

# The International Woman Suffrage News

The Monthly Organ of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

FRENCH EDITION.

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

## Notice on the Policy of Jus Suffragii.

In the present critical position of affairs, when any reference to political conditions may hurt national susceptibilities, it must be clearly stated that the International Woman Suffrage Alliance maintains a strictly neutral attitude, and is only responsible for its official announcements. Reports from affiliated societies are inserted on the responsibility of the society contributing them. Other articles are published as being of general interest to our readers, and responsibility for them rests solely with their signatories.

## Features of the Month.

In America victory follows victory. On April 17th and 18th the States of Rhode Island and Michigan respectively gave women Presidential Suffrage. America's entry into the war has not checked the progress of Woman Suffrage reform. Rhode Island is the first of the United States on the Atlantic Coast to enfranchise women, although Nova Scotia, in Canada, had the honour of first bringing Woman Suffrage to the Atlantic. As Mrs. Catt has said, what Woman Suffrage in the Eastern States wanted was one New England State from which to spread. Now that a breach has been made in this conservative stronghold, rapid progress may be hoped for. Wherever Woman Suffrage has been introduced it has spread to neighbouring States, and the only obstacle to speedy and complete enfranchisement in the United States seems to be the cumbersome process of constitutional amendments and the immense work of winning in the referendum which is necessary for full enfranchisement, and which renders the work particularly difficult in the Eastern States, with their immense population of foreign immigrants who have brought with them the prejudices of the most backward peoples in Europe.

In Sweden the Socialist leader, Mr. Branting, has brought forward a proposal in Parliament for the complete enfranchisement of all adult men and women, with a view to allaying national unrest and peacefully uniting the nation.

In Roumania the Cabinet promises electoral reform, the abolition of the three-class system, and “universal” Suffrage.

The term “universal” is sometimes used by politicians and newspapers as a misnomer for “manhood” Suffrage. We hope to hear that in this case it is used in its true sense, including men and women.

In Russia women's prospects appear to be still uncertain; the political situation there is naturally full of difficulties, and changing from day to day. Russian women are urging their claims to share the new rights and privileges which they have helped to win, so that the whole people may take part in its great resurrection and reconstitution.

The Hungarian women have sent a notable greeting to the Russian women, and their good wishes will be echoed by the women of other countries, and, we feel sure, will be reciprocated by the Russian women.

Women all over the world are longing for the end of the present awful slaughter, that they may all set to work at the task of rebuilding civilisation.

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It will be noted that whereas Miss Rankin, the first woman member of the U.S. Congress, has roused a good deal of criticism and opposition by voting against the entry of the United States into the war, the National Council of Women of Alberta, one of the newly enfranchised provinces of Canada, has voted by a large majority in favour of conscription. One thing is certain, and that is that women are as diverse in their political opinions as men, and that they have an equally good right to give effect to their opinions. Women who think for themselves will, we may hope, free themselves from the too heavy shackles of party, and by discussion and co-operation may develop a more independent attitude to social and political questions, but it is quite certain that as a sex they cannot be claimed by any party or school of thought.

In Great Britain the forthcoming Electoral Reform Bill is still anxiously awaited. Lord Curzon, in the House of Lords, has done his best to damp women's hopes by saying that the Government would not insist on Woman Suffrage as an integral part of the Bill. The *Morning Post* says that the prospect of passing the Bill this session is very remote. As soon as the Bill is introduced Suffragists will take counsel and whatever action is called for.

The women of the United States will now have to throw a great part of their energies into economic work necessitated by the entrance of their country into the war. They will not, however, cease Suffrage work, but, on the contrary, are pressing for the Federal Amendment giving nation-wide Suffrage as a war measure which will double national efficiency.

In India women have taken a memorable step forward. In holding a women's meeting of protest against indentured labour, and then organising a deputation of women to the Viceroy, they have taken what is perhaps their first public political action, and it may be taken as of good omen for the future, as well as typical of the reasons which force women into political action, that the "uninterfering sex," as an Indian paper calls them, should have been driven to action unprecedented for women of their race in order to protect the humblest of their sisters, the women who emigrate to colonies under the system of indentured labour, and are there exposed to conditions fatal to their honour. Quiet, home-loving women all over the world feel the call of pity, and all are bound sooner or later to grasp the weapon of political action in defence of the home and the race.

### Headquarters Notes.

#### PRESS CUTTINGS.

Our appeal to correspondents in various countries to send us Press cuttings for our information bureau has brought us very valuable matter from Mrs. Caleb, Lahore, India, and from Mrs. MacGregor, Toronto, Canada, and Signora Miani, Rome.

Press cuttings from France, Switzerland, and New Zealand would be specially useful and welcome.

Inquiries have been received on the following subjects:—

(1) Women's status in the Church in Switzerland, Germany, and Russia.

(2) Mothers' pensions and maternity assistance in France, Germany, Norway, and any other countries.

(3) The effect of women's vote in Australia and New Zealand.

(4) Status of women lawyers in Russia.

While replies have been sent according to the information in our possession, we should be grateful to correspondents in the respective countries if they would send us full information on the above points.

In particular we should be grateful for full particulars of mothers' pensions and maternity insurance in all countries.

#### French Women Admitted to the Ecole Centrale.

M. Clémentel, Minister of Commerce, has decided that women shall be admitted to the Ecole Centrale (for engineering) on the same terms as men. This decision has been taken at the request of the council of the school. This decision is warmly welcomed by Albert Petit in the *Journal des Debats*, on the ground that it opens fresh careers to women, who want the openings and whose services the country wants, and that to make the conditions equal for men and women is only just; women do not desire privileged treatment.

Mme. de Witt Schlumberger has written a letter to the Director of the Ecole Centrale to thank and congratulate him on the reform, which is the more welcome as it was unsolicited. This time the door has been opened to women before they had even knocked.

### FRANCE.

#### The Congress of the Union Française Pour Le Suffrage Des Femmes.

The Congress of the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes was held at Paris on the 5th April, 1917, under the presidency of Madame de Witt-Schlumberger. In spite of the difficulties and fatigues of the journey, a large number of groups from the provinces sent delegates. The general secretary desires to thank them specially for thus proving the vitality of the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes and the social value of our cause.

The President, after greeting the members of the Congress, and thanking the delegates from the provinces, who had come from every corner of France, reminded the Suffragists of the extreme importance of the Suffrage even at the present time in the midst of the war. Since the Suffrage is necessary to women for the work of reorganisation of the country after the war, no one has any right to lose interest in Woman's Suffrage, which is closely bound up with all the questions of social interest which the Congress is about to discuss.

The President remarked that Suffrage is an excellent school of altruism and devotion, inasmuch as it enlightens and broadens the mind. The amelioration of the lot of women and of children (which touches all humanity) being the chief aim of the demand for the right to vote, it does away with all selfishness and personal self-seeking, since it concerns every woman of the nation; but it does not end with the frontier, and every Suffrage victory won by the women of any country is a subject for great rejoicing. Perhaps this joy brings back our own anxieties to us, but no one will bear us a grudge if we rejoice because the rays of the new sun rising in any other country warm us with its hot rays. We believe strongly in the powerful contagion of Women's Suffrage. The successes of America and England and the hopes of Russia, though still somewhat dim, are also successes for the French women.

The President then read an important report on the relations of the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes with the International Alliance, and with a large number of countries affiliated to the Alliance, during the year 1916-17. She tells the Congress about the extensive and interesting correspondence which the Central Committee has exchanged with different national presidents on the subject of the great Congress of feminine organisation proposed by Sweden for the moment of peace negotiations. France was, for many reasons, very much opposed to the Congress in the way in which it was proposed, but we have been satisfied, for the delegates of the Scandinavian States, in an important meeting held at Stockholm, decided to withdraw their invitation. This decision was announced in *Jus Suffragii*.

Madame de Witt-Schlumberger asked the Congress to send greetings to the United States on the occasion of their entrance into the war for the struggle of right. Madame Brunshwig communicated to the Assembly the message sent by the Union to the Provisional Government of Russia.

The Congress adopted the report in which Madame Brunshwig, general secretary, showed the results of the action of the Union during the past year. From the point of view of Suffrage, the favourable vote of the Commission of Universal Suffrage to the Chamber is an appreciable result. "But the most difficult part is not done; we know that we must still pay for every step forward by many efforts, many proceedings. Nothing is harder to fight than inertia, and that is especially what we have to conquer."

The Congress of 1916 had asked to fight against the bad cinema. We hope a Bill will be proposed which will satisfy us.

The useless struggle which we have made against alcoholism proves once again that on this point nothing definite will be done as long as women do not vote.

"Two of our wishes about the guardianship and legitimising of illegitimate children have been realised." Progress has also been made with regard to the question of equality of pay. At last the commissions of the municipal libraries of Paris are open to women. The proceedings of the U.F.S.F. have brought about the nomination of two women doctors to the Commission of Physical Education; women take part in the Commission for the Reform of Secondary Teaching at the Ministry of Public Instruction, and the Committee of Women's Work organised at the Ministry of Armament.

Let us here add that the Congress decided to send congratulations to Mademoiselle Berthe Milliard and Mlle. Jeanne Tardy,

who have just been attached, one to the Cabinet of the Minister of Labour, the other to the Cabinet of the Under-Secretary of State for Finance.

"Our task," concluded Madame Brunshwig, "has been heavy, for to this already overcharged programme is added the absorbing task of our war work, but works and social acts must be joined; we must think not only of the present, but we must also prepare for the future, and for that we need the co-operation of all men and women."

#### QUESTIONS IN THE ORDER OF THE DAY OF THE CONGRESS.

##### I. Bills Concerning Women.

Madame Suzanne Grinberg, lawyer to the Court, enumerates the different Bills or resolutions of importance to women which are awaiting the Parliamentary vote. The project about the pensions, already studied by the U.F.S.F. in 1916, is about, it appears, to be shortly discussed. The other proposals, resumed by Madame Suzanne Grinberg, specially concern maternity and infant protection, allocation to the mothers, help with confinement and feeding, etc. One of the proposals holds the attention of the Congress for a long time. It is that of Monsieur Lachaud, who is organising a complete system of allocation and hospitalisation of which the whole is very interesting. An animated discussion ensued not on the necessity of helping the mother—everyone is agreed on that point,—but on the methods, on the amount of the help, and on the principle which ought to guide the legislators.

The following resolution is adopted:—

"The Congress of the Union Française pour le Suffrage, considering that the raising of the French birthrate is a question of life and death, that the State has the duty of considering maternity as a social service, invites Parliament to study and discuss immediately all laws which tend to the raising of the birthrate and the protecting of children."

##### II. Women's Suffrage.

Madame Pauline Rebour tells the Congress of the proceedings of the Central Committee and the results obtained during the past year. The question has already been put before the readers of *Jus Suffragii*, in the March number.

Some municipal councils, those of Lyons, Versailles, Toulon, Luzoch (Lot), have just passed a resolution in favour of women voting.

The Lyons group asks the U.F.S.F. to again take up with the municipal councils the campaign which was interrupted by the war in order that similar votes may be sent in large numbers to Parliament.

Monsieur Louis Martin, deputy of Meurthe-et-Moselle, who was asked to address the House, counsels us not to appear too satisfied by the promises of the Commission of Universal Suffrage until acts have proved the value of these promises. He insists upon the necessity for women having the vote immediately, so that they may prepare themselves for their rôle of citizens. The unanimous applause of the audience shows its approbation of energetic action, in favour of which we may hope for the support of the Parliamentary feminist group. The following vote is adopted:—

"Considering that it is right to give to the woman her share of responsibility in the political life of the country;

"Considering that the French women have done work during the war which should convince the most sceptical of their ability to exercise the rights which are claimed for them;

"Considering also that the reorganisation of the country after the war can only be completed with the collaboration of women;

"Thanks the Commission of Universal Suffrage for the reception given to the delegation of Suffrage Societies;

"Makes a note of the vote passed by it on the 14th February, 1917;

"Regrets the setback shown by this vote on the original plan;

"Maintains the principles of political equality for men and women;

"Insists on the urgency that there should be in bringing M. Flandin's report before the Chamber, and discussing it at once, so that women may prepare to take part in the next local and general municipal elections."

##### III. Women's Work and Maternity.

Mme. Brunshwig read the report of Mme. Marguerite Martin, who was absent, owing to illness. The problem to be resolved is this: Granted that women will be led more and more to work in factory and workshop, what steps should society

take to reconcile the duties of their occupation with their duties as mothers? The report deals very clearly with this complex problem. The Congress affirms, first of all, woman's freedom to work. Dr. Pinard, the celebrated authority on child welfare, of the Academy of Medicine, having demanded the prohibition of factory work for pregnant women or nursing mothers, the Congress opposes this prohibition, which would be an attack on individual liberty. The Academy did not endorse Dr. Pinard's resolution. The work of a factory is not generally more unhealthy than that of a laundress or hawker, whose work, as Mme. Brunshwig remarks, no one thinks of forbidding. The following resolutions were adopted after an interesting discussion:—

1. *Women's Work.*—That the three-shift system of eight hours each and a system of half-time should be adopted, so as to permit working women to devote the half-day to their homes if they wish. The factory inspection should be applied to war factories as to others. That in order to enable the working-woman to become a mother without finally giving up her occupation, three months' leave should be granted her, renewable on medical certificate, with half-pay by the employer. That in addition the State should give the present maternity assistance, but for six weeks before and six weeks after confinement; that when the mother is the support of the family she should also receive 50 centimes for each child during the same period. That rest rooms, infirmaries, canteens, or co-operative restaurants should be organised in all industrial or commercial establishments. That for the organisation of these special services superintendents should be appointed by the directors, like the lady superintendents in England. Moreover, the Union reaffirms its previous resolutions with regard to equal pay for equal work, and whilst rejoicing in the measures already taken in the department of the Seine, hopes for their extension to factories in the province, and not only in war factories but in all establishments where women do the same work as men.

2. *The Protection of Children.*—The French Woman Suffrage Union passes the following resolutions:—

That a law should be passed obliging employers in industry and commerce to erect near their factories or workshops rooms for nursing mothers, crèches, and day nurseries, and to organise free consultations for pregnant women, nursing mothers, and infants;

That municipal crèches should be established, the cost being defrayed by the commune, like the education costs;

That trained nurses should be provided for the crèches, nurseries and infant schools, and that training schools for these nurses should be provided, like the training schools for teachers;

That these nurseries should be under State supervision, which would guarantee their competence, hygiene, and proper conduct;

That measures should be taken at once to prolong the hours during which they are open, and to provide a special personnel; that nurseries should be open during holidays;

That medical inspection of schools should be completely reorganised, and in general all health services.

##### IV. Reform of Girls' Secondary Education.

Mme. Pichon-Landry supported the resolutions of the Central Committee on the reform of girls' secondary education.

Mme. Marie Louise Le Verrier has already treated this question in the April number of *Jus Suffragii*. In this number she gives, in a continuation of her report, the conclusions adopted by the U.F.S.F. A certain number of resolutions proposed by branches or by the Executive Committee were adopted at the end of the Congress.

The proposal of the Dijon branch was accepted, to put down for consideration at the 1918 Congress the question of *child labour*. It is none too soon to protect the little ones against those who wish to resort to child labour to fill the voids caused by the war.

##### FÉDÉRATION FÉMINISTE UNIVERSITAIRE.

In the name of the Women's University Federation, Mlle. Bigot reported the results of an interesting inquiry made by her abroad into women's wages compared with men's. The U.F.S.F., which has always upheld the principle of *equal pay for equal work*, heartily supported Mlle. Bigot's resolution on this subject.

The Congress voted that indemnities should be paid at once to our compatriots of the ravaged districts, so that they may make a home and resume normal life. It expressed the hope that agricultural societies should organise theoretical and

practical courses for women in the country in the care of farm-yard animals, so that by giving them vocational training they might be kept in the country rather than be tempted to abandon the land for the factory.

Miss Christabel Pankhurst was present at the Congress, and spoke at the end of the morning session. She spoke of the progress in England of the Suffrage cause. The women of each country try to gain more rights; those who succeed improve the lot of all women, whom they encourage to act, and help by their experience. For English women the ballot is a means of co-operating in the prosperity of their country. "To-day we speak of rights; when we have the vote we shall only speak of duties."

The Press had been invited to the Congress. Some papers published reports or interviews next day, all sympathetic with our ideas and actions.

These meetings always lead us to the same conclusion, that the vote alone will enable us to realise our wishes in practice.

PAULINE REBOUR,

General Co-Secretary of the U.F.S.F.,  
Affiliated to the I.W.S.A.

### Girls' Secondary Education.

(Report concluded from April No. of *Jus Suffragii*.)

The question of the reform of girls' secondary education is so important that it was discussed at length in our Congress of April 5th. Mme. Pichon-Landry gave a full explanation of it in her excellent report, in which she carefully analysed the most varied opinions before giving her conclusions. It is certain that girls' education is more harmonious than that of boys, but that of boys is more practical. The great error of our education is in not giving us scientific culture. It is said that girls are lacking in the scientific spirit. That is only a supposition, for the scientific part of our intelligence has not yet been cultivated. It is true that nature has given us more imagination than precision of thought; education ought to redress the balance by teaching us not to be content to be approximate. The study of science would be particularly favourable to us in this respect. Moreover, we must study science seriously, because we must replace the young men cut down by the war, on whom the national industry counted for its life. We are obliged to take their place in technical services. In order to do so we must pass the same examinations as they, but whilst wishing to do so we may express the wish to see their programme slightly modified. It would be possible to improve it by lightening it.

In any case, the Congress declares its support for instituting the same educational programme for girls and boys, and demands that no distinction of sex shall be made, but the same culture granted to both with the least possible specialisation for either girls or boys. Until boys' secondary education is reformed the Congress demands that State schools should prepare for the baccalauréat, no longer officially in the girls' lycées, but with the same conditions for the two sexes. To facilitate the reforms demanded, and because it is aware of the difficulties that such a transformation would cause to the University, the Congress proposes to retain the diploma, provisionally, on condition that a superior practical value is attached to it, and that the form of the examination is modified.

### RESOLUTION.

The Congress of the U.F.S.F., considering that in the matter of education the question of principle should be placed first and without any ambiguity, but that we are forced to take account of practical necessities and the possibilities of realisation, expresses the hope that in all methods of teaching a uniform culture should be assured to boys and girls, with a minimum of specialisation for either.

That until the necessary reforms can be carried out in boys' education, the preparation for the baccalauréat should be officially established in State schools with the same conditions for both sexes.

That the diploma should be retained provisionally, and be given greater practical value by modifying the form of examination.

MARIE LOUISE LE VERRIER,  
Vice-President of U.F.S.F.

### WOMAN SECRETARIES TO MINISTERS.

M. Metin, Under-Secretary of State for Finance, has appointed Mlle. Tardy as one of his secretaries. Mlle. Tardy,

who occupied this position when M. Metin was Minister for Labour, is twenty-two years of age, and "licenciée" in law, history, and philosophy.

M. Léon Bourgeois has appointed Mlle. Berthe Milliard to be principal private secretary, together with M. André Verné, in the Ministry of Labour. Mlle. Milliard, "agrégée" of the University, member of the Council of Public Instruction, is well known, and has taken part in the struggle against tuberculosis.

### FRENCH SUFFRAGISTS AND THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

The U.F.S.F. sent the following telegram to Prince Lvoff:—  
"French women send enthusiastic congratulations to the Russian people. They await with confidence the proclamation by the new régime of the equality of political rights for women, which would have an immense effect in France and other democracies."

### WOMEN AS GUARDIANS AND MEMBERS OF FAMILY COUNCILS.

The law admitting women to family councils and giving them the right to act as guardians was passed by the Chamber on March 14th.

Married women must obtain their husbands' permission before acting as guardians.

### Women and the War.

#### A MANIFESTO OF THE PROVENÇAL WOMEN IN 1789.

One of the inevitable consequences of the great war will be the social and political emancipation of women. The vote will very probably be given to the Russian women who have taken such an active part in the revolutionary movement. It looks as though England were about to give this same right to English women. France will follow a little later, perhaps not very willingly; but, still, she will follow.

The current of liberty which is going through the world will sweep away all prejudices and all suspicion. Nobody can tell what the result of this first experiment will be, and I do not wish to discuss it to-day. It is more interesting to me to recall the origin of what is known as the feminist movement and to read again a very curious document which shows a singular analogy between the present and the past.

On the eve of the reunion of the States-General in 1789 a manifesto was published at Marseilles anonymously, and withdrawn from circulation almost immediately as being hostile to order and public liberty. This memorandum had as its exact title: "Claims of the Women of Provence for Admission to the States-General."

The Provençal women did not wait for the proclamation of men's rights before proclaiming the women's rights also. Their memorandum is logically expressed, clearly drawn up, with moderation and strength, and sometimes with audacious freedom and ingenuity. The Provençal ladies did not aspire to compare themselves to men and be represented in male elections. They did not aspire to form a fourth state. That, they said, would be unconstitutional; "we know that very well. Clergy, nobility, and people is the natural division of the nation. We want our sex to be divided into three orders like the male sex, and we want our representatives to be in the three Chambers in the same proportion as the number of members who will be elected. Abbesses, Mothers Superior, canonesses, and nuns will constitute our clergy; titled women or noblewomen our nobility; all the others, our Commoners. Every girl or woman over fifteen years old will take part in elections, but in order to be eligible one must have given one citizen to the State. We think that in the public interest this condition should be exacted, because a young, innocent, and timid person can only have limited ideas to oppose to the vulgar arguments of our antagonists."

It will be observed that the authors of the memorandum had skilfully replied in advance to the objections which were certain to be made. The idea that maternity gives the woman the greatest right to possess all the rights of the citizeness is skilfully put forward and developed. They begin, first of all, by showing what influence women have on social bodies, on the ministers of religion, on the military party, accustomed by chivalrous tradition to defend the weaker sex; on the unmoved magistrates who give way to the pleadings of the charming women pleaders; on the citizens of the lower classes who owe their elevation to the influence of their wives! If women are so powerful in spite of the law and against the law, would it not be better for their power to be used for the public benefit and in accordance with legal laws?

"What shall we say to the nation? We shall expose the wrong of our education at the same time as we shall propose

means of making us useful to the State. We shall recall the obligations owed to our sex which are daily rewarded with ingratitude. Finally, we shall give our clear ideas about the population and the means of increasing it."

No one will dispute the fact that in the size of the population lies its wealth; if we give up increasing it, we give up enriching it.

"Maternity is the unique duty which is peculiar to our sex; but it does not produce the results which we ought to expect. It should be performed by everyone; now the nobility have few children, the clergy are not allowed to have any, the Commoners, only, give citizens generously."

And these Provençales foresee the necessity of a tax on celibates!

"There is only one means, they say, of banishing the celibate in France. That is by doubling the taxes on celibates; to give no employment, to give no office to this parasitic class who live at the expense of fathers of families and usurp the wealth of future generations. Only by this means will the French lose their reputation of a frivolous people, with which they have been justly reproached. They will be born again in a large and healthy posterity, whose principal motive in life will be patriotism."

The sentiments of the Provençal women were generous and their goodwill evident. They did not pose as adversaries of the men, but as their collaborators; they did not renounce the essential duties of their sex, since they were ready to pay for their civic rights by giving one or several little Frenchmen to the country. Their memorandum, which at the time was considered scandalous, now seems very moderate, free from any of those exaggerations which characterise a certain aggressive and rather out-of-date feminism. It even belongs to the present, this manifesto in which we find problems which still exist, and which will have to be solved; the question of repopulation, the rôle of celibates, who are obliged to contribute, by paying a special tax, to the upkeep of others' children, the utilising of feminine qualities and aptitudes. The Assembly of 1789 disdained the request of the Provençal ladies. It would have done better to accede to it. The social education of French women would have been changed for more than a century, and perhaps owing to the fact that women would have had a share in elections, France would have possessed some millions more citizens, sons and grandsons of women representatives.

MARCELLE TINATRE, in the *Journal*.

### GERMANY.

#### Woman Speaks in the Reichstag.

At the request of the Commission on population policy, Fr. Dr. Else Lüders spoke in the Reichstag during the discussion on the question of women workers.

A Government Committee has been discussing the proposals of a sub-committee for the

#### Protection of Mother and Child.

Deputy Quarck gave a long and interesting report. He denied Herr Helfferich's statement that protection of the worker should be combined with production of munitions; the whole history of factory legislation has proved that improvement of conditions for the worker increases productivity. At present three million more women and children were working than before the war, especially in munitions. In mining 35,000 more, and on the Prussian railways 80,000 women were at work. The result was injurious to motherhood, family life, and the next generation. The metal trade unions showed working days of 10 and 12 hours and a great deal of overtime, and some shifts of 18 or 24 hours. Women were even working underground. Women were working in poisonous processes of the chemical industry without proper protection. The Imperial Chancellor had recommended the State Governments in August, 1914, to preserve measures for the protection of work women, and only to allow exceptions in individual cases, but these exceptions have become the rule, partly owing to the reduction of inspectors. The introduction of women inspectors had been slow. At last after 20 years, from 1897, there were 48 women inspectors; now the workers were two-thirds women, and yet no more women inspectors were appointed. Fortunately, the War Office had begun to take measures for the protection of women, which still needed development. The sub-committee had agreed on the following proposals, to be carried out during the war:—

To request the Imperial Chancellor to initiate legislation to enact—

1. Eight-hour shifts for women in factories.
2. Effective protection in unhealthy occupations, with an increase of women inspectors.
3. The putting in force of the Home Industries Act of December, 1911.
4. To influence the State Governments to carry out a unified and thorough-going procedure on behalf of all authorities:
  - a. with regard to the adoption of fair-wages clauses for women's work in all contracts.
  - b. in the development of the committees of employers and workers' organisations which have arisen since the war, and their tariff for women's work.

In the general discussion which followed, all speakers agreed to the above report.

#### Women's Training Schools for Social Work.

At a recent conference in Berlin it was agreed that there should be no increase in these schools, as there was a danger of the supply of women trained in them exceeding the demand for their services. At present the salaries offered them as social workers are quite inadequate for their capacities and responsibilities, and they are not organised to protect themselves.

Nevertheless, it would be a great pity if the number of these skilled workers were restricted, as the task of reconstruction after the war will demand a large number of them. Professor Schmittmann has called attention to this need, which is emphasised by other writers.

The socially trained woman official must help in an enlightened social policy, in measures against tuberculosis and intemperance, in maternity and infant welfare, in housing reform, in work for the welfare of children and adolescents, in sick insurance, in sanitary work, police work, factory inspection, and employment bureaux.

State and municipal authorities may be unwilling to spend the money, but will be driven to by the necessities of the time.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

#### National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

##### POLITICAL SITUATION.

##### GOVERNMENT FRANCHISE BILL AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

On the day following the debate in the House of Commons which resulted in the magnificent majority for Franchise Reform, the Prime Minister received a Women's Suffrage deputation at his official residence in Downing Street. There have been in past years many notable deputations on Women's Suffrage to the heads of the Ministry, but none more remarkable nor so illustrative of women's work than this one which assembled at Downing Street on March 29th, and never before was the spirit of hopefulness and confidence in victory more apparent.

The deputation was composed of 25 Suffrage Societies, leading organisations of women, members of the Millicent Fawcett Hospitals units, and of women of all classes representative of 50 different trades, professions, and occupations.

Among these were lamplighters, omnibus conductors, Post Office workers, pit-brow women, doctors, policewomen, University women, nurses, bakers, carpenters, tailors, munition workers, cutlers, telephonists, van drivers, town councillors, and chemists. Mrs. Pankhurst was also received by the Prime Minister.

Mrs. Fawcett (President of the N.U.W.S.S.) introduced the deputation. She thanked the Prime Minister for his speech in the House, and asked him if the Suffrage Societies were right in understanding that the Government would introduce a Franchise Bill and that Women's Suffrage would be an integral part of the Bill. Great satisfaction would be felt if the proposals regarding Women's Suffrage could be improved in a democratic direction without endangering the prospects of the whole scheme. "What we stand for," said Mrs. Fawcett, "is the extension of the franchise to women on the same terms as men"; but, speaking for herself and for nearly every member of the deputation, they would very much prefer an imperfect scheme which can pass the House

of Commons to the most perfect scheme in the world which could not pass.

Before introducing the speakers, Mrs. Fawcett informed the Prime Minister that among those who had wished to take part in the deputation, but had been prevented by their duties, were Mrs. Tennant and Miss Violet Markham (Directors of Women's National Service). The mention of Miss Markham's name was received with loud applause. In reply to a question from the Prime Minister, Mrs. Fawcett explained that Miss Markham had become a convert to Women's Suffrage since the war.

Miss Anderson (chief lady Factory Inspector) spoke of the essential work which women were doing in the textile and woollen industries before the war, and of the great number of women now employed in munition work. "The country would have nothing to fear in allowing these women to have a voice in their own political, industrial, and social needs."

Mrs. Watt (Canada), Mrs. Despard (Women's Freedom League), sister of the late Mrs. Harley, reminded the Prime Minister of a speech he had made in 1911, when he expressed the view that Women's Suffrage was not only a national question but an international one. "We want the whole energies of this land to be released, in order not only to deal with war problems, but with the problems which will arise after the war."

Miss Mary Macarthur (Women Trade Unionists) emphasised the need of industrial women for the vote.

Mrs. Edwards made a speech in Welsh on behalf of the women of Wales, whose hope for the success of the Women's Suffrage movement was centred in the Prime Minister.

Replying to the deputation, Mr. Lloyd George said that Women's Suffrage would be made an integral part of the Franchise Bill now in course of being drafted. The Bill was not in the same category as an ordinary Government Bill, but was a House of Commons measure for which every section of the House was equally responsible. The Government would leave the House entirely free to vote as it desired on the question of Women's Suffrage, and as far as the Government itself was concerned the majority would vote for the retention of Women's Suffrage.

The Prime Minister commended the thoroughly practical common-sense view taken by the deputation in preferring a measure which could get through the House, although it was not so good, to a better one that could not get through. Suffragists would be wise in accepting the compromise offered by the conference, and if they stood firmly by that compromise they were on absolutely unassailable ground.

Referring to the age limit for women voters, Mr. Lloyd George admitted the proposal was "illogical and unjustifiable," but considered it as a compromise on grounds of expediency.

#### WAR WORK.

##### SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS (N.U.W.S.S.).

The Headquarters Committee of the Scottish Women's Hospitals have received most generous support from friends of the hospitals. The total sum for March amounted to £17,103. As a result of Mrs. Abbott's tour in India, a further donation of over £5,000 has been sent in to Mrs. Laurie (hon. treasurer).

##### THE AMERICAN UNIT.

This unit is now firmly established at Dobroveni. The work of the chaffeurs here has been extremely arduous over roadless districts full of shell holes, but in spite of difficulties as many as 90 patients have on certain days been carried to an evacuation hospital.

##### LONDON UNITS OF THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

The London units have been lent by the Serbian military authorities to the Russian Red Cross, and are working at Reni, where there are 100 beds. Reni being the nearest station to the front, train loads of wounded arrive there, and the worst surgical cases, which would not survive a day's journey to the next stop, are removed and taken to the Scottish Women's, where they remain until the journey can be safely undertaken.

Many hardships were endured during the cold weather. There was only one well, which ceased to supply water after a week, and the Danube became the source of the water supply until it froze. The only water obtainable was from melted snow, and this entailed considerable labour. In addition to this difficulty was the scarcity of wood, and at one time the

hospital was reduced to the use of reeds for fuel. The supply of paraffin for stoves also ran out—all these obstacles did not prevent work being carried on with that cheerful courage characteristic of the personnel and staff when faced by difficulties.

Prince Dolgoroukoff, general in command of this front, visited the hospital. His arrival was quite unexpected, as the telegram announcing his impending visit only reached Dr. Inglis after he had left.

The Prince expressed himself as much pleased with the arrangements for the relief of the wounded, and before leaving conferred the medal of St. George upon two of the patients "for bravery." He asked Dr. Inglis to summon all the staff of the hospital together. Shaking hands with each member, he presented her with the medal of St. George. Dr. Laird, who had gone out after the retreat from the Dobroudja, was given the medal "for service."

##### NEWNHAM AND GIRTON UNIT (SALONIKA).

The following members of the unit were given the decoration of St. Sava for their services to the Serbian wounded: Dr. A. McIlroy, Dr. Keer, Dr. Emslie, Dr. Macgregor, Dr. Alexander, Miss Edith Stoney (radiographer), and Miss Baughan.

##### NATIONAL SERVICE FOR WOMEN.

The latest industry undertaken by women is that of timber felling. Several women have been enrolled for this work. The employment of women as tram drivers has given satisfaction. It is reported that they show themselves to be cool and competent, and have fewer accidents than the men drivers. Twelve thousand women have been enrolled for work on the land, and 35,000 have registered for service in France to replace men.

Miss Noeline Baker, hon. secretary of the Surrey, Sussex, and Hants. Suffrage Federation (N.U.W.S.S.), and secretary of the Surrey War Agricultural Committee, has organised a farm competition, which proved a striking success. Ploughing was the great feature of the competition. The test applied to the women was more severe than that applied to men, for they were not allowed to bring their own ploughs nor their own horses. Yet there was not one of them whose work was not good.

##### CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

A new clause has been added to the Criminal Law Amendment Bill by the Standing Committee of the House of Commons, which has roused very great opposition among women's societies and experts in social and moral reform.

Under this clause girls up to the age of 18 years of age may be sentenced by a magistrate to three years' detention in a State reformatory on a first conviction for misbehaviour. This conviction can be obtained on the evidence of one policeman, though he may not himself have been a witness of the alleged offence. He can take the girl in charge on the statement made by any man. The term "misbehaviour" covers the following offences: Soliciting, loitering, wandering in the public streets, or behaving in a riotous manner.

The grave dangers which may arise if this clause passes into law has been very fairly stated in a letter to the Secretary of State for Home Affairs, signed by Mrs. Fawcett on behalf of the Women's Interests Committee of the N.U.W.S.S., and by Mrs. Wilson on behalf of the Fabian Women's Group, from which the following words are quoted:—

"The condition which would be created by the passing of this clause might lead to serious miscarriages of justice, and to grave temptations to blackmail. Any girl who appeared to be under eighteen years of age would be at the mercy of unscrupulous persons, who, under the threat of giving her in charge, would seek to use her for immoral purposes or to obtain money from her. To go about alone, even to school or to work, would become a risk for young girls."

##### THE AGE OF CONSENT.

The National Union of Woman Suffrage Societies, the National Union of Women Workers, and the Women's Conservative and Unionist Franchise Association have sent the following letter to the Press:—

Sir,—We have learned with great concern that the Committee of the House of Commons now considering the Criminal Law Amendment Bill has rejected an amendment proposed by the Right Hon. W. E. Dickinson to raise the age of consent to 17.

As nearly all social workers concur in the opinion that such a change in the law would be of great value, and as

such has been proved to be the case in the fifteen States of America where the age of consent is 17 or 18, within the Empire in New Zealand and three States of Australia, and in other countries which have adopted it; seeing, moreover, that Mr. Dickinson's amendment was lost only by a single vote, we venture to express our very strong hope that when the Bill comes back to the House the amendment may be introduced on the Report Stage.

##### WOMEN AND THE LAW.

The Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill, which passed the House of Lords without a division, has been the subject of a memorial sent to the Prime Minister and Mr. Bonar Law, signed by a number of representative women, urging the Government to give time for the Bill or to adopt it as a Government measure.

EDITH PALLISER.

##### ELECTORAL REFORM.

Lord Curzon, speaking in the House of Lords on April 24th, said he had seen the draft of the Bill, which contained in effect the whole of the resolutions of the Speaker's Conference; but a distinction would be drawn, and he thought rightly so, between certain of those proposals and the bulk of the findings of that Committee. It was thought that Proportional Representation and Woman Suffrage stood on a different footing from other findings of the Committee. It was thought that both questions were likely to lead to so much controversy that it would be unfair for the Government to put pressure on members of either House in respect of them. Therefore, although the Bill would be taken charge of by the Government in both Houses, members would be at liberty to vote on both these proposals as they pleased.

#### The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

Three conferences on "Women and the Church" were arranged to be held in the Caxton Hall. At the first the Rev. C. G. Langdon was in the chair, and explained the principle of Christian equality between the sexes, which the C.L.W.S. exists to uphold, and Mrs. Lewis Donaldson gave an admirable paper on "Women and the Prophetic Office," in which she told the audience she had spoken in churches six times during the National Mission. At the second conference Miss Gilchrist was in the chair, and the Rev. A. S. Duncan-Jones spoke upon "Women and Church Government." An interesting discussion, in which a member of the South African Church took part, followed, and the Chairman read a letter from a clergy-member of the League in China, with the news that church councils there were open to women on the same terms as men.

The last of the series will take place on the 9th of this month, and the subject will be "Women and the Church Overseas." Miss Gollock will preside, and the speakers include Miss Pao Swen Tseng, B.Sc., and Miss G. A. Gollock (assistant editor of the "International Review of Christian Missions").

The Processions of Witness from Trafalgar Square to Hyde Park last year served so useful a purpose that it has been decided to repeat the experiment this summer. Two processions have been arranged by the Church League for Women's Suffrage for May 19th and June 9th, and the first will be in connection with the League of Honour Empire Week of Prayer. On May 19th the Rev. R. H. L. Sheppard will conduct the preliminary service in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, at three o'clock, and the Bishop of Willesden will lead the procession and preach in Hyde Park; while on June 9th, the Rev. R. H. Domenichetti, of St. Thomas's, Hove, will speak in St. Martin's, and the service in the Park will be conducted by the Bishop of London, who will head the procession through the streets.

#### Free Church League for Woman Suffrage.

Propaganda for the vote being no longer a necessity, the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage is devoting itself more exclusively to the removal of barriers against women taking office in our Churches.

Two resolutions were forwarded to the Free Church Council, the official representative body of federated Nonconformist bodies; these resolutions urged women in the pulpit and Woman Suffrage.

(1) That in view of the fact that the war is depleting many Free Church pulpits, the F.C.L.W.S. asks that women should be invited to occupy them.

(2) The Speaker's Conference on Electoral Reform having included in their recommendations the enfranchisement of

women, the F.C.L.W.S. asks the Free Church Council to urge upon the Government the speedy introduction of this reform.

Unfortunately, these resolutions were not brought forward by the Free Church Council.

Meetings in connection with individual Free Churches have been held and are to be held at Kings Weigh House (where a new branch was formed), Ilford Congregational Church, Kingsway Hall Fellowship, Paddington Chapel, Westbourne Park, Kingsgate Baptist Church.

More and more the subject of women in the Churches is introduced at these meetings.

On hearing of the Russian Revolution the following telegram was sent to the Women's Suffrage Society at Petrograd: "Free Church Suffragists rejoice with you in dawn of liberty."

Resolutions have also been sent to the Home Secretary, re criminal law amendment; and to Mr. Asquith, welcoming his resolution on Electoral Reform.

#### Women Munition Workers.

Mr. Kellaway, speaking in the House of Commons on a Munitions Bill, said that previous to the war the proportion of women to men in the employment of firms which had since come under State control was 7; in December last it was 21. Similar increases in the proportion of women workers had taken place in electrical engineering and the manufacture of small arms, scientific instruments and explosives, and in wood-work. These figures did not enable the House to realise the value, the delicacy, or the volume of the contribution which the women workers of the country brought into our munition factories; their activities had influenced the whole range of our war production.

#### IRELAND.

The Joint Committee which organised the recent public Suffrage meeting in the Mansion House, Dublin, has decided to remain in existence as a standing Joint Committee, to take political action where necessary. There is thus formed a permanent and definite connection between the Suffrage Societies in Ireland, which will have a strengthening effect on the cause of Suffrage here.

The Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation holds itself in readiness to approach any body which brings forward a scheme of Government for Ireland (independent of its party character), and has already approached the Irish Nation League, which has consequently declared itself in public to be in favour of equal political rights for men and women, and has embodied the same declaration in its constitution. Candidates for the constituencies of West Cork and North Roscommon have been written to; the successful candidate for North Roscommon is a Suffragist.

The Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation has also endeavoured to keep in touch with the work of the English Suffrage Societies, and is represented upon the Consultative Committee of the Constitutional Suffrage Societies. In the recent deputation to Mr. Lloyd George, the Federation was represented in the person of Mrs. Spring Rice.

Lecture tours are now being organised in the North and South of Ireland. Dr. Badham (chairman, I.S.F.) will visit Belfast, Derry, and Ballymoney during this week, and Miss Chenevix, B.A., will also speak at Limerick and Waterford.

L. O. KINGSTON.

Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation, 29, South Anne Street, Dublin, April 16.

#### Australian Women Will Vote in Europe.

Members of the Australian military and naval forces in Great Britain and France are to be given an opportunity of voting in the Australian Federal election, and the arrangements are to include women who are nursing or engaged in other war work.

#### CANADA.

I sent you a marconigram on March 22, announcing the fact that the Nova Scotia legislature had unanimously passed the second reading of Bills granting women the franchise, and the right to practise as barristers and solicitors. I enclose a clipping from the *Toronto Globe* of that date, which gives all the information we have. It seems certain that the third

reading must pass in Nova Scotia, as well as in Ontario. It is taken for granted here by everyone, and women are already being invited to attend all political meetings of both parties, frequently to speak on the platform as well.

The passing of the Nova Scotia Bill is particularly gratifying, since there were no Suffrage Societies at all in that Province. There was a widespread sentiment in favour of the reform, but very little active propaganda work. Surely that is the ideal way! The granting of the franchise to women is such a simple matter of justice that it should not require months and years of effort and self-sacrifice in order to attain it!

ISABEL R. ERICHSEN BROWN,  
Corresponding Secretary *pro tem.*,  
National Equal Franchise Union.

**NOVA SCOTIA WOMEN TO GET RIGHT TO VOTE.  
ASSEMBLY UNANIMOUSLY PASSES BILL ON  
SECOND READING—ADMIT TO BAR, TOO.**

(Special Despatch to *The Globe*.)

Halifax, March 21.—The Bill to amend the Nova Scotia Franchise Act so as to give women the right to vote on precisely the same basis as men passed its second reading in the House of Assembly to-day unanimously.

The second reading was moved by Mr. Henry Graham, of Pictou, who ably championed the women's cause, and argued for the adoption of the measure as a great democratic reform, and a just recognition of the contribution which women are making to the country in the conduct of affairs and in war enterprises.

A Bill providing for the admission of women as barristers and solicitors was also unanimously adopted on the second reading. Opposition to both measures may develop on the third reading, or in the Legislative Council, but the supporters, who number the leaders of thought throughout the Province, are hopeful that Nova Scotia will soon be lined up with her sister Provinces in consummating these reforms.

**The Federal Vote for Women.**

Mrs. Nellie McClung writes from Edmonton, Alberta:—The Federal Franchise Temporary Committee which was formed last year at the Dominion W.C.T.U. Convention, which met at Regina, are urging every woman's society to bring as much pressure to bear as possible on the Dominion members of Parliament to vote for Mr. Pugsley's Bill when it comes up for discussion at the coming session of Parliament.

Mr. Pugsley's Bill is a very reasonable one, and merely states that the women who have the Provincial vote shall be given the Federal vote as well. Men and women who have enough love for justice to impel them to write a letter are also asked to address one to Premier Borden, as well as to their representative at Ottawa.

**Alberta Council of Women Votes on Conscription and Cinemas.**

Now that Alberta women are enfranchised, their wishes, as expressed by the Local Council of Women, have a new practical importance. One hundred and fifty delegates were present. The "No Conscription" resolution of the Executive Committee was reversed; twenty-six societies went on record as definitely in favour of conscription, eight societies voted against, and nine abstained from voting.

The report of the Equal Moral Standard Committee was read by Mrs. Nellie McClung:—"Now that the women of our Province have entered into full voting privileges, they can no longer shirk their full responsibilities in the matter of public welfare; and although this may prove to be an added burden to the already busy women, we believe that our public-spirited women are ready to serve the highest interests of our country in any way that presents itself."

The report goes on to emphasize the enormous influence exercised on children and young people by moving pictures, and the need of safeguarding them; it proposes that women should be on the Censor Boards, and that women censors of places of public entertainment should be appointed. It was decided to establish a farm for women offenders, and it was noted that the prison farm for men would shortly be closed, as the total prohibition of alcohol had made it almost unnecessary.

Shorter hours for women workers was another subject dealt with, and it was recommended that shops should be open from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

**INDIA.**

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Mr. Polak, in an address at Trichinopoly on March 5th, drew attention to the value of the co-operation and help of the women of India.

The society "Ashrama," at Ahmedabad, founded by Mr. Gandhi, admits ladies for training in patriotic service. Mr. Gandhi believed that India would not attain its proper position unless and until the women of India shared in the work on equal terms with men.

Mr. Polak commended the active part taken by prominent ladies in Bombay and Madras in connection with the protest against indentured labour. "This is not because large numbers of women are concerned, but because it is the voice of the woman that tells in the long run in making India great."

**THE MAHARAJA OF KAPURTHALA ON WOMEN'S EDUCATION.**

The Maharaja, speaking at the Annual Education Durbar in March, said that girls' education had hardly emerged from the chrysalis stage. "It is unnecessary for me to lay stress on the fact that no real advance in the social, moral, and political equipment of the people of India or of any country can result without co-ordinating male with female education. Our civilisation must otherwise be manifestly lop-sided."

**BOMBAY LADIES' PUBLIC MEETING.**

A large meeting of women of Bombay was held to demand the abolition of emigrant indentured labour. The speakers were all Indian ladies, who protested against the evil results to Indian women of the system of sending labourers to the Fiji Islands. Resolutions condemning the system were passed, and a deputation was appointed to wait upon the Viceroy. The rule that, when labourers go to Fiji to work under indentures, there must be a proportion of one woman to three men has led to great evils. It is said that women are induced to go without any safeguards, and when they have emigrated they are led into prostitution.

An official dispatch of October 15th, 1915, stated that there were grave reasons to fear that women emigrants are too often living a life of immorality.

**INDIAN LADIES' DEPUTATION TO THE VICEROY.**

A memorable event in the history of modern India was the first deputation of ladies ever received by the Viceroy. It is described as "an extreme and unprecedented event." The deputation, which included the well-known poetess, Sarojini Naidu, presented an address on the subject of indentured labour, which has been suspended during the war, and which the deputation requested might never be reintroduced.

The ladies represented different provinces, and Mrs. Jehangir Petit read their address, which showed that the women of India did not come forward for political reasons, but because as women they felt the misery and shame of women who go with indentured labourers across the seas. "It is for this reason that we have thrown aside our customary abstention from matters outside our domestic circles, and taken the unprecedented step of appearing in this public manner. In the name of the women of India we come to you to plead the cause of the poor, helpless, and ignorant women who are taken from our villages and made the victims of the indenture system in the colonies. We are acutely touched and pained by the consciousness of the sufferings of these brothers and sisters of ours, the misery, the humiliation, the utter helplessness which must overcome our simple Indian women, who are by nature meek and timid, and unable to help themselves when they find that they have been beguiled into a situation involving complete separation from their families and homes, from their lifelong associations, and even from their children. . . . The evils which have taken place under the indenture system have become so ingrained that no more Indians can go to the Crown Colonies affected without the gravest moral risks."

They therefore begged that the system "which has proved destructive to the purity and honour of Indian womanhood" should be permanently abolished.

A letter signed by a large number of influential English ladies supported the Indian appeal.

The Viceroy (Lord Chelmsford), in reply, warmly welcomed the deputation:—

"I am unfeignedly pleased to receive you here this afternoon, and for two special reasons: One, that to-day is the first time in the history of British rule in India that women

have approached the Viceroy. There are many matters in which the Government of India would be greatly helped if they could get the advice and help of women; I need only mention the subject of women's education. I have viewed with apprehension the growing inequality between men and women arising out of difference in education; it cannot be good for a country that its women should lag behind men in the matter of education."

The Viceroy went on to speak of the urgent need of women helping in the work of hygiene. Dealing with the matter of indentured labour, he assured them of his entire sympathy and support in the matter of ending the evils of emigrant indentured labour.

The ladies then met Lady Chelmsford and informally discussed the question with her.

A crowded public meeting at Delhi passed a resolution thanking the ladies of the All-India Deputation for their action. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu and others addressed the meeting.

Indian women's first intervention in politics is warmly welcomed by the Press.

**HUNGARY.**

An Amsterdam telegram to the *Times* of April 27 states that the Hungarian Social Democrats have decided to demonstrate on May 1st in favour of peace, secret voting, and Woman Suffrage.

*Le Est* publishes the text of a telegram sent by Hungarian women to the Russian Women's Association, congratulating them on the revolution and the success of their cause. This is the text of the telegram:—

"To the Women of Russia,—  
"We need not seek words to express the feeling of our hearts at this moment over your national and sex emancipation. We have not been fighting against each other. We have felt no hostility towards each other. We have been linked together, the mothers of humanity, by common suffering. We greet you with love and pride, you who have initiated, with brave hearts and heroic self-sacrifice, the movement which is to lead to the reconstruction of human civilisation. Greetings and gratitude."

**ITALY.**

**Electoral Reform and Women Suffrage.**

The Hon. Labriola (Deputy) has put the following interpellation to the President of the Council:—"I ask the President of the Council whether, in consideration of the sacrifices supported by the working classes, and of the technical and administrative capacities shown by women, and the necessity of utilising all young forces in the administration, he does not think it advisable to propose electoral reform inspired by this threefold criterion:—

- "1. Universal Suffrage at the age of 21 for the male sex.
- "2. Suffrage for women of determined capacity.
- "3. Political eligibility from the age of 25."

**THE NETHERLANDS.**

The following letter has been sent to Mrs. Catt:—

March 29th, 1917.

Dear Mrs. Catt,—As we know that a business meeting of the Alliance will be held as soon as possible after the war, the Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht (Holland) would consider it as a great favour if that planned meeting might take place in our country.

We shall certainly do our utmost for the comfort of the members of that meeting, and to prepare it thoroughly.

We know that Stockholm also has invited the Alliance for that meeting, but as one of the last Alliance meetings was held in Stockholm, we hope that Holland may be chosen this time.

A copy of this letter is sent to the Headquarters in London. In the name of the Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht (Holland),

P. W. A. JACOBS, President.  
ROSA MANUS, Secretary.

ED. NOTE.—Mrs. Catt, in a letter to Headquarters, dated March 19th, writes: "I shall hold now that at a reasonable time after the war our constitution demands that we hold our regular Alliance Congress. It does not follow that this should be in the same place where peace negotiations are taking place."

**ROUMANIA.**

A *Times* telegram from Jassy, April 25th, states that the Roumanian Government has decided on electoral reform. The existing three-class system will be abolished in favour of universal Suffrage. No indication is given as to whether "universal" includes women.

**RUSSIA.**

**IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP SILENCE.**

The long-expected great revolution has happened. The old régime has fallen, and power has passed into the hands of the Executive Committee of the Duma and the Council of Workers' delegates.

Every thinking woman welcomes this victory, but, led by her duty as a citizen, she is bound to declare that in the Published Programme of the Provisional Government, in which all bars of class, nationality, and religion are removed, there is no mention of the removal of the ban of sex.

Even if the former Government, by the Act of the 6th August, 1915, counted half Russia's entire population as minors, feeble-minded, or on remand—that is to say, in the category of beings deprived of their civil rights,—yet the new free popular Government ought to promulgate the release from the bonds of sex, and openly recognise woman as a free citizen.

The women are excited, and are forming themselves into groups for bringing forward their demands. But are they not right? They are tormented by the age-long struggle for their rights as human beings; they are disappointed in the expectation of realising the principle of equal duties, equal rights. They have ceased to believe the soothing speeches, "You waste your blows on a door which is already open." "Equality of rights is understood." Before them stands the threatening words, "an unsuitable moment," which accompanied their just demands even in the minutes of liberty of the year 1905.

That is why the women's organisations are making their voices heard. On March 4th the oldest women's organisation in Russia—the Russian Women's Mutual Benefit Society—presented a statement to the Executive Committee of the Duma, as also did the League of Equal Rights and the Professional Unions.

In greeting the new Government we women turn to it in this historic moment with complete confidence, and desire to participate in the difficult task of creating a new, free Russia on the basis of equal rights for all citizens.

We await the recognition of our rights by law.

DR. ANNA CHABANOVA.

In a speech at Moscow on March 7, before the Council of Solicitors, A. F. Kerensky, Minister of Justice, said: "I would propose to you that the question should be decided as to the emolument of women jurists in your Order, as the former practice in regard to women was extremely unjust."

Thereafter M. Kerensky said that he considered his first task was to look after the political prisoners who were set at liberty. From every part of Russia great sacrifices were being made for this end. The Union of Petrograd Banks had given 500,000 roubles. At the head of the organisation for helping those who had struggled for freedom would be Vera N. Figner. —In *Ryetch*, Petrograd, 8th/21st March.

The news of women's prospects in the new constitution is various and conflicting. In reply to a telegram of inquiry, Dr. Schishkina Javein, President of the League for Women's Rights, telegraphed on April 3rd: "Women excluded from liberties proclaimed; we demand, we protest, we demonstrate." Since then the situation appears to have improved, but no direct news has been received, and we can only give news from the general Press.

The *Daily News* of April 5th published the following from its special correspondent: "A tremendous procession of women came and asked that their rights also should be recognised by the Government. There is no doubt whatever that their demands will be granted. Universal suffrage, which guarantees a vote to the mountaineers of Caucasus, the wandering tribes of Central Asia, and the half-savage fishermen of Siberian rivers, will not be denied to the women of Russia, who have taken so great a part in the hundred-year story of the revolutionary movement."

The *Times* of April 5th says: "Prince Lvoff, the Prime Minister, has informed a deputation that women will be allowed to vote in the elections to the Constituent Assembly."

The *Womans Journal* (Boston, Mass.) of April 7th gives the following account of the women's demonstration of April 1st, and of the recognition of the National Council of Women:—

Petrograd, Russia.—Speaking to a vast assembly of women who gathered outside the Duma on April 1st to demand equal rights for women, M. Rodzianko said the question would be settled by the Constituent Assembly, and promised the support of the Duma on their behalf.

Vera Figner, a well-known revolutionary worker, spoke on behalf of women, and attributed an important part of the revolution's success to them. Catherine Breshkovsky and Vera Figner are only two outstanding figures among Russia's thousands of heroines. It is no wonder that all the leading men of the new regime are supporting votes for women.

#### Official Sanction for National Council of Women.

The newly formed Russian National Council of Women has been officially recognised by the new Government. The wife of Professor Paul Milyukoff is President of the Council.

"Dr. Philosopoff, of Petrograd, was the first honorary officer for Russia of the International Council of Women," says Mrs. May Wright Sewall in the *New York Evening Post*. "In order to carry a knowledge of the Council into Russia, and to get a number of women to organise, Dr. Philosopoff was for fifteen years one of my valued correspondents. She sent in reports of women's work in Russia, with a very frank statement concerning the police regulations which made it impossible at that time to hold meetings of a National Council in her country. But there was much interest among the heads of various organisations for philanthropy, for higher education, and for the advancement of the arts among women in Russia.

"With the advancement of Liberal Government in Russia and the creation of the new Duma, the women took new heart, certain that the time would come when they would bring together women from all parts of Russia and affiliate Russia with the women of other countries in the International Council."

The petition which the new Minister of the Interior is said to have granted points out that, owing to the eventful times through which the nation is passing, new circumstances and problems have arisen which require co-ordinated efforts. In these, women have taken their full share, and strenuous work in all social spheres is awaiting them also in the future. To enable society to obtain the fullest benefits from the efforts of women, it is essential that they be organised, and thus work together at the successful solution of the multitude of problems which confront them. The memorandum dwells on the fact that practically all countries to-day have national councils of women, with the exception of Turkey and China, and that in order to take their share in the work of the International Council it is necessary that they form themselves into a national unit.

The Russian correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, April 9th, writes:—

At Petrograd there has been a great Women's Suffrage demonstration, with speeches in the City Hall and processions with red flags. It was not a militant, but rather an educative, demonstration, a reminder to the women themselves to be up and doing, and a gentle reproach to the men who do not seriously object to Women's Suffrage, but wish it were not coming quite so soon.

When the revolution happened—it simply happened, no one engineered it; it fell from the skies—everyone joined in, and women with the rest. Women who had been nursing, or studying, or writing, or working in relief societies, or co-operative stores or munition factories, or simply housekeeping and shopping, came and took their natural places in the many-sided movement. Women were in the bread processions, which were reluctantly fired on by soldiers. On the day of the revolt women workers and girl students marched with the soldiers and workmen, or took revolutionary, red-flagged joy rides with soldiers in commandeered motor-cars. Wise, experienced women came to the Duma with information and advice, established connections, helped to link up the loose ends of the chaotic movement. Women and girls crowded into the Duma with the throng of soldiers and workmen, radiated out into the myriad committees, distributed food, typed, and generally organised. Many more excitable young women harangued the

crowds at street corners. The Russian Women's Rights League plastered the town with bills demanding the vote.

#### MEETINGS EVERYWHERE.

A well-known woman writer was placed at the head of the whole network of temporary soup kitchens opened for the soldiers during the revolutionary week. The City Council elected to the permanent committee, and so practically co-opted, several leading women workers, including Countess Panin and Mesdames Miliukova, Tyrkova, and Shischkina Yavein. There was a rush of meetings for all classes of women. There were meetings specially for servants to form servants' unions, but as none knew quite what to demand nothing further has happened. There are continuous meetings, too, at the Women's University and Medical College, with stormy conflicts between moderate and extreme factions, the moderates usually winning and declaring for resumption of work, continuation of the war, and support of the Provisional Government.

The schoolgirls, too, like the schoolboys, have meetings and elect committees and councils to negotiate with the teachers. But the mothers are cheerful, because the children are happy at last. There is so much work to be done in New Russia; there are so many women's hands and brains willing and eager to do it, that a struggle for the Suffrage at the present moment would be a futile diversion of energy from much more urgent and important tasks. It is fortunate that there will probably be no need for a Suffrage campaign, and that Russian women will be able to devote all their powers to genuinely constructive work and political and social education and organisation.

The *Daily News* of April 18th, in an account of the visit of the British and French Labour deputations to the Congress of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates from all Russia, said: "A report has been adopted regarding the Constitutional Assembly, the substance of which is as follows:—

"The Assembly shall be convened in Petrograd as early as possible on the principle of universal Suffrage. The Army shall take part in the elections like the rest of the population, but the active army shall vote separately. *Women shall have the same voting rights as men.* The qualifying age for the vote shall be twenty years."

### SWEDEN.

#### A Woman Addresses Parliament.

In writing this time I have a hitherto unique event to record—the first woman has been allowed to speak in the Swedish Parliament. This pioneer was Miss Eva Andén, LL.B., and a barrister with an office of her own, who had been invited by some Liberal members of the Second Chamber to give a lecture to the Chamber on the demands of the women with regard to the Government's Bill concerning children born out of wedlock. The members had assembled almost to a man, and many members from the First Chamber had come, too. Even if curiosity to hear a woman speak before this audience and in this place had been the leading motive for the presence of most, it soon became evident that everyone listened with great interest, and a quite unusual silence reigned in the Chamber.

Miss Andén certainly was the best pioneer we could have wished for. She is very intelligent, still young, and an ardent Suffragist who has already done much good Suffrage work. Her speech was very clever, concentrated, and clear. She had not been allowed more than forty-five minutes, but managed in this short time to give a very good exposition of the women's wishes. In the main, she followed the principles held forth in the memorial which I mentioned in my last letter, and especially urged that unmarried mothers are to get support from the community without this being considered poor relief during the time next before and after their confinement; further, that the children be allowed to take the name of their father or their mother, that they inherit from their father and father's relatives, and that the father's name be registered together with the child's as well as the mother's.

Miss Andén's speech was well applauded, and many of the members present expressed in person their gratitude for her interesting and valuable contribution to the discussion of this important question.

ESTER BRISMAN.

#### The Municipal Elections of Stockholm and Women's Part Therein.

A few weeks ago Stockholm elected her town councillors, and, in spite of the Governmental crisis and other political phenomena, women's part therein has been a rather prominent one.

Of the three political parties the women belonging to the Conservative party have, in every respect, the easiest task, their party electing the greatest number of councillors. The Conservatives are represented by 62, the Liberals by but 12, the Socialists by 26; thus the men of the Conservative party do not mind if among them all a few are women.

The Conservative party thus elected as their women representatives Mrs. Gertrud Törnell and Miss Laura Netzel. Mrs. Törnell's election was a great success from the point of view of feminism, she being a clever and energetic Suffragist, taking an active part in the work as a member of the Board of the Stockholm Suffrage Society. Miss Netzel, who is an opponent of Women's Suffrage, is well known as a good worker in poor-law matters.

The Liberal women have had very hard work to do, their party being the smallest and having the fewest places to fill. In spite of this, they have done a brilliant piece of electoral work in returning the valuable member, Mrs. Emilia Broome, to the town council. Mrs. Broome, member of the Preparatory Committee for Law Questions, has, as a member of the town council, taken up many questions of great importance. Thus, for instance, she has worked for starting municipal technical schools, for building of workmen's houses, for raising the wages of women clerks in town service, etc. Her name on the Liberal list was put up second, according to her own desire, not to be in the way of another candidate, and the Liberal women have shown their skill and energy in a most wonderful way.

The Liberal Women's Association, started in 1914, in the days of the great defeat of the Liberals, has given proofs of the greatest energy and capacity. The president (Dr. Ada Nilsson), a highly trusted medical woman of great experience in social and political matters, and the secretary, Dr. Julia Kinberg, are those who are at the head of the organisation. Among the other members of the board may be mentioned Dr. Gulli Petrini, much appreciated among Suffragists, and the well-known author, Elin Wagner. The Association has published a great many pamphlets, many of which were so clever and to the point that the Men's Liberal Association has asked to distribute them. In the intervals between elections the Association is working by means of lectures on actual political matters, and among their lecturers may be noted the most prominent names among liberal politicians and leading university men.

Besides Emilia Broome, Mrs. Ella Billing was specially run by the Association. Mrs. Billing was some time ago the head of the bureau of information for those who had lost their work by the introduction of the tobacco monopoly in Sweden, and is now assistant of the employees of the new system of Stockholm for distributing alcoholic drinks; that is, she is a sort of matron for the women employees and the women waiters, assisting them in administering their own means. Moreover, she is a clever speaker and a good feminist, and it must therefore be deeply regretted that she could not be elected.

Even the Socialists have to note a great loss. Miss Anna Lindhagen, who came up for re-election this year, was thrown out. It is not necessary to introduce her to the readers of this paper, she having been one of the keenest defenders of women's rights in the early days of work for Woman Suffrage, and among the earliest and keenest peace workers. The municipal council has lost with her one of the few members deeply interested in maintaining the old buildings of the town and other questions regarding regulation of the streets, gardens, the harbour, etc.

Two other women candidates have been canvassed for among the Liberals, Miss Anna Abergsson, candidate once before, and Miss Gertrud af Klintberg; but their names on the lists had not got places which could give them a good chance to be elected. Miss Abergsson is a good Suffragist and a clever organiser of social work. In the question of State insurance of old age she has energetically defended the rights of women by many lectures and at a great many meetings. Miss Klintberg, one of the most renowned women workers in poor law, has, moreover, organised a new plan of work among the Suffragists of Stockholm during this winter, and her not being elected diminishes the possibilities for women to make themselves heard in the municipal council. She is a splendid

speaker, and has newly lectured in favour of better pay for women in town service.

It is difficult to tell what are the causes why women are so badly represented on the town council.

As to the Liberal party, the reason is certainly to be found in the fact that this party disposed of so few seats on the town council that they therefore find themselves unable to place a greater number of women. As to the Socialists, the loss of Anna Lindhagen seems to have come almost as a surprise to them.

As to the municipal progress of the Conservative party in the capital of Sweden, the cause is to be found in the political progress of the said party since the events of 1914, and not least in the fact that many capitalists increased their fortune considerably during this time of war, and that—owing to the scale of 40—their number of votes augmented accordingly.

NINI KOHNBERGER,  
Landsforeningen för Kvinnaus Politiska Rösträtt,  
Affiliated to the I.W.S.A.

#### Fröken Eva Andén as Speaker in the Riksdag.

The clear and weighty address delivered by Fröken Andén was listened to with the greatest attention, and in the notices contained in the Stockholm newspapers the question was asked, Why, if the Riksdag can listen with profit to a woman's views on such a subject, should women not have the right of sending representatives to the Riksdag?

—HERTHA.

#### Measures Proposed by Women Town Councillors.

At the meeting of the Stockholm Town Council on March 19th, four separate motions were brought forward by Fröken Anna Lindhagen.

The first related to the disposal of disused sites in some of the suburbs of Stockholm.

The second related to the preservation of the natural beauties of Stockholm, and demanded that the cleansing of the farms and pastures belonging to the city of Stockholm should be effectively carried out, and that regulations should be drawn up to prevent the destruction of flowers and plants in the meadows, woods, and fields in the surroundings of Stockholm.

The third motion related to the provision of institutions for the infirm, and homes for the aged of a suitable type.

The last motion of Fröken Lindhagen related to the conditions of the canal locks, especially in regard to obstructions of traffic, and the importance of widening the bridges over the canal.

Fru Emilia Broome introduced two motions, one relating to the planting and improvement of the neighbourhood of the Klara Lake; the other to the effect that the employés of the municipality shall have leave in summer for the cultivation of potatoes.

At the meeting of the Town Council the proposal of the special committee that women teachers in Girls' High Schools should receive a relief allowance of 100 kroner was discussed. Fröken Stina Quint pointed out that owing to the pressure of the present distress 100 kroner was insufficient, and moved an amendment to the effect that the amount should be doubled. Fru Broome and Fröken Hedin supported Fröken Quint's proposal, which was carried without a division.

The school teacher, Ebba Hultquist, and Fru Jenny Danielsson have been elected members of the Relief Committee of the Provisions Board in Sölveborg.

The landed proprietor, Fru Karin Hagberg, of Tälle, has been elected a member of the Poor Law Committee of the village of Eda, and supervisor of the home for aged persons of that village.

#### The Municipal Elections in March.

Although the disturbances in the ordinary peaceful course of life during the last year have given added importance to the communal and municipal bodies, the electors have shown much less interest in the elections this year than at the last elections. There is at the time of writing no accurate information available as to the share women have taken in the elections, but as regards women candidates, the number of which was as great as possible, no lack of interest seems to have been shown. Thus in the division where Fru Broome stood for re-election and Fru Gertrud Törnell stood on the

conservation list, the participation of women was so lively that the officials were breathless over all the women with their 1, 2, 3, 4 votes who presented themselves with their voting cards.

It is undoubtedly the case that the graduated scale greatly diminishes women's possibilities at the communal elections, yet the election in the fourth division shows that women, if in sufficient numbers, have a prospect of exercising influence at the elections.

There is undoubtedly a great deal of communal indifference to be overcome. Many housewives complain loudly at home over, for example, the distribution of milk, but cannot see the connection between such grievances and the power given by the municipal vote to get them removed. The proportion of women in the municipal Councils has undergone some changes. Women will have to count up the losses and gains after the conclusion of the electoral campaign. Fröken Stina Quint and Fröken Bertha Wellin have been unaffected by the March elections. Fröken Alma Hedin unfortunately did not stand for re-election.

Fru Emilia Broomé stood for re-election on the Radical list, and Fröken Anna Lindhagen and Anna Johansson on the Social Democratic list.

Fru Broomé had a hard contest, as the results of the election in other districts showed that the other names on the Radical list might be endangered, but the importance of securing the valuable help of Fru Broomé on the Town Council was so evident that party considerations did not prevent the women electors from voting for her re-election.

It is to be hoped that this first attempt in the capital at civic co-operation amongst women will be followed in future times.

It was a great surprise that Anna Lindhagen was not successful, and it was due to a miscalculation. No special efforts had been made to secure her re-election, as it was regarded as certain. The attempt to place her in the fifth district at the last moment also failed. Her disappearance from the Town Council is deeply regretted, both for her influence as town councillor in all matters affecting the welfare of the city, and also for its development from an aesthetic point of view.

It is therefore earnestly to be hoped that no opportunity will be neglected to replace her in the position to which she rightly belongs. The two new town councillors are both Moderates, Fru Gertrud Törnell and Fröken Laura Netzel. These two members are, by their experience in social work, peculiarly fitted for the position, and will greatly strengthen the group of women on the Town Council.

#### Suffragists and the Food Question.

At the annual meeting of the Society for Women's Suffrage at Gothenburg on March 25th, 1916, it was decided that the Society should, in co-operation with the other women's organisations, arrange a meeting for the discussion of the food question. This meeting was held on February 25th, 1917, at Gothenburg, and fourteen women's associations accepted the invitation. The speakers were Fröken Gertrud Bergström and Fru Elisabeth Waern-Bugge, from Stockholm.

The importance of this burning question attracted an immense audience, and half an hour before the time every place was filled.

The proceedings were opened by Fru Frigga Carlberg, who said that women's opinion was not often heard in the economic crisis through which our people are passing, for women are patient and work in silence. But there comes a moment when silence is criminal, and that moment comes when the welfare of mothers and children is at stake. The intention was not now merely to air grievances and complaints, but to give expression to our view as to what can be actually done to avert the extreme distress with which we are threatened.

Fröken Gertrud Bergström, in her address, dealt with the causes of the present distress and the measures which should be taken to meet it. Fru Waern-Bugge's address was inspired with warm sympathy for those who are enduring the hardest pressure of these hard times, and she enumerated the demands which could justifiably be made on the Government to supply the needs of the people during this period of distress. The debate which followed cast a sharp light on the present situation and showed the degree in which women suffered under the prevailing conditions of scarcity.

Two resolutions were passed expressing the desires and demands of women at the present time. The first resolution

was addressed to the Town Council of Gothenburg, and contained the following demands:—

(1) That the municipality, in co-operation with the Provisions Board, shall carry out relief work on an extensive scale, partly by giving instruction in the homes and partly by a system of public instruction, and also by the establishment of food depôts, with instruction as to the values and means of utilising the goods sold.

(2) That the municipality should establish people's kitchens where food can be obtained by the poorer people at cheap prices, on the most extensive scale possible.

(3) That the milk supply shall be taken over by the municipality so that an undue rise of price shall not occur.

(4) That owners of allotments on municipal lands shall receive allowances of the seeds necessary for the cultivation of vegetable and root crops, and that a woman garden expert be appointed as soon as possible for consultation and supervision.

(5) That several depôts for the sale of food shall be established by the municipality in order to prevent the loss of time caused to the purchasers by waiting in lines for their turn.

(6) That women with experience in housecraft shall be appointed to the Provision Boards and to take part in the organisation of relief work.

(7) That in the existing condition of distress and the consequent severe restrictions on food supplies, a more effective control should be exercised over the sale of wine and beer for the sake of economy in the home.

The second resolution, addressed to the State authorities ran as follows:—

(1) That the production of foodstuffs should be encouraged in every manner, and a strict control exercised over existing supplies, and the importation of necessary foodstuffs and raw materials should be secured as far as possible.

(2) That the distribution of foodstuffs should be organised in an efficient manner, attention being given to the prevention of profits being made by speculators and middlemen.

(3) That the export of necessary articles should as far as possible be prohibited.

(4) That when there is a scarcity of grain for bread, the use of grain for malt and intoxicating liquors should be prohibited.

(5) That as the experience of women has hitherto been ignored in the discussions on the regulations regarding food supply, it is hoped that women with practical experience in domestic economy will now be much more widely employed.

#### Women Rectors of Training Colleges.

On March 24th a Bill was introduced into both Houses of Parliament enabling women to be appointed as Rectors of County Council Training Colleges for women teachers. According to the provisions of the Bill every woman of Swedish birth who possesses the necessary qualifications is eligible for appointment as Rector of such training colleges, with the exception of married women, who require a special permission from the Government. If a woman already occupying such a post marries she can retain it by special permission from the Government.

—Rösträtt för Kvinnor.

#### Swedish Socialists Demand Universal Suffrage.

The Socialist leader, Mr. Branting, has asked the Prime Minister whether the Government would be willing to formulate the basis of a scheme for a radical change in the Constitution to include a new system of local elections and general direct Suffrage for men and women of all classes to the Second Chamber of the Riksdag. The interpellation was received with loud cheers from the Socialists and Liberals.

#### SWITZERLAND.

#### The Proposed Amendment to the Criminal Code.

For twenty years efforts have been made for unification of the Swiss cantonal laws and the drawing up of a criminal code. Since 1912 considerable progress has been made, and at present a fifth revision is under consideration; it will be revised by the Federal Council, and then submitted to the Legislative Councils. M. Alfred Gautier has summarised the various enactments concerning women's crimes, such as infanticide, abortion, and prostitution, for the *Mouvement Féministe*, from which we give the following:—

*Infanticide.*—For nearly a century the French legislator has shown implacable severity against those guilty of this crime. According to the code of 1810, which remained in force at Geneva until 1874, the guilty person, whether the mother or not, was punished with death, even when there was no proof of premeditation. It was alleged that the little child could not cause sudden anger, and that its death is always the result of a deliberate act. This Draconian law, which the jury has constantly evaded by acquittal, or giving extenuating circumstances, was modified by a law of 1901. To-day in France, as everywhere, infanticide, at least when committed by the mother, is no longer considered as an aggravated murder, but as having extenuating circumstances. One controversial question remained, and gave rise to lively discussion in the Swiss Commission: Should extenuating circumstances be allowed in the case of all mothers, as in Latin countries, or only to unmarried mothers, as in the German code? In support of the latter solution, the argument most frequently used is this: Only the mother of an illegitimate child can be driven to make away with it for fear of dishonour; only she can be driven to this extremity from fear of the future, since, left as she is without support, she is not sure of being able to feed and bring up her child. This assertion is questionable, for how many women, legally married, but widows, divorced, abandoned, or not properly maintained by their husbands, the problem of another mouth to feed is formidable? Moreover, the reasons for allowing extenuating circumstances in cases of infanticide are psycho-physiological. The critical condition after child-birth, especially after a first-born, the reactions of this pathological condition on the mother's mental balance, greatly mitigate the crime committed during this crisis on a newly born child. No one will dispute that mothers, married or unmarried, suffer pain and anguish. So the Swiss legislator has wisely allowed for extenuating circumstances in the case of any mother. The text of 1916 has improved on that of 1908, and now runs as follows: "The mother who during child-birth or while still under the influence of the puerperal condition . . .", etc. The penalty is reduced from five years' imprisonment to three, and may be still further reduced in special circumstances, such as extreme distress.

*Abortion.*—In all revisions of the code the Swiss have considered abortion as a crime only when it has succeeded; attempted abortion could only be punished as an attempt. The penal codes of Geneva and France follow the same line. But, whereas the code of 1908 demanded that abortion should have been practised with the intention of killing the child, that provision is now abandoned. The code of 1908 allowed no prosecution after the lapse of two years; the 1916 code limits the period during which prosecution can take place to two years when the woman herself is guilty of complicity; but if abortion has been practised without her consent, or if it is accompanied by aggravating circumstances, this limit does not apply. The 1916 Commission has, nevertheless, reduced the penalties for this crime. The mother is liable to imprisonment for from eight days to two years, and extenuating circumstances may reduce the penalty. A third party guilty with the consent of the mother is liable to two years' imprisonment. An important innovation in the new code is to give impunity to certain cases of abortion. The conditions for impunity are: (1) The consent of the mother, or, if she is incapable of consent, of her legal representative; (2) that the operation should be carried out by a fully qualified medical practitioner, who may only act in certain cases:

(a) If the operation is necessary for the health of the mother. (This is vague and indefinite.)

(b) If pregnancy is due to rape.

This latter case (b) has been brought into tragic prominence by the war and its effects in regions occupied by the enemy, and the new provision has been framed in view of the problem of the women violated by soldiers. Nevertheless, the provision bristles with difficulties, as in most cases it is impossible to prove rape, and it may be used as a false excuse.

(c) In cases of incest.

(d) Where intercourse has taken place with an idiot, insane person, or one in a state of unconsciousness or incapable of resistance.

*Prostitution.*—The code does not punish prostitution, as to which M. Gautier remarks: "I do not understand how anyone can fail to see that to punish the prostitute is to punish poverty. I do not understand how the work of rescue can benefit by sending the prostitute to prison, where she becomes more depraved." But certain acts connected with prostitution are punishable: (1) Solicitation (this applies to men as

well as to women); (2) annoyance caused to a neighbourhood by prostitution. The text of 1916 allows the judge to pronounce the forfeiture of paternal or maternal rights as well as the penalty. In cases of second convictions within a year, the judge may send the culprits to a training school (*maison d'éducation au travail*), or if they are foreigners deport them. The decision rests with the judge alone, and he may hand over the culprit, if a minor, to the legal guardian (*l'autorité tutélaire*) or to a private benevolent society. Feminist societies have sharply criticised the special measures for minors. Three alternatives are possible: If the guilty person is under 18, he or she will come under the regulations for adolescents; if of full age, he or she will be subject to fines or imprisonment; if between 18 and 20, he will be trained in a private or official educational establishment for a longer term than that of the ordinary prison, but much more efficacious; he will be enabled to reform instead of being condemned to be perverted. Finally, the provision of 1908 punishing those who, knowing they had venereal disease, exposed another person to contagion, has been abolished, and not a voice has been raised in its favour.

#### MEXICO.

#### Woman Member of Congress.

Many requests for information concerning that young Senorita, Hermila Galindo, the recently elected woman member of the Mexican Congress, have been received by the "Maryland Suffrage News." Miss Galindo is a citizen of the State of Yucatan. Yucatan is a State of such advanced democracy that women vote there for the President of the Republic. Miss Galindo represents the fifth district of the Federal district. She is considered a spirited and brilliant young woman, and is a distinguished orator. She edits and publishes the "Modern Woman," in Mexico city. Credit is given to her voice and her pen as having been ever ready in behalf of her country, and of the cause of women in Mexico. One report of a great parade in her honour in Mexico city says that silver-haired senoras gave greetings of joy to this young and beautiful woman, crying, "Bless the woman who has known how, in a fair contest, to struggle for and secure her rights." To Salvador Alvarado, Governor of Yucatan, belongs a great deal of credit for the initiation of democratic reforms on a broad enough base to permit of the inclusion of women in Yucatan.

—From the "Maryland Suffrage News."

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

#### PROCEDURE IN SECURING SUFFRAGE.

The procedure of securing Woman Suffrage in the United States is somewhat difficult for those of other countries to understand, because we have in reality 48 State Governments within the National Government, and each is permitted to control the Suffrage within its own borders. After the War of the Revolution, when the National or Federal Constitution was being framed, there was so much contention over the question of who should be allowed to vote that it was finally decided not to mention the subject in that document. A general provision was included that all powers not reserved by the Federal Government should be considered as delegated to the States, and thus they were left free to make their own qualifications for voting. Some of them made religious requirements, some property, others educational, but it was the custom from the beginning to restrict the franchise to *male* citizens.

When the movement to obtain the Suffrage for women really commenced—about 1850—it was directed wholly to having this word "male" taken out of the State constitutions, which could be done only by amendment. The Legislature had to submit the amendment to the voters, a majority had to be persuaded to vote for it, and it was a long and difficult process. In this way, all of the States where women have the full Suffrage have had to be gained, and that is why the progress has been so slow.

After the Civil War, which ended in 1865, the Republican Party believed that the negro men must be enfranchised in order to maintain their newly acquired freedom, and, as one State after another voted against it, the Congress finally decided to amend the National Constitution. To do this requires that two-thirds of each House shall vote to submit the amendment to the Legislatures of all the States, and that three-

fourths of them shall ratify it. It does not go to the voters. This amendment was declared a part of the Constitution in 1870, and reads as follows: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, colour, or previous condition of servitude."

Miss Susan B. Anthony, Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and other leaders made the most vigorous efforts to have the word "sex" included in this amendment, but these were in vain. They were compelled to see a million men just out of slavery added to their political rulers, and since that time women have had to beg these men in the various States to vote in favour of giving them the Suffrage. They had learned, however, that there was an easier way of enfranchising women than the State-by-State method, and the National Woman Suffrage Association was formed for the sole purpose of obtaining an amendment to the Federal Constitution which should declare: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." This would prevent every State from refusing the vote to a woman simply because she was a woman, but would leave it free to make any qualification desired as to education, property, etc.

The women soon found it was utterly useless to expect Congress to act until some of the States had made the experiment of equal Suffrage, and so they began the campaigns for amending State constitutions, which have continued nearly fifty years. During this long time they have also appeared before the Committees of every Congress pressing their claim for a Federal amendment. The actual gains seem small compared to the immense amount of time, money, and labour expended, but it must be remembered that nearly all of them have been made since 1910. They are likely to be much more rapid hereafter, as a wide public sentiment has now been educated to demand the enfranchisement of women. Seven States have granted equal Suffrage since 1910, making the whole number eleven.

There is no country where it has been made so difficult for women to obtain the franchise as in the United States, and this is the more paradoxical because of its strenuous claim of being the greatest republic, the strongest democracy in the world! Not a State Legislature, not the Congress itself, can give the complete Suffrage to women. It has been found, however, that the constitutions of many States are so worded as to permit the Legislature to confer a partial franchise; and that the Federal Constitution empowers every Legislature to determine the qualifications of those who may vote for the President, as his is a Federal office. It is by pressing these advantages that the victories of the present year have been won. These include a vote in Arkansas in primary elections; the Presidential vote in Ohio, Indiana, and North Dakota; in the last two Municipal Suffrage also, and in Indiana the right to vote for delegates to the Convention to make a new Constitution, to sit as delegates, and to vote on the Constitution when it is submitted to the electors. They expect to have equal Suffrage incorporated in this document. This is not the first time women ever had this privilege, as has been said. The women of Wyoming exercised it in 1890, when that territory became a State.

Bills of various sorts are before several Legislatures, and the results can be summed up in next month's letter. New York is in the midst of another great campaign, to be decided in November, and Maine has begun a campaign for a constitutional amendment to be voted on September 10th. The Leslie Commission, under whose auspices the large legacy left to Mrs. Catt by Mrs. Frank Leslie will be expended, has been incorporated, and the Bureau of Suffrage Education is now organised, and becoming established in its new headquarters, which shall be described in the next letter.

IDA HUSTED HARPER,  
Chairman of the Department of Editorial Correspondence in  
Leslie Bureau. Formerly chairman National Woman Suffrage  
Press Committee of the N.A.W.S.A.

#### VICTORY IN RHODE ISLAND AND MICHIGAN.

Michigan on April 18th joined Rhode Island in the line of States granting Presidential Suffrage. The Bill passed the Senate by a vote of 22 to 7, and the House by 64 to 30. It is stated that Governor Albert E. Sleeper will sign the Bill at once.

The Act extending Presidential Suffrage to the women of Rhode Island passed the House on the evening of April 17th by a vote of 71 to 20. It had already passed the Senate, 32 to 3. With the official announcement of the vote the several

hundred women who were packed into the Chamber burst into hand-clapping and words of joy, and Speaker Hammill was obliged to call for order.

There was so much confusion and handshaking in the House Chamber that adjournment was taken until 7 p.m., to give the women plenty of opportunity to congratulate the members. During the debate, which lasted four hours, several hundred women sat in the balconies or upon the side seats of the floor, waiting for the roll-call and showing intense interest.

About twenty-five of the leaders in the fight for Woman Suffrage in this State met in the Governor's office, and watched him put his signature upon the document which allows the women of Rhode Island to vote for President and Vice-President. The Governor used four different pens, each in a silver holder. One of these he presented to Mrs. Barton P. Jencks, President of the Rhode Island Equal Suffrage Association, who was the leader of the campaign for the passage of the Act. Another he gave to Mrs. Edwin C. Smith, Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the same organisation. Miss Elizabeth Upham Yates received a third pen, and the fourth and last pen was given to Miss Nettie E. Bauer.

#### COMMENT ON RHODE ISLAND VICTORY.

Governor Beeckman.—"I am delighted that the Suffrage Bill has passed. I recommended the measure in my message. It is no more than a just recognition of the splendid work which women are doing in so many fields of activity all over the world. After the mettle they have shown, it is only right that we should grant them whatever they ask. And I am proud because this Act places Rhode Island squarely in the progressive ranks as the first State east of the Alleghenies to extend the Suffrage to women."

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, President N.A.W.S.A.—"The action of the Rhode Island Legislature indicates that the State is ready to keep pace with its neighbour, Canada, which, within a year, has fully franchised the women of great Provinces, and with Yucatan, one of the Mexican States, which has taken similar action. If the United States does not make better pace, it will soon lag behind the entire civilised world. The women of the United States are grateful to Rhode Island for leading the movement for Woman Suffrage in the East."

#### MRS. CATT ON SUFFRAGE WORK IN WAR TIME.

I am myself a pacifist, now and for ever. War is to my mind a barbarism, a relic of the stone age, but I hold that that belief has nothing to do with the present situation. Whether we approve or disapprove, war is here. War means problems—many big, tremendously far-reaching problems. Our nation, our children, our future civilisation, need clear thinking and prompt action now. War brings undue riches to some, and undue poverty to others; it brings disease, immorality, and sorrow. It robs large numbers of children of the bodily nourishment they should have; it takes them out of school and makes wage-earners of them when they should be at play. It has been said over and over again that juvenile crime has increased in Great Britain, France, and Germany during the war.

Then what is the duty of Suffragists? First, I am asked, shall we stop Suffrage work? No; a thousand times, no. God knows we never needed the vote so much as we need it now. We shall need it, as never before, in the adjustment of every national problem. Suffrage work must not stop. What then? Do triple work! It is always the busy, over-worked people who can find time and strength for more. The great rank and file of Suffragists do little or no actual work for the cause. It is time to appeal to the reserves.

In Europe women were not mobilised at the beginning of the war, with the result that sickness, immorality, and economic distress were needlessly increased. If any man or woman in this land fails to do his or her part towards making the effect of war as little disastrous to civilisation as possible, he or she is directly contributing towards the evil results.

It is not the appeal of war, but the call of civilisation which is summoning women to new duties and responsibilities. I for one shall be deeply disappointed if any Suffragist, pacifist or militarist, fails to answer the call.

I do not ask any woman to do aught which violates her conscience; I do not ask her to join the forces of destruction, but those of construction and conservation. These have always been woman's work in the world, and never were they so much needed as now.

#### Miss Rankin—First Woman Member of Congress.

Jeannette Rankin, the first woman member of Congress, took her seat on April 2, and received a great ovation from her fellow-members. She had previously been entertained at a great public breakfast given by Suffragists in her honour, and presided over by Mrs. Chapman Catt, and then proceeded to the Suffrage Headquarters, where she addressed the crowd from the balcony, where she was also accompanied by Mrs. Catt.

The very great warmth of her reception, her instant popularity, and the cordial tone of the Press, are tributes both to Miss Rankin personally and to the women's cause which she represents. The Press gives glowing accounts of the tributes of all sorts which have been showered upon her.

#### Miss Rankin's Peace Vote.

Miss Rankin voted against the entry of the United States into the war, and her action is the subject of much comment.

#### Mrs. Catt's Opinion.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt took the stand that Miss Rankin had the right to vote as her conscience dictated.

"I predicted two weeks ago," said Mrs. Catt, "that no matter which way Miss Rankin voted she would be criticised. If she voted for war, she would offend the pacifists; if she voted against it, she would offend the militarists."

"Do you not think that Miss Rankin neglected an opportunity to make a million or more votes for Suffrage by voting as she did?" she was asked.

"I do not believe Miss Rankin was guided by any such consideration," she replied. "You must remember that Miss Rankin was not voting for the Suffragists of the nation; she represents Montana. But I do not think any higher tribute could be paid to a person in public office than to say that he voted as he thought he should vote. Miss Rankin has done nothing to be ashamed of, far from it, and she can be counted on to do nothing that she need be ashamed of. She did her duty as her duty appeared to her. It was not for anyone else to make her decision for her."

Miss Alice Stone Blackwell says:

"Whether Miss Rankin was wise or unwise in her view of her public duty (and this is a question on which Suffragists are as widely divided in opinion as the rest of the community), her vote showed that she possessed both conscience and courage. For the pressure to vote the other way was enormous. The fact that Miss Rankin could resist it shows from the outset that she will be an independent voter.

"Miss Rankin had other temptations to vote against her convictions. She is a warm and sincere Suffragist, and she knew that unless she went with the majority, the Suffrage cause would be whipped over her shoulders. She knew also that she was sacrificing or jeopardising an unequalled popularity—a popularity that must have been pleasant to her, not only as a human being, but because it redounded to the general credit of women in positions of public trust. She has been receiving as much attention as a princess. Owing partly to American chivalry, partly to her own winning personality, the first woman member of the Congress has been getting a continuous series of ovations. Miss Rankin was the centre of universal praise and good will, and there was not an unkind word about her, even in the comic papers. It took no little courage to change all this. Those who think she was wrong should honour her as Northerners honour Gen. Robert E. Lee."

#### Votes for Farmers' Wives.

The Farmers' National Congress has endorsed national Women Suffrage. Commenting on this endorsement, the *Los Angeles Times* says editorially: "We never could understand why the farmer's wife, who had to cook three meals a day, keep the house, milk the cows, care for the children, do many of the chores, make the butter, bake the bread, gather the eggs, make the soap, and a score of other things, should not have the right to vote. Let the farmers' wives everywhere come into their own."

#### REVIEWS.

"L'INSTINCT COMBATIF." By Pierre Bovet.

This is a new and fine book to add to the collection of "educational questions of the day," founded in 1906 by Monsieur Bovet himself. Before appearing in book form these pages formed the matter of a moral psychological course given at the Institute Jean Jacques Rousseau, Geneva, during the winter of 1915-16, and in his preface the author writes: "Must I justify myself for having, during a winter in which others were suffering and dying so that their children may not have to fight in the future, spoken of these subjects as calmly as one would make an academic statement? I do not think so. By bringing out facts still little known, I hope to contribute my small share towards strengthening the faith of some in the final triumph of right over might. Am I not doing something by showing that this ideal is possible, that it has not everything against it, that the power accumulated from our barbarous heredity is not the only thing that counts, and that a far-seeing will, resolved to prepare the future, will even find a way of extracting support from it?"

There is not, so far as I know, a subject more pressing than this one, "The Combative Instinct." If Monsieur Bovet has not exhausted it, as he says himself, what light he has shed on this subject, and with what confidence! After reading one or two chapters, one follows this safe guide through the 320 pages of his book.

Battles of school-children first of all! Why do they fight? Varied quotations of evidence obtained from young boys show that these fights are of two kinds—struggles for possession and struggles of games. The child fights for an object or simply for the primitive and immediate joy which he finds in throwing stones, handling a stick, exercising his arms and legs vigorously, stretching every muscle in his body. Generally the feelings of hostility are not the cause of the fight but the result. The battle is not the result of hatred; it stirs it up."

One idea which the author brings forward over and over again is that of the close relationship existing between the combative and sexual instinct. But how can one review all the ideas and all the chapters? It would require much more space than I have at my disposal. The chapters on sublimation, vocation, dress, sports, boy scouts, pacifist education, are particularly interesting.

In conclusion, up to what point is the war in relationship with the combative instinct of the individual and the race in general? The present war is so different from all those which have preceded it that it is very difficult to answer this question. As for the education which we should give our children about the problems put to the educationist by the existence of the combative instinct, the author devotes the latter part of his work to many curious observations on military training, scouts, the pacifist ideal. One can do no more than strongly recommend those who are interested in these questions, so urgent at the present time, to read this book, which is written with such mastery by one who is not so learned as to startle the ignorant.

L. PERIS.

"WOMEN IN THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH." By T. B. Allworthy, M.A. (Cambridge: W. Heffer and Sons, Ltd., 1917. 2s.)

This is a useful study of the position of women in the primitive church, in which references are given for all the statements made, and the writer shows the result of the attitude to women adopted by Our Lord in their position and influence in apostolic times. Two points particularly worthy of notice, which one is glad to see brought out so clearly, are the serious blow to women's position which would have been given had the upholders of circumcision as an essential of church membership been successful; and the fact that church buildings did not exist, but the gatherings of the early Christians were in houses or house-churches belonging to women of influence. This book, both in matter and treatment, is a welcome contribution to the subject.

E. A. G.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Madam,—Allow me to transmit to you observations made to me, and with which I agree. It is to be regretted that *Jus Suffragii* should recommend books which, according to the review in the February number, encourage Neo-Malthusianism—viz., "Fecundity versus Civilisation," and "Essays in War Time." Such things should not appear in *Jus Suffragii*.—Yours, etc.,

DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER.



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