

JUS SUFFRAGII,

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I have been asked why I believe in woman's suffrage. One might as well ask why I believe in the sun or the stars or the ocean. I believe that women should vote because they are women, just as I believe that men should vote because they are men.

BRAND WHITLOCK.



—“My country, thou whom I have loved so much—give them, give for the sake of thy own future to all thy daughters what was refused my youth, grant them freedom, scope for effort and a home for spiritual life!”—

FREDRIKA BREMER.

PRICE 2 DUTCH FLORINS PER YEAR.

Announcements.

The Report of the London Congress may be ordered from Mrs. Adela Stanton Coit, 30 Hyde Park Gate, London S. W. for 1 Shilling and 3 pence post paid. It contains the reports of the twenty-one auxiliaries and in addition those of Iceland and Poland; the proceedings; the resolutions; names and addresses of officers, committees, auxiliaries and Honorary Associates; an account of the social attractions of the congress; the President's address, etc. This pamphlet is one of our best means of propaganda, showing the actual state of the suffrage-problem, and should therefore be in the hands of every suffragist and every M. P. in the world.

A similar Report of the Amsterdam Congress may be ordered from Miss Martina G. Kramers, 92, Kruiskade Rotterdam, for one shilling post-paid during the course of four months, after which time the remaining-copies will be distributed to public libraries.

The subscriptions for this paper's third year are due in August. Those who fail to send the value of 3 shillings and sixpence will receive a reminder in the next issue, and those who have neglected to pay the second year will be taken off the list of subscribers.

May I beg of all friends of „Jus Suffragii” not to give me addresses of new subscribers who have no intention to pay, as seems to be the case with many from Italy, United States, Russia and Sweden. (Editor).

List of Woman Suffrage Papers in different countries, with address and price per annum.

Austria, *Der Bund*, 2 Kronen, 7 Rochusgasse, Wien III.

—, *Neues Frauenleben*, 4 Kronen, 5 Riglergasse, Wien XVIII.

Bulgaria, *Jensky Glas*, 6 francs, Mrs. Pateff Bojilowa, Sophia, Uliza Graf Ignatieff.

Canada, *Freyja*, \$ 1.—, Miss M. I. Benedictsson, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Denmark, *Kvindestemmerets bladet*, 2 Kroner, 34 Bredgade Kopenhagen.

—, *Kvinden og Samfundet*, 3,10 Kroner, 33 Nørregade, Kopenhagen.

—, *Kvindevalgret*, 1 Krone, Skindergade 271, Kopenhagen.

Finland, *Nutid*, 6 Mk., 12 Georgsgatan, Helsingfors.

France, *Le Journal des Femmes*, 5 francs, 31 rue Francoeur, Paris.

—, *La Suffragiste*, 4 francs, 62 rue Damrémont, Paris.

—, *La Française*, 6 francs, 49 rue Lafitte, Paris.

Germany, *Zeitschrift für Frauenstimmrecht*, 2 Mark, Post Ebenhausen Ober Bayern.

—, *Centralblatt des Bundes deutscher Frauenvereine*, 4,80 Mark, Dürerstrasse 110, Dresden.

—, *Die Frauenbewegung*, 5 Mark, Wormserstrasse, Berlin W 62.

Great Britain, *Women's Franchise*, weekly 1 d. 13 Bream's Buildings Chancery Lane, London.

—, *Votes for Women*, weekly, 1 d., 4 Clement's Inn, London W. C.

—, *The Common Cause*, weekly, 6 Sh 6 d, a year 65 Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.

Hungary, *A Nő és a Társadalom*, 6 Kr. 36 Elemer utca, Budapest VII.

Iceland, *Kvennabladid*, 2 Kroner, Fru Briet Asmundsson, Reykjavik.

Italy, *L'Alleanza*, 6 Lire, 2 Corso Garibaldi, Pavia.

Netherlands, *Maandblad voor Vrouwenkiesrecht*, f 1.—, 43 Linnaeusstraat, Amsterdam.

—, *De Ploeger*, quarterly f 0.60, 53 Avenue Concordia, Rotterdam.

Norway, *Nylaende*, 4,70 Kroner, 3 Edvard Stormsgade, Kristiania.

Poland, *Ster*, 10 francs, Boduena 2, Warsaw.

Russia, *The Women's Union*, 4d per number, 84 Nicolaewskaya, St. Petersburg.

Sweden, *Dagny*, 4.50 Kroner, 51 Mästersamuelsgatan, Stockholm.

—, *Morgonbris*, 60 Öre, Folkets Hus, Stockholm.

Switzerland, *Frauenbestrebungen*, 3,10 frs., Zürichbergstr. 10, Zürich V.

U.S. America, *The Woman's Journal*, § 1,50, 3 Park Street, Boston.

Progress, § 0,25, N.A.W.S.A. Headquarters, Warren, Ohio.

The Woman's Tribune, § 1,—, Clara Bewick Colby, Portland Ore.

Literature. An Officer of the German Woman Suffrage Federation (G.W.S.A.) sends three pamphlets edited by the Prussian W. S. A., of which she has not a sufficient number of copies to distribute them to all our auxiliaries. So she requests them to be mentioned in "Jus Suffragii".

Leaflet No. 1, to be ordered from the Pr.W.S.A. at Berlin, Friedrichstrasse 108, for 0.10 Mark is a collection of arguments for women's municipal enfranchisement. It was sent to the National Congress of Municipalities held in Berlin last year on the occasion of the centenary of Stein, the author of the "magna charta" of the towns of Prussia. Stating the changed conditions of women's life, both industrial and economical, the Pr.W.S.A. points out that laws of 50 or 100 years old do no longer suit modern times, alleging the new Imperial Law on Assemblies, and then goes on to show how much need there is of women's collaboration in educational, hygienical and relief matters. The principle of equality of the sexes before inheritance- and penal laws and the privileges attached to landholding even by women proprietors, together with some opinions of authoritative bodies recognizing the possible citizenship of women at some future time, lead to the conclusion that municipal suffrage should be granted them.

Leaflet No. 2, to be ordered from the Pr.W.S.A. at Berlin, Friedrichstr. 108, for 0.20 Mark, written by *Else Lüders*, has for title *Das Interesse des Staates am Frauenstimmrecht*. The author shows that, besides the power to hinder the governing bodies from dropping the discussion of the women's petitions by taking "the order of the day", the enfranchisement of the female sex would more than double the energies and faculties of the rulers, the need of which is demonstrated by the unsatisfactory condition of housing, education, sweating etc. The community would be all the better off for making use of the women's talents, and moreover men of better morality would be elected to govern the country. Both justice and patriotism would be furthered by the enfranchisement of women.

Essay No. 3, to be ordered from the Pr.W.S.A. at Berlin, Friedrichstrasse 108, for 0.30 Mark, *Das Wesen des Staates und seine Entwicklung*, five lectures by *Dr. Krieger*, a concise and useful epitome not easily to be described in a few lines. It treats of the constitution of the German Empire.

From Sweden two more pamphlets have been received: **Minneslista**, to be ordered from F.K.P.R. in Stockholm for 5 Oere. This is a list of attainments made by the suffrage cause from 1862 up to June 1st 1909 in different countries: England, U. S. America, Australia, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Iceland and Sweden. The steps made by the movement in Sweden are specified in three separate columns: the first containing a list of resolutions and discussions in the Riksdag (Parliament); the second an enumeration of the petitions sent by women's associations to claim votes for women, ending with the mass-petition with 142,128 signatures, presented on Febr. 6 th, 1907; and the third some facts concerning the foundation and growth of the Landsförening K.P.R. (Swedish W.S.A.), terminated by a list of the 144 Local Branches it actually possesses.

Rösträtt för Kvinnor (Votes for Women) to be ordered from Stockholm, 6 Lästmakaregatan, for 10 Oere. This pamphlet in the form of a newspaper, with a heading in white and gold and the familiar figure of "Jus Suffragii", was edited on the occasion of the National Convention of June 18th. It contains two cartoons representing one "the disenfranchised", and the other the contrasting figures of a lazy, stupid man voter and an active, intelligent woman who is voteless. There is an article from Ann Margret Holmgren on the responsibility of women regarding the community and many more short articles by men and women suffragists, dealing with the aims of the W.S.A. and refuting the familiar objections, recalling the impressions from the London Convention, and showing the great importance of the participation of women in political life especially for the good of the working classes, and also the urgency of the desired reform. Then there are humorous discussions—one "an impossible dialogue"—and quotations ranging from Plato to Selma Lagerlöf. Add to this portraits of Mrs. Chapman Catt, Miss Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney in prison-dress, and you will understand what good propaganda this paper is, and how worthy of imitation by other countries.

Lecturers. *Dr. Käthe Schirmacher*, address: Marlow in Mecklenburg, will give lectures during October, November and December 1909 in Silesia, Moravia, Eastern Prussia and eventually Finland and Russia; during January 1910 in the middle and south of Germany; during February 1910 in Switzerland and the Netherlands.

She speaks German, French and English and will treat about 30 different subjects. In the line of *general propaganda for women's rights* she will lecture on several causes and aims of the women's movement; in the line of *domestic economy* she will discuss women's wages and modern cookery etc.; and more especially she will expound the benefits of *woman suffrage*, — which she has peculiarly at heart, having been secretary of the I.W.S. All. from 1904—1909, — and give an outline of women's task in politics.

Canada.

On April 27th 1909 a bill asking for the Parliamentary franchise for taxpaying widows and spinsters was introduced into our Provincial Legislature.

After a discussion of three hours, a vote was taken. Fourteen members voted in favour of the Bill and twenty-four against.

A deputation of ladies sat in the Speaker's Gallery. The president and secretary of our Suffrage Society were present as well as many others. I attended as vice-president for New Brunswick. We interviewed the Cabinet Ministers in session or at least they gave us a hearing. Besides this we had opportunity of conversing privately with each member.

Only 38 members voted; Parliament is composed of 45, but some members paired, others were ill.

Although we were deeply disappointed in not having such a partial measure of justice granted us, we feel much has been done for our cause. Our Legislators cannot now say that they have not heard any arguments or that the matter has not been before the people.

This makes the third time that I have spoken before our Government. This time our Parliament

is Conservative, before it was a Liberal Government.

MABEL PETERS.

Westfield, New Brunswick, June 2, 1909.

From Toronto comes the welcome news that the Suffrage meeting held in the Convocation Hall on June 21st was a remarkable success. Dr. Anna Shaw presided, and the speakers were Mrs. Edwards (Canada), Miss Lafontaine (Belgium), Mrs. Dobson (Tasmania), Mme. Bernocco (Italy), Fröken Krog (Norway), Dr. Alice Salomon (Germany), and Lady Aberdeen. To us here it is specially memorable as being the first occasion upon which Lady Aberdeen, who has done such splendid social service all her life, has spoken on the question of the enfranchisement of women. She is reported to have said that after what she had heard that night she could keep silence no longer. It is often just those women who have great public good at heart, who sometimes fear to jeopardize it by speaking out upon an unpopular question. But it is precisely these people whose speech is of the greatest value, and sooner or later all these workers are realising that political liberty is not a separate question, but that it lies at the root of all other questions, for until one is free one cannot act effectively at all.

(from: *The Common Cause*, July 1, 1909).

A Montreal paper called "Daily Witness" has invited more than a dozen ladies to form the staff of a special "Women's Edition", a venture in journalism untainted by commercialism or self-interest, and undertaken in a purely philanthropic spirit; the object being to raise money for a reserve fund to protect Mount Royal Park when threatened with invasion, and to aid in the establishment and equipment of playgrounds for the children of Montreal. For impartiality's sake, among the different departments — e. g. home, art, literature, philanthropy, society, sport, etc. — politics, religion, the capital-and-labor question and motoring have been ignored, since the editors' only desire is that the playground idea may have a place in the hearts of the citizens and that it may have an assured place in the realm of "practical politics."

Strangely enough it seems not to be evident to the editors that the shortest way to arrive at this desideratum would be by securing direct influence on these "practical politics" for those citizens in whose hearts the playground idea already has the desired place, by enfranchising all the women of their city. They seem to be rather wavering or divided upon the subject of woman suffrage, for the English page and the half French page devoted to this subject are controversial. Yet the approaching Quinquennial of the International Council of Women, to the announcement of which they give due space, brings the question of the suffrage which was to be treated at one of the public evening meetings, too much to the fore to drown it in fashions, society, philanthropy, sport, etc. And so our "Women's Edition" has to consider it.

Page 27 begins with 2½ columns of argument stating the case *against* woman suffrage. When we read there things like: — "The suffragists have amalgamated the two sexes into a single term called human being, in defiance of the whole history of humanity" . . . "If political activity is no part of the normal life of a mother of children, then it lies outside the scope of all women. We cannot subdivide the women into two sexes" . . .

"No women are really in business, or only one in a myriad", — we are relieved to see the article signed by a man's name. But that is also the case with the next article of two columns, which upholds opposite views, starting in its argumentation from the advent of life upon the earth. Then a woman well versed in the history of Ancient Rome tells us of Roman matrons and how they managed to influence legislation, and finally a letter from England informs us that the writer cannot but think that a sensible and firm declaration of grievances made by women to male representatives would be as efficacious as a vote.

In the French part Yvonne, in a clear and logical article, claims votes for women, because they are different from men and have their own interests and pursuits, whereas the laws are for both sexes. Madeleine, on the other hand, has all the rights she wants, prefers to govern some man from behind the screens, and wishes to remain a woman.

Certainly it will be of great interest to the readers of "Jus Suffragii" to be informed of the effect of the Quinquennial of the I. C. W. and of the evening meeting, where so many distinguished suffragists gave addresses, upon a public whose frame of mind is shown in the Women's Edition of the Montreal Daily Witness of May 15, '09.

M. G. K.

In Gimli, a thriving town in New-Iceland, the only town outside Iceland, where the town council consists of Icelanders only, women's franchise has many friends among men and women. A crowded meeting was held on the 7th of April, where Miss Marg. Benedictsson spoke in favour of this cause. On the 16th of that month an association was founded for women's suffrage, that has a prospect of quick growth. (Freya, April 1909.)

Great Britain.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is again faced with two by-elections: one in Mid-Derby, where both the candidates are in favour, and one in Cleveland Yorkshire, where both candidates are opposed. In the latter case we have decided to do educational work alone. Unfortunately the Yorkshire election stopped the working of the caravan, which under Miss Fielden has proved a tremendous success. The largest open air meetings ever known were held in different towns, and hotel-keepers lodged our workers free of charge and even the hotel servants refused to take tips "because they wanted the money to go to the cause". It was a splendid example of woman's efficiency, as the whole affair, including the hire, keep and care of the horse, were in our workers' hands.

We propose to have one caravan in Wales and one in Scotland later on.

The London Society organised a wonderful ball in the best known dancing rooms in London and made £ 121.0.0 profit out of the venture, besides educating some antagonists present who were forced to admit that our dancing and our frocks were none the less agreeable for our terrible opinions.

The Premier has just refused to receive a deputation from over 200 headmistresses of Girls' Public Secondary Schools, representing over 40,000 pupils. Among the signatures can be seen the names of the most famous women in our educational world.

The memorial is a wonderful plea for the

suffrage and we are glad to say we have permission to use it as a leaflet. Mr. Asquith has of course refused to receive a deputation to present it, but it has been sent not only to him but to all the members of the Cabinet and the M. P.s. London, July 1909. MARGERY I. CORBETT.

The great demonstration of June 29, towards which the **Women's Social and Political Union** have been working for so long, has proved far more successful than was thought possible. It was decided to take advantage of an act passed in the reign of Charles II, and send a series of deputations, each limited to 7 or 8 persons. By doing this, the women kept strictly within the letter of the law, for, although this statute prohibits deputations consisting of more than 10 from approaching the House of Commons, it expressly states that deputations of less than that number have "freedom of access" to the King or either House of Parliament. The first deputation which attempted to interview the Prime Minister was headed by Mrs. Pankhurst, the beloved leader and founder of the Union. The reception which this deputation received from the large crowds assembled in the streets, was enthusiastic in the extreme. Their progress through the streets was like the progress of a triumphant army. The whole way to the House of Commons they were accompanied by a cheering, enthusiastic crowd. Arrived at the entrance to the House, they were refused admittance and, on demanding entrance, arrested. This deputation was followed by another, and another, till 108 women had been arrested.

The following day they were brought before the magistrate and charged with the old, familiar charge of "obstructing the police in the execution of their duty". Contrary to the expectations of the authorities, the women were defended by Counsel, who quoted the statute I have referred to and maintained that in preventing the women from gaining access to the House, the police were exceeding their duty. The prosecutor for the Chief Commissioner of Police was so impressed, that he promptly asked for an adjournment. This was granted and the women were remanded till the following week. At the time of writing, the final result is not known, but the future is exceedingly hopeful.

A few days before this momentous deputation, a member of the W. S. and P. U. attempted to stencil an Extract from the Bill of Rights (passed in the reign of William and Mary) on the wall of the House of Commons. This extract, which runs: "It is the right of the subject to petition the King, and all commitments and prosecutions for such petitionings are illegal", she succeeded after two attempts in printing on the wall of St. Stephen's Hall with indelible ink. As a result she was arrested, charged with "malicious damage", and sentenced to one month's imprisonment in the third or lowest division.

The Secretary W. S. & P. U.
London, July 1909.

For a whole month the **Women's Freedom League** have been engaged in girdling Westminster with a string of meetings. Night after night our speakers have gone out, and some of the worst slums in London—the notorious New Cut, Walworth, and others equally well-known—have been converted to our point of view. That the work has been well and effectively done was

shown by the enthusiasm with which the resolutions were carried on July 5th, when deputations were sent from the mass meetings to interview Mr. Asquith at the House of Commons. We are taking a firm stand with regard to these deputations, for we find that, by an ancient statute of Charles II and a clause in the Bill of Rights, all subjects of the King are entitled to petition His Majesty or a member of the House of Commons within certain well-defined regulations.

These regulations we carefully complied with on the occasion of our last deputation: the number of the deputation did not exceed ten, no public disturbance was invited, all the police sessional orders with regard to keeping clear the entrance to the House were obeyed, we had given due and courteous notice to Mr. Asquith that we were coming; yet still an interview was refused.

As I write this, our delegates are laying siege to the House of Commons, from whence they will not stir as long as the House is sitting, until the Premier grants their perfectly constitutional demand, or they are forcibly removed by the police.

The determined obstinacy of Mr. Asquith has however made us determined to fall back on our right to petition His Majesty in person, and we have written to Lord Knollys, His Majesty's secretary, begging him to arrange for a personal audience for us. We intend presenting a petition for an interview on Thursday July 6th at Buckingham Palace, and if we are referred back by the King to his ministers—according to the usage of the last two reigns—we shall insist once more upon our right to be received by them.

Meanwhile, with all these stirring events happening in the metropolis—law-suits pending and knotty points going to be fought out to the last legal clause—our work in the provinces goes on apace. The caravan has had a tremendously successful campaign in Hampshire. Huge audiences have listened to the speakers, and friends for the cause won in many fresh districts. The friendly reception accorded everywhere this year to the votes-for-women van is very gratifying and proves by its difference from last year's usual welcome of stones and abuse how the seed sown in the provincial districts has borne good fruit.

A timely by-election in Cleveland Yorkshire is giving us an opportunity of striking another blow at this vindictive Government, which surely has the blackest record of any of modern times: over 500 women and many men imprisoned for fighting for liberty. Our workers are unsparing in their efforts to "Keep the Liberal Out!" and Miss Muriel Matters with her eloquent and convincing speeches is doing much to bring about that desirable result. London, July 1909. MARION HOLMES.

United States.

Over a hundred well-known men in Chicago have formed a Men's League for Woman Suffrage, and propose to help the movement in many practical ways. President is ex-Senator Thomas C. Mac Millan.

Illinois is at present the great battleground. The Chicago women joined hands to secure municipal suffrage and carried the charter revision committee by a vote of 20 to 12. Then over 200 of them went to Springfield in a special train. Six stops were made en route for speech making from the rear car. Crowds were at the stations to see and hear.

At the state capitol, the women seemed to sweep all before them. But four anti-suffragists appeared against hundreds of suffragists. Yet no doubt, Mr Bok and Dr. Abbott will continue to say that the women do not want the vote. Facts are of little moment to those who rely solely on their own prejudices for knowledge.

The Illinois Senate committee voted unanimously to report favorably the bill giving municipal and township suffrage to all the women of the state on this momentous day.

(from the "New York Suffrage Newsletter").

The bill to give the women of Illinois municipal suffrage received a majority vote in the Senate, 25 ayes to 17 nays, but lacked one vote of having a majority of the whole Senate, which was needed to carry it.

The Congress of the National Federation of Religious Liberals in Philadelphia passed a resolution in favor of woman suffrage by a vote of 132 to 17.

The Illinois Mothers' Congress, at its annual meeting last week, passed a resolution in favor of votes for women.

Three unanimous votes in favor of woman suffrage have lately been given in places where unanimity was not to have been expected. One was by the Western New York Federation of Women's Clubs, representing 30,000 women; one by the senior class of Barnard College; and one by the Lower House of the Swedish Parliament.

(from "The Woman's Journal").

For years we have not had so good a vehicle for propaganda as the Great Petition.

We are working through a large number of organizations. The Grange; the W. C. T. U. in many states; the Labor Unions wherever appealed to; in some parts of the country, the Women's Clubs; and of the political parties, the Prohibitionists to some extent are with us, and the Socialists are most helpful and enthusiastic.

At the annual meeting of the Interurban Woman Suffrage Council, it was voted to set aside May 27, Julia Ward Howe's birthday, as Petition Day. Every suffragist in Greater New York was requested to obtain at least ninety signatures to the national petition—one name for each anniversary of the day.

(from "Progress").

The first state conference of the Woman's Socialist Union of California was held in Burbank hall, Los Angeles, May 6 and 7. The hall was decorated with masses of flowers, red predominating.

There was a good attendance of delegates and the afternoon and evening sessions were largely attended. A symposium upon suffrage and a discussion of the white slave traffic occupied the first afternoon. There was a paper upon "The Ballot as a Protection to the Home," by Mrs. Mary A. Kenny, and Mrs. Nora White Simpson of San Diego spoke upon "Why Socialist Women Should Work for Suffrage." A spirited discussion followed.

(from: "The Progressive Woman").

The *Hawaiian* House of Representatives has adopted a resolution urging Congress to extend the full rights of franchise to the wives and daughters of citizens of Hawaii. The resolution

refers to the active and valuable participation of women in the functions of government prior to the annexation. M. G. K.

Germany.

The General Synod of the Evangelical Church met on June 17th at Karlsruhe and discussed a petition from the Badenian W.S.A. asking church suffrage for women. After a lively debate the following resolution was carried:—"That the Synod holds enfranchisement of women in church matters to be desirable, and transmits the petition to the Church Authorities (Kirchenbehörde) as material for future settlement of this matter."

The Hessian W. S. A. petitioned the Hessian Government for Municipal Suffrage for women on the same terms as for men.

("Zeitschrift f. Frauenstimmrecht", July 1, 1909.)

The Federation of Women's Associations in Middle Germany had its annual meeting in May at Gotha. In accordance with some suggestions received, the Federation resolved to issue a circular to the women of the Thuringian states urging them to register as municipal electors and exercise the right to vote, in those cases where the payment of taxes or a qualification as landholders will allow it, and also to obtain the permission to vote personally and not by proxy.

The National Association of Women Teachers ended its annual meeting on June 22nd at Hamburg. Among the resolutions adopted was one in favour of the appointment of women as members of the Juvenile Courts, contemplated in the revision of the Penal Code.

The Federation of Women Commercial Employees' Unions met at Brunswick on June the 5th. In the first Report, Miss Altmann from Königsberg claimed for the Commercial Boards (Kaufmannskammern) equality, for men and women, suffrage at 21 and eligibility at 25 years of age. Concerning the Commercial Tribunals (Kaufmannsgerichte) a resolution was adopted, which declared that these Tribunals could never answer their purpose satisfactorily, unless women had votes and eligibility for them; and as it was inadvisable to forego the amount of experience already acquired by younger people in the profession, the demand was made for the suffrage at 21 and eligibility at 25 years.

(from "Centralblatt des Bundes deutscher Frauenvereine".)

The Municipality of the city of Breslau has lately changed the regulations for charitable institutions, so that now it is possible to appoint women on Public Charity- and Orphan-Boards. For the Board of Charity the appointment of six women is contemplated (as against 75 men members) i. e. for each ward one woman; and in the Orphan-Board 200 women are to be elected.

At the request of several Women's associations, the Municipal Council of Bielefeld has appointed eight women as Hon. Assessors on the Sanitary Inspection Committee (städtische Wohnungsinspektion). Women are also employed by the Magistrate for relief of the poor and care of the inebriate. (from "Die Frauenbewegung".)

The Silesian Woman Suffrage Association was formed in 1908. The Law on Assemblies did not allow women to form political associations up to May 15th 1908, but the question of the enfranchisement of women had been frequently discussed in most of the women's societies. So the women in Silesia were already prepared for the claim of woman suffrage and, some days before the introduction of the new Law on Assemblies, they organised a Silesian League for Woman Suffrage. After having existed a year, the S. W. S. A. held a big public meeting in the second city of Silesia, which brought in quite a number of new members, so that at present, with three Local Branches in Breslau, Liegnitz, Görlitz, and sundry members scattered all over the province, its whole membership amounts to 200. This number is comparatively high, since the entire German Woman Suffrage Federation counts scarcely 2000 members. Surely this result a year after the establishment of the new Imperial Law on Assemblies is of some value. Up to now affiliation of the S. W. S. A. with the German W. S. Federation has not been obtained [The organ of the Local Council of Women of Silesia of July 1st says that a proposal to this effect was rejected in the meeting of May 8 at Görlitz.-Ed.], as the German Federation (National W. S. A.) demands that its members shall agitate for universal, equal, secret and direct suffrage (Adult Suffrage) and only takes up those associations that have suffrage for their sole object, whereas the Silesian W. S. A. stands for woman suffrage unconditionally and takes up organisations which agitate for other social reforms as well as for political equality. The latter stipulation is founded on the fact that the only possibility for German women of exercising the right to vote is on social reform lines, since we only possess municipal suffrage in the city of Travemünde, in the rural districts of Hannover, the Principality of Schaumburg-Rudolstadt, the cities of Bremen and Lubeck and in the Kingdom of Saxony, whilst the right to vote is limited to spinsters and widows. The suffrage which is the apange of women landholders in most of the German states, may only be exercised by a male proxy and therefor can hardly be termed *woman suffrage*. And so, practically speaking, the German women have votes only in Public Charity, in School Affairs and for Medical Aid Funds. It is actually exercised in about 90 towns for Public Charity purposes by scarcely 6000 women voters, of whom about 30 are serving on the Managing Boards. In Educational Boards some 150 or 200 women elected by men are functioning. For the Medical Aid Societies, the women payers have suffrage and eligibility. As in this case nearly one third of the members are too young to vote and they are mostly working women, the vote is comparatively made little use of. The women suffragists, especially the W. S. Associations are urging upon women the necessity of exercising their voting power, and have been trying of late years to get women elected in the Managing Boards of these Medical Aid Funds.

The Silesian W. S. A., in its Görlitz meeting, recently resolved to influence women in the rural districts to exercise their voting privilege as landholders. The Association's nearest purpose in so doing is an educational one. By interesting the women for the existing proxy-suffrage, they hope to make them accustomed to voting and to convert them to advocates of real woman suffrage.

Breslau, July 1909.

MARIE WEGNER.

The Netherlands.

The elections for the Second Chamber of the States General, held on June 11 and 23, have resulted in a majority of the allied Clerical parties of 60 against 40, a greater one than the country has ever known. For us this means that within the next four years no revision of the Constitution can be expected, and so for that period there will be no question of the enfranchisement of women. This obliges us to concentrate our efforts to collecting our energy in order to be able to bring a strong influence to bear on the elections of four years hence.

At the present moment municipal elections are going on, as one third of the Town Councillors have to be re-elected or replaced.

Dr. ALETTA H. JACOBS.

Amsterdam, July 1909.

During the last elections for the Second Chamber the **Men's League for Women's Suffrage** and its branches sent letters to all candidates containing the questions, mentioned in "Jus Suffragii", III, p. 75. About 70 out of \pm 250 candidates answered; the great majority of them wrote that they were willing to abolish women's disability in the State Constitution, some of them being prepared to give the suffrage to women on the same terms as it or may be exercised by men, others being advocates of a more limited women's suffrage. Most Socialists answered that they would only vote for adult suffrage. Our League published a special election paper, in which we inserted the answers of the candidates and exhorted the electors to vote only for advocates of women's suffrage; besides the election paper contained articles, in which women's franchise was advocated from different points of view — one article showing that the reform was also in the interest of men, another urging the justice of the claim etc. About 15,000 copies were distributed in many constituencies at meetings etc. In some towns members of our League attended the meetings of electors, questioned the candidates and other public speakers and made propaganda speeches. At the meetings of the different political parties we generally showed, that the principles of the party themselves ought to induce its members and representatives to work for the enfranchisement of women. We hope also that it will prove possible in future to found, in all political parties, organisations of (men and women) advocates of woman suffrage, who will work within their parties to further our aim.

Amsterdam, July 1909. E. W. VAN STRAATEN.

South Africa.

The Women's Enfranchisement League of Natal holds bi-weekly "at homes" on the first and third Fridays during the winter months from May to October, where Mrs. Mirrlees and ten other ladies will give speeches and the Officers of the W.E.L. will act as hostesses. All members, friends and visitors will be cordially welcomed.

In addition a series of public evening meetings will be held on the fourth Friday in each month at 8 p. m., at which some well-known speakers will deliver lectures.

The W.E.L. has a library in the Mutual Buildings at Durban, which is open free to all members, and by permission to any non-members for consultation.

(Circulars W.E.L.)

Sweden.

The first general meeting of the N. W. S. A. was held in Stockholm on the 18 and 19th of June. This meeting was the first of its kind and open to all members of the N. W. S. A. The president, Dr. Lydia Wahlström, was in the chair. Several hundred members from all over Sweden were present and the interest in our common cause has never been greater, nor more intense.

The tug of war was expected to stand between the social-democratic women and women belonging to the other parties, who were satisfied with asking for the right of voting on the same conditions as men, whereas the Social-democrats wanted the poor-law restrictions to be removed, thus claiming suffrage for women on wider terms than for men. However the recognition of solidarity of interests seemed to get the upper hand, and there are great hopes of keeping the women united together, till we gain our cause.

Fine and eloquent speeches were delivered, among others by Mr. Hallberg, vicar of one of the Stockholm parishes, about "Franchise from the point of view of the home", and by Mr. G. H. von Koch editor of the "Social Review", who was just home from a long journey to the United States. He spoke about "Enfranchisement in Sweden and abroad".

Dr. Gulli Petrini, well known from the London congress through her interesting report about her adventures when lecturing on woman's franchise in Lapland (Sweden) above the polar circle, addressed the public on "The opponents to women's enfranchisement". In a brilliant display of words and facts, she defested them one by one and especially Professor Clason of the 1st Chamber, who had alleged erroneous figures to back his arguments.

The following resolution was afterwards moved and unanimously carried: "Men and women, about 600 in number, assembled at a public meeting in Stockholm on the 18th of June, make the demand that, as the Bill proposed in 1907, to set wider limits for men's franchise has been passed, and the Chamber elected by the people has lately on the 24th of April unanimously given its vote for the enfranchisement of women, this question should be settled without delay.

Furthermore it was clearly pointed out that the only means of bringing our cause forward was a reform of the 1st Chamber. In order to solve that most urgent problem, the women, who have the right of municipal votes were urged only to give their votes to those electors, who in their turn promise to vote for members, friends to our cause. The following resolution was unanimously carried:—"The discussion in the Riksdag on women's enfranchisement in 1909 has made it clear that the opponents of the women's just claim to citizenship are to be found in the First Chamber. An exchange of opponents for adherents of their enfranchisement in this Chamber, must therefore be the women's first aim in politics. So we exhort the women to take energetic and well-advised action towards this end, by taking part in the approaching elections for the Landsting and the Stadsfullmäktige in Stockholm, Göteborg, Malmö, Norrköping and Gefle".

Further it was agreed upon to try to spread a wider knowledge about women's franchise, especially amongst the country-people and the peasant-women. A leaflet will soon appear, which will be distributed to all and everybody, even in the back-parts of our big, fine country.

The debates of the second day were opened by Miss Signe Bergman, newly elected secretary of the I. W. S. All. at the late London congress, and well known to the readers of this paper, with a vivid and highly interesting account of "How suffrage-work is carried on in England". This lecture will shortly appear in print. One of the walls of the big assembly-hall was decorated by Miss Bergman with all kinds of leaflets, newspapers, pamphlets, badges ribbons, posters, photographs and postcards, brought home from England, which made a very good effect.

Many other speakers made their eloquent voices and ideas heard, such as Miss Anna Whitlock, our late president, Miss E. Wahlquist, Mrs. Ruth Gustafson, Mrs. Ellen Hagen who gave an interesting account of the London congress, and others.

On the 20th the board of officers of the N.W.S.A. were called to an extra meeting to deliberate upon the best ways of propaganda. It was decided that several lectures should be held in different parts of our country by ladies who willingly gave their assistance; the watering-places and the seashore resorts were specially considered to be good bases of operation for the summer.

CAROLINA BENEDICKS—BRUCE.

Brucebo-Visby, July 3 1909.

In the evening meeting of the National Convention at Stockholm, Mr. H. G. v. Koch ended his address by saying: "It is time that the men of this country should come to the fore to combat the male opponents of woman suffrage. In England as well as in America people have come to consider the enfranchisement of women no more as a question that concerns the women, but as one that concerns the whole community. As for men, it would be an advantage for them if the ancient ideal of womanhood — half angel, half idiot — were to disappear; the angel should remain, but the idiot should be replaced by a selfconscious, thinking woman".

We are informed that Mr. v. Koch has the intention of forming a Men's League for Woman Suffrage.

The National Convention was a great success; the press had splendid reports and many papers had leading articles on the subject. At the same time there appeared an announcement that the Government intends now to begin the long-promised investigation on the operation of women's franchise. The Chief of the Central Bureau of Statistics, Mr. L. Widell, has got an order from the Government to begin an inquest. Firstly the literature from abroad will be demanded by the intermission of the Consulates, then will come statistics, and especially America and Australia will be expected to afford useful information, since the women there have had votes long before Finland and Norway.

May this action be considered an answer from the Government to Dr. Gulli Petrini's questions at the Stockholm meeting?

(from: "Dagny").

Denmark.

The Danske Kvindeforeningers Valgretsforbund (D.W.S.A.) sent the following petition to the Government and the Rigsdag on June 24:—"The D.W.S.A., which has over 10,000 members from

all classes, herewith respectfully urges Government and Rigsdag to amend the Constitution and thereby to give the same political rights of voting and eligibility to the men and the women, since the national defence is to be regulated by law. We hold that national defence is of equally great importance for women as for men, and that therefore a Parliament which has to legislate in this matter should be composed of Representatives elected by women as well as men, and should consist of women and men."—

When this petition was presented, the Prime Minister, who is also the Minister of War, answered that, in his opinion the women ought to have the political as well as the municipal vote, and also to be eligible to the Rigsdag equally with men,—but that *for the present* he could not give the question precedence.

Deputy Thomsen presented this resolution to the Rigsdag; on July 5th, on the suggestion of Mr. Rode, a Radical M. P., it was taken into consideration along with the Socialist proposal of changing the demarcation of the voting constituencies; and finally the House adopted Mr. J. C. Christensen's motion to appoint a Committee which is to report on the desirability of instructing another Committee to formulate a draft of these two desired changes in the State Constitution. So the enfranchisement of women is now a question of actual politics in Denmark.

LOUISE NÓRLUND.

Copenhagen, July 6, 1909.

The Dansk Kvindesamfund (affiliated to the Valgretsforbund) held its *Agitation-day for Women Suffrage* on the 20th of June.

On the same date in 1788 the Danish *peasants* were emancipated from so-called „bondage”, and many of our friends who spoke at the suffrage-meetings, held this year in various parts of the country, pointed out that Danish *women*, 121 years after, are still claiming to be released from their „bondage”.

At all our meetings (between 20 and 30) a resolution was carried, in which a change of our constitution is claimed, and the resolution was handed to the Government.

At present everything is drowned in the discussion of new laws for our national defence, so we do not expect very much effect of our resolution,—however, it will stand as one of those nails we constantly and for many years are hammering into the heads of those that *are* free and *could* make us free too.

Many of the meetings were exceedingly crowded, especially in Jutland, where our annual congress (on which I reported in the May-number) had roused many people.

TH. DAUGAARD,
Manager of Dansk Kvindesamfund's
Head-Office.

July 3rd, 1909.

Norway.

On the 23rd of June it was decided in the Odelsting that there should not be any separate prohibition of women's work during the night. I could quote many good speeches that were delivered in favour of the resolution, but I will only here bring before you that of Mr. Stang, the leader of the Conservative party.

He spoke as follows: "I find it very unnatural that this matter is to be decided here, where no

woman had an opportunity to plead her own cause. In the next session of the Storting the women will have their representatives here and bring their influence to bear on the matter, therefore I feel it is wrong that the present Storting, which is to be the last stamped with this sex-partiality, should have to decide upon a matter which is essentially a women's question; and that, so to say, 'on the entering-rope'."

Now we hope that the Lagting will show the same good sense, and that this specimen of so-called *protective* legislation will be warded off from Norway for some time at least.

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The Norwegian Kvindesaksforening (Women's Union) celebrated its 25 years' jubilee with an interesting festival on the 28th of June. Present were many of our most prominent leaders, the President of the Storting and many authorities in all branches of social life. The Prime Minister had also been invited, but at the last moment he was prevented by business. Many telegrams and greetings were received and the evening was spent very agreeably.

F. MÖRCK.

Kristiania, July 1909.

France.

Not having been favoured with any correspondence, we simply report from the press that one of these days Mr. Dussaussoy's bill for women's municipal franchise, introduced on July 10th 1906 by its author, is going to be brought forward again on the occasion of the consideration of Mr. Buisson's bill on Electoral Reform. Mr. D.'s death is much regretted by the French suffragists, but they hope that some member of the Feminist Parliamentary Group will undertake to advocate his proposal. On May 13 the Alumnae from the Department of the Isère (group féministe universitaire de l'Isère) passed a resolution in favor of Mr. D.'s bill, however urging that entire political equality may follow. A similar action was taken by a women's association in Havre, and Mrs. Maria Martin advises the readers of her *Journal des Femmes* to be content with municipal suffrage as a first step, probably easier for the French to take than full enfranchisement. It is alleged that in Municipal Councils are decided local affairs and not politics.

* * *

In the National Council of France, Maria Vérone L.L.D. read a report on the status of women, stating the cases in which they already have votes, viz. for Commercial Tribunals, Trades Boards (Conseil des Prudhommes), the High Commission of Education (Conseil supérieur de l'Instruction publique), the High Commission of Labour (Conseil supérieur du Travail) etc. and showing that the time has come now for the municipal vote also.

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At the annual garden-party-conference, which Mlle Monod, the President of the Nat. Council of France gives at a country-seat in Versailles, among the societies invited to give a Report there was also the French Union for Woman Suffrage (F. W. S. A.). In the absence of Mme Schmahl, who was prevented from attending, her report was read and received with applause.

M. G. K.