

THE
INTERNATIONAL
WOMAN SUFFRAGE
NEWS



THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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MILLICENT FAWCETT.

Millicent Fawcett,—a name honoured throughout the world,—to those who had the privilege of working with her, and seeing her almost day by day, a name of music, a name that gladdens and gives courage. She was a great leader, but to those who followed she was more; she was, in failure or success, the well-beloved friend. She could be stern at times, with an almost crushing sternness, to any who seemed to threaten injury to the cause she served, were they nominally friend or foe, and she would oppose them with the whole force of her tenacious character. Yet no demands made upon her by this cause encroached upon the tenderness of her affection for her parents, her blind husband, her daughter, her sisters and her friends, nor even, in due degree, for the more obscure among her followers or her household attendants. For softness, sentimentality or for fanaticism she had no use.

To an unusual degree, the circumstances of her sturdy child-



hood, with its outdoor life, conditioned her whole life. We seem to recognise our Mrs. Fawcett of later days in the little child who went fearlessly out to sea on a stormy day in the life-boat practice. "I was intensely happy, and never dreamt of being sea-sick!" is her comment on the story in her delightful book, "What I Remember." She does not even mention the possibility of being, not perhaps sea-sick, but frightened! Nor when her father "mounted us on Shetland ponies as soon as we were old enough to sit on a saddle," nor when he took them out in the dog-cart and "drove straight over the common, where there was no road and where the vehicle was often very much out of the perpendicular." It was this same courage which made her maintain to the Prince of Wales, when he took her into dinner one day in the year 1881, "the propriety and value of women being trained as doctors." It was never courage born of a lack of

imagination. She suffered as all great leaders must suffer. "I remember," she wrote, "what I felt when I heard the bad news of the defeat of the Bill (of 1913). I was one of a crowd of some hundreds of women walking up and pacing down Palace Yard and Parliament Square on that March evening. I felt that what I had been working for for forty years had been destroyed at a blow; but I also felt what beavers feel when their dam has been destroyed, namely, that they must begin all over again, and build it up once more from the beginning."

She tells us of one source of this great courage. Speaking of a Mr. Metcalf who came to live near her old home at Aldeburgh, she says: "He introduced us to the great world of music, and gave us a perennial spring of consolation, hope, and endurance which has never failed us." At her funeral, on that most lovely sunny day last August, a day compounded of deep sadness and of triumphant joy, there was beautiful music, and Brahms' Requiem was sung by a choir of boys as the sun streamed in through the wide open doors of the little crematorium in the London suburb of Golders Green. That was most fitting, as was the hymn, "Blest are the pure in heart," for the real strength of Mrs. Fawcett was, after all, just this most indefinable of qualities, with the absence of all self-seeking, and that humility which only the great possess. These were hers and they made her life, even more than her work, the glory of the woman's movement for eighty years. Eighty years is said advisedly, for she has told us that she was a suffragist from her cradle, and when, after a life of vigorous health, she died this summer, she was eighty-two. Magnanimity she had also. For nearly ten years, from about 1904, the relations between the constitutionalist suffragists and the militants were most difficult. Mrs. Fawcett's own position, with friends and relations in both groups, was very difficult, but her generous recognition of all that was great and good in the militant movement, maintained in face of the bitterest attacks upon herself, lifted up the necessary controversy and placed it on a high level. Symbolic of her attitude were the flowers she sent to Mrs. Pankhurst's funeral, and those in the colours of the Social and Political Union which lay among the masses of wreaths and trophies at Golders Green were a recognition of it.

Those aids to the weak, the motor car, the telephone, the secretary, the typewriter, Mrs. Fawcett did not possess. To the very last she walked and 'bussed' to her various objectives and to the very last she hardly missed a post in dealing with her correspondence with efficiency and with the utmost kindness. Her life had strong roots in the past, her childhood, her married life at Cambridge as the wife of a professor, and in London as the wife of a member of the Government; all these things were vivid memories to her. All that was best in the great Victorian age she seemed to have made her own. Yet, at the age of eighty she was essentially a woman of to-day. She travelled, journeying twice to Palestine with her sister, Miss Agnes Garrett, and taking a keen practical interest in the modern problems affecting that country. As readers of the NEWS know, she took her duties as an Officer of the I.A.W.S.E.C. most seriously and gave valued help and advice in all matters affecting the woman's movement in countries other than Great Britain, but more and more, latterly, her interest in all international problems and in all things affecting the peace of the world, seemed to deepen. Up to a few weeks before her death she was a regular attendant at the meetings of the Royal Institute for International Affairs, and from time to time contributed to the discussions.

In this country also she kept abreast of the latest developments of the woman's movement, and actually after her death, a letter signed by her and others a short time before, advocating that welfare provisions, hours

of work, etc., should be equally good for both sexes, appeared in *The Times*. Though not inclined to join the Labour Party, she was for many years appreciative of its attitude on certain public questions and, in particular, on Woman Suffrage. For some years before her death she was Honorary President of the London and National Society for Women's Service, the daughter of the old suffrage society of 1867, and it gave her great joy to see the rapid growth of the Junior Council composed of professional women, and they on their part responded with reverence and affection.

One of her last public acts was attendance at the luncheon given by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, to celebrate the appointment of a woman Cabinet Minister, on which occasion she herself received an ovation expressive of gratitude in that her life and work had made such an occasion possible.

But Dame Millicent fully realised that much still remained to be done. The establishment of an equal moral standard, the recognition of women in the full ministry of religion, these are but two out of many of the women's causes to which she gave support to the end. And yet it is true to say that Mrs. Fawcett lived to see in effect the complete victory of that for which she had fought. In spite of deep sorrows, she lived, as she has told us, a happy life. Surrounded from infancy up to, literally, the last hour of her life, by the devoted love of family and friends, for her best loved were present when she died, she was also exceptionally happy in her public life. The happiness of circumstance was hers, but also the deeper happiness of the well-spring within her of eternal youth, and of faith in things human and divine.

A.H.W.

ALETTA JACOBS.

Her friends as well as the Women's Rights Movement have suffered a grave loss in the death of one of the Dutch pioneers, Dr. Aletta Jacobs, at the age of seventy five. As a representative of the Nederlandsche Vereeniging van Staatsburgeressen she was present at the Alliance Congress of Berlin in June, and was honoured there as one of the founders of the Alliance. Notwithstanding a serious illness five years ago, she remained a strong fighter for the cause of women's rights till the end, whenever and wherever injustice was done to women. In the last number of the monthly paper of the Ned. Ver. van Staatsburgeressen, already printed when the bad news of her death was published in the daily papers, there was an article by her, turning women's attention to the news of the exclusion of women as pupil-matronists at the telegraph-office at Amsterdam and stimulating them to a vehement protest. Her whole life has been one protest against injustice in general and particularly against injustice towards women and children.

The eighth child of a physician at Sappemeer in the province of Groningen (where she was born the 9th of February, 1854) she was the daughter of parents who sacrificed everything for the education of their children. She was allowed to attend the High School for boys as the first girl pupil, admitted there as an auditor. She was also the first woman who sought admission to the University and the first woman doctor in Holland. Though she did not start with the preconceived idea of acquiring rights for women, by and by her task as a physician, and her independent character made her rebel against the existing morals and conventions, which were so many impediments to women in social and economic life. So she became a feminist. She

THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN FOR SUFFRAGE AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP, LONDON.

CASH STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1929.

BALANCES, 1ST JANUARY, 1929:—		PAYMENTS DURING YEAR:—	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
£500 Western Australian 5% Stock			
1945/75 Incribed	500 1 0	"Jus":—	
Deposit Account—Standard Bank		Printing and Dispatch	216 12 7
of South Africa	200 0 0	Editor's Fees	101 13 4
Deposit Account—Barclay's Bank	624 0 0	Postages	15 0 0
Current Account—Barclay's Bank	765 7 4	Blocks	7 12 8
Petty Cash	2 15 8		
	2092 4 0	Salaries	340 18 7
		Lighting, Heating and Cleaning ..	39 13 8½
RECEIPTS DURING YEAR:—		Printing and Stationery	223 7 2
"Jus":—		Rent	132 12 0
Subscriptions	202 8 6	Telephone, Telegrams and Messenger	35 0 5½
Cash Sales	5 13 8½	Postages	58 11 7½
Y.W.C.A. Supplement	30 0 0	Insurances	6 14 1½
	238 2 2½	Bibliographical Bureau	75 0 1
Members' Fees	166 1 4	Office Equipment	49 10 0
Donations	14 0 0	Mlle. Gourd—Secretarial Expenses	2 7 0
Leslie Commission:—		Geneva Office	62 6 0
Quarterly Payments Jan.-July,		Leslie Commission—Capital	
1929	618 19 7	Investment Expenses	22 7 6
Capital paid over by Commission	2477 14 9	History of the I.W.S.A.—Expenses	
	3096 14 4	of Publication	76 7 8
Report Receipts	25 0 7	Berlin Congress—Expenditure in	
Affiliation Fees	156 16 10	Berlin—	
Paris Congress Pledges	205 12 1	Press	120 0 0
Berlin Congress Fund	645 0 7	Programmes, badges, etc.	161 3 1
Berlin Congress Receipts		Salaries	86 6 0
Tickets	137 0 7	Hospitality	66 15 0
Literature Stall	19 15 7	Duplicating	90 18 6
International Stall	182 4 0	Office and Staff Expenses	116 10 11
	339 0 2	Postages and Petty Cash	21 14 0
Berlin Congress Pledges	246 7 10		
History of the I.W.S.A. 'Sales' ..	6 16 7½	Miscellaneous Expenses:—	
Dividends—Western Australian 5%	20 0 0	Subscriptions	5 0 0
Brazil 6½%	26 0 0	Audit Fee	5 5 0
	46 0 0	Travelling and Transport in Con-	
Deposit Interest—Barclay's Bank	14 2 1	nection with Berlin Congress ..	51 3 2
Do. Standard Bank of South Africa	7 17 2	Editor's and Translator's Fees,	
Advertisements	1 8 2	'Present Position Women's	
Sales—Miscellaneous Literature ..	6 18 4	Suffrage'	18 14 0
Miscellaneous	19 17 6	Press Cuttings	7 12 3
		Photographs	11 16 6
		Congress Report—Printing and	
		Dispatch	263 9 2
		Miscellaneous—Cheque Books, &	
		Stamps, etc.	44 0 6½
			407 0 7½
		BALANCES 31ST DECEMBER, 1929:—	
		Deposit Account—Standard Bank	
		of South Africa	200 0 0
		Deposit Account—Barclay's Bank	500 0 0
		Current Account—Barclay's Bank	318 15 11
		Petty Cash	1 0 2½
		£1019 16 1½	
		£500 Brazil 6½%	495 13 6
		£500 Western Australian 5% Stock	
		1945/75 Incribed	500 1 0
		Leslie Capital:—	
		Army and Navy Stores	
		Deposit	800 0 0
		4½% Treasury Bonds 1477 12 6	
			2277 12 6
			4293 3 1½
		£7,327 19 10	£7,327 19 10

We have examined the above Statement with the Books and Documents of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, London, and find it to be correct and in accordance therewith. We have accepted the expenses of the Berlin Congress as correct. We have verified the Cash at the Bank and the securities.

106, St. Clement's House,
Clement's Lane,
E.C.4.

HOMERSHAM & CO.,
Incorporated Accountants.

felt the injustice of the unequal moral standard for men and women and as a physician she saw the misery caused by large families to women of the poorer classes and became an advocate of birth control.

Like so many other pioneers, she learned that political rights were necessary for women as a means to get the other rights they wanted, and so she was also the first woman in Holland who claimed the vote, asking in the year 1883 to have her name put on the voters' list, as the constitution permitted an interpretation by which women could be voters. At the negative answer of the burgomaster and aldermen of Amsterdam she pursued her object up to the highest resort.

The only result was that the articles of Constitution concerned were changed in a way which now made it clear that women were excluded from the right of voting. By her action, she gained the sympathies of many congenial spirits abroad, whom she met in 1899 in London at the International Congress of Women at which she was present with her husband.

In 1893 she was invited by seven advanced Dutch women to co-operate in the establishment of an association in favour of the vote for women. She was a member of the constituting committee and became in 1895 a president of the Amsterdam branch. Her first speech on votes for women, was delivered in the winter of 1894, at Rotterdam, she taking the place of her husband, who encouraged her to be his substitute; though at first she hesitated, the evening was a success. In the year 1903 she became president of the whole association and as such she travelled throughout the country to propagate the feminist idea. It is typical of her organising talents that she soon took with her younger members, whom she urged to speak in public, educating in that way new forces for the association. In 1899 during the Congress of the International Council of Women in London, she was asked to attend as a representative of Holland the discussions about the founding of an International Alliance for women suffrage. Afterwards she came into personal contact with the women who planned the founding of the Alliance, and became one of the founders, and was always one of its most enthusiastic members.

After the International Congress of 1906 in Denmark she was appointed to accompany Mrs. Chapman Catt to Austria and Hungary to rouse the women of those countries to fight for the vote for women. She describes in her Memoirs in a witty way (published in the year 1924—Amsterdam: van Holkema and Warendorf) her adventures when travelling in those days, and often living in the most primitive hotels.

In the year 1911 she undertook a second journey with Mrs. Catt, in order to help the women of South Africa to organise their campaign for woman suffrage. She enlarged the programme, adding the problem of prostitution. As it was impossible to meet all those interested who were living too far away to be reached by the primitive means of traffic in South Africa, she addressed an open letter to the women of South Africa, in which she explained in a simple and clear way, the meaning of the official regulation of prostitution and of a Contagious Diseases Prevention Act. From South Africa she travelled to East Africa and everywhere she gathered items about the moral and sexual situa-

tions in these countries. As a result of this inquiry the next international Woman Suffrage Congress was dominated by the campaign against prostitution. (In the year 1899 Dr. Jacobs had already published a work in

which she treated prostitution as the second of three pressing problems. The other articles were devoted to the economic and political situation of women and to birth control.)

The long tour, during which the two propagandists traversed Palestine, Syria and Egypt, China and Japan, terminated in Russia. During this tour Mrs. Jacobs sent an article to the Telegraaf twice a week.

It is not possible in a limited article to give a complete view of Dr. Jacobs' work for woman

suffrage and women's rights. For many years she was Dutch member of the International Committee for Woman Suffrage of the I.C.W. In the meetings of the National Council she always read very interesting and well documented reports about woman suffrage all over the world. Among her other performances for woman suffrage must be mentioned the organisation of the International Congress, held in Amsterdam in 1908 and the special campaign in Holland in the year 1913. Among the other problems regarding women's rights, she worked specially hard for a reform of the matrimonial legislation, the right of women to retain their nationality when marrying a foreigner, and the right of married women to work outside the home. She herself was very happily married; her husband, Mr. Gerritsen, agreed with her views about the rights of women in every respect.

Among other practical work for women her endeavours to improve the conditions of shopwomen ended in success. Her campaign for seats behind the counters succeeded twenty years after she started her first efforts to get a law passed on the subject.

Dr. Jacobs was convinced that women had to co-operate with men in the political parties and was herself a member of the liberal-democratic party long before women in Holland had the vote. Though she was a candidate for parliament for the party, when women in Holland had only the passive suffrage, she was not elected on that occasion.

Besides the problem of the rights for women, she took much interest in peace problems. Though she did no pioneer work in that respect she often attended with her husband the Congresses of the Inter-parliamentary Union. The world war made her an ardent pacifist and after the International Congress of Women of 1915 she was among the delegates who had a mission to the governments regarding peace. She visited the governments of the Netherlands, of Great Britain, Germany, Austria and Hungary, Switzerland, Italy, France and Belgium and the United States of America, to plead for the resolutions adopted at the Congress. From that moment she worked for peace and disarmament in the International League for Peace and Freedom.

In the cause of peace as in the cause of women she always belonged to the so-called "ultras." Her character was not made for compromise, that is why she could not prevent a scission among the Dutch partisans of women suffrage. So that she had besides many friends, many opponents, who had, however, to recognise her great qualities. Like all pioneers she had to bear calumny



Dr. Jacobs (the third from the left in the lower row) in a Conference group of Pioneers.

and scorn. Yet she had the advantage of seeing the establishment of woman suffrage in Holland and on many occasions her friends have testified publicly to their admiration, whilst her political adversaries acknowledged her pioneer qualities at the golden jubilee of her graduation. With the power of speech and that of the pen, Dr. Jacobs defended in meetings, in newspapers and in pamphlets the cause of women. Her intimate friends appreciated in her the perfect hostess; her international friends will certainly remember her great qualities as a pioneer, her organising power and her untiring activity.

EMMY BELINFANTE.

A Memorial Service will be held for Dr. Aletta Jacobs in the van Dijkzaal, the Hague, on October the 5th.

PROGRESS IN SOUTH AMERICA.

CHILE.

Arrests for Drunkenness in Chile Decrease 60%.

The efforts of the Chilean Government to eradicate drunkenness without resorting to prohibition have been highly successful, according to an editorial in the September issue of "Chile," a monthly survey of Chilean affairs published in New York, which points out that arrests for drunkenness have decreased 60% in one year. "This decrease in arrests is all the more remarkable," says the editorial, "when we bear in mind that: (1) the decrease in the figures shown is absolute, not relative, and Chile's steadily-growing population would justify a proportional increase from year to year in the number of cases; (2) the production of wines in Chile is now four times as great as it was in 1925; (3) the reorganization of police services throughout the Republic and the more energetic prosecution of crimes and misdemeanours now effective in Chile would also be expected to result in an increase of arrests. . . .; (4) the new law is somewhat more liberal regarding the sale of alcoholic beverages on holidays and over week-ends, which again would seem to make drunkenness a state more easily to be attained." "These figures are in striking contrast with those covering the United States," the editorial observes, "where arrests for drunkenness have shown a decided upward tendency."

The figures given are 4,216 arrests in April, 1928; and 1,668 in April, 1929. Figures for March are even lower, but April has an annual seasonal upward variation due, it is suggested, to the close of the harvest season.

Questioned as to the reasons for this decline, the editor of "Chile" stated that it was due chiefly to the Government's campaign in favour of temperance, the new alcoholic law, the more energetic observance of law brought about by the reorganization of police services, and probably the absence of unemployment, although prosperity, he pointed out, is often conducive to greater indulgence in alcoholic beverages. "Of course, he continued, "wine and beer producing nations are seldom nations of drunkards. It is the spirituous liquors imported by the Anglo-Saxon that have always caused trouble in Latin America. In Chile we feel much as the Ontario Liquor Control Board does, which in its last report stated that 'moral advance and the personal acceptance of voluntary limitation is the real solution of evils arising from the abuse of intoxicating liquors.' 'Few countries,' he added, 'can point to a 400% increase in wine production and a decrease of 60% in arrests for drunkenness. The primary cause here is not law but education.'"

The September issue of "Chile" is devoted to "Dieciocho" (September 18), Chile's national independence day.

Chile the first Latin-American country to adopt extensive woman suffrage.

With the passage of the new Code of Internal Administration, now before the Chilean Congress, Chile will be the first Latin-American country to adopt woman suffrage on an extensive scale, as this code gives women and foreigners the right to vote in municipal elections, says an article in the September issue of "Chile." So far, only one state in Brazil and one province in Argentine have given even a limited voting privilege to women. Granting foreigners a right to vote in municipal elections is also a decided innovation, the article points out, and indicative of the democratic spirit pervading Chile.

"The women of Chile are well prepared to assume this grave responsibility," the article states. "Chile was one of the first Latin-American countries to admit women to the higher branches of study in her universities, and consequently the first to graduate women doctors and lawyers. Chilean women writers, artists, sculptors, musicians—and at least one physician—have won international fame."

CUBA.

No Cuban woman may ever again be deprived of her nationality against her will. That is the substance of an amendment just passed by the Cuban Congress, stating that the marriage of a Cuban woman to a foreigner does not henceforth in any respect alter her status as a Cuban citizen. News of this amendment passed on July 1st and published in the *Gacete Oficial* of July 9th was cabled to Doris Stevens, Chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, by Amaelia Mallen de Ostolaza, President of the Partido Nacional Sufragista of Cuba, and confirmed by the Cuban Embassy in Washington.

The countries of the world which now declare that a woman shall never lose her nationality by reason of her marriage with a foreigner, are Argentine, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Panama, Paraguay, Russia, Uruguay, and Cuba.

(Communicated by the Inter-American Commission of Women.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

Rhodesian Women's League.

Bulawayo.
6th June, 1929.

Dear Madam,

We, the Rhodesian Women's League of Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia, wish to join the women of England in protesting against the exclusion of Women Students from the London Hospitals. British women medical students' contribution to Science are patent, and since the major part of their experience must be gained in hospitals, this step is retrogressive to general welfare and must hinder the progress of British Science.

Trusting that you will continue to give this matter your serious attention.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) GRETA BLOOMHILL,
Hon. Sec., Rhodesian Women's League

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

GREAT BRITAIN.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Dame Millicent Fawcett.

The women of Great Britain, and more particularly those associated with this National Union and the women's movement, have suffered an irreparable loss in the sudden death of Dame Millicent Fawcett. On 18th July several hundreds of us had the privilege of seeing her in all her usual spirits at the public luncheon organised by the N.U.S.E.C. in honour of the Women Members of Parliament; it was therefore a tremendous shock to hear of her severe illness shortly after, and of her death on 5th August. As all who know the Suffrage movement are aware, Dame Millicent, as President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies until 1918, guided us to victory. It was, indeed, a marvellous achievement for her to live to see the complete victory of Women's Suffrage, and to know the first woman member of the British Cabinet. But she herself would be the last to agree that the victory was the end of our work; with the inspiration derived from her own life it is for us to carry out the duty of seeing that the best use is made of the instrument which she so greatly helped us to win, and our victory must be carried to those countries where women are still disfranchised.

The Memorial Service.

We are glad to be able to announce that a service to commemorate the memory of Dame Millicent is to be held in Westminster Abbey. The details are not yet complete, but it will probably be at the beginning of November, when Parliament will have re-assembled. Thus her many political friends will have an opportunity of paying this last tribute to her. Members of the Alliance likely to be in London at the time would be very welcome, and should make application to the Office of the N.U.S.E.C. should they wish to attend the service.

The Reassembling of Parliament.

The Houses of Parliament reassemble at the end of October, and the National Union is actively preparing for the legislation which it is understood will be introduced. A deputation representative of women's societies is being organised by the N.U.S.E.C. to the Home Secretary on the promised Factories Bill, when the principle that protective legislation should be based on the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker will be strongly urged. Another simple Government Bill will be on Widows' Pensions, amending the present Act. Every effort is being made to secure the introduction and passage of Miss Wilkinson's proposed bill on the Nationality of Married Women, giving back to British women the right to retain or change their nationality on marriage—a question of great urgency at present, in view of the forthcoming International Conference on the Codification of International Law. Another matter receiving special attention at the moment is the extension of the employment of women police.

Women in India.

Under the auspices of the Women of India Survey of the N.U.S.E.C. a Conference is being held early in October at which several of the experiments in reforms specially affecting the women of India will be discussed. It is hoped that this will afford a valuable opportunity for discussion between some of those actively engaged in this pioneer work and people who are anxious to know more about the difficult problems that have to be faced.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

St. Joan's Alliance is taking a prominent part in the deliberations of the National Council of Women's Annual Conference to be held in Manchester, October 14th—18th. The following resolution on the opening of the Diplomatic Service to women will be moved by Mrs. Laughton Mathews on behalf of the Alliance:—

"That in view of the fact that the work of the Diplomatic, the Consular and the Indian and Colonial Civil Services affects women as much as men, and in view of the special desire evinced by women to further international understanding, the National Council of Women calls upon the Government to rescind the Order in Council of July 22nd, 1920, which debar women from all posts in these services; and further, so to amend the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act that no Order in Council shall in future authorise regulations disqualifying persons on the ground of sex or marriage from the exercise of any public function, from holding any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering, or assuming, or carrying on any civil profession or vocation."

The resolution on Affiliation Orders overseas will be moved by the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child and seconded by St. Joan's Alliance:—

"That the National Council of Women calls upon the Government to introduce without delay a Bill providing for the enforcement of Affiliation Orders overseas on similar lines to the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Act, 1920, and to bring before the Imperial Conference the urgent need for reciprocal legislation, in order that a man may not be permitted to evade his responsibilities to a child, whether legitimate or illegitimate, by removal to another part of the Empire."

The resolution asking for information on Artificial Birth Control to be given at Maternity and Child Welfare clinics in receipt of Government grants, will be vigorously opposed by St. Joan's Alliance.

At the National Catholic Congress held recently in London to celebrate the Centenary of Catholic Emancipation, many of our members were to the fore at the mass demonstration of women in the Albert Hall, at which His Eminence Cardinal Bourne presided. Among the speakers were three of our members, Councillor Mrs. Dooley, J.P., who spoke on Women in the Home, Dr. Letitia Fairfield on Women in Public Life, and Miss C. M. Gordon on Women in Political Life. A magnificent orchestral piece was composed for the occasion by another of our members, Miss Dorothy Howell, F.R.A.M., who is one of the leading composers in this country. Yet another member, Miss Enid Dinnis, wrote an Ode which was beautifully recited by Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

In the first place, the Women's Freedom League offers its warmest thanks to all those women in Germany from whom the members of the British delegation to the Berlin Congress received such generous and charming hospitality. The time spent in Berlin was a very great experience, and we hope that some day the Alliance will hold its Congress in London, so that we shall have the opportunity of showing our appreciation of all the friendliness and kindness which our delegates so thoroughly enjoyed in Berlin.

On Friday evening, October 4th, when the members

of our National Executive Committee are in London, we are having a dinner at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1, after which there will be short speeches by delegates and visitors to Berlin. Should any German members of the Alliance then be in London, we shall be delighted if they will give us the great pleasure of dining with us.

With all other women's organisations in this country, the Women's Freedom League mourns the loss of Dame Millicent Fawcett, who for so many years was the President of a sister Suffrage Society. Dame Millicent will always live in the affection of the members of our League. We now learn of the death of another co-worker in the Women's Movement in Great Britain, Miss Florence Beaumont, who was in Berlin last June working for the Open Door International. Miss Beaumont's death will make a gap which cannot easily be filled in many women's organisations.

We have just concluded a successful campaign in Scotland, on the Clyde Coast, on behalf of Equal Rights for Women, our speakers making it quite clear that, although women have now equal voting rights with men in this country, they are very far from having equal rights with men economically, socially, or even politically,—women have not yet the right to membership of the Upper House! We have already urged upon our new Government that women should have the same right as men to change or retain their nationality, and that a woman who marries an alien should not automatically lose her British nationality; that women in the Civil Service and in the teaching profession should have equal pay with men for work of equal value; that there should be women as an integral part of the police force throughout the country; and that there should be women on the Prison Commissions, Women Governors of all Women's Prisons and Women's Sections of Prisons, Women Medical Officers in all Women's Prisons, and Women Inspectors of Prisons.

When Parliament reassembles in the Autumn, we shall again press for the right of qualified Peeresses to membership of the House of Lords.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS.

The first six months of the Hoover administration are over. It has been a formative period of great importance, not only to the political fortunes of Mr. Hoover, but to the government itself, to its future and to the welfare of its citizens. Every act of the new President has been analysed with great interest and zeal, governed, to be sure, by the partisanship of the analyst.

To women over the world, who have followed Mr. Hoover's career and the promise his Administration gives in the matter of increased governmental efficiency, it is quite the natural thing to inquire in what way has Herbert Hoover recognized the capabilities of women for public work.

While Mr. Hoover is said by some to owe his election to the women's vote, he has not been swayed, even if this is true, to pay his political debts by wholesale appointment of women. He has acknowledged woman's recognized contribution to certain fields of public service by the appointment of qualified women of whose work he has personal knowledge. The number of so-called "political" appointments have been negligible.

First of all, it should be kept in mind that Mr. Hoover has retained the services of women who have long held responsible bureau posts on the federal government. It is customary when a new Administration comes into power, for Department and bureau chiefs

automatically to submit their resignations, to be accepted or returned at the pleasure of the new Chief Executive.

Only one woman's resignation, that of Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt, has been accepted and Mr. Hoover is said to have done that reluctantly. After a service of eight years as Assistant United States Attorney General, in special charge of prohibition and tax cases, Mrs. Willebrandt felt the call of private law practise. One of her chief responsibilities now is that of Washington counsel for one of the largest aviation companies in this country. It is not likely—at least these are the intimations received in unofficial Washington circles—that a woman will succeed Mrs. Willebrandt.

Mr. Hoover, with his engineer's mind, has always tackled questions of importance from a scientific analytical point of view. It is not surprising to find that in these first six months of "Hoover at the helm" commissions and conferences have grown up over-night.

One of the first to be appointed was a Commission on Law Observance and Enforcement. Of its nine members, there is one woman, Miss Ada Comstock, president of Radcliffe College. The commission is made up of eleven divisions through which it will conduct its investigations. While there is great interest in all the divisions, women are anticipating the findings of one division with more than passing concern. It is the one devoted to the problem of juvenile delinquency and will be under the chairmanship of Miss Comstock.

JAPAN.

(We have pleasure in publishing this account of feminist activities in Japan, which unfortunately arrived too late for inclusion in the Report of the Eleventh Congress.)

Report of the Fusen Kakutoku Domei.

(The Woman's Suffrage League of Japan).

President: MRS. OCHIMI KUBUSHIRO.

Director: MISS FUSAE ICHIKAWA.

Secretary: MRS. SHIGERI KANEKO.

Treasurer: MRS. MAKOTO SAKAMOTO.

Address: 5 Kojimachi 4 chome, Tokyo, Japan.

Parliamentary Franchise.

A Japanese man who has completed his twenty-fifth year and who has lived in the same electoral district for at least a year has the parliamentary franchise (since 1925). This right, however, is not extended to the Japanese women at all. But the petitions, draft memorials and demands for the equal rights for women have been presented regularly to the Imperial Diet by various women's organizations for the last ten years.

Local Government.

Japanese men who are at least twenty-five years old and who have lived in the same city, town or village for not less than two years have the right to vote for the representatives of the local assembly and are also eligible for election (since 1926). These rights, however, are by no means extended to women. Women cannot be elected even to public school boards, for they are open only to those who enjoy full citizenship. The petitions and demands for the equal citizenship for women have been presented to the Imperial Diet for the last ten years.

Other Political Rights.

Till recently Japanese women were allowed neither to attend political gatherings nor to make political speeches. These rights, however, were secured in 1911 as a consequence of the incessant activities of various women's organizations. But even now women are

not allowed to join the political parties. For this right also the women's organizations have worked for the last ten years, and once the bill giving women the right to join the political parties passed through the Lower House.

The Fusen Kakutoku Domei (The Women's Suffrage League of Japan).

1. History and Aims:—

The Fusen Kakutoku Domei was founded in December 1924, that is, a year before the Universal Manhood Suffrage Bill passed through the Diet. It was founded because, though public opinion was roused to demand universal manhood suffrage, no attention was paid to women's suffrage, and also because the then existing Women's suffrage organizations were all very small and powerless, and the need for a stronger organization was felt by everybody. Thus the Fusen Kakutoku Domei was born as the result of the strong wish felt by the women in various fields of work who were determined to work for women's suffrage. The aim of this organization, therefore, is the acquisition of women's suffrage and the political education of women.

2. Administration:—

The Fusen Kakutoku Domei has offices of its own, and one secretary, two paid clerks and an editor for the organ, *Fusen*, work there daily. The number of the members in 1924 was only 200, but in April, 1929, it had a membership of 1,014, and there have been additions to it since then. Most of the progressive presidents of the colleges for women and girls' high schools and many leading women are found among the members. The expenditure of the Association from the beginning of April 1928, to the end of March 1929, amounted to 9,484.57 yen. The number of letters sent out from the office during the year from April 1928, to March 1929, was 32,078, and the number of letters received was 4,704. Compared with those in the previous year the letters sent out were three times more and the letters received were twice as many.

3. Activities:—

The activities of the association are carried on by six standing committees and one special committee, namely:

- (1) Parliamentary Committee (Committee for the purpose of promoting interest and approval among the members of Parliament).
- (2) Committee on Political Education.
- (3) Publication Committee.
- (4) Membership Committee.
- (5) Committee on Finance, and the Special Committee for Tokyo City Assembly.

The work during the year from April 1928, to March 1929, was as follows:

(a) Activities with regard to Parliament.

At present the Women's Organizations which have as their purpose acquisition of women's suffrage are:—Fusen Kakutoku Domei (Women's Suffrage League of Japan), Nihon Fujin Sanseiken Kyokai (Japanese Women's Suffrage Association), Fujin Sansei Domei (Women's Suffrage Alliance), Zen-Kansai Rengo Fujinkai, Shakai Minshu Fujin Domei, Musan Fujin Domei.

As it seemed advisable for these organizations to work together, a joint committee was formed, under the leadership of the Fusen Kakutoku Domei in March 1928. And this committee was in being and worked in unison during the month of May 1928, when the special session of the Diet was held, and also during the months from December 1928, to March 1929, when the regular session of the Diet was held. On those

occasions it was always the Fusen Kakutoku Domei which had the responsibility for the work. In the special session mentioned the three bills, that is, women's suffrage, equal citizenship and the right to join political parties, were proposed by each party; but they were not even discussed, owing to the lack of time. During the summer, however, the members of the joint committee continued the work and went to see the Premier and the leaders of various political parties. As the result of these efforts it seemed as if the Bill for the equal citizenship for women might be proposed by the government. But, because of the objection of the Home Minister, who considered that Japanese women, as a whole, were not yet ready for it, it was not proposed by the government, but it was proposed with the signature of more than 280 members, which is a majority of the House of Representatives. So it looked as if it might pass at least the Lower House, but, owing to the opposition of the government, it was defeated in committee meeting. The government, however, promised the Seiyukai (governmental party) supporters of the Bill to propose the same next time as a government Bill. So we hope that it will pass in a few years at the latest. The discussion on the Bill for the right to form political associations and the parliamentary franchise was not finished before the session of the Diet was over.

(b) Work for the Political Education of Women.

On the occasion of the Prefectural Election that took place in June 1928, the Fusen Kakutoku Domei did its best to purify the election and to educate women politically. In July the League had an interview with the Minister of Education and petitioned for the addition of a course in civics to the curriculum of the girls' high schools. And at the same time, the League sent out inquiries to all the girls' high schools in Japan to find out to what extent attention is being paid to this phase of education. In July 1928, Miss Fusae Ichikawa, Director of the League, was sent to the Pan-Pacific Women's Conference held in Honolulu. After the conference she was asked to go to the United States proper to investigate the civic education in the country. As the result the League is planning to form various study groups. Lectures are given periodically, study groups formed and lecture tours are planned from time to time under the auspices of the League.

(c) Municipal Administration.

On the occasion of the municipal election, which took place in February 1929, the League chose, as at the time of the General Election in February 1928, the best candidates and gave them its support by speeches and letters of recommendation. Through this activity the League endeavoured to educate women politically. The work was mainly carried on by the Special Committee for City Election. After the election was over, this committee was changed into the Special Committee for Tokyo City Assembly, to keep watch over the city assembly and to study the city government, thus educating women against the time when they should get equal citizenship.

(d) Publication of the organ, "Fusen."

With the aim of giving women political education, and of informing the public of its activities, the League publishes a monthly organ, *Fusen*. This is considered to be the most authoritative organ on women's suffrage.
FUSAE ICHIKAWA, Director.

The Report of the Eleventh Congress is now available, to be ordered from Headquarters, price 4/-.

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

LA "SAISON DE GENEVE."

Il est impossible à la date à laquelle ces lignes sont écrites de consacrer déjà une chronique à l'œuvre de la Xe. Assemblée, puisque celle-ci n'est pas encore terminée, et qu'un certain recul est pourtant nécessaire pour pouvoir la juger. Ce sera pour notre prochaine chronique. Bornons-nous donc aujourd'hui à mentionner l'activité féministe qui se déploie toujours plus intense autour de la Société des Nations durant ce mois de septembre, pendant lequel Genève devient un belvédère international incomparable.

Car cette "saison" — ci a été tout particulièrement brillante au point de vue féministe, et nombreux sont ceux de nos *leaders* qui ont défilé dans le petit salon ensoleillé et fleuri, et dans la grande salle ouverte par quatre fenêtres sur la fraîche frondaison des plantanes, du Bureau temporaire de Genève de l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage. Déléguées à l'Assemblée, femmes parlementaires, présidentes de Sociétés nationales et internationales, fonctionnaires du Secrétariat et du B.I.T., journalistes, portraitistes, conférencières, travailleuses sociales, se sont constamment rencontrées au cours d'une réception, avant une séance de Comité, entre deux discours à l'Assemblée, pour échanger des idées, discuter le travail en cours, nouer des relations, préciser des renseignements, dans la plus utile et la plus intéressante coopération. Mentionnons notamment, et en ce qui concerne l'Alliance, les noms de Mrs. Corbett-Ashby, de Mme. Plaminkova, de Mme. Malaterre-Sellier, de Frau von Velsen, de Mme. Suzanne Grinberg, de Mme. Brunshvich, de Mrs. Rischbieth, de Dr. Rosa Welt-Strauss; puis, pour le Conseil International des Femmes, de Mrs. Olgivie Gordon, de Mme. Chaponnière-Chaix, de Mme. Avril de Ste-Croix, de Frau Ender, de Miss Cristitch, de Miss Zimmern; ceux de Miss Sheepshanks, de Mrs. Doty, de Miss Courtney, de Dr. Clark pour la Ligue Internationale de Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté; de Mme. Rudel-Zeyneck, la première femme au monde, croyons-nous, qui ait jamais présidé un Parlement, lorsqu'elle a dirigé l'autre année les débats du Conseil Fédéral autrichien, venue à Genève avec ses collègues, Mmes. Kosmowska (Pologne) et Schroeter (Allemagne) pour des séances de L'Union Interparlementaire, où toutes trois représentaient les femmes députées; de Lady Astor, venant à Genève, au moment de l'Assemblée, pour la première fois bien que députée et femme politique, parce que (elle nous a expressément demandé de le faire savoir), le mois de septembre est aussi celui des vacances de ces enfants, et qu'elle ne veut pas les quitter en cette période; celui de Mrs. Wintringham, qui fut la seconde femme élue à la Chambre des Communes, et dont on ne peut que déplorer la non-élection aux dernières élections générales, quand on a eu le privilège de la connaître; ceux de Mrs. Jinarajadasa, Présidente de la Société féministe des Indes, de Mrs. Archdale, Présidente du Groupe anglais "des Six points"; de Miss Varner, la charmante vice-consul américain, nouvellement nommée à Genève; de la comtesse Dohna, qui travaille tant en Allemagne à faire connaître et apprécier la Société des Nations; de Miss Gertrud Eaton, qui mène avec succès campagne pour une Convention internationale sur la réforme pénale; de Mlle. Ulfbeck (Danemark) spécialiste des questions d'émigration, de Mlle. Reiman, secrétaire générale du Conseil International des Infirmières; de Mme. Vakay (Hongrie) de l'Union Internationale de Secours aux Enfants; de nombreuses autres encore. Plusieurs hommes politiques et non des moindres nous ont fait aussi l'honneur d'être des nôtres en telle ou telle occasion, ainsi M. Benes, Ministre des Affaires étrangères de Tchécoslovaquie, des journalistes, des magistrats, des professeurs, sympathiques à nos idées. La pittoresque vieille "Maison Internationale"

siège de la Ligue des Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté, a de son côté offert aux femmes déléguées à l'Assemblée une réception, dont le seul tort fut de rassembler tant de personnalités intéressantes que la place manquait pour causer avec elles autrement que dans le brouhaha; le Lycéum de Suisse à ouvert à nos hôtes étrangères les portes de ses salons si caractéristiques de l'ancienne Genève patricienne; et en plus d'innombrables réunions et rencontres particulières, charmantes d'intimité, le dîner traditionnellement offert aux femmes déléguées à l'Assemblée par les grandes organisations féminines internationales a constitué, comme chaque année, la grande attraction de cette "saison." On s'écrasait en effet dans les salons du Club International, où Mlle. Marie Ginsberg, (dont les talents d'organisatrice sont à la hauteur de ses qualités de traductrice si appréciées par les congressistes de Berlin) avait réussi à caser près de 200 personnes, pour entendre successivement, sous la présidence courtoise et pleine de tact de Dame Rachel Crowdy, les paroles poétiques de Mme. Ciurlionis, déléguée de Lithuanie, l'exposé net et mordant de Mrs. Swanwick, déléguée de Grand-Bretagne, l'argumentation claire de Mme. Kluyver, secrétaire de la délégation des Pays-Bas. Prirent encore la parole ce soir-là, Lady Astor, qui déclancha un tonnerre d'applaudissements par ses déclarations d'un féminisme catégorique; Mrs. Corbett-Ashby, qui exprima tout spécialement à Dame Rachel la reconnaissance des organisations féminines pour son travail à la S.d.N.; Mme. Brunshvich, qui prononça des paroles pleines de justesse sur la valeur du féminisme, et la mignonne Mlle. Devakul, secrétaire de la délégation siamoise, à qui l'assistance fit une ovation quand elle releva très finement que, dans son pays, on ne dit point: "Honore ton père et ta mère. . ." mais bien: "Honore ta mère et ton père. . ." ce qui est certainement une forme de féminisme!

Mais que l'on ne croie pas, que nous n'avons fait cette dernière quinzaine, que déjeuner, dîner ou prendre le thé, en intéressante compagnie! Il s'est accompli beaucoup de travail aussi, dans les réunions organisées par nos groupements féministes. Et tout d'abord, si l'on s'est plaint au Congrès de Berlin, que l'on n'y avait pas assez parlé suffrage, nous avons relevé le gant! En effet, il aurait été dommage de ne pas profiter de la présence de tant de femmes, parlementaires ou électrices, pour dire une fois de plus au public suisse combien notre pays retarde, malgré sa réputation de démocratie avancée; et sans que nous leur eussions demandé, sans qu'elles se fussent entendues pour cela, le leit-motiv de toutes nos oratrices à ce grand meeting public fut précisément celui-ci: chez elles, que se soit en Grande-Bretagne, en Danemark, en Tchécoslovaquie, en Allemagne où dans les Pays Bas, l'exercice du suffrage féminin est chose si naturelle, si bien entrée dans les mœurs, que l'on ne peut que s'étonner de voir les femmes suisses encore privées de ce droit élémentaire. Et là-dessus, chacune avec son tempérament particulier, Lady Astor avec sa fougue spirituelle, Mme. Plaminkova avec son ardeur et son sens politique de la démocratie, Mlle. Forchhammer avec son calme bon sens, Mme. Lang-Brumann avec ses expériences de dix ans de République allemande, Mme. Kluyver avec sa logique impeccable, Mrs. Hamilton avec son intelligence aiguë et constructive, la princesse Cantacuzène avec son éloquence de race latine—chacune broda sur ce thème variations que l'on devine, si bien que l'auditoire vota à l'unanimité et d'enthousiasme la résolution présentée par Mme. Malaterre-Sellier—la seule oratrice de soir-là qui ne possédât pas un droit de vote. Un autre soir ce fut Mme. Malaterre aussi qui fit au Cercle Catholique International une conférence très juste, très fouillée, d'inspiration très élevée, sur ce sujet: *Féminisme et Catholicisme*, conférence qui n'a pu manquer d'ouvrir des horizons nouveaux à son nombreux auditoire. Enfin, si l'on ne parla pas directement de suffrage dans les causeries que nous donnèrent

Mrs. Rischbieth, présidente de la Ligue des Femmes électrices australiennes, sur la *Féminisme dans le Pacifique*, et Mme. Ciurlionis, déléguée de Lithuanie, sur la femme de son pays, cette idée est en relation trop étroite avec l'activité féministe à travers le monde pour n'avoir pas inspiré ces différents exposés.

D'autre part, des démarches importantes ont été faites directement auprès des autorités de la S.d.N., soit par l'Alliance seule, soit par une délégation des principales grandes Associations féminines internationales. M. Albert Thomas, directeur du B.I.T., reçut pendant près d'une heure les membres de notre *Board* actuellement à Genève; l'entretien, remarquablement intéressant, roula sur la fameuse Convention projetée pour le bien-être des marins dans les ports, dont une disposition instituant le contrôle médical seulement des femmes ayant des relations avec ces marins avait soulevé une si vive émotion dans les milieux féministes et abolitionnistes, émotion qui s'était manifestée au Congrès de Berlin par une résolution votée à l'unanimité. C'est pourquoi nos lectrices seront heureuses d'apprendre la position nettement prise par le B.I.T. et son directeur contre ce contrôle: le rapport gris préparé pour la Conférence du Travail, qui va s'ouvrir le 10 octobre, contient en effet un passage catégorique à ce sujet. Autres passages de ce rapport sont malheureusement moins satisfaisants, quant à la composition des Commissions chargées de s'occuper du bien-être des marins dans les ports, et quant à la suggestion d'interdire l'emploi de femmes comme serveuses dans des bars, et notre délégation a tenu à les relever et à discuter des meilleurs moyens de faire valoir nos idées auprès de la Conférence. La participation féminine à une enquête entreprise par le B.I.T. dans l'industrie textile, les taux comparés des salaires dans cette industrie, la résolution votée à Berlin sur le droit au travail de la femme mariée, notre Conférence projetée sur la protection légale des ouvrières—tout ceci a fait également l'objet de cet entretien. Le lendemain, Mrs. Corbett-Ashby et Mme. Plaminkova représentaient l'Alliance dans une délégation des grandes Associations féminines internationales, qui a été entretenue par Sir Eric Drummond, secrétaire générale de la S.d.N., M. Dufour-Féronce, l'un des sous-secrétaires, et M. Buero, chef de la Section juridique, de plusieurs questions touchant aussi directement à notre programme: la nationalité de la femme mariée et la Conférence de Codification de Droit International, que la S.d.N. convoque pour 1930 à la Haye; la présence de femmes de plusieurs continents dans une sous-commission d'esclavage, si celle-ci était créée; les chances d'avancement des femmes fonctionnaires de la S.d.N.; les possibilités de nomination d'une seconde femme à la Commission des Mandats; la présence de femmes dans l'Institut international de cinématographe à Rome, etc. Des démarches ont été encore faites par l'Alliance auprès d'un premier ministre—M. Briand, pour ne pas le nommer—pour insister sur le fait que la conclusion naturelle de son éloquent discours à l'Assemblée, dans lequel il remit la cause de la paix aux mains des femmes, mères et éducatrices, de tous pays, était en premier lieu la reconnaissance du droit de vote aux femmes françaises; auprès des membres de la Première Commission, relativement à la question de la nationalité de la femme mariée; auprès des chefs de délégation, pour souligner l'importance de la déclaration du délégué australien, Sir James Marr, sur la nécessité d'inclure des femmes en plus grand nombre dans les délégations; auprès du Bureau de l'Assemblée pour qu'une femme soit désignée comme membre d'une Commission d'Etude de l'organisation du Secrétariat, etc.

Enfin, une somme importante de travail a été fournie par la Commission mixte nommée par le Conseil international des Femmes et par l'Alliance pour étudier les possibilités de coopération pratique entre ces deux vastes organisations. Toutes nos lectrices savent

combien pressant est devenu ce problème, et l'ampleur des débats auquel il donna lieu à Berlin. La Commission mixte, composée, pour le Conseil International, de Mrs. Olgivie Gordon, vice-présidente, de Mlle. Cristitch secrétaire, de Mme. Ender, présidente du Conseil allemand, et de Mlle. Zellweger, présidente du Conseil suisse, et pour l'Alliance, de Mrs. Corbett-Ashby, de Mme. Plaminkova, de Frau von Velsen et de Mlle. Gourd, travailla dans le meilleur esprit d'entente et de compréhension, et adopta à l'unanimité un certain nombre de propositions précises, qui seront transmises au présidentes, aux membres des Comités des deux organisations, afin de recevoir sans tarder leur observations. Mlle. Zellweger a été nommée présidente et Mlle. Gourd secrétaire de cette Commission.

La liste des femmes déléguées à l'Assemblée de la S.d.N. s'est heureusement allongée cette année, comme on peut s'en rendre compte: 13 femmes déléguées et conseillères techniques, et deux secrétaires de délégation, c'est assurément un progrès. Voici d'ailleurs cette liste définitive:

Allemagne: Mme. Lang-Brumann, députée au Reichstag, conseillère technique.

Australie: Dr. Roberta Jull, déléguée suppléante.

Canada: Miss MacPhail, députée au Parlement fédéral, déléguée suppléante.

Danemark: Mlle. Henry Forchhammer, présidente du Conseil national des Femmes danoises, déléguée suppléante.

Empire Britannique: Mrs. Swanwick, présidente de la Section anglaise de la Ligue de Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté, déléguée suppléante.

Id. Mrs. Mary Agnes Hamilton, députée au Parlement, déléguée suppléante.

Finlande: Mme. Tilma Hainari, déléguée suppléante.

Hongrie: Comtesse Apponyi, présidente du Conseil National des Femmes hongroises, déléguée suppléante.

Lithuanie: Mme. Sophie Ciurlionis, professeur, délégué en titre.

Nouvelle-Zelande: Miss Phoebe Myers, professeur, déléguée suppléante.

Norvège: Mme. Aas, docteur en médecine, délégué suppléante.

Pays-Bas: Mme. Kluyver, secrétaire au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, secrétaire de délégation.

Roumanie: Mme. Hélène Vacaresco, femme de lettres, déléguée suppléante.

Id. Princess Alexandrine Cantacuzène, présidente du Conseil national des Femmes roumaines, déléguée suppléante.

Siam: Mlle. Pantip Devakul, secrétaire de délégation.

On remarquera que, pour la première fois, la Grande-Bretagne et la Roumanie ont envoyé deux femmes à Genève au lieu d'une seule; et que trois pays, dont les délégations n'avaient encore jamais compté de femmes (le Canada, la Lithuanie et le Siam) ont réparé cette erreur. On s'est beaucoup étonné que la France n'ait point de femme dans sa délégation, et cela malgré les nombreuses démarches faites auprès du gouvernement, et nous croyons que lorsque ce pays se décidera à entrer à son tour dans la voie du progrès, son exemple sera suivi par de nombreuses autres nations. Relevons encore le fait que, pour la première fois, une femme est déléguée en titre (Mme. Ciurlionis, Lithuanie), et non pas éternellement suppléante, et qu'une femme, Miss MacPhail, a réussi à forcer les portes de cette troisième Commission (désarmement) jusqu'alors hermétiquement fermée à l'élément féminin. L'idée marche!

E.Gd.

LA FRANCE PREND LA DEFENSE DE LA FEMME KABYLE.

En dépit des progrès réalisés par le féminisme, il est, dans le vaste monde, bien des pays où la femme, encore esclave, est soumise à de déplorables traitements.

Pendant que M. Gaston Ricci, — aujourd'hui député d'Alger et maire de Blida, — exerçait à Tizi-Ouzou, en pleine Kabylie, les fonctions de juge de paix, tant de cas pathétiques lui furent soumis, tant de drames lui furent révélés, dont les femmes étaient toujours les malheureuses victimes, qu'il conçut le désir de modifier, en leur faveur, un scandaleux état de choses.

Au nom de la commission de l'Algérie, des Colonies et des protectorats, il vient de déposer, sur le bureau de la Chambre des Députés, un projet de loi concernant la déclaration des fiançailles et le mariage des Kabyles.

Il est bon, il est généreux qu'une voix française s'élève en faveur de ces femmes-enfants que droits et traditions berbères courbent sous un joug cruel.

Convient-il de rappeler les conditions dans lesquelles le mariage est pratiqué parmi ces populations sur lesquelles nous avons le devoir de veiller? On éprouve quelque hésitation, quelque pudeur à le faire, tant, en ces contrées, la loi de l'homme s'exerce avec une inflexible rigueur.

Vendue par son père, — parfois pour trente deniers, — ou, à défaut, par le plus proche de ses parents mâles, la fillette n'a même pas voix consultative dans une affaire où, pourtant, elle est la première intéressée. On n'a que faire de son consentement. Et si la persuasion ne suffit pas, le mariage peut lui être imposé par la force. Quel que soit son âge, même si elle est impubère, livrée comme une marchandise à son mari, la petite épouse de sept ou huit ans, devient femme. Et quand son seigneur aura mutilé à vie la pauvre créature appelée à l'honneur de partager sa couche, s'il lui plaît de retrouver sa liberté, il n'aura point à s'embarrasser de motifs et de raisons. Il lui suffira pour renvoyer celle dont il n'a plus envie, de prononcer trois fois la formule "Je te répudie."

Davantage, il peut prendre telles dispositions pour que son ex-épouse soit "retirée de la circulation" et mise dans l'impossibilité légale de contracter mariage à nouveau. Toutefois, s'il entend la conserver auprès de lui, elle devient son bien, sa chose. Il la nourrit et l'habillement comme il lui plaît. Les enfants qu'il a d'elle lui appartiennent en propre. La mère ne peut exercer sur eux aucune autorité. Quand il meurt, comme elle fait partie de sa succession, elle est transmise avec ses biens, et, pour employer l'expression du *Taalak* it "pendue au cou de son mort."

La femme, elle, n'a pas de droits héréditaires. Sauf les vêtements qu'elle porte, rien ne lui appartient en propre. Elle n'a pas le droit de répudier son mari et ne peut, dans aucun cas, demander le divorce à la justice. Son seul recours est de se réfugier chez son père et de se mettre en "insurrection."

D'un tel état de choses, la France s'émute. Et bien qu'elle se fût engagée à respecter le statut personnel de ces populations, les magistrats appelés à rendre la justice s'efforcèrent de trancher avec humanité les différends qui leur étaient soumis.

Ils furent d'ailleurs soutenus dans leurs efforts par les pères kabyles préoccupés du sort réservés à leurs filles, le jour où ils viendraient à disparaître, si celles-ci se trouvaient veuves, répudiées, ou dans le besoin.

Ainsi, peu à peu, les barbares coutumes berbères s'adoucissent. En 1903, celle de la veuve "pendue au cou du mort" fut abolie. Puis des poursuites judiciaires furent engagées contre ceux qui donnaient en mariage ou épousaient une fille non nubile. Mais la majorité des cas continuait d'échapper à la vigilance des juges.

Aussi, afin que ces unions deviennent à tout jamais

impossibles, M. Gaston Ricci demande-t-il au Parlement de voter un texte de loi stipulant que "nul ne peut contracter mariage avant l'âge de quinze ans révolus."

Sans doute la Kabylie est-elle bien loin des boulevards et de ses préoccupations, de la salle des Pas-Perdus et des intrigues qui s'y poursuivent. Sans doute, la majorité des députés, pris par des intérêts de clocher, se soucient-ils assez peu des femmes d'Afrique asservies à une si odieuse tyrannie.

Il faut espérer toutefois qu'ils ne laisseront pas dormir dans les cartons la proposition de leur collègue, qu'ils lui feront confiance.

M. Gaston Ricci connaît ces populations au milieu desquelles il a vécu, dont il a étudié les mœurs. Comment ne serions-nous pas troublés quand nous entendons ce législateur, aux paroles mesurées, qualifier de "monstrueuses" ces coutumes dont, depuis des temps immémoriaux, les petites épouses sont les naturelles victimes?

ALICE LA MAZIÈRE.

CORRESPONDANCE.

L'Association "La Solidarité,"

Bucarest, Calea Victoriei 227. Août 1929.

Ma Chère Collègue,

J'ai la satisfaction de vous faire connaître la grande victoire remportée par les femmes roumaines qui ont obtenu le droit de vote et d'éligibilité à la Commune, à la Municipalité et au Département; elles se présenteront aux élections en Novembre, 1929.

La loi votée le 3 Août 1929 à la page 142, article 375 dit:

Que toutes les femmes de 21 ans appartenant aux catégories suivantes ont droit de vote et d'éligibilité:

- 1° Celles ayant suivi les cours de l'enseignement secondaire inférieur, des écoles normales et professionnelles.
- 2° Toutes les femmes fonctionnaires à l'Etat, à la Commune ou au Département.
- 3° Les veuves de guerre.
- 4° Celles décorées pour services exceptionnels.
- 5° Celles qui à la date de la promulgation de la présente loi conduisent des sociétés d'assistance ou de culture, reconnues personnes morales et juridiques, ont droit de vote.

La répercussion que cette loi va avoir dans la structure politique de la Roumanie est considérable. Le recensement, la seriosité avec laquelle les femmes roumaines ont accueilli cette immense victoire prouve leur maturité et prouve aussi combien elles mesurent les grandes responsabilités qui leur incombent; c'est un succès sans précédent. Il y a 10 ans, le féminisme en Roumanie était inexistant; aujourd'hui, grâce aussi à l'activité de l'Association La Solidarité, les femmes roumaines ont obtenu en partie leurs droits politiques et en Novembre sera votée la loi leur accordant les droits civils complets. La Solidarité a rempli grandement sa mission et nous sommes fières et heureuses de pouvoir enregistrer cette victoire éclatante des femmes roumaines.

Le fait que l'on n'a pas appliqué le suffrage universel comme pour les hommes provient:

1° De la résistance des campagnes, le mari paysan refusant catégoriquement toute participation de sa femme à la vie politique et aussi parce que beaucoup de femmes paysannes encore ne savent pas lire ni écrire et alors leur participation à la vie politique aurait été difficile.

Toutefois dans un avenir très proche ces restrictions tomberont aussi, il nous incombe d'ici là de travailler pour préparer ces femmes et faire des citoyennes éclairées et conscientes.

Espérant, Chère Collègue, que vous et votre Association participerez à notre grande satisfaction, nous vous prions de publier ce fait important dans votre journal et en même temps de croire à nos sentiments les meilleurs.

Le Présidente,
PRINCESSE ALEXANDRINA CANTACUZENE.

NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

Grande Bretagne.

LIGUE DE LA LIBERTÉ DES FEMMES.—La Ligue vient de terminer sa campagne en Ecosse et sur la côte de la Clyde, en faveur de l'égalité des droits politiques des deux sexes. Elle réclamera jusqu'à ce qu'elle l'obtienne, l'égalité dans toutes les branches sociales, économiques et politiques, le droit pour les femmes de conserver leur nationalité dans le mariage avec un étranger, le droit pour les paires de naissance de siéger à la Chambre des Lords, elles réclament la nomination d'un plus grand nombre de femmes parmi les fonctionnaires de la police et des prisons, des femmes médecins pour les prisons de femmes, etc. (d'après A. Underwood).

Dame Millicent Fawcett.—Avec toutes les femmes anglaises, nous déplorons la mort de cette femme admirable qui voua toute sa vie et se dépensa jusqu'au dernier jour pour la cause de l'émancipation des femmes.

Miss Florence Beaumont.—Une autre mort qui laissera un grand vide est celle de Miss F. Beaumont qui travailla avec le plus grand dévouement à la cause féministe dans diverses sociétés. Elle avait assisté au Congrès de Berlin au nom de l'Open Door International.

Japon.

Rapport de la Fusen Kakutoku Domei (Ligue japonaise pour le suffrage des femmes).

Présidente: Mme. Ochimi Kubushiro.

Directrice: Mlle. Fusae Ichikawa.

Secrétaire: Mme. Shigeri Kaneko.

Tresorière: Mme. Makoto Sakamoto.

Adresse: 5, Kokimachi 4 Chome, Tokyo, Japon.

Franchise parlementaire et municipale.—Tout japonais qui a atteint ses 25 ans, et qui a vécu dans la même circonscription électorale pendant un an (Parlement) ou deux ans (municipalité) a le droit de vote et d'éligibilité. Cela depuis 1925 pour le suffrage parlementaire et 1926 pour le suffrage local.

Mais ces droits ne s'étendent pas aux femmes. Les femmes ne peuvent pas même être élues dans les Conseils d'administration des écoles. Aussi, des pétitions ont-elles été présentées à la Diète depuis dix ans. En 1911, les femmes obtinrent le droit d'assister à des meetings politiques et même d'y prendre la parole. Mais elles n'ont pas encore le droit de se joindre aux partis politiques, quoiqu'un projet de loi ait été présenté à ce sujet, et ait même passé à la Chambre Basse.

La "Fusen Kakutoku Domei" (Ligue japonaise du suffrage des femmes).

(1) Histoire et but:—

Cette ligue du Suffrage fut fondée en Décembre 1924, c'est à dire un an avant que la loi sur le suffrage universel ait été votée par la Diète. Elle fut fondée parce que les sociétés féminines existantes étaient trop faibles et n'agissaient pas sur l'opinion publique. Le but de cette société est l'obtention du suffrage pour les femmes et leur éducation politique.

(2) Administration.—

La Fusen Kakutoku Domei a ses propres bureaux et son journal "Fusen." Elle occupe une secrétaire et

deux employées. Le nombre des membres en 1924 n'était que de 200; en avril 1929, il était de 1014. D'avril 1928 à Mars 1929, les frais se sont montés à 948,4457 yen. Pendant cette période 32,078 lettres ont été envoyées et 4,704 reçues.

(3) Activité. La Ligue comprend six comités permanents:

- (1) Comité parlementaire (qui a pour fonction d'assurer à la Ligue l'intérêt et l'approbation des membres du Parlement).
- (2) Comité d'éducation politique.
- (3) Comité de publications.
- (4) Comité de souscriptions.
- (5) Comité de finances, et comité spécial pour l'Assemblée de la cité de Tokyo.

(a) *Activité vis-à-vis du Parlement.*

En ce moment, les sociétés qui ont pour objet l'obtention du suffrage des femmes sont: Fusen Kakutoku Domei (Ligue pour le suffrage des femmes), Nihon Fujin Sanseiken Kyokai (Association des femmes japonaises pour le suffrage), Fujin Sansei Domei (Alliance pour le Suffrage des femmes), et trois autres.

En Mars 1928, ces diverses sociétés féminines du Japon fondèrent un comité de collaboration sous la direction de la Fusen K.D. Ce Comité a été très actif pendant la session de la Diète, de Décembre 1828 à Mars 1929. A cette session, trois projets de loi furent présentés: suffrage des femmes, égalité des droits civiques, et droit pour les femmes de se joindre aux partis politiques, mais le temps manqua pour qu'ils fussent discutés. Pendant l'été, les membres du Comité ci-dessus rendirent visite au premier ministre et aux chefs de partis. Malgré l'opposition du Ministre de l'Intérieur qui empêcha le gouvernement de présenter le zème projet de loi, il le fut par 280 députés, c'est à dire par la majorité, mais l'opposition du gouvernement le fit échouer. Les deux autres projets sont en discussion.

(b) *Activité en vue de l'éducation politique des femmes.*

En Juillet, la Ligue, après une interview avec le Ministre de l'Instruction publique, organisa une pétition pour qu'un enseignement civique soit créé dans les écoles de jeunes filles. Après la Conférence d'Honolulu, la directrice de la Ligue, alla aux Etats-Unis pour y faire une enquête sur la façon dont se donne l'enseignement civique.

(c) *Activité vis-à-vis du Conseil Municipal de Tokyo.*

En février 1929, à l'occasion des élections municipales, la Ligue choisit les meilleurs candidats et mena une campagne pour leur élection. Quand l'élection fut faite, le Comité spécial qui s'en était occupé, devint le comité spécial pour Tokio et fut chargé de surveiller le travail du Conseil municipal et d'éclairer les femmes sur son activité politique.

(d) *Organe de la Ligue.*

Le bulletin de la Ligue "Fusen" qui paraît tous les mois, travaille à l'éducation politique des femmes. (d'après Mlle. Fusae Ichikawa).

Cuba.

Les femmes de Cuba ne seront plus, désormais, privées de leur nationalité contre leur gré. D'après l'amendement passé le 1er Juillet par le Congrès, le mariage d'une femme cubaine à un étranger n'entraîne pas la perte de sa nationalité. L'amendement a été publié dans le *Gacete Oficial* le 9 Juillet.

Les seules contrées du monde où les femmes ne perdent pas leur nationalité par leur mariage avec un étranger sont: L'Argentine, le Brésil, le Chili, la Colombie, Panama, le Paraguay, la Russie, l'Uruguay et Cuba.

MADELINE RUDLER.

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