

JUS SUFFRAGII.

# The International Woman Suffrage News

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**CONTENTS.**

Page.

Features of the Month	165
World Congress of Working Women in Washington	166
Mme. Girard-Mangin, by M. Pichon Landry	166
Women in the Peace Treaty, and Their Representation in the League of Nations, by Chrystal Macmillan	166
Women's Work in Hungary and Italy, by Alice Riggs Hunt	168
Argentina: Against State Regulation of Vice	169
Australia: Women Eligible as M.P.s in N.S.W. and Victoria	169
Belgium: Men Oppose Women as Tramway Servants	169
Canada: First Woman M.P. in Saskatchewan	169
Sexual Offences	170
Women's First Provincial Vote in Ontario	170
Denmark: Great Commission Recommends Equal Pay in Government Service	170
Women's Admission to Offices	170
Germany: Women's Status in Constitution Bill	171
Great Britain: Women's Emancipation Bill	171
Number of Women Voters	172
Iceland: Women's Work in War Time	172
India: Woman Suffrage and the Government of India Bill	172
Indian Women's Demand for Suffrage	173
Italy: Electoral Reform	174
Netherlands: What Dutch Suffragists are Doing	174
New Zealand: Eligibility of Women for Parliament	174
Norway: Women Demand Proportional Representation	174
South Africa: Half-Yearly Review of Progress, W.E.A.U.S.A.	175
Sweden: Celebration on Winning the Vote	176
Switzerland: Doctorate for Woman Restaurant Keeper	176
U.S.A.: Further States Ratify Amendment	176
Prohibition	177
Dr. Anna Shaw	177
Unequal Moral Standard	177
Correspondence: B.D.W.C.U.	178

**Features of the Month.**

In these days of rapid advance the extension to the women of New South Wales and Victoria of eligibility to the State Legislatures and Municipal Councils, which they already enjoy for the Commonwealth Parliament, may seem a comparatively small victory.

New Zealand is preparing to follow, a bill providing for parliamentary eligibility being now before the Dominion Parliament.

Rapid progress is being made in the United States, where three further States have ratified the Federal Woman Suffrage Amendment, making a total of fourteen out of the thirty-six State ratifications necessary for complete victory.

The question of woman suffrage for the women of British India has become a living political issue, and weighty evidence in favour is being laid before the Committee of the House of Commons, which is now dealing with the Government of India Bill.

Saskatchewan is to be congratulated on having for the first time a woman elected to its Provincial Legislature.

The Constitution Bill in the German Parliament and the Women's Emancipation Bill and Sex Disabilities Removal Bill in the British Parliament have both raised the question of women's full equal citizenship with men. In the former the principle of equality is established, as also the women's right to retain her position as a Government servant, even after her marriage, while the decision on the British measure is postponed till the autumn. A description is also given of the situation of Danish women as Government servants in a Government bill which proposes equal pay for equal work.

**World Congress of Working Women in Washington.**

An invitation to the first world congress of working women has been issued from the National Women's Trade Union League of America to the women of thirty-four countries, whose representatives are to meet in Washington the week preceding the International Labour Congress called by the League of Nations. Each country will be entitled to ten women delegates accredited by trade-union organisations. They will endeavour to bring their influence to bear upon the determinations of the International Labour Conference of the Allied Governments, in which, under the terms of the Labour Charter of the League of Nations, no direct voice or representation is provided for women.

**Mme. Girard-Mangin: An Appreciation.**

By M. PICHON LANDRY.

To readers of *Jus Suffragii* the name of Mme. Girard-Mangin must be familiar, for in her few short years of social activity her authority had impressed itself not only on her own country—France,—but also on other lands, and everywhere she was held in respect and affection.

To-day, when death has cruelly taken her from us, and we have, in a few lines, to sum up her work, and give an idea of this strong, original personality, we realise more, even if possible, the fullness of this short life.

It was her medical studies which first turned her attention towards social work. Her life in hospital, her frequent contact with so much social misery and bodily suffering, could not fail to make a lasting impression on such an observant spirit and generous heart. The Anti-Tuberculosis Office of the Hospital Beaujon was the first institution due to her creative initiative. Here she revealed her powers of organisation and management. With the help of a staff of women, made up entirely of voluntary workers, she was able to obtain systematic co-operation and methodical work. Every week hundreds of sick persons came to receive her attention and medicine; children were found vacancies in holiday homes; adults in sanatoria; full particulars were made available to inform patients of existing organisations and possible methods of assistance.

The authority of Mme. Girard-Mangin established at that time steadily increased, so that from that moment she continued to receive the financial and administrative help necessary for the carrying out of the great projects which developed in her mind through contact with suffering and injustice.

The workmen's dwelling in the Boulevard Bessière in Paris, designed on a new plan with a special view to health, remains as a permanent testimony of her work. This house shelters about sixty families, each with not less than three children. In it each family has quarters of two or three rooms, which are extremely cheap, the rents starting at 240 francs a year, and not exceeding 500.

At the outbreak of war Mme. Girard-Mangin was trying to organise a large open-air school for children at Vincennes. We shall long regret that this plan was not able to be realised, because a special type of school could easily have been copied. To create this model now, however, we should have again to find the fearlessness and firm will of our friend.

If the war took from Mme. Girard-Mangin one of her tasks, how many new tasks, more immediate and more painful, did it not bring her, tasks which revealed to herself and to others her power and devotion? She was appointed by mistake to a hospital at the front, because owing to her title she was mistaken for a man doctor. The head doctor, who was in need of an assistant, kept her, and she soon made herself indispensable. She knew neither fatigue nor weariness, and without showing signs of either gave herself up entirely to her patients and her wounded. At Glorieux-sous-Verdun she went through very trying days, for the hospital was heavily bombarded, and the retreat was called. In these tragic circumstances the resolution and calm assurance of Mme. Girard-Mangin asserted themselves still more, if that were possible, while she gave generously of her energy to the wounded brought from the battle close at hand, to find gentleness and alleviation for their pain at her hands. Later she received from several the most precious testimony of their gratefulness and devotion.

It was in October, 1916 that Mme. Girard-Mangin was appointed head doctor of the Edith Cavell Hospital School, a hospital for the training of army nurses. It was in this work that she could show her whole powers. She founded the establishment, organised the hospital life, the course of study (both theoretical and practical), the terms of probation, and the recruiting and placing of the students. Hundreds and hundreds of hospital nurses have received her clear and detailed instruction; they had the example of that life close to theirs, but graver and more hard-working. They could admire the quiet courage of their chief, who, during the nights of bombardment, after having taken the wounded who could be moved into the cellars, and examined the fire pumps, would walk quietly about the huts, among those who were fixed to their beds, talking to them gaily. They were able to admire her sincere, lucid intelligence, which rose above the anxieties of management, and provided for the proper carrying out of all detail.

Mme. Girard-Mangin left the hospital on the second of June, her task accomplished. On the sixth of June, at the age of forty, she was suddenly snatched away, death being due to heart failure, just when her colleagues of America and Australia were preparing to fête her, and when her life, already so full, was going to find its natural development in international work. Her presidency of the Health Section of the International Council of Women, and the committee of the American Red Cross, had given her the opportunity to co-operate in international work, and to show her strong personality to a wider public.

What could she not have done in her maturity, she whose free mind always gave a clear judgment, and whose curiosity and power of observation were always so alive to new experiences?

We have been able only to outline here the most important works of Mme. Girard-Mangin. We cannot, for lack of space, tell of her activities on the numerous commissions on which she took part, the interesting lectures at the Sorbonne, and her book on "Anti-Tuberculosis Prophylaxis." For lack of knowledge we must limit ourselves to mentioning only that her thesis on "Cancerous Poisons," and other scientific works, and her personal laboratory researches, had brought her the esteem of specialists, and that this solid scientific attainment had profoundly influenced her thought and conversation.

Those who knew her must always marvel at her prodigious activities, which could only have been maintained by method and inflexible will, such as enabled her to undertake so many diverse tasks. To have assured to her son the tender care and intelligent guidance of which he must now feel the cruel deprivation, to have opened to her friends her most hospitable home, to have given to all, friends and protégés, innumerable services, and to have carried through and initiated, in ten years, so many undertakings—it is all this which will not cease to call forth our admiration.

But the special characteristic of Mme. Girard-Mangin was a harmonious combination of charm and authority. Her charm was exhibited in grace of movement, softness of voice, and in a reserve of deep feeling. It was her precision of language, dignity of bearing, which gave her authority, and a stoical firmness which compelled respect. To us and to all her friends our recollection of her will always call up at once a charming, welcoming smile, and the dominating calm which to the end directed her thought and her life.

**Women in the Peace Treaty, and Their Representation in the League of Nations.**

One aspect of the Treaty of Peace between the Allied and Associated Powers and Germany of special interest to feminists is its explicit recognition of women as national and international citizens.

**NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP.**

Their national citizenship is recognised in the paragraph providing for the taking of plebiscites on the question of new frontiers, by the votes of women as well as of men. It is not a case of implicit statement which might be adversely interpreted by an unsympathetic court. The words are perfectly definite. In the annex to Article 88, for example, which refers to the plebiscite to be held in a portion of Upper Silesia, the words are:—

"The right to vote shall be given to all persons without distinction of sex who have completed their 20th year on the 1st of January of the year in which the plebiscite takes place."

and a similar provision defines the qualification of voters for the other plebiscites arranged. The power to exercise this right is in the hands of the women themselves, and not dependent on the action of others. On so vital a point as their nationality few, surely, will be unwilling to express an opinion.

**INTERNATIONAL CITIZENSHIP.**

Their international citizenship is recognised in Article 7 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, which forms Part I. of the Treaty. Here it is laid down that—

"All positions under or in connection with the League, including the secretariat, shall be open equally to men and women."

This is sufficiently wide. And it certainly is an advantage that the article has not merely extended the right to women but has explicitly coupled them with men. From this it follows that any denial of women's rights under the Covenant would carry with it the denial of men's rights.

The exercise of this international right depends not on women themselves but on the goodwill of the whole community, so that it is of great importance that organised women in every country represented in the League should take steps to encourage the inclusion of women among government or other representatives on the different bodies connected with the League.

As the nine countries given direct representation on the Council of the League have not more than one member each it is unlikely that for some years any country will be successful in sending a woman delegate to this inner circle. On the large representative governing body, called the Assembly, however, each state within the League has the right to appoint three delegates. It is eminently desirable, therefore, that the organised women in every country in the League should work systematically to secure that at least one of the three national delegates should be a woman.

**NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.**

The reactionary point of view, which became almost universal when Great Britain and the United States followed other nations in adopting legislation making a woman take the nationality of her husband, is, unfortunately, incorporated in certain of the articles dealing with the alterations of frontiers. The option given to men and unmarried women in certain cases to choose their nationality is to be denied to married women. Article 91 on Poland, and Article 113 on Schleswig lay it down with respect to nationality that—

"Option by a husband will cover his wife, and option by parents will cover their children under 18 years of age."

The option by parents is here quite illusory so far as a wife is concerned, seeing that her right of choice is already denied in the first words of the paragraph. As this provision refers to persons of German nationality, and as a wife under German law cannot be compelled to give up her nationality without her own consent, this imposes a new restriction on the rights of married women here concerned.

On the other hand, the national status of a woman as affecting that of her descendants or her husband is recognised in the annex to Article 79, Clause 2 (1) and (6), which give the categories of those who may claim French nationality. These include:—

"2 (1) All persons . . . whose ascendants include a Frenchman or Frenchwoman who lost French nationality under conditions referred to in the said paragraph."

and

"2 (6) The husband or wife of any person whose French nationality may have been restored under Paragraph 1, or who may have claimed and obtained French nationality in accordance with the preceding provision."

This would seem to imply that these married women are to have the unusual right under this paragraph to claim French nationality independently of their husbands.

**TRAFFIC IN WOMEN.**

The international importance of the suppression of the traffic in women is recognised in Article 23 (c) of the League of Nations Covenant. It reads as follows:—

"Subject to and in accordance with the provisions of international conventions existing or hereinafter to be agreed upon, the members of the League:—

"(c) Will entrust the League with the general supervision over execution of agreements with regard to the traffic in women and children, and the traffic in opium and other dangerous drugs."

If the classification is not very happy the paragraph is a foundation on which to build a propaganda for the active suppression of this obnoxious traffic.

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.**

But the sections of the Treaty which are likely in the immediate future to have a strong influence on the right to work and the freedom of development of women in many connections are comprised in Part XIII., entitled "Labour." In this, which comprises Articles 387 to 427 of the Treaty, the whole machinery for the establishment of an International Labour Office in connection with the League is set up. This Office is to be under the control of a governing body appointed by an annual meeting of the General Conference of Representatives of the states which are members of the League. The wide scope of the aspects of labour explicitly set forth in the preamble to Part XIII. give some indication of its importance. They include regulation of the hours of work, the regulation of the labour supply, the provision of an adequate living wage, the protection of children, young persons and women, and the organisation of vocational and technical education. In addition, Article 427 sets forth certain principles to guide the policy of the League. Among these are two which make special reference to women, as follows:—

"7th.—The principle that men and women should receive equal remuneration for work of equal value.

"9th.—Each state should make provision for a system of inspection, in which women should take part, in order to ensure the enforcement of the laws and regulations for the protection of the employed."

It is true that the recognition of these principles is considerably modified by a preliminary qualification of their acceptance, which recognises—

"That differences of climate, habits, and customs, of economic opportunity and industrial tradition, make strict uniformity in the conditions of labour difficult of immediate attainment."

The wording also of the principle regarding equal pay is that favoured by the school which tends to be against equal pay in practice. Nevertheless, rightly interpreted—and the women voter in each country must insist on this—they point in the right direction.

As this General Labour Conference is to some extent to have power to decide its own policy without reference to the Assembly or Council of the League, representation on it becomes a question of supreme importance. It is, therefore, a serious flaw that its constitution makes it difficult to have women appointed as full voting members. Each state belonging to the League has the right to appoint four members. But of these one must be chosen in agreement with industrial organisations representative of employers and one in agreement with industrial organisations representative of work-people. Both these, no doubt, are likely to be men. There remains from each country two representatives to be appointed by the Government. It is one of these which women might reasonably ask should be of their own sex.

The only definite provision made for the representation of women is as advisers to these Conference delegates. The paragraph runs—

"Each Delegate may be accompanied by advisers, who shall not exceed two in number for each item on the agenda of the meeting. When questions specially affecting women are to be considered by the Conference one at least of the advisers should be a woman."

These advisers may not speak, except on invitation, and have no vote. It is, however, possible for a full delegate to appoint one of his advisers as his proxy, with power both to speak and vote at any particular meeting of the delegates. It is to be hoped that some of the women advisers will be given the opportunity of taking part in the Conference decisions in this way.

**ANNUAL LABOUR CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, 1919.**

The time and place of the first meeting of the Annual Labour Conference are laid down in the Annex to Part XIII. as 1919, in Washington. As already announced in the Press, the meeting will probably be held at the end of October. The fact that the Treaty is not yet ratified by the requisite number of states to bring either the Covenant of the League or the Labour Conference legally into being, however, may make necessary some delay in the actual holding of the meeting.

It is very unfortunate that such short notice should have been given of the holding of this meeting, and that the proposals on the agenda should not yet be in detail before the

public. This omission is specially serious for women, since they are likely to be so inadequately represented, and since there are to be discussed so many subjects of vital importance to them as workers, as the following draft agenda appearing in the Annex to Part XIII. of the Treaty shows:—

- “AGENDA:—
- “1. Application of principle of 8-hour day or of 48-hours week.
  - “2. Question of preventing or providing against unemployment.
  - “3. Women's employment:—
    - “(a) Before and after childbirth, including the question of maternity benefit.
    - “(b) During the night.
    - “(c) In unhealthy processes.
  - “4. Employment of children:—
    - “(a) Minimum age of employment.
    - “(b) During the night.
    - “(c) In unhealthy processes.
  - “5. Extension and application of the International Convention, adopted at Berne in 1906, on the prohibition of night work for women employed in industry, and the prohibition of the use of white phosphorus in the manufacture of matches.”

The arrangement of this agenda in itself is a danger to women's right to work. Work during the night and in unhealthy processes should be dealt with in connection with all adults, and not with women as a class apart. This was a possible method so long as women were considered incapable of being given power to look after their own interests. Now, in most countries, they are recognised as responsible citizens. The general public must be educated to recognise that in order to “protect” women they must receive adequate pay for the work they do, including equal pay for equal work, and equal opportunities for training for, entering and practising trades and professions as men, and mothers must be given an economic status.

CHRISTAL MACMILLAN.

### Women's Work in Hungary and Italy.

By ALICE RIGGS HUNT.

Travelling through Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe during the past three months, it has seemed to me that, taking their traditional status into account, the women of Italy and Hungary have achieved startling progress, both theoretically and practically. In Hungary the sudden realisation of complete equal suffrage for both men and women last November, and the establishment later of a Communist Government, which treated both sexes on an absolutely equal footing, and in Italy the enactment of a law abolishing marital authorisation, followed by the introduction of a Woman's Suffrage Bill in Parliament, are the spectacular things accomplished. But in both countries, through hard work, the women have advanced even further, and whether the optimists hope for a lasting and constructive peace, or the pessimist's prediction that chaos is about to reign supreme in that quarter of the world, come true or not, the results are bound to survive.

Broadly speaking, the goal has been the same as that aspired to by women all over the world who have a social conscience—namely, equal opportunity with men for service in public affairs, protection of women in industry if they must be there, abolition of child labour, etc.; but I was particularly impressed with the similarity of a problem presented in both countries, and commented upon to me by several women leaders. This is the necessity of convincing the women themselves of their own ability successfully to administer public office. “It is an over-conscientious self-effacement in favour of men, who they think might be able to do the work better,” said one of the Hungarians. “We are already establishing, with the aid of the People's Commissary for Education, courses in the People's University designed for the express purpose of training young men and women for membership in the Soviets, and to ultimately become the heads of departments. There are no women Commissaries at present, because the women who were chosen greatly preferred to take subordinate positions as experts in some special department.” In Italy, one of the most prominent women leaders told me that the problem of the lack of self-confidence in really capable women was most difficult to solve. “Our only hope for good leadership among women in the future is in the training and help which we can give to the young girls now,” said this experienced leader.

“We older women must forsake our snobbishness towards inexperienced youth, invite the young women to sit on our governing boards, and try to understand and to profit by the new ideas which their fresh minds bring to us. If women are eternally going to take a back seat in public affairs the good results from obtaining their hard-won vote may conceivably be nil.”

### HUNGARY UNDER SOVIET RULE.

At a socialised factory which I visited near Budapest, where fifteen hundred women and one thousand men were employed, each man and woman had a vote for the members of the factory soviet, but only one of the seven chosen was a woman. This factory soviet had already established equal pay for equal work, raised both men's and women's wages equally, created categories of skilled and unskilled workers irrespective of sex, and had decided on the social policy of excluding young girls under the compulsory school age of eighteen from further employment in the factory, and furthermore made the employment of children more unattractive by deciding on a wage rate higher for older women. When, however, it came to deciding on the length of time required for apprenticeship it was decreed that women must serve ten years and men an apprenticeship of six years before either could be recognised as skilled workers. The president of the soviet explained this by saying that women had not been in factory work very long, and that the one woman on the soviet was not able to overcome the objections of the six men to equal apprenticeship. He added, however, that he as president hoped that women in the factory being five hundred in the majority, they would exercise their immediate power of recall and elect more women to replace the opposing men.

Before the revolution in Hungary the proportion of payment for unskilled men and women was twenty crowns a week for men, and six, eight, ten or twelve for women doing the same work. Skilled workmen got thirty to fifty crowns a week, while skilled women got twenty to twenty-four. Under Communism the physical labourers received the highest wage, and scrub-women, laundry women, and domestic employees were included in this class. In Budapest the organisation of domestic workers had forty thousand members in June, with branches in twenty-five provinces. The women teachers were also included among the highest paid, the Commissary of Education explaining to me that they were looked upon as the most valuable contributors to the State's welfare.

Of the five hundred members of the Budapest soviet twenty are women. The members are elected from districts by all men and women who can show that they are usefully employed, and Bela Kun informed me that housework was recognised as useful employment, carrying with it the right to vote. I wondered whether this was one of the influences which had encouraged the ten thousand marriages which had taken place in Budapest during the last two weeks in May. At the meeting of the Budapest Soviet which I attended the women members spoke very little, but at twelve meetings held simultaneously throughout the city to discuss the distribution of food, not only were there women orators, but after the programme was finished many women made spontaneous speeches from the floor.

The women leaders were given offices by the Communist Government in the Hungarian House of Parliament, and it was there that I was fortunate to have a meeting with twenty of them. All were greatly overworked, but enthusiastic about their plans, and for three hours described to me how some of their hopes had already been realised. Public baths, with doctors in attendance, had been opened in every district, each school being apportioned certain days to insure every child a share. Surplus rooms in socialised houses near all factories were being requisitioned for the use of the children of the workers in each factory as day nurseries; unfortunate orphans were no longer segregated in orphan asylums, but the buildings were used for all children of the neighbourhood. Writers of the very first class were being employed by the State to write books suitable for children of eight to ten, ten to thirteen, and thirteen to nineteen, books which would fit into the scheme of constructive education planned by the Commissary of Education. Confiscated villas on Lake Balaton were being adapted for tuberculous children, etc. My breath was fairly taken away.

“How do you get contributions to support these enterprises?” I asked.

“The State supplies the money,” they answered, “as all wealth has been socialised, with the exception of one hundred thousand crowns allowed temporarily to wealthy bourgeois until they can adapt themselves to the new order.”

The women assured me also that Commissary Somlo, of the Housing Department, had successfully stamped out all houses of disrepute in the former licensed segregated district of Budapest by requiring every houseowner to fill out a list of searching questions, after which his inspectors ascertained personally the truth of the statements. All men and women dislodged from these houses were given respectable quarters outside the city, in order to prevent their poisoning influence from permeating into the other quarters hitherto free from it. They assured me that there were no licensed camp-followers of the Red Army as there had been for the imperial armies. Almost without exception the Communist women had opposed the war, and many had suffered imprisonment for this opposition.

### ITALIAN WOMEN'S PROGRESS.

The Italian women told me that nearly all the women's organisations in Italy now have Woman Suffrage in their programmes, and that although the Catholic women of the extreme “right,” and the Socialist women of the extreme “left,” worked entirely through their own organisations, both were always willing to co-operate with the feminist and suffrage associations. In fact, the Socialists and reactionaries in Parliament were supporting the Woman Suffrage Bill, the only uncertain element being furnished by one of the powerful centre parties. The formation of a national federation of all women's organisations for the purposes of war relief has resulted, now that the war is over, in creating a united front not only for political enfranchisement, but for much-needed reform legislation also.

During my motor trip of more than two thousand miles through the battlefields and devastated regions of Northern Italy, I was able to observe at first hand the very remarkable reconstruction work which the Italian Government has already accomplished. The women in the various cities which I visited later were slow to claim that their federation was responsible for the building of school-houses, the very first thing in all of these towns; but of the forty-five devastated villages and towns through which I personally passed, it seemed phenomenal to find that the school-house was the first building to have its walls propped up, or in many instances it was the first new building to be erected, and was always in the most modern and practical style. Undoubtedly the efforts of women to establish better educational facilities in Italy, and the already established rule of co-education in the common schools, influenced this activity in favour of the school-house's priority.

A member of the recent delegations of women to the Government at Rome told me that night work for women has been abolished in Italy, that the Marital Authorisation Bill carries with it the right to dispose of her own property by the wife, without the husband's consent, and the right to control her own wages, and that there is a system of State insurance for accident and death, which includes women. In a few factories, this leader states, there is equal pay for equal work, but in the majority wages for men run about 40 per cent. higher.

The Italian women were much dissatisfied with the present system of maternity insurance, which requires the married women in factories to pay one lire per year, and the employer to pay one and a half lire per year, and gives to the prospective mother forty lire for the period of forty days of enforced idleness. Some employers, knowing this to be entirely inadequate, supplement this amount, but one Italian woman has suggested that a Bill be introduced to tax all married women in Italy for the benefit of the wage-earning mothers.

In the regions near Trent, Gorizia, Trieste, Istria and Fiume, formerly in Austria or Hungary, and now claimed and occupied by Italy until the signing of the Austro-Italian peace, which will determine their permanent nationality, women have not had the opportunity to vote. In both Hungary and Austria women have, of course, already exercised this right since the armistice, but in talking to the

natives I found that the occupation of the Allies had deprived women of the vote which they otherwise would have had.

### ARGENTINE.

#### Against State Regulation of Vice.

Writing in the *Woman Citizen*, A. S. B. reports that a new branch of the International Federation of the Abolition of the State Regulation of Vice was lately formed in Argentina during the visit to that city of Dr. Pauline Luisi, President of the Uruguayan National Council of Women.

A public meeting was held in the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association in Buenos Aires, with a crowded attendance. Many prominent men were present, but only four women.

Dr. Luisi was one of the speakers. In her address she mentioned that the movement had been accused by some persons of being opposed to Catholic feeling and morality, and by others of being a “pietist” movement, backed only by Protestant and Anglican pastors. She pointed out that it had been approved by Pope Leo XIII., and that Dr. Agnes McLaren, an earnest co-worker with Mrs. Josephine E. Butler, had secured for it the endorsement of one hundred and fifty Catholic bishops and archbishops.

An organisation was formed to cover both Argentina and Uruguay. It will work for the abolition of the objectionable system, also against the white slave trade, and for an equal moral standard. Prominent physicians of both countries are on the official board. The president is Dr. Jose Brito Foresti, a professor of the Montevideo Medical College, and ex-president of the Medical Society. The Argentine section is headed by Dr. Angel N. Gimenez, vice-president of the Municipal Council of Buenos Aires, a former member of Parliament, and a professor in the Hospital Ramos Mejia.

### AUSTRALIA.

#### Women Eligible as M.P.s in N.S.W.

The National Party Women's Reform League of New South Wales writes that women have now become eligible for seats in Parliament and on municipal councils, but have not succeeded in securing the right to sit on juries.

#### Women Eligible as M.P.s in Victoria.

Victoria has passed the Women's Legal Status Bill enabling women to be elected to the State Parliament and municipal councils, and to be magistrates in children's courts, justices of the peace, barristers, and solicitors.

*Woman Citizen of U.S.A.*, July 19th, 1919.

### BELGIUM.

#### Men Oppose Women as Tramway Servants.

The Brussels correspondent in the *Times* writes that men of the Brussels tramway service, being opposed to the continued employment of women by their company, threatened to organize a strike, but the company, giving way to them, decided against the further employment of women, and dismissed all women remaining in their service, thus warding off the strike.

### CANADA.

#### First Woman M.P. in Saskatchewan.

The *Times* reports that Mrs. M. O. Ramsden has been elected to represent the district of Pelly in the Saskatchewan Legislature. This is the first woman to be elected in Saskatchewan, and the second to contest a constituency. Mrs. Ramsden is a Liberal, and her opponent was a returned soldier, who ran as an Independent. She succeeds her husband, who died a few weeks ago.

**Sexual Offences.**

A Bill which amends the Criminal Code has passed through committee in the Senate in Ottawa, according to *Canada's White Ribbon Bulletin*. It includes a provision extending to all employed girls under twenty-one the same protection as is given to factory or mill hands against seduction by their employers. It also increases from ten to fifteen years the penalty for procuring or drugging girls for immoral purposes.

**Women's First Provincial Vote in Ontario.**

Women of Ontario are to have the first opportunity of voting on a provincial measure when the referendum is taken on the question of prohibition. As the new Franchise Act, which gives the vote to all adult citizens, men or women, is now in force, the women's vote will be as important as that of the men. The Women's Christian Temperance Union is carrying out a systematic campaign to bring the question before the electors, and a keen contest is promised.

**DENMARK.****Great Commission Recommends Equal Pay in Government Service.**

The Great Commission on Wages, which by the law of July 21st, 1917, was given the task of "investigating the question of the principles affecting pay, pensions, and general support of those in the service of the State," has just presented its Report, extending to some 2,000 pages, extracts from which are quoted below. This includes the most important recommendation, supported by fifteen of its twenty-one members, that "it may be assumed to be just that the same pay should be fixed for men and women in the service." For the acceptance of this principle the one woman member of the Commission, Thora Pedersen, schoolmistress, is entitled to take great credit.

A Government Bill, based on this report, and therefore including the important principle of equal pay, has been read a first time in the Folksting, and has been sent to the Wages Committee, one of the standing committees of the Riksdag.

"The reception of the Bill in the daily press," according to *Tidens Kvinder*, "and its treatment in the Folksting, are evidence that, if where there is a will there is a way, the final law of wages will be a greatly mutilated form of the present Bill." "Now, women in this country are voters," it goes on, "even if they have not their own special party, and this fact can hold and drive bloodthirsty cannibals back, just as it can drive forward certain opportunist politicians, but even with all the indirect help that the vote can give there will be need for all the energy in agitation, patience, logic, and insight that we possess in order to hold the fort. The beginning is good inasmuch as the Government's decided standpoint must be gratefully recognised, and it is with hope and satisfaction that we note that the Conservative members of the Commons have recognised the principle of equal wages.

The woman's paper, *Kvinder og Samfundet*, expresses great satisfaction with the Report as it concerns women, summing up the position thus:—

"We note that a large majority of the members—all the service members (except one teacher),—representatives of all the political parties (except the left), and all the other members of the Commission (with the exception of the Departmental Chief Pedersen) are united in granting women's rights. The majority recommends—after prolonged investigation—what we have always maintained:—

"1. That from the experience gained in the State service and the national schools, there has never been anything to justify differentiation in pay where men and women are doing the same work.

"2. That administrations themselves should see to it that they make the same demands as to health from women as from men.

"3. That there is no material on which to found the judgment that women leave the service sooner than men.

"4. That the State would suffer no economic loss even if women left with a pension sooner than men.

"5. That an unmarried man cannot be paid more highly than an unmarried woman if pay is to be fixed on the principle of supporting the family. That the State itself will not allow

its female servants to have worse conditions of life than its male servants."

**EXTRACTS FROM THE MAJORITY REPORT.****EQUAL PAY FOR MEN AND WOMEN.**

As to equal wages for men and women opinions were much divided, because the question is linked with the other question as to whether the domestic circumstances of the wage-earner should be taken into consideration in fixing the wages. A part of the Commission consider that these two questions are so intimately connected in practice that they cannot be separated.

**WOMEN'S CAPABILITY AS COMPARED WITH MEN'S.**

While there is complete unity in recognising women's capability in the subordinate posts as clerks and accountants, there is a certain amount of evidence to show that they are less capable in the more highly qualified work. Other evidence contradicts this. In any case, the evidence as to women's capabilities stretches over too short a time to be of much use.

**WOMEN'S HIGHER SICKNESS RATE.**

Women's higher sickness rate has been established by statistics from the railways, post, and telegraphs. This proportion may be the result of an insufficient control in the case of repeated attacks of illness in ordinary instances, and the result is due, perhaps, to a limited number of women whose state of health is such as to unfit them for service. Too great a humanity in the administration has had results in judging the general question of the health of employees. In the future, in each separate case, the same standard of health in men and women should be a condition of remaining in the service.

**EARLY RETIREMENT.**

As to the question as to how far the female employee is more expensive on the ground of her early retirement from service, there is insufficient evidence. If the woman retires so early as to have no pension, or a very small one, the State does not lose anything.

**WOMEN AND HIGHLY QUALIFIED WORK.**

Even if it is allowed that men are more suitable for highly qualified work, the rule had better be expressed as follows: That an average wage is given for an average work. Hence a lack of power to undertake highly qualified work will hinder promotion, and the female employee will be no exception to this rule if her superiors find her incapable of the higher work. Neither can the demand for a lower wage for women be based on her greater liability to illness if the demands as to health for both men and women are made the condition of their being employed by the State.

**CONSIDERATION APART FROM THE WORTH OF THE WORK.**

The ground for the demand for a different wage for men and women is, on the whole, not borne out by the facts, and when in the present legislation there is such differentiation in spheres when the equality of the work is conceded, it is founded on considerations wholly apart from the worth of the work in itself.

Such considerations are:—

1. Women do not usually support others.
2. Can live more cheaply.
3. Will usually accept lower pay.

In answer to 1, it should be moved that the unmarried man should be put on the same footing as the unmarried woman.

As to 2 and 3, the State has no right to take into account the work (cleaning, cooking, and serving) that women do in their off hours. It is also doubtful whether the State in accepting an offer of cheap labour based on such a foundation is really gaining an economic advantage, for insufficient rest and leisure react badly on the health of the employee.

From these considerations it may be assumed to be just that the same pay should be settled for men and for women in the same positions in the service.—*Tidens Kvinder*, August 2.

**EXTRACTS FROM MINORITY REPORT.**

From the State's point of view, it may be taken as desirable that woman as a majority keeps to her place in the home, especially as a wife and mother, and the State must be interested in working against anything which serves to draw women from their homes.

From the State's side it cannot be overlooked that the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work in the State service will not accord with the practice in private concerns, and will, therefore, appear unnatural, for the practice in private concerns may be assumed to follow a natural law. In private concerns where the aforementioned principle is adopted *formally*, the real practice is that women have the lighter and less well paid work, and men the heavier and better paid.

As a man's needs normally increase with years more than a woman's, legislation should take this into account. The minority, therefore, propose that men and women in the same position in the service should have the same wage at the beginning, but that men, by means of more frequent or larger increments, should have a larger rise of salary.—*Tidens Kvinder*, August 9.

**Women's Admission to Offices.**

On June 15 the Landsting appointed a committee of fifteen, among which there are several women, to consider the question of the admission of women to offices.

**GERMANY.****Women's Status in the German Constitution Bill.**

In the *Frauenbewegung* for August, Dr. Gertrude Bäumer gives an account of the action being taken by German women to ensure that in the German Constitution at present under discussion in the Reichstag the principle of the equality of women with men shall be established from the beginning. From it the following particulars are taken as of special interest to our readers.

Women in all countries who have suffered not only from unjust constitutions, but from the restricted interpretation of just constitutions, will realise the fundamental importance of making the words of the original constitution sufficiently clear to leave no loophole for future denial of women's rights.

**EQUAL RIGHTS FOR MEN AND WOMEN.**

In the second part of the German Constitution Bill dealing with the rights and duties of Germans, the first article sets forth the rights of the individuals as follows: "Men and women have in principle the same citizen rights and duties." Since the second reading showed a risk that the wording was not going to be interpreted as giving women true equality, women are seeking to have the wording strengthened in the third reading.

**REGULATION OF PROSTITUTION.**

The Independents have suggested an amendment to Article 113 to provide that the regulation of prostitution shall be abolished. Dr. Bäumer, however, is of opinion that the word "regulation" is too indefinite for the Constitution, and that the matter should be dealt with in the law itself and not in the Constitution Bill. To emphasise the importance of this point, however, the women are bringing forward a resolution, when the third reading comes on, urging the Government to draft a bill abolishing the regulation system.

**THE FAMILY AND MARRIAGE.**

The first clause of Article 118, which deals with Life in the Community, is concerned with family life. It originally ran: "Marriage is the foundation of German family life, and as the great means for the continuance and increasing of the nation, is under the special protection of the Constitution." This wording was modified during the second reading, and at the end was added the words: "Motherhood claims the protection and care of the State." A further amendment which Dr. Bäumer considers relatively too unimportant to stand by itself in the Constitution, providing that an unmarried mother has the right to the title Frau (*i.e.*, Mrs.), was also carried with the support of the Independents, Social Democrats, and Democrats. In substitution of this inadequate statement on the unmarried mother, however, an amendment is to be moved at a later stage which makes clear that it is not only the responsibility of motherhood that should be recognised, but also the relation of the unmarried father to the mother and the child, and the duties and responsibilities of his fatherhood. A further point requiring to be made clear was that the equality of women with men was to be recognised not only in connection with citizen rights, but also in marriage. This it was proposed to ensure by moving on the third reading the addition of the words, "The law must uphold equal rights for both partners of the marriage."

**CHILDREN, LEGITIMATE AND ILLEGITIMATE.**

Article 119, which dealt with the rights of children, lays it down that "the education of their children, physical, spiritual, and social, is the natural right and duty of parents under the supervision of the State." An amendment brought forward on the second reading by the Democratic Party, providing that illegitimate children were to have the same physical, spiritual, and social education as legitimate children, was not carried, the argument against being that illegitimate children had other provisions made for them, and were not usually brought up in the family circle.

**MARRIED WOMEN CIVIL SERVANTS.**

A further concession of the utmost importance to women was gained by an amendment added to Article 127 on the second reading. This has the effect of abolishing the condition of celibacy placed on women in Government or other official service, and will enable such employees to retain their positions on marriage. The amendment was as follows:

"That all regulations against women civil or official employees (Beamte) shall be done away with."

**PROTECTION OF MOTHERHOOD UNDER INSURANCE.**

An attempt will also be made to have introduced into Article 158, which deals with insurance, words to include in its scope "the protection of motherhood."

While not certain of the success of all these amendments, Dr. Bäumer is hopeful of good results. She points out that in any case there is already firmly established in the Constitution the great principle of equal rights for women, and that once in force, with this as a corner stone, the Constitution will make possible the full success of the women's movement.

**GREAT BRITAIN.****Women's Emancipation Bill.**

In the August number an account was given of the passage through the House of Commons of the Women's Emancipation Bill, introduced by the Labour Party, in the teeth of Government opposition, and of the discreditable action of the Government in bringing forward a changeling measure in the House of Lords with a view to killing the true Bill. When it is remembered that at the general election the Coalition Party, which is now the Government, promised "to remove all existing inequalities in the law as between men and women," and that it is an understood constitutional practice that the Government should either carry out the wishes of the House of Commons or resign, it will be seen in what an awkward position it has placed itself.

The Women's Emancipation Bill did really propose to remove the civil and political disabilities of women, giving them full equal suffrage, seats in the House of Lords, enabling them to become judges and jurors, and to enter all professions, including the civil service. The Sex Disabilities Removal Bill, as the Government measure is called, gives, on the other hand, the very smallest concessions. It omits all reference to woman suffrage; with respect to peeresses it does not do more than authorise the Crown in the creation of future peerages to provide for the eligibility of women to the House of Lords; but it nominally opens all civil professions to women. To the claim dealing with women's professions, however, so serious a limitation is imposed as practically to nullify its effect so far as Government service is concerned.

The main clause of the Bill, with the first limiting proviso, runs as follows:—

1. A person shall not be disqualified by sex from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering or assuming any civil profession or vocation, and a person shall not be exempted by sex from the liability to serve as a juror:

Provided that—

(a) Notwithstanding anything in this section, His Majesty may by Order in Council authorise regulations to be made prescribing the mode of admission of women to the civil service of His Majesty, and the conditions on which women admitted to that service may be appointed to posts therein, and providing for the exclusion of women from admission to any branch of the civil service in any of His Majesty's possessions, or in any foreign country.

While the Bill was before the Lords, a deputation representative of fourteen important women's organisations waited on the Leader of the House of Commons and the Lord Chancellor to urge the removal of these limitations and women's right to enter the civil service. They pointed out that while a number of different Government Committees and a Royal Commission had made recommendations with respect to the appointment of women in the civil service the report the Government had selected on which to draft their Bill was the least generous towards women. The Reporting Committee had consisted entirely of men, a chairman and six other officials, belonging to Class I, the highest grade of the civil service, and the class from which there was most risk of having women excluded. The Ministers stated, on behalf of the Government, that they would be prepared to consider any amendment on this point brought forward in the House of Commons on behalf of the societies. In a subsequent memorandum the societies unanimously recorded their opinion that the automatic dismissal of women from the civil service on marriage is a serious mistake in the interests of efficiency.

Notwithstanding the protests by the women, the Government Bill, with the peeresses dropped out and other slight amendments, was adopted by the Lords, while the true Emancipation Bill was voted down.

The scene now shifted to the House of Commons. Seven amendments were put down in the interests of women. The three most important, in the names of Lord Robert Cecil, Major J. W. Hills, and Sir Samuel Hoare, dealt with women suffrage, the civil service, and jurors. The suffrage amendment the Government had always stated they would oppose, but now they were faced with a House of Commons which had already defeated them on this issue. The civil service amendments sought to remove the automatic dismissal of women on marriage, to secure the opening of the whole of the home civil service to women on equal terms, and gave to the Government discretion about the appointment of women overseas. The jurors amendment enabled the wives of men qualified to act as jurors also to act. Without this an equal qualification for jury service would have made very few women eligible, and those mostly unmarried women and widows.

On August 14 the second reading passed the House of Commons, but the amendments were postponed till the following day. As there was then little on the order paper and the Bill was Government business, it should have been dealt with at once had not speakers on an agreed Bill delayed the question for five hours, so that it was not reached till half an hour before the House rose. Mrs. Strachey, who is doing so much to keep the House of Commons straight, gives a vivid description of the situation in the *Common Cause*, thus:—

"Meanwhile, several things happened. First of all, the Government remembered that many of their less independent-minded supporters had begun their August holidays. The possession of grouse moors is more often an attribute of the machine majority members than of Labour members, or other supporters of women's causes, and the Government remembered the fact. Then they noticed that Lord Robert Cecil with all his power of invective and his intimate knowledge of Treasury methods, and Foreign Office procedure was sitting patiently upon his seat, his amendments held fast in his hand. Then they were informed that the women's societies pressing for the Bill would not be satisfied with the Bill unamended, and would rather risk having no Bill this session than give up their major points. Then they looked round the House again, perhaps read over once more the division list of the Emancipation Bill. And then they took fright. They saw that the amendments were going to be carried and their Bill turned into a real Emancipation Bill in spite of officialdom and Treasury and all. Then they telephoned—or ran—to Downing Street, and the Prime Minister, in a motor car loaded with what appeared to be week-end luggage, drove hastily round. The Treasury bench began to fill, until there was no more room upon it, and at 4-30 on this Friday afternoon a complete and even replete row of Ministers faced a somewhat astonished House. The Bill drew to its unanimous close at 4-30. The Sex Disqualification Bill came next, and then the Government's masterly plan was revealed. They were going to run away from their own Bill, because it looked probable that a too serious House might make that Bill correspond a little too closely to their own promises.

"At 4-30, some new business was invented, and amendments hastily sent down from the Lords to the Welsh Disestablishment Bill were moved and taken—hurriedly and unpreparedly, unseen and unwanted by an indignant and unwarned House. Lord Robert rose at once to protest; he told the House what had been going on. He pointed out the shabby record of the Government upon this question, the fear that inspired them, and the folly that was unsteady them. He warned them that they were playing with a serious thing, and begged that they would reconsider their cowardly decision. His protest was followed by many others, member after member asserting that it was indeed 'the women's turn,' but to no avail. Solid and mute the ministers sat, giving no reasons and making no sign, and the division they challenged showed a narrow Government majority. At 5 p.m. an unsatisfied and talkative House was left with the impression that something shady had again been done, and that impression was founded on fact."

The House has now risen till October, and the whole question is, therefore, postponed. It is to be hoped that with a possible general election ahead the House of Commons will hardly let the Government override it a second time.

CHRISTAL MACMILLAN.

#### Number of Women Voters.

The official figures of the number of men and women placed on the first register of voters after the enfranchisement of women were given in the House of Commons as follows: Men electors, 12,913,166; women electors, 8,479,156.

#### Representation of Women in League of Nations.

An important conference of representative national women's organisations is to be held on September 4, to adopt a method for proposing the names of women suitable for the various bodies to be set up in connection with the League of Nations. The question of the desirability or not of advocating a special women's department of the League of Nations, analogous to the International Labour Office already set up in connection with the League, will also be considered.

#### ICELAND.

##### Women's Work in War Time.

Though Iceland has had little communication with the outside world during war time, the women there have been taking the initiative in social reforms, as the following, quoted from a letter to the editor of the Norwegian paper, *Nylænde*, shows:—

The women of North Iceland have had a council since 1914, with yearly meetings, and the two last years with a journal which presses forward the organisation.

Reykjavik has also a council for many of its unions, and works for a children's home and a women's institution; moreover, all the women of Iceland, since 19th June, 1915, have collected for a hospital for the whole country in Reykjavik, which is to be built as soon as we can get the materials.

Our council in Nordland is working at collecting funds for a tuberculosis sanatorium for North Iceland, or a tuberculosis home, whichever of the two is the best. There is such a one in South Iceland, but it is difficult and expensive to send patients there, also it is getting too small for our needs.

#### BRITISH INDIA.

##### Women Suffrage and the Government of India Bill.

In no country has the question of women suffrage developed more rapidly from an abstract possibility to a living political issue than it has in British India. Two years ago, when the Secretary of State for India announced in the House of Commons, on August 27th, 1917, that Great Britain proposed to give self government to the people of India, the subject had hardly been broached, so many other questions were of more immediate practical importance. But the women of India have also been moved by the growing world demand for the right of self-expression. And they have shown themselves ready to translate their aspiration into practical political action in urging the amendment of the Government of India Bill so as to extend the suffrage to women. This measure, which gives effect to Great Britain's pledge to India, is now before the British Parliament and a Committee of the Lords and Commons is at present taking evidence on the question. In the information laid before the Committee nothing has been more striking than the volume of the evidence in favour of women suffrage.

##### EVIDENCE AGAINST WOMEN SUFFRAGE.

Lord Southborough, who had been chairman of the official committee which travelled throughout India to collect evidence on which to frame a scheme for the type of franchise to be incorporated in the Government Bill, was very much astonished at the facts brought to his notice. Many people, he said, came before the committee who were in favour of women suffrage. He could not help feeling that their object was to do something to improve the political position of women by marking the fact in the Act that might be passed that women were being advanced in India by getting the vote. The result of women having emancipated themselves was not, in his opinion, satisfactory from the European point of view. His Committee reported against women suffrage, notwithstanding that he had to admit, in cross-examination, that he had received a great deal more evidence in favour of giving votes to women than he should have thought possible with his preconceived ideas on the subject.

Sir James Meston, a financial member of the Government of India, was also opposed. "It would be repugnant to respectable ladies in India to jostle in the polling booth."

Sir Frank Sly, Commissioner of the Central Provinces of India, also a member of the Committee which had toured India, was also opposed, but he had to admit that the demand

for women suffrage grew in intensity, and had reached its maximum in Bombay.

Of these witnesses against women suffrage all were British and two were Government officials. When it is remembered that the India Office was so ignorant of the position of women in India as to deny that they voted for municipal councils till contrary evidence, produced by the International Women Suffrage Alliance, caused them to investigate the question and ultimately withdraw their statements, it is not unreasonable to assume that their official position has not helped them to see clearly on this point either.

##### EVIDENCE IN FAVOUR OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

The most interesting witness was Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the well-known Indian poet, and vice-president of the Bombay branch of the All-India Home Rule League. She had come to London to create public opinion in favour of women suffrage. In her memorandum to the Committee of Lords and Commons she pointed out that women had won distinction in art, science, law, and medicine. They also held office in the Courts and Senates, as in Bombay University, the Hindoo University at Poona, and the National University. They manage vast estates, control educational institutions, and direct philanthropic missions. They had taken part in the National Congress, in the work of the Moslem League, and the Educational Conferences. The political franchise would be a natural development of their efforts.

In her evidence she said she did not wish to pretend that even as statistics stood they were extraordinarily in favour of the women's demand. She spoke of the desire of many of India's women to have the franchise, not as a favour, but because it was their right by historic tradition. The woman of highest distinction in all India, the Begum of Bhopal, who is a firm believer in the purdah system, had said it was only right that woman should claim her place in the franchise scheme. She drew attention to the fact that it was only in a section of India that the purdah system obtained, and that many women did not observe it. There was a general laugh when she said that purdah never came between a woman and anything she wanted to do.

Among the other favourable witnesses were Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjee, who said he thought it would be difficult to give the suffrage to the women of Bombay and not to those of Madras. In Northern India there might be some difficulty because of the zenana system.

Mrs. Annie Besant, speaking on behalf of the National Home Rule League of India, of which she was president, said that the omission of women suffrage would introduce a sex disability into Indian life which was alien to its whole spirit, for in the elected councils which had marked Indian civilisation from the dawn of history women were not barred. Women suffrage had been carried in the two National Congresses, and in all the district and other congresses where it had been proposed.

The *Common Cause* reports that every deputation now in England working for Indian Reform favours women suffrage, and certainly that brought to the notice of the Committee is remarkable.\*

The whole spirit in which the Indians themselves approach the problem is best illustrated by a letter published in *The Times* by the great religious leader, H. H. the Aga Khan, head of the Ismaeli Mahomedans, who has followers not only in India, but in East Africa and Central Asia. A statement of this kind from so high and influential an authority cannot fail to be of the greatest help to the women in their demand. From it we quote the following:—

"The summaries given in *The Times* of the proceedings of the Joint Select Committee on the India Bill go to show that the attitude of casual negation on the question of women suffrage adopted in the Southborough Report, and endorsed by the Government of India, is without substantial foundation. Lord Southborough himself admitted that he was very much astonished at the volume of evidence in favour of female enfranchisement; but he brushes it aside as so much political idealism. It seems he has forgotten that the world is governed by ideas, and that true progress is rooted in idealism.

"One member of the Franchise Committee, Mr. Malcolm Hogg, was in favour of the removal of sex disqualification, but not of making special arrangements for recording women's votes. I entirely dissent from Lord Southborough's opinion that the reservation 'robbed the

\*See also organisations quoted as having passed favourable resolutions in our July, 1919, issue, page 138.

gift of all its merit.' We are not setting up the public hustings and open voting of a past age in England; nor is the number of male electors—some five million for the whole of British India—large enough for the jostle of the ballot station to be so serious as Lord Southborough and Sir James Meston suggested. The great majority of Indian women of the well-to-do classes, e.g., the better class of cultivators are not in real seclusion. The official witnesses who hold that very few women will go to the polling booth forget that purdah ladies go into the law and registration courts all over the country, and give evidence in relation to the transfer of property, etc. As owners of land and other property, purdah women play parts in the affairs of the countryside day by day which make ludicrous the suggestion that there would be anything revolutionary in recording a vote once in three years or less.

"Sir James Meston's statement that female enfranchisement would present many difficulties, practical and social, is an instance of the regrettable fact that while many conscientious British officials spend their working lives in administrative duties in India, they never enter into a real understanding of the life or aspirations of the people—national, social, or religious.

It is painful to Indian readers that men who have attained high distinction in the Civil Service should have to be seriously asked if they would be shocked at the inclusion of women in the electorates.

I do not believe that Sir James Meston and Lord Southborough are right in the opinion that very few women would exercise the franchise; but the point is not pertinent to the issue. The question is one of justice, and not of the degree to which the right would be used. The logical deduction of the assertions of Sir James Meston and Lord Southborough about Indian womanhood would be to take away from them the rights of property and of equality before the civil law they have enjoyed for centuries.

The question can only be decided by the British Parliament, and as the Commons has defied the Government on the question of women suffrage at home it is to be hoped it will also support the women of British India.

#### Indian Women's Demand for Suffrage.

The recent preclusion, in the Southborough Committee's reform scheme for India, of franchise for women, has awakened much discontent in the reputedly quiet temperament of Indian women, for official centres are sending up their protest and joining the chorus, and last week Bombay made a levy of its fair elite, and they opposed the injustice with a strong voice. Mrs. Petit presided, and observed that it was disappointing that women who had taken a great part in the progress of men and the advancement of the country should be excluded from the rights of the political citizen. Men brought money and women reared the children; both should be included in the administration of the country. Women of the past had shown great capabilities in the State, and that was enough for women's future participation in government.

Mrs. Tata proposed a resolution which, protesting against the Southborough and India Government recommendations, stated that the meeting of the women citizens of Bombay considered the postponement of the question a distinctive grievance, a denial of the due rights of women, and a likely deterrent to their progress. It urged the Government of India, and the British Parliament, to reconsider the question and remove the sex disqualification. She refuted the argument that the Purdah system hindered national progress, and said that the system would disappear if the franchise were given to the women. They had nine hundred women graduates, and they could take equal part with men in the political State. The resolution was seconded and supported by many speakers, one of them, Mrs. Tyabjee, saying that Mohammedan ladies took part in the protest without religious distinction, and that they were very sorry to learn that they were debarred from giving their votes in the new reform scheme. Indian women were much more intelligent than their European sisters, and had taken great part in the recent war-work, famine relief, National Indian Association, and others, and could not be kept from rights which European women had.

The resolution was carried, and it was decided to send copies to the Secretary of State, the Viceroy, the Chairman of the Reforms Committee, and several European and Indian friends of woman's suffrage. But I am afraid the resolution is only a fight against odds.

G. R. JOSYER, M.A.

Bangalore, India, July, 1919.

## ITALY.

## Women's Suffrage and Legal Status.

At the rate things are moving in the direction of a new Electoral Reform Bill there is every reason to believe that Italian women are not far from acquiring a more or less full share of the political rights of the country. The demand is naturally for the right of election as well as of vote, but how far the demand will be met by legislation is difficult to foresee. Meanwhile, the legal status of women will remain subject to the extensions and limitations stated by Article 7 of the Sacchi Bill, but still to be definitely specified by regulations to be drawn in connection with the Bill itself. It is essential that women should bring pressure to bear upon the drawing up of such regulations if the just and liberal spirit of the Sacchi Bill is not to be killed.

Article 7 admits "women, on the same ground as men, to the free exercise of all professions and to the occupation of public offices, with the exception (unless otherwise determined by new legislation) of those connected with either the jurisdiction of the law or the exercise of political rights and power or the military defence of the State, as shall be defined by special regulations."

Such as it reads, Article 7 is based on the principle of exclusion implied in all legislation evolved by men—that is, on the assumption that no mention of women is equivalent to their exclusion, and therefore that express laws are required whenever women are granted a new status. That such principle has long been defeated by the practice is fairly proved by the fact that women have been and are admitted to public offices (postal service, educational appointments as teachers, librarians, school inspectors, etc.), by means of examination tests in which they compete with men on a footing of absolute equality. Yet the importance of this clause lies in the fact that it definitely removes the interpretation of the exclusion of women implicit in the law, and with it also the assumption of the incapacity of women for professions and public offices which underlies it.

It remains with us to see that no regulations shall tamper with the full import of the clause, which, properly interpreted, ought to serve as a basis to a more exact and just interpretation of extant laws.

On the face of it, the only offices from which women will remain disqualified are those connected with political rights, should such rights still be withheld from them by the coming Electoral Reform Bill.

G. B. DOBELLI.

## NETHERLANDS.

## What Dutch Suffragists are Doing.

In the first place, we are rejoicing over the victory of our common cause by the adoption of Womanhood Suffrage, along with Manhood Suffrage, by the Second Chamber on May 9th, and by the First Chamber on July 10th, soon to be ratified by the Queen's signature, and probably to be incorporated in the constitution of the kingdom of the Netherlands at its next revision in 1922. We know in how great a measure we are indebted for this success to our sisters in other lands, where the suffrage strife has been waged hotter than here, and we shall never forget our pledge to remain internationally organised until every civilised nation will have enfranchised its women. We also feel our great obligation to the two political parties, Social Democrats and Radicals, who promoted our cause by popular petitions and by defending it in Parliament, and we see that the time has now come for the women to play their own part in politics.

Fortunately, there are only very few women who believe in inaugurating a new and more humane era by founding a new political group of their own, a Feminist party. Most of them are content to replace the androcentric world of the past by a new régime founded on equality and democracy by entering into the existing parties and let their views prevail there. There are, indeed, political organisations enough in our country among which to make their choice. The elections of 1918, with the new system of proportional representation, have more than doubled their number, and they have shown themselves quite prepared to put women

on their lists of candidates, for the elections of 1919 for the Provincial States and Municipalities have brought many women into the governing bodies. So it appears that the parties are glad enough to enlist the women.

However, women have still good reason to remain standing together to support their common claim, rather to educate public opinion from the feminist point of view than to influence legislation directly. Therefore, we resolved, on June 15th, in the general meeting of the National Woman Suffrage Association, not to disband, but form a *League of Women Citizens*, and we hope to keep our members and our organ, notwithstanding the higher contribution now needed for printing costs.

We were sorry to miss our President, Dr. Jacobs, on the day of the passing of our enfranchisement bill by the Second Chamber, on account of her work for the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and there was a risk of her attending next month the Washington conference, but happily this will not be the case, and we have now fixed September 27th for the date of the celebration of our enfranchisement.

Certainly the hearts of our sisters all over the world will be with us on that day. The celebration is to be in Amsterdam, at our headquarters, 627, Fleeerengracht.

MARTINA G. KRAMERS.

## Cornelia Groot: A Correction.

We regret that in our August issue a portrait of Cornelia Groot in a Dutch peasant cap was described as that of Maritzje van Broak. Martina Kramers, who called attention to the mistake, writes that Cornelia Groot, who was born and educated in a little town of North Holland, knows the dialect so perfectly that she speaks like a true peasant woman. She had been in the habit after her lectures of donning a cap and acting the part of a peasant woman who tells the public how she was converted to women suffrage. It is in this costume that she appears in our second portrait.

## NEW ZEALAND.

## Women's Progress.

## ELIGIBILITY OF WOMEN FOR PARLIAMENT.

A Bill to make women eligible for seats in Parliament is to be introduced as soon as possible after the assembling of the new Parliament, shortly to be elected. Women are not only working to secure the safe passage of this measure, but are preparing candidates to fill vacant seats when these arise in the different constituencies. The prospective woman candidate for Wellington is Miss Coad, M.A., President National Council of Women, a well-known teacher and a capable and logical speaker. Among many reforms which she will advocate is the appointment of policewomen, the need for whose services is keenly felt by women workers in New Zealand. The Society for the Protection of Women and Children is taking a leading part in urging this reform.

## WOMEN'S SUCCESSES IN CIVIC ELECTIONS.

Two women have been elected to the Auckland City Council and four to the Wellington Hospitals and Charitable Aid Boards.

HARRIET C. NEWCOMB,

Hon. Sec. British Dominions Women Citizens' Union.

## NORWAY.

## Women Demand Proportional Representation.

## WOMEN'S DEPUTATION TO THE STORTING.

On the initiation of the Norsk Kvindesaksforening, on the 14th of July, some representatives of the different women's organisations had an interview with the presidents of the Storting and the Government as to the electoral reforms. The deputation, consisting of seven members, representing

seven different organisations, was received by the three presidents of the Storting. On behalf of the deputation the head of the Norsk Kvindesaksforening, Fru. Randi Blehr, made the following speech:—

"Messrs. Presidents,—As Norse women at the moment have no representation in the Storting, delegates from a number of women's organisations have asked us to come before you to-day with a petition in reference to the electoral reforms.

"I will allow myself to call to mind that before the plebiscite as to the dissolution of the Union (*i.e.*, with Sweden) in 1905, the women of the different parties raised such a strong claim to be allowed to give their consent to the decision, though women at that time had no citizen rights, that something had to be done. An arrangement was made whereby delegates from the largest women's organisations, with Gina Krog as leader, met in the Storting on Sunday, the 13th August, at the same time that the Norse men were putting their votes in the urns.

"Gina Krog said then to the presidents of the Government that behind the deputation stood thousands of Norse women who wanted to add their 'yes' to the men, 'and we shall not show weakness in the new day's work before us.' The presidents of the Government were much moved, and it was said that this appearance of the women was one of the fairest pages of Norse history, and that women after this might soon expect to win their citizen rights, and this we did in part in 1907, and in their entirety in 1910, almost at the same time as the new regulation of one-member constituencies was put into force.

"Under this unfavourable electoral system we women have had to exercise our citizen rights, and we know the results. Gentlemen, not a single woman has been elected direct to the Storting in these nine years, and as we hold the electoral system in great part responsible for this incongruity, we permit ourselves to submit to your excellencies the presidents the following petition:—

## PETITION TO THE STORTING.

The Norsk Kvindesaksforening protests herewith against the retention of the present system of single-member constituencies in the new reformed electoral system.

We think that under any form, even with the proposed extra mandate, the system will keep its weak side, so that there will continue to be little or no possibility of women being represented in the Storting.

We therefore earnestly petition the high chamber that the proposal should be accepted introducing constituencies with several members and proportional representation.

We find it lamentable that there should fail of acceptance a good bill which can ensure the necessary constituent majority which embodies public opinion in this country as to this question.

Women, who alone form the half of the electors of the country, are unanimous for constituencies with several members and proportional representation. There are also agreed on this the Labour party, a large part of the Left, a considerable part of the independent Left, and the Right. It is our hope that the men of Norway will understand, as the men of Denmark have already understood, that it is no longer possible to bar the women electors out from taking an active part as representatives in the National Assembly.

And if this bill for single-men constituencies passes, women will be shut out indefinitely.—For the Norsk Kvindesaksforening.

Your obedient servants,

RANDI BLEHR, President.  
AADEL LAMPE, Vice-President.  
ANNA AVOSLEF,  
FREDRIKHE NØKK,  
HELGA HELGESEN,  
RAGNA HUSER.

President Hulvorsen, in his reply, said there was hope of succeeding in the establishment of an electoral system with the list-system and proportional representation. He hoped that this would give women a good chance of getting into the Storting, but this would only be an *ad hoc* system.

Nylaende.

## SOUTH AFRICA.

## Women's Enfranchisement Association.

## Half-Yearly Review of Progress.

## WOMAN SUFFRAGE: FIRST FAVOURABLE VOTE.

A long session of six months has just closed, and the Union of South Africa awaits the return of its Prime Minister, General Botha, which cannot be much longer delayed. A short session upon his return will, it is expected, be followed

at no long interval by the dissolution of this Parliament and the election of a new Parliament between January and March of 1920. For the first time in the parliamentary history of South Africa the principle of Woman Suffrage has been accepted in the House of Assembly as a non-party matter—by a narrow majority of two votes, amid great enthusiasm. It is proposed to follow up this initial success by an organised expression of disapproval at the position of South Africa as the only self-governing Dominion in the British Commonwealth which still denies citizen rights to its women. Petitions and memorials praying for the removal by this Parliament of the sex disability, under the existing voting qualifications in the four Provinces, will be presented to the Prime Minister on his return, thus enabling South African women to vote for the next Parliament, which will deal with problems of reconstruction, such as education, housing and health, and with important questions relative to the position of women in industry, the poor white problem, the native and liquor questions, all of which bear directly on the interests and well being of the women and children of the community.

## NEW FACTORY ACT.

The Factory Act of last session has come into operation throughout the Union, and is a constructive and excellent government measure of great importance. By its terms there is prohibition of employment of women at time of confinement for a period of twelve weeks, and provision out of a fund provided by Parliament for the payment of a sum not exceeding £1 a month to the mother, if the father of the child is unable to provide such amount. There are restrictions as to the age of boys and girls employed in factories, provisions against sweating, and restrictions of work for young persons under sixteen. It provides for a fifty-hour week. This Bill compares favourably with factory legislation of other countries, and is in some respects an advance upon it.

## WAGES BOARDS ESTABLISHED.

The Act which provides for the establishment of Wages Boards for the regulation of the wages of women and young persons, and of the employment of apprentices and improvers has also come into operation, and is an excellent measure, based on a private Bill introduced last year by Mr. Patrick Duncan. The Act deals with the establishment and constitution of Wages Boards, limits the number of apprentices and improvers who may be employed, and the minimum rates of wages payable to them, and fixes minimum rates of wages to be paid to women and young persons. The Act refers to assistants in shops, tea rooms and restaurants, tailoring, dressmaking, boot making and apparel making, harness making, manufacture of sweets and confectionery, soap and candle making, cardboard box making, printing and bookbinding manufacture, and packing of tobacco and cigarettes, match making and match packing, typewriting and clerical work, to which other occupations may be added by proclamation. A woman is eligible for appointment as chairman of Wages Boards.

## PUBLIC HEALTH BILL: VENEREAL DISEASE.

The Bill to make provision for the public health establishes a Department of Public Health under the control of a Minister, and defines the powers and duties of local authorities. Chapters 2 and 3 deal with the notification of infectious diseases and their prevention and suppression. Chapter 4 deals exclusively with venereal diseases, and chapter 6 with vaccination against smallpox. In this connection a conscientious objectors' clause, introduced as an amendment in the committee stage by the Lower House, was cut out by the Senate, and the Bill has become law without it. Chapter 7 deals with water, meat, milk, and food supplies. Chapter 8 with sanitation and housing. Chapter 9, which is general in character, requires the reporting of births, and provides for the inspecting of nursing homes. There are special provisions regarding tuberculosis. At the request of the Minister the Enfranchisement Association gave evidence before the Select Committee on chapter 4 on venereal disease, in support of the determined opposition shown by women to clauses 54 to 60, which appear to be an attempt, or could be so interpreted, to regulate vice throughout the Union. Despite the courteous hearing accorded by the Select Committee to Mrs. John Brown, Mrs. Soley, and Mrs. Ruxton, who voiced the feminist point of view regarding compulsory clauses, forced examination, and

forcible detention, the compulsory clauses have not been deleted, and are in contradiction to the report of the British Conferences of 1899 and 1902, of the International Congress of 1913, International Abolitionist Congress of 1914, and the report of the Venereal Diseases Commission, 1915, and are opposed to the resolutions of the South African Medical Congress of Kimberley, and of the Bloemfontein Health Conference, 1918. The trend of this legislation must therefore be closely watched by women's societies throughout South Africa.

#### UNITED WORK FOR SUFFRAGE.

The three suffrage units of the Union—the Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union, the Women's Reform Club of Johannesburg, and the Women's Enfranchisement League of the Cape Province—have united as the Combined Suffrage Bodies of the Union to work on organised lines for the enfranchisement of women, and to their efforts are largely due the acceptance of the principle by the House on April 1st. The Enfranchisement Association has largely increased the number of its affiliated societies during the war, and much of the increased activity of South African suffragists is due to the inspiration of the *International Suffrage News* and *Common Cause*. It is not too much to say that the feminist movement in South Africa owes no small part of its life to the splendid war-period activities of the National Union of Woman Suffrage Societies, and to the record of the progress of the woman's movement maintained under great difficulties by the organ of the International Suffrage Alliance.

#### BRITISH DOMINIONS WOMAN CITIZEN UNION.

It is proposed to hold the bi-ennial conference of the British Dominions Woman Citizen Union in South Africa, during 1920 or 1921. It is to be hoped that it will prove the first occasion that fully enfranchised British women of all the Dominions—including South Africa—will meet in conference together. But there remains much to be done first, and the immediate effort must be directed to get three of the four parties, namely, the South African (Government) party, the Unionist and Nationalist parties, to accept Woman Suffrage as the party policy. Here, as elsewhere, Labour stands for the progressive and democratic principle of equal opportunity and equal responsibility for the sexes.

Laura Ruxton,

Secretary Women's Enfranchisement Association.  
July 2nd, 1919.

#### SWEDEN.

##### Celebration for the Winning of the Vote.

The L.K.P.R.'s central executive, assembled in Stockholm, sent a deputation with the following greeting to the meeting of the Social Democratic women in the Folketshus:—"The Union for Women's Suffrage is assembled to-day to celebrate the Swedish Parliament's constitutional decision about women's suffrage and women's eligibility for Parliament. During the long struggle which preceded that decision we women stood together, without distinction of party or social differences in general, and more especially the Social Democratic women, who worked for the suffrage in their own organisations, have always been ready to share any general movement, whether indispensable or merely desirable. As we here send you our hearty greeting, with thanks for all your good work for our common aim, it is with the heartfelt wish that the feeling of solidarity which our common struggle developed in us all may be a lasting possession for the future. There is so much that unites us women, even outside our own nearest interests: there is our common cause for our hearths and homes, there is our care of the race, our opposition to force and favouritism. Perhaps we are coming on hard times. The struggle between nations,

has brought with it a continuation, within the bounds of the States themselves, of a far deeper importance. This affects our own State. But we women stand together in the endeavour to give that struggle human and peaceful forms. The political suffrage is and ought to be for us all a means of creating social justice. May we stand side by side, struggling for and attaining that just and motherly state where no one goes hungry, either in soul or body.

Morgenbris, July.

#### SWITZERLAND.

##### Doctorate for Woman Restaurant Keeper.

The medical faculty of Zurich University has conferred an honorary doctor's degree on Frau Susanna Orelli "in recognition of her great services to public health and welfare by the institution and carrying on of restaurants without alcohol, and her successful efforts to raise the social status of hotel employees." Frau Orelli is the first woman in Switzerland to receive this honour.

##### Legalising of Abortion Defeated.

It is reported in the *Frauenbestrebungen* that in consequence of the widespread public agitation the provision legalising abortion was cut out of the Bill dealing with the Bâle Penal Code. This reverses the decision reported in detail in our July issue by which a private member secured support for the legalising of abortion in opposition to the Government.

#### THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

##### Woman Suffrage and Prohibition.

##### FURTHER STATES RATIFY SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT.

Returning to the National Suffrage headquarters after an absence of several weeks, I cannot find a copy of the last letter to the *International News*, but I am quite sure that I told of the remarkable successes we were having in securing from the Legislatures the ratification of the Federal Suffrage Amendment. A few of them were in session at the time it passed, and ratified immediately, and the Governors of other States called special sessions for this purpose. I think I sent a list of these ending July 3rd. To this list I can now add three more States, and all with the same large favourable vote. They are Arkansas, July 28th, Senate, 29-2; House, 76-7. Montana, July 30th, Senate, 38-1; House, unanimous. Nebraska, August 1st, Senate and House unanimous.

These figures show that in less than two months from the day the amendment was submitted to the Legislatures fourteen out of the necessary thirty-six have ratified it. Special sessions have been announced by the Governors of eight or nine other States, but the date has not been set, so we do not know whether there will be any ratifications in August or not. We believe, however, that by the first of October, at least, we shall have half of the required number of ratifications, and we can count absolutely on thirty.

All that the opponents have any hope of doing is to keep thirteen State Legislatures from ratifying. This they will not be able to do, but we shall probably have a struggle to secure the last five or six. There are about ten of the south-eastern States that we consider absolutely hopeless, partly because of the large negro population, whose vote is feared by the white people of the South, and partly because the latter are reactionary and non-progressive on most questions. In every one of these States the Suffrage Association itself is strongly in favour of the Federal amendment, and is working for its ratification. This is because the women are more progressive than the men, and also because they thoroughly realise that they will not get the suffrage for another generation from the men of these States, and their only hope lies in the Federal amendment, which, of course, will compel its adoption by every State in the Union.

The leaders of both political parties are in favour of ratifying the amendment before the Presidential election in November, 1920, but this does not mean that the women can cease work, as the politicians cannot force the ratification unless there is public sentiment back of it. The National American Association, therefore, has to maintain its headquarters, keep its organisers in the States, send out literature, and continue to do a large amount of work. We are all very tired of the long contest and most desirous for its end, but will not cease our strenuous efforts until this has been secured. Meanwhile, the organisation of the League of Women Voters is being pushed, and in the States where the women already have the suffrage they will be better prepared than ever

before for a wise use of it, and in those where it will be used for the first time they will be able to avoid some of the mistakes that have been made by women in other States.

The United States is having a great deal to contend with in these days, as the country is suffering greatly from the results of the recent world war, and although not by any means so much as other countries, conditions everywhere are far from normal. All kinds of public utilities and business in general are suffering from "strikes," and the enormously increased cost of living makes the people resentful. There are restlessness and uncertainty everywhere, capitalists afraid to invest money, little building being done, manufactures hampered or stopped, and affairs at cross-purposes in every respect. The situation would not be so bad if the politicians could be kept out of it, but with the Presidential campaign almost at hand, each party is trying to put the blame on the other instead of both working together for the public welfare.

##### PROHIBITION.

The most encouraging feature in the whole situation is the prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating liquors. What is known as the War-Time Prohibition Act took effect July 1st, by which it is unlawful to manufacture, export, import, sell, or give away any kind of liquor that will intoxicate. This Act was passed by Congress at the strong desire of President Wilson before the end of the war was in sight, and it was to continue in effect until the army of the United States had been demobilised. Its primary object was to use for other purposes the food products that went into the manufacture of these liquors, as it was essential to send such large quantities of food to Europe. Another object was to keep the people, and especially the soldiers, sober and in good condition to do the work required of them.

It was supposed at that time that the war would continue for many months, but after the Armistice last November the liquor interests undertook to secure the repeal of this law, even before the demobilising of the army. President Wilson, unfortunately for his own credit, in June advised Congress to repeal the law, but this was indignantly refused by both the Upper and Lower Houses, which have passed by enormous majorities laws for its strictest enforcement until the army shall have been demobilised and peace declared. The liquor people had given up all hope of any modification in regard to whiskey, brandy, and such drinks; but they began a national fight to have beer and wine, containing only a certain percentage of alcohol, declared non-intoxicating. They engaged the ablest lawyers, who have carried the cases in many States from the lower courts to the highest, getting in some of them favourable and in others unfavourable decisions, until the whole country was in a muddle. When July 1st came probably half of the saloons closed their doors, but the remainder defied the law and continued to sell these low-percentage liquors.

Congress in the meantime enacted that any drink containing over one and one-half per cent. of alcohol was intoxicating. The matter will go to the Supreme Court of the United States at an early date, but until its decision is reached the laws passed by Congress will be enforced. They not only close the saloons, but the bars of every hotel and club in the United States, and put the country on an absolutely "dry" basis. They do not interfere with the stocks of liquors in private houses, provided they are not sold or given away to be carried outside, but the householder can use them himself and serve them to his guests. This does not help the poorer classes, who have no place at home to store liquors, and some of them are making a loud outcry.

The army will probably be demobilised by October 1st, and the Federal Prohibition Amendment will not go into effect until January 16th. During the intervening three and a half months there will possibly be an orgy of intemperance throughout the country unless some means can be found to prevent it. If not, they will doubtless, in this interval, drink up most of the liquor that has been stored, and the country will be ready for total and permanent prohibition. For this there is an overwhelming public sentiment, and already in the one month since July reports come from far and wide of the good effects of the Prohibition Act, even though it is not having a fair trial on account of the law suits, the liquor that has been stored, and the open defiance in many quarters.

The deposits in the savings banks are increasing, and all kinds of crime are decreasing. Many of the largest brewers and distillers have accepted the situation and changed their immense plants into manufactures of various kinds. Others are holding out and hoping that the Supreme Court of the United States will declare the Prohibition Amendment unconstitutional before it goes into effect next January, but this is a very slim hope. The suffragists are glad that prohibition was adopted before woman suffrage, as had it come afterwards the women would always have been held responsible for it, and they considered it of such vast importance that they have been willing to have their measure come second.

ANNA HOWARD SHAW.

During my absence I spent three or four days at the home of Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, going over her letters, papers, etc., to select material for use in the History of Woman Suffrage, and to advise Miss Lucy E. Anthony, her close companion for the last thirty-one years, as to the disposition of other things. It is a great task, for her house of twelve rooms is filled with books, pictures, and mementos of visits to many countries. It was a heart-breaking experience, as nothing has been changed since her death. Her toilet articles are still on her dresser, just as she left them, her dressing gown and other articles hanging on the "tree," and her handsome dresses, wraps, and other garments in the closets and the drawers. Everywhere are presents which her friends delighted to make. While there I read a large basketful of the letters and telegrams of sympathy and regret which had been received from distinguished men and women. They came from the President and Vice-President of the United States, from the Cabinet officers, from the heads of Government committees, from national organisations of every kind, patriotic, educational, religious, and, of course, hundreds from suffrage associations. Thirty-one State Suffrage Associations sent floral pieces for the funeral. The tributes of respect and affection were nation-wide.

In the grounds around the house are trees, shrubs, and vines, which have been sent or brought by Dr. Shaw herself from most of the countries of Europe. The house stands in the centre of eight acres of ground, all under cultivation. It was left with its contents to Miss Anthony, who has not yet decided what disposition she will make of it. Miss Shaw left a very modest sum of money, considering the thousands that she had made by her lectures, as she gave them away almost as soon as they were received. A few years ago the suffragists raised a fund of \$30,000 to purchase an annuity as an offering of their love and appreciation, but Dr. Shaw asked that it might simply be held in trust and the amount of the annuity paid to her each year, so that in case of her death the residue might be available for other uses. This was done, and only a few thousands had been used by her. She had the right to dispose of the remainder by will, and she left it in the hands of a committee, to be used for woman suffrage or for the benefit of women. As the suffrage movement is so near at an end, Miss Anthony favours founding post-graduate scholarships for women in some of the largest colleges, but nothing definite has been decided on.

The realisation of the great loss to the splendid causes to which she intended to devote the rest of her life, grows stronger every day. Had she lived she would now be in Europe, visiting the suffrage associations of the different countries, and conferring with the friends in each as to the best means of restoring the International Alliance to its former position of influence and co-operation among the women of the world.

IDA HUSTED HARPER.

New York, August 9th, 1919.

##### Unequal Moral Standard.

Writing in the *Woman Citizen*, A. S. B. calls attention to what seems to be a flagrant case of unequal administration of the law between the sexes. An Iowa judge has decided that a man cannot be addressed by the health authorities on suspicion of having venereal disease and compelled to submit to examination, while these high-handed measures are still being taken in regard to women in many States.

**Trade-union Woman as Federal Bureau Chief.**

The appointment of Miss Mary Anderson as Director of the Women-in-Industry Service of the U.S.A. Department of Labour brings a trade-union woman for the first time into Government office as a Federal bureau chief. Miss Anderson succeeds Miss Mary Van Kleeck, who has just resigned, and with whom she has been associated as assistant director.

**Correction re International Council of Women.**

The National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland writes that the informal conference which was held in London at the Lyceum Club, on June 18th and the following days, of representatives from Allied and neutral countries, was not called by the International Council of Women, but was an unofficial gathering, held by invitation of the President of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, and by the President of the International Council of Women in her private capacity. A short report of the meetings will appear in the special number of the Occasional Paper published by the National Council of Women, to be ready shortly, price 1s.

**British Dominions Women Citizens' Union.**

19, Buckingham Street,  
London, W.C. 2,  
August 23rd, 1919.

To the Editor.

Dear Madam,—May I express on behalf of the British Dominions Women Citizens' Union our intense regret at the announcement that Miss Sheepshanks has resigned her post as Editor of the *International Woman Suffrage News*.

During the terrible years of war Miss Sheepshanks has held the women of the whole world *au-dessus de la mêlée*, united on matters which are above material warfare. It is a unique achievement, and only possible to one to whom was given spiritual vision. It is a magnificent contribution towards constructive peace.

Our heartiest good wishes go with Miss Sheepshanks in the new activities which now claim her. Our best thanks will be to carry on and extend the work she has laid down, by increasing in every possible direction the circulation of the paper which she has made such a power.—Yours faithfully,  
HARRIET C. NEWCOMB,  
Hon. Secretary.

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