

JUS SUFFRAGII.

# The International Woman Suffrage News

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FRENCH EDITION.

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

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**Features of the Month.**

The nation-wide enfranchisement of American women is postponed. A majority of the Senate voted in favour of the Federal Amendment to the Constitution, but as the vote was 53 to 31 the necessary two-thirds majority was not obtained. All who know the spirit of American suffragists will know that their struggle will only be intensified by this temporary set-back; the chief matter for regret is that such an immense volume of energy should be locked up in the struggle for the vote, whereas by granting the vote it would be liberated for constructive social work. The International Woman Suffrage Alliance has special additional reasons for regretting the Senate's action. Mrs. Chapman Catt, our President, is also the National American Woman Suffrage Association President, and has thrown her heroic energies into the American struggle, regardless of the immense strain on her strength. We must all deeply deplore that the struggle and strain are not yet over, though there is, of course, not the slightest doubt that in this case victory cannot be long delayed. The world can ill afford to wait while moss-grown Senators attempt to stem the flowing tide of liberty and democracy. However, we can confidently leave them to the tender mercies of American women. President Wilson has done his utmost to secure the women's victory, realising the value of a united nation, but in this instance even his powerful voice has failed. Meanwhile countries which have not hitherto been in the feminist foreground are rapidly making up arrears.

Uruguay shows a strong forward movement, although two years ago any women's movement was looked at askance. In Italy woman suffrage was advocated in an important political speech by the Minister Sacchi, and in Jamaica a mass meeting of women has demanded the vote. In Hungary, though anti-suffrage tactics have scored a temporary success, the struggle is being carried on more intensively than ever.

In India, the home of the veiled and secluded woman, where Europeans and Americans have least expected to find the suffragist, she is firmly demanding that the new reforms introducing a measure of popular government shall include women.

The anti-suffragist will soon find it difficult to find a congenial home on this globe. He had better join the winning forces before defeat overtakes his doomed party.



## RECENT LEGISLATION IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA CONCERNING VENEREAL DISEASE.—II.

Part I. appeared in our September issue.

By Miss Alison Neilans.

### Extracts from Evidence given before New South Wales Select Committee on Prevalence of Venereal Diseases.

#### CERTAINTY OF CURE

*Dr. A. A. Palmer, First Government Medical Officer, Sydney:* It is difficult to say when a man or woman is cured of gonorrhoea. I do not think any man can say he is. I have seen marked instances of people who thought they were cured, but were not. We have seen cases where men who thought they had been cured for years but were not, have given it to their wives. I am hopeful that in cases of gonorrhoea the injection is sufficient to effect a cure, but it is difficult to say. I think gonorrhoea tends to cure itself in time, but it is difficult at the time to say when a man is cured. Even microscopic examinations will not prove it. I have had negative results sent back every week for four weeks. Men in prison have been discharged from the hospital as cured, yet they have come back with acute gonorrhoea in a month or two later, although they could not have got a fresh attack in gaol.—(Questions 469-471.)

*Dr. C. E. Corlette:* With regard to gonorrhoea, my own opinion is that it is the most difficult thing in the world to be sure that any patient does not remain infective sometimes for many months, and, I am afraid, sometimes for years. Patients who are certified as cured are still capable of propagating the disease. People who are said to have had nothing the matter with them can spread it, even though treated by every possible method that is supposed to do good.—(Question 904.)

*Dr. Ralph Worrall:* It is very common for a woman to communicate gonorrhoea to a man when probably she did not know she had it. A man does not know when he is cured of gonorrhoea. He might have it two or three years. I might tell the committee of an incident. I was called to see a splendid young fellow who was out here from England on his wedding tour. He was a great athlete, and he married a rich girl. She had peritonitis, and he sent for me to treat her. It appears it was due to gonorrhoea which he had given her. He had not had gonorrhoea for three years. He had been under the best men in London, and had had no illegitimate intercourse between that time and the time of his marriage. When I told him he fell down in a faint. I am sure he would not have married if he had known that he was not cured. His wife would be sterile for ever.—(Questions 1,293-4.)

*Surgeon Joseph Foreman:* A man is not free from the possibility of infecting a woman for months at any rate. She may possibly escape, but probably she will not. It takes months and months before a man is really safe.—(Question 1,449.)

I think it would be impossible to carry out the system of the production on the part of a man of a medical certificate before marriage showing that he is free from venereal disease. It would practically be ineffective. They go to a doctor, and I must say I think that doctors formerly used to believe in all good faith that as long as there was no discharge a man could get married; but a thing like that is wicked.—(Question 1,446.)

#### THE WASSERMANN TEST

*Dr. E. H. Molesworth, Senior Physician for Diseases of the Skin, Prince Alfred Hospital:* A negative Wassermann test is not to be considered as carrying the same weight as a positive test. The negative test is largely a case of not proven unless it is preceded 24 or 48 hours previously by a provocative dose of 606, which seems temporarily to stir up the disease and render positive a reaction which was previously negative in a case where syphilis exists. Without that it would be unwise to lay too much stress on the proportion of negatives. If a man is positive, he certainly is syphilitic if you can exclude leprosy, scarlet fever, and measles.—(Question 1,019.)

#### GOOD RESULTS OF FREE TREATMENT

*Dr. Gordon W. Bray, Prince Alfred Hospital:* The free clinic was started January 11, 1915. There are evening clinics for both male and female patients. One thousand and nine males and 311 females were treated up to June 30, 1915. Many of these were children. There is about one case of syphilis to three of gonorrhoea. When patients come they are asked if they are prepared to donate anything. They give perhaps a shilling, or whatever they can afford. They give willingly. Chronic cases are the best patients we have. An enquiry is made as to whether they are in a position financially to pay the fees of a private doctor. We have only been running the clinic for seven months, but we have held them for the whole time. None of the syphilitic cases have dropped out. . . . Men are induced to bring their wives and families. We get the woman through the husband. Very few prostitutes are seen at Prince Alfred Hospital with syphilis.—(Pages 36, 37, 38.)

*Dr. L. P. Johnston, Sydney Hospital and St. Vincent's Hospital:* Have no provision for in-patients suffering from gonorrhoea or syphilis; in fact, they avoid trying to have them. In the case of a woman living wholly or partially by prostitution, it would be impossible to cure her unless she were treated as an in-patient. A prostitute does not generally come into hospital. She may go in while the acute symptoms are on, but she wants to get out as soon as possible to earn money to pay her rent, even before she is cured. Some provision would have to be made for her maintenance while she was being treated.

*Dr. H. H. Schlink, in charge of Out-Patient Department Diseases of Women, Prince Alfred Hospital:* The women who may be regarded as professional prostitutes form the largest proportion of chronic cases for gonorrhoea. Chronic cases are cases that have been in existence for probably six or eight months. It is difficult to cure those. There is only one way to cure them, and that is to get them into an institution and keep them under control in bed probably for three months.—(Question 1,349.)

*Surgeon Joseph Foreman:* I have considered the possibility of the prevention of the spread of venereal diseases. I was on a kind of Commission which tried to find a place where these unfortunate women (prostitutes) could go for treatment, and where they would be properly looked after. There would be no Committee of ladies, or any other Committee, to bother them. They were to go in perfect comfort and practically in secrecy. The late Inspector-General of Police told me that women have many a time come to him and said they would be only too glad to go into such a place if they knew where to go. They do not want to remain in a diseased condition; they want to get well. In my opinion, what is wanted is such an establishment where women should be free to go; no questions whatever should be asked them which would make their lot more uncomfortable than it is. They have plenty to suffer. If it were known that there was such a place, you would find that it would be patronised by women; the majority of them only want to get well. You would want from forty to fifty beds.—(Question 1,430.)

A proposal which is frequently brought forward in this country is that all persons suspected to be suffering from venereal disease should be medically examined and if necessary detained in a prison hospital until cured or non-contagious. An Act on these lines is in force in New South Wales: the Prisoners Detention Act. It is evident from the summarised evidence which follows that although it has been in force since 1909 it is doubtful if it is of any use. One magistrate considers it a waste of time to administer it. An excuse put forward for its failure is that it does not touch immoral women who have the option of a fine. On the other side the Hon. Fredk. Flowers says quite openly, "A whisper is given by the police and a term of imprisonment imposed instead of a fine. It is really intended for the detention of prostitutes."

Whatever the causes, it has not had an obvious success in reducing venereal disease. Perhaps after hearing the Hon. Flowers' explanation of its administration it is not altogether surprising.

#### PRISONERS DETENTION ACT (N.S.W.)

*R. T. Paton, Director-General of Public Health:* The figures for the Navy on the Sydney establishment had very much improved by September, 1911, from what they had been previously, and Mr. Paton attributed this to the working of the Prisoners Detention Act. As it, however, only came into force in 1909, it had only been about one year in operation, and, therefore, the improvement could hardly be ascribed altogether to the Act. On this point, Surgeon J. A. May, Medical Director-General of the Navy, when questioned upon that very point before the Royal Commission of Great Britain in connection with the fall in the figures from 1907-10, and the relationship to that fall of the Prisoners Detention Act and the Police Offenders Amendment Act, was asked this question: "Do you think there is any connection between the fall in those figures and either of those Acts?" He replied: "It is difficult to say, but I am rather doubtful."—(Questions 71-75.)

Only a very small proportion of even common prostitutes come under the Prisoners Detention Act. The persons have to be convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment or penal servitude. In the case of a large number of prostitutes committed to gaol, a fine is imposed. In these cases the Prison Authorities cannot do anything.

During the period 1909-10, 97 males and 27 females have been discharged uncured.—(Questions 76 and 77.)

*H. S. Hawkins, Police Magistrate of the State of New South Wales:* Prostitutes were not kept in till they were cured if they had the option of a fine. If they were imprisoned for non-payment of a fine, they were free to go immediately the time was up or when they had paid the fine. "I should like to make the Prisoners Detention Act read so that every person who was sent to gaol for any offence, whether punishable by fine or direct imprisonment, if found to be suffering from venereal disease should be detained."—(Questions 523-524.)

"I should again like to refer to the necessity of amending the Prisoners Detention Act. As it is now, it is a waste of time to administer it."—(Question 545.)

*Mr. S. McCauley, Comptroller-General of Prisons:* It would be a very difficult thing to determine if the Prisoners Detention Act should be amended so that people with the alternative of a fine can be detained.

In many instances the punishment would be out of all proportion to the offence. There are people in certain walks of life you cannot get at, and others on the streets that you can reach. "I think there are difficulties, and possibly hardships, in widening the application of the Prisoners Detention Act."—(Questions 1,162-1,167.)

*The Hon. Frederick Flowers, Ex-Minister of Public Health and President of the Legislative Council:* I was a strong advocate of the Prisoners Detention Act, and I think that it has done a wonderful amount of good. There is a large number of prisoners to whom it does not apply—that is, people who can pay a fine. I understand that it is worked in this way: "A whisper is given by the police, and a term of imprisonment is imposed instead of a fine. It is really intended for the detention of prostitutes. Answering the point that evidence had been given that a much larger number of males

## FRANCE.

### Public Opinion on Women Clergy.

As there is unfortunately nothing to report on suffrage this month, we shall consider the question of whether the functions of religious ministers have a chance of being offered to women, and whether they can prepare themselves in the faculty of theology. Although religious feeling is more widespread in women than in men, and although a greater number of them feel the need for resting the moral forces of their life on invisible forces, there are a great number of free thinkers and indifferent women. I think, however, that I need not apologise for writing in *Jus Suffragii* on the actual state of public opinion on women clergy in the Protestant Church. It is not a question of one of the religious or political questions which it is agreed to banish from societies where they could occasion dissensions; it is a question of historic fact, of a stage in human or rather masculine mentality, which seems intimately related to the question of woman suffrage and to the future development of women's influence in the world.

In fact, ecclesiastical functions are in all churches and all countries those which men deny most bitterly to women, and from which they exclude them most determinedly, relying on the obsolete pretext of the assumed superiority of their sex, man alone being worthy to exercise the sacred functions of religion.

On what is this pretention based? It would be difficult to prove it. In this question, as in many others, obsolete prejudices and traditions alone come into play. But it is a fact that it has needed much work for women to establish themselves in America as clergy in certain free churches, although they have done so to the number of about 3,000; and that Norway, which has given full political rights to women, and even admits them as members of the King's Council (Cabinet), still refuses to let them mount the pulpit.

Suffragists know by experience that when people do not wish to do justice to their claims they pass them over in silence in order to stifle all embarrassing discussion; it is therefore particularly interesting from the point of view of the progress made by feminism to see the question of women clergy discussed in certain religious journals of French Protestantism, which might naturally have been expected to be closed to innovations of this description. It is in "Christianity of the Twentieth Century," a journal of orthodox Protestantism, that the articles have been published from which the following extracts are taken. Pastor Sibleyras writes as follows:—

Our venerable colleague declares himself a convinced supporter of women's activity in the church, but he is definitely opposed to the institution of women clergy. Why? All his arguments can be resumed in two points: (1) Saint Paul, sanctioning the ancient idea of woman's inferiority, forbids her to speak in public; (2) our churches would compromise themselves gravely in the public eye, and would injure the cause of the gospel by acknowledging that they no longer find enough men to fill the clerical profession, and must resign themselves, faute de mieux, to women clergy. I shall not discuss these two arguments at length. The second seems to me particularly feeble, for indeed the question appears to be not whether the church would compromise itself by proclaiming the principle of the admission of women to the pastorate—the question is whether this principle is just in itself. The glory of the Christian Church is precisely not to hesitate to compromise itself when the truth is in question. The world will scorn us if we let women mount our pulpits? A fine affair! The martyrs have seen much worse. Have we come to such a pass as to forget that it is better to obey God than public opinion?

It is true that for M. Granier the will of God is in accord on this point with the prejudices of public opinion. "Let women keep silence in the assembly," says the Scripture. True; but it says also, as M. Granier reminds us: "Every woman who prays or prophesies (i.e., speaks in public) should have her head covered." Saint Paul therefore had varied opinions. That is easily explained if we admit that he had no intention of laying down the law on the point. He gave a rule for the celebration of religious service in the Church of Corinth, and possibly in all the churches of his time, but this rule has for long been obsolete. . . .

To solve the problem of women's ministry stand must be taken, I think, on other ground than that of texts. Has woman received from God the gifts which are required for the exercise of the ministry of the gospel? It seems to me that the whole question lies there. The answer to this question can only be in the affirmative. No doubt all women have not these gifts; neither have all men. The truth is that there are men who have them, and there are women who also possess them. It is indisputable. . . .

I ask you why you refuse the title to whoever fulfils the function. In M. Granier's articles the question of rights and privileges is often raised, men's prerogatives: "Let her not put herself on the same footing as men, and let her not imagine that she has the same prerogatives as he," he writes. And, again: "Certain privileges and authority shall be reserved to men." But he never indicates on what these rights and privileges are founded. In all justice it seems to me right can only be based on capacity; he who is fit to fill a post has a right to obtain it. All other distinctions are arbitrary and unjust.

than females had been detained, Mr. Flowers said: "I should not like to see a man kept in gaol one day longer than is necessary. If these people were of a class that could be trusted to present themselves for treatment, I should say your suggestion was a good one, but I think some discretion should be exercised."—(Questions 1,743-1,745.)

*James Mitchell, Inspector-General of the Police:* If a woman importunes any man with the view to prostitution, whether he is a constable or not, we bring her before the court and she is dealt with. The penalty inflicted is not a fine, but imprisonment. In such case a woman can be brought under the operations of the Prisoners Detention Act.—(Questions 1,047-1,048.)

#### IMMORAL WOMEN ROUND CAMPS

The following statements as to the conditions surrounding the military camps have a familiar sound. Regulation 40d of the Defence of the Realm Act was defended by much the same story as to troops of diseased prostitutes hanging about the camps and infecting the soldiers. In New South Wales investigations were made, and it was found that the stories were absolutely inaccurate. Such professional women as were discovered in the vicinity of the camps were not diseased, and infection for the most part was contracted by the soldiers from apparently respectable girls whom they met elsewhere.

*James Mitchell, Inspector-General of N.S.W. Police Force:* Before the camp started at Liverpool (N.S.W.), we had complaints from Kensington and Randwick, where the camps were formerly located. It was alleged that women of the town went there in large numbers and camped about the sand-hills at the rear of the military encampments. The then Chief Secretary and the Minister of Public Health had a consultation. It was decided to select two of our men who had the best knowledge of prostitutes to investigate. These men went to the camps in the afternoon and in the evening, and made a thorough search in the vicinity. They closely scrutinised the class of women who were found in the vicinity of the camps. The result was that in no single instance was a known prostitute found to be plying her avocation there. There were women visiting the camps as to whose moral character it was impossible to speak, but they were not known to the police as women of bad repute. After the investigation the military people were thoroughly satisfied that the disease contracted by the soldiers had been contracted in places other than the vicinity of the camps. The matter was brought to my knowledge that women were introduced to the Liverpool Camp by the soldiers and remained secreted in the camp, or in the vicinity of the camp, for immoral purposes, and that these women were diseased. I made an investigation and found that was almost entirely incorrect. It may have happened in an isolated instance, but the military police and the civil police were unable to get any evidence to justify the assertion.—(Questions 1,066-1,075.)

*The Hon. Frederick Flowers, President of the Legislative Council:* I should like to say a word or two in reference to the prevailing opinion that it is prostitutes who spread the disease. In the minds of a number of very good people there is an idea prevailing that it is the women on the streets who are responsible for the spread of venereal disease. There could not be a greater fallacy. I am not suggesting that women on the streets are free from disease, but I do protest against the impression that is abroad that it is only from this source that one can acquire venereal disease.

About twelve months ago, the military authorities made a representation, and I took steps to have a number of women arrested who were found in the vicinity of the camp. They were looked upon as what is known as "cruisers." I think that is the term applied to women who solicit on the streets. They were cruising round the camp soliciting prostitution. I think we arrested between eight and twelve, and the report I got was that all of them were clean. There was no trace of either gonorrhoea or any form of syphilis on them. . . . The fact remains, that nevertheless, there is a number of girls who are looked upon to some extent as respectable girls, who live in their own homes and lead respectable lives, but who, it can be proved without the shadow of doubt, spread the disease to a much greater extent than prostitutes on the street.—(Questions 1,731-1,732-1, and 733-1,739.)

## AUSTRIA.

### COMMITTEE FOR WOMEN'S WORK IN THE MINISTRY FOR SOCIAL WELFARE.

It is officially announced: "Women's work has considerably increased in scope and intensity since the war." The dangers arising from this, both for women and the community, make it indispensable to have thorough, expert treatment of all questions connected with women's work, and in this women will themselves co-operate. With this object a committee for women's work was instituted, consisting of representatives of the great women's organisations to supervise the whole field of women's work, and to carry out measures energetically. Besides the honorary members, two paid consultants have been appointed by the Ministry of Social Welfare, who will prepare the material for the committee and the ministerial business.

#### WOMEN INSPECTORS.

The Austro-Hungarian War Ministry has appointed eight women to supervise the labour conditions of the women auxiliaries employed in the army zone, in various quarter-master divisions, and at the military general government of Poland at Lublin.



No one, woman no more than man, has the right to bury in the soil the talents received from God. But for nineteen centuries our ecclesiastical institutions oblige women to bury in the soil of domestic duties or subordinate tasks of the church the eminent talents they may have received, and God knows what the church has lost in spiritual riches and treasures of edification. . . . In the great day of retribution God will not blame women for having left these talents unproductive, for it is not indeed their fault if they have produced nothing; but he will blame us men, authors of the constitution of the church, and our responsibility will be great for having condemned our sisters during so many centuries to play the rôle of useless servitors. Do not let us aggravate this responsibility by knowingly continuing the error of the past.

I know well that the institution of women's ministry will shock a mass of prejudices, and will trouble us deeply in the traditions and habits of centuries. That is the characteristic of all reforms and all progress. . . . What matter? On every rung of the social ladder to-day there is a tendency to give women their rights so long unrecognised. The working woman is gaining the application of the rule, "Equal pay for equal work." The intellectual woman sees all the careers hitherto shut to her opening one after the other. To-morrow political rights will be given to our sisters. Shall the church remain behind? Would it not be grand for her, would it not be in conformity with her most generous and most Christian traditions to take the lead in this movement of justice and liberation?—(Signed) Pastor Sibleyras.

On the other hand, Pastor Bordreuil is very uneasy:—

It seems to me that the first duty and great privilege of women is to be mothers. In opening to girls the road to all professions hitherto reserved to men we are leading to obligatory celibacy or marriage without children. A woman pastor whose youth is absorbed in preparation for examinations which will have given her the right to be ordained and to direct a parish, will she have been able to have learned to cook and sew and bring up children? Once installed in her church, will she be able to prepare for the coming of her children, to suckle them, to bring them up, to educate them, and at the same time to carry out the duties of a minister? It is possible that the work could be done by a woman; that it might even be done well. But I repeat she could not have children, and would need a robust health and constitution that the majority of women have not got. If she has children she would have to be rich to pay nurses, cooks, housemaids. In this case she would renounce the sweetest of all privileges, the most divine of duties—that of bringing up her children. God, in instituting the religious laws of his people did not confer on women the function of officiating priest. Jesus, in founding and organising his church, chose twelve men, no women, although already at that time the vocation of a pastor was rare, and among those surrounding him several of the holy women would have been as well qualified to be apostles as the girls and women called to-morrow to be students of theology by the supporters of women's ministry.—Pastor P. Bordreuil.

After M. Bordreuil and M. Sibleyras, may a woman be permitted to give her opinion on the basis of the principle as it concerns women? It seems to us that the simple acceptance of this principle would get rid of the greater part of the difficulties so frequently raised where women are concerned, for the principle is based on liberty and justice.

"Let women be left to judge what is proper for them to do or not to do. They are the best judges of the question, which they generally know more thoroughly than those who decide for them. There should be no exception to this rule for any career, and we confess we do not understand why one-half the human race has arrogated to itself the right (which is founded on no right) to dictate to the other half what is good or allowed for it to do. Leave, then, to each human being its liberty and responsibility; if it makes mistakes it will find them out, and the law of supply and demand will soon check the choice of careers for which women show no real aptitude. What we demand for them is entire liberty, the opening of all schools with the appropriate training, the right to full suffrage (whether in instalments or otherwise), and that in a general way every human being should be judged according to his capacities and work done, and not according to sex, which should not come into consideration. . . ."

"It seems to us absolutely certain that the hour of women's ministry will strike in our reformed churches, as it has already struck in other countries, and we think personally that this innovation will be beneficial. It may meet with more or less prolonged and more or less intelligent resistance; the hour will strike none the less because it has been imposed by the force of things, because the number of women having religious needs is greater than the number of men, and that there is no real reason to allege why women should not fulfil the duties of the pastor just as well as men, if they have received the same preparation and have studied sufficiently. . . ."

"We know well that women's help will always be accepted in subordinate positions, but it is best to recognise from now on that things have evolved, and that though there is no need for anyone, man or woman, to despise humble occupations, women who are conscious of capacity and worth will not continue to accept indefinitely subordinate positions.

"What we ask is that a juster society shall consider women as free beings, to whom are due in all things the same rights as

to men, and capable of giving to the world an unsuspected treasure of new strength and will, especially if men consider them as voluntary helpers and not as slaves or rivals.

"Men and women have such need of each other, and are so suited to complete each other. Let us never let them think they are rivals."—Marguerite de Witt Schlumberger.

Pastor Bordreuil, writing on women's ministry in *Le Christianisme* of July 25, says: "The first duty and great privilege of women is to be mothers"; and further on, "the most divine of women's duties is the education of children."

M. Bordreuil is quite right, and everyone will agree with him that family life is the most normal and happiest for women; it is a privilege.

But can this privilege fall to the lot of all? Must we tell our daughters to live a life of waiting—a waiting which will perhaps be a series of disappointments, and which will make of them wretched beings disposed to bitterness, discontent, melancholy, or which will drive them to a hasty marriage, where they will neither give nor receive happiness? Better show our girls that if they cannot all have the most desirable life, they can all have another one, rich, full, happy, and essentially feminine. The ministry is a serious choice; it is a vocation; it is an appeal from God. It is very probable that the choice will result in the renunciation of another path. It is the price to be paid, and it is of a kind to make those hold back who do not feel a vocation. Or, if marriage offers, work may be given up; that is likely, although it may be said that there are teachers who succeed in combining their profession with family claims. They must be considered exceptional, and we must admit that one vocation is enough for a human life. Do we not see already in practice many women devoting all their time to charitable work? In reality women's activities exist and are growing. Is it better for them to be trained for them, and that the necessary experience should be gained under careful direction? . . . .

Why should not a woman who has studied seriously be able to cook and sew? The harvest is great, the reapers are few. It is possible and good to see at work men and women collaborating, so that each one called and led by the Master will find his or her own place and contribute to the construction of the future city where justice will dwell.—S. Meyer, vice-president of the Institute of Women Ministers, Geneva.

We will quote M. Doumergue, considered a strictly orthodox pastor:—

The question of women's activity in the church, of women, of feminism, arises more and more everywhere. Here is the Evangelical Alliance of Great Britain raising it in its own way. The committee of the Evangelical Alliance has lately been sending out circulars with regard to the week of prayer in January, 1919, indicating the various subjects of prayer, and in a preface it emphasises three, of which here is one: Woman has gone over the parapet. She has abandoned for ever the protection and limitations of her hitherto protected life. New powers have been placed in her hands; new perils are round her feet. Woman has need of our prayers, for no turning can lead her back from the road on which she has started.

Many of us are asking whether a woman should be a pastor like a man. I think a synod has laid down that there should be no difference between men and women. Where is the difference between men and women? The Evangelical Alliance recognises that the barrier is down, and, considering it impossible to go back, it adds that women must be prayed for. The committee has perhaps said many just things in original and excellent words.

We are face to face with a revolution. We must not shut out eyes. In this revolution it is not certain that all is bad. It is certain that women are advancing towards a future full of promise, and with some risks dangerous for them and for society. Has the church its eyes open?—Pastor Doumergue.

In England, Miss Maud Royden, whose name is familiar to suffragists and social workers, has lately been appointed pastor of a free church in London, and she does not stand alone, to judge by the following quotation:—

"An unusual ceremony, if not unique, was celebrated in the King's Weigh House Church, belonging to a Christian denomination—two candidates, husband and wife, Mr. Claud Coltman and Miss Constance Todd, both having the necessary qualifications, were consecrated together before a large congregation. They were appointed to collaborate together in the auxiliary work of this church. Ordained together, they were married the following day. They are both graduates of London University and Mansfield College, Oxford. At the ceremony Mr. Russell preached a sermon on woman's place in the church and on her future rôle. "The old civilisation, in which woman was subordinate to man, has finished in shame; the new civilisation which we hope to build not only on the ruins of the old, but with the power that we hope for from on high will see men and women living the same life."

—*Evangile et Liberté.*

In Switzerland, we learn from the *Semewr Vaudois*, women preachers have made their début. Mlle. Gutknecht has preached at Meisterschwanden, and Mlle. Pfister at Espenmoos-Tablatt. The congregation is said to have been delighted.

It is therefore in all countries that the question of women's ministry is being agitated in all the Protestant churches. That

is all that we wished to point out, for to agitate is to live. A new path seems to be opening to women, who will feel themselves drawn in this direction partly by religious aspiration, and also by devotion to the poor, the weak, and the disinherited. The important thing is that the barriers should be broken down, and that it should be acknowledged that women have jumped over the dividing ditch.

DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER,

President of the U.F.S.F. (affiliated to the I.W.S.A.).

#### THE FIGHT AGAINST REGULATED PROSTITUTION.

*Jus Suffragii* for August and September reported the action of the Ministry of War in encouraging the provision of brothels for the troops, and the protests made by the National Council of Women and the Suffrage Union.

To drive home these protests delegates from many societies attended at the Ministry of War on July 17, and were received on behalf of the Minister by M. Jeanneney, Under-Secretary of State.

The following twelve societies were represented: National Council of Women, Mme. Siegfried; National Alliance, M. Bertillon; "Pour la Vie," M. Paul Bureau; French Suffrage Union, Mme. de Witt Schlumberger; "Amicités Civiques," M. Paul Desjardins; Fraternal Union of Women, Mme. Hammer; Abolitionist Federation, M. Ives Guyot; League for Moral Education; "La plus grande famille," M. Isaac; League for Women's Rights, Mlle. Bonneval; Social Action of Woman, Mme. Chenu.

The Under-Secretary, M. Jeanneney, listened to the deputation's speeches, and promised to submit the question to the Minister, and that he should consider the matter. The Minister of War addressed a letter to the President of the Suffrage Union and the President of the N.C.W., dated August 10, in which he wrote: "I have hastened to institute a fresh examination of the steps it would be advisable to take to protect the health of soldiers and to safeguard at the same time the physical and moral hygiene of French families."

Although by no means satisfactory, this reply at least promises reconsideration of the question, and the opponents of State regulation of prostitution will continue their campaign against it.

An important man summed up the situation in the following telling sentences: "If women resolutely determined on the abolition of methods so degrading for their sex they would succeed in abolishing them. What you need is a large number of women with 'go' (cran), as they say of the soldiers. When you have a great object you must dare, be determined, have 'go.'"

—*La Française.*

La Française for September 21 is devoted to the moral question, and gives excellent articles on the fight against regulation, sex education, and the raising of the moral standard.

## GERMANY.

### MARRIED WOMEN'S WORK.

At a conference held in Munich on the question of population, Dr. Lüders, of Berlin, spoke on the question of married women's work. She pointed out the connection between large families and the work of married women in the working classes, and showed that this led to the depression of wages and increase of women's work. With reference to the excessive employment of women during the war, where the necessary attention was not paid to the physical strength and domestic responsibilities of the women, the speaker demanded: (1) The speedy reintroduction of legal protection for women workers; (2) the systematic examination, under official direction, of the effect of different employments on women's health, with special regard to age, parentage, family circumstances, and length of employment, as a basis for a systematic extension of protective laws; (3) increase of inspection, especially of women inspectors; (4) retention in peace-time of the maternity assistance laws, these to be made of universal application; (5) adjustment of wages and taxes according to the number of children; (6) the community to share in the expenses of education and upbringing of children belonging to large families; (7) the speedy erection of decent dwellings suitable for children; (8) compulsory continuation schools for girls, with the establishment of domestic instruction for women workers. —*Gleichheit.*

### WOMEN AND THE FIGHT AGAINST VENEREAL DISEASE.

The National Council of Women has presented to the Reichstag a series of resolutions on the law for combating venereal disease. It recognises that the law makes a serious

attempt to protect public health, but holds that inasmuch as it is only directed against prostitution it offers men a fallacious security. Section 2, in order to be effective, should enforce compulsory treatment for all persons suffering from these diseases. It should be a punishable offence for anyone who has occasion to believe himself or herself to be infected, to neglect to have proper medical treatment. The doctor should be obliged to disclose to patients the nature of the disease, and especially its infectious nature. The Council regrets the one-sidedness of supervising the health of prostitutes only. The usefulness of the new clinics is largely nullified, unless all persons suspected of being infected are obliged to attend them. This would render it unnecessary to single out prostitutes for special regulation. In so far as public order and decency demand special regulations for prostitutes, they should be combined with measures forbidding not only brothels but the segregation of prostitutes. The Council considers the present measures of health supervision of prostitutes an advance on the old police methods, but that it still retains the objectionable feature of class legislation. The Council considers the whole question as a moral as well as a hygienic one, and it can only be solved by strengthening the national will for a morally healthy life. The regulation of prostitution is one of the greatest obstacles to this moral education. It therefore supports all measures tending to transform regulation into health supervision equal for both sexes.

### HOUSEWIVES AND CO-OPERATION.

The Union of German Housewives' Leagues has recently published a brochure by Dr. Kurt Gerlach on "Women and Co-operation." The argument is, in brief, that women must learn to think in terms of political economy. After the war the greatest economy will be needed, and women, as the nation's spenders, have the matter in their hands. Co-operation will be woman's great help, having the same interests as she has, as the individual capitalist trader is her opponent, with rival interests. Women are not so impregnated as men with the idea that production only takes place for profit. Production must be subordinated to consumption.

### WOMEN DEMAND ADMISSION TO SCHOOLS OF ART.

The Prussian Woman Suffrage Society has presented a petition to the Education Minister requesting the admission of women to schools of art. Dr. Schmidt gave an interview to a member of the committee, who drew his attention to the fact that whereas women are admitted to universities and technical high schools, they are still excluded from art academies. One reason has been the objection raised to mixed "life" classes, but the experience of medical schools goes to show that no undesirable results need be feared, as they are excluded by serious study. The Minister's attitude was friendly, though he was unwilling to concede the principle of equal opportunities for men and women.

—*Frauenfrage*, September.

### WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN BADEN.

Baden women have been greatly disappointed by the rejection of woman suffrage by the Diet, especially by the utterances of the Minister von Bodman in the discussion on constitutional reform. Even the discredited old phrase of women's place being kitchen, nursery, and church was trotted out again, although it might have been thought that modern circumstances had long made them obsolete. The absurdity of telling women to stay at home is patent when they are called up in millions to care for the State.

A correspondent of the *Zeitschrift für Frauenstimmrecht* writes: "The new orientation has passed women by. That is most painful to all of us who, in spite of everything, clung to the tradition of our dear homeland. We were prepared for the rejection of the woman suffrage motion by the Diet. Especially after the Constitution Committee had refused the demand with 9 votes against 4, it surprised no one that the debate in the second chamber led to no good result. It was rejected by a large majority. The usual debates were instructive for women. The demand for the municipal vote was also rejected. We did not expect that. The Commission for Justice and Administration had by 9 votes to 6 declared for the introduction of woman suffrage in local government. So much the greater was our disappointment. In the second chamber it was defeated by 25 votes of the Right against 21 votes of the Left."

The report, however, continues hopefully that the women will continue the struggle undiscouraged. Women have learned in these sad times that they must demand their full rights, because it is a necessity for the State to have women as responsible members.



"WOMEN'S COMMUNAL FRANCHISE IN GERMAN FEDERATED STATES"—BY JENNY APOLANT.

In the introduction the author gives a survey of those town and rural councils in Germany for which a woman is allowed, under certain conditions, to use a communal vote. Independent women—i.e., landed proprietors, independent women of means, etc.—may cast their vote personally for the rural councils of the province of Hanover, the kingdom of Saxony, the principality of Schaumburg-Lippe, the Hansa towns of Lübeck and Bremen, and Mecklenburg-Schwerin. For the other rural councils of Prussia, with the exception of the Rhine province (where they may not vote at all), they may only record their vote by means of a male proxy. The same rule applies for the town and rural councils of Hohenzollern, on the right bank of the Rhine, in Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach, and in Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt. The author shows that this measure of franchise in the different parts of Germany is always bound up with the property, and not with the person, of the woman who exercises it.

Marie Stritt, the president of the Verband für Frauenstimmrecht, contributes a foreword. The book was originally to have appeared after the war, in order to serve as a basis for intensive work on the part of the suffrage societies for women's communal vote. But Prussian electoral reform and fresh developments made it the duty of the woman's movement to fight, even during the war.

—Gleichheit.

GREAT BRITAIN.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

WOMEN M.P.'S.

Parliament has not yet resumed work, so that political news, in the sense of parliamentary news, is lacking. Preparations for the coming session are, however, in full swing, and no topic is more under discussion and consideration than the eligibility of women for Parliament. The question is almost certain to be pressed to an issue next session, and—if there is anything in the rumour that a general election is imminent—early next session. The Labour Party has already drafted a Bill to enable women to take their seats in Parliament, and is holding a conference to which all women's organisations and Labour organisations are invited to send representatives. The purpose of the Conference is to secure a strong and representative backing for the measure. Women's organisations, needless to say, are wholeheartedly in favour of the bill, which they consider merely the natural sequel to the passage of the recent Electoral Reform Act. They are passing resolutions in its favour in preparation for a campaign, and steps are being taken to organise a deputation to the Government upon the subject.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

Last month our report was written in the critical days of the women's bus and tram strike. The strike began on August 17th, after two or three anxious days of resolute insistence by the bus-girls upon the 5s. bonus granted to men, and half-hearted attempts at compromise on the part of their employers. At first the strike was limited, but gradually it spread until in all London scarcely a bus or tram was to be seen. Things became serious when the girls on some of the Tube Railways joined the strikers, and more serious still when it became evident that their men fellow-workers were not only in sympathy with the bus-girls, but more than half thinking of joining their ranks. "It isn't fair," they said, "that the girls who do our jobs shouldn't earn our pay." For three days chaos reigned. The staunch feminist went shopping with divided heart—irritated beyond measure by the difficulty of getting about; enthusiastic beyond measure in her support of the bus-girls. Then suddenly the employers capitulated. The strike was referred for settlement to the Committee on Production, and the girls went back to work. On August 30th the strike award was published. The girls received their bonus. But there was more: for a busless, tramless, tubeless Government is apt suddenly to become logical. On the recommendation of the Committee on Production the Government decided to set up a committee to investigate the whole question of equal pay for equal work. At this outlook for turn of events we now stand, surprised but not disconcerted, exerting every effort to get the best people with what surely should be the best of all committees, for will it not be entrusted with the arduous but much-needed task, not merely of appeasing, but acting with justice towards all working men and women?

D.O.R.A. 40D.

British women are still steadily opposing Regulation 40D of the Defence of the Realm Act, whereby it is a criminal offence for a woman to communicate venereal disease to a member of His Majesty's Forces. The British Association for Moral and Social Hygiene has kept a careful record of cases tried under the Regulation, and in the latest issue of its publication gives a list of the verdicts. Without exception these go to prove the unsatisfactory character of the Regulation. In cases where the accused woman has been proved to be suffering from disease it has frequently been impossible to prove that it was she who infected the accusing soldier. In the majority of cases no traces of disease have been found; when questioned, the examining doctor has been obliged to admit that medical examination is not a conclusive test. Another flagrant injustice of the practical operation of the Act is that, while the name of the accused woman is made public, the name of the man supposedly infected is often suppressed.

RAY STRACHEY, Hon. Parliamentary Sec.,  
National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

ELSIE INGLIS FIELD HOSPITAL (LONDON UNITS).

The Elsie Inglis Unit is now participating in the great Franco-Serb offensive.

In August a new transport camp was established at K—, a village considerably nearer to the front than the hospital camp N. of Vodena. Miss Hedges, Chief Transport Officer, reports that 3,059 cases were carried during the month, many of the ambulances covering over 2,000 kilometres during that period.

The new camp, designed to serve as an advance dressing station, has a well-built mess hut, bathroom and kitchen, as well as the tents, and, as it lies close to the road, is the centre of much attention. One of the staff writes: "We have a good many visitors, and cementing the Entente takes up a good deal of time, but it is very good for one's languages."

The treasurers of the London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals appeal for funds. \* Owing to the fierce fighting the Jugo-Slav casualties are heavy, and medical and surgical stores need constant renewal. Contributions should be sent to Lady Cowdray or Miss T. Gosse, 66, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

September 28, 1918.

N. U. W. S. S. INFORMATION BUREAU.

Since the passage of the Representation of the People Bill a constant reproach to the newly enfranchised woman elector has been her ignorance of civic questions. She has asked for advice and been sternly told, "You must find out." It is only to-day that a real effort is being made to enable her "to find out." The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is establishing at Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1, a Central Information Bureau and a Lending Library. At the Information Bureau any individual may inquire free of charge upon any subject concerned with the political, social, and economic position of women. A guinea is the annual subscription for societies. The Lending Library will contain up-to-date books on all important social problems, particularly those of interest to women. The library subscription for individuals is 10s. 6d. per annum, for societies £1 1s.; and for societies boxes of selected books will be provided on special subjects. The library is now open, and takes from women electors or future electors the last excuse for ignorance.

CANADA.

Mrs. Lang, of Toronto, writes from Halifax:—

Two things I have meant to send you word of—one the great indignation of the women of Canada against the Canadian Senate (second house of the Dominion Parliament), which "whittled down" the very small measure of amendment to the Criminal Code which the House of Commons had passed. You may remember that I wrote to you that we were then indignant because we did not get any advance in the age of consent. It is still only fourteen years. (I believe only Germany, Austria, and Hungary have still such a low age as that.) The original bill, as introduced in the Commons, raised the age at which a seduced girl might get legal redress from sixteen years to eighteen years, but said no man under twenty-one years could be prosecuted under that clause. This raised a storm of protests, and the Commons reduced the man's age to eighteen years, making the ages of both sexes alike. This went to the Senate, which reduced the girl's age to sixteen years again. This had then to be passed on again by the Commons, and, rather than prolong Parliament, which had arranged to

prorogue on a certain date," the Commons accepted the Senate's amendments. Shame on them all! So now we are just where we were before, except that it is made a criminal offence for a man and woman to falsely register at a hotel, boarding-house, etc., and a child living with vicious or intemperate people does not need to be old enough to understand the demoralisation to which it is subjected before an action can be brought to take the child away from such people.

The other point I do not know if anyone has even mentioned. Really, woman suffrage is becoming such a usual thing that bills slip through without any notice being taken of them! The women of Nova Scotia have been given both the provincial and municipal vote on the same terms as men. It entails some property qualification which bears somewhat unevenly on women. A vote must have been assessed on 150 dollars' worth of real estate, or on 300 dollars' worth of personal property, or of real estate and personal property together.

I forget if I have told you that I have written a book this summer on the laws of Ontario for the use of the ordinary citizen. It is in the press now, and I will see that you get a copy when ready. Publishing is a very slow job now. They are so short of expert help; but we needed the book so badly that it seemed unwise to put it off.

I should like your opinion on our Ontario Venereal Diseases Act. It gives the right to the medical officer of health, on the request of the prison authorities, to order any prisoner who is suspected of V.D. to be examined. (I am just afraid of this clause.) Secondly, anybody who knows or suspects any person in the community of suffering from V.D. may notify the local M.H.O. He may instruct such suspect to be examined by a doctor, and to return the doctor's certificate to him (the M.H.O.) within a certain time. If such certificate does not come the M.H.O. may himself, or instruct some other doctor to, examine the person and report direct. If a person has V.D. he or she must abstain from marriage, sexual intercourse, or any action likely to infect others, until he is given a clean bill of health by the M.H.O. He or she must undergo such treatment as is prescribed. In default the M.H.O. may institute legal proceedings against him or her, but such proceedings shall be heard *in camera*. Every person suspected shall be dealt with by number and not by name, and any person divulging the name of any person reported shall be liable to a fine, and if it is an official he shall lose his position as well. This holds whether the report is true or not.

The regulations also forbid the sale, suggestion, advertisement, etc., of any specific instrument, remedy, etc., for V.D. which is not ordered by a physician. Every hospital receiving aid from the Ontario Government must make effective provision for the examination and treatment of V.D. patients.—

Yours sincerely,  
EDITH LANG.  
P.S.—I have opened this to correct a statement made in your paper in the July *Jus Suffragii*. The Ontario Legislature did not make Ontario women eligible for election to the Legislature. It was not included in the Franchise Bill, but Mr. Rowell (then leader of the Ontario Liberal Opposition, now President of the Council of the Canadian Union Government) brought in a bill to make us eligible. It was turned down, Sir William Heart, Premier, saying there was no demand for it on the part of the women!!

As to Dominion eligibility, the Act says all British subjects of twenty-one years of age are eligible, but it has not so far been tested, and hitherto it has been ruled that laws like this, which were passed before there was any talk of them referring to women, only refer to men. Of course, that is twaddle, but it held in practice for many years over the franchise, where "person" was ruled to be a male person, because female persons were not in mind when the Act was passed.

One other thing. Please send me a copy of the *Jus Suffragii* index.  
E. L.

SOUTH AFRICA.

W.E.A.U. AND NATIONALITY QUESTION.

The Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union of South Africa, in addition to supporting the memorial addressed to the British Imperial Conference by women's societies throughout the Empire, wired to the chairman of the Imperial Conference, as follows: "W.E.A.U. urges Imperial Conference to recommend uniform and equal nationality and franchise throughout the Empire."

WORKING MOTHERS AND THE NEW FACTORY ACT.

A letter has been addressed to the Minister of Industries, Mr. Malan, by the W.E.A.U., gratefully acknowledging the

work done on behalf of women during the session by the passing of the Factory Act, whereby the burden of supporting the mother during the critical period before, and for eight weeks after, confinement falls upon the State. In this respect the act is in advance of any factory act in existence. It guards also against the sweating of women, children, and apprentices.

—Woman's Outlook.

INDIA.

FROM OUR INDIAN CORRESPONDENT.

WOMEN DEMAND SEATS ON LOCAL BODIES.

At a meeting of the Ladies' Branch of the Home Rule for India League at Ahmedabad, the following resolution was passed: "This meeting of members of the Ladies' Branch of the Home Rule for India League at Ahmedabad firmly believes that all the rights that have been granted to men in the new scheme of reforms should be granted to women also, and that the time has arrived when women should be granted the rights of having seats on all representative bodies such as municipalities, local boards, Provincial and Imperial Legislative Councils, etc. This meeting therefore requests the President of the Indian National Congress and members of the All-Indian Congress Committee to suggest changes on the above lines when submitting their suggestions on the Montagu-Chelmsford Report."

MEDICAL WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE.

A unit of medical women commenced work at the Hyslop War Hospital, Secunderabad, on June 1, being the second women's military unit to be formed, the first having started work at the Freeman-Thomas Hospital, Bombay, on November 5, 1917. The military authorities desire that medical women should volunteer for this work, even if only for a six months' period of service, as freely as possible. The Association of Medical Women in India is co-operating with military authorities in every way.

WOMEN'S POLITICAL WORK.

Miss Anasuya has started fourteen Home Rule Leagues at villages near Ahmedabad.

WOMEN FELLOWS AND PROFESSOR AT BOMBAY UNIVERSITY.

Mrs. Gertrude Charnichael, B.A. (London), and Mrs. Dadabhoy, M.D. (London), M.R.C.P., are appointed ordinary Fellows of Bombay University. Miss Marjorie Moinet is appointed Professor of History, Elphinstone College, Bombay. This is the first time a lady has been appointed by the Education Department to a Government College.

HIGH GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENT IN BURMAH.

Miss Hilda Swithinbank is appointed Assistant Secretary to the Financial Commissioner, Burmah.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN SUPPORT INDIAN WOMEN.

The West Australian National Council of Women, the Women's Service Guild of Western Australia, and the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Western Australia have sent letters to the women of India strongly supporting their action in opposing the terms on which Indian women are sent to Fiji with indentured labourers. Australian women have taken up the cause energetically, and two ladies who have lived in India—one a teacher, one a nurse—have gone to Fiji to safeguard Indian women.

HUNGARY.

FATE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S WOMAN SUFFRAGE BILL.

In the June number of *Jus Suffragii* a note in the "Features" alluded to our "disappointed hopes"—"the Suffrage Bill having been defeated." As this defeat at that time was not definite yet, we suppose that the event referred to was the vote taken in the Suffrage Committee of the Lower House, which with a single vote stamped the whole question of woman suffrage out of the bill. Let us mention here that according to our parliamentary rules the discussion in a special committee precedes the first, second, and third readings in the House. This outrageous vote was taken at a moment when twenty-six out of forty-eight members of the committee were absent, and between them most of the friends of woman suffrage, whereas the few opponents were nearly all present. The subject was expected to be discussed the following day only, since several others were to be dealt with beforehand; many of our friends were put down to speak on woman suffrage, so that it was expected that the discussion would last several days, but suddenly the committee decided to treat the subject.



Count Tisza, the representative of the reactionary politics and hater of woman suffrage in Hungary, supported by one member, who in his disreputable personality proved that immorality and corruption are opposing woman suffrage, saw his chance, and suddenly suggested that first there should be taken a vote on whether the principle of woman suffrage should be discussed at all. The *mala fide* of the proposal was obvious, since in the general discussion of the bill 25 members of the committee have spoken in favour of woman suffrage, whilst only nine have spoken against it out of 48. As 34 of the members had declared in favour of woman suffrage the majority of our supporters was acknowledged. The division was taken—ten votes in favour, eleven against us. So that the whole question was outvoted with *one vote*, when not half of the members of the committee were present.

This intrigue, which meant to annihilate woman suffrage in Hungary for the present, was absolutely unsuccessful. All the friends of woman suffrage were indignant at this insult; those who were undecided yet which part to adopt have been brought over by this palpable persecution of the cause; even the opponents felt ashamed and uncomfortable about the methods employed. The Prime Minister and the reporter of the committee both declared instantly their intention to move a proposal in the parliamentary discussion of the Suffrage Bill in favour of woman suffrage. The general discussion of the committee proved that there was not another part of the bill which was of so general interest. The whole Press in Hungary behaved splendidly. This action of the committee was strongly condemned actually by all the papers of all political creeds, and even by Count Tisza's own papers. They unanimously protested against such treatment of the women's cause. They all claimed correction by the House.

This was principally the result of, and our reward for, our untiring propaganda, which was continued in spite of the greatest difficulties of the conditions which war created, and which were intensified by arbitrary dispositions taken under pretence of "exceptional war authority."

The day after the Parliamentary Committee's vote we found occasion to experience that we have won unanimous general public sentiment. We succeeded in getting permission to hold open-air meetings on the 2nd of June in the best and most-frequented garden-coffeehouses and confectioners, and distributed protest leaflets in the most frequented and fashionable streets and parks. Our leaflets, as well as our speakers, met with the most cordial reception, and we encountered many tokens of sympathy and honour.

The forty-eight members of the committee received resolutions which were taken on protest meetings of their constituency and signed by prominent men and women of their district. The meetings were arranged by our local committees, and all the speakers of our movement were busy. When the date of the discussion in the plenum was settled, a whole week was consecrated to a general propaganda. On the 20th of June, when the traffic on the streets began, hundreds of our members appeared with ensigns on their arms, and distributed many thousands of leaflets to all passengers who hurried to their work. Those who seemed to have some leisure, or were sitting on the terraces of the coffeehouses, were begged to sign cards which asked their representatives in Parliament to support and vote for woman suffrage. Thousands of these cards were forwarded by mail. A lively background to this propaganda was made by the multicoloured placards which the shopkeepers willingly stuck in their shop windows. Each day of this week was given to a special work. Deputations called at the editorial offices of the most prominent papers to thank the journalists for their cordiality and ask them for their further support. Women working in the different trades and professions—writers, journalists, teachers, women clerks, physicians, business women, etc.—arranged meetings, which passed resolutions protesting against the Parliamentary Committee's proceedings and sent petitions to Parliament. In the country 63 meetings were held in the chief town of each county; drawing-room meetings were held, money was collected. There were to be in every theatre in one of the entr' acts of the plays suffrage speeches, for which the directors' consent was readily given, but the head of the police suddenly imagined that theatres are dangerous for suffragists, and claimed to protect them from the public, which always used to be nice to suffragists, when he prohibited all speeches in theatres, music-halls, etc. The rest of the programme—calls at different clubs, political circles, and casinos; a grand artistic soirée in the Music Academy, with plays and poetry from our best writers, written for the occasion; and the finishing great banquet—

could not be realised for reasons not in connection with our work, which cannot be explained just now, but after the war.

During this week all the papers published leading articles on the subject, the comic papers very good cartoons and witty remarks. We can state that not a sound was heard against woman suffrage as a principle in the Press and in the public.

The general discussion on the Suffrage Bill, which began in June, gave us also great satisfaction, as no other question was so well in the centre of general interest as woman suffrage. It gave us often the impression as if this was merely a woman suffrage bill. Politicians of some name and weight all spoke for woman suffrage—the Prime Minister, the leaders of the parties but one, and all the best speakers. It was striking how weak the opposition's representatives were, what bad speeches they made. The Government and the parties which supported it fought valiantly for woman suffrage. And as in spite of all this it was lost, we find it very difficult to explain the causes, which must be quite incomprehensible from a distance. The majority of our Parliament was elected with votes bought by the means of corrupted party funds, and this party, though in the opposition, forms the majority. This is our present perverted political situation. Nameless nobodies have, according to orders given to them by their leader, Count Tisza, voted down woman suffrage. This leader, who hinders all advance in Hungary, would not take notice of our movement, never answered a letter, would never speak with a suffragist, would not acknowledge that a woman suffrage organisation existed. But lately he condescended to receive a national deputation of suffragists, whom he promised not to use his influence upon the members of his party against woman suffrage. This promise he also gave to the minority of his party, which supported woman suffrage, as well as to the leaders of the N.C.W., the Countess Apponyi and Madame Augusta Rosenberg. Count Tisza is reported by his party and his admirers to be always truthful, and never to break his promise. He did break it this time in the most shameless way. He sent a circular letter to the members of his party, not to all of them, in which he very minutely explained his request to vote against woman suffrage in Parliament. This letter was written in his most bewitching way, courting the vanity of such members, who never have any personal opinion. Count Tisza exercised his influence to this end also with his personal persuasion, begging his friends by word of mouth to back him in this question. But all this was in vain. On the 12th of July, when the Prime Minister's proposal for woman suffrage was discussed, and all the other members' proposals for woman suffrage on different principles—there were seven proposals and four amendments—everybody was convinced that woman suffrage has the majority. It was very interesting to see how much this question roused the M.P.'s. During the discussion of the other sections five to forty members at the most were present; now all the governmental parties' members and a great many of Count Tisza's party were present. All parties counted hastily the votes for woman suffrage, and found that it had won. The discussion could have been closed, there were no other speakers, and then Count Tisza got up and outspoke the whole day. After this there were four days of vacation, and we knew that all the opposition would be ordered in. And so it was. Since the beginning of the war Parliament the floor and the galleries were not so packed to the last place. Members came from the sickbed, interrupted their cure in the bathing-places, and left their farming work in this most urgent harvesting time. We knew that it was no good to lengthen the struggle; our minority could not endure this strain for long, whereas the majority could operate with its crushing numbers. And so they voted, and the most votes for woman suffrage, 106 against 146 (there were members who did not vote), were given to the proposal of Mr. Teleszky—the most conservative of all—a member and former Minister of Finances in Tisza's party. Even this was too much for Count Tisza, who again used his influence, and so Count Andrássy's proposal to accept woman suffrage in principle and charge the Government to prepare a bill for woman suffrage which could conciliate and unite the different endeavours for woman suffrage, was outvoted even by such members, who have moved a proposal.

In the Upper House the bill on suffrage, very briefly as usual, was to be discussed without woman suffrage, which was outvoted in the Lower House. In the special committee of the Upper House a member proposed to give suffrage to women, but the Prime Minister, though all his important proposals were rejected in the Lower House, wished that the Bill should be discussed in the form it was accepted in the Lower House. Seven members of the Upper House took part in the discussion

of the plenum, and four of them spoke for woman suffrage, while only one was against. He professed to pray that woman suffrage should not be realised. When the Prime Minister wittily answered that luckily two high officials of the churches—one bishop of the Roman Catholic Church and one of the Reformed Church—who have been speaking for woman suffrage, will pray to the contrary, he assured that he meant it only during this critical time. One member of the Upper House proposed that the Government should be charged not to drop woman suffrage, but to prepare a special bill for woman suffrage, and present it in convenient time. Nobody but himself voted for this proposal. Our Upper House, equally to those abroad, suffers from weakness of old age. And so ended this campaign for woman suffrage in Hungary.

In the autumn we have to begin again, or rather have to continue, our struggle, which will also tend to break this formidable power of Count Tisza's, which is the greatest hindrance for democratic reign and advance in Hungary. We are decided to continue our work with the same energy, but also on the same constitutional ways as in the past, not to give cause to such argument, which was used by our M.P.'s in the discussion against woman suffrage on the threshold of the fifth year of war, of destruction and bloodshed, that women ought not to have the vote, as there were suffragettes in Great Britain who placed bombs in buildings.

We will continue to struggle for our vote with unshaken energy, as we are eager to prove that women in politics means peace in the world, and therefore we must have our votes as well as eligibility to have our voice in our Parliament. We continue to fight for our vote and eligibility.

EUGENIE MISKOLCZY MELLER,

For Feministák Egyesülete (Feminists' Society),

Affiliated to the I.W.S.A.

Budapest, August 3, 1918.

## ITALY.

The Hon. Sacchi, Keeper of the Seals, in an important speech at Cremona on September 20, made special mention of women, praising their work in munitions and agriculture:

"Women have shown how unfounded and blameworthy the old theories are of the inferiority of women, and how unjust the laws are which still sanction the inequality of civil and political capacity as between men and women."

"And I hope," exclaimed the Minister, "that if not in the din and tumult of battle (which has, however, not held liberal England back from enfranchising women), at least after peace is declared, Parliament will proclaim that women and men shall have equal public and private rights."

## NETHERLANDS.

The direction of the Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht has addressed a memorial to the new Premier, Jonkheer Ruys de Beerenbrouck. It is pointed out that in these times more than ever internal discord is to be avoided. One of the ways to effect this is the grant of universal active women's suffrage. There is no longer any opposition based on principle to this measure. Such political parties as were up to the present opposed to it now recognise that its adoption can no longer be resisted. Moreover, a woman is now a member of the Second Chamber, thus presenting the unique fact of a representative of the people who is debarred from voting at the elections. The memorial therefore asks for a bill to be introduced as soon as possible to grant Dutch women the universal active suffrage.

The *Maandblad voor Vrouwenkiesrecht* announces that owing to the change which has occurred in the political situation of women in Holland, the *Maandblad* will be run on somewhat different lines. The only object which now lies as yet unconquered before the suffrage movement is the active suffrage, which can be granted by an ordinary Act of Parliament. As preparation for this last measure the *Maandblad* will in future attempt to throw light upon a number of big problems which concern women most nearly. The editors will not be afraid of discussing problems on which unanimity within the movement might not exist.

A Dutch correspondent writes: "Holland has now a Ministry of the Right. As far as one can generalise in this matter, one may say that the parties of the Right are but lukewarm as regards the woman suffrage movement. Swept away by the march of things, they have acquiesced in the partial political emancipation of woman. And it must not be

forgotten that this attitude was part of a bargain. Now these parties are in power, with a Second Chamber of fifty members of the Right and fifty members of the Left, among whom are counted three Christian Socialists who might be described as neutral. With such a precarious majority the Government will have their hands full enough, and it is therefore rather unlikely that they will attempt to introduce a controversial measure—the bill for the final enfranchisement of women—for which the bulk of their followers feel so little enthusiasm. Moreover, an unwritten rule has it that any modification in the electoral law has to be put to a test forthwith by a dissolution and a new general election. Who will expect a new Ministry to run the risk of this for a reform of which, again, they do not see the urgency? The conclusion is that the recent ministerial change does not spell any good to the woman suffrage cause.

## NORWAY.

### PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES.

All round in our country nominations of candidates for the Storting are now going on. None but men are being nominated. Not a single woman has so far been named. It is as if no women existed, in spite of the vote and our eligibility. Are things really to go on in this way year after year? Is it to continue to be only a law on paper that Norwegian women are eligible for the Norwegian Parliament? What are our women's suffrage organisations doing? Undoubtedly the National Women's Suffrage Society still exists, in spite of having performed the task it set itself! Would it not be reasonable for it to awake to life and activity now that the election is at the door? There is still time. It no longer suffices to let men manage by themselves all those things which are doubly important for every single woman in times as difficult as these. Or are women so contented with things as they are that they can sleep securely on and let men rule altogether? Then we have little use for the vote and still less for our eligibility. We women are in the majority. Let us pull ourselves together, and get some women in this time.

—Nylænde (September 1).

### A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF "NYLÆNDE."

Dear Editor,—I am occupied in preparing and working out the register of citizen voters at present, and as part of this task I am marking as suspended those who have received poor relief in the past year. In this connection the overseer of the poor has directed my attention to a circumstance which women themselves ought certainly to take the initiative in getting set right.

At the last alteration of Section 52 of the law of the constitution a whole quantity of new instances were added in which the vote would not be taken away because the people in question had received poor relief—e.g., when the relief had been given because of illness, unemployment, unfitness for work, etc. That is, of course, in itself quite right; but when these decisions come into effect they lead to the result that about the only ones who are deprived of their vote are the women who have a flock of children to provide for and who cannot make two ends meet without help from the parish authorities. If, for instance, a married man is sick, and must have help for this reason, this help does not deprive him of his vote; but if he dies, and his wife has to have the assistance, she loses her vote. An old woman who is unfit for work does not lose her vote, although she may perhaps be so slow-witted that she does not know for whom she is voting, whilst, for instance, her daughter, who is brisk and strong, but has so many children to provide for that her earnings cannot suffice for them all, loses her vote, though she may be as enlightened and perspicacious as anybody. At the same time, it is not difficult for any good-for-nothing man to drift until he gets relief on the score of unemployment, although perhaps he received it because he would not work. Do you not agree that this will not do!—Yours respectfully, Bertha Stousland.

[We certainly agree that things are wrong, and advise our suffrage societies to apply to the authorities to get this matter, which is so important for women, set to rights.—Ed.]

—Nylænde (August 15).

### SCHOOLS FOR HOUSEKEEPERS AND TRAINING IN MOTHERHOOD.

Fru Kati Anker Möller gave a lecture at the general meeting of teachers of housekeeping on "Schools for Housekeeping and Mothers."

It was Herbert Spencer who, in his book on "Education," for the first time pointed out the necessity of mothers being



trained for their important life's task of taking care of and educating children. To mould and train a human child to fulfil the demands of the civilisation of to-day is such a complicated task that individual mothers could not perform it with the help of instinct only, but they can make use of a small harvest consisting of the experiences of the wise. This applies to the care both of body and mind, for nothing is born as helpless as the human child. It requires fifteen to sixteen years' care and superintendence before it is wholly independent. Therefore, the care of the family is an all-important subject. In the past mothers have studied these problems all too little. The municipal physician at Bergen deplors the want of a rational educational system among most mothers and foster mothers. The most important cause of the high death-rate among infants, according to Professor Johannesen, is unintelligent care and wrong feeding. Many children also die of congenital weakness, and still more perish in the embryonic period. If women understood more of biology they would be more careful in choosing the fathers of their children, and would take more serious care of their child's welfare from its first genesis. But hitherto women have been kept ignorant of the whole process of generation and motherhood. They must be enlightened in order to fulfil their tasks more perfectly. Owing to their ignorance it has been easy to make tools of them, and in that whole department they have been "spent" instead of having led the way, though motherhood is their special sphere.

In the past instruction has been difficult because of the unlimited number requiring instruction. But now there are quantities of books suited to give hints for all ages. Teachers of motherhood are spreading knowledge broadcast. If schools of motherhood become obligatory all mothers will have an opportunity of learning the first principles of biology, sexual hygiene, and the practical management of children. The emancipation of mothers has begun. —Nylaende.

#### SWITZERLAND.

##### BERNE WOMEN'S POLITICAL WORK.

The Berne section of the Swiss Woman Suffrage Association has received its first political commission. On July 7th the voting was to be taken on the new Berne budget, which, as highly important innovations, raises the minimum means of subsistence from Fr. 600 to Fr. 1,000, and grants family abatements of Fr. 100 for the wife and each child of the taxpayer. It also provides for graduated taxation on large incomes, and finally introduces the official inventory. This budget met with opposition from the Conservative party and the farmers.

Then the committee of initiative, consisting of the other political parties and trade associations, turned to the Social Democratic Women's Association and to the Woman Suffrage Association for help in propaganda. "Unfortunately," it was said in the preparatory conferences, "women cannot support the budget with the ballot, but they can, by their personal work, prevent such a large number of citizens from withholding their vote out of indifference."

By arrangement with the Social Democratic Women's Association, a public meeting was held on June 27th, in order to enlighten women about the bill, and to show them how they could work indirectly for the voting on it. Similar meetings were arranged in some of the larger villages of the canton. Finally, an "Appeal to Women" in all the newspapers of the canton was to close the women's propaganda work. When the voting was taken the budget was passed. —Frauenbestrebungen.

#### THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Just as I began this letter Mrs. Chapman Catt, our national president, came into my office to say good-bye, as she was starting on her usual trip to Washington, where she remains more than half the time. She looked very tired but very handsome in her new fall suit and hat, with their garniture of "baby blue" ribbons, just the colour of her eyes, which she always wears. When I said, "How can I write again to the *International News* and say that our federal amendment has not yet passed the Senate?" she answered, "There are plenty of interesting things to write about, and you surely can tell of a victory in your next letter." She is feeling very optimistic, but we all realise there is a big battle ahead, for the opponents have concentrated all their forces in the effort to defeat this amendment.

Since my last message was sent two more United States Senators have passed away, making ten of the present Congress

which took its seat less than eighteen months ago. This is an unprecedented record, and is due partly to the advanced age of some of those members, but more largely to the excessive work and strain, with no period of rest, since the United States entered the war. Senator Gallinger, of New Hampshire, has died at the age of eighty, having been a member of Congress for over thirty years, and a Senator for twenty-seven of these years, and during all this time he was a consistent supporter of woman suffrage. He was leader of the Republicans in the Senate, and has been succeeded by Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, an uncompromising enemy. The Governor of New Hampshire has appointed as his successor Irving W. Drew, said to be opposed to the federal amendment, but willing to vote for it if it is made an issue by his party.

The other death was that of Senator James, of Kentucky, still in his forties. The Governor of that State has appointed George Brown Martin as his successor, and the press despatches say that he favours woman suffrage, but whether he will vote for the federal amendment remains to be seen. These two instances show the uncertainties of the situation which have faced our measure ever since it passed the Lower House last January. Mrs. Catt is to telephone us as soon as she has learned its exact status at the present time, but this letter cannot be delayed until we hear from her. All that can be said is that we believe we have now enough votes to give us the necessary two-thirds majority.

The opponents are fighting to have the vote delayed until after the general election, the first week in November. They understand that the new members will not take their seats until next year, but they hope that through delay something may happen to reduce the majority which now seems assured. Not one Senator has deserted our cause, and it has daily gained strength over the country through endorsements by State political Conventions and National and State Conventions of many other kinds. Not one organisation in the United States during the present year has adopted an anti-suffrage resolution. The most notable accession has been that of the *Courier Journal* of Louisville, Kentucky, one of the oldest and most influential newspapers in the United States, also one of the most bitterly opposed to woman suffrage, and its editor for fifty years, Colonel Henry Watterson, has been a power in the editorial field. The paper has recently been sold, and the first act of its new owner, Judge Robert W. Bingham, was to declare for woman suffrage in a two-column, double-leaded editorial. This will have great influence, not only in Kentucky, but throughout the South.

With everything once more looking favourable the "militant" branch of the suffragists have announced a "demonstration" this week to demand an audience of the President, and will bring down a delegation of women munition workers from Connecticut. A few weeks ago, when they insisted upon a personal interview, private secretary Tumulty informed them that the President was too much occupied to grant one, but that he was doing everything he possibly could do to secure the passage of the federal amendment, and did not need any information or urging. This will not have the slightest influence, however, and, as Miss Alice Paul, their leader, has notified the women to come prepared to go to prison, they are evidently planning some infraction of the law. The group who were sent to jail last month went on a "hunger strike," and after five days were released. As they were preparing for another "demonstration," the officials, wishing to avoid a scene, gave them permission to hold their meeting, but as soon as this was granted they called it off and made no further effort to have one, thus proving that their desire was simply for publicity and martyrdom.

These "militants" are doing far more injury to the federal amendment than is the Women's Anti-Suffrage Association, which has really become a laughing-stock. I described in a former letter how the New York Association, which was the one of greatest strength, met last November, after New York had granted the franchise to women, and officially went out of existence; and how a few months later, in order to work against the federal amendment, they reorganised under the name of the Women Voters' Anti-Suffrage Party, and announced that, after defeating this amendment, they would endeavour to have the vote taken away from the women of New York State! They never have been heard of since that time until a few weeks ago, when a two-column Open Letter to President Wilson appeared in the *New York World* and *New York Times* as a paid advertisement. It expressed their deep regret that he was favouring this amendment, and asked that he would state his reasons for having changed his position.

This letter said: "The measure appears to us destructive of democracy, a lamentable attempt to over-ride the will of the people as expressed at the polls in their respective States." It also said: "We maintain that there could be at this time no legislative act more destructive to united, single-handed prosecution of the war than this federal amendment." As the President had asked for it as a measure of democracy and as distinctly a war measure, they practically repudiated his words, and they concluded with the insulting question: "Is it possible that the activities of suffrage agitators are so pernicious and compelling that they outweigh all other dangers?"

Last week this same Women Voters' Anti-Suffrage Party sent out thousands of circular letters, with a petition to the Senate not to submit the amendment, saying: "Our country in this hour of peril should be spared the harassing of its public men and the distracting of its people from work for the war." It concluded: "A second Open Letter will appear this week, and others as we receive the money." In other words, the Anti-Suffrage Association, which claims to represent the "vast majority" of women, can only publish this advertisement as it occasionally receives money enough for the purpose, and it has to get its publicity in this manner because the newspapers will not give it in any other form, although they daily grant columns of space to the views of the suffragists.

The Men's Anti-Suffrage Association is in a still more precarious condition, if in fact it is yet alive, and there is considerable doubt on this point. After the New York election it also went out of business. Later it reorganised as the American Constitutional League, carefully suppressing the words "anti-suffrage," and declared its object to be "the defeat of the federal suffrage amendment." Its only public appearance was at a hearing before the Woman Suffrage Committee of the Lower House of Congress last winter, which was followed a few days later by the majority vote of that body to submit the federal amendment.

This American Constitutional League next was heard of a few months afterwards, when, by order of its chairman, it sent an official letter to the newspapers, asking them to announce that "for adequate reasons the League is now terminating its affairs." The *Woman Citizen*, organ of the National American Suffrage Association, called attention to this letter, and immediately the "field" secretary rushed into print in the women's anti-suffrage organ under the headline, "Nails Untruthful Statement," and denied that the league was defunct. As nobody really cares whether it is dead or alive, no effort has been made to ascertain the facts.

Our readers of other countries may judge from the above accounts that the subject of woman suffrage is a very live one in the United States, and is not entirely overshadowed even by the great questions connected with the war. There is not a State in the Union where the suffragists are not doing some kind of work for this federal amendment, and yet in every State they are leading in the various war activities of the women, and answering every demand of the Government for military service. There are no "slackers" among them, and it is largely because of their wide and patriotic response that there is an almost universal public sentiment in favour of giving them the vote. This has been the most trying situation which the suffragists of the United States have ever had to meet, for at the very time when they wished to give all of their strength and energy to their country, they have had to face a crisis in the woman suffrage movement. Not to have vigorously followed up the present great opportunity would have been to delay it possibly for years.

On September 3 the primaries for the selection of candidates took place in many States, but it is too early for the returns of the women's vote. In New York it was not so large as had been expected from the enrolment of 679,618, but as men and women put their ballots in the same boxes there was no way to ascertain the number of women except by actual count as they entered the polls, and in most places this was not made. The issue of chief interest to women in this State was the Republican nomination for Governor, as one of the candidates had been opposed to woman suffrage itself, and was now opposed to the federal amendment and its ratification by the Legislature when passed. The other candidate was the present Governor Whitman, who was a strong supporter of woman suffrage during the campaign last year, and is an ardent advocate of the federal amendment. He was nominated by a majority of three or four to one, and it is thought that the votes of women were a large factor in this result. The Democrats claim the votes of the women for their candidate, Alfred E. Smith, on the ground that it was the vote of New York City

which gave them the suffrage, and there was a very large Democratic majority at that election.

The great majority of suffragists feel compensated for their many disappointments by the rapid progress that is being made with prohibition. Fourteen States already have ratified the federal amendment. A bill for national prohibition until after the close of the war and mustering out of the soldiers has just passed the Senate, and had already gone through the Lower House, but has been returned for concurrence in some amendments, when undoubtedly it will be signed by the President. Now Congress has ordered that all breweries must close December 1, and no more beer be manufactured until further notice, probably until the close of the war, in order to save fuel and grain. Further account of these laws will be given in my next letter. It is estimated that the Government will lose 400,000,000 dollars in revenue taxes.

IDA HUSTED HARPER,  
Chairman, Editorial Correspondence, Leslie Suffrage Bureau.  
New York, September 10, 1918.

#### U.S. Senate's Rejection of Woman Suffrage.

New York, October 2.

The Senate rejected the Woman Suffrage Amendment to the Constitution yesterday by 53 ayes to 31 noes. This majority is nine votes short of the necessary two-thirds majority.

The first voting was 54 to 30, but Senator Jones, of New Mexico, Chairman of the Suffrage Committee, changed his vote later to a "No," for the Parliamentary purpose of being able at some later date to move that the matter be reconsidered. Twelve Senators were absent. Their presence would have made the voting 62 to 34, which was the known poll of the Senate before President Wilson made his plea on Monday for the adoption of the measure. The divisions yesterday were non-party. Twenty-seven Republicans voted for, and ten against; 26 Democrats voted for, and 21 against.

The chief opposition came from the Democrats of the Southern States, who maintained that woman suffrage should continue to remain as a right for individual States to grant or refuse as each sees fit. If the Constitutional amendment were passed all women in all the States would become automatically enfranchised. At present twelve States have granted women complete suffrage, and eighteen partial suffrage.

The *New York Times* suggests that the suffragists should abide by the result for the duration of the war, and allow Congress to devote its efforts exclusively to war activities. There are indications that this advice will not be followed. There is some suggestion that the suffragists will continue their efforts to gain two votes in Senate from among their opponents, as this would ensure the passage of the amendment which Senator Jones will move to be reconsidered.

—Times, October 3.

#### PRESIDENT WILSON ON EQUALITY.

Washington, September 30.

President Wilson, addressing the Senate, urged the extension of the suffrage to women as vitally essential to the successful prosecution of the war. "It is my duty," he said, "to win the war and to ask you to remove every obstacle that stands in the way of winning it."

President Wilson declared that this was a people's war, and that the democratic peoples were demanding proof of democratic protestations by action, not words. He went on:—

I do not speak by conjecture. It is not alone the voices of statesmen and newspapers that reach me—the voices of foolish and intemperate agitators do not reach me at all. Through many channels I have been made aware what the plain struggling workaday folk are thinking, upon whom the chief terror and suffering of this tragic war falls. And this is that women shall play their part in affairs alongside men upon an equal footing.

The President emphasised the fact that Great Britain had already taken the lead in pledging equal suffrage for women.

#### QUESTIONING DAYS.

The war could not be fought successfully but for the services of women in every sphere, "even upon the very skirts and edges of the battle itself." He proposed to admit them to suffrage as he would propose to admit men fighting in the field for the liberties of the world. Women's energies were not only needed for winning the war, but for solving the great post-war problems.

I, for one, believe (he said) that our safety in those questioning days as well as our comprehension of the matters



that touch society to the quick will depend on the direct authoritative participation of women in our counsels. We shall need their moral sense to preserve what is right and fine and worthy in our system of life, as well as to discover just what it is that ought to be purified and reformed. Without their counsellings we shall only be half-wise.

—*Reuter.*

MISS JEANNETTE RANKIN AS CANDIDATE FOR SENATE.

Miss Jeannette Rankin, representative from Montana, has announced her candidacy for the Republican nomination for the Senate, to succeed Senator Walsh, who is a candidate for re-election in November. We regret to learn from the daily press that she was defeated in the nominating primaries.

—*Woman Citizen.*

WOMAN CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS.

Miss Hattie Krueger, of Buffalo, N.Y., has announced her intention of standing for Congress as a Socialist.

—*Maryland Suffrage News.*

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