

With Supplement from the World's Young Women's Christian Association.

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# THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE NEWS



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## FEATURES OF THE MONTH.

ON December 16, Monsieur Millerand, President of the French Republic, received a deputation from the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes. The President of the Union, Madame de Witt Schlumberger, presented to M. Millerand the letter addressed to the French Government by the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, praying the Government to accord to Frenchwomen the same electoral rights which have now been conferred on the women of so many countries. M. Millerand declared himself to be in favour of Woman Suffrage, but stated that he considered that the vote should be given gradually, commencing with the municipal vote.

THIRTY women have been elected to the United States Legislatures: more than double the number than in the years previous to the complete enfranchisement of the women of America.

WE congratulate Canada on the good sense and progressive spirit it has shown in making a woman, Mrs. Ralph Smith, Minister of Education. Mrs. Smith became a member of the Legislature of British Columbia three years ago—and her re-election lately by a huge majority shows that she has the confidence of the electorate.

THE United States, too, have made a forward move in appointing a woman, Miss Viola Smith, as Secretary of the American Commercial Attaché in Peking.

IN Belgium the Socialist Party and Workers League have already nominated 17 women candidates for the forthcoming Communal Elections.

THE Synod of Zurich has not yet definitely voted on the admission of women to the ministry, but the majority of speakers in the December debate have been favourable, and there is a very good hope that the January debate will result in the acceptance of the proposal which is under discussion—the right of unmarried women to become fully accredited pastors.

WE call the special attention of our readers to the report from Western Australia of the working of Section of 256 of the Health Act at present in force. This clause gives the Health Commissioner power to detain and examine anyone suspected to be suffering from venereal disease. In answer to questions the Health Minister had to confess that under this clause action had been taken in 40 cases—and all the forty cases were women. Clauses such as these in Health Bills, suggestions in the same lines from groups or people who are fighting venereal disease, simply mean the return of the Contagious Diseases Acts under a camouflaged form. Wherever there is anything compulsory—be it examination, treatment, or notification, feminists may be perfectly sure that however much equality may be talked of, in the end that compulsion will be used in the case of women rather than of men, and

they may be equally sure that from the hygienic point of view the venture will be a failure. At Geneva we urged that a vigorous campaign be undertaken against venereal disease by all means compatible with freedom and justice—and we were further unanimously agreed that in this connection, all laws which strike at women without touching men are ineffective and unjust. Let us see to it in every country that any campaign against venereal disease and its causes, whether it be a government or an outside agency scheme, be not an iniquitous and absolutely useless persecution of women.

A CHANGE of government often means a set-back for suffrage. Happily that is not so in the case of Greece. M. Gounaris, one of the leaders of the present interim Government, on his way back to Greece, expressed himself—rather to the alarm of some of his less progressive followers!—as being favourable to woman suffrage.

King Constantine has for long been a convinced suffragist—and Queen Sophie, when leaving Lucerne, said that on her return to Greece she was going to devote part of her time to working for woman suffrage. It would be fitting that Greece should lead the way in this respect, and be the first country of the Near East to enfranchise its women. We look forward with hope, therefore, to the speedy granting of the municipal and parliamentary vote to the women of Greece.

We hear from the National Women's Trade Union League of the United States of America that equal pay for equal work, irrespective of sex, will become the law as far as the United States Civil Service is concerned, if Congress passes the bill for reclassification of the Civil Service just introduced by Representative Lehlbach of New Jersey. We shall give further information with regard to this bill next month.

We publish this month the first Supplement of the World's Young Women's Christian Association. Though the International Woman Suffrage Alliance is in no way responsible for any of the matter published in this or other supplements, we believe that every subscriber and Honorary Associate Member will be warmly interested in the International work of this splendid association, and will welcome the Supplement as a really useful and interesting addition to our paper.

#### GENEVA CONGRESS REPORT.

THE report is now ready and will be sent out to Auxiliaries, Hon. Associate Members, and all who have ordered copies, during the coming week.

Will everyone who wishes a copy, or copies, please communicate at once with Headquarters. The report contains invaluable information from our own auxiliaries, and many other countries as well, as to work for woman suffrage, and the status of women, in politics, industry, law, morals, etc. It is full of interest to the general reader, and invaluable as a reference book to all who are engaged in social work.

Prices (post free): 4s. 3d. (Great Britain), 1 dollar (U.S.A.), 5 francs (Swiss), 3.85 Kr. (Sweden), 4.70 Kr. (Norway, Denmark). Where the rate of exchange is abnormally low, the price is the equivalent of 4s. at the pre-war rate of exchange. Such payment to be made to a local hon. treasurer or to a bank account similar to our present account at the Dresden Bank, or, alternatively, direct to our account at the Dresden Bank, Dresden.

## THE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

By ANNA WICKSELL.

THERE is one thing in this first Assembly which reminds me of the convention of the I.W.S.A. this spring. The hearts of men, within and without the Assembly, are filled with the need of the world, with world poverty, sickness, lack of work and production that is lessened, not because there is less need for it, but because the peoples who most need the products have nothing with which to pay for them. And then we have this great international gathering of the most prominent men of all nations, who—this Assembly being the first of its kind—must spend their time in organising work, in slowly digging the League's own ground and building its own basement. This is, no doubt, a tedious and uninteresting operation in the eyes of the man in the street, who feels all the need, and is looking to this world Assembly for a ray of hope. But it is an essential operation if hope is ever to be realised, and, after all, public opinion has got something. The debate about typhus in Eastern Europe gave a strenuous impulse, which was followed by promises of immediate subscription from countries which have not themselves all they want, and I have no doubt that the little committee which was appointed to get definite promises of help from the different Governments, will be able to report success before we all go away.

We have had debates on the economic and financial problems. I am afraid it was not grandiloquent enough for the man in the street. Public opinion seems to love grand words, and there were no grand words. There were some earnest expressions of the general need, but no touching or inspiring eloquence. And yet I think the League has done its very best to solve these economic and financial problems in calling together the ablest experts of the world and giving them opportunities to work out one scheme, or several schemes.

In my eyes it is the uninteresting organisation work of the Assembly which is the important thing for the future. Of all the decisions come to at this moment I believe the most far-reaching is the first article in the rules of procedure, stating that the Assembly shall meet once every year, on the first Monday in September. Think of it! Once every year it will be the duty of practically all countries in the world—for it will take a very short time now before they are all in, I believe, with, perhaps, some reservation for Russia—to send representatives to Geneva in order to discuss world politics, world demands, world needs. This fact alone must bring home to every man or woman who cares to think of it, that world politics has ceased to be a thing of particulars, treated by the States two and two in their private chancelleries; it has become a wider and a safer thing, namely, a common international concern, where every national interest will get a hearing, where international problems will all be discussed in public and decided, not always wisely, I am afraid, but still, by common consent. I am perfectly aware that it will take time before several States will mend their bad ways and bad habits, but by and by, as years go on, and session follows upon session, it will creep into our consciousness that the world is one large family, that international controversies have to be reconciled, and must be neither shirked nor decided by main force. Perhaps one must have been doing peace work for thirty

years, like myself, to understand fully what an immense step has been taken by the creation of the League, and by this first little rule in the articles of procedure of the Assembly.

Another great thing! The commission that has had to deal with the International Court of Justice has come to a unanimous understanding; and long before you read this article you will know that the League has got its judicial machine. It is not perfect, that is true, but it is, and that is what counts.

On the other hand, the Assembly has not succeeded in working out satisfactory rules for the composition of the Council, and the election of its four non-permanent members; but it has done the next best thing, that is, it has not created bad rules, but has adopted a simple rule for the election of this year and sent the general problem to a committee which will be set up by the Council itself to study the matter and submit amendments to the Covenant.

Before we leave, three great questions will be discussed—the admission of new States, disarmament, and mandates. All these questions are in committee as I write; they are all very political questions, and I have no doubt that the results will be in many respects unsatisfactory. Still, something has been done for the ex-enemy States; Austria and Bulgaria will become members of the League, and, in time, the rest will follow. As for disarmament, I am afraid very little will be done; I shall be perfectly satisfied if good-will could be manifested and the work of preparation begun. It is the most difficult subject of all. The sub-commission about mandates has only just begun its work; a demand from the Board of the I.W.S.A. to get a woman on the commission on mandates stipulated in art. 22, par. 9, in the Covenant has been handed over to the commission, and I sincerely hope it may be granted. We have a Swedish member on the sub-commission, and he has promised to do as much as is in his power. It certainly is a very natural request, taking into consideration the particularly helpless position of women in the mandatory areas.

This is a difficult time for a League of Nations to come into being. It is not fair to ask of it the solution, now at once, of all the difficult problems which are racking Europe and the whole world; it is much, if the different Powers are willing honestly and peacefully to grapple with those difficulties. The disastrous consequences of a world-war of more than four years' duration cannot be overcome in a short period; it always takes more time to mend than to rend. But even the mending can be done if only you begin with a good will. I think the League has begun with a good will; it is our business, every one of us, to set that good will growing.

#### NORWAY.

##### OUR WOMAN ALTERNATE AT THE LEAGUE ASSEMBLY.

DR. KRISTINE BONNEVIE was born in 1872. On entering the University she at once began the study of her special subject—Biology. In 1906 she took her degree as Doctor of Philosophy, and became our first and, unfortunately for the present, only female Professor at the University in 1912. Early interested in our political life she has by her broadminded and sound views done valuable work, and has represented women in a worthy and sympathetic manner. She formerly carried out various biological researches, and

has in later years been occupied with the study of the subject of heredity, and is much esteemed in her profession.

She was Norway's official representative at the I.W.S.A.'s meeting at Stockholm, 1911, and also at the quinquennial meeting of the I.C.W. in Christiania, September 8 to 17 of this year, where she was the bearer of the Norwegian Government's message of welcome to the Assembly at the opening meeting on September 11.

Professor Bonnevie has been appointed as Alternate to the Norwegian Delegates to the League of Nations Assembly.

A. BORSCHENIUS.

November 29, 1920.



Dr. KRISTINE BONNEVIE.

#### LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

##### CORRESPONDENCE.

##### Prevention and Treatment of Venereal Disease in Ports.

MRS. CORBETT ASHBY,  
International Woman Suffrage Alliance,  
11, Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C. 2.

MADAM,

I am instructed by the Director of the International Labour Office to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of December 8, and to thank you for the copy of the Resolutions adopted by the Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance at Geneva, dealing with the prevention and treatment of venereal disease in ports.

I am to assure you that these resolutions will be carefully considered, and to enclose for your information a copy of the Bulletin of the Office, containing an account of the first session of the Joint Maritime Commission and the correspondence which has taken place between the International Labour Office and the Secretariat of the League of Nations with regard to the study of the subject of the resolutions of your Congress.

I am, Madam,

H. B. BUTLER, Deputy-Director.

International Labour Office, Geneva,  
December 17, 1920.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA. HEALTH ACT AGAIN BEFORE PARLIAMENT.

### Iniquitous Venereal Disease Clause.

LAST week the Health Act Continuation Bill relating to V.D. was before Parliament for amendment. The Government asked for the continuation of the operation of Section 256 of the Health Act for a further period of twelve months' trial.

This is the particular section that has caused so much public controversy, as it gives the Commissioner power to take action on *secret statements* made to him about persons supposed to be suffering, and in the event of wrongful information those persons have no redress whatsoever. Under this section it is quite possible for one person to *denounce another either mistakenly, ignorantly, or with malice, and to escape responsibility for so doing, even if the accused person is innocent.*

This Amending Bill was introduced into the Assembly last week after 11 p.m., and as it was not the intention of the Government at the present time to make it a permanent measure, honourable members who are opposed to this class of legislation allowed it to go through practically without debate.

In the Legislative Council Hon. J. E. Dodd sought some light on the working of the Act in view of the fact that the Hon. Minister stated that the Health Department maintained the measure was working successfully.

His questions revealed the fact that since the Health Amendment Act, 1915, was passed (it did not come into operation for some time later), the Commissioner has used the powers of this Section 256, sub-section 1, in 40 cases, and that those forty cases HAPPEN TO BE WOMEN.

Of those forty, *five* were lost sight of, *six* were free from disease, *two* were doubtful, and *one* is pending, leaving 26 cases in all.

We would like to know on what grounds the C.P.H. had reason to believe that the six women were suffering from V.D., and if when on medical examination they were found to be free, had they any means of ascertaining on whose information he acted?

A further question elicited the fact that the last Report published by the Health Department was for 1917 issued in 1918, but that a report for 1918-19 would be issued in the course of a few days.

It is therefore about three years since Parliament and the public were supplied with an official and up-to-date report from the Health Department on this question.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Dodd for throwing a little light on the working of these powers in our Health Act, and hope he will pursue the matter with further questions.

When this Bill was before the Assembly in September, 1919, and the powers granted the Commissioner under this section were being discussed, Mr. Pilkington, K.C., said:—"It is most vitally important that legislation of this kind should be *watched carefully*, and the least the Government could do is that which they have done, namely, to provide that the matter shall come up again for reconsideration at an early date. I confess that I am disappointed that the Minister in moving the second reading did not give some **FACTS AND FIGURES** to enable us to judge whether the legislation now in force is of a satisfactory kind. . . . One would like to know how far the means we are now using are getting at the diseased persons. . . . I hope that, before this matter again comes before the House, some evidence of that description will be supplied."

Mr. Pilkington's attitude is just the attitude that the public should adopt. If Parliament grants such powers the community has a right to know through hon. members how often it has been found necessary to use these powers, and on what basis it is claimed by the Health Department that this legislation is so successful in reducing V.D. This information should readily be forthcoming, but somehow members seem to consider it a personal injury that Parliament should be held

responsible for the working out of these very measures they have placed on the Statute Book. This is all the more necessary because all proceedings regarding the Bill are held in camera.

It is because of the cruel injustices that have been meted out to women under similar legislative enactments in the Old Country in the past that should make all women apprehensive of such measures and be *au fait* with the manner in which such powers are being administered.

We are all anxious that this terrible scourge should be dealt with, and we remind our readers of the Report issued by the Medical Women's Federation of London on the question of V. Disease and State Control, extracts of which appeared in our September issue.

These are some improvements we must work for in this State:

- (1) That Medical Women be placed in charge of Free Clinics where females are concerned.
- (2) That the laws concerning solicitation be abolished and replaced by a law making it an offence to annoy, molest, or insult, or try to converse with any person against his or her will.
- (3) A scheme for the registration and inspection of lodgings for young persons.

*The Dawn, November 12, 1920.*

## FLEMISH WOMEN IN BELGIUM.

### A Flemish Woman Suffrage Society Formed.

FLEMISH women in Belgium do not feel content with the new Constitution in which all men over 21 years of age are enfranchised, while women only received the right to become members of various representative bodies, but not the right to vote for Members of Parliament.

They are angry with the men who opposed the granting of the suffrage to women, but they also realise that the failure is in part their own fault, as they did not organise strongly enough in favour of woman suffrage when the women of neighbouring countries did.

They now feel strongly convinced that they must at once set to work and make it impossible in the future that women shall again be treated as they were in the recent revision of the Constitution.

In order to form a strong Flemish Women's Suffrage Organisation they applied to the Dutch Women Suffrage Organisation, now the National Society for Women Citizens (Staatsburgeressen) for help and information; and, where their language is Dutch, we were able to send them this information, pamphlets, and other advice as to propaganda.

On December 18, Dr. Aletta Jacobs and Miss C. S. Groot went to Antwerp and spoke before a large audience of men and women drawn from the most intellectual circles in the city. As a result the new Flemish Women's Suffrage Society has begun its work with a membership of 75. Sixty per cent. of the Belgian population is Flemish-speaking, and there is no doubt that it is of the utmost importance that Flemish women suffragists should be organised in such a society.

The women of Antwerp who are interested in this new venture are young, intelligent and enthusiastic—and though they clearly realise all the difficulties that confront them, they are determined that they will not lay down their work till the goal of woman suffrage be won. All our good wishes go with them.

ALETTA JACOBS.

*December 20, 1920.*

## CANADA.

### Women Members of Legislatures.

MISS ROBERTA MACADAMS was born in Sarnia, Ontario, of Scottish-Canadian descent. Went overseas in 1915, and served on the staff of the Orpington Hospital. Was one of four women sent to France to

report the actual state of conditions at front to the Canadians. Her election was unique, for, with Capt. Robt. Pearson she was chosen—as soldiers' representative, with no constituency and no political affiliations—as a Member of the Legislature of Alberta.

Mrs. Ralph Smith, born in Devon, England, and married in 1883, is the mother of five children, one of whom, Jack, won the Croix de Guerre in France. She is an Independent, and has already secured mothers' allowances and equal co-guardianship for the women of British Columbia.

Mrs. Louise McKinney, the Independent Member for Claresholm, in Alberta, was born and educated in Ontario, the daughter of an Irish father and a Canadian mother. Her husband is a farmer, and they have one son. She was the first woman elected to a Canadian Legislature, and was backed by the non-partisan League of Alberta.

Mrs. Arthur Rogers, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, is a native daughter of that Province, having been born at Norway House, where her father was a Hudson's Bay Company Factor. She is a Liberal in politics, and the mother of three daughters and one son. Her work during the war in connection with the administration of the Canadian Patriotic Fund brought her into touch with the soldiers and their dependents, and she represents one of the divisions of the city of Winnipeg, having been elected by proportional representation.

JENNIE G. SMILLIE.

*Ottawa, December 2, 1920.*

### FIRST WOMAN CABINET MINISTER.

The Times of December 17, reports from Vancouver (December 16) that Mrs. Ralph Smith, the Member for Vancouver, in the British Columbia Legislature, will be given Cabinet position, probably as Minister for Education. The appointment is expected to meet with general approval. It is believed to be the first time in any country that a woman has been given such an appointment.

Mrs. Smith comes of an old Devonshire stock, and is the widow of the Hon. Ralph Smith, the former Labour Member in the Federal Parliament for Nanaimo, and later Minister of Labour in the Provincial Liberal Administration. On his death three years ago his widow was elected in his place, and was re-elected recently, heading the poll at Vancouver with 4,000 more votes than those cast for her nearest competitor.

## QUEBEC.

### Work of the Montreal Women's Club.

THE Franchise Committee of the Montreal Women's Club is the only agency at work in the Province of Quebec whose sole purpose and aim it is to secure the enfranchisement of the women of Quebec. The Federal Government, as you are aware, gave all the women of Canada the Federal Franchise in 1918, and in every other province but Quebec the women have the Provincial, Municipal, and School Franchises upon the same terms as men. In this Province no woman has the Provincial vote. Widows and spinsters with property qualifications have the Municipal and School Franchises upon the same terms as men, but are not eligible for election. With regard to married women an anomalous position prevails. In the city of Quebec married women, common as to property, and separate as to property with their husbands, have had the Municipal vote since 1854. My Committee approached the Charter Commission which was appointed to frame a new Charter for the city of Montreal, and secured a promise from the members that they would incorporate in the new Charter an amendment giving qualified married women the Municipal vote. This promise was fulfilled, but the Charter has yet to be ratified by the Legislative Assembly at Quebec—and Heaven only knows what may happen to it then. If this amendment stands it will not help the married women outside the cities of Quebec and Montreal,

neither will it give any married woman a vote in school elections, nor make any woman eligible for election to a school board. So we still have some distance to travel in this Province, and I may say that the going will be rough and slow. A few weeks ago our Committee had an interview with the Provincial Premier, the Hon. L. A. Taschereau, only recently appointed, with the view of ascertaining where he stood on this question. We did not find that out, however, but it is fairly safe to reckon on his opposition. He counselled us to wait—*now* is never the accepted time with politicians!—and advised a campaign of education, which is good enough advice, which we intend to follow.

Among the campaign literature which we purpose getting out is a leaflet showing how many countries have given their women the vote. We shall have it published in French and English, and send copies to our legislators and other public men, and also have it circulated in the French and Irish Catholic Women's Societies, and anywhere we are permitted to put it.

ISABELLA SCOTT,

*Convener, Franchise Committee,*

*December 7, 1920. Montreal Women's Club.*

## GERMANY.

### State Aid for Unemployed Women.

AT the sudden ending of the war, one of the greatest problems facing social workers was how to take care of the many thousands of women who were literally thrust out on the streets by the closing of munition factories and other industries of war.

During the war the Government had, with a good deal of care, provided decent housing and living conditions for these women workers, had seen to it that their children were taken care of and that their labour was well paid. All of this stopped suddenly, and the need of these unemployed women was acute. As early as January, 1919, an attempt was made to give all kinds of courses, firstly to help the younger women off the streets, secondly, to fit all the women for different sorts of work, and, lastly, to give them an opportunity to replenish and put in order their clothes that were much in need of mending and darning.

One of the first successful courses was one given at the school for the training of mothers, which is conducted by the city. There young girls were instructed in all the branches essential to know for a nurse-girl, as the physical care of infants and children, with simple cooking and laundry and simple kindergarten work. Most of the girls were placed in families at the end of the three months' courses.

Then courses for general housework were given, with cooking and laundry work, and special courses for fine laundresses. Most popular, and at the same time most successful from an economic point of view, were courses in all kinds of sewing, many of which are continuing up to the present and are carefully graded.

There is a beginners' course that has to be taken by all of the women wanting to enter any of the courses. This is conducted by an experienced teacher who, not only by her personality, sets the right standard from the very beginning, but who can advise the central office as to the fitness of each individual pupil, which makes classification possible.

This first course is followed by special short courses in all kinds of sewing, as white-sewing, mending, dressmaking, etc., and from these again the women can be admitted, after an entrance examination, to professional courses of longer duration at the end of which certificates are given.

All women receiving the States Unemployment Pension up to 35 years have to attend one or the other of these courses or else forfeit their pension. But besides women receiving State support during their unemployment, volunteers take advantage of these courses, thus fitting themselves for remunerative work before becoming a burden to the State.

Aside from these courses for domestic workers and seamstresses, attempts have been made with waitresses and typists, the most successful of which was a course in stenography and typewriting given for teachers of higher schools who had to be dismissed after teaching in boys' schools where they had taken the places of men at the front. These young women were fitted for private secretaries or other more or less leading positions in insurance and law offices or in industry.

They seem particularly well fitted for such work on account of their better training in general and their knowledge of foreign languages. All of these found good positions as soon as they had mastered the more technical points of their new profession.

The Department of Labour, through its subdivision, "Abteilung für Frauenarbeit," is responsible for these courses, and the State has given leave of absence from their regular work to a number of technically trained teachers, which fact has contributed much to the success of the work.

ANNA ESSINGER.

Stuttgart, December 6, 1920.

## NOUVELLES FÉMINISTES.

### LA PREMIÈRE ASSEMBLÉE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

Cette assemblée étant la première de ce genre doit nécessairement s'occuper d'abord de s'organiser sur une base sûre et durable, et en ce moment, où le monde entier représente un immense chaos, la chose n'est pas facile.

La discussion sur le typhus dans l'est de l'Europe a donné de bons résultats, plusieurs pays ayant promis d'aider substantiellement.

Les débats sur les problèmes économiques et financiers donneront aux experts présents l'occasion de travailler à un plan ou à plusieurs plans à adopter.

De toutes les décisions prises jusqu'à présent, à mon avis la plus importante est l'article premier, qui décrit que l'assemblée se réunira une fois par an, le premier lundi de septembre. Donc tous les ans chaque pays enverra ses représentants pour discuter la politique, les demandes et les besoins du monde entier. C'est déjà un grand pas de fait, et petit à petit le monde verra l'utilité d'arranger les disputes internationales par la discussion et la justice et non par la force des armes.

Avant de quitter Genève, la Société des Nations aura discuté aussi trois grandes questions, soit : la possibilité de former de nouveaux États, le désarmement et les mandements.

La commission des mandements vient de commencer son travail, et j'espère que la demande faite par le Bureau du I.W.S.A., soit la nomination d'une femme sur la commission, sera acceptée.

(Extraits de la lettre de Madame Anna Wickzell.)

### CORRESPONDANCE. Société des Nations.

Une lettre a été reçue par Mrs. Corbett Ashby, I.W.S.A., du directeur du Bureau international du "Labour Party" à Genève, pour la remercier de sa lettre contenant la résolution adoptée par le Congrès du I.W.S.A. à Genève sur les maladies vénériennes, et lui donne l'assurance que ces résolutions auront toute l'attention du "parti."

### ALLEMAGNE.

La fin de la guerre laissa des millions de femmes sans emploi, et par conséquent sans argent ; des femmes qui avaient été bien payées en travaillant dans les usines organisées pour la guerre, telles que munitions, etc.,

On s'occupa de suite d'instruire les femmes pour de nouveaux emplois en donnant des cours pour leur enseigner les premières notions pour le soin des enfants, la buanderie, la cuisine, l'instruction élémentaire du jardin d'enfants, le travail du ménage, etc.

Après trois mois d'instruction les femmes furent placées dans des familles.

On leur enseigna aussi la couture dans toutes ses branches, et toute femme recevant une pension du Gouvernement est obligée d'assister à des cours ou elle perd sa pension.

Pour les femmes professeurs qui avaient pendant la guerre pris la place des hommes dans les écoles de garçons et qui, par le retour des hommes, se trouvaient sans place, on organisa des cours de sténographie, de dactylographie ; et ayant déjà une bonne instruction, ces femmes furent bientôt à même de prendre des places de secrétaire, clercs de notaires, etc. Ces cours furent organisés par le Ministère du Travail.

### BELGIQUE.

#### LA LOI COMMUNALE.

Il importe dès maintenant que toutes nos futures électrices connaissent ce qui se rapporte à nos lois communales.

Voici ce qui vient d'être décidé : par la Commission spéciale chargée de l'examen du projet de loi électorale communale :

L'application de la représentation proportionnelle à l'élection des échevins a été rejetée à l'unanimité.

Le principe de l'élection des bourgmestres par les conseils communaux a été repoussé par 8 voix contre 6. Les bourgmestres continueront donc à être nommés par le Roi.

Par 10 voix contre 3, la Commission a décidé que les dispositions de la loi électorale communale pourraient être différentes de celles en vigueur pour les élections législatives.

La Commission a repris, comme suite à ce vote, l'examen de la proposition de loi de M. Max.

On sait que cette proposition comporte trois réformes : 1° Suppression des candidats suppléants ; 2° droit pour l'électeur d'émettre plusieurs suffrages de préférence ; 3° droit pour l'électeur de *panacher*, c'est-à-dire de voter pour les candidats de listes différentes.

Le premier point de la proposition avait été adopté déjà par la Commission dans une séance précédente. Il n'y aura donc plus de candidats suppléants. Seront proclamés conseillers suppléants les premiers non-élus des candidats effectifs de chaque liste.

Sur les deux autres points—ayant l'un et l'autre pour objet d'étendre la liberté de l'électeur—la Commission s'est prononcée en faveur de la proposition de loi de M. Max par 9 voix contre 4.

A la majorité de 9 voix contre 3, la Commission s'est ensuite ralliée à la proposition Imperiali ayant pour objet de relever automatiquement le quotient électoral, de manière à empêcher que des groupements ne réunissant qu'un nombre infime d'électeurs puissent envoyer dans les conseils communaux des élus qui seraient les arbitres de la situation.

Elle a décidé d'augmenter le nombre des conseillers communaux.

Dans les communes de 70 à 80 mille habitants il y aurait 31 conseillers ; dans celles de 80 à 90 mille habitants, 33 ; de 90 à 100 mille habitants, 35 ; de 100 à 150 mille habitants, 37 ; de 150 à 200 mille habitants, 39 ; de 250 à 300 mille habitants, 43 ; de 300 mille habitants et plus, 45 conseillers.

Le nombre des échevins sera augmenté également. Il y en aura deux dans les petites communes ; trois dans celle de 10 à 20 mille habitants ; quatre dans celles de 20 à 50 mille habitants ; cinq dans celles de 50 à 150 mille habitants et six dans celles au delà de 150 mille habitants.

Les opérations électorales s'ouvriront à 8 heures du matin et se clôtureront à 2 heures de relevée.

Au cours de la réunion, M. Deleroix, directeur général des affaires politiques, a fait un exposé de la technique électorale du nouveau système Imperiali, augmentant le chiffre du *quorum* nécessaire pour être élu.

(La suite à la page 59.)

# NEWS OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



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MRS. JAMES A. WEBB, JNR.

## WHAT IS THE Y.W.C.A. ?

By CLARISSA H. SPENCER.

IT is an organisation of women, Christian in its basis international in its character, world-wide in its extent, and having the welfare of young women as its object. It has a membership (1919) of over 800,000 in thirty-five countries in all parts of the world. It is to be found in almost every large city to-day. If one should make a tour round the world there would be hardly a port or city, whether in the Old or the New World, East or West, North or South, where one would not find the Young Women's Christian Association at work in touch with hundreds and thousands of young women and girls. Girls landing in a strange port, ignorant of the language of the country ; girls coming to big towns from country villages ; girls whose homes are in sight of the Association building ; girls of every race, age and class—the Young Women's Christian Association has something to offer to each one of them.

One would discover that the methods in the various associations might vary, as the character of the cities in which they were found varies, but nevertheless they all form part of the same organisation. One of the



The Spirit of True Internationalism.—Japanese Y.W.C.A. Members in Tokyo Packing Clothes for Siberian Refugees.

outstanding characteristics of the Association is its unity in diversity. It may differ in details of its work in South Africa and Finland, in the Argentine and India, but the movement is the same everywhere. The local associations in a country are united in a national association, and the national associations in their turn form the World's Young Women's Christian Association.

The Young Women's Christian Association is fortunate in having a name that really indicates its character. Probably the word which most quickly arrests attention is the one in the very centre of its name "Christian." Since it is a very important word and is often misunderstood, it may be well to explain at once its real

significance. It does not mean that the Association is a religious sect, or that its only activities consist in Bible classes and religious meetings. There is nothing sectarian in the programme of the Association. It includes in its membership young women who are full members of many different branches of the Christian Church, together with many who belong to none. A young woman is not excluded from the Association because of her religious beliefs or her lack of them.

The leadership of the Association in any country is in the hands of those who can accept its basis, or meet the test prescribed by the national committee of that country. The object of this plan is to insure a leadership for the Association that shall be fully in sympathy with its aims and principles.



Future Leaders.—Roumanian Y.W.C.A. Girl Reserves.

What the basis or test shall be is left to the decision of each national committee so long as it is in harmony with the basis and principles of the World's Y.W.C.A. which are as follows :—

**Basis.**—"Faith in God the Father as Creator, and in Jesus Christ His only Son as Lord and Saviour, and in the Holy Spirit as Revealer of Truth and Source of Power for life and service, according to the teaching of Holy Scripture."

**Principles.**—"The World's Young Women's Christian Association desires to be representative of all sections of the Christian Church in so far as they accept the Basis. It includes in the field of its activities young

women without distinction of creed, and desires to enlist the service of young women for young women in their spiritual, intellectual, social and physical advancement, and to encourage their fellowship and activity in the Christian Church. The World's Young Women's Christian Association also pledges itself to assign a primary position to Bible Study and prayer."

The ideal of the leaders of the Association is that the whole work should be permeated with the Christian spirit. They believe that while Bible classes and religious meetings are important, they are not the only method which the Association should use to deliver the Christian message. Every bit of work, recreation, education, protection or whatever it may be, should be such an expression of the spirit of friendliness, purity and love, that those who come in contact with it shall come under the influence of Christ Himself, and shall receive something of the fulness of life that He came to bring.

The Young Women's Christian Association is wholeheartedly loyal to the Church of Christ and truly Christian in the deepest sense of the word.

Another characteristic of the Association is indicated by the words "Young Women" in its name. They do not mean that the Association is unwilling to serve those who are no longer young, or that it has no older women in its ranks. But the fact remains that its spirit is the spirit of youth, that it exists for the girl of to-day and is trying to meet her needs and see things from her point of view. While its principles remain the same its methods change with the changing times, for it holds that a change is a characteristic of life and the Association is above all things a living organism.

Furthermore, the Association exists for young women of all classes, all types and all races. Its membership includes an infinite variety: the well educated and the illiterate; those who remain in the shelter of their own homes, and those who go out into the world to earn their own living and perhaps that of others as well; girls in factories, shops, warehouses, hospitals, offices; those who are in the many professions now open to women, and those who are equipping themselves in schools, colleges, training schools and universities. Naturally, these different groups require different service from the Association to meet their varying needs; but they all form a part of the same movement and the ideal of the Association is to bring these various groups together and to help them to understand each other.

The Young Women's Christian Association strives to meet the needs of the whole personality of a young woman, physical, mental, social and spiritual. Therefore its activities are varied. There are hostels for the girl who is travelling or who is studying away from home. There are restaurants and cafeterias where she can obtain nourishing food at a reasonable price.

There are outdoor sports and camps and physical drill for the development of her physical life and health campaigns and lectures to teach her how to take care of her body. There are classes and lectures in languages, literature, art, history, and singing, for the cultivation of her mind and spirit. Many Associations have business courses to prepare her to take her place as a wage-earner, others have courses in cooking, dressmaking, baby-care, house-furnishing, millinery and kindred subjects to develop her domestic taste and to teach her to use her hands. There are concerts, evenings for play, opportunities to meet her friends of both sexes, holiday homes, excursions, and outdoor camps for her vacations, expert advice in choosing a trade, and employment bureaus to help her find a job. There are Bible classes and circles, discussion groups where she can talk over the deeper problems of her life, conferences and meetings of various sorts where she can have spiritual fellowship with others.

The last word in the name is "Association" and it best of all emphasises the democratic character of the movement. For the work is not something that one class of women does for another, but it is a united effort

for young women by young women. Each member, therefore, has a responsibility in the Association. Not all can serve on committees, but more and more the individual member is learning that she makes her contribution to the welfare of the whole not only by paying a membership fee, but also by giving to the Association time and thought and service of one kind or another. In many places self-governing clubs are being organised within the movement in order that the youngest, least experienced member may do her part to make the whole a success. No organisation these days can hope to serve acceptably that is not democratic in character, and one of the most hopeful features in the Association is this spirit of democracy which is part of its very foundation. In the best organised associations, both local, district and national, the members choose the governing committee. The local associations through their representatives choose the members of the national committees, and the national committees acting for their national associations in turn choose the World's Committee.



Miss Spencer, late World's Y.W.C.A. General Secretary, Travelling in Sweden with Froken Netzel, Vice-President.

The World's Committee is composed of 75 members representing national committees and groups of associations that are not yet organised nationally, together with elected members resident in London who form the Executive Committee. It employs an international staff of secretaries whose business is to carry on the work by correspondence and by travel.

The Committee meets every two years. Less frequently it organises World's Conferences and International Commissions. The last World's Conference was held in Stockholm, 1914. In June, 1920, an International Commission was held in Champéry, Switzerland, which was attended by delegates from 28 countries, the first international gathering held by the Y.W.C.A. since the war. This International Commission meeting was followed by a meeting of the World's Committee, the first since 1914.

The second week in November is used every year as a time of prayer for Association work throughout the world. Its object is to make real to association members throughout the world their unity one with another, to teach them to think of each other, to understand each other's needs and to pray for each other. This is a time when the Young Women's Christian Association has a special opportunity for developing the spirit of international unity among its members as well as deepening their individual lives.

The Young Women's Christian Association has a history covering more than sixty-five years. It has distinct characteristics and a clearly defined policy. Its leaders believe that it is eminently suited to meet the needs of the modern young woman and that it can do far more for womanhood in the future than it has done in the past. They would ask for the sympathy and co-operation in this work of all women who are anxious to serve other women and work for a better and brighter future for humanity.

## SOME INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS IN SOUTHERN CHINA.

By CLARE STARKEY, M.Sc., Y.W.C.A., Canton.



A Business Street in Old Canton.

FOR many centuries the women of the lower classes in China have taken their share in earning the support of the family. One has only to take a walk through the fields at any time during the rice-growing season to see them working side by side with the men, ankle deep in mud, "puddling," or loosening the earth round the roots of the young plants, or working the primitive treadmill which raises the water from the river to the lower fields, or again from the lower to those lying higher on the slope.

In other districts the women are the chief burden bearers. They can be met on any road carrying loads that look too large and heavy for any human frame, or the sedan chairs in which the wealthier members of the community ride.

If one visits the villages during the winter months the women are found at work in their tiny homes at embroidery so fine and delicate that one wonders at the patience that can endure doing it for so many hours a day, besides the strain to eyes and back; and then, when one realizes that for a twelve-hour day at such work a woman earns barely enough food for herself for the day, something of the struggle for existence which forces women to work is dimly perceived. (The arguments used by the schoolmaster's friend with regard to the disposal of his small daughter in the "Wanderer over a Thousand Hills" are typical.)

In the past also children have taken their share in obtaining the family livelihood. In field work as coolies carrying smaller loads, as herders to the great slate-coloured water buffaloes, the boys have their part; while to the girls falls the care of the younger children of the house, domestic work generally and lighter field work—always supposing they escape the fate of being sold to wealthier people as slave girls, in which case, for many, their work is endless.

The old conditions are bad enough, but the women are living at home and the greater part of the time they are out in the open air; but to-day under the factory system beginning, women and children are working twelve to fourteen hours and earning still but a mere pittance.

The older factories in China only date back thirty years, but practically within the last eight years large, up-to-date machine plants have been started, and in Shanghai—the largest industrial centre—25,000 women and children are employed in the spinning industries alone.

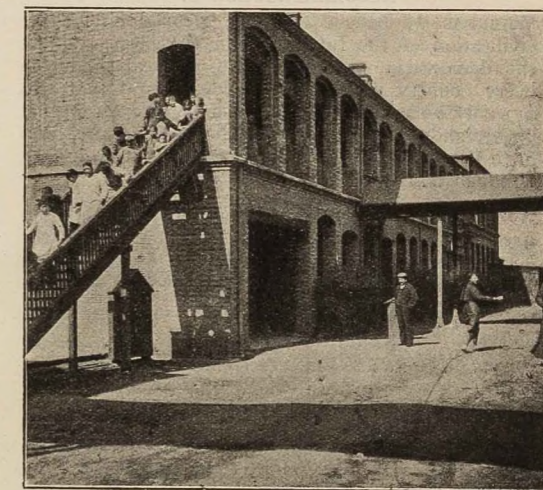
Although one regrets the length of day for full-grown women, when it comes to children from 8 to 11 years old working their twelve to fourteen hours a day in a bad atmosphere and at high pressure; as one sees their pale faces and thin bodies, their tired, spiritless air, so unlike the vigour of average healthy childhood; and as one looks into the future and knows that weakened and devitalised as they will be, they will be called upon to take up the responsibilities of womanhood, one realises forcibly that something must be done, and done at once.

In a match factory I visited, children of from 8 to 11 years old were working—so closely packed together on the low benches that they had not proper freedom of movement—for twelve hours a day, filling match-boxes. In the same room were men working the machines, and in addition the cauldrons of phosphorus.

Such, however, is the size of the population, and so inadequate are the means of support, that the factories are regarded almost with gratitude as providing work. In many cases the Chinese employers are open to reason for things that make for efficiency, and are doing much to improve conditions. Welfare workers would find ample scope for all their talents.

The owner of one factory in Canton, where hair nets are made, had heard a little of things done in America to help work-people, and his factory is built so that there is good light and ventilation, and there is even a wash-bowl in the corner. Here the girls are comparatively well paid and the day is limited to ten hours. He says: "These things pay!"

Such men as he, if only there were experienced welfare workers behind them, would go forward and lead the way to better conditions, before bad conditions become the rule. At present there are comparatively few factories in China, and the decision is with those who know good industrial conditions whether the new factories shall start on right lines, or whether in China the tragedy of Japan will be repeated. English firms are opening branches in China; Chinese firms are



Millgirls Leaving Work, Shanghai.

multiplying. Well may the Young Women's Christian Association of China make efforts to raise money and get out highly qualified women now—for now is the time when such women are supremely valuable.

### A National Industrial Secretary for China.

The National Committee of the Chinese Y.W.C.A. hopes to appoint Miss Harrison, who needs no introduction to those interested in welfare work, and who is at present at the London School of Economics, as their first National Industrial Secretary.

## THE INDUSTRIAL POLICY OF THE WORLD'S Y.W.C.A.

AN International Commission, followed by a meeting of the World's Committee, was held by the World's Y.W.C.A., at Champéry, Switzerland, June 2-10, 1920. One section of the Commission devoted its time to the discussion of industrial questions, with special reference to women's work, and brought forward the following recommendations:—

The Industrial Section desires to affirm its conviction that the World Social Order can only be made Christian through individuals whose life is devoted to the single purpose of doing God's will, who constantly renew that purpose in His Presence, and who, at all costs, strive to carry their allegiance to Christ into every part of life.

### Recommendation 1.

WHEREAS we recognise that in the present social order there are many elements contrary to the principles of Christ, in that it ignores the sacredness of human personality, and by the acceptance of coercion and competition as ruling principles of human progress sets man against man and nation against nation, and WHEREAS we are persuaded that it is possible to change the present system, and to introduce into national and international life the Christian principles of love and co-operation, and that to deny this possibility is to deny some of the most important teachings of Christ,

WE RECOMMEND that the Young Women's Christian Association, as a body of Christian women exercising an ever-widening influence in many lands, recognise their share of responsibility for the maladjustments in the social order of to-day, and make it their concern to inform themselves fully as to existing social conditions, and to apply the principles of justice, mercy, and the equal value of every human life to national and international as well as to personal relations.

### Recommendation 2.

WHEREAS we believe that the great hope for the civilisation of the future lies in the permeation of the democratic movements and political bodies in every country with Christian ideals, and that this can only be achieved through an increase of mutual understanding and fellowship between groups who have in common the desire for social righteousness, although their methods may be diverse,

WE RECOMMEND that the Young Women's Christian Association seek every occasion to understand the ideals of and so far as possible to co-operate with other bodies who are striving to improve the conditions of the world in which we live.

### Recommendation 3.

WHEREAS there are in every country great groups of industrial women with whom the Association has not yet established contact,

WE RECOMMEND that the Young Women's Christian Association make every effort to get into touch with those workers in far larger numbers through such means as foyers, clubs, camps, canteens and hostels; that in all such centres self-government shall be developed to the fullest possible extent, and that social and economic education and training for citizenship shall form part of the programme so that members may recognise their responsibilities and take their part in developing Christian ideals in their trade organisations and the life of the community.

### Recommendation 4.

WHEREAS in the present imperfect social order it is necessary in the interest of justice that groups of industrial workers should have the opportunity of combining to improve their status and voice their needs,

WE RECOMMEND that the Young Women's Christian Association encourage organisation among women workers, and give opportunity to its members, through lectures, discussion circles and other methods, to become acquainted with the principles underlying such organisation.

### Recommendation 5.

WHEREAS the International Labour Conference established in connection with the League of Nations under Part 13 of the Peace Treaty, adopted at its meeting in Washington, in November, 1919, certain Draft Conventions and Recommendations as follows:—

#### A. Draft Conventions.

1. Establishing an 8-hour day or 48-hour week in industry.
2. Prohibiting night work by women of all ages.
3. Prohibiting night work by male young persons under 18.
4. Fixing the minimum age for admission of children to industrial employment at 14.
5. Prohibiting employment of women during six weeks after childbirth, and granting them permission to leave work under medical certificate that their confinement will probably take place within six weeks (benefit sufficient for full and healthy maintenance of mother and child being provided either out of public funds or by means of a system of insurance, free attendance of doctor or midwife being an additional benefit).
6. Setting up free public employment agencies.

#### B. Recommendations.

1. For the prevention of unemployment.
2. Concerning reciprocity of treatment of foreign workers.
3. Of international action for the prevention of anthrax.
4. Of international agreement for the protection of women and children from lead-poisoning.
5. Concerning the creation of Government health services.
6. Concerning the application of the Berne Convention 1906, prohibiting the use of white phosphorus in the manufacture of matches.

WE RECOMMEND that the World's Young Women's Christian Association urge the National Associations to express their approval of the above, and to support Bills concerning these proposals when introduced into their various legislatures.

### Recommendation 6.

WE RECOMMEND:

1. That the World's Committee appoint an industrial committee and secretary with expert knowledge, who will make available through the World's Young Women's Christian Association office information regarding industrial and social conditions in the different countries.
2. That each National Association
  - (a) Appoint an industrial secretary.
  - (b) Provide definite teaching on industrial laws and conditions in their training centres for secretaries.
  - (c) Give opportunities for study and research to all Association leaders, workers and members.

### Recommendation 7.

WE RECOMMEND that each National Association in its capacity as an employer be urged to make operative the principles enunciated in the foregoing resolutions.

### Elections Communales.

Le poll organisé à la Ligue ouvrière de *Bruxelles* a donné le classement de 25 candidats, dont 3 femmes: Mme Smits, Mme Courbe, Mme Keppens.

A *Saint-Gilles* le poll socialiste a classé 18 candidats, dont deux candidates: Mme Spaak-Janson et Mme Doppé-Horn.

Le poll de la Ligue ouvrière d'*Anderlecht* inscrit 16 candidats, dont Maria Tillmanns, présidente de la ligue des femmes à la Maison du Peuple.

Le poll socialiste d'*Etterbeek* inscrit 9 candidats, dont la citoyenne Van Damme.

Celui de *Laeken* 21 candidats; Mme Michels arrive 3<sup>e</sup>. Celui de *Molenbeek* 31 candidats, dont Mmes Lambert, Van Geert et Lebe.

Celui de *Saint-Josse* 18 candidats, avec Mme Maria Dupret en tête de liste.

Celui de *Schaerbeek* 17 candidats, dont Mme DE Cremer et Mme Breda.

Celui de *Vilvoorde* 16 candidats, dont Mme Tina Hebbelinx et Mme Louisa Spruyt.

Celui d'*Evere* 12 candidats, dont Mme Maria Bourgoing.

*L'International Féminin*, décembre 1920.

### CANADA.

#### Femmes dans la législature.

Miss Roberta Macadams, née au Canada mais d'origine écossaise.—Elle s'est distinguée pendant la guerre, d'abord dans le personnel de l'hôpital d'Orpington et ensuite elle fut choisie par le Canada pour inspecter les conditions exactes du front canadien. Elle fut élue membre de la législature d'Alberta.

Mrs. Ralph Smith, née dans le Devonshire, en Angleterre.—Elle appartient au parti indépendant et a déjà obtenu des gratifications pour les mères, ainsi que la tutelle des enfants à titre égal.

Mrs. Louise McKinney, membre indépendant pour Claresholm, Alberta, fut élue à l'Ontario.—Elle est la première qui fut élue dans la législature canadienne.

Mrs. Arthur Rogers, membre de l'assemblée législative de Manitoba, appartient au parti politique libéral.—Son travail pendant la guerre, dans l'administration des fonds patriotiques, la mit en rapports avec les soldats et leurs dépendants, et elle représente une des communes de la cité de Winnipeg.

#### La première femme ministre.

*Le Times* du 17 décembre nous informe que Mrs. Ralph Smith, membre pour Vancouver, sera probablement nommée Ministre de l'Éducation.

C'est la première femme qui aura tenu un portefeuille de ministre.

Elle fut élue, il y a trois ans, après la mort de son mari, à sa place, et vient d'être réélue pour Vancouver avec une majorité de 4,000 votes.

### ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE.

Les femmes des États-Unis se trouvent de nouveau faisant face au Congrès, mais cette année leur position se trouve être très différente car elles sont électeurs et elles demandent aux membres du corps législatif des réformes pour le bien national.

Les femmes, désireuses d'avancer les choses et d'améliorer les lois, ont formé un comité représentatif de toutes les sociétés féministes des États-Unis représentant une dizaine de millions de femmes électeurs.

La ligue des "Women Voters" (femmes électeurs) propose un programme législatif au Congrès, ainsi qu'à tous les États législatifs. Ces lois varient d'après celles existant dans chaque État.

Il est certain qu'une trentaine de femmes furent élues à des emplois législatifs dans les différents États. Le Connecticut en a élu cinq.

Nous espérons aussi que la nomination de Miss Viola Smith au secrétariat de l'attachée commerciale américaine à Pékin n'est qu'un commencement d'ouverture pour les femmes dans le service diplomatique.

Il n'y a aucun changement légal pour le vote et nous espérons que les antisuffragistes n'arriveront pas à compromettre la situation politique de la femme. (Abrégé.) M. SHUBE.

### FRANCE.

Monsieur Millerand, Président de la République française, a reçu, le 16 décembre, une délégation de l'Union française pour le Suffrage des Femmes.

La délégation était introduite par Monsieur Justin Godart, Président du Groupe des Droits de la Femme à la Chambre des Députés.

La Présidente de l'U.F.S.F. a présenté à Monsieur Millerand la lettre adressée au Gouvernement français par le Bureau de l'Alliance internationale pour le Suffrage des Femmes, et demandant au Gouvernement de bien vouloir accorder aux Françaises le droit de suffrage qui possèdent les femmes de tant de pays.

Monsieur Millerand s'est déclaré partisan du suffrage féminin, mais à la condition de procéder par étapes et de commencer par le suffrage municipal.

DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER,  
Présidente de l'Union française pour  
le Suffrage des Femmes.

### L'ACCÈS DES FEMMES AUX FONCTIONS DE JUGES DANS LES TRIBUNAUX DE COMMERCE.

Une bonne nouvelle nous parvient, de nature à nous permettre d'envisager l'accession prochaine des femmes aux fonctions de juges dans les Tribunaux de Commerce.

En France, les différends d'ordre commercial sont jugés par une juridiction spéciale, dont les membres sont des commerçants français élus par leurs collègues, patentés depuis cinq ans et domiciliés dans le ressort du Tribunal.

Une loi du 23 janvier 1898 a conféré l'électorat aux femmes commerçantes remplissant les conditions prescrites pour les hommes, mais l'éligibilité reste encore un droit à conquérir.

Or, le Prince Murat, député, a déposé récemment une proposition de loi tendant à permettre aux femmes commerçantes de faire partie des Tribunaux de Commerce.

Cette proposition a été renvoyée à la Commission du Commerce de la Chambre des Députés. D'après les renseignements fournis, les membres de la Commission seraient favorables à la proposition; néanmoins, ils ont demandé aux Présidents des Chambres de Commerce de France de donner un avis à ce sujet.

Dans les grandes et petites villes, les femmes françaises montrent une grande activité au point de vue commercial, et beaucoup d'entre elles font partie des Bureaux des Chambres syndicales nationales; par conséquent, il est presque certain que l'avis demandé sera donné en faveur de la proposition du Prince Murat.

Nous enregistrons avec joie un tel succès. En effet, deux grandes revendications recevraient là une application pratique: d'abord, le principe de l'éligibilité là où déjà l'électorat est reconnu; d'autre part, l'accès des femmes à une magistrature qui, bien qu'exceptionnelle, n'en comporte pas moins pour les femmes le droit de juger.

Il y a déjà une juridiction où les femmes ont été appelées à prendre part: c'est aux Conseils de Prud'hommes. La loi du 27 mars 1907 a créé ces Conseils pour juger les différends pouvant s'élever à l'occasion de contrat de travail dans le commerce et l'industrie, entre patrons et employés, ouvriers ou apprentis.

Les Conseils de Prud'hommes sont composés d'un nombre égal dans chaque catégorie d'ouvriers ou d'employés et de patrons. Les prud'hommes ouvriers ou employés sont élus par les électeurs ouvriers ou employés; les prud'hommes patrons, par les électeurs patrons.

Les femmes patronnes, ouvrières ou employées, ont acquis, dès 1907, le droit d'être inscrites sur les listes électorales, et l'éligibilité leur a été conférée un peu plus

tard. A Paris et en province, des femmes ont été élues et ont siégé dans les Conseils.

Peut-être obtiendrons-nous, quelque jour, le droit pour les femmes avocats de siéger temporairement près des juges en cas d'empêchement de l'un d'eux.

Lorsque cette éventualité se produit, le Président du Tribunal demande en effet au plus ancien des avocats présents de remplacer le magistrat absent. Cette prérogative a été refusée aux femmes avocats dans la loi même qui les autorisait à faire partie des barreaux français.

Quoiqu'elle ne s'appliquât qu'à un petit nombre de femmes, cette victoire aurait cependant pour une femme une grande importance, car, affirmant le principe du droit de juger, elle permettrait de revendiquer pour toutes les femmes possédant la compétence nécessaire, celui d'être magistrat.

Mais hélas, nous n'en sommes pas encore là.

SUZANNE GRINBERG,  
Avocate à la Cour de Paris.

#### GRANDE-BRETAGNE.

##### Le Rapport du N.U.S.E.C.

Le N.U.S.E.C. a eu le plaisir d'aider à recevoir le Bureau exécutif du I.W.S.A. à l'occasion de leur visite à Londres. Une assemblée générale fut organisée par l'union et un banquet fut donné à l'hôtel Cecil pour faire honneur à Mrs. Chapman Catt et autres femmes distinguées travaillant pour la cause féministe.

##### Conférence des femmes magistrats.

Le mouvement le plus important depuis que les femmes ont le vote est la nomination de certaines femmes comme magistrats. Par ce fait, il est plus que probable que bien des lois seront améliorées et changées. Les femmes sont désireuses d'employer les dernières idées et méthodes d'administration. Plusieurs discours très intéressants furent donnés par des experts à la conférence.

##### Les femmes aux Universités.

Il n'y a qu'une Université dans ce pays qui refuse le vote est la nomination de certaines femmes comme magistrats. Par ce fait, il est plus que probable que bien des lois seront améliorées et changées. Les femmes sont désireuses d'employer les dernières idées et méthodes d'administration. Plusieurs discours très intéressants furent donnés par des experts à la conférence.

Il est évident que les antisuffragistes finiront par perdre, mais il faut que les femmes voient clairement que la cause entière n'est pas gagnée par le vote et qu'il y a encore beaucoup à faire pour arriver à l'égalité complète.

##### L'égalité morale.

Il n'y a aucun pays où l'égalité morale pour homme et femme soit acceptée par le public, mais la femme demande maintenant une amélioration dans les lois et que l'homme soit moins privilégié.

Les femmes qui comprennent l'amendement de la loi criminelle comme elle est conçue en ce moment se rallieront certainement pour la combattre.

#### NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE.

La session vient de se terminer, mais rien d'important au point de vue féministe n'est à reporter.

La Nouvelle-Zélande continue beaucoup des restrictions causées par la guerre et abolies dans les autres pays. Nous continuons à employer dans le Semoa, notre nouvelle dépendance, la main-d'œuvre chinoise introduite par l'Allemagne et fortement combattue par les sociétés féministes.

Des amendements moins importants facilitent le divorce en cas d'insanité.

Les femmes officiers d'état civil ne peuvent pas se marier.

L'éducation s'améliore et les propositions faites pour cette année donneront plus d'influence à la femme.

Nous avons pu assister d'une façon substantielle les enfants affamés dans les régions d'Europe souffrant de la famine.

Les prix des vivres sont durs à supporter, mais les gages augmentent en conséquence, et le pays se maintient confortablement quoiqu'il est évident que beaucoup d'enfants n'obtiennent pas la nourriture qu'il leur faudrait.

#### SUISSE.

Ainsi que nous l'avions annoncé dans un de nos précédents numéros, la question du pastorat féminin se pose actuellement dans le canton de Zurich. Elle vient d'être débattue au Synode le 8 décembre dernier.

On connaît la situation. La Constitution, élaborée en un temps où l'idée qu'une femme pourrait un jour monter en chaire n'effleurait personne, a été rédigée de telle façon que, selon ses termes exprès, seuls les candidats masculins peuvent être consacrés au ministère. Mais les idées ont marché, et dans la pratique de tous les jours, des femmes sont entrées de ce fait dans le pastorat. Mlle Rosa Gutknecht, d'une part, qui a prêché dans plusieurs églises de Zurich, et Mlle Pfister, d'autre part, qui depuis de longs mois, supplée à la satisfaction générale le pasteur malade de la grande paroisse de Neu-Munster. Toutes deux, anciennes maîtresses d'école, toutes deux ayant passé avec succès leurs examens de théologie, toutes deux appréciées de ceux qui ont eu à faire avec elles, pour leurs qualités de cœur et de caractère, n'ont pu cependant encore, du fait de cette disposition de la Constitution, obtenir cette consécration définitive et essentielle à leur activité. Suppléantes, remplaçantes, auxiliaires, tant que vous voudrez, mais pas pasteurs.

C'est pour mettre les dispositions légales en harmonie avec les besoins de l'heure actuelle qu'une proposition a été déposée dernièrement au Synode. Proposition qui, nous l'avons relevé, exclut les femmes mariées du pastorat—toujours sans doute d'après cette conception bizarre que la femme est incapable de décider par elle-même si elle peut ou non suffire à sa double tâche, et avec ce besoin de courber tous les cas individuels, souvent si différents les uns des autres, sous une règle uniforme et restrictive du droit de la femme! Car ne peut-on répéter, à propos du pastorat féminin, ce qu'il a été dit au sujet du célibat des maîtresses d'école?

Dans son ensemble, la proposition semble avoir rencontré du succès. Dans l'opinion publique d'abord, une pétition ayant recueilli, en faveur du pastorat féminin, plus de 1500 signatures dans la paroisse de Neu-Munster (celle de Mlle Pfister) et une grande Assemblée publique, convoquée pour le 3 décembre, ayant voté des résolutions inspirées du même esprit. De leur côté, les Sociétés féminines et féministes ont adressé au Synode une lettre, dont nous pensons pouvoir publier le texte dans notre prochain numéro. Enfin, au Synode lui-même, et d'après le compte rendu des débats, la majorité des orateurs nous semble s'être prononcée pour l'adoption de la nouveauté proposée, les divergences de vue portant moins sur le fond de la question: le pastorat féminin, que sur la forme de la procédure: est-il possible, en en élargissant le sens, d'interpréter favorablement aux femmes l'article de la Constitution, ou faut-il le modifier carrément, et cela par l'inévitable moyen de la votation populaire? La question reste ouverte, et les débats reprendront en janvier.

Le Mouvement Féministe, 25 décembre.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

##### N.U.S.E.C. Report.

VISIT OF BOARD OF OFFICERS OF I.W.S.A.

THE N.U.S.E.C. had the pleasure during the last month of helping to welcome the Board of Officers of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, on the occasion of their visit to London. A public meeting was organised by the Union, with the assistance of other important women's organisations, and a luncheon was given to the

Board at the Hotel Cecil, at which a very representative gathering of the leading women of the day assembled to do honour to Mrs. Chapman Catt and her distinguished fellow workers.

##### CONFERENCE OF WOMEN MAGISTRATES.

The appointment of women as magistrates constitutes perhaps the most important advance in the position of women which has taken place since their enfranchisement, and if it bears the same fruit as the entry of women into the medical profession and the election of women as Guardians of the Poor and Municipal Councillors, it may prove to be the most momentous alteration in the administration of the law which has ever been made. The new magistrates are anxious to become acquainted with the newest ideas and methods of administration, and thus it was that a two-days' conference, held by kind permission of the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House, was well attended and welcomed as a real assistance in their work by women magistrates from all over England and Wales. Some of the addresses given by well-known experts are being printed in the *Woman's Leader* and will be of great interest and value to many women outside the ranks of the Justices of the Peace whose work brings them into contact with police court cases.

##### Women at the Universities.

There is only one University in this country which refuses degrees and a participation in the government of the university to women, and it is regrettable that by a vote recently taken at Cambridge this injustice is to be continued. A violent controversy has raged in the Press, and literature has been issued on both sides to a surprising extent and of a most vigorous description. It is clear that the anti-woman side are fighting a losing battle, and though it is painful to see sex prejudice displayed in such a virulent form, it may be useful in rallying the indifferent and half-hearted to the standard of the N.U.S.E.C. The woman who thinks that the whole cause of equality for women was won with the vote is making a very big mistake. It is specious and satisfying to a certain type of woman to maintain that efforts to secure further advances for women are as much "anti-man" as the state of affairs before the vote was won was "anti-woman." There is more of this sort of argument than feminists realise. It constitutes almost as real a danger to women as did the anti-suffragists of pre-war days. The naked and unshamed exhibition of sex-antagonism by men during the Cambridge controversy should convince any woman who needs conviction of the necessity for a strong and active "equality" organisation to reap the harvest which their enfranchisement will ripen.

##### The Equal Moral Standard.

There is no country where an equal moral standard for men and women is really achieved and accepted by public opinion. But women have begun to expect an improvement and, while realising that centuries of wrong thinking cannot be swept away in a day, they do not and cannot acquiesce in any retrograde legislation on this vital question. There is an almost solid though fairly silent block of opposition to any steps being taken to curtail what are sometimes known as the "privileges of men," and unfortunately the forces on the side of a better morality are not united, for, under a plea of improving health, people are found advocating repressive action against women which would have similar results to the C.D. Acts, though not identical in administration. The report of the Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament has brought these disturbing questions to the front once more, and in the turmoil of disagreement over "compulsory rescue," involving long terms of detention for girls, and over the application of Regulation 40 D. of infamous notoriety, to the whole population, there is small hope of the non-contentious and long overdue reforms, taken from the Bishop of London's Bill, reaching the Statute Book. Those who are unresponsive to the danger signal of the women's failure at Cambridge will surely listen when they understand the real nature of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill in its present form.

December 19, 1920.

R. S.

#### NEW ZEALAND.

THE session has just closed. A good deal of work has been done, but nothing epoch-making and almost nothing worth recording from the purely feminist point of view. Much aftermath of war had to be dealt

with. New Zealand has continued many of the war restrictions abolished in other countries, and the one distinctly new feature of policy, namely our relations with our new dependency, Samoa, contains the confirmation, at least for a time, of the system of Chinese indentured labour introduced by the Germans. This clause was fought by the National Council of Women and the Women's Christian Temperance Union; our only woman's paper, *The White Ribbon*, taking a strong stand against the importation of Chinese, with the inevitable degradation of native women, and lowering of our own moral prestige. The Labour Party fought indenture hard, but was too weak numerically to turn the scale.

Other legislation as affecting increase of expenditure and permission to sell Crown lands and endowments need not be discussed here; nor need we touch upon debatable legislation on arbitration and wages. It is extremely difficult to get a clear light upon such questions, since the more Radical and more vocal half of the Labour Party has been exposed to the charge of Bolshevik leanings, which has seriously discounted the undoubted service rendered by that Party on all moral questions in the House. Minor amendments of the Marriage Acts tended to widen facilities for divorce in case of insanity, and one or two other decisive bars to possible married life. Women Registrars may now perform marriages. But the main trend of activity, seemingly unasked for by the country, roused extreme sectarian bitterness in dealing with the *Ne Temere* Decree.

In education some good work has been done, and next year's proposals promise to widen woman's influence considerably. A number of minor ameliorations of the stress of living have been carried.

There has been a tolerably successful campaign throughout the country for the "Fight the Famine" and "Save the Children" Funds. With the Government subsidy, it is expected that £20,000 will finally be reached, if not exceeded. Much of the inspiration in this campaign came from the literature and appeals of the women's societies in Britain, and men and women of all classes and opinions did their best to instruct the country as to the frightful conditions in Europe.

The cost of living bears hard upon many classes, but high wages chase high prices, as elsewhere, and the volume of distress is not so acute as to betray itself to the casual observer; the country, indeed, is still prosperous and comfortable, broadly speaking, though all long for soaring prices to go down, and undoubtedly a number of young children cannot be getting suitable nourishment.

JESSIE MACKAY.

November 15, 1920.

##### Death of Mrs. Kinton Parkes.

SINCE last I wrote the cause of women and of national righteousness has suffered a loss in the passing of Mrs. Kinton Parkes at her son's house in Dunedin. Though it has been already chronicled at home, her fine achievements on the Prohibition platform here, and her attractive personality, demand another tribute from New Zealand. She lectured all over the country on the specific temperance issue, but her experiences at home widened her service to us, strengthening the solidarity of the women's cause wherever she went. Though the end was sudden, she had suffered on her journeys, and her valuable help was given at a heavy cost to herself. She will not soon be forgotten in New Zealand.

J. M.

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

AGAIN the women of the United States are facing Congress. But with what a difference! For half a century, as petitioners, they have begged for legislation for their own enfranchisement. This year as constituents they are asking the 435 members of the national law-making body for legislation for the national welfare. The situation

is a difficult one. In the elections the Republicans won by such an overwhelming vote that in the new Congress they will have big majorities in both Senate and House.

It is certain that the new Congress will be called in extraordinary session shortly after the inauguration of the new President, Warren G. Harding, on March 4, and indications are that the new administration will work in such close harmony as to make impossible the passage of any Bill not endorsed by the Party leaders.

In the present Congress, which was convened on Monday, December 6, and will remain in session probably up to March 4, the Republicans have a bare majority vote. They are disinclined to consider any controversial legislation which might alienate any of their votes, and they also believe that Bills satisfactory to them would be vetoed by the President. In this situation, a prominent Republican member of the House of Representatives said:

"If we let down the bars and pass even one Bill of the least controversial, most necessary sort we cannot evade the others. If two or three fellows over on the Senate side become displeased over the discussion of any of the Bills, they will start a filibuster and block everything."

The women are not content to have the three months wasted in futile discussion and evasion while matters of tremendous moment to the country remain unsettled.

A step of great significance has been taken by the National League of Women Voters in the formation of a joint congressional committee of representatives from most of the national women's organisations, including the National League of Women Voters, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the National Council of Women, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, National Women's Trade Union League, the National Consumers' League, the National Congress of Mothers and Parent Teachers' Associations, the Association of College Alumnae, the American Economics Association, the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

It is the first time in the history of the country that such a union has been effected, and that it takes place in the interests of legislation for which women feel a special responsibility augurs well for the future. Mrs. Maud Wood Park, national chairman of the League of Women Voters, was elected permanent chairman of the committee which, conservatively estimated, represents 10,000,000 women voters.

The committee is maintaining a permanent legislative committee at Washington, which is augmented from time to time by volunteers from the various States.

Some of the more important Bills on the committee's programme are the Sheppard-Towner Bill for protection of maternity and infancy, with eight organisations pledged to its support; the Smith-Towner Bill to create a Department of Education and provide Federal co-operation to the States for the removal of illiteracy, for Americanisation, for equalising educational opportunities, for physical education, including health education and sanitation, and for preparation of teachers, actively supported by seven organisations; the Fess Amendment to the Smith-Hughes Bill to promote vocational education and equalise the expenditures for home economic education with those for agricultural education, backed by six organisations with the probability that one or two more will include the measure in their programmes; the Gronna (Kenyon-Kendrick) Bill to regulate the meat packers, backed by four organisations; the Curtis-Gard Child Labour Bill for the district of Columbia, supported by four organisations. Six organisations are interested in the principle of independent citizenship for women, for which several Bills are proposed.

Several Bills to revise the Federal departments are before Congress, including one to organise a Federal department of social welfare to deal with questions of special interest to women, and one to elevate the present bureau of education to a department. It is possible that if one of these plans is adopted, the new department head may be a woman.

The *Woman Citizen* is planning to devote much space to articles on Congress, and I am to be its Washington representative. In that capacity I have been admitted to the Press gallery. No other magazine has ever received that privilege, and of the 285 correspondents admitted to the gallery only three others are women.

In addition to planning its legislative programme for Congress, the League of Women Voters is arranging for

Bills to be introduced before all of the forty-eight State legislatures. These Bills vary according to the present laws of each State, but their general purport is to remove existing discriminations against women, giving women equal guardianship over their children, more equitable property ownership, raising the age of consent for girls, making women eligible for jury service, and to hold State offices, and kindred matters.

The League is divided into big districts, and the two in the north and east have been conducting regional conferences during the month, one in New York and one in Boston. Reports of the national citizenship work showed that the League has gone a long way toward its standard of one normal school for each State and one school for each County. Missouri, for instance, has held 107 schools for the instruction of its women voters, Ohio has had thirty-five, and Nebraska thirty. In the League campaign to make citizenship a required course in schools and colleges, the following Universities have co-operated: Massachusetts, New York, Virginia, South Carolina, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, Arkansas, North Carolina, Nebraska and Missouri.

When the board of the National American Woman Suffrage Association issued a proclamation appointing the nation's Thanksgiving Day as a time of special thanksgiving for the political freedom of women, there were many reasons for such a celebration in addition to the ratification of the Federal suffrage amendment.

It is now certain that in the elections thirty women were elected to State legislatures, half as many as have served during all of the preceding years. Connecticut, rock-bound, tradition-tied Connecticut, leads the nation in the number of women in its legislature, having elected five. New Hampshire has two, and a third New England State, Vermont, has one. Even the solid South was broken by the election of one woman to the North Carolina legislature. Five other women have been elected State superintendents of education.

There may be an opening wedge to the diplomatic service in the appointment by the Federal foreign trade service of Miss A. Viola Smith as secretary of the American Commercial Attaché in Peking, said to be the first woman to hold a post in the service.

There are no new legal developments in the suffrage situation, and the general impression is that no decision will be handed down by the United States Supreme Court in any way injuring the political status of women. The case brought by the anti-suffragists against the issuance of the proclamation by Secretary of State Colby is still pending before the Supreme Court. The anti-suffragists, in addition, are known to be agitating for the introduction before Congress of an amendment to the Federal Constitution, taking away from the State legislatures the right to ratify Federal amendments, and instead to submit to conventions with instructed delegates, or to a direct vote by the people. No action which Congress might take on this would have a bearing on the suffrage amendment.

MARJORIE SHULER,

Washington, D.C., December 13, 1920.

#### OBITUARY.

##### Mrs. Desha Breckinridge.

SUFFRAGISTS everywhere will regret deeply the sudden death on Thanksgiving Day of Mrs. Desha Breckinridge.

Mrs. Breckinridge was president of the Kentucky Equal Suffrage Association from 1902 until 1915, and again in 1918.

At the time of her death she was State chairman of the Kentucky League of Women Voters. She did much towards gaining Kentucky's ratification of the 19th amendment and its presidential suffrage measure by which women of that State were ensured their 1920 Presidential vote.

Her name stands for the very heart of the national suffrage movement in the United States. She was also known to the great international group of women working for freedom, and was one of the delegates to the Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in Geneva last June.

#### WOMEN'S SUCCESSES IN U.S. ELECTIONS.

##### Women Elected to State Legislatures.

###### CALIFORNIA.

Mrs. Anna L. Saylor, Berkeley.  
Mrs. Elizabeth Hughes, Oroville.  
Miss Esto B. Broughton, Modesto.

###### CONNECTICUT.

Mrs. Emily Brown, Naugatuck.  
Mrs. Lillian M. Frink, Canterbury.  
Mrs. Mary W. Hooker, Hartford.  
Mrs. W. A. Jewett, Tolland.  
Rev. Grace I. Edwards, New Hartford.

###### IDAHO.

Mrs. Bertha V. Irwin.

###### INDIANA.

Mrs. Julia Nelson, Muncie.

###### KANSAS.

Mrs. Minnie L. Grinstead, Liberal.  
Miss Nellie Cline, Larned.  
Mrs. Minnie I. Minnich, Wellington.  
Mrs. Ida M. Walker, Norton.

###### MICHIGAN.

Mrs. Eva Hamilton, Grand Rapids.

###### MONTANA.

Mrs. Margaret Smith Hathaway, Helena.

###### NEVADA.

Miss Ruth Averill, Tonopah.

###### NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Mrs. Mary Rolfe Farnham, Boscaawen.  
Miss Jessie Doe.

###### NEW JERSEY.

Mrs. Margaret B. Laird, Newark.  
Mrs. Jennie C. Van Ness, East Orange.

###### NEW YORK.

Miss Marguerite L. Smith, New York City.

###### OKLAHOMA.

Mrs. Lamar Looney, Hollis.  
Mrs. Bessie McColgen, Rankin.

###### OREGON.

Mrs. W. S. Kinney, Astoria.

###### UTAH.

Mrs. Clesson S. Kinney, Salt Lake City.  
Mrs. May B. Davis.  
Mrs. Clero Clegg.

###### VERMONT.

Edna L. Beard, Orange.

##### Women Elected State Superintendents of Instruction.

###### IDAHO.

Miss Ethel E. Redfield, Lewiston.

###### KANSAS.

Miss Elizabeth Wooster.

###### MONTANA.

Miss May Trumper.

###### NORTH DAKOTA.

Miss Minnie Neilson.

###### TEXAS.

Miss Annie Webb Blanton.

##### Other Victories.

Florence Allen, who was one of a number of candidates for common pleas judge in Cleveland, Ohio, and who received the endorsement of the Democratic Party, won a great victory in spite of the Republican landslide. Miss Allen won the office and led the field, polling 116,699 votes, more than 10,000 ahead of her nearest opponent.

Other Ohio women who won out at the polls were Mrs. Abbie Nye Norton, of Perry, for probate judge of Lake county, and Mary K. Davy, of Logan, for prosecuting attorney for Hocking county.

Indiana is giving added proof every day of being at the front with regard to recognising the work of its women. Two appointments have recently been made which will be of special interest to suffragists. Miss Adah Bush, whose service to the suffrage cause has been notable, has been named as secretary to the Governor, serving not as the Governor's private secretary but as the state appointee to that official position.

Mrs. Edward Franklin White, another prominent suffrage worker, has been named Deputy Attorney-General for Indiana by the newly elected Attorney-General, U. S. Lesh.

*Woman Citizen, November 27, 1920.*

#### AN ANSWER TO A MESSAGE FROM Mrs. CHAPMAN CATT, AND AN APPEAL.

DEAR MRS. CHAPMAN CATT,

Your last "Message" must have found a thrilling echo in the hearts of all readers of *JUS SUFFRAGII*. You revived in us that wonderful spirit of our Congress of Geneva, as it filled us with a holy enthusiasm for the cause of woman. And still more for the causes of the ascending march of humanity: East and West completing each other for the first time in a marvellous and inspiring way for our common evolution towards loftier spheres of peace, justice, and bliss. Many of us certainly never felt in such a degree the *unity* of woman's aspirations all over the world for the righting of wrongs, the correction of errors, and the elimination of that miserable distrust and spirit of fight which ruins the best causes, as it leads to solutions where might lords it over right.

Does not our womanly intuition tell us that in all noble causes the only way to lasting peace is not to slay your enemy, but to make him into a friend by loyal means and by persuasion?

But if we want to succeed along these new lines, must we not, in the first instance, try to train the minds of the young in this direction in a better way than before? Must we not cultivate in the growing generation that healthy public spirit, that love of justice and of joyful co-operation, that ardent faith in the possibility of peaceful solutions, without which all our aspirations are doomed to meet with endless difficulties, or even with failure?

Happily, in the life of peoples, progress is not in the first instance the result of slow and small ameliorations that take centuries to transform the masses. Evolution proceeds by leaps and bounds when public opinion is transfigured by new and sound ideals.

Why not, then, unite and concentrate the best of our efforts in *all* countries upon this integrating transformation of the next generation? Why not organise and promote, in the first place, a higher standard of moral and civic education of our children on a vast scale, and on such sterling principles that they could be adopted throughout the world, so that it might lead to more good-will between sexes, classes and creeds, and to a real Society of Nations?

This education, of which your country and a very few others show some excellent examples, is still something almost unknown elsewhere. If it must be acknowledged that it proved sometimes a failure by a narrow-minded or chauvinist application, tedious lessons or incompetent teachers, does not our motherly experience convince us that, if it could be instilled in a sympathetic way in the hearts and minds of our children *through the combined efforts of parents and teachers*, it would certainly become one of the most powerful agents of progress in every direction?

Well, have we not seen in our colonies even cannibals transformed into peace-loving people, in a single generation, simply by loving care and training?

Several of us sincerely regretted that this subject of moral and civic education was not put on the programme of the Congress, as we felt it would be one of the surest means of paving the way for the fulfilment of our dearest wishes.

Thence my fervent appeal: do let us receive an inspiration for the grappling with this problem through your Headquarters—and might it become one of the best prepared subjects of your next Congress.

Yours sincerely,

COUNTESS VON HEERDT-QUARLES.

Blöemendaal, Holland, Christmas, 1920.



### TO HON. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

In accordance with the resolutions of the Board of Officers at their meeting in December, we would advise all our subscribers in Italy that an account has been opened at the Banca Italiana di Scuto, Milan, and that all payments for JUS, Fees, etc., may be forwarded there at the pre-war rate of exchange.

The Dresdner Bank, Dresden, Germany, will also accept these payments at the pre-war rate of exchange for the benefit of our German, Austrian and Hungarian members.

INCREASED CIRCULATION.—Will our Members and Subscribers help us during this year to increase our circulation? Any suggestions you can make towards this end will be much appreciated by the Financial Secretary.

#### Officers of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, elected at the Eighth Congress, Geneva, June 6—12, 1920.

*President:* CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT, 404, Riverside Drive, New York, U.S.A.  
*1st Vice-President:* MARGUERITE DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER, 14, Rue Pierre de Serbie, Paris, France.  
*2nd Vice-President:* CHRYSAL MACMILLAN, 17, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, Scotland.  
*3rd Vice-President:* ANNA LINDEMANN, Degerloch, Stuttgart, Germany.  
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#### By-law of the I.W.S.A. Constitution.

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

Headquarters: 11, ADAM STREET, ADELPHI, LONDON, W.C. Telegrams: "Vocorajto." Telephone: Regent 4255.

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WEDNESDAY "AT HOMES" at 3 p.m., at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

January 19th.—Councillor JESSIE STEPHEN. Subject: "Woman's Right to Work."  
 January 26th.—Miss K. RALEIGH. Subject: "What St. Paul Really Said to Women" (Part II).  
 February 2nd.—F. THORESBY, Esq. Subject: "A New Approach in Education."

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#### WHAT IS THE Y.W.C.A.?

By CLARISSA H. SPENCER.

IT is an organisation of women, Christian in its basis international in its character, world-wide in its extent, and having the welfare of young women as its object. It has a membership (1919) of over 800,000 in thirty-five countries in all parts of the world. It is to be found in almost every large city to-day. If one should make a tour round the world there would be hardly a port or city, whether in the Old or the New World, East or West, North or South, where one would not find the Young Women's Christian Association at work in touch with hundreds and thousands of young women and girls. Girls landing in a strange port, ignorant of the language of the country; girls coming to big towns from country villages; girls whose homes are in sight of the Association building; girls of every race, age and class—the Young Women's Christian Association has something to offer to each one of them. One would discover that the methods in the various associations might vary, as the character of the cities in which they were found varies, but nevertheless they all form part of the same organisation. One of the



The Spirit of True Internationalism.—Japanese Y.W.C.A. Members in Tokyo Packing Clothes for Siberian Refugees.

outstanding characteristics of the Association is its unity in diversity. It may differ in details of its work in South Africa and Finland, in the Argentine and India, but the movement is the same everywhere. The local associations in a country are united in a national association, and the national associations in their turn form the World's Young Women's Christian Association.

The Young Women's Christian Association is fortunate in having a name that really indicates its character. Probably the word which most quickly arrests attention is the one in the very centre of its name "Christian." Since it is a very important word and is often misunderstood, it may be well to explain at once its real

significance. It does not mean that the Association is a religious sect, or that its only activities consist in Bible classes and religious meetings. There is nothing sectarian in the programme of the Association. It includes in its membership young women who are full members of many different branches of the Christian Church, together with many who belong to none. A young woman is not excluded from the Association because of her religious beliefs or her lack of them.

The leadership of the Association in any country is in the hands of those who can accept its basis, or meet the test prescribed by the national committee of that country. The object of this plan is to insure a leadership for the Association that shall be fully in sympathy with its aims and principles.



Future Leaders.—Roumanian Y.W.C.A. Girl Reserves.

What the basis or test shall be is left to the decision of each national committee so long as it is in harmony with the basis and principles of the World's Y.W.C.A. which are as follows:—

*Basis.*—"Faith in God the Father as Creator, and in Jesus Christ His only Son as Lord and Saviour, and in the Holy Spirit as Revealer of Truth and Source of Power for life and service, according to the teaching of Holy Scripture."

*Principles.*—"The World's Young Women's Christian Association desires to be representative of all sections of the Christian Church in so far as they accept the Basis. It includes in the field of its activities young

women without distinction of creed, and desires to enlist the service of young women for young women in their spiritual, intellectual, social and physical advancement, and to encourage their fellowship and activity in the Christian Church. The World's Young Women's Christian Association also pledges itself to assign a primary position to Bible Study and prayer."

The ideal of the leaders of the Association is that the whole work should be permeated with the Christian spirit. They believe that while Bible classes and religious meetings are important, they are not the only method which the Association should use to deliver the Christian message. Every bit of work, recreation, education, protection or whatever it may be, should be such an expression of the spirit of friendliness, purity and love, that those who come in contact with it shall come under the influence of Christ Himself, and shall receive something of the fulness of life that He came to bring.

The Young Women's Christian Association is wholeheartedly loyal to the Church of Christ and truly Christian in the deepest sense of the word.

Another characteristic of the Association is indicated by the words "Young Women" in its name. They do not mean that the Association is unwilling to serve those who are no longer young, or that it has no older women in its ranks. But the fact remains that its spirit is the spirit of youth, that it exists for the girl of to-day and is trying to meet her needs and see things from her point of view. While its principles remain the same its methods change with the changing times, for it holds that a change is a characteristic of life and the Association is above all things a living organism.

Furthermore, the Association exists for young women of all classes, all types and all races. Its membership includes an infinite variety: the well educated and the illiterate; those who remain in the shelter of their own homes, and those who go out into the world to earn their own living and perhaps that of others as well; girls in factories, shops, warehouses, hospitals, offices; those who are in the many professions now open to women, and those who are equipping themselves in schools, colleges, training schools and universities. Naturally, these different groups require different service from the Association to meet their varying needs; but they all form a part of the same movement and the ideal of the Association is to bring these various groups together and to help them to understand each other.

The Young Women's Christian Association strives to meet the needs of the whole personality of a young woman, physical, mental, social and spiritual. Therefore its activities are varied. There are hostels for the girl who is travelling or who is studying away from home. There are restaurants and cafeterias where she can obtain nourishing food at a reasonable price.

There are outdoor sports and camps and physical drill for the development of her physical life and health campaigns and lectures to teach her how to take care of her body. There are classes and lectures in languages, literature, art, history, and singing, for the cultivation of her mind and spirit. Many Associations have business courses to prepare her to take her place as a wage-earner, others have courses in cooking, dressmaking, baby-care, house-furnishing, millinery and kindred subjects to develop her domestic taste and to teach her to use her hands. There are concerts, evenings for play, opportunities to meet her friends of both sexes, holiday homes, excursions, and outdoor camps for her vacations, expert advice in choosing a trade, and employment bureaus to help her find a job. There are Bible classes and circles, discussion groups where she can talk over the deeper problems of her life, conferences and meetings of various sorts where she can have spiritual fellowship with others.

The last word in the name is "Association" and it best of all emphasises the democratic character of the movement. For the work is not something that one class of women does for another, but it is a united effort

for young women by young women. Each member, therefore, has a responsibility in the Association. Not all can serve on committees, but more and more the individual member is learning that she makes her contribution to the welfare of the whole not only by paying a membership fee, but also by giving to the Association time and thought and service of one kind or another. In many places self-governing clubs are being organised within the movement in order that the youngest, least experienced member may do her part to make the whole a success. No organisation these days can hope to serve acceptably that is not democratic in character, and one of the most hopeful features in the Association is this spirit of democracy which is part of its very foundation. In the best organised associations, both local, district and national, the members choose the governing committee. The local associations through their representatives choose the members of the national committees, and the national committees acting for their national associations in turn choose the World's Committee.



Miss Spencer, late World's Y.W.C.A. General Secretary, Travelling in Sweden with Froken Netzel, Vice-President.

The World's Committee is composed of 75 members representing national committees and groups of associations that are not yet organised nationally, together with elected members resident in London who form the Executive Committee. It employs an international staff of secretaries whose business is to carry on the work by correspondence and by travel.

The Committee meets every two years. Less frequently it organises World's Conferences and International Commissions. The last World's Conference was held in Stockholm, 1914. In June, 1920, an International Commission was held in Champéry, Switzerland, which was attended by delegates from 28 countries, the first international gathering held by the Y.W.C.A. since the war. This International-Commission meeting was followed by a meeting of the World's Committee, the first since 1914.

The second week in November is used every year as a time of prayer for Association work throughout the world. Its object is to make real to association members throughout the world their unity one with another, to teach them to think of each other, to understand each others needs and to pray for each other. This is a time when the Young Women's Christian Association has a special opportunity for developing the spirit of international unity among its members as well as deepening their individual lives.

The Young Women's Christian Association has a history covering more than sixty-five years. It has distinct characteristics and a clearly defined policy. Its leaders believe that it is eminently suited to meet the needs of the modern young woman and that it can do far more for womanhood in the future than it has done in the past. They would ask for the sympathy and co-operation in this work of all women who are anxious to serve other women and work for a better and brighter future for humanity.

## SOME INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS IN SOUTHERN CHINA.

By CLARE STARKEY, M.Sc., Y.W.C.A., Canton.



A Business Street in Old Canton.

FOR many centuries the women of the lower classes in China have taken their share in earning the support of the family. One has only to take a walk through the fields at any time during the rice-growing season to see them working side by side with the men, ankle deep in mud, "puddling," or loosening the earth round the roots of the young plants, or working the primitive treadmill which raises the water from the river to the lower fields, or again from the lower to those lying higher on the slope.

In other districts the women are the chief burden bearers. They can be met on any road carrying loads that look too large and heavy for any human frame, or the sedan chairs in which the wealthier members of the community ride.

If one visits the villages during the winter months the women are found at work in their tiny homes at embroidery so fine and delicate that one wonders at the patience that can endure doing it for so many hours a day, besides the strain to eyes and back; and then, when one realizes that for a twelve-hour day at such work a woman earns barely enough food for herself for the day, something of the struggle for existence which forces women to work is dimly perceived. (The arguments used by the schoolmaster's friend with regard to the disposal of his small daughter in the "Wanderer over a Thousand Hills" are typical.)

In the past also children have taken their share in obtaining the family livelihood. In field work as coolies carrying smaller loads, as herders to the great slate-coloured water buffaloes, the boys have their part; while to the girls falls the care of the younger children of the house, domestic work generally and lighter field work—always supposing they escape the fate of being sold to wealthier people as slave girls, in which case, for many, their work is endless.

The old conditions are bad enough, but the women are living at home and the greater part of the time they are out in the open air; but to-day under the factory system beginning, women and children are working twelve to fourteen hours and earning still but a mere pittance.

The older factories in China only date back thirty years, but practically within the last eight years large, up-to-date machine plants have been started, and in Shanghai—the largest industrial centre—25,000 women and children are employed in the spinning industries alone.

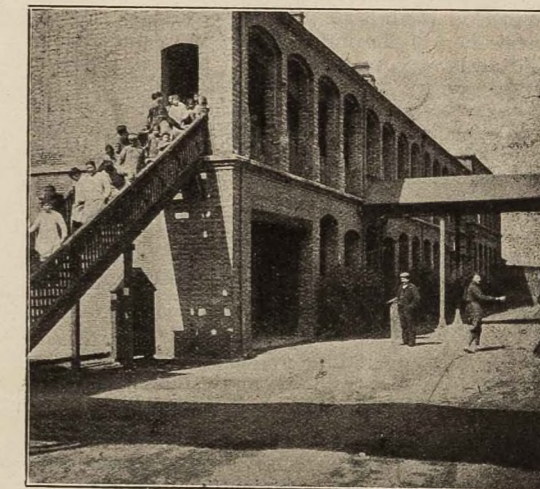
Although one regrets the length of day for full-grown women, when it comes to children from 8 to 11 years old working their twelve to fourteen hours a day in a bad atmosphere and at high pressure; as one sees their pale faces and thin bodies, their tired, spiritless air, so unlike the vigour of average healthy childhood; and as one looks into the future and knows that weakened and devitalised as they will be, they will be called upon to take up the responsibilities of womanhood, one realises forcibly that something must be done, and done at once.

In a match factory I visited, children of from 8 to 11 years old were working—so closely packed together on the low benches that they had not proper freedom of movement—for twelve hours a day, filling match-boxes. In the same room were men working the machines, and in addition the cauldrons of phosphorus.

Such, however, is the size of the population, and so inadequate are the means of support, that the factories are regarded almost with gratitude as providing work. In many cases the Chinese employers are open to reason for things that make for efficiency, and are doing much to improve conditions. Welfare workers would find ample scope for all their talents.

The owner of one factory in Canton, where hair nets are made, had heard a little of things done in America to help work-people, and his factory is built so that there is good light and ventilation, and there is even a wash-bowl in the corner. Here the girls are comparatively well paid and the day is limited to ten hours. He says: "These things pay!"

Such men as he, if only there were experienced welfare workers behind them, would go forward and lead the way to better conditions, before bad conditions become the rule. At present there are comparatively few factories in China, and the decision is with those who know good industrial conditions whether the new factories shall start on right lines, or whether in China the tragedy of Japan will be repeated. English firms are opening branches in China; Chinese firms are



Millgirls Leaving Work, Shanghai.

multiplying. Well may the Young Women's Christian Association of China make efforts to raise money and get out highly qualified women now—for now is the time when such women are supremely valuable.

### A National Industrial Secretary for China.

The National Committee of the Chinese Y.W.C.A. hopes to appoint Miss Harrison, who needs no introduction to those interested in welfare work, and who is at present at the London School of Economics, as their first National Industrial Secretary.

## THE INDUSTRIAL POLICY OF THE WORLD'S Y.W.C.A.

**A**N International Commission, followed by a meeting of the World's Committee, was held by the World's Y.W.C.A., at Champéry, Switzerland, June 2-10, 1920. One section of the Commission devoted its time to the discussion of industrial questions, with special reference to women's work, and brought forward the following recommendations:—

The Industrial Section desires to affirm its conviction that the World Social Order can only be made Christian through individuals whose life is devoted to the single purpose of doing God's will, who constantly renew that purpose in His Presence, and who, at all costs, strive to carry their allegiance to Christ into every part of life.

### Recommendation 1.

WHEREAS we recognise that in the present social order there are many elements contrary to the principles of Christ, in that it ignores the sacredness of human personality, and by the acceptance of coercion and competition as ruling principles of human progress sets man against man and nation against nation, and

WHEREAS we are persuaded that it is possible to change the present system, and to introduce into national and international life the Christian principles of love and co-operation, and that to deny this possibility is to deny some of the most important teachings of Christ,

WE RECOMMEND that the Young Women's Christian Association, as a body of Christian women exercising an ever-widening influence in many lands, recognise their share of responsibility for the maladjustments in the social order of to-day, and make it their concern to inform themselves fully as to existing social conditions, and to apply the principles of justice, mercy, and the equal value of every human life to national and international as well as to personal relations.

### Recommendation 2.

WHEREAS we believe that the great hope for the civilisation of the future lies in the permeation of the democratic movements and political bodies in every country with Christian ideals, and that this can only be achieved through an increase of mutual understanding and fellowship between groups who have in common the desire for social righteousness, although their methods may be diverse,

WE RECOMMEND that the Young Women's Christian Association seek every occasion to understand the ideals of and so far as possible to co-operate with other bodies who are striving to improve the conditions of the world in which we live.

### Recommendation 3.

WHEREAS there are in every country great groups of industrial women with whom the Association has not yet established contact,

WE RECOMMEND that the Young Women's Christian Association make every effort to get into touch with those workers in far larger numbers through such means as foyers, clubs, camps, canteens and hostels; that in all such centres self-government shall be developed to the fullest possible extent, and that social and economic education and training for citizenship shall form part of the programme so that members may recognise their responsibilities and take their part in developing Christian ideals in their trade organisations and the life of the community.

### Recommendation 4.

WHEREAS in the present imperfect social order it is necessary in the interest of justice that groups of industrial workers should have the opportunity of combining to improve their status and voice their needs,

WE RECOMMEND that the Young Women's Christian Association encourage organisation among women workers, and give opportunity to its members, through lectures, discussion circles and other methods, to become acquainted with the principles underlying such organisation.

### Recommendation 5.

WHEREAS the International Labour Conference established in connection with the League of Nations under Part 13 of the Peace Treaty, adopted at its meeting in Washington, in November, 1919, certain Draft Conventions and Recommendations as follows:—

#### A. Draft Conventions.

1. Establishing an 8-hour day or 48-hour week in industry.
2. Prohibiting night work by women of all ages.
3. Prohibiting night work by male young persons under 18.
4. Fixing the minimum age for admission of children to industrial employment at 14.
5. Prohibiting employment of women during six weeks after childbirth, and granting them permission to leave work under medical certificate that their confinement will probably take place within six weeks (benefit sufficient for full and healthy maintenance of mother and child being provided either out of public funds or by means of a system of insurance, free attendance of doctor or midwife being an additional benefit).
6. Setting up free public employment agencies.

#### B. Recommendations.

1. For the prevention of unemployment.
2. Concerning reciprocity of treatment of foreign workers.
3. Of international action for the prevention of anthrax.
4. Of international agreement for the protection of women and children from lead-poisoning.
5. Concerning the creation of Government health services.
6. Concerning the application of the Berne Convention 1906, prohibiting the use of white phosphorus in the manufacture of matches.

WE RECOMMEND that the World's Young Women's Christian Association urge the National Associations to express their approval of the above, and to support Bills concerning these proposals when introduced into their various legislatures.

### Recommendation 6.

WE RECOMMEND:

1. That the World's Committee appoint an industrial committee and secretary with expert knowledge, who will make available through the World's Young Women's Christian Association office information regarding industrial and social conditions in the different countries.
2. That each National Association
  - (a) Appoint an industrial secretary.
  - (b) Provide definite teaching on industrial laws and conditions in their training centres for secretaries.
  - (c) Give opportunities for study and research to all Association leaders, workers and members.

### Recommendation 7.

WE RECOMMEND that each National Association in its capacity as an employer be urged to make operative the principles enunciated in the foregoing resolutions.