

JUS SUFFRAGII,

PUBLISHED BY THE
INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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

THIRD YEAR No. 5.

JANUARY 15, 1909.

„Aspire, break bounds! I say
Endeavour to be good, and better still,
And best! Success is nought, endeav-
our's all.“
ROBERT BROWNING.



Indirect influence in politics means
making others responsible for our ac-
tions. Such influence will always be
scorned by women of integrity.

SOPHIE TILMA-SCHAAFF

PRICE 2 DUTCH FLORINS PER YEAR.

Announcements.

Any correspondence to be addressed to the
President of the I. W. S. All. will reach her in
February, if sent to the Headquarters of the Nat.
Union of W. S. Societies, 25 Victoria Street,
London S. W.

The Report of the Amsterdam Congress may
be purchased of Miss Kramers, 92 Kruiskade,
Rotterdam for 75 cent post paid. In getting money
orders ask for the equivalent of f 0 75. It is about
1.25 Mk. in German money; 1 sh. 3 d. in English
money 0.30 \$ in American money; 1½ fr. in
French money.

The Report contains the reports of all the
auxiliaries and in addition those of Austria and
Bohemia; the proceedings; the program; the resolu-
tions; lists of officers and committees; a history
of the Alliance; an account of the social features
of the congress; the address of welcome by Dr.
Jacobs; the President's address etc. This pamphlet
is one of our best means of propaganda showing
the actual state of the suffrage-problem, therefore
it should be in the hands of every member of
every Parliament. Those who wish it mailed to
any M.P. in their name will please give his
address on the post-order.

At present there are still more than 200 copies
available.

LETTER FROM THE FLAG COMMITTEE TO THE N. W. S. ASSOCIATIONS OF THE AFFILIATED COUNTRIES OF THE I. W. S. ALL.

At the Conference in Amsterdam we decided
upon having a banner, and a Committee of three
was appointed to lay some designs before the
Conference in London.*) But as this Committee
began to discuss the matter, there was a differ-
ence of opinion as to what sort of banner was meant.

One of the ladies wanted to have a lovely
banner, with a peculiar suffrage design, embroid-

ered in different colours, of which only one
specimen was to be made.

When I suggested it at the Conference, my
original idea was, to have a simple flag, in two
or three colours, with some letters perhaps, or
the international suffrage design which has already
been accepted in Copenhagen, to be hoisted on
the top of the building wherever we hold a meeting.
And I still believe this to be the best.

As soon as we have decided upon the colours
and the design in London, every country can
copy the suffrage flag for its own use, and by
using it as much as possible, our suffrage,
colours and design will soon be known all over
the world.

Those, who want to carry it in a procession
can have one made in a different shape, but the
colours and design must always be the same,
and as simple as possible so that it is easily
recognized.

Now, I do not want your advice upon colours
etc.; that is to be settled in London but will
you please write to my address as soon as
possible, and tell me what you want: either a
hand-ome banner, which remains the property
of the I.W.S.A. and in that case, has to be carried
from one country to another, or a simple thing,
which is recognized all over the world as the
International woman suffrage flag.

Mrs. H. C. VAN LOENEN DE BORDES,
2nd Constantijn Huygensstraat 36, Amsterdam.

One of the greatest events of 1909 will be the
assembling together of women from all parts of
the civilized world in the **International gathering**,
to be held in **Lo don**, in the spring (April 26).

The occasion should be marked by all that can
be devised to make it impressive. All lesser
differences of opinion should be set aside, so
that the united expression of the will of the women
of Great Britain may be added, with all the
solemnity of an epoch-making event, to the
testimony of the women who will come as our
guests.

All would-be national reformers are faced with

*) see Report Amsterdam Conference p. 44. — ED.

the fears of the timorous as to how far their example may or may not be followed by other nations. "If our women are enfranchised," says such a one, "would not our country be thereby placed at a disadvantage in its negotiations with other countries less enlightened?" It is a question at least as worthy of an answer as the combined physical force—place in the home—loss of womanly-bloom argument so often advanced. What better answer could be produced than the practical, ocular demonstration which April should afford of the international character of our movement? How to bring this aspect of the question home to the mass of our people should be the concern of each one of us.

If arbitration is to take the place of the sword, if purity and love are to triumph over vice and hate, if a nobler race is to people the earth, if the Kingdom is to come and come quickly, the mother-spirit—she, all the world over, whom the Creator called to be His first ally in the fight against evil—must be set free to attain the full measure of her stature, unhindered, unfettered by any arbitrary or unnatural limitation.

With united aim, with united international effort and cordial co-operation amongst all those who work for "Suffrage" in this centre of the movement, the year 1909 will assuredly shine with the light of great advance, and may even stand out in the annals of the century as the year which witnessed the enfranchisement of the women of more than one European State.

(from the Editorial part of
"Women's Franchise", Jan. 7)

LECTURERS.

Dr. Käthe Schirmacher (address Marlow in Mecklenburg) will travel from Königsberg to Dresden, passing by Berlin afterwards on her way through Central Germany to Hamburg. Thence she will go through the Rhine Province to the Netherlands, and from there she will pass Luxemburg in going back to Paris in March.

Dr. Thekla Hultin is second actuary of the Central Statistical Bureau at Helsingfors since 1901. She was elected M. P. in July 1908 and belongs to the Young Finnish party. In 1897 she was the first woman to receive a Diploma in the Faculty of Philosophy. For some time she was a teacher, then she became a journalist and editor of a paper which was discontinued for political reasons. She has published several treatises, for instance "On the Mines in Finland", "The Awakening of Finnish Patriotism", and a Finnish translation of "Précis d'Economie Politique." Miss Hultin will be in London on Jan. 8, where she will address the W. F. L. meeting at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place.

Mrs. Henriette Fürth from Francfort, a well-known sociologist, speaker and author, will visit the Netherlands in the last week of January and address some Local Branches of the N. W. S. A. in university-towns.

Miss Evelyn Sharp, English "Suffragette", will speak at a meeting of the Danish Women's League (Dansk Kvindesamfund) at Copenhagen on January 16. Perhaps she will also give some lectures in the provinces of Denmark.

Ask sample-copies of "Jus Suffragii" to gain more subscribers!

Australia.

Since 1903 the Woman Suffrage Bill in Victoria has been in the hands of private members, but we have never ceased for one minute our demand that the Government should take it up, and a couple of months ago we succeeded in extracting a promise from the Premier (Sir Thomas Bent) — our long time opponent — that he would make it a Government measure. On September 18th I received a private intimation that he had yielded; he announced the fact in the Lower House October 7th; he introduced the Bill on October 14th. It was read a second time and passed on October 21st by 45 votes to 9. On November 18th it passed the House of Obstruction, constitutionally known as the Legislative Council. I suppose the cables will have informed you of the bare fact, but they could not tell you how triumphant the victory was, for, contrary to all precedent, when a Woman Suffrage Bill was before the Council, the Noes did not call for a division. They did not wish to see the details of their over-whelming defeat, our magnificent victory, recorded in "Hansard" or in the Press, but I was not going to allow it to pass unrecorded, so I determined to do some mild "suffragetteing" on my own account. Defying all the parliamentary rules which forbid visitors in the gallery to take notes, I took notes, and immortalised the names representing 23 Ayes and 5 Noes. We knew we were going to win, but in our most sanguine moments we never anticipated such a victory. Even the Government did not expect more than a majority of 2 in the House of Rip Van Winkles.

Our Bill came before the Council on October 27th but trouble had been brewing in the Assembly for some weeks, a number of the Ministerial supporters being dissatisfied with the *personnel* of the Cabinet. When the House met, the Premier, to the surprise of everyone, moved the adjournment until November 18th to allow for a reconstruction of the Ministry. The Council met merely to adjourn formally, but one of our friends, Mr Edgar M.L.C. cleverly seized the opportunity to present our Woman Suffrage Declaration, an enormous roll, containing 21,000 names mostly those of women prominent in home making, in philanthropy, in industry, in the professions, who declared themselves favourable to woman suffrage being passed into law, without further delay.

There are still a few people in Victoria who have the temerity to assert, in spite of all the evidence to the contrary given by the Federal elections, that the women do not want the vote but in every section we appealed to we found nearly 100 per cent ready to make their "declaration". Mr. Edgar had no sooner resumed his seat than up rose Mr. Harwood, the oldest member of the House, a staunch defender of the exclusive rights of property — owned by men — to the protection of the vote. Mr. Harwood said he had a petition against the Bill, but he did not say how many signatures it contained, and when the House met again he had not the slightest doubt he would have between forty and fifty thousand names against the Bill. On November 18th he presented a microscopic roll "from the Women of Victoria" containing "about 3500 signatures". The House screamed with laughter and members asked him what he had done with the rest of his 47,000! Thus all the time they had been at work, the anti-suffrage forces had only been able to get "about 3500" to sign the Women's Decla-

ation of Dependence. Our Declaration of Interdependence had only been worked in a casual way, in the brief intervals when we were not busy laying mines for the Premier; and yet working in such an amateurish fashion we had secured 21,000 names representing the best of the philanthropic, the industrial and educational forces in our State. There was not one anti-suffragist present in the galleries during the debate, and the few opponents who spoke were men who are regarded as political derelicts. They are completely out of touch with their constituents; they became members of the Council in the palmy days when the property qualification was so high that only wealthy men, who, in this part of the world, are usually most undemocratic, had a chance of offering themselves for election.

The Australian woman suffrage movement began in Victoria in 1869, Victoria, the first colony to demand political freedom for women, is the last State to see it realised. Thirty-nine years work! Why? Because Victoria has the most strongly entrenched Upper House in the world, and a Lower House that for the past twenty years has had no men worthy of the name of statesmen, who—even with the Upper House constitutionally fortified as it is—could have fought it successfully on the question of woman suffrage. But now that we have won such a great victory, we can easily forget all that Victorian women have had to suffer in the winning. We are thankful to be free, because of our own self-respect, because of the power it gives us to help in making Australia a great nation, and because we shall be freer to help our sisters in other lands to win their political liberty.

"Failure is impossible".

VIDA GOLDSTEIN.

Melbourne-Australia.

Great Britain.

During December the **National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies** was busy with the by-election contest at Chelmsford where much steady successful work culminated on polling day in a voters' petition in favour of Women's Suffrage. Polling begins at 8 a.m. and closes at 8 p.m., but the opening of the poll found our workers ready. Unfortunately we could not sufficiently staff the large number of scattered polling stations and in several cases one heroic worker held the fort for twelve hours, experiencing many kindnesses at the hands of local sympathisers who sent out tea and cakes to the plucky sentry. 1920 signatures were obtained on polling day, an excellent result in a rural constituency and amid the excitement of an election. Another abiding result is the formation of a strong Suffrage Society in Chelmsford, to which the leaders of all parties and opinions, men and women, belong. Chelmsford kept three of our organisers busy, but another was hard at work breaking new ground in the South West, where good meetings were held at Exeter, Sidmouth and Plymouth. Another organiser has been able to report a strong Society in Aberdeen and preliminary work has been done in Norwich. The Christmas holidays made the month a short working one but the close of the year has been very encouraging and the new year promises well.

Preparations for the International Congress are going on steadily and we hope to have a full attendance of delegates and many visitors.

The Prime Minister was requested but refused to receive a deputation of some medical women on the Suffrage; he was informed that 538 registered medical women were in favour of the extension of the franchise to women and 15 were against; comment is needless.

The Anti Suffragists threaten us with a formidable petition against Woman's Suffrage early in the year.

For years ago we have been petitioning in favour and have been told by friends and foes that petitions are useless, so it will be interesting to see the comments on the new venture.

Up to Dec. 11th the member of petitions sent in this last year have been 116, at least 80 of these were sent in from public meetings, the voting in favour being very often unanimous. They thus represent an enormous amount of public opinion though officially signed by only one person in each case. Petitions sent in during by-elections are reported from Dewsbury, Peckham, Newcastle on Tyne (3079 signatures) and from Chelmsford.

MARGERY I. CORBETT.

London, Jan. 6, 1909.

The Christmas of 1908 will always be remembered by members of the **National Women's Social & Political Union** as a particularly happy one. It was thought that such would not be the case, as although Miss Christabel Pankhurst would have been released in time for the Christmas festivities yet her mother, the dearly loved and greatly honoured Founder and Leader of the Union, would still be in prison, as would also Mrs. Leigh, who is one of the bravest fighters in the women's ranks. As Christmas drew nearer and nearer various rumours began to be circulated. "Were the Leaders going to be released together?" "Why had the Home Secretary refused to make any statement about them in the House of Commons, although asked to do so?" "What did he mean?" Was it possible that . . . ? Each morning the papers were hurriedly scanned by anxious members, and at last, one day before the date fixed for the release of Miss Christabel Pankhurst, came the brief notice:—Mrs. and Miss Pankhurst and Mrs. Leigh were released from Holloway Gaol last Saturday by order of the Home Secretary."

A triumphal procession had been arranged for the morning of Miss Pankhurst's release, and arrangements for this had of course to be slightly altered. Vast crowds gathered to watch the procession pass, and the women were cheered again and again.

In the evening of the same day a mass meeting was held in one of the largest halls in London. Although this meeting was worked up in less than four days, it was crowded to the very doors. Mrs. and Miss Pankhurst and Mrs. Leigh received an enthusiastic ovation when they came on to the platform, the whole audience rising to its feet and cheering.

At the beginning of her speech, throughout it, and again at the end, Miss Pankhurst was enthusiastically cheered to the echo, as were also her mother and Mrs. Leigh.

The meeting as a whole was one of the most enthusiastic ever held in the annals of the Union, and over £ 300 (M. 6,000) was collected as a

mark of practical sympathy for the three brave women released that day.

A few words may not be out of place of the work the Union has done during 1908.

In all some 6,000 meetings have been held by the Union, both indoor and outdoor meetings; the outdoor have ranged from the Great Demonstration held in Hyde Park on June 21st at which upwards of half a million persons were present to small street corner meetings held during by-elections, whilst the indoor gatherings have ranged from meetings in the Albert Hall (the greatest hall in the country, seating close on 10,000 people) to small drawing room "At Homes".

On five separate occasions attempts have been made to interview the Prime Minister and to present to him a petition urging him to consider the claims of the women. These deputations have in every case ended in imprisonment for those concerned, and during the year 126 women have thus suffered for their political convictions. Their aggregate sentence reaching a period of 14¹/₂ years.

The Union has fought in 18 by-elections, and has in every case succeeded in seriously damaging the prestige of the Liberal government. The Union has also been present whenever a Cabinet Minister has appeared in public, and has entered a strong protest against the continued refusal of the government to grant votes for women.

From the financial point of view the year has been wonderfully successful, £ 19,000 (M. 380,000) have been collected, £ 7,000 of which are the result of the single week of "self denial" held in February.

So greatly has the work extended that the London Offices of the Union have twice during the year been extended and have now at the beginning of 1909 been further enlarged, so that the Union now occupies 17 rooms in London alone. In addition to these London premises the Union has headquarters in many of the large provincial towns such as Bristol, Manchester, Bradford, Birmingham, etc.

The weekly paper "Votes for Women" started in 1907 as a monthly paper has extended its circulation from 25,000 copies per week and is growing in popularity daily.

A remarkable sign of progress during the past year has been the growth of the Women's press, formerly the Wholesale Literature Department of the W. S. P. U. During the last twelve months a turnover of some £ 2,000 has been effected, which represents the sale of hundreds and thousands of pamphlets and the disposal of half a million leaflets.

It is with very great pleasure that we have received from the President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance the following cordial letter:—

My dear Mrs. Pethick Lawrence: The officers of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance have voted to accept the invitations tendered by the Social and Political Union to attend a meeting to be held under its auspices in Albert Hall, April 29th, 1909, at which time the "casus belli" of the so-called "English Suffragette" will be set forth by your speakers.

When the suffrage is won in England, as it will be soon, the "militant policy" of your organization will divide opinion throughout the world. One class will claim that the suffrage might have been

won by the usual "constitutional" campaign; another, that it never would have come had not unusual methods been employed. This difference of view will enter the ranks of every national association, and parties will come forward to champion and to oppose "militant methods".

It requires no prophet to predict the inevitable coming of this situation. Meanwhile, every fair-minded Suffragist will esteem it a great and valued privilege to hear the case presented and defended by your own able women.

Cordially,

(Signed) CARRIE CHAPMANN CATT.

Office of the President, 2, West 86th Street, N.-Y.
December 18th, 1908.

This meeting in the Albert Hall has been especially arranged by the Women's Social and Political Union on April 29th in honour of the Suffragist delegates who will be visiting London for their International Conference.

The Founder of the Union, Mrs. Pankhurst, will take the chair. Miss Christabel Pankhurst and other leaders of the Movement of international reputation will take part in the meeting. The best places in the hall will be reserved for our visitors who will receive complimentary tickets.

On this particular festive occasion all the members of the Union will wear the gala uniform; they will be dressed in white and will wear the regalia sash in the purple, white and green which is passed over the right shoulder and fastens under the left arm. They will also carry their colours and salute their guests with hundreds of tricolour flags.

It would be a very charming act of courtesy on the part of our visitors, if on this special day of the Women's Social & Political Union they would wear the same uniform as the members of the Union.

We shall spare no pains to make this gathering a record demonstration of the enthusiasm felt by women all over the world for this universal women's Movement which we Suffragists feel is the greatest Cause in all the world at the beginning of the twentieth century.

E. PETHICK LAWRENCE.

London, Jan. 6, 1909.

The Women's Freedom League began the New Year in a manner somewhat typical of the militant movement, that is to say by an attempt to hold a perfectly reasonable and peaceful midnight meeting in the sacred precincts of Parliament Square, and by a lively argument with a body of police who had been ordered to break up the dangerous assembly. We managed however to give a cheer for our cause, and on the last stroke of 12, 1909 was ushered in to the cry of "Votes for Women".

The end of the session was celebrated by a funeral procession to Trafalgar Square to "Bury the Bill" that had been slain by the Liberal Government. Mrs. Despard and others delivered speeches which contained more of a spirit of combat than of sorrow. Never has the attitude of the women in our movement been more determined than at the present moment of apparent defeat, and if only the members of Parliament were statesmen instead of ignorant party politicians, they would realise this fact, and give in to our just demand now, when they might do it with some

show of exercise of free-will in the matter, instead of later when they will be ignominiously forced to do it, and will yet be held up to the execration of all those who love liberty.

Dr. Thekla Hultin, a distinguished woman member of the Finnish Parliament, and Mme Aino Malmberg, a professor in one of the Universities and a keen politician, have arrived in London this week. A mass meeting in Queen's Hall will give them a public welcome. The Press is much interested in these ladies and has given them splendid notices. They are to address many of our meetings up and down the country, and we hope that our timid men will take heart of grace when they see that a woman though a Member of Parliament is still a woman and not a Megera or a baboon, a metamorphosis which they appear to imagine that association with male-politicians will be likely to cause in their own country-women.

A magazine of our own, called "The Hour and the Woman", is to make its first appearance this month. It is edited by Mrs. Billington-Greig and will contain articles, setting forth the militant policy of the "Women's Freedom League", and others more general and suitable for propagandist purposes. We shall still rely upon "Women's Franchise" for the circulation of our news, keeping "The Hour and the Woman" as an outlet for our doctrines and opinions.

The legislators of this country have ceased from troubling for a time. The country seems to survive it.

MAUDE FITZHERBERT.

London, Jan. 7, 1909.

Russia.

I won't give a review of the proceedings of the congress of Russian women held at Petersburg in Dec. last, of its wide program and the resolutions adopted; I prefer to give here a small account of the grand impression of the congress, of the active life that animated it and which made it possible to unite in such a dark reactionary time more than 800 women from different parts of the country, from Siberia, Caucasus, Finland, Poland, etc.

The congress embraced all questions most widely, awakened the attention and interest of all those women and men until now indifferent to the problems of social and political life, yet it excluded the question of political and social rights for women. The founding of a sole general women's organisation, a national union of women, is, I am afraid, out of the question, it could perhaps exist in the form of a federative or representative body, that would bind all its members together by the sole acknowledgement of the absence of women's rights.

The difference existing between women of different political parties became evident by the sad incident when the delegates of the Labour Party women left the congress-hall, when their resolutions could not be accepted by the Organizing Committee of the congress from fear of censure by our reactionary Government, while the Committee refused the claim of the secessionists to pass no resolutions at all under the circumstances. This difference of opinion showed itself openly after the report of a delegate of the labouring women on "women and politics", where she spoke of two independent currents among

the proletarian and middle-class women; the latter themselves are very democratic. History demonstrates to the middle-class or bourgeoisie the necessity of, adapting itself to the demands of the proletarians as alone, without the support of the masses, it will never obtain anything. The orator urged that the middle-class (bourgeoisie) and the proletarian women cannot unite in an association, but they can meet and collaborate and, when necessary, unite their forces. The congress therefore as an organisation can only have the importance and function of an information-bureau. Every member of the congress agreed to this.

The question of forming a National Council of Women in Russia affiliating to the International Council of Women was brought before the congress by our oldest pioneer of the women's movement, Mrs. Philosophoff, and called forth again the declaration of a difference of tendency and of the impossibility of uniting all women. Except the delegates of the Labour Party women, the majority of the congress accepted the plan of forming a National Council of Women, affiliating to the International Council of Women.

The last general public meeting on the evening of 16th of Dec. at the Town Hall was concluded by one delegate who uttered an energetic and passionate protest against the penalty of death, which dishonours Russia!

The whole meeting rose with frantic applause and clamour, waving their handkerchiefs in token of agreement.

The police was going to interfere, but then the congress was already closed by the president.

E. GONTSCHAROFF.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 4, 1909.

The first Russian Women's Congress met in St. Petersburg on the 10/23 December 1908 under the most unfavourable circumstances. The reaction being in full force in Russia, the organizers ("The Women's Society for Mutual Help in St. Petersburg" and "The Russian Union for Women's Rights") were obliged to submit to all the restrictions, imposed by Mr. Stolypine.

Notwithstanding all these hostile surroundings, the R. W. Congress attracted the attention of all the progressive elements in Russia: and so great was the general interest for it, that for a whole week the Congress occupied the first place in the newspapers.

About 800 members were present at the Congress.

The most crowded section of the Congress was the third—on women's political rights (this question was allowed to be discussed in sectional meetings). Unfortunately, from the very first, the members of this section were divided in two parties. The majority stood for the International Woman Suffrage Alliance's policy of uniting women of all classes and parties into a general movement for political, civil and economical rights*). The minority—most of them being Socialdemocrats—declared that the democratic elements cannot work together with the "bourgeois" women; that the classes must stand apart in the strife for liberty and justice. (Some were even against any separate organisation of women and put all their hopes in a general democratic movement). In their arguments the Socialdemocrats referred to the example of England, Germany, Norway etc. and misrepresented the whole women's move-

*) Only "political"—Editor "J. S."

ment in these countries; they tried to prove that there the women of different classes worked separately; that the suffragettes in England and the "National Union for Woman Suffrage" in Denmark and Norway are "bourgeois" organisations which stand against universal suffrage for women; that the women in Finland got the universal suffrage only through the Socialdemocrats, etc. All these assertions were proved to be false by those delegates, who advocated a temporary united action of all women irrespective of classes and parties.

Miss Furuholm gave us a fine report which went to prove that Finland got her liberty not through one party, but through the combined action of all parties and classes in Finland.

It was to be feared that the want of mutual understanding between the two parties would bring the Congress to evil, that it would give the Administration a pretext for closing it and thus stop the whole work. Happily, both parts—the Socialdemocrats and the non-partisan defenders of women's rights—finally came to an understanding. The Socialdemocrats admitted the possibility of temporarily uniting with women of other classes and parties,—for the purpose of informative Congresses etc.; and made peace with the so-called "bourgeoises".

On the whole, the Congress gave a very full and very tragical picture of the position of women of different classes and professions in Russia. All the reports clearly proved the necessity of changing the laws and customs which deprive women of liberty and impose on them the chains of subjection.

Many were the resolutions tending to that aim which were taken at the last meeting of the R. W.'s Congress; all tended to give the women in Russia full equality before the law with men; and many resolutions proclaimed the solidarity of the interests of women with those of Democracy.

ZÉNÉIDÉ MIROVITCH.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 3, 1909.

The Netherlands.

Our National Woman Suffrage Association's annual meeting at Leeuwarden on Dec. 12 and 13 was a great success, although we sadly missed our President, who had to go abroad by doctor's advice. The result of the I.W.S. Alliance's convention at Amsterdam had been an enormous growth of National Association: from 3500 the membership had increased to 5400 and the number of Sections or Local Branches had augmented from 28 to 48. There was much business to be transacted, and the Leeuwarden Local Section had spared no trouble to give the delegates a good reception and suitable entertainment on the evening of the first day. There was music and recitals of poetry, and Rosika Schwimmer, who had come to the Netherlands for a lecturing tour gave, a stirring address. That night a hundred new members joined the W. S. A.

The main points of the agenda were a change of constitution and standing orders and the determination of the N. W. S. A.'s policy and tactics in the approaching elections in the beginning of the summer. Only the first part of the business could be got through, and the revision of the Standing Orders and the discussion of election tactics was postponed until a special meeting should be called for the purpose. A result of the change in the constitution is that henceforth the male members shall have votes in the meetings

equally with the female ones; Dr. Jacobs was re-elected as President by a vast majority; and the profit of the Amsterdam congress is to be devoted to propaganda and formation of new Local Branches.

Telegrams with greetings from our sister suffragists in the Scandinavian countries brought a pleasant feeling of international solidarity.

During the discussion of the state-budget in the Second Chamber of the States General, the question was raised from several sides why the long-expected revision of the State Constitution had been postponed by the Government. On this occasion the leaders of four political parties: the Free Liberal, the Union-Liberal, the Radical and the Socialist party, declared themselves strongly and unmistakably in favor of the enfranchisement of women.

By the generosity of a couple of wealthy members the President of our W. S. A. was enabled to invite some lecturers from abroad. Availing herself of this privilege, she invited in November Mrs. Donohoe from Sydney N. S. Wales, who is now living in Paris, in December Miss Rosika Schwimmer from Budapest, who was lecturing in Germany, and in January Frau Henriette Fürth, the celebrated sociologist from Frankfurt. Thus our Local Branches had an opportunity of hearing from a woman elector's own mouth the results of woman suffrage in Australia, and of becoming acquainted with the zealous work of the Hungarian women for their enfranchisement. We hope to gain a better understanding of the causes and historical foundation of the women's movement when we shall hear Frau Fürth.

Each of those lectures has brought new adherents to our cause.

MARTINA G. KRAMERS.

Rotterdam, Jan. 7, 1909.

France.

The National Council of Women had its quarterly meeting in November. The President of the Law Section could report Senator Strauss' bill on the eligibility of women for Courts of Trade (Conseil des Prud'hommes), which has since become law. Mrs. Blanche Schweig, chairman of the trade union of Commercial Employees, was one of the candidates.

Mrss. L'Estsurbeillon and Lamey, M.P.s, have introduced a bill to change art. 386 of the Civil Code, and thereby grant to mothers who contract a second marriage the usufruct of their children's property, as well as to fathers in a similar case. The Journal des Femmes remarks that it is characteristic of men-made legislation that reforms only go half-way, inasmuch as art. 395 C. C. is left unchanged, so that mothers in second marriage may profit by their children's possessions and yet be debarred from their guardianship.

Mme. Jeanne E. Schmahl, chairman of the association called l'Avant-Courrière which recently succeeded in gaining for married women the free disposal of their earnings, is going to attend the next convention of the I. W. S. Alliance, and will spend some months in London to study the progress of the suffrage movement. She is a well-known author and she was the first lady M. D. in France.

M. G. K.

A Paris, cinq candidates s'étaient mises sur les rangs pour les élections de novembre qui suivent de si près le vote de la loi que les candidates ne pouvaient espérer de cette hâtive candidature que l'honneur de l'avoir, entre toutes les femmes de France, posée les premières.

Or, l'une d'elles a été élue, Mme. Clémence Jusselin, couturière. Elle a été élue par 128 voix dont 58 seulement sont des voix de femmes. Soixante-dix hommes ont donc voté pour elle, ce qui prouve que la prud'femme était nécessaire et attendue.

(La Ligue, Janvier 1909.)

Italy.

Until now the Parliamentary Commission which is studying the question of votes for women lets nothing transpire as to the conclusions it has arrived at. Meanwhile the pretext of unwillingness to anticipate a *commissorial question* has inflicted a serious defeat on the principle of equal rights in the Italian Chamber during the discussion of the women's right to be electors for the Courts of Trade (Camerate di Comercio). The Commission which had to report on the bill for instituting these Courts had declared "that a woman who can manage and represent a commercial firm may well be trusted to elect from a well-known group of persons appropriate members for a Court of Trade, and that, if in exercising a trade she has given proof of cleverness, she need not be *a priori* debarred from eligibility", and accordingly proposed suffrage and eligibility for women employed in trades or commerce having attained the age of 21 and having attended school. The Cabinet Minister Cocco Ortu opposed this, alleging the above pretext, but really—as we believe—from fear of creating a precedent which might seem dangerous to the enemies of women's enfranchisement. Then the Reporting Commission withdrew the proposal, but some deputies made it a question of principle and generously insisted on a division. But the Chamber not being complete in number, this was impossible; and later a subsequent vote showed 123 against and 82 in favour of giving votes to women. And so we know where we stand! We must not forget the names of the M. Ps: Pietro Chiesi, Fortunati, Pavia, and Viazzi, who strongly supported the cause of women in trades. The women's leagues and the W. S. Associations intend to organise in the whole of Italy a movement of protest among the women traders and employees, and already meetings have been held for that purpose.

(Anima Nova I, 8, 9).

Sweden.

On Dec. 10 the Sundsväl Local Branch of the N. W. S. A. celebrated its quinquennial by a successful festival in the theatre. The varied program contained musical, literary, plastic and dramatic entertainments, among which was a piece called "Jus Suffragii" written for the occasion.

Two new Local Sections of the N. W. S. A. were formed in Dec.

The Nyköping Section has a Students' Club which works for the spreading of knowledge on state- and town government and occasionally holds sham elections and sham parliamentary and municipal sessions. This scheme answers well as a sort of university extension.

On Jan. 12 the Stockholm branch organises a reception for Miss Whitlock, who resigns the presidency of the N. W. S. A., feeling that the growing work for the flourishing Association was no longer compatible with the duties of principal of a big co-educational school. Her resignation is considered a great loss by each and all of the members.

(From Dagny.)

Belgium.

On Dec. 19 the Chamber passed the bill that gives suffrage and eligibility to women for the Courts of Trade (Conseils des Prud'hommes). Five women's Associations had petitioned for these rights, and Mr. Demblon, M. P. had presented the petition to the Chamber.

M. G. K.

Denmark.

This time we have nothing to speak of but *preparations*. In Copenhagen it is the Danish Woman Suffrage Association, which takes the lead. All the affiliated organisations are advised to select women in whom they confide, to be put on the different lists of candidates for the Municipality. Hitherto, we have said just as the Alliance: "We will be *non-partisan*", but this standpoint has to be given up, for we are obliged to have the names put on lists of one party or the other. The elections are to proceed in a new way—the proportional method—and this will give the minority some representation at least. We will not mention here the names of the women nominated by each organisation, for from these names some are going to be selected by the male voters. We must certainly be happy to get women nominated on the definite lists. We spoke with a very optimistic woman; she said: "Of course every second name on the lists ought to be a woman's. So it was last spring, at the elections for the boards of the Relief-Funds!"

The lists will be exhibited for inspection from the first to the eighth of February in Copenhagen and from the 16th to 31st of January in the country-towns and country-constituencies.

It is a most essential thing to get the right people into the Boards of Citizen Representatives for the session will last till 1913, and in the country and the provincial towns it will be just as essential to get the right people into the Parish-Councils and Town Councils. As has often been remarked before, the higher classes of women have not the same amount of interest in woman suffrage as the lower classes, especially the Socialists. But when they speak of the elections one should think that every woman would care to vote. So it is most likely now; that most wives will vote as their husbands wish. For the Socialists it is only too sure.

Mrs. Nörlund has edited a little guide-book for new electors, "The A. B. C. of Municipal Suffrage". Every woman knows it by heart, we think.

In a word, a spirit of interest in Municipal affairs has appeared among women, which is most interesting to witness.

I hope to have something more definite to tell you next time.

JOHANNA MÜNTER.

Köbenhavn, Jan. 9, 1909.

United States.

Tax-paying women of Michigan can now vote on tax questions. The constitution adopted at the November election so provides. Some day people will think this change came through general evolution, but of course we know, and it is our duty to make others know, that Michigan women, backed by a petition signed by 175,000 women, appeared before the Constitutional convention early in 1907 asking that body to submit an amendment granting full suffrage to women. They were courteously received, and some of the members of the convention bravely assisted them, but their request was not granted. After much discussion, the following was agreed upon and ratified: "Art. III, Sec. 4. Whenever any question is submitted to a vote of the electors which involves the direct expenditure of public money or the issue of bonds, every woman having the qualification of male electors who has property assessed for taxes in any part of the district or territory to be affected by the result of such election shall be entitled to vote thereon."

Thus does Michigan move one step ahead of most of the states in the Union. New York, Iowa, Louisiana and Montana are the other states in which women have some form of taxpaying suffrage.

We congratulate the men and women of Michigan, because together they have placed their state in the front line of our fight.

(from „Progress“, Dec. 1908.)

The Union Labor Advocate, gives the platform of the National Women's Trade Union League, of which plank No. 5 is „Full Citizenship for Women.“ The League's Report 1907/8 says that the Legislative Committee, feeling the failure to confer the suffrage upon Chicago's women citizens as a grave objection, has already protested in 1907. Now in the Woman's Tribune of Dec. 12, we find the following announcement:—

Mesdames Ellen M. Henrotin, Minnie A. Watkins, Ella S. Stewart, Emmy C. Ewald, and Sophronia F. Breckenridge, representing the suffrage societies and other organizations of Chicago women, have petitioned the new Charter Convention to put in a clause providing that women shall have the municipal vote. They set forth that a like petition two years ago was refused by but a majority of one.

And in the Woman's Journal of the same day we see this news:—

The Chicago Woman's Club, one of the largest and strongest in the country, with a noble record of good civic work accomplished, passed resolutions in favor of woman suffrage on the day before Thanksgiving, and issued a call for a large public meeting to advocate a municipal woman suffrage clause in the new city charter.

The National Women's Trade Union League had its Second interstate conference in September at Chicago, whilst its Branch Leagues in Boston, New York, St. Louis and Chicago had their meetings in October. Woman Suffrage being a plank in their platform, the question of votes for women is mentioned several times in the addresses and resolutions; and the National League was represented at the Amsterdam Congress of the I. W. S. All. as well as in the Conventions of the Federation of Labor.

At Chicago in Sept. Miss Jane Addams, Miss McEnerney and Mrs. Grout of Cincinnati all agreed that co-operation was good but that there was no form of feminine co-operation so good as that that the ballot would bring them.

Miss Tessie Kelly, representing the Denver Trades and Labor Assembly, was the only woman in the conference with a vote, and she intended to use it in November by voting for a friend of organized labor.

Miss Jane Addams summed up the sentiment of the discussion as standing clearly for legislation for limiting the hours of work and for pushing forward the franchise for women. Discussing these matters together brings out a comradeship founded upon a common need. Through such comradeship has the League won its present success, a success that we dreamed of long ago when we thought of a chorus of women which could sing out some of the things which could not be expressed any other way.

The American Federation of Labor has long been friendly to women's rights; it sent a Fraternal Delegate to the Conference of the National Women's Trade Union League and „Progress“ of December tells us that the N. A. W. S. A. in its turn sent a Fraternal Delegate to the A. F. of L. meeting.

The following resolution was introduced by Max Morris and passed:

Whereas The economic platform of the A. F. of L. adopted by the Minneapolis convention and re-affirmed and amended by the Norfolk convention, among other planks in its platform, affirms its belief in „Woman Suffrage, coequal with man suffrage“, and

Whereas in the annual report at the last national convention of the A. F. of L. it is expressly stated that it is the „Much abused trade union movement which stands for the recognition of the rights, political, social, moral and industrial of women;“ Therefore be it

Resolved, That this, the 24th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, does now re-affirm this platform and expresses its belief in the need of full political equality for all women. That this political equality is as necessary to their economic independence as it is for their brothers in all branches of labor, and we pledge the affiliated unions of the land to earnestly work for this political freedom.

There is some contradiction between this resolution and the fact that, when at the annual meeting of the Chicago Federation of Labor, Mrs. Raymond Robins was elected chairman of the executive board, Miss Gertrude Stoelzel was elected a member of the finance committee and a delegate to the state federation convention, and Mrs. Jennie Loghridge was elected as a member of the legislative committee, men contested vigorously both Miss Stoelzel and Mrs. Loghridge's election.

The woman suffrage bill has been defeated in the Vermont Senate, but by so narrow a margin that a change of three votes would have carried it. In the Vermont Constitutional Convention held in 1870, woman suffrage received only one vote.

M. G. K.

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Hungary.

Der neue Gesetzentwurf über die Wahl der Reichstagsabgeordneten schliesst, wie schon berichtet, die Frau aus. § 1 sagt: für die Wahl der Reichstagsabgeordneten ist wahlberechtigt jeder Mann, der ungarischer Staatsbürger ist, das 24. Lebensjahr vollendet, eine ständige Wohnung hat, in keinem mit der Wahlberechtigung inkompatiblen öffentlichem Dienste steht und von der Wahlberechtigung nicht ausgeschlossen ist.

Ausgeschlossen sind nach § 4 diejenigen:

- 1) deren Minderjährigkeit verlängert ist;
- 2) die geisteskrank, schwachsinzig sind, wie auch die Taubstummen, die sich nicht durch Zeichen verständlich machen können;
- 3) die unter Konkurs stehen, oder wegen Verschwendung rechtskräftig unter Kuratell gestellt wurden;
- 4) der die öffentliche Wohltätigkeit, oder eine öffentliche Unterstützung geniessen, beziehungsweise genossen hat und seit dem Tage, an dem der Genuss aufgehört hat, ein Jahr noch nicht verstrichen ist;
- 5) der wegen einer an einem öffentlichen Orte Skandal hervorruhenden Trunkenheit innerhalb zweier Jahre rechtskräftig mindestens zweimal verurteilt war und seit der Verbüßung oder Verjährung der letzten Strafe ein Jahr noch nicht verstrichen ist; (zu Hause darf einer also seine Familie im Rausch kurz und klein schlagen, das schadet seiner politischen Ehre nicht.)
- 6) dessen Wahlrecht durch einen Beschluss des über die Gültigkeit der Wahl der Reichstagsabgeordneten erteilenden Gerichtes (§ 145) suspendiert ist;
- 7) der wegen eines Verbrechens oder eines Vergehens zu einer Freiheitsstrafe verurteilt ist, von dem Erwichenen des Urteils in Rechtskraft bis zur Verbüßung oder Verjährung der bemessenen Strafe, ausgenommen wenn die Strafe bedingt suspendiert, oder durch königliche Gnade erlassen wurde; der sich bedingt in Freiheit befindet; der in einer wegen eines Verbrechens oder eines Vergehens, durch eine rechtskräftige, richterliche Entscheidung angeordneten Untersuchungshaft ist;
- 8) der wegen eines aus Gewinnsucht begangenen, oder gegen den Staat gerichteten, oder gegen den zweiten Absatz des § 172 G. A. V: 1878, oder gegen den von der Auswanderung handelnden G. A. verstossenden Verbrechens oder Vergehens rechtskräftig zu einer Freiheitsstrafe verurteilt war, innerhalb fünf Jahre von der Verbüßung oder Verjährung der bemessenen Strafe gerechnet;
- 9) der zur Suspendierung der Ausübung seiner politischen Rechte rechtskräftig verurteilt ist, während der im Urteile bestimmter Zeit.

Dieses sogenannte „allgemeine“ Wahlrecht ist auf Pluralität basiert. Und zwar haben die Analphabeten (zirka 40 % der Wahlberechtigten) nur ein Zehntel Stimme, d. h. 10 Analphabeten wählen einen Wahlmann. Eine Stimme hat jeder des Schreibens und Lesens kundige Mann.

Von den Qualifikationen für 2 Stimmen sind für uns Frauen besonders bemerkenswert: dass derjenige, der das 32. Lebensjahr vollendet, seiner gesetzlichen gesamteten aktiven und Reserve-Militärdienstpflicht Genüge geleistet und mindestens drei, unter seiner väterlichen Gewalt stehende oder volljährige legitime (legitimierte) Kinder hat.

Eine Schmutzkonzurrenz sonder gleichen gegen die Frauenarbeit involviert der §, wonach der-

jenige, der in seiner Landwirtschaft, in seinem gewerblichen, Handels- oder anderen Unternehmen, oder in seinem Haushalte als Arbeitgeber mindestens seit fünf Jahren wenigstens eine *Mannsperson* über sechzehn Jahren (entweder eine und dieselbe, oder immer eine andere) gegen Gehalt (Lohn) verwendet, ebenfalls zwei Stimmen erhält.

Drei Stimmen erhalten die Absolventen der Mittelschulen und mindestens 100 Kronen direkte Staatssteuer Bezahlenden.

Es braucht wohl nicht besonders betont zu werden, dass bei dem Steuerzensus der vermögens- oder einkommenlose Mann auf Grund der von seiner Frau oder seinen unmündigen Kindern gezahlten Steuern entsprechender Höhe 2 oder 3 Stimmen erhält.

Aus der dem Gesetzentwurf beigeschlossenen Motivierung soll der auf die Ausschliessung der Frauen bezügliche Teil hier wörtlich mitgeteilt sein; „Von einer Rechtsausdehnung in solchem Masse, dass wir auch den Frauen das Wahlrecht gewähren, kann heute ernstlich kaum die Rede sein. (Die Zahl der nach Ungarn zuständigen Frauen über 24 Jahren war nach der Volkszählung vom Jahre 1900 rund 4 Millionen. Von diesen waren des Schreibens und Lesens kundig 1.600.000 = 40 Prozent.) Die ideale Auffassung des Berufs der Frauen erheischt, dass die Frauen den Kämpfen des politischen Lebens fernbleiben. Die praktischen und utilitären Gesichtspunkte bewogen bisher die überwiegende Mehrheit der Gesetzgebungen, die Frauen aus der Ausübung der politischen Rechte auszuschliessen. Das Bekleiden der Frauen mit dem Wahlrechte kann bei uns derzeit auch schon deshalb nicht zu den aktuellen Fragen gehören, weil dieser Gesetzentwurf auch ohne die Frauen eine so grosse Zahl neuer Elemente mit dem Wahlrechte bekleiden will, dass es ein politischer Leichtsin wäre, das Risiko noch zu steigern.“

Wie interessant ist dagegen die Motivierung, warum die 1.270.924 männlichen Analphabeten über 24 Jahren wohl ein sehr bescheidenes, aber doch immerhin das Wahlrecht erhalten sollen: „Ich erachte es für billig und zweckmässig“, heisst es im Motivenbericht, „auch auf dieselben (die Analphabeten) Rücksicht zu nehmen. Sie haben viele wertvolle Elemente in ihren Reihen und es würde ihnen vielleicht viel Bitternis verursachen, wenn sie vollkommen umgangen würden.“

Ich muss betonen, dass dieser sentimental-zärtliche Satz in demselben ministeriellen Motivenbericht steht, in dem es von den Frauen heisst, sie seien aus „praktischen und utilitären“ Gesichtspunkten auszuschliessen.

Dass dieser Gesetzentwurf unsere heftigste Opposition hervorruft braucht nicht betont zu werden.

Seit dem letzten Bericht haben wir an öffentlichen Kundgebungen zu verzeichnen: Eine Versammlung der Beamtinnen, in der die Sekretärin des Szombathelyer Beamtinnenvereins „Erzsi Trambitás“ die Notwendigkeit des Frauenstimmrechts für die weiblichen Beamten erörterte. Eine von den Organisationen der Privatbeamten und Handelsangestellten einberufene Landesdemonstrationsversammlung, die eine Resolution zu gunsten des Frauenstimmrechts annahm.

Die Sozialdemokraten agitieren mit einem Feuereifer gegen das Frauenwahlrecht, und gegen die „blöden Feministen, die sich absolut keinen besseren Zeitvertreib verschaffen können, als den Kampf ums Frauenstimmrecht“. Die Zeit der Parlamentsferien verstrich sonst ziemlich still.

Das, womit wir auch in politisch toten Zeiten und gerade dann — wirken könnten, müssen wir

uns versagen, weil wir die nötigen Geldmittel nicht aufreiben können.

Es ist nur ein wieder gutzumachender Schaden, dass die Internationale Alliance aus dem zu sammeln beschlossenen Internationalen Fond uns in dieser kritischen Zeit nicht mit einer An eihe zu Hilfe kommen kann, denn immer wieder und wieder zeigt es sich, dass nur eine entsprechende, nicht aus Geldmangel erlahmende Propaganda das Stimmrecht jetzt sichern könnte.

Mit grosser Befriedigung konstatieren wir, dass die Presse wieder zugänglicher ist. Interessant ist der Tonwechsel im offiziellen Organ des Ministers des Innern („Magyar Hirlap“), das bis vor Kurzem nur verächtlich und in direkt grobem Ton von uns sprach, letztes aber in zwei sehr auffallenden Leitartikeln uns gegenüber geradezu frappant anständig war. Einige Blätter brachten ganz spontan Artikel für das Frauenstimmrecht, dagegen glossierten die meisten Blätter hauptsächlich das Vorgehen der Suffragettes am 5. Dezember, und liessen die Bedeutung der Rede Lloyd Georges fast ganz unter den Tisch fallen. Grosses Aufheben machen unsere Blätter aus dem Ereignis, dass Frau Stefan Dörza in einer ungarischen Provinzstadt als stellvertretende Matrikalführerin angestellt wurde, also eine Frau als staatliche Eheschliesserin fungiert. (Ungarn hat obligatorische Zivilhe.)

Die sozialwissenschaftliche Gesellschaft, die nicht nur Wissenschaft, sondern sogenannte radikale Politik treibt, veranstaltete in ihrem offiziellen Organ eine interessante Enquête darüber, was die Soziologen und Sozialpolitiker anderer Länder zu dem ungarischen Wahlrechtsentwurf sagen. Trotzdem die ungarischen Soziologen den Befragten alle Fehler des Entwurfes sehr ausführlich mitteilten, erwähnten sie den Ausschluss der Frauen mit keiner Silbe, sie verfälschten sogar den Originaltext, indem sie bei der Zeitung statt „wahlberechtigt ist jeder Mann“ „ist jeder Bürger“ setzten.

Sehr interessant ist nun, dass trotzdem viele von den befragten ausländischen Autoritäten, z.B. Emil Reich, Rudolf Goldscheid aus Oesterreich, Ferd. Tönnies, Franz Oppenheimer aus Deutschland, G. Castberg aus Norwegen, Georges Renard aus Frankreich, August Forel aus der Schweiz, G. de Greef aus Belgien, Keir Hardie, Alfred R. Wallace, Walter Crane aus England und Georg Brandes aus Dänemark die Frage des Frauenstimmrechts in bejahender Form in ihre Antworten einbezogen und unsere Soziologen damit ein nette Lehre gaben, dass das Frauenstimmrecht nicht mehr unterdrückt werden kann.

ROSIKA SCHWIMMER.

Budapest, 9 Januar 1909.

Germany.

The Prussian W. S. A. had its first annual meeting on Dec. 7 and 8 in Berlin. Since its formation on Febr 17 1908 the membership has augmented from 700 to 1217; eight Local Sections have been organised. On the evening of Dec. 8 there was a crowded meeting, where the Chairman of the German W. S. A., Dr Anita Augspurg, spoke on „Nation, Government and Parliament“. Her address was saluted with long and most enthusiastic applause. 42 new members joined the Association.

Soon after she gave the same lecture at Ham-

burg and the audience showed the greatest interest, finally passing the following resolution:—

„Die vom Verein für Frauenstimmrecht einberufene öffentliche Versammlung erklärt: Um eine gesunde Entwicklung unseres deutschen Verfassungslebens zu erreichen, ist eine völlige Ablehnung des persönlichen Regiments notwendig. Sie kann aber nur erreicht werden durch ein wahrhaft konstitutionelles Regierungssystem. Die Versammlung hält es daher für die Pflicht eines jeden Deutschen, mit allen gesetzlich zulässigen Mitteln auf Herstellung wahrhaft verfassungsmässiger, konstitutioneller Zustände in unserm Vaterlande hinzuwirken.“

At Frankfurt too, after a lecture given by Dr. Theodor Barth the Local W.S.A. adopted a resolution condemning Bülow's policy and the electoral system of Prussia. The Association holds monthly public meetings and a course of lectures by Frau Dr. Altmann-Gotheiner on „Select Chapters of Social Politics“.

The Berlin Local W.S.A. is growing apace. Miss Rosika Schwimmer's conference brought 40 new members, and at present they number over 400.

New Local Sections were formed by Miss Lida Gustava Heymann at Strasburg and Karlsruhe.

The Propaganda Committee of the Bremen Local W. S. A. has sent a circular to the women electors of the district urging them to take part in the elections for the District (Kreistag) on Dec. 21. Ten of the fifteen municipal officers having willingly communicated the addresses, the Committee tried to find the remaining ones in the public registers. But then they were told that they were not permitted to see these. The Editor of the „Zeitschrift für Frauenstimmrecht, from which we glean the above facts, doubts the legality of such denial.

M. G. K.

On Dec 11 in the Charlottenburg Section of the „League for Women's Welfare“ (Frauenwohl) Else Lüders gave a lecture on Women and Municipal Government. She began by a historical survey, showing how since 1853 there had been loss of rights and how especially the condition of women had entirely changed within the last decades.

As tax-payers and indispensable factors in economy, women have an undeniable claim to have their say in municipal affairs. The speaker then gave a detailed review of the municipal program of the Allied Women's Leagues of the whole of Berlin, and ended with a warm appeal to all those present to support Municipal Suffrage for women. An animated discussion followed.

(from „Die Frauenbewegung“, Jan 1, 1909).

The international badge, which should be worn by every woman believing in woman suffrage, is to be ordered from Mrs. J. PETERSEN-DAN, Nørrebrogade 183, Copenhagen, 50 bronze badges 22 sh, 6 d., postage prepaid.

Reduction in price for orders exceeding that number.

Supplément de „Jus Suffragii“

15 janvier 1909

Annonce Officielle.

Lettre du „Comité pour le Drapeau“ aux Associations Nationales des pays affiliés à l'Alliance Internationale du Suffrage des Femmes.

A la conférence d'Amsterdam il fut décidé que nous aurions un drapeau, et on nomma un comité de trois personnes pour proposer quelques modèles à la conférence de Londres. Mais quand ce comité commença ses discussions, il se trouva exister une différence d'opinions concernant la nature du drapeau qu'on désirait. L'une des dames voulait une belle bannière avec un dessin qui serait un emblème du suffrage, brodé en couleurs, et dont on ferait exécuter un seul specimen.

Quand je proposai l'idée à la conférence, mon intention originelle était d'avoir un simple drapeau de deux ou trois couleurs, portant tout au plus quelques lettres ou l'insigne internationale adoptée à Copenhague, qu'on pourrait arborer sur l'édifice où notre conférence aurait lieu. Et je suis encore du même avis.

Dès que nous aurons pris une décision sur les couleurs et le dessin à Londres, chaque pays peut s'en procurer une copie à son propre usage, et en montrant le drapeau aussi souvent que possible on le fera bientôt connaître du monde entier.

Celles qui veulent le porter dans un cortège peuvent en faire un de forme diffrérente, mais les couleurs et le dessin doivent être les mêmes et aussi simples que possible, afin qu'on puisse aisément le reconnaître.

Or je n'ai pas l'intention de demander votre avis sur les couleurs, etc., cela se décidera à Londres; mais je vous prie de m'écrire à mon adresse aussitôt que possible pour me dire ce que vous désirez: soit une jolie bannière qui reste la propriété de l'Alliance Internationale du Suffrage et en ce cas doit être transportée d'un pays à l'autre, soit un simple drapeau qui sera reconnu dans tout le monde comme le pavillon international du suffrage des femmes.

MME. H. C. VAN LOENEN—DE BORDES,
2e Constantijn Huygensstraat 36.
Amsterdam.

Australie.

Depuis 1903 le Projet de Loi introduisant le suffrage des femmes a toujours été déposé par un membre du Conseil Législatif, mais nous n'avons pas cessé une minute de réclamer qu'il fût proposé par le Gouvernement; et il y a quelques mois nous avons réussi à obtenir du Premier Ministre, Sir Thomas Bent — autrefois notre antagoniste — qu'il en fit une proposition au Gouvernement. Le 18 septembre j'appris qu'il avait cédé à nos prières; il annonça le projet dans la Chambre Législative le 7 octobre et proposa la loi le 14. La seconde lecture eut lieu le 21 octobre et la loi passa avec 45 voix contre 9.

Le 18 novembre elle passa dans la Chambre de l'Obstruction, communément appelée le Conseil Législatif. Je pense bien que le télégraphe vous aura renseignés sur ce simple fait; mais il n'a pas pu vous dire quel triomphe fut notre victoire. Les opposants n'ont pas même demandé qu'on comptât les voix. Mais moi — défiant tous les usages parlementaires — je me trouvais dans la galerie pour prendre des notes, et c'est ainsi que j'ai pu immortaliser les noms des cinq députés

qui ont voté contre la majorité des 23 qui ont accordé le vote aux femmes.

Le mouvement pour le suffrage des femmes eut son origine en Victoria en 1869. Le Victoria fut la première colonie qui demandât l'affranchissement politique de la femme, il est le dernier état australien où il se trouve réalisé. Trente-neuf ans de travail! Pourquoi? Parce que le Victoria a le Sénat le plus invétéré du monde, et une Chambre des Communes, qui, depuis vingt ans, n'a pas compté de membres dignes du nom d'hommes d'état, et qui eussent pu arracher le vote des femmes au Sénat retranché dans son conservatisme constitutionnel.

Mais du moment que nous avons remporté la victoire, nous pouvons bien oublier toutes les souffrances qu'elle nous a coûté. Nous sommes contentes d'être libres, nous seulement parce que c'est une satisfaction de notre point d'honneur, mais encore parce que nous avons gagné le pouvoir d'aider à faire l'Australie une grande nation, et parce que maintenant nous serons mieux capables d'aider nos soeurs des autres pays à conquérir la liberté politique.

„Failure is impossible!“ (L'agitation ne peut manquer d'aboutir. — Mot de Susan B. Anthony.)

VIDA GOLDSTEIN.

M Ibourne, Australie, novembre 1909.

Grande Bretagne.

L'Union Politique et Sociale des Femmes a fait un accueil des plus enthousiastes à Mme. Pankhurst et sa fille Christabel à leur sortie de prison. Une procession triomphale avait été arrangée pour le jour de la libération de Mme P. Après le déjeuner auquel assistaient près de 500 personnes, une procession pittoresque et touchante se forma. D'abord venait l'enseigne portant l'étendard tricolore. Puis venaient les employées de l'Union, rangées quatre à quatre, puis d'autres membres de l'Union vêtues de pourpre, blanc et vert; après elles cinq amazones montées sur des chevaux blancs. Ensuite venaient Mme. et Mlle. Pankhurst et Mme. Leigh dans une voiture décorée. Derrière la voiture il y avait d'autres amazones et d'autres membres de l'Union à pied. La foule se pressait pour voir le cortège passer, et les femmes poussaient des hurrahs réitérés.

Le soir du même jour une réunion énorme se tint dans une des plus spacieuses salles de Londres. La séance commença par la présentation d'un étendard en soie aux couleurs de l'Union à Mlle. Christabel Pankhurst. Sur la hampe en aluminium se trouvaient gravées les principales dates de sa vie et de l'histoire de l'Union. Mlle. Annie Kenney, comme une des deux premières prisonnières de l'U. S. et P. d. F. — Christabel Pankhurst était l'autre — offrit l'étendard au nom de l'Union. Mlle. Kenney expliqua aux assistants la signification du pourpre, blanc et vert. Le pourpre, disait-elle, représentait le sang royal qui court dans les veines de quiconque combat pour la liberté. Le blanc est l'emblème de la pureté dans la vie publique et privée; tandis que le vert représente l'espérance qui fait vivre la cause, l'espoir du genre humain. Mlle. Kenney termina en demandant trois hurrahs pour Christabel Pankhurst; et les cris retentirent de toutes parts dans la salle. Quand Mlle. Pankhurst se leva pour répondre, il y eut une nouvelle ovation, et quelques minutes s'écoulèrent avant que le silence se fit. Elle remercia brièvement les membres de l'Union de lui avoir offert l'étendard qu'elle aimait par-dessus tout. De nouveau des cris enthousiastes éclatèrent.

quand elle reprit sa place. L'orgue joua la Marseillaise des Femmes et tous les assistants firent chorus.

Alors Mme. Lawrence fit un petit discours de bienvenue aux trois prisonnières libérées, après quoi Mlle. Christabel Pankhurst, comme la principale oratrice de la séance, se leva de nouveau pour haranguer la salle bondée.

Au commencement de son discours, pendant son cours, et de nouveau à la fin, les applaudissements semblaient ne pas vouloir cesser.

Cette séance, à tout prendre, fut une des plus enthousiastes dans les annales de l'Union, et la collecte rapporta plus de £ 300.— comme une preuve de sympathie pratique pour les trois vaillantes femmes, sorties de prison ce jour-là.

EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

Londres, janvier 1909.

La **Ligue des Femmes pour la Liberté** a commencé la nouvelle année d'une manière caractéristique de la tactique dite „militante”, c. à. d. en essayant de tenir un „meeting” très raisonnable et pacifique à minuit dans l'entourage sacré de la Place du Parlement, et par une dispute animée avec une escouade de police qui avait reçu l'ordre d'empêcher la dangereuse réunion. Cependant nous réussîmes à jeter un hurrah pour la cause, et sur le dernier coup de minuit, l'année 1909 fut salué par le cri de: „Votes aux Femmes!”

La clôture de la session du Parlement fut célébrée par une pompe funèbre à Trafalgar Square, pour l'enterrement du „Projet de Loi,” tué par le gouvernement libéral. Mme. Despard et quelques autres firent des discours qui montraient plus d'ardeur combative que de tristesse. Jamais la disposition des femmes n'a été plus ferme ni leur détermination plus arrêtée qu'en ce moment de défaite apparente; et si seulement les membres du parlement étaient de vrais hommes d'état et non des politiciens de parti, ils le comprendraient, et ils céderaient à nos justes revendications, alors qu'ils peuvent encore le faire avec une apparence de bonne volonté, au lieu d'attendre à plus tard, quand ils auront la honte de se voir contraints à nous donner raison en s'exposant à l'exécration de tous les amis de la liberté.

MAUDE FITZHERBERT.

Londres, 7 janvier 1909.

Russie.

Le premier congrès national des femmes russes fut ouvert à St. Pétersbourg le 10 23 décembre 1908 dans les circonstances les moins favorables. La réaction étant au pouvoir en Russie, les organisatrices (c. à. d. la Société d'Assistance Mutuelle de St. Pétersbourg et la Ligue Russe pour le Droit des Femmes) furent obligées de se soumettre à toutes les restrictions, imposées par M. Stolypine. Cependant, en dépit de toutes les hostilités, le Congrès national des femmes russes appela sur lui l'attention de tous les éléments progressistes de la Russie, et si grand fut l'intérêt général, que pendant toute une semaine le congrès joua le premier rôle dans les journaux.

A peu près 800 membres assistèrent au congrès. La section la plus fréquentée était la troisième: des Droits Civils de la Femme (la discussion de cette question était permise dans les sections, non pas dans l'assemblée plénière). Malheureusement dès l'abord les membres de cette section se trouvèrent divisés en deux camps opposés. La

majorité approuvait la tactique de l'Alliance pour la Suffrage des Femmes, qui veut unir les femmes de toutes les classes et de tous les partis dans une action générale pour l'obtention des droits politiques, civils et économiques.*) La minorité — socialiste pour la plupart — déclarait que les éléments démocratiques ne peuvent aller de pair avec les „bourgeoises”, que les classes doivent être séparées dans la lutte pour la liberté et la justice. Quelques uns s'opposaient même à toute organisation de femmes seules, et mettaient tout leur espoir dans une action démocratique universelle.

Dans leur argumentation les socialistes citaient l'exemple de l'Angleterre, de l'Allemagne, de la Norvège, etc. et donnaient une fausse représentation du mouvement féministe dans ces pays: ils tâchaient de prouver que là les femmes des différentes classes étaient séparées dans l'agitation, que les „Suffragettes” d'Angleterre et les Associations Nationales du Suffrage des Femmes de Danemark et de Norvège ne consistaient que de „bourgeoises” et s'opposaient au suffrage universel pour les femmes; que les femmes de Finlande avaient obtenu le vote par l'action des seuls socialistes, etc. Toutes ces affirmations furent prouvées être fausses par les partisans d'une agitation temporairement simultanée de toutes les femmes sans distinction de classe ou de parti. Annie Furuhjelm nous donna une relation exacte qui prouvait que la Finlande a conquis sa liberté, non par les efforts d'un seul parti, mais par l'action combinée de tous les partis et de toutes les classes de la Finlande.

On pouvait craindre que le manque d'entente parmi les deux groupes ne gâtât tout le congrès, qu'il ne fournît à l'Administration un prétexte pour la clôture et ne détruisît l'oeuvre entière. Heureusement les deux groupes, les socialistes et les partisans de la neutralité politique entre féministes, finirent par arriver à un compromis. Les socialistes admirent la possibilité d'une union temporaire avec des femmes d'autres classes et d'autres partis dans le but d'informations et de renseignements mutuels, de congrès, etc.; et ils firent la paix avec les „bourgeoises.”

A tout prendre, le congrès a donné une idée bien nette et bien tragique de la situation de la femme russe des différentes classes et différentes professions. Tous les comptes rendus ont démontré la nécessité d'un changement des lois et coutumes qui ôtent la liberté à la femme et lui imposent les chaînes de la servitude. Bon nombre de résolutions de cette tendance furent adoptées dans la dernière séance du congrès national des femmes russes: toutes visaient à assurer aux femmes de Russie l'égalité pleine et entière avec l'homme devant la loi, et plusieurs résolutions proclamaient la solidarité des intérêts du féminisme avec ceux de la démocratie.

Le premier Congrès National des Femmes Russes se termina par des paroles dignes de femmes qui se lèvent pour la conquête de la justice et de la liberté. L'une des déléguées, Mme Degtereff, monta sur la tribune et, en présence d'un millier d'assistants, elle lança dans la salle une protestation passionnée contre la peine de mort, qui est une honte pour la Russie.

Une explosion unanime d'enthousiasme salua ces paroles. L'officier de la police accourut à la tribune pour ordonner la clôture de l'assemblée, mais la présidente avait déjà elle-même levé la séance.

ZÉNÉIDE MIROVITCH.

St. Pétersbourg, 3 janvier 1909.

*) „Politiques”, seulement. — RED. J. S.