

WOMEN'S SERVICE

FILE

NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

JVS SVFFRAGII.



THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

Volume 201. No. 17.

PRICE 6d.  
Annual Subscription, 6/-

OCTOBER, 1926.

CONTENTS.

A Letter from Mrs. Chapman Catt ... ..	165	Feminism in South America ... ..	174
Meeting of the Alliance Board ... ..	166	Women in Jugo-Slavia ... ..	174
Women in the League of Nations ... ..	167	Report of the Paris Congress ... ..	174
The Government of Haiti ... ..	168	British Commonwealth League ... ..	175
Quebec ... ..	168	Pan-American Congress ... ..	175
Household and State ... ..	169	Women Delegates at Geneva ... ..	175
Reports from Auxiliaries ... ..	170	Section Française:—	
Australia ... ..	170	Droit de Vote Suffrage et Féminisme ...	176
Bulgaria ... ..	171	L'Egypte ... ..	177
Germany ... ..	171	Bureau International du Travail ... ..	177
Great Britain ... ..	172	Les Femmes dans la Société des Nations ...	178
India ... ..	173	Vacances Internationales ... ..	178
Japan ... ..	173	Japon ... ..	178
United States of America ... ..	173	Le Congrès de la Paix ... ..	179

*To the Delegates of the Paris Congress  
of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.*

WHEN Miss Sherwin, president of the auxiliary in the United States, returned from the Paris Congress, she brought me your amazing gift—the tiny wrist watch. I have been astonished many times in my long life, but never quite so completely as upon that occasion. My heart fairly stood still and I was in reality quite overcome by the surprise, for the very last thing I should have expected from the Congress was a gift!

It was wonderful that you should think of me so far away and send me a remembrance when your time was filled with hard work and you were perplexed by many problems. You may be assured that I shall treasure it every day, and whenever I look upon it for time, an affectionate recollection of all the dear friends and their kind generosity will rise within me, and thus my gratitude will be a continued daily expression.

These are troubled times in which to live. Whatever happens, do not be discouraged. The human race is always stumbling and falling, but it always rises again and goes forward. The future has probably always looked dark to those who have tried to peer into it, but, looking backward, we can see that each generation comprehends what justice means a little more clearly than the last. It is our business to proclaim our courage.

Bless you, dear friends, one and all.

With affection and gratitude,

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT.

## MEETING OF THE ALLIANCE BOARD

THE first meeting of the Board after a Congress must necessarily be a good deal taken up with questions of administration and finance, the details of which do not make very interesting reading in general. We think, however, that all our members will learn with gratitude that once again the financial position of the Alliance for the next three years has been assured by a generous contribution from the Leslie Commission. It would be very difficult to carry on the full work of the Alliance without this help, and the Board felt and expressed its gratitude. We hope that our readers will also be grateful and will at the same time register a decision that the generosity of the Leslie Commission is an example to be copied within the measure of what is possible.

The Paris Congress decided that the international standing committees should be increased by two, one to work for peace and the other for women police. Miss Morgan was appointed chairman of the Peace Committee, and therefore her presence in Geneva for this Board Meeting was very specially important. Several meetings took place between her and the other members of the Board specially attached to this Committee, and some interesting recommendations for the work of the Committee were made to the Board. The title is to be "Committee for Peace and the League of Nations"—"Comité d'Action pour la Paix et la Société des Nations"—and it is hoped special funds may be collected for its work. When the details of the work have been more fully worked out, we shall hope to publish a special article on this Committee. The Committee for Women Police, of which Frau Anna Lindemann is chairman, will also, we hope, send a special notice of its programme of work later on.

The Board felt that there was still a gap in the cycle of subjects studied by the Alliance, namely, the consideration of the disabilities of women under the law. Up to the time of the Rome Congress this matter was to some extent covered by the very wide terms of reference of the Committee, which also included the question of the unmarried mother, and it has now been decided to institute a special committee on this subject, the exact title of which will be published later.

As the Board met in Geneva at the time of the Assembly, it naturally gave much of its attention to matters connected with the League of Nations. One of the questions which it considered was that of the position of the women employed in the Secretariat. Everyone will remember that the Article of the League Covenant which stated that all posts and positions in the League were to be open equally to both sexes was hailed as a great feminist victory. A victory it certainly was, but victories are empty indeed if they bring none of the fruits of victory. It behoves women's organisations to look into this question and consider whether the spirit of that famous article is in fact inspiring the policy of the League. Every woman at all interested in these questions knows more or less that very few women come as delegates to the Assembly and that very few sit on the committees and sub-committees. It is realised that there are difficulties to be faced in this connection until more women hold responsible positions in their own countries. Nevertheless, a certain amount of pressure is regularly brought to bear in order to secure further appointments for women where they are fully qualified. But the Secretariat is in a different position and receives rather less attention from women's organisations. After all, the Secretariat is office work—rather glorified office work, no doubt, but still substantially the same as that carried on in numberless offices and Government departments. Now it cannot be said that women with experience of office organisation are difficult to find. If they do not exactly abound in the higher classes, it is that their chances have only recently come to them; but even so, there are very many women who are experts in these jobs. We do not need to speak of the lower classes here, as there is no doubt that women have a perfectly fair share

of the positions as typists, etc.—if, indeed, they have not almost a monopoly. I think, however, we are not likely to find men invoking the Covenant to secure their share of these positions.

When the Board studied this question a little, it was grieved to note that but one woman is a Chief of Section, that only one woman is a member of Class B, though a woman is at the head of the Library, that no women at all are directors, and that this seems to entail that no woman has a voice in the Appointments Committee for the higher classes. It will be seen that though the posts may be open to both sexes, they are for the most part filled by *one* in cases where they are tempting to men. The Board felt strongly the difficulties of taking action in these delicate questions, but it felt no less strongly that it is for women's organisations to stand behind the women employed in the League, yes, and the women who ought to be employed in the League, so that a greater measure of actual equality may be secured and conditions of employment rendered easier. The sexes have lived side by side since the beginning of the world, and if the League cannot manage to secure real co-operation in the service they both have to give to it, it is rather a poor look-out as regards its capacity to secure co-operation from its infinitely differing nations. If women asked for, and won, the equal rights clause in the Covenant, it was not merely a parrot cry of "Equality" that urged them on; it was the deep conviction that it is urgently and imperatively necessary that men and women should work freely and loyally together if co-operation and understanding are to take the place of jealousy and war.

The Board had also to go through the resolutions passed at the Congress in order to decide what action should be taken to give them effect. For the most part it is the auxiliaries in whose hands this duty lies, but the Alliance has itself to call the attention of the Governments to resolutions dealing with suffrage, as also that of the League of Nations and the International Labour Office to those which touch upon their work.

Another discussion which will bear fruit in three years' time was concerned with the members' impressions of the Congress and where the organisation proved to be a little weak and might usefully be strengthened for the next Congress. The Alliance is never content, but wishes its Congresses to go on from strength to strength.

Geneva, during the Assembly, is a place humming with activity, and actual business was by no means the only matter to occupy the members. Mlle. Gourd gave a delightful reception at the Athenée, Mrs. Corbett Ashby gave a tea party in honour of the latest woman representative at the Assembly, Dr. Gertrud Baumer, and for the benefit of the Suffrage movement in Switzerland there was a public meeting addressed by several members of the Board, which was most successful and drew an audience of a size truly astonishing in view of the heat and the many distractions.

## ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE OF THE ALLIANCE.

We have much pleasure in stating that Fru Bugge Wicksell, who from the very first has acted as Chairman of the Admissions Committee of the Alliance, has kindly consented to continue to act. When the Board met after the Paris Congress, it did not venture to name Mme. Wicksell, because it was feared that she had intended to give up this work. Happily this was a misapprehension, and it is with the greatest joy that the Board has learnt that it may continue to rely on Mme. Wicksell's great wisdom and experience.

## LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Mademoiselle Gourd kindly promises us a report on the VIIIth Assembly of the League for our November issue.

## WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

By LEONORA DE ALBERTI.

Hon. Secretary of Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations.

IT is a matter of grave concern to women interested in the League of Nations that the seventh clause of the Covenant foreshadowing the equality of men and women within the League has as yet borne but little fruit. Year after year a half a dozen women attend the Assembly of the League, but as substitute delegates only. So far no Government has had the courage, it seems to call for courage, to appoint a woman as fully accredited delegate. The Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations has always urged that women should be appointed as full delegates.

The Council has also persistently urged that women technical advisers should accompany the British Representative to the sessions of the Council of the League. We have asked international bodies to take up this question in other countries. Women can never take their proper place in the League while they are completely shut out from the deliberations of the Council. Until women hold the rank of Foreign Secretary we cannot expect that a woman will represent her country on the Council of the League, but they should certainly be appointed as technical advisers.

It is perhaps even more important that women should be adequately represented in the International Labour Office and at the International Labour Conferences. The I.L.O. has the power to restrict and interfere with women's work, which constitutes a real danger to women unless they are adequately represented. Unfortunately instead of repeating the seventh clause of the Covenant, which throws open all positions in the League to women equally with men, a clause was inserted in the Constitution of the I.L.O. laying down that: "When questions specially affecting women are to be considered by the Conference, one at least of the advisers (who accompany the delegates) shall be a woman." This clause has been interpreted to mean that it is only necessary to appoint women, and then merely as technical advisers, when in the opinion of the authorities the questions to be discussed are of importance to women. It was for this reason that the C.R.W.L.N. asked the Director of the Labour Office to remind Governments that the seventh clause of the Covenant applies to the I.L.O. This he very kindly did in his letter convoking the eighth International Labour Conference; nevertheless, only six women attended that conference and they were appointed as technical advisers, there was not a single woman delegate. The clause respecting women technical advisers is indeed a stumbling block.

As the I.L.O. is now considering the question of forced labour my Council applied to the Colonial Office for information as to the extent to which women are employed in forced labour within the British Empire. According to the answer of the Secretary of State, in the following territories, Fiji, Gambia, Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, and the Islands of the Western Pacific High Commission, "there is no compulsory labour for women, except in so far as, in conformity with tribal customs respected by His Majesty's Government, women may be called upon by their native chiefs to perform duties which by recognised custom they invariably perform." In other parts of the Empire women are not employed in forced labour. The I.L.O. will not formulate a "Charter of Native Labour," as at first suggested, but will submit to the Governments concerned draft agreements for organizing the protection of native labour. My Council urges that women shall be given a voice in all these matters. We ask that they be appointed in adequate numbers to the Commissions of the League.

The Health Committee of the League is to investigate the question of Infant Mortality and Infant Wel-

fare, and we are glad to say that the Ministry of Health has appointed Dame Janet Campbell as the British expert to assist the Medical Director in preparing a report for the Health Committee, touching the manner in which this investigation can be best carried out.

These are some of the questions upon which we have been working of late; it is an uphill task, for though the equality of the sexes is recognized in the Covenant, sex prejudice cannot be wiped out with a stroke of the pen. This does not mean that no progress has been made, great progress has been made, yet there is a long road to travel before we reach the equality promised in the Covenant.

—"The Woman's Leader."

## EIGHTH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION.

THE eighth plenary session of the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation was held at Geneva from July 26th to July 29. It was preceded by meetings of its sub-committees, and followed by a session of the Governing Body of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation.

Professor Lorentz (Netherlands) and Professor Gilbert Murray (British) were respectively re-elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

*Intellectual Property.*—The Committee examined the present position of the question of scientific property (study of means of securing for scientists profits in the industrial application of their discoveries) and was able to form an idea of the ground gained by the underlying principles of Senator Ruffini's scheme.

Other questions dealt with by the Committee concerned the legal status of international associations and the suppression of artistic forgeries. The latter question was referred to a sub-committee studying means of identifying works of art.

*University Relations.*—The Committee had before it a memorandum from Madame Curie on international scholarships for the promotion of science and the perfecting of scientific laboratories.

This document recommended a preliminary investigation of national and international post-graduate scholarships, the constitution of a committee of experts to study the most suitable means of organising an international system of scholarships and the publication of the results of these studies with a view to encouraging donations for scholarships.

The Committee was in complete agreement with Madame Curie's suggestions. The proposed committee of experts, it considered, would also be able to enter into relations with national and international organisations for the distribution of scholarships to young scientists and endeavour to co-ordinate the work of these bodies.

It then proceeded to an exchange of views with regard to a scheme submitted by Professor Barany, of Upsala University, for the foundation of an international university for the training of statesmen, diplomats, politicians, political writers, professors of political science, etc. The Committee was of opinion that the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation should study the possibility of founding an international school of political studies, if practicable, by the co-operation of certain national institutions.

*National Committees.*—On several occasions the Committee and its sub-committee laid particular stress on the effective assistance already given by the National Committees of Intellectual Co-operation and on their future possibilities. The Committee decided to study the possibility of convening in 1927 a meeting of representatives of these bodies which already exist in a large number of countries and whose opinion will be sought in this connection.

We much regret that only one woman, Mme. Dreyfus-Barney, has been appointed to the Sub-Committee which is considering the question of inculcating into the minds of youth the ideals of the League.

### "WHAT THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT IS DOING FOR ITS PEOPLE."

Haiti with its brilliant sun, purple mountains, blue seas and tropical trees, would seem, to the stranger passing through, a little paradise. In the midst of this "paradise" is situated the Haitian general hospital, where the poor sick of Port-au-Prince and surrounding villages are cared for.

The hospital has a bright and cheerful aspect, with its large grounds, trees and rose gardens, long low buildings, nine in number, painted green and white, each building is surrounded by galleries or porches from which you can gaze on the hills.

Catholicism being the religion of the country a little chapel, with a miniature grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes is tucked away among the trees. Until 1916 when the American occupation came to Haiti, French nuns were the only ones who took care of the sick. They are still in charge, and co-operate in every way with the Americans working in the hospital, untiring in their self-sacrifices and zeal.

Since the occupation great improvements have been made. The Haitian Government has replaced the old dilapidated shacks with new modern buildings, a large research laboratory has been added. This is apart from the hospital one, where the native work is carried on, and a new and expensive X-ray machine has been installed.

An American naval doctor is at the head of the administration. The doctors employed in the actual care of the sick are Haitians, bright, intelligent men, many of whom have studied abroad.

The bed capacity of the hospital is 500, although there are frequently many more; the dispensary treats daily from 100 to 110 outside patients. Several rural clinics have been established in far villages, and are visited weekly by doctors from the general hospital. These clinics are usually held in the school house or the parish priest's house; in some places a house is rented for that purpose. The doctor's visit is announced from the pulpit at Sunday Mass. Other small hospitals have been opened in various parts of the island. These also are in charge of French nuns. Our graduates from the Haitian General Hospital are employed in these outlying districts.

The machinery being started, it was necessary to find operators, and as the hospital grew, and the outside world began to appreciate the excellent service it rendered the country, it was decided in 1918 to open a training school for native girls. The school at first was under the direction of naval nurses, but in 1920 these were replaced by American Red Cross nurses, who come under the Haitian Government, and form part of the service d'Hygiene. The duties of these American nurses are to instruct and supervise the pupils. The training school started with 20 probationers; owing to the lack of education and social background, it is impossible to demand the same standards as those of our American schools. French is the language of the educated Haitian, and a fair knowledge of it is required. All lectures and instructions are given in French. Creole is spoken by the natives, and is usually what is heard amongst the patients. It is a patois, with a mixture of French, having a vocabulary of 600 words. The first graduates may not have been quite up to par, but like all pioneer work, it takes time and patience, and to-day we find a much better type of girl in training. Amongst the present class we have some promising pupils. Who can tell but what some day a Florence Nightingale may come forth, and then indeed our work will not have been in vain.

For 1922 the American Red Cross donated ten thousand dollars towards a nurses' home. A two-storey building was erected at the end of the hospital grounds, with lecture hall and demonstration room. The home is well equipped with every convenience and comfort for the pupils, many of whom have never known a home.

(Continued on page 173.)

### QUEBEC.

To the Editor of "Jus."

WE are now (Aug. 22nd) in the throes of a Federal Election, and as the women of Quebec, like their sisters in the other Canadian Provinces, have a vote in such elections, the word "throes" is used advisedly. A curious situation results from the fact that, unlike other Canadian women, we in Quebec, although electors federally, are not so provincially, and as the Federal Voters' Lists are based on the provincial lists—upon which no woman's name is inscribed—it follows that every woman who wishes to exercise her franchise in a Federal election must register. The registration booths are quite often at a considerable distance from one's domicile, and are only open during certain hours, so are somewhat congested at times, obliging women to stand in line for hours waiting for their turn. These conditions tend to make registration the unmitigated nuisance it is, especially when, as in the present instance, two Federal elections are held within a year.

Would that the system of imposing a stiff fine on the indifferent citizens, who, for no good reason, fail to vote at an election (as is the law in one of the Australian States) were in force here. Why should "A" have to go down on her knees, figuratively speaking, to induce "B" to exercise a privilege which is all in "B's" own interest?

If there were no other reason for working for the provincial vote, surely the removal of this burdensome registration ought to be incentive enough. The trouble, however, is that the women who have to be coaxed and urged first to register, then to vote, are the very women who care little or nothing about anything so serious as the provincial vote.

But a ray of hope breaks through the gloom. At an official meeting of Liberal women held recently in this city to organise for the election, Dr. Grace Ritchie England, Vice-President of the National Council of Women and a Past-President of the Montreal Liberal Women's Club, a convinced and consistent Liberal, thus delivered herself: "Say to your members, if you don't help me to get my provincial vote, I won't vote for you in the next election. Make up your minds to approach your candidates and see that you get the provincial vote. I will never again work for the Liberal Party unless I am treated as the political equal of the man who works alongside me." A very noble and gallant gesture, to which the writer, albeit differing politically from the speaker, gladly pays tribute.

The most reactionary and stubborn Government cannot long afford to treat with contempt this attitude of the leading women of its own party.

(Mrs. John) ISABELLA SCOTT.

Montreal,

August 22nd, 1926.

Officials of the Women's Conservative Association of Montreal and District have requested ministers of the various churches throughout the province and city to read to their congregations directions giving information for the registration of women voters for the federal elections.

The following information has been drawn up:—

"Owing to the fact that in Quebec alone of the provinces of Canada women have not the provincial vote, no woman's name appears on the provincial voters' list, which forms the basis for the federal voters' list, and therefore before every federal election the women of this province must register.

"Even the women who registered previous to the federal election in October, 1925, must now register again.

"Registration booths will be open in every electoral division from August 9th to 14th inclusive.

"In the case of illness or unavoidable absence, a relative or friend may register a woman's name.

"The women of Quebec are urged to consider registration and voting as a Christian and patriotic duty and privilege."

### HOUSEHOLD AND STATE.

By GISELA URBAN (Vienna).

BY many women's organisations and women's papers all over the world, many attempts are made to bring about a better living standard for the mass of people, a more rational way of house-keeping, a more efficient home-making. Many a success is to be noticed. But much as the household is studied in economic, technical, scientific, professional and ethical respects, there is one side of the matter which hitherto has not been considered—the legal-social side. It will surely interest the women in other countries to hear that the *National Council of Austrian Women*, after a lively discussion, recognised the necessity to give the household a place in the legal and social organisation of the State. In its last Annual Convention, the National Council of Austrian Women resolved to work for the establishment of a State institution having for its object all household interests. In Austria, as in so many other countries, the different economic and professional interests are represented in the State by Chambers, and the National Council of Austrian Women demand that *Chambers of House-keeping* should also be created. The women's organisations of all parties, being invited by the Council to co-operate in this task, support this demand.

#### How the Importance of Household Work was Realised.

Before the war we could only hear the word "Production," which became more and more the aim and end of the politics of every country. The war, with its difficulties of providing food and other necessities in so many countries, demonstrated for the first time that there is, besides the national economy, still another economy—*domestic economy*—which is uncontrolled and not organised, entirely neglected by science and politics. At the same time we recognised that the single household has a double effect; it not only consumes the goods it requires for its maintenance, but it has a very definite effect upon the production of those goods which it requires for consumption. Finally, all labours performed in the management of a household feed the most important source of life of the State, the most valuable creature—Man.

Household economy is at one and the same time the beginning and the end of national economy. Are we not justified, then, in trying to seize systematically the hitherto isolated, often mismanaged household, which is exposed to all kinds of economic chains, and to consolidate, develop, transform it according to economic experiences and social laws? Is it not necessary that, to bring about better consolidation, unity, unhampered survey, co-operation of all economic forces, household management should have a voice in the great concert of economy? Is it not indispensable to develop it professionally?

#### The Better is the Enemy of the Good.

In different countries, as in Austria, people have repeatedly spoken of *Chambers of Consumers*. But such Chambers, beneficent as they might be for the requirements of the consumers, for plentiful and satisfactory production and distribution and reasonable fixing of prices, would, as regards the wants of the household, still be an incomplete and one-sided instrument. They would only deal with the questions of consumption, but they would not satisfy the house-keepers, whom they would only treat as consumers and not as producers. But house-keeping is not only a consuming, it is at the same time a producing factor, and so essential for the production of

goods that it, too, must be studied, discussed and raised to a higher level. Moreover, we must strive to raise house-keeping to the status of a profession.

To this end, *Chambers of House-keeping* must be set up which shall undertake a task of immense economic and social importance—the care of household management, that pillar of national welfare, to watch over and develop it, and make the nations realise its importance to the public welfare.

#### What Chambers of Housekeeping could do.

What a many-sided programme would the Chambers of House-keeping have! They would have to examine and to test all foodstuffs and necessities of everyday life. They would have to teach reasonable diet in good and bad health; they would have to look after the state of housing, health, clothing, furniture; they would have to give advice and instruction on the right management of the household, for a proper division of labour, the saving of time and strength. They would have to train house-wives and their helpers to a full understanding of the importance of their work, of their great responsibility. They would have to become the centre of household education of every kind and form. The sciences would be at their disposal in order to assist, in giving advice, in experimenting, in proposing reforms and showing new ways.

Moreover, the Chambers of House-keeping would have the task to discuss and settle the professional questions concerning those working in a household. Employers as well as employees should find there the place where their wishes would be heard, their occasional differences reconciled. Finally, all relief work such as establishment of homes for old domestic servants who can no longer earn, for old house-wives, establishment of vacation homes for impecunious house-wives needing rest, insurance in case of illness, etc., and also the organisation of an international co-operation of house-wives in order to advise one another; with all these questions the Chambers of House-keeping would have to deal.

#### Modern Life Urges us to Prepare for Household Development.

Whoever takes the trouble to inquire why work in the home is so much behindhand must realise that it is, above all, the isolation of the household, the lack of a feeling of responsibility in the State towards the household, towards education for house-keeping and towards the duty of recognising the work of house-wives, that are responsible for this situation. Between household and State, between household and national economy, between household and all factors touching it, mutual relations must be created, and this is only possible if the household is incorporated in the organism of the State in the same manner as other economic interests, in order to discover what support is due to it as a State-preserving force, and to make the best use of its resources.

In other countries, where Chambers do not exist as an official institution of the State, but only as private organisations, women must try to find another way for the incorporation of the household in the organism of the State. Everywhere it is more and more clearly felt that the State must do something to promote the development of the household, to point the way, in order to assist it in a development befitting the altered conditions of life. And perhaps if the household could find its due place in the organism of the State, it would one day be possible to create a *Ministry for House-keeping* or a *Ministerial Department for House-keeping* as the chief department of the State.

## REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

## AUSTRALIA.

## THE WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

At the June Council Meeting, the treatment of aboriginal women in the Northern Territory was dealt with, and the following resolution, submitted by the Women's Non-Party Association of Adelaide, wholeheartedly supported:—

1. "That natives, unless employed in the construction camps, be prohibited from coming within a radius of 10 miles thereof."
2. "That no native or half-caste woman be employed in any capacity whatever in the camps."
3. "That two women police be appointed to this district to ensure the carrying out of these regulations."

**Hospital Taxation.** This is a subject the Women's League is greatly interested in, and it was announced at the Council Meeting that the New Zealand Bill on hospital taxation had been received, copies of which were to be given to each member of the Executive for careful individual study before submitting a report for Council's consideration and endorsement.

**Racial and Hygiene Centre of N.S.W.** As the outcome of the public meeting held in the Sydney Town Hall in April, when the subjects of V.D. and Sex Hygiene were dealt with, an organisation to concentrate entirely on these two vital problems, to be known as "The Racial and Hygiene Centre of N.S.W.," was formed, with Miss Ruby Rich and Dr. Lintel Worrall as joint presidents. At a meeting held in the Educational Assembly Hall on Wednesday, 21st June, the newly-elected officers were welcomed by Mrs. A. V. Roberts (chairwoman), and the Constitution was adopted.

Miss Ruby Rich paid a warm tribute of appreciation to the Women's League for the part played in the formation of this much-needed and vitally important Society. She referred especially to the *Crow's Nest Branch*, as it was mainly owing to a resolution emanating from that branch which led to the meeting in the Town Hall being called. She said: "The Women's League, and notably the *Crow's Nest Branch*, had carved its name in the history of the future, for no greater social problem confronted the minds of the nations of the world to-day than the eradication of V.D. and the teaching of sex hygiene."

The following resolution was also unanimously carried:—"That the Women's League of N.S.W. emphatically protests against the action of a Judge in directing the jury (as reported in the "Daily Telegraph," 15/6/26) to acquit in a certain case of alleged abduction of a child under sixteen years because she was earning her own living, the Judge considering, in that case, she was out of the protection of her father.

"The Women's League considers the age of protection should be raised above sixteen instead of lowered, and respectfully suggests that a clause be inserted into the Crimes Amendment Bill making provision for that protection."

EMILY BENNETT,  
Hon. Organising Secretary.

## MISS FREDA BAGE.

## DELEGATE TO LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The election of Miss Freda Bage as one of the substitute delegates of Australia to the assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva in September, has caused great satisfaction to the various women's bodies in Australia, with which she has been connected for many years. She was recommended as delegate by the Federated National Councils of Women, and her experience at various International congresses should be of the greatest assistance to her fellow delegates.

Miss Bage is one of the best known educationists in Australia. She had a brilliant career at the Melbourne University, where she graduated as a Bachelor of Science in 1905. In 1907 she gained her M.Sc. degree, and was appointed junior demonstrator in biology at the Melbourne University. She won a Government research scholarship during this period, but in spite of her duties at the University and her private studies, found time to take a great interest in sports, being prominent in organising the various teams for tennis, golf, and hockey among University women. In 1909 she went to England, where she was engaged in research work under the leadership of Professor Arthur Dendy. She took the opportunity of visiting many universities on the Continent. While abroad she served as Australian delegate to the standing committee of the International Council of Women which met at Stockholm. On her return to Australia she took Sir Baldwin Spencer's place as demonstrator in biology at the University during his trip abroad. When the Residential College for Women was established in connection with the Queensland University, Miss Bage was appointed principal, and it is typical of her fine spirit that she has not only undertaken these duties, but has added those of housekeeping and secretarial work rather than allow the college to incur the additional expense. She is also lecturer in biology at the University. Much public service has been rendered by Miss Bage in her official capacity as principal of the college, but apart from that she has done much in a private capacity.—"Advertiser," Adelaide, June 19th, 1926.

## A WOMAN PASTOR.

Much pleasure has been felt and expressed among the more thoughtful members of the community at the news that Mrs. Winifred Kiek, B.A., B.D., is to be the pastor of the Congregational Church at Colonel Light Gardens. This is the first occasion in South Australia, and, we think, in the whole of Australia, when a woman has become the minister of an evangelical church, so that the event is one of importance in the history of the women of this country. Women pastors, indeed, are so far sufficiently rare in most lands, though it would seem that the ministry of the church presented a specially wide field for the exercise of womanly powers and qualities.

Mrs. Kiek will bring many gifts to her new work. She is not only intellectually distinguished, but is well known for her keen interest in social and economic questions, and her enthusiasm for social good. Our own Association claims her as a valued member, and she works also upon the National Council of Women. Mrs. Kiek, who was the first Australian woman Bachelor of Divinity, is the wife of Principal E. S. Kiek, of Parkin College, and the mother of three happy children.

## SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN LEGISLATION SINCE THE PASSING OF ADULT SUFFRAGE IN AUSTRALIA

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The State Children Act, 1895.—Relates to State Children's Council; its constitution, powers and functions. Maintenance of children by their relatives. Licensing and supervision of lying-in homes, and foster-mothers.

Indecent Advertisements Act, 1897.—An act to suppress indecent advertisements.

Gaming Further Suppression Act, 1897.—An act to further suppress Gaming.

Legitimation Act, 1898.—Provides for the legitimation of children after marriage of parents.

## GERMANY.

## Woman Member in the Geneva Delegation.

THE great event for Germany, and for the whole world's friendly co-operation—Germany's affiliation to the League of Nations—has brought a special satisfaction to German women. They rejoice in the fact that, as a member of the first German delegation to the League, among the men politicians, a prominent German woman is taking part in the seventh Assembly. Ministerial Councillor Dr. Gertrud Bäumer, the well-known leader of the women's movement, distinguished writer, and democratic member of the Reichstag, has been appointed as expert for social and humanitarian questions, for which post she is eminently qualified. In all matters concerning children's and young people's welfare, public health, emigration and immigration, care for refugees, suppression of traffic in women, etc., she will find ample opportunity to further the solution of these difficult and complicated international problems. Most of all, however, the work of the committee for intellectual co-operation would be specially suited to Dr. Bäumer's abilities. Therefore it seems most desirable that, in the very interest of the League, she should be called to this important field of work.

## Women's Efforts in the Housing Problem.

Considering the extraordinary importance of the housing question to all other social, economic and moral questions, for the recovery and welfare of family life and the whole population, it was self-evident that the lamentable housing conditions under which we are suffering since the war, and which have become more and more insupportable, have long ago claimed the earnest attention of the women's organisations. At innumerable meetings and local State and Reichs conferences and congresses during the last years, the burning question has been discussed: What can be done, what ought to be done, by the women, as housewives and social workers, to meet the terrible need? Innumerable plans and social and financial schemes have been brought forward and discussed from all points of view, so far, however, with little positive success, which confirms the conviction that private initiative can do very little, radical help being only possible to Reichs and States, and communal measures require extraordinary financial resources, which, alas! are so very scarce at present. This knowledge was, to be sure, no reason to drop the matter from our programme; on the contrary. More than ever the women feel it their duty to pay earnest attention to the problem and to do all in their power to ameliorate at least the lot of those who most suffer from this state of things. From a broader standpoint, the National Council of Women will discuss the question in detail at a public conference in Berlin on "Women and Housing," called for October 9th and 10th. Prominent experts will lecture on "Lodgings and Old-Age Homes for Professional Women," "Present Needs and Tasks in the Housing Conditions," "How to Provide for Lodgings for the Houseless Population," "Planning of the House from the Housewife's and the Family's Standpoint," etc. At the same time a far-reaching plan to promote building will be brought before the annual meeting of the Saxon Association of Women's Societies (Landesverband sächsischer frauenvereine) by the Member of Parliament, Frau Dr. Hertwig Bünger. It means, in a nutshell, nothing else than a sort of poll tax, in small contributions, on the members of a new organisation, "Frauen-Wohnungshilfe," which provisionally was constituted for Saxony, later on, in case of success, to be extended over the Reich. The idea seems very good and simple, but in the carrying out, however, very great, if not insuperable, difficulties may arise.

## Woman Counsel for the Defendant Before the Jury.

In a sensational and most complicated case, a real *cause célèbre* which recently came before the Assizes in Frankfurt o/M, in a seven days extra session, and, during a whole week, filled the columns of our papers,

Children's Protection Act, 1899.—Deals with age of consent, neglect or ill-treatment of child, placing of immoral documents before children.

Vaccination Act, 1901.—An act to abolish compulsory vaccination.

Children's Protection Amendment Act, 1904.—Relates to persons supplying tobacco to any child under sixteen years of age.

Suppression of Brothels Act, 1907.—Deals with the suppression of brothels.

Inebriates Act, 1908.—An act to facilitate the control and care of inebriates.

Inter-State Destitute Persons Relief Act, 1910.—An act for the relief of persons whose relatives liable to support them reside in another State of the Commonwealth.

Female Law Practitioners Act, 1911.—An act to enable women to practise the profession of the Law.

Offenders Probation Act, 1913.—An act to permit the release on probation of offenders in certain cases.

Technical Education of Apprentices Act, 1917.—An act to make provision for the technical education of apprentices.

Children's Protection Amendment Act, 1918.—Provides that children under six do not take part in public entertainment.

Testators' Family Maintenance Act, 1918.—An act to assure to the family of a testator adequate provision out of his estate.

Nurses Registration Act, 1920.—An act to make provision for the registration of nurses, mental nurses, and midwives.

Opticians Act, 1920.—Provides for the better training of Opticians and to regulate their practice.

Veneral Diseases Act, 1920.—An act to regulate the treatment of venereal diseases, and to prevent the spread of such diseases.

Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1921.—Relates to removal of certain disqualifications arising on account of sex.

Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Act, 1922. An act to facilitate the enforcement in South Australia of maintenance orders made in England and Ireland and other parts of His Majesty's Dominions and Protectorates, and vice versa.

—"Dawn."

## BULGARIA.

The Union des Femmes Bulgares held a most successful Congress in Sofia from July 18th to the 21st to celebrate twenty-five years of activity.

The Union consists of 61 societies comprising over 7,000 members, who are working to achieve the following aims:—

(a) Equal political and civil rights for women as necessary to her full development and recognition as an important factor in the life of the State.

(b) To arouse and foster an active and intelligent interest among women in all educative, economic, political and public questions.

One hundred and fifty-two delegates were present from all parts of Bulgaria, including representatives from the country, where women are organising, as they have already done in towns, for the fight for equality.

The Congress celebrated the 25 years of useful public service of the president of the Union, Frau Julie Malinowa, one of the founders of the society and appointed her honorary president. Three other founders of the society, Frau Ekaterina Karawelowa, Frau Rada Staliiska and Frau Kino Konowa, who are still active members of the society, were also appointed honorary members.

After much interesting discussion, the Congress passed resolutions on the following questions:—

1. The right of women to vote on school councils.
2. The awakening of interest among unorganised women in the work of the society.
3. The protection of women and children.
4. Women and alcohol.

for the first time a woman jurist, Dr. Anna Schultz, acted as counsel for the woman defendant. The latter, a poor, hysterical creature, a nurse of good reputation, kind-hearted, dutiful and devoted to her profession, had, in a fit of rage, shot her lover, a clever but unscrupulous and dissolute medical doctor. In the first process she was found guilty of murder and condemned to death, which sentence had aroused lively protests throughout the Reich. On account of a formal mistake, revision took place, and after most exciting proceedings, with about 60 witnesses and six experts, the defendant was condemned, this time for manslaughter only, to seven years' prison. This comparatively mild sentence, which met with general approval of the population—as the result of the medical judgments, as well as the convincing speeches of the pleaders, Dr. Schultz and a prominent man counsel—may well be taken as a promising precedent for the future of German women at the bar.

MARIE STRITT.

Dresden, September 18th.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

#### National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

We have less than usual to record this month as summer holidays have intervened since our last number. We are now looking forward to a full and busy autumn. The chief feature, as in the summer, will be a big Equal Franchise campaign carried out all over the country. We received a letter from the Prime Minister's secretary suggesting our approaching the Prime Minister again in the autumn with regard to the deputation he refused to receive in the summer. Great efforts will be made, as it is essential that there should be no further delay in dealing with this subject, as the procedure proposed by the Prime Minister—that is of a conference being established one year and legislation introduced the next—is so lengthy that even if immediate steps are taken to carry it out, we may find a General Election upon us before equal franchise legislation has reached the Statute Book.

Parliament.

Parliament will not reassemble until November 9th. In the meantime the Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Bill, which while providing more rigorous protection for men workers, excludes women altogether, has now passed all its stages in the House of Commons. Lord Balfour of Burleigh has undertaken to fight the exclusion of women when the Bill comes before the House of Lords. The Adoption of Children Act has become law, and the Legitimacy Bill and the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Bill, having passed through the House of Lords, are awaiting their committee stage in the House of Commons. Work on all these bills will have to be undertaken during the autumn.

It is expected that next year legislation will be introduced by the Government dealing with National Health Insurance and the Poor Law. All our Societies, therefore, are being urged to study these intricate questions, and resolutions dealing with them will be discussed at our next Annual Council Meeting. Syllabuses for study circles on these and other questions, such as Restrictive Legislation, Disabilities of Married Women, Family Allowances, Equal Pay and Women in Industry, are being prepared.

League of Nations.

Great rejoicing has, of course, been felt throughout this country at the entry of Germany in the League. We were much interested, moreover, in the testimony given by the German woman delegate, Dr. Bäumer, to the work of the British policewomen in Cologne.

The N.U.S.E.C. is giving a reception to Dame Edith Lyttelton on November 3rd, and it is hoped that Lord Cecil will take the chair. We hope that all readers of this paper who will be in London at that time will get in touch with us in order that we may send invitations to this reception.

E.M.H.

### THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

A very successful campaign during the holiday weeks in the Clyde coast watering places brought us a number of new members, and kept equal political rights to the fore among Scottish men and women.

We are starting the autumn activities by a public congratulatory dinner to our President and Mr. Pethick-Lawrence to celebrate their silver wedding. This will be a great suffrage gathering, and we expect many old friends and comrades in the fight for Women's Freedom; members of all women's societies are anxious to seize this interesting occasion to show their gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence for their splendid self-sacrifice, energy and valour in the cause of the political enfranchisement of women. The dinner will be held at the Holborn Restaurant, Kingsway, on Friday, October 8th, at 7.30 for 7.45 p.m. All friends will be welcomed. Tickets price 8s. 6d., from our office, 144, High Holborn.

Our first public meeting is to be held at Caxton Hall on Friday, October 22, to call upon the Government for the Equal Franchise Bill, upon which all our efforts are now concentrated.

Our Green, White and Gold Fair will be held in Caxton Hall on November 23 and 24, to be opened at 3.0 p.m. on the first day by the Duchess of Hamilton and on the second by the Lady Amherst of Hackney.

### ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

Our member, Miss Fedden, has just returned from visiting South Africa. During her visit Miss Fedden did all she could to help our cause. Her appeal was particularly addressed to the Catholic community, who are not unprepared to hear it, since the "Catholic Citizen" has a very considerable circulation in the dominion, especially in the Dominican Convents. Miss Fedden contributed a spirited article on the political disabilities of South African women to the July number of "Catholic News," the official organ of the Catholic Young Men's Society. She has addressed many meetings in South Africa, including one which was held after Benediction on Sunday, July 27, in the Hall of the Convent of La Rochelle, and which was both numerous and enthusiastic. The meeting at La Rochelle was held by request of the parish priest. On September 28th St. Joan's S.P.A. gave a dinner at the Rendezvous in Miss Fedden's honour.

### THE BIERVILLE PEACE CONGRESS.

The Sixth Democratic International Peace Congress, organised by the Jeune République, at which our Chairman represented St. Joan's, proved a really remarkable success. Held in London two years ago and at Luxembourg last year, it was organised this August at the château de Bierville, a large house with charming grounds and many dependencies, some thirty miles from Paris. The appeal was made principally to the youth of all nations willing to work for the peace of the world, and the response was so enthusiastic that over 5,000 congressionists collected at Bierville, some indeed only for a day or so, but many staying a full fortnight. An immense camp with military tents and kitchens had been organised for the young people, among whom there was a strong minority of women, but even so many had to find lodgings in the surrounding villages. The gathering, interdenominational, was mainly Catholic except as far as England was concerned; there were a great many priests present, and Mgr. Julien, the eloquent Bishop of Arras, came down for the great opening meeting and spent a whole day in the camp. The charms of the spot and the warmth of the weather combined to convert the congress into something resembling a gigantic picnic; none the less, much solid work was done in the cause of peace by lectures and discussion, and perhaps more than all by the real spirit of comrade-

ship that prevailed between the young people of France, Germany, England, Belgium, and so forth, all eager to demonstrate that the war mentality no longer existed among them.

The Congress passed a strong resolution in favour of the enfranchisement of women as being indispensable to the solution of the world economic crisis which weighs heavily on the youth of all nations.

### LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT

(Great Britain).

#### THE SPIRIT OF GOD OR THE SPIRIT OF FEAR?

##### TWO PUBLIC MEETINGS.

1. Mr. Shoran Singha on THE RACE PROBLEM. Birkdale Town Hall, Tuesday, October 5th, at 5.15 p.m. In the chair, Mrs. Marston Acres.
2. Miss Maude Royden on THE PROBLEMS OF CLASS AND OF SEX. Temperance Institute, Southport, Wednesday, October 6th, at 5.15 p.m. In the chair, the Rev. Canon C. E. Raven, D.D.

Admission free. Seats, reserved and numbered, 2s. 6d. Single ticket for the two meetings, 4s. Reserved, not numbered 6d. Tickets can be obtained from the League of the Church Militant Office (temporary), The Girls' Club, West Street, Southport, on and after October 1st.

### INDIA.

Mrs. Jinarajadasa writes that the women of India have won another great victory and taken another forward step. The Legislative Council in Madras has passed a resolution making women eligible for election to the Council. The Government of India passed orders making it possible for each of the nine Legislative Councils in India to remove the sex disqualification as to women councillors last May, and the Women's Indian Association set to work instantly and approached all the Legislatures of India with a view to having a resolution passed. Madras promised and has done it, and encouraging replies have been received from four of the remaining Councils.

In Madras, women will be eligible for election to the Council at the next election in November, so it is hoped that this year India may have a woman member of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council.

Mrs. Jinarajadasa says that good accounts of the Paris Congress were reaching India at the time of writing. Since then the August number of "Stri Dharma" reaches us, containing the impressions of the Congress by the Indian delegates, and other Indian papers, showing that the great Congress of women made a good impression in India.

### JAPAN.

The Government of Japan has ratified the convention on the minimum age for child workers, adopted by the first International Labour Conference in 1919. Fourteen countries have now ratified this convention, which fixes the age of children working in industry generally at fourteen, admitting certain concessions to India and Japan.

(Continued from page 168.)

Haiti is a young republic, handicapped in many ways, especially by the ignorance and barbarous superstitions of the majority of the population. Yet it has made strides towards civilisation. One of its great achievements is the Haitian General Hospital of to-day, a progressive and up-to-date institution, one that would do credit to any city.

T. de A.

### SPAIN.

General Primo de Rivera gave order for a referendum to be taken from the 10th to the 13th September at the request of the Patriotic Union for the purpose of showing whether the present Government has the confidence of the people. The interesting thing is that this referendum was open to all citizens, both men and women, over the age of 18.

A Committee of Women for Social Reform has been founded in Barcelona, with Antonia Ferreras as Secretary. Its principal objects are as follows:

To reform Article 237 of the Civil Code which forbids women to act as guardians, thus classifying them with thieves, forgers, convicts, etc.

To reform Article 1263 of the Civil Code which forbids women to act as witnesses, thus classifying them with minors, lunatics, etc.

To permit women to retain parental authority over their minor children if they re-marry.

To give women equal rights with men under the present separation laws.

That in case of separation, the mother should be given custody of the minor children from the date of the decree except in cases where her conduct renders her unsuitable.

That the personal right of a woman to make contracts or contract other legal undertakings should be fully recognised without need of the consent of her husband if she be married, in all matters concerning her profession, whether manual or intellectual; and further that she should be fully empowered to administer and dispose of her property and earnings without marital consent being required.

That she should be considered capable of acting as a member of a Conseil de Famille, and therefore as a guardian, administrator, etc., without marital consent.

That women coming under the Catalan Law (which prevails in the Catalan Provinces, and does not recognise any right of inheritance for a widow unless her husband has made a will in her favour) shall have the right to the usufruct of a part of the estate equal to that due to each natural heir in cases where the estate is divided into equal shares.

That women coming under the above Catalan Law shall in case of poverty be allowed to make free use of the inheritance as laid down above if required to meet the actual necessities of life.

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

MEMBERS of the League of Women Voters who watched developments at the League of Nations Assembly in their relation to our international policy, felt particularly gratified in having five of its prominent members in daily attendance at the Assembly meetings. The League representation, though unofficial of course, was happily and quite properly headed by Miss Ruth Morgan, of New York City, head of the League's department of International Co-operation to Prevent War, and also a member of the board of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship. While in Geneva, Miss Morgan had the privilege of meeting her co-workers on the international board for the first time, and was a frequent visitor at the special headquarters maintained by the Alliance at Geneva during the Seventh Assembly of the League of Nations.

There seems little doubt that Miss Morgan's department of International Co-operation will be well prepared for a winter of intensive work in behalf of world peace. While Miss Morgan will confine her observations abroad to the League of Nations and a few of the larger cities, Miss Josephine Schain, director of Miss Morgan's department, is on a three months "foreign affairs" trip through eleven European countries. She passed the month of August in Geneva, attending the Institute of International Relations, watched the League of Nations at work for the first two weeks in September, and then proceeded to other stops on her

interesting itinerary. Before she returns to the States early in November, she will have visited France, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Hungary, and Austria. Miss Schain has been associated with the League's department of International Co-operation since 1922, and took an important part in the League's three year campaign for American entrance into the World Court. She also acted as secretary of the Conference on the Cause and Cure of War, called by Mrs. Catt in 1925.

Three other "internationally-minded" League members made up the group—Mrs. William G. Hibbard, of Winnetka, Illinois, a director of the National League; Miss Gertrude Ely, of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, a former director of the League; and Mrs. Edward P. Costigan, of Washington, D.C., a former Living Costs chairman for the National League.

Marked interest was shown throughout the country in the special meeting arranged by the National and New York State Leagues of Women Voters in New York City, September 9, at which Viscountess Astor was the guest of honour. It was Lady Astor's only address in the United States, and it was heard by a large audience in the Waldorf Astoria hotel, and over a chain of radio stations along the Atlantic Coast. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt also addressed the gathering.

Miss Katharine Ludington, treasurer of the National League, presided, and Owen D. Young, who is a member of the League's Advisory Committee, and who is widely known for his noteworthy part in the successful work of the Dawes Commission, introduced Lady Astor. Prominent women, including Mrs. Charles Dana Gibson, a sister of Lady Astor, Mrs. John W. Davis, wife of the former American Ambassador to England, Mrs. Edward M. House, wife of Colonel House, Mrs. Norman de R. Whitehouse, Mrs. August Belmont, Mrs. Catt, Miss Mabel Choate, Miss Belle Sherwin, Mrs. Henry Goddard Leach, Mrs. Charles L. Tiffany, Miss Ruth Morgan, and Mrs. Caspar Whitney were members of a special committee on arrangements.

Plans for the winter's work were outlined at a meeting of the board of directors of the League early in September. Miss Belle Sherwin, president, who has been vacationing on her farm in Ohio and on a motor trip through Glacier Park, presided over a meeting attended by officers and field workers from all parts of the country. Mrs. Caspar Whitney, who is director of the work in the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, returned from England in time for the meeting. Mrs. Whitney had a house for the summer at Sussex.

Primary elections are over, and now women voters are turning their attention to the November election. Of the many primary campaigns, that of Judge Florence E. Allen, of Ohio, for the Democratic nomination for United States Senator, held the attention of women voters the country over. She made a gallant fight, but she was not able to overcome the opposition of the machine-supported candidate. Many interesting analyses have been made of the outcome, but *The Woman Citizen*, in an editorial in its September issue, sums up the situation in an understanding way. Excerpts from the editorial follow:

"It was a splendid showing that Judge Florence E. Allen made in the Democratic senatorial primaries. Former Senator Atlee Pomerene won by little more than twenty thousand votes, and Judge Allen's record in all the circumstances was one that certain prominent political leaders have said no man in the state could have equalled. . . . Judge Allen, standing for prohibition and law enforcement, for the people's control of their government, a courageous progressive, had the loyal support of the railroad brotherhoods, of the drys, and of Democratic women who stood by her in spite of tremendous pressure from the machine. The machine worked, and worked well. Yet the result was such that it is even a question in the minds of many

whether the margin of votes by which Judge Allen lost represents the reality. Seventeen thousand more votes were cast for governor than for senator, though the senatorial nomination was the exciting contest of the primary. That is curious, to put it mildly. . . . This campaign was more than a gallant facing of odds—it was a fine showing of a woman's strength, backed by women. Just wait for the next time!"

A little town in New Jersey—Crawford by name—voted for the first time in its history for a woman for political office, when Republican voters wrote on their ballots the name of Miss Harriet T. Chapin for the office of justice of the peace. She received a substantial majority in the primary and her election next month is considered a certainty.

Women game wardens are a rarity in this country, and for that reason Minnesota is particularly proud of Mrs. Florence Stukel, a widow, who quickly graduated from an office position to field work. She fearlessly scours the Minnesota lake country surrounding a one-room cabin headquarters which she built. Her companions are a woman friend and her dog.

ANNE WILLIAMS WHEATON.

September, 1926.

#### FEMINISM IN SOUTH AMERICA.

Feminism is making some progress in Spanish America. A Reuter telegram announces that the congress of Mayors at Havana has passed a resolution recommending that the Cuban congress shall extend equal rights to women. This resolution is in line with the recent statement credited to Senor Machado, the President of the Republic, that he was in favour of women's suffrage.

Simultaneously a Bolivian newspaper comments on the recent failure of the United States, as arbitrator between Peru and Chile, to secure that a plebiscite be held in Tacna-Arica to determine which of these republics shall permanently hold that territory. The Bolivian paper observes that since no woman would have voted in the proposed plebiscite it would not have reflected opinion truly. Chilean women organised themselves, during the abortive negotiations, into a league for the advancement of their country's claim. The National Feminist Party of the Argentines passed a resolution protesting against the exclusion of women from the proposed plebiscite.

#### WOMEN IN JUGOSLAVIA.

For travelling in foreign countries every married woman needs the written permission of her husband.

There is some danger that a law of inheritance will spread throughout the whole of Yugoslavia, which till now has only existed in that part of it, formerly called Serbia, which is greatly to the advantage of men and almost excludes women.

BARONESS ANTOINETTE TINTI.

#### REPORT OF THE PARIS CONGRESS.

The International Woman Suffrage Alliance has now published the Report of the Tenth Congress held at Paris, May 30—June 6. It forms a very valuable book of reference. It contains the resolutions passed at the Congress, and the reports from Headquarters, and Mlle. Gourd's report on the relations between the I.W.S.A. and the League of Nations, and also numerous reports from auxiliaries giving up-to-date information of progress in their respective countries. The report may be obtained from 11, Adam Street, London, price 3s. 6d.

#### THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

The British Commonwealth League held a Conference on September 30 to consider certain questions in connection with the Imperial Conference. The Agenda included:

(1) General summary of the citizen position of women in regard to Overseas settlement. Resolutions and appointment of deputation to go to the Imperial Conference, if necessary, on the question of equality of opportunity in (a) administration, and (b) training. (2) Appointment of deputations to go to the Imperial Conference in regard to the Nationality of Married Women within the British Empire. Arrangement of special group deputations to go to separate Prime Ministers in order to get a definite movement forward. (3) Consideration of the Franchise question in regard to (a) disfranchisement of women voters coming from other parts of the British Empire to England; (b) the position in South Africa. (4) Consideration of measures required in regard to reciprocal affiliation orders; consideration of the appointment of deputations or other means of approach.

#### INTER-AMERICAN CONGRESS OF WOMEN.

*This account of the Women's Congress, held in conjunction with the commemoration of the first centenary of the first Pan-American Congress convened by Bolivia, comes to us from Mrs. Glen Levin Swoiggett, the League delegate, and subsequent chairman of the United States delegation.*

A BRILLIANT audience gathered on the afternoon of June 19th in the Assembly Hall of the National Institute of Panama to witness the inaugural session of the Inter-American Congress of Women. To the strains of the national anthem, His Excellency, the President of the Republic, entered, accompanied by high Government officials. Dr. Mendez Pereira, president of the Bolivian Congress, welcomed the delegates to Panama and expressed his faith in what women of to-day are accomplishing as well as his belief that men and women working together will bring about much for the development of Latin-America.

Madame de Calvo, organiser of the Congress and chairman of the Pan-American delegation, welcomed the women and gave an outline of the purposes, referring to the Women's Congress held in Baltimore four years ago, under the auspices of the National League of Women Voters, and to the more recent one which took place in Washington in 1925 on invitation of Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt. Mrs. Prieto, secretary of the Congress, spoke briefly on Pan-American relations.

The chairman of the United States delegation read greetings from Miss Sherwin, president of the National League of Women Voters, and expressed appreciation of the privilege of representing the United States. The purposes of the Congress, she said, would be manifest in the bond of dependable and practical friendships slowly building in the several countries. She also traced this bond of friendship back to Bolivar, the great Liberator, and emphasised the opportunity to create and advance in greater accord, union based on his dreams and deeds. She touched briefly upon Pan-American co-operation among women, suggesting that the subjects of the Congress showed how women have advanced in interest, capacity and technique in the last hundred years, and forecast future activities which will increasingly have the sympathy of the Pan-American men and women and the devoted service of the women.

The Congress organised with Madame de Calvo, president; the wives of the Presidents of American Republics and Mrs. Catt, honorary presidents; the

chairmen of foreign delegations, vice-presidents. The wives of Ministers of foreign affairs of the American Republics and certain individual women were designated honorary vice-presidents. Dr. Edith Fanestock, professor of Spanish literature at Vassar College, was elected chairman of the education committee.

Nine foreign countries, including the United States, had delegate representation in the Congress. The National League of Women Voters, the American Red Cross, the American Association of University Women, and the Pan-American Round Table sent delegates from the United States and the Canal Zone had fourteen delegates, representing as many organisations, four press and five honorary delegates.

The Congress, by resolution, endorsed the following: juvenile courts, one member of which shall be a woman; homes and training schools for delinquent minors, with a supervising committee of women; censorship of moving pictures, supported by Governments, under committee of which two members shall be women; league to combat illiteracy with central committee and branch leagues; school for adults; education to prepare women for citizenship; moral, physical and intellectual education for women; increased number of libraries; interchange of students, teachers, books, newspapers, and organisation of cosmopolitan clubs among students; organisations of young women students to develop initiative and individual responsibility and stimulate interest in social welfare; reform in penal laws; protection for young women leaving home to work; full political rights.

Panama gave the delegates a most gracious welcome, making them happy and comfortable by constant personal attentions and well-worked-out plans for the Congress and for numerous social functions.

What will remain most vividly in the minds of the delegates will probably be the long earnest discussions in the business sessions. An editorial in a Panama newspaper said: "The subjects selected by the Congress for discussion were of fundamental importance, and the programme was carried out with an efficiency that is not found in Congresses of men."

—The Woman Citizen.

#### WOMEN DELEGATES AT GENEVA.

The six women delegates to the League of Nations were entertained last week at a dinner at the International Club at Geneva by the International Council of Women. The brilliant company which assembled to do honour to them included representatives of the Secretariat of the League, of the International Labour Office, and of the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation at Paris. Dame Rachel Crowley presided and introduced the delegates, several of whom have been sent to Geneva as substitute delegates for several successive years. Miss Forchhammer from Denmark and Mlle. Vacaresco from Rumania spoke on behalf of the delegates, the latter especially enlarging on the work of the Committee of Intellectual Co-operation, of which she is a member. Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, in the name of the International Council of Women, thanked the Club for having given all those present the opportunity of honouring the women delegates, and expressed the hope that more women would be appointed both as delegates and as members of committees. Mrs. Corbett Ashley, president of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, also spoke.

The German Delegation included Dr. Gertrud Bäumer, of whom we speak in another column. In speaking on the question of the traffic in women and children, Dr. Bäumer said that the German Government had been greatly impressed by the work of British policewomen in Cologne, and had decided to introduce women police into Germany.

## SECTION FRANÇAISE.

## CANADA.

## DROIT DE VOTE, SUFFRAGE ET FÉMINISME

Sous ce titre, dans la "Revue Dominicaine" de juin dernier, a été publié un article de grande actualité par le Rév. Père Forest. Nous nous souvenons de la savante controverse qu'il soutenait en 1922 et qui a fixé l'opinion publique au pays et éclairé les esprits qui n'avaient pas encore approfondi la question. L'ordre exprès qui tombait de la chaire dans nos églises et qui faisait un devoir aux femmes de s'inscrire sur les listes électorales fédérales et d'exercer leurs franchises, confirmait implicitement ses vues et jetait dans l'ombre l'interprétation de ceux qui soutenaient que la femme ne peut, de par le droit naturel, voter et prendre le titre de citoyen.

A cette heure où il est question d'élection et où l'action est prescrite, on trouvera de quoi affermir les esprits les plus timides. Mais laissons la parole à celui qui vient d'être placé à la tête de la Faculté de philosophie de notre Université de Montréal et qui écrit sous l'autorité d'un Ordre Religieux qu'illustra un saint Thomas et qui vient de donner au Siège Archépiscopal de Québec, un de ses fils les plus distingués.

Ravivant chez nous un débat qu'on pouvait croire mort, M. l'abbé J. Ferland vient enfin de publier, dans le Canada Français une étude qui appelle de très sérieuses réserves tant au point de vue doctrinal qu'au point de vue pratique. Sur un seul point, la pensée de M. Ferland marque un progrès: il ne fait pas appel contre le vote des femmes au droit naturel. Mais, cette réserve faite, les articles de M. Ferland représentent un état d'esprit qui pouvait être répandu il y a vingt ou trente ans mais qui tend de plus en plus à disparaître. Si nous en parlons aujourd'hui, ce n'est pas qu'ils apportent rien de nouveau; c'est, au contraire, que nous y retrouvons intacts des préjugés que nous avions droit de croire amoindris, sinon disparus, après les discussions des dernières années. Nous ne sommes pas fâché d'ailleurs de saisir cette occasion pour mettre nos lecteurs au courant du chemin que la question a fait, un peu partout, depuis 1922.

Nous passons quelques pages consacrées à une discussion de principes pour entrer dans l'étude historique qu'annonce le Rév. Père Forest dans les lignes citées plus haut.

Puisque le suffrage féminin ne se heurte à aucun principe, il ne nous reste qu'à rechercher s'il répond aux exigences du bien commun. C'est la question d'opportunité. Pour la résoudre d'une façon intelligente, il faut tenir compte à la fois des temps et des pays. Des temps d'abord.

"On a raison de dire, affirmait Benoît XV, que les transformations de l'ordre social ont élargi le champ de l'activité féminine. (Allocution du 21 octobre 1919.)

Voilà le grand fait social des temps modernes. En voici maintenant les conséquences, toujours d'après Benoît XV.:

"L'évolution qui a amené l'état de choses actuel a pu conférer à la femme des charges et des droits qu'on ne lui reconnaissait pas jadis."

A bien des points de vue, la femme reste aujourd'hui ce qu'elle était hier; socialement, elle n'est plus la même et il n'y a pas de doute que cela ira toujours s'accroissant. Raisonner dans l'abstrait, sans tenir compte de cette transformation, c'est discréditer, aux yeux du monde moderne, les principes sur lesquels on s'appuie et au nom desquels on s'imagine parler.

Il faut tenir compte, en second lieu, des pays. Le bien commun peut fort bien légitimer, dans tel pays, une mesure qu'il condamnerait dans un autre. Nous avons sous les yeux la carte du suffrage féminin publiée par la Correspondance internationale de novembre 1925. Trente-cinq pays ont accordé, intégralement ou en

partie, le droit de vote aux femmes. Cette mesure n'a été nulle part, à notre connaissance, une mesure anticléricale. Là où l'autorité religieuse ne s'est pas désintéressée de la question, elle semble avoir marché de pair avec l'autorité civile. La question d'opportunité se trouve donc en grande partie résolue. Qui est juge, en effet, des exigences du bien commun en ces pays? Est-ce l'autorité compétente qui a voté ces mesures ou tel écrivain étranger qui ne connaît à peu près rien des conditions économiques, sociales et religieuses de ces pays?

Aussi n'est-ce pas sans une véritable surprise que nous avons parcouru le second article de M. Ferland. Des raisonnements a priori, comme on en faisait il y a cinquante ans. Aucun fait à leur appui. Des affirmations qui semblent d'autant plus confiantes que l'expérience leur donne un démenti plus formel. Pas un mot qui puisse, non pas justifier, non pas même expliquer l'extension si rapide du suffrage féminin, mais seulement laisser supposer que M. F. en a entendu parler. Une condamnation absolue et sans appel; et au nom de quels principes! J'en cite deux exemples. La femme ne doit pas voter parce qu'elle ne peut être soldat. Est-ce que tous les hommes sont soldats dans un pays, même durant la guerre? Est-ce qu'il n'y a pas des catégories entières qui sont exemptées du service militaire, sans être privées pour cela du droit de vote? Si le suffrage féminin jouit, à l'heure actuelle, d'un regain de faveur, n'est-ce pas dû précisément à la magnifique conduite de la femme durant la guerre? D'ailleurs, est-ce que tout le monde, dans un état organisé, doit remplir les mêmes fonctions? N'y a-t-il pas des fonctions propres à la femme, comme il y en a qui sont propres à l'homme? Enfin, d'où vient cette relation nécessaire que l'on met entre le droit de vote et le service militaire? En quoi celui-ci peut-il être une condition sine qua non de celui-là? Un autre exemple. M. F. prétend que le goût des femmes pour la parure en fera une proie facile pour la corruption électorale. Nous nous sommes demandé, malgré nous, si ce n'était pas là une plaisanterie. Au prix où sont les chapeaux, s'il fallait qu'un député en achète un pour chacune de ses électrices, sa caisse électorale serait vite à sec. Il sera toujours plus aisé et surtout moins dispendieux de corrompre les hommes avec le whiskey que les femmes avec les toilettes.

Nous pensons donc qu'on nous saura gré de ne pas entrer ici dans une discussion fastidieuse et qui ne conduirait à rien. Par ailleurs, l'espace dont nous disposons ne nous permet pas aujourd'hui de traiter la question dans le détail. Nous allons nous contenter—quitte à y revenir s'il en est besoin—de quelques aperçus généraux et de quelques faits saillants. Ils suffiront quand même, nous l'espérons, à éclairer les esprits qui, n'ayant pas une opinion toute faite d'avance, cherchent loyalement et sincèrement à prendre position dans le débat.

La première et la principale objection que l'on fait valoir contre l'octroi du vote aux femmes, c'est leur incompétence. On se demande ce que la plupart des femmes pourront bien comprendre aux questions de tarif, de chemins de fer et d'immigration. Elles comprendront exactement ce que comprennent la plupart des hommes, c'est-à-dire à peu près rien. Elles feront comme eux, elles voteront pour les députés qui leur paraîtront les plus capables de les résoudre sagement. D'ailleurs, n'y a-t-il pas un illogisme manifeste à exiger de la femme ce qu'on n'exige dans aucun pays du citoyen électeur? Qu'on restreigne le droit de vote, qu'on ne l'accorde qu'au petit nombre des citoyens vraiment éclairés, nous le voulons bien; mais tant qu'on n'exigera même pas de l'électeur qu'il sache signer son nom, on pourra s'opposer au suffrage féminin pour d'autres raisons, mais pas pour la raison de compétence.

Et puis il n'y a pas que des questions politiques en jeu dans une élection; il y a encore des questions reli-

gieuses, sociales et familiales, des questions de moralité et d'hygiène. Les esprits non préjugés d'avance avaient toujours pensé que sur ces points la femme voterait mieux que l'homme, d'une façon générale. Les faits leur ont donné raison. Voici quelques témoignages que je choisis entre une multitude d'autres.

"L'intervention des femmes a contribué pour une large part à éloigner le crime, le paupérisme et le vice, ainsi que les lois violentes et oppressives; elle a procuré des élections paisibles et ordonnées, un bon gouvernement, et le pays a atteint un degré remarquable de civilisation et d'ordre public. (Résolution adoptée à l'unanimité par la Chambre des représentants du Wyoming, en 1893.)"

"Le résultat du vote des femmes a été: leur situation améliorée, elles-mêmes améliorées par leur responsabilité civiques, la conviction qu'il convient d'être de plus en plus attentif à la fonction morale de l'Etat, les meilleures lois pour les femmes et les enfants. (Témoignage de l'Evêque de Tasmanie, Australie.)"

Après dix ans d'exercice au Colorado, personne n'oserait proposer d'enlever le suffrage aux femmes. Plusieurs lois bienfaisantes ne sont dues qu'à leur pouvoir et à leur influence. (Le juge Lindsey de Denver.) etc.

"La Bonne Parole," Montreal. Nous regrettons que l'espace ne nous permette pas de publier cet article en entier.

## L'EGYPTE.

## Aurons-nous enfin l'enseignement obligatoire?

Le ministère de l'Instruction publique a envoyé au Comité Consultatif de Législation le projet de loi relatif à l'enseignement élémentaire obligatoire.

Le premier article de ce projet traite du but fondamental de l'enseignement et de la lutte contre l'ignorance. Le second stipule que l'enseignement sera gratuit et que sa durée s'élèvera à cinq ans. Les six autres articles se rapportent à des questions d'ordre secondaire.

Les matières enseignées seront le Coran, la langue arabe, la calligraphie, l'enseignement religieux, l'arithmétique, l'Instruction civique, le dessin, les travaux manuels, la gymnastique ainsi que des notions générales de géographie, d'histoire, de leçons d'hygiène.

Nous souhaitons vivement que ce projet devienne enfin une réalité.

## Une mission scolaire de futures institutrices.

Une mission scolaire féminine composée de seize jeunes filles âgées de quatorze à seize ans, s'embarquera dans la première quinzaine de septembre pour l'Angleterre. Leur but est de se rendre aptes à professer dans les écoles gouvernementales égyptiennes. En Angleterre elles se spécialiseront soit en mathématiques, en littérature, en économie domestique, en culture physique ou en pédagogie. Leurs études à l'étranger dureront de quatre à cinq ans.

Nous faisons des vœux afin que ces écolières nous reviennent dignes de remplir la tâche éducative à laquelle leur vocation et leurs mérites les ont déjà désignées.

## Nos avocates.

Chaque année grandit le nombre des jeunes filles qui suivent les cours de l'Ecole Française de Droit du Caire, si intelligemment dirigée par M. Gérard Pélissier du Rausas, Officier de la Légion d'Honneur.

Déjà en 1923, le nombre des licenciées s'élevait à cinq ou six. Depuis elle comptent parmi elles, une musulmane. Bientôt, au Barreau Mixte, les femmes elles aussi représenteront toutes les races.

C'est Madame Bernard Michel qui a été la première avocate au Barreau Mixte en Egypte. Il y a déjà environ quatorze ans de cela.

"Le jour où j'ai été admise au barreau dit-elle, restera toujours le plus beau de ma vie.

"En évoquant ce passé, je me vois m'engageant d'abord timidement dans la lutte pour les droits de la femme, puis, petit à petit, sentant toute la juste portée de mes réclamations, le courage remplace ma timidité et me donne la force de mener la lutte pour le triomphe de la cause.

"Adjourd'hui, je constate avec orgueil que mon humble contribution au relèvement des droits de la femme a porté ses fruits. J'étais seule et maintenant nous sommes plusieurs. A ce propos, je me rappelle la réponse que j'ai faite à la question que m'a posée un journaliste lors de mon admission au barreau: "Etes-vous heureuse, Madame, d'être admise au barreau?" "Oui, Monsieur, lui, répondis-je, mon âme est remplie de bonheur, car ce n'est pas seulement pour moi que je suis heureuse, c'est pour l'idée. Je pourrai quitter le champ de l'action, mais l'idée restera vivante et toutes celles qui viendront après moi profiteront pleinement et sans lutte de son application."

Ainsi parla Madame Bernard Michel au thé d'honneur offert à Mr. Pélissier du Rausas à l'occasion de sa promotion au grade d'officier de la Légion d'Honneur. Il nous a plu de rapporter ses paroles, car elles sont significatives et témoignent d'un cœur né pour le dévouement. —L'Egyptienne.

## BUREAU INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL.

Genève, le 23 août, 1926.

Monsieur Albert Thomas,  
Directeur du Bureau International du Travail,  
Genève.

Monsieur le Directeur,

J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-après le voeu émis par le Xe Congrès de l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage et l'Action civique et politique de Femmes (Paris 30 mai-6 juin 1926) et concernant la participation des femmes aux Conférences Internationales du Travail. Et ce faisant, j'ai mission de vous exprimer en même temps, la reconnaissance des féministes organisées à travers le monde pour l'aide précieuse que vous n'avez pas manqué de leur apporter déjà toutes les fois qu'il s'est agi de la représentation féminine aux Conférences Internationales du Travail.

"Le Congrès demande instamment au B.I.T. d'exercer toute son influence auprès des Gouvernements membres de la Société des Nations, afin qu'ils se conforment aux dispositions contenues dans l'Art. 3 du Pacte sur le création de l'Organisation internationale du Travail, dispositions qui concernent la participation des femmes aux délégations nationales envoyées aux Conférences Internationales du Travail."

Veillez agréer, Monsieur le Directeur, l'expression de notre très haute considération.

Pour l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage et l'Action civique et politique des Femmes.

La Secrétaire chargée des relations avec la S.d.N. et le B.I.T.

EMILIE GOURD.

Genève, 2 Sep., 1926.

Mademoiselle,

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre lettre du 23 août, par laquelle vous me transmettez le voeu du Xème Congrès de l'Alliance internationale pour le Suffrage et l'Action civique et politique des Femmes, au sujet de la participation des femmes aux délégations nationales envoyées aux Conférences internationales du Travail.

J'ai été très sensible à la confiance que votre Alliance a bien voulu placer dans l'Organisation internationale du Travail et dans le Directeur du Bureau et je suis heureux de vous dire que je m'appliquerai toujours, dans la mesure où cela dépendra de moi et dans l'esprit du Traité de Paix, à ce que la participation des femmes à notre oeuvre soit assurée le plus complètement possible.

Je souhaite que nous puissions ainsi démontrer la part que la femme est appelée à prendre dans le développement de l'oeuvre humanitaire et sociale dont la réalisation dépend des efforts de tous.

Veillez agréer, Mademoiselle, l'assurance de ma considération très distinguée et de mes sentiments sympathiques.

ALBERT THOMAS.

Mademoiselle Emilie Gourd,  
Secrétaire de l'Alliance internationale pour le Suffrage et l'Action civique et politique des Femmes,  
PREGNY s/ Genève.

### LES FEMMES DANS LA SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

#### Le Secrétariat (Suite.)

Deux traductrices (une anglaise et une française). Nous signalerons que la traductrice de nationalité française a été admise première au concours.

Trois secrétaires privées au service du Secrétaire général, du Secrétaire général adjoint et du Sous-secrétaire général, et neuf secrétaires de section qui assument la responsabilité de l'exécution du travail dans la Section Politique, la Section d'Information, la Section Juridique, la Section des Commissions administratives et des Questions des Minorités, la Section des Mandats, la Section du Transit, la Section du Désarmement, la Section Sociale, la Section des Bureaux Internationaux.

Neuf assistantes dans les sections qui collaborent avec les membres de section et qui sont réparties comme suit : deux dans la Section d'Information, une dans les Services intérieurs, deux dans le Bureau du personnel, deux dans la Section des Commissions administratives et des Questions des Minorités, une dans la Section d'Hygiène.

Une femme éditeur du Journal Officiel dans le service de rédaction et publications.

Une femme chef des Services de dactylographie.

Une femme chef des Services de ronéographie.

Une femme chef des Services de distribution des documents.

Environ 58 assistantes-secrétaires sténographes et dactylographes dans les sections, indexeurs, assistantes à la bibliothèque et au service d'enregistrement des documents.

Environ 115 sténo-dactylographes et employées à la ronéographie.

### DES VACANCES INTERNATIONALES UN PROJET DE LA PRINCESSE CANTACUZÈNE

Nous avons signalé, en temps opportun, le beau discours prononcé au Trocadéro, lors du Congrès de l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage des Femmes, par Mme la Princesse Cantacuzène.

Il était nécessaire, avait-elle dit, ce soir du 6 juin dernier, que dans cette ville, qui a toujours encouragé les nobles aspirations, nous posions devant nos consciences le grand problème de la paix, et que le débarrassant des paroles inutiles, nous l'abordions avec la sincérité que comporte une question, dont dépend l'avenir de la civilisation. N'en doutons pas, Mesdames, nous avons, nous les femmes, la responsabilité du maintien de la paix, car donnant la vie, nous devons la préserver de la mort. Eh bien, pourquoi ne pas nous l'avouer : jamais nous n'avons été plus éloignés de la paix que depuis que nous en parlons sans cesse, nous leurrant de vaines paroles et de vaines illusions. Il n'y a partout que chaos, instabilité, lutte âpre dans tous les domaines.

Est-ce vraiment la paix que ce farouche combat économique et cette politique des changes qui enrichit les uns et appauvrit les autres en préparant à coup sûr de nouvelles catastrophes par le nombre de chômeurs dans certains pays et par la cherté de la vie dans d'autres? Non, il faut courageusement dire la vérité et avouer que notre génération est trop intoxiquée de passions, de colères, d'amertumes, de haines aveugles et souvent absurdes, pour pouvoir être l'artisan éclairé de la vraie paix. Ceci n'empêche pas que nous ne tâchions en constatant notre infériorité morale, de créer une nouvelle ambiance et de donner son vrai essor à la Religion de fraternité, qui doit unir tous les humains. Il faut qu'en nous penchant sur les berceaux, sur les cœurs sans tache de nos enfants, des enfants de la nation, nous les fassions se tendre la main dans un divin élan d'amour. Pour la réalisation de ce qui peut paraître seulement un beau rêve et qui cependant deviendra, si nous savons vouloir, une noble réalité, nous proposons que sous l'égide de la Coopération Intellectuelle, avec le concours de la Société des Nations et des grandes associations internationales féminines se forme l'Association internationale des Orphelins de Guerre, ayant pour but d'organiser méthodiquement

des colonies de vacances entre enfants de différentes nationalités.

Que l'on ne dise pas que la réalisation de ce projet est impossible. Il existe environ deux millions d'orphelins de guerre dans le monde. Si nous organisons 50 colonies de vacances comprenant chacune un roulement pendant les deux mois et demi de vacances de 1,000 enfants par colonie, nous aurons mis en contact 50,000 enfants hongrois-roumains, polonais-allemands, yougoslaves-bulgares, français-allemands, italiens-autrichiens, anglais-allemands, servant ainsi à l'apaisement des esprits et des cœurs.

Cette organisation exigerait un sacrifice financier de 20 à 25 millions de livres sterling que les Etats, membres de la Société des Nations et les autres supporteront, considérant, je pense, comme un devoir, de contribuer à cette manifestation d'éducation. Du reste, les orphelins de guerre sont inscrits dans le budget des différents Etats et cela ne greverait que d'un supplément minime les budgets des nations participantes.

Ainsi se formera le noyau de la grande organisation internationale de l'éducation. Par l'éducation et uniquement par elle nous créerons la société nouvelle, nous établirons la vraie paix, basée sur l'équité, sur une large compréhension et un esprit de solidarité, enseigné dès le berceau comme une religion.

Le discours prononcé par la Princesse Alexandrine Gr. Cantacuzène à la réunion du Trocadéro le 6 juin 1926, fit une telle impression, que tout de suite un Comité s'est formé pour tâcher de faire réussir la proposition des Colonies de vacances internationales et la commission d'initiative a présenté le projet ci-dessous à l'Institut de Coopération Intellectuelle :

Un groupe de femmes ardemment désireuses de contribuer à la pacification générale et au rapprochement des enfants d'Europe, a pensé, reprenant la proposition faite à Paris, au 10<sup>e</sup> Congrès International pour le Suffrage des Femmes, par Mme la Princesse Cantacuzène, vice-présidente du Conseil International des Femmes et déléguée de la Roumanie, qu'un des moyens les plus efficaces pour atteindre ce but, était de réunir des enfants pendant les vacances, dans différentes régions d'Europe.

Il est alors proposé, sous l'égide et avec la collaboration de l'Institut de Coopération Intellectuelle de la Société des Nations, d'organiser des Colonies de Vacances internationales, sur un avant-projet de Statuts que nous publions d'autre part.

Et nous sommes très heureux d'ajouter que le projet a été admis par le Comité des experts de la Coopération Intellectuelle, le 12 août 1926.

Les Vacances internationales seront donc bientôt mieux, espérons-le, que le rêve d'une femme généreuse. — "La Française."

### Au Japon des Femmes travaillent dans les mines.

Que le travail des mineurs soit un des plus durs qui existent, personne n'y contredit. Il est pourtant des endroits où des femmes sont employées à cette épuisante besogne, au Japon, par exemple. On pense bien que cela n'est pas sans influence grave sur leur santé, partant sur celle de leurs enfants.

Aussi un rapport a-t-il été présenté sur ce sujet par Mme Kato, au nom de la sous-commission du travail féminin à la Commission de l'Association pour l'organisation internationale du travail.

Le texte d'une résolution a été adopté après discussion de ce rapport. La voici. On pourra juger de la modération des mesures souhaitées.

"1.—L'Association, mue par des sentiments humanitaires, considérant l'importance de la protection des mères et eu égard aux tendances analogues que se manifestent actuellement dans les autres pays, reconnaît la nécessité d'interdire le travail des femmes au fond des mines, même si cette décision devait impliquer un sacrifice de la part des industriels.

"Elle reconnaît, en outre, que la méthode la plus efficace pour réaliser cette interdiction serait d'en sanctionner, aussi rapidement que possible, le principe

par une loi. Toutefois à titre de mesure transitoire, elle estime qu'il serait opportun d'autoriser les femmes occupées actuellement dans le sous-sol à poursuivre leur travail pour une durée de trois ans.

"2.—Pour obtenir la réalisation de la réforme précitée, l'Association prendra les mesures suivantes :  
"(a) En vue d'éveiller l'intérêt de l'opinion publique, les principaux passages du rapport des membres féminins de la Commission seront publiés et distribués. Si cela est nécessaire, des conférences publiques seront organisées;

"(b) Les organisations ouvrières et féminines seront invitées à s'intéresser à la question et à coopérer avec l'Association;

"(c) Des représentations seront faites au Gouvernement et l'attention de la Diète impériale sera attirée sur ce point;

"(d) Les employeurs seront invités, également, à s'y intéresser;

"(e) De pressantes démarches seront faites auprès de l'Association pour l'étude des conditions du travail dans les mines (Kozan Rodo Jijo Chosa Kaï) pour l'engager à s'occuper de cette question;

"(f) Si cela est nécessaire, la question de l'emploi des femmes dans les mines pourra être portée devant la Conférence Internationale du Travail."

— "La Française."

### Le Congrès National de la Paix.

C'est à Valence qu'aura lieu le Congrès, le onzième de la série régulière des Congrès Nationaux de la Paix. Il siégera au Théâtre Municipal; sa session s'ouvrira le 24 Septembre.

La coquette ville de Valence, "où le Midi commence," a décidé de déployer, en l'honneur du Congrès, toutes ses séductions. Aux côtés de M. Henri Perdrix, Sénateur-Maire, de A. Faucher, l'animateur, de MM. Farlay, Faivre et Doyen, tous les principaux groupements du département et de la région se sont assemblés, donnant, malgré leurs divergences politiques ou religieuses, un bel exemple d'union sacrée pour la Paix : Sociétés de la Paix; Association pour la Société des Nations, Cercle Démocratique, Fraternité Chrétienne, Parti Radical et Radical-Socialiste, Oeuvres laïques, Mutilés et Anciens Combattants, Jeune République, Libre Pensée Socialiste, Ligue des Droits de l'Homme, Loges Maçonniques, Syndicat National des Instituteurs et Institutrices, Syndicats Confédérés, Union pour le Suffrage des Femmes, etc., se sont associés pour l'oeuvre supérieure commune.

Au lendemain du triomphe remporté à Genève par la pensée pacifiste française, avec MM. Aristide Briand, Paul-Boncour et leurs collaborateurs, le Congrès de Valence est singulièrement opportun. La Société des Nations ne peut rien sans le concours de l'opinion. Mais l'opinion doit être exactement renseignée par les spécialistes des problèmes de la guerre et de la paix, comme elle doit exprimer ses desiderata et publier ses directives.

Le programme comporte trois séries de questions, inscrites sous trois rubriques : Actualités—Législation—Organisation. Sous le premier chef, le Congrès examinera un Rapport sur la Politique Extérieure de la France, et donnera la solution de l'angoissant problème qui obsède tous les esprits : l'organisation économique et financière internationale, et la défense du franc. La Commission de Législation a inscrit à son ordre du jour les Accords de Locarno, et l'état présent de la Société des Nations; la question du désarmement; le Parlement International et le Suffrage International. Parmi les rapports attendus ou parvenus, citons ceux de MM. Lisbonne et Fernand Merlin, sénateurs, des professeurs Ch. Richet et Scelle, de MM. Ferdinand Buisson et Lucien Le Foyer, anciens députés.

Un grand meeting public terminera le Congrès. A cette manifestation participeront des délégués étrangers, Mme Schreiber, Membre du Reichstag, M. Munch, député et ancien Ministre de la Dépense Nationale du Danemark, et d'autres membres de l'Assemblée de Genève.

Miss Collisson sends us the following:—

### Copy of an Open Letter to the Right Hon. the Prime Minister of the Australian Commonwealth.

Sir, August 25th, 1926.

On the eve of your departure from Australia to attend what will probably be the most important Imperial Conference ever held, because it must be apparent to all thinking men (and women) that the Empire has reached the turning point in connection with the questions of Imperial relations, Imperial defence, and Imperial economic policy, the Australian Federation of Societies for Equal Citizenship takes this opportunity of assuring you of their recognition of the gravity of the questions to be considered not only to Australia, but to the whole British Commonwealth of Nations—questions which, you will agree, concern women equally with men.

The rapidly changing relationship between the Mother Country and the Dominions, and the immense possibility this change in status involves, compels the interest of all overseas peoples, and any machinery agreed upon should provide that the public opinion of the whole of the Commonwealth of Nations should influence the policy for which that Commonwealth must be responsible.

In adopting the principle of adult suffrage, Australia has established democratic machinery of government, and it is desirable therefore that in the main this principle should be preserved.

The time is opportune for re-casting the present representation at important conferences held at the heart of Empire, and we are expecting, Sir, that you, in your position as Prime Minister of Australia, will uphold the principles of equality between men and women in the important deliberations in which you will be taking part.

We would remind you, Sir, that the Covenant of the League of Nations provides that "all positions under or in connection with the League, including the Secretariat, shall be open equally to men and women."

It is therefore essential, we feel, that these principles should be incorporated in any agreed basis of consultation between Britain and the Dominions.

Under the British flag there is every creed and colour of mankind, and the problems involved call for closer study and tabulation than has hitherto been given them.

Such problems include a study of the new relationship between the Old Country and the Dominions, social laws within the Empire, problems of migration from the British Commonwealth of Nations, aspect, etc., etc.

Australian women naturally expect that any scheme agreed upon by the Imperial Conference for the further consideration and tabulation of the above questions will secure to women the fullest measure of opportunity for the exercise of their rights and duties as citizens of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and we press for the appointment of women as members of groups, which handle, investigate or decide upon problems of Commonwealth policy.

The valuable suggestions made by the Australian Federal Government (as outlined in the White Paper published by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's Government, 1925) that a permanent Imperial Secretariat be established in London, somewhat on the lines of the Secretariat of the League of Nations Headquarters at Geneva, would, in our opinion, provide effective machinery for a centralising force, and serve a vital purpose in dealing with Empire problems.

We therefore look to you, Sir, as Prime Minister of Australia to uphold the equality of men and women in any agreed schemes of consultation in order that the virile outlook of younger lands may be brought to the old world of diplomacy.

We beg to remain, Sir, Yours faithfully  
(Signed) BESSIE M. RISCHBIETH, J.P., President.

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