

SPECIAL SPANISH NUMBER.

JUS SUFFRAGII.

# The International Woman Suffrage News

The Monthly Organ of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

FRENCH EDITION.

The French Edition of *Jus Suffragii*  
is published in Geneva, Switzerland.



HEADQUARTERS:

11, Adam St., Adelphi, London, W.C. 2,  
to which all communications should be addressed.

Telegrams: Vocorajo.  
Telephone: 4255 Regent.

Volume 14. No. 5.

FEBRUARY, 1920.

Price Per Year: 4 shs.; 4 mk.; 5 frs.; 2½ fl.; 1\$; 3.60 kr., Scandinavia; 5 kr., Austria. Single Copies: 4d.

## THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

BY CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN, M.A., B.Sc.

At the Congress of the Alliance, which is meeting after seven years of separation, the chief work will be to estimate how far the Alliance has attained its object: "The enfranchisement of the women of all nations," and how it can, under the changed conditions of this meeting, best further this object in the future. In the call to the Madrid meeting it is asked: "Is our work together at an end? Or shall we go on till the women of every land are likewise emancipated? Is the emancipation of women complete, or is there other work to be done before that end is attained? Do the women of the world send a call to us for additional service which bids us march further on?"

Looking at these questions, and thinking how much there is yet to be done before the women of all nations have secured their enfranchisement—political, civil, economic, and moral—not only in countries where women have not yet gained the vote, but also in the Woman Suffrage countries, and in the more primitive communities where work for the emancipation of women has hardly begun, it is difficult to know where to begin. The Alliance will require to give a wider interpretation to "the enfranchisement of women," and to draw up a Woman's Charter defining the concrete reforms necessary to its attainment, and lay down a policy for its execution.

### UNENFRANCHISED COUNTRIES.

There are still many countries without the vote. Not one of the four Latin countries of Europe, or the twenty Latin countries of South America, has enfranchised its women. Among other countries where some form of constitutional government exists, women are still without the suffrage in Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Roumania, Belgium (the present number of women voting is negligible), Serbia, Switzerland, Newfoundland, the Union of South Africa, British India, China, Japan, and the Philippines. In many of the newly enfranchised countries the governments are so recently established that watchfulness will be necessary to prevent the disfranchisement of women under any new regime that might arise. The constitutions of the new countries being set up in Europe should be based on the equality of the sexes, and the same measure of justice should be given to women in the countries of the East which are rapidly demanding the adoption of government by an elective legislature.

### THE ENFRANCHISED COUNTRIES.

But in the countries where women already vote the work of full enfranchisement has only begun. At the first Congress of the Alliance in Berlin, in 1904, it was declared that men and women "were equally entitled to the free exercise of their individual rights and liberties." The vote is a weapon which may be used to make possible the free exercise of the individual rights and liberties of women.

In few countries, if any, is the full equality of husband and wife recognised. The wife may be subject to marital authority; she may be forbidden to use her own property or earnings; she may be denied the right to choose her own domicile or nationality; she may be ignored as the guardian of her children.

In no country has even a beginning been made in putting women economically on a level with men. The whole law and custom of every land are such that the bulk of the national income is under the control of the male portion of the population. The vast majority of married women, although they actually handle the family income, dispense it not as a right, but merely as the agents of their husbands. In almost every country the mother of young children has a lower economic status than any other member of the community.

If men's right to work is now almost universally recognised, the fact that a woman has any corresponding right is in practice constantly ignored; still more the woman's right to have equal pay for the work she does. The State and the municipalities deny her permission to compete for the higher positions; if qualified they deny her promotion; they dismiss her on marriage, and they refuse her equal pay for equal work. To-day, however, the power to admit the right to work in practice in many employments is not in the hands of the State, but in that of the trade unions. These bodies only too often forbid women to receive training, or to exercise their trades when trained, and use their powerful organisations otherwise to prevent the employment of women.

In most countries to-day law and custom conspire to punish inordinately the mother of the child born out of wedlock. They place on her the greater part of the burden which should be equally shared by both the responsible parties.

Can any country be named where an equal moral standard is operative, either legally or socially? The State regulation of vice, still in force in so many countries, definitely treats the woman as an outcast—a chattel to be kept clean for public use. In how many countries is solicitation for immoral purposes treated as the same offence in men as it is in women, or the buyer of the honour of a woman placed under the same disabilities as the seller? Even when the laws affecting moral offences are verbally equal between men and women, how often are they equally administered?

### THE UNDEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

Then, too, there is the emancipation of the women of the East. There are countries where to-day girls and women are bought and sold into marriage, or as servants, and it is fitting that the enfranchised women of the West should require the putting in force, for their protection, of the international laws against slavery. These women also require equal

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## INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS.

11, Adam Street, Adelphi, London, W.C. 2.

Vol. 14. FEBRUARY, 1920. No. 5.

## Bye-law of I.W.S.A. Constitution.

"The International Woman Suffrage Alliance, by mutual consent of its auxiliaries, stands pledged to preserve absolute neutrality on all questions that are strictly national."

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opportunities for education, and assistance towards the equal recognition of their political, social, and moral rights.

## THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

There is also a new feature in our international political environment on which the Alliance will have to lay down a policy. When it last met national governments were the bodies to which women had to appeal to seek to have their reforms adopted. To-day many countries have their fate conditioned by their adherence to the League of Nations. The covenant of the League lays it down that "all positions under or in connection with the League, including the Secretariat, shall be open equally to men and women." The Alliance will have to decide how it can best promote the appointment of women, really suitable women, under this Article. The International Labour Conference department of the League has already met and made recommendations with respect to women's right to work; the Alliance will have to prepare a plan of action to ensure that women are properly represented on that body, and that its policy on questions

affecting the status of women shall be effectively brought before it. The League of Nations has taken powers to deal with such questions as the traffic in women, the setting up of an international health department, etc. The Alliance must lay its plans to bring the policy of its Women's Charter effectively before the League whenever the status of women is concerned. The League of Nations has made itself ultimately responsible for the administration of territory under mandates granted to different powers. The Alliance must demand that no mandates be granted without due guarantee of a satisfactory status for women.

## TRADE UNIONS—SYNDICATES—SOVIETS.

Another new feature in our political environment not present at the last Alliance Congress is the rise into power, as rivals of the elected legislative assemblies, of the trade unions.

Governments, recently, in several countries have decided their policy not by consultation with the elected representatives in the legislature, but by a private bargain with the powerful trade unions, while in a few countries governments have been set up with the trade union instead of the territorial district as the political unit for election purposes. I am expressing no opinion on the justification or otherwise of such action, but call attention to it as one of the important factors in the politics of to-day. If we ask that women should have equal political power with men, and if the whole political power is no longer in the hands of the elected legislatures, even equal suffrage does not give to women equal political power. Is the Alliance to develop some policy on the question?

## THE FUTURE OF THE ALLIANCE.

With these many reforms requiring attention in all countries, it is essential that there should be some international organisation whose definite object it is to work to secure a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities in all spheres of life between men and women. There are other important women's organisations which are doing valuable work for women, but none which concentrate on this essential aim. There is the International Council of Women, of which the objects are "to provide a means of communication between women's organisations in all countries, and to provide opportunities for women to meet together from all parts of the world to confer upon questions relating to the welfare of the commonwealth, the family, and the individual." The work of the Council is correspondingly wide, and among its many departments it includes those which work for the equality of the sexes. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is also active, and supports movements to further "Peace, Internationalism, and the Freedom of Women," but is limited to those organisations which take a particular point of view on international questions. The World's Women's Christian Temperance Union has also done wonderful work for the emancipation of women, but its membership is for those who are agreed on a particular line of action on the Drink question. There is the International Women's Socialist organisation, which also urges many women's reforms, but whose membership is limited to one political party. Just as we required the Alliance to outline the policy of the political enfranchisement of women, and to act as the pioneer to convert the world to that reform, so we need still more the Alliance under the new conditions to outline the Feminist policy on the civil, moral, and economic enfranchisement of women, and to act as the pioneer to convert the world to these reforms. The meeting of the Alliance in Berlin in 1904 laid down the principles on which the demand for political enfranchisement was based, and

these principles have been the foundation of the demand in all the affiliated countries, and will continue to be the bases in the still unenfranchised lands. I hope that at our meeting in Madrid we shall outline a Women's Charter, including the reforms necessary for the civil and economic enfranchisement of women, a statement of the principles on which that Charter is based, and a policy for its working out; and that this Charter and declaration of principles will become the text from which the women in each affiliated country will work to convert women's organisations, political parties, trade unions, national governments, the League of Nations, and the general public.

I would like to see our constitution altered to meet the changed circumstances. Why should we not admit any number of national Suffrage organisations from the unenfranchised countries? From the unenfranchised countries I should like to see provision made to admit national associations working for any one or more reforms to establish equality between men and women, whether it is equal political, equal moral, equal economic, or equal civil status. In this way the Alliance would become the rallying ground for all the forces working to establish the full emancipation and enfranchisement of women, which is essential to the future welfare of the community.

## THE FUTURE OF THE I.W.S.A. PROPOSALS FROM NATIONAL AUXILIARIES.

As one of the most important questions to be decided at our Madrid Congress is the future of the Alliance, there are printed below the various proposals which have been sent to Mrs. Catt, or to the Headquarters, as to subjects to be discussed and the future of the Alliance.

Proposals as to the future divide themselves into two classes. Switzerland wishes the Alliance to adhere to its present basis, in order to help unenfranchised countries, while the Netherlands, Denmark, and Great Britain propose that its scope should be extended so as to include work for the complete equality between men and women in all the relations of life. The Netherlands and Great Britain also urge the adoption of a comprehensive Feminist programme. The Netherlands desires to oppose the recommendation of the Washington International Labour Conference placing restrictions on women's work, and Great Britain asks that special action, through the League of Nations, should be taken to improve the status of women. The proposals are as follows:—

## I.—OBJECT AND CONSTITUTION OF THE ALLIANCE.

(1) *Switzerland's Proposal.*

The Alliance ought not either to modify or dissolve till all the countries affiliated to it have obtained the vote. It is obvious that the enfranchised countries will find their activities very limited under the present conditions, but it seems to Switzerland a question of solidarity for those who are advanced in progress to come to the help of those who lag painfully behind. The international movement is our great hope. It is by conferences, publications, etc., that enfranchised women can help us as well as by moral support; their help is absolutely necessary to cope with the indifference, the inertia, and even the hostility of our country. Can one not imagine the organisation of a series of conferences in unenfranchised countries, conducted by women electors, or even women M.P.s? New, up-to-date editions of such publications as "Woman Suffrage in Practice" would be very helpful. It is also necessary to show by evidence the direct connection between the suffrage and the fight against alcoholism, the fight against immorality, the fight for equal pay. We suggest as a definite subject for the orders of the day: How can the Alliance help the countries which have not yet got the vote? We are very definitely against the dissolution or transformation of the Alliance, especially as in many countries the Suffragist movement has yet to be created, encouraged, or stimulated.

(2) *Denish Women's Proposal (Dansk Kvindesamfund).*

That the basis of the development of the Alliance should be similar to that of the Dansk Kvindesamfund, which has the following objects:—

- To develop the capacity of women for the responsibility and work of citizens of full age.
- To promote the establishment of the complete equality of women and men in the family, society, and State.
- To improve the lot of women and children, especially by means of legislation.

(3) *Netherlands Proposal.*

We propose that our International Alliance shall be reorganised so that it, in the future, shall work not only for Woman Suffrage. The aim must be:—

(a) To further the enfranchisement of women in countries not yet enfranchised.

(b) To further the legal, social, and economic equality of men and women throughout the world.

(c) To promote the interest of women as workers, wives, and mothers, internationally.

(d) To enlighten women politically.

(e) To form within the Alliance an Interparliamentary Union of women M.P.s, to exchange views about the special task of women M.P.s.

(4) *Great Britain's Proposals.*

(a) That the object be the obtaining of Woman Suffrage, and all such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women, and the promotion of self-determination of women as citizens.

(b) That admission to the Alliance be open: (a) in unenfranchised countries to one or more national associations, whose chief object is the attainment of Woman Suffrage; and (b) in enfranchised countries to one or more national associations which include among their objects work for equality—social, political, economic, or religious—between men and women, and which pay the necessary affiliation fee. Their delegates shall have full voting powers.

(c) That the N.U.S.E.C. recommends the I.W.S.A. to consider, at the Conference, its relation to other International Women's Societies, and suggests that the Executive Committee of the I.W.S.A. should appoint a committee to consider these relations.

## II.—WOMAN'S CHARTER.

(1) *Dutch Proposal.*

That the I.W.S.A. adopt the following Woman's Charter:—

(a) That suffrage be granted to women, and their equal status with men upon legislative and administrative bodies, both national and international, recognised.

(b) That women, equally with men, should have the protection of the law against slavery, such as still exists in some parts of Eastern Europe, Asia, and Africa.

(c) That on marriage a woman should have full personal and civil rights, including the right to the use and disposal of her own earnings and property, and should not be under the tutelage of her husband.

(d) That the mother should have the same rights over her children as the father.

(e) That a married woman should have the same right to retain or change her nationality as a man.

(f) That all opportunities for education should be open to both sexes.

(g) That women should have the same opportunity for training and for entering industries and professions as men.

(h) That women should receive the same pay as men for the same work.

(i) That the traffic in women should be suppressed, the regulation of vice abolished, an equal moral standard recognised.

(j) That the responsibility not only of the mother, but also of the father, of a child born out of wedlock should be recognised.

(k) That there should be adequate economic provision for the service of motherhood.

(l) That no political or industrial quarrel should deprive the mother of food for her children.

(m) That the education of children, as far as the laws of the country can influence them, should be based upon international understanding and goodwill among the nations.

(2) *Great Britain's Proposal.*

Great Britain proposes the adoption of a somewhat similar charter, with the following differences from the Dutch:—

(a) Include (a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (h), (i), (j), and (k) above.

(b) Omit (l) and (m).

(c) Alter (d) so that it reads:—That the mother should have the same rights over her children born in wedlock as the father.

(d) Alter (g) so that it reads:—That women should have the same opportunity for training for and for entering industries, professions, and trade unions as men.

(e) Add the three following additional items:—

(i.) That a married woman should have the same right to retain or to change her domicile as a man, and that her domicile should be of equal importance with that of her husband in deciding legal questions.

(ii.) That women's right to work should be safeguarded, and that regulations concerning wages, hours of labour, night work, etc., should be based upon the type of the work, and not upon the sex of the worker.

(iii.) That it is a first necessity that the spiritual equality between men and women be fully admitted, and that there should be equality of service within the churches.

## III.—RESTRICTION ON WOMEN'S WORK.

(1) *Netherlands Proposal.*

That some resolution be passed opposing the action of the International Labour Conference at Washington in recommending legislation placing restrictions on women's work.

## IV.—LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

(1) *Great Britain's Proposal.*

That there should be a resolution welcoming the principle of a League of Nations.

## V.—WOMEN'S STATUS IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

(1) *Great Britain's Proposal.*

In view of various proposals for the establishment of a Women's Department of the League of Nations, this Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance makes the following declaration of policy:—

(a) It is opposed to the establishment of any women's committee or other organisation as a body constituted for the purpose of

being consulted on what are sometimes called subjects concerning women, holding that women are as much concerned as men on the questions coming before the League, and that the proper method of consulting women is to ensure that an adequate number of them be included on the various bodies set up in connection with the League, and on the directing as well as on the lower branches of the Secretariat.

(b) On the other hand, it holds that just as it has been found necessary to establish the special machinery of the International Labour Conference and office, with the object of raising the status of the industrial wage-earner relatively to that of other classes, so it is desirable to establish in connection with the League of Nations the special machinery of an International Women's Conference and an International Women's Office, with the object of raising the status of women relatively to that of men.

At the same time the International Woman Suffrage Alliance emphasises the fact that such a women's organisation would be harmful rather than helpful unless the following conditions were fulfilled:—

(i.) The representation of women's organisations must be not less than half of the total representation on the governing body.

(ii.) The Conference and Office shall themselves decide what questions they consider affect the status of women, and shall be free to take up any of these questions, and shall not be expected to act as a consulting body to the League of Nations, or have their business subject to their instruction.

(iii.) The Conference and Office shall have the right to collect and publish information regarding questions they consider affect the status of women.

(iv.) The Conference and Office shall be properly financed by the League of Nations.

The Alliance also considers it of supreme importance that the proposals of the Women's Conference and Office shall require to be considered by the Legislatures of the Governments in the League, on the same basis as are considered the recommendations of the International Labour Conference.



SEÑORA MARIA DE MARTINEZ SIERRA.

### ADVANCE OF FEMINISM IN SPAIN.

By Miss de Alberti.

It is many years since John Stuart Mill's "Subjection of Women" was translated into Spanish, under the aegis of the distinguished author; the Condesa Pardo Bazan, who wrote a preface to it, sending it on its way with her blessing, to arouse her countrywomen to a sense of the wrongs suffered by their sex, and the indignity of their position. If the seed was long in taking root, there are no lack of signs at present that there will be a rich harvest of Feminism in Spain at no distant date. The movement seems to be developing on the same lines as in England—that is to say, group after group of women discover that they have a special message to give a special section of their countrywomen, and consequently form a separate Feminist society.



THE MARQUESA DEL TER.

Valencia may be said to have been the real birthplace of Spanish Feminism, but Madrid has now become an active centre of the movement.

#### Union de las Mujeres de España.

This society, at whose invitation the International Suffrage Congress is to meet in Madrid, came into being in the August of 1918. An eloquent leaflet issued by the society states that the tragedy of war and the heroic example afforded by women of other countries have awakened the dormant energies in the souls of Spanish women. The war has proved the error made by men in not reckoning women among the peoples. In the pursuit of business and of wealth, the spiritual side of life has been lost sight of, and half the human race has been forgotten. The new society appealed to all women, the high-born lady and the simple worker, to unite together in working for the uplifting of women, in the spirit of true Christian brotherhood. The answer has been such that the society, as we have said, has found it possible to invite the International Congress to meet in Madrid. The President of the Union de las Mujeres de España is the Marquesa del Ter.



SEÑORA MATILDE G. DEL REAL.

#### Argentine and Uruguay.

Two foremost women of the Latin-American countries are Dr. Alicia Moreau, President of the Union Feminista Nacional, and Dr. Paulina Luisi, also a doctor, one of six medical women in her country—Uruguay.

Dr. Luisi is called by one of the organisers of the Latin-American Women's Alliance "quite the most prominent woman in Uruguay, and very well known in other countries in South America." She was Vice-President of the second American Congress of "The Child," and a member of the International Women's Committee of the second Pan-American Scientific Congress, and is now Chairman of the Committee on Equal Moral Standards and Traffic in Women, of the Uruguayan Council of Women. Dr. Luisi was the founder and is the present President of the Uruguayan Woman Suffrage Association, and of the National Council of women in her country. Like almost all women of old Spain or new Spain, who go in for leadership of their sex, she is a journalist, editor of the *Accion Femenina*, and correspondent of *Nuestra Causa*, a woman's political magazine published in Buenos Aires, where the cause of Woman Suffrage is going forward with surprising velocity.

Its prime mover is said to be Dr. Moreau, whose intrepidity was manifested by her long mule-back ride over the Andes in order to reach the International Conference of Women Physicians held in October at the Young Women's Christian Association, New York City. As ships on the eastern coast of the Americas were infrequent on account of the war, Dr. Moreau went over Andean passes during the South American winter, and took ship up the western coast to California. That is, she crossed the continent twice, and traversed a large section of the western hemisphere in order to confer with her colleagues on public morality. Dr. Moreau's own contribution was an address on the "White Slave Traffic." She also is a writer—a contributor of sociological articles to the review the *New Humanity*, and a tireless worker for public health measures to mitigate the suffering of the sick poor.

#### Nicaragua.

Nicaragua is the last country to speak up for Woman Suffrage, according to a report from Señora Josepha T. de Agueri, editor of the *Revista Femenina Ilustrada*, a woman's educational and literary review. The movement in Nicaragua comes from the working women, who have formed a woman's club with Woman Suffrage as its object.

#### Porto Rico.

From Porto Rico one of the leading feminists, editor of the *Heraldo de la Mujer*, now suspended because of the printing trades difficulties, reports that, except for Venezuela and one or two of the smaller countries of the west coast, the women of South America are "surprisingly progressive," and are eager for the vote.

Woman Citizen.

December 20, 1919.

### URUGUAY.

#### A Feminist President.

The woman's cause is making rapid strides in Uruguay, and Feminists there put their trust in a President who is not afraid of proclaiming his faith in the emancipation of women. Dr. Brum's speech on the subject was quoted fully in some of the Argentine papers, and it may not be amiss to quote some points from it. In speaking of his voyage to the United States, the President said that what he most admired in that country was the culture, the reliance, and the general equipment of the American woman to meet the problems of life in a manner befitting the greatness of her destiny. This spirit and culture were due to the education she received, which, while purifying her mind from ancestral prejudices, inspired her with a true idea of her own worth and social duty, and gave her confidence in her own abilities, and, in a word, roused her to the intellectual and political level of man, her eternal companion in fortune and misfortune, in disaster and in glory.

The President went on to speak of the French Revolution, which proclaimed the rights of man, but whether from selfishness or the remains of prejudice, had left woman in an irritating inferiority, not only with respect to political rights, but with respect to civil rights, the organisation of the family, penal law, etc. It was amazing that such injustices could be



SEÑORA MARIA ESPINOSA.

#### Asociacion Nacional de Mujeres Espanolas.

"If you are asked, 'What is Feminism?' reply: 'Redemption of women, perfection of society, uplifting of humanity.'"

Such is the noble device which stands at the head of the programme of the above society. In her preface to the programme, the President, Señora Doña Maria Espinosa, appeals to Spanish women to join the association. It is a great error, she says, to suppose that Spanish women are not educated, or as capable as men of exercising civil and political rights. Many women in Spain are already pursuing scientific careers, holding public positions, and directing great industries, and maybe in the political arena these women would show their culture and patriotism by using the vote with more sincerity and conviction than many men. All that is needed is for women to shake off puerile social fears, and unite to form a Feminist party powerful enough to compel respect for its ideals.

It is impossible to give full details of the extensive programme of the Association. All its objects would be acceptable to Feminists of other countries—such, for instance, as the eligibility of women for public offices and for juries, complete legal personality, her husband to represent her only when he is especially appointed by her to do so, equal moral laws, equal opportunities and equal pay, the abolition of State regulation of prostitution. Such are a few only of the objects of this National Association of Spanish Women. To all the clauses of this admirable programme every Feminist could say "Amen!"

#### Liga Espanola para el Progreso de la Mujer.

This is the oldest Spanish Feminist society, and as its title indicates, it stands for the progress of women in every walk of life. Señora Doña Ana Bernal is the President, and also editor of the Suffrage paper *Redencion*.

The Liga Espanola, the Asociacion Nacional, and various other Spanish Feminist societies form the Consejo Supremo Feminista, over which presides that remarkable and distinguished woman, Señora Doña Maria Espinosa.

### HOW LATIN-AMERICAN WOMEN ARE GAINING.

Rapid fire co-ordination of forces for woman's progress is the word that comes from the women of South America, who are already busy lining up active support of the Pan-American Suffrage Conference, to be held in Buenos Aires in July, 1921, for the study of the civil and political status of women.



DR. PAULINA LUISI.

committed and could continue. He was proud to say that in their own country men had taken the matter up without waiting to be pressed to do so by women, and they had good reasons to hope that before long all the absurd inequalities would have disappeared from their laws, and women would enjoy full rights. This was the more honourable to their country, since in the few countries where women had won recognition of their rights, this had not come about through a spontaneous desire on the part of men to make reparation, but after a long, painful, and tenacious fight. If the French Revolution had resulted in the recognition of the rights of man, the great war just terminated would give rise to the universal recognition of the rights of women—that was to say, of the equal rights of all human beings.

#### The Woman's Emancipation Bill (Uruguay).

A recent number of *Accion Femenina* gives the text of the Woman's Emancipation Bill introduced by Dr. Aralya. The first part of the Bill deals with the political emancipation of the women of Uruguay, the second with her emancipation in civil matters. In introducing his Bill, Dr. Aralya said that he was not pursuing a utopian ideal; the reforms he demanded had been accepted by other countries. Woman Suffrage was a matter of strict justice. He claimed for women equal political rights with men: she must have the right to elect and to be elected. The intervention of women was more than ever necessary at the present time, when spiritual disorder and anarchy threatened not only commercial and industrial stability, but political institutions and the family itself. Woman would be the first to defend social order, the foundation of which is the family. Those who counseled upon woman to destroy social order were much mistaken. At this moment of social and moral upheaval woman's intervention in the political arena would re-establish the lost equilibrium; it would strengthen social institutions, raise the level of politics, suppress alcoholism, and would give rise to laws for the protection of women and children against the tyranny of man. Dr. Aralya concluded his speech by reading a telegram from the *Nation*, quoting the passing in the English House of Lords of the Bill opening the professions and public offices to women.

#### Civil Rights.

In civil matters Dr. Aralya's Bill, amongst other things, will:—

1. Enable a woman to be a member of co-operative societies,

etc., without the permission of her husband, and to have control of her own property.

2. It will enable her to witness documents and wills in the same way as a man.

3. It will enable unmarried women, or widows, who are aunts or sisters of minors, to be guardians of the latter.

4. It will give a married woman the right to exercise any lawful profession, and the right to administer and dispose of the money earned by her labour.

#### DR. PAULINA LUISI.

Dr. Paulina Luisi, founder of the Consejo Nacional de Mujeres del Uruguay, was the first woman in Uruguay to graduate for the B.Sc., and the first to qualify as a doctor of medicine. She is indefatigable in her fight against alcoholism, the white slave traffic, and the State regulation of vice. It is scarcely necessary to add that Dr. Paulina Luisi stands for Woman Suffrage. It has been said of her that her life and works are a faithful reflection of her favourite motto: *Fais ce que dois—advienne que pourra*. A noble and valiant woman, she rises above prejudices, and is undismayed by criticism—an outstanding figure and worthy leader of the feminist movement in the Uruguay.

#### ARGENTINE.

#### DR. ALICIA MOREAU.

Dr. Moreau is one of the moving spirits in the campaign for the emancipation—the real emancipation—of the women of her country. For nine years she has been the editor of the Argentine review, the *Humanidad Nueva*, and her articles on sociology have aroused much interest. As a medical student, Dr. Moreau published a series of articles in various reviews, sketches drawn from life, which made a deep impression upon her readers, revealing as they did her burning desire to mitigate the physical and moral suffering which daily came before her eyes. She realised that science is often impotent to overcome the result of unjust conditions, and she has unreservedly devoted her knowledge of social questions to the service of the working classes. Dr. Moreau represented the Argentines at the Pan-American Congress of Women Doctors, held recently in New York, and expressed her intention of studying in detail the feminist movement in North America.



DR. ALICIA MOREAU.

## THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

### A WOMAN SUFFRAGE BILL.

The *Woman Citizen* of December 20 announces a telegram from the Philippines saying that the Senate has passed a Woman Suffrage Bill, which now goes to the House of Representatives.

The Philippine archipelago contains 3,141 islands, of which 400 are inhabited. Luzon is as large as Denmark, Belgium, and Holland combined, and Mindanao is the size of Portugal. There are already nearly 7,000,000 acres under cultivation. There are 40,000 square miles of virgin forest, 99 per cent. of which is the property of the Government, and controlled by a Bureau of Forestry.

The United States has occupied the islands since 1898, and after the American Government first took over their development 1,000 teachers from the United States went to these islands in the Pacific; but by July, 1918, there were only 356 American teachers, and 13,744 Filipino teachers, mainly women, in the islands. Philippine schools range from primary to normal, and so on, to a State university at Manila. They include schools of agriculture, of arts and trades. Education is abundant and free. One of the latest acts of the Philippine Legislature, educationally speaking, has been an appropriation of 300,000 pesos for pensionados (to be selected by the secretaries of the departments of the Government) to the United States.

In 1918 there were 555 women out of a total of 3,313 students in the university of the Philippines.

The number of women graduates is steadily increasing every year.

In 1917, 37 different degrees were conferred on women, and in 1918, 48.

These women students are from all over the islands.

They are studying medicine, pedagogy, fine arts, music, nursing, law.

The Legislature last year passed a 30,000,000 pesos Act to advance the schools of the islands within the next five years. While Kansas and Missouri are short of teachers, on account of insufficient salaries, the Philippines will ensure an increase of at least 30 per cent. on the salaries of teachers, and free elementary instruction will be placed within the reach of every child of school age.

In many ways the way of the Filipino woman is easy. Laws made for her have combined the best of Spanish and American precedents, and she has come into her own with far less struggle than either her American or her Spanish sisters. Married women may hold property in severalty. They are guardians of their own children. Of the property which accrues to a married couple the wife is half administratrix of one-half. These are vested rights and cannot be taken away from her.

Professional opportunities are as good for women as for men in the land of the setting sun. Women are already members of the Philippine Bar Association. They are in business for themselves. They are successful as physicians.

As to their political freedom, it is quite on the cards and will soon be an actuality. A short time ago the question of equal suffrage was introduced into the Legislature of the islands, not by the initiative of American women, but urged by Madame Apaciblie, wife of the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources. A petition, signed by 18,000 women, endorsed a joint legislative hearing on this question, and was sent to the law-makers, who granted such a hearing. Three Filipino women spoke, among them Mrs. Conception Falderon, widow of the man who wrote the Constitution of Malolos. She is a successful business woman, owning a fish farm and an embroidery enterprise, and is said to have made the best speech on that occasion. Only one man appeared in the negative, and his argument was the prehistoric one of the oak and the vine. Other women who sponsored the cause of equal suffrage on that day were Mrs. Teodora Kalaw and Miss Alameda, the last a practising lawyer. The President of the Senate, Honorable Manuel L. Queson, and the Governor-General, Francis Burton Harrison, are both in favour of the Woman Suffrage Bill.

In Manila, as in every part of the world where women hunger and thirst to give their daughters something better

in life than they themselves have had, there is a flourishing club, which started out as the "Society for the Advancement of Women." This club was launched upon its past seven years in the advancing business by one who is past-mistress in the art, and has spent her whole life with an unwearied shoulder at the wheel of progress—this is Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt. The Manila club was set going by her in 1912, when Mrs. Catt, having an off day in her trip around the world, had stopped at the Island of Luzon. There were twelve women present at the Manila Hotel on August 15, 1912, when the club opened its eyes on a new world. In a fortnight the number had doubled once and a half, and was busy launching a day nursery. After that this club just turned off day nurseries at the rate of one a year. They have become a Manila institution. After a short time, the title of the club seemed too long for such busy women, and they reorganised as the Woman's Club of Manila. This club established a flower market. Under its Civic and Penology Committee it installed in the Luneta Police Station three police matrons to care for women pending trial, an industrial teacher for the insane and feeble-minded women in San Lazaro Hospital, and opened a woman's school in Bilibid Prison, with the assistance of the Bureau of Education. The Penology Committee is proud of its signal success in establishing the profit-sharing plan in Bilibid and other prisons under its jurisdiction. At the instance of Vice-Governor Martin, the Philippine Legislature passed a Bill giving to each worker at the time of his release, or before that, for the support of his family, 50 per cent. of his earnings. This is a step which put the islands abreast in modern penology reforms. The Bureau of Labour, at the request of the club, finds employment for women.

In 1915 Manila joined hands with the Federation of Women's Clubs, U.S.A., and then it began creating and federating clubs throughout the islands, of which there are now over 307.

There is no spot in the United States which has anything on the Filipinos in war work. These island women have gone the whole length of Red Cross, Liberty Loan, food administration, thrift, and abstinence programmes, and have worked in public health and social hygiene measures with the best of the women of the world. They are even proposing a people's kitchen.

The Woman's Club of Manila is not a fashionable club, it is a working club, where the women of at least two races have wrought out a common civilisation.

*Woman Citizen.*

December 20, 1919.

## SERBIAN WOMEN'S ADVANCE.

By MISS ANNIE CHRISTITCH, B.A. (LOND.).

It is yet too early to embark on comparisons as to how the war affected the woman question in different countries, but we think that history's verdict will declare the great strides made by the women of Serbia to be as unparalleled as unexpected. Whoever watched them in disaster, as the entire manhood of the nation drew off in the throes of disillusionment and uncertainty, could not at once realise the amazing change which came over the spirit of the wives and daughters left behind. From docile followers of behests and advice, dependent on their menfolk for the orientation of every act and thought, they suddenly revealed themselves as capable factors totally emancipated from former habits of indecision and irresponsibility, teeming with initiative, steadfast in courage, and perfectly prepared to manage their home affairs and keep the home and country going, in spite of enemy invasion. The lapses in fortitude were comparatively few, and where a distraught mother did commit suicide, her neighbours took charge of her children and never slackened interest in the unhappy orphans. A strong capacity for organisation manifested itself in the townswomen. They grappled with housing problems, and for the first time co-operated in municipal business, insisting on the re-opening of schools and regulation of markets, till normal life was restored. One schoolmistress in Vrania taught the children in a room denuded of all furniture, where, seated on the floor, they learned to read, write, and count. For three years she had no salary, yet never relaxed in her self-appointed task.

The peasant women in the villages tilled the ground with such success that never were harvests more plentiful in the land. However, lest this plenitude should prolong the war by filling the granaries of the invaders, they devised secret

receptacles where wheat was stored until the return of their own army. It was from these hidden hoards that the town folk obtained flour which enabled them to tide over the hard days when rations were low. The invader naturally confiscated what food stuffs he could lay hands on to send home to his own starving family.

The women who formed the bulk of the population in invaded Serbia were forced to become proficient smugglers, and they endured terrible hardships, climbing mountains and wading rivers on the darkest nights to transport consignments of flour to their homes from distant villages. This was done by women of all classes. I have known a general's wife tramp for miles with a bag of flour on her shoulders, nor did women hesitate to engage on work of the roughest description, such as road mending, bricklaying, and street sweeping.

A remarkable aptitude for business revealed itself among the women belonging to the commercial middle class. Several of them enlarged their premises, doubled their circle of customers, and even embarked on fresh enterprise, with such good remunerative results that many a husband on returning from internment, or from the ranks, found his trade more prosperous than when he had himself been sole directing agent. It will be very difficult for such a man to relegate his wife again to the role of mere onlooker and idle spender of his profits, without interest in or control of the machinery that furnishes their common income.

There was also an educative advance, inasmuch as young girls, deprived of their usual social occupations, and compelled by the exigency of the provision market to a simple and frugal table, found new pursuits, more absorbing than dress rivalry and exaggerated domesticity, in the study of serious subjects. Religion, philosophy, music, languages, got a new impulse. English classes sprang up everywhere, and literary discussions showed that women, if allowed, were able to hold their own in academic debates. Above all, the sense of responsibility did wonders in the rapid evolution of the Serbian woman, who, for the first time, realised her own powers. It is quite true that seen on paper the disabilities of Serbian women are not greater than those of their western sisters; but, where a higher standard of civilisation minimises, in the latter case, the bad result of unjust and harsh laws (humane public opinion governing their application), in Serbia it is customary to accept the worst results with the conviction that women are fated to be victims, and that there is no hope of remedy. Women are not legal guardians of their children, who, in the event of their father's death, are under control of his nearest male relatives, and failing these, his friends or associates, who dictate to the mother with, of course, more despotic authority than was exercised even by the father himself.

Again, all the property of a woman who marries virtually becomes that of her husband, for she cannot use it without his consent, nor dispose of it without his written permission. On the other hand, she has legally no claim on his purse beyond the necessities of food and lodging. In case of divorce, even if she is altogether blameless, and her partner notoriously in the wrong, she has custody of her children only as long as their tender age demands maternal care. There are harrowing instances of devoted, exemplary mothers being compelled to hand over their children to corrupt and tyrannical fathers when they attain the age limit of seven years. This is the letter of the law. Hitherto women have been too crushed to seek redress for these and many other injustices, enumeration of which would be too lengthy for this paper.

After the responsibilities of these last laborious and painful years, Serbian women now come with ripened judgment, justified self-reliance, and a vast store of acquired knowledge to demand that they should never again be shut out from public deliberations. The claim for the vote is determinedly and insistently made. The need for it is acute while antiquated tradition gives the modern woman such a grossly inferior status in all that concerns her personal life, her rights of inheritance, and her demand as an efficient worker for a reasonable wage. Too long has she had the burden of duties without means for their fulfilment. From a passive she is becoming an active element, conscious that the sons whom she is supposed to influence, and whose future she is supposed to shape, will not be guided in the crises and problems of life by an undeveloped intelligence. The Serbian woman, at last aware of her own importance and dignity, will not consent

to be shut out from any source of instruction available for men. When the peasant woman ceases to be illiterate, when the townswoman is encouraged to a wider outlook than dress and pleasure afford, then will the famous old Serbian proverb become a reality: "Kutchu ne stoyi na zemli nego na zeni" "A house is built not upon the ground, but upon a woman".

### THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY IN ENGLAND.

It was in the year 1911 that the many Catholics working for the enfranchisement of women, as members of different Suffrage societies, determined to form a society of their own. There were various reasons which led to this decision. In the first place, many organisations had been founded to make a direct appeal to one or another section of the community, but no such appeal was being made to Catholics. Other religious leagues were already in existence—Anglican, Free Church, and Jewish,—and the enemies of Suffrage were spreading abroad the lie that the Catholic Church was opposed to votes for women. The society was a direct challenge to this assertion, and it had the desired effect.

The new society was welcomed by all the other Suffrage societies, and has ever since its foundation worked in harmony with them. It naturally received a particularly cordial welcome from the other religious leagues, and there can be no doubt that the meetings of the United Religious Leagues, when Catholic and Jew, Anglican and Nonconformist, met on the same platform to demand votes for women, made a vivid impression on the public mind.

The Catholic Woman Suffrage Society based their claim to the vote on the grounds of justice, morality, and religion. So convinced were they of the vast importance of the Suffrage movement, that, while leaving their members free to work for the country, the society's propaganda was continued during the war, and its paper, the *Catholic Suffragist*, now the *Catholic Citizen*, was founded in the January of 1915.

According to the constitution of the society, men may be associates, though not members, and many Catholic priests have joined the ranks of the Catholic Woman Suffrage Society and assisted in the work of awakening Catholics to a sense of the importance of the Suffrage movement. The society, however, met with a considerable amount of opposition and suspicion; but it has broken down opposition and allayed suspicion, and, indeed, has recently had the joy of receiving the approval of the Holy Father. This triumph the society owes to a prominent member, Miss Annie Christitch, B.A., who, being received in private audience, asked His Holiness to state definitely whether he approved of the Suffrage: "Nous voudrions voir des femmes electrices partout," replied the Pope. Miss Christitch then gave the Holy Father an account of the object and activities of the Catholic Woman Suffrage Society, and asked whether it had the approval of His Holiness: "Oui, nous approuvons," replied the Pope in emphatic tones.

This is a triumph for the Catholic Woman Suffrage Society which will have far-reaching effects.

L. DE ALBERTI, Editor *Catholic Citizen*.

January 22, 1920.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### Position of Married Women in Spain.

To the Editor *International Woman Suffrage News*.

Dear Madam,—Miss Macmillan paints a very black picture of the position of married women in Spain, but is she sure that it is correct? True, there is no Married Women's Property Act, so that Spain is still where England was until 1882, but in some respects she is surely ahead of us. I have not for the moment a code of Spanish laws available, so Miss Macmillan will perhaps correct me if I am wrong.

1. Is it not a fact that a wife in Spain inherits by law a proportion of her husband's property, which he cannot will away from her?

2. Is it not a fact that she retains her nationality on marriage with a foreigner?

3. She certainly retains her own name on marriage, adding her husband's to it, the children taking the name of both parents. A tribute to the individuality of the wife, which in England would be considered fantastic.

As to Miss Macmillan's statement that a husband can at will shut his wife up in a convent, it is so preposterous that I cannot imagine where she has got such a notion from.

In the first place he would have to find a convent willing to assist in the nefarious deed. Even the Pope could not force a convent to accept a person who is unwelcome, and one such unwilling inmate would suffice to disturb the tranquillity and upset the peace of mind of a whole community. If Miss Macmillan will look into this alleged grievance, she will find that it is moonshine.

In conclusion, let me beg English Suffragists not to go into a friendly country holding such a distorted view of it as this, otherwise our Congress will do more harm than good.—Faithfully yours,

LEONORA DE ALBERTI, Editor *Catholic Citizen*.

55 Berners Street, W. 1.

January 26, 1920.

### AUSTRALIA.

#### COMMONWEALTH.

##### Equal Pay.

Mr. Justice Higgins, President of the Arbitration Court, has awarded equal pay for men and women in the higher branches of the clothing trade. The award includes a 44-hour week, and makes the increased pay retrospective from May 13, 1919. As in other countries, the employers have aimed at specialising so highly in the tailoring trade that large numbers of women and girls never have the opportunity of acquiring complete knowledge of their trade. They are kept at making parts of garments, a method which is highly profitable to the employers, but most unprofitable to the employees. Even under the unfavourable conditions that have prevailed in the trade, women have driven large numbers of men out of it, and many factories are now controlled entirely by women.

##### New Post for Woman.

The Australian Institute of Secretaries has decided to admit women as members, and the first woman to qualify for admission is Miss Frances Oliver, the daughter of the Shire Secretary and Engineer of Corio, Victoria, and who has for some time acted as assistant secretary to the shire. Her admission to the Institute means that Miss Oliver has qualified in accountancy and auditing, and has expert knowledge of the business methods of public companies; she is also a licentiate of the Commonwealth Institute of Accountants.

##### NEW SOUTH WALES.

##### Women's Living Wage.

The *Times* reports that New South Wales Board of Trade has fixed the women's living wage at 39s. a week. It is made up of £1 1s. board and lodging; 10s. 6d. clothing, boots, and toilet requisites; the balance miscellaneous.

### VICTORIA.

#### Prisoners to Help Maintain Wives.

Regulations are being drawn up in connection with the Gaols Act Amendment Act, which provides for extended and more scientific methods of employing prisoners, one of the most important of which is that the earnings of prisoners are to be divided, part going towards the cost of their own maintenance in gaol, the rest to their wives and children, or other dependents.

VIDA GOLDSTEIN.

London, January 6, 1920.

### AUSTRIA.

#### The Social and Political Situation.

This article is written at a moment when the burning question, What is to become of the unfortunate inhabitants of German Austria? is still unanswered. We are suffering from hunger and cold; our nerves are shattered by the unspeakable miseries we have to endure; we have indeed sunk to the level of beggars, and our distress surely calls for sympathy from the whole world. Yet that help which the Peace Treaty gave us hope of has not yet come, and while those who are able to aid us hesitate, we sink deeper into the abyss. Will that abyss engulf us, or is there still a means of escape? That question is ever before us; it throws its shadow over our every thought and action. Every

day the struggle for bare existence becomes harder, more discouraging. The body's cry of despair for bread and coal silences the cry of the mind for intellectual culture. The things for which we worked and fought, all the old humanitarian ideals and aspirations, these seem dead and buried. How can hunger-stricken and frozen people care for anything but food and warmth?

In this unholy conflict even the woman's cry for progress is dumb. It is sad to have to say that, but it is true. After the granting of Woman Suffrage, it was to be expected that women would become more interested and politically educated than before. And it is true that when in the first months of last year we had to lay the foundations of a new State, women did show their interest in politics. But the hopeless outlook of our lives has deadened that interest. We are simply aware that we cannot go in for politics, that we cannot obtain anything with our newly won rights as long as the very State has not real life of its own, and as long as conditions are such that we can scarcely keep body and soul together.

But in spite of these depressing conditions, there is an early possibility of elections taking place. These elections, indeed, ought to be held, for since German-Austria was not shaped as we had hoped, many of the representatives of German provinces had to resign from the National Assembly, which therefore is not truly representative of the new German-Austria; and in addition, from the legal point of view, so many new regulations have been laid down for the constitution and working the Assembly that immediate elections are necessary. Up to the present the Social Democratic party have been against another election, for it is obvious to them that many classes of the progressive bourgeoisie, the intellectuals, etc., who formerly voted for the Social Democrats, would now vote differently. And even among the organised workers there are signs of dissatisfaction with various laws which have been introduced by the Social Democrats.

Unfortunately, it is still an open question if these new elections would give our unhappy country that stability and security which it so sorely needs. It is just possible that the crisis of an election would fan the small flames of discontent that are burning here and there into a universal conflagration. It is, however, useless for the opponents of the Social Democrats to shut their eyes to the fact that the Social Democratic party must be reckoned with as a power, and whatever election upheaval took place it would probably result only in a partial weakening of the party by a shifting of control from their left to their right group. Would our country thereby get that peace which is so indispensable for the work of reconstruction? One thing only we can say: that there must be give and take on all sides if our country is to be saved from ruin.

#### The International W. S. Congress in Madrid.

How unstable the situation of our State is, and, therefore, also the situation of the individual, through the withdrawal of credit and the depreciation of our exchange, is proved by the most distressing fact that at the forthcoming Congress in Madrid no Austrian will be able to be present. How very happy many women leaders, and also the writer of this article, would be were they able to accept the invitation! Through all these horrible years we have been longing for this moment of reunion with those who think alike and work for the same object in all countries, and for the opportunity of expressing oneself among those who sympathise and understand.

The present situation of our exchange is so bad that a journey and stay in Madrid, according to present rates, would cost each of us about 40,000 kronen (before the war about £1,600). Not one of us is in a position to afford this, and it is unlikely that in our country any women can be found who are so interested in the women's movement that they could, under the present circumstances, do this, as everybody's future is most uncertain. If our deplorable financial position is not any better by the spring, then I am afraid German-Austria will be among one of those countries which will not be represented at Madrid.

#### Women Members of the National Assembly.

The readers of this paper will naturally expect that I should report something about the activities of the women members of the National Assembly. Unfortunately, I have nothing particular to mention. Our National Assembly is little more

than a formal machine for recording votes, so women have had but small chance of making themselves effective. It is regrettable, however, that none of the women members—though there are some of the most energetic and capable Social Democrats amongst them—has voiced the terrible sufferings, especially of women and children, in such a manner as to appeal to the human-hearted throughout the world. Specific reforms, which are desired by women of all parties, should have been demanded, but none of these demands has so far, been brought forward in Parliament. The women members—they are all Social Democrats except one, a Christian Socialist—seem to have forgotten the women's interests in the struggle to defend their party interests.

#### First Woman Juryman.

Something quite new has occurred in German-Austria. In Vienna, for the first time on record, a woman—Fritzi Ruschka—acted as juryman at the Court of Assizes. Two other women who were also put up asked to be excused, one because she had to conduct her business, and the other because she was the mother of five children, whose claim on her time and care made it impossible for her to take up these duties. Of course the Press made great propaganda out of this occurrence, and they emphasised that it was obvious that women had to put their private affairs before public duties. All the same, many of their colleagues at the Assizes, and also solicitors, greeted warmly the co-operation of women in carrying out the laws of the country.

It is obvious that the co-operation of women is absolutely necessary, from the fact that the Mayor of Vienna has remobilised all the members of the Women's Help Corps, which comprised women of all parties, and devoted itself to social work during the war. The gifts of charity which come from abroad, and which are not sent to special individuals or organisations, are being distributed by this Women's Help Corps, which is divided up into local committees and a central executive. It is a very welcome announcement that the very much respected pioneer of the women's movement, Frau Marianne Hainisch, who has now completed her eighty-first year, and who has always worked for social and ethical objects, has been made the chairman of this Committee.

#### Death of Leopoldine Kulka.

In conclusion, I have some sad news. Leopoldine Kulka the chairman of the Union of Austrian Suffrage Societies died of influenza on January 2, after a short illness. Frau Kulka, who was only forty-seven years of age, was a striking, strong, single-minded personality, who fought most energetically for Woman Suffrage. During the war she became a brilliant interpreter of the idea of the reconciliation and understanding of peoples, and education towards mutual help. It was her initiative that enabled an Austrian delegate to visit the International Women's Congress at The Hague in 1915.

She was also the "soul" of the Austrian representation at the Zurich Congress in 1919. By her death the women of Vienna lose an undaunted leader, a passionate worker for equal rights, for improving the lot of all those who are oppressed, for freedom of conscience and will, for intellectual progress, and for the removal of all social and political evils. As the Editor of the *Neuenfrauenlebens*, one of the most valuable Woman Suffrage papers, which had to be suspended during the war because of lack of paper and money, Leopoldine Kulka proved herself a brilliant writer of wide education and literary gift. May her spirit continue to work in the Austrian women's movement. She will always be remembered with much gratitude.

GISELA URBAN.

Vienna, January 12, 1920.

#### DENMARK.

##### Recommendations of the Danish Women's Society on the New Marriage Law.

The following proposal was, on November 27, placed before the Special Committee of the Folketing on the Reform of the Marriage Law by the President of the Danish Women's Society, Julie Arenholt, and by a member of the Executive, Ellsa Ussing:—

"To the Committee of Folketing, which deals with the reform of the Marriage Law.

"The Danish Women's Society respectfully submits the following recommendations:—

#### (1) The Unmarried Mother.

"For many years the Danish Women's Society has worked for the reform of the Marriage Law, to improve the position of married women in respect of the guardianship of their children and the conditions of their property. . . . We are therefore glad of the present Bill, but permit ourselves to make some criticisms. We wish to add to the demand that the illegitimate child may inherit his father's property and take his name; that the woman may also, if she wishes, take the man's name, whereby conditions of the mother and child living together are made easier. But we cannot agree to the idea proposed in the discussion that the woman should count as a married woman—i.e., have the same right as a married woman to a man's property, inheritance, and pension. Now, respect to marriage as an institution is against this. If marriage is given the significance granted to it by this Bill, safeguarded as it is by rules and obligations, betrothal and a subsequent pregnancy should not be placed on the same footing. Moreover, betrothal is nowadays less binding than formerly.

#### (2) Women and Remarriage.

"Instead of proposing that the rules as to the interval after a marriage has been dissolved by death should apply when the marriage is dissolved by divorce, we should propose that there should be no interval for a woman any more than a man, but that the parties should be free in either case. If, however, the rules are retained, we should like to add that an exception should be made when a woman, after divorce, is to marry the man who is father to her expected child.

#### (3) Woman's Work in the Home Recognised.

"We have always worked for the complete equality of a man and his wife. We are therefore glad to see that principle carried through with reference to the question of support of the man. We are glad to see woman's work in the home is recognised and valued as if it could be expressed in ready money. This valuation will help to get rid of the notion that a woman who works exclusively in the home is supported by her husband without herself contributing to the support of the home.

#### (4) Equal Guardianship.

"We are entirely in agreement that both parents should have complete equality in regard to the guardianship of their children, but here we think there should be recourse to the higher courts in cases of disagreement. This right is protected from above by the fact that it can only be used in important questions, and that the one of the parents who makes an unreasonable claim, and therefore cannot hope to get it recognised, will think twice before appealing to the higher court.

#### (5) Women and the Income-tax.

"We imagine that it will be a slight improvement in the present arrangement as to the payment of taxes by the married when they can claim to be taxed separately, but we cannot say that we are satisfied, and must, in accordance with our previous demand, claim that the only just arrangement is that each of the married pair should be regarded as an independent taxpayer, without any addition of their incomes. This principle is, according to our view, one way of lightening the burden for those who for the benefit of society make a home and rear children in it.

"The Danish Women's Society hopes the Committee will give some weight to these opinions as expressing the views and claims of a large and old-established Women's Union."

Kvinden og Samfundet.

December 15, 1919.

#### WOMEN AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

With reference to the document relating to the League of Nations where it is stated that "All positions in connection with the League, including the secretariat, shall be open to men and women alike," we, the representatives of the Danish Women's Societies, have submitted the following recommendations to the Danish Government:—

1. That one of the three Danish representatives to the assembly should be a woman.

2. That the Government should see to it that women, no less than men, should be considered for nomination as members of the bureaux and commissions which are intended to be formed under the League.

#### JAPAN.

##### Woman Suffrage Bill a Possibility.

There is considerable agitation in Japan for an Electoral Reform Bill, which would grant suffrage to the women of Japan. The question of suffrage for women is prominent in the politics of that island, and there is a strong rumour that a Bill will be introduced into the Diet covering this question.

At the last session of the Diet, Viscount Kato, the President, declared the time for universal suffrage had not arrived. It is now reported that his attitude on this question has considerably changed, and that he takes the stand that if a majority of the Diet wishes to present such a Bill there is no reason why the Government party should oppose it.

The Woman Citizen.

December 20, 1919.

#### NORWAY.

##### THE NEW ELECTORAL LAW.

##### Better Opportunities for the Election of Women M.P.s

The members of the Storting felt that they could not separate before the matter was settled as to the coming electoral law.

As will be remembered, none of the proposals before the Storting had the necessary majority.

Mr. Editor Skaar, a member of the Constitutional Committee, had worked out a proposal on a basis of compromising the so-called proposal A4. In accordance with this proposal there are to be 150 members of the Storting, who shall be voted for on the proportional system by the whole country, and a quantity of small towns shall vote together in constituencies.

The Bill was passed by 92 against 34, for all thought that a new electoral law was imperative. It was not the best and most satisfactory solution one could have wished, but it was the only one that the parties could agree on. In the debate many members proposed that the arrangement should be regarded as only the precursor of another.

The position of women is now somewhat brighter. The large representation and the abrogation of the one-man constituencies hitherto the rule, which have always been a real obstacle to us, will increase women's chances of being represented in Parliament. In the debate there was one voice we greatly missed—namely, that of our woman member, who might fitly have spoken on this occasion. But Miss Christie was silent the whole time, and voted for A4.

Nylænde.

December 15, 1919.

#### RUSSIA.

##### Woman Ambassador Appointed.

A Central News telegram reports that Madame Angelica Balabanoff will be selected as the Russian diplomatic representative for Rome.

Madame Balabanoff was exiled from Russia, and spent many years in Italy, where she was a prominent figure among the Socialist group. Latterly she returned to Russia.

January 26, 1920.

#### SERBIA.

##### Successful Suffrage Petition to Serbian Premier.

Now that the Serbians have joined with their kinsmen of Croatia and Slovenia, a new State has been formed, familiarly known as Yugoslavia, although its official title, a somewhat cumbersome one, is Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. The Serbian, Croatian, and Slovenian women have all formed Suffrage societies, but so far the Serbian women have been the most active in pushing their claims.

The following are the names of the women signatories to the petition for the enfranchisement of women recently placed before the Premier, M. Davidovitch, and favourably received:—Mme. Danitsa Hristitch (Serbian Women's Council), Mlle. Mirka Gruitch (Serbian Sisters' Circle), Mme. Solarovitch (The Women's Society), Mme. Vlaitch (Mothers' Association), Mme. Vulovitch (Princess Lubitsa's Society), Mme. Feldman (Jewish Women's Society), Mme. de Majo (Serbo-Jewish Society), Miss Rose Stoyanovitch (Society for the Protection of Women and the Defence of their Rights).

January 26, 1920.

3. As we recognise that women in all countries must take their share in the responsibility for the weal or woe of the world, and ought to make their women's influence felt in the world's most important concerns, we claim that this cannot be done satisfactorily unless their co-operation is secured in the most important positions. And we trust that countries which, like Denmark, have given their women full citizen rights, should take the lead at a juncture like the present.

The above recommendation was handed to the Minister Zahle by the Presidents of the Danish Women's National Council and the Danish Women's League for Peace. The Minister replied that he thought the recommendation very timely, and promised to give the matter his attention, without, however, making any definite promises.

Kvinden og Samfundet.

December 15, 1919.

#### FRANCE.

##### Our Big Meeting.

The representatives of all the Suffrage societies in Paris held a meeting on January 11, in the big hall of the Lyceum, which was lent to them for this occasion. The object of this meeting was to ascertain how many Suffragists we can count on bringing together in case the necessity of some big public demonstration arises. Great numbers of women attended the meeting.

##### Possibility of a Suffrage Group in the Senate.

The situation with regard to Woman Suffrage remains very much where it was, nor could it very well be otherwise, since the Senate, whose duty it will be to discuss the Suffrage Bill passed by the Chamber of Deputies on May 20, 1919, has just been elected. These elections give us great ground for hope. Among the new Senators are several tried friends, who are in favour of our immediate enfranchisement, and we hope to see formed in the Senate a Suffrage group, analogous to that formed some years ago in the Chamber of Deputies by M. Julius Siegfried. Through such a group we count on forcing a public discussion by the Upper House of the Suffrage Bill, which has been shelved since May, 1919.

It is true that we had Suffragists members in the last Senate, but none among the Suffrage senators who really had influence was willing to make our cause his own. We believe that situation has now changed for the better, and the future will show whether our hope is well grounded.

##### The Madrid Congress.

In spite of the long journey, and the present enormous cost of travelling, we hope that the Union Française pour le Suffrage de Femmes will have several delegates at the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in Madrid.

MARGUERITE DE WITT DE SCHLUMBERGER.

##### Frenchwoman as Civil Servant.

The *Times* of January 24 reports that Mdle. Landry, daughter of the Minister of Marine, has been appointed as an assistant in the Secretariat of the Ministry of Marine. Mdle. Landry has taken degrees in philosophy and law.

January, 1920.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

Last month we announced the appointment of the first seven women Justices of the Peace. In the first week of January the first woman magistrate took her seat as Chairman of the Bench; Councillor Mrs. Ada Summers, Mayor of Stalybridge. There was a full Bench of magistrates, and Mrs. Summers, having taken the oath, presided over the Borough Bench at the Police Court, and was warmly welcomed by her fellow magistrates. The recent Act enables Mrs. Summers to become a magistrate by virtue of her office as mayor.

January 27, 1920.

#### IRELAND.

##### Four Women Magistrates Appointed.

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland has appointed the following women as magistrates for County Dublin:—Lady Arnott, Lady Redmond, Lady Dockrell, and Miss Palles. These are the first women magistrates appointed in Ireland.

The Times.

January 24, 1920.

**SOUTH AFRICA.****Conference of Woman Suffragists.**

The Conference of the Women's Enfranchisement Association, held on November 26, at Port Elizabeth, dealt with many matters of urgent import to South African women, including the nationality of married women, equal pay for equal work, venereal diseases, the morality laws, parental rights and duties, endowment of motherhood, widows' and children's pensions, Women and Girls' Protection Act, Public Health Bill, and women police, correspondence with the British Dominions, Women Citizens' Union, the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, the International Congress of Working Women, Civil Servants Women's Committee, and the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

**Election Policy.**

The Woman Suffrage policy at the forthcoming Parliamentary elections to be recommended to the women of the Union was the chief business of the Conference, and the following policy was agreed upon: "That the election policy of the Enfranchisement Association shall be to work for the return of as many Suffragist members of Parliament as possible."

**Deputation to Government Party Results in Suffrage Declaration.**

A deputation from the Conference attended the Government Party Congress held on December 11 at Bloemfontein in order to press that Woman Suffrage be accepted as the policy of the party. Mrs. Ruxton, Parliamentary Secretary of the Association, was granted leave to address the Congress, and as a result a Woman Suffrage resolution was passed by the delegates, amid general satisfaction, by 72 to 58 votes, and now is a plank in the party platform. This may be looked upon as a great success, as the result was unexpected alike by the Prime Minister and by the Congress. The Unionist Party, South African Party, and Labour Party have now accepted Woman Suffrage; the National party alone has failed to justify the claim to be democratic, made for it lately by General Hertzog.

LAURA RUXTON, Secretary.

December 28, 1919.

**GENERAL SMUTS ON THE ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN.**

At the annual meeting of the Witwatersrand Women's South African Party, the Premier, speaking concerning the enfranchisement of women, said that it was not necessary to quote the precedent of New Zealand. The men welcomed their own capitulation. Women had more and more come to the front in South Africa, especially in the South African Party. The women had stepped into the breach wherever the men were slack, and he wished to bear his testimony publicly to the value of their work. A great change was coming over their world. There was something in the air, something of the new outlook. And nothing was more pronounced in that change of outlook than the way in which women had come to the fore. "We have made a sad mess of it"—said the speaker—"literally a bloody mess of it. I don't think that there can ever be a stronger indictment of manhood in this old world than the results to which man's government has led."

When we consider that these are the words of not only the leader of the South African Party, but also of our Premier, we are justified in taking an optimistic view of our prospects for a speedy enfranchisement.

Woman's Outlook.

December, 1919.

**SWEDEN.****Meeting of the Central Board.**

The Central Board of the Swedish National Association of Woman Suffrage held its seventeenth annual meeting in Stockholm, on January 9 and 10. Delegates from all parts of the country assembled to discuss the vital question of the Woman Suffrage societies: What is to be done with the organisation when the vote is won? The meeting decided that when the goal is reached, which will happen in a year's time, the National Association of Woman Suffrage will, in some form or other, continue its existence and carry on the work of uniting and enlightening the women.

Our old champion for Woman Suffrage, Mrs. Ann Margret Holmgren, who in a few days will celebrate her seventieth

birthday, was made the object of a grand feast in connection with the annual meeting.

The Suffragists paid their homage to the youthful old pioneer in speeches, telegrams, and poems.

JENNY WATTERSTEDT.

Stockholm, January, 1920.

**TURKEY.****A Woman Candidate for Legislature.**

The *Woman Citizen* of December 20 reports that at the recent legislative elections held at Ilgham a woman candidate stood for election, and received ten votes, and that even ten Turkish men should consider favourably the candidature of a woman for the highest legislative body has aroused great interest throughout the Ottoman Empire.

**A Moslem Country with Woman Suffrage.**

The *Manchester Guardian* of January 7 reports that Mir Jagoub Mehtieff, of the Peace delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who has lately arrived in London, announces that in Azerbaijan women have the vote. Azerbaijan is the only Mussulman country in which women are enfranchised.

**THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.****Rhode Island and Kentucky Ratify.**

Again the monthly letter from across the Atlantic will carry pleasant news to Suffragists of other lands. The hope expressed in the December letter that the close of 1919 would record two-thirds of the legislative ratifications which we must have before our Suffrage Amendment becomes a part of the National Constitution, was not quite realised, but the New Year was very young when that happy event occurred. On January 6, 1920, the Legislatures of Rhode Island and Kentucky met in regular session, and the first act of each was to ratify the Federal Amendment. In Rhode Island the vote stood: Senate, unanimous; House, 80 to 3. In Kentucky: Senate, 30 to 8; House, 72 to 25. The universal character of the measure is here strikingly illustrated by Rhode Island, an old eastern, rock-ribbed Republican State, and Kentucky, and old Southern, rock-ribbed Democratic State, both of one mind in taking the easiest and speediest way of giving to women a voice in the Government. The action of Kentucky is especially worthy of note, for it has held always to the doctrine that the State must regulate its own suffrage without any supervision by the Federal Government. The resentment still remains against the National amendments enfranchising negro men, which were forced on the South after the Civil War, 1868-1870, all of which, by the way, were rejected by the Kentucky Legislature. But the new generation of legislators is willing to entrust to the Government the power to protect the women of the whole country in their right to vote.

**The Outlook for Ratification.**

Kentucky is the fourth Southern State to ratify the amendment—Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri the other three. These three are considerably influenced by the Western Equal Suffrage States on their borders, but Kentucky is distinctly Southern; it has acted independently, and its influence will be felt on other Southern States, especially West Virginia, and Virginia on its eastern boundary, and perhaps on North Carolina. Tennessee would have been one of the first to ratify, but, alas, a State law requires that a new Legislature must be elected after an amendment has been submitted by Congress. This is also the law in Florida, where the Legislature is favourable, but both of these States must be counted as lost. It surely seems as if every possible hindrance has been placed in the way. Twenty-five States out of the required thirty-six have now ratified, at the end of seven months after the amendment passed Congress. The Oregon Legislature will meet in special session on January 12, and several in other States during the month, which are sure to ratify. I have wagered a dinner with Mrs. Catt that there will not be thirty by the time the National Suffrage Convention meets in Chicago, February 12. She says I will lose, and I am entirely willing to do so. The Idaho Legislature is called for February 11, and may just squeeze in its ratification. My last letter said the amendment passed by unanimous vote of both houses of the Colorado Legislature, December 10. It

did so in effect, but by slight delay of procedure the final vote was taken in the Senate December 11, and in the House December 12.

**The Political Parties and Ratification.**

Mrs. Chapman Catt, the national President, is in constant communication with tardy Governors, urging special sessions, and bringing every possible influence to bear on the Legislatures which have met this month in regular session. She is going to these States to make her appeal in person. The struggle has now become almost wholly political, and is carried on largely through party leaders. The Republicans have now the advantage of 21 of the 25 ratifications to their credit, and the Democrats are smarting under this knowledge, but they have the heavy handicap of the non-progressive south-eastern group of States, which cling to the ante-war traditions. They would rather lose the next election than have these disturbed. The leaders of the Democratic party, however, are strong for ratification. It is an interesting game, which the Suffragists can watch calmly with the certainty of winning.

**Our Last Suffrage Convention.**

Meanwhile, the preparations for the last convention of the old National-American Suffrage Association are going rapidly forward. The National branch was organised in New York in May, 1869, by Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and their associates, with delegates from nineteen States present. Its sole object was to work with Congress for a Federal amendment, as they believed it would be an endless task to amend the constitution of each State. The following November the American branch was organised in Cleveland, O., by Lucy Stone and her associates, to work exclusively in the States, as they thought this offered the best chance of success. As the years passed, each organisation saw the value of the other's method, and began to adopt it, and in 1890 both met in Washington and effected a union under the name National-American Woman Suffrage Association. Fifty years of hard and continuous work with Congress and in the States failed to secure the full and universal enfranchisement of women, and it was a keen disappointment that the old association could not celebrate its fiftieth anniversary last year by declaring that its work was finished. This cannot be done even now, a year later, but the end is so near and so sure that it will pronounce its valedictory at the approaching convention. All of the pioneers are gone, but many of the veteran workers still remain, and they cannot say to one another, "Farewell for ever," but only "Au revoir."

The association will be merged into the League of Women Voters, and will hold its annual conventions as heretofore, but instead of discussing ways and means to obtain the ballot, the members will counsel together as to the wisest and most effective way in which women can use their ballots, not to put one or the other political party in power, but to promote the highest interests of the State and of their own individual communities. They will endeavour to put into practical action the ideals of government which women have cherished all these years while they have been striving for the means to make them effective. It is a lofty and far-reaching conception whose development will be watched by the whole country, and by none so closely as the politicians, who have little faith in it, and are not anxious to have it succeed. It is thought that Chicago, the great metropolis in the centre of the country, is the most suitable place for launching this ambitious project, but many of the older workers would have liked to see the beloved association pass out of existence in New York, the city where it was founded, which was the home of the two great leaders, Mrs. Stanton and Miss Anthony, and the chief city of the State in which was held the first Woman's Rights Convention in all history.

**The Presidential Campaign.**

The Presidential campaign is rapidly getting under way, and the preliminary meetings of the national political committees who will direct it have been held. They call upon all the Governors to summon special sessions of the Legislature to complete the ratification of the Suffrage Amendment not only in time for the Presidential election next November, but in time to allow women to take part in the nominating primaries during the spring and early summer. It is so fully accepted that this will be done that women are being placed on all these committees, national, State, and local; they are to be sent as delegates to the nominating conventions; they

are taken into the party councils, are guests at the banquets, and the most prominent men attend the dinners and luncheons given by the women's political clubs. All this is done in the pleasantest and most generous spirit, and never since the Government began was there so little sex antagonism, never such frank and friendly comradeship.

Many of the States are putting up a "favourite son" as a candidate for the Presidency, but no one yet has developed any commanding strength. President Wilson has never left the sick room, and nothing definite is known about his illness. His latest message is a clarion call for the Senate to act favourably on the Treaty of Peace and League of Nations, expressed with his accustomed vigour. He is not considered a Presidential candidate. Of each one who is mentioned it is always questioned whether the women will vote for him. The chief concern which the women now have is to get those other eleven ratifications, but they have the satisfaction of knowing that the politicians also are concerned about them. New York women are keeping up the fight on Senator Wadsworth, and the Republican "machine" is not working with its usual smoothness.

**Prohibition.**

The vast, overshadowing issue at the present moment is that of Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic. Before this is read it will be known whether the Federal Amendment is to go into effect on January 16, and only an adverse decision of the United States Supreme Court can prevent it. Nothing is more improbable—it would be like a bolt from heaven.

In other letters the two measures have been described. By the close of 1917 both Houses of Congress had voted to submit to the Legislatures the following amendment to the Federal Constitution: "After one year from the ratification of this Article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes, is hereby prohibited."

The enormous liquor interests of the country were amazed at this action of Congress, where for many years their influence had been so powerful, but they did not believe that it could possibly be ratified by 36 State Legislatures, as in many of these also their influence had been paramount. But they did not take into account the great change in public sentiment created by the war; the wave of patriotism and high ideals that was sweeping over the land; the responsibility that was resting on this country to send its surplus foodstuffs to the suffering people of other nations. As soon as Legislatures assembled they began to ratify the amendment, and in exactly one year—January 16, 1919—the 36 had been secured. The Secretary of State then announced that one year from that date the amendment would become the law of the land. Legislatures continued to ratify in order to show their approval, until 45 had done so, all but three of the whole number.

Now to go back in the story. Soon after the United States went into the war it became evident that there must be great saving of coal, sugar, and cereals. They entered very largely into the manufacture of malt and distilled liquors, and Congress took the ground that these were not necessities of life, so it passed a law that no more whisky, brandy, and other distilled spirits could be manufactured after September 10, 1917, and it gave the President authority to prohibit the manufacture of beer and wine, which he did in November, 1917. That which was already made, however, could be sold. Then, in August, 1918, Congress enacted that after June 30, 1919, until the war had ended and the President had declared demobilisation of the army complete, no distilled, malt, or vinous liquors could be sold in the United States. The war came to a sudden end in November, and the liquor interests moved heaven and earth to have the law repealed. Congress said it was vitally necessary to prohibit the sale of liquor while the soldiers were coming home by the hundreds of thousands, and refused. Then the Senate began the long controversy over the Treaty, which still continues, so that the President has not been able to declare that peace is established and the war ended, and therefore Congress could not repeal the law, which went into effect the first day of last July. Not a drop of intoxicating drink has been legally sold since that date, and the vast majority of the saloons and hotel and club bars are closed.

Meanwhile, the fatal 16th of January was approaching, and there were 100 millions of gallons of wine and distilled spirits

in storage that could not even be sent out of the country after that date. The owners had had over seven months in which to export them, but they believed that they could have the War-time Prohibition Law repealed and flood the country with them between July 1, 1919, and January 16, 1920. Sober citizens were looking forward with dread to an orgy of drunkenness during these six months. The most distinguished lawyers in the country were engaged to have the Act repealed or declared illegal, or to find flaws in it, or some means of defying it. In many States it was taken to their Supreme Courts, with decisions of various kinds. Both Houses of Congress not only stood firm as adamant, but they enacted what is known as the Volstead law (named for its author), which provides for the most drastic enforcement of both the War-time Prohibition Law and the Prohibition Amendment.

As a last resort the liquor dealers carried both of these laws to the Supreme Court of the United States in an effort to have them declared unconstitutional, and this highest tribunal has just sustained both of them in every particular. But one resort is now left to the manufacturers and retail dealers, and that is to prove in some way that the Prohibition Amendment was not constitutionally adopted, or was not in itself constitutional. This is the greatest legal battle ever fought in this country, and the decision rests with the United States Supreme Court. The attack is made from so many points that several decisions doubtless will be necessary. The amendment will probably go into effect January 16, and then injunctions and other forms of delay will be resorted to, but the country is already under absolute prohibition of selling or buying any sort of distilled, malt, or vinous liquors for drinking purposes. Nine-tenths of the saloons closed months ago, and are rented for other kinds of business, and the large majority of the distilleries and breweries are now manufacturing other products, thus giving work to their former employees.

The long chain of facts shows that public sentiment is back of this unparalleled reform. IDA HUSTED HARPER.

New York, January 10, 1920.

LATE NEWS.

U. S. A.

Two More Ratifications.

Oregon and Wyoming have ratified, making twenty-seven out of the necessary thirty-six States.

Prohibition Carried.

The Prohibition Amendment went into force at midnight on January 16.

EGYPT.

Women's Emancipation Committee Formed.

A women's local Committee of the Egyptian delegation has been formed to work for the independence of Egypt and the Emancipation of Egyptian women.

The Vote.

February 6th.

GREECE.

Woman's Emancipation Bill Introduced.

On December 21 M. Typaldo-Bassias introduced in the Greek Chamber a Bill to give full, equal, civil, and political rights to women. The Bill has been referred to a Special Commission for consideration.

TREASURER'S NOTE.

APPEAL FOR £1,500.

A special appeal for funds for the Congress has been issued to all hon. associate members and subscribers. Up to the time of going to press we have received in donations and promises £382 9s.

This includes a donation from New York from Mrs. Chapman Catt of £258 18s., £50 from the British Auxiliary, and £25 from Mrs. Fawcett.

At least £1,500 is needed to make our Eighth Congress a world-wide success.

Will every Auxiliary, hon. associate member, subscriber, and friend help us to reach this sum?

TREASURER'S RECEIPTS.

Table with columns: Name, Country, Date, £ s. d. Lists various donors and their contributions.

SPECIAL DONATIONS.

Table with columns: Name, Country, Date, £ s. d. Lists special donations.

Table with columns: Name, Country, Date, £ s. d. Lists names and countries.

Acknowledged in October, 1919... Add Subscriptions brought forward... Total... £653 17 11

ADELA COIT, Hon. Treasurer.

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR MADRID CONGRESS, MAY 2nd TO MAY 8th, 1920.

Messrs. Thomas Cook and Sons are anxious to give every assistance in their power to delegates and visitors in connection with travel and accommodation arrangements for the Madrid Congress.

Headquarters offers the following suggestions:

To Affiliated Societies.

1.—TRAVEL. All affiliated societies should at once communicate with the local branch of Messrs. Thomas Cook and Sons, informing their agent how many delegates are expected to travel to Madrid, how many will travel together, and what train or steamer reservations are necessary.

In Great Britain all communications on the subject of travel should be addressed to the Head Office of Messrs. Thomas Cook and Sons, Ludgate Circus, E.C.

At the moment the peseta is approximately equal to a little more than 1s. The first-class return fare from London to Madrid is between £18 and £19, and the second-class fare about £14.

2.—ACCOMMODATION.

While it would be well to inform the local branch of Messrs. Thomas Cook and Sons what hotel accommodation is needed for delegates, affiliated societies are recommended to write direct to Messrs. Thomas Cook and Sons, Madrid, giving detailed requirements as to hotel or boarding-house accommodation needed, and the approximate rates they wish to pay for their accommodation.

The current rates of various hotels and boarding houses can be judged from the list printed below. The cheaper accommodation quoted refers generally to boarding houses, most of which have only from ten to twenty bedrooms available.

Alternatively, affiliated societies can write direct for accommodation to any of the hotels or boarding houses mentioned in the list printed below.

In Great Britain it is advised that the affiliated society shall communicate direct with Messrs. Thomas Cook and Sons, Madrid, regarding the necessary accommodation.

To Individual Delegates and Visitors.

Headquarters strongly recommends that any individuals willing to act as delegates or fraternal delegates, or those who wish to go as visitors to the Congress, should communicate immediately with the National Affiliated Auxiliary of the country to which the delegate or visitor belongs, so that arrangements can be made for as large a number as possible to travel together.

Those who wish to attend the Madrid Congress independently of the official delegation from their country, should, with regard to travel arrangements, apply direct to the nearest Thomas Cook agency (in Great Britain to Messrs. Cook's Head Office, Ludgate Circus, London, E.C.).

With regard to hotel accommodation, individual delegates are recommended to write at once to Messrs. Thomas Cook and Sons, Madrid, specifying the accommodation needed and the approximate rate they wish to pay, or they should write direct to any of the hotels and boarding houses a list of which is printed below.

Hospitality.

Delegates or visitors desiring full hospitality, or "paying-guest" hospitality, should communicate immediately with the General Secretary of the Madrid Congress Committee, Senora Martinez Sierra, Zurbano 1, Madrid.

Mr. M. Hornsby, Travel Editor of the Queen, Bream's Buildings, London, E.C. 4, will also be pleased to give individual enquirers particulars of hotels and pensions in Madrid.

HOTELS.

Table with columns: Hotel Name, Price per day. Lists various hotels and their rates.

BOARDING HOUSES AND SMALLER HOTELS.

Table with columns: Name, Address, Prices, Posetas. Lists numerous boarding houses and smaller hotels with their addresses and prices.



**GREETINGS FROM "DIE GLEICHHEIT."**

"We received your circular letter with the invitation to the International Women's Congress in Madrid in 1920. To our great regret it is not possible for us to send a delegation to this Congress, as the present state of our exchange is so bad that any journey abroad is very expensive, and we cannot afford it. We send our warmest sympathy to the whole Congress, and hope that through it international understanding and the advancement of women's rights may be helped forward throughout the world.

With greetings from the Editorial Department of *Die Gleichheit*, organ of the Social Democratic Women of Germany."

CLARA BOHM-SCHUCH.

Berlin, December 22, 1919.

**INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.  
For MEN AND WOMEN.**

9, GRAFTON STREET, PICCADILLY, W. 1.

Tel.: 3932 MAYFAIR.

Subscription: London Members, £2 2s.; Country, £1 5s.; Irish, Scottish, and Foreign, 10s. 6d. per annum. Entrance Fee, £1 1s.

**WEEKLY LECTURES.**

Wednesday, 4th February, 7-15 p.m.  
HOUSE DINNER (Postponed from December 3rd).

"Experience versus Enthusiasm."—Miss MILDRED IRANSOM.  
Mr. PHILIP MYRING.

Wednesday, 11th February, 8-15 p.m.  
"Careers for Women Overseas."—Miss ST. JOHN WILEMAN.  
Chairman—Lady Askwith.

Wednesday, 18th February, 8-15 p.m.  
"Some Poets and Their Message."—Mr. R. DIMSDALE STOCKER.  
Chairman—Mr. Henry Simpson.

Wednesday, 25th February, 8-15 p.m.  
"Proportional Representation."—Mr. T. SCANLAN.  
Chairman—The Viscountess Rhondda.

Wednesday, 3rd March, 8-15 p.m.  
"The Russian Problem."—Mr. AYLMER MAUDE.  
Chairman—Mrs. Percy Bigland.

(Syllabus and Invitations to Lectures given to non-members on application to Secretary.)

LUNCHEONS, TEAS, AND DINNERS.

**THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE****MEETINGS**

in the

Minerva Cafe 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Wednesday, Feb. 18.—Speaker: Miss Edith Neville. Subject: "The Work of the Penal Reform League." Chair: Mrs. Metge. 3 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 25.—Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin, M.B., B.S. (Lond.). Subject: "Cinema Neck—Are We Too Civilised?" 3 p.m.

Monday, March 1.—Speaker: Major A. C. Morrison Bell, M.P. Subject: "Proportional Representation." 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 3.—Speaker: Hon. Mrs. Wm. Cecil (Member West Sussex County Council). Subject: "The British Soviet System." Chair: Mrs. Keevil Rickford. 3 p.m.

Wednesday, March 10.—Speaker: Miss Jessie March (Sister Jessie). Subject: "The Unmarried Mother." Chair: Mrs. Easengly.

Tea can be obtained in the Cafe at close of afternoon meetings at 6d. each.

THURSDAY, February 19.—BELMONT HALL, CLAPHAM. MODEL PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION. 7 p.m. Candidates to be announced later in *The Vote*.

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