

WOMEN'S SERVICE  
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# THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

## JUS SUFFRAGII

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THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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#### PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE U.S.A.

The troubles of a very rough passage across the Atlantic were forgotten as I entered the big banquet hall at Washington filled with the 700 delegates and visitors to the Ninth Conference on the Cause and Cure of War. Mrs. Chapman Catt was presiding with all the vigour and charm that has enthralled us so long. I was next to Mrs. Roosevelt and could instantly appreciate the courage, directness, large-heartedness and knowledge which have made her adored all through the States. Her speech was a good example to timid wives of Ministers over here!

It was good to meet our Board members, Miss Ruth Morgan and Miss Josephine Schain, and find them the vigorous leaders in the better understanding of international problems by public opinion in the United States. Perhaps the reproach of one member is true and that the States now know as much or more of the problems of the Old World as we know of those of the New.

Having rashly challenged my friends to kill me off in nine days, I had a programme of eleven speeches (to 2250 different people), two national broadcasts and one movietone, besides most interesting dinners and teas, on the last evening dinner with the President and Mrs. Roosevelt at the White House. Impressions based on such a short visit cannot be held important, but the salient ones are the overwhelming confidence in the President's leadership and a desire, even among many who are unconvinced by the economics of his programme that it should have a fair deal. Secondly there is a wide-spread determination to set up an efficient Civil Service and to stamp out corruption. Thirdly there is such intense concentration on internal problems as to leave little energy or interest for international affairs.

Fourthly that this does *not* apply to the quite admirably led and organised body of public opinion in the peace movement.

If our paper were twice the size I should like to comment on the excellent programme of the Conference. The titles of the addresses give an idea of the ground covered: Advances and Retreats made on the Peace Front during the past Year; Some Basic Obstacles to Peace; Planning for a New World Society; Armaments and World Peace; the New Situation created by the German Revolution; The Armament Industry and Peace; Moral Disarmament; Would national self-sufficiency prove an Aid to Peace?; Why do the Nations hesitate to reduce their Armaments?; Translating peace ideals into action; The National Recovery Programme—an aid or a threat to Peace?; Social Justice as the Basis for Peace; Enlightened Nationalism. In the final resolutions the Conference expressed its opposition to increased naval expenditure and promised strong backing to the Women's Disarmament Committee in Geneva; asked for Bills to be introduced for the effective investigation of the sale and export of arms; pressed for the entrance of the U.S.A. into the World Court, and for the study of amendments to the Covenant of the League of Nations which would facilitate the U.S.A. becoming a member.

I found in the States the same group that in every country is spreading fear and suspicion in order to encourage increased armaments. An argument is sometimes best met by a *reductio ad absurdum* and meeting a distinguished general busy founding a "security league" and emphasising the "insecurity" of a nation of 130 millions, highly industrialized, with two peaceful land frontiers and a vast ocean each side, made me realise

the utter stupidity of these national armament ramps. An English Admiral made a similar remark at Geneva. Nationals of the great armed powers talk of their own insecurity to avoid facing the results of their irresponsibility, the real insecurity of the smaller powers helplessly watching the growing menace of war.

M. I. CORBETT ASHBY.

#### PERSONAL.

We are sure that all our members who have had the pleasure of meeting Ingeborg Hansen, the Danish member of the Alliance Board, will join in our good wishes to her on the occasion of her marriage. Miss Hansen is, of course, continuing her work as a very successful lawyer in Copenhagen, and will still be known by the name under which she has won her way.

#### EQUALITY OR INDEPENDENCE?

An international agreement on a basic and leading principle is extremely helpful in a world-wide movement. During the suffrage struggle the principle was equal suffrage according to the laws in force in the country, or extension on equal terms with men. This gave strength to the British women to resist the temptation to fight for "adult suffrage." Woman suffrage was gained in England and shortly afterwards it was made equal.

In 1931 a deputation from the Open Door International was received by the Bureau of the International Labour Conference to ask for equality in labour regulations and to object to the prohibition of night work for women only. Some well-meaning scientists and writers proposed to the women that in order to gain sympathy in labour circles they should work for the abolition of night work in general as far as the nature of the trade or process would permit. The President of the O.D.I. expressed the view that it was not the task of the women organised in the Open Door International to work for anything else than the removal of discriminations against women, in order that they may have equal rights and equal protection with men in the hard struggle for existence. In both cases women recognised that it was dangerous to adopt any cause other than that of simple, pure quality and equal opportunities. When woman has gained this and her right to self-determination as an adult has been recognised, she can fight, with men, for more rights, more liberty and better conditions. While this central principle of equality was recognised as essential for these women's causes, it has been contested in regard to women's nationality. Not equality but independence has become the slogan of some of the women working for women's rights.

We ask: If man's nationality is independent of his wife's, must not equality make woman's nationality independent of her husband's? We are given the answer: "There are countries which insist on the unity of the family." In our struggle for woman suffrage, as I recall above, we were told not to complicate the demand for equality with the different conditions in the different countries. Let us struggle for equality first and then let us set ourselves the task of righting the wrongs in our respective countries.

But we hear that this will not do now as regards nationality. Women in marriage will, so it is supposed, be coerced into following their husbands' nationality whatever the regulations for equality may be, so that women will thus not have gained their independence. Whereas it seems to me that it is often to the man's own interest to take his wife's nationality, if that of the country in which they both live. Or both spouses for economic or other reasons may wish to co-opt for the nationality of the wife. But even if this were not the case, we cannot make the laws responsible for

the errors of individuals; a liberal attitude on the part of the husband cannot be guaranteed on other questions either. Let us consider woman as an adult who must judge for herself before she takes the decisive step of marriage. (May I venture also the remark that marriage is more a case of permanent arbitration and mutual accommodation than a battlefield; and even when it is the latter, it is not always the woman who is defeated).

Nationality laws are unjust and must be amended. If on the ground of equality they are still unfavourable, they must be amended again. But let us by all means have this chance first and do not let us offer grounds for the specious pretext that feminists strive to gain privileges for women and that they hanker for the matriarchate to subjugate men.

EUGENIE MISKOLCZY MELLER.

#### EQUALITY AND INDEPENDENCE IN NATIONALITY.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—Mrs. Meller's article raises an important issue on which we welcome discussion. Disagreement on this question was one of the factors which made it impossible for the Women's Consultative Committee on Nationality created by the League of Nations to agree on the joint proposals to be presented to the League. It was also a factor in bringing about the action which presumably brought the original Committee to an end, namely, the withdrawal of the Alliance and the International Federation of University Women as being unable to make proposals jointly with the other six constituent organisations which was the Object of the Committee as laid down by the League.

In order that readers should understand the position it seemed desirable to publish the following article from Miss Macmillan side by side with Mrs. Meller's.

For many years the Alliance has been asking that a married woman shall not be compelled to lose her own nationality or to acquire her husband's nationality by reason of her marriage with a foreigner. It asks that a woman, married or unmarried, should have the same right as a man to retain or to change her nationality. The general rule is that the man enjoys independent nationality in his own person; he is recognised as one legally capable of voluntarily applying to be admitted to a new nationality, and in certain cases he can renounce his original nationality. The woman should be put in the same position.

Mme. Meller, in her article, seeks to justify a policy of limiting the demand as to what should be included in an international convention to equality between men and women. She is opposing the policy of seeking to have included in such convention the right for both spouses to independent nationality in his or her own person, including the right of each to keep his or her own nationality on marriage, which is the policy of the Alliance. Her title of "Equality or Independence" is therefore misleading, and even seems to indicate that she has misunderstood the policy which she attacks. The Alliance does not ask for independence as an alternative to equality, but as an additional essential.

Under a régime of equality and independence a husband and wife may either be of the same nationality or of different nationalities. They may be at one time during the marriage of different nationalities and at another of the same nationality. Each spouse may be legally capable of acquiring the nationality of the other. A husband often finds it in his interest to take the nationality of his wife, and where the wife is free, she also often finds it in her interest to acquire that of her husband. The Alliance, while opposing proposals for making it compulsory for the husband and wife to be of the same nationality, would like to see it made easy for either to acquire the nationality of the other, should he or she so desire. For this reason it advocates that husband and wife should each be given special facilities to acquire the nationality of the other spouse.

Under the régime advocated by Mme. Meller of

equality without the safeguard of independence, on the other hand, it is possible for the nationality law to be so framed as to compel both spouses to be of the same nationality whether both desire it or not. To take two examples. Firstly, nationality depending on domicile gives a verbal equality in the law, but in the many countries where the domicile of the wife by compulsion follows that of the husband, her nationality would also have to follow her husband's. She would continue in the subordinate position from which we are seeking to extricate her. Secondly, the law might provide that any marriage in which the spouses had not agreed to take the same—and that either the husband's or the wife's—nationality might be made impossible. This has been misdescribed as giving the spouses a choice of nationality at marriage. But it is not a choice between two nationalities, it is a choice between giving up a nationality or giving up the marriage. It is surprising that such a valiant fighter as Mme. Meller should seek to justify her policy on the ground that there are countries which wish to compel the husband and wife to be of the same nationality. Surely it is for the feminist to seek to convert and not to yield to the opponent.

Mme. Meller's whole argument is vitiated by a fallacy. She assumes that to agree with a principle means necessarily to support a particular one of the many possible concrete applications of that principle. She assumes it is unnecessary to consider which of the many possible applications of the principle of equality in nationality is the best to advocate in the world of to-day and the circumstances of to-day. An international Convention is something different from an abstract principle. It is a concrete proposal. There is just as much need to consider whether a particular international convention is the best proposal in present circumstances, as such consideration is necessary with respect to national legislation.

On Mme. Meller's theory that equality is all that is necessary, feminists need not have opposed the recent attack on the married woman's right to earn because it had been camouflaged in an equality form. I refer to the recent legislation in the United States of America and in Estonia which prohibits the employment at the same time of both husband and wife in certain public services. This may be verbal equality, but it is no less certainly an attack on the married woman and it has been rightly opposed as such by feminists. To take an example of a particular international convention which is obviously not in a form where equality between men and women could be advocated as a concrete proposal. Mme. Meller refers to the Convention concerning the Employment of Women during the Night. This prohibits the employment of women at night in industrial undertakings and consequently excludes women from night work in continuous processes. If the convention were made equal for men and women by making the general prohibition in industrial processes apply to both (by changing the word "woman" into the word "person" in the Convention) it would mean stopping all industrial processes which are only possible when run continuously. An absurd proposal. It does not fit into the surrounding circumstances of to-day and no one supporting equality in this sphere could suggest that particular concrete application as one possible to be put forward. On Night Work I express no views on behalf of the Alliance, but use the above as an illustration in reply to Mme. Meller.

To-day in the world in which we live we ask that national legislation and an international convention on nationality in the interests of the woman should provide for both equality and independence.

CHRYSAL MACMILLAN,  
Adviser to the I.A.W.S.E.C. on the  
Nationality of the Married Woman.

#### AUSTRIA.

All women, whatever their political views, will learn with deep regret that Frau Emmy Freundlich, President of the International Women's Co-operative Guild, is among those arrested as a result of the recent struggle in Vienna. Frau Freundlich's work for women and for peace is well known, and she had the distinction of being the first woman to hold ministerial office when she was appointed Director of the Food Ministry in Austria in the latter days of the war. She was also the only woman Government Delegate and also Vice-Chairman of the World Economic Conference in 1927. We understand that she is in "preventive custody" and we sincerely hope that by the time these lines appear she will be released.

#### CANADA.

The women of Quebec are still gallantly waging their uphill fight to secure the vote for the Provincial Parliament. They have a young member, Dr. Fauteux, who has promised to introduce their Bill next session, slender though hopes of its success must be under the present government.\* There is also a vigorous campaign going on in Quebec as elsewhere to prevent women from working "outside the home" and some of the women made a practical protest against a magazine which published an article in favour of this re-actionary measure, by writing to the Editor to state they would never subscribe again. Pressure of this kind finds the press in a susceptible spot.

As a small make-weight to the many difficulties, it is satisfactory to note that married women qualified as to property, and separate as to property, will be able to vote in the next municipal election.

#### INDIA.

The All India Women's Conference, which met in Calcutta at the end of last year, has named Rajkumari Amrit Kaur to serve as a Liaison Officer between the Conference and women's organisations in England. We have not yet seen a full account of the Conference for which we must wait for the next issue of the Indian Women's Magazine, Sri Dharma.

From that paper we take the good news that Ananda Bai has been elected to the City Council of Bangalore. It is hoped that this success will encourage women to stand for election and prove that they do not need a specially privileged position in order to secure representation.

We have received through the courtesy of the London Committee of the Women's Indian Association a cutting from an Indian newspaper giving the views of various judicial authorities in the Central Province on the "Hindu Widows' Right of Inheritance Bill" introduced by D. B. Harbilas Sarda and circulated for public opinion. It appears that while the members of the Judicial Commissioners Court support the principle of the Bill, District and Sessions Judges oppose it on the grounds mainly that it would involve many difficulties in administration and is too favourable to the widow in that it gives her rights to her deceased husband's property with no corresponding responsibilities for debts or charges for maintenance, etc., of other members of the family. We have not unfortunately any comments from women who would be competent to speak on what is apparently a very difficult and complicated question, and so no means of judging whether the opposition manifested is rather what may be expected from the male legal mind, or whether it is founded on very real difficulties due to the structure of the family in India and would tend to give to women a privileged position which we know that Indian women do not desire.

We hope that some of our Indian members will be so kind as to write to our paper on this point.

\* The Bill was shelved by 52 votes to 25.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

The current number of *Zenska Rada* in its French summary has a long article on the Government Decree, published at the end of December, on special measures of economy during the economic crisis, and how it affects women. This points out that while some of the measures are specifically stated to have effect for one year only, others are not so limited and it would appear that they have been inspired by the campaign against the married woman worker in state service.

These measures decree a reduction in the "supplément d'activité" (?bonus) for all government employes, married or unmarried, who share a household with another official, and even apply to married couples living apart if the separation took place since July 1933. It also applies if one of the two is a government worker and the other a pensioned worker, or if both are pensioned. Further the pension to widows of public servants is reduced if they are twenty years younger than the husband and are widowed after January 1st, 1934.

It will be seen that these provisions penalise marriage, and Mme. Plaminkova rightly points out that as they will effect but a very small actual saving, it must be presumed that they are really directed against the married woman in public employ. She also claims that the full powers to deal with the economic crisis given to the Government do not cover infringements of the constitution, and that this decree is such an infringement in that it makes marriage, contracted under the protection of the law, a cause of discrimination. If, as is hoped, the legality of the measure is brought before the Supreme Court, it will be interesting to see its decision.

## HUNGARY.

On the tenth anniversary of the Prelate Giesswein's death the Feministák Egyesülete arranged a Memorial Meeting at which also the Peace Society, the St. Stephen's Society and the Esperanto Society were represented by eminent orators. The Prelate Giesswein was a representative man at home as well as in international life of all these aims for which these organisations stand, and all his life he gave liberally his great spiritual, mental and moral gifts. His passing away was a great loss to all these and similar causes, and his revered memory an example of solidarity, courage and self-sacrifice.

The XXX. Annual General Meeting of the Feministák Egyesülete unanimously passed three Resolutions:

On giving constructive instead of destructive toys to children, demanding the elimination of a paragraph in the Penal Code which provides for severe punishment of birth control, and the following resolution on the Reform of the League of Nations:

"Whereas the present organisation of the League of Nations is not in conformity with its original purpose, which is to ensure world peace by serving the interests of all nations alike and by creating harmony among them;

"Whereas it is becoming necessary for the League of Nations to rid itself of its imperfection and to become a more perfect organisation, of greater value, in order better to serve the common aims; whereas the goal desired would in the first place be more easily attained by ensuring more direct co-operation between the peoples and the nations, by strict exclusion of war profiteers, by attracting the international organisations which have, up till the present, tried to support the League of Nations and make it popular (such organisations as altruistic and cultural bodies, peace organisations, international societies for consumption and production and professional associations);

"The XXX. General Assembly of the Feministák

Egyesülete, meeting on December 18th, 1933, appeals to the competent Committees of International Women's Organisations desiring them to request of the Secretary General of the League of Nations that an attempt be made, in drawing up the Draft Reforms for the League of Nations, to establish principles which can better reinforce the idea of internationalism and the community of interests of the peoples.

"We draw the attention of the League of Nations to the division, in three equal parts, of the Conference of the International Labour Office (comprising the delegations of the Governments, the employers and of the employees in equal numbers), and we beg it to realise that the General Assembly of the League of Nations should be transformed into a more democratic organisation which would serve internationalism more efficiently by providing for co-operation on an equal basis with the Governments of a proportional number of representatives of international organisations, the true representatives of the peoples.

"We recommend that the draft proposal for reform of the League of Nations change the procedure which has been in force up till now, whereby resolutions of the League of Nations can only be passed by unanimous vote, to a procedure whereby decisions would be taken by majority vote of the Council members.

"We hope that the draft proposal for reform will be such that the Non-Member states or those which have left the League of Nations will wish to join and that the true idea of the League of Nations will thus be realised."

The Feministák Egyesülete by invitation is co-operating with the movement to save the University for Economics which is to be incorporated into the University for Technical Science, since as this is practically closed to women it would be another menace to women's position.

The Women Civil Servants at last decided on energetic action to prevent the dismissal of married women in civil service. The Feministák Egyesülete promised to support them in every way.

EUGENIE MISKOLCZY MELLER.

## GERMANY.

With regard to the municipal constitution in Prussia (vide February issue) ordinances issued since make it clear that the advisory boards, that are to replace the local parliaments, will be not elected but nominated (by the Bürgermeister, who in his turn is nominated by the government). It therefore remains to be seen whether the active vote will be of any use either to men or women.

Dr. Wagner, Reichsführer for medical men, who threatened to strangle women's medical study, (vide February) has since published that there is no need for anxiety among women doctors and students, restrictions being planned merely on the line that for appointments in public service married men will enjoy preference.

During a Congress at Düsseldorf on Jan. 27th, Herr Hilgenfeld, Reichsführer for the Winter Help Organisation, proclaimed the inauguration of a new system of Mother and Child Welfare irrespective of the mother being married or not.

A law court decision, approved by the Ministry, prohibits the dismissal of women clerks contrary to contracts. It makes it, however, quite clear that the dismissal of the older female clerks, who cannot hope to find a new position and have consequently to fall back upon their family, has to be put into effect for the sake of the community.

Dr. Marie Baum, one of the pioneers of social progress in Germany, will on March 23rd be 60 years of age. She was one of the first German women who went in for University training (at that time not yet possible in Germany) and the first to occupy the post of factory inspector. As secretary of a great society at Düsseldorf

## NOTES FROM IRELAND.

## National Council of Women.

The Council held its Annual Meeting on January 25th, in Dublin. Delegates were present from Dublin and Belfast and apologies were received from Cork and Sligo. The reports from each centre regretted that little of real importance had been done. Cork Council has organised an excellent Fresh Air Fund and is agitating to secure the provision of public lavatory accommodation for women. This recalls memories of early suffrage days in Dublin when Mrs. Haslam, whose name will still be remembered by readers of this paper, turned aside from her suffrage work to secure such provision in the city.

Dublin Council, in close co-operation with the Irish Women Citizens Association, has worked for the introduction of a Criminal Law Amendment Bill which has been promised for many months, and has followed directions from International Headquarters in communications to the Government. Belfast, where unemployment has hit the skilled workers severely, has worked for playgrounds, and is studying possibilities of adapting the 1933 Children Act to Northern Ireland.

Professor Mary Hayden gave an interesting though depressing account of the surviving women's organisations in Germany and the position with regard to "Employment" of women on bogus contracts outside their own country was explained.

The Council was represented at the meeting of the International Alliance in Marseilles and of the International Council Committee at Stockholm, and a delegate was also able to attend the great Congress meeting at Chicago. One speaker at the Dublin meeting remarked that Irish people are fond of travel, which agrees with the comment of a speaker on the wireless that Irish people have a more continental outlook than the English and Scotch. It is better not to express an opinion on this dictum.

## Women cleaners as Civil Servants in the Irish Free State.

Women cleaners in Government offices have now been recognised here as civil servants and are represented on the Civil Service Representative Council. These members, who belong to the Irish Women Workers' Union, reported to that Union that claims for improved wages and annual holidays, relief hands, etc., had been presented. It is satisfactory that "equality" has been carried out in this respect.

## INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION FOR WOMEN.

## No. 6. FINLAND.

1. Labour legislation in Finland follows the principle that adult men and women need protection against the dangers created by growing industrialism in the same degree, and for that reason all provisions concerning working hours, hours for meals, periods of rest, night work, vacation, etc., apply in the same way to every employee of 18 years of age independent of sex.

(a) In Finland's Industrial Labour Act of 1917 the word "night" means the time from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. and work is then prohibited to all adult men and women. However it may be continued until 11 p.m. if divided into two shifts of a maximum of eight hours each, and both day and night if the work be arranged in three shifts of a maximum eight hours each, which shifts must relieve each other regularly and be changed every week. With the permission of the Ministry of Social Affairs workers may be employed on part night work even though this is not divided into shifts as above, should the technical character of the work, the time of year or trade conditions so demand.

In addition to limiting the length of the working day, the law also prescribes that the workers are to enjoy

during many years she organized a system of Mother and Child Welfare that has become a model not in Germany alone. She was a member of the Constituent Body and the first Reichstag after 1918. Having inaugurated in co-operation with Dr. Gertrud Bäumer an excellent Academy for Social Work at Hamburg, the Freestate of Baden appointed her as head of the welfare department in its ministry. She ultimately left this post in order to become a lecturer on social and economic problems at the University of Heidelberg. It is extremely regrettable that at the very period when the new system puts into practice the social principles that few people have as strongly supported as Dr. Baum, she has been dismissed from her post for reasons resulting from the principles of the N.S.D.A.P.

D.v.V.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

We are glad that at long last a Committee has been appointed to review the question of the admission of women to the Diplomatic and Consular Services, and The Women's Freedom League, together with other women's organisations will submit evidence in favour of the early admission of women to these services.

At the same time we are pressing for the appointment of competent women to posts in the Colonial and Dominions offices. The position of native women in Kenya and in South Africa is a matter of special concern to women. Quite recently it was stated in the House of Commons that African widows in Kenya become, together with the hut in which they live, the property of the deceased husband's heir. To those who believe in the freedom of all women that position must appear intolerable. More information is needed regarding it, and we urge that there should be women in both the Colonial and Dominions Offices whose business would be to collect and collate information regarding the position and special conditions of women in all the territories which come within the purview of these offices. We also think that the unsatisfactory and contradictory accounts of the position of mui-tsai—those little girl domestic servants—in Hong Kong, Ceylon, Straits Settlements, and Malay States, call for women's special investigation. Few women really believe the perfunctory, official statements which are made regarding them.

The Women's Freedom League has pressed for the inclusion of women on the Committee recently appointed by the Lord Chancellor, consisting of judges, barristers and solicitors, "to consider how far, having regard to the Statute Law and to judicial decisions, such legal maxims and doctrines as the Lord Chancellor may from time to time refer to them require revision in modern conditions." The Lord Chancellor has asked this Committee for a report to be made as soon as possible on the liability of the husband for the torts (legal wrongs) of the wife. We certainly consider that the law regarding the position of the married woman in this country is entirely out of date, and that it should be replaced by a law giving absolute equality to women with men in order to conform with modern conditions; but we hardly expect that a Committee of men alone will make any great effort in that direction!

Public meetings are being held each Thursday afternoon at The Minerva Club, 28A, Brunswick Square, London, W.C.1. Tea is at 4 o'clock and the meetings begin at 4.30. On Friday afternoon, March 16th, we are having a Spring Sale at 25, Wimpole Street, W.1, by kind invitation of Dr. Octavia Lewin, and this will be opened promptly at 3 o'clock by Professor Winifred Cullis. Friends of the women's cause will be cordially welcomed at all these meetings.

FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD,  
The Women's Freedom League.

periods of rest during their working hours. If the length of the working day is eight hours and the work is not arranged in regularly changing 8-hour shifts, workers must have regularly not less than one period of rest of at least one hour's duration, during which time they are at liberty to absent themselves from their place of employment. In cases where the work is divided into regularly changing shifts of a maximum eight hours duration, the worker is to enjoy either a pause for meals lasting at least half an hour or else be afforded an opportunity to eat during working hours.

(b) No regulations as to weight lifting exist for adult labourers.

(c) Provisions for the protection of workers' health and life against actual industrial dangers are chiefly contained in the regulations concerning the graphical industry, stonework, painter's trade, sawmills, paper factories, textile factories, sulphatecellulosa factories, etc., but the provisions are the same for men and women.

(d) Since 1918 the working day has lasted 8 hours or 48 hours a week for adult men and women. The 8-hour Act does not only include all industrial works, but also a great many other undertakings such as hotels, shops, bathing-establishments and various other trades. In cases where the technical nature of the work or some other circumstances necessitates more freedom with regard to working arrangements, it is permitted to employ a worker for more than eight hours a day on condition that the stipulated number of hours per week is not exceeded. Every worker must have an unbroken rest from work of at least thirty hours every week. This weekly rest is to be given on Sundays, or, if impossible, on some other day of the week. The regulations as to weekly rest do not, however, apply to cases where the technical character of the work does not allow the skilled workmen such freedom from work. Concerning work divided into shifts which cannot be interrupted on Sundays, the working hours may amount to 168 hours during three weeks and the weekly rest fall below thirty hours if the average per week be thirty hours. All these provisions are the same for men and women.

(e) The International Convention on Minimum Wages has not been ratified in Finland.

II. The aforementioned Industrial Labour Act fixes only certain regulations applied specially to women workers. The Act prohibits the employment of women in cleaning or greasing running power engines or transmission plants. Owing to some International Draft Conventions having been ratified in Finland a few special rules have been added to the aforementioned. Women under the age of 20 are not allowed to work as seamen and no women at all as seamen on Atlantic traffic ships. Likewise all females are prohibited any painting work of an industrial character involving the use of white lead or sulphate of lead or any other products containing these pigments. From January 1931 women under the age of 21 may not be employed in loading and unloading vessels running between Finnish and foreign harbours and in the harbours or certain parts of those defined by the Ministry for Social Affairs.

(a) The Act relating to industrial labour prohibits the employment of a woman during the first four weeks after confinement. Neither may a woman in an advanced state of pregnancy be employed in work which in her condition might be injurious. A female shop assistant may not be employed in shop work during the first six weeks after confinement. As no allowances are given during the time their work is stopped, the prohibitions are of very little use.

(b) No prohibitions on the work of married women exist.

III. As the trades where prohibitions for women are confirmed, are very few and as these trades are of secondary importance for the women the prohibitions have not

practically been of any importance to the women workers.

(a) If the International Draft Convention concerning night work for women were ratified in Finland, it may be presumed that about twelve thousand women workers would be dismissed. There is no doubt that men and boys would take the places of the women in most cases. It is possible that in some, but in very few, industries the night work would be changed to only day-work, but that is rather doubtful.

(b) The above mentioned unimportant restrictions have had no influence on the opportunities women have had to get work.

(c) As the limitations have partly not as yet come into force and partly are of secondary importance it is impossible to state the results.

(d) The question of protective legislation for women only has never been of very great importance in Finland. The bourgeois women and their societies have almost unanimously been opposed to special legislation for women only. The working-women's trade unions support such legislation in theory but in practice the working women seem to be against it. The question of night-work prohibition has been under discussion twice in the Diet, but has been dropped on account of bourgeois opposition.

IV. As far as the right to work is concerned women workers are nearly in every respect equal to men workers. The women as a working-power are in great demand and are now working in a lot of factories where formerly only men were employed. 35% of the Finnish factory employees are women and of these 24% are working in paper and wood mills, that is to say in working places where night-work is entirely or partly necessary. The wages for female workers, especially for non-professional workers, are lower than those for men. As in general Finnish working women are strong and healthy they are able without injury to themselves to do work which in many countries is done by men. The employers in general oppose special legislation for working-women, partly because of their good work and partly for economic reasons.

Helsingfors 27.II.1930.

HELNY BERGBOM.

#### NOTE.

The Editor regrets that pressure on space has made it necessary to hold over an article on Mrs. Cohen Tervaert's Seventieth Birthday Celebration, and an Obituary notice of the late M. Martin.

#### VISITE DE NOTRE PRESIDENTE EN U.S.A.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby ayant surmonté les rigueurs de la traversée en oublia jusqu'au plus mauvais souvenir quand elle se vit dans la grande Salle du Banquet à Washington où Mrs. Chapman Catt présidait la neuvième Conférence sur la Guerre; Sa Cause et Son Remède. Sa voisine se trouvait être Mrs. Roosevelt qui par son discours hardi et compétent donna un exemple que plus d'une femme de Ministre de l'ancien monde ferait bien de méditer et de suivre.

Notre Présidente fut mise à l'épreuve, bien américaine, de onze discours en neuf jours — et cela à un auditoire de 2,250 différentes personnes — plus deux radios et un ciné — sans compter les diners, les thés, tous du plus grand intérêt notamment le dernier, pris à la Maison Blanche avec le Président et Mrs. Roosevelt.

L'impression est d'abord que le pays a confiance en son Président et que même ceux qui sont opposés à sa doctrine économique sont prêts à lui laisser le champ libre. Ensuite il y a un désir général d'assainissement des services publics et privés; enfin les affaires

américaines occupent tellement les citoyens que celles d'Europe semblent distantes. Mais cette indifférence disparaît quand il s'agit du problème de la paix mondiale, qui passionne l'opinion publique.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby a remarqué aux Etats-Unis les mêmes types qu'en Europe: ces gens qui réclament la sécurité par les armements et soulèvent des paniques intéressées. Elle a rencontré un général occupé à fonder une "Ligue de défense," pour un pays de 130 millions d'âmes intensément industriel, avec deux lignes de frontières jamais troublées et un vaste océan à l'ouest comme à l'est. C'était le même discours que tenait à Genève, un amiral britannique. Le résultat de cette excitation artificielle de certains individus des grands pays, c'est l'insécurité réelle des petites nations qui voient grandir, impuissants, cette menace croissante de la guerre.

#### EGALITE ET INDEPENDANCE EN MATIERE DE NATIONALITE.

La section de langue anglaise contient une controverse intéressante entre Mrs. Meller (de Hongrie) et Miss Chrystal Macmillan sur la ligne de conduite à suivre dans notre lutte pour le droit de nationalité. On se rappelle qu'à Genève au moment de rédiger un mémorandum sur cette question le Comité consultatif des organisations féminines ne put tomber d'accord et que l'Alliance et la Fédération des Femmes Universitaires décidèrent de se retirer.

Il semble qu'il n'y ait pas de différence quant au fond, entre les deux théories — puisque toutes deux veulent le droit absolu de la femme à une nationalité de son choix comme c'est le cas pour l'homme — et que ce soit surtout, dans l'ensemble, une différence de tactique.

Mme. Meller assure que l'Alliance a tort de vouloir qualifier ce droit à l'égalité, par toutes sortes de propositions incidentes et à son sens secondaires. C'est l'indépendance bien plus que l'égalité, que vous réclamez nous assure-t-elle. Travaillons pour l'égalité pure et simple d'abord. N'encombons pas le chemin de conditions adventives. Ce sera le meilleur moyen de réussite.

Mais, lui réplique Miss Macmillan, ce droit à l'égalité une fois acquis ne pourra être dans bien des cas — et elle donne des exemples pratiques — qu'un prétexte fallacieux à la continuation de l'ancienne servitude — si nous ne l'entourons au préalable de conditions envisageant tous les cas possibles; de sorte que cette égalité de principe amène avec elle une indépendance de fait. Egalité et indépendance tel est le programme de l'Alliance.

#### MARIAGE.

Nous offrons les compliments de l'Alliance à Miss Ingeborg Hansen à l'occasion de son mariage. Miss Hansen qui est très connue comme avocate à Copenhague continuera le barreau sous le même nom.

#### AUTRICHE.

Quelle que soit la nuance politique de nos lectrices, toutes apprendront avec regret que Frau Emmy Freundlich, Présidente de la Guilde Cooperative internationale est en prison à Vienne à la suite des derniers troubles. Le travail de Frau Freundlich pour les femmes et pour la paix est bien connu. Elle a été la première femme à tenir un office ministériel quand elle fut nommée Directeur du Ministère de l'Alimentation à la fin de la guerre. Elle était déléguée de son gouvernement et Vice-Présidente de la Conférence économique mondiale en 1927.

Hongrie. Le 30ème Congrès Annuel de la Feministak Egyesülete vota trois résolutions à l'unanimité.

- (1) pour la suppression des jouets représentant des engins destructifs —
- (2) pour l'élimination d'un paragraphe du code pénal qui punit les pratiques malthusiennes —
- (3) pour la réforme de la Société des Nations; de sorte qu'il y ait une coopération plus directe entre les peuples, et qu'on fasse appel à la collaboration des sociétés altruistes et culturelles qui existent dans tous les pays — que l'Assemblée générale de la Société des Nations ait une base plus démocratique; que la procédure du vote à l'unanimité, soit transformée en un mode plus pratique du vote par majorité, etc.

Allemagne. Comme suite à ce que nous imprimions le mois dernier au sujet des règlements municipaux en Prusse, il apparaît clairement que les nouveaux comités consultatifs substitués aux parlements locaux ne seront pas élus mais désignés par le Bürgermeister qui est lui-même nommé par le gouvernement. Il reste à voir si le vote sera d'aucune utilité, pour les hommes comme pour les femmes.

Dr. Wagner, Reichsfürer de médecine a cru devoir modifier l'effet de son manifeste anti-féministe en assurant que les femmes médecins et les étudiants en médecine n'ont rien à craindre mais que pour les nominations dans les services publics les hommes mariés auront la préférence.

Dr. Marie Baum atteindra bientôt sa soixantième année. Elle fut une des premières femmes universitaires et une inspectrice du travail. A Dusseldorf, pendant plusieurs années elle organisa un système d'assistance maternelle qui fut pris comme modèle dans toute l'Allemagne. Elle a été membre du Reichstag après 1918. Collaborant avec Gertrud Baumer à Hambourg elle fonda une Académie pour le Travail social. L'Etat de Bade lui confia l'organisation de l'Assistance publique et elle quitta ce poste pour une chaire d'Economie politique à Heidelberg. Les principes de Dr. Marie Baum sont maintenant partout reconnus et son exemple suivi. Sa récompense a été de se voir révoquée de son poste parce qu'elle n'avait pas la faveur de la N.S.D.A.P.

Canada. Les femmes de Québec sont encore entrées bravement dans la lutte pour le suffrage.

Un jeune député, le Dr. Fauteux a promis qu'il introduirait leur projet mais étant donné la constitution de l'Assemblée il n'y a guère de chances de succès.

Nous notons cependant avec satisfaction que les femmes mariées propriétaires à titre personnel auront le droit de vote à la prochaine élection municipale.

Grande Bretagne. Nous avons plaisir à constater qu'une commission va enfin se réunir pour considérer l'admission des femmes dans les services diplomatiques et consulaires et que certaines organisations féminines dont la Women's Freedom League seront appelées à donner leur opinion à ce sujet.

Tchecoslovaquie. Le dernier Nos. de Zenska Rada commente les mesures d'économie prises dans les services gouvernementaux et qui affectent les couples mariés par la réduction du supplément d'activité.

Ces règlements en fait pénalisent l'union légale du mariage et Mme. Plaminkowa remarque qu'ils effectuent une bien petite économie.

Irlande. Le Conseil National des Femmes irlandaises a tenu sa réunion annuelle à Dublin le 25 janvier. Dublin en coopération avec l'Association des Femmes électeurs d'Irlande travaille à introduire un amendement au Code criminel. A Belfast où le chômage existe parmi les artisans le Conseil réclame plus de terrains de jeux et l'adaptation de l'Acte de 1933 aux enfants de l'Irlande du Nord.

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