



THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE NEWS

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CONTENTS.

	Page		Page
Hélène Burniaux	53	Dr. Anita Jacobs	57
New Year's Greetings	54	Hungary—Mgr. Giesswein, First Woman Barrister ..	58
A New Women's International?	54	Holland—Women in Industry	59
W.I.L.P.F.—Next Conference	54	India—The Elections	61
News from Affiliated Societies—Australia	54	Spain	61
Belgium	54	Turkey	61
China	55	United States—Women's Congressional Committee ..	61
Denmark—Mrs. Arenholt	55	Minimum Wage	63
Egypt—Raising of Marriage Age	55	Children's Bureau	63
France—Inheritance Laws	56	Helen Hamilton Gardener	64
Germany—Dismissal of Women Officials	56	Section Française—France	65
Great Britain—The Elections	57	Suisse	65
		Nouvelles Féministes	66

HÉLÈNE BURNIAUX.

President of the International Federation of Working Women.

M^LLE BURNIAUX was born at Brussels, August 18, 1889; studied at the Normal School; won her teacher's diploma in 1908. Since 1910 has devoted herself to trade union questions. Collaborates in the Socialist newspaper *Le Peuple*. She was nominated in 1919 as Technical Labour Councillor to the first Labour Conference at Washington. She has spoken and lectured to Labour audiences. Member of the Administrative Commission on Prisons. Contributes to the newspaper *Le Soir*. Qualified as Cantonal Inspector in 1921, and was appointed Cantonal Inspector at Brussels. Took part in the second Women's Labour Conference in 1921 at Geneva; appointed vice-president for Belgium. Delegate to the Third Conference at Vienna in 1923. Elected president of the International Federation of Working Women, 1923.



Mlle. BURNIAUX.
President of International Federation of Working Women.

HÉLÈNE BURNIAUX.

Notes Biographiques.

NÉE à Bruxelles le 18 août 1889; études à l'école normale; diplôme d'institutrice en 1908; dès 1910 s'occupe activement de la question syndicale; collabore au journal socialiste *Le Peuple*; désignée en 1919 comme conseillère technique ouvrière à la première conférence du travail à Washington; nombreuses conférences d'éducation dans les milieux ouvriers; nommée membre de la Commission administrative des prisons; occupe la Tribune libre comme femme socialiste dans le journal *Le Soir*; obtient le diplôme d'inspectrice cantonale en 1921; nommée inspectrice cantonale à Bruxelles; prend part à la deuxième Conférence des Travailleuses en 1921 à Genève, nommée vice-présidente pour la Belgique; déléguée à la troisième Conférence des Travailleuses à Vienne en août 1923; nommée présidente de l'Internationale des Travailleuses le 18 août 1923.

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS.

DEAR FRIENDS AND COMRADES,

I send you all my warmest greetings and good wishes for 1924. 1923 will always be memorable for our great Congress in Rome, and I cannot let the year close without renewing in the name of us all our thanks and appreciation to our Italian Auxiliary.

In 1924 we must see that the programme adopted at Rome is carried out in practice. The Alliance is recognized by the League of Nations as speaking for the progressive women in forty countries. We can only maintain our position if we have energetic national organizations in each country. We await with keen interest which will be the first Latin country to give its women the Parliamentary vote. In the East we are watching the wonderful leaders who are guiding their women to greater rights and responsibilities. In the enfranchised countries we welcome the ever-growing share that women are taking in the public life of the country, and their special contribution in legislation affecting the health and welfare of the race. Each successful experiment is eagerly followed by other countries and adapted to its needs.

Courage, patience, perseverance and enthusiasm are the gifts I wish you in 1924.

MARGERY L. CORBETT-ASHBY.

A NEW WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL?

THE American "Woman's Party" at its conference in Washington, November 17 and 18, adopted a resolution "to call an International Conference to sit as a Parliament of Women to deliberate upon problems of their common interest and to aid the movement to end the present world-wide subjection of women." The Woman's Party organ, *Equal Rights*, comments on this decision as follows: "In the past, international alliances of women have been formed for many objects, but in the International Parliament of Women to be called by the Woman's Party, women of all nations will come together for the first time with the object of raising the status of women throughout the world."

It is well that women of all countries should seize all occasions to come together and discuss their common aims and take joint action wherever possible. Every international gathering may have its value, and we have nothing but good wishes for any new world conference of women that may be projected. But we imagine that the delegates who represented the women of forty-three countries at the I.W.S.A. Congress at Rome will rub their eyes when they read that the "Parliament" projected by the "Woman's Party" of America will be the first with the object of raising the status of women throughout the world.

The July issue of this paper, containing the report of the Rome Congress and its resolutions, must have escaped the notice of the writer in *Equal Rights*. Let us recall briefly, for the benefit of others similarly uninformed, some of the features of that Congress—the ninth held by our Alliance:—

Representative women delegates were present as follows: From Argentina, one; Australia, nine; Austria, three; Brazil, one; Bulgaria, one; Canada, one; Czechoslovakia, four; Denmark, eleven; Egypt, three; Finland, ten; France, twenty; Germany, eleven; Great Britain, twenty-three; Greece, four; Netherlands, eight; Hungary, seven; India, eight; Ireland, four; Italy, twenty-four; Jugo-Slavia, six; Jamaica, one; Lithuania, one; Newfoundland, one; Norway, twelve; Palestine, three; Poland, two; Roumania, eleven; South Africa, five; Spain, one; Sweden, thirteen; Switzerland, twenty-two; Ukraine, three; United States, twenty-four; Uruguay, one.

There were besides large numbers of associate members from many countries and many visitors.

The programme and object of the Congress, as of the Alliance, was Equality—social, political, industrial. The granting of suffrage on equal terms in countries where women are still unfranchised, the abolition of all legal

disabilities of women in all countries, the opening of all professions and occupations on equal terms, the acceptance by public opinion of an equal moral standard for men and women and all the reforms that would result from such acknowledgment, such as equal responsibility of the father with the mother for illegitimate children.

In the industrial world, equal pay for equal work; in the home, a wife's equal share of the family income; in social life, the recognition of woman's equal right with man to engage in any public activities that commend themselves to her; equal access to all educational opportunities, whether academic, technical or vocational.

Internationally, the equal right of a woman with a man to settle the question of her nationality.

These are some of the aspects of equality—and it may be claimed that they are fairly comprehensive—put forth by the Alliance at its Congress.

Special subcommittees were appointed to further—(a) equal pay; (b) nationality; (c) equal moral standard.

As to the importance and representative character of the delegates, some indication can be gathered from the facts that every great creed and race, every class and most professions were to be found amongst them. There were many women Members of Parliament, doctors of medicine and science, lawyers, physicians, writers, professors, singers, musicians, women engaged in trade and commerce, factory inspectors, and many others. Thirteen Governments sent official delegates, the Secretariat of the League of Nations and the International Labour Office had distinguished representatives. The Congress was welcomed and formally opened by the Italian Prime Minister, and officially entertained by Government and Municipality. It would seem, therefore, that here was an international congress of women that might well have interested and attracted all women who have at heart "the object of raising the status of women throughout the world." It will not be the last of its kind; the international women's movement goes on with its work and will meet again to confer, report results, and prepare for fresh action in due course.

M. SHEEPSHANKS.

INTERNATIONAL.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom will hold its next Biennial Conference in May, 1924, at Washington, U.S.A., under the presidency of Miss Jane Addams.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES AFFILIATED TO THE I.W.S.A.

AUSTRALIA.

Victoria.

ALTHOUGH Australian women were, with New Zealanders, the first to have the franchise, they were not at once eligible to sit in the State Parliaments. A Bill has now passed making women eligible for membership of the Victorian Parliament.

BELGIUM.

Film Censorship. Woman Councillor's Action.

WOMEN have not sat for long on Municipal Councils, but are already making their influence felt. Mlle Louise Vromant, Communal Councillor in Brussels, has energetically taken up the question of suppressing a particularly notorious film, against which demonstrations were frequently made by respectable citizens, but which the Communal Council declared it had no legal right to suppress. On November 19, Mlle Vromant brought a motion before the Council and cited legal authorities to show that the Council had the power to take action. The fifty male members of the Council listened attentively to the careful exposition of Mlle Vromant. M. Max, the Mayor of Brussels, adjourned the discussion and decision in order to give the fullest consideration to Mlle Vromant's thesis.

CHINA.

Women's Education.

THE Peking Society for the Study of International Education has issued a report on Education in China, which shows the remarkable progress in women's education in the last few years. Altogether there are now a quarter of a million Chinese girls receiving instruction and an increasing number going abroad for education. They are also taking active part in movements for economic independence, equal education, and equal legal status.



Mrs. JULIE ARENHOLT.

DENMARK.

MRS. JULIE ARENHOLT'S fiftieth birthday, on December 10, was an event which certainly did not pass unnoticed in Copenhagen. Danish women were eager to show how much they respect, love and admire her, and although she has fought for women's enfranchisement, for equal pay and right to work, with all her energy, and told men many a disagreeable truth, we note with satisfaction that men, too, from different political parties, came to pay her their homage on her festival day.

As Mrs. Arenholt is now a member of the Board of the I.W.S.A., a few biographical notes may be of interest to the readers of *Jus*. At the age of 17 she commenced to work as teacher, and I believe that this work, which she carried on for a number of years, partly as children's teacher, partly in one of our "high schools,"* has been of value both for herself and her pupils. She understands children and young people, and they like her; she can sing the old songs with them, and she has the gift of humour, which often helps to maintain discipline more than a stern countenance, provided that it be backed up with the right sort of authority. Mrs. Arenholt is certainly indebted to her teacher days in some way for her authoritative way of presiding over a meeting.

In 1901 Mrs. Arenholt took her degree as a factory engineer and, after some years of work in private undertakings, she was in 1909 appointed a State Factory In-

* Schools for adults from the country, where young men and women come for six months and are taught, for instance, history, Danish literature, etc., mostly through lectures—a type of education particular to Denmark.

spector on exactly the same conditions as a man. Since that time she has been inspector of all bakeries and patisseries in Copenhagen, where it is certainly a good thing to have a capable, energetic woman to look after cleanliness and hygienic measures, as well as after the maintenance of the regulations of the Factory law. Recently Mrs. Arenholt was sent by our Government to the International Labour Conference in Geneva as technical adviser.

Apart from her professional work, Mrs. Arenholt has found much time and force to spare for the women's cause in Denmark. During the years when we fought for the vote she was the editor of *Kvindevalget* (Votes for Women), then "the cheapest paper of this country," as she said with pride. When we got the municipal vote it was natural that she was immediately elected a member of the Copenhagen Municipal Council, where she served and did good work from 1909 to 1917, when she retired for private reasons. Thousands of Danish women hope some day to raise her to Parliament, where she is already well known by the members as an interested listener to the debate on questions of interest to women, and where she has often come together with other members of the Board of "Dansk Kvindesamfund" to hand in resolutions or requests regarding legislation for women and children.

For some years Mrs. Arenholt was the President of the National Woman Organization "Dansk Kvindesamfund" (affiliated to I.W.S.A.), where she was an able, business-like and tactful leader. Although an active member of one of our political parties (the Radical) she was able to keep clear of political conflicts in this organization of women from all political parties. She is still a member of the Board, and since she was elected at the Rome Congress member of the Board of the I.W.S.A., we look to her as our "Minister for Foreign Affairs," and are convinced that she will be as valuable a worker internationally as she has been in her own country.

I should like to conclude by citing a few lines of an article of the former Minister of the Interior, Member of the Folketing, *One Rode*, written for Mrs. Arenholt's birthday:—

"Mrs. Julie Arenholt has brought into public life the gentleness, fineness and straightness of her character. To this corresponds her outer appearance; she is always, even in the middle of a sharp debate, a lady. She communicates to every cause which she takes up womanly tact and motherly warmth. It is natural that women have given her so many posts of confidence because they know that she is worthy of their trust and recognize her nature and manner of being as an expression of what they like to see in public life. And no wonder that men meet her there with pleasure. She brings with her the qualities which no man could bring, and thus she realizes the idea of 'votes for women.'"

LOUISE NEERGAARD.

Secretary of "Dansk Kvindesamfund."

Copenhagen, December 15, 1923.

EGYPT.

A GREAT success has been scored by the Egyptian Women's Union, of which Mme Charaoui Pacha is President, in the passing by the Council of Ministers of a law making illegal all marriages of boys under 18 and girls under 16 years of age.

This is a direct result of the efforts of the women, whose programme included the raising of the marriage age for girls.

Mme Charaoui Pacha gave a reception to Egyptian and foreign ladies at which Mrs. Jinarajadasa, secretary of the Indian Women's Association gave an interesting lecture on the Indian women's movement.

FRANCE.

Inheritance Laws.

WE are often asked as to the French laws of inheritance as they affect women, and we owe the following information to Mlle Odette Simon, avocat à la Cour:—

A husband may by will leave all his property away from his wife, provided that the marriage was under the "régime de séparation des biens"; if, however, the marriage was under "communauté des biens," it is impossible for a husband to prevent his wife succeeding to her share of that "communauté." This communauté may include either all property brought to the marriage by either party, or only such property as has come to them since the marriage, as earnings or otherwise. In either case, the wife is inalienably entitled to her share on the death of her husband.

If, however, the property belonged to the husband alone and he leaves it all away from his wife, she may claim an allowance from the estate if she be destitute; but this claim has to be brought before the Courts and an award made by the Judge according to the needs of the claimant and the value of the estate.

If the husband dies intestate, the wife has a claim to the whole estate, provided there are no children and no next-of-kin to the fourth degree. If there are children or such next-of-kin, the wife only gets a "usufruct" of:—

One quarter of the estate if the deceased leaves one or more children, issue of the marriage.

Half of the estate, if there are no children, whatever the number of other heirs may be.

If there are children issue of a previous marriage, the wife's share of the estate must not exceed the lowest share due to one of the children.

These rules all apply equally to the estate left by a wife.

The report on the French Woman Suffrage Bill will be found in French on page 65.

Space does not allow of an English translation.

GERMANY.

Dismissal of Women Functionaries.

THE position of our women in public service—women functionaries of all categories and grades—is seriously endangered by the general tendency to diminish the personnel in all departments, a tendency which lately found its official expression in a Decree of the Reichs Government (*Personalabbau-Verordnung*) issued October 27, and in similar measures of the States and Local Governments, provided for in Article 18 of the Decree. From pressing motives of *economy*, the reduction of the huge army of officials in our present "Beamtensstaat," replacing the former military state, has become absolutely indispensable; and though, of course, the groups and organizations concerned (teachers, administrative functionaries, post officials, etc.) most energetically protest, it will be carried out. It is planned to dismiss about 25 per cent. of the staff—5 per cent. by February, 5 per cent. by March, 5 per cent. by April, 1924, at the latest; the term for the dismissal of the remaining 10 per cent. is not yet fixed.

The Decree points out that all unnecessary hardships should, in practice, be avoided; that it should, besides the oldest generation, principally be applied to the younger expectants who did not yet reach the term of service for the necessary officer's qualification (*Angestellte*) and, as a rule, to the unmarried, the married and family maintainers to be spared as much as possible. On the other hand, all those who could be maintained by another's income (husband's or parents') and who are, most illogically, denoted as "double wage earners" (*Doppelverdiener*), may first be dismissed.

It is obvious from these points of view that the women functionaries will have to pay most of the

expenses in supplying most of the victims of this measure which, in the first rank, is directed against them. No explicit reference is made hereupon in the Decree, which, on the contrary, points out that the *principle of capacity* shall be decisive for dismissal or remaining in office. But though the women in this respect have proved their capacity on all lines, though our Reichs and States' constitutions make no difference whatever between men and women in public service, in theory, the above-mentioned so-called "social motives" will be applied first against the women, in practice, against the many women employees who only since the revolution could enter public service and therefore could not yet acquire officer's rank and rights; against the married functionaries who have wage-earning husbands; and against the unmarried who have no children to support. So we shall have to face the puzzling absurdity that in the first case the women will be punished because they *did* marry, and in the other because they *did not*.

It seems not likely as if the national and States' and local organizations and professional councils which, according to the Decree, the executive bodies shall consult on behalf of the dismissals, will advocate the interests of the women or do anything in their favour; on the contrary, the men functionaries, who are, of course, the predominant majority in the organizations, consider, as experience shows, the exclusion of the women as a matter of course and will, on the average, be only too glad to get rid of the inconvenient competition at this opportunity. Another evident instance for the often-stated fact that, with woman suffrage, woman's movement cannot yet come to an end; that the old "struggle of the sexes" still must be continued on different lines, especially about the most important economic and social questions and problems; and that the women must fight this hardest of all struggles for themselves.

In this conviction, also, our women functionaries endeavour to meet the threatening danger. In many impressive petitions their organizations, supported by the National Council of Women and by the State and local women's societies, claim of the Reichs and States' Governments to provide for a just application of the new Decree, irrespective not only of party or religion, but also of the *functionary's sex*. They are putting forward all their strong arguments against the weak ones of the men's standpoint, particularly laying stress upon the fact that not only the women functionaries themselves, but also the community, will be seriously injured by their dismissal from posts *where they can by no means be replaced by men*. This is the case with the women teachers, whose number (from 8 to 25 per cent. in the different States) is still rather small; and especially with the manifold offices of the so-called *social functionaries* in the Ministries and communal administrative bodies dealing with all the institutions for people's welfare and family protection, in which capacity our young women have, on all grades, done excellent work.

As the success of petitions is known to be rather questionable, we do not look forward with much hope to the results of these efforts and for the further development. What is already heard, by rumour, of the application of the Decree, is by no means encouraging. In due time I shall report more on this most important matter.

MARIE STRITT.

Dresden, November 23.

Owing to the difficulty in obtaining employment, and to the fact that families in all classes find it impossible to support their daughters owing to the high prices and real scarcity, German women are anxious to start some scheme to enable these girls to obtain employment abroad. They realize that probably most of them will have to go into domestic service, at any rate to start with, and they would welcome suggestions from members of the Alliance as to how best to obtain suitable positions for these girls in other countries. Any information which our readers may be able to send to Headquarters will be forwarded to the German National Council of Women.



Miss SUSAN LAWRENCE, M.P.



Miss MARGARET BONDFIELD, M.P.



The DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, M.P.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Elections.

THIS year's elections show more satisfactory results from the women's point of view than previous ones; but of 615 members, eight women M.P.'s can hardly be called excessive, especially considering women outnumber men by over a million; but at least there will be a certainty that women's claims and needs will not be ignored. There is also a very welcome change in the reasons for which women have been elected. Until now, the three women previously elected were, in the first instance, elected to occupy seats vacated by their husbands. It is true that Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham have made such excellent use of the position to which they were elected that this time they were returned on their own merits, to the great satisfaction of organized women; nevertheless, it would have been regrettable to see established, as a precedent, the theory that a woman in Parliament was there as the next best substitute for her husband. Three new members who are welcomed by women of all parties as admirable workers and worthy Parliamentary representatives are the three Labour women, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Miss Susan Lawrence, and Miss Dorothy Jewson.

Each of them has devoted herself to public work and distinguished herself by keenness and capacity.

Margaret Bondfield is the leading British Labour woman and well known on the Continent by the part she has taken in international conferences. For many years she worked with Mary Macarthur for the women's trade unions, also for the Women's Co-operative Guild. This year she attained the distinction, unprecedented for a woman, of being chosen Chairman of the Trades Union Congress. She is a magnificent speaker, clear, forceful, inspiring. She was an original member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, therefore, an uncompromising pacifist. English women are delighted to have such a woman in Parliament.

Susan Lawrence has worked with zeal and ability for Labour and in municipal affairs. Since 1910 she has been on the London County Council. She began her public and social work as a Conservative, but became convinced that the only party that could and would put through urgent social reforms in housing, education, care of children, and decent industrial conditions was the Labour Party, which she forthwith joined. Latterly, she has been an active member of the Borough Council of Poplar, a very poor London district, and with other Councilors she refused to levy a rate on the district, which, they maintained, the people were too poor to pay. For six weeks she and they were imprisoned, then the Government gave way. She attributes her election to the gradual realization by the working women that the intolerable conditions of housing and unemployment can only be remedied by political action. Moreover, the British elector, who is very slow to adopt a new idea, has by this, the third, election at which women are eligible, grown accustomed to the idea, and is, indeed, mildly interested and attracted by the idea of a woman member. Of course, the sterling and unselfish work

that Miss Lawrence has done for the workers has inspired them with confidence; they know they could not have a better representative.

Dorothy Jewson, who secured nearly 20,000 votes and defeated a popular ex-Minister, in Norwich, has devoted herself to Labour since she left Girton College, Cambridge. During the War she organized training and employment for workless women, worked herself as a housemaid in the squalid servants' quarters of a luxury hotel, so as to study their grievances at first hand, and for six years was chief organizer of the National Federation of Women Workers.

Thus the working woman and the unemployed woman will have able and informed spokesmen in the new House.

The Conservatives have a new woman member in the Duchess of Atholl, said to be a woman of ability and strong character. She comes of an able family, her sister was the first woman to get the highest honours at Cambridge University. She herself has written a military history of her native Scottish county, helped her husband when he was in Parliament, and will bring interest and vigour to her new field of activity. Lady Terrington, for the Liberals, and Mrs. Philipson, for the Conservatives, have still to make their records in social and political work.

As to the women electors, they showed increased keenness in the political problems put before them, especially in the question of Tariffs versus Free Trade and its all-important bearing on prices. Candidates declare that petty jokes, personalities, attacks on the other man and other commonplaces of elections made the women impatient, and that they wanted facts and arguments.

The Press has spoken respectfully and sympathetically on the whole of the women candidates and women electors.

We have to regret the defeat of many admirable women candidates, especially of the I.W.S.A. President, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, whose personality made a very favourable impression on her constituency and gained her many friends and votes, but alas, not enough to capture a Tory stronghold.

The many other women candidates did splendid spade work, and it is to be hoped that many of them will eventually be elected.

M. SHEEPSHANKS.

Dr. ANITA JACOBS' 70th BIRTHDAY.

DR. ANITA JACOBS, of the Netherlands, will celebrate her 70th birthday on February 9. Dr. Jacobs is one of the pioneers, not only in the Woman Suffrage movement, but in the opening of the medical profession to women, and in the movement for birth control. She has always been one of the most active participants in the I.W.S.A. Congresses. In 1911 and 1912 she accompanied Mrs. Chapman Catt in a suffrage tour of the world. Her international friends will wish to participate in her fête day.

HUNGARY.

**The Late Monsignor Giesswein—Papal Prelate.
A Mournful Loss to Women.**

THE Prelate Giesswein is dead. He died suddenly in the midst of his wonderful work, and the most various movements and organizations are mourning for him and look around disconsolately, asking themselves how this great gap which his death has made can ever be filled. He was an advocate of peace, of women's rights, a scientist and a writer, a propagator of Esperanto, and founder as well as leader of many societies for social, literary and scientific purposes. He was a member of our board, and ever since he served in Parliament for nearly twenty years he has been a noble and brave fighter for all the legal rights of women as well as the protection of children. He often said that his work for the propagation of peace made him an adherent of women's enfranchisement, as he firmly believed that only the help of women taking part in politics will succeed in pacifying the world. Hungary is sorely in need of such noble-hearted, intelligent and brave men as he was, and to-day, after his funeral, we feel desperate at his loss.

We feel sure that many of our friends abroad will share our feelings, as he was a constant attendant at international congresses and never failed to call on women's suffrage and peace organizations, to which he was always willing to lend his help. Our memorial service, held on December 9, was very solemn and overcrowded. Mrs. Irma Szirmai, in the chair, made a touching speech of classical beauty. John Benedek, M.P., the Reverend Haypál, Professor Balassa, Mrs. Rose Morgan-French, of San Francisco, and Mr. Henrinson, London, all excelled in their orations.

The First Woman Admitted to the Bar in Hungary.

We are glad to inform again our dear comrades of a real success for the advancement of women in Hungary, notwithstanding the retrograde tendency in politics and social life. The board of the Chamber of Lawyers passed a resolution in favour of the admittance of a woman who asked to be entered on the list of the lawyers' candidates, and with this resolution opened the gates for women to this profession. Doctor Margarethe Láng, was one of the ten who availed themselves of the chance given to women by the short-lived Károlyi regime, which opened all schools formerly closed to women, and many then registered for the study of law. Although this permit was annulled since, Miss Margaret Láng was allowed to continue her studies. This summer she was promoted D.L., and in some years will be our first and perhaps for a time our sole woman lawyer.

As soon as our board learned of Miss Láng's application, we began canvassing amongst the members of the board of the Lawyers' Chamber in which our advocate and staunch fighter for women's rights—Mr. Simeon Gold, D.L.—as well as Mr. John Benedek, D.L., M.P., were of great help to us. The President of the Lawyers' Board, as well as the reporter of the question, were adverse to the admission of a woman, the former principally on account of bad economic conditions which "make women's competition really dangerous." The division was very close—one vote majority—one vote, which, in case it was dissentient, would have lost the case, the President being against the admission. This one vote was won by the argument that the ill-famed Numerus Clausus Act enumerates all those who cannot be admitted, and this Act does not exclude women. It is obvious that this Act did not refer to women at all. Anyhow, I think, Hungary is now in the unique situation of admitting women to the Bar but prohibiting them from studying law!

A Request to Lecturers.

We wish to repeat emphatically our request for our dear fellow-workers to come and help with lectures; we are sorely in need of such. It was such a boon to have Mrs. Maud Wood Park and Mrs. Amy Webster when, on their return from Rome, they came just in time to speak at the meeting arranged for the report of the Congress. Mrs. Irma Szirmai gave us a very good

account of the Congress, and our dear American guests informed us of the manifold and admirable activities of their own and their country-women of their National League. We were very thankful for their visit, and hope many others of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance will follow their good example. In June we rejoiced also at the visit of Mrs. and Miss Shuler, who came with open minds and kind hearts to get an insight into our political, social and economic problems, and we were very sorry that it was just when most of our members and public were out of town, and therefore to arrange a well-attended meeting would have been impossible.

This autumn we had an interesting lecture by Dr. Erwin Rieger, from Vienna, who, being a poet and writer himself, gave a brilliant lecture on the duties of the writer to promote the concord of all nations, and showed a noble example of such proceedings by reading several of his own poems and novels.

With regard to the

Resolutions of the Rome Congress.

We went to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to urge the Government for ratification of the Convention against Traffic in Women. We were informed that the International Convention of the League of Nations of 1921 against traffic in women needs only some formalities to be ratified also in Hungary. At a later date we were advised that the Convention was discussed in a Council of the Ministers, had already received the endorsement of the Government as well as of the Governor, and as soon as the new session of the National Assembly will be opened the Convention will be discussed there and ratified. In fact, the Convention was presented to the National Assembly and passed on November 23. We are sure that the ratification will be very soon made complete with the signature of the Governor.

Our suggestion for appointment of a woman for the Hungarian delegation to the Fifth International Labour Conference was not received favourably. Notwithstanding, we do not give up the hope, and will not cease to work for such an appointment in future, and trust that Hungary will have at the next Conference a woman in the delegation, or at least as an expert.

The suggestion for an International Convention for the enforcement of the obligation of fathers, even when living abroad, to maintain their family, was welcomed with much joy at our Ministry of Public Welfare, where we were assured that they were grateful for an opportunity to take up the matter again.

We are still wandering about with our memorandum and suggestion concerning the Nationality of Women from one Ministry to the other, from one office to another, from one clerk to another. First we were directed from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Home Office; from there to another section; from there to the Ministry of Justice, and there the officials dealing with the subject are ill or on a holiday or sent abroad with a mission. So we still wait patiently and continue our efforts.

Another memorandum of ours is also waiting ready to be delivered to the Ministry of Justice. A Bill is to be discussed in the National Assembly to "reform" certain chapters of the Code Penal. This so-called reform is the most retrograde measure attempted recently, endeavouring to deprive the accused of his most primitive rights. Our memorandum, pointing to the fact, declares that as we are not legal experts we cannot suggest changes, only such as concern the interest of women and children. We propose and ask for a change of the law, i.e., to have a woman on the committee charged with a certain control in cases where women or children are accused or involved, and also to have the "age of consent" raised from 15 years to 18 years.

Our Municipal Suffrage Endangered.

This very morning a Government "Reform" Bill was presented to the National Assembly, depriving Hungarian women of their passive municipal suffrage, (i.e. eligibility) which we possessed since five years. We had a committee meeting this afternoon, and sent to the Press an energetic

protest, which will in a few days be followed by a large protest meeting and other actions to prevent the success of this vile attempt.

We send our heart-felt congratulations to our dear English comrades who won at the recent elections such a splendid victory. We are looking forward eagerly to reliable details, and rejoice at the success which will help in their struggle all suffragists working for our common cause. Therefore, also, accept our thanks for your splendid achievements.

EUGENIE MISKOLCZY MELLER.

Budapest, December 15, 1923.

WOMEN'S LABOUR IN HOLLAND.

FRU JULIE ARENHOLT, chairman of the Equal Pay Session of the I.W.S.A., has sent a "questionnaire" to the members of that session, the answers to which, as far as regards the Netherlands, are presented hereby to the readers of the INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE NEWS in the hope they will be of some interest to them. I transcribe questions and answers exactly as they were forwarded to Fru Arenholt.

1. *Are there any legal hindrances to women entering any profession other than the Army and the Navy, the Church and the Law?*

Women in Holland are at present legally excluded from the functions of *Lord Mayor* (Burgomaster) and *Municipal Secretary* (though already one female officer at a Municipal Secretary's office has been nominated deputy secretary, and another, a female alderman, deputy burgomaster).

The legal exclusion dates from 1904 (Municipal Law) (Gemeentewet).

Lately a Bill has been presented by the Government, taking away the word "male" out of the paragraphs regulating the nomination of Lord Mayor and Secretary; but it is uncertain, if ever, a fortiori, when this Bill will become law.

Women are not legally excluded from the professions in the Church, as, since 1814-1815 (the foundation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands) we have no longer a State Church in the strict sense of the word, the Church being in general autonomous as far as regards its internal affairs.

Women are not legally excluded from the function of judge, nor from that of notary; but as long as the laws regulating those provinces are not altered, the lack of permission for women to enter these professions will probably always be interpreted as a prohibition, so that they will practically not be nominated. We have several (some 10) women who passed the examinations for notary to the full, and are appointed *deputy notary* (candidaat-notaris). But, though fully qualified, they will never be notary under the present law.

An attempt, made some years ago in Parliament, to make it possible for women to enter the newly opened career of (sole) judge for children, was lost.

Besides that, there are several professions from which they are excluded, if not legally, still by Royal decree (e.g., from the functions of *accountant* in service of the Financial Department, and of *tax-gatherer*, except in small offices, both of which they were formerly allowed to occupy), or in some other way, never coming to the knowledge of the public (e.g., even from the most inferior function in our Chamber of Accounts).

2. *Do they in fact enter the professions for which they are legally eligible?*

They enter in fact, and without any difficulty, the professions from which they are not legally, or in any other way, excluded. So we have female University professors, female scientific workers as University assistants, directresses of laboratories or museums; female engineers, barristers, physicians (in great number); many female high functionaries in State, provincial or municipal service.

3. *What is the position of women in the Church?*

In our largest Protestant Church (formerly State Church, the "Nederlandsch Hervormde Kerk"), women have got last year the ballot. The same Synod, however, which granted them the right to vote, denied them the eligibility for the parish councils and the deaconry. The Synod, also in the year 1922, gave its consent that women doctors in theology should be nominable as assistant parsons (possessing every right of the parson, except those of occupying the chair in the sessions of the parish councils and of administering the Sacraments), but the decision lay with the classical and provincial boards, and in these colleges the motion was rejected. So the female doctor in theology in our chief Church has to continue her already ten years old campaign.

Several smaller Churches—the Brotherhoods of the Remonstrants and of the Baptistarians (Mennonites), as well as the Evangelical Lutheran Church—have given in all respects equal rights to their female as to their male members; the two first-named sects possess already several female ministers.

In the Roman Catholic and the Jewish Churches all functions are reserved for men, the co-operation of women being in absolute contradiction with traditions, statutes and dogmata. They have only much-appreciated though badly remunerated female teachers of religion—functionaries who work also in most of the Protestant sects.

Concerning the—more than 30—minor clerical communities, I am not able to give particulars. It seems, however, that not everywhere the women members are derogated from their rights.

4. *What is the position of women in the Law—can they be magistrates, jurors, barristers, and judges, and police?*

We have neither magistrates nor jurors, the whole jurisdiction being confided to judges—judges of four different kinds—the (sole) judge of the Canton Courts (tribunals for cases of smaller moment), the judges in the Law Courts (for lawsuits in first instance), in the Courts of Appeal (for lawsuits in second instance), and in the High Council of Justice (for lawsuits in third and highest instance). I mentioned already that, as long as our law regulating the jurisdiction remains unaltered, women are considered to be unappointable as judges.

Women have entered the Bar since 1903, and may plead before all our Law Courts, including the High Council of Justice, if they are sworn into the office.

We have some policewomen in our largest and in a few of our smaller communes. Most of them, the "police assistants," are employed in the province of child protection and safeguarding of morality; one woman is appointed as female constable in our capital.

5. *What is the general opinion about women's service as women jurors? Have the judges the right to exclude women jurors from any particular case?*

The question does not come into consideration for our country.

6. *What is the position of women employed by the State Government, the Municipal Government, and the Education Authority? Do they receive equal pay and are they recruited by the same methods as the men?*

We have no special Education Authority, only a Department of Education, as well as a Home Department, etc. The Minister of Education is advised by a Council of Education, consisting of men and women experts in these matters. Other departments—for instance, that of Labour—have appointed similar bodies of advice, the members of which are not remunerated.

The State Government as well as the Government of the (11) Provinces and the (some 1,100) Communes do employ male and female officers. Both are recruited by the same method; both have—with some exceptions—the same chances of appointment and advancement; both receive—with few exceptions—equal pay.

The exceptions as to appointment and advancement are to be found especially in the *Postal Department*, where women cannot be directresses of the larger post and

(or) telegraph offices; whilst in the lower and middle grade places in the post service, accessible by competitive examinations, which were formerly open to girls and young men on equal terms, girls are admitted only up to a certain percentage in the last few years. Moreover, some positions are nowadays entirely closed to them.

The same deterioration of status took place in the (semi-official) Railway Department.

Some of the careers closed to women in the Department of Finance I mentioned already. But there are more—for instance, the function of chemist at the Government Laboratory.

Inequality of pay is to be found chiefly in the Educational Department, the directress of the State's Educational Institution for (Criminal) Girls receiving a lower salary than her male colleagues at the institutions for criminal boys. And at the primary schools the female teachers are not at a level with the male ones, in so far that the four last augmentations are granted only to those who are married (as far as regards the women, to those who have been married, i.e., widows and divorced wives).

During some years the State, and also most of the provinces and many of the communes, have granted family allowances, which are now partly withdrawn.

7. *If they are not on an equality as to pay and prospects, is there any agitation on the subject?*

The inequality in pay and prospects is as yet of too small proportions and of too little importance to excite much indignation, still less agitation. We are, however, on the alert—and careful to show the Government occasionally our keen attention—in order to prevent its becoming more offensive.

But on another ground there reigns agitation among our feministic ranks, namely because of the threatening dismissal of the married female State functionaries, probably also of the married female teachers (the teachers at the primary schools are not State officers in the proper sense of the word, the schools being either municipal or properties of societies; but the State, indemnifying the full salary, has the power to make conditions as to nomination and dismissal).

The legal position of the functionaries is not yet regulated, and within the last twenty years various attempts have been made to send away the married women. Sometimes the State or the Municipal Government succeeded in its endeavour (in the Post Department, 1904-1907—in 1907 the married women were allowed to return, and up to these days this state of things remained unchanged—and occasionally at some primary public schools); but never did the danger come so near and embrace so vast an area as at this moment—October-November, 1923—owing to the extremely bad times, the need of economizing even at the number of functionaries, complicated with the circumstance that the Government is formed by members of the clerical parties, who always have been enemies to the wage-earning wife.

8. *Are women in factories and industries to a greater extent than before the war?*

The results of the last official professional counting (Census Report) of December 31, 1920, are not yet published. When once they are brought to our knowledge, we will be able to compare the new figures with those of the former Report, eleven years ago. I am convinced that the number of women workers in factories, in agriculture, in commerce, will prove itself increased relatively no less than absolutely. On the other hand it is quite impossible to make any comparison between the number of female workers before and after the war, because of the non-existence of official figures of this sort. As, however, in the Netherlands the substitution of women for men has been notoriously of little account, it is unlikely that there would be more difference between the respective figures—if known—of 1914 and 1918 than between those of 1910 and 1914.

9. *Are they receiving equal pay for equal work?*

On the whole, they do not receive equal pay for equal work—neither in industry nor in agriculture nor in commerce. The differences are very often considerable, and are sometimes due, besides to the granting of family allowances to the married men—system which tends to lower the basic salary—to the separation of women's and men's work; separation which does not lie in the nature of the labour, but is simply done for the purpose of lowering the women's real wages without acknowledging an inferior tariff for her than for him.

In some industries, e.g., in the diamond industry and in the manufacturing of cigars, the wages are the same for both sexes.

The matter is in several respects of a very complicated kind.

10. *Are they at all organized in trade unions or do the men allow them to enter trade unions?*

Men are very anxious for women to enter the trade unions, even when they try (as in the case with the typographers) to push or keep the female competitors out of the workshop. Still, the number of organized women workers, either in female trade unions (of nurses, midwives, etc.) or, as is the rule with us, in mixed trade unions (sometimes, especially with the Roman Catholics, in special divisions for girls), is absolutely and comparatively small. It does not exceed 9 per cent. or 9.50 per cent. of the bread-earning women. So the organized women have little power within the trade unions, which circumstance does not increase their enthusiasm for entering them—a vicious circle.

11. *Is there special protective industrial legislation for women, restricting hours, night work, etc.?*

In our former Labour Laws (of 1889 and 1911) we had special protective stipulations for the female worker: her hours were limited (his not), whilst for her, not for him, were prohibited night work, Sunday work, and—since 1911—if she had the care of a household, work on Saturday afternoon. The last Labour Law (of 1919) has abolished this special legislation, giving prescriptions on the main lines the same for both sexes. Thus the gulf between men's and women's protection was narrowed, and one of the reasons for dismissing the female labourer taken away.

But since then the aspect of things is changing again, and we see the gulf widening anew. In the Royal Decrees and Draught Decrees, giving—within the limits of the law—more detailed prescriptions where the law itself is summary, is shown clearly the tendency to make the restrictions for women tighter than for men.

12. *If so, what is the general opinion of women as to the effect of such legislation?*

If with "women" are meant "the female workers," I must answer, there never was made any inquiry on the point, but in general, they certainly will be prone to rejoice over any legislation—be it special or not—which gives them more efficient protection without dismissing them; on the other side, to lament over special legislation as soon as it causes their being sent away. They cannot possibly judge the matter otherwise than with regard to their personal welfare.

Neutral feminism in Holland is principally opposed to special protection, because of its tending to dismissing the obnoxious employees. We do not wish to take away any protection from the women, but to have it granted to the same extent to the men.

In days of "auld lang syne" the Social-democratic women's movement in our country was in favour of special protection; but we do not know if the Social-democratic women have not changed their attitude towards this problem nowadays.

Roman Catholic, Protestant and Jewish feminism (young movements altogether) have not yet pronounced themselves upon the subject.

Beyond the limits of trade unionism and feminism the question does not meet with any interest.

ANNA POLAK.

The Hague, November, 1923.

INDIA.

THE Annual Conference of the Women's India Association will take place in Madras in April next year, and if any member of the Board, or indeed of the Alliance, are travelling East at that time the Association would find great pleasure in entertaining them and having the benefit of their inspiration at the Conference.

Indian Womanhood at the Polls.

This week (October 30 to November 5) has been a historic one in the annals of Eastern womanhood, as it has seen for the first time in history Indian women exercising democratic rights, or, as they would prefer it described, performing patriotic duties at the voting booths. The second election for the Legislative Councils and the Legislative Assembly since the Reform Bill is now taking place in the various Provinces in India—not all at the same time—and it happens that the two Provinces which have been the first to enfranchise their women have also been the first to hold their elections. Madras Presidency was the first to confer the suffrage on its women, and it has fallen to its lot to be the first of the Provinces in which women have recorded their Parliamentary vote. Bombay Presidency was the second for franchise, and is also the second to have held its new elections. The United Provinces have not yet polled. These are the three areas in which the sex disqualification has been removed, and they represent a population of over one hundred million souls. The important thing is that Indian legislators have given the vote to women on exactly the same terms as it is given to men. By the provisions of the Reform Bill it was not in their power to make women eligible for election, or they would have done so. In the meantime, as far as voting goes, Indian women are in a better position than British women and far ahead of South African women. The other remarkable and gratifying fact is the large number of women who came to the polls. In some divisions of Madras City 75 per cent. of the qualified women recorded their votes. The Women's Indian Association had a women voters' campaign previous to the Madras election and ran several successful women voters' meetings, visited the women in their homes, encouraging them to vote, and acted as unofficial helpers to the voters at the polling stations. The Association had sent out to all the Presidency candidates a questionnaire to secure pledges of support for the passing of a Maternity Benefit Bill, compulsory primary education for girls, larger money grants for education and health purposes, the reduction of the salt tax, prohibition of intoxicants, and the attainment of Swaraj. A substantial number of replies in the affirmative was received, which showed that there were men in each party ready to promote the advancement of women. This made the women's vote a non-party one and further emphasized the identity of voting as regards the sexes. Although a sad amount of illiteracy was disclosed in the women, the quality of general intelligence was high. The interest in national affairs was undoubted, and it was equalled by the courage that the women showed in undertaking a new experience from which one might naturally have expected them to shrink. In Madras and Bombay Cities no separate arrangements were made for women. In some country towns women had separate polling stations for themselves. In the big cities men and women moved side by side, took equal chances, got similar attention in the polling stations. As many as 21 women were in one polling booth at one time. School teachers, doctors, merchants' wives, widows, came in a continuous stream to the poll, all proud of their importance as citizens, all glad to vote for the first time for men of their own nation whose aim was Swaraj (Home Rule).

In the election in Rangoon for the three vacancies in the Burma non-European constituency of the Indian Legislative Assembly, a few Burmese ladies took part, as well as some Anglo-Indian ladies.

SPAIN.

LA PRENSA reports that the military dictator Primo de Rivera has promised a limited suffrage to women, somewhat on the Italian model.

SWITZERLAND.

A REPORT on Nationality of Married Women will be found in French on page 65. Space does not allow of an English translation.

TURKEY.

ANOTHER small but significant change of custom as affecting women's position is the abolition of curtains in the trams to separate women from men.

U.S.A.

Women's Joint Congressional Committee.

IN November, 1920, the National League of Women Voters invited nine other national organizations of women interested in Federal legislation especially desired by women to form a conference committee, in order that legislative work might be more effective and duplication of effort might be avoided. The conference, which voted to adopt the name, "Women's Joint Congressional Committee," has continued to hold regular monthly meetings during the sessions of the Congress since that time, and held its third annual meeting on November 19. After organization of the committee, so many applications for membership were received from various organizations that an Admissions Committee was appointed to examine into the qualifications of applying organizations. On the recommendations of this committee the number of member organizations has been increased to include seventeen:—American Association of University Women; American Federation of Teachers; American Home Economics Association; General Federation of Women's Clubs; Girls' Friendly Society in America; National Committee for a Department of Education; National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers Associations; National Consumers' League; National Council of Jewish Women; National Council of Women; National Education Association; National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs; National League of Women Voters; National Women's Christian Temperance Union; National Women's Trade Union League; National Board of Young Women's Christian Association; Service Star Legion.

After the annual business meeting, the committee dined in the clubhouse of the American Association of University Women, with guests who made the gathering one of the most significant ever held in Washington. The women who made up the party were of three groups: the women who have won highest rank in the major political parties, the women who hold highest positions under the Federal Government, and women who are prominent in the great national non-partisan organizations. The presence of political leaders and of women of varying political faith, who have been appointed to office by more than one President at the wish of more than one party, come together with women of the organizations which are not political, made a wonderful practical demonstration, not only of the advance of the woman movement in America, but of the more important truth that the common interests of women transcend politics and parties.

Mrs. Maud Wood Park presided at the meeting and at dinner, and, as the dinner was not open to the Press, each speaker was free to lay her problems before her hearers and to ask for the support of organized women, which, in the expressed opinion of several of the officials who addressed the gathering, is a force of inestimable value in securing legislation for the general welfare and in assuring its enforcement.

In addition to the Admissions Committee, the Joint Congressional Committee has three general standing committees: the Lookout Committee, which watches for and follows measures of interest to women which have not been endorsed by a sufficient number of member-organizations to form a subcommittee; the Publicity Committee, which is responsible for Press and other publicity; and a new and not yet formally named committee, which will make a careful survey of the way in which legislation which organized women have worked to secure is carried out.

The Joint Congressional Committee, as a whole, does not endorse any piece of legislation, and no member-organization is committed to any policy which it has not endorsed. The members bring to the committee the endorsements of their organizations, and, after a measure has been endorsed by five or more member-organizations, a subcommittee of representatives of endorsing organizations is formed, which organizes, elects its officers, and plans and carries out a campaign of action for the enactment of the measure by Congress. The members of the subcommittee endeavour to convey to the members of the Congress the sentiment of constituents, reporting to the members of their organizations the attitude of their representatives in the Congress on specific legislation. Each subcommittee meets upon the call of its chairman, and works without involving the organizations which have not endorsed the measure.

During the present Congress the legislative work of the Joint Congressional Committee will be carried on by twelve subcommittees, ten of which deal with prepared measures, and two of which are following up measures already passed. The fact that a certain organization is not listed as forming part of the subcommittee in support of a measure does not mean that the organization opposes the measure, but merely that no formal action concerning it has been taken. The measures the ten subcommittees will work for are the following:—

(1) An amendment to the Federal Constitution giving the Congress the power to regulate and prohibit child labour. The amendment in particular and the process of securing an amendment in general were described in the NEWS for November, 1923. This subcommittee has seventeen members, i.e., seventeen member-organizations have endorsed the amendment.

(2) Entry of the United States into the Permanent Court of International Justice. Subcommittee has nine members.

(3) Amendment to the present vocational education law, extending its provisions to include vocational education in home economics. Nine members.

(4) Industrial farm for Federal women prisoners. The Federal Government has no prison or farm for women offenders against Federal laws, a large number of whom are drug addicts. The present practice of farming them out among the State prisons of the several States is not satisfactory. A school home for training and rehabilitation, rather than a prison, is the object of the proposed amendment to the existing law. The subcommittee has five members.

(5) Department of Education. Believing that education should be a major, not a minor, concern of the Federal Government, women are asking for a Department of Education, headed by a secretary who shall sit in the President's Cabinet. The Federal Government has nothing now but a bureau of education in the Department of the Interior. Twelve members.

(6) Federal provision for physical education. Subcommittee of eight.

(7) Amendment to the Federal Constitution permitting Congress to enact a uniform marriage and divorce law. At present each State has its own laws in regard to marriage and divorce. In one State, South Carolina, no divorce is allowed in any circumstances. In certain other States trivial reasons are sufficient to bring about dissolution of marriage. Six members.

(8) Further compulsory education in the District of Columbia, which is governed by the Congress, and in which citizens have no vote. Ten members.

(9) A social hygiene measure, not yet drafted. Seven members.

(10) Opposition to the so-called "blanket" amendment, giving men and women "equal" rights in the United States and its dependencies. This amendment has been proposed by the Woman's Party. Opposition is especially strong from organized working women and from ten other national organizations of women, including the League of Women Voters, which has succeeded in securing the removal in twenty-seven States of sixty-eight discriminations against women, and follows the policy of "specific bills for specific ills," believing that laws for the protection of women and the family in the home and for the welfare of women in industry will be endangered by "blanket" legislation. Eleven members.

The measures already passed which the two other subcommittees will follow up are:—

(1) Appropriations for the adequate upkeep of the Children's Bureau, the Women's Bureau in the Department of Labour, and other Government boards and bureaus of special interest to women. The membership of this committee varies according to the special purpose to which an appropriation is to be devoted.

(2) Reclassification of the Federal Civil Service. The new law (Sterling-Lehlbach) provides for the allocation of Federal employees, and its administration, in accordance with the principle of equal pay for equal work, regardless of sex, is of extreme importance to women generally. Seven members.

When President Coolidge read his message to the Congress on December 6, the National League Women Voters was much pleased because he included in his recommendations seven measures for which the League is working. They are: Entry of the United States into the World Court; prevention of child labour; extension of the merit system in the Civil Service; the minimum wage for working women; proper provision for Federal women prisoners; a Federal Department of Education; and law enforcement.

The World Court.

Since President Coolidge took office he has received two delegations of women representing national organizations which are urging the entry of the United States into the Permanent Court of International Justice. On the first occasion a commission, appointed by the National League of Women Voters last summer to study post-war conditions as they affect European women and the prospects for better international understanding, presented the President a summary of their report to the directors of the League. It contained the following recommendations:—

First—That all opportunities for co-operation with other nations in efforts for world betterment be welcomed.

Second—That individuals and organizations of all kinds take advantage of opportunities for international intercourse in meetings for common purposes.

Third—That children and young persons be trained to understand the importance of peace as an essential basis for civilization.

Fourth—That the United States enter the Permanent Court of International Justice on the terms proposed to the Senate by the late President Harding, because the World Court is the best existing application of the principle of law as opposed to force in the settlement of international disputes.

On November 26 the National League of Women Voters was one of the organizations which sent a delegation to the White House to request the President to urge in his message at the opening of the Congress the entry of the United States into the World Court. The other organizations were: The American Association of University Women; American Federation of Teachers; Girls' Friendly Society in America; National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations; National Council of Jewish Women; National Council of Women; National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs; Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and Service Star Legion.

A HISTORY OF MINIMUM WAGE LEGISLATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

MINIMUM wage legislation was a new thing in the United States in 1912, although other countries had preceded her in this experiment, with Australia leading the way in 1896. A widespread sentiment in favour of such legislation had been developing in the United States as early as 1910 as a result of comprehensive studies made of conditions in some of the lowest-paid industries which employed large numbers of women, but Massachusetts was the first State to take action, and passed a minimum wage law in 1912. She was promptly followed by others, and in 1913 eight States (California, Colorado, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin) took action to guarantee similar protection to women and minors in industry. In 1915 Arkansas and Kansas joined the procession, Arizona following in 1917, and in 1918 Congress legislated for the District of Columbia. Similar legislation was passed in North Dakota and in Texas in 1919. The South Dakota minimum wage law became effective as recently as July 1 of this year. No action has been taken, however, under the Colorado Act, and the laws of Nebraska and Texas have been repealed. The District of Columbia law has been declared invalid by the United States Supreme Court, and the Commission has ceased to operate. Thus minimum wage laws are left in operation in thirteen American States.

Three general types of minimum wage laws exist in the United States. In three States the amount of the minimum is set in the law itself, while in the others it depends upon an award of a board or commission, based upon a study by that body of living costs. In one State, Massachusetts, which has the award system of determining the wage, the law is not mandatory, and depends for its enforcement upon publicity. In all of the other States, however, violation of the law is a misdemeanour and punishable as such.

In most States the amount of the award is based on a study of the cost of living, and is given in terms of a weekly wage rate, the amounts varying widely in the different States. The minimum is placed as low as \$7 for smaller towns in some of the States, while the highest minimum (\$16) is found in California and in Arizona. In the latter State the amount being stated in the law itself. In most instances special provision is made for inexperienced workers and for women who are partially incapacitated.

The California Commission has published reports which furnish material on the wage situation of the women in the State before the wage law went into effect and since. Their figures show that the wages of the women workers have very definitely increased, and that there has been no tendency for the minimum wage to become the maximum wage. Nor was there any indication that wage costs were roughly equalized by cutting the higher paid women to make up the necessary increase to the lower wage groups.

The records of the Minimum Wage Commission of the District of Columbia covered approximately 12,500 women and minors. Pay-roll records definitely indicated a substantial increase in wages in every industry for which a wage rate had been established. Experienced women had not been replaced by learners and minors. On the contrary, the employment of minors actually decreased during the time the law was in effect. Even though 1919 was a year of abnormal war-time activity, the number of women employed in the industries for which wage awards were made increased slightly between 1919 and 1922, indicating the lack of foundation for the contention that such legislation would only cause the displacement of women workers by men.

The provisions of the American wage laws apply only to women and minors, and no attempt has been made to extend such legislation to men. It is considered that such restriction on wages is a limitation of the right of free contract which can only be justified as an act in the interest of the social welfare. Its application to women, the mothers and potential mothers of the country, is held to be justified under the police power as a pro-

tection of public health, safety, and morals. The protection of men in industry is not held to be of this general social importance, and, furthermore, they have been more successful in bargaining for themselves.

There are two definite and distinct seats of legislative authority in the United States, the Federal Congress and the Legislatures of the individual States. State Legislatures may pass laws binding within their own territory without any ratifying action on the part of the Central Government, but States act under the limitations imposed upon them by the constitution of the United States, as well as by those of their own State constitutions. Congress, on the other hand, may legislate for the country as a whole within certain defined fields, at the same time having general jurisdiction over the District of Columbia, comparable to that of the State bodies within their own borders. Both the limitations upon State action and upon the specified sphere of the Federal Legislature are interpreted in the last instance by the United States Supreme Court, although that body can give such interpretations only when a case arising under the law is brought before the Court.

The constitutionality of one of the early minimum wage laws, that of Oregon, was questioned shortly after its passage, and the case hung fire in the courts for some time. The Oregon State Court upheld the law and the United States Supreme Court split evenly on its decision, thus leaving the ruling of the highest State court in effect. The laws of some of the other States were upheld in their respective courts, and the situation of the minimum wage had been counted safe, until this spring, when the validity of the District of Columbia law, passed by Congress under its authority to legislate for the district, was questioned. The court divided in its opinion on this case, but the majority held against the law. Since that time the status of the various State laws has been uncertain. Officials in States have continued to enforce the laws, but test cases have already been instituted in several States, and the future is uncertain until these have been finally settled in the courts.

Minimum wage legislation, therefore, has reached a crisis in this country. It is plain that some changes will have to be made in the methods of raising the wage levels for industrial women, but what these changes will be is as yet uncertain.

FROM THE WOMEN'S BUREAU,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR.

CHILDREN'S BUREAU.

THE Children's Bureau gave the first showing of its new cinema film, "Well Born," on November 20, borrowing for the occasion the auditorium of the Department of the Interior. The bureau, which is a part of the Department of Labour, is charged with the administration of the Sheppard-Towner Act for the hygiene and welfare of maternity and infancy, which provides Government financial aid to States carrying out a programme to lessen infant mortality and the dangers of child-birth. The new cinema is to be used by State boards of health and may be borrowed by women's organizations and other groups interested in the work, for use in commercial theatres or before special audiences.

"Well Born" is an interesting motion-picture play concerning two sets of prospective parents, one in the city and one on a farm, and does not go deeply into the details of prenatal care, emphasizing only a few lessons—that the Government recommends prenatal care and lends a hand; that old wives' tales are not to be listened to; that the physician and the dentist must be consulted early in pregnancy, and that the health of the child depends on the health of the mother.

The prospective mother learns that the city has a maternity centre for examination and advice, the country has the visiting nurse with the authority of the State board of health behind her, and that the physician must be consulted frequently.

Miss Grace Abbott, chief of the Children's Bureau, has made public acknowledgment of the bureau's debt to organized women for their work in securing appropriations for child and maternity welfare work, and in assuring the passage of the Sheppard-Towner Act and its acceptance by forty of the forty-eight States.

NOTABLE WOMEN.

HELEN HAMILTON GARDENER.

ALICE CHENOWITH, now Mrs. Gardener, was born in Winchester, Virginia, in 1853, the daughter of a clergyman and the descendant of Lord Baltimore, patentee of the colony of Maryland, the descendant, also, of the Oliver Cromwell whose namesake was Lord Protector. She grew up, if reaching the height of five feet can be called growing up, in Indiana. At nineteen she began to teach in the Ohio State Normal School, of which she is a graduate, and for two years was principal. It was at about this time that she began to write, using first one pen name and then another for the sake of independence, finally choosing "Helen Hamilton Gardener" and making it her own by process of law. She did not wish that family name or connection should play any part in her success, and she did not wish to be hampered by possible family prejudice against the field from which she chose her subjects. The right of women to higher education was the first thing for which she fought with her pen, and then she began her crusade for what has since come to be called social hygiene.

Middle-aged readers remember the sensation her book "Is This Your Son, My Lord?" created. Mrs. Gardener calls it "the first shot fired for the single standard of morals," and if it was a shot, "Pray You, Sir, Whose Daughter?" was a volley. When that extraordinary book was written the age of consent in at least one State of the Union was seven, and many a State held that a child of ten was competent to consent to her own dishonour. Mrs. Gardener did an incalculable deal to change all that. Sometimes every member of a Legislature received a copy of her arraignment of prevailing consent laws; sometimes she addressed law-making bodies, making her appeal tell by asking each hearer whether he was willing to let his own daughter of seven or ten decide her own fate.

It is impossible, seeing the Commissioner, who seems to be a woman just entering the fifties, to realize that her work began when the woman movement was a new thing and the social hygiene movement unthought of, and quite as impossible to realize that when she began her work there was general and grave doubt as to whether the brain of woman would allow her to profit by the higher education. One famous physician announced in a scientific monthly that there were no fewer than nineteen reasons why the brain of woman is inferior to the brain of man. Mrs. Gardener's own acute brain showed her the weak spot in his argument. She spent fourteen months in a laboratory study of human brains under the foremost American alienist, and then she challenged the man with the nineteen reasons to prove his points. She would provide him, she said, with twenty carefully preserved brains, and he should examine each and tell whether it had belonged to a woman or to a man. He should explain with actual brains as demonstration material, just why he was so sure that the feminine brain is inferior to the masculine, and he should explain, also, whether inferiority is inborn or environmental.

The physician naturally declined the offer, though he had declared that he could prove his statement by microscope and scales. Mrs. Gardener remained victor of the field. In 1888 she re-read a paper on the subject before one of the first gatherings of women of various countries, the International Council of Women, in Washington, where Elizabeth Cady Stanton introduced her to the cheering audience. At the World's Congress of Representative Women, held during the great fair in Chicago, in 1893, she spoke on the moral responsibility of woman in heredity, and after Susan B. Anthony she was the most remarked woman at the Congress.

About 1888 Mrs. Gardener went actively to work for woman suffrage. She was elected vice-president of the National Woman Suffrage Association and vice-chairman of the Congressional Committee. For years it used to be said that the Association maintained a "small but efficient diplomatic corps in Washington," and Mrs. Gardener was that corps, unquestionably small and certainly as efficient then as she is now.

To all the army of the shut-in, her efficiency will be a promise and an encouragement, for through many years she wrote and spoke and fought her battles for women in the face of frequently recurring and apparently irremediable illness. Nothing of the invalid's look or manner ever came to attach itself to her, perhaps because she always took the thing she was doing very seriously and herself not seriously at all. Good health did not come to her till after her husband retired from the Army, and the two spent nearly ten years in a leisurely tour of the world. She was invited to lecture at universities in Japan, France—both Japan and France have given her decorations—England, and Italy. After her return to America she gave many illustrated university extension lectures under the general title, "Ourselves and Other People."

Mrs. Gardener's appointment early in 1920 to the Civil Service Commission came unsolicited and "out of a clear sky," as she puts it. The Senate gave unanimous confirmation to President Wilson's choice, and women throughout the United States were delighted. So great a change had come over public sentiment since the day when there were held to be nineteen reasons why women could not equal men intellectually, that no one seriously questioned the suitability of a woman leader for the place. Indeed, it was fairly generally held that one of the three Commissioners ought to be a woman, and public sentiment has had no occasion to change its mind since Mrs. Gardener took office.

The function of the Commission is to supply personnel to the United States Government offices, for the Departments in Washington, as well as for Government establishments everywhere in the United States, Porto Rico, Hawaii, and the Philippines. The Commission examines about 250,000 applicants for Government positions every year, and the examinations cover more than a thousand different occupations, employees ranging from unskilled labourers to the most highly trained technical workers in many fields. The Commissioners are directly responsible to the President and not to the head of any Department.

FRANCE.

(Continué de la page suivante.)

LA commission du suffrage universel de la Chambre a entendu, le 17, M. Maunoury, ministre de l'Intérieur, sur la question du suffrage féminin et du suffrage familial.

Le ministre a fait connaître à la commission que le gouvernement était favorable au vote municipal des femmes, sans aller jusqu'à se rallier au texte du rapport de la commission, qui accorde aux femmes le droit de suffrage complet et l'éligibilité.

Le gouvernement s'est déclaré en outre partisan du vote familial. Il considère, toutefois, qu'il serait possible, si l'on ne veut pas aller jusqu'à accorder au père de famille autant de suffrages qu'il a d'enfants mineurs, de décider qu'il lui serait attribué un chiffre de suffrages calculé par nombre d'enfants, par exemple deux pour quatre enfants, trois pour six, etc.

M. Maunoury a souligné ensuite qu'il y aurait peut-être intérêt à disjoindre la partie concernant le suffrage des femmes quand la Chambre se sera prononcée sur ce texte, pour l'envoyer immédiatement au Sénat.

Il serait bien entendu alors que la Chambre devrait poursuivre l'examen et le vote de l'institution du suffrage familial.

Après le départ du ministre de l'Intérieur, la commission a ouvert une longue discussion. Finalement elle a décidé de ne pas accepter les propositions de M. Maunoury.

Le texte qu'elle soumettra à la Chambre sera le suivant: "Les lois et dispositions réglementaires relatives à l'électorat et à l'éligibilité des hommes s'appliquent également aux femmes."

Le reste de la proposition de M. Rouleaux-Dugage demeure tel qu'il a été rapporté par la commission.

(Journal l'Œuvre.)

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

RAPPORT DE LA FRANCE.

L'UNION Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes a été grandement réjouie de ce que huit femmes anglaises, au lieu de trois, aient triomphé dans les élections pour la Chambre des Communes, et nous envoyons, à toutes, les vives et cordiales félicitations de leurs sœurs françaises. Les nouvelles élues se soutiendront mutuellement et nous comptons sur leur bon travail au Parlement pour relever dans l'opinion publique internationale l'appréciation de la valeur de la collaboration féminine dans les assemblées législatives.

À Paris, nous sommes actuellement dans tout le feu de la discussion de la Chambre des Députés à propos du projet de loi Justin Godart sur le Suffrage des Femmes. La troisième journée de discussion aura lieu le mardi 18 décembre. Le projet se compose d'un article unique accepté par le rapporteur et par la Commission du Suffrage universel de la Chambre. Il est ainsi conçu:

"Les lois et dispositions réglementaires relatives à l'électorat et à l'éligibilité, s'appliquent aux femmes âgées de plus de vingt-cinq ans."

S'il n'y avait eu à discuter que le suffrage féminin et le projet Justin Godart, la discussion, qui a déjà occupé deux séances, serait probablement déjà close, mais un autre projet de loi, celui du vote familial, a été accepté aussi par la Commission du Suffrage universel, et malgré tous nos efforts pour faire discuter les deux projets séparément et nettement, les partisans du vote familial ont réussi, au contraire, à mélanger les deux questions, ce qui est particulièrement dangereux au point de vue de la présentation future de la loi au Sénat.

Il y a, en outre, constamment dans les débats parlementaires des manœuvres de partis que nous ne pouvons que difficilement prévoir et dépister. Ceci arrive probablement dans tous les pays.

Le projet de loi sur le vote familial qui, à son origine, faisait voter le père de famille pour sa femme et tous ses enfants, s'est fortement modifié en faveur des femmes, car dans sa forme la plus récente il accepte l'électorat et l'éligibilité des femmes. Le projet de loi Godart est maintenant devenu l'article premier de la loi sur le vote familial, mais le projet du vote familial persiste à faire voter le père pour tous les enfants mineurs, ce qui est inadmissible pour nous.

Nous nous retranchons inlassablement derrière le principe que nous, femmes, ne voulons rien discuter du vote familial tant que nous ne sommes pas électrices, nos statuts réclamant l'égalité complète entre les sexes. Quand nous aurons le suffrage, chacune fera ce qu'elle voudra. Nous demandons que le principe de l'électorat et de l'éligibilité féminins soient votés indépendamment de toute autre loi, mais il est probable que nous ne l'obtiendrons pas.

En ce cas et dès que le projet de loi en discussion aura été voté par la Chambre, nous nous appuierons au Sénat sur deux autres projets de loi déjà déposés devant la Haute Assemblée, car le Sénat repoussera probablement le vote familial. Nous tâcherons, à ce moment-là, de faire disjoindre le Suffrage féminin de la question de la représentation des enfants et du vote familial.

Nous ne sommes pas au bout de nos peines, car la crainte du cléricalisme nous est toujours opposée avec fureur, mais l'opinion publique s'est beaucoup modifiée en notre faveur et nous avons bon espoir, du moins pour un avenir très prochain.

DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER,

Présidente de l'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes.

(Continué sur la page précédente.)

SUISSE.

Nationalité de la femme mariée.

SUIVANT la demande qui avait été adressée par l'Alliance Internationale à toutes ses Sociétés affiliées, une petite délégation de notre Association a été reçue le 15 novembre par M. Motta, chef du Département politique fédéral. Nous avons, en effet, à remettre à notre ministre suisse des Affaires étrangères le texte de deux résolutions votées par le Congrès de Rome et comportant une entente internationale: l'une demandant qu'une Convention internationale étende aux autorités étrangères l'exécution de jugements rendus par des tribunaux nationaux et condamnant un mari ou un père à payer à sa famille une pension — obligation à laquelle ce mari et ce père trouve trop souvent actuellement le moyen de se soustraire en passant tout simplement la frontière; l'autre touchant à la nationalité de la femme mariée, puisqu'on avait décidé à Rome de soumettre à tous les gouvernements le projet de Convention internationale adopté par le Congrès, en leur demandant s'ils seraient disposés à participer à une Conférence internationale sur ce sujet, éventuellement sous les auspices de la Société des Nations. Enfin, notre Association suisse pour le Suffrage ayant étudié les réformes à apporter à la législation suisse pour l'adapter à la législation internationale sur ce sujet, il convenait également de nantir notre gouvernement des résolutions votées à ce sujet par notre Assemblée générale suisse de juin 1923, et dont voici le texte:

"L'Assemblée générale de l'Association suisse pour le Suffrage féminin, réunie à Bâle les 16 et 17 juin 1923, après avoir entendu un rapport sur la nationalité de la femme ayant épousé un étranger,

considérant que c'est une dureté de retirer sa propre nationalité à une femme lors de son mariage, et que, d'autre part, le maintien de la nationalité suisse par la femme exercerait une force assimilatrice sur les familles étrangères domiciliées en Suisse,

sachant que plusieurs pays étrangers cherchent aussi à régler à nouveau la question de la nationalité de la femme mariée,

émet le vœu qu'à l'avenir la Suisse qui épouse un étranger, qu'elle acquière ou non la nationalité de son mari, ne perde pas sa nationalité suisse, pas plus que tout autre citoyen ou citoyenne suisse qui se naturalisent à l'étranger ne sont actuellement privés de leur nationalité suisse.

L'Assemblée attire l'attention sur le fait que la perte de la nationalité suisse, entraînée par le mariage, n'est prescrite ni par la Constitution ni par la loi."

Sur la question de la première Convention internationale, M. Motta s'est montré tout à fait d'accord à ce que notre pays soit signataire de cette Convention si un autre pays prenait l'initiative de la proposer. Il a été beaucoup plus réservé en ce qui concerne la question de la nationalité de la femme mariée, qui est évidemment marquée au coin d'un féminisme plus avancé que la conclusion d'un accord presque philanthropique! Toutefois, il a bien voulu dire que la Suisse ne resterait pas à l'écart d'une Conférence internationale, si elle était convoquée, mais sans aucun engagement sur l'attitude qui y serait prescrite à ses délégués! Quant à notre législation intérieure, tout en comprenant les motifs de notre demande, et en admettant comme nous que son exécution ne nécessiterait aucune révision, ni de la Constitution, ni du Code civil suisse, il a estimé cependant qu'un tel changement dans un droit créé par l'habitude ne pourrait se faire par simple arrêté fédéral, et qu'il faudrait procéder à la transformation de cet usage par une mesure législative; on pourrait, par exemple, introduire un texte dans la loi fédérale sur les naturalisations si la révision de cette loi est rendue nécessaire par la révision de l'art. 44 de la Constitution fédérale actuelle.

ment à l'étude, et si cette revision est votée par le peuple. On verrait d'ici là si le mouvement international en faveur de cette idée s'accroît, et il n'est pas impossible que la Suisse prenne alors en considération cette revendication, parce qu'elle est d'ordre familial et privé, et que ce n'est pas une question politique comme le suffrage...

...Si bien qu'en sortant du Palais fédéral, nous nous sommes dit, une fois de plus, que c'était par l'influence du mouvement international que nous ferions progresser notre mouvement suisse, et que là encore ce ne serait pas le Conseil fédéral qui se ferait " l'avocat du féminisme " auprès de la Société des Nations, mais bien la Société des Nations qui défendrait le féminisme auprès du Conseil fédéral !

Tribunaux de prud'hommes.

Dans trois de nos cantons (Bâle, Neuchâtel et Zurich) les femmes ont le droit de siéger dans les tribunaux professionnels de prud'hommes, et dans deux cantons (Bâle et Neuchâtel), elles ont droit de vote pour élire les membres de ces tribunaux. Ces élections viennent justement d'avoir lieu à Neuchâtel, suivant le principe adopté là-bas du " vote tacite " (quand le nombre des candidats ne dépasse pas celui des sièges à pourvoir, on renonce très sagement aux frais et à l'agitation d'une élection, et ces candidats sont considérés comme élus). L'Union Féministe pour le Suffrage s'est occupée de présenter des candidates dans les groupes professionnels intéressant les femmes (alimentation, vêtement, professions diverses), et vingt femmes ont été élues, soit une de plus qu'aux précédentes élections. Dans les groupes du vêtement et des professions diverses, les femmes détiennent maintenant le tiers des sièges. Tout s'est passé avec l'esprit le plus conciliant et le plus équitable envers les demandes féminines.

Annuaire des Femmes suisses.

Cet excellent petit volume, publié sous les auspices d'un comité exclusivement féminin, et qui comprend des représentantes des différentes parties de notre pays, vient de sortir de presse, coquet sous sa couverture rouge exécutée par des femmes artistes, et impatientement attendu par son cercle fidèle de lectrices. Nous le signalons à toutes celles qui désirent se faire une idée des préoccupations des femmes suisses à l'heure actuelle, pour ses articles, en français et en allemand, sur des pionnières de notre mouvement, comme Meta de Salis-Marschlin, sur l'orientation professionnelle féminine, sur la législation pénale relative aux mineures, sur l'histoire des institutrices dans le canton de Berne, sur le travail des femmes dans l'agriculture, la participation des femmes aux organisations publiques, etc. Une comédie suffragiste, primée à un concours de pièces de théâtre sera très goûtée des amateurs, et d'autre part *l'Annuaire* consacre une place importante à une chronique du mouvement féministe suisse durant l'année qui finit, à des biographies de celles que nous avons perdues, à la liste détaillée de toutes les grandes associations féminines et féministes. Le côté international n'est pas non plus négligé ; citons une étude sur *les femmes et la Société des Nations*, une chronique féministe internationale, et les portraits très vivants et documentés de trois participantes au Congrès de Rome : Mrs. Maude Nathan, Mme Bugge-Wicksell et Mme Schreiber-Krieger — ceci dans l'idée de la rédactrice de *l'Annuaire* de mettre en exemple, sous les yeux de nos femmes suisses, des vies de travail et de dévouement aux idées féministes.

Un deuil.

Nous avons le chagrin, en terminant, d'annoncer à nos amies internationales, la mort d'un fervent défenseur de notre mouvement, et qui était aussi bien connu hors de Suisse par son travail pour la cause suffragiste : M. Auguste de Morsier. Son activité dans ce domaine avait même débuté à Paris, sous l'influence de sa mère, femme de grande valeur, qui mena la lutte contre la réglementation de la prostitution ; mais c'est à la Suisse qu'il a donné pendant vingt ans le gros de son effort par des conférences, des brochures, des articles de presse,

des démarches, etc. Venu s'établir à Genève au moment où les femmes qui comprenaient le mieux la nécessité du suffrage, hésitaient encore à s'organiser pour la réclamer, il leur donna l'élan nécessaire, en fondant avec elles d'abord la branche de Genève de notre Association suisse pour le Suffrage, puis l'Association suisse elle-même, dont il fut pendant trois ans le président, aucune femme ne se sentant alors les capacités et le courage pour prendre la tête de notre mouvement national. Il avait aussi, lors d'un voyage en Angleterre, pris contact avec le mouvement suffragiste anglais, et les participantes au Congrès de Genève de 1920 se souviennent certainement de lui, non seulement comme délégué suisse, mais encore comme organisateur de la partie pratique du Congrès.

De Morsier fut aussi, en continuateur de l'œuvre de sa mère, un partisan fervent de la Fédération abolitionniste, dans la Commission exécutive de laquelle il a siégé de longues années. Il était également président de la Branche suisse.

On s'associera certainement dans les milieux féministes internationaux au deuil que nous éprouvons par sa mort.

EMILIE GOURD.

NOUVELLES FÉMINISTES.

N.B.—This Section consists of a Summary of Reports contained in the English Section of the paper.

Egypte. — RÉUNION FÉMININE. — Mme Hoda Charaoui pacha avait mis, le 15 novembre dernier, sa belle résidence de Kasr el Nil à la disposition de Mme Jinarajadasa, secrétaire générale de l'Association Féminine des Indes, qui, de passage en Egypte, donna une conférence aux dames égyptiennes, sur le mouvement féministe indien.

La présidente de l'Union Féministe Egyptienne recevait ses invitées avec cette grâce et cette amabilité qui la caractérisent, dans une ravissante toilette noire perlée d'acier ; sa fille, Mme Samy pacha, sa toilette noire recouverte d'un châle rouge vif brodé de blanc et portant son magnifique collier de grosses perles, et Mlle Césa Nabaraoui, très gracieuse en crêpe de Chine noir entièrement brodé de dessins rouges et verts, aidaient Mme Charaoui à faire les honneurs.

Après la conférence un thé réunit toutes les dames présentes : plusieurs dames indiennes, en costume national, S. A. la princesse Fazilleh Izet, Mme Riaz pacha, Mme Eloui pacha, Mme Mohamed Abousbah bey, Mme Riad pacha, Mme Osman Mortada pacha, Mme Saad Helbaoui pacha, Mme Mirza bey, Mme Fouad bey Sélim, Mme Habib bey Khayat, Mme Boutros bey Ghali, Mme Sinnot bey Hanna, Mme Mohamed bey Sidky, Mme Hassan bey Sabri, Mme Osman bey Labib, Mme Mohamed bey Aly Merza Khan, Mme Théo Lévy, Mme James Coulon, Mme Dr. Fahmy bey avec ses sœurs, Mlle Rousseau, et plusieurs dames européennes et américaines intéressées dans le mouvement féministe égyptien.

L'Union des Femmes égyptiennes a remporté un succès important, ayant gain de cause dans la question de l'âge minimum des mariées. Le Conseil des Ministres vient d'approuver une loi interdisant les mariages pour les jeunes filles ayant moins de seize ans et pour les jeunes gens ayant moins de dix-huit ans.

Ce succès est dû aux efforts de l'Union des Femmes, présidée par Mme Charaoui Pacha.

Belgique. — Mlle Louise Vromant, conseillère municipale à Bruxelles, a pu faire discuter par le conseil la suppression d'un film célèbre contre lequel beaucoup de citoyens avaient protesté en vain. Elle put prouver que le Conseil municipal avait le droit d'agir, et M. Max, maire de Bruxelles, ajourna la discussion pour considérer la thèse de Mlle Vromant.

Danemark. — Mme Julie Arenholt, membre du Comité de l'Alliance internationale, est une grande pionnière de l'affranchissement des femmes. Née en 1873, elle entra dans l'enseignement à l'âge de 17 ans et obtint le grade

d'ingénieur des manufactures en 1901. Elle fut nommée en 1909 inspectrice des manufactures d'État ; récemment elle a été envoyée à la Conférence du Travail à Genève, comme conseillère technique. Elle fut longtemps présidente de l'Union danoise suffragiste et directrice du journal *Vote pour les femmes*. Lorsque les Danoises obtinrent leurs droits politiques, elle fut élue membre du Conseil municipal de Copenhague.

Etats-Unis. — LE COMITÉ FÉMINISTE " JOINT CONGRESSIONAL. " — Depuis 1920, les 17 Sociétés nationales féministes ont formé un comité dont le but est d'exercer une influence sur la législation fédérale. Elles ont tenu leur dernier meeting annuel à Washington. On y distinguait trois groupes de femmes : a) les chefs de grands partis politiques ; b) les hauts fonctionnaires ; c) les femmes les plus influentes des sociétés non politiques. Il y a douze sous-comités qui travaillent aux œuvres suivantes : 1. Action fédérale pour réglementer le travail des enfants. 2. Entrée des États-Unis à la Cour permanente de justice internationale. 3. Extension de l'enseignement supérieur à l'économie domestique. 4. Création d'écoles d'économie domestique et d'agriculture pour les femmes libérées. 5. Établissement d'un ministère fédéral d'Instruction publique. 6. Fonds pour la création de cours publics d'éducation physique. 7. Loi fédérale rendant uniformes dans tous les États les lois du mariage et du divorce. 8. Lois sur l'Enseignement. 9. Mesures d'hygiène sociale. 10. Opposition à la tactique du Parti féminin qui demande la suppression complète des inégalités entre les sexes ; ce serait supprimer en même temps les lois protectrices de la femme et du foyer. 11 et 12. Étude des effets des lois déjà votées en faveur des femmes.

LE TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL. — La Ligue nationale des Électriciens a envoyé une délégation au Président Coolidge, le 26 novembre, pour demander l'entrée des États-Unis à la Cour permanente de justice internationale. Le Président, dans son message, a inséré sept clauses qui répondent au programme des féministes : Entrée des États-Unis au tribunal international ; prévention du travail des enfants ; promotions des fonctionnaires par le mérite seul ; minimum de salaire pour les ouvrières ; provision convenable pour les prisonnières ; ministère fédéral d'Instruction publique ; renforcement de la loi de prohibition de l'alcool.

Mrs. HELEN HAMILTON GARDENER occupe le poste élevé de " Civil Service Commissioner, " qui fournit le personnel aux bureaux du Gouvernement dans tous les États. La Commission examine 250.000 candidats chaque année, pour un millier de fonctions différentes. C'est une féministe active qui a lutté pour le suffrage depuis 1888 et a écrit des ouvrages sur le droit des femmes à l'Instruction, sur l'égalité morale des deux sexes, la protection de la jeune fille, etc. Elle a fait des conférences en France et au Japon et a été décorée par ces deux pays.

L'OFFICE FÉDÉRAL POUR ENFANTS. — Cet Office, dirigé par Grace Abbott, apporte une aide financière aux États qui organisent la lutte contre la mortalité infantile. Il a produit un film, " Bien né, " qui fait ressortir la nécessité des soins pré-natals, l'utilité des centres maternels, des infirmières visiteuses, etc.

HISTOIRE DE LA LÉGISLATION SUR LE MINIMUM DE SALAIRE AUX ÉTATS-UNIS. — C'est l'Australie qui, en 1896, a montré la voie aux autres nations sur ce sujet. Les États-Unis ne s'en sont occupés qu'en 1910. Après une étude sérieuse des conditions du travail féminin dans les grandes industries, une loi a été votée en 1912 dans le Massachusetts, l'exemple a été suivi les années suivantes dans treize autres États. Dans la plupart, le minimum est basé sur le coût de la vie et fixé chaque semaine à un taux approprié ; ce taux varie des petites villes aux grandes de 7 à 16 dollars. Les rapports de la Commission de Californie montrent que les salaires ont beaucoup augmenté. Ces lois sur le minimum de salaire ayant pour but de protéger la santé, la sécurité et la moralité de la mère, et du foyer, sont regardées comme une limitation de la liberté des contrats et ne s'appliquent pas aux hommes.

UN PARLEMENT INTERNATIONAL FÉMININ. — Le parti féministe américain, à sa conférence de Washington les

18 et 19 novembre, a adopté la résolution de réunir une conférence internationale qui agira comme un Parlement féminin pour délibérer sur les problèmes d'intérêt commun et pour appuyer le mouvement tendant à mettre fin à la sujétion présente des femmes dans tous les pays.

Hollande. — LE TRAVAIL FÉMININ. — En réponse à un questionnaire de Mme Julie Arenholt, voici ce qu'ont répondu les féministes hollandaises :

Les Hollandaises, quoiqu'éligibles pour les fonctions municipales, sont exclues des fonctions de maire et de secrétaire de mairie. Elles ne sont pas exclues légalement des professions religieuses ; les religions étant séparées de l'État, chacune a sa propre discipline. Dans le protestantisme, qui est la religion de la majorité, elles ont le droit de vote, mais non l'éligibilité aux conseils paroissiaux et au diaconat. Les Églises dissidentes (Baptistes, Luthériens évangélistes, etc.) leur ont donné tous les droits et elles ont même des femmes pasteurs. Les catholiques et les juifs, selon leurs dogmes et traditions, réservent toutes les fonctions aux hommes.

Quoique les femmes ne soient pas légalement exclues des fonctions de juge et de notaire, aucune n'a obtenu le droit d'exercer. Il n'y a pas de magistrature ni de jurys en Hollande. Les femmes sont exclues des fonctions de percepteur et de comptable au ministère des finances.

Dans toutes les autres professions légalement ouvertes aux femmes, celles-ci ont été acceptées. Il y a des femmes professeurs d'Université, préparateurs, directrices de laboratoires ou de musées, ingénieurs, avocats, médecins, hauts fonctionnaires d'État, avec les mêmes avantages de traitement et d'avancement que les hommes. Les Conseils supérieurs de l'Instruction publique et du Travail comprennent des femmes. Dans le service des Postes, les hautes fonctions sont réservées aux hommes. Les femmes sont entrées au barreau depuis 1903 et peuvent plaider devant tous les tribunaux. Il y a quelques femmes agents de police, employées surtout au service des mœurs et à la protection de l'enfance.

Dans l'enseignement primaire, les traitements des femmes sont moins élevés et l'avancement est surtout réservé aux femmes mariées, veuves ou divorcées.

Dans l'industrie et l'agriculture, les femmes ne reçoivent pas un salaire égal, sauf dans l'industrie du diamant et dans celle du cigare.

Les Trade-Unions ne comptent que 9 pour cent environ de femmes et elles n'y ont pas grande influence.

Allemagne. — La position des femmes fonctionnaires se trouve très atteinte par le décret du Reich du 27 octobre qui a décidé de renvoyer 25 pour cent des fonctionnaires. Les renvois commenceront par les nouveaux venus, non soutiens de famille. Ce sont donc les femmes qui seront les plus frappées, puisque beaucoup d'entre elles n'ont été engagées que depuis la Révolution. Ceci montre que le mouvement féministe ne doit pas cesser avec l'obtention du vote. Les sociétés féministes, soutenues par le Conseil national des femmes, réclament une justice plus équitable pour les deux sexes ; elles demandent en outre que dans l'Enseignement et les œuvres sociales on garde les femmes là où elles ne peuvent pas être efficacement remplacées par des hommes.

Le prix élevé de la vie et la difficulté de trouver un emploi obligent beaucoup de jeunes filles à chercher une situation à l'étranger, même dans le service domestique. Elles prient les membres de l'Alliance internationale de leur indiquer des situations convenables. Envoyer les informations au Siège social de l'Alliance.

Indes. — La semaine du 30 octobre au 5 novembre a été une semaine historique. Pour la première fois, à Madras, à Bombay et dans les provinces unies, les femmes hindoues ont exercé leurs droits politiques à l'occasion de la seconde élection pour les Conseils législatifs depuis le Reform Bill. Par les droits qui leur sont conférés, les femmes hindoues sont plus avantagées que les femmes britanniques. L'Association des femmes hindoues avait envoyé aux candidats un questionnaire pour s'assurer

leur appui en faveur du Maternity Benefit Bill, de l'instruction obligatoire pour les filles, subvention plus forte pour l'enseignement et l'hygiène, réduction de l'impôt sur le sel, prohibition, home rule, etc. Beaucoup ont répondu favorablement.

Grande-Bretagne.— LES ÉLECTIONS.— Les résultats ont été, cette fois, plus satisfaisants.

Huit femmes ont été élues membres du Parlement, au lieu de trois. De plus, les trois premières avaient été élues en remplacement de leur mari; cette fois, toutes l'ont été pour leur propre mérite. Mais huit membres sur 615, cela est loin d'être excessif dans un pays où le nombre des femmes dépasse de un million celui des hommes.

Outre Lady Astor, Mrs. Wintringham et Mrs. Philipson réélues, on compte une conservatrice: la duchesse d'Atholl; une libérale: Lady Terrington; et trois membres du Labour Party: Miss Margaret Bondfield, Miss Suzan Lawrence et Miss Dorothy Jewson.

La duchesse d'Atholl est une femme habile et énergique. Elle a écrit une histoire de son comté natal en

Écosse. Miss Bondfield s'est dévouée pendant des années aux trade-unions et aux coopératives féministes; elle a été élue cette année présidente du Congrès des Trade-Unions. Elle a été l'un des membres fondateurs de la Ligue pour la paix et la liberté. C'est une oratrice éloquent.

Miss Susan Lawrence est depuis 1910 membre du London County Council. Elle fut d'abord conservatrice; mais, convaincue que le Labour Party pouvait seul assurer les réformes contre le chômage et la crise du logement, elle a rejoint ce parti.

Miss Jewson, qui a réuni 20.000 votes et battu un Ministre populaire à Norwich, a étudié à Cambridge. Depuis la guerre, elle a organisé la lutte contre le chômage féminin. Elle s'est occupée activement de la section féminine de l'Union générale des Travailleurs.

La presse a parlé favorablement des électrices et des élus. Nous regrettons vivement l'échec de Mrs. Corbett Ashby dont la personnalité avait fait grande impression, mais qui ne put l'emporter sur un adversaire tory.

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