

# THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

## JUS SUFFRAGII

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

**Latin Europe.** We published in the last general number of the paper the good news that the women of Portugal have been enfranchised. Received just as we were going to press, the bare facts were all that we were able to chronicle and we have not yet had more detailed information from our correspondent in Portugal as to the manner in which the victory was won, the amount of opposition, the chances of women soon exercising their new right, and so on. However, the main significance of the news is this: the first Latin country in Europe has accorded the franchise to its women—on a limited basis it is true, but the educational is the most respectable of the qualifications which limit the franchise, and, once the general principle of women's right to vote has been recognised in practice, its extension to women on the same terms as men can reasonably be expected to follow. We heartily congratulate the women of Portugal on their victory.

It is pleasant at the same time to record that the new régime in Spain seems to be favourable to the cause of women. We announce in another part of the paper the election of two women to the Cortès, and the commission of jurists who were appointed to draw up a draft of the new Constitution recommend that the right to vote be granted to women and that Spaniards of both sexes shall be eligible for the vote at the age of twenty-three.

In France, alas, the situation is unchanged. French feminists have suffered one more of those disappointments with which their sisters in other countries were so familiar in the days of their own struggle. The cause has once more fallen a victim to parliamentary chicanery. The Senate, after hearing some powerful speeches in

defence of an immediate discussion on the question of women's franchise, decided to shelve the matter until the autumn meeting. M. Héry, the well-known foe of French feminists, who is the *rapporteur* of the Committee appointed by the Senate to report on the subject, was among the most vociferous in demanding postponement. As M. Hervey remarked, "*Ce que vous désirez le plus, mon cher collègue, c'est, je crois, qu'on ne discute pas le rapport dont vous avez la charge. C'est, permettez-moi de vous le dire, une situation étrange.*" The news from the Chamber is more encouraging. M. de Monzie's proposal with regard to the political rights of women and their eligibility for all public posts have been approved by the Committee for Universal Suffrage now in session. The Committee appears to be overwhelmingly in favour of woman suffrage; the only point in M. de Monzie's proposals to which they took exception was that *all* public posts should be open to women. (Were they afraid of the idea of a woman President?) It is hoped that the Committee's report will be presented to the Chamber before the end of this session. And it is much to be hoped that Frenchwomen will succeed by one method or another in inducing the Senate to face the question of their enfranchisement in the autumn.

**A memorial to Dr. Aletta Jacobs.** On Monday, June 15th, a memorial to Dr. Jacobs and her husband, C. V. Gerritsen, was uncovered at the crematorium in Westerveld, Holland. Several speakers who had known Dr. Jacobs intimately in private and in public life told once more of her great courage, her inspiring work for the women's cause,

her warm-hearted personality and her unflinching help where the sufferings of others were concerned. She was the first woman in Holland to enter the University, and her example was an inspiration to all who came after her. She was the great leader of the Dutch suffrage movement and was a prominent figure at the congresses of the Alliance. As a symbol of the high ideals which she and her husband, C. V. Gerritsen, shared in their life and work, the memorial shows the figures of a man and woman, kneeling on the world globe and holding a lighted torch. The simple and beautiful memorial was made by Miss Rueb, a well-known Dutch sculptor.

**Second International Conference of Women in Brazil.** The Conference which opened on June 19th was an enormous success and was attended by over 1,000 people, which was beyond anyone's expectations. The countries represented were France, Germany, Poland, Denmark, Finland, U.S.A., Venezuela, Uruguay, Argentina, besides the other States of Brazil. Brazil itself was represented by Dr. Maria Eugenia Celso Carneiro de Mendoncam, the writer and poetess, appointed by the President of Brazil. Commandant Mary Allen, Chief of the Women's Auxiliary Service (Women Police) in London, represented the Association of Women Police.

Dona Bertha Lutz was in the Chair, and the subjects discussed included: Education, the Welfare of Mothers and Children, Labour Conditions in Business and Industry, Social Service, Women's Civil and Political Rights, Women and World Peace.

A resolution and scheme for women police was adopted by Congress and is being sent to the Chief of Police.

**The Situation in Bermuda.** The high hopes raised by Lord Passfield's letter to the Officers administering the Government of Bermuda on the advisability of extending the franchise there and including women in the electorate have been disappointed. When leave was asked to bring in a bill to give women the parochial, municipal and parliamentary votes the Opposition moved that a message be sent to the Governor, stating that "the House is not disposed at the present time to make any change with respect to the franchise." This was carried by a majority of 21-11. The new Governor prorogued the House of Assembly and reserved his remarks for the opening of the next session in October.

In the meantime, meetings have been held all over Bermuda and the suffrage society has sent Mrs. Morrell to England to try to obtain an interview with Lord Passfield for a deputation.

**Roll of Honour of American Pioneers.** *It is the people who stay in the middle of the road who make the population of the country, and the people who get outside of it who make its history.*

said Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, on the occasion of the unveiling of the bronze roll of honour tablet established by the National League of Women Voters in honour of the leaders whose labours won for the women of the United States entrance into its public life. Recalling events of the forty-one years since she attended her first suffrage convention, Mrs. Catt spoke tenderly of the leaders she had known, calling them the women who stepped outside the middle of the road, even though it often meant that they must walk alone.

"I wish I could say something half as poetical and with half as much sentiment as ought to be said for those women who gave all their lives and all that was in them to that cause. Perhaps it did not mean so much to them then, but, as I look back upon it, I realize that

a movement came and was won and it will never have to be done again."

The names of three hundred and sixty-nine women appear on the bronze tablet containing the national roll of honour and the vellum panels recording the rolls of honour of the various States. These have been hung in the historic house in Washington which is now the headquarters of the National League of Women Voters.

**Women Barristers in Quebec.** A new approach to the problem of obtaining the admission of women to the Bar of the Province of Quebec is being considered by feminists in Canada.

Several times measures to amend the Bar Act of the province have been introduced in the Provincial Legislature, but all have failed—at the last session the bill was defeated 34-32. Several women have taken the university law degrees and a number of them hold good positions in the offices of law firms, but they cannot plead in the Courts. The new plan is to put up one of these women as a candidate for the semi-annual examinations of the Bar Association. If the Association refuses to admit her as a candidate, legal action would be taken to compel them to admit her to examination. If the Superior Court of the Province gave an adverse decision, the case would be carried to the Supreme Court, where, it is believed, it would be successful in view of the decision of the Privy Council that women are persons eligible to be called to the Senate of Canada. If, however, the Supreme Court upheld an adverse judgment of the Superior Court, the matter would be taken to the Privy Council.

It is hoped that the feminist associations will propose a candidate for the Bar Association examinations which take place next January.

R. L. SHAW.

**A Pioneer.** The death of Lady Stout has removed a powerful worker for women and broken the most notable link between New Zealand and the Suffrage movement of pre-war Britain. As the wife of Sir Robert Stout, a former New Zealand Premier, and Chief Justice for many years, Lady Stout found both social scope and the fullest support and sympathy of an enlightened scholar and man of affairs, himself a participant in the works that made New Zealand famous in the 'nineties. Visiting Europe in 1909 with Sir Robert, Lady Stout remained in London with a student-son till 1912. In that stern and critical time, she entered with spirit into the campaign as the representative of women who had long used the vote successfully, and old leaders may still remember her vivid personality. Returned to her home in Wellington, Lady Stout resumed with renewed vigour her many works for feminism, temperance, and humanity. She founded the Wellington branch of the Society for the Protection of Women and children; she held office in the National Council of Women, and she was deeply engaged in the Child Welfare work later consolidated into a Government Department.

JESSIE MACKAY.

**Disarmament.** The eleven organizations in the National Conference on the Cause and Cure of War have begun the task of collecting the signatures of one million women who will join in imploring the 1932 Disarmament Conference to set itself earnestly to the real task of reducing armaments.

The petition, written by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt and the officers of the participating organizations, will ask that the Disarmament Conference gratify the expectations and hopes of the world by putting into immediate effect the pledges already made for the reduction of national armaments. It will call attention to the disarmament pledged by the Allies to their

adversaries of the World War, to the promise of disarmament in the Covenant of the League of Nations, and to the Briand-Kellogg Pact renouncing war. Declaring that the next step is the bold reduction of every variety of armament the million women of the United States will beseech the Conference to bring about the agreement among nations to effect such a reduction as will assure the lasting peace of the world.

#### TEMPORARY OFFICE OF THE ALLIANCE AT GENEVA.

September 1st—30th, 1931.

As for some years past, the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship will open a Temporary Office at Geneva during the Assembly of the League of Nations, as a meeting place and centre for the numerous feminists who come to Geneva at that time.

The League of Nations this year is not holding its meetings in the Salle de la Réformation, but in the "Bâtiment Electoral," where the International Labour Conference always meets. The Alliance has been able to take an office at 6 rue de Saussure which is immediately across the road from the Bâtiment Electoral; this will be open every day except Sunday, from 2 to 6 (first floor), so that visitors may come for entrance cards for the Assembly, to see women's papers and League publications, to get information, addresses, etc., to take tea or other meals, there being a restaurant on the ground floor, write letters or articles, a typewriter being at their disposal, etc., etc. Moreover, as on previous occasions, the office will organise talks by specialists of different countries on subjects of interest to women, and receptions and informal meetings which will provide an opportunity for meeting those international feminists who will be staying at Geneva at the time. Several members of the Alliance Board have already announced their intention of coming to Geneva to help Mlle. Gourd, Secretary of the Alliance, notably Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President; Miss Sterling, Treasurer; Senator Plaminkova and Mme. Malaterre Sellier, Vice-Presidents, and possibly Frau Schreiber, First Vice-President, and Mlle. Atanatskovitch, Assistant Secretary, as well as the Presidents of Alliance Auxiliaries.

More and more every year Geneva is becoming, particularly during September, a centre of international life. We think, therefore, that not only members of the Alliance but others will find it both interesting and useful to take note now of the address of the Office, where they may be sure that they and their friends will find a warm welcome and many opportunities for rendering their stay in Geneva pleasant and interesting.

#### DECLARATION ON DISARMAMENT

##### adopted by the Belgrade Peace Conference.

Miss Manus has sent us the following particulars of replies received from different countries with regard to work on Disarmament Declarations:—

**Belgium** is proposing to co-operate with France (see below).

**Czechoslovakia** has already circulated the W.I.L.P.F. Declaration.

**Finland** has already circulated the Declaration of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

**France** will take the Belgrade Declaration, starting in October after the holidays.

**Germany** is taking Mrs. Catt's petition and is working with all the different women's organisations and is in touch with the Nationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft.

**Hungary** has already circulated the W.I.L.P.F. Declaration.

**Ireland** has already circulated the W.I.L.P.F. Declaration.

**Italy** has sent in Mrs. Catt's petition signed by 25 prominent people, but is also willing to work for the Belgrade Declaration.

**Roumania** will take the Belgrade Declaration as announced by two of the societies. They are being asked to combine also with the third society.

**Turkey** will issue the Belgrade Declaration.

**Yugoslavia** is using the Belgrade Declaration.

Miss Manus asks those countries which have not yet replied to her letter on this matter (dated June, 1931), to do so as soon as possible.

#### CALL TO THE TWELFTH CONGRESS.

ATHENS, April 17th—23rd, 1932.

The International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship invites to its Twelfth Congress which will take place in Athens, from April 17th to 23rd, 1932, its affiliated societies in 44 countries, those applying for affiliation, all women's organisations, whether national or international, which are in sympathy with its object, and all men and women who support its programme.

After 28 years of work, after victories for suffrage (municipal or Parliamentary) in many countries, after the magnificent Congress held in Berlin in 1929 to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of its foundation, the Alliance is to hold its twelfth Congress in a country where women have as yet but a limited political freedom, though that country—Greece—may be claimed as the cradle of democracy. No place could be better chosen as a meeting-ground for the women of East and West; thither all may bring their contribution to world civilisation and renew the bonds of a union destined to surmount every obstacle which still opposes the equality of the sexes.

Not only do many countries still refuse women the rights of citizenship, but even those which have given women the franchise have failed to establish complete equality. The influence of woman in no way corresponds to the contribution which her gifts of heart and brain fit her to give to the progress of her country and of humanity. Equality granted in principle is as yet nowhere an actual fact and women cannot dissociate themselves from the feminist struggle if they wish to take their just place in government, in administration, in industry, finance and the professions, and, above all, in the education of the young. They must not abandon that struggle if they desire that in every country the Civil Code shall cease to be a thorn in the flesh of women as wives and mothers.

The great social scourges which afflict humanity affect women with peculiar intensity, yet women lack many of the means for fighting them. Women's co-operation is essential in order to discover the most effective measures of production and distribution, to put an end to unemployment, that terrible scourge of to-day with all its physical and moral ill-effects, which tends to deprive women of their economic independence, both professional and personal, threatening to cast them back into that state of servitude from which they have step by step emerged.

The great ideal of democracy calls for a courageous revision of the old methods of government and will not permit the political activity of women to be put aside. Woman, the equal of man and with equal voting powers, may become a great motive force in helping to conquer the rivalries between nations, so that the suppression of war may be realised in a new world of international co-operation.

Come to Athens, women of all countries, all con-

tinents, all races. Together we will make plans to sweep away all those artificial differences which ancient custom has set up between the sexes. Conscious of the dignity of womanhood, we desire to exercise our rights in the fulfilment of our duty as Citizens of Humanity.

MARGERY I. CORBETT ASHBY.

ADELE SCHREIBER.  
ROSA MANUS.  
GERMAINE MALATERRE SELLIER.  
FRANTISKA PLAMINKOVA.  
EMILIE GOULD.  
FRANCES M. STERLING.  
MILENA ATANATSKOVITCH.  
HODA CHARAOUI.  
SUZANNE GRINBERG AUPOURRAIN.  
INGEBORG HANSEN.  
PAULINA LUISI.  
RUTH MORGAN.  
ALISON NEILANS.  
EUGENIE DE REUSS JANCOULESCU.  
BESSIE RISCHBIETH.  
JOSEPHINE SCHAIN.  
MARQUESA DEL TER.  
AVRA THEODOROPoulos.  
DOROTHEE VON VELSEN.  
INGEBORG WALIN.

#### PERSONAL LETTER FROM THE TREASURER.

DEAR MADAM,

The Call to the Twelfth Congress is a direct appeal to women to remember the work which still lies before us if women are to be free and equal citizens throughout the world. We are to meet in Athens as a symbol that the suffrage battle must be waged in South Europe with its banners pointing towards the East. Whatever the struggles of other women may have been or may still be, the Eastern woman has to fight the added difficulty of the results of the "harem" and "purdah" systems. True, great changes have come about, but the indirect effects of age-long ideas on men and on the women themselves have still to be met. Western solutions of Eastern problems are useless, but world solidarity among women is surely the training which will fit us all to find the best solution both for our common and our own special problems.

Even the women who have won their enfranchisement are faced by a new danger, and one which can hardly be fully met by the ability and varied experience of many nations. The world financial crisis, leading to a desperate struggle for work, has caused a growing attack on the work of women, under cover, as always, of advantages to women themselves, or to the home and family, but none the less ferocious and dangerous.

These and other vital problems touch us all: is it not sound policy to invest all we can in a great co-operative effort to secure for the future those wider opportunities the lack of which keeps us still the less influential and the poorer sex?

The Alliance must have funds to continue its work: a minimum is essential first for the success of our Congress, then for our future programme. Training has made women over-cautious. Will you not now make an act of faith and give us all, and even a little more, than you feel you can afford to help us to make that great effort on which alone can be based a world of real opportunity for women? Our Congresses have been increasingly successful; do not let the next fall short of the best. We owe it to our hostess country at this moment of vital need to raise, not lower, our standard.

Yours very truly,

FRANCES M. STERLING,  
Treasurer.

#### CONGRESS FUND.

We were so fortunate as to start our Appeal with £200 in hand, which was given to us some time ago by the Leslie Suffrage Commission earmarked for this purpose, when the Commission was winding up its affairs. The first results of our Appeal to our Societies, members and friends are as follows:

A magnificent donation of £30 from Senator Plaminkova of Czechoslovakia. This is a personal donation, as Mme. Plaminkova wished to relieve her society from making a financial effort which, in the present circumstances, would prove too great a strain on its resources.

The three societies forming the British Auxiliary have already had two meetings to deal with this matter, and an Appeal Committee to raise a Congress Fund has been formed and plans are already going forward for a campaign in the Autumn.

The Roumanian Society for the Rights and Duties of Women has promised us a donation of £10 for the autumn.

Our individual members are beginning to send us their donations, as shown on the list below.

Everyone will remember the magnificent gift of over £600 recently raised in Holland for the funds of the Alliance, so that we can hardly expect that any further help for the Congress Fund can be given.

#### Donations to Twelfth Congress Fund to July 15th, 1931.

	£	s.	d.
Leslie Commission	200	0	0
Mlle. L. Dutoit	1	0	0
Miss K. W. Evans	10	0	0
Miss B. L. Hutchins	10	0	0
Miss M. L. Mathieson	1	0	0
Mrs. Montgomery	2	2	0
Mme. F. F. Plaminkova	30	7	6
	£235	9	6

#### NATIONALITY AT GENEVA.

(The following report has been supplied by the President to *Jus* and to other papers interested in the subject of Nationality.)

The Consultative Committee of the eight international organizations of women, created by the Council of the League during its session of January, 1931, sat in Geneva from 2nd to 6th July, and signed the report which will be annexed by the Secretary General to his official report to Governments.

The head of the legal department of the League, M. Buero, welcomed members of the Committee and opened the first session. Maître Maria Vérone, of the Paris Bar, the senior woman lawyer, responded, and welcomed the action of the League in creating an official committee to represent women's views, likening it to the committees of experts set up by the League. The Committee then elected unanimously Maître Maria Vérone as its chairman, and Miss D. Elisabeth Evans as honorary secretary.

A draft report based on those prepared by the drafting committee, Mme. Bakker-Nort (Holland), M.P., Miss Chrystal Macmillan (Great Britain), Miss Alice Paul (U.S.A.), and Mme. Vérone (France), at their two meetings in London and Paris, was taken as the basis of discussion. The following statement was unanimously adopted:—

Realizing the far-reaching consequences for women—for greater freedom or greater subjection—involved in the project of the League of Nations for the codification of international law, which may lead to the establishment of a World Code of Law, this Committee presents the following statement concerning

the Nationality Convention drawn up by the Hague Codification Conference in 1930, and which was designed to form the opening section of the proposed Code:—

(1) This Committee declares that it is opposed to the Hague Nationality Convention inasmuch as it differentiates between men and women as regards nationality.

(2) This Committee wishes to express its support of the proposal put before the Hague Codification Conference by the delegation from Chile for a world agreement on nationality, reading:—"The Contracting States agree that from the going into effect of this Convention there shall be no distinction based on sex in their law and practice relating to nationality."

(3) This Committee urges the Assembly of the League of Nations to take immediate steps—

(a) to bring about the reconsideration of the Hague Nationality Convention, and

(b) to submit

to the Governments for ratification a new convention founded on the principle of equality between men and women with regard to nationality.

The report continued with a reference to the articles of the Hague Convention, and pointed out that these articles which are directed mainly to preventing statelessness and dual nationality, would, if ratified, give recognition in an international convention to the old idea of the subordinate position of women in the matter of nationality, and to the old custom by which a woman's nationality is dependent on that of her husband.

The report detailed the serious disadvantages that may arise. Such a system may deprive her of the vote, may deprive her at home and abroad of the protection of her own government, may deprive her of the benefits of state insurance and other state assistance, may make it impossible for her to hold public office, to exercise her profession, to obtain paid employment, to own and inherit property and may, among other disabilities, subject her even in her own native land to the restrictions placed on aliens.

The demand for reopening the question of the Hague Convention is opportune since it is obvious governments are not in favour—only two or three have ratified, though it has been fifteen months in existence. The report emphasizes that it is of the greatest importance for the success of the proposed codification that the result should command the support of women, which it cannot have if it admits discrimination against them. It is further essential that the codification of

nationality laws should command the support of those countries—countries which already comprise so great a part of the world—in which there is a large measure of equality between men and women in their own nationality laws.

The report deals with the usual arguments advanced against equality in nationality. In answer to the argument that conflicts of laws would be increased it can be said that the old rule, once almost universal, of a wife's subordination, has disappeared in many countries, and cannot be reimposed, and that conflicts can now best be avoided by rendering universal the new rule, more in accord with modern thought, of a woman's independent right to her own nationality without reference to her husband's.

Other conflicts of law already exist, and are solved by international agreements.

It is argued that unity of the family depends on unity of nationality, but the report answers by stressing that "unity" is here used in two senses, first, harmony

with the family, second, "judicial unity"; only the latter can be imposed by law, and does not even now exist in many cases, since in some countries civil rights can be exercised by non-nationals, permitting, for example, a man to make a will to disinherit his family in cases where the law of the country of which he is a national forbids this. Children who acquire nationality under the *jus soli* have now a nationality different from that of their parents.

In short, since conflicts cannot be avoided, let us not use them as an excuse against the independent nationality of a woman.

As regards the derivation of a child's nationality, the committee considered that the mother should have the same right as a father to transmit nationality. Summarizing their views, the committee ended the report as follows:—

"The Committee points out that the most important and necessary application of the principle of equality in nationality between men and women are:—

(a) Marriage shall no more affect the nationality of a woman than it affects the nationality of a man.

(b) The right of a woman to retain her nationality or to change it by naturalization, denationalization or denaturalization shall not be denied or abridged because she is a married woman;

(c) The nationality of a woman shall not be changed without her consent except under conditions which would change the nationality of a man without his consent.



From left to right:

Seated: Miss Alice Paul, Miss D. E. Evans, Mme. Vérone, M. Buero, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Macmillan.  
Standing: Mme. Schreiber-Favre, Mrs. Bigland, Mlle. Nobs, Mrs. Meller, Miss Doty, Miss van Eeghen, Dr. Welt Straus, Frau Granitsch, Miss Oung, Miss Whittemore, Mrs. Bakker Nort, Miss Doris Stevens, Frau Matsch.

(d) That facilities should be given to either spouse to acquire the nationality of the other.

(e) That in cases where the *jus soli* does not exist the nationality of a child may derive equally from a mother or a father. That in respect to the derivation of nationality from a parent, the nationality of the one parent shall be given no right over that of the other."

The report was signed by the eight organizations, the I.A.W.S.E.C. and the University Women signing under a clause that the equality referred to in the statement was understood by them to include the right of a woman to her own nationality and her right to retain or change her nationality on marriage with an alien. The university women also added a reservation that they signed the report except in so far as it dealt with children, since the federation had not discussed that aspect of nationality.

The meetings of the committee were very lively, since members differed greatly in their views as to the suitable length and contents of the report. Attached to it is a remarkable appendix, grouping those countries which have improved their legislation into different categories, and quoting lettering and number of the actual laws. The committee recorded its unanimous and deep appreciation of this invaluable piece of work compiled by Miss Paul and also of her initiative and faith which had called the consultative committee into being. The report, which is being printed by the League, will be shortly available at I.A.W.S.E.C., 100, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1.

At the conclusion of the formal work the members of the committee decided to name a sub-committee of one member of each of the eight organizations to work in Geneva but it was realized that intense propaganda must be carried on nationally between now and September to ensure that governments shall interest their delegates to support the women's demand. Mme. Verone, as chairman, was asked to send a letter to each headquarters, begging them to circulate their branches to undertake a joint deputation of all available women's organizations to the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, and Minister for Home Affairs, and to organize the Press and public opinion in support of an enduring system of law based on equality and justice.

M. I. CORBETT ASHBY.

#### INTERNATIONAL HOUSING CONGRESS.

BERLIN: 1-5 July 1931.

In these days of international exchanges in so many fields, the question of housing and building has also formed the subject of an international exchange of experience. Two international congresses dealing with this question have recently been held in Berlin, attracted by the German Building Exhibition in conjunction with the International Exhibition of Town-Planning and Housing. The International Federation for Housing and Town Planning (President Dr. Raymond Unwin, London) dealt principally with Town Planning, Slum Clearance, and Traffic Problems in relation to towns and country Planning. The International Housing Association (President Senator Wibaut, Amsterdam) took as its themes: "The Social and Political Significance of Housing to-day and tomorrow," the provision of small houses at reasonable rents, and Housing Care and Custody.

The Federation's Congress proved the fundamental importance of the general question of Town Planning and public Utility Services; that of the Association emphasised the problem of housing provision for the poorer classes of the population. The English-speaking nations were more in evidence at the Federation Congress,

those of the Continent at that of the Association, where German and French predominated. This is due to the fact that the Association has sprung from the "Comité permanent des habitations à bon marché," in Brussels; and also because the question of the provision of housing accommodation at reasonable rents is a burning one on the Continent, where the single-family house does not predominate, as in England, and the bulk of the population live in barrack-like blocks with dark and airless courtyards erected by speculators. If for these reasons the separate sessions were justified, for many participants they entailed an undesirable overlapping and waste of time; the Congresses had to be taken in turns.

The following Report deals only with the International Housing Congress, which dealt with questions closely concerning women and which call for our co-operation in large measure. The following questions can only be solved satisfactorily through the co-operation of women: how best can the available space be utilised for small dwellings so as to meet the needs of the industrial woman; what practical improvements are essential; what should be aimed at so as to make upkeep cheaper? It is perhaps the psychological moment now, when new efforts are being made in all countries, to obtain women's co-operation and it would be valuable if the Alliance Auxiliaries would take up this question.

Full reports will be published on the different subjects discussed at the Housing Congress, so that we may confine ourselves to discussing the prevailing points of view. The question that came to the fore was the provision and furthering of housing schemes by the state or municipality, and the very differing opinions thereon. For the supporters of the theory of a free industry, state housing or state-aided housing, was an undesirable measure of necessity which should be done away with as soon as possible (this was especially the view of the delegate from New York). The exactly opposite point of view was expressed by those who see the provision of housing accommodation (and that for all classes of the population) as one of the most important tasks of the state or community. This point of view was energetically expressed by the delegate from the City of Vienna. A middle view was taken by the German delegate, namely, that community building should help out private enterprise. Only when private enterprise and initiative is unable to do the work, should the authorities intervene. The following phrase was coined: The provision of dwellings fit for human occupation is the half of a sound social policy. It was pointed out from Vienna that the provision of housing by the city only for the poorer classes—for example those with large families—is a heavy risk: for it must provide houses where building is dearest and where the risk of loss is greatest, without the chance of making up on higher-rented houses.

On the whole, the opinion prevailed that under present conditions private building enterprise on a profit producing basis is not in a position, without the support of public means, to provide for all classes accommodation to meet their industrial, social, health and cultural needs. The reason is that in times of economic crisis the provision of capital for the enterprise is difficult and the high interest charged must necessarily increase rents. This is so even in the U.S.A., where they have had to pass legislation for public support for the building industry in order to provide housing for the poorer classes, and where President Hoover has said that it is easier to find the money to buy a motor car than to build a house.

The afternoon sight-seeing tour through some of the new settlements of Berlin provided valuable aspects of social and educational work in connection with Public Utility Housing. Here on the outskirts of the city bright friendly buildings have been erected with wide

green spaces. In self-contained blocks, central wash-houses, kindergartens and other communal rooms have been provided. Two factors have contributed towards this activity since the war. Living conditions were particularly unfavourable in the existing "barrack blocks" (houses of great depth with small frontages and with wings and side buildings enclosing a number of back yards which in view of their limited size could not provide sufficient light and air for the dwellings). The other cause is sociological: the housing question shows most clearly the social upheaval which has taken place in Germany. The many large blocks of the Berlin "Gedag" (Dachgesellschaft für den gewerkschaftlich-genossenschaftlichen Wohnungsbau) witness to the rapid rise of the working class in Germany; these blocks are not only for workmen, but also for employers and officials. The type of dwelling they provide is almost exactly the same as that to which the impoverished middle class has been driven, as the former usual "gentleman's house" is now economically impossible.

The subject of the provision of small dwellings had been prepared by the organisers of the Congress by means of an international enquiry, the results of which were laid before the meeting. With regard to land development, it was shown that building in rows is from the economic point of view the best way to provide cheap housing. But the lower building costs have to be set against: (a) restriction of area and number of rooms, (b) simplification of equipment. The former is especially serious from the point of view of family life and development. The women's organisations in all countries where such measures are being planned or are already in execution should keep a watchful eye on them so that as a result of the extreme need of the moment, housing accommodation, may not become such that family life will be rendered utterly impossible.

Though the social significance of the building industry was certainly recognised by socialogues before the war, the visitor to these two Congresses and to the very interesting Building Exhibition, got anew the strong impression that to-day Housing and Building are no longer matters which concern a few experts, but awake the greatest interest in the whole community. This is especially noticeable in places—as in Linz—where half the population belong to a building co-operative. The technical possibilities of the building trade are manifold; the question is how to solve the problems of the world depression in an economic way. This exchange of experience provided many new ideas.

ELSE WEX.

#### REVIEW.

MRS. FAWCETT.

Millicent Garrett Fawcett, by Ray Strachey. (Murray, 15s.).

Feminists in other countries besides Great Britain have been waiting for this book. Dame Millicent, or, as she was known for so many years, Mrs. Fawcett, was one of the first suffragists to take an international view of the women's question; however absorbing the national situation might be, and however heavy her own work in connection with it was, she never relaxed her keen interest in developments in other countries. Delegate for Great Britain to the second Conference of our Alliance at Berlin in 1904, she was elected a Vice-President, and was for a long time personally responsible for the work of the London office; she kept up an enormous correspondence with feminists all over the world, and was known and admired by thousands who never met her.

This fact of her sustained interest in the international side of the movement while she was ceaselessly involved in the national side of it indicates an important

factor in her character. Mrs. Fawcett was one of the most industrious women who ever lived, and she was also one of the best balanced. Her mental poise was never shaken; there was a place for everything in her brain and everything was in its place. Her strong intellectual powers, her racy and individual sense of humour, her emotional reserve, her physical healthiness and her birth and breeding in a Victorian upper middle class home, all contributed to the making of the woman who was an ideal leader in the long and painful campaign for the enfranchisement of women in Great Britain. Enthusiasm never made her lose her sense of proportion, defeat never made her lose her patience and nothing could ever make her lose her head. The one criticism which may be brought against her is that, in spite of her unflinching purpose, she was perhaps too satisfied to make haste slowly, and that her very patience and steadfastness made her too much inclined to try again and again methods which were not bearing or promising to bear much fruit. How much justice there is in this argument it is hard to say, for the interlude of militancy, so blatantly emotional, so utterly against all her principles—and Mrs. Fawcett was a woman for whom a principle was as real and definite as a table or a chair—confuses the clear course of the constitutional movement. Coming after the great days of the struggle, one has the advantage of being able to view it without being blinded by personal loyalties, and while perfectly understanding the controlled disapproval of the militants which is all Mrs. Strachey allows herself to show, one is inclined to think that not only did they appear at the psychological moment for speeding up the victory, but also that they were indirectly of great benefit to Mrs. Fawcett's organisation. Thousands of women, who would not otherwise have been aware of the question, were awakened when militancy made it a burning topic of the day and many of them, once awakened, joined the older, constitutional society. Mrs. Fawcett's own attitude to the militants, among whom she had near relations, was flawless. And her own peculiar virtues as a leader never shine out more radiantly for the reader of this book than when during the war the Representation of the People Act comes up for discussion. Mrs. Fawcett was patriotic; she was absorbed in the fortunes of the war, but when the problem of adjusting the franchise to suit the fighting men began to come forward in Parliament, her unerring political acumen and her unflinching zeal for the cause of suffrage pressed her into action on behalf of the women at once. And where was the leader of the militants then? Alas, her fiery enthusiasm could never allow two principles to exist in her mind at the same time, and her passion for the Cause had had to go overboard to make room for her passion of patriotism. Mrs. Fawcett kept her sense of proportion and women were admitted to a limited measure of enfranchisement in 1918.

She had heard John Stuart Mill advocating such a measure in 1867, and she lived to see the universal suffrage granted in 1927. Mrs. Strachey has a particular talent for political history and she succeeds in making what is an exceedingly complicated story admirably clear in her account of Mrs. Fawcett's life and work between those dates.

This book is an absolute necessity to the feminist's library; it should stand by the equally indispensable *Cause* by the same writer. One wishes the history of the Woman Movement was a subject taught in girls' schools; if girls could only study at an impressionable age such books as this life of Mrs. Fawcett we should hear less than we do of the apathy of the younger generation and of how it takes all the glories of its inheritance as a matter of course.

A.M.R.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

On June 25th, Dame Rachel Crowdy, D.B.E., R.R.C., in recognition of her twelve years' international work in the League of Nations, was the Guest of Honour at a dinner arranged by the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations.

Miss Gertrude Guttman, a chartered accountant, has been appointed Commissioner to the Superior Court, Montreal.

The New Zealand Compulsory Military Training Bill, fiercely attacked for nineteen years, has at last been allowed to fall into abeyance.

On the 7th July, there were elections in several parts of the Duchy of Luxembourg. Three women candidates were adopted, one by the Labour Party, one by the Radical Socialists and one by the Communists. None of these were elected, and the one woman who had sat in previous Parliaments, Mme. Thomas, failed to secure re-election.

Mrs. Cornelia Woolley Hopkins has been appointed police commissioner at Long Branch, New Jersey.

Miss Picton-Turbervill received many congratulations on the passing into law of her Bill to prevent the death sentence being passed on expectant mothers.

Nina Petrovna Demney is a member of the Arctic expedition organized by the Soviet Republic, which recently left for Frithjof Nansen Country. Miss Demney, who is 28 years old, is the geographer of the party and the first woman to take a leading part in a Polar expedition.

Willia Cather, the well-known American novelist, was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by Princeton University at its recent 184th commencement. She is the first woman ever given an honorary degree by the university.

The centenary of the birth of Miss Dorothea Beale was celebrated at the beginning of this month. Miss Beale founded the famous Cheltenham Ladies' College; she was one of the great educationalists of the nineteenth century. Between 2,000 and 3,000 persons attended the service in Gloucester Cathedral in honour of her memory.

The Delhi Municipality has admitted women to its franchise and to eligibility for its membership. Miss Dickenson, Secretary of the Vigilance Society of Bombay, was nominated as the first woman Member of the Bombay Legislative Council, and Dr. Mrs.

Shave of Lahore was nominated by the Eurasian community as their representative in the Punjab Legislative Council.

The President of Ecuador has appointed as representative of that Republic on the Inter-American Commission of Women, Rosa Huerta de Viteri Lafronte, wife of the Ecuadoran Minister in Washington.

President Terra (Uruguay) has decreed the formation of a corps of women police in Montevideo. This decree is the immediate result of the visit of Commandant Mary Allen, of the Women's Auxiliary Service (Great Britain).

The Trustees of the British Museum have appointed Miss Hoyle, M.A., to the Assistant Keepership in the Department of Manuscripts. For several years women have been eligible for posts on the Museum senior staff, but this is the first appointment that has been made.

Miss G. Plummer has been appointed Superintendent of Education for Nigeria.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Louise McKinney, on July 11th, at Claresholm, Alberta. She was the first Vice-President of the World's Christian Temperance Union and the first woman ever elected to any legislative assembly in the Empire. Mrs. McKinney was one of the seven Alberta women who sponsored the appeal to the Privy Council which won the right of Canadian women to sit in the Senate. She was elected to the Alberta Legislature in June, 1917, as an independent.

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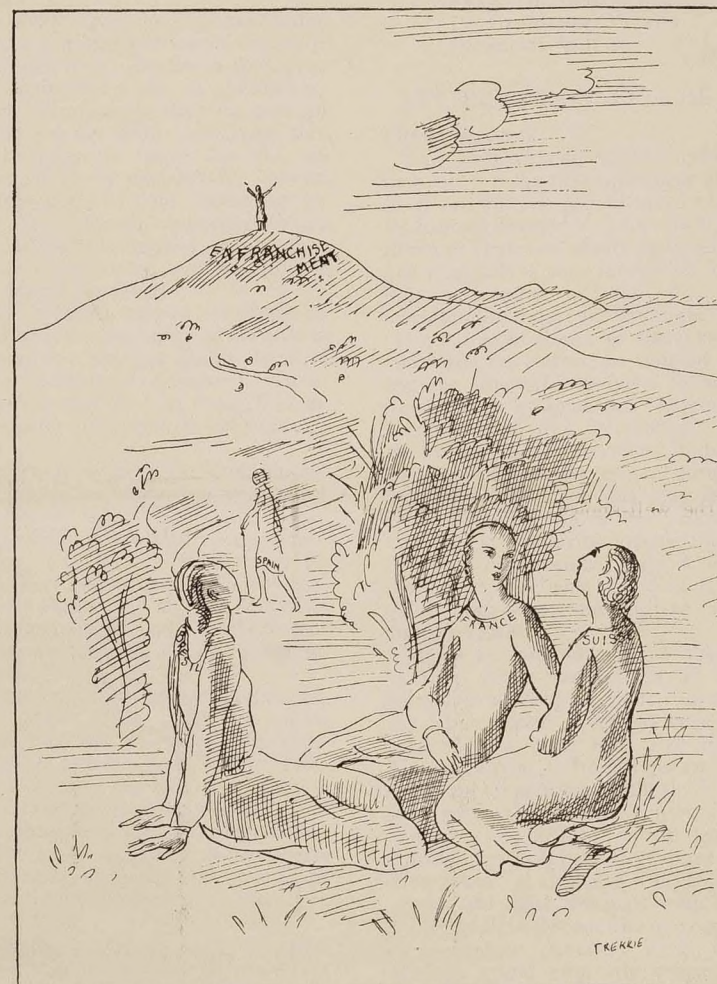
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## JUS CARTOONS: No. XVII.

ENFRANCHISEMENT IN THE LATIN COUNTRIES.



France (to her companions): "What a beautiful prospect Portugal must be enjoying now!"

## SECTION FRANCAISE.

## CONVOCAATION AU XIIe CONGRES.

ATHENES: le 17 au 23 Avril, 1932.

L'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage et l'Action civique et politique des Femmes invite ses Sociétés affiliées de 44 pays, ainsi que celles demandant l'affiliation et toutes les Associations féminines, tant nationales qu'internationales, sympathiques à son programme, tous les hommes et toutes les femmes qui approuvent son action, à son XIIe Congrès qui se tiendra à Athènes du 17 au 23 Avril, 1932.

Après 23 années de travail, après des victoires suffragistes dans maints pays (suffrage partiel ou intégral), après le Congrès magnifique tenu à Berlin en 1929 pour célébrer le 25ième anniversaire de sa fondation, l'Alliance va tenir son XIIe Congrès dans un pays où les femmes n'ont encore que des droits politiques fort restreints, bien que ce pays, la Grèce, ait été, en quelque sorte, le berceau de la démocratie. Aucun lieu ne pouvait être mieux choisi pour rassembler les femmes de l'Orient et de l'Occident, apportant toutes leur contribution à la civilisation mondiale, et resserrant ainsi une union destinée à surmonter les obstacles qui s'opposent encore à l'égalité des sexes.

A côté des pays qui refusent encore les droits de citoyennes, même la plupart des pays qui ont accordé le droit de vote aux femmes, n'ont pas établi l'égalité complète. L'influence féminine ne correspond aucunement à la contribution que par ses dons d'esprit et de cœur la femme peut apporter au progrès de son pays et à celui de l'humanité.

L'égalité proclamée en principe n'est donc encore nulle part un état de fait et les femmes ne peuvent et ne doivent se désintéresser de la lutte féministe, si elles veulent prendre leur place légitime dans les gouvernements, l'administration, l'industrie, les finances, les professions, et surtout dans l'éducation de la jeunesse. Elles ne peuvent se désintéresser de la lutte féministe si elles veulent qu'en tous pays les Codes civils cessent d'être une plaie douloureuse pour la vie de la femme, de l'épouse et de la mère.

Les grands fléaux sociaux qui pèsent sur l'humanité, attaquent la femme d'une façon poignante, mais il lui manquent encore bien des armes pour les combattre. La coopération de la femme est indispensable pour arriver à des méthodes plus efficaces de production et de distribution, mettant fin au chômage, le grand fléau de nos jours avec toutes ses conséquences physiques et morales, qui privent aussi la femme de sa liberté économique, professionnelle et personnelle, menaçant ainsi de la rejeter dans le servage dont elle s'était peu à peu délivrée.

Le grand idéal de la démocratie nécessite une courageuse révision des anciennes méthodes de gouverner les peuples et ne permet plus de tenir à l'écart l'activité politique des femmes. Affranchies, les femmes égales de l'homme, doivent devenir une des grandes forces motrices, qui aideront à vaincre enfin les rivalités entre les nations afin d'arriver à supprimer la guerre et à réaliser un nouveau monde de coopération internationale.

Venez à Athènes, femmes de tous pays, de tous continents, de toutes races. Nous formerons ensemble des projets de travail futur, pour balayer les limites artificielles qu'un long préjugé a établi entre les sexes. Conscientes de notre dignité de femmes, nous désirons appliquer nos droits à l'accomplissement de nos devoirs comme citoyennes de la Société Humaine.

MARGERY I. CORBETT ASHBY.

ADELE SCHREIBER.

ROSA MANUS.

GERMAINE MALATERRE SELLIER.

FRANTISKA PLAMINKOVA.

EMILIE GOURD.  
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MILENA ATANATSKOVITCH.  
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## LETTRE PERSONNELLE DE LA TRESORIERE.

CHÈRE MADAME,

La convocation au XIIe Congrès de notre Alliance est un appel direct aux femmes pour qu'elles n'oublient pas le travail qui s'impose encore à nous si nous voulons que les femmes deviennent à travers le monde des citoyennes libres et égales en droits avec les hommes. Et le fait que nous allons nous rencontrer à Athènes est un symbole du combat qui doit être livré dans l'Europe méridionale, toutes nos bannières tournées vers l'Orient; car quelles que soient les obstacles que d'autres femmes aient déjà rencontrés ou doivent encore rencontrer, les femmes orientales doivent encore y ajouter ceux qui résultent du système du "harem" ou du "purdah." Il est certain que de profonds changements se sont produits; mais, les effets indirects des traditions anciennes subsistent encore parmi les hommes et les femmes, et nous devons leur faire face. Or, si les solutions occidentales des problèmes orientaux sont inutiles, la solidarité internationale entre les femmes contribue certainement, elle, à nous préparer toutes à trouver la meilleure solution à tous nos problèmes, qu'ils nous soient particuliers, ou qu'ils soient communs à toutes.

Même les femmes qui ont obtenu la reconnaissance de leurs droits rencontrent de nouveaux obstacles et de nouveaux dangers, dont l'un ne peut être évité que par l'ingéniosité et l'expérience réunies de toutes les nations. La crise financière mondiale, et la lutte désespérée pour le travail qui en a résulté, a été la cause d'attaques répétées contre le droit au travail des femmes, sous prétexte, comme toujours, des avantages des femmes elles-mêmes, ou de leur foyer, ou de leur famille, ces attaques n'en étant pas moins pour cela dangereuses et injustes. C'est là un des problèmes vitaux qui nous touchent toutes, et n'est-ce pas la meilleure ligne de conduite que nous puissions adopter que de concentrer toutes nos forces matérielles et morales dans ce grand effort de coopération pour assurer à l'avenir, aux femmes, des possibilités plus larges de travail et d'indépendance, possibilités dont l'absence fera toujours de nous le sexe inférieur et sans influence?

Or, l'Alliance doit avoir des ressources financières pour poursuivre son travail. Un minimum de ces ressources nous est absolument nécessaire en premier lieu pour le succès du Congrès d'Athènes, et ensuite pour la réalisation de notre futur programme. L'habitude acquise de l'économie a rendu les femmes ultra-prudentes: ne sauront-elles pas cette fois-ci faire un acte de foi et nous donner tout—et même un peu davantage—de ce dont elles savent pouvoir disposer, afin de nous aider à accomplir ce grand effort sur lequel seulement peut être construit un monde qui offre de réelles possibilités de développement pour les femmes? Ce succès de nos Congrès va toujours croissant: faites en sorte que le prochain continue cette série ascendante. Nous devons au pays qui nous accueillera, à ce tournant de

notre histoire, de tenir toujours plus haut notre étendard, et non pas de le baisser.

Croyez, chère Madame, à mon souvenir fidèle,  
FRANCES M. STERLING,  
Trésorière.

#### NOS FINANCES.

Nous avons la bonne fortune de commencer notre appel de fonds avec 200 livres sterling en main, don de la Commission Leslie. Le premier résultat de notre propagande est le suivant :

Mme. le Sénateur Plaminkova de Tchécoslovaquie nous a envoyé un don personnel magnifique de 30 livres.

Les Auxiliaires britanniques ont organisé un Comité qui commencera sa campagne en faveur du Congrès à l'automne.

Une Société roumaine (Droits et Devoirs de la femme) nous a promis dix livres.

Nous avons déjà, l'on s'en souvient, le don magnifique de 600 livres réuni par la Hollande. Nos membres commencent à envoyer leurs souscriptions.

#### Donations au fonds du Congrès (jusqu'au 15 Juillet, 1931.)

	£	s.	d.
Leslie Commission	200	0	0
Mlle. L. Dutoit	1	0	0
Miss E. W. Evans	0	10	0
Miss B. L. Hutchins	0	10	0
Miss M. L. Mathieson	1	0	0
Mrs. Montgomery	2	2	0
Mme. Plaminkova	30	7	6
Total	£235	9	6

#### LA QUESTION DE NATIONALITE A GENEVE.

La Commission consultative des huit organisations internationales de femmes créé par le Conseil de la Société des Nations pendant la session de Janvier 1931 s'est réuni à Genève du 2 au 6 juillet et a signé le rapport qui sera annexé par la Secrétaire Générale à son rapport officiel.

La Commission élit à l'unanimité Mme. Maria Vérone présidente et Miss D. Elisabeth Evans secrétaire. On prit le projet du rapport de la commission de rédaction comme base de discussion et enfin on se mit d'accord sur la formule suivante :

(1) Cette Commission déclare qu'elle est opposé à la Convention de nationalité de La Haye pour autant que celle-ci différencie entre l'homme et la femme sur la question de nationalité.

(2) Cette Commission appuie la proposition de la délégation Chilienne pour une entente internationale comme suit : "Les Etats contractants sont d'accord qu'aussitôt la promulgation de cette Convention il n'y aura plus de distinction légale, basée sur le sexe en ce qui concerne la nationalité."

(3) Cette Commission insiste auprès de la Société des Nations pour que des mesures immédiates soient prises en vue de

(a) une reconsidération de la Convention de La Haye.

(b) une nouvelle Convention fondée sur le principe d'égalité.

Le rapport étudie les articles de la Convention de La Haye et note que ceux-ci ayant pour objet d'éviter l'absence de patrie, ou la double nationalité, admettent par là même l'ancienne subordination de l'épouse, et la vieille coutume que sa nationalité dépend de son mari.

Un tel système peut la priver soit du vote, soit de la protection de son propre gouvernement, soit, le cas échéant, du bénéfice des assurances sociales, ou de la

possibilité d'exercer un emploi public, d'hériter etc. Même dans le pays où elle est née, elle peut être considérée comme étrangère.

La demande pour la réouverture de la question est opportune car il est de toute évidence que la Convention de Codification n'a guère rencontré de faveur auprès des gouvernements. Deux ou trois seulement l'ont ratifiée depuis quinze mois.

Le rapport souligne qu'il est de toute importance pour le succès de la nouvelle Convention proposée qu'elle soit soutenue par les femmes de tous les pays, notamment des nations qui ont accordé l'égalité politique.

Le rapport discute aussi les arguments avancés contre l'égalité en matière de nationalité. Sur la question des conflits qui pourraient être soulevés, le rapport déclare qu'ils seraient résolus comme d'autres conflits légaux déjà existants : par des mesures internationales.

En ce qui concerne la nationalité de l'enfant, la Commission considère que la mère devrait avoir le même droit que le père à transmettre sa nationalité.

La Commission termine le rapport en ces termes : Les points les plus importants à retenir dans l'application du principe d'égalité sont :

(a) Le mariage ne doit pas affecter la nationalité d'une femme pas plus qu'il n'affecte celle d'un homme.  
(b) Le droit d'une femme de conserver sa nationalité ou de la changer par naturalisation, dénationalisation, ou dénaturalisation ne lui sera dénié ou modifié par le fait qu'elle est mariée.

(c) La nationalité d'une femme ne peut être changée sans son consentement sauf dans des conditions analogues à celles où la nationalité d'un homme serait changée sans son consentement.

(d) Facilités doivent être données à chacun des époux pour qu'il acquière, s'il lui plaît, la nationalité de son conjoint.

(e) Dans les cas où le "jus soli" n'existe pas la nationalité d'un enfant peut dériver également d'une mère ou d'un père. Nul sexe ne saurait avoir droit de priorité sur l'autre.

Le rapport fut signé par les huit organisations de l'Alliance—avec une clause spéciale de réserve introduite par la Fédération des Femmes universitaires qui ne voulurent pas se prononcer sur le "droit de l'enfant."

La Commission vota un vœu enthousiaste de remerciements à Miss Paul pour son admirable travail documentaire exposant l'évolution de la situation de la femme relativement à sa nationalité qui fut attaché au rapport en forme d'annexe.

Le rapport sera publié sous peu par la S.d.N. et vendu à I.A.W.S.E.C., 190, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London. d'après MARGERY CORBETT ASHBY.

#### LETTRE DE GENEVE.

#### La XV<sup>e</sup> Conférence Internationale du Travail.— La Conférence Internationale pour l'enfance Africaine.

Jamais encore la participation féminine n'avait été aussi forte à une Conférence Internationale du Travail qu'à celle qui vient de se tenir à Genève du 28 mai au 18 juin : la liste des femmes membres de délégations, que l'on trouvera sur une autre page de *Jus*, le prouvera suffisamment. Il faut dire aussi que deux sur trois des questions à l'ordre du jour intéressaient spécialement les femmes : la revision sur deux points de la Convention de Washington interdisant le travail de nuit aux femmes, et l'âge d'admission des enfants aux professions non-industrielles.

Cette dernière question est en effet d'une importance primordiale parce qu'elle touche à une foule de ces petits métiers, souvent peu ou pas réglementés par les législations nationales, dans lesquels de pauvres petits êtres risquent d'être exploités : vendeurs de journaux, commissionnaires, "chasseurs"

etc. ; et le B.I.T. avait réuni sur ce sujet une documentation très-riche. Aussi, la Conférence unanime a-t-elle décidé de poursuivre l'étude de ce problème, qu'elle envisageait pour la première fois, et a-t-elle adopté un questionnaire, qui va être envoyé à tous les gouvernements membres de l'Organisation Internationale du Travail. Suivant le système de la double discussion, c'est sur la base des réponses faites à ce questionnaire que sera alors élaborée la Convention que discutera et adoptera la Conférence de 1932.

La question de la revision partielle de la Convention de Washington sur le travail de nuit des femmes n'a pas, tant s'en faut, réuni une pareille unanimité ; votée par la Commission, elle a été finalement repoussée en séance plénière : la majorité des deux tiers nécessaire pour décider cette revision n'a pas été atteinte, faute de deux voix (74 délégués se sont prononcés pour la revision et 40 contre, alors que 76 voix étaient nécessaires pour l'obtenir). Ce refus de revision ayant été très-diversement apprécié, il peut être intéressant d'en dire ici deux mots.

La demande de revision faite par les gouvernements de Gde-Bretagne, de Belgique et de Suède portait sur deux points spéciaux : le "décalage" de la période d'interdiction du travail de nuit, qui pouvait être, moyennant bon nombre de précautions et de formalités, transférée de onze heures du soir à six heures du matin, au lieu de dix heures du soir à cinq heures du matin, comme le prévoit la disposition en vigueur ; et l'abrogation de cette interdiction pour les femmes occupant des postes de direction ou de surveillance. Les délégués ouvriers sont arrivés à Genève catégoriquement opposés au principe de toute revision, même partielle, dans laquelle ils voyaient une atteinte à une de leurs premières conquêtes en matière de réglementation du travail ; les patrons y étaient favorables dans leur ensemble ; et les délégués gouvernementaux se divisaient entre les deux tendances. Ces variétés d'opinions se sont retrouvées parmi les femmes membres de délégations ; les unes, comme les conseillères techniques ouvrières d'Allemagne de Pologne, de Suède, de France, se sont énergiquement prononcées contre la revision au nom des organisations de travailleuses qu'elles représentaient, estimant néfastes les conséquences qu'elle pourrait avoir sur les conditions du travail des femmes ; alors que d'autres, au contraire, ont sincèrement déploré son refus comme un échec féministe. Ceci sans parler des éléments féministes radicaux, en marge de la Conférence, qui, travaillant pour que cette occasion fût utilisée pour l'abrogation complète de toute interdiction, ont vu sans déplaisir échouer une modification qui aurait rendu plus difficile la réalisation de leur programme.

Je ne crois pas en tout cas qu'il faille prendre ce refus au tragique, ni dans un sens ni dans l'autre. Il est fâcheux assurément que cette tentative de donner plus de souplesse à une Convention internationale se soit heurtée à une résistance dogmatique aussi fortement organisée, qui risquera d'ancrer dans bien des esprits l'idée fautive qu'une Convention est *tabou*, et que c'est une grave erreur que de chercher à l'améliorer. D'autre part, et du point de vue plus spécialement féministe, nous avons entendu émettre par des personnes qualifiées l'opinion que, dans l'état actuel des choses, et chaque pays interprétant librement les dispositions de la Convention, il était plus favorable pour les femmes que n'aient pas été précisés des termes, qui pourraient à un moment ou à un autre constituer une entrave, et que c'était l'affaire des groupements féminins de chaque pays de veiller à la teneur de ces interprétations. Malheureusement, il est des pays comme la Gde-Bretagne, où en ce qui concerne l'emploi des femmes à des postes supérieurs, il y a déjà une jurisprudence établie, qui, seule, aurait pu affecter une revision de la Convention sur ce point.

Ce n'est donc pas au sujet de cette revision que l'on a pu parler de "l'atmosphère antiféministe" de la Conférence. Certainement aussi, la Conférence n'a pas été antiféministe dès ses débuts, puisque, comprenant de nombreuses femmes, elle a désigné d'autre part deux femmes comme rapporteurs : Mme. Letellier (France) sur la revision de la Convention de Washington, et Mlle. Dora Schmidt (Suisse) sur le travail des enfants. C'est plus tard que les choses se sont gâtées, et que certains sentiments se sont fait jour, dont nous n'avons, certes, pas lieu de nous réjouir ; mais on peut aussi se demander si les manifestations exagérées et les démarches maladroitement menées autour de la Conférence et auprès de certains de ses membres n'ont pas contribué à créer cette atmosphère, non seulement chez les délégués masculins, mais aussi chez les femmes elles-mêmes ? Par exemple, le refus *unanime* de la Commission, où siégeaient pourtant nombre de femmes très-féministes de recevoir une délégation de l'*Open Door* peut certainement s'expliquer de la sorte. Refus regrettable à mon avis, car il est toujours préférable d'entendre toutes les opinions, même si l'on était justifié à dire dans ce cas-ci que les membres de cette délégation n'étaient pas des experts, qui auraient pu exposer un point de vue nouveau.

En dernière heure, et trop tard pour que cette proposition pût encore être discutée par la Conférence, Mme. Wasniewska, conseillère technique de la délégation ouvrière polonaise, et membre de la Commission des Conditions du Travail de l'Alliance, a donné communication d'une Résolution signalant l'importance d'une étude approfondie des conditions présentes du travail des femmes pour une action internationale prompte et efficace, susceptible d'améliorer ces conditions, et priant le Conseil d'Administration du B.I.T. de créer une Commission consultative pour la question du travail des femmes, composée de représentants des gouvernements, des patrons et des travailleurs avec la participation des femmes. Cette Résolution, qui soulève de nombreux problèmes extrêmement importants, sera examinée, M. Sokal, le Président de la Conférence, en a donné l'assurance, par le Conseil d'Administration.

D'autre part, Mme. Boschek, déléguée ouvrière autrichienne, a demandé au nom des femmes organisées que le B.I.T. procède à trois enquêtes, d'abord, et en se basant sur les mesures défavorables prises à l'égard des femmes dans nombre de pays, sur les effets du travail féminin dans la crise actuelle de chômage ; ensuite sur le nombre des femmes employées dans diverses catégories de travaux, en établissant des catégories selon l'âge, l'état civil, les salaires, les perspectives professionnelles, et la législation ; et sur les effets de la rationalisation sur le travail féminin.

A peine cette Conférence officielle était-elle terminée qu'une autre Conférence Internationale, officieuse celle-là, s'est ouverte à Genève, qui, à divers titres, intéressait aussi l'Alliance : je veux parler de la Conférence pour l'Enfance africaine, organisée par l'Union Internationale de Secours aux Enfants. Car il est impossible de traiter des conditions de vie des enfants dans un pays donné, sans toucher de près aux conditions d'existence des femmes dans ce même pays ; et nous avons pu de la sorte recueillir bien des faits concernant la situation des femmes, soit dans les rapports très-complets présentés par des spécialistes, soit au cours des débats, soit enfin dans des conversations particulières avec des participants à cette Conférence. La place nous manque aujourd'hui pour donner ici des détails qui jetteraient un jour instructif sur les problèmes de l'esclavage domestique ; mais en attendant qu'il soit possible d'y consacrer un autre article, je voudrais orienter vers l'Union Internationale de Secours aux Enfants (31, quai du Mont-Blanc, Genève) et sa documentation tous ceux que préoccupent à juste titre ces questions. E.Gd.

**LISTE DES FEMMES DELEGUEES A LA XVI  
CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL.**

ALLEMAGNE: Mmes. Else Niviera, Agnès Morkhe, et Gertrude Hanna, conseillères techniques ouvrières. Mme. Luders, conseillère technique de la délégation gouvernementale, a été malheureusement retenue au dernier moment à Berlin.

AUTRICHE: Mme. Anna Boschek, députée, déléguée ouvrière.

BRÉSIL: Mlle. O. Carvalho, conseillère technique gouvernementale.

EMPIRE BRITANNIQUE: Miss H. Martindale, conseillère technique gouvernementale; Miss A. Loughlin, conseillère technique ouvrière.

DANEMARK: Mme. Ragna Schou, conseillère technique gouvernementale.

ESPAGNE: Mme. Isabelle Palancia, conseillère technique gouvernementale; Mlle. Isabelle Garcia Mauri, conseillère technique patronale; Mlle. Regina Garcia y Garcia, conseillère technique ouvrière.

(N.B. — C'est la première fois, depuis onze ans que fonctionne l'Organisation Internationale du Travail, qu'une délégation patronale comprend une femme.)

FRANCE: Mme. Letellier, conseillère technique gouvernementale; Mme. Jeanne Chevenard, conseillère technique ouvrière.

HONGRIE: Mlle. Augusta Rosenberg, conseillère technique gouvernementale.

IRLANDE: Mlle. Louie Bennett, conseillère technique ouvrière.

NORVÈGE: Mme. Betzy Kjelsberg, déléguée gouvernementale.

PAYS BAS: Mlle. G. Stenberg, conseillère technique gouvernementale; Mlle. A. de Jong, conseillère technique ouvrière.

POLOGNE: Mlle. H. Sterling, secrétaire de la délégation gouvernementale; Mme. Eugénie Wasniewska, députée, conseillère technique ouvrière.

ROUMANIE: Mme. Romniciano, conseillère technique gouvernementale; Mlle. Grigorovici, conseillère technique ouvrière.

SUÈDE: Mlle. K. Hesselgren, sénateur, déléguée suppléante et conseillère technique gouvernementale; Mlle. K. Nilsson, conseillère technique ouvrière.

SUISSE: Mlle. Dora Schmidt, conseillère technique gouvernementale.

TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE: Mlle. Krausová, conseillère technique ouvrière.

YOUgoslavie: Mlle. Milena Atanatskovitch, conseillère technique gouvernementale.

Soit au total 27 femmes représentant 17 pays. C'est la plus forte participation féminine que nous ayons jamais enregistrée à une Conférence Internationale du Travail. Ajoutons que ce sont deux femmes qui ont été nommées rapporteurs pour deux des questions à l'ordre du jour: Mme. Letellier pour la revision de la Convention sur le travail de nuit des femmes; et Mlle. Dora Schmidt pour la question de l'âge d'admission des enfants aux professions non industrielles.

**NOUVELLES BREVES.**

Le Conseil Central de l'Association Nationale des Institutrices vient de voter la résolution suivante: "La N.U.W.T. affirme que la proposition de diminuer les salaires ne résout en aucune façon le problème économique actuel. L'Angleterre souffre d'une crise de sous-consommation qui sera certainement aggravée par une diminution des traitements et salaires."

Miss Picton Turbervill a été félicitée pour avoir obtenu sans bruit et sans débat le passage de sa proposition de loi qui interdit la peine capitale pour une femme enceinte.

Les Conservateurs du Musée britannique ont nommé Miss Hoyle, M.A., Manchester, assistante au Département des Manuscrits.

Miss G. Plummer a été nommée Surintendante des Ecoles pour la colonie de Nigeria.

Mrs. Cornelia Woolley Hopkins a été nommée Commissaire de police à Long Beach, New Jersey.

Willa Cather la célèbre romancière américaine vient d'être honorée du titre de Docteur par l'Université de Princeton.

Le Président de l'Ecuador vient de désigner comme représentante à la Commission inter-américaine des Femmes, Rosa Huerta de Vileri Lafrente, femme du ministre de l'Ecuador à Washington.

Le Président de l'Uruguay, sitôt après la visite de Commandant Allen a décrété la formation d'un corps de police féminine à Montevideo.

La Municipalité de Delhi a admis des femmes au droit de suffrage et à l'éligibilité. Miss Dickinson, Secrétaire de la Société de vigilance, a été nommée au Conseil législatif de Bombay et la doctresse Shave de Lahore au Conseil Législatif du Punjab.

Nina Petrovna Demney de Russie soviétique a été la seule femme à faire partie de l'expédition organisée par la République qui vient de partir récemment pour Frithjof Nansen. Miss Demney qui a 28 ans est le géographe du groupe de cette expédition polaire.

La conférence féministe en Brésil a eu un succès énorme. L'assistance, au moins 1000 personnes, a dépassé nos prévisions. Les pays représentés étaient la France, l'Allemagne, la Pologne, le Danemark, la Finlande, les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, le Venezuela, l'Uruguay, l'Argentine. La représentante du Brésil était Madame Dr. Maria Eugenia Celso Carneiro de Mendonçam, l'écrivain et poète. La Commandante Allen représentait l'Association des femmes policières. Dona Bertha Lutz présidait. Les sujets discutés incluent: l'Instruction publique, l'Assistance aux mères et aux enfants, les Droits civiques et politiques des femmes, et la Paix mondiale par les Femmes.

Un monument commémoratif de Dr. Aletta Jacobs et de son mari a été inauguré au crematorium de Westerveld, Hollande. Dr. Jacobs fut l'initiatrice du mouvement suffragiste en Hollande et un membre notable de notre Alliance.

Le 25 juin, Dame Rachel Crowdy, D.B.E., R.R.C., était au Café Royal de Londres l'invitée d'honneur d'un dîner organisé par le Comité pour la Representation des femmes à la Société des Nations.

Miss Gertrude Guttman, comptable juré a été nommée Commissionnaire à la Cour supérieure de Montréal.

Mrs. Louise McKinney, la première femme élue à une chambre législative de l'Empire britannique, s'est éteinte au Canada, à Calgary à l'âge de 63 ans.

Les dernières élections du duché de Luxembourg ont été désastreuses pour la représentation féminine. Des trois candidates adoptées par divers partis, aucune ne fut élue.

Nous savons depuis plusieurs semaines déjà que les femmes du Portugal ont enfin acquis la franchise élec-

torale; franchise limitée, il est vrai, à certaines conditions de capacité intellectuelle, mais le premier pas est franchi et le Portugal peut s'honorer d'être le premier pays latin qui ait reconnu le mérite des revendications féminines. L'Espagne semble promettre de suivre la même voie. Deux femmes; Victoria Kent, Directeur des Prisons, et Clara Campoamor, l'écrivain bien connu, ont été élues membres des Cortès.

En France, hélas! le mouvement reste stationnaire. La cause féministe est encore une fois à la merci des chicanes parlementaires. M. le Sénateur Héry est toujours décidé à ne pas rapporter et son comité a été le plus bruyamment actif à demander le renvoi de la discussion. Les nouvelles des Chambres sont plus encourageantes. La proposition si large de M. de Monzie est approuvée sauf une réserve pour la nomination aux postes publics.

Dansk Kvindesamfund (L'Association nationale féministe du Danemark, affiliée à I.W.S.A.) a fêté cette année ses 60 ans d'existence par un congrès de déléguées de tous ses groupes, auxquelles étaient venus se joindre des représentants des associations féministes des autres pays scandinaves.

L'importance qu'a eu Dansk Kvindesamfund, et pour les femmes danoises, et pour le pays pendant ces 60 ans fut à cette occasion reconnue par le gouvernement. La fondatrice de l'association, Mme. Mathilde Bajer, âgée maintenant de 93 ans, reçut la décoration de la médaille de mérite en or, distinction très rare.

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

**Association des Femmes pour le Service Social en Pologne.**

Chère Madame,

Il y a une grave erreur dans mon rapport à la Conférence de la Paix à Belgrad, Jus Suffragii, Juillet 1931, page 164:

L'Association des Femmes pour le service social en Pologne compte presque 40,000 membres et vous avez imprimé seulement 4,000, ce que veuillez bien corriger. Salutations respectueuses,

ANNA SZELAGOWSKA,  
Présidente de la Section Internationale.

**Le Bureau Temporaire de Geneve de l'Alliance Internationale.**

Chère Madame,

Comme ces années précédentes, l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage et l'Action civique et politique des Femmes ouvrira à Genève pendant l'Assemblée de la Société des Nations le 30 Septembre un Bureau temporaire, destiné à servir de centre de ralliement et de rencontre pour toutes les nombreuses féministes de passage à Genève à ce moment-là.

La Société des Nations ayant délaissé cette année la Salle de la Réformation pour tenir les séances plénières de l'Assemblée dans le bâtiment appelé "Bâtiment électoral," et où siège toujours la Conférence Internationale du Travail, l'Alliance a pu s'assurer un local à proximité si immédiate du Bâtiment électoral qu'il n'y a que la rue à traverser pour s'y rendre. Ce Bureau, situé 6 rue de Saussure, au 1er étage, sera ouvert tous les jours, le dimanche excepté, de 14 à 18 heures; et l'on y trouvera, avec des cartes d'entrée pour les séances de la S.d.N., des journaux féministes, et des publications de la S.d.N.; on pourra aussi s'y procurer des renseignements et des adresses, y prendre le thé, ou des repas, un restaurant étant établi au rez-de-chaussée, y faire sa correspondance et y écrire des articles, une machine à écrire étant à la disposition des visiteuses, etc., etc. En outre, et comme chaque année, il sera organisé dans ce Bureau des causeries sur des sujets d'intérêt féminin, faites

par des spécialistes de différents pays, et des réceptions et des réunions familiales y seront données, qui permettront de rencontrer toutes les personnalités féministes internationales, de passage à Genève à ce moment. Plusieurs membres du Comité de l'Alliance ont déjà annoncé leur intention de venir à Genève pour aider Mlle. Gourd, Secrétaire de l'Alliance, et notamment Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Présidente, Miss Sterling, Trésorière; Mmes. Plaminkova, sénateur, et Malaterre-Sellier, vice-présidentes, peut-être Mme. Schreiber, première vice-présidente, et Mlle. Atanatskovitch, secrétaire adjointe, ainsi que des Présidentes de Sociétés affiliées à l'Alliance.

De plus en plus, et chaque année davantage, Genève devient, et surtout pendant le mois de septembre, un centre de vie internationale intense. Nous pensons donc, non seulement les membres de l'Alliance, mais encore toutes les lectrices de ce journal auront intérêt et profit à connaître dès maintenant l'adresse de ce Bureau, où elles trouveront, de même que toutes celles de leurs amies qu'elles voudront bien y adresser, l'accueil le plus sympathique, en même temps que toutes les possibilités pour rendre leur séjour à Genève facile et intéressant.

Veillez agréer, chère Madame, mes salutations les plus cordiales.

EMILIE GOURD, Secrétaire.

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