

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

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ALLIANCE MEETING AT MARSEILLES.

We are now able to announce that as a result of the discussions at the Board Meeting in July, the Alliance will hold a special meeting of the Presidents of its affiliated Societies, accompanied by two other members of their organisations, in Marseilles either late in March or at Easter. The main object of this meeting is to permit a full discussion of the financial and other problems which confront the Alliance at this moment of universal difficulty: what is our most urgent work, by what methods can it best be carried out and how are we to find the means to do it?

Our two affiliated societies in France and their Groups in Marseilles have warmly welcomed the proposal, and full use is to be made of the opportunity of making valuable propaganda for the cause of woman suffrage in France. In addition to the business meetings, there will be Conferences open to all those interested on such questions as Equal Morals, the Economic Position of Women, Women Police, Women and the League of Nations and of course women's work for Peace. There will also be Public Meetings for the general public on Suffrage, Peace and Disarmament and the Equal Moral Standard. It is hoped that some of the delegates to the Conference will be able to visit other towns such as Avignon, Toulon and Nice at the invitation of the local suffrage organisations.

While the business meetings must of course be confined to actual delegates of the Societies, there will thus be much of interest for other visitors who may be in the South of France at that time. A sub-committee of the Alliance Board will be meeting at the end of November to decide upon the programme and we hope to be able to publish the programme in December.

SLAVERY.

The recent League Assembly accepted the proposal of the British Delegation for "the suppression of slavery in all its forms throughout the world." The actual work is to be carried out by the Secretariat and seven expert Advisers are to be appointed as a Slavery Commission. It is stated that the terms of reference are to be very wide, and are divided into seven main categories: legal status of slaves, slave-raiding and similar acts, slave trade, slave dealing (including exchange, sale, gift, inheritance), practices restrictive of the liberty of the person, domestic or predial slavery, transition from servile labour to free wage labour.

It would appear that such terms of reference must necessarily include those customs in marriage and in family and tribal relationships which result in the practical slavery of women, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the new League body will not hesitate to study that aspect of the question, and will be as eager to lead to the suppression of these customs as to the suppression of the more blatant forms of slavery. There can be little doubt that it will be the more difficult part of their task, where all is likely to be difficult. No one can suppose that the complete abolition of slavery will be accomplished in a few months; the Commission will find itself confronted by many vested interests, by many religious and other prejudices. It will need courage, persistence and zeal. Abuses are not cured by compromises and the desire to save face. The new Commission if it deals with this most difficult and most urgent question in the spirit of justice and the demand for the real freedom of the individual will surely have the good-will of every woman and every woman's organisation behind it.

OBITUARY.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Mrs. Adela Stanton Coit, one of the oldest members of the Alliance and its Treasurer from 1908 to 1920. Mrs. Coit was present at the Berlin Congress of 1904, when the Alliance was formally constituted, and was among the pioneers honoured at the Jubilee Congress there in 1929. Her long connection with the Alliance included the difficult period of the War, doubly difficult for her as a German-born woman living in England. Her work for woman suffrage was carried on with the full sympathy and support of her husband, Dr. Stanton Coit, so well-known as the President of the Ethical Church in London and as a lecturer and writer.

Mrs. Coit was one of the *real workers* and with her graceful manners and clear head helped to solve many difficult problems of the Board. With gratitude we remember the many international receptions at Mrs. Coit's home at Hyde Park Gate, where she entertained many of the international friends.

R.M.

DISARMAMENT.

It is difficult to write about the Disarmament Conference at this moment, it is difficult to know what we can do to snatch victory out of what is coming perilously near to disaster. And yet we all know that we ought to be up and doing, and the Women's Disarmament Committee is there to help us. We have received from the Committee two documents which ought to be studied by all those who are working in this cause, and copies of which may be obtained from the Committee's office at 25, Quai du Mont Blanc, Geneva. One is a "Joint Statement" drawn up by the International Consultative Disarmament Group of representatives of various bodies concerned with Disarmament and the other is a Declaration presented to the Committee of Eight by the International Federation of League of Nations Societies. The latter deals specially with the necessity of the idea of equality in disarmament, and of the impossibility of "dividing States into two categories and applying different weights and measures to each." It is therefore particularly apposite at this moment when this is one of the questions on which the Conference is all too likely to be wrecked. The Joint Statement is more general, and takes the various classes of armaments in turn and enunciates the lines on which they should be dealt with. It forms a valuable statement on which to base deputations to government or publicity material for rousing public opinion.

We would quote in conclusion the following striking passage from the letter sent by Miss Courtney, Vice-President of the Women's Disarmament Committee, in sending us the copy of the "Declaration":

But there is another part which women can play. People's minds are hardening, there is a recrudescence of nationalist and chauvinist spirit in various countries. Can you not make every effort to work for understanding and reconciliation? It is evident that there is a vast amount of genuine misunderstanding as to national points of view and national fears and ambitions. Will you work as you have never worked before to overcome the rising tide of bitterness. The case is urgent. Many observers liken the situation to that which preceded August 1914. Let us not fail to play our part now.

Lastly, we must again make an appeal for funds for the work of the Disarmament Committee. It is almost at the end of its resources, and yet it is essential that it should be kept going for many months of urgent work. There has been a generous response from women all over the world, our own readers have not been back-

ward. Times are increasingly difficult, but women *must* find the means to carry on this big constructive co-operative effort. Many plans have been suggested to you in past appeals: a small fixed contribution from every member of the different societies; collections at meetings or on subscription cards, etc. Societies are now meeting for their autumn sessions: it is almost certain that among the subjects they will discuss there must come up this question of disarmament. Is there not some member who will undertake to give some of her time to organising a collection of such small sums as each individual can spare? So few can give individually a substantial contribution: to save our world from disaster, many would surely give sixpence. Any contributions may be sent either direct to the Treasurer of the Women's Disarmament Committee, 25 Quai du Mont Blanc, Geneva, or to the Editor of this paper, at 190 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1. It is suggested that the cost of machinery for making collections should be deducted before the sum resulting from them is sent up.

Since writing the above, we have received from the Disarmament Committee a printed statement showing the work which has been accomplished, its plans for the future and ways in which societies and individuals may help. One of these ways is by buying a special post card, which may be obtained at the price of 20 Swiss centimes for orders under 200, and at still lower prices for larger quantities. Copies of the Statement and sample cards, price list, etc., may be obtained from the Office, 25 Quai du Mont Blanc, Geneva.

REVIEWS.

James Stansfield: a Victorian Champion of Sex Equality. J. L. and Barbara Hammond. Longmans, Green & Co., 39, Paternoster Row, London, E.C.4. Price 15s.

Every reader of this paper knows and reveres the name of Josephine Butler, but it may be that to many of them the name of James Stansfield is almost unknown. And yet the campaign against the state regulation of prostitution owed him much and to it he sacrificed for a time his career.

James Stansfield was born in 1820 and came of one of those non-conformist families in whom the exclusion of non-conformists from many public activities had bred a political tradition by the necessity of fighting for the right to full participation. All his life he was a fighter for liberty. He was in Parliament from 1859 to 1895, and twice in his career, his advocacy of the principle of liberty cost him his position in the Government. The account of his relations with Mazzini in the cause of the liberation of Italy does not directly concern the policy of this paper, but the account of his connection with the seventeen years' struggle for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts is excellent and clear. How the Acts came to be passed and the motives which caused them to be supported by many good people is described with the utmost impartiality, together with the varying fortunes and difficulties of the struggle for repeal. It was not till 1874 that Stansfield definitely associated himself with the Repeal movement. He was at that time one of the recognised leaders of the radical party and he was well aware of what his decision might and did entail. In 1880 when his party came into power, he was passed over when the Cabinet was formed. But though he was hurt he never wavered in doing what, as he said in a speech in Parliament, he had done 'for conviction and for duty's sake, but no man knows what to me has been the suffering, the burden and the cost.' The whole subject was repugnant to him, but he saw a service to be rendered and nobly he

gave himself. It was Stansfield who finally moved the Repeal Bill in 1886, which freed England from state regulation. He had hoped that there the struggle had ended, but it was not so. Other parts of the Empire were still affected and for many years he was involved in a conflict over the Cantonment Regulations in India. We know that indeed it is but last year that the last outpost of regulation in the British Empire has fallen.

The last phase of Stansfield's political career was concerned with Home Rule for Ireland. Once again he became a Cabinet Minister and once again he championed a claim for liberty which failed.

All his life he was a supporter of woman suffrage and equal educational and professional opportunities for women. In fact he cared passionately for liberty and justice, and his reward was to see many of his "lost causes" triumph, and to know that that triumph was in no small degree due to his patience, devotion and wisdom.

Women's Work under Labour Laws: Survey of Protective Legislation. Series 1, No. 2, of Studies and Reports of the International Labour Office. English Publishers: P. S. King and Son, Orchard House, Great Smith Street, London. Price 6s.

The French text of this book 'La Réglementation du Travail féminin' was reviewed at length in the July issue of this paper. We cannot therefore do more than call the attention of English speaking readers to the fact that it is now available in English, and that it is a valuable and concise statement of the different forms of legislation affecting the women worker in various ways in different countries. It does not claim to be exhaustive, and a considerable amount of the space is devoted to the two aspects of protective legislation on which International Labour Conventions exist, Maternity and Night Work. It is hardly necessary to point out that in a publication of the I.L.O. in a general way protective legislation for women is regarded as a good thing, but there is here no attempt at propaganda, the book being concerned principally with the record of existing practice.

Prostitution and its Repression in New York City. By Willoughby Cyrus Waterman. English publishers: P. S. King and Son, Orchard House, Westminster, London.

This is a history of the legal measures taken during the last 30 years to rid New York of prostitution. In so far as these measures are directed against procurers and similar exploiters, they will meet with general sympathy, though the difficulties of drafting laws so that they really and effectively promote their object seems to be considerable. In so far, however, as the laws operate against individuals actually engaged in prostitution, there seems much to be desired. Let us quote: "The unfortunate prostitute continues to be convicted in increasing numbers, the property owners who furnish them facilities for their occupation and the male customers for the most part go scot-free;" "Magistrate Ruytenberg . . . held that 'a man cannot participate in an act of prostitution,' furthermore 'prostitution is a practice of women only';" speaking of powers for compulsory medical examination, it is stated "it is only the woman who comes to the attention of the health officer." The repugnant use made of informers or of plain-clothes police as agents provocateurs is also referred to: "it must be admitted that in vice cases their use by plain-clothes men has made possible the most serious abuses and the gravest miscarriages of justice." And what of this paragraph: "A high conviction rate of female offenders received

public commendation for years in the annual reports of the Chief City Magistrate as well as the approval of organisations like the Committee of Fourteen and commendatory mention in the public press. Scant attention has ever been given to the court records of males involved in prostitution. *The consequences of this is* (our italics) that the courts have taken a much more tolerant attitude towards the male offender charged with aiding and abetting prostitution than toward the female charged with a prostitution offence." Finally it is stated that the finger-print records taken in the Women's Court show a consistently high percentage of first offenders, which seems to indicate that the present policy has not materially affected the number of those who are annually lured into the profession.

Altogether, apart from the indignation roused by the manifest injustice to women, the reader is left with an impression that the state of things is not satisfactory. Although the old system of brothels has been eliminated, new forms of exploitation are constantly springing up, more difficult to deal with.

ALL INDIAN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

At the beginning of this month, a big Conference was held in Simla, attended by some 300 Indian women of all communities and by some European women in India. We regret that we have not yet received the issue of *Stri Dharma* in which no doubt a full account of the Conference will be given, but from reports in the press we learn that the Rani Sahib of Sarila presided, and that the Resolutions adopted included: strong support of the Sarda (Child Marriage) Act, condemnation of communal awards as a method for securing the representation of women, which should be secured by adult suffrage through a group system; a call for legislation to improve the Hindu law of inheritance and for the enforcement of the Moslem law according to the Koran, and for improved medical facilities for the families of Indian soldiers.

Much emphasis was laid on the disabilities of Hindu women and especially of widows.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

On October 21st the League had a very successful Conference in London on The Position of Married Women, at which Mrs. Pethick Lawrence presided, and representatives of 23 women's organisations took part in the proceedings.

The first Resolution demanded the abolition of the law of coverture—a relic of the old Common Law under which a married woman was for ever held in tutelage.

The right of married women to work received almost unanimous support. Delegate after delegate insisted that all women must unite for the removal of the marriage bar which forms a barrier to the economic freedom of all women. Lady Berry, on behalf of medical women, strongly emphasised the point that a woman's ability to carry out her duties should be the only deciding factor in regard to her employment.

The following resolution was passed unanimously: "This Conference expresses its dissatisfaction that at this year's Assembly of the League of Nations the British Government voted in favour of ratification of the Hague Nationality Convention. It welcomes, however, the recommendation urging Governments 'to enact their internal legislative measures in a form more appropriate to meet the wishes of the women's organisations,' and calls upon the Government to introduce and pass into law the Nationality of Married Women Bill.

"It further appeals to the Government to urge the Dominions to come into line with the above quoted recommendation."

The position of women under the Health and Unemployment Insurance Acts was discussed at length and the Conference emphatically condemned the unequal treatment meted out to men and women, to the great disadvantage particularly of married women.

The Conference strongly objected to the aggregation of the incomes of husband and wife for the assessment of income tax, the tax on the joint income frequently proving much heavier than if each income were assessed and taxed separately. Moreover a wife who has a personal income or salary should automatically be held responsible for filling up her own income tax forms and for the payment of the tax on her income.

Discussion took place on the rights of a spouse to will away all his or her property from the other. While the Conference was in general agreement that the surviving spouse should have a right to some of the property, no vote was taken on the resolution submitted because it did not indicate how the right was to be upheld nor the proportion of the estate involved.

A resolution on Family Allowances was defeated by a big majority.

We have resumed our Thursday afternoon Tea-and-Politics meetings at the Minerva Club, 28a, Brunswick Square, W.C.1, and among the speakers in November are Mrs. Corbett Ashby, on "The Opposition to Disarmament," Miss Mary Pickford, M.P., on "Votes for Women in India," and Mrs. John Jones, J.P., on "The Aborigines of Australia." On November 17th and 18th we are having a Green, White and Gold Fair at Caxton Hall, Westminster, and we cordially invite all our friends to come and buy their Christmas presents from us.

FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Australia. Mrs. Couchman of Victoria is the only woman member of the new Broadcasting Commission.

Austria. We are able to announce three new "first appointments" of women in Vienna: that of Dr. Gertrud Herzog-Hauser as Professor at the University of Vienna being the first woman *venia legendi* of classical philology; that of Dr. Rafaela Kikiewicz as the first woman administrative lawyer in Austria, having been appointed Secretary to the Viennese Magistrate; and Josefine Stöckl, nominated official Advisor to the Vienna Police Headquarters. The latter is not, however, the first woman to hold such a position in Austria, as Felizitas Köhler was appointed some years ago.

France. The keeper of the light-house on the Island of Breat in Brittany is an 80 year-old woman, Mme. Marie Perrine Durand. She was appointed by the State to instruct five other women in the duties of a light-house keeper, among them her daughter. We do not know whether these other women are now in the service.

Germany. It is stated that in Berlin and other large cities in Germany there are now schools for housewives, which after a long training hold examinations which entitle the successful candidates to gain a certificate as "Mistress of Housekeeping."

Great Britain. After March 1933 no more women students are to be admitted to the School of Dental Surgery of the London Royal Dental

Hospital. Gradually it appears women are to be deprived of all the opportunities they have so laboriously acquired for entry into the different professions.

Japan. In the Japanese railway services there are nearly 10,000 women employed in a great variety of capacities, which do not however apparently include that of engine driver. A few women have higher executive posts.

Norway. The Director of the Municipal Sick Insurance Institution of Oslo has announced that women employees will have to resign their posts on marriage. Norwegian women are protesting against this first step in what they fear may be a campaign against married women's right to work.

South Africa. The National Council of Women are pressing for the abolition of restrictions on jury service for women. There are all sorts of special qualifications required from a woman juror, who has also to make special application to be allowed to serve. Even then, mixed juries are not permitted and women juries can only sit on cases where young women are on trial. The provisions are curious, and we may hope that a more equitable system of equality may be secured.

Spain. It is announced that women will not be allowed to vote in the first elections for the new Parliament of Catalonia. This seems in contradiction to the new Constitution of Spain, and we have not seen in the accounts of the Statute of Catalonia that this contained any discrimination against women. If in fact this is the case, we will hope that Spanish feminists will take the steps necessary to right the injustice.

THE EMANCIPATION OF MEN.

Man has at last fallen from his pedestal of sublime self-assurance and unimpeachable superiority. He has had to admit himself powerless to prevent woman from coming more and more to the fore except by organised effort, and so in Sweden a Men's Organisation has been started to fight against women's right to work and to oust them from the labour market, "where contrary to their nature and forgetful of their duty they have been advancing steadily and successfully."

The reason for the formation of this Men's Organisation is the increase in unemployment and the fact that the State, municipal authorities and private employers are all engaging women in far greater numbers than men. "But," they state, "if a woman is alone in life or is obliged to support parents or relatives, naturally we cannot say anything about that." The organisation envisages a future political party consisting only of men which will discourage women's work and arrange blockades against employers who do not give way to the demands of this society.

Surely the problem of unemployment cannot be solved by such dictatorial and unjust methods, and neither sex has a right to demand any privileges at the expense of the other. The right to work without consideration of sex is the most elementary condition of any civilised community, and any distribution of work must affect men and women equally.

Will unemployment be relieved if women are dismissed from professional work and in their turn have to dismiss servants? Have all women an aptitude for housework in spite of an intellectual education? Are all men qualified for manual labour? Finally, are the men prepared to shoulder the increased duties of supporting unemployed women relatives which would be

the inevitable result of restricting women's opportunities of work?

May we offer these emancipated men a suggestion for a remedy: turn back the time at least half a century, declare women minors again, take away their vote, their right to inheritance and to education, suppress those industries which have rendered their work in the home superfluous, and offer dependent female relations for auction to the lowest bidder. If that is not effective, why not try putting out all newly-born girls in the woods and leaving them to the more or less wild animals!

Hertha.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor, "Jus Suffragii."
Dear Madam,

After all the information about the projected "Women's International Calendar" you were good enough to publish in the last and current issue of your journal, your readers may be interested to hear of the progress of the enterprise.

Briefly as usual with similar publications of a special but all-embracing kind, the practical carrying out of the scheme proves to be far more difficult than at first anticipated. It is now becoming clear that with the end of the year so close, and all trade arrangements having been completed months ago, it would be a mistake to rush all the preparatory work necessary to complete the Calendar, and equally to rush the printers, in order to issue it this year. After all, the Calendar proper in this case is not the principle feature of the enterprise. It is rather the literary, historical information and artistic material of lasting interest that forms its real value, and this will gain rather than lose if the preparations are not hurried.

In these circumstances, there is still time for kindly support by women and men alike wishing success to my enterprise. I have already indicated in what directions such support could be rendered, and would only add that I would very much appreciate striking quotations from modern writings by men and women of all countries, bearing on the Woman Question, especially those which in addition to being essentially true are expressed with wit and humour.

May I hope that women particularly will rise to the occasion to do their best for the success of a standard work calculated to bring greater harmony and peace in their homes, and withal make their influence more widely felt in the legislature and administration of their country.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,
JAAKOFF PRELOOKER.

ITALY.

We have received an interesting account of the formation and activities of the Italian Federation of Women of the Artistic and Liberal Professions, which is affiliated to the Confederation of Intellectual Workers, one of the thirteen Confederations of Labour into which the Corporative State is divided. It is stated:

"In the formation of the electoral lists for the Chamber of Deputies all those who belong to the Syndical Federations have a right, independently of sex, to the designation of a certain number of candidates which, naturally, is in proportion to the number of inscribed members. Women have the same rights and duties as men and the highest offices are open to them.

"The representatives of all the Syndicates constitute the National Council of Corporations which has technical and parliamentary functions and of which women

also may be members. We have not yet collected the total statistics of all the women inscribed in the Confederation of the Syndicates of the intellectual and artistic professions, but from an approximate estimate we can say that . . . our Association represents over 10,000."

One of the Sections into which the Association is divided is the National Association for Feminine Problems, composed of all women professionals and amateurs who are interested in various questions of feminine legislation and in the problems arising out of the Corporative State which specially concern women.

The President of the Association is Professor Dr. Maria Castellani.

A WOMAN DIPLOMAT.

Miss Frances Elizabeth Wills, Secretary of the U.S.A. Legation at Stockholm, has been acting as Chargé d'Affaires with full responsibility for all the official functions of the Legation in the absence of the Minister. Miss Wills, who is only 33, has only been in the Diplomatic Service since 1927 after varied experience, chiefly as a University Professor. It is stated that Miss C. R. Harvey, Vice-Consul at Milan, is the only other woman in the U.S. Diplomatic Service.

DEUIL.

Le 18 Août vient de succomber après une longue maladie Mme. Micheline Moscicka, née Czyzewska, épouse du Président de la République de Pologne. Née en 1872 dans le district de Pock, elle fit son baccalauréat dans cette ville. Elle épousa en sa 20-me année l'ingénieur Ignace Moscicka et dut bientôt quitter avec lui la Pologne à cause des persécutions politiques des autorités russes.

Après son retour à Lwow Mme. Moscicka prit part aux travaux des organisations ayant des buts sociaux et humanitaires. Ce travail lui attira une vive reconnaissance et sympathie de la population et elle fut élue députée au Conseil Municipal de Lwow.

Mme. Moscicka prit aussi part au mouvement féministe. La Ligue des Femmes à Lwow se souvient avec reconnaissance de son activité en qualité de Présidente de cette Ligue. Dès le début de la grande guerre toute son énergie fut consacrée à l'organisation des premières formations militaires de la Pologne. Ses trois fils ont combattu pour la Patrie. Elle-même prit part à la défense de Lwow en 1918-1919.

Comme épouse du Président de la République la défunte a dirigé un grand nombre de travaux sociaux. Nous nous bornerons de citer quelques exemples de son activité.

En 1927 Mme. Moscicka organisa une grande action de secours aux victimes de l'inondation en Petite Pologne. Après la liquidation de cette action Mme. Moscicka forma des centres d'hygiène dans les régions éprouvées par la grande inondation. Ces centres se trouvent maintenant sur tout le territoire de la Pologne et accomplissent un travail sanitaire et social.

En 1928 pendant l'Exposition Nationale à Poznan, Mme. Moscicka organisa un pavillon des travaux des femmes. Un comité composé de toutes les organisations féminines du pays fut formé sous son protectorat. Mme. Moscicka s'intéressait vivement aux travaux de ce Comité et présida l'inauguration du pavillon.

Nous perdons avec la mort de Mme. Moscicka une des personnalités les plus éminentes dans le domaine du travail social en Pologne. Notre Association des Femmes pour le service social en Pologne qui avait l'honneur de l'avoir comme protectrice lui doit une profonde reconnaissance pour l'intérêt, l'appui et le conseil que l'association trouvait toujours auprès d'elle.

LA "SAISON FEMINISTE DE GENEVE."

Quel que soit le jugement que l'on puisse porter sur la valeur politique de la XIIIe Assemblée de la S.d.N., il est intéressant de signaler ici que, dans bien des milieux, on l'a appelée "l'Assemblée féministe." Les femmes, en effet, y ont tenu une place importante, soit par leur activité dans les délégations nationales, soit parce que plusieurs des questions traitées les touchaient directement (nationalité de la femme mariée, collaboration des femmes à l'œuvre de la S.d.N., traite des femmes, esclavage, réforme pénale, protection de l'enfance, opium, etc., etc.).

Parmi les seize femmes membres de délégations, relevons que plusieurs d'entre elles appartenaient directement à l'Alliance, soit, ainsi que l'a indiqué notre dernier No, comme membres du Board (Mmes. Plaminkowa, Malaterre-Sellier et von Velsen), soit comme membres de Sociétés affiliées (Mmes. Palencia (Espagne), Hubicka (Pologne), Osborne (Australie)). Cette dernière a été élue vice-présidente de la Ve Commission de l'Assemblée, dans laquelle Mme. Plaminkowa a été nommée rapporteur pour la question de la protection de l'enfance. Comme chaque année, le "Joint Committee" a offert aux femmes déléguées une fort jolie réception au Club International, présidée au nom de l'Alliance Universelle des Unions Chrétiennes de Jeunes Filles par Mme. Bertrand.

Une autre manifestation brillante de la "Saison" a été le grand dîner suffragiste organisé par l'Alliance, et auquel avaient été spécialement invités les délégués des pays encore non affranchis pour entendre l'opinion et les expériences d'hommes d'Etat de pays suffragistes. Plus de 200 personnes se pressèrent à ce dîner, auquel 35 délégations étaient officiellement représentées par des ministres, des ambassadeurs, des sénateurs, des députés, etc. En l'absence, déplorée par chacun, de Mrs. Ashby, la présidence fut assumée collectivement par trois de nos vice-présidentes, Mmes. Schreiber-Krieger, Plaminkowa et Malaterre-Sellier, et par la Secrétaire générale, Mlle Gourd, qui introduisirent les orateurs: M. Bénés, Ministre des Affaires étrangères de Tchécoslovaquie, apporta un exposé impartial et documenté de l'évolution du mouvement suffragiste dans son pays; le comte Carton de Wiart (Belgique), proclama de façon chaleureuse et spirituelle ses convictions suffragistes renforcées par les heureuses expériences du suffrage municipal en Belgique; et M. de Madariaga (Espagne) prononça un de ces étincelantes improvisations dont il a le secret. Malheureusement empêché, M. de Rheimbaben (Allemagne) s'était fait excuser, et Lord Cecil que son état de santé avait retenu loin de nous nous adressa un message écrit de sa propre main, réfutant par l'expérience acquise les éternels arguments contre le vote des femmes.

L'organisation de ce dîner a été une des activités du Bureau Temporaire de l'Alliance à Genève, mais non pas la seule. En effet, en plus d'une réception offerte en l'honneur de Mrs. Ashby et des femmes déléguées, à laquelle se rencontrèrent des amies de l'Alliance de toutes les parties du monde, et à laquelle deux visiteuses venues, l'une du Mexique, l'autre de l'Irak, prirent la parole, ce Bureau a encore organisé une réunion familière pour les élèves féminines de l'Ecole d'été de l'Union des Associations pour la S.d.N., une autre réunion intime en l'honneur de Dr. Lüders, qui parla de façon extrêmement intéressante de la situation politique actuelle en Allemagne, et enfin une causerie sur le *Féminisme en Chine* par Mlle Li-Dzeh Djen, une charmante jeune licenciée ès lettres de l'Université de Nankin. Comme de leur côté, soit le Club International par ses lunchs suivis de causeries politiques ou féministes, soit le Comité International Féminin du Désarmement, par sa "Journée d'études" sur la demande allemande d'égalité des droits, à laquelle

participèrent activement plusieurs membres de l'Alliance, soit enfin les autres organisations féminines internationales par des réunions diverses, ont contribué à créer et à maintenir à Genève une atmosphère vivante d'intérêt pour les questions qui nous préoccupent, on voit que, malgré la crise, la "saison de Genève" a été du point de vue féministe aussi animée et intéressante que d'habitude. Le Bureau de l'Alliance en tout cas, remarquablement installé, grâce à Mlle. Ginsberg, dans les locaux du Club International, n'a pas connu un jour de chômage.

Le mois prochain, nous parlerons des questions traitées à l'Assemblée et notamment de celle de la nationalité de la femme mariée.

E.G.D.

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Liste des Femmes Membres de Délégations à la XIIIe Assemblée de la S.d.N.

Allemagne: Frau D. von Velsen, expert technique.
Australie: Dr. Ethel Osborne, déléguée suppléante.
Grande-Bretagne: Mrs. Edgar Dugdale, déléguée suppléante.
Canada: Mme. Frémont, déléguée attitrée.
Chili: Mme. Marta Vergara, déléguée suppléante.
Colombie: Mme. Brigard de Pizano, déléguée suppléante.
Danemark: Mlle Henny Forchammer, déléguée suppléante.
Espagne: Mme. Isabel de Palencia, déléguée suppléante.
France: Mme. Malaterre-Sellier, expert technique.
Hongrie: Mme. Apponyi, déléguée suppléante.
Norvège: Dr. Aas, déléguée suppléante.
Pays-Bas: Mme. Kluyver, déléguée suppléante et secrétaire de délégation.
Pologne: Mme. Hubicka, sénateur, déléguée suppléante.
Roumanie: Mlle. Hélène Vacaresco, déléguée suppléante.
Suède: Mlle. K. Hesselgren, sénateur, déléguée suppléante.
Tchécoslovaquie: Mme. F. Plaminkowa, sénateur, déléguée suppléante.

Soit 16 femmes membres de délégations, représentant 16 pays, dont 1 déléguée attitrée, 13 déléguées suppléantes, et 2 experts techniques. L'an dernier, 16 pays également avaient envoyé des membres féminins à Genève, mais au nombre total de 19. Que, à un moment où tous les gouvernements restreignent leurs dépenses, des économies plus considérables n'aient pas été faites aux dépens des femmes est un fait qu'il faut relever avec la plus vive satisfaction! Relevons aussi que si la Lithuanie et l'Autriche n'ont pas cette année de représentantes féminines, leur place a été prise sur notre liste par la Colombie, qui a délégué une femme pour la première fois, — et surtout par la France! Ceci est le progrès capital de cette année, qui, espérons-le, va entraîner de nombreux autres, et marquer une étape importante dans le mouvement de collaboration des femmes avec la S.d.N.

—Mouvement Féministe.

REUNION PROJETEE DE L'ALLIANCE A MARSEILLE.

En Juillet dernier, le Board de l'Alliance a décidé de convoquer pour 1933, une réunion spéciale des Présidents des sociétés affiliées et de deux Déléguées par association.

Cette réunion aura lieu à Marseille en mars ou avril prochain. La situation financière de l'Alliance fera l'objet d'une séance plénière ainsi que d'autres problèmes particulièrement épineux à l'heure actuelle. La question qui domine toutes les autres est celle-ci: Quel doit être notre travail le plus urgent, et par quels moyens pourrions nous le mener à bonne fin?

Nos auxiliaires de France et en particulier les groupes de Marseille ont chaleureusement accepté la proposition. Ce sera là une occasion de faire une propagande utile pour la cause suffragiste en France. En dehors des commissions d'affaires, il y aura à Marseille des Conférences ouvertes à tous sur les sujets de l'Egalité de la Morale, la Position économique des Femmes, les Femmes dans la Police et le Travail des Femmes pour la Paix. On espère pouvoir organiser des excursions, à Avignon, Toulon et Nice où nos déléguées seront reçues par les Sociétés féministes. Un sous-comité du Board de l'Alliance doit se réunir à la fin de Novembre pour décider du programme et autres détails. Nous espérons pouvoir les publier dans notre No. de Décembre.

L'ESCLAVAGE.

La dernière Assemblée de la Société des Nations a approuvé la proposition de la délégation britannique quant à "la suppression de l'esclavage sous toutes ses formes et par tout le monde. Le travail réel sera fait par le Secrétaire et sept Experts formeront une Commission de l'Esclavage. Le champ de recherches est vaste et pour le moment on l'a divisé en sept catégories: (1) statut légal des esclaves, (2) Chasse à l'esclave et opérations similaires, (3) traite, (4) commerce, échange, vente, donation legs d'esclaves, (5) coutumes restreignant la liberté de l'individu, (6) esclavage domestique, (7) transition du travail servile au travail libre.

NOUVELLES BREVES.

Australie. Mrs. Couchman, de Victoria est la seule femme membre de la Commission de Radiodiffusion.

France. Le gardien du Phare de Bréhat, en Bretagne est une octogénaire, Mme. Marie Perrine Durand. L'Etat lui a confié l'instruction de cinq autres femmes, dans les fonctions de gardiens de phare.

Allemagne. A Berlin et dans d'autres villes d'Allemagne il y a maintenant des Ecoles de Ménagères. Après un temps d'instruction assez long, les élèves ménagères se présentent à un examen difficile. Si elles sont reçues elles peuvent porter le titre de Maître ès arts domestiques.

Grande Bretagne. Après Mars 1933, L'Ecole Dentaire adjointe au Royal Dental Hospital ne prendra plus d'étudiantes-femmes. Il semble que plusieurs professions dont les femmes avaient conquis l'entrée de haute lutte, se ferment à nouveau devant elles.

Japon. Dans les chemins de fer japonais, il y a paraît-il 10,000 femmes, employées diverses, mais pas encore de femmes mécaniciens. Quelques-unes occupent des postes exécutifs.

Norvège. Le directeur d'une Compagnie municipale d'Assurance à Oslo annonce que toute femme qui se marie devra démissionner. Les femmes norvégiennes protestent contre ce décret précurseur d'une attaque générale du travail de la femme mariée.

Afrique du Sud. Le Conseil National des Femmes fait une active campagne pour l'abolition des restrictions qui entourent le service des Femmes Jurés.

Espagne. On annonce que les femmes n'auront pas le droit de vote aux premières élections du Parlement de Catalogne. Cela paraît être en contradiction avec la Nouvelle Constitution espagnole et il ne semble pas que les Statuts de Catalogne contiennent aucune discrimination à l'égard des femmes. Si tel est pourtant le cas, nous espérons que les Féministes espagnoles sauront comment procéder pour remédier à une telle injustice.

ITALIE.

Nous avons reçu un compte rendu intéressant de la formation et du fonctionnement de la Fédération Italienne des Femmes artistes et de professions libérales, affiliée à la Confédération des Travailleurs Intellectuels, l'une des treize Confédérations du Travail qui forment l'Etat corporatif. Les statuts portent que:

"Dans la formation des listes électorales pour la Chambre des Députés tous les membres des Fédérations syndicales sans distinction de sexe, ont le droit de désigner un certain nombre de candidats, en proportion du nombre de leurs membres inscrits." Les femmes ont les mêmes droits et devoirs que les hommes et les plus hautes fonctions leur sont ouvertes.

Les délégués de tous les Syndicats constituent le Conseil national des Corporations qui a des fonctions techniques et parlementaires et dont les femmes ont également le droit de faire partie. Nous pouvons dire approximativement que notre Association représente environ 10,000 femmes inscrites à la Confédération. Une des sections de notre Association s'occupe spécialement des questions féministes. Son bureau est composé de femmes de professions libérales ou autres qui s'intéressent aux questions variées de législation féminine et des problèmes qui dans l'Etat Corporatif concernent spécialement les femmes. La Présidente de l'Association est la Doctoresse Maria Castellani.

GRANDE BRETAGNE.

Le 21 octobre, une Conférence à laquelle vingt-trois organisations féministes ont pris part, s'est réunie à Londres sous les auspices de la Women Freedom League. Elle était présidée par Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.

La première résolution sur l'Agenda avait rapport à la "loi de couverture" relique de l'ancienne coutume, par laquelle une femme mariée est toujours en tutelle. Le droit au travail de la femme mariée a été unanimement reconnu. Une résolution sur la loi de Nationalité exprime le vœu que le Gouvernement fasse passer le projet à l'état de loi, déplore la ratification de la Convention de La Haye et exhorte les Dominions à suivre les directions du Gouvernement de Grande Bretagne qui paraît favorable aux revendications des sociétés féministes.

La Conférence a condamné les dispositions de la Loi sur les Assurances sociales à cause du traitement inégal accordé aux femmes. De même elle désapprouva le système de perception de l'impôt sur le revenu, qui frappe beaucoup plus durement le revenu joint de Mari et Femme que deux revenus distincts.

La Conférence a souscrit en principe à l'abrogation de la coutume par laquelle l'un ou l'autre époux a la liberté complète de tester et le droit de déshériter sa famille.

Une résolution sur les Allocations familiales fut rejetée à une grosse majorité.

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