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Andm

JUS SUFFRAGII,

PUBLISHED BY THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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

SECOND YEAR No. 5.

JANUARY 15, 1908.

"Forward, when all seems lost, and
[the cause looks utterly hopeless;
Forward, when brave hearts fail, and
[to yield is the reed of the coward;
Forward, when friends fall off, and
[enemies gather around thee;
Thou, though alone with thy God,
[alone in thy courage, go forward!

NEALE'S "Egypt"

(Christmas-card N. W. S. & P. U.)



Le vote étant un droit, tout le monde
doit le posséder; libre ensuite à chacun
d'en user s'il le désire. Moi, je vois
dans le candidat le principal agent de
l'émancipation politique des femmes.
C'est lui qui, par intérêt personnel,
leur persuadera qu'elles doivent voter.

Dr. MADELEINE PELLETIER.

PRICE 2 DUTCH FLORINS PER YEAR.

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

U.S. America, *The Woman's Journal*, \$ 1.50,
3 Park Street, Boston.

—, *Progress*, \$ 0.25 N.A.W.S.A. Headquarters,
Warren, Ohio.

—, *The Woman's Tribune*, \$ 1.—, Clara Bewick
Colby, Portland Ore.

Belgium, *De Stem der Vrouw*, 3/4 franc, Ons Huis,
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France, *Le Journal des Femmes*, 5 francs, 31 rue
Francoeur, Paris.

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

Denmark, *Kvindestemmerets bladet*, 2 Kroner, 34
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—, *Kvinden og Samfundet*, 3,10 Kroner, Kongens
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Finland, *Nutid*, 6 Mark, 21 Alexandersgatan,
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Netherlands, *Maandblad voor Vrouwenkiesrecht*,
f 1.—, 43 Linnaeusstraat, Amsterdam.

—, *De Ploeger*, irreg. f 0.60, 53 Avenue Con-
cordia, Rotterdam.

Norway, *Nylaende*, 4,70 Kroner, 3 Edvard Storms-
gade, Kristiania.

Sweden, *Dagny*, 5 Kroner, 54 Drottninggatan,
Stockholm.

—, *Morgonbris*, 50 Öre, Folkets Hus, Stockholm.

—, *Svenska Folket*, 2 Kroner, 36 Vasagatan,
Stockholm.

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

Hungary, *A Nő és a Társadalom*, . . . 41 Nefelets
u. Budapest VII.

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

Iceland, *Kvennabladid*, 2 Kroner, Fru Briet As-
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Italy, *La Voce della Donna*, 12 Lire, 100 Corso
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—, *L'Alleanza*, 6 Lire, 2 Corso Garibaldi,
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Great Britain, *Women's Franchise*, weekly 1 d.
13 Bream's Buildings Chancery Lane, London,

—, *Votes for Women*, 4 Sh., 4 Clement's Inn,
London W. C.

Switzerland, *Frauenbestrebungen*, 3,10 frs., Zürich-
bergstr. 10, Zürich V.

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

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

Bulgaria, *Jenski Glas*, 6 francs, Mrs. Bojilewa,
Burgas.

The international badge, which should be worn
by every woman believing in woman suffrage, is
to be ordered from **Mrs. J. PEDERSEN-DAN**,
Nørrebrogade 183, Copenhagen, 50 bronze badges
22 sh, 6 d., postage prepaid. Reduction in price
for orders exceeding that number.

Editorial Announcements.

Dear Correspondents and Readers!

In my last issue lack of space obliged me to
keep back all my good wishes for the new year
with which I would have saluted you all, adding
that I hoped and expected to see every one of
you in Amsterdam in June. Now that they come
late, my good wishes are no less sincere, and
you will oblige me by giving me some notice as
to intentions of your associates and countrywomen,
as well as your own, about coming to the congress.
Good examples in this respect may do much to
awaken a desire in all our affiliated countries to
be largely represented. Up to now I have heard
of four associations and countries that wish to
send a Fraternal Delegate, which may be done
by non-affiliated associations on request addressed
to our President, **Mrs. C. Chapman Catt, 2 W. 86th
Street, New-York City.**

Now, in the beginning of 1908, „Jus Suffragii”
has in all 560 readers, divided over different
countries, including 38 Honorary Associates and
7 Officers who are entitled to receive the paper
gratis. Apart from those 45 readers, the number
of subscribers in each country is the follow-
ing: Australia 14, Canada 5, Denmark 51,
Holland 72, Germany 19, Great Britain 98, Sweden
71, Hungary 17, Italy 16, Norway 26, Russia 21,
U. S. America 76, France 3, Belgium 5, Finland 5,

Austria 7, Switzerland 5, Bulgaria 3 and Servia 2. We print now 600 copies, but it will cost very little to print 50 more, in case some of you will help to send some as sample-numbers to friends who may become subscribers. Do you think „Jus Suffragii” impedes in any way the circulation of local suffrage papers?

May I ask you to send a review of the voting qualifications for your country as France and Switzerland do in this issue. It would be interesting also to know the total number of electors and of the adult population male and female. Finally I request you to send newspapers or reports *before the 6th*, if you wish to have them translated into English, and not later than the 8th, if you wish to give me a fair chance to find space for your news.

Believe me sincerely yours

MARTINA G. KRAMERS,
Editor.
Rotterdam, 10 Jan. 1908.

Denmark.

On Jan. 10, while this paper is printing, a telegram from Copenhagen announces:

“Women of Denmark obtained to-day municipal suffrage”.

In the beginning of November last Mrs. Johanne Münter resigned her post as an international secretary of the N. W. S. A. (**Danske Kvindeforeningens Valgretsforbund**) all communications should therefore for the present be addressed to the President, Mrs. Vibeke Salicath, Blaagaards-gade 20, Copenhagen N.

The N. W. S. A. is constantly progressing and consists now of 16 associations. We expect several societies to join in a short time. On the 31st of January the N. W. S. A. and “Dansk Kvindesamfund” (affiliated to The N. W. S. A.) have announced a public meeting. The subject will be “The political suffrage for women”, and excellent speakers, men from all political parties together with well-known women-suffragists, will plead our cause. Further The N. W. S. A. and Dansk Kvindesamfund are arranging for public meetings to be held in all wards all over the country on the 20th of June 1908 (the anniversary of our emancipation from bondage). Here too the subject is to be: “Women’s political suffrage.”

On the whole the women of this country are working energetically for their enfranchisement, but our pioneers of W. S. are watching with anxiety how new associations seem to be inclined to place themselves under the special protection of certain political parties. There ought not to be any sort of demonstrating “colours” before we have reached our great object.

“Dansk Kvindesamfund” held a public meeting on the 11th of November last, on the subject: “The Christian Woman and the Suffrage”.

The room was crowded and the speakers: Mrs. Blauenfeldt, Rev. Ussing and Mr. Möldrup L. L. D. were enthusiastically applauded. “D. K.” is our largest national association, it possesses now 70 branches in town and country and several branches are being established.

VIBEKE SALICATH.
Copenhagen, December 1907.

The new organization “**Landsforbundet for Kvinders Valgret**” which works exclusively for W. S., is progressing steadily, and now numbers nearly 5000 members. From Jan. 1908 it will send out a monthly review, called “**Kvindevalgret**” (“**Woman’s Suffrage**”) with Mrs. Julie Arenholt as editor.

The Copenhagen branch has held a number of interesting meetings this winter, where various political topics have been discussed. Especially a series of meetings, where men representing different political groups have set forth and explained their programmes, including their views as to W. S., have been attended by a very large and interested audience.

CLARA TYBJERG.

Copenhagen, Jan. 1908.

In October, the Minister of Justice introduced a Law-project concerning children not born in wedlock, and their parents.

The same minister has also introduced a bill to decide the legal position of mothers and their children born in wedlock.

The latter motion has obtained its three readings in the Lower House and has been carried there by a great majority. It has now to be read three times in the Upper House before it can become Law. If carried, it will give the women of Denmark some of the rights lately petitioned for in Finland. We will here give some of the paragraphs.

“A widow shall be considered the Guardian of her child, born in wedlock”.

“A woman who has attained her majority, may be appointed trustee in a will according to the same rules as a man”.

“If a son or daughter—a minor—wishes to marry, the consent of the mother is necessary”.

“The right of a widow to remain in undisturbed possession of the estate after her husband’s death, to be equal with that which the widower enjoys after the death of his wife”.

The social-democratic party has introduced a Bill for giving women political suffrage which was read for the first time in the Lower House on the 9th December. The Leader of the Party, Mr. Borgbjerg, set forth in an eloquent speech, the reasons for granting female suffrage. More eloquent words in favour of the Rights of Women, have scarcely been heard in the Hall of our honourable Folketing!

It appeared that the Premier did not wish to deal with the matter. He declared finally that such a movement for female political suffrage would most likely be a hindrance to the motion for female municipal suffrage the fate of which is still undecided from the last session.

JOHANNA MÜNTER.

Copenhagen, January 1908.

United States.

The noted “suffragette”, Mrs. Cobden—Sanderson of London, who was imprisoned for her work for suffrage, is having a most cordial welcome in our country. Mr. Sanderson is here to give a series of lectures upon artistic book-making and also to speak upon socialism and Mrs. Cobden—Sanderson accompanies him on his tour. She is invited to speak on all possible occasions but she has several times declined the invitations of women’s clubs feeling that they are not enough in earnest about the great things that matter in

life and that she wished to give her time to associations of more serious purpose. She has spoken chiefly before suffrage associations and socialist clubs.

In New-York City on the 5th of December there was held a most unusually successful suffrage meeting in old Cooper Union, a historic hall in the lower part of the city. The meeting was called by the League of Self-supporting Women and the appeal was made directly to organizations of working men to come to hear Mrs. Cobden—Sanderson and Rev. Anna Shaw speak on woman suffrage. A magnificent audience of between three and four thousand was the result, and the great majority of the hearers were men. The enthusiasm was wonderful and the resolutions offered, demanding the full franchise for women on the same terms as men enjoy it, were passed by a rising vote which was almost unanimous, just *three* men standing for the negative and the rest of the magnificent audience rising for the affirmative. A collection of \$ 180.00 was taken and 240 new members added to the League of Self-supporting Women.

This meeting marks a new era in our work, the appeal directly to working men to come to us to hear our gospel preached. Heretofore we have sent our resolutions to their meetings and of late years they have almost always been passed by them, but for them to come to our meeting means a deeper interest in the movement and this is something for which we can not be too thankful.

In Colorado women have finally been empanelled to serve on a jury. This has always been possible since women were enfranchised in that State nearly fourteen years ago, but the women have been very slow to realize the importance of this right. The recent case in which six women formed the jury, was the suit of a tailor (a man) to recover the cost of a dress made for a woman who claimed that the garment did not fit her. Surely women were a much more intelligent jury in such a case than men could have been. Their decision was in favor of the tailor.

It is to be hoped in the interest of even-handed justice to both men and women, that both sexes may be called to this very important duty of jury service in every State where such a thing is permitted by the laws.

One of our most important organizations of women, the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, claiming about 700.000 members, has been heretofore quite averse to any discussion of woman suffrage in its meetings. Indeed, I can not say that it has yet reached the point of welcoming it on the program of its national assemblies, but several of its State Federations have heard the subject discussed this fall. Mrs. Sarah Platt—Decker who has been national president of the Federation for several years, is herself a voter being from Denver, Colorado, and when at home takes a very active interest in political affairs; it is only lately, however, that she has given woman suffrage consideration in her addresses to the club women. She tried it at the Pennsylvania meeting in October and later at the New-York State Meeting, where the subject had, however, been regularly placed upon the program and discussed by our own national suffrage President, Rev. Aena H. Shaw and an anti-suffragist whose name I can not now recall. Miss Shaw felt that

her audience was in entire sympathy with her and that the Federation is on the way to become a valuable ally to the woman suffrage army.

Swarthmore, Pa, Jan. 1908.

RACHEL FOSTER AVERY.

France.

In order to give a report on the present condition of the question of woman suffrage in France, we shall first speak of the place it occupies in the French Parliament, without going back to the times prior to the great uprising of modern women for their rights, which dates from some twelve or fifteen years back.

In 1901 Mr Gautret, deputy from the Vendée, introduced for the first time a bill, which contained the enfranchisement of women for municipal, cantonal and parliamentary elections. Unfortunately his bill was limited to spinsters, widows and divorced wives; so the married women not only remained excluded, as they are still, from all participation in political life, but also they formed, among women in general, a sort of parias. It must be recognized that Mr. Gautret presented his bill as a preliminary measure to a general reform which was to embrace all women, and that his explanation of motives showed him to be a sincere advocate of women’s rights. His reasons were identical with those generally given by our most militant champions. This effort had no success.

Mr Dussaussoy, another deputy, declared that he wished at the same time to draw wider and narrower limits than his colleague. “It is no longer possible for us”, says he, “to take into account the social movement which, transferring the authority of the clan-chieftain to the father of the family, would still authorize the husband to represent his wife in elections... But then the present condition of our customs and institutions seems not, in our days, to warrant the legislator conferring on women full political suffrage.” So he demands (bill of July 10, 1906) that all women be enfranchised, but only for Municipal Councils, Departmental Councils (Conseils d’arrondissement), and Conseils généraux.

It is not yet certain what will be the result of this attempt to enfranchise women, which has not yet become obsolete (caduc*), as its predecessor has, and therefore may yet have a chance of adoption in the present session of Parliament.

As is well known, the press has a considerable importance in our country. It is the reflection of public opinion as well as its originator. What then is the attitude of the press?

It has enormously changed, directing its current unceasingly more and more in the bed of our demands. The entire renewal of the Chamber of Deputies in 1906 gave occasion to manifestations on the women’s part by posters and street demonstrations. A procession of carriages was organized in the streets of Paris with banners bearing the words: “*Votes for Women.*” Nearly all newspapers commented this action, and, with very few exceptions, arrived at the same conclusion: *Women should have votes.*

At any rate they do have votes now, since 1898, for the elections of members in the Commercial Tribunals (tribunaux de commerce), and since 1907 for the election of the Councillors called “prud’hommes.” They are electors and eligible in the

*) See „Jus Suffragii” Oct. 1906.

Labour Court (Conseil supérieur du travail), the Educational Court (Conseil supérieur de l'instruction publique), and in the Departmental School-boards (Conseils départementaux de l'instruction primaire).

Truth obliges us to confess that they seldom avail themselves of these privileges. The number of women traders who actually poll their votes is very small, especially so in the provinces; they are convinced that this action would render them ridiculous. Their abstention is a potent argument in the hands of the opponents of women's political suffrage.

As to the latter, an immense majority of women is indifferent to it, a certain number even opposed. In the provinces there is not one women's association for suffrage, and the Paris society finds members with difficulty. What it has accomplished, the reputation which it has acquired, in short all the partial triumphs it has achieved, are mostly due to the activity and untiring perseverance of its president, Mrs Hubertine Auclert.

From all this results that, in France, women will have votes before the majority among them desire it. But perhaps, in 1848, the men were in the same predicament. And is it not true that, in general, most reforms are only understood and desired by a minority?

We do not expect that the entrance of our sex into the electorate, which probably is not so very far off, would appreciably modify the consistence and strength of the parties. To be sure the most conservative and the most progressive wing would experience the greatest increase in strength, but the general situation would remain the same.

QUELS SONT LES ÉLECTEURS?

"Sont électeurs, sans condition de cens, tous les Français, âgés de vingt-un ans accomplis, jouissant de leurs droits civils et politiques, habitant dans la commune depuis six mois au moins (art 12-13 du décret organique pour l'élection des députés, du 2 février 1852)".

Ne sont pas électeurs, en vertu des articles 14 et 15 du même décret: 1°. les militaires en activité de service, les individus privés de leurs droits civils et politiques en vertu de certaines condamnations, et les faillis non réhabilités.

Le décret ne parle pas des femmes et c'est pourquoi plusieurs féministes ont pu engager des instances devant les tribunaux pour obtenir leur inscription sur les listes. Mais elles ont été constamment déboutées par toutes les juridictions. Paris, Jan. 1908.

JEANNE DEFLOU.

Great-Britain.

The event most interesting to the **National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies** was the Hull bye-election in Dec. which gave us a chance of putting our new bye-election policy into force. Once again the fact was proved that election time is the moment when men and women are in the mood for considering seriously and carefully a great question such as ours.

Instead of our large public meeting being less and less well attended as the novelty wore off, and as the candidates' meetings increased in number, the exact contrary was the case. The halls became fuller and fuller until over 200 people had to be turned away (from a hall holding 1100) at our third meeting, and a still larger number from our final one.

The audiences were almost entirely made up of sturdy and thoughtful looking citizens, idlers and people appearing to come only out of petty curiosity being strikingly absent.

When we see by the figures that our opponent **Sir George Baile**y polled a thousand votes less than the conservative candidate had done at the previous election, we may surely infer that our work was not in vain.

There is to be a labour conference at Hull this month, when several resolutions on women's suffrage will be moved, so that the general interest in the subject is being well maintained. Now we have an opportunity of carrying on the work in a very different constituency, the rural constituency of Mid Devon. The opening meeting was held in the Market Place. Mrs. Staubury began her speech to a group of about 30 which grew in some magic manner to a crowd of 400 in the space of a quarter of an hour—a very quiet orderly crowd packed closely together, and a crowd made up of all sorts and conditions of men. As Mr. Burton, the liberal candidate, does not consider the matter urgent and as the conservative candidate, Captain Morrison Bell, would only pledge himself to vote for a very restricted measure it was decided that the Society should not work for either but should devote itself to propaganda work.

In spite of some unfavourable weather the meetings are being well attended but unfortunately the ground to be covered is large, so that many parts will remain unvisited.

F. HARDCASTLE, Hon. Secretaries.
F. STERLING,
London, Jan. 1908.

The conditions and needs of Scotland being in many respects different from those of England, and therefore not easily understood in the latter country, the workers here have become convinced of the need for a purely Scottish movement. The local Women's Social and Political Unions north of the Tweed have therefore consolidated themselves under the name "**Scottish Women's Social and Political Union**", and formed a Committee, the Chairman of which is Mr. John Hunter, the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Burnet, the joint Hon. Secretaries, Mrs. Pearce and Miss Grace Paterson, while Miss Helen Fraser continues as Scottish Organiser. An office has been taken at 141 Bath St. which will be the Scottish headquarters of the Union.

This office will be formally opened on Jan. 11th, with an afternoon at Home, at which Lady Ramsay (Aberdeen) and Dr. Marion Gilchrist and Councillor Pratt (Glasgow) will speak. This will be followed by Further At Homes every week, such gatherings giving most valuable opportunities for rallying helpers, attracting funds, drawing in fresh supporters, and educating all who come to them.

Mr. Asquith, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is one of the bitterest opponents of Women's Suffrage in the Government, was recently addressing a meeting at Aberdeen, at the close of which a local minister, a known sympathiser of the Suffragists, rose to propose an amendment to the resolution. The chairman, however, quite erroneously declared the amendment out of order and a number of stewards brutally assaulted the proposer of it in an attempt to throw him out. He was allowed to remain, on the intercession of Mr. Murray, one of the Aberdeen M.P.'s, but a very strong feeling was aroused in the town against the chairman and the organisers of the

meeting, and a great many prominent Liberals joined in condemnation of their behaviour. A series of meetings will be held next week by Miss Fraser and myself in East Fife, Mr. Asquith's constituency.

Mr. Sinclair, the Secretary for Scotland, while he was speaking at a meeting at Kirkintilloch, near Glasgow, was frequently interrupted by women who audibly, but quite relevantly, reminded him of the position of women under the Liberal government, of whose achievements for the welfare of the nation he so proudly boasted. After promising to deal with the matter at the end of his speech, he broke his word by running off the platform and leaving the meeting in great haste, just as one of the women rose to put a question. She continued standing and protesting against Mr. Sinclair's conduct, when policemen entered, and ejected all the women who had spoken. So great was the excitement in Kirkintilloch that Miss Helen Fraser and I were shortly after invited to explain "Why we heckled Captain Sinclair", at a meeting arranged for the purpose. Many had to be turned at the door, and the large audience listened attentively, and was so far convinced by our arguments that it passed unanimously a resolution calling on the Government to enfranchise women immediately "or resign".

So we enter 1908 full of energy, and confidence in the methods that have already done so much to make the movement a living and growing one. Glasgow, Jan 1908.

MARY PHILLIPS.

Certain members of the **Women's Freedom League** have been refusing to pay their taxes. They have revived the old liberal cry "Taxation without representation is tyranny". The Liberals are gnashing their teeth with vexation at the thought that they ever said anything so true. They excuse themselves by explaining that, when they uttered this maxim on every platform in the kingdom, they never foresaw that it would be taken up and made use of by women, or monkeys, or any other creatures of a different species to themselves.

Of course they do not state the case in these exact words, but this is their thought, and they clothe it in the poetic language that an English politician alone of all politicians knows so well how to use. Meanwhile the tax-collectors are doubtless using language the reverse of poetic, and our passive resisters content themselves with a repetition of their laconic protest "no vote, no tax".

They will have to pay the tax, as their houses will be forcibly entered and their goods stolen and sold by representatives of this burglarious government, but they have the satisfaction of shewing up the hypocrisy of the claim that England is a free country in possession of a democratic constitution.

Further police-court protests have been made, several courts having been visited on the same day.

These demonstrations are effective (gaining as they do a good deal of notice in the press) in that they bring home to the minds of women one more form of injustice to be directly attributed to the exclusion of our sex from politics.

Our meetings continue to be well-attended, a hopeful feature being the ever-increasing number of earnest women who form a large part of the audiences. Members of our League have discovered a cheap and healthy way of advertising the meetings. A corps of Sandwich-board ladies

has been formed. The announcements are pasted on to light cardboard, the ladies array themselves in these and march in an imposing line through the principal streets of London.

They are assailed by the usual street ridicule but they are too accustomed to that to mind; their only complaint being that the jokes are so stale. If ever Englishmen cease to ridicule their country women, we shall feel that something valuable has gone out of our lives. Mr. John Burns, President of the Local Governments Board, convulsed a large gathering of male electors a fortnight ago by saying to an interrupting suffragist: "Look at me, miss, I am a married man."

We should like to be informed through these columns whether the statesmen of other countries ever rise to these giddy heights of intellectual wit and humour.

We are shortly to introduce propaganda by gramophone. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Billington-Greig and Mrs. How-Martyn have been holding forth into one of these useful instruments. Most gramophones we know, are possessed of an American twang toned off with a Cockney accent — both beautiful things when taken separately. We are waiting with much trepidation for the reproduction of our friends' pieces. It must be added that several prominent speakers — ladies and gentlemen who are friends of our movement — have kindly given us records. If the records of these speeches are satisfactory, we expect to be much helped by our whilome enemy the gramophone.

London, Jan. 1908.

MAUDE FITZ HERBERT.

The Netherlands.

The ministerial crisis, apprehended in our November-number, has really come about in the end of 1907, which is a misfortune for the cause of women's enfranchisement. Now it is wholly uncertain what will be the fate of the project of changing the Constitution; and it is even possible that there may come a dissolution of the Second Chamber, followed by new elections.

Meanwhile, during the two months after the publication of the Government's Constitution-project with its explanatory remarks so favorable to woman suffrage, our N. W. S. A. achieved much success in press and public opinion by publishing its *Researches on Woman Suffrage*, and moreover the different political parties felt the obligation to define their standpoint on the subject of women's enfranchisement. The Liberal Union, one of the three fractions of the Liberals, has issued a declaration "that surely nowadays the exclusion of all women from citizenship is no longer in the interest of the community", yet, strangely enough, they only propose to enfranchise unmarried women, and among them only those above thirty years old. The Roman Catholic party too has now published the views of a committee of five members appointed to give a report on the proposed change of the Constitution. Two of these are in favor of universal suffrage, founding their claim on a text from a treatise by St. Thomas of Aquino which says: "That all should in some way take part in the government, as a means for the preservation of peace",—and of these two members one is for manhood-suffrage and the other for a gradual enfranchisement of women as well.

Thus the different political parties are gradually

coming round to recognize the justice of our claim, and we hope that this year's congress will give a new impetus to their conviction.

The annual meeting of the N. W. S. A. at Haarlem was a success and a welcome occasion of planning new propaganda-work and of meeting fellow-workers in pleasant social gatherings.

Of course the Amsterdam congress of June 1908 formed the principal subject of discussion and arrangements. We hope to welcome a great many delegates and friends of the cause, and those who wish to become members of the congress should send 5 Dutch florins to Miss J. W. A. Naber, 5 Van Eeghenstraat, Amsterdam. This sum secures admission to all the sessions of the congress, and the sooner the Reception Committee is acquainted with the number of visitors, the better it can provide for their accommodation, if desired.

MARTINA G. KRAMERS.

Rotterdam, Jan. 1908.

Russia.

There is not much to say on the women's movement in Russia during the end of 1907. The barometer of the social and political atmosphere stands very low. It is quite evident that the revolution is put down. The movement for liberty has been checked; while reaction stands triumphant and mighty... The depressed state of mind of the progressive elements in Russia, the general feeling of discouragement, could not fail to have a fatal influence in the women's movement in Russia. We cannot help seeing that, until now, the only equal right which we, women, have gained under our so-called constitution is the equality of right before the scaffold. Thus, while capital punishment for women has been abolished years ago (law of 58) five women have been hung in the space of fifteen months (between 29 August 1906 and December 1907) all for political crimes, while at the same time hundreds of other women have been tortured and killed in the terrible executions in the Caucasus, in the Baltic provinces, etc.

There is little hope of better times at present. The third Douma has proved, until now, obedient and docile towards the reactionary government. No wonder that its moral authority stands very weak.

However in the darkness, which covers the political horizon of Russia, we perceive, now and then, some bright stars which sustain our faith in humanity and give us the courage to go on with our social work. Such was the impression produced by the trials of the members of the 1st Douma, tried for the Viborg manifesto—for their attempt to defend our constitution from the enemies of liberty, and to give an account of their acts to the people, which had elected them.

The conduct of the accused at the trial was a grand and noble sight. Not one of them; not one said a word which might alleviate the sentence of the judges. All proclaimed the truth before the Court of Justice and denounced before the whole world the unlawful acts of our reactionary government; all stood up for liberty and truth. Such was the bearing of the ex-members of the 1st Douma at their trial, that their judges were themselves confounded; and it seemed as if their respective parts in the law-court were reversed,—as if the accused exchanged places with their judges... Perhaps the most pathetic moment of this great modern tragedy was the trial of several

peasants ex-members of the 1st Douma. Questioned as to their conduct in May and June 1906, they shortly described their struggle for liberty. „I have done my duty, I have been approved by the people, that has elected me”, said Schaposhnikoff, „as to the rest, whether you condemn me or not, I do not care”.—“I have signed the Viborg manifesto with a thorough knowledge of its contents”, said another deputy, Dragoff, „and whether you condemn me or not, that does not concern me. One thing I shall say: you have power and might, but the right is not on your side”.

In the same proud, noble spirit did all the 158 accused ex-members of the 1st Douma speak in the historical trial of December 1907.

The sentence of the Court of Justice is known: almost all the above mentioned ex-deputies have been condemned to three months of prison and have been deprived of all their political rights...

When the sentence was passed, the Moscow Committee of the Russian Union for Women's Rights despatched to the condemned ex-deputies of the 1st Douma the following address: „You have been condemned by the representatives of justice—by those who were silent after the act of June 3 1906, when the people's rights and the constitutional laws were trampled on. I, that moment, so shameful for Russia, we, members of the „Russian Union for Women's Rights”, without distinction of parties, we want to express to you the feelings that animate us. Twenty months ago the Russian people elected you as its representatives and sent you to the 1st Douma in order to secure the right of free political and economical development, gained through such painful sacrifices. You have justified the confidence of your electors; from the first moment of your activity, you have proclaimed the equality of all citizens without distinction of sex, nationality and class. The powers inimical to the liberation of our country have stopped your activity; and when you endeavoured to indicate the means of defending the violated rights of the people, you were summoned before the Judge. But not as culprits did you appear before the eyes of all the civilized world, but as the real judges of those, who infringed the rights of the Russian people. We warmly greet the courage and noble dignity which you, worthy representatives of our country, showed at the Court of Justice. The sentence of December 18 1907 has covered with shame the oppressors of liberty, and has immortalized the names of their victims, the first parliamentary defenders of the liberty of Russia”.

Moscow, 4 Jan. 1908.

Z. MIROVITCH.

Australia.

In five short years the women of New South Wales have been called upon to take part in four big political battles.

The State election held on the 10th of September was perhaps the least exciting of the four Parliamentary elections, in which the women of New South Wales have so far taken part. The Commonwealth franchise was granted to women during the first Federal Parliament in accordance with a provision in the Federal Constitution, for which by the way we have chiefly to thank the South Australian delegates who assisted in the forming of the Constitution. Women therefore voted for the first time for members of Parliament at the Federal Election in December, 1903.

The State Parliamentary franchise having been

granted to women in August, 1902, women voted for the first time at the State election of 1904. This in itself was productive of much enthusiasm on the part of the women, but the wide-spread discontent with the Government then in power, with the management of the finances and the three-party system and the eagerness for „reform” on the part of the public made this election one of particular interest, and the women acquitted themselves splendidly; they „made their mark” as it were.

The Reform Government in the State, having done remarkably well and kept election pledges as few, if any, Governments have done, went to the country on the 10th of Sept. with a splendid record of work and with legislation to its credit which appealed especially to the women voters and to the better portion of the men. Under these circumstances one expected the Government to gain an easy victory. Some surprises were, however, held in store for us. The very Acts which made the Government so popular with one section of the people, made it proportionally unpopular with another section. The Liquor and Gaming Acts roused its opponents and caused the loss of some seats. But even so, we are willing to pay that for such measures as the Liquor and Gambling Acts. We won two seats from the labour socialists in the country—Orange and Macquarie, held by Messrs. Gardiner and Thrower, and won by Messrs. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick and Barton.

The Premier is quite satisfied, and so he should be with some 56 to 58 supporters against an opposition of 29 and, adding independents, possibly 32.

H. M. PARKES.

In the „Monthly Record of the Women's Liberal League.”

Sydney, Sept. 1907.

The President of the Queanbeyan W.L.L. sent the following resolution to their Federal representative:—

„That the meeting of the Queanbeyan Women's Liberal League, emphatically protests against the proposed imposition of the new tariff, there being no need for additional revenue, and the amount of taxation on individuals is already too great and if imposed would press very heavily on the working classes.”

On Oct. 14th, the W. L. L. of N. S. W. organised a meeting at the Town Hall in Sydney to protest against the tariff where also a similar motion was put and carried by acclamation. An anti-tariff petition has been signed by 4,261 women from all parts of N. S. W. within a week.

The Monthly Record of the Women's Liberal League of New South Wales says:

Some indifference on the part of women may proceed from a false and imperfect conception of politics. A woman will say when asked to vote, „Oh! I leave all that to the men! I look after my home and children! That is woman's work.”

Yes, and it is just because politics have so much to do with home and family that it is the bounden duty of every woman to take an interest in them.

Just now she realises readily that politics do exercise a great influence over household matters. The crushing burden imposed by the Federal tariff forces this conviction upon her every time she goes shopping.

On the other hand, she learns with pleasure that her children's school fees are remitted, that the salary of her husband—employed on the rail-

ways—is increased, and that a substantial reduction is made in railway fares and freights.

A few branches of the W. L. L. we regret, are not working with the desirable zeal because, as it is explained, „we cannot work for the man whom we opposed last election, and who said so many unpleasant things about us in consequence,” from which it will be seen that „coalitions” of opposing parties are not as a rule viewed favourably by women.

„All is fair in war and politics”, so the male politician says and his brother, the male elector, often echoes his sentiments; not so the female electors—that is, some do, but fortunately for „the raising of the standard of public life,” not the majority. One of the missions of the W.L.L. is to try and convert all politicians in need of conversion, and their army of helpers, to the doctrine that „all is not fair in politics” any more than in any other sphere of human relationship. Neither should we shut our eyes to the faults and failings of men simply because they belong to our own party, while we strongly condemn similar actions on the part of our political opponents. Party loyalty is a fine sentiment, but Principle stands higher. We are not justified in sacrificing „principle” to „party.”

Fortunately for the women of the Liberal party conflicts between the higher principles and the interests of the party are rarely threatened. In the event of such a contingency, our members, who are individually at liberty to act as each thinks best, will no doubt know how to put the greater issue before the lesser. Here is where the necessary cultivation of a sense of proportion becomes particularly valuable.

MARTINA G. KRAMERS.

Switzerland.

The cantonal W. S. A. of Vaud, formed in June 1907, has now more than 100 members. This winter it has decided to give a course of lectures, of which the first took place on Dec. 7. Miss L. Dutoit, the secretary of the association, gave an address on the growth of the demand for women's enfranchisement. This conference was a complete success and it was well attended. Miss D. gave a review of Ch. Secrétan's theory on women's rights, which according to this philosopher form an essential part of human rights, for, as long as women are disenfranchised, *universal suffrage* is only a word. Then she gave a rapid analysis of the opinions of Stuart Mill, Ch. Gide, Georges Renard, etc. and a short review of the changed social position of women in historic times. The speaker ended with a description of the International Council of Women and the work in America, Australia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Holland, Germany and Italy, and, in conclusion, she showed that Switzerland, so often called „the sociological laboratory,” is the most backward country in Europe with respect to women's rights.

The second conference took place eight days later; this time a lawyer, Mr. Méau, gave the address. He treated the legal position of women in the civil code of Vaud, in a very clear and concise way without being in the least tedious. In our cantonal code, since 1875, unmarried women that have come of age enjoy the same rights as men with the exception of the franchise, but by marrying they lose their civil estate. The speaker gives details on the conjugal property

system, which approaches joint property. Since 1899 the law confers upon married women the entire disposition of the salary they earn.

The reader knows that our civil code is going to be made national, the project has been adopted by the Chambers of the Federal Parliament, but it has yet to obtain the sanction of the people before entering into force in 1912. That is why our Executive thought desirable to have explained that part of the new code which especially concerns women, and in January we are going to have another lecture on this subject which, I hope, will prove of interest to women.

* * *

Voici quelques extraits de notre Constitution Fédérale où vous verrez que dans aucun cas la femme n'est exclue du droit de vote, seulement le mot de *citoyen* ne comprend, chez nous, comme dans beaucoup d'autres pays, que la moitié de l'humanité.

§ 74. Chap. II. A droit de prendre part aux élections et aux votations tout Suisse, âgé de vingt ans révolus et qui n'est du reste point exclu du droit de citoyen actif par la législation du canton, dans lequel il a son domicile.

Toutefois la législation fédérale pourra régler d'une façon uniforme l'exercice de ce droit.

§ 43. Chap. I. Tout citoyen d'un canton est citoyen suisse. Il peut à ce titre prendre part, au lieu de son domicile, à toutes les élections et votations en matière fédérale, après avoir dûment justifié sa qualité d'électeur.

Nul ne peut exercer des droits politiques dans plus d'un canton, etc. En matière cantonale et communale il devient électeur après un établissement de trois mois.

Enfin l'art. 4, Chap. I dit que tous les Suisses sont égaux devant la loi. Il n'y a en Suisse ni sujets, ni privilèges de lieu, de naissance, de personnes, de familles.

Castel d'Ai, décembre 1907.

A. GIRARDET VIELLE.

Sweden.

During the month of December, the darkest time of the year when light is diminishing with every day and at last is quite conquered by darkness, you would think that the inhabitants of the North of our Country would lie in a sort of winter sleep. But I am glad to say that this has not been the case with regard to women's suffrage. As the weeks have passed and the time for the Riksdag to open is approaching (the Riksdag opens on Jan. 15th), the interest in this question has become livelier than before. No less than three Suffrage Societies were founded in the North of Sweden during December namely at Oernshöldsvik, Kramfors and Arvidsjaur.

On Dec, 15th a large meeting was held in Sundsvall. It was called by the Suffrage Society in Sundsvall in connection with six other women's societies here and was attended by 800 persons, men and women.

Except Mrs. Ellen Hagen from Upsala, who gave an enthusiastic lecture, the presidents of the different Women's Unions and three members of the Riksdag spoke that evening. All urged a rapid solution of the Women's Suffrage question. Storms of applause greeted the lecturers' words.

A resolution claiming suffrage for women on the same terms as for men was adopted with enthusiasm by all present.

Sundsvall, Jan. 1908.

ANNA LÖRGREN.

Finland.

Since the closing of the Diet, which took place early in November, there is not much of general interest to report from Finland.

The women belonging to the Young Finnish party have started a new political organisation under the name of "**Finnish Women's Alliance**" which has been gaining ground rapidly. In the short time of a few months, 85 branch-societies have been founded, and the Finnish Women's Alliance seems to have a promising future. The leaders are Lucina Hagman, Doctor Tekla Hultin, Doctor Maikki Friberg, Alli Nissinen, Mathilda v. Troil, and some other prominent members of the Young Finnish party.

The women belonging to the Swedish national party of Finland have also made a similar attempt to organize the Swedish speaking women, and for that purpose formed the "**Swedish Women's Association**". Unfortunately this attempt has met with little sympathy, and the association has had to struggle with many difficulties, which it will take some time to surmount. The Executive Committee of the Swedish Women's Association consists of 9 members of whom I name: Lilly Krogius, Anna Lundström, doctor Ellen Ahlquist, Annie Furuholm.

It may possibly excite some astonishment that the women of Finland, who are in possession of full citizenship, have organized themselves into separate associations, instead of working together with men; and so this fact needs some explanation.

Both the above-named societies have been formed in order to promote political insight amongst women, for it must always be kept in mind that our enfranchisement came very suddenly and that many women were either wholly ignorant or wholly indifferent to public affairs. Moreover adult suffrage has brought to the fore elements that hitherto have had little to do with politics, and great social reforms are impending, so it seemed of vital importance that the women voters should feel their responsibility in taking an active part in the legislation of their country. All this put together gave the impetus to start special political organizations for women, as experience has shown that the average woman has much to learn in regard to politics.

The recognition of this fact ought to tranquillize those opponents of women's suffrage, who have tried to make believe that women were not likely, to take their political rights "au sérieux". The experience of Finland has shown on the contrary that women's suffrage has awakened the feeling of responsibility, which makes women of different classes anxious to deepen their insight and knowledge in a field which hitherto had been closed to them.

Helsingfors, Jan. 5, 1908.

ANNIE FURUHJELM.

Norway.

The five women elected as Municipal Representatives in Kristiania are: Miss Othilie Tonning (Anti-alcoholist) Mrs. Martha Tynaes (Labour party), Miss Marie Hansen, Mrs Marianne Naerup, Miss Anna Rogstad (Conservative party). The conservatives may certainly be expected to elect a woman as representative in the new Town Council (formandskab). It will be remembered that formerly Miss Elise Heyerdahl was the female delegate of the Conservatives in the Formandskab.

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