

THE INTERNATIONAL

WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

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BRAZIL.

Whatever may be happening in other countries, for the time being women are gaining ground in Brazil.

Secretaries of State. Two women have been appointed secretaries of state by the new President of the state of Rio de Janeiro. They are Lydia Oliviera, appointed Secretary of Labour, and Ilka Ruas, Secretary of Public Instruction. (Why is it men always give women just these two departments, we ask?) Perhaps some day we will have a woman minister of State in Brazil. Ilka Ruas is a specialist on educational organisation; Miss Oliviera is a distinguished member of the socialist party.

Women Consuls. Two more women have been appointed consuls in Brazil. They are Miss Odette Carvalho e Souza, daughter of a former consul and secretary for a long time of the Brazilian Delegations to the League of Nations, when Brazil was a member of the League, and quite a young woman, and Vera Regina do Amaral, who made a brilliant competitive examination for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs a short time ago. This brings the number of Brazilian women consuls up to six. The others are Miss Leontina Licinio Cardoso, Mrs. Beata Vettori, of the commercial department, Miss Miriam Pereira, serving in the commission for frontiers and limits and Miss Zoaryma de Almeida Rodrigues, who is at the consulate in Liverpool. Another official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Miss Margarida Penido, is serving with a special commercial mission in London. Before that Miss Rachel Crotman served on a similar commission in the Argentine.

Women delegates. When Dr. Bertha Lutz went to Uruguay in the Brazilian delegation to the seventh

international American Conference of the governments of the New World, she put a resolution before the conference that in future all panamerican official conferences dealing with subjects of interest to women should include women delegates. This resolution was adopted.

At the International American Labour Conference just held at Santiago, Chile, both the Brazilian and the North American Governments put this resolution into practice. The Brazilian government sent Miss Allanita Rodrigues, an official of the Labour Ministry, the American government Miss Frieda Miller, Director of Women in Industry of the New York State Department of Labour. They both did excellent work.

Woman doctor in ambulance work. Dr. Mairsita Velasco Kopp, has just been appointed by competitive examination to the First Aid Hospital at Rio de Janeiro, where she takes regular ambulance duty like the men. Beside being one of the youngest doctors in the country, Miss Marisita Kopp is first cousin of Dr. Carmen Portinho, one of the pioneers of the woman's movement, and one of the first women civil engineers, now a chief of the engineering division of the city of Rio de Janeiro. She also edits an engineering magazine. Blood is thicker than water; Dr. Kopp is of pioneer stock.

Women Legislators. In the first State elections after the new Constitution was voted, ten women were elected to the State constituent assemblies. Unlike the first woman Federal Legislator, an anti-feminist who voted against women's interests and limited herself to obeying party injunctions, these ten women have done good work. They have ensured the right to all civil service employments irrespective of civil status

to women and three weeks leave, with full pay, for government employees at childbirth. They also, ensured other measures, most of which were set up by Bertha Lutz as the women's representative in the first committee appointed by the government to draft a project of a new constitution, in 1933. The most active among these women were Dr. Maria Louisa Bittencourt, lawyer in Bahia, Dr. Lily Lages, M.D., in Alagoas, Mrs. Maria de Miranda Leao in Amazonas, who have finished their work.

CEYLON.

The "Ceylon Daily News" published in full the questionnaire issued by the Alliance Auxiliary, the Women's Political Union, to the candidates in the recent elections for the State Council. It is an excellent document, dealing with education, health and medical facilities, raising of the age of consent, old age pensions, etc., and ending up with the establishment of equal rights between men and women. We pick out one particular question, namely the extension of the franchise to women in Urban District Councils and Village Committees, because it seems very odd that in a country where women have absolutely equal rights for the state Council, this minor franchise should still be withheld.

We know that the two women members were both standing for re-election, but the results have not come through as we write. We hope that they and any other women candidates won their seats.

BELGIUM.

At a Conference of the Belgian Labour Party in February, the woman suffrage Bill put forward by the Catholic Party was rejected. The Party was asked to prepare Bills establishing the equality of men and women from the political, economic and civil points of view, and a special conference is to decide at what moment these bills shall be introduced.

This information from the Labour and Socialist International Information is also given in the Women's Supplement, which adds rather drily "It is for women to see that this does not constitute a first-class interment of the question." All women know that there are times when loyalties clash, but no Party which claims to be truly democratic should put off a measure of elementary justice such as woman suffrage simply because it may fear that a majority of the new voters will not be of its opinion. If democracy is not willing to take just that risk it is no longer democracy.

FRANCE.

Madame Louise Weiss, to whose work as organiser of "La Femme Nouvelle" we have frequently referred, recently brought over to London her film showing the work of the suffrage movement in France. Mrs. Corbett Ashby secured the co-operation of the Women's International Film Association in showing this film to women representatives of many different groups and activities, and a very interesting and entertaining occasion it was. The film is a talking one, so that we both see and hear Madame Weiss and others expounding feminist doctrine, sometimes in front of a cleverly contrived moving background of women's doings. To Englishwomen the pictures vividly recalled their own suffrage fight; distribution of handbills, talks to groups of factory workers; meetings, street poster parades, etc. Then there was the famous incident when Madame Weiss and her colleague were arrested for "causing an obstruction" by their unofficial polling booth during the municipal elections in Paris; and we duly noted the cloud of powder from a supporter's puff as it rose in the face of a policeman—and wondered whether our own suffragettes were provided with that particular weapon.

We congratulate Mme. Weiss on her initiative in producing this clever film and we hope that it may be widely shown, as, alongside its active fighting suffrage propaganda, it also shows something of women's work in the field of social welfare, in which we may certainly include the "shots" of two little girls being taught how to make, and subsequently obviously enjoying, an omelette!

PERSONAL.

An influential Committee of both men and women is organising a Presentation Fund to Miss Nina Boyle, who is known throughout Great Britain as a life-long worker for suffrage and in many other countries as a relief worker. Miss Boyle worked during the war in Macedonia, and afterwards went to Russia to work for the starving children. She was awarded a decoration by the Jugo-Slav Government, and those who have learnt anything of her experiences will surely realise that it was more than deserved.

No one who has heard Nina Boyle speak is at all likely to forget her. She is a great personality and the wit and point of her speeches have so often helped to make one forgive the less-inspired part of a programme of speakers.

The Presentation is planned to take place soon after Easter. Mrs. Corbett Ashby is Chairman, and Miss Pictou-Turbervill, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the Fund, and donations should be sent to the latter at: 4, Duke Street, Manchester Square, London, W.1.

A similar Committee has been formed to honour two other great pioneers of the suffrage and international movement, Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, whose names will be well known to all our readers. The plan is to present to them their portraits painted by the only woman Member of the Royal Academy of Arts, Dame Laura Knight.

Any one who wishes to contribute to this presentation should write to the Hon. Treasurer, enclosing a specimen signature to be included in the book which will form part of the presentation. The address is:

HENRIETTA LESLIE,
Glebe House, Glebe Place, Chelsea, London,
S.W.3.

Though late, we would offer our congratulations and good wishes to our Board Member, Miss Ingeborg Hansen, of Denmark, who celebrated her fiftieth birthday on February 17th. We regret that a knowledge of Danish only just permitted us to grasp the bare fact from the columns of "Kvinden og Samfundet" without being able to translate the nice things that were doubtless said about Miss Hansen. But we know ourselves of her work as a feminist and that she is one of the most successful of Danish women lawyers.

INDIA.

The January issue of "Stri Dharma" is largely taken up with reports on the Tenth All India Women's Conference, held at Trivandrum, in the State of Travancore, at the end of December and the beginning of January. The very able speech of the President, Her Highness Maharani Setu Parvati Bai of Travancore, is given in full. We can only quote one passage referring to women's progress—not only in India but everywhere: "Fundamentally the problem is not political or even social—it is economic. In the last resort the solution of women's problems depends on securing for them, in marriage and out of it, economic independence. Freedom to work outside the home is one of the ideals which cannot be kept outside the range of discussion and decision, as well as recognition of her claims to economic partnership in the home."

The Resolutions adopted covered such a number of

questions that it is impossible to do more than enumerate them: a universal language for India; literacy; health, education, legal disabilities and child marriage; rural re-construction; birth control; Harijan work; traffic in women; labour questions; franchise; peace and lastly support of the Resolutions of the Alliance Congress in Istanbul on Women's Legal Rights and East and West in Co-operation.

We also note in the Bulletin of the I.C.W. an account of the Women's International Conference in Calcutta organised by the National Council of Women of India. Her Highness the Maharani Saheba of Baroda presided over the Opening and the five-day programme covered much the same ground as that indicated by the Resolutions of the All India Conference given above, though with some special discussions on public health and allied questions.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND PEACE.

The Comité d'Entente des grandes Associations Internationales, in English Liaison Committee of major International Associations, has just published two pamphlets which are of particular interest at a moment when international co-operation is seen to be both more vital and more difficult than ever.

The first is entitled "Dix Ans d'Activité" (Price 5 Frs. French) and gives an account of the origins and activities of this Committee during its first ten years of existence, being specially dedicated to its first President, Professor André Weiss, who died last year. After a brief biographical note, there follows a note on the formation of this Committee, of which our Alliance is a member together with 27 other international organisations, its constitution, aims and method of work, and its principal activities. It was formed in 1925 with the co-operation of the Institute for Intellectual Co-operation attached to the League of Nations, to set up closer contact among the international bodies interested in means of educating the younger generation in the spirit of peace. It is neither a federation of these bodies nor an executive organ for them. Working in close co-operation with the League of Nations (notably with the Section for Intellectual Co-operation and the International Labour Office) it has concentrated its activities on collecting information and indicating lines of action on many questions which may be briefly re-capitulated as follows: Publications of the League of Nations and Libraries; The Cinematograph, especially as a means of education; organised travel for young people in order to encourage the spirit of international friendship and understanding; literature for the young; the fight against narcotic drugs; school and educational museums; moral disarmament; Peace and the Press; School Books; the Economic Crisis; youth and unemployment.

This brief résumé shows what a wide field has been covered in the effort to synthesise intelligent action in regard to many problems and activities which in these days are absolutely common to every country.

The second pamphlet, written by Professors Théodore Ruysen, the General Secretary of the International Union of League of Nations Societies, is entitled "L'Evolution de l'Idée de Collaboration Internationale" (price 1 fr. French) and gives a very striking picture of the steadily increasing importance of international co-operation. Already before the war there were in existence no less than 500 international organisations, which between 1900 and 1909 were responsible for an average of 107 international meetings in a year. In spite of the difficulties brought about by the war, in the year 1934 no less than 239 such meetings were held. It has to be confessed that after noting the many tangible results of this work, it is inevitable that many resolutions adopted by private bodies do and must remain "pious aspirations."

Professor Ruysen then gives a most interesting summary of the many efforts in the domain of co-operation between governments made throughout many centuries, since the first quoted is the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648, while the nineteenth and early twentieth century saw many treaties designed to prevent the outbreak or recurrence of war.

The last section is devoted to the League of Nations and is a frank and acute statement of its difficulties, its weaknesses and its vital importance.

Both these pamphlets can be obtained from the Comité d'Entente, Palais Royal, 2 rue de Montpensier, Paris 1er. An English edition of the former is in preparation.

The Peace and Disarmament Committee of the Women's International Organisations has been so fortunate as to secure the services of Miss Mary Dingman as what we will hopefully describe as a "Permanent Official". Miss Dingman has sent us an account of the Eleventh Conference on the Cause and Cure of War held in Washington in January. We regret that we did not receive any press matter about this Conference at the time and April seems a very late date to report on its work. The programme of future activity was of course directed towards conditions in the United States, but much of it is applicable to all countries so that it may be of interest to note the following points: support of control of the manufacture and trade in arms, ammunition, etc.; support on reciprocal trade agreements; opposition to expanding military, naval and air budgets; abolition of compulsory military training in schools and colleges; studies of the relations between war and economic life, of what is meant by adequate national defence, of the policy of the press, of opinion in business and labour groups, of how far the participating organisations have succeeded in educating their ordinary members, etc.

We have received and been asked to call attention to a "Call to a Day of Service" to be celebrated on May 6th in the form of a simultaneous use by all people of good will of an invocation of the spirit of peace and understanding. The form of this invocation is religious but absolutely un-confessional, and in addition to its use by single individuals the suggestion is made that it might be used by groups, in special meetings, on the radio, etc. It is being printed in ten languages and those who believe in the efficacy of prayer, may obtain copies from Mr. and Mrs. Bailey, 38, Broadwater Down, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England.

Two other proposals for augmenting the forces of peace have reached us from America. One is a proposal, sponsored by a Committee in New York, that May should be a Month of Universal Good Will. A suggested programme for such good will meetings in Churches, among students, Clubs, etc., is sent us, and also includes a form of invocation. Address: Mr. Victor Fox, Universal Goodwill Month of May, 11, West 42nd Street, New York.

The second is "An Appeal to Women" made in the name of a single individual, Mrs. Alena Ferguson. She calls upon women to stand behind the League of Nations and demand that all differences be settled by arbitration. Secondly, she asks that women as the world's greatest buyers should, in the event of war, at once and consistently refuse to purchase all goods coming from the country judged to be the aggressor. Mrs. Ferguson's address is: 8, Scott Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

We would also call attention very briefly, since it reached us just as we were going to press, to a pamphlet published by the Fédération universitaire internationale pour les principes de la S.d.N., "Les

Etudiants de l'Europe répondent à Mussolini," with a foreword by Lord Cecil. Readers will remember that in February the official newspaper "Popolo d'Italia" published "An Appeal to the students of Europe," which called upon the youth of the nations, on whom the direct effects of war must fall, to condemn sanctions against Italy. The replies given in this pamphlet show that there is a deep feeling that it is only by support of the League of Nations that there is any real hope of preventing wars.

HOME ECONOMICS CONFERENCE FOR THE NEAR EAST.

The first Home Economics Conference for the Near East was held in Sidon Girls' School, Sidon, Lebanon, September 2-7, 1935.

There were sixty-five delegates in attendance, homemakers and teachers from Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Palestine and Transjordan.

There were, in addition to these delegates, fifteen children. Mothers were invited to bring children too young to be left at home. They were cared for, and their activities organized by a group of graduates of the American Junior College for Women in Beirut. There were four babies under one year of age, who were in charge of a graduate of Sidon Girls' School.

The Conference was divided into three sections, Home-makers, Teachers of Home Economics, and General Sessions. The methods used were lectures, discussion groups, demonstrations and exhibits. In the homemakers' section the following subjects were treated: The Homemaker, the Child's Place in the Family, Prenatal and Child Care, Household Management, and Home and Community Relationships. The teachers' section dealt with Aims and Equipment, The Course of Study, The Lesson, and Professional Attitudes. In the general sessions lectures and discussions were organized around Developing the Personality of the Child, Child Management, Sex Education, and Problems of the Adolescent Girl.

In short daily business sessions the Conference considered the contribution of Home Economics to the Near East. The following suggestions were made by delegates: the introduction of Home Economics into school curricula, village welfare work, mothers' clubs for city women, and a serious study of the changing pattern of home life in the Near East. A committee was appointed to present to the conference suggestions for an organization, and a suggestive constitution was drawn up for a Home Economics Association of the Near East. A permanent committee was appointed to interest representatives group in each country and to present the constitution for amendment and ratification. The Conference voted to conserve the initial enthusiasm of this year in another conference to be held in the summer of 1936.

WOMEN'S CLUB OF SIDON.

In the spring of 1933 the regular Health Week programme of Sidon Girls' School took a new form. The members of the Home Economics Club suggested a sanitary survey of the community. Groups were appointed, and with adequate police escort, visits of inspection were made to the public baths, men's and women's prisons, slaughter house, meat markets, and vegetable markets. Observations were made on the cleanliness of the milk supply, and the sanitary conditions in the streets.

At the conclusion of this field work the Home Economics Club invited its honorary members, who are women chosen from the city, to meet with the school to hear the report of these visits. At the same time members of the Arabic Women's Federation of Beirut were present to tell about the methods and success of

their organization. At once a committee was appointed to study the organization of a Women's Club in Sidon.

The Club was organized with thirty members representing Moslem, Druse, Jew and Christian groups. The aim was stated as improvement of home and community life. The first and most difficult task of the executive committee was to hold the Club together, and stimulate sustained interest in community problems. Growth in membership is slow, and difficulties are numerous, but the president, Mrs. Eugenie Jumblatt, has carried the organization through three successful years.

Regular monthly meetings are held at which local and outside speakers present subjects related to home life and public health. The other activities are carried on by means of a visiting committee, a prison committee, a child welfare committee, and a health committee. The Committees keep in close touch with the community and have been successful in enlisting the co-operation of the municipality doctor and nurse, and the Governor of the Southern District.

The restricted district of Sidon has been closed for three years. The club is now following with interest the licensing system for practical midwives, child labour, prison conditions, disposal of waste at the slaughter house, official inspection of meat, garbage disposal and street sanitation.

A trip through the city would reveal a wide field of activity for the future of the Club. Affiliation with the Federation of Arabic Women's Clubs assures the Sidon Women of co-operation and encouragement from the Beirut Group.

IRENE TEAGARDEN.

BALKAN CONGRESS ON CHILD PROTECTION.

The International Save the Children Union is holding its first Balkan Congress in Athens from April 5th-9th, under the patronage of the King of Greece. We regret that the Programme reached us just too late for our March issue and by the time this reaches our readers the Congress will just be beginning. We give, however, the main points of the Programme, as those who are specially interested in Child Welfare may like to know the lines of the discussion with a view to obtaining copies of any Report which may subsequently be published by the Union. The address is: 15 Rue Lévrier, Geneva.

The three Sections of the Programme are: (1) Protection of the Normal Healthy Child, Legislation and private organisations, malnutrition, urban and rural organisation; (2) Medical Work, normal children in sickness, abnormal children; (3) Protection of Children and Young Persons in the field of labour, international conventions, private organisations such as Homes, Clubs, etc., Assistance to unemployed youth, agricultural work.

HUNGARY.

Report of the Feministák Egyesülete

For many years, with frequent calls on the proper authorities in the various Government Departments, we have tried to gain understanding and sympathy for the standpoint of women who seek equality and repudiate discrimination even in the guise of protection. Nevertheless the discussion of the government proposal for Ratification of the Convention on Night Work of Women in the Parliamentary Committees took us quite unawares. We had just time to draw up a petition to Parliament, asking it to reject ratification. The petition was countersigned and presented to the President of the House by the President of the National Democratic Party, Dr. J. Vázsonyi, son of the late Minister who was the first to present a Bill for Woman Suffrage in Hungary. The President of the House

declared that the petition would be deliberated on together with the Government's proposal.

In full session the discussion grew very passionate, representants of labour clashed with employers and authorities of the government party. Also Miss Kéthly, always a devoted and reliable feminist, made a great speech, but this time she clung to the international labour resolutions, and without a single dissentient voice the ratification passed in the Lower House. It was only the Minister of Commerce who reminded the House that not everybody agreed to this measure, as besides the petition of the Feministák Egyesülete he received also letters from working women who implored him not to deprive them of their bread. At this a great row was raised by the Social Democrats, who, in order to divert attention from the undeniable fact, tried to belittle the Feministák Egyesülete.

A committee of prominent Hungarian women has been formed to arrange an International Women's Week from 8th-15th of July in Budapest. The Hungarian women, in inviting their friends from other countries to rally in Budapest for a week and enjoy their hospitality, know that at the same time they are giving their guests the chance of visiting a country and its metropolis which have become immensely popular in the last few years with holiday-makers from all nations.

The aims and objects of this year's international meeting in Budapest are:

- (1) To foster women's international understanding as a potent influence toward world-peace.
- (2) To promote friendship between Hungarian women and women from other countries.
- (3) To show to their guests the characteristics of Hungarian life, folk-lore and architecture.

Women's organisations from all countries have accepted the invitation and have promised to make up parties to come to Budapest. Many of them have included a most attractive programme for the outward and return travel.

For full particulars please apply to:

"International Women's Week."

Headquarters: Budapest V. Ferenc József tér 3.

London office: 177, Regent Street, London, W.1.

New York office: c/o All Nations' Tours, 545, Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

The Alliance Auxiliary, the Feministák Egyesülete, Veres Palne u.16, Budapest, asks us to add that members of the Alliance who may be coming to Budapest will be warmly welcomed by the Society and are asked to notify their arrival in advance.

GERMANY.

The University of Heidelberg has sent us notices of the 550th Anniversary, and of the special courses for foreigners during the period 29th June to 8th August. The subjects include courses on the German language and literature, Music and Art, the geographical and political situation of Germany, etc. There are also special courses in English and French. An examination will be held at the end of the courses.

Many excursions are being planned and particulars are given of the cost of journeys and board and lodging.

All enquiries should be addressed to: Geschäftsstelle der Ferienkurse, Heidelberg, Alte Universität.

U.S.A.

"Equal Rights," the organ of the National Women's Party, has a long article on a Bill now before the House of Representatives of the District of Columbia for a 40 hour week for women only. It states: "The Bill says that no employer may employ or permit any female of 16 years of age or over to be employed in any establishment

in the District of Columbia for more than 40 hours in any given week. By establishment is meant any place where any remuneration is given to any one whomsoever. The only exceptions are domestic servants working in homes, farm women, graduate nurses and women employed in maintenance work during a period of emergency. No other woman is exempted regardless of her profession, occupation or calling. The Bill provides that the Hour Law Board created by the Act may exempt professional women, executives, superintendents, managers, secretaries and other women working in such positions who, in the opinion of the Board, are not impairing their health or welfare by working more than 40 hours a week."

The article goes on to explain that as it stands the Bill would mean that women Members of Congress, women in Government Service, women Judges, women Hospital Doctors, would none of them be able to carry on their work without going before the Hour Board to plead for its permission. Every business in the city would be disrupted if it attempted to retain its women employees.

In another paper we are informed that the Alliance Auxiliary, the National League of Women Voters, is one of the supporters of this Bill. If that be so, we should be very glad indeed to publish in a later issue their reasons for supporting it, the object they hope it may accomplish and also perhaps further details as to measures which would safeguard women from a wholesale loss of employment apart from an humiliating necessity to submit to a system of obtaining a licence to work not imposed on any man.

GREAT BRITAIN.

On March 17th a meeting organised by the London and National Society for Women's Service for the Joint Committee on Women in the Civil Service was held in Caxton Hall, Westminster, to appeal for equal pay for equal work in the Civil Service, without regard to sex. So large was the attendance that an overflow meeting was held at St. Ermin's nearby. Twenty-five organizations took part, and Professor Winifred Cullis was in the Chair.

The meeting resolved to call upon the Government to establish one salary scale in each grade of the Civil Service which shall apply equally to all in it without regard to their sex; further that the Chancellor of the Exchequer be asked to receive a deputation to bring the resolution before him.

In moving the resolution Colonel D. Clifton Brown, M.P., said that the principle of equal pay was in the best interests of the country as a whole. Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., seconded the resolution, and stated that the principle of equal pay had been accepted for higher grades under the London County Council and by a number of local authorities. Many women had dependents to support in common with men. Lady Astor, M.P., contended that the State as an employer was setting a bad example to employers in industry, where the payment of lower rates to women resulted in increasing unemployment among men. Great Britain put her name to the clause in the Treaty of Versailles which said that men and women should receive equal remuneration for work of equal value, and the principle of equal pay was adopted in the House of Commons 16 years ago, but since then nothing had been done.

OBITUARY.

At the very moment of going to press we have learnt with the deepest sorrow of the death of Ingeborg Walin of Sweden, for many years a Member of the Alliance Board and Chairman of its Like Conditions of Work Committee. We hope to publish an appreciation of her work next month.

LETTRE DE GENEVE.

Bien que ce soient essentiellement des événements d'une haute importance politique qui aient attiré, au cours de ces dernières semaines, l'attention mondiale sur la Société des Nations, ces mêmes semaines ont vu cependant se dérouler aussi d'autres événements d'un intérêt plus spécial pour nous femmes et féministes. Ce sont quelques-uns d'entre eux que je voudrais signaler brièvement aux lectrices de *Jus*.

* * *

Au Bureau International du Travail d'abord a eu lieu, au début de février, une réunion consultative, dont je m'étonne qu'il n'ait pas été encore parlé dans la presse féministe, car il y a été débattu des sujets bien importants pour nous: la situation des fonctionnaires des administrations et services publics, et notamment l'emploi des femmes. Car, qui ne sait parmi nous que toutes les atteintes portées dans tous les pays contre le droit au travail des femmes visent essentiellement les femmes fonctionnaires, et que, alors que personne ne songe à empêcher de travailler une femme mariée exerçant un métier subalterne et mal payé (qui s'est jamais inquiété, par exemple, si une femme de ménage ou une lessiveuse était célibataire ou non?) les femmes occupant des postes dans les administrations et dans l'enseignement officiel à tous les degrés sont au contraire en butte à toutes les attaques? Il était donc intéressant pour nous de voir ce qui sortirait des débats de cette réunion consultative à laquelle étaient représentées toutes les grandes Fédérations internationales de fonctionnaires.

Le B.I.T., par l'organe de son Service du travail féminin, avait préparé pour servir de base à ces discussions un document que je recommande vivement à toutes celles que préoccupent les conditions d'emploi des femmes: *L'emploi des femmes dans les administrations publiques*. (No de référence R.C.F. VI/3 1936.) Analysant les réponses reçues de 23 pays, ce document considère d'abord l'historique de l'admission des femmes aux fonctions administratives, leurs possibilités d'avancement dans ces fonctions, puis l'égalité ou l'inégalité de leurs salaires avec ceux de leurs collègues masculins, la question actuellement si brûlante de la démission forcée au mariage, et enfin quelques autres aspects de leurs conditions de travail: résidence des fonctionnaires mariés, congés de maternité, âge de retraite. Après avoir étudié et discuté ce rapport, la Réunion consultative a voté à l'unanimité une série de vœux, dont voici le premier et le plus essentiel pour nous, parce qu'il établit immédiatement et sans restriction aucune le droit au travail de la femme mariée, droit en faveur duquel le B.I.T. a pris nettement position à bien des reprises déjà:

"Que les femmes jouissent des mêmes droits que les hommes quant à l'accès aux fonctions administratives, quant à l'avancement dans la hiérarchie, et quant à la rémunération dans toutes les fonctions selon le principe 'A travail égal, salaire égal' consacré par l'art 41 de la Constitution de l'Organisation Internationale du Travail."

* * *

Peu de jours après cette réunion eut lieu, au B.I.T. également la session du Conseil d'Administration de cette Organisation, session dont l'intérêt résidait pour nous dans le fait qu'était inscrite à son ordre du jour l'enquête sur le statut de la femme, qui n'avait pu, faute de temps être abordée lors de la session d'octobre. C'est dans l'intervalle de ces deux sessions qu'une certaine inquiétude s'était manifestée dans divers milieux féministes quant à l'interprétation par le B.I.T. du paragraphe de la résolution de l'Assemblée le mettant en cause. L'on craignait en effet que l'enquête du B.I.T. risquât de se limiter trop étroitement au droit au travail de la femme, en laissant de côté son

statut économique réel, tel qu'il se manifeste par la durée du travail, les possibilités d'emploi et de formation professionnelle, etc. C'est pourquoi diverses organisations féminines internationales, et notamment l'Alliance, estimèrent devoir s'adresser au B.I.T. à cet égard. Mais les méthodes employées par ces organisations varient beaucoup, les unes comme l'Alliance agissant par correspondance, d'autres de façon plus directe; et il fut une fois de plus instructif pour celles qui suivirent les débats de constater combien il peut être dangereux d'employer auprès des instances internationales certains systèmes directs de propagande, qui risquent souvent d'aller à fin contraire de ce que désirent celles qui les préconisent. Ceci d'autant plus que l'Organisation Internationale du Travail est essentiellement une organisation professionnelle, et doit par conséquent tenir compte avant tout de l'opinion des groupements professionnels mandatés pour parler auprès d'elle. On put même craindre à un moment donné, et cela malgré l'attitude très-compréhensive du Directeur, M. Butler, que le sort de cette enquête fût mis en jeu, vu l'opposition de plusieurs délégués ouvriers à la propagande menée auprès d'eux; et nous pouvons être d'autant plus reconnaissantes à M. Kupers, délégué ouvrier hollandais, qui contribua à sauver la situation en faisant cas d'une lettre de la Fédération des femmes dans les carrières libérales et professionnelles, qu'avait adressée au B.I.T. Miss Heneker. Finalement, et à notre grand soulagement, le Conseil d'Administration vota à l'unanimité la double proposition du Directeur, soit non seulement de préparer une étude législative, telle que la prévoyait la résolution de l'Assemblée, mais encore de donner le plus large développement possible aux études du B.I.T. concernant la situation économique de la travailleuse. L'assurance donnée par le Directeur que le Comité consultatif pour le travail féminin, qui compte de nombreux chefs du mouvement féministe dans différents pays, sera consulté pour ces études, doit rassurer encore toutes celles qui avaient éprouvé des craintes à l'égard de cette enquête.

* * *

On nous a demandé de divers côtés si celle-ci figurerait encore à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence Internationale du Travail convoquée à Genève pour le 4 juin prochain? Non, puisque cette question a été réglée par le Conseil d'Administration, et puisqu'elle a été réglée à notre satisfaction il y aurait, ajoutons-le, danger à vouloir la rouvrir. L'ordre du jour de cette prochaine Conférence ne présente pas d'ailleurs de sujets nous intéressant spécialement, car il est surtout consacré aux réductions de la durée du travail dans diverses industries (industries métallurgiques, industries du bâtiment, etc.) dans lesquelles ne se trouvent guère de femmes. En revanche, la durée du travail dans le textile devant être aussi discutée à cette occasion, et les femmes ouvrières étant nombreuses dans ces industries, le B.I.T. en convoquant les gouvernements, leur a rappelé les articles de la Constitution de l'Organisation Internationale du Travail, qui stipulent le droit des femmes à faire partie des délégations, et le devoir qui incombe à chaque délégation de s'assurer au moins la présence d'une femme expert quand doit venir en discussion une question intéressant spécialement les femmes. Espérons que ce rappel sera pris en considération par de nombreux pays. L'Alliance vient d'ailleurs d'adresser à ce sujet une circulaire à toutes ses Sociétés affiliées, leur demandant d'agir auprès de leurs gouvernements dans le sens indiqué.

Je signale encore en terminant la date prochaine de la réunion de deux des Comités de la Société des Nations, dont l'activité intéresse toujours nos organisations féminines et féministes: le Comité contre la traite des femmes se réunira le 20 avril, et celui pour la protection de l'enfance le 27. A l'ordre du jour du premier

figurent notamment la répression des agissements des souteneurs, un Comité d'experts qui a siégé aussi le mois dernier, ayant préparé un avant-projet de Convention internationale; puis la suite de l'enquête sur le relèvement des femmes majeures, la Conférence contre la traite proposée en Orient, les rapports des organisations privées sur leur activité, etc. Le Comité de Protection de l'Enfance, lui, s'occupera essentiellement des enfants dévoyés et en danger moral, de l'âge de la responsabilité pénale, du placement familial, de la situation des enfants illégitimes, et du cinématographe récréatif. Tous ces débats, auxquels vont participer comme chaque année, des femmes, soit déléguées ou conseillères techniques de gouvernements, soit représentantes d'organisations internationales privées, promettent d'être fort intéressants. J'aurai l'occasion d'en rendre compte aux lectrices de *Jus* dans un prochain numéro. E.G.D.

CONGRÈS BALKANIQUE.

L'Union internationale pour la Protection de l'Enfance va tenir son premier Congrès Balkanique à Athènes du 5 au 9 avril, sous le patronage du roi de Grèce. Les trois sections du Programme sont les suivantes: (1) Protection de l'enfant normal; législation et organisations libres; malnutrition; organisations rurales et urbaines; (2) action médicale, maladies des enfants normaux, enfants anormaux; (3) Protection des enfants et jeunes personnes dans le domaine du travail, conventions internationales, institutions libres, clubs, etc., assistance aux jeunes chômeurs, travail agricole.

INDE.

Le numéro de Janvier de *Stri Dharma* est consacré au compte-rendu du dixième congrès féministe pan-indou qui eut lieu à Travancore au mois de décembre. La Présidente, Son Altesse la Maharanie Setu Parvati Bay, y prononça un magnifique discours où elle signala que le problème féminin de l'Inde n'est pas différent du reste du monde, car fondamentalement, il n'est ni politique, ni même social, mais économique.

En dernier ressort la solution du problème pour la femme, que ce soit dans le mariage ou dans la vie du dehors, réside dans son indépendance économique. La Résolution adoptée couvre un grand nombre de problèmes dont nous ne pouvons ici donner le détail; notons cependant que les conclusions du Congrès de l'Alliance à Istanbul sur les Droits civils de la Femme et la co-opération de l'Orient et de l'Occident sont approuvées par cette Conférence pan-indoue.

ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE.

La revue "Droits Egaux" organe du "Parti National des Femmes" commente longuement un Projet de loi présenté à la Chambre des députés du District de Colombie limitant la semaine des femmes qui travaillent à 40 heures seulement. Exception est faite pour le travail domestique, agricole, pour les infirmières et certaines permanences à assurer en temps de crise. Une provision du Projet de loi exempte en certains cas les femmes de professions libérales ou qui sont occupées à des positions de responsabilité, si, dans l'opinion du Comité de Contrôle, "leur santé ne souffre pas d'un travail qui dépasse quarante heures par semaine."

L'auteur de l'article critique énergiquement ce projet de loi, qui, forcément, diminuera pour les femmes les chances d'emploi.

FRANCE.

Nous avons souvent fait allusion à l'œuvre de Melle. Louise Weiss, organisatrice de "La Femme Nouvelle." C'est encore à son initiative qu'est due l'heureuse innovation d'un film parlant qui montre l'activité du mouvement suffragiste en France.

Mrs. Corbett-Ashby obtint la coopération de l'Association féminine Internationale de Cinématographie qui présenta ce film à Londres et ce fut une occasion agréable et intéressante pour nous de comparer l'histoire actuelle du mouvement français avec notre période héroïque du suffrage.

La campagne du reste ne manque pas d'humour et certaines projections sont extrêmement drôles, en particulier celle de la militante, dont la houppette opportune couvre d'un nuage de poudre les yeux d'un policier éberlué, ou encore celles des deux petites filles qui apprennent à faire une omelette.

HONGRIE.

La Feminist Egyesület déplore la ratification par le Parlement Hongrois de la Convention sur le Travail de nuit des femmes — en tant que discrimination, et attentant au principe égalitaire, sans guise de Protection du Travail.

Un comité de notables femmes hongroises vient de se former pour organiser une semaine internationale du 8 au 15 juillet, à Budapest. Les visiteuses de tous pays seront les bienvenues. Toutes facilitées leur seront données pour des excursions si elles s'adressent à: Ferenc Jozsef Ter. 3- Budapest V. ou au London Office 177 Regent Street, W.I.

GRANDE BRETAGNE.

Le 17 mars une assemblée énorme se pressait à Caxton Hall, Westminster, et débordait même jusque dans l'Hotel contigu de St. Ermin, répondant à l'appel des 25 organisations qui avaient convoqué leurs membres pour poser à nouveau la question du Salaire égal pour Travail Egal dans les services administratifs du Royaume Une.

Professor Winifred Cullis présidait. Il fut décidé d'envoyer une députation au Ministre des Finances (Chancelier de l'Echiquier) et de soulever la question aux Communes, avant Pâques.

BRESIL.

Il est réconfortant de constater qu'au Brésil la cause des femmes fait tous les jours des progrès. Deux femmes viennent d'être nommées secrétaires d'Etat, et deux autres femmes ont été nommées Consuls. Il y a désormais au Brésil six femmes consuls.

Lors de la Septième Conférence internationale des gouvernements du Nouveau Monde, Dr. Bertha Lutz, déléguée du Brésil, fit adopter la résolution que toute conférence panaméricaine dont le programme comporterait des articles intéressant les femmes, devrait inclure des femmes dans ses délégations. En conséquence, à la Conférence américaine du Travail qui vient de se tenir à Santiago (Chili) le gouvernement du Brésil envoya comme déléguée Melle. Allanita Rodrigues, du ministère du Travail et le gouvernement des Etats-Unis fut représenté par Miss Frieda Miller, aussi du Département du Travail de New-York.

Dr. Mairsita Velasco Kopp vient d'être reçue au concours pour l'internat de l'Hospital ambulance de Rio de Janeiro. Sa cousine Dr. Carmen Portinho, une des pionnières du mouvement féministe et une des premières femmes ingénieurs est aujourd'hui ingénieur chef de service de la ville de Rio de Janeiro.

Aux premières élections provinciales qui suivirent le vote de la nouvelle Constitution, dix femmes furent élues. Loin de suivre l'exemple de la première députée à la Chambre fédérale, une anti-féministe, qui obéissait uniquement es à son parti, nos dix nouvelles représentantes ont fait du bon travail. Elles ont veillé à l'égalité parfaite de traitement pour hommes et femmes fonctionnaires, assurant néanmoins à celles-ci trois semaines de congé payées, à la naissance d'un enfant. (?) Les plus actives parmi ces députées sont

Dr. M. L. Bittencourt avocate à Bahia, Dr. Lily Lages médecin à Alagoas et Madame Maria de Miranda Leao de Amazonas.

CEYLAN.

Le Daily News, de Ceylan a publié le questionnaire de notre Auxiliaire aux candidats, dans les récentes élections pour le Conseil d'Etat. C'est un document excellent qui a traité à l'Instruction publique, la Santé Publique, l'âge du mariage, les pensions, etc. Nous signalons l'étrange anomalie que dans un Etat où les femmes ont des droits égaux dans le Conseil de Gouvernement, l'absence de franchise subsiste encore dans les Conseils urbains et communaux.

BELGIQUE.

Au Congrès du parti socialiste de Belgique en février dernier le projet de loi pour la Franchise féminine, présenté par le parti catholique a été repoussé. Le Parti va préparer des Projets de loi établissant l'égalité des hommes et des femmes du point de vue politique, civil et économique et une Conférence spéciale va décider à quel moment ces projets seront introduits à la Chambre.

Nous regrettons qu'une apparente rivalité de partis risque d'enterrer le Projet de suffrage féminin, et à notre sens, c'est un geste peu démocratique que vouloir subordonner les intérêts d'un parti à une mesure de justice nationale.

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