulletin that a Royal Decree just issued lays down that a Dutch woman married to a foreigner or to a naturalised Dutchman in a country where she would not automatically acquire her husband's nationality, will be able to retain her Dutch citizenship. This is in accordance with the Hague Nationality Convention and is designed to prevent statelessness, but it does not, of course, really give recognition to the principle of a woman's right to independent nationality for which women have still to fight.

It is also announced that Dr. Frida Katz is engaged to be married to Baron Mackay and will probably resign her membership of the Dutch Parliament, which will be widely regretted.

The Dutch Bureau for Women's Work has been making an enquiry into the question of women who support their families. Though the replies they obtained were only a small percentage of the enquiries sent out, the organisers have been much struck with the number of women who provide entirely or partly for their family—mothers, sisters, brothers, etc.—and that from earnings which are all too frequently extremely small.

I.P.C.—R.U.P.

The question of the Sino-Japanese conflict is occupying the attention of the I.P.C. and its National Committees. There is a universal sentiment in favour of designating Japan as the aggressor and of action in accordance with that decision. There is also developing a great movement in favour of an immediate and unofficial boycott of Japanese goods. All the communiques show the strength of this movement.

We regret that the date of the First National Congress of the British National Committee, just towards the end of the month, makes it impossible for us to give a full notice of its proceedings.

As we go to press we learn that there were over 1,000 delegates representing not only peace organisations but every branch of activity: the arts, education, the Churches, industry and Trade Unions, science, medicine, law, etc. The Public Meeting on "Spain, China—Where Next?" was a great success, with Lord Cecil in the Chair. The imposing list of speakers included Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.P., and General Yang Hu-Chen from China also spoke. The following Resolution was adopted with a single dissentient voice:

"This meeting, deeply impressed with the growing international lawlessness to which President Roosevelt recently called attention, and convinced that it is only by restoring the rule of law that peace can be secured, calls upon all peace-loving peoples and governments to stop Japanese aggression in China by refusing to purchase Japanese goods, and urges that all necessary steps should be taken without further delay to put an end to foreign intervention in Spain as a first step towards the restoration of peace there."

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Women's Freedom League organised a Conference of Representatives of Women's Organisations on October 22nd on "Women and Election Policy." The Resolutions adopted dealt with various possible methods of increasing the present unsatisfactory number of women in Parliament and in other elected bodies. On the whole the emphasis was on the importance of women's own work within the parties to which they belong, especially in regard to an active part in their local organisation. The idea of a Woman's Party did not find wide support. Unfortunately the representative of this paper was not able to be present during the whole sessions, and owing to the date it has not been possible to wait for the official press communiqué.

One question which aroused a great deal of interest was a motion that a measure of proportional representation with the single transferable vote would make the House of Commons more fully representative of the nation and facilitate the nomination of men and women candidates on equal terms within the framework of the present party system. There seemed a certain amount of confusion of mind, as although the mover of the Resolution clearly stated that the system advocated was quite different from the "list system" once in force in Germany and under which such a large number of women were elected to the Reichstag, yet this example was constantly invoked. The Resolution was adopted but several of the larger societies' representatives asked that their abstention from voting should be noted, no doubt because they had no mandate to express the policy of their organisations on the principle. Certainly there seemed to be no real evidence that the system proposed would in any way affect the number of women elected to Parliament.

A Resolution was also adopted asking the House of Lords to rescind its decision that no Peeress in her own right may sit and vote in that House.

AUSTRALIA.

In the August issue we referred briefly to the indignation felt by women in Western Australia when girls were excluded from the scope of the youth unemployment grant. It now appears that the decision to exclude girls was arrived at by the Commonwealth and State Ministers unanimously, but the Assistant Minister of Commerce when answering a question on the matter in the Federal House of Representatives stated that the Commonwealth Government would be glad to confer with any State Government which wished to bring girls within the scope of the proposals. The Women's Service Guilds of Western Australia has suggested to their State Minister for Employment that his Government should, therefore, approach the Federal Government so as to have girls included in the disbursement of the grant for vocational training and employment, and that the present grant should if necessary be increased. Women's groups in other States are taking similar action.

It appears that reliable statistics as to the fate of the boys and girls who leave school each year are lacking, but observation suggests that unemployment among girls and their employment in "dead-end" jobs is

considerable. "The Dawn"—from which we take this information—rightly adds that in the insecurity of prevailing social conditions the position of girls calls for equal consideration with that of boys, especially as girls as well as boys pay the unemployment tax.

SECTION FRANÇAISE

STATUT CIVIL DE LA FEMME.

Nous avons plaisir à constater qu'une allocation de 25,000 francs suisses a été consentie par la Commission financière de l'Assemblée pour permettre au Comité d'Experts sur le Statut Civil de la Femme de faire leur enquête et rapport. L'intérêt se porte maintenant sur les candidats au Comité.

Le Comité de liaison des organisations internationales féminines, maintenant que la question va être étudiée par le Comité d'Experts de la S.d.N., désire montrer que l'opinion publique est favorable au principe de l'amélioration du statut de la femme. Il recommande que dans chaque pays, il se constitue:—

1, des Groupes d'Etude pour étudier les droits ou les incapacités actuels dans chaque pays, et formuler des propositions sur les changements à obtenir pour améliorer la condition civile de la femme.

2, des Groupes de surveillance, composés d'avocats ou gens de loi, hommes et femmes qui donneront leur avis sur les lois, projets de loi ou amendements affectant les femmes.

3, que chaque organisation fasse un rapport annuel qui servira à la documentation générale. Le comité de liaison se propose en outre d'établir une liste de personnes qu'il lui semble désirable de voir siéger à la Commission des experts — et se mettra au service de la dite Commission pour l'aider, ou la renseigner si besoin est.

Dans la discussion devant l'Assemblée, la participation de certains délégués — des deux sexes — a été utile et bienvenue. Nous mentionnerons particulièrement Miss Hesselgren, rapporteur à la Première Commission, et Mr. Hearne (Irlande) avec Mme Kollontay (U.F.S.S.) dont l'intervention empêcha l'ajournement de la question dès la première réunion. Mr. Beckett (Grande Bretagne) proposa une enquête définitive par la Société des Nations; les autres délégués dont l'aide nous a été précieuse sont Mr. Pella (Roumanie) le Professeur Bourquin (Belgique), Mr. Cassin (France), Professor Bailey (Australie), Mr. Soubbotich (Yougoslavie). Le délégué suisse M. Gorgi fut le seul à s'opposer au principe de l'égalité du statut civil.

NOUVELLES BREVES.

Mexico. Dans son message au Congrès, le Président Cardenas mentionna que la réforme du code, en ce qui concerne l'égalité des droits pour les femmes, est une question urgente.

Argentine. Le Sénat a approuvé une résolution qui défend aux firmes étrangères de congédier leurs employées à la veille de leur mariage, afin de ne pas contrarier l'établissement de nouvelles familles. Nous apprenons en outre que dans un autre Etat de l'Argentine, la Rioja les femmes diplômées ont acquis le droit de vote pour l'Assemblée Provinciale.

Bulgarie. Le Cabinet a adopté une nouvelle loi électorale qui doit donner le vote à "tout sujet bulgare" au-dessus de 21 ans avec éligibilité à 30 ans. La suite du Projet, cependant, semble indiquer que les femmes ne sont pas sujets bulgares puisque seules les femmes mariées ou les veuves ont le droit de suffrage, et même pas l'éligibilité.

Iran. "L'Egyptienne" nous apprend que Khanoum Agha Emam Zadeh qui vient de prendre son

grade de Docteur en médecine à Paris est la première femme iranienne qui ait ce titre.

France. Le Ministre de la Santé, après s'être consulté avec les Ministres de la Justice et de l'Education a établi un Conseil pour la Protection de l'Enfance dont Madame Brunschvicg et Madame Lacore sont les Vice-Présidentes. Les Secrétaires sont aussi des femmes.

Mme Brunschvicg et Mme Lacore pourront ainsi continuer l'œuvre qu'elles avaient entreprise dans leur court passage au Sous-secrétariat d'Etat. Dans "La Française" Madame Brunschvicg explique que ce Conseil coordonnera tous les services officiels aussi bien que les associations de secours privées, spécialement en ce qui concerne les jeunes délinquants. Nous avons là une preuve que l'œuvre utile des féministes Françaises ne sera pas interrompue.

Hollande. Nous apprenons qu'un décret Royal récemment promulgué déclare qu'une Hollandaise mariée à un étranger, qui ne peut acquérir automatiquement la nationalité de son mari, aura le droit de conserver sa nationalité hollandaise.

Le Bureau Hollandais pour le Travail de la Femme a fait une enquête sur la questions des Femmes qui subviennent aux besoins de leurs familles. Les réponses ont montré qu'un très grand nombre de femmes sont soutenues de famille soit de leurs mères, frères, sœurs, etc., et souvent avec des moyens très modestes.

Philippines. Le Woman's Home Journal organe de la Fédération Nationale des Clubs féminins nous apprend que la difficulté de l'impôt cédulaire attaché au bulletin de vote des femmes a été résolue, et que désormais les électeurs, hommes et femmes devront payer 20 centavos pour certificats de naissance ou de baptême sur papier timbré. Le 14 décembre les élections auront lieu pour les membres des Conseils municipaux et provinciaux et il est à croire que les électrices se rendront aux urnes en grand nombre.

Etats-Unis d'Amérique. La Ligue des Femmes Electrices a fait une enquête sur le nombre de femmes qui occupent des situations Publiques aux Etats-Unis. Ce nombre est imposant; 14 sont de Hauts Fonctionnaires, une Mrs. Harrison est ambassadeur en Norvège, d'autres servent comme Consuls, ou vice-consuls — 12 sont de hautes fonctionnaires des Finances, dont Mrs. N. Tayloe Ross, directeur de la Monnaie et 8 sont Directeurs des Douanes. C'est seulement dans les Ministères de la Guerre et de la Marine que les femmes ont des positions subordonnées. Miss Frances Perkins, est comme nous le savons Ministre du Travail.

Il y a 7 Femmes dans le Congrès et 140 dans les Assemblées législatives des Etats. Deux sont Juges — l'une dans une Cour d'Appel, l'autre au Tribunal des Douanes; un grand nombre sont Juges Provinciaux.

La Présidente de la Ligue des Femmes électrices Miss Marguerite Wells a déclaré dans son discours du 21 Septembre que son organisation est opposée à une politique d'isolement. Elle soutient énergiquement le Secrétaire d'Etat Cordell Hull pour avoir pris en accord avec la Société des Nations, l'initiative d'une enquête sur la Guerre d'Extrême Orient.

ALLEMAGNE.

Dans le numéro de Septembre de Die Frau, Dr. Gertrud Bäumer publie un étude intéressante de la position actuelle des femmes allemandes.

Par comparaison avec les documents publiés par la Société des Nations, elle reconnaît qu'au point de vue des droits civils et politiques et de l'activité profes-

sionnelle, il y a régression, mais elle remarque que dans certaines sphères d'administration et de travaux publics qui sont du ressort des corporations nouvellement formées, les femmes ont trouvé une place importante. Par exemple l'inspection sanitaire des usines, une des entreprises de l'Arbeitsfront est, en ce qui concerne les ouvrières, un département exclusivement féminin bien que le chef soit un homme, comme du reste dans tous les autres corporations.

Il en est de même pour l'Assistance Publique et l'organisation des Jeunes, où hommes et femmes travaillent sur le même plan. L'ancien Ministère de la Santé est maintenant remplacé, en partie, par un département uniquement féminin pour les besoins de la Mère et l'Enfant. L'organisation Féminine Nationale-Socialiste éduque les femmes pour le service Public; Le Frauenwerk (Travail Féminin) comprend toutes les Sociétés de femmes qu'elles soient des formations de Parti ou des associations culturelles et même confessionnelles.

Ces deux dernières organisations féminines emploient environ un demi-million de travailleuses volontaires et tout un personnel féminin rémunéré. Cette organisation va du Bloc (quelques maisons), à la Cellule, puis au Groupe de district (Gau), plus large encore au Circuit Provincial, enfin à la direction nationale de Frau Scholz-Klink. Les Femmes de la Campagne sont représentées par 21,000 Orts bauerinnen et 71,000 experts, la plupart volontaires, se réservent la propagande par la parole ou par la presse, l'éducation à la fois politique raciale, mentale, physique — et l'économie domestique en rapport avec l'économie nationale. D'autre part le Front du Travail est une organisation mixte où les femmes s'occupent de l'agriculture et des camps de jeunes filles.

Si l'éducation qui leur est ainsi donnée augmente leur capacité pour le service national, il est possible que dans l'avenir un plus grand nombre de fonctions publiques (dont elles ont été bannies) soit ouvertes aux femmes en élargissant le champ de leur coopération.

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