

# JUS SUFFRAGII,

PUBLISHED BY THE  
INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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

SECOND YEAR No. 6.

FEBRUARY 15, 1908.

I stand to-night the advocate of *man's* rights. Because we need it, woman should be eligible to all public trusts, and should have the same liberty of suffrage that man now has.

HENRY WARD BEECHER.



It never will rain roses; when we want to have more roses, we must plant more trees.

GEORGE ELIOT.

PRICE 2 DUTCH FLORINS PER YEAR.

## Editorial Announcements.

As the Hon. Treasurer through illness had to lay down her work suddenly and cannot be appealed to for information, the new Treasurer would feel glad if any country or individual whose membership-fee has not been paid for the current year, would send it in now or communicate with her. Her address is: Mrs. Adela Stanton Coit, 30 Hyde Park Gate, London S.W.

## Sweden.

The 5th Annual Meeting of the Central Committee of the General Suffrage Association took place on the 8th and 9th of January at Gäfle, a residential town some 180 kilometers north of Stockholm. No less than 42 local societies were represented by 46 delegates who had many of them travelled by day and night, by frost and snow, to be present at the two days' congress and afterwards to continue to Stockholm where a three days' course in Sociology was arranged for members.

In her opening-speech the president pointed out the great progress the Women's Suffrage movement had made in the last year. The General Association, which at the end of 1906 counted 73 local Societies, had formed 43 new branches during the year. Since May last about 70 meetings had been held all over the country, attended by thousands of men and women demanding that Suffrage should be granted to women by the Parliament of 1908. At a large number of these meetings members of Parliament had spoken. One positive result of our work is to be found in the fact that our cause has been embraced by the Liberal party which has made the introduction of woman's suffrage in 1908 part of their programme. As to the attitude of the Government with regard to our question, the president was authorized by the Prime Minister on that occasion to state, that the Government did not intend to place a woman's Suffrage bill before the Parliament this year. This news was received with indignation by the assembly. There was however

but one opinion as regards our campaign, and no one was in doubt of the issue, even if the fight were longer and more violent than had hitherto been expected. The immediate result of the Prime Minister's message was that the great public meeting which was held in connection with the congress, and at which two members of Parliament (Liberals) were among the speakers, was against the Government. A resolution was unanimously passed to protest against the decision of the Government. The town of Gäfle, which had spared nothing to make the 5th Annual Meeting a success, and which showed the greatest hospitality although, almost surpassed itself in splendid arrangements for this public meeting held in the beautiful new theatre. The speeches were excellent each in its way. In everyone of them there was to be noted an undertone of indignation, but also a fervent determination to succeed—*quand même*.

Among the important decisions of the congress was that of adding the word eligibility to art. 1 of our constitution which will now run thus: "The General Association is a union of Local Societies working to obtain political suffrage and eligibility for Swedish women on the same as for Swedish men".

The married women's municipal suffrage bill was another question of great importance. Unmarried women in this country have had municipal Suffrage, as the readers of "Jus Suffragii" will know, since 1862; and last year's Parliament granted them municipal eligibility. The congress decided that the General Association should try to get a Married Women's Suffrage Bill presented by the leader of the Liberal party. Our request has already been complied with and the bill presented in due course.

Much attention was paid to the scheme worked out by the Executive Board and put before the meeting by the president, for the reorganisation of the General Association. The tremendous growth of the movement and ever increasing numbers of local societies makes it necessary for the latter to form larger unions comprising the societies of each county or province. The beginning of an organisation on those lines has already been



made in the south of Surden where representatives of all the societies of Skoane, 14 in number, have met together to prepare the organization for that district.

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The Parliament met on the 15th of January and for the first time in Swedish history the King's Speech contained a few words referring to the question of woman's suffrage. The Government was not going to present a Woman's Suffrage Bill this session... The message delivered at Gäfle had thus got the king's approval so to say, but the opposition parties at once set to work. The Liberals, the Lindhagen group and the Labour party have each presented their own suffrage bills, all including suffrage and eligibility for women. It is to be hoped that the question will gain a majority in the Grand Committee, in which case the possibility of a majority in the second chamber is not excluded.

SIGNE BERGMAN.

Stockholm, Febr. 7, 1908.

### Denmark.

The telegram in "Jus Suffragii" for the 15th of January announcing that "Women of Denmark obtained to-day municipal suffrage" was a somewhat premature report.

The fact is that — owing to a compromise made on the 10th of January between the parties of our Rigsdag (Parliament) — *there is every prospect of Danish Women obtaining municipal suffrage during this session, but the law has not yet been finally carried.*

VIBEKE SALICATH.  
(President of the N. W. A. S.)  
Copenhagen 27th January 1908.

The agreement of the different parties: the Free Conservative party, the Reform-party (government party) the Liberal party—which at last proposed a wording of the Suffrage Bill that they all could approve, so that probably within a couple of months it will become law—has created general activity. For inscription before the end of January on the lists of tax-payers, gives to women the right to vote for members of Municipal Councils in March 1909 and eligibility for the same in Copenhagen and in the Parish Councils in the country. The chief aim of the Suffrage Bill is the admission of women. The extension of the Law means only, that the census of taxation giving the right of voting has been lowered from an income of Kr. 1000 to one of Kr. 800. "By the payment of an annual tax of Kr. 5 you are entitled to a vote!" say the papers of all parties to their readers. "Make haste, all of you, unmarried women, go and enrol yourselves as taxpayers! If you do not do it now, you will have to wait until 1913, before you can vote. The session of the Municipal Councils lasts 4 years; after which period all the seats are vacant for new elections. Make haste and see that you are on the lists!" Married women, whose husbands are tax-payers are already on the lists. The appeals are chiefly intended for those, who have to announce themselves as new tax-payers and voters, after the census has been lowered and women admitted.

We see from this that the agreement of the different parties was the chief requisite for getting Women Suffrage and how the law is considered its natural result.

And we hear, that on January 31st—the last day of inscription for the election—a perfect rush of women to the registry-office has taken place, to ascertain in the very last moment, that they shall be voters in March 1909.

What a change for the women of Denmark, who have been envying their more lucky Scandinavian sisters for years! At last righteousness has prevailed.

For this we consider ourselves indebted to the Alliance holding its convention here in the summer of 1906, and thereby totally changing the opinion of Denmark on Women-Suffrage. Many women here understand this and feel deeply their debt of gratitude to the Alliance.

JOHANNA MÜNTER.

Copenhagen, February 5th, 1908.

### Great Britain.

The by-election work of the **National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies** in Mid-Devon went on very steadily and by polling day we had succeeded in making most of the electors recognize the importance of Woman's Suffrage. All the meetings were well attended and the speakers made enthusiastic converts.

Now we are working our hardest at Worcester and in South Leeds.

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A very successful Ball in aid of the funds of the London Society for Women's Suffrage realized over £ 100 and gave many supporters and some opponents a very delightful evening.

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A deputation from the Union waited on the Chancellor of the Exchequer Mr. Asquith on Jan. 30th. Unfortunately he could only tell us that there seemed no probability of the Liberal Government bringing any measure to extend the franchise to women. We shall however take his good advice to work in the constituencies as we are now doing.

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The Union also met the Parliamentary Committee for Women's Suffrage and urged the Members of Parliament to put pressure on the Government.

Now we are all delighted to hear that Mr. Stanger M.P. for North Kensington has won a place for a Woman's Franchise Bill. He has always been a staunch supporter and we wish him the best of luck.

Last year the Speaker refused us a division, so we are anxiously awaiting the result of a division this year, which will at last enable us to tell who are our friends and who are our foes. Mr. Stanger is introducing the Bill on Feb. 28th and we are all trying our best to bring pressure to bear on the M.P.'s whose opinions we believe are shaky or adverse.

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Our quarterly Council Meeting met on January 29th and was the most interesting we have had. The policy of the Union was discussed with much vigour.

Miss Mason, our treasurer, has asked for 5000 guineas to help us in our work and our members are responding nobly. Every day we are winning new friends.

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The College of Physicians has passed a resolution opening Examinations and Honours to women, but alas they cannot change their constitution

unless the College of Surgeons agrees. Still it shows the trend of public opinion.  
London, Febr., 1908. Miss CORBETT.

The **Women's Social & Political Union** was founded by Mrs. Pankhurst in 1903. It first came into public prominence in October 1905, when Miss Christabel Pankhurst L. L. B. and Miss Annie Kenney attended the meeting of Sir Edward Grey in Manchester to ask him whether the Liberal Government, then just about come into office, was prepared to enfranchise the women of the country. The persistence with which they demanded an answer to this question at the close of Sir Edward Grey's speech, led to a disorder in the meeting and the subsequent imprisonment of the two Suffragist Leaders. This event inaugurated the militant action of the Union.

In February 1906, the Movement which began in Manchester spread to London. Since then it has grown with great rapidity. In October 1906, large Central Offices were taken at 4, Clement's Inn, Strand, London, W. C. which had now become the Headquarters of the Movement. In the following Spring, the premises were doubled. They have just been doubled again and consist now of a suite of thirteen splendid rooms all on the same floor at 4, Clement's Inn.

The organization which in the beginning of 1906 had only one Organiser whose services were entirely devoted to the work, has at the present time sixteen Organisers who travel all over the country, holding meetings, stirring up enthusiasm and bringing the question to the notice of the public in every possible way. Its present chief Officers are:

Mrs. Pankhurst, Hon. Sec.  
Mrs. Tuke, Joint Hon. Sec.  
Miss Christabel Pankhurst LL. B. Organizing Sec.  
Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Hon. Treasurer.

The National W. S. P. U. has a Literature Department which does a turn-over of more than £ 1,000 a year. There is an official paper "Votes for Women" which is published in its full form once a month, supplements being published every week, furnishing news of the Movement to the Members of the Organization. The National W. S. P. U. is at the present time spending at the rate of £ 6000 a year upon its National agitation and propaganda. The Local W. S. P. Us. are financially independent and support their own local work.

The conditions of Membership are simple and yet extremely definite. Every Member must sign the following pledge:

"I endorse the Objects and Methods of the Women's Social & Political Union, and I hereby undertake not to support the candidate of any political party at Parliamentary elections until Women have obtained the Parliamentary vote."

The Objects and Methods are set out in the following way:

**Objects.** To secure for Women the Parliamentary Vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

**Methods.** The objects of the Union shall be promoted by:

- (1) Action entirely independent of all political parties.
- (2) Opposition to whatever Government is in power until such time as the franchise is granted.

- (3) Participation in Parliamentary Elections in opposition to the Government Candidate and independently of all other Candidates.
- (4) Vigorous agitation upon lines justified by the position of outlawry to which women at present are condemned.
- (5) The organising of Women all over the country to enable them to give adequate expression to their desire for political freedom.
- (6) Education of public opinion by all the usual methods, such as public meetings, demonstrations, debates, distribution of literature newspaper correspondence, and deputations to public representatives.

There is no fixed subscription as many of the Members are working women and are too poor to make individually any substantial contribution to the funds, though Members who sign the pledge are asked to pay at least 1/- a year to cover postal expenses of communications which they receive from time to time direct from Headquarters.

The programme of the National W. S. P. U. is arranged for the first six months of the year 1908. It opened with a public meeting for women on January 23rd in the Horticultural Hall, Westminster, to formulate the women's demand for Parliamentary action during the present Session. It is followed on February 11th, 12th and 13th by a Women's Parliament which will sit for three days and will resolve as to the best line of action to be pursued for enforcing their demand. Thereupon will follow a great Demonstration in the Royal Albert Hall, West Kensington, which is the largest Hall in London or indeed in the country. This meeting will be addressed by the Leaders of the organization. It will be the first time in the history of the Suffrage Movement, that the Royal Albert Hall has been taken for a Suffrage Demonstration. Then on Midsummer Day, Sunday, June 21st, there will be a very great popular Women's Demonstration in Hyde Park which will be attended by thousands of women not only from London but from all over the country.

To this article contributed by Mrs. Emmeline Pethick Lawrence, we may add the following news from "Votes for Women" of February.

The first of the great London meetings which are to mark the New Year was held on Thursday, January 23, in the Horticultural Hall. In spite of a dense fog a large number of women came to listen to the speeches, and over £ 150 was raised in collection and promises.

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The Women's Liberal Federation held a crowded meeting in the Queen's Hall, London, on Jan. 24, attended and addressed solely by women. And several of the speakers took up a more vigorous line than has been previously the case. Thus Miss Florence Balgarnie is reported to have said:—  
"We have been hewers of wood and drawers of water for the Liberal Party too long. We must look out for ourselves."

If these words are in due course followed by deeds, the Liberal Government will find they have more than one enemy to face if they persist in their refusal to enfranchise women during the present Parliament.

Ask sample-copies from the Editor.



The new headquarters of the **Women's Freedom League** for Scotland have been opened. The rooms were crowded with members and supporters. This served as an opportunity for holding a series of meetings in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Leith all of which were addressed by Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Billington Greig and others. Police court protests were made in Glasgow and Leith.

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The opening of Parliament by the King and Queen was made the occasion for a dramatic display by the members of the League for the purpose of calling the attention of the public to the question. Soon after their majesties left Buckingham Palace in the Cinderella coach, four women attempted to present them with a petition. The windows of the coach were up or the attempt would have been successful. The petition which set forth the services contributed by women to the state, prayed that the king would use his influence with his ministers for a Bill to enfranchise women this session.

There was no mention in the King's Speech of the claims of women to citizenship.

The next morning members of the League waited upon six of the Cabinet Ministers and presented them with memorials which:—

1st. Protested against the omission of Women's Suffrage from the King's Speech.

2nd. Demanded a pledge from each Minister that he would use his vote and his influence to get women enfranchised this session.

Failing to get such a pledge from a single minister, protest meetings were held on their doorsteps which were stopped by the police arresting the ringleaders. Nine women were arrested.

Mr. Asquith definitely stated on Jan. 30th that this Government does not intend to deal with the question; on the morning of the 31st a protest meeting was held outside his house, which resulted in more arrests being made. Though guilty of the same crime, their sentences vary from three to six weeks, and they have been placed in the second division as common criminals. Efforts have been made to get the prisoners put into the first division but without success.

If any person still doubts the fact that one sex cannot be trusted to mete out justice to the other, let him study the case of the Irish M.P. and the English women, all political offenders, the man treated as such, and the women treated as if they were drunken brawlers. The magistrates think to deter us by these savage and spiteful sentences. This is where they are mistaken. Their cruelty and stupidity will rouse more and more women to realise the necessity for revolt.

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Miss Benett, Dr. Helen Bouchier, Mrs. Duval, Mrs. Dempsey, Miss Ada Mocatta, Miss Munro, Miss Neilans, Miss Pearson, Mrs. Sainty, and Mrs. Sanderson are at the present moment suffering the rigours of our barbarous prison system—23 hours solitary confinement, one hour's silent shuffle round a yard, dressed in impossible clothes, eating unpalatable food with a wooden spoon out of unsavoury tins, listening to many words of harshness but none of kindness. Such are the methods by which enlightened Englishmen are striving unsuccessfully to crush the spirit of Freedom awakening in women.

EDITH HOW-MARTYN.

London, Febr, 1908.

## The Netherlands.

To-morrow, Februari 12th., our new cabinet is going to enter upon its functions. It is not composed of one political party, but the conservative-clerical element dominates. We are as yet uncertain as to its attitude towards women's rights. Some politicians predict a possible dissolution of the Chambers followed by new elections in the near future. In a word: everything is uncertain as far as the Government is concerned. Not so our propaganda: within a month's time we formed four new branch societies of the N. W. S. A. and new members are pouring in. This is partly owing to the favor we found with the former Ministry, but certainly no less to the approaching congress of the I. W. S. Alliance in Amsterdam on June 15, 1908. Both help to support our agitation.

MARTINA G. KRAMERS.

The *Central Committee for the Reception of the Congress of the Intern. Woman Suffr. Alliance*, to be opened at Amsterdam on June 15, is to take place in the Concert Palace, and on that occasion we hope to receive our honoured guests with the execution of a cantata, led by the composer, one of our most distinguished Dutch musicians. On the evening of the same day will be given a great reception which will offer an opportunity for more informal intercourse. The rest of the time will be devoted, during the forenoon, to the affairs of the I. W. S. All. and, during the evening, to public meetings where the best speakers from our affiliated countries will show their talents in advocating political equality of men and women from different points of view. The Wednesday afternoon is destined for a young people's meeting, a gathering of University-students and pupils of the advanced classes of High Schools and Lyceums, which we hope will prove an excellent means of propaganda among the rising generation.

For the rest the afternoons are left free for relaxation, for tea-parties, sight-seeing, little trips in Amsterdam's environs. On Saturday night a great farewell-supper will be given in the big hall of the Concert-Palace, and for the ensuing day we are planning a boat-excursion probably on the Zaan at Alkmaar, so that even the northern parts of Holland may get a glimpse of the congressists. Moreover some branch-societies of the N. W. S. A. may be expected to invite the members and delegates on the ensuing days, that they may not leave our country without a friendly remembrance of Dutch hospitality.

Persons who have no function in the I. W. S. Alliance can become members of the congress on payment of five Dutch florins, which will secure admission to all the sessions of the Congress. The committee therefore begs those who intend to take part in the proceedings to send in as soon as possible their name and address plus a postal order of 5 Dutch florins to the address of: **Mejuffrouw Johanna W. A. Naber, 5 Van Eeghenstraat, Amsterdam.**

We intend to publish shortly a list of the congress-members and would feel very proud if that list could be swelled from the first by a great many names of foreign members. They may feel sure of a hearty welcome.

National W. S. Associations in affiliated countries are earnestly requested to see that this be published in their women's papers.

JOHANNA W. A. NABER.

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.

## United States.

The past year has seen a wonderful awakening of interest in our cause in two directions—namely among club women and on the part of the press.

There was a time, not very long past, when women suffrage was a topic forbidden in the meetings of many women's clubs. "Religion and politics" were not to be placed upon their programs and woman suffrage was believed to be a "political" theme, which seems very funny to some of us when we consider how very much outside of politics we women are. But now these same clubs are not only willing to hear our subject discussed but they themselves invite speakers to present it at their meetings both local and State. This has come about through the experience of the club women along the numerous lines of public work in which they are engaged, for in almost every case they find themselves hampered and much of the effect of their work lost, through their lack of a vote. Whatever may be said of our very rich women and their lack of public spirit, it is also true that we have a great army of women who, while they have not yet entered the women suffrage ranks, are pledged to various works for the public good. These women have developed a civic conscience which promises well for the future of the country when American women receive the ballot.

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We have had a recent accession to the list of really influential publications endorsing woman suffrage editorially. This is "Collier's" an illustrated weekly journal of large circulation in the entire eastern part of the country. In December the editor of "Collier's" came out definitely and clearly for the enfranchisement of women.

Our cause is evidently recognized even by the indifferent, as being of interest to general readers, for one of our leading magazines of *fashion* (think of it!) "The Delineator", in its January list of attractions for the coming year, promises its readers six articles on various phases of the woman suffrage movement, all to be written by prominent writers.

When editors and fashion magazines take us up, we are surely not far from becoming popular!

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The most important work of the winter has been the woman suffrage Hearing at the Constitutional Convention in the State of Michigan. The President of the Michigan Woman Suffrage Association, Mrs. Clara B. Arthur, had all the arrangements in her hands and we feel that it was the best hearing our cause has ever had before such a body of men.

For some years our National Association has presented our cause at the annual conventions (State and National) of all associations of men or of women at which we could secure a hearing. As a result of constant work along this line, a great number of influential organisations have, during the last few years, passed woman suffrage resolutions. The influence of this line of work

was made manifest in Michigan when within about four months, the State women suffrage society was able to secure petitions from 240,000 men and women asking the Constitutional Convention to incorporate woman suffrage into the new State Constitution.

These petitions were presented a few at a time each morning for several weeks preceeding our Hearing, so the members of the Convention could not say that none of their constituents desired a suffrage clause in the document which they were framing.

The Hearing was granted by the Committee on Elections which has charge of all subjects relating to suffrage — but it was attended by the majority of the members of the entire Convention.

The State President spoke as did also representatives of ten other State organisations of women, and then our National President, Rev. Anna Shaw, made a brilliant and touching appeal. As a result of the Hearing, the Committee has reported *unanimously* in favor of the woman suffrage clause. It remains now to pass the Convention in *three* readings. It has certainly started splendidly and the Michigan workers are very hopeful.

RACHEL FOSTER AVERY.

Swarthmore, P.a., Jan'y 27, '08.

Miss Laura Clay from Lexington, Ky. writes:— "I have also just received news from Oregon, that the suffragists have secured the requisite number of signatures, and fifteen hundred to spare, to the Initiative Petition for a constitutional amendment granting women the right to full suffrage. Under their state law of the Initiative and Referendum, securing this petition makes it obligatory to take a vote of the electors at the General Election in the coming June. It is the most important piece of suffrage news of this year in our country."

## Canada.

The Canadian Suffrage Association are particularly encouraged with this year's work. The press has shown an unusual interest in the movement and hardly an issue of our leading weeklies but what has some item on the subject as well as many splendid editorials in its favor. At the Executive of the National Council the delegate for the Canadian Suffrage Association was assured of the sympathy and interest of the National Council. The city council of Toronto, passed a resolution to extend municipal suffrage to married women and we have every hope that the provincial legislature will pass a law to this effect. We sent congratulations to Norway through "Jus Suffragii" and regretted that the same was not published. \*)

We shake hands across the miles with all sister societies and wish for greater victories in 1908.

FLORA MACD. DENISON,  
Chairman of the Press.  
Canadian Suffrage Association.

Toronto, January, 1908.

At a well attended meeting of persons interested in the extension of the franchise to women, the Toronto Suffrage Association was organized and the officers were elected.

\*) I regret to say that I failed to understand this was the meaning of the Toronto paper I received in November.  
Editor.



In 1909 a convention of the supporters of the movement will be held in Toronto, when some of the most prominent women of the world will be present.

Mrs. MacDonald Denison reported on her recent trip to Guelph in the interests of the movement, and announced that she was about to start on a trip to New Brunswick in order to extend the work there.

The various reports presented showed that the interest for the movement was increasing among the women of the country.

The support of the National Council of Women, of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and kindred organizations has been promised.

(Toronto Daily Star.)

### Italy.

In northern Italy the Christian-democratic women have begun the struggle for the obtention of women's rights. At Milan the „Federazione Femminile“ is the centre of their organization, and from there emanate many activities tending towards the betterment of women's economical and social position. Nor does this content the Milan Christian-democratic women. Together with their labor for organisation, they have also undertaken agitation by giving lectures every week in the neighbouring villages, and the group which edits the review *Pensiero ed Azione* held a congress which made an excellent preparation for the Congress of Italian Women to be arranged by the National Council of Women in March of this year in Rome. This new departure of the N. C. will certainly promote mutual understanding and collaboration between different groups of women workers in the north, the south and the middle of the country. Though women's political rights are not on the programme, the fact that Prof. Teresa Labriola is President of the juridical section assures us that they will not be entirely forgotten.

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At Turin a section of the N. W. S. A. (Comitato Nazionale per il voto alle Donne) has been formed, which intends to begin a vigorous agitation. It meets every first Friday in the month and has for its organ the paper *l'Alleanza*. On January 10 it decided to send two delegates to the Congress of Italian Women in Rome in order to make known its wishes with regard to woman Suffrage and women's salaries.

Another section of the N. W. S. A. has been formed at Bari, which has already begun an active agitation in the neighbouring villages, helped to institute a women's club *Pensiero ed Azione*, and resolved to become auxiliary to the National Committee for Universal Suffrage, with a view to keeping women's rights to the fore in that association.

MARTINA G. KRAMERS.

### Germany.

On January 14 the Supreme Court of Prussia (Oberverwaltungsgericht), being the highest court of appeal, has refused the claim of women to be registered as municipal electors which had been presented by Mrs. Minna Cauer from Berlin, Mrs. Elizabeth Hirsch from Liegnitz and Miss Käthe Rhode from Danzig.

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Shortly after the town of Charlottenburg resolved to give three women a seat and a vote on the municipal committee for the Relief of the Poor, Friedenau, a suburb of Berlin, is now going to grant votes to women for the Educational Board. The Town Council made women eligible for the schoolboard (Kuratorium) which supervises the High Schools, on the same terms as men. This resolution has to be confirmed by the Government. At Breslau a meeting called by eight women's associations claimed the participation of women in the inspection of schools. The speaker, Mrs. Marie Wegner, had the satisfaction of announcing that the magistrate intended to give a lady teacher a seat on the Breslau Educational Board (Schuldeputation).

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The Bavarian Chamber of Councillors (Kammer der Reichsräte) resolved to propose an amendment to the Poor Law which will take away the obstacles that have hitherto prevented the entrance of women into official Charity Boards. If the Diet (Landtag) adopts this new law, it will certainly be due to repeated memoirs and petitions from women's associations, also from the N.W.S.A.

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In an article in the „Kommunale Praxis“ No. 48, Luise Zietz draws attention to the law of the principality of Schwarzburg-Sondershausen, which admits as electors for Town Councils all persons having paid taxes for the last two years and independent in earning their livelihood. The same law stipulates that only men are eligible to municipal charges. The author concludes by exhorting all women wage-earners of the working classes to get themselves registered as electors. The N.W.S.A. joins in this recommendation, extending it to all those members of the Association who live in Schwarzburg-Sondershausen.

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In Alsace-Lorraine a reform is planned in the constitution of the Lutheran Church, and the German Evangelical Women's League, together with some other Christian women's associations, has addressed a memoir to the Church Direction in which they claim: 1. votes and eligibility for women in the Consistory, 2. appointment of women to further the interests of the Congregation, 3. votes for women in the election of Ministers.

DR. ANITA AUGSPURG.

(In „Zeitschrift für Frauenstimmrecht“.)

In support of the claim of universal suffrage for men and women for the Prussian Diet (Landtag) the socialists held three big meetings of women in Berlin on Jan 9th. In each of these Mrs. Klara Zetkin, editor of „Die Gleichheit“, spoke with great eloquence, and unanimous resolutions were adopted. In all the 600 meetings held on that day by the Socialists the demand of votes for women was not forgotten, says „Die Gleichheit“.

### Hungary.

Recognizing that we have to suit our action to the march of affairs in Parliament, we have been on the watch a long time for a suitable occasion to despatch a numerous deputation to the competent politicians. At present our action is limited to procuring to the women pioneers the necessary knowledge of politics and economics. With this intention we have instituted lectures in

politics, conducted by Judge Desider Markus. Moreover we try by means of leaflets and conferences to agitate in the provinces and awaken an interest for our demands in wider circles. A great obstacle to the full development of our strength is the lack of the necessary funds, with which we are absolutely incapable of coping.

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The Hungarian Freemasons having put on the agenda of their next congress the question of „universal suffrage“, we are now trying to gain their corporation for women's enfranchisement.

We have addressed to all our male members whom we could find out to be Freemasons a circular, in which we urge them to bring up the subject of woman suffrage for discussion in their Lodge, in order to promote a general understanding of the question before the Congress of Freemasons takes place. We also recommend our women members to influence their male relations who happen to be Freemasons in this respect. But there is no telling what may be the result.

Not at our instigation but quite spontaneously a friend of our cause, in the Nagyvar Lodge, gave an excellent conference on Votes for Women, which induced the Lodge to urge the National Lodge (Grossloge) to take up our suffrage-agitation. The little pamphlet which advocates this action is the most intelligent document as yet produced by any Hungarian friend in support of our claim. Perhaps there might be some good in trying to interest the Freemasons in our cause in other countries also.

Budapest, Febr, 1908.

ROSIKA SCHWIMMER.

### Austria.

Am 27. Januar veranstaltete das Wiener Stimmrechtskomitee eine frei zugängliche Versammlung, die, wie die letzten Veranstaltungen des Komitees, sehr gut besucht war. Den Anlass zu dieser Versammlung bot die Einbringung einer Regierungsvorlage im Herrenhause (House of Lords), die die geltenden Bestimmungen des allgemeinen bürgerlichen Gesetzbuches (code civil) in vielen Punkten abändert. Zahlreiche dieser Bestimmungen beziehen sich auf die rechtliche Stellung der Frauen, die, falls die Vorlage Gesetz wird, eine wesentliche Besserung erfahren würde. So soll es den Frauen in Zukunft gestattet sein die Vormundschaft über ihre eigenen ehelichen oder unehelichen wie auch über fremde Kinder zu führen, und zwar ohne Beigabe eines Mitvormundes; sie werden auch zum Kurator bestellt werden, und bei Testamentserrichtungen, Notariatsakten etc. als gültige Zeugen fungieren können, ganz so wie der Mann. Das Erbrecht der überlebenden Ehegattin wird durch die Vorlage wesentlich verbessert, ebenso die Lage der unehelichen Mutter, und teilweise auch des unehelichen Kindes. Die Vorlage nimmt weiters die Einführung von Vormundschaftsräten in Aussicht, an denen Männer und Frauen als gleichberechtigte Mitglieder teilnehmen werden, ja den weiblichen Mitgliedern des Vormundschaftsrates sollen ganz spezielle Aufgaben vorbehalten bleiben, so die Ueberwachung aller Pflöglinge ohne Unterschied des Geschlechtes bis zum vollendeten siebenten Jahr und die Fürsorge für alle weiblichen Pflöglinge über 7 Jahren. Auch bezüglich des Dienstvertrages enthält die Vorlage Bestimmungen, welche für die Privatlehrerinnen, Krankenpflegerinnen u. s. w. vorteilhafter sind als die in Kraft stehenden.

Die Vorsitzende des Komitees, Frau Nini von Fürth, erörterte in einer einstündigen formvollendeten Rede alle Einzelheiten der Vorlage, die irgend ein spezielles Interesse der Frauen berühren, und legte dar, welch grossen Fortschritt, gemessen an den heute geltenden Normen, die neuen Bestimmungen bedeuten würden. Mit berechtigter Genugtuung konnte die Rednerin darauf verweisen, dass, was man den Frauen nun zu geben gewillt sei, kein Geschenk genannt werden könne, das ihnen unversehens in den Schoos falle, sondern dass sie seit Jahren sich um ihr gutes Recht ehrlich bemüht hätten. Der Motivenbericht der Vorlage nehme wiederholt auf die eingereichten Petitionen des Bundes österr. Frauenvereine (N. C. W. of Austria) und anderer Frauenorganisationen Bezug, ein Beweis, dass man ihren Wünschen und Vorschlägen Würdigung habe angedeihen lassen. Freilich, alle Wünsche der Frauen seien noch lange nicht erfüllt, und vor allem sei es tief zu beklagen, dass das rückständige Eherecht, das zu den allergrössten Beschwerden Anlass gibt, bei der Reform gänzlich unberücksichtigt geblieben sei. Die Frauen sollten hieraus die Lehre ziehen, dass es schon gegenwärtig möglich wäre gewisse Forderungen durchzusetzen, wenn sie mit Energie und Ausdauer vertreten würden, dass aber eine volle Berücksichtigung nicht zu erwarten sei, so lange die Frauen auf den Weg der Bitte angewiesen und an der Gesetzgebung nicht mitbeteiligt seien. Und darum müsse es das unverrückbare Ziel aller vorwärtsstrebenden Frauen sein das aktive und passive Wahlrecht für die gesetzgebenden Körperschaften zu erringen.

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It is very desirable that the new bill, which gives to women the right of guardianship, of witnessing acts and of eligibility to Boards of Guardians, should become law. It is sure to find opposition, for as yet there are many people here who burst with indignation at the „partiality for women“ shown in our legislation, and who find it difficult to have to consider women as what in reality they are—thinking, working, self-conscious human creatures.

HENRIETTE HERZFELDER.

Vienna, Febr. 1908.

### BOHEMIA.

The reader will remember that our law does not exclude women from eligibility to the Diet (Landtag). Now for the first time the women, i. e. the Committee for Women's Franchise-avail themselves of their legal right by putting up a woman candidate. She is quite independent of political parties, very talented and of high culture. Her name is Miss M. Tumova. Two meetings have already been held in the district with great success, the men declaring their approval of her candidature. Yet the novelty of the departure is too great to make Miss T.'s election probable. It must be remembered that, of the women, only the independent tax-payers may vote; the taxes paid by married women are counted for their husbands. So the great majority of the electors are men.

But, as it is, the moral success is visible. There is great enthusiasm among the women all over the country; and they are arranging meetings to discuss the elections, which they never did before. They invite ladies of the Committee for Women's Franchise to speak, and that is excellent propaganda.

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Our Committee having requested the different political parties to put up women as candidates, the Socialdemocratic party has nominated the editor of the socialist paper „Women's Journal,” Carry Machova; and the younger, smaller progressive parties, viz. the Radical, Radical-Progressive and National Social parties have nominated Miss Betsy Zelinkova.

The election will give evidence of the earnestness of the different parties in promoting the women's candidature. In our next article we will report on the result of the action taken, which is to be the forerunner, as we expect, of a better and perhaps a happier future.

PLAMÍNKOVÁ—STEPÁNKOVÁ.

Prague, Febr. 7, 1908.

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### Australia.

A new paper was started lately by the *Australian Women's National League*. This League is “neutral” on the suffrage question; the promoters say they did not want the vote, but every woman ought to use it now; so I suppose they will come into line in time. There is no prospect at present of the State suffrage for Victoria, as Parliament will be prorogued very soon and the State Premier, Mr. Bent, has persistently refused to allow the State vote for Victoria to be made a Government measure. However we must live in hope.

M. MATHESON SMITH.

Wanqaratta, Dec. 17, 1907.

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### Russia.

A call to Russian women was issued by Mme Philosofoff, who has long been preparing the establishment of a National Council of Women in Russia:—

„Thirty years ago a little group of men and women devoted to the welfare of their country came to the decision that this welfare depends mostly on the moral and intellectual development of women, of the mother and educator. This group devoted itself to the aim of helping the Russian feminine youth on the way to science and knowledge and organizing middle class and higher education for them. Without means, struggling with indifference and hostility of the majority, this little group, by its perseverance and devotion to the cause of instruction, won the sympathies of Society, and with it from all parts of Russia there came money in quantity, so that we, beginning to work with 222 roubles and 25 cop., have now our own building, a High School for women with scientific cabinets, libraries, an observatory and dormitories that are destined for young students coming from all parts of Russia to study,—in a word we have now a property worth more than a million. The education of women is founded now on a very solid basis, and no one can contest its necessity. But society has other obligations towards women. The struggle has only changed its form. The wants of women are very complicated and life summons up all women of different classes to intervene in public affairs. The mass of women now enter the lists; there is the working woman with her needs and demands that must be heard. The press, occupied as it is with public affairs, does not pay much attention to these demands. We were forced, like

women in other countries, to have our own journal that was founded in June 1907: „The Alliance of Women” (*The Women's Union*, see our list).

But without means such a journal cannot subsist; it wants the help of the public and above all of women. We, that have much worked in our life for the women's cause, we are sure that this call will not remain unanswered, and again we to the public present our request to support the Russian women. This support can be given in the form of subscription to the journal and its propaganda, or by finding means to secure the standing of our young organ „The Alliance of Women”.

I profit by this occasion to make an offer to all Russian women and to all those working for charitable and civilizing institutions to unite into a National Council and adhere to the International Council of women. The aim of National Councils is to unite all women in culture-work without distinction of nationality or religion, leaving them full autonomy in their own internal organization.

Having been myself more than 5 years vice-president of the I. C. of W., I receive many letters reminding me that the time has come the Russian women should join in the International Women's movement for culture and civilization. Only China and Russia have not yet entered the Council.

Shall it be possible for Chinese women to be in advance? I hope not.

A. P. PHILOSOFF.

For more details please to apply to me S. Petersburg, Kovensky N. 16.

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### Iceland.

Last winter we founded an association to assert our rights, which we called the Women's Rights' Association. It had only fifteen members and I was its President. Now it numbers more than a hundred, and gains new supporters in every meeting. Our Association has the leadership in the preparation of the municipal elections. We have got a new law which confers a vote and eligibility on every tax-paying woman, married or single, of over 25 years old. We are trying to have women elected on the Town Council. It has fifteen members and we wish to put up four women candidates, of whom I am one, and two Presidents of other women's associations in Reykjavik are also among the nominees. On January 13 we held a public meeting which was attended by more than 400 women. A lawyer gave a lecture on the legal status of women and several ladies made speeches. This meeting was the first demonstration ever held by women in Iceland, and it was a complete success, I hope we may succeed in getting our candidates elected as Town Councillors, but that will greatly depend on the unity among the women.

There is a committee of thirty ladies who go canvassing into every house of Reykjavik, reminding the women of their electoral duties and requesting them to vote for women only; but I think we shall have to go the round once more before the election, which is to take place on January 23. There are about 3000 electors in the town, one third of whom are women.

BRIET BJARNHÉDINSDÓTTIR ASMUNDSSON.

Reykjavik, Jan. 19, 1908.