

# THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

## JUS SUFFRAGII

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### EVENTS IN GENEVA.

#### Deputation to the President of the Assembly.

With the vital questions of Equality of Status and Nationality on the Agenda it was natural that the women's organisations should rejoice in the election of such a good feminist as Monsieur Benes as President of the Assembly. M. Benes suggested that the women's organisations should come in a joint deputation to which he would give at least an hour instead of a few minutes to each.

The deputation was introduced by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who mentioned that their aims varied from those with a programme limited to sex equality to those with a wide field of education and action in regard to peace and social work, as well as such equality.

In view of the grave international crisis the first group introduced was the Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organisations. Miss Kathleen Courtney and Mme. Dreyfus Barney presented views on the present situation and the plan of future work. Miss Courtney read the Women's Appeal to Government (see below) and stressed the fact that a renewed effort for the limitation of armaments was more than ever urgently required.

The wider programme of the Liaison Committee was ably stressed by the following speakers. Senator Plaminkova spoke on nationality, stressing the point that real equality for women must include the right of a woman to retain a separate nationality from her husband's if she so desires. She also pleaded eloquently for full and complete equality between men and women in all spheres, legal, social, political and economic, and asked for the President's good offices in securing the adoption of a treaty to this end. Miss

van Asch van Wyck declared the World's Y.W.C.A. to be entirely at one with the other organisations in desiring freedom and equality for women. They and the Federation of Business and Professional Women only dissented in regard to method, namely, the necessity of special industrial legislation for women for the protection of maternity and in response to the expressed desires of the women workers.

Mrs. Laughton Mathews, of St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance, expressed appreciation of the work of the Mandates Committee, pointing out that an essential part of education and development towards self-government is the freeing of women from barbarous customs, improvement of their status and encouragement of their education. Dame Maria Ogilvie Gordon, of the International Council of Women, gave a short appreciation of the work of the Slavery Committee, and urged the Committee to tackle with courage and vision those forms of domestic slavery, the buying, selling and inheriting of women, which degrade the whole status of native women.

Miss Edith Pye, of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, welcomed the initiative of the Norwegian Government in trying to persuade Governments to undertake full responsibility for refugees of many races.

Mrs. Bigland, Hon. Secretary of the Joint Standing Committee, begged the President to secure better opportunities for women inside the machinery of the League as promised in the Covenant. We all felt this to be urgent as, although this was not referred to, we were aware that one of the few well-paid posts in the Secretariat for which a number of well-qualified women

are available, has been given to a man less well-qualified by personal experience.

After these important groups had presented the agreed views of so many powerful organisations, Miss Rosa Manus presented the Alliance Istanbul Congress Resolutions on Peace, Mlle. Gourd those on subjects dealt with by the League, refugees, slavery, mandates, and Mrs. Spiller those on equality of status and nationality.

The Catholic Women's League was represented by its President, Mme. Steenberghe-Engeringh, their main object being charity and the protection of the home. The Open Door International, which is also not a member of either the Liaison or the Disarmament Committees, was represented by Miss Chrystal Macmillan, President, who said that complete equality could only be achieved if it were granted in the economic and industrial sphere. Restrictions on women should be based on the nature of the work and never on sex. The menace to women's right to earn was increasingly serious and must be combatted. Miss Julia Varley, representing the Women's Committee of the International Trade Unions, emphasised the wish of industrial women for freedom, but insisted that they were convinced that special industrial legislation was essential to protect their health. Miss van Eeghen voiced the view of the Consultative Committee on Nationality that the treaty on nationality adopted at the Conference of Montevideo should be accepted by the Assembly as a convention recommended to all Governments.

It was an impressive deputation and strictly within the limited time members showed the wide agreement on equality and peace, and made a moderate statement on differences in method with underlying unity in aim.

M. Benes replied cordially and expressed his appreciation of the immense moral force represented by so many million women. Women's share in world affairs, as in national affairs, was constantly increasing. His satisfaction in this was confirmed by his own experience. Women stand fast in defence of their rights, while fulfilling all the duties and accepting all the responsibilities which result from those rights. The different tendencies shown in the women's official communications make it clear that success can only be reached by stages. As President of the Assembly, he paid a tribute to the share women take in the work of the Assembly, principally but not exclusively in the Fifth Committee.

#### Disarmament Committee.

After long consideration, the Committee adopted with amendments the draft Appeal of Women to Governments, put forward by the Alliance as follows:

The organized women of the world represented here in Geneva through the Disarmament Committee of the Women's International Organizations cannot remain silent in face of the dangers which now threaten peace, justice and security. We represent 16 organizations in 56 countries and millions of women of many creeds and races.

We are concerned not only with the imminent danger of armed conflict between two States Members of the League, but also with the serious threat to the whole international organization of peace, which would arise if the other States Members failed to carry out their obligations. We are concerned further with the delay in grappling with those modern economic problems which lie at the root of most of the political difficulties of the present day.

We cannot believe that the Governments in the League could now fail to fulfil the obligations which they have voluntarily undertaken, and to which they have pledged the national honour. Such a failure would inevitably shake the confidence of the world in the League with all the hopes that humanity has built upon it.

We recognize that new problems call for new solutions, and we earnestly hope that the League may not only prevent war, but will deal courageously and effectively with those problems of population and of access to raw materials which have been aggravated by the failure to achieve international economic co-operation.

We therefore call upon the Governments represented in the League to respect faithfully two fundamental principles of the Covenant, namely the settlement of all dispute by peaceful means and the obligation to maintain the territorial integrity and political independence of every State Members.

The Committee also sent the following telegram addressed to M. Mussolini:

Your Excellency,

The eyes of the whole world are fixed on you today. In the name of millions of women of many countries we turn to you at this solemn hour. We see you faced with a decision which will be of supreme importance in the history of the world.

Equipped with all the power of a great nation fully trained and mobilized in overwhelming military force, you are free to choose resolutely the new and noble way of co-operation between the peoples, an action worthy of the civilising mission of Italy in the world.

Duce, we appeal to you to make this choice which will mark September, 1935, as a memorable epoch in history and will initiate a new era in international relations.

With breathless expectation the world awaits your word!

It was unanimously decided to keep the Committee in being, adding to its title the word "Peace" to explain its continuance though the Disarmament Conference has suspended its work. This decision was possible largely because of Mme. D'Arcis' magnificent work as Treasurer, Miss Hawes' sacrifice of time and energy, and the return to Geneva of Miss Dingman in the New Year.

#### Friends Meet.

The atmosphere of Geneva, heavy with anxiety, was not favourable to gaiety, but international work depends greatly on individual contacts, so that there was only warm appreciation of the brilliant reception given by the Joint Standing Committee of Women's Organisation to the women delegates. Following established precedent, different people acted as hostess. Miss van Asch van Wyck (W.Y.W.C.A.) introduced Mrs. Rischbieth of Australia; Lady Aberdeen (I.C.W.) presented Miss Kydd of Canada; Mrs. Laughton Mathews (St. Joan's) introduced Mme. Ciurlionis of Lithuania; Mme. Schreiber Favre (I.F.U.W.), presented Mme. Bernadova (Czechoslovakia); Mrs. Corbett Ashby (Alliance) welcomed Miss Reutz of Norway; Mrs. Littlejohn (Equal Rights) presented Mme. Kóntai, Soviet Minister to Sweden, and Mme. D'Arcis (Union Mondiale) Miss Wambaugh (U.S.A.) as the one woman officially connected with the Saar Plebiscite.

The enthusiasm of the audience which stood for hours closely packed was surely evidence of their interest.

Dame Elizabeth Cadbury gave a largely attended luncheon to Lady Aberdeen, members of the I.C.W., women delegates and other friends.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby gave a large dinner party where her colleagues of the Disarmament Conference and members of its Moral Disarmament Committee could meet members of the Alliance Board, seventeen countries being represented.

#### Penal Reform.

The Alliance Board unanimously agreed to support the splendid efforts being made by the Howard League for Penal Reform for a convention which would pledge

every civilized government to a minimum standard of humane treatment of prisoners.

#### Deputation to the Director of the I.L.O.

A small deputation of members of the Alliance Board was received by Mr. Butler, introduced by Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Senator Plaminkova presented our views on women's right to work, and the need of help from the I.L.O. in persuading Governments, employers and workers to include more women in their delegations. Mlle. Gourd spoke of the Istanbul Resolutions, and Frau Schreiber and Mrs. Potter of the United States Auxiliary also spoke. After the formal presentation there was an interesting and helpful conversation, Mme. Thibert and Miss Haage being also present.

#### ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

##### List of Women Delegates.

Australia:	Mrs. B. M. Rischbieth, Substitute.
Austria:	Mme. Fanny Starhemberg, Substitute.
Canada:	Miss Winnifred Kydd, Substitute.
China:	Mme. Hilda Yen Chen, Expert.
Czechoslovakia:	Dr. Anna Bernadova, Expert.
Denmark:	Miss Henni Forchhammer, Substitute. Miss Anna Westergaard, Substitute.
France:	Mme. Malaterre-Sellier, Expert.
Great Britain:	Miss F. G. Horsbrugh, M.P., Substitute.
Hungary:	The Countess Albert Apponyi, Delegate.
Iran:	Mme. Hekimi, Expert.
Lithuania:	Mme. Ciurlionis, Substitute.
Netherlands:	Mme. Kluwyer, Substitute.
Norway:	Mlle. J. Reutz, Substitute.
Poland:	Mme. Hanna Hubicka, Substitute.
Roumania:	Mlle. H. Vacaresco, Assistant Delegate.
Sweden:	Miss Hesselgren, Delegate.
U.S.S.R.:	Mme. Kóntai, Substitute.

It will be seen that out of the 18 women attached to Delegations, only two are full Delegates.

#### MEETING OF THE ALLIANCE BOARD.

GENEVA, SEPTEMBER, 1935.

The first meeting of the Board after a Congress has always a crowded Agenda, and on this occasion there was the important question of possibilities of co-operation or fusion with the International Council of Women, which the Istanbul Congress had directed the Board to consider. The Board devoted much time to this matter, having before it the minutes of a joint meeting of representatives of the two bodies held in June last. The suggestions made on both points, co-operation and fusion, will be submitted by the Board to the Alliance Auxiliaries with a recommendation in favour of the former which unanimously appeared to the members present as being at the moment the best method of strengthening the women's movement at this difficult time.

The very first business was, however, inevitably the anxious situation caused by the Italo-Ethiopian conflict. A letter was sent to the President of the Council, and a special communiqué to the Press which we know has been widely re-produced. The Alliance also co-operated with the other women's international organisations gathered together in the Disarmament Committee, in preparing a Joint Declaration for presentation to the President of the Assembly, which is given elsewhere.

The fact that consequent on the dissolution of the Turkish Auxiliary Mme. Latife Bekir had offered her resignation from the Board, which was accepted with great regret, made it necessary for the Board to consider the co-option of a member in her place. The

acceptance provisionally of the affiliation of the National Council of Women of Canada, suggested the possibility of inviting its active young President, Miss Winnifred Kydd, to accept the vacant place. We are sure that all our members will rejoice to know that this invitation was accepted, thus insuring valuable new contacts with both a great country which the Alliance had missed from its councils for some years, and with that younger generation which is so vital to the movement.

Finance is always an urgent question, and the new Treasurer, Miss Piepers, gave a Report which shows that the Alliance can carry on its work, though without great possibilities of that expansion which the difficult times really call for. A Finance Sub-Committee was formed to assist the Treasurer with advice and help to share a responsibility which is always heavy.

The Board accepted the two Memoranda submitted to the League of Nations on the two questions on the Agenda Assembly specially affecting women, namely, Nationality and Equal Status, drawn up on the lines of the respective Resolutions adopted by the Istanbul Congress. Methods of obtaining support in favour of Alliance policy were discussed, on the latter point the Alliance working in co-operation with other organisations, members of the Liaison Committee.

A Report was given on the action taken on the Istanbul Resolutions, which involves an amount of work not always realised. Two items have just been referred to, namely, the Memoranda for the League. Miss Chrystal Macmillan, Rapporteur on the Nationality Question, had drawn up a very full and informative draft which was accepted by the President and presented under her signature. The Equal Status Memorandum was, in view of the fact that so many other organisations were submitting specialised Reports, directed largely towards the question of political equality, though it made clear that the Alliance equally stands for equality in all fields. These two Memoranda bound up together may be obtained from Headquarters (190, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1) at the price of threepence each.

Two of the Resolutions, the first Economic Resolution and that on Women and Governments, were sent individually to every Government in the world, according to the Alliance rule, through the Auxiliary where such exists, and in other cases direct, each letter being signed by the President. If people will just consider how many Self-Governing States there are in the world, the magnitude of this task will readily be appreciated. The Resolution on the system of Capitulations in Egypt was similarly sent to all Governments concerned in that system.

Many of the Resolutions are directed towards national action, and the attention of the Auxiliaries has been directed towards these in detail. The Resolutions adopted by the International Standing Committees have in the same way been sent to Auxiliaries and Members of the Committees by the respective Chairmen. The Right to Work Petition to the International Labour Conference was dealt with urgently with extremely satisfactory results.

The Resolution on Mandates was presented to every member of the Mandates Committee of the League of Nations, and of course also to the Secretary General. The special vote of thanks to the woman member of the Committee, Miss Dannewig, was conveyed to her separately. On such difficult questions as Child Marriage, Polygamy and Slavery, all the Auxiliaries in countries where these practices may exist, or which have colonial possessions where they may obtain, have been asked to supply such detailed and accurate information as would enable the Alliance to approach Governments on a basis of assured fact.

All the Resolutions which refer to action by or with the League of Nations are to be presented both to the President of the Assembly, and also to Delegations or members of special Committees as required.

The Board specially asked that the attention of readers should be called to this work for two reasons. Firstly, so that people may realise clearly that the adoption of a Resolution is not an end in itself; and secondly, to re-call one of the considerable items of organisation work. The Board and staff of the Alliance does not really sit with folded hands in a condition of somnolence between its Congresses.

We would just mention in conclusion that our Egyptian Auxiliary has taken the trouble to send us a copy of the excellent letter it has addressed to its Government in presenting those of the Resolutions which specially affect women in Egypt. An interesting feature of this action is that the Society's statement on the question of Polygamy roused great interest in the Press, and was commented on widely by international press agencies.

#### KAREN JEPPE.

Karen Jeppe rescued thousands of Armenian women and children, and her memory has just been honoured by the Fifth Committee of the League of Nations Assembly, which began its session by the members rising from their seats, and by a short address from the President.

Miss Jeppe died in July from malaria, contracted during her long years of work in an oriental climate. She was only 59, and to the last she gave herself up to the great task she had dedicated herself to from girlhood. She was the daughter of a Danish country schoolmaster, and insisted on becoming herself a teacher though her father, ahead of his time, wanted her to study medicine. But Karen left home at 20, and found her feet in her own chosen line. She heard a lecture on the Armenian question which impressed her so deeply that she resolved to give herself entirely to the cause of this little persecuted nation, which had known long years of suffering even before the war.

In 1902, disregarding warnings from her family and friends, she went out to Urfa, a town of 40,000 inhabitants, Armenians, Kurds and Turks. She succeeded in re-organising the Armenian Orphanage, making it self-supporting by workshops and agriculture. The young Danish girl soon became known to and loved by the whole population with its different races and creeds. She showed a mother's care for hundreds and hundreds of orphans, even after they left the Orphanage as adults.

The world war brought new and terrible sufferings to the Armenians—the numbers massacred or who fell victims to the desert will never be known exactly. Karen Jeppe found herself unable to give these people efficient protection, and she broke down in health and had to return home. Yet she could not abandon her mission, and barely restored to health, she went back to the Near East. This time she settled in Aleppo in Syria, then crowded with refugees, mostly women and children, as hardly a single male had escaped death.

She immediately saw that the deep moral depression of these unhappy women demanded work, as the only real material and moral support. It was necessary to overcome their apathy, to give them hope and an object in life. Miss Jeppe aroused their interest by founding workshops for all kinds of needlework, reviving old national patterns and designs. At that time the League of Nations on the instigation of one of the first women delegates, Henni Forchhammer, founded a Committee for the Armenian refugees of which Karen Jeppe became High Commissioner. As such she created homes

for the homeless, and tried to bring together the scattered families. With endless trouble she succeeded in tracing the different members, and in thousands of cases she gave children back to their mothers, and mothers to the children. Her magnificent work became universally known. She was the pivot round which the hopes of the unfortunate remnant of the Armenian people centred. She provided housing and food, clothing and education. It is due to her that many could reconstruct their lives. She lived entirely for others. But if anyone referred to her sacrifice, she used to smile and answer: "Sacrifice? Why on the contrary I have the enormous joy of living in accordance with what I feel to be my mission and I pity those who are denied this sublime liberty."

ADELE SCHREIBER.

#### OBITUARY.

Since our last issue the tragic death of Queen Astrid of Belgium has moved the world to horror and pity. A woman's paper should pay a tribute to a woman who in a position which focussed so many eyes upon her gave an example of the true dignity and worth of womanhood, which won her the love and respect of the two nations of her birth and of her married life, and the universal sympathy of the whole world.

The Women's Co-operative Movement has indeed suffered a great loss by the death of Honora Enfield, for many years the Secretary of the International Women's Co-operative Guild. The Editor of this paper was a life-long friend of Miss Enfield's, and knows from personal experience how intense was her devotion to the international movement she did much to bring into being, and to the cause of peace and the wider interests of women. Her whole life was given to others and she had a breadth of view which made her an interesting and stimulating companion, never losing sight of wider interests in the midst of the immense amount of detailed work she undertook.

There must still be very many feminists who gratefully recall the stimulus they received as young women from the books of Charlotte Perkins Gilman, who has died at the age of 75 by suicide rather than face death from cancer with its slow agony and call on the services of others. The letter she left was characteristic, since she stated that "believing this choice (of voluntary death) to be of social service in promoting wide views on this question, I have preferred chloroform to cancer." We may not agree with her view, but she died as she had lived by the courageous expression of her opinions. Her books dealt largely with the question of the economic position of women, always fighting against economic dependence through sex. Her best known work "Women and Economics" was the most stimulating reading and set out what many of us still think the crucial problem of women's freedom. The book was published in 1898. It is not out-of-date: would that it were!

#### OPEN DOOR INTERNATIONAL.

The Fourth Conference of the O.D.I. took place in Copenhagen during August. It was held in Christiansborg Castle, the Danish Houses of Parliament, and a speech of welcome from the Prime Minister was read at the Opening Meeting by the Minister of Education, who assured the Conference of his support of the Open Door principle. In her opening speech the President, Miss Chrystal Macmillan, had rather to tell of further discriminations against the woman worker than of striking progress. Since the last Conference in 1933 the Government of the following countries have adopted laws or

decrees which limit women's employment not only in the public service but in general: Luxembourg, Yugoslavia, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Belgium, while Ireland is considering similar measures. These are recent and striking examples; alas, there may be others.

The delegates present from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Belgium, France, Czechoslovakia, Great Britain, Australia and the U.S.A. must have been very conscious of the vital necessity for their united efforts, and perhaps of not a little wonder that the women of every country were not there with them. It is one of the strangest of phenomena that women who were aroused so widely by the movement for suffrage, have never been able to unite in a solid block for the winning of those fundamental economic rights which must nevertheless, in one form or another, come home to every woman. Recent happenings have made women wake up a little, but how far we are from that full recognition of an imminent and terrible danger which would make every thinking woman determined to exercise *now*, before it is too late, the economic power she really does possess if she would but make common cause with other women, in her own country, and throughout the world. Women—in Great Britain at any rate—could unite under the suffrage formula: "Suffrage as it is or may be granted to men" whether as individuals they believed in adult suffrage, property suffrage or what not. Why cannot they unite to get the same economic rights as men with the power that the winning of those rights would give them to plan their lives as *they like*, and not as someone else likes?

#### A PEACE WORKER.

Miss Anna Nilsson, of Sweden, must be personally known to many of our readers, but perhaps they do not realise that she has set herself a mission which she is accomplishing by her own unaided efforts. Miss Nilsson is concerned with the fact that the history books of the nations contain no mention of the peace movement in any form which will make the child realise that there is positive work to be done. In a recent tour she visited education departments, publishers and history writers, and she obtained promises from 12 states that when history books come to be revised this omission will be rectified. Of course this revision is in many minds and Miss Nilsson would not claim to be the sole exponent of the idea. But she has undertaken this personal effort involving sacrifice of time and money hoping that the little seed she has planted may one day bear fruit.

#### BENEATH CONTEMPT!

In many countries women asking for the vote have found that they were classed with criminals and lunatics. According to "La Française" in France criminals and lunatics may vote. Women have no vote, so now they know where they stand!

#### TURKISH STAMPS.

We would urgently remind our readers that the issue of Postage Stamps commemorating the Istanbul Congress was a limited one. On December 31st of this year the remaining stock of stamps will be destroyed. The blocks were destroyed immediately after printing by the Swiss Postal Authorities, under whose direction they were prepared. It is urgent to intensify the sale during the next three months, as they will obviously go up in

value in view of their imminent destruction. Sets of stamps may be obtained either direct from the Alliance Stamp Office, 4 Place du Molard, Geneva, or from Alliance Headquarters, 190 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1. Prices are:

Complete set of 15 stamps:	22s. 3d. (English)	15 francs Swiss
Set of 12 stamps:	8s. 6½d.	5.80 ..
Set of 7:	2s. 2d½.	1.50 ..

We would recall that a picture of the stamps was published in our June issue. They represent our Founder, Mrs. Chapman Catt; the six women who have been awarded the Nobel Prize, viz., Mme. Curie (Science), Gratia Deledda, Selma Lagerlof, Sigrid Undset (Literature), Jane Addams, Bertha von Suttner (Peace); the symbol of the Alliance; five representations of the activities of women; a picture of the Yildiz Palace generously put at the disposal of the Alliance for the Congress by the Turkish Government, and, lastly, the portrait of Kamal Ataturk, President of the Turkish Republic.

We rely on our members to do their utmost to promote the sale of the stamps, through their own societies' members and through stamp dealers who are in touch with individual collectors. Press and radio publicity would be very valuable, and it need hardly be pointed out that personal enquiries made to dealers for these stamps constitute a means of propaganda and of increasing the demand.

Detailed suggestions as to how the Alliance members can help forward the campaign which means so much to the Alliance, can be obtained from the Office in Geneva, of which the address is given above. We give a few examples of what has already been done in different countries:

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, Honorary President of the Alliance, personally presented a set to President Roosevelt.

Miss Rosa Manus, Vice-President, presented a set to Princess Juliana of Holland, who accepted them most graciously and sent a letter of thanks to the Alliance Board through Miss Manus.

Such formal presentations to prominent persons are excellent publicity since the national press is always glad to publish such news items.

Miss Josephine Schain, Member of the Alliance Board, persuaded the National Committee for the Cause and Cure of War, a powerful and influential organisation to undertake a propaganda campaign in the United States.

In a number of countries, the Alliance Auxiliaries have had articles written by prominent and popular writers on the life and work of the women portrayed on the stamps. On the day after Jane Addams' death, some 1,500 newspapers reproduced the stamp bearing her portrait, which had been specially cabled to the United States.

This is the first time that any country has issued a set of stamps commemorating an international women's Congress and prominent women of different countries. It is unique, both from the feminist and from the philatelic point of view. Help us to sell the stamps down to the very last one!

## GERMANY.

The new law on Military Service (Reichswehrgesetz) of May, 1935, proclaims in its first paragraph that the duty of every German man and woman is to serve the country in time of war. The inclusion of women meets with the approval of circles not belonging to the NSDAP. During the world war women themselves often regretted that their service was voluntary. That the new regulation does not imply the enlistment of women as soldiers is tacitly understood, and was moreover made clear at the Women's Convention of the last party meeting of Nürnberg.

The new Law on Citizenship, proclaimed at the Party Meeting at Nürnberg on September 15th, is not as yet explicit concerning women. An official interpretation is expected.

The Church of the Free City of Hamburg has formally annulled the law admitting women to the service of the Church. We may expect the other German Churches to follow suit.

The Government Report on law examinations states the superiority of the results gained by girl students over their men colleagues in 1934. The Report adds, however, that this result does not justify the conclusion that women are specially adapted to the law. As a matter of fact it is becoming more and more difficult for women to enter for the career of a judge; women have also disappeared from juries. They can, however, as before become solicitors.

The archives of the former Bund Deutscher Frauenvereine (N.C.W.) dissolved in 1933, and those of other women's organisations, including the former Deutscher Staatsbürgerinnen Verband (the Alliance Auxiliary) have been united at the Helene Lange Stiftung, Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Prinzregentstr., 89, II. Information is obtainable on all questions, including recent development, and a bulletin is issued with a bibliography on the legal position of women in Germany and Austria (subscription about 1.50 Marks a year).

D.v.V.

## BRAZIL.

A luncheon was given at the Automobile Club of Brazil in July by the Brazilian Federation for the Advancement of Women in honour of the Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mme. Macedo Soares. It was attended by some two hundred ladies among whom were, Mme. Getulio Vargas, wife of the President of Brazil—who acted as hostess—wives of Ministers of State, the ladies of the Diplomatic Corps, Government Officials, representatives of Women's associations and outstanding women in every field of achievement.

The luncheon represented the Brazilian Women's appreciation of the good work done by Minister Macedo Soares in the interests of Peace, and was unique in South American annals, being the first time organized women have ever given a luncheon of such magnitude in honour of a man of public affairs.

The Toast of Honour was pronounced by Dra. Bertha Lutz, President of the Brazilian Federation for the Advancement of Women, who resumed, in her short speech, the real scope, importance and world wide need of a just and general order of Peace. After the "Pax Romana" and the "Pax Britanica" should come the "Pax Americana," a confederation of free and active nations as a prelude to "World Peace." Dr. Lutz then proposed that Dr. Macedo Soares should receive officially the title, already given him by public opinion—"Minister of Peace," and that the Foreign Office should be called "Ministry of Peace." After all, why not? If there is a Secretary for War, why not have a Secretary for Peace? She also called attention

to women's duty as guardians of Civilization, Peace and Culture.

Minister Macedo Soares was visibly touched by the brilliant manifestation and warmly expressed his thanks and appreciation. He said, "In the disorganized agitation of our present world—in the convulsions produced by the shock between different schools of political thought, diverging principles and tendencies aiming at the solution of the complex social problems of our epoch, the activities of women's associations have to undertake the great work of co-ordination and stabilization; this is a noble task that will be glorified and called sacred by history. I believe in your idealism, and in your faith that will help to dominate the storms and waves of social difficulties."

The organizers of the luncheon were Mme. Jeronyma Mesquita, Mme. Pontes de Miranda, Dona Corina Barreiros and others. Special mention was made of the appeal of Mme. Pastor Benitez, wife of the Paraguayan Minister, to women of America to work for peace in the Chaco (this appeal was made before the Peace event). The list of speakers included (1) the wife of Ambassador Feitosa for Bolivian women; (2) Sra. Elena Souza Y. Gatti for Paraguay; (3) Official Speech representing the Federation, Maria Sabina de Albuquerque, well-known poet and vice-president of the Federation; (4) Margarida Lopes de Almeida—toast to Bolivian and Paraguayan women; Sra. Lopes de Almeida is a sculptor and a daughter of the famous Brazilian writer Julia Lopes de Almeida; (5) Alba Canizares Nascimento, Director of the Pan-American Section of the Department of Education of Federal District—toast to Madame Getulio Vargas and Mme. Macedo Soares; (6) Eliza Pinho, engineer, toast to Minister Soares in the name of University women and students; (7) Bertha Lutz, Toast of Honour.

On August 9th the Federation celebrated its thirteenth Anniversary with a luncheon at the same Club, when a New Plan of work was adopted.

## SWEDEN.

The Central Council of Women Officials' Associations represents 20 organisations, which must among them cover all, or almost all, professional women's organisations in Sweden. In a Report of its work from July, 1933, to July, 1935, many details of its work for economic equality are given, but we would specially mention its initiative in forming a Permanent Committee of Co-operation between Women's Societies to defend Women's Right to Paid Work. This Committee has been formed to meet the present danger to all working women and is composed not only of feminist societies, but also of women's professional organisations and Women's Trade Unions. Its object is: to meet attacks on the Right to Work, to constitute a centre for collecting and disseminating information on this question by lectures, discussions, courses, etc., among the large number of women all over the country who are either indifferent or adopt the conventional view.

It would seem that the formation of similar bodies, really widely representative of women of all branches of women's activities, is a piece of work which suffrage and feminist societies in all countries might well undertake. Here is a question which vitally affects women of every class, and not only those who are themselves engaged in paid work, but surely also the mothers of daughters whose future is so gravely menaced. It raises no question which ought to arouse controversy among women, and on which therefore solidarity ought to be possible. Working women are not without power if they would only learn to unite. If they do not while there is yet time, they may see their vital rights taken from them piecemeal until they wake up one day to find that they have lost such economic independence as they may have gained.

## SWITZERLAND.

The Canton of Geneva recently passed a law making the post of Judge in the Children's Court accessible to women. The elections took place on September 8th and it was a woman, Mlle. Blanche Richard, who came out at the head of the list. We congratulate her and the women of Geneva.

On the same day the whole of male Switzerland voted on the question of whether or not the Federal Constitution should be revised. The women had no say in this vital question—a fact which was emphasised in Geneva by a procession of motor cars driven by suffragists and adorned with suffrage posters. These were greeted with the well-worn remarks about babies and darning stockings, but also with much sympathy. Other towns adopted other methods of propaganda and the hoardings were widely decorated with the Suffrage Society's poster.

## HOLLAND.

I think that it may interest your readers to know that the Draft Minister of Social Affairs has just published the draft of a Bill, in which he intends to prohibit girls from entering factories or offices under 16 years of age. Exceptions will be made, but the object is to give the places to young men.

He also wishes to be able to exclude women and girls from certain kinds of work—to be regulated by minor laws. The different aspects of this project (which has to pass the High Council of Labour even before it comes before Parliament) will be treated in a special Conference, which the Vereeniging voor Vrouwenbelangen is organising for the week-end of November 9th and 10th. After this Conference I intend to write to you again.

CH. L. POLAK-ROSENBERG.

## UNITED STATES.

Miss Marguerite M. Wells, president of the National League of Women Voters, has been given an honorary degree of doctor of laws by Smith College. Miss Wells is a graduate of Smith College, and for 16 years served as its trustee.

The citation for her degree is as follows:

"Marguerite Milton Wells, B.A. Smith, 1895, trustee of Smith College, 1914-1930, president of the Minnesota League of Women Voters, vice-president and now president of the National League of Women Voters, who for years gave distinguished service to her college and now leads the women of her country in their effort to make their citizenship a force for enlightenment, intelligence, and purity in American political life."

The Woodrow Wilson Foundation has just made a grant of \$3,000 to the National League of Women Voters with the following citation:

"To the National League of Women Voters, Washington, D.C., for its thoughtful and persistent educational work in 550 communities in the United States, both urban and rural, helping thereby to lay a democratic basis for the development of a reasoned and informed public opinion on problems of American foreign policy."

Mrs. Harris T. Baldwin, First Vice-president of the National League of Women Voters on the question of "suffrage for women in the Philippine Commonwealth":

The National League of Women Voters has studied the problem of the Philippines since 1924 and recently completed an analysis of the move toward Philippine independence in which the constitutional provision for woman suffrage is presented.

The League notes with regret the reversal of the original decision of the Philippine Legislature to enfranchise women, by the provision of the present constitution requiring that Philippine woman

suffrage may be obtained only by an affirmative vote of at least three hundred thousand women within the next two years following the establishment of the Philippine Commonwealth this coming fall.

However, the National League of Women Voters endorsing the principle of equal citizenship is confident that the two hundred thousand or more Philippine women who in May of this year cast their votes in favour of the new Commonwealth constitution in spite of its discrimination against them will continue to accept the obligations of citizenship, thereby guaranteeing their permanent position as voters under the new Philippine government.

## EGYPT.

Le comité spécial chargé d'étudier la suppression de la prostitution en Egypte vient de terminer son rapport et l'a soumis avec un projet de loi, au Président du Conseil des Ministres. Tout en se prononçant en faveur de l'abolition, la Commission recommande un délai de trois ans pour appliquer le nouveau système. Entre temps, le gouvernement pourra prendre ses dispositions auprès des Ministères de la Justice, de l'Intérieur et de l'Hygiène afin d'assurer le bon fonctionnement de la nouvelle loi.

En effet, pour que cette loi s'avère efficace et puisse être appliquée aussi bien aux étrangers qu'aux égyptiens, il faut que les Tribunaux Mixtes la ratifient et que les autorités consulaires donnent à notre police les pouvoirs nécessaires pour intervenir rapidement en cas de besoin. D'autre part le Département de l'Hygiène aura pour mission d'éclairer la population sur les dangers de l'immoralité par tous les moyens de propagande (cinéma, brochures, conférences). De nombreuses cliniques pour maladies vénériennes seront créées par lui dans toutes les provinces.

La Commission a également recommandé l'institution d'une police féminine. Par décision du Conseil des ministres le rapport de la Commission a été approuvé dans ses grandes lignes.

—L'Egyptienne.

## LES EVENEMENTS DE GENEVE.

## DEPUTATION AU PRESIDENT DE L'ASSEMBLEE.

Rien ne pouvait réjouir autant les organisations féminines de Genève que l'élection de M. Benes à la Présidence de l'Assemblée. Toujours sympathique à notre cause M. Benes offrit de nous consacrer une heure, plutôt que des instants tronqués, si toutes les organisations féminines se groupaient pour l'envoi d'une seule députation.

La députation fut présentée par Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Les revendications s'étendent de l'égalité des sexes jusqu'à un programme plus large embrassant les domaines de l'éducation, de la paix et du travail social. Miss Courtney et Mme. Dreyfus-Barney parlèrent au nom de notre Comité de désarmement et annoncèrent un plan d'action pour l'avenir; insistant sur la nécessité présente de renouveler l'effort pour la limitation des armements.

Le plus vaste programme de notre Comité de liaison fut détaillé avec compétence, premièrement par Sénateur Plaminkowa qui expliqua nos demandes de rectification à la loi de Nationalité, puis par Miss Van Asch van Wyck, de la Y.W.C.A., qui, dit elle, est d'accord avec la Fédération Industrielle et Professionnelle sur la question de la liberté et de l'égalité dans le travail, mais qui fait une réserve sur la nécessité d'une législation industrielle spéciale et de la protection de la maternité.

Mrs. Laughton Matthews pour l'Alliance Ste. Jeanne exprima son appréciation du travail de la Commission des Mandats, indiquant que la libération des femmes de coutumes barbares, et le développement

de l'éducation facilitent l'accèsion des pays mandatés à leur pleine indépendance politique.

Dame Ogilvie Gordon, du Conseil International des Femmes appréciant les efforts de la Commission d'Esclavage, l'exhorta à entreprendre avec courage et largeur d'esprit la lutte contre toutes les formes d'esclavage domestique qui dégradent le statut de la femme indigène.

Miss Edith Pye approuva l'initiative du Gouvernement norvégien qui cherche une solution définitive au problème des réfugiés de toutes races.

Mrs. Bigland adjura le Président de faciliter l'entrée de femmes qualifiées dans le Secrétariat comme il avait été promis dans le Pacte, afin que les postes bien payés ne soient pas réservés exclusivement aux hommes.

En conclusion Miss Rosa Manus présenta les Résolutions du Congrès d'Istanbul sur la Paix, Melle. Gourds sur les questions des Réfugiés, Esclavage, Mandats, et Mrs. Spiller celles sur l'Egalité civile et la Nationalité.

La Ligue des Femmes Catholiques représenta, par Mme. Steenberghe Engeringh, que son objet était la charité et la protection du Foyer. La Porte Ouverte Internationale par la voix de Miss Chrystal Macmillan réclama l'égalité dans la domaine économique; Miss Julia Varley au nom des Trade Unions insista sur la nécessité d'une liberté protégée par une législation industrielle spéciale. Miss Van Eeghen demanda l'acceptation par l'Assemblée du Traité de Montevideo.

M. Benes répondit avec beaucoup de sympathie: "Ma pensée . . . évoquait les millions de femmes de toutes convictions, de toutes races, de toutes conditions aussi, au nom desquelles vous êtes venues vous exprimer. Ces millions de femmes représentent une force morale immense et leur attachement à la cause de la Société des Nations lui est infiniment précieux."

Mais remarquant les diverses tendances des associations présentes et la complexité de leurs desiderata, il ajoute:

"Beaucoup de ces vœux se rapportent à des conceptions à la fois juridiques et sociales extrêmement délicates par leurs rapports internationaux. . . La question . . . ne peut être étudiée que progressivement, avec le désir, non d'aboutir à des solutions immédiates qui risqueraient d'être précipitées, mais par étapes."

#### APPEL DES FEMMES AUX GOUVERNEMENTS, MEMBRES DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

Nous, femmes de tous les pays, représentées à Genève par le Comité du Désarmement créé par les Organisations Féminines Internationales, ne pouvons rester silencieuses en face du danger qui menace actuellement la justice, la sécurité et la paix. Nous représentons 16 grandes organisations internationales groupant dans 56 pays des millions de femmes de toutes races et de toutes convictions.

Le monde est menacé non seulement d'un conflit armé entre deux Etats Membres de la Société des Nations, mais encore d'un danger qui pourrait menacer toute l'organisation internationale de la paix, si les autres Etats Membres venaient à manquer à leurs obligations.

Nous ne pouvons croire que les Gouvernements, Membres de la Société des Nations, puissent faillir à des obligations qu'ils ont acceptées de leur propre gré et pour lesquelles ils ont engagé l'honneur de leur pays. De tels manquements ébranleraient inévitablement la confiance et les espoirs que les peuples ont mis en la Société des Nations.

Considérant que les questions économiques sont à la base de presque toutes les difficultés politiques actuelles, nous déplorons qu'elles n'aient pas été mises sur un même plan.

Nous reconnaissons que les problèmes nouveaux

appellent des solutions nouvelles et nous espérons profondément que la Société des Nations saura aussi bien prévenir la guerre que traiter courageusement et d'une manière efficace les questions concernant la population ou la répartition des matières premières.

En conséquence, nous adressons aux Gouvernements représentés à la Société des Nations un ardent appel pour qu'ils respectent fidèlement les deux principes fondamentaux du Pacte: le règlement de tout conflit par des moyens pacifiques; l'obligation de défendre l'intégrité territoriale et l'indépendance politique de chaque Etat Membre de la Société des Nations.

#### TELEGRAMME ENVOYÉ À SON EXCELLENCE MONSIEUR MUSSOLINI.

Excellence,

Les regards du monde entier sont fixés sur vous aujourd'hui. Au nom de millions de femmes de nombreux pays, nous nous adressons à vous en cette heure solennelle. Nous vous voyons en face d'une décision qui aura la plus grande importance dans l'histoire du monde.

Maître du pouvoir d'une grande nation puissamment entraînée et mobilisée, vous êtes libre de choisir résolument la nouvelle et noble voie de la coopération entre les peuples, un acte digne de la mission civilisatrice de l'Italie dans le monde.

Duce! nous vous supplions de prendre cette décision qui fera de septembre 1935 une époque mémorable dans l'histoire et sera le commencement d'une ère nouvelle pour les relations internationales.

Le monde profondément angoissé attend votre réponse!

#### REUNION DU BOARD DE L'ALLIANCE.

GENÈVE, SEPTEMBRE 1935.

Après un congrès, l'emploi du temps de la première réunion du Board est forcément très chargé, et cette fois-ci nous avions par surcroît la question de la fusion de l'Alliance et du Conseil National des Femmes, ou la coopération des deux Sociétés. L'Alliance enverra à ce sujet un rapport à ses auxiliaires, recommandant la coopération, comme étant la méthode la plus susceptible de fortifier le mouvement féministe en ces temps difficiles.

Le premier sujet considéré par le Board a été naturellement le conflit italo-éthiopien. Une lettre fut envoyée au Président du Conseil de la Société des Nations, un communiqué à la Presse et l'Alliance se joignit à d'autres organisations internationales afin de préparer une Déclaration à présenter à l'Assemblée.

Nous avons dû accepter avec regret la démission de Madame Latife Békir, puisque l'Alliance Turque a été dissoute. Miss Winifred Kydd, présidente du Conseil National des Femmes du Canada, a accepté notre invitation de remplir la place vacante, à notre grande joie, puisque cela nous assure de nouveaux contacts avec les femmes canadiennes.

Sur la question de nos finances, toujours épineuse et difficile, notre nouvelle trésorière Miss Piepers, présente un rapport d'où il appert que l'Alliance a les moyens de continuer son travail, mais modestement et sans pouvoir donner à notre activité l'extension et l'envergure que les circonstances actuelles réclament, malheureusement.

Le Board accepta les deux Memoranda soumis à la Société des Nations sur la Nationalité et le Statut civil de la Femme, qui ont été rédigés d'après les Résolutions votées au Congrès d'Istanbul.

Le Rapport rédigé sur les Résolutions d'Istanbul a été un très gros travail. Miss Macmillan notre rapporteur pour la question de la Nationalité a préparé le projet très complet et explicite sur la loi de Nationalité,

L'autre memorandum insiste particulièrement sur l'égalité politique, mais déclare que l'Alliance demande l'égalité dans tous les domaines.

Deux des Résolutions: la Résolution Economique et celle sur les Femmes et les Gouvernements ont été envoyées à tous les Gouvernements de globe, soit directement par la Présidente, soit par l'intermédiaire de nos Auxiliaires existantes. Cela représente un énorme travail pour notre secrétariat. La résolution sur le système des Capitulations en Egypte a été de même envoyée à tous les Gouvernements intéressés. La Résolution sur les Mandats a été soumise à tous les membres de la Commission des Mandats de la Société des Nations et naturellement au Secrétaire Général, avec mention spéciale de remerciements à Miss Dannewig membre du Comité. Quant aux questions délicates de mariage puéril, polygamie et esclavage, nous avons demandé aux Sociétés des contrées où ces pratiques existent de nous fournir des informations précises et détaillées qui permettront à l'Alliance de présenter un rapport documenté aux Gouvernements intéressés.

Notre auxiliaire égyptienne nous envoie la copie d'une lettre qu'elle a adressée à son Gouvernement où sont citées les Résolutions d'Istanbul qui intéressent les femmes d'Egypte. Le rapport de la Société sur la question de polygamie a suscité un grand intérêt dans la Presse.

#### TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE.

Dans les élections parlementaires qui avaient lieu en Mai 1935 il y avaient 5 femmes élues Sénateurs:

1. Mme Bety Karpisková du parti démocrate-social.
2. Mme Ema Koutková du parti démocrate-social.
3. Mme Karla Pfeiferová du parti communiste.
4. Mme F. F. Plamínková du parti national-socialiste.
5. Mme. V. Veiterová-Becvářrová du parti Union-nationale.

ce qui fait 3 1/3 du nombre total des sénateurs, et 8 femmes élues députées:

1. Mme Jar. Bátková du parti socialiste-national.
2. Mme Hodinová-Spurná du parti communiste.
3. Mme E. Jurnecková-Vorlová du parti démocrate-social.
4. Mme Irena Kirpalová du parti démocrate-social allemand.
5. Mme Božena Machacová du parti communiste.
6. Mme Anna Mrskosová du parti agraire.
7. Mme Ing. Dr. M. Tumlířová du parti agraire.
8. Mme. F. Zemínová du parti socialiste-national.

ce qui fait 2 2/6 du nombre total des députés.

#### LA PORTE OUVERTE INTERNATIONALE.

La 4ème Conférence de la P.O.I. s'est tenue à Copenhague Château de Christianborg, au mois d'août. Un discours de bienvenue au nom du Chef de Cabinet fut lu par le Ministre de l'Education. Dans son discours d'ouverture la Présidente Miss Chrystal Macmillan déplora d'avoir à annoncer une offensive continue contre les droits de la femme qui travaille, plutôt qu'un progrès dans l'autre sens. Depuis la dernière Conférence de 1933 les Gouvernements des pays qui suivent ont adopté des lois et décrets limitant l'emploi des femmes dans tous les services, soit privés, soit publics: Luxembourg, Yougoslavie, Hollande, Allemagne, Italie, Belgique.

Les déléguées présentes venant de la Norvège, de la Suède, du Danemark, de la Finlande, Belgique, France, Tchécoslovaquie, Grande Bretagne, Australie et les Etats-Unis d'Amérique ont eu nettement conscience de la nécessité d'unir leurs efforts et déplorent plus que jamais l'absence des femmes de plusieurs autres pays. C'est un fait étrange que lors de l'agitation pour l'obtention des droits politiques les femmes présentaient un front uni et actif, mais l'attaque actuelle contre notre droit fondamental à l'égalité économique, trouve la plupart d'entre nous inertes ou indifférentes.

#### SUEDE.

Le Conseil Central de l'Association Suédoise des Femmes fonctionnaires qui représente vingt organisations vient de Constituer une Commission permanente de coopération entre toutes les sociétés pour défendre le Droit de la Femme au Travail rétribué. Les membres de cette Commission ne sont pas seulement fonctionnaires ou déléguées des sociétés féministes, mais comprennent aussi des déléguées de Syndicats féminins. Son objectif est de constituer un centre à la fois de défense et de propagande et d'éclairer les associées et le public en général par des brochures, des discussions, des conférences.

Souhaitons que cette initiative soit suivie dans bien d'autres pays.

#### BRESIL.

Le lunch offert par la Fédération brésilienne pour le Progrès féminin au Ministre des Affaires étrangères et à Madame Macedo Soares a été une occasion magnifique et sans précédent de manifester à l'homme d'état l'appréciation des dames brésiennes pour sa politique de paix. La Présidente Dr. Bertha Lutz porta le Toast d'Honneur et souhaita qu'après Pax Romana et Pax Britannica, vienne Pax Americana comme prélude à la Paix du Monde. Dr. Macedo Soares dit-elle mérite plus qu'aucun autre le titre de Secrétaire d'Etat pour La Paix. Le ministre visiblement ému, exprima son admiration pour la foi et l'idéalisme des associations féminines conjuguées en ce banquet et qui réunissait en plus des notabilités brésiennes, des femmes poètes, sculpteurs, ingénieurs et des représentantes du Paraguay et de la Bolivie.

#### ETATS UNIS.

Miss Marguerite Wells, présidente de la Ligue Nationale des Electriciennes, vient d'obtenir le grade de Docteur en droit *honoris causa* délivré par Smith College. La fondation Woodrow Wilson vient de faire un don de 3,000 dollars à la Ligue Nationale des Electriciennes, en témoignage d'appréciation pour son travail éducatif dans 550 communes urbaines et rurales des Etats-Unis, établissant ainsi une base démocratique pour la formation d'une opinion publique éclairée et rationnelle. Mrs. Harris T. Baldwin, première Vice-Présidente de la Ligue Nationale des Electriciennes, écrivant sur le sujet de la Constitution des Philippines proteste contre la nouvelle clause, par quoi la franchise électorale ne sera accordée aux femmes que si trois cent mille d'entre elles en expriment le désir par un vote affirmatif.

#### SUISSE.

Suivant l'adoption de la loi qui rend le poste de Juge de Tribunal d'Enfants accessible aux femmes dans le Canton de Genève, Melle. Blanche Richard a été élue le 8 septembre, en tête de liste. Le même jour la population suisse mâle votait sur la Révision de la Constitution. Les Suffragistes de Genève manifestèrent par une procession d'automobiles couvertes d'affiches de propagande, protestant contre l'exclusion des femmes.

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