

JUS SUFFRAGII,

PUBLISHED BY THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

EDITOR: MARTINA G. KRAMERS, 92 KRUISKADE, ROTTERDAM.

THIRD YEAR No. 10.

JUNE 15, 1909.

"You speak, Mr. Haldane," a Suffragette said,
"Of the Will of the People wholesale,
But has the idea ever entered your
head
That "the People" are not only male?"
Punch.



Would men but generously snap our chains, and be content with rational fellowship instead of slavish obedience, they would find us more observant daughters, more affectionate sisters, more faithful wives, more reasonable mothers—in a word, better citizens.

MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT.

PRICE 2 DUTCH FLORINS PER YEAR.

Announcements.

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

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

Among the proposals of new work to be undertaken by the I. W. S. All. was the following, suggested by Lady Mc. Laren:

—Resolved that this Alliance urges the National Woman Suffrage Association of each country to prepare a comprehensive statement of the laws which place women, both married and single, at a disadvantage in regard to property, earnings, marriage, divorce, guardianship of children, education, industrial conditions and political rights, and to explain, when demanding their immediate enfranchisement from their respective Parliaments, that they consider that these injustices can only effectively be removed by joint political action by men and women. This Congress recommends that this action shall be taken simultaneously in all countries in the year 1910.—

We shall be glad to report here whatever has been done in the auxiliary countries of the Alliance to carry out this resolution. In Great Britain different suffrage societies have called attention

to various legal disabilities of women by publishing or spreading pamphlets like Dr. Earengey's "Woman under the Law"; and recently Lady Mc. Laren gave a good start to this cause by publishing during the congress of the I. W. S. All. "The Women's Charter of Rights and Liberties," in which she gives a most able and exact description of the wrongs done to women by the British laws together with suggestions for their removal, adding as appendix a draft of a Charter of the Rights of Englishwomen, which will be introduced into the House of Commons in 1910. Does not England set us all a fine example in this respect?

In the Netherlands too we have found the demonstration of women's wrongs and disabilities, sanctioned by the laws of the land, our best propaganda for the cause of woman suffrage. A pamphlet containing a reprint of the laws concerned, with short headings that proclaim their meaning to women, has been recently reprinted for the twelfth time. It is only a penny leaflet and abstains from proposing remedies, for possibly on any new proposal the views of our suffragists might be at variance.

I believe a great service would be rendered the readers of "Jus Suffragii", if the auxiliary nations would report to me what they do in this respect. (Editor.)

For the competition for a tune to our I. W. S. All. Hymn (see page 70 "Jus" III) three compositions have already been received from Great Britain, and one from another country is in course of preparation.

As for translations of the Hymn into French or German (or into Esperanto, if possible), no attempts have as yet been communicated to the I. W. S. All. organ.

Literature. Recalling the readers' attention to the announcement on literature on page 69 "Jus Suffragii" III, I here state that I have received pamphlets from the N. U. W. S. S. (Great Britain) the L. K. P. R. (Sweden) and the A. N. S. F. (Switzerland) and from no other country or auxiliary.

Does this mean that every President has sent a sample of all the literature issued by her society to each of the twenty other Presidents, or that the publications issued are only of national interest and value?

Whatever be the cause of the scanty supply, I can only speak of the pamphlets that were sent me.

The first that I got from England was **Women's Suffrage in Many Lands** by *Alice Zimmern*, 13 Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, London E.C. 1 Shilling. This little handy booklet of 170 pages gives a brief review of the status of woman suffrage in 22 countries showing the wide extent of the demand all over the world. It is of great value for those who have just entered the ranks of the suffragists and want to be informed of the previous history of the movement before they begin to help make history themselves, but it is also of good service to older workers who wish to have the principal facts in a nutshell to refresh their memory on some point in case of need. This extract is chiefly compiled from the well-known handbooks for the United States and Great Britain, the Copenhagen and Amsterdam Reports and the monthly organ of the I. W. S. Alliance, and the author has tried to have possible mistakes corrected by prominent suffragists from each country, if she could find them; yet, as is unavoidable in a small review of a very wide subject, there are some facts and names mentioned and others left out, where other reviewers might have made a different choice. And then some errors and mis-statements have crept in, for instance with regard to Belgium and Italy. Since the small space does not allow of a historical survey, all those who have great merit for the cause in initiating the suffrage movement are not named—in Sweden e. g. we miss Ann Margret Holmgren's name—, nor do we find all those who now work—or pretend to work—for the suffrage enumerated in the little paragraph on each country. Now the first edition of the pamphlet is nearly sold off and a new one is contemplated for this fall, so the author will be happy to receive any suggestions of corrections and will certainly give them the necessary attention, provided they do not aim at giving undue prominence to persons or facts whose mentioning would spoil the proportions of her small review. Those who are well acquainted with the subject give special praise to the chapters on the United States, Great Britain and Germany, and Mrs. Chapman Catt honored the booklet by writing a foreword to introduce it to the public. We feel sure that no shilling could be better spent than in ordering "Women's Suffrage in many Lands".

The June-number of **The Coming Day**, 3 sh 6 d per year, The Roserie, Shepperton-on-Thames. Sermon on "Womanhood and Citizenship" preached by *John Page Hopps* at Little Portland Street Chapel on April 25th 1909, introductory to the Meetings of the I. W. S. Alliance.

From Sweden I received No 2 of the first series of articles published by the Swedish N. W. S. A. „**Are Women of less Value to the State than Men?**” a leaflet written by *Mrs. Holmgren* intended for distribution. The author urges the readers to compare the rights given by the state to men, when the Riksdag enfranchised them all on Febr. 10 1909, with the lack of rights for women, who yet are "people" as well and more law-abiding citizens with no less moral qualities than their brothers.

Please send back-numbers, if you can spare them!

The Secretary of the Swiss W. S. A. sends me **Charles Secrétan et le Suffrage politique des Femmes** by *Mr. A. de Morsier M. P.* to be ordered for 30 centimes from Mme A. Girardet Vielle, Castel d'Al, Lausanne. The author gives a compendium of the celebrated philosopher's opinions on the place of women in society and state, frequently quoting Secrétan's judgments, for instance this: „Trust to no parties . . . , each of them would gladly accept to execute the programme which it pretends now to oppose, if the majority chose to entrust it to them.” And this condemnation of the continual repression of the opinions of women: „We do not know the demands of justice, and we shall not know them, as long as women will not have been consulted.”

Lecturers, Press Exchange. Our new department „Literature” must not make us forget the two above-named ones, which we decided to take up into „Jus Suffragii” in Amsterdam. Each auxiliary will oblige all the others by announcing the lecturing-tours planned for suffrage-speakers from abroad (see „Jus” II nrs. 11, 12, III 1, 2, 3, 5), and perhaps a look at the recommendation made by the President in „Jus Suffrage” II nr. 12 that we should guard against misrepresentation by the press, will induce more countries than *Great Britain, United States, Hungary, the Netherlands, South Africa and Poland*, to give addresses for the Press Exchange scheme.

Subscription fee for „Jus Suffragii”. Even after all the pains taken to get the payment for the second year (Sept. 1907—Sept. 1908), there are still one N.W.S.A., which receives 40 copies, and 36 readers, chiefly in Russia and Sweden, who have neglected to pay. In August we will send out the notice that the Third Year is due, and in September we shall stop sending the paper to those who have not paid its second year.

Statistics. Correspondents are here reminded that, if they lack news for the summer-months, a statistical statement would be very welcome giving the most recent number of the male and female adult population of their country and the number of parliamentary, municipal, etc. electors, and if possible, also the voting qualifications.

Australia.

The following letter was received from the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia:—

Department of External Affairs,
Melbourne, 8th April 1909.

Madam,

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 4th March, inviting the Commonwealth to be represented at the forthcoming meeting of your Alliance, I have the honour, by direction, to inform you that it is regretted that your letter was received too late to allow of arrangements being made to have the Commonwealth represented.

2. This Government wishes the session every success.

I have the honour to be, madam,

Your obedient Servant,
ALEX KENT, Secretary.

The President,
International Woman Suffrage Alliance,
2 West 86th St., New York.

Bulgaria.

The Report of the Bulgarian W.S.A. having arrived too late for the printing of the London Report, is now published here.

„Our organization, during this year, has succeeded in adding to its membership three more societies of women. The Bulgarian Women's Association (B.W.S.A.) urges more and more its claim for women's rights. In order to promote its aim, it has transferred to Sofia its organ „Jensky Glas,” which used to appear at Bourgas.

In the spring we undertook propaganda tours to advocate equality of rights for women.

The Association (B.W.S.A.) took steps to present its claims to the Democratic Government. It only obtained one thing: the vote for the Schoolboard; and recently a woman was elected member of this Board.

Also on the initiative of our Association the University of Sofia, which had been closed to women students, was reopened to them.

Besides a course of lectures on women's rights was organized and met with a good reception on the part of the public.

In June the Association will hold its eighth congress.

„We hope that the next International Convention may take place somewhere nearer to our country, that we may have the pleasure of taking part in the noble strife waged by the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

S. DIMICHEVA, secretary B.W.S.A.
Sophia, May 1st 1909.

Great Britain.

Two by-elections occupied the attention of the **National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies** in May, one in South West Warwickshire where Mr. Philip Foster was returned, who wrote: „I am in favour of women who have the same qualification as men having the vote. I would vote for a bill removing the sex disability”.

Our voters' petition brought us 1258 signatures and the number would have been largely increased but the size of the constituency made it impossible to work everywhere.

At the Attercliffe by-election we may fairly claim that woman's suffrage headed the poll, for whereas Mr. Pointer was returned by 3531 votes, the number of men signing our petition numbered 5020.

We show that on the question of woman's suffrage men of all parties are united. Mr. Pointer is pledged to help our cause in the house and he can feel he has his constituents behind him.

Our organisers have been busy and the results of their work were shown when five new societies applied to enter the Union last week.

MARGERIE I CORBETT.

London, June 1909.

The great Exhibition held by the **Women's Social and Political Union** in the Prince's Skating Rink has just closed, and was a great success, the magnificent total of £ 5,600 being raised. The great hall was thronged with visitors, during the whole of the 14 days during which the Exhibition remained open.

A short description of the Exhibition may be of interest to those who were not able to be present. On entering the building the first thing

that struck the visitor were the beautiful decorations which ran all the way round the hall. In the left hand corner of the hall were two prison cells, one in which men political prisoners are imprisoned, and the other in which the women of the Women's Social and Political Union serve their terms of imprisonment. The difference between these two cells was striking in the extreme, the first being large and comfortably furnished with easy chairs, books, newspapers, etc. etc., the other being an exact reproduction of the cells in Holloway prison; furnished simply with a plank bed, and the bare necessities of life. Opposite these two cells ran a screen some 50 feet long, on which were placed a collection of photographs showing the history of the militant movement. On the other side of the hall was the Polling Booth at which visitors were able to cast their votes every day upon some question of interest. Among the questions voted upon were the following:—Co-Education, the advisability of having a Channel Tunnel between England and France. „Should women be allowed to serve on Juries?” „Should women be policemen?” and, most interesting of all, „Does the propaganda of the Anti-Suffragists help or hinder the Votes for Women movement?” The result in this case would hardly have pleased the members of the Women's Anti Suffrage League, only 72 out of a total of 1,037 being of the opinion that the League hindered the cause. The remainder of the hall was taken up with stalls laden with beautiful work of every description. At intervals through the day, entertainments were given by the recently formed Actresses' Franchise League.

In order to advertise the Exhibition the Drum and Fife Band belonging to the Union paraded the streets. This band which is the first Drum and Fife Band ever organised by women, created a great deal of interest as it marched through the streets of London. The women were clad in a most becoming uniform in the famous colours of the Union, purple, white and green.

The Exhibition work did not take up the entire energies of the W.S.P.U. The campaign of education went on with unabated vigour, great meetings being held all over the country, and the militant side of the Union's work was not neglected. Cabinet Ministers were questioned wherever and whenever they appeared in public. The most notable of these demonstrations occurred at Sheffield when the Prime Minister spoke in a hall, guarded by hundreds of police. Over 10,000 men and women assembled in the streets outside the hall, and repeatedly tried to gain admittance to the hall. Cheers were given for the Suffragettes and it was only with the greatest difficulty that a serious riot was prevented.

The W.S.P.U. shortly intend making another attempt to interview Mr. Asquith. A deputation consisting of women from all over the country is being appointed, and on June 29th a determined effort will be made to secure an interview with the Prime Minister.

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

As soon as the excitement and pleasure consequent upon the visit of the „Internationals” died down, the **Women's Freedom League** set itself—as is its wont—to stern and unceasing labour for the furthering of our ends. Because, after all, the Conference had made us realize more strongly than ever if possible, that the victory of the British women in this question is

one that is going to set the pace for the other countries, all the world over. We dare not, we shall not fail.

Besides vigorous agitation in the country, the work in London is a great propagandist campaign in the thickly populated districts round Westminster; we are determined to convert the people who live under the very shadow of the stronghold of the enemy. Twenty to thirty meetings are to be held every night during June and July in the open air and great mass meetings every week or ten days. The procedure is quite simple for the preliminary open air meetings. Two women with a banner and some free literature, make their way to a crowded corner, go into the nearest shop and borrow a chair and a glass of water, mount the former and sip the latter, and start telling the crowd why they want the vote. They win sympathizers every time and if they sometimes have untoward arguments, in the shape of cabbage-stalks and rotten eggs, flung at them, these soon lose their point and the crowd is roused to a chivalrous indignation, which augurs well for the cause.

The policy of holding protest meetings whenever the Prime Minister issues from the shy retirement in which he has lived of late and ventures to address a meeting of free and enlightened citizens, is bearing good fruit. When Mr. Asquith went to Sheffield at the end of last month, the press of that city held him up to ridicule in no uncertain terms. "He was brought into the city like a bale of contraband goods", said the "Sheffield Daily Telegraph". "Time was when the British Premier was proud to face the people, but now—! And surely it is not very dignified for the Prime Minister of this great Empire to be making mysterious exits and unexpected entrances like an acrobatic clown at a Christmas pantomime". Outside the hall where he was speaking—and which was barricaded as if a foreign foe were expected—a huge mass of over ten thousand people assembled. Mrs. Sanderson, a well-known member of the W.F.L., addressed them and a resolution of no confidence in Mr. Asquith was passed, with only one dissident! And yet, the cause of women's suffrage is one that, so he says, escapes his notice!

We are contemplating a new and a serious venture—viz: the launching of a newspaper of our own. The Women's Freedom League is now a sufficiently large and important body to warrant this, indeed (like all other papers, of course) it is imperatively needed and will satisfy a long-felt want. We have already had promise of articles from eminent writers and we know that the loyalty and enthusiasm of our members will give the paper a splendid "start-off". So that we view this departure, as we view all others, with the confidence of sure success. That is the hallmark of the suffragette.

MARION HOLMES.

London, June 1909.

Finland.

The number of women members in the Diet is now 21, as against 25 in the preceding one. They are divided among the various parties in the following way: Swedish Popular Party 4 women out of 25; Young Finnish party 1 out of 28; Old-Finnish party 4 out of 48; Socialdemocrats 12 out of 84. Among the Agrarians (13) and the Christian Labor party (2) there are no women at all.

("Nutid", May 1909.)

Denmark.

The Danish Bureau of Statistics has published an account of the municipal elections in March, the first in which women took part. In the whole country there were 4,562,000 men and 4,235,000 women electors, that is 75 pct. of the adult men and 62 pct. of the adult women. In Copenhagen 80.5 pct. of the men and 69.4 pct. of the women voted; in the country-towns and villages the participation of the women was much less lively. 9,682 men and only 127 women were elected; of the latter 84 were married, 38 single and 5 widows. In 85 out of the 1206 municipalities women have been elected. At the next elections, after four years, we may expect this proportion to be more favorable and the new electors to be more self-reliant.

M. G. K.

On May 25th in our whole country the elections took place for the Lower House (Folketing). On this occasion the **Landsforbund for Kvinders Valgret** had arranged an inquiry questioning the candidates all over the country as to their opinion on women's enfranchisement. Most of the candidates gave favorable answers. Only very few had the courage to answer a peremptory "no".

On the fifth of June, Constitution-day was celebrated throughout the country by meetings, and to a large number of these the "Landsforbund" sent women speakers, who of course have voiced a protest against the fact that the Constitution awards to men alone all political power.

Kopenhagen, June 4th 1909. ELNA MUNCH.

21 May "Valgrets foreningen af 1908" held its first annual meeting at Vejle. The assembly of delegates decided to change the name into *Kristelig Kvindevalgrets Forening* (K. K. F.) "Christian women's suffrage society." To the revised laws was added that local branches of other Christian societies who wished to support and forward our work, could join us as adherents. By this decision the way is cleared for many, who wish to show their sympathy for women's suffrage but for lack of time fear to take up more work and many, hitherto indifferent, will hereby be drawn into the ranks of the champions for women's rights. From 1 Jan. K. K. F. will edit its own suffrage paper. In connection with the annual meeting, a public meeting took place on May 20th in the great Mission House, which was overcrowded.

On May 25th the elections took place to the Second Chamber. Never, I think, it has been felt so intensely by the women that they were not permitted to vote. Two months ago they were in full activity at the municipal elections; this time at a much more important election, they were excluded.

The Danish press has taken very great interest in the London Congress. At least one newspaper, "Christian daily," had its own correspondent. As well the principal newspapers as many of the local newspapers printed more or less extensive reports and other very interesting letters from partakers in the Congress or from their ordinary London correspondents.

Körop, 28 May 1909. JOHANNA BLAUENFELDT.

At the parliamentary elections in Denmark last month "Dansk Kvindesamfund" (affiliated to the Danish National Woman Suffrage Association)

questioned all the candidates about their attitude to woman suffrage and asked them directly if they would work for an amendment in the constitution giving women political suffrage. Very few of the candidates declared themselves against and many were warm supporters of women's suffrage.

At all polling places in Copenhagen "Dansk Kvindesamfund" had got the permission to hang up placards with the inscription: "There is not universal suffrage in Denmark as long as women are without political suffrage."

"Dansk Kvindesamfund" has held its annual meeting of delegates on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th June in Holstebro, a small town in the north of Jutland. After having heard a report about the London congress the meeting voted with great enthusiasm to send a telegram with warm greetings to the president of the I.W.S.A. Mrs. Chapman Catt. An open air public meeting was also held, and in this small town with 6000 inhabitants, 1500 men and women came and heard with great interest addresses on the justice and necessity of women's enfranchisement.

It is to be hoped, that the same interest will be shown, when the local branches of "Dansk Kvindesamfund" on Sunday 20th will arrange open air meetings all over in Denmark in order to make propaganda for women's suffrage. Last year the "woman suffrage agitation day" proved a success.

5th June 1909.

TH. DANGAARD.

Germany.

The biennial meeting of our **National Union of Women's Suffrage Associations** takes place in Munich, October 23th—26th.

We should be very glad to see our friends and comrades from other countries among us and hope that the well-known attractions of Munich, its art and beautiful surroundings not less than the cause itself will support our invitation. Beside the effect of our modern legislation on the position of women as to labour acts (Arbeitskammern und Gewerbeordnung), financial reform, protection of motherhood (Wöchnerinnenschutz) we are going to discuss two questions of universal interest: "How shall enfranchised women regulate sexual problems?" and "Is it desirable for the cause of Woman Suffrage, that women should join in the political work of men?" We are sure, that especially the latter topic concerns all our sisters abroad quite as much as ourselves and that many of them will be pleased to discuss it with us. Please apply for all informations, as detailed program, hotels and boarding-houses etc. to the Bavarian Branch of our Union, whose address is: Bayerischer Verein für Frauenstimmrecht, München, Kaulbachstrasse 12.

A petition was handed to the House of Deputies of Prussia by Mrs. Schmidt-Bürkly—who otherwise was not yet known as a propagandist of our cause—to give the municipal vote to all tax-paying women in Prussia. The Social-democrat women quarrel with the deputies of their party for having supported this petition which they call reactionary because the effect on married working women, as on all other women would be, that their tax-paying counts for their husbands. Of course this argumentation is quite wrong, for the sequel of the offend-

ing fact ought to be the correction the taxation-bill, but not opposition to the enfranchisement of women in general.

Dr. ANITA AUGSPURG.

Huglfing, June 1909.

Some statistics have come to hand. They are not very recent but they are the last published.

On Dec. 1st 1905 the total population of the Empire was 60,641,278. There were 13,352,880 electors, of whom 11,303,531 i. e. 84.7 % voted in January 1907, whereas in 1903 only 76.1 % voted. The difference is explained by the great interest the Germans took in the colonial question.

The professional statistics of June 12th 1907 show a great augmentation of professional women. There were 8,243,498, and 1,249,383 employees. 19,974,341 were supported by others and 1,792,207 were self-supporting without a profession, the total female population being 31,259,429.

Counting together the professional women and the employees, we arrive at nearly 9 1/2 millions of women supporting themselves by trades, which makes 30.37 % of the whole female population. In 1895 there were 6 1/2 millions or 24.96 %, in 1882 5 1/2 millions or 24.02 %. The augmentation within the last twelve years is much greater than in the preceding period.

The total population of Germany augmented from 45,222,113 in 1882 and 51,770,284 in 1895 to 61,720,529 in 1907. Among these are 30,461,100 men and 31,259,429 women, and so there are nearly a million more women than men.

M. G. K.

Auf der Generalversammlung des schlesischen Frauenverbandes in Görlitz war die öffentliche Abendversammlung am 6. Mai ausschliesslich dem Frauenstimmrecht gewidmet. Fräulein Elsa Hielscher—Pantzen sprach über das Gemeindegewahlrecht, Frau Marie Wegner—Breslau über das politische Stimmrecht der Frau.

Im Anschluss an die Tagung des schles. Frauenverbandes fand die erste Generalversammlung des schles. Stimmrechtsvereines statt. Es wurden hauptsächlich Organisationsfragen erörtert und die Statuten endgültig festgelegt.

Die Vorstandswahl ergab: Elsa Hielscher—Pantzen bei Liegnitz als erste Vorsitzende; Marie Wegner—Breslau, Kaiser Wilhelmstrasse 109 als zweite Vorsitzende; Elisabeth Hirsch—Liegnitz, Albrechtstrasse 2 als Schriftführerin; Frida Ledermann—Breslau, Strehlenerstrasse 10 als Schatzmeisterin; Ella von Prittwitz—Gaffran, Görlitz-Kahle 6 als Beisitzerin.

ELISABETH HIRSCH.

Liegnitz, Juni 1909.

The law on Chambers of Labour is shortly to be discussed in the Parliament. The Government and the Commission both propose votes and eligibility for women. The Hamburg Commercial Association (Kaufmännischer Verein) endorses this proposal. The Chambers are to have the right of inquiry into trades- and salary-questions, and are to be consulted in tariff-matters too. M.G.K.

Italy.

As soon as the general elections were announced on March 7th 1909 the National Committee for Votes to women (W. S. A.) in Rome resolved to participate in them, and in a general assembly, held on 14 February, and presided over by

D. Giacinta Martini discussed the means to help the candidates who were in favour of woman suffrage, appointed a "Permanent Electoral Committee" and adopted unanimously the following plan:

I. The Committee for Woman Suffrage resolves to second the candidature of the Deputies favouring Woman Suffrage.

II. Every associate will use her personal action in her own party, save where we have to do with candidates frankly adverse to woman suffrage. Bice Sacchi.

Then we decided the publication of a proclamation to Italian Women, signed by the President and the members of the Executive in which they were invited to participate in the electoral campaign and more than 10,000 copies of the proclamation were distributed in all the provinces of the Kingdom.

A short list of questions was sent to the highest personages of the Italian Parliament, and it obtained almost from all the recognition of the women's right to vote. So we begged the electors to vote for the feminist candidates. Circulars were also sent to the teachers and to all women's associations inviting them to join our propaganda and asking for their help.

Meanwhile in Rome, some leaflets were printed and distributed to the sections on polling-day; and the action was promoted by frequenting electoral meetings and assemblies Mrs. Giacinta Martini took the heavier and ungrateful task of treasurer; the Vice-President, Prof. Labriola, supported the agitation, by going on a propagandist journey in the college of Cortona, and speaking at a meeting in Rome, together with Mrs. De Bonis, and by assiduously frequenting the seat of the Electoral Committee.

On polling-day the members were in the sections at their fighting place and the battle was a noble one and was approved by the country which was not surprised or vexed at it; nay, accepted these new fellow-workers with respect and with a fraternal and sincere enthusiasm, which grew at the second ballot, so that they asked for help in an official way from the National Committee for woman suffrage.

In the Meetings at which were present Teresa Labriola, Anita Pagliari, Romelia Troise, the participation of women was esteemed in its high and imposing national meaning; and on April 25th, the day of second ballot, with a beautiful sunshine under the blue sky of Rome, whilst the members were scattered in the sections, the auto which carried around in the City the propagandists Prof. Teresa Labriola, Anita Pagliari, and the Secretary Romelia Troise, was enthusiastically applauded and greeted by the cry of Long live woman suffrage!

This cheer was specially addressed to Mrs Giacinta Martini, who had proved able to organize in Italy an action which already begins to interest the public opinion.

The Secretary, ROMELIA TROISE.
Rome, June 1909.

The Lombardian W.S.A. (Comitato Lombardo pro Suffragio Femminile) has started an inquiry in all Italian centres of commerce, asking the opinion of women in trades on their exclusion from suffrage and eligibility for the Chambers of Commerce, resolved by the Chamber of Deputies on Nov. 1908. This action is supposed to bring new members to the W.S.A. and to prepare the way for women's enfranchisement.

The Turin W.S.A. sent a memoir to the Labour Demonstration on May 1st to remind them of the demand of universal suffrage, which means votes for women too.

(l'Alleanza, May 15, 1909).

Austria.

Der 1 Mai wurde auch heuer von der organisierten männlichen und weiblichen Arbeiterschaft (Sozialdemokraten) durch einen festlichen Zug in den Prater und durch Versammlungen gefeiert. In allen diesen Versammlungen—72 an der Zahl—wurde nach den Ansprachen der Führer, welche die Bedeutung der Mäße für das Proletariat erörterten, gleichlautende Resolutionen angenommen, in denen die Durchführung der Altersversicherung, der Achtstundentag u. a. gefordert wird. Die Resolution enthält auch folgenden Passus: „Die Arbeiterschaft verlangt ferner die volle politische Gleichberechtigung für alle Staatsbürger beider Geschlechter. Sie fordert daher insbesondere, das allgemeine, gleiche und direkte Wahlrecht für alle Männer und Frauen sowohl für den Reichsrat als auch für die Landtage, die Bezirks- und Gemeindevertretungen“.

Leider hat die sehr starke Vertretung der Arbeiterschaft im Abgeordnetenhaus bisher nichts unternommen, um diesen Forderungen an der einzig massgebenden Stelle — im Parlamente — Gehör zu verschaffen, ja, selbst die Vereinsfreiheit der Frauen ist von ihr niemals ernstlich betrieben worden.

In dem kleinen Ländchen Vorarlberg, das territorial zu Tirol gehört, aber seinen eigenen Landtag besitzt, haben kürzlich die Landtagswahlen nach der in der letzten Session beschlossenen neuen Wahlordnung stattgefunden, die den Frauen in den beiden Kurien der ländlichen und der städtischen Gemeinden ein, wenn auch beschränktes Stimmrecht gewährt. Stimmberechtigt sind bloß die unverheirateten, eigenberechtigten, steuerzahlenden Frauen. Dennoch kann der 13 Mai, an dem diese Frauen zur Wahl gingen, als ein bemerkenswerter Tag verzeichnet werden, weil es der erste war, an welchem österreichische Frauen das Stimmrecht *persönlich* ansüßen durften. Wo immer sie bis nun das Wahlrecht für den Landtag oder Reichsrat besaßen oder noch besitzen, kann es nur durch Vollmacht ausgeübt werden.

Das Wahlergebnis wurde durch die Teilnahme der Frauen nicht bemerkbar beeinflusst, die Mehrzahl von ihnen wählte im Sinne der herrschenden Männerpartei, d. k. klerikal, und im Gepräge des seit jeher klerikalen Vorarlberger Landtages hat das Frauenstimmrecht nichts geändert.

Wien, Juni 1909. H. HERZFELDER.

Bohemia.

At the second election, May 11, Miss Tumová received 261 votes, not only those of the Independent women and the Progressive Party, but also the votes of the Social Democrats. But none of the candidates received the needed majority. So it was necessary to hold a third election, at which only the two candidates who received the highest number of votes, competed. Miss Tumova was not one of these. But she was *third* at the second election — so near and yet so far. The National-Socialists won at the final election. Thus, you see, our labor was in vain.

The party interest was stronger than ours. As yet, no woman was elected to the Diet of Bohemia.

But in the fall there will be a new by-election here in Prague and we have asked *all* parties to choose a woman as candidate, which would insure victory for our cause. Some parties have promised to do so. Others haven't yet answered.

TUMOVA—PLAMINKOVA.

Prague, June 1909.

The Netherlands.

To-morrow is election-day and it goes without saying that our N. W. S. A. and the Men's League for W. S. have had a lively time, questioning the candidates in every district and urging the answers. In our country, in order to be declared elected, a candidate must have received more than one half of the number of votes. This often necessitates a second polling process, which is always fixed for a fortnight after the first. So the total result and our chances for revision of the constitution, which alone can enfranchise us, cannot yet be known to-morrow night. Still, whatever the result may be, the election campaign affords us a unique opportunity for propaganda. At nearly all the public meetings our members have addressed the audience—unlike themselves, consisting of enfranchised citizens. They did so in a non-party spirit, neither rejecting nor advocating any proposed reforms, but simply showing that the wives, sisters and daughters of the recognized citizens had as great an interest in every law as those citizens themselves. We sold and distributed lots of literature, had posters stuck on walls, showed our badges everywhere and lost no opportunity for talking in streets, cars and railways on the theme of the enfranchisement of women. In Amsterdam and The Hague our Local Branches have secured a motor-carriage to drive about town and distribute handbills. Every hour fresh relays of suffragists take the place of the previous occupants. All the methods of propaganda followed in different towns are not yet known, but certainly our summer-meeting on July 10 and 11 at Arnhem will be rich in new devices.

Rotterdam, June 10, 1909. MARTINA G. KRAMERS.

South Africa.

Part of the Report which Mrs. Solomon gave the London Convention forms a fitting sequel to the news contained in "Jus Suffragii" III p. 18. It runs thus:—

The draft constitution which on the whole is a statesmanlike document and represents an extraordinary amount of compromise and public spirit is a bitter disappointment to women suffragists and an insult to the women of South Africa who have done so much to build up the nation, and who are thus placed below the child peoples.

The adult male is taken as the only possible citizen and the distribution of seats in the new Union Parliament is to be based on the *white adult male population*. Without attempting to settle the violent franchise controversies the draft constitution retains the existing franchise qualifications for each colony. Under these conditions the native franchise, by which 23,000 natives and coloured persons are voters in Cape Colony is retained and thus the claims of the "civilized" native and of the lowest of the male population of the colony are recognized and safeguarded, while those of the women, even as "non-voting

constituents", are contemptuously ignored and further destroyed. The form of government recommended in the draft constitution is unification, a central parliament with provincial councils to manage local affairs. At present women tax-payers and land-owners have some voice in local affairs, at any rate in Cape Colony, in several municipalities, divisional councils and the school board; but they are practically disfranchised by the fact that the provincial councils, which will have the control of all these matters, are to have the same voters roll as for the Parliament. The basis of representation being the adult white man the claim that "women are represented by men" becomes an absurdity. There are about a 180,000 unmarried men (exclusive of widowers) in South Africa, who as voters represent no home, and 78,000 single women over 21 and widows, many of whom are not only themselves wage-earners and tax-payers, but the heads and breadwinners of families.

South African women are standing aghast at the extraordinary prejudice which blinds the framers of the constitution to the cruel injustice done and foul insult offered to the women of their own race by these provisions.

The enfranchisement Leagues of Natal, Cape Colony and the Transvaal will endeavour to make some united protest against this ignoring of the claims of women. Public meetings have already been held in Johannesburg (February the 23rd) and Cape Town (March the 9th) at which resolutions condemning the exclusion of women from citizenship in *United South Africa* by the draft constitution were unanimously passed.

We shall find means to appeal severally to the separate Parliaments when they meet next month to discuss the draft constitution and to the convention when it reassembles. If these appeals fail, we can bring the question before the first Union Parliament. Meanwhile our best endeavours are directed to popular education. The league in Cape Colony is busily circulating pamphlets bearing both generally and locally on the question. The statistics of the memorandum are embodied in a fresh pamphlet by Mrs. Macfadyen re-printed from the "African Monthly" (December 1908). Several of these pamphlets and a manifesto have been issued during the year (including the speech of Mr. Cronwright Schreiner in the House of Assembly).

The press has given a good deal of space to discuss on the subject throughout South Africa, and it is at any rate taken as more within the sphere of practical politics than it was last year, which is largely due to the fact that several of the leading women journalists of South Africa are ardent suffragists."

Sweden.

It is curious to note how much the attitude of the Swedish press towards the London Congress has been dictated by party feelings. Only two papers, the leading liberal paper Dagens Nyheter and the Social-Democratic Arbetet, had sent special correspondents, while some other Liberal and Socialist papers had made arrangements with the delegates to act as correspondents. The Conservative press on the other hand — in those cases where they took any notice of the congress at all — gave highly coloured accounts of the proceedings, written by their regular London correspondents, whose sole object seems to have been either to bagatelize or to misrepresent not

only the congress but the suffrage movement on the whole. This statement specially applies to the leading Conservative paper Stockholms Dagblad which refused the letters sent by a delegate and printed those sent by its own correspondent, a notorious enemy to our cause. Nothing could show more clearly how the question of woman suffrage has become a question of party in our country.

* * *

Preparations are now being made for the first General Meeting of the Swedish N.W.S.A. to be held in Stockholm on the 18 and 19 of this month. This is the first meeting which will be open to all members of the N.W.S.A. A large attendance from all parts of the country is expected and speeches will be made by many of our best known women. The programme for the morning sessions will include discussions on the political situation and the new lines of action to be adopted by the N.W.S.A. It is evident that the women's campaign will now have to be directed against the First Chamber. In this connection the position of the N.W.S.A. with regard to the political parties will also be discussed. Other features on the programme are the accounts of the London Congress, of the English women's suffrage organisations and the difference in their methods of work and of the advancement of the suffrage cause among our own women. For the first evening a large public meeting has been arranged in town and for the second evening an open air meeting at Saltsjöbaden with a dinner and steam boat excursion. A special suffrage paper will be published for the occasion.

* * *

The question of a reformed First Chamber formed one of the chief subjects for discussion at the Annual Meeting of the Liberal Federation which took place in Stockholm in May. That meeting passed a resolution urging the women to do all in their power to get such people elected for the „Landstings” and other municipal bodies — who are the electors of the members of the First Chamber — who will make woman suffrage part of the election programme. The resolution concluded with an earnest appeal to Liberal women to join the Liberal Federation in order to promote the reform work of the country. The women members of the Committee, one of whom is Miss Anna Whitlock, were all reelected. Stockholm, June 5th, 1909. SIGNE BERGMAN.

Hungary.

On the occasion of our congress we had the opportunity to publish 20 long reports in four of the principal newspapers. „Az Ujság” brought 7, „Pester Lloyd” 7, „Neues Pester Journal” 4, „Pesti Hirlap” 2 reports, the other papers wrapped themselves up in a perfect silence. Only the „Népszava” (official paper of the Socialdemocratic Party) published a short, condescendingly goodnatured notice during the week of the congress, in which the „undeniable social feeling of the members of the congress” was praised. But on the 6th of June the Socialists' paper came back upon the above-mentioned unaccustomed dealing in the following notice, which we translate to make matters clear to the members of the Congress, but also to read it seriously:

„The Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance took place in London between the 28th of April and 3rd of May, about which we reported in time. The international conference

commenced seemingly in a liberal spirit, which has been brought about chiefly by the radical movement of the suffragettes. But in reality the whole meeting was overwhelmed by a class-character, as the suffragettes' movement is nought but a struggle of ladies of the upper classes to acquire the same rights, which are possessed already by the privileged men; and their struggle seems heroic only if seen from afar. They did not admit the Adult Suffrage organisation of our English female comrades into the Alliance, because it is well-known, that social-democratic women are not fighting only for their political equality, but they demand the extension of rights also for men, who have only limited franchise. Certainly this *real universal suffrage movement* is very disagreeable to the ladies, who demand enfranchisement only for themselves, but take care, that the enfranchisement of the workmen may not destroy the holy social system of to-day. The reactionary views of the societies of the Alliance were also clearly demonstrated by the position they took with regard to free love. (Here followed a forged story as an illustration.)

We answered this notice immediately, but as we are anxious to send off this report, we cannot yet give information whether the „Népszava” will publish it.

Our unhappy internal political disorders, which always, when we are on the point of settling the reform of the franchise, prevent us from doing it, cause Tantalus pains to the whole of Hungary. Accordingly, our movement has to be ceaselessly prepared for a fight as if the decisive battle had come, but has always to commence it again. We are preparing a lively campaign for the summer and now we take part in every meeting. In May and June we had days, when our members joined in suffrage-demonstrations in 20—30 towns at a time and distributed there tenths of thousands of pamphlets, stuck posters sold printings, etc. etc.

We illustrated our congress-report with bills, postcards and printings, which we brought home from London.

Budapest. June 8 1909.

ROSIKA SCHWIMMER.

France.

Le Congrès Permanent du Féminisme International s'est réuni le dernier vendredi du mois de mai pour la dernière fois avant les vacances. Mme Julie Auberlet a remplacé Mme Orka qui à cause de sa maladie n'a pas pu s'acquitter de sa mission de déléguée au Congrès de Londres. Mme Auberlet raconta ses impressions du Congrès de Londres de cette manifestation d'élite féminine en tout point réussie.

Après d'autres discours intéressants Madame Rajchmann-Orka proposa aux membres du Congrès de faire en commun une étude documentée sur la situation actuelle de la femme dans la commune dans tous les pays. Pour réunir et coordonner les faits la Secrétaire-Générale a rédigé un questionnaire que tous les journaux féministes de diverses nationalités sont priés de publier.

Paris, Juin 1909.

H. MALLON.

La section du suffrage du Conseil National des Femmes Françaises a envoyé dans les usines et les fabriques un questionnaire s'adressant aux femmes du peuple pour leur expliquer que le droit de vote est une arme importante dans la lutte pour la vie, et pour leur demander si elles veulent prendre part à la campagne féministe en faveur du suffrage universel sans distinction de sexe.

M. G. K.