

WOMEN'S SERVICE  
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# THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

## JUS SUFFRAGII

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### PEACE.

#### I.P.C.

Owing to difficulties created by Christmas, we were unable to include in our last issue the text of the very important resolution adopted by the International Executive of the I.P.C. at its meeting in London in December, as follows:

The Executive Committee urges on the Governments of the peace-loving powers to take all steps necessary to put an end to Japanese aggression on China by economic measures, in particular by excluding from their territories all Japanese goods and preventing the supply to Japan of any goods of military value:

And decides that even if such governmental action is not taken, it is desirable to take whatever action is possible directed to the same objective by voluntary means:

And calls upon all industrial and commercial organisations to combine with all individual producers and consumers to assist in thus bringing to an end the invasion and occupation of China by Japan:

And further resolves that an international conference shall be called in January in support of this policy:

It further trusts that the governments and people of all peace-loving countries will give whatever assistance is possible to China in her great danger:

And calls upon all national committees and co-operating organisations to study this question so as to be ready to take action at the Conference.

This Resolution has been sent to all Alliance auxiliaries for their consideration.

The I.P.C. now announces that a World Conference will be held in London from February 11-13th in support of China and the Japanese Boycott. The Executive will meet on the 11th, and on the 12th and 13th there will be alternate plenary sessions and meetings of Commissions. On the Sunday evening there will be a Public Meeting at Covent Garden Opera House.

In the meantime the National Committees and adherent organisations in many countries are taking all sorts of practical steps to institute a private boycott of Japanese goods, especially by endeavouring to get big

shops to sell no Japanese goods and to display a notice in their windows with a statement to that effect. Processions and posters are also used to get hold of the public. There are special appeals to mothers not to buy Japanese toys, the money for which will help Japan to destroy children in China.

The I.P.C. is also organising a special Peasant Conference, and a Preparatory Conference will be held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on February 5th and 6th.

Then during the summer, there will be an International Staff School for secretaries and other collaborators with the National Committees to study methods of organisation and propaganda. An Editors' Conference is also in view.

#### Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

The League has asked us to give publicity to two resolutions adopted at an Executive Meeting this month. One urges "Governments once more energetically to apply diplomatic, economic and financial measures against the Japanese aggressor, and recommends national sections to support the organisation of a private consumers' boycott of Japanese goods; such action to be taken not for selfish economic ends or for reprisals, but in order to hasten the ending of the war." The second Resolution points out that collective non-military measures against an aggressor have so far failed, and will only have their full effect when measures of general disarmament come into force. The Governments are therefore urged to reconsider the question of disarmament.

#### Women's Peace and Disarmament Committee.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held in The Hague, March 1-3rd and on the 2nd March the meeting will be in the form of a one-day Conference on "The Economic Aspects of World Peace", at which Mrs. Barbara Wootton the well-known economist will be the chief speakers. This Conference is open to visitors for a small fee. This brings us, modestly, to our own

**Alliance Committee for Peace and the League of Nations.**

A Programme of Study with a Syllabus prepared by Mrs. Wootton, which we have kindly been allowed to obtain beforehand as drafted in connection with the above, has recently been sent to all our societies, Peace Committee Members and other correspondents. This is too long for us to publish in our small paper, but copies (in either French or English) will gladly be supplied to enquirers from Alliance Headquarters.

**INTERNATIONAL WOMAN'S CONGRESS: WOMAN, PEACE AND DEMOCRACY.**

We give an extract from the letter on this Congress which Mrs. Corbett Ashby has just addressed to Alliance Auxiliaries, Board Members and Members of the Peace Committee. It will be noted that at the moment the actual date and place of the Congress are not settled. If possible, we shall put in a Stop-Press Note giving these details, as we hope information may reach us before we actually go to press.

"For some time there have been plans in the air for such a big women's congress. I have just come from a meeting in Geneva where it was decided that this should take place at Easter, though the actual date and place could not be decided on the spot. The Alliance cannot stand aside from this great effort being made by women's organisations of different political ideas to rally women in support of these three closely-related ideals. We must show the world that women want peace and democracy as the very basis of their equality movement; and conversely, we must show that without equality of rights, women are powerless to work effectively for peace and justice.

I enclose the Programme-Basis, and hope shortly to be able to send you the Agenda and an announcement as to the place and exact date, rules as to representation, etc. But here also time is short, so that I do not wait before giving you this preliminary notice. Easter is a free time for many women, professional and otherwise, and we hope that if you are now planning a vacation, you will decide to devote a few days to attending this Congress which we hope will be a demonstration of women's solidarity in the causes nearest their hearts.

Time is short in another sense: we hope there is still time to save the world from further war, to safeguard democratic rights and promote democratic ideals; to preserve and so have the opportunity of enlarging the measure of equality women have won by so great an effort. **TO-MORROW IT MAY BE TOO LATE. NOW a sacrifice of a little time and a little money may do great things—not to-morrow, not the day after, but NOW."**

**General Principles to which all those who take part in the Congress must subscribe:**

1. Independence of all peoples.
2. Solidarity and Co-operation among the nations.
3. Respect for international law and international treaties.
4. Peaceful change.
5. Respect for democratic principles.
6. Equality for all races.
7. Equal status for women.

**AGENDA.**

1. The Rights of women and their connection with Democracy and Peace.
2. The economic and social bases of World Peace.
3. The revitalising and strengthening of International Law—the strengthening and democratisation of the League of Nations—the strengthening of institutions created to secure Peace.

## 4. The Power of women in the service of Peace and Democracy.

- (a) in national public life;
- (b) as mothers and educators;
- (c) as producers and as consumers;
- (d) in Church and religious affairs;
- (e) in international life.

## 5. Call to take part in the struggle to substitute for the cult of force a system based on solidarity, justice and right.

**STATUS OF WOMEN.**

Owing to the postponement of the League of Nations Council Meeting, we shall not be able to announce in this issue whether the Council has actually appointed the Committee of Experts which the Assembly Resolution decided should be set up to make an enquiry into the Civil and Political Status of Women. We had hoped that we might have been able to give the list of the members, but we are still in suspense. The Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations some time ago sent in a list of suggestions to the Secretary General, containing the names of women jurists in many countries. We sincerely hope that the Council's choice will be made after taking account of the desires of the women's organisations whose work certainly contributed to the Assembly's decision, and which are specifically included in that resolution as inevitably interested parties.

*Stop Press.* By the kindness of Mlle Gourd we learn by telegram that the Council has appointed the Expert Committee as follows: Miss Hesselgren (Sweden), Mme Bastid (France), Dr. Godjevac (Yugoslavia), Miss Kenyon (U.S.A.) and three men: Professor Gutteridge (Great Britain), a Belgian and a Hungarian.

**PERSONAL.**

We offer our warmest congratulations to Mrs. Rama Rau on the award to her of the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal in the New Year Honours. Everyone who knows her will rejoice at this well-deserved recognition.

**OBITUARY.**

We have learnt with deep regret of the death of Mme Jeanne Vuillomenet-Challandes, of la Chau des Fonds, a Swiss suffragist whose name must have been familiar to many of our readers as a frequent and interesting contributor to "Le Mouvement Féministe." Mme Vuillomenet was a delegate to Alliance Congresses on several occasions, and has more than once given valuable help to the Alliance in translating pamphlets etc. into French. Hers was a delightful personality and we offer our sympathy to her colleagues in the Swiss Suffrage Movement.

**HOLLAND.****Married Women's Employment Bill.**

This Bill will be introduced into Parliament by Mr. Romme, Roman Catholic Minister for Social Affairs, within the next few months. At the moment, the Advisory Commission of the High Council of Labour (Hooge Raad van Arbeid) is discussing the project to forbid married women from carrying on paid work in the service of an undertaking (office, factory, shop, etc.).

The Bill is not intended to be a temporary measure to relieve the heavy unemployment from which the Netherlands are still suffering. The Minister for Social Affairs has expressly stated in his Bill that it is a question of principle, since by the laws of nature the husband is the breadwinner for the family. He therefore wishes to protect the family from the desertion of the wife, who is neglecting her duty as a wife and mother by working outside the home.

Married women lawyers, doctors, artists, free-lance journalists, etc., will be allowed to continue their profession if working independently. But if a married woman doctor, for instance, is attached to a nursing home or other institution at a fixed salary, she will have to give up her job.

Married women who are breadwinners and those whose husbands earn less than 25 guilders (about £3 a week) are exempted, as also wives of the owners of a business, so as to allow the wife of a shopkeeper to work in her husband's shop.

The number of women affected will be small, though it is not possible at the moment to give an exact estimate owing to the many exemptions which will have to be allowed. It is supposed that between 4,000 to 6,000 women will have to give up their jobs. The economic effect of the Bill will therefore be small, which is perhaps the reason why the Minister has not touched upon the economic aspect. Those of his supporters, however, who are defending the measure frequently advance this economic argument.

The Bill has aroused great opposition all over the country, not only from liberal and labour groups, but also among many conservative women who consider this measure as an attack on the autonomy of the family. Some years ago already about twenty women's societies had formed a special committee to defend women's right to work, and it is this committee which is organising opposition to this Married Women's Employment Bill. Local Committees have been formed which are organising public meetings in many towns.

If the Bill is passed by the High Council of Labour, there is every reason to suppose that it will have a majority in the House of Commons, so that a measure which labels the work of a mother even on behalf of her children as a "neglect of her duty" will become law.

(NOTE.—This gives supplementary information to the article published in our December issue. All our readers will feel indignation and amazement at the reactionary policy of the Dutch Government. Holland has a Queen and an Heir to the Throne, both married women with presumably heavy and responsible work to do, which adds a touch of fantasy.—ED.)

**ARGENTINE.**

We regret that the news—taken from a cutting sent to us by our Argentine Society—that the women of the Province of La Rioja had obtained the franchise, was not correct. The Provincial Parliament in the end refused to pass the Bill.

It is only the Province of San Juan where women have equal rights with men, and have a woman in their Parliament, Senorita Emar Acosta. In the Provinces of Entre Rio and Santa Fé, women have the municipal vote only.

**SWEDEN.**

Our affiliated society, Svenska Kvinnors Medborgarforbund has sent us several items of good news. For the first time a woman has been appointed as a Professor of a State University. She is Dr. Nanna Swartz and she is now Professor of Medicine in the Medical University of Stockholm.

Dr. Beth Hennings is the first woman to become a member of the Supervisory Board of Public Instruction. Unfortunately her appointment has reduced the numbers of women in Parliament, as she has resigned her seat in the Riksdag and her place has been taken by a man.

In the Boards for Maternity Assistance there are now 64 women members out of a total number of 120, and in 6 cases women are Presidents of the Board. In the first case these boards were appointed by provincial governments with very few women members, and that

fact together with the absence of women in the Upper House of Parliament caused the formation of a special committee to secure increased representation of women on public bodies. The above result therefore, now that the Boards are appointed by the Government, is regarded as a first success of the work of this Committee.

The Medborgarforbund organised a festival in the Stockholm Town Hall to raise funds for the Frederika Bremer Room in the Swedish Museum in Philadelphia to which we referred in our last issue. This beautiful festival was honoured by the presence of the Crown Princess and was a great success in every way.

**FRANCE.**

The Ligue Française pour le Droit des Femmes has formed a group of young members, Cadets et Cadettes du Droit des femmes. This is not a new project but was finally decided by the request the society received as an affiliated body to send a representative to the new Alliance Youth Council. Mme. Gilquin will be their representative and one of her first activities is to hold classes in English for young people, as being especially useful to those who hope to attend international meetings. What else the new group will do lies largely in their own hands. Certainly they will not forget propaganda for the women's cause, but they will also organise gatherings and excursions for mutual enjoyment as well as instruction.

**THE MARGUERITE DURAND LIBRARY.**

Probably every reader knows the name of Marguerite Durand, the woman who founded "La Fronde," the first daily newspaper in France, probably anywhere, to be completely produced by women, from the Editor to the printers. In 1931 she offered to the City of Paris her collection of documents, books, newspapers, posters, portraits, etc., concerning women. The Municipal Council accepted this gift and formed the first official library consecrated to women, their work and their activities all over the world. The Library is housed at the Town Hall of the Fifth Arrondissement of Paris, and has a special municipal credit for the purchase of new books. This Library is open to the public every day except Saturday, from 2 to 6, and has something of the attraction of a museum as well, since while space forbids the display of all their treasures, they stage a changing exhibit of some of their historical documents, autographs, etc.

A Society of Friends of the Library has been founded to help to extend both the resources and the knowledge of the library. Gifts of books, portraits and other documents are needed in order to keep up-to-date the records of the woman's movement which is its unique interest. The Librarian is Madame Harlor.

**JAPAN.**

With very great pleasure we have received a copy of the first issue of a bulletin in English issued by the Woman's Suffrage League of Japan, as it has always been a grief to us to be unable to read their regular Japanese paper. The Introductory Note by Miss Fusaye Ichikawa, President of the League, explains that in spite of their efforts, Japanese women have so far won but small victories: the right to hold and preside over public meetings, and a new law for the protection of mothers and children being the most notable. In 1931, the Government brought in a Bill for Municipal Franchise for Women, but even this was rejected by the House of Peers. That year saw the Manchurian Incident, which, and still more the present Sino-Japanese conflict has made feminist work more than ever difficult. Women are of course carrying on special war-work, and the Suffrage Organisations belong to a federation founded last September, which also includes the

Y.W.C.A., the W.C.T.U., the Women Doctors' Association, etc., which does not engage in "war-time" activities properly so-called, but is concerned with economic, social welfare and public health work.

The Chronicle of events in 1937 shows a very considerable activity, notably in connection with schemes for municipal reform. It is interesting to note that there are 340 woman members of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce entitled to vote for the election of members of the Chamber.

The Law for the Protection of Mothers and Children in Need, referred to above, was to come into force on January 1st this year. It provides an allowance of up to 25 sen a day to a widow, or married woman whose husband is ill, insane, or in prison, or to a grandmother having charge of grandchildren, if they have the care of children under 13 years of age and insufficient means to support them decently. The law applies equally to the mothers of illegitimate children. There are other provisions for illness and death, for training expenses, and the building and maintenance of homes where required.

The Bulletin also contains an article on the Higher Education of Women, which is interesting as it shows what difficulties Japanese women still have to contend with. University training in the true sense is almost impossible for women, as there are no women's universities and women are not allowed to found them. Few of the men's universities will take women students, and those few only if there are not enough men applicants. In 1936 there were only 68 women University Students. There are, however, a fair number of women's colleges, without university status, which enable girls to take diplomas for different professions, and there are now 4,000 women doctors in Japan to mention only one profession.

This little paper so bravely issued in spite of financial and other difficulties, is a plea for encouragement and understanding on the part of other women of the difficulties in Japan. It seems possibly desirable to state that it is quite clearly not in any sense political propaganda emanating however indirectly from the Government. It is to be supposed that the women of Japan are animated by a high spirit of patriotism, but it is evident that they do also want to work as they say "for the world and humanity." However distressed we may be by the present policy of the Japanese government, we surely feel a great sympathy with the Japanese women, and we shall hope that for them as for other women, some good may come out of the terrible evil of war in a greater recognition of them as also a part of the nation.

#### LUXEMBOURG.

We have but a few lines available in which to congratulate the "Action Féminine" on having reached its tenth birthday. Everyone who has anything to do with the publication of a woman's movement paper will realise what it must have meant in courage and determination to keep this paper going in the little State of the Grand Duchy. We know, therefore, what admiration is due to Mme. Schleimer-Kill and her collaborators and wish their paper "Many Happy Returns" with all our hearts.

#### EGYPT.

We are very glad to learn from "L'Egyptienne" that the Minister of Public Instruction in the new Government has laid down that women teachers are not to be forced to resign on marriage. He has added, and rightly, that the authorities must reserve the right to deal with cases where marriage is proved to have an adverse effect on the teacher's work. When he was Minister in the same post under a former administration, S. E. Ahmed Néguib El Hilali Bay signed a similar order, so that

it is evidently a matter of sound principle with him, and the women of Egypt are fortunate in having such a progressive friend in this important position.

#### NORWAY.

The Women's Supplement to Labour and Socialist Information informs us that in the municipal election, last Autumn, women on the average won 30% of the total number of seats. In Oslo 17% of the Councillors are women, in some places they number nearly 50%, and there are now several women sitting on Councils on which no woman has ever sat before. Norway has never succeeded in getting many women into Parliament but in municipal matters they are evidently well ahead of most countries.

#### NEWS IN BRIEF.

**U.S.S.R.** The new Supreme Council which is meeting this month for the first time after the December elections, will have 184 women out of a total of 1,143 members, which is doubtless the highest proportion of women members to be found in any parliament. These women, for the most part young, belong to many different professions, but the larger number are industrial or agricultural workers, mostly stakhanovists, that is those noted for their ardour and ingenuity in increasing their own work-output, a form of voluntary and individual "speeding-up."

**Finland.** A new law will come into force this month for assistance to poor mothers. Every woman who is expecting the birth of a baby and whose annual income—or of course that of her husband—is less than 8,000 Finnish Marks in the country, or 10,000 FM. in towns or localities where the cost of living is high, will receive a grant of 450 FM. The sum is not a very large one, but it is the first time that motherhood has thus been offered special assistance.

**France.** It appears that although a married woman in demanding a passport need not produce a written authorisation from her husband, it is still not so easy for her to get a passport. She is apparently now asked to produce a recent "acte de mariage" to show that she has not been divorced; or failing that to bring her husband in person to sign a statement that she is still his wife. As the writer of the article from which we glean this information (in the form of an actual personal experience) says this is an unexpected result of the acknowledgment of the civil capacity of the married woman!

Although we still do not know the final fate of the Renault Bill on this question, we learn that the socialist women do not agree that in its much weakened form as adopted by the Senate, it should still be supported by women. A new Bill is being drafted to give women full civil rights, and to suppress completely the principle of marital authority.

**Great Britain.** Miss Margery Fry, well known for her work for penal reform and a former Principal of Somerville College, Oxford, has been appointed a Governor of the British Broadcasting Corporation in place of Mrs. Hamilton, whose term of office has expired.

The Unemployment Insurance Fund having accumulated a large surplus, the Statutory Committee controlling its finances has invited interested bodies to make suggestions as to its utilisation. The General Council of the Trades Union Congress has decided to recommend, among other things, equality of contributions and benefits for men and women and an overhaul of the anomalies affecting married women. This is a really important decision, as the treatment of women,

especially married women, in social insurance has been in many ways disgraceful, and the Trades Unions have never before, we believe, demanded equality.

#### COMING INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS.

As already briefly announced, the **Open Door International** will hold its Fifth International Conference at Girton College, Cambridge, from July 25th to 29th of this year. Arrangements have been made by which delegates and visitors can stay in the College for an inclusive charge—covering the Conference fee—of £4. There will be a Reception on the evening of July 24th, and the proceedings will open the following morning. The programme will include papers and discussions on: The modern line of attack on women's civil rights; Population problems in relation to women's right to work; Modern problems of maternal health; Nutrition policies as they affect the woman worker; Women and the fight for the shorter working week; League of Nations and the Status of Women; Health in Industry.

There will be a programme of excursions and visits to the Colleges etc. For particulars write to: The Open Door International, 4, Iddesleigh House, Caxton Street, London, S.W.1.

The **Second World Youth Congress**, also announced previously, will take place in Vassar College, New York State, U.S.A., from the 18th to the 25th August next. The provisional programme covers: The Organisation of Peace; the cultural and economic status of youth and its relation to peace; the religious and philosophical basis of peace; the international role of youth.

Already 150 berths have been taken for delegates on the President Harding of the United States Line, the return fare being \$162 from Southampton and \$168 from Le Havre. The list of Patrons already includes Lord Cecil and the Archbishop of York from Great Britain; M. Edouard Herriot from France; Dr. Wellington Koo of China, Sir Rabindranath Tagore, the Indian Poet, and the Foreign Ministers of many countries.

From February 25th to 27th there will also be a Central European Youth Conference in Prague, of which the object is to bring about an economic and cultural rapprochement and to create, in the spirit of Geneva, an atmosphere favourable to the solution of problems which are of common interest to all the Danubian States.

#### A NEW SOCIETY.

Last October representatives of organisations of Ukrainian women's organisations met in Lemberg, and founded a new World Union of Ukrainian Women. The members are Ukrainian women's organisations in the Ukrainian Provinces of Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Rumania, of similar organisations in the U.S.A. and Canada, and of Ukrainian women emigrants from Soviet Ukraine. The main object of the Union is to promote the sentiment of national unity among the women scattered in four different States. It will also work for women's rights. The following form the Bureau: Frau Sophie Russow, Honorary President, Frau Milena Rudnycka, President, and Frau Zinaida Mirna, Secretary. Frau Hanna Tsyhkalenko is in charge of relations with other countries.

#### EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES?

The Association of Headmistresses in conjunction with the Ministry of Labour of Great Britain have published a pamphlet on "Careers for Secondary Schoolgirls," on which the *Daily Worker* makes some pungent comments, or rather from which it takes some illuminating facts. Girls who are interested in outdoor life after paying considerable fees for training, may look forward to earning 30/- a week in agricultural work, or from 37/- to 60/- a week in horticulture if they have obtained a National Diploma, which takes six years.

A florist after an apprenticeship of from two to four years may earn £2 a week. A long and expensive training in engineering may too bitterly prove that there are few opportunities for women. So the conclusion is reached that the police offer the best chance, as a policewoman starts at 52/- a week and goes on to 80/- with allowances.

As salaries for the untrained or cheaply trained worker, these might be considered "average good," but the point made is the insistence on the necessity for comparatively long and expensive training courses, and the demonstration that these are an extremely poor capital investment and hold out no hope that they will even provide what could be regarded as a decent livelihood. It is not very surprising that parents should hesitate to invest in training their daughters.

#### REVIEWS

**HANDBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.** League of Nations Publications, 1937. XII B.4. Price 12/6. Agents for Great Britain, George Allen and Unwin, 30 Museum Street, London, W.C.1.

This is the English edition of an invaluable re-issue of the Handbook, of which the French edition appeared last year. No international worker can afford to be without this book which gives the titles, addresses, names of officers, objects and other details of nearly 760 international organisations. These are classified according to their objects or activities in the following groups: Politics and International Relations (Pacifism); Religion Humanitarianism and Morals; Arts and Sciences; Education, Students and University; Medicine and Hygiene; Law and Administration; Press, Feminism, Labour and Professions, etc., etc. There are three separate indexes: a subject index, an alphabet index and a geographical index. Experience in the frequent use of earlier editions has proved how valuable this method is. By using one or other of the indexes, according to what one is seeking or what piece of somewhat vague information one possesses about some organisation of which the exact title etc., is the object of information required, it is easy to find what one wants.

To one user, whose copy of the 1929 edition has been rapidly disintegrating with constant reference, the appearance of this new edition is a matter for sincere rejoicing. K.B.

**LE DROIT AU TRAVAIL DE LA FEMME MARIEE.** Lydie Morel. Editions Labor, Geneva.

This little pamphlet is good feminist propaganda and does not attempt to give statistics or deal exhaustively with the scientific economic side of women's work. It shows how man, conscious of his biological inferiority resulting from a possible doubt as to his paternity, first tried to shut up his womenkind; then he invented indissoluble marriage and restrictive laws; lastly, when forced to give some measure of freedom and equality to women, he is adopting the simple plan of preventing his wife from earning money of her own. The author is by no means afraid of referring to the antagonism between the sexes, it is indeed her main text, and we think it is a good one, since nothing is gained by refusing to admit that behind much good comradeship, there still remains the shadow of a very, very ancient fear and antagonism on the part of men to women as the embodiment of a mystery. And though the thing began that way round, it is but natural that woman, the slave, has too often responded by deceit, infidelity and domestic tyranny.

There are good clear arguments refuting the various reasons given for trying to prevent the married woman from achieving economic independence, one paragraph dealing amusingly with the argument that it is *natural* for females to confine their activities to the family. Altogether a good little booklet, which concluding as it

does with an acknowledgement that many men as individuals recognise the justice of women's demands, might with advantage be placed in the hands of those young men who too easily and glibly announce their determination never to marry a woman who will not be content with what they can give her.

### THE CURSE OF TEARS.

We take the subject matter of this article from "Le Féminisme Chrétien" with the most grateful acknowledgments. If we do not take the title it is because it is a quotation from the 31st Chapter of Proverbs, and reads "Qui trouvera une femme forte?" whereas in our English Bible the words read: "Who can find a virtuous woman?" which has not the same applicability. We have another cause for gratitude to the writer of the article, however, in that she lead us to read once again that delightful description of the virtuous woman, and we found in another verse that "strength and honour are her clothing," which is extremely apposite.

For this article by Marie Forestier begins by calling attention to the fact that in old times tears were as appropriate for men, even for heroes, as for women. At some unspecified date, there began the tradition by which boys do not cry. At three years old, yes, but they soon learn to be ashamed of tears, even to excess. But little girls do not receive the same encouragement to learn self-control in that respect, and the author asks how many among us wish that from early childhood we had been taught to control our lachrymal glands. Few women but must have suffered from the embarrassment, even the horror, of a burst of tears, or even the miserable and unbecoming trickle, at moments when they needed to appear calm and in control of a situation? It is true that some women still use tears for purposes of blackmail—that blackmail of the spirit of pity which is indeed, as the author says, sufficiently grading.

The author continues to argue in favour of a general encouragement of courage among women. Here perhaps she underestimates the force of physical courage possessed by her sex. But we would be with her in her demand that girls, for whom there is a danger in their sex, should be prepared by their education, moral, religious, sexual, and physical to be able to deal with that courageously and competently. And why not give them some training in the use of arms? She refers to the astonishing way in which the heroines of melodrama at the grand moment of crisis generally handle a revolver for the first time! It is improbable that learning to shoot straight, which is an excellent training in coolness and precision, will make women bloodthirsty. And this particular question is of importance to feminists in that the possible risk run by girls going about alone, and from such a terribly early age, which is not imaginary, can be and is used as an argument against giving them the same freedom as boys.

And in general, from accident, illness or modern war, women are no more, in some ways less protected than men and need very great reserves of courage, physical and moral. Many women possess this quality, but it is not fair to handicap the girl by failing to encourage her resistance in childhood, instead of giving her a deliberate training to develop her courage.

### "PROTECTIVE" LEGISLATION.

We were interested to find in the "Medical Women's Journal" of the U.S.A. in an article on the Wages and Hours Bill a statement that any attack on the freedom of any class of women adversely affects the freedom of all women, and that while in the past limitations of women's work have not touched the professional class... it is not at all impossible that such limitations on women's work might be applied to medical women who now earn comfortable salaries in professional positions.

## SECTION FRANCAISE

**Hollande.** Projet de loi sur le Travail de la Femme mariée.

Ce projet de loi est proposé par Mr. Romme, Ministre des "Affaires Sociales" et catholique convaincu. Le Ministre estimant qu'il est "naturel pour toute femme mariée de travailler chez elle pour le bien être de sa famille, et qu'il appartient au mari, seul, de "suffire aux besoins de sa maison" se propose d'interdire le travail rémunéré de l'épouse au dehors du foyer. Il y a plusieurs exemptions; p.ex. pour certaines femmes qui occupent des professions libérales indépendantes. Toutefois les infirmières, ou docteurs attachées à des institutions devront démissionner si elles se marient.

Dans certains cas où le mari gagne moins de 25 guilders par semaine (environ 400 frs.), sa femme est autorisée à entreprendre un travail payé. La femme d'un commerçant pourra aussi travailler au magasin. En définitive pas plus de 4,000 à 6,000 femmes sont touchées par le projet de loi, de sorte que l'effet sur l'économie du pays et l'emploi des hommes est négligeable. Il n'empêche que c'est l'argument économique qui est avancé surtout par ceux qui défendent le projet.

Une très forte opposition se prépare, surtout dans les milieux libéraux et travaillistes mais des femmes à opinions conservatrices ont aussi l'intention d'attaquer le projet, qui constitue une ingérence intolérable dans les affaires privées des familles.

Si la loi est approuvée par le Conseil Supérieur du Travail, tout porte à croire que la Chambre des Députés la votera.

**Japon.** La Ligue pour le Suffrage des Femmes au Japon nous a envoyé leur Bulletin traduit en anglais ce dont nous leur sommes très reconnaissantes. La Présidente, Melle Fusaye Ichikawa, y explique, qu'en dépit de leurs efforts, les femmes n'ont jusqu'ici enregistré que de petits bénéfices! Par ex. le droit de présider des réunions publiques, et une nouvelle loi pour la protection de la mère et de l'enfant. En 1931 le Gouvernement a introduit un projet de Franchise municipale qui fut repoussé par la Chambre des Pairs. Depuis, l'expansion japonaise en Mandchourie et le Conflit avec la Chine ont rendu toute propagande féministe bien difficile. Les femmes participent naturellement à toutes sortes d'associations pour secours ou assistance aux victimes de la Guerre et une nouvelle Fédération qui inclut la Y.W.C.A. et l'Association des Femmes médecins s'occupe d'Hygiène et de Travail Social.

En dépit de leurs difficultés, les femmes japonaises ont acquis certains avantages: La Chambre de Commerce de Tokyo a 340 femmes membres. S'il n'y a pas de collèges universitaires pour les femmes, un certain nombre, 68 en 1936 ont cependant pu se faire inscrire aux Universités. Actuellement il n'y a pas moins de 4,000 femmes docteurs au Japon. L'Assistance sociale, par une loi récente, est accordée aux mères et enfants nécessiteux, au-dessous de 25 sen par jour, que la mère soit mariée ou non. Nous assurons les féministes japonaises de notre sympathie, et nous apprécions leurs intentions et difficultés présentes bien que nous déplorions la politique actuelle de leur Gouvernement.

**Statut Civil de la Femme à Genève.** A cause de l'ajournement du Conseil de la Société des Nations nous ne pouvons annoncer ce mois-ci la nomination du Comité d'Experts qui doit faire une enquête sur le Statut de la Femme. Nous espérons que le Conseil tiendra compte des désirs exprimés par les organisations féminines quant aux Experts désignés.

**Dernières Nouvelles.** Le Conseil de la S.D.N. vient de nommer les membres suivants: Mlle. Hesselgren, Mme. Bastid, Mme. Dr. Godjevac, Miss Kenyon, et 3 hommes, dont Prof. Gutteridge de la Gde. Bretagne.

**Luxembourg.** Nous félicitons l'Action féminine et sa directrice Mme Schleimer Kill à l'occasion du roème anniversaire de cette courageuse publication.

**France.** La Bibliothèque Marguerite Durand. Tout le monde se souvient de la pionnière féministe française Marguerite Durand, et de son Journal "La Fronde" entièrement rédigé par des femmes. En 1931 la Ville de Paris accepta de sa collection de documents, livres, journaux, affiches, portraits. La Bibliothèque a trouvé une demeure permanente à la Mairie du 5ème arrondissement, où tous les jours de 2 à 6 (sauf le Samedi) le public peut examiner ce musée vivant de l'effort féministe.

La Ligue Française pour le Droit des Femmes a formé une section de jeunes: les cadets et cadettes du Droit des Femmes; Madame Gilquin sera la déléguée au nouveau Conseil de la Jeunesse, au sein de l'Alliance.

En dépit du nouveau droit donné aux femmes d'obtenir un passeport à titre personnel, des difficultés surgissent encore: car elles doivent apporter la preuve de leur mariage ou de l'existence de leur mari.

Au sujet de la loi Renault nous apprenons que les femmes du Parti Socialiste refusent de soutenir un projet qui limite aussi arbitrairement les droits civils des femmes.

**Norvège.** Le Supplément féminin à l'"Information Socialiste" de Norvège nous apprend qu'aux élections municipales, à l'automne dernier, les femmes ont gagné 30% des sièges. A Oslo 17% des Conseillers sont des femmes et dans d'autres communes la proportion s'élève jusqu'à 50%.

**U.R.S.S.** Le nouveau Conseil suprême qui se réunit pour la première fois ce mois-ci après les élections de décembre, comprendra 184 femmes sur un total de 1,143 membres. En général ces députées sont jeunes, appartiennent à des professions diverses mais la plupart sont des ouvrières de l'industrie et de l'agriculture, presque toutes stakhanovistes, c'est à dire qu'elles ont fourni un effort volontaire de production intensive.

**Finlande.** Une loi d'assistance maternelle est mise en application ce mois-ci qui octroie aux mères dont le revenu par foyer est inférieur à un certain chiffre, une allocation de 400 marks.

**Grande Bretagne.** Miss Margery Fry dont le travail pour la réforme des prisons est bien connu vient d'être nommée l'un des gouverneurs du Bureau national de Radio-diffusion en remplacement de Mrs. Hamilton dont la période de service est terminée.

Il nous appartient de noter un très grand progrès dans l'attitude de la C.G.T. Britannique à l'égard des femmes employées dans l'industrie et le commerce. Le fonds de secours de chômage ayant accumulé un énorme surplus, le Conseil Général de la C.G.T. propose que ce fonds soit employé à égaliser les secours entre hommes et femmes et recommande que le problème des anomalies existant entre les deux sexes soit mis à l'étude.

**Argentine.** Le Parlement Provincial de La Rioja a refusé de voter le projet de loi sur le Suffrage des Femmes.

C'est seulement dans la Province de San Juan que les

femmes ont obtenu l'égalité de Franchise et ont même une députée au Parlement, Senorita Emar Acosta. Dans les Provinces de Entre Rio et Santa Fé les femmes n'exercent que le vote municipal.

**Suède.** Dr. Nanna Swartz a été nommée Professeur de Médecine à la Faculté de Stockholm.

Dr. Beth Hennings a dû abandonner son poste de députée au Parlement pour devenir membre du Conseil supérieur de l'Instruction Publique. Les Commissions pour l'Assistance Maternelle comprennent aujourd'hui 64 femmes sur un total de 120 membres, et dans 6 cas une femme est Présidente de Commission.

Un Festival a été organisé à l'Hôtel de Ville de Stockholm afin de réunir des Fonds pour la Salle Frederika Bremer au Musée Suédois de Philadelphie. La Princesse Héritière honora l'Assemblée de sa présence.

**Une nouvelle Société** de femmes Ukrainiennes s'est réunie à Lemberg. Elle rassemble des organisations féminines ukrainiennes soit de Pologne, Tchécoslovaquie, Roumanie, Ukraine Soviétique aussi bien que celles du Canada et des Etats-Unis. Son objet est d'entretenir le sentiment d'unité nationale et de travailler pour le droit des femmes.

**Egypte.** Le ministre de l'Instruction Publique S. E. Ahmed Néguib El Halili Bey a déclaré que le mariage ne peut interrompre la fonction d'une instructrice, mais que son département se réserve le droit d'examiner les cas où le mariage peut nuire à l'efficacité de la fonction. "L'Egyptienne" reconnaît que l'attitude du ministre est juste et avancée.

**Nécrologie.** Nous regrettons d'avoir à annoncer la mort d'une suffragiste et journaliste suisse: Mme Vuilliamet Challandes — qui fut déléguée à plusieurs de nos Congrès et dont l'aide nous fut souvent précieuse.

### Réunions internationales.

(1) La Porte Ouverte Internationale à Girton College, Cambridge, du 25 juillet au 29 de cette année. Programme de conférences, de discussions, d'excursions et de visites. Pour détails s'adresser à: The Open Door International, 4, Idlesleigh House, Caxton Street, London, S.W.1.

(2) Le deuxième Congrès de la Jeunesse — à Vassar College, New-York, U.S.A., du 18 au 25 août, 1938. 150 places ont déjà été retenues pour des délégués sur le Président Harding. Coût de l'aller et retour 168 dollars — du Havre.

(3) Du 25 au 27 février, à Prague, se tiendra une Conférence de la Jeunesse des Pays de l'Europe centrale dont l'objet est de créer un rapprochement cultural dans l'esprit de Genève et une atmosphère favorable à la solution des problèmes économiques des pays danubiens.

### LE BOYCOTT CONTRE L'AGRESSION JAPONAISE

Le Comité Exécutif du R.U.P. demande aux Gouvernements attachés à la cause de la Paix de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour mettre fin, par des moyens économiques, à l'agression japonaise en Chine et notamment en excluant de leurs territoires tous produits japonais et en empêchant au Japon la fourniture de produits ayant une valeur militaire.

Il exprime sa conviction que même si une action gouvernementale n'avait pas lieu, il faut faire tout ce qui est possible pour atteindre le même but par une action privée.

Il demande à toutes les Organisations industrielles et

commerciales d'agir en commun avec les producteurs et consommateurs individuels pour contribuer ainsi à mettre fin à l'invasion et à l'occupation de la Chine par le Japon.

Le Comité Exécutif décide de convoquer une

CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE,  
LONDRES, BRITISH INDUSTRIES HOUSE,

les 12 et 13 février pour appuyer cette politique.

Il est convaincu également que les Gouvernements et les peuples de tous les pays qui aiment la paix accorderont toute aide possible à la Chine devant ce grave danger.

Le Comité Exécutif demande à tous les Comités nationaux et à toutes les Organisations adhérentes d'accorder toute l'attention nécessaire à cette question pour être bien préparés en vue de l'action de la Conférence.

CONGRES INTERNATIONAL DES FEMMES  
Pâques, 1938.

LA FEMME, LA PAIX ET LA DEMOCRATIE.

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1. Les droits de la femme, la démocratie et la paix.
2. Les bases économiques et sociales de la paix.
3. Renforcement du Droit International. Renforcement et démocratisation de la S.d.N. — Renforcement des institutions établies pour assurer la paix.
4. Le pouvoir de la femme au service de la paix et de la démocratie:
  - a. dans la vie publique nationale,
  - b. comme mère <sup>des nations</sup> riches,
  - c. comme productrices <sup>de richesses</sup> — comme consommatrices,
  - d. dans la vie et les institutions religieuses,
  - e. dans la vie internationale.
5. Appel à l'action pour substituer au culte de la force un régime de solidarité, de justice et de moralité.

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