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NOTICE.

In the present critical position of affairs, when any reference to political conditions may hurt national susceptibilities, it must be clearly stated that the International Woman Suffrage Alliance maintains a strictly neutral attitude, and is only responsible for its official announcements. Reports from affiliated societies are inserted on the responsibility of the society contributing them. Other articles are published as being of general interest to our readers, and responsibility for them rests solely with their signatories.

BY-LAW.

"The I.W.S.A., by mutual consent of its auxiliaries, stands pledged to preserve absolute neutrality on all questions that are strictly national."

ANOTHER VICTORY IN CANADA.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE AND ELIGIBILITY WON IN ALBERTA.

ALBERTA.

VICTORY FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Woman Suffrage has been passed by the Legislature of Alberta. The Lieutenant-Governor, in his speech, said, in part:—"For many years there has been a growing feeling that the equality of the sexes should be recognised, and that the women who, perhaps, in a special degree in a new country, have aided in the development, put up with the hardships, and assisted in the prosperity, should have the right to take an equal part in the government of the country. My Government has considered this question, and has decided that, so far as the Legislature has power, this equality should in Alberta be fixed by law, and that for the future there should be no distinction of sexes in our province."

These are memorable words, worthy of a great occasion, and will be echoed by all lovers of liberty throughout the world.

Alberta was created a province by the Alberta Act of 1905, passed by the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada. The Legislative Assembly has hitherto been elected by Manhood Suffrage, and will in future have genuine Adult Suffrage. Women have possessed the municipal vote on a small property basis, the same as for men. The area of the province is 255,285 square miles, and the present population about half a million. Alberta has had a University since 1907. It is pre-eminently an agricultural province, but also has mines and budding manufactures. The chief towns are Calgary and Edmonton. Alberta has contributed a higher proportion of volunteers to the Army than any other Canadian province.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN THE CANADIAN HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On February 28, Hon. William Pugsley, member for St. John City, moved:—

"That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that the Government should promote legislation to amend the Dominion Elections Act so as to provide that upon any province of Canada enacting legislation giving women the right to vote for members of the Provincial Legislature, such women as are on the provincial voters' lists, or as are otherwise entitled to vote for members of the Legislature in such province, shall also, unless otherwise disqualified, have the right to vote at elections for members of this House."

He was, however, unable to carry his motion in the Federal Parliament, it being opposed by the Government. The difficulty was raised of giving the Federal vote only to women in enfranchised provinces, and leaving out all the other provinces which have not enfranchised their women. Alberta has, since the House of Commons debate, followed the example of Manitoba, and will soon be followed by Saskatchewan. The situation will therefore be somewhat altered before the next debate.

It is interesting to note that Mr. Pugsley nearly thirty years ago proposed a resolution to grant Woman Suffrage in the Provincial Legislature of New Brunswick. He made it an election issue, and was elected, evidently expressing the views of his constituents.

THE BRITISH DOMINIONS WOMAN SUFFRAGE UNION

Will hold its second (biennial) Conference in London in the first week of July. Besides Suffrage, the following subjects will be discussed:—Loss of nationality through marriage, the economic position of women, equal pay for equal work, Imperial Eugenics, venereal disease, legislation and education.

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That the woman's rights movement is no isolated phenomenon, but a world-wide upheaval of a sex long satisfied with an inferior political and social status, is shown by the protest being made by a group of distinguished Chilean women against laws which give to the husband in Chili the control of the wife's property, her wages, her children, and their property and wages.

Mother's Parental Right in New York.

While we have known for a long time that we have “emerged from the dark ages when women were the same as slaves and chattels,” we have known also that the law in many States has not emerged with us. But Justice Shearn, of the Supreme Court of New York State, who used the words quoted above as a reason for a recent decision, has helped the law to become more up to date as regards the custody of the child by the mother.

The case in question was that of the Rev. Burton Lee, who separated from his wife, taking his eight-year-old boy with him and covenanting to let her have their younger son. Subsequently he tried to keep both children on the plea of his “paramount right as a father,” basing his claim on a decision rendered in 1842, and on Blackstone's interpretation of the law. According to authorities cited, a woman's “very being and legal existence is suspended during marriage, or at least consolidated with that of her husband,” and in consequence a man entering into a contract with his wife virtually enters into one with himself. Justice Shearn's decision discarded this view of woman, and made the rights of the mother equal to those of the father.

AUSTRALIA.

Girls Prepare to be Voters.

In South Australia the girls have formed a Social and Political Union for their own education as to the state of social and political matters in (1) South Australia, (2) Australia, (3) the British Empire, (4) the world, with the end in view of learning how and how best to use their votes. The Union meets in Adelaide, and the hon. secretary is Miss E. G. Walker, Dover House, Kensington Gardens, South Australia. This is, as far as we know, the first case of future voters themselves forming a league to prepare for the wise exercise of citizenship.

Children or Dreadnoughts?

Miss Julia Lathrop, head of the Children's Bureau, wants to know, according to her annual report, why the rate of mortality among children in industrial and mining centres is nearly twice that in suburban residence centres. She also wishes to know what the country is going to do for the 18,000,000 children who do not live in cities. She has noted the fact that in many instances both the parents and the children are illiterate, that many are undernourished, that they work too hard, and that their lives are too monotonous. She should know that this will take money; and how can America spare the thousands of dollars called for by the Children's Bureau, when a half billion dollars is needed to begin the two-billion-dollar plan of “preparedness”? Suppose 134 infants in 1,000 do die in the first twelve months; the stork will bring more. Dreadnoughts must be paid for; children can be had for nothing. Why all this pother about saving the children, when we are preparing to kill the men?

“JUS SUFFRAGII.”

A list of hon. associate members of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance and of subscribers to *Jus Suffragii* in different countries is appended:—

It is impossible to be satisfied with the present number of subscribers, and means must evidently be found of obtaining a wider circulation for the paper, although no doubt its usefulness is greater than appears at first sight, owing to the fact that it is greatly used by Suffrage secretaries, writers, and workers, and that much of its information is repeated in the Suffrage papers of many countries. Every national society is urged to see that all its local branches subscribe, so that every Suffrage group may be fully informed as to the world movement. But further steps are necessary. In 1912 and 1913, while the paper was being published in Holland, an appeal was made by Miss Martina Kramus to Great Britain for further support.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies thereupon sent out a letter of appeal to many of its subscribers inviting them to become members of the I.W.S.A. The response to this appeal was so generous that a large increase of members was the result, hence the fact that Great Britain shows heartier support of the International movement than any other country. It is hoped that the national societies in other countries may either follow this plan or originate a new one for securing better support for the Alliance. In particular, we venture to hope that America, which is the largest and richest country of the world, which is free from the crushing burden of the European War, and which is moreover the country of the President of the Alliance, will come forward and strengthen the Alliance at the present critical time.

ENGLISH EDITION.

| | Subscribers to <i>Jus Suffragii.</i> | Honorary Associate Members (including subscription to <i>Jus Suffragii.</i>) |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Australia 17 | 2 | |
| Austria — | 3 | |
| Bermuda 1 | — | |
| Bohemia 1 | — | |
| Bulgaria 1 | — | |
| Canada 14 | 1 | |
| China 1 | — | |
| Denmark 21 | 2 | |
| Finland 17 | 1 | |
| France 3 | 3 | |
| Germany 8 | 25 | |
| Great Britain 183 | 137 | |
| Hungary 5 | 6 | |
| India 1 | 2 | |
| Dutch Indies 2 | 1 | |
| Italy 2 | — | |
| Netherlands 25 | 20 | |
| New Zealand 12 | — | |
| Norway 3 | — | |
| Persia 1 | — | |
| Portugal 1 | — | |
| Russia 1 | 2 | |
| South Africa 17 | 4 | |
| Sweden 32 | 2 | |
| Switzerland 11 | 1 | |
| U.S.A. 41 | 44 | |
| | 421 | |
| | 256 | |

Average number of copies sold monthly at Headquarters: 38.
 “ ” ” ” ” ” on sale or return”: 35.
 These should be added to Great Britain's total.

Notice to Correspondents.

Owing to disturbed international relations there are very great delays in the post, especially where belligerent frontiers have to be crossed. Consequently the edition of *Jus Suffragii* published in French, under the supervision of Mlle. Gourd, Pregny, Geneva, is delayed. Correspondents are urged to send a duplicate of reports, articles, and letters direct to Mlle. Gourd to save time.

AUSTRIA.

Man's rôle in war is the active one; his powers are strained to the utmost, and in the most unusual situations may help him over all torments and dangers. Woman's rôle remains passive, whatever she may achieve in the background. The difference between the sexes has never appeared more strongly. The difference—not their greater or less value!

Woman's activity in war—her work as helper and nurse—is a life-saving one. This has its roots in her deepest being, and is in diametrical opposition to the life-destroying nature of war. Therefore woman is, and must be, its natural opponent, and the question suggests itself whether war could continue in a world in whose construction and the formation of public life woman shared. “Modern society is not human, it is a masculine society,” said the great Norwegian Ibsen; and the Swedish poetess, Selma Lagerlof, follows the same thought when she says, speaking of home and State: “The little masterpiece, the home, was woman's creation with the help of man; the greatest masterpiece, the good State, will man create when he takes woman in earnest as his helpmate.”

And what the intuition of poets teaches us the researches of natural science teach us also. Those who uphold war are always telling us that struggle is a law of nature. But as certain as this law of struggle discovered by the great Englishman, Darwin, there exists a second law, that of mutual help. The great Russian, Kropotkin, in his investigations has discovered and proved what a tremendous part this law plays in the whole animal world and in the case of primitive man, and also in our existence which is so apparently full of strife. To bring it to its fullest development is the task of civilisation. And to whom should this law appeal more, who could feel more at one with it, than woman?

If it is strength that seeks combat, it is weakness that seeks mutual help. We women are by nature the weak sex. Let our weakness be our strength. It is our task to unite our female element of mutual help to the masculine element of combat. This is woman's task: to oppose the principle of mutual help in every sphere to the principle of strife, in the relations between individuals, between classes, between the sexes, between nations, between States, between races. This is the most real and fundamental task of woman, which she has now awakened to fulfil, and which the great suffering of 1915 may teach her to recognise.

LEOPOLDINE KULKA.

DENMARK.

WOMEN AS HEADS OF PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

In the little Danish town of Kolding the headmaster of the preparatory municipal school recently resigned his position, and it has been desired both by the town council, the school board, and the mayor that the vacancy should be filled by one of the school mistresses attached to the school. The competent Danish Ministry (Kultusministriet), however, objected that the School Act does not provide for such an appointment, the result being that the Act must be modified accordingly by the Rigsdag. Such a modification would apply only to board schools, as in Danish municipal and private secondary and higher schools women may be promoted to head mistresses after twenty-five years of service, in accordance with a notification issued by the Ministry in November, 1915. The same notification provides that the head mistresses of private schools, with a right to send their pupils up for examination at the University of Copenhagen, shall be allowed to call themselves “rectors,” whereas this provision does not apply to the corresponding municipal and State schools.

Pending the modification of the School Act, the vacancy as head master or mistress at the Kolding school is provisionally, under the title of inspector, filled by the school mistress, whom all the local competent authorities wish to have appointed, and consider particularly qualified to become the successor of the headmaster, who recently resigned his office as director of the school. It may be added that when the matter was before the municipal council of Kolding, a Radical member gave his consent to the new appointment, now being provided by the old School Act, on the ground that it would be a saving for the treasury of the town, a point of view which has been much attacked by Danish women, the goal being, naturally, equality with men, not only with regard to appointments but with regard to scales of salaries also.

—From *Kvinden og Samfundet*, No. 3, 1916.

WOMEN PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES IN DENMARK.

Events move rapidly in Denmark. On June 5, 1915, Danish women received the full rights of citizenship, and in February, 1916, the first two women candidates for Parliament were nominated by the Social Democratic Party—Andrea Brockmann and Helene Berg. Andrea Brockmann is a valued and respected member of her party, well known as a speaker at election meetings. In 1897 she was elected forewoman of the tailoresses in Copenhagen, and under her leadership the membership of the union increased from 40 to 1,000. At the time of the great lock-out, in 1899, she was the representative of the dressmakers during the negotiations with the employers, and she has always taken an active part in the struggle for the enfranchisement of women. The selection of Helene Berg as a parliamentary candidate meets with the warmest approval amongst Danish women, in view of her devoted and persevering labours for the cause of Woman's Suffrage. She has also done important work in relation to the laws affecting families and children. Thus both these first women candidates are particularly qualified to make their influence felt in the task which lies before them. —*Rösträtt för Kvinnor.*

FRANCE.

WOMEN'S WAGES.

“The number of women employed in war factories is now considerably above a hundred thousand, whereas before the war, for supervision and other service, there were scarcely a few thousand women; a hundred thousand women employed in various work, and displaying qualities of ingenuity and devotion which arouse universal admiration. At Bordeaux women are turning the heavy 155 shell; at Firminy they are forging, and at Lyons thousands are carrying on the numerous factories almost single-handed.” These are the words of M. Albert Thomas in the Chamber on the 29th of February. Several deputies pointed out that these splendid workwomen were worse paid than the workmen, and M. Albert Thomas, who is a convinced feminist, and personally would wish to see equal pay for equal work, now declares that it is a very delicate problem which presents special difficulties, especially that of neighbouring industries which would be affected by any change in the rate of wages.

M. Pierre Rebour, commenting on this debate in the *Française*, says that the difficulty lies in the attitude of private employers, and that, though the Government professes its recognition of the justice of equal wages for equal work, though it realises that women's work is equal to men's, and that it is contrary to the interests of the workmen to allow the employers to exploit the women, nevertheless the Government feels unable to do more than point out to employers the principles of justice. This timidity is not a matter of surprise when we consider the unequal treatment meted out to Government employees of different sex. Neither postal servants nor teachers get equal pay for equal work. Even now, when women teachers are replacing men in boys' schools, and are doing identically the same work as their male colleagues, they do not receive the same pay. The Government is therefore not in a position to insist when it has not set the example.

THE POPULATION QUESTION AND HIGHER COMMERCIAL EDUCATION OF GIRLS.

The Government in a recent circular invited the commercial high schools to open their doors to women, and they have all done so except those of Lyons, Marseilles, and Paris (the most important), and M. David Mennet, president of the Paris Chamber, applauds their action. In doing so he uses an argument why women should not be entitled to become heads of big businesses. France has need of children, and after the war will need them more than ever, and if women are absorbed in business they will not be able or disposed to rear large families. But of two evils the lesser must be chosen. The most pressing thing at present is the reconstitution of France, the most intense economic activity, and if men are not sufficient we must call in women, and give them all the weapons necessary for the struggle. M. David Mennet wishes women to attend special schools of their own which will only fit them for secondary posts. There may be prejudice in this suggestion, when we remember Mme. Boucicaud, whose name is illustrious as the organiser of one of the greatest businesses in France. And many more such names might be cited.

—From the *Française*.

SOLDIERS' CLUBS.

In a circular of December, 1915, General Gallieni wrote as follows: "It would be well also to encourage, and if necessary to invite, the creation outside the barracks of homes and shelters for soldiers, and similar institutions where the young soldier can find in his leisure hours a comfortable meeting place, a patriotic moral atmosphere which will protect him against the temptation of the drink shop and dangerous attractions."

The whole programme is contained in these words, but Frenchwomen did not wait for the official appeal in order to found soldiers' clubs. The numerous clubs opened since hostilities are due to various enterprises, but the National Council of Frenchwomen and the Union Française pour la suffrage des femmes carried on an active propaganda for the clubs. Feminists, of course, took an interest in undertakings which met such an immediate want.

In February, 1915, Mlle. B. pointed out to readers of the *Française* the necessity for providing the soldiers with recreation rooms (salles abris) which would compete with the drink shops. Three months later, under the auspices of the *Fraternités Féminines*, she opened the first club founded in Paris during the war "Au vrai poilu." Meanwhile the National Council organised at Rouen a soldiers' club so prosperous that it soon had an annex in another part of the town.

The section for hygiene of the National Council published an excellent pamphlet, simple and practical: "How to found a soldiers' club." The president of the U.F.S.F., having organised the club at Lisieux, explained in a lecture (published in the *Française*) the patriotic and social usefulness of these institutions, and exhorted feminists to increase them. Her advice and the National Council's pamphlet served as a guide to many new clubs, and encouraged the creation of those which are now being started each week.

How are these clubs organised? Only the beginning is difficult; once started and supported by regular contributions they can subsist without great expense. All that is needed is an authorisation by the local commandant. The support of the civil authority and of all classes of people is important, so as to get the necessary publicity and subscriptions. Having no political or sectarian bias, they can unite all kinds of people, and contributions can be made in kind as well as money, and include games, furniture, letter paper, etc. A cheerful room in a central position is essential, and a garden or yard desirable, and wherever possible it is obtained rent free. Generally 1,000 francs covers the cost of installation, light may cost from 25 to 50 francs a month, heating 50, and cooking coal 20. As to paid labour, one full-time woman, with occasional help, is generally enough for the heavy work, and the service of the recreation room is performed gratuitously by ladies and gentlemen working in relays. Their presence creates a friendly atmosphere and good tone. Refreshments, tea, coffee, chocolate, syrups, are usually charged a uniform price, 10c., and, though of the best quality, show a small profit, which goes toward the cost of light and heating. Some of the clubs with the best intentions have provided refreshments free, but this is not to be recommended, as it savours too much of charity, whereas the soldier should feel himself independent. No one need take refreshments; all are free to use the room, the books, and the papers. The soldier's independence is not interfered with in any way, provided he observes the rules. Those in charge do not offer advice. Amusements are arranged, concerts, and artistic soirées, in which the men themselves take part. Many clubs are inaugurated by a matinée, and all had a Christmas party; some give free concerts, which are very successful. These are increasing rapidly; as Mme. de Witt Schlumberger said, they are contagious. The soldiers bring their comrades, and statistics show that they compete with the drink shops. At the end of January there were 23 in Paris, and we know of at least 50 in the provinces. Lisieux has monthly from 5,000 to 8,500 men, Rouen had 10,000 in two months; one near Lyons has 2,000 a day; in Tours, one which in November had 150 a day had in January 350. At Bicetre on the opening day there were four men, who returned the next day with thirty, and the following day there were seventy.

Considering the results, the organisers are asking whether these clubs should not continue after the war, and under what form; must they be on a philanthropic basis, or could not they be self-supporting by becoming temperance refreshment rooms? It is too soon to know, but owing to the success achieved the

founders are thinking of the future, it is well that the experience of war should be used to prepare for the work of peace.

MARGUERITE VERMEIL,

Member of the Central Committee of the U.F.S.F.
(Affiliated to the I.W.S.A.)

WOMEN ON ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES.

In August, 1915, a departmental committee for war work was formed at Calvados, and at the general inaugural meeting Mme. de Schlumberger demanded that women should be included. Eight women were appointed out of a membership of forty, and Mme. de Witt Schlumberger was one of the vice-presidents.

THE STRUGGLE FOR A FAIR WAGE.

During the last few weeks there have been several strike movements among the tailors and dressmakers of the big houses for a rise of wages, which since the war have been lowered.

Although business has improved, the masters kept the lowered rate. The Clothing Union of the Bourse de Travail has succeeded in getting certain concessions. One important firm paid 25 centimes an hour to an assistant who made no contract, and only rose to an additional 10 centimes on the threat of the Conseil de Prud-hommes. Moreover, in spite of the law and of public opposition, overtime is worked, young girls being forced to work from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and then to take the long journey to the suburbs before they can get their dinner and much-needed rest. And then people talk of race regeneration and repopulation! Overtime is paid at 35 centimes an hour. General servants are paid 50 centimes an hour by small tradesmen and middle-class women, who have to engage daily servants, but the rich industrialists and the big shops whose profits have not been reduced by the war reduce their wages just when prices are doubled.

It is time that the trade unions took up the question of women's work. And, indeed, they have already done so. The "Comité inter-syndical d'action contre l'exploitation de la femme" lately held a meeting, at which the federated trade unions pledged themselves not to permit women to replace men except at the same rate of wages.

A recent example of undercutting emphasises the need of such action. In the recent tailors' strike the women took the place of the men. The men's wage is 1 franc 25 centimes the hour, and they can be certain they will soon be ousted if they allow women to work for one-third. It is to be hoped that in future all will recognise the folly of opposing women's labour, that all workpeople have common interests, and that all work should be open to all and be equally paid.

—From the *Française*.

THE GIRL MAYOR.

In the *Jus Suffragii* of June, 1915, an account was given of a girl of 22 appointed to take the place of mayor in a commune in the South of France. The following letter from her in the *Française* is of interest:—

"I continue as interim mayor, and in that capacity I presided at a meeting of the municipal council on the 28th of February. A committee for agricultural action had to be formed, and the prefect's circular laid it down that women were eligible as members. Accordingly, when a councillor asked me whom I nominated, I replied by giving the names of four farmers and one woman—intelligent, educated, and whose husband is mobilised, and who manages his property. The councillors smiled indulgently, but I re-read them the passage of the prefect's letter, and repeated my nomination, giving my reasons. Their reply was that if it pleased me they could not oppose it, and, as I as mayor am president, I appointed Mme. A. Vice-Pres."

Anti-suffrage Funds.

Startling disclosures have been made in the United States as to the great financial support given to Anti-Suffrage by the drink interests. The U.S. Courts are now investigating the political activities of some big breweries. The *Philadelphia American* says: "The Government has evidence of large liquor funds having been used to finance the Anti-Suffrage campaign last fall in New Jersey, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania."

GERMANY.

AMALGAMATION OF SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

The sixth general meeting of the German "Verband" for Woman Suffrage took place in Dresden on the 7th to the 10th November. Important questions of organisation made a meeting desirable in spite of the war. Sixty-three delegates from all parts of Germany, representing 123 votes, were present. The Secretary's report showed that the Union, in spite of all difficulties, had accomplished good work in the last business period. The first part of the year 1914 was taken up with the promising plans for the International Woman Suffrage Congress in Berlin. The outbreak of war brought these preparations to a sudden end, as indeed all agitation and propaganda for Suffrage, whose place was taken by social activity in war relief work. This work, which varies according to local conditions, included activity within other organisations, and also independent initiative, inquiry and labour bureaux for women, instruction covering a wide field in the feeding of the people, choice of employment, registry office for prisoners of war, and missing, and other activities. In a few places women's political work found a certain amount of recognition on the part of the authorities, who requested them to undertake the work of instruction on the food question. After the war had lasted some time, lectures and reading circles were again taken up. In the period included in the report a number of new branches were formed, and various petitions addressed to legislative bodies with regard to the local franchise to town and rural councils, the right of married women to personal exercise of the municipal franchise, nationality rights of married women, the position of female municipal officials, and so on.

The most important point of the programme was the plan proposed by the German "Vereinigung" for Woman Suffrage, the other German Woman's Suffrage organisation, for an amalgamation of the two societies into a single large organisation. The wish for a national uniting of the whole German Suffrage movement has come up often lately, and the question of carrying it out has been much discussed; but up to the present important differences of principle seemed to raise insurmountable obstacles. But the discussion of the proposals of the "Vereinigung," which lasted a whole day, showed that inside the "Verband" (the considerably older and larger organisation), there was a strong determination to bridge over these differences and to pursue the road to the same goal no longer separated, but united with the younger sister organisation. A large majority voted for the principle of amalgamation with the German "Vereinigung," and a committee was chosen to prepare a scheme of amalgamation with representatives of the "Vereinigung."

In view of the new organisation expected in a short time, no new elections were made of an executive committee, and the existing committee was requested to continue in office until the final decision. It was decided that one of the most important tasks to be undertaken immediately was the gaining of the municipal vote for women, and with this object the affiliated societies in each State were requested to take up the work energetically in all the German States.

Two public meetings were held in the evenings in the large hall of the Künstlerhaus, and were very well attended, and enabled the Conference to make a successful effect on the outer world.

The first evening Frau Martha Voss Zietz spoke on "Woman in National Housekeeping." She gave an historical summary of the development by which women gradually became divorced from national economy, to the detriment of the latter. She demanded reconquest of this important connection through the organisation of housewives, through training in the great economic questions, and through raising the whole status of housewives. Woman's relation to national economy is in close relation to her political position; the improvement of both will serve the most important interests of the country. The second evening was devoted to the much discussed subject of compulsory service for women, and the speakers were Fräulein Paula Schlotmann, of Dresden, and Dr. Margareta Siebert, of Leipzig. Although both speakers started from different points of view and arrived at different conclusions—one for and the other against compulsory service for women,—both agreed that motherhood was woman's real State service, and both agreed in demanding citizen rights for women. The speeches were followed by a lively debate.

—Communicated by FRAU MARIE STRITT,
President of the Deutscher Verband (affiliated to the I.W.S.A.)

N.B.—The above report was sent in the middle of November for publication in *Jus Suffragii*, but never arrived. A second copy was sent in the beginning of February and arrived in the middle of March. Other communications from Germany and from Hungary have failed to arrive.

THE REICHSTAG AND PROTECTIVE LAWS FOR WOMEN.

The February number of *Frauenbewegung* drew attention to the debate in the Reichstag on measures to be taken for the care of women and children, on diminished birth-rate, infant mortality, etc. Demands were made for greater care of expectant mothers, better education, and protective measures for women engaged in industry, as women's labour is increasing even in the heaviest industries. It was declared that only in the rarest cases must departures from the Factory Acts be allowed, and, above all, the eight-hour day should be enforced in heavy trades.

ADMISSION OF WOMEN TO THE HOTEL INSTITUTE IN DÜSSELDORF.

A new form of training is now open to women. In April, for the first time, women will be admitted on an equal footing with men to the hotel training institute in Düsseldorf. The institute is a municipal undertaking, and was opened in the autumn of 1914. It is in the nature of a college, and candidates for training must have passed through their secondary school training, and be qualified for one year's military service (instead of three years). Women may be admitted if they have been through the full course in a Lyceum and had two years' training in hotel business, and must be over eighteen years of age. The training is a very full and broad one. Lectures are given on commerce and labour, technical instruction is given in machinery, electricity, the production of textiles, metals, china, and glass, and all the material and equipment used in hotels. Food values are studied in the chemical laboratory. General education is included, and courses given in German literature, the history of art, hygiene, modern languages, etc. Visits are paid to factories, laundries, slaughter-houses, disinfecting stations, and to first-class hotels. Up to the present, out of the two or three hundred thousand persons employed in hotels, women have only filled the subordinate posts. This training will fit them for well-paid, responsible positions.

Experienced older women will be admitted to the training.
—From *Die Frauenfrage*.

POPULATION PROBLEMS.

There is no doubt that the fight against prostitution is inseparable from the objects of the women's movement. The conception of woman as a chattel which lies at the basis of prostitution is so incompatible with the conception of woman from which the woman's movement starts that one would hardly be guilty of exaggeration if one said: Everything which promotes prostitution in any form limits at the same time the possibilities on which the demands of the women's movement rest. The consequences of a long war keeping millions of men abroad need no further mention. The war is quite irreconcilable with the attitude which the women's movement must take up towards the problem of population. As long as the waste of life in war goes on and makes it women's duty to employ their whole strength in child-bearing to repair the wholesale wastage, they are condemned to devote themselves entirely to the task of generation—to that heavy overstrain which consumes physical and mental forces, and which is responsible for woman's remaining behind man hitherto in all achievements. It goes without saying that a woman who has borne and reared a dozen children is not in a position either to turn her attention and activity to universal questions or to free herself from the spiritual and economic dependence on the man, to whom she must look for the maintenance of herself and her offspring. . . . Moreover, Germany had before the war two million surplus women, who, unless they were prepared to become social outcasts, were debarred from realising their maternal capacities—a bad state of things which will be much worse after the war.

—ROSA MAYREDER, in the *Staatsbürgerin*.

THE POPULATION QUESTION.

A debate took place in the Lower House of the Prussian Diet on February 25, when Dr. von Loebell, Ministry of the Interior, drew attention to the declining birth-rate, and urged all religious and social organisations to combat the tendencies to family restriction. Other speakers spoke in support, and especially denounced illegal operations.

THE ANTIDOTE TO ANTI-FEMINISM.

The current number of the *Staatsbürgerin* has an interesting article on "The Way to Overcome Anti-Feminism," by Hanna Mark, of Königsberg. The writer foresees that much of the flattery now meted out to women's indispensable war work will give place after the war to the old opposition to their emancipation. She is anxious that the women's movement should be on its guard against certain dangers which will play into the hands of the enemy. Among other things, she fears that while professional and working women are devoting all their energies to the urgent task of economic reconstruction, the fashionable lady, the parasite, will be busy influencing art and literature, and this danger must not be ignored, and must be met by the elimination of the "lady," through insisting on the same education for boys and girls and compulsory professional training for every girl.

The author further thinks that feminism must drop some of its detachment, and that Suffragists when claiming the vote must not be afraid to say how they would use it; in fact, the time for political neutrality is over.

The article concludes as follows: "Not isolation in separate societies, but work together with men wherever there is opportunity, must in future be the principle of all women's ethical and social strivings. As to-day all political parties are united in patriotism, so men and women find harmony and their highest perfection in true humanity. Anti-feminism can only be overcome by men and women organised together in common humanity."

GREAT BRITAIN.

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

A very hearty welcome was given to Dr. Elsie Inglis and her party, on their return to England from Serbia, by the members of the committees of the Edinburgh and London Societies for Women's Suffrage. The travellers were glad to be home again, and though some looked tired after their experiences, they were all cheerful; their one regret was having to leave their Serbian wounded. After the occupation of Krushevatz by the Germans, their hospital was taken away from them. All the blankets and hospital equipment were seized, and no receipt given. Dr. Elsie Inglis described the terrible plight of the Serbian wounded in the hospital grounds, where the unit had charge of a party of from 500 to 2,000 wounded prisoners, without any shelter from the cold and bitter winds. The members of the unit were treated civilly enough, and they were adequately fed. They were allowed to go out with a pass within certain hours, and were not interfered with.

CORSICA (Manchester and District Suffrage Federation Unit).

This hospital contains wards for women and children, as well as for Serbian soldiers who are suffering from wounds and from the effects of the hardships of the retreat. One of these soldiers who died in the hospital was given a full military funeral by the French authorities. It was extremely impressive, as the priest was accompanied by a choir, which sang the last Mass round the grave. There have also been cheerful ceremonies over the christening of five babies born in the hospital. Various members of the staff were godmothers and godfathers, and a great number of French ladies came to the christening, and afterwards visited the hospital, expressing admiration for all the arrangements. The new matron, Miss Medland Taylor, has arrived.

SALONIKA.

This hospital has lately had all kinds of difficulties to contend with regarding its X-ray apparatus, and also to the electric lighting of the hospital. Severe storms have broken the wires, but Miss Stoney has been able to keep the hospital continually lighted, in spite of this, and also to get her X-ray apparatus moved into better quarters, where it has been possible to set up the high frequency apparatus. Another difficulty had been that, owing to the slowness of transport, the dark tents had not arrived, and no X-ray work could be done after 7 or 7.30. All these things must have tried the hospital's resourcefulness considerably, but have been successfully overcome. Besides French soldiers, we have also had some British naval officers and soldiers attended to in our X-ray department, and also a Turk.

Miss Burke, organiser of the London unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, before her departure for America, was honoured by being presented with the Serbian order of the "Misericorde" by the Serbian Minister in person. Miss Burke has received the gift of £1,000 from Mr. Carnegie for

the Serbians, and Dr. Elsie Inglis has been given the sum of £1,000 by a lady who had watched Dr. Inglis's hospital work in Serbia, and as a result of these observations gave this generous donation anonymously.

BRITISH MATERNITY UNIT IN RUSSIA.

After many weeks of hard work, of difficulties, and of disappointments, the British Women's Maternity Hospital in Petrograd was formally opened on March 13 by the Grand Duchess Kyril, whose official and personal assistance has been of such great value. In most cases the refugee women make no plans of any kind for the future, but some of them have already made anxious inquiries about the hospital, and there is no doubt that its resources will be taxed to the uttermost.

Miss Thurstan, nursing organiser, returned to England on March 4. During her stay in Russia she was enabled to make a short tour, in the course of which she visited some of the more remote districts. The need for organised work in Kazan is very great. Despair and a feeling of alienation and homelessness after their long wandering have robbed many of the refugees of the power and even of the desire to help themselves. A splendid work is being carried on by some students of the University. Under their direction, a large number of the refugees have been housed on the banks of the Volga in the little summer shops and lodgings usually inhabited by visitors. As hundreds of the children cannot go out for lack of clothes, workrooms have been organised, in which the men and women can find useful employment; and a baby clinic has been founded, to deal as far as possible with the appalling sickness among the little children. In a short time the long vacation will begin, and the students will be compelled to give up their work for these unfortunate people. An urgent call for help comes to the "British Women." There is a pressing need for a diet-kitchen in which invalid food could be prepared for those who are unable to eat the ordinary rations of heavy black bread provided. Digestive troubles of all kinds are rife, as suitable diet is unobtainable. The provision of a hospital would undoubtedly save much needless suffering.

Before the great flood of refugees had poured into Russia, the medical women had already been mobilised, and practically every woman who could possibly be trained in any degree had been called upon to care for the sick and wounded, whose numbers are far in excess of those in any other belligerent country.

WOMEN DOCKERS.

Owing to the great shortage of male labour in the Liverpool docks, the experiment has been tried of employing women's labour. It proved extremely successful. The women worked the same hours and received the same rate of pay as the men, and the shipowners concerned were satisfied with their work. One official in a large firm stated that the women "were rendering a service to the public, to the country, and, in an indirect way, to our soldiers and our Allies in the field." The male dockers, however, opposed the employment of women, on the grounds of the "unsuitability of the work for women." It did not seem to strike the men that the women had proved that the work was suitable to them, by doing it well and giving general satisfaction.

WOMEN IN THE COALFIELDS.

An experiment has been tried in one of the coalmining countries of employing women in the surface work of the mines, and also as colliery clerks.

WOMEN POLICE.

A very influential meeting, presided over by the Lord Mayor, was held in the city in support of the appointment of women police. The towns of Hull, Grantham, Southampton, and Folkestone have officially appointed women as police, and the Mayor of Hull, one of the speakers at the meeting, was able to testify to the good services and efficiency of the women, and the need which existed for their employment. The corps of policewomen in London and other parts of the country have been working quietly wherever their assistance was favourably received, but, as Miss Damer Dawson, the head of the corps, said, the women could give more practical help if they could be given a preliminary course of training similar to that of the men, and were given an official status and equal powers with men police. Many people have an idea that the only duty of a policeman is to arrest offenders against the law, to track down burglars, or deal with drunken and violent men, work which women are not suited to carry out. But policemen's duties do not end there. They are regarded as the friend and helper of those who need assistance and advice, and are often called upon to deal with cases in which women and young children

are concerned, and here women police are specially needed. There are many instances of the helpful protection given by the women police and women patrols to young girls and children. They have been able to check and control misconduct and exercise a wholesome supervision in places of entertainment, parks, open spaces, and public dancing-halls, and have often succeeded in establishing order and maintaining good behaviour when policemen have failed. Women are also urgently required to attend at police courts when cases of assaults on women or children are heard, or when very young children are called as witnesses. Though the women patrols and women police (the former have received official recognition, but no official powers) were called into existence owing to conditions directly connected with the war, there is unfortunately only too much evidence for the need of women police in normal times, and it is hoped that the time will soon come when this new women's work will be firmly established.

WOMEN BAKERS.

When one remembers that women from the earliest times were bakers of bread, it seems strange that no women should be employed as bakers. The war appears to be bringing about a change in this industry. The London master bakers are considering the question of employing women as bakers, and one of the largest bakers in East London has started training women in the art of breadmaking, until now regarded as a masculine trade.

WOMEN ON THE LAND.

The movement for placing women on the land is spreading into every county and district, and a large number of women are actively engaged in promoting its success. The Press has frequent articles on the splendid work done in agriculture by the women of France, and are confident that the good example they give will be followed here. Reports have already come in from farmers who are employing women that these women are giving a good account of themselves. They have not only proved themselves efficient in milking, the feeding of calves, and other duties considered specially suited to women, but have shown remarkable aptitude and endurance in other directions, such as the handling of horses and machinery, and the management of live stock.

FINAL REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON VENEREAL DISEASES.

This Commission was appointed in March, 1913, to inquire into the prevalence of venereal diseases, their effects upon the health of the community, and the means by which these effects can be alleviated and prevented. Three women were appointed as members of this Commission—Mrs. Creighton, Dr. Mary Scharlieb, and Mrs. Elizabeth Burgwin. Although the Commission was precluded from considering the policy of the Contagious Diseases Acts repealed in 1886, they recorded their view that "the evidence they received, which includes that of several Continental experts, points to the conclusion that no advantage would accrue from a return to the system of those Acts. So far from this being the case, it is to be noted that the great improvement as regards venereal diseases in the Navy and Army has taken place since the repeal of those Acts." The inquiry of the Commission into the prevalence of venereal diseases showed that there were no means at present of arriving at any accurate estimate, except in the case of the Navy and Army. The evidence taken as to the effects of the disease on public health proves without doubt the grave and far-reaching effects of venereal disease upon the individual and the race, and that they result in a heavy loss not only of actual, but of potential, population, and of productive power. The most important recommendations for the alleviation and prevention of the effects of venereal disease relate to amendments of the law, for an organised adequate system of treatment to be undertaken by the State, and for a more practical instruction of medical students on these diseases, and an extended education of the public on the question. The conclusions arrived at are that the presence of infectious venereal disease should be made the ground for divorce, and if under the present law the effect of a decree of nullity of marriage is to render the children illegitimate, statutory provision should be made for relieving children of the disabilities of illegitimacy. Where a medical practitioner makes a *bona-fide* communication to a parent, guardian, or other persons directly interested in the welfare of the man or woman, with the object of preventing or delaying a marriage with a person in an infectious condition, such communication shall be considered as privileged. As regards the education of the public, the Commission advise that provision should be made for more careful instruction in these matters, and that this instruction should be based on

moral principles and spiritual considerations, and not merely on the physical consequences of immoral conduct. That the "National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases" should be recognised by the Government as a body with authority to spread the necessary knowledge of moral conduct bearing on the relations of the sexes. The report condemns the treatment of the diseases by unqualified persons as disastrous and as constituting one of the principal hindrances to eradication, and recommends that all advertisements of remedies for these diseases shall be prohibited. The only recommendations on which the members of the Commission were not in complete agreement related to the question of compulsory detention of Poor-law patients suffering from venereal disease, and a more thorough medical examination of persons committed to prison. The recommendation in respect of prisoners runs as follows:—"We desire to emphasise the importance of a thorough medical examination of persons committed to prison. We think also that where the medical officer of a prison considers that a local examination of a woman is necessary, it should be made by a woman doctor." The objections to this paragraph of the report are given in full in Sir Kenelm Digby's note of the report, and may be briefly stated here. He considers that the present medical examination of women should not be interfered with. Though it fails to distinguish exhaustively those who are and those who are not suffering from venereal disease, there are other means of information open to the medical officer. His influence is generally beneficial, and he is more likely to persuade a prisoner to submit to proper diagnosis and treatment than would be the case if the prisoner were subjected to a compulsory examination. In the case of short-sentence prisoners, there is no opportunity of following up examination by treatment. On the conclusion come to to recommend the retention of patients in Poor-law institutions, Canon Horsley was of opinion that the better course would be to hand over the patients to the health authority until they were cured. E. PALLISER.

N.U.W.S.S. (affiliated to the I.W.S.A.).

WORKING WOMEN AND NATIONAL COMMITTEES.

Amongst other signs of growing public recognition of women's organisation is the inclusion of their representatives on official bodies.

The Public Health authorities have formed maternity committees, and for the first time working-women's organisations were specifically included in a Government letter. The Local Government Board instructed local authorities to include representatives of working-women's organisations.

Munitions Tribunals include representatives of working women, and the Naval and Military Pensions Committees are to have at least one-fourth or one-fifth of their members women, and not merely as individuals, but "representatives of the rank and file." The circular specially mentions the Joint Committee of Women's Organisations, which consists of representatives of the Women's Co-operative Guild, the Women's Trade Union League, the Women's Labour League, and the Railway Women's Guild, all of which are especially mentioned in the circular. The duties of the Committee will be to inquire into doubtful cases of pensions to soldiers and their dependants, to make provision for the training of women and children, to look after disabled soldiers, and to assist in supplementing pensions and allowances.

One-fifth of the representation also must be labour—i.e., trade union or trade council.

GOVERNMENT APPOINTS COMMITTEE ON WOMEN FOR MEN'S WORK.

An Advisory Committee has been appointed by the Board of Trade and Home Office to advise on questions of extending the employment of women in industrial occupations so as to maintain essential industries, in spite of the loss of men due to recruiting. Four women are on this Committee.

Employers are urged to employ as large a number of women as possible.

WOMEN AND MUNITIONS.

Miss Picton Turbervill, describing the conditions of women in munition factories, gave instances of women working twelve hours a day for 9s. a week, and many more working twelve hours for 15s., having in addition a journey of two hours each way to and from their work.

The worst cases of all were perhaps those of girls on four-hour shifts—leaving home at 4 a.m. to start work at 6, then off for four hours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with nowhere to go but the streets, then at work again; girls having to sleep three in a bed for utter lack of housing.

WORKERS' SUFFRAGE LEAGUE.

March 7, 1916.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst has sent the following letter to the Prime Minister, asking that a deputation from the Workers' Suffrage League (late East London Federation of the Suffragettes) shall be received.

Letters dealing with the employment question only have been sent to the Home Secretary and the President of the Board of Trade, in whose name the appeal to employers has been sent out.

Sir,—The joint appeal just issued from the Home Office and the Board of Trade, calling for the extended employment of women in industry, urges every employer of labour to do two things:—

(1) To review the organisation of their works, in order to ascertain how it is possible, by rearrangement of work and other measures, profitably to employ, as temporary substitutes, as large a number of women workers as possible.

(2) To send to the local Labour Exchange at once—and from time to time as the situation develops—particulars of his requirements for women labour, with the fullest possible details as to the classes of work and the qualifications required.

But in these instructions and throughout the appeal no mention occurs of the need for paying women for the work of the men whom they will be engaged to replace, or even for paying the women a mere living wage. This is a most serious and dangerous omission.

The composition of the Advisory Committee appointed to act in consultation with the Board of Trade in regard to women's employment also gives cause for grave dissatisfaction. Only four women have been appointed to this Committee of thirteen, though the work of the Committee so vitally concerns women. Of the women on the Committee one is well known to belong to an organisation formed for the purpose of opposing the right of women to a voice in the making of the laws which they are obliged to obey; and not one of the four has any claim to represent the voice of working-class women.

We consider that the auspices and conditions under which large masses of women are now to be attracted into industry present no guarantee that the women will be fairly treated, either in regard to wages or conditions, and we are conscious of the fact that the matter is serious not only in regard to the position of the large number of women who will be directly concerned, but also in regard to its effect on the entire labour market and the rivalry between men and women's labour which will appear after the war.

The Workers' Suffrage League, on whose behalf I write, therefore asks that the Government will receive a deputation from this organisation of working women next week.

The organisation on whose behalf I write is also exceedingly anxious in regard to the report of the Royal Commission on Venereal Disease, in which a number of far-reaching suggestions are made, some of which appear to us to give openings for reintroducing such provisions as those which were contained in the obnoxious C.D. Acts.

We hold that the main cause of prostitution, which is so closely bound up with this question of venereal disease, is the disgraceful and unfortunately almost universal custom of employing women at less than a living wage. No laws or social customs for penalising or regulating the women who have become the victims of the social evil chiefly through economic causes can have any good effect, and no large or permanent remedy will be found until the economic status of the woman worker has been improved.

We trust therefore that you will receive a deputation in regard to this question also, as you have pledged yourself to the women's societies not to allow any regulations corresponding to or approaching those of the C.D. Acts to be introduced in this country. As you are aware, this matter is one which women feel very acutely.—Faithfully yours,

(Signed) E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Dr. Curren, one of the chief medical officers of the Serbian Sanitary Commission, has admitted, according to a war correspondent, that it has taken the sight of women doctors dealing with a typhus epidemic to make him understand the movement in favour of giving women the right to vote. He enumerated their devotion to duty, knowledge, capacity, and deep sense of responsibility as proof of their fitness for civic responsibility as well.

BRITISH DOMINIONS OVERSEAS.

Australia.

LETTER SENT TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA BY THE WOMEN'S PEACE ARMY OF AUSTRALIA.

January 26, 1916.

Hon., The Prime Minister of Australia, Commonwealth Offices, London.

DEAR SIR,—We send you herewith a copy of the terms which, in the opinion of the International Congress of Women held at The Hague, April-May, 1915, and of the Women's Peace Army of Australia, should form the basis of a constructive and permanent peace.

It has seemed incredible to us that our elected representatives in the Commonwealth Parliament should have so far failed in their duty to the people as to permit you to leave Australia without any instructions as to the desires of the people in regard to peace, and to the entire naval and military obligations of the Commonwealth towards the Imperial Government.

With all courtesy and respect, we consider it is our plain duty to tell you that we, speaking for the great majority of the true democrats of our country, as we know from public meetings, the democratic Press, and correspondence, dissociate ourselves entirely from the cruel, relentless, undemocratic, anti-Christian policy of Militarism and Imperialism, which are synonymous terms, to which Australia is being committed by the Government, the Press, and the financiers of the country.

We ask you, Sir, although you will disagree wholly with our view point, to place it and our peace terms before the Imperial Conference, as representing, if not the majority, at least a very large minority, of the people of Australia.—Yours faithfully,

WOMEN'S PEACE ARMY,

(Signed) VIDA GOLDSTEIN, President.

CECILIA A. JOHN, Secretary.

ADELA PANKHURST, Organiser.

Canada.

FEDERAL BALLOT REFUSED IN CANADA.

The resolution providing that Canadian women should be allowed to vote at Federal elections in any Province where they could vote at Provincial elections was defeated in the House of Commons, February 28.

The measure was introduced by William Pugsley, and was opposed by the Government.

Despite the fact that the Manitoba Legislature voted unanimously that the women of that Province should have full equal Suffrage, their wishes have been partially overruled by the central Government at Ottawa. The women of Manitoba and Alberta will vote at all Provincial elections.

—The Church Vote.

Our Association at present is interested in the subject of "Woman's Status regarding her Voting Rights Within the Orthodox Church in the Province of Ontario, Canada." Believing this subject may be of interest to some readers of *Jus Suffragii*, I herewith give a copy of a report on the question. The information in it was obtained by the writer by personal interviews with representative ministers of the different denominations.

Baptist Church: This denomination, we are pleased to state, gives full voting rights to its women members.

Congregational Church: It gives full voting rights to women members.

Methodist Church: Although this denomination has not extended the complete vote to women members, there are a number of its ministers and laymen in favour of doing so, and an appeal for the same was made at the General Conference held in Montreal, November, 1914, when a vote was taken on the question, but notwithstanding the result showed nearly two-thirds in favour of the motion, it was lost.

Presbyterian Church: In it women have the privilege of voting in some congregational affairs, such as for the appointment of a pastor, but they are not allowed to become elders or clerks, nor are they eligible for positions in the courts of the church, which are Sessions, Presbytery, Synod or General Assembly.

Anglican Church: This denomination gives partial voting rights to its women members. In all the dioceses except Huron women may vote at vestry meetings for all offices and objects connected with the particular church. But women have never been appointed nor allowed to vote for delegates to the Synod.

Roman Catholic Church: In this denomination there is very little voting done even by the priests. However, in financial matters pertaining to their particular church, the women members have equal voting rights with the men.

It has been already stated that the women of Huron diocese are excluded from voting at vestry meetings. But they are desirous of the recognition of their right to do so, which is proved by the following extracts from an article entitled, "Women Hiss in Huron Synod," published in the *Toronto Mail and Empire*: "London, Ont., June 19, 1913.—By a vote that lacked the necessary two-thirds majority to carry the resolution to permit women to vote in vestry meetings was rejected by the Anglican Synod of Huron, after a vigorous debate here to-night. A scant majority of the lay and clerical delegates favoured the innovation, but the two-thirds required could not be raised, despite the strenuous efforts of John Ransford, of Clinton, and others, responsible for the introduction of the motion. The debate was one of the most heated heard in the Synod in years, and the greatest interest was taken in the deliberations of the delegates. During an address by Mr. Elhern, who opposed the motion, some person hissed from the gallery. His comments, chiefly to the effect that 'the modern woman is a work of art,' aroused the ire of members of the fair sex, and it was from a group of ladies in the gallery that the disturbance during his speech came. Rev. Canon Tucker called for order, and, although the interruptions became less frequent, feeling ran very high."

The demand of the women of Huron diocese is eminently fair and reasonable. As a fact, according to English ecclesiastical law, females have a right to vote in vestry. And when the Anglican Church was planted in Canada, the ecclesiastical law on this head was the same as England. But years afterwards, just when it seems difficult to learn, women were excluded from vestries here.

We have learned that two denominations give full voting rights to women, but what should be said about the churches which do otherwise? To say the least, it is inconsistent, especially when one considers that the preachers are the employees of their congregations, being hired at a stated salary which women partly provide.

We are pleased to announce that our president, Dr. Margaret Gordon, is resuming her usual activities in Suffrage work, after the lingering illness and death of her only daughter, Mrs. Ingram.

M. LOUISE LONG,

Convener of Press Committee, Canadian Suffrage Association. Toronto, March 7, 1916.

The following is the text of the Alberta Suffrage Bill:—

ALBERTA.

BILL.

No. 2 of 1916.

An Act to provide for Equal Suffrage.

(Assented to 1916.)

HIS MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta, enacts as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as "The Equal Suffrage Statutory Law Amendment Act."

2. Notwithstanding any provisions therein contained, women shall be upon an absolute equality with and have the same rights and privileges and be subject to the same penalties and disabilities as men in the following Acts, Ordinances and Charters:

(1) *The Alberta Election Act*, being chapter 3 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1909, and amendments thereto;

(2) *The Controverted Elections Act*, being chapter 2 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1907, and amendments thereto;

(3) *The Town Act*, being chapter 2 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1911-12, and amendments thereto;

(4) *The Village Act*, being chapter 5 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1913, and amendments thereto;

(5) *The Rural Municipality Act*, being chapter 3 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1911-12, and amendments thereto;

(6) *The Controverted Municipal Elections Act*, being chapter 20 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1911-12, and amendments thereto;

(7) *The Direct Legislation Act*, being chapter 3 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1913, and amendments thereto;

(8) *The Municipal Co-operative Hall Insurance Act*, being chapter 18 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1915, and amendments thereto;

(9) *An Act respecting the Legislative Assembly of Alberta*, being chapter 2 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1909, and amendments thereto;

(10) *The Local Improvement Act*, being chapter 11 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1907, and amendments thereto;

(11) *The Agricultural Societies Ordinance*, being chapter 69 of the Consolidated Ordinances of the North-West Territories, 1898, and amendments thereto;

(12) *The School Ordinance*, being chapter 75 of the Consolidated Ordinances of the North-West Territories, 1898, and amendments thereto;

(13) *The Lethbridge Charter*, being chapter 22 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1913, and amendments thereto;

(14) *An Ordinance to incorporate the City of Calgary*, being chapter 33 of the Ordinances of the North-West Territories, 1893, and amendments thereto;

(15) *The Edmonton Charter*, being chapter 23 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1913, and amendments thereto;

(16) *The Medicine Hat Charter*, being chapter 63 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1906, and amendments thereto;

(17) *An Ordinance to incorporate the town of Cardston*, being chapter 43 of the Ordinances of the North-West Territories, 1901, and amendments thereto;

(18) *An Ordinance to incorporate the Town of Red Deer*, being chapter 42 of the Ordinances of the North-West Territories, 1901, and amendments thereto;

(19) *An Act to incorporate the Village of Gull Lake*, being chapter 31 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1913, and amendments thereto;

(20) *An Act to incorporate the City of Wetaskiwin*, being chapter 41 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1906, and amendments thereto;

(21) *An Act to incorporate the Village of Wabqman Beach*, being chapter 40 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1913 (Second Session), and amendments thereto;

(22) *An Act respecting the Assessment in the Village of Loughheed*, being chapter 34 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1913, and amendments thereto;

(23) *An Act respecting the Assessment and Collection of Taxes in the Town of Stettler*, being chapter 24 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1913, and amendments thereto;

(24) *An Act to incorporate the Village of Lakeview*, being chapter 39 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1913 (Second Session), and amendments thereto.

Indian Medical College for Women.

The Lady Hardinge Medical College for Women, in which the late wife of the Viceroy took so great an interest, was opened on February 18, in the presence of people representing all classes. Among the Indian princes present were the Maharajahs of Gwalior, Patiala, Bikanir, and Kotah, and the Begum of Bhopal.

The Viceroy explained that the College Hospital and Training School were to be conducted on strictly purdah lines, every possible attention being paid to considerations of religion and caste. The hostels have separate blocks for Christian, Hindu, Mahometan, Sikh, and Parsee students, with special dining-rooms and kitchens and everything else required to observe caste distinctions, while there is a general recreation room.

The College contains a central amphitheatre, a hall and library, with excellent laboratories and many lecture-rooms. It has accommodation for 100 students, while the hospital has 150 beds, and the training school will take 25 fully qualified nurses, with the same number of probationers. The dispensary and hospital for the treatment of out-patients has been built by subscribers in the Punjab. Three bungalows are already built for the women professors. One special feature is the division of the hospital into units, each complete in itself, containing family wards for separate accommodation, two general wards, two small separate wards, and a central building in each unit for purposes of administration. Thus each professor will have her separate and complete clinique with her own clinical laboratory, demonstrations, and consulting rooms.

A WOMEN'S SCHEME.

The need of such a hospital and college has, of course, long been acknowledged. The health report of one big Indian city shows that one out of every four children is doomed to die before it is twelve months old. The building of the college was a women's scheme, initiated by a woman, carried out by women amongst women for the good of women, and the lady principal, Dr. Platt, will realise the ideals of the promoters. It is hoped

that the many clever Indian girls who would have liked to enter on their medical course but were deterred by the fact that they had either to study at general medical colleges in mixed classes or come to England for their training will now be encouraged to enter the beautiful college at Delhi, which will henceforth enshrine the memory of Lady Hardinge.

NETHERLANDS.

THE COMMITTEE OF WOMEN FOR PERMANENT PEACE.

The women of the Netherlands members of this Committee have sent the following address to the Second Chamber:—

In these difficult times, when stern reality forces itself upon us, we feel that it is no longer possible to continue to live in an unconscious or semi-conscious state, but that we are obliged to reckon with the fact that woman must do all that lies in her power to prepare for the coming generation, in which internationalism, harmony both within and without our frontiers, shall form the basis of a lasting peace among nations. It has become clearer than ever that in order to aid effectually in the great effort which the Government is making to maintain peace, it is necessary for us to obtain the full possession of our civil rights. We are strongly convinced that in collaboration with man we shall be able to do great and useful work for the common good in that direction. Just as the responsibility rests upon us to prepare the coming generation for the future awaiting it, so also rests upon us the responsibility to prepare the future we are bequeathing them, and therefore we are of opinion that our work is so closely connected with results to the community at large that we feel justified in claiming our due share in the responsibility of Government and all connected with it.

A number of women, fully conscious of their home duties, at the same time cherish the hope of sharing also in the house-keeping of the State, in the firm conviction that their influence would be a powerful aid in bringing about better relations between the different nations on a basis of peaceful co-operation.

It is also on that ground that they feel that the Government should no longer hesitate to grant them full civil rights at the coming revision of the Constitution (Grondwet).

RUSSIA.

The *Women's Messenger* for February contains a detailed account of the contents of the November number of *Jus Suffragii*, describing the activities of women in all the countries which are represented in the Alliance, and pointing out the difficulties under which an International Suffrage publication has to labour in the present time.

There appear also accounts of the efforts to organise agricultural work for women in various parts of England, and of several new public appointments which have recently been opened to them.

The various activities of Italian women are reported at length, pointing out the difference in the lines followed by Suffragists and Anti-Suffragists. The latter confine themselves to philanthropic work, whilst the Suffragists are hard at work to obtain various legal reforms which will prevent the occurrence of many of the hardships. So, for instance, owing to their efforts, the Italian Government has begun to issue separation allowances to the illegitimate families of soldiers. The mother of such children is not, however, recognised as a recipient of a separation allowance, and there is a strong agitation for the purpose of having her claim recognised.

A light is thrown on the position of the elementary school teacher in Russia by a petition addressed to the local authority of a certain country district by the women teachers. They point out that the cost of living has doubled, that practically in every other employment wages have been raised, and that school teachers alone appear to have been left out. The salary of the village school teacher is 26 roubles 20 kopeks (£2 12s. 9d.) a month, and this, it is pointed out, is barely sufficient to provide the necessary food, let alone clothing or books. Rural church schools pay their teachers even less; in some places they do not receive more than 15, 10, or even 5 roubles a month, and a case has recently happened where a young school teacher committed suicide because she had not the strength to continue her work in a semi-starved condition.

There is a long account of the report dealing with the registration of the refugees from Poland and Western Russia. 20,435 families, containing 79,648 grown-up persons and 29,875 children, were registered at the Siberian frontier alone. In Samara, a medium-sized town on the Volga, 28,168

refugees had to be provided for up to last November. Owing to lack of accommodation and food, the situation—especially during the cold winter months—cannot be adequately described. In Orlov the local authorities were notified that 10,000 refugees were being sent there, and it was with the greatest difficulty that shelter was found for them. Village communities have been most generous in taking in these homeless people, and most peasant huts shelter some of them under their humble roofs.

A body of men and women volunteers organised themselves into a corps of guides, and their members accompany these helpless crowds on their long journeys, arranging for accommodation and food for them, which they would otherwise be unable to obtain. There are separate organisations which receive thousands of lost children and try to trace their families.

Another most terrible aspect of the refugee problem presents itself in the facilities which are created for the white slave traffic. There is as yet no adequate legislation in Russia to protect girls against being sold to houses of ill fame, and large numbers of these homeless girls are enticed away from their families. Sometimes young refugee girls are driven into the streets through pity for their starving parents, brothers, and sisters, and they sell themselves so as to obtain bread.

The abnormal influx of persons seeking labour carries with it as a result the lowering of wages, as these half-starved men and women are prepared to accept almost anything in the matter of pay, and there is never any lack of persons ready to profit by the plight of their fellow creatures. S. L.

SWEDEN.

MEN'S LEAGUE.

In writing this time we have to mention a very satisfying thing: there has been formed a local society of the Swedish Men's League for Women's Suffrage. The original society was formed at the International Suffrage Congress in Stockholm in 1911, and numbered from the first many of our most prominent men of politics and science among its members, as the late Cabinet Ministers Karl Staaff, David Bergström, Fridtjuf Berg, the Mayors Lindhagen and Pettersson, and the Professors Warburg and Henschen. Of late years it has, however, led a rather forgotten existence, and it was therefore with real pleasure that we heard of the formation of a daughter society in a town called Kristianstad, situated in Skåne in the southern part of Sweden. It seems to be full of vitality, and we are told that other such societies will be formed in the same part of the country. It would be a good thing for us to get the men to take a little more active interest in our work, so we rejoice in all signs of such interest.

Among other events we must mention a large international meeting which was held in the Musical Academy Hall in Stockholm on March 1. Speeches were given by representatives from three enfranchised countries—Mr. Hakon Löken from Norway, Miss Helene Berg from Denmark, and Mr. Edwin Björkman from New York. Mr. Löken told us of the transformation in people's mode of thinking after the women had got their citizen's rights. Miss Berg, who is one of the first two women candidates for the Danish Parliament, expressed her conviction that as soon as a reform has ripened it will be carried through, and characterised the mile-stones on the road of progress as "impossible; perhaps, of course!" She gave a very vivid and interesting description of the road to Woman Suffrage in Denmark, and how, when the time was come, opposition had quite vanished, even among the Conservative party. Last, Mr. Björkman gave an interesting account of the Suffrage work in America, especially of last year's campaign in New York. He mentioned a great many reforms and social laws in the States where women vote, and which are generally attributed to the influence of Woman Suffrage, and pointed out that in no State where women have got the vote has there been heard any wish to disfranchise them. Mr. Björkman finished his speech by mentioning the three ideals of women in the minds of men—the slave woman, the woman of luxury, and the fellow-worker,—and made a direct appeal to the Swedish gentlemen present: "In America we who have given women the vote have chosen the fellow-worker as our ideal. Have you chosen yours, gentlemen?"

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

On the 25th of this month there will be elections to the County Councils throughout the country. In these elections women are entitled to vote, though they are not eligible. The County Councils deal with all matters of administration which concern the counties, the development of trade, means of com-

munication, public health, education, etc. They have also an important political function to fulfil in the election of members of the First Chamber of our Parliament. As you will know, it is from this First Chamber that the chief opposition against Woman Suffrage comes, so we have every reason to put in vigorous work to get such candidates elected as are friends of our cause. The Central Board of the N.S.W.S.A. therefore decided at its annual meeting in January that all candidates should be questioned as to their views on Woman Suffrage. This was to be done by the local societies, and the answers were to be published in the local newspapers, and later on registered at our Suffrage headquarters. This work is now going on, and will later be reported in *Jus Suffragii*.

A great pity is that a person's number of votes in these elections depends on his income, and the women generally have only a very small vote. But still as voters they are a power to be considered if they can only be got to use this power, so the N.S.W.S.A. is doing its best through lectures and articles to make them understand the importance of voting.

ESTER BRISMAN,
National Swedish Woman Suffrage Association
(affiliated to I.W.S.A.).

Stockholm, March, 1916.

WOMEN ON POOR LAW BOARDS.

Under the new Act of 1915, dealing with the administration of Poor Relief, women, married or single, who have attained the age of 25, are eligible for election to the urban and rural boards of management. Fröken Ebba Pauli, the distinguished representative of women on the Committee which drew up the Bill, is of opinion that women are not sufficiently represented on these local bodies, as only 19 out of the 2,500 Boards have women members. She is, therefore, preparing an amendment to the Act, making it compulsory that one woman member and one substitute shall sit on each local Poor Law Board.

—*Hertha* (organ of the Frederika-Bremer Society.)

SCANDINAVIAN WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES AT THE FORD PEACE CONFERENCE.

The representatives of Swedish women at the Ford Peace Conference, which now sits permanently at Stockholm, are Fru Frida Sténhoff, with Fröken Anna Lindhagen and Anna Kleman. The Danish representative is Fröken Henni Forchhammer, president of the Danish National Council of Women and vice-president of the International Council of Women. Her substitutes are: Helene Berg (Phil. Cand., Inspector of Domestic Economy in State Schools), Eline Hansen (president of the Danish Union for Women's Suffrage), and Fröken Johanne Petersen-Norup (founder and president of "Pax," the Danish pacifist union for young people). Norway is represented by Fröken Frederikke Mörck, one of the most distinguished personalities in the Norwegian women's movement. Her substitute is Fröken Fanny Schnelle, town councillor of Bergen.

—*Hertha*.

On February 19 Elfrida Andréé, one of the pioneers of the women's movement in Sweden, completed her seventy-fifth year. Fröken Andréé is one of the foremost women musicians of Sweden, and the cantata composed and conducted by herself will be remembered by those Suffragists who attended the International Congress at Stockholm in 1911. During the course of a long life she has laboured incessantly to obtain for women the same advantages as men, both in the field of employment and of political rights. As early as 1864 she succeeded, with the help of her father and his political friends, in opening the career of telegraphy to women. By her efforts and the support of the peasantry, in spite of the opposition of the Archbishop, a law was passed making women eligible for the post of organist in the State Churches, and in 1867 she was herself elected as organist to the Cathedral of Gothenburg—an appointment which she still holds. Amongst many other distinctions conferred upon her is that of the membership of the Academy of Music.

—*Rösträtt för Kvinnor*.

The bank cashier, Fröken Lisa Mattson, has been elected town councillor of Nybro, and Fröken Ester Hedberg, county school teacher, has been elected to the Parish Council of Nora.

WOMEN IN THE PULPIT.

At the Conference of the Diocesan Mission at Örebro, which was held in the Nicholas Church on February 7, the male preacher as usual addressed the meeting from the pulpit, whilst the woman preacher, Fröken Ida Granqvist, was assigned a place in the choir. When her turn came, however, several of

the clergymen and speakers stood up and requested her to speak from the pulpit, which innovation was unanimously approved by the congregation. Public interest was aroused by this incident, as it is almost the first time that a woman has occupied the pulpit in a State Church.

—*Rösträtt för Kvinnor*.

COURSES ON DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

In a petition which the Moderate Women's Association has presented to the Swedish Government, it is proposed that all young Swedish girls should have the opportunity of attending courses on domestic economy. The same point of view was advocated already last autumn in a letter from the Uppsala Association of Schoolmistresses for Domestic Economy to the Swedish Government, to the effect that similar schools or courses dealing with the duties of housewives and the care of children should be made accessible to young women on a large scale. The Moderate Women's Association agree with their colleagues of Uppsala, but accentuate at the same time that they consider knowledge of domestic economy to be quite as important for young women as knowledge obtained through books, and for this reason the Moderate Women's Association urges that the teaching of domestic economy shall not only be made accessible to, but even compulsory and free of charge for, all young girls. Owing to the circumstances, however, that the establishment of a sufficient number of compulsory schools or one year's courses, teaching the duties of housewives and the care of children in towns, and of similar schools dealing with domestic economy in the rural districts, would be too expensive for the State, and that, moreover, they would not be accessible to many young women who for economic reasons are compelled to do various kinds of work, it is not considered feasible to make these schools compulsory. It is, therefore, suggested that the school kitchens and the courses for arts and crafts instituted at public elementary schools and higher schools for girls should be extended, and these teachings made compulsory for all young women, both in towns and in the rural districts. To these courses dealing with cooking and arts and crafts for women should be added a suitable number of lessons dealing with foodstuffs, book-keeping, laundry work, general hygiene, and the theories dealing with the care of children, whereby they would be extended to simple courses dealing with the keeping of homes, their object being in the first instance to educate the young girls to respect home work, and to develop their feelings of responsibility as women.

In the rural districts it would not be necessary to erect new buildings for these courses, but it is intended to place at their disposal the kitchens of old pensioners' homes, laundry premises, etc., dinners being provided at the courses. The subjects of the courses, with the exception of the preparatory arts and crafts for women, would last for at least three months, and be held either at the end of the ordinary school course or later, and comprise, for example, 36 days of instruction in cooking, with alternating instruction in foodstuffs, single-entry book-keeping, and domestic economy; 36 days of instruction in simple dress-making, alternating with instruction in general hygiene, including the care of the home and the body, as well as laundry work, mangling, and the ironing of linen.

Ten or fifteen minutes would be required every day for gymnastics.

The age between 13 and 18 is mentioned as being the most practical time for the courses dealing with the keeping of homes.

The testimonials awarded at these courses would be required for appointment in the service of the State, and in the professional schools for women subsidised by the State and the parishes.

The instruction in preparatory arts and crafts for women would best be given by the ordinary schoolmistresses, and both in towns and in the rural districts be given in the course of the ordinary school hours. The courses dealing with the care of homes, on the other hand, would be conducted by schoolmistresses specially trained for the purpose.

In order to obtain a practical working between these courses and private homes, it is urged that married, experienced housewives and other experts should sit and vote on the committee which will ultimately have to deal with the matter, as well as on the boards and examination committees, which would have to operate with the object of solving the problem in the direction indicated.

The subject will be further dealt with in a later number of *Hertha*.

—From *Hertha*, No. 4, 1916.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THE SUFFRAGE FEDERAL AMENDMENT.

A decision of the Judiciary Committee of the National House of Representatives has stirred up much interest in Suffrage circles throughout the country. On February 15, Susan B. Anthony's birthday, the committee, by a vote of 9 to 7, passed a motion to postpone until December 14 all action on the Federal amendment relating to Woman Suffrage. This followed a report on the amendment presented by a sub-committee, suggesting a submission of the question without recommendation to the House.

Although this disposal of the matter is in vivid contrast to that of the Senate Suffrage Committee, and although, if allowed to stand, all consideration of Woman Suffrage will be passed on to the next session of Congress, workers for the amendment do not despair. Mrs. Frank M. Roessing, chairman of the Congressional Committee for the National American Woman Suffrage Association, feels encouraged by the fact that although there were enough adverse votes at the meeting of the Judiciary Committee to have buried the amendment for two years instead of merely delaying action, the legislators chose the less drastic course. The Congressional Committee has asked for a reconsideration of the question, and has strong hopes of success.

The indomitable spirit of the women working for the amendment is shown by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, National President, who made this comment on the situation:—

"We who are working vigorously for the submission of a Federal amendment are not a bit daunted by a little thing like this move of the Judiciary Committee. Committees have been known to change their minds. We are going right on with our Congressional Conferences and with our carefully laid plans. We are out to win, and any little set-back we get will be beneficial to us, as we shall only work the harder."

CONFERENCES THROUGHOUT THE STATES.

Holding the first Congressional Conference on February 3, Illinois led its sister commonwealths in plans of preparedness for the Congressional Campaign, to be carried on by the National Association. Other States that followed quickly were New York, Mass., Maine, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. March will be full of the big Get Together Gatherings, some already scheduled being those of New Hampshire, Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Kentucky. At each conference, a State congressional chairman is chosen, schemes of work are adopted, and sometimes spectacular Suffrage demonstrations are planned. Each State has been divided into Congressional Districts, and delegates from the districts form the voting body of the convention. State work along other lines than Congressional is also discussed, and American Suffragists everywhere are showing the beneficial effects of the meetings by the renewed enthusiasm and determination with which they throw themselves into their work.

A BIG NATIONAL PARADE.

Forty thousand women, representing every State in the Union, will meet in Chicago, Illinois, on June 7, and unite in a great national parade. June 7 has been chosen as the date for this demonstration because the national conventions of two political parties will be held then—that of the Republicans and that of the Progressives,—both being booked for Chicago. In the parade, many Illinois women will march who are not affiliated with Suffrage organisations, and members of women's political clubs will come forth and show their colours as Suffragists without regard to party affiliations. The National Association is calling upon every State to send "at least one car-load of women." All the marchers from any particular State will dress uniformly, preferably in white, and will make the parade as resplendent as possible with banners, sashes, and spectacular features. On February 14, the date of the National Democratic Convention, another big Suffrage demonstration will be held in St. Louis, where the Democrats convene. As a Suffrage plank in the platform of either of the dominant parties is greatly to be desired, Suffragists hope to impress both Democrats and Republicans with the nation-wide demand of women for the vote.

AN IOWA VICTORY.

The Supreme Court of the State of Iowa on January 26, by a vote of 4 to 3, declared that Iowa women were entitled to vote in the election which established the Municipal Court.

motion to establish a Municipal Court calling for an appropriation of public funds was submitted to a city referendum. The women of Iowa, having the right to vote upon public appropriations of funds, exercised that right. The decision to establish the Municipal Court was carried by a small majority, and when it was discovered that had the women not voted the question would have been lost, those who opposed the Municipal Court brought a suit to declare the election illegal. Four members of the Supreme Court, who prepared a majority opinion, expressed their confidence not only in the law but also in the principle of Woman Suffrage. The three dissenting members were dubbed Antis by the Iowa papers, and hastened to deny the accusation. Iowa women are now rejoicing not only in the fact that their voting has been upheld, but also that it is now widely known that seven members of the Supreme Court favour their cause.

HONOURING LINCOLN.

Suffrage societies of Washington, D.C., the national capital, observed the birthday of Abraham Lincoln on February 12 in a new way. A delegation of prominent women went to the Rotunda of the Capitol, where the Borglum portrait of Lincoln hangs, and at noon decorated it with wreaths of flowers. The Suffragists forebore to carry banners or insignia of any kind, believing that the more simple the tribute the more effective it would be. Seven societies were represented, and each one sent a floral offering. This is the first time Lincoln's birthday has been celebrated in this fashion, although it is customary for American Suffragists to honour the memory of the great emancipator, who said:—

"I believe in all sharing the privileges of the government who unite in bearing its burdens, by no means excluding women."

NEW YORK WOMAN SUFFRAGE PARTY.

Two events of importance are engaging the attention of members of the New York State Woman Suffrage Party. One is the big carnival ball, to be held under their auspices on March 8 at Madison Square Garden in New York City, which will be attended by ten thousand people from the humblest to the highest ranks in society. Costumed in fancy yellow costumes made of paper, the guests will dance merrily, while many pretty and spectacular features are promised. This is a money-making as well as a social event.

The other event is the Suffrage Training School, whose sessions will run from February 15 to March 30, and at which 250 pupils will be instructed in Suffrage history and argument, civil government and political method, parliamentary law, organisation and public speaking. The courses are thorough, and each pupil who takes them all and passes a satisfactory test will be given a certificate. The enterprising New Yorkers also conduct a correspondence course in Suffrage for out-of-town people, so that in America there is no excuse for inaccuracy of statement and inadequacy of argument on the part of any woman who desires publicly to advocate the cause of woman's enfranchisement.

Press Bureau, National American Woman Suffrage Association, 171, Madison Avenue, N.Y. City, N.Y. State, U.S.A.

(Affiliated to the I.W.S.A.).

CHILD LABOUR BILL.

The Keating Bill proposes to abolish child labour in the United States by Federal action. It "proposes to make it a penal offence, punishable by fine and imprisonment, for any person to either ship or offer for shipment in inter-State commerce any commodity produced in whole or part in any mine or quarry by the labour of a child under fourteen, or in any factory or cannery by the labour of a child under sixteen, or in any such places by children under sixteen employed more than eight hours in a day, or six days of such period in a week, or at any time between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m."

ABATEMENT ACT CLOSES VICE RESORTS.

The full penalties of the California Red-light Abatement Act were imposed for the first time in San Francisco, February 17, when Superior Judge Sturtevant closed four vice resorts, ordered the confiscation of the personal property of the tenants and of the furnishings and furniture in the houses, and decreed that the places must remain vacant for one year.

It was charged that the places were used for immoral purposes, and the decree, according to legal authorities in San Francisco, will have the effect, if sustained by the higher courts, of closing every immoral resort in the State.

THE QUESTION OF POPULATION.

Should our efforts at the present juncture tend towards a rapid increase of our numbers or towards a slower output of children during the period of the war?

The view has been put forward by serious students of social conditions that the poorest section of the population should not be encouraged to more than a moderate increase during the present critical period.

This view is characterised as pernicious by some writers, who draw attention to the wastage of life occasioned by the war; and the patriotism of women is being appealed to, in order that the best elements of the race may not be allowed to pass away without leaving any successors behind them. Hence the booming of war marriages, without regard to the consideration that the children of such marriages may be left fatherless and the wife an early widow.

Such writers overlook, or do not realise, the immense power of increase inherent in the human race wherever the essentials of sustenance are forthcoming in sufficient quantity. Sir Wm. Petty, quoted by the Rev. Thomas Malthus, estimates that a given population could double its numbers in fifteen years if amply supplied with food and necessaries. Actual experience has taught us that in the United States at the beginning of last century the population doubled its numbers again and again in little more than twenty years. Therefore, attention should be concentrated upon the development of agricultural resources; of various industries and manufactures; of foreign trade; on the training for skilled employments, etc. If these things are done, we need have no fear that the rate of increase will fail to keep up with resources, without any special stimulation. The real test of over-population is to be found not in absolute numbers, but in the relative proportion between the number of inhabitants of any country and their means of subsistence—food, shelter, and clothing, of which food may be said to be the preponderating factor.

Other sources of wealth are only of importance in so far as they can be exchanged for food when the time of stress and strain is upon us. Some writers are telling us that there is no need to fear any shortage of food, inasmuch as the acreage of land devoted to the production of wheat and other foodstuffs has increased enormously, and harvests are therefore likely to be plentiful. But these writers refrain from telling us that the competition between countries which do not produce sufficient for their own wants, for the foodstuffs obtainable from other sources, also grows keener year by year; also that countries from which industrial countries formerly obtained the supplies which enabled the population to increase are now themselves consuming that which formerly they were willing to export. Fortunately, other sources of supply have been opened up; but, at the same time, the number of competitors for these foodstuffs has also increased. And the question arises: Which country is to purchase these foodstuffs, and reap the benefit in the sustenance and increase of its population?

Great Britain looks to Canada for its surplus grain, and learns that the United States, which formerly sent it large quantities of grain, now puts in a claim for a portion of the harvest of Canada. We look to Russia—to the plains of Siberia,—and we learn there are difficulties of transport. How is the grain to reach us? Not by the way of the Dardanelles; that is closed. Not by way of the Baltic; that is not open to us. There remains the route from Archangel, which is only free from ice five months out of twelve. The harvests of Bulgaria and Roumania will not come this way. Therefore we need to be both prudent in output and economical. Meanwhile the price of food is steadily rising, partly from difficulties of carriage, partly also from uncertain future prospects.

The poor have profited by Army allowances and increased wages. Women are wage-earners in increasing numbers—in the making of munitions and in many other ways. Unemployment and pauperism have declined. But, largely because of these increased earnings, consumption has been keeping pace with supply; demand even more than keeping pace with the supply. Our need of these foreign foodstuffs is tending to become more acute. Shall we be able to obtain them; and how, and when? The future will tell.

Therefore let us exert all our powers in increasing our home production of foodstuffs, in order to maintain our national efficiency; but let us not be prodigal in the matter of children to add to the burden of the mother while working for her own and her children's livelihood. Let us have maternity centres and baby clinics to safeguard the lives of the new comers; but let us also have a self-respecting womanhood. Maternity?

Yes; but neither premature nor excessive. Not limited to the bearing only of children, any sort, anyhow, and paid for by the State, so much per head. The mother appraised, supervised, inspected, until useless for racial purposes; the babies regimented and drilled for industrialism and militarism. Rather let us take a lesson from Holland, where the principle of rational regulation of the family has gradually been brought into practice since 1881, and where the national health and physique exhibit a valuable object-lesson in results. Had we in this country been more reasonable in the output of human life we might have had at the outbreak of the war a population of inhabitants something like those magnificent specimens of humanity who have come to our assistance from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. Why did we not? Mainly because the potential motherhood of the nation has been kept ignorant and powerless—ignorant of physiology, of social economy, dependent and voiceless. Marriages have been both too early among the poor and too late among the middle and upper classes. Too early among the poor and relatively thoughtless, with the result of premature and too frequent maternity, tending to poor physique both of mother and offspring. Their children are prematurely forced into the labour market, with the result of increasing competition and lowering wages, and even the displacing of fathers and elders. They are forced to live in crowded homes, to create slums, to live under conditions in which morality and decency become impossible. Girls have gone into factories at deplorable wages, to the impoverishment of their constitution and physique. Drained of vitality, they have come to marriage and motherhood predisposed to maternal enfeeblement and disaster. Three healthy, well-fed children who need not be prematurely forced into wage-earning employment would be of infinitely greater value to the community than seven or eight weaklings, half of whom would probably die before becoming productive, leaving an enfeebled three or four to carry on the race.

Marriages have been too late among the upper and middle classes. With the fear of sinking in the social scale, men have delayed marriage until the way of permanent success seemed open. Training and the gaining of experience absorb the earlier years. Meanwhile their outlook upon womanhood deteriorates. Instead of seeking for companionship and mutual help with an educated partner and wife, they seek for immediate temporary gratification, thus dividing womanhood into two classes—the relatively respected and the pariah. Their contact with the pariah very possibly goes far to deprive them of their parental and racial value as subsequent husbands and fathers.

Races and nationalities struggle and fight for mastery; but the underlying cause of dissension and of the struggle for wider boundaries and predominating markets is the inordinate increasing number of their people. But these struggles are not inevitable. Little by little the nations learn to diminish their output of children. The birth-rate is falling in every country in Europe, save perhaps Bulgaria and Roumania. The upper and middle classes set the example; the democracy follow, slowly at first, but in wider and wider circles—first in one country, France, then Britain, Holland, Norway, Belgium, and the rest, and to-day the vital statistics of Europe show that the leavening process is everywhere gathering strength.

When the process is complete, and the democracy of every nation has put an end to the poverty which accompanies excessive numbers, the plague of unrest will be stayed. A wisely ordered birth-rate in every country will give no impelling force to wars of expansion, domination, and extermination.

M. D.

Naturalisation in New York.

The Naturalisation Court in Westchester County, N.Y., recently staged a paradoxical situation. A person who has never enjoyed the full privileges of citizenship appeared before the Court at the invitation of Supreme Court Justice Morschauser, and instructed 100 new foreign-born citizens on their duties as good citizens.

The instructor was a woman—Mrs. Joseph S. Wood, Vice-President General of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Being a woman and living in New York State, Mrs. Wood is not permitted to vote. But that fact did not deter Justice Morschauser from asking her to sit beside him on the bench and enlighten the hundred new male citizens on what constitutes good government. With the best brains of the country fully appreciative of woman's fitness for full citizenship, the goal for which the Suffragists are working grows nearer daily.

"QUIT YE LIKE MOTHERS."

The tragic war-world has cast its shadow far beyond the vast battlefields, and, strange as it may seem, the mass of suffering and torture, and pain that we have imposed upon ourselves has served to throw a light on that other battle, always with us in peace no less than in war—the struggle for life, against terrible odds, of our babies and their mothers.

Time was when the "Cry of the Children" served as a short-lived warning on national deterioration; but now it is insistent, ever-present in our ears—coupled, too with that "Cry of the Mothers," as set out in their own words in "Maternity," the collection of 160 letters from working-class mothers, published by the Women's Co-operative Guild. No woman dare listen to this cry with any peace of mind, without being stirred to action. It reminds one of Henry Nevinson's plea, "The hound of another's Hell gives us no rest, and we are pursued by Furies not our own." And the causes? They crowd thick upon us—impossible housing conditions; dirt—of streets, homes, food, children,—the boy and girl problem, sweating, prostitution, drink, commercialised vice—a goodly array to rouse us from our apathy and our lip service.

"The people perish for lack of knowledge," the Committee on Physical Deterioration told us in 1904. In 1915 the mothers tell us: "We and our babies perish and are maimed from lack of knowledge, lack of skilled care, of food, of rest."

And, yet, with the drain of our manhood at the front, can we not see to it that these things at least are assured to keep our only source of new life pure and unsullied; that our mothers and babies may secure for the asking all that they need in advice and help to safeguard the next generation?

Much good work is being done by our 600 maternity and infant welfare centres up and down the country, but these look after only 80,000 babes. We need ten times the number, and we can have them if we obey the call that comes to all women, clear and strong, above the din and clash of armaments: "Quit ye like mothers!" May we neither by thought nor by deed swerve from the path carved out for us through the past ages of human woe and human hate—to create new life, to succour it and protect it, to heal, to comfort, to understand; never to destroy or knowingly to acquiesce in the destruction of life. And yet the destruction of baby life goes on unceasingly in our midst. "It is preventable. Concentrate on the mother, on pre-natal conditions," the doctors tell us; and yet motherhood still remains the most unprotected, the most dishonoured, of all the states of human life, because the least recognised and the least prepared for.

The babies appear in the world by accident, as it were; often unwanted, and therefore unwelcomed and unsung. Perhaps this is why the British nation, while losing 75,000 men at the front in the first year of the war, is content to continue losing nearly 100,000 babies under one year of age out of its annual gift of over 800,000. This gift ought to be nearly a million, for Dr. Amand Routh has estimated that 138,249 fetal deaths occurred in the ante-natal period in 1914; and the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases reminds us that of registered stillbirths (which do not give full figures), probably at least half are due to syphilis!

And the infantile mortality in England is rising. No nation can stand the double drain; and at home, at least, life may be spared, and spared merely by securing the most elemental needs to the babes and their mothers—clean food, clean surroundings, clean influences—aye, and to the future parents, too,—to the growing boys and girls, who respond to good as well as to evil, who may be forearmed because forewarned if we but take to heart the terrible findings of the Royal Commission quoted above, so rich in suggestion, but waiting to be stirred into being by the enthusiasm of the women—the life-givers—of the nation.

A wise man has called baby-saving the "key industry" of Britain just now. It depends on her women—whether they grasp the situation, and set to work with that unerring single-mindedness of purpose that never fails in sudden crises. The chance may never occur again—assuredly the call will never be more insistent. A grateful country looks to its women to safeguard life in every aspect; but it starts by sweating and starving its life-givers and their children, economising on public health and education, removing the slender safeguards that have been raised, and that have produced such a pitiable diminution in the "slaughter of the innocents" in the past few years before the war. And now the infantile mortality is rising, and it calls

upon them to save the nation, to spare the children to inherit the earth—after the war!

The appeal falls not on deaf ears. Our hands have been tied, blindly and brutally; but they may be untied swiftly and unexpectedly if we but keep true to our mission: to save, to succour, to protect. The life of the race must be increasingly left in our hands. Let us see to it that our vision ahead is clear and well-defined, unsullied by expediency or military necessity. Not a single saveable life must be lost, and for this we must control the conditions of life in home and workshop. We must have a share in the control of the destinies of the nation. We must be free to use our brains and our hearts in the service of the nation. Strive forward, then, for the control of all conditions that make for healthy childhood, manhood, womanhood, parenthood. Be turned aside by nothing that weakens this demand. The very life of the race lies in our lap—the lap of the life-giving mothers.

Call out to the women of the world: "Quit ye like mothers, for only shall ye maintain the life eternal in each war-worn country that gazes with aching eyes and failing heart on the fearful future."
BARBARA TCHAYKOVSKY, M.D.

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ECONOMICS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

It is refreshing to meet with such a production as a small pamphlet recently published in Grahamstown, C.P., entitled "Economic Conditions in a Non-industrial South African Town: A Preliminary Study." The author is Mr. W. M. Macmillan, Lecturer in History and Economics at Rhodes University College, who has published in pamphlet form a paper originally read before one of the College societies.

In this pamphlet, after dealing with the amount of poverty in Grahamstown, and its causes, and describing the economic factors governing the situation, Mr. Macmillan discusses in some detail the problem of poverty in relation to three classes of the poor. The cases of (1) the skilled artisan, and (2) the unskilled white workman, he suggests, call for better education, more thorough training, and, above all, "organisation and co-operation by the men themselves and by the public to secure and defend a minimum standard of life and efficiency."

The third class is that of women and girls, and the section under this heading is worth quoting almost *in extenso*. (The italics are ours.)

"The third and largest class of poor brings me to perhaps the most serious of all the questions I touch: that of women and girls' employment. In the compass of this small town it is, I believe, possible to study a world problem in most of its details. The case of the unprovided widow is most desperate; generally unskilled, even with her needle, there is little employment to be had, and then, if it is, the wage is set by the competition of the pocket-money girl. The tragedy behind many a boarding-house I have not even sought to probe. Further down there are scores of women competing against each other for wretched sewing; the fortunate may get occasionally 2s. 6d. a day and food from the schools; others I know may occasionally get 3s. as good pay for two blouses, a full day's work, or 2s. 6d. for a suit taking most of two days; the worst I met was 9d. for a single, 1s. for a double bed mattress-cover (ticking), finding her own cotton.

"But the root of the trouble is almost certainly the scandalous sweating of women's labour all the world over, sweating in which women have so long acquiesced owing to the most pernicious pocket-money theory.

"I must insist on this as at the seat of the most general type of poverty in the world, the poor and solitary woman; I must

insist I am blaming no individual, only a system based on lack of understanding; it is done everywhere. Girls would appear to start behind the counter, in many cases at 10s. a month. I have heard of others, however, at £2. As to the workroom, I can understand (I will not say I hold with) the idea that learners start without pay; but that or very low pay demand more effective guarantee that the knowledge picked up in the workroom, where girls can at least sit down, is satisfactory. It is for women to organise, to investigate, to lay the facts bare. £2 to £4 a month is quite common; £4 is even a good wage, as witness the open secret that a £4 post at the Public Library drew, lately, no fewer than 45 applicants. There are, of course, better grades at from £8 to £12, or even £14, a month; but for women, as for men, there is no limitation or regulation of apprentices, and there is evidence that for women at least the really best posts are filled up from outside.

"I cannot now argue the case of equal pay for equal work. As for the alternative of domestic service at from 20s. or 25s. to £3 a month, with keep, I can only say that without radical changes in the conditions of service there are insuperable difficulties to its providing a real solution; one is a social pride of class which must be respected, and is quite as fundamental as the native trouble; the other is the exaction by employers of impossibly long hours without really adequate leisure. But in other cases the Government standard, if low, does at least recognise the principle of a minimum of £4 for telephonists and £5 for typists, rising in five years to £8 and £10 respectively.

"The leaders of women are at least beginning to see the case, but too many girls and their parents, not understanding, will jump at the £1 or £2 which is a temporary relief, regardless of the fact that the labourer is worthy of his hire—of his living. Will they not reflect on what would be their own case if the family support for some quite common reason failed them and threw them on the resources of their £1 or £2 wage? Let girls living at home work by all means, but only for a wage which will leave them independent if need be. The employer must realise that better pay means better work, and that he may hope to thrive, in spite of higher wages, by "concentration on efficiency."

"The present and actual result of this evil is a terribly serious moral danger to the race; low wages must answer for too many blighted lives. The temptation to young and attractive girls to satisfy want and vanity, and the desperate need of many an older woman, drive them to the 'oldest trade in the world'; and *facilis descensus*. If the opinion of experienced religious workers be true, even the small towns can furnish a tragic chapter of the deplorable history of the economics of prostitution."

Social legislation is badly needed. To convince our readers of this fact we need not do more than remind them that South Africa has no Factory Act, and that there is no legal barrier to the employment of small children half the night, provided they do not stay away from school in the daytime. What is even more needed is a more vigorous use of the powers already existing, particularly in the hands of the Public Health Department and of Municipalities.

The possession of the municipal franchise gives the women of South Africa important opportunities for helping to improve the conditions of the poorer classes. Housing and sanitation are in the hands of municipal authorities, elected by, and responsible to, women as well as men. Women have, further, the right to sit on most municipal councils, and it is encouraging to note that a beginning has been made in the exercise of this right. Unfortunately, however, what Mr. Macmillan says of Grahamstown would probably apply only too well to most towns in South Africa. "The Town Council is too feebly supported by intelligent public interest and criticism." The following sentence should be sent on a postcard to every municipal voter in the country: "Our power of local self-government is not a joke or a nuisance, nor yet have we an inalienable right to abuse it. It is a serious and little recognised moral responsibility for the health and welfare of all classes."

While attention to health and housing will do much to improve the conditions of life on the poverty line, a sane and enlightened policy of education and training for the children is even more important. Here again women have important, though restricted, opportunities for service. The central control of education below university standard is in the hands of the Provincial Councils, in the election of which they have no share; but the local administration, through School Boards

and School Committees, is open to women, and should be in their hands to a far greater extent than it is at present. The women of South Africa are only beginning to be awake to the fact that these important spheres of public life are open to them. It is for those who do realise to rouse the interest of others, and so do their part in the creation of an intelligent public opinion on these important matters.

M. K. C. MACINTOSH.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NETHERLANDS.

To the Editor, *Jus Suffragii*.

Dear Madam,—In the February edition of *Jus Suffragii* you publish a report from the Netherlands of Mrs. Boissevain-Pynappel, president of the Bond voor Vrouwenkiesrecht.

You are, of course, free to publish reports of other societies, calling themselves "Societies in favour of Woman Suffrage," which are not affiliated to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

But when such societies report you something about the affiliated Society, you ought to be careful in publishing such news.

The fact that Mrs. Boissevain-Pynappel writes that the "Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht" this year advocates Universal Suffrage for men and women" proves that she does not know the things she writes.

As the president of the royal society of the Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht, she ought to have taken better information about the work of the Vereeniging before giving details to our international paper.

The Government's Bill for revising the Constitution proposes *Universal Suffrage for men, and for women* to remove only the objections against granting them the vote.

The Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht, whose object is to obtain Woman Suffrage on the same terms as has been or shall be given to men, is now doing its utmost to get the Government's Bill amended, so that Universal Suffrage for women will be also included.

I can assure you that the efforts in this direction of the Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht are bearing already good results. The membership increases daily, the whole Press gives large, important articles on Woman Suffrage, our meetings are always full with an enthusiastic public, and an ever-increasing number of members of Parliament take up our cause and speak at our meetings.

As it will take yet at least a year before the final vote on the Government's Bill will be taken, there is hope that an unceasing propaganda will bring us to our aim, but every statement misrepresenting our motives may at this moment harm our cause.

It is for this reason, dear Madam, that I felt compelled to correct publicly the mistaken statement of the president of the Bond voor Vrouwenkiesrecht.

Dr. ALETTA H. JACOBS,
President ev. d. Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht
(affiliated to the I.W.S.A.).

Amsterdam, March 3, 1916.

POLICY OF *JUS SUFFRAGII*.

To the Editor, *Jus Suffragii*.

Madam,—Allow me to endorse the view of the relationship of Women's Suffrage to all political questions, so ably explained by Miss Chrystal Macmillan in your March number.

To discuss War and Peace, International Relations, Economic Alliances, Democratic Control of Foreign Policy, and other matters is indeed essential if we are to win and hold for women positions in all the councils of nations.

We must remember that our first aim is to get the power to make our opinions effective, and that the greatest opportunity for doing this will come to the belligerent nations just after the war. The British Prime Minister has stated that his Government is compiling a "Peace Book" to deal with the work of reconstruction after the war. Does a scheme for Women's Enfranchisement find a place in it? If not, are British women prepared to make the politicians put it there? Would it not be well to be compiling a women's "Peace Book" in order to make full use of the favourable opportunity which is coming?

The Rev. Anna Shaw, in her presidential address to the American Woman Suffrage Association, said:—"The time has come when our organised machinery must be political in its character, and work along political lines directed by political leaders." This remark is certainly true of other countries besides the United States of America. Should we not make vigorous efforts to find such leaders and encourage them to lead us to victory? In spite of, or perhaps because of, the war, Canada is carrying the Suffrage flag to victory.

—Yours truly,
38, Hogarth Hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb, N.W.,
EDITH HOW MARTYN.
March 25.

Edinburgh, March 6, 1916.

Dear Madam,—I appreciate the paper more now than ever before. While not desiring to see the paper *exclusively* devoted to recording the work and propaganda of "Peace" Committees, one is glad to be able to see in *Jus Suffragii* to what extent and by what methods such work is carried on by Suffragists in all the countries.—I am, yours faithfully,
MARY BURY.

Cossall, Notts.

To the Editor, *Jus Suffragii*.

Dear Madam,—The change to a narrower outlook has been disappointing. "Relief work" such as the English N.U. is doing seems such shutting one's eyes to the demands of the time.—
Yours faithfully,
N. C. HAGUE.

March 18, 1916.

To the Editor, *Jus Suffragii*.

Dear Madam,—May I, on behalf of my friends Overseas, emphatically endorse the remark in Miss Macmillan's letter in your March issue, that there is no political question with which Woman Suffrage is not concerned, and, further, that the question of international relations is essentially a political one. Surely, if the war has taught us anything, it is that women must not fear to discuss any subject openly and frankly. Surely in open and free discussion lies the best hope for the world's permanent peace.—
Yours faithfully,

HARRIET C. NEWCOMB,

Hon. Sec., British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union.

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