

CONGRESS MOVED TO GENEVA.

JUS SUFFRAGII.

# The International Woman Suffrage News

The Monthly Organ of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

FRENCH EDITION.

The French Edition of *Jus Suffragii*  
is published in Geneva, Switzerland.



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NOTE CHANGE OF PLACE AND DATE:

## CALL TO THE EIGHTH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, JUNE 6th TO 12th, 1920.

The Officers of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance hereby call its twenty-six National Auxiliaries to send duly accredited delegates to the Eighth International Congress, convening in Geneva, Switzerland, June 6th to 12th, 1920.

The affiliated National Woman Suffrage Associations of Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America are each entitled to twelve delegates; and those of Austria, Bohemia, and Galicia are each entitled to two delegates. Applications for affiliation will be received from National Woman Suffrage Associations in Argentine, Cuba, Spain, Uruguay, and Greece.

A special invitation to send official delegates is extended to all the Governments of the world. National Associations which are in sympathy with our movement are invited to send fraternal delegates. Specially invited delegates are also expected from Burma, China, India, Japan, and the Dutch East Indies. Individuals of whatever race, nativity, or creed, who believe in the rights of the woman citizen to protect her interests in society by the ballot are invited to be present.

Since the last Congress, held in Budapest in 1913, the greatest of world wars has devastated the earth. Out of its cruel sorrows and tragedies women of many nations have emerged politically free. The last seven years have witnessed victories for the cause of woman suffrage in no fewer than sixteen countries. In Austria, Belgium, Bohemia, British East Africa, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain and Ireland, Holland, Hungary, Iceland, Jamaica, Poland, Rhodesia, Russia, and Sweden, women have been wholly or partially enfranchised, and in the United States of America, Arizona, Nevada, Montana, New York, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Michigan have been added to those States which have given full equal suffrage to women: the Federal Amendment has passed both Houses of Legislature and has been ratified by ~~twenty-two~~ <sup>34</sup> of the necessary thirty-six States. This triumph of justice is assuredly one of the most definite and permanent results of the world war now visible. There is universal regret among women that their political liberty has come through the suffering of others, but they rejoice that it is here. No more shall effort be wasted in the struggle to secure to women the rights of responsible citizens. Instead, endowed with new privilege and power, they are free to turn their hearts and hands to the great problems of their national life.

Is our work together at an end? Or shall we go on until the women of every land are likewise emancipated? Is the emancipation of women complete, or is there other work yet to be done before that end is attained? Do the women of the world send a call to us for additional service which bids us march on farther?

These are serious questions which we must ask ourselves, and we shall ask them in Switzerland, so that the gospel of our faith in women may be heard where it is needed.

Come, fellow suffragists of all lands, send your delegates to the great Congress in Geneva, that we may hear together the marvellous story of our movement since last we met, and that we may counsel together how best to use our newly won power for the good of all nations.

February, 1920.

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT, U.S.A., PRESIDENT.

## International Woman Suffrage Alliance Board of Officers.

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**AFFILIATED COUNTRIES:**—Austria, Belgium, Bohemia, Bulgaria, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Galicia, Germany, Great Britain, and British Dominions Overseas—viz., Australia, Canada, South Africa; Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS.

11, Adam Street, Adelphi, London, W.C. 2.

Vol. 14. MARCH, 1920. No. 6.

## Bye-law of I.W.S.A. Constitution.

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

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## WHY THE LOCATION OF THE CONGRESS HAS BEEN CHANGED.

It is with profound regret on the part of all concerned that it has been found impossible to complete arrangements for the Eighth Congress of the International Suffrage Alliance to be held in Spain. The vitality of the woman's movement in that country, the geniality alike of its inhabitants and of its climate, the historic interest of its buildings and of its traditions, would have made a visit to Spain a delight to every member of the Alliance, and we still venture to hope that in the not too far distant future such a visit of Suffragists from other lands may be found possible. But the Congress of 1920 will be held, not in Madrid, but in Geneva.

This change in plan has been necessitated by a misunderstanding of the purpose of the Congress, which, though temporarily disastrous in its results, we have every confidence will shortly be a thing wholly of the past, and will, as is sometimes the case when those who should understand each other best are obscured to each by a passing cloud, result in a more perfect, because more wholly frank, understanding of the common purpose and of the part which each country contributes in building up the whole.

Perhaps the immediate situation will be best understood if we quote a few paragraphs from a statement upon the subject issued to the Press:—

"The reason for giving up Madrid is, that though we had every hope of securing the Grand Opera House, the only hall adequate for our purpose, the Spanish Committee has been unable to receive the necessary permission from all the authorities concerned.

"We have, unfortunately, reason to believe that this decision is not a matter of business, but is occasioned by a far graver cause.

"We learn that by some most unfortunate misunderstanding it has been represented in Spain that the International Woman Suffrage Alliance is a body of persons whose real object is to work against the Catholic Church. This story, of which we have only just become aware, has apparently gained credence in high ecclesiastical circles in Spain, and has even misled those in very responsible political and religious positions in this country.

"As a matter of fact, there are many Catholics in our affiliated associations. The Catholic Woman Suffrage Society in England is a warm supporter of the object of the Alliance, and would have been represented at the Congress in Madrid. It may also be of interest to state that at the last Congress of the Alliance in 1913 at Budapest, a high dignitary of the Catholic Church, Monseigneur Dr. Alexander Giesswain, gave the support of his presence to the Congress, and addressed one of its big public meetings; moreover, it is well known that the Holy Father himself is favourable to Woman Suffrage.

"We regret the misconception all the more since we know, from their own statements, that the Accion Catholica in Spain, a large body of devout and orthodox Catholic women, are in favour of Woman Suffrage, and are working actively for it under the leadership of the Cardinal Archbishop of Toledo.

"In Madrid the Woman Suffrage Movement is full of vitality. A letter just received from a Spanish correspondent says: 'Il n'y pas de jour ou la presse espagnole ne s'occupe abondamment de feminisme: on en parle partout: il y a beaucoup de discussions a ce sujet: on en continuera.'"

"We hope that the gravity of the error will be realised by those responsible and an acknowledgment made to us of the groundlessness of these statements, which are injurious alike to us and to those who make them."

We desire only to add an expression of our regret at the inevitable disappointment sustained by the energetic Congress Committee in Madrid, who were so actively engaged upon preparations for welcoming the Alliance.

## APOLOGY AND CORRECTION.

We beg to offer our sincere apologies to the distinguished President of the Accion Catholica, the Countess de Gavia, for the misprint of her name, which remained uncorrected by an oversight when the proofs of our last issue were passed.

## CONGRESS INFORMATION.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD OF OFFICERS.

The Board consists of eleven women elected by ballot at the last Congress of the Alliance in Budapesth in 1913.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE.

The International Committee consists of the eleven officers, together with the presidents of the National Auxiliaries affiliated to the Alliance.

## HEADQUARTERS COMMITTEE.

The Committee consists of the President of the Alliance, together with the three members of the Board of Officers who

live in London. This Committee manages the Headquarters and the publication of the *International Woman Suffrage News*.

## COMMITTEE ON ADMISSIONS.

This Committee consists of the President and two other members, and all applications for the affiliation of new societies to the Alliance should be sent to its chairman, Mme. Anna Wicksell, Stocksund, Sweden.

## ENFRANCHISED WOMEN'S COMMITTEE.

This Committee is made up of two representatives appointed by the National Auxiliary in each enfranchised country. Its chairman is Annie Furuhjelm, M.P., Helsingfors, Finland.

## PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS NATIONAL AUXILIARY.

All enquiries regarding accommodation, etc., should be addressed to Mlle. Gourd, Pregny, Geneva.

## SECRETARY OF THE CONGRESS.

Chrystal Macmillan is acting as secretary of the Congress, and from the time of the issue of this paper all communications dealing with the *business* of the Congress should be addressed to her c/o. Mlle. Gourd, Pregny, Geneva.

## DELEGATES.

Each affiliated National Association or group of affiliated National Associations has the right to be represented by twelve delegates and twelve alternate delegates, and each affiliated National Committee has the right to three delegates and three alternate delegates.

Delegates have the right to speak and vote. Alternate delegates take the place of delegates who are absent, and when so acting have the right to speak and vote.

## FRATERNAL DELEGATES. (See also Rules below.)

National Associations in sympathy with the Alliance, and recommended by the affiliated organisations in their own country, are invited to send each two delegates to the Congress. A fraternal delegate's fee is 12 Swiss francs.\*

## HONORARY ASSOCIATES.

Those who have been Associates for at least three months before the Congress are entitled to the privileges of regular delegates except the right to make motions and to vote.

Hon. Associates pay one pound annually to the Alliance and receive the *International Woman Suffrage News* and the Report of the Congress.

## VISITORS.

Visitors may attend the Congress on payment of the visitor's fee of 12 Swiss francs.\*

RULES *re* FRATERNAL DELEGATES.

At the Budapesth Congress it was decided to define more clearly the position of fraternal delegates, and the following rules were adopted by the Board of Officers in 1914:—

- Each National Auxiliary shall be invited by the Alliance to submit a list of societies qualified to receive official invitations to send fraternal delegates to its Congresses.
- Any association not on this list may apply to the International Headquarters for an invitation. Such application shall be referred to the auxiliary in the country from which the application came. In the event that that Auxiliary refuses to endorse the invitation the question shall go before the officers of the International Alliance, whose decision shall be final. (Voted by Budapesth Convention.)
- Only two persons from each friendly society shall be received as fraternal delegates. (Voted by Budapesth Convention.)
- Fraternal delegates shall be given seats in the Convention, and these seats shall be free, provided the society entertaining the Convention is willing to extend this courtesy to them.
- Fraternal delegates shall not be debarred from taking part in the debates, if the debates lead the Congress to the special work of his or her society. (Voted by Budapesth Convention.)
- It shall be understood that the local association entertaining the Congress shall not be expected to provide free tickets of admission to social functions for fraternal delegates.

## FIRST DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR I.W.S.A. CONGRESS AT GENEVA, JUNE 6th to 12th, 1920.

The Draft is subject to very considerable alteration as more information as to delegates and business proposed by Auxiliaries comes to hand, and will be put in its final shape by the Board of Officers and International Committee.

## I.—Week Before the Congress, May 31st to June 5th.

MONDAY AND TUESDAY.  
*Executive Board of Officers' Meeting.*

\* NOTE.—The fee for a fraternal delegate or visitor from one of the countries in which the exchange is very low will be the before-the-war equivalent of 12 Swiss francs in the money of that country.

Agenda to include:—

- Headquarters report.
- Recommendations to International Committee concerning—
  - Continuance or non-continuance of the Alliance.
  - If continued, drafts of new constitution and new programme.
  - Place of Headquarters.
  - International Suffrage News*.
  - Finance and raising funds.
  - Arrangement of agenda and business meetings of Congress.

## THURSDAY.

*International Committee (i.e., Officers and National Presidents).*

## Agenda:

- Consideration of recommendations from Officers' meeting (see agenda above).
  - Appointment of sub-committee to prepare special items for Congress.
  - Appointment of sub-committees to prepare special items for Committee on Admissions.
- FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.  
Meetings of above sub-committees.
- FRIDAY OR SATURDAY.  
Committee of Enfranchised Women.

## II.—Congress Week, June 6th to 12th.

## SUNDAY.

*Afternoon or Evening:* Popular public meeting. Speakers: Mrs. Catt and others. Subject: "The Enfranchisement of Women. Where Women Vote, Where Women are Voteless, and Among the Women of the East."

## MONDAY.

*Morning and Afternoon:* Business meetings of Congress.

- Seating of delegates.
- Appointment of interpreters, etc.
- Adoption of agenda.
- Credentials reports.
- Committee on Admissions report: Applications for affiliation from Argentine, Cuba, Greece, Spain, and Uruguay.
- Reading of the object of the Alliance.
- Roll Call, when, with appropriate ceremony, the leader of each delegation will announce how far the women of her country have secured enfranchisement.
- Headquarters' Committee's report, including financial statement and the English and French editions of *Jus Suffragii*.
- Presentation of recommendations from the International Committee on the proposals sent from Auxiliaries, and future of the Alliance, including:—
  - Draft of future constitution and object.
  - Draft of future programme and Women's Charter.
  - Place of Headquarters and finance.
  - Jus Suffragii* in English, French, German, and Spanish editions.

Suggestions from members of Congress on this report, and appointment of special Sub-committees to consider and bring in at a later stage different sections of this report, including the following committees:—

- On New Constitution.
- On Equal Moral Standard section of programme.
- On Equal Pay and Employment section of programme.
- On Equality in Marriage.

*Evening:* Free, except for meetings of Sub-committees.

## TUESDAY.

*Morning:* Business meeting of Congress, or three simultaneous sections\* on—

- Organization and Methods of Suffrage Propaganda.
- Women's Right to Work and Equal Pay.
- Women's Municipal Work.

*Afternoon:* Free.

*Evening:* Public Propaganda Meeting. Speakers: Women Members of Parliament from many countries.

## WEDNESDAY.

*Afternoon:* Business meeting or three simultaneous sections on—

- Report of Committee on New Constitution of Alliance.
- Future of *Jus Suffragii*.
- Five-minute reports from unenfranchised countries.

*Afternoon:* Business meeting or three conferences on—

- Should women join political parties? What should be election policy?
- What should be policy on prostitution, solicitation, compulsory examination for venereal disease?
- What should be relation of unmarried parents to their children?

*Evening:* Public propaganda meeting. Subjects: The Eastern Women's Movement. By Eastern Women. How the League of Nations can be used to improve the status of women.

## THURSDAY.

*Morning:* Business session of Congress, or three simultaneous sections on—

- How can wives and mothers be given economic equality? Mothers' pensions? Share of husband's income?
- Position of women in marriage in relation to their personal civil and nationality rights.
- Education in citizenship.

*Afternoon:* Free.

*Evening:* Public propaganda meeting. Subject: Suffrage in connection with Equal Pay and Opportunities, Equal Moral Standard, Women's Position in Marriage.

\* The Meeting of the Executive of the Alliance held in London in July, 1914, recommend that at the next Congress three Sessions should be given to a series of nine Conferences.

## FRIDAY.

Morning and Afternoon: Business session of Congress.

Reports from SUB-COMMITTEES on future programme and Women's Charter, namely:—

- (a) Committee on Equal Pay and Employment.
  - (b) Committee on Equal Moral Standard.
  - (c) Committee on Equality in Marriage.
- Election of new Board of Officers.  
Unfinished business.

Evening: Farewell function.

## SATURDAY.

Morning: Business session of Congress if necessary.

### FRAU FRIEDA LEDERMANN ON THE FUTURE OF THE ALLIANCE.

The question of the future of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, which is to be discussed at the Congress, can only be answered properly if all those concerned take part in it. One has to take into consideration what the women of the countries where they have not yet got Woman Suffrage are doing, as well as the others, as this is important for the women all over the world.

As we realise that attaining of Woman Suffrage is not the end of our work, but rather the beginning towards getting full rights for women, and that we need the support of certain women's organisations, we, the local organisations for Woman Suffrage in Greater Berlin, have reorganised ourselves into societies for political work, since the dissolution of the National Woman Suffrage Association.

The programme of work of the Political Propaganda Union of the Women of Greater Berlin, "Politischen Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Frauen von Gros-Berlin," conforms in principle with the suggestions given by Miss Macmillan in regard to the broadening of the work of the I.W.S.A., given in the February number of *Jus* for "the Propaganda Union strives to attain unity on neutral ground of those women who are working for and interested in political development, especially as to the following objects: The broadening of political education, firm establishment of the rights already won by women, and explaining them and trying to get them to make use of them, to demand full equal rights for women as for men, to get all the laws unfair to women redressed, and the permission for women to enter all professions with equal pay for equal work for both sexes." This programme contains all efforts towards equal rights for women in private or public work, and in moral and domestic connections. The Political Propaganda Society has members of all political parties on its Board, for the purpose of creating unity among them in all women's questions. The forming of this committee, to which belong several M.P.s, reporters from the Ministries, representatives of different professions and communes, as well as social workers, enables us to send specialists to any of the commissions—for instance, the commission for legal questions, employment, education, and the representation of women in the Domestic Advisory Council.

The Political Propaganda Society stands, as Miss Macmillan says, for the equal representation of women on all bodies which are concerned with our social and domestic circumstances, and this is of special importance. At the opening of the new Society, the representatives of the various parties spoke on the subject, "What do we expect of the Political Propaganda Society?" Party representatives, as well as Government employees, teachers, and social workers, spoke. Members of the Society of Young People and other organisations all expressed their hopes and wishes for the future of the new organisation, and in spite of differences in details they all agreed that this new society should strive to improve the customs in political struggles, to make politics more human, to unite all women in their work for women's interests. The motto of the Political Propaganda Society, which came to it from the assembly at the opening evening, shows a great agreement with that of the International Woman Suffrage Association:

"Unity in essentials, freedom when in doubt, love."

"In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity."  
FRIEDA LEDERMANN.

#### An Opinion from Denmark.

Danske Landsforbundet (President, Fru Elna Munch, M.P.) writes that it concurs with the views of Switzerland in regard to the future of the Alliance.

### REVIEW: "Atlantis."

From the well-known Gyldendalske Boghandel in Christiania we have received a very charming publication, called "Atlantis." Its charm lies not only in the excellence of its paper, its type, its many illustrations, but more than all, for English readers at least, in the pleasant spirit of friendliness towards England which pervades this number.

The first and longest article, from the pen of Margit Sahlgaard Bønesen is a sympathetic account of the English Suffrage movement, beginning from Mary Wollstonecraft up to and including Lady Astor. She gives a brief résumé of the fortunes of women's suffrage in England between 1867 and 1913. She tells us of the leadership of the Suffrage party in the Commons, first by J. S. Mill and then by Jacob Bright; the work of Lydia Becker; the gaining of the vote first for women freeholders and then for women householders in the Isle of Man, in 1880—a small triumph followed by great activity; and then Gladstone's throwing over Women's Suffrage on the ground that "it would overweight the ship."

"From 1869 to 1913 there had been fifteen Women's Suffrage Bills, nine got a second reading, seven even passed the second reading, but Government opposition prevented their further progress." She analyses in some detail the various activities of the anti-suffragists ("The political ignorance of woman is irreparable, and is imposed by Nature." Mrs. Humphry Ward), the Suffragists, the Suffragettes, and the Conciliation Committee. She describes the acute crisis brought about by the militants, and then 1914 and the war. She quotes Mrs. Fawcett's words in *The Common Cause*: "Let us show ourselves worthy of citizenship, whether our claim to it is recognised or not," and says further, "Mrs. Fawcett's appeal was not in vain. In the years of war the English women, both Suffragists, Suffragettes, and anti-Suffragists, showed an administrative ability, a power of work, and a willingness in self-sacrifice which roused admiration and gratitude far outside England itself. . . . They showed themselves indeed, worthy of citizenship, and the former opponents of votes for women had to eat their words." Margit Bønesen quotes the *Observer* of August 13, 1916: "In the past we have opposed the claim on one ground, and one ground alone—namely, that woman by the fact of her sex was debarred from a share in National Defence. We were wrong."

By the passing of the Representation of the People Act in 1918 women obtained the right to vote, but "as they were not eligible for election the victory was only half complete. In the course of the summer of 1918 many hundreds of resolutions were sent to the Prime Minister and other prominent politicians. In October the Government determined to let the House of Commons decide the matter. The debate took place on October 23, and only twenty-five members voted against women's eligibility for Parliament." Then Margit Bønesen concludes her review of our Suffrage history with the Countess Markievitz and Lady Astor, and the change of the N.U.W.S.S. into the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

We turn the pages of "Atlantis," and find reproductions of Opie's Mary Wollstonecraft and Watts' J. S. Mill, Mrs. Fawcett, the Lady Members' Room in the House of Commons, and Lady Astor addressing her constituents; and going further we are met by another familiar face, a full-page portrait of Mr. William Archer, which is prefixed to "A Literary Study," by Mr. L. Aas, originally read as a lecture to the Anglo-Norse Society in London:—

"Modern English literature has many notable and famous figures. Many of these are well known in Norway, where we have followed the general stream. We have played Shaw after his plays have been seen on all the other stages of Europe. We have also been willing—perhaps too willing—to listen to Oscar Wilde's paradoxes. Of course we have read Kipling, and lately a translation of H. G. Wells has appeared on our bookstalls. It would be an exaggeration to say that Thomas Hardy, the last of the Victorian giants, is well known in Norway. Lyric poetry, after Swinburne's, which has made a great contribution to the world's literature is almost unknown, and the general public's notions of dramatic development after Shaw and Galsworthy are fairly vague. I am convinced that here a good field of work lies open for us who love the intellectual life of England, and wish to see it as a still stronger leaven in the development of Norwegian culture."

### MRS. CHANDRA SEN'S LIFE.

A Story of High Adventure for the Enfranchisement of Women.

The First Indian and the First Woman to Fly.

To be One of India's Representatives at Geneva.

Mrs. Sen as Writer and Speaker.

For a long time after my second marriage I did not do any literary work, but I am trying to do a little now. I have read a few papers in English at different gatherings and associations on different subjects (all Indian), and have been on lecture tours, too, in some parts of England.

The First Indian and the First Woman to Go Up in an Aeroplane.

Amongst my achievements I claim to be the first Indian (in fact, the first lady, Indian or English) to go up in an aeroplane, which I did some ten years ago in India with a Belgian aviator called Baron de Cator.

In Spite of Opposition and Ridicule Her Life's Purpose Fulfilled.

My second marriage was a rather courageous thing, too, for a Hindu widow of an aristocratic family to do. All the local newspapers ridiculed me and abused me like anything. My people came to know of our engagement before I ran away, and tried to persuade me not to do it, but I was determined. I wanted to come out in the world and leave the life in Purdah for good.

Mrs. Chandra Sen to be at the Congress.

We can imagine that if there are any countries hesitating whether they shall send delegates to the Eighth International Woman Suffrage Alliance Congress at Geneva, their hesitation will vanish like mist before the rising sun, when, reading this life drama, they realise afresh all that the woman's movement means, all that it has done, and all that it has still to do. And one of India's representatives at Geneva will be Mrs. Sen.



MRS. CHANDRA SEN.

### INDIA.

A Woman for the Punjab Board of Economic Enquiry.

The Punjab Government have recently established a Standing Board of Economic Enquiry, to encourage the scientific study of the economic problems of the province. On the nomination of the Lieut.-Governor, Sir Edward Maclagan, Mrs. Caleb has been placed upon the Board. Her long experience in social and educational work fit her to contribute service of the utmost value.

Woman's Conference at Amritsar.

A Woman's Conference was held at Amritsar in January, which was addressed by Mrs. Hasar Imam, on the subject of Purdah. She remarked: "It is too late in the day to demonstrate that the kind of Purdah that is practised in India has sanction in religion, and can be tolerated by any living and progressive community."

Mrs. Sen has honoured *Jus Suffragii* by telling us the story of her life. It is a story to inspire with courage and hope any woman who feels within herself the desire for opportunity for a wider service to the community, as well as a more complete self-expression, than the traditions of her country allow. It is a story to prove that Rudyard Kipling's words, "East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet," is, after all, but half a truth.

She Marries a Wealthy Indian Noble at the Age of Twelve.

Mrs. Sen writes:—I was married once before to a very rich, aristocratic gentleman with a title, when I was only twelve. I became a widow before I was fifteen. I became the possessor of his vast property after his death. My father and mother were appointed my guardians at my wish.

Her Education: An Indian Woman Graduate Teaches Her English.

I was always fond of reading and writing. I published some volumes of poems in Bengali which were well received by the public. I had some education in a vernacular school before my first marriage, and passed the lower and upper primary examinations and got scholarships. During my widowhood I had an Indian lady graduate to teach me English, which I learnt very quickly.

She Flees from Home to Marry the Son of a Great Indian Reformer.

After twelve years I married again, against the custom, wish, and religion of my caste, community, and family. I was a Purdah lady up to that time, but saw my present husband at a lady friend's house, who (the friend) was very anxious that I should marry again. It is a long, long story. To cut it short, I married again, and it was in secret this time. I had to run away from my other home without the knowledge of my father and mother and other relatives. I had to go over the garden wall, as my gate was guarded by sentries, as all the big houses of titled people are in India.

Well, I left my old home, and with it all my property, for a Hindu widow, when married again, has no claim on her first husband's properties.

Her Husband's Distinguished Family and His Work in London.

My present husband is a son of a very distinguished man. The great Indian reformer, Keshule Chandra Sen, was his father. One of the three leaders of Brahmo Loma, Dowager Maharini, of Cooch Behar, is my husband's sister. So, although I have dropped my own title (I was known as Rani Mrinahini of Pahi-parah), and lost my property, I am quite proud of my present husband's family, and to be a member of it. My husband is the Local Adviser to the Indian Students in London. He has held this post for six and a half years now.

**AUSTRALIA.**

The Hon. Secretary of the Women's Service Guild of Western Australia writes congratulating Great Britain upon its first woman M.P., and suggesting that the good example be followed speedily by the whole of the British Dominions.

She also expresses cordial agreement with the schemes on foot for securing adequate representation of women within the League of Nations, and states that she is in correspondence on the matter with various Australian Women's Associations, and also with the Federal Premier.

**DENMARK.****Women Jurors.**

Since Danish women got the vote various new positions are about to be opened to them, because this fundamental right, putting them on a level with men, makes it quite natural that the same level must be reached on all points. The new law of the administration of justice introduced the jury system in Denmark, and at its first sitting in Copenhagen two women were among the jurors.

**Shall there be Women Clergymen?**

In Parliament the Bill concerning women's admission to all offices has been referred to a joint committee, where the question of women clergymen is the only point in debate. If the Conservatives do not abandon their opposition, I hope that at least their women members will feel the blow of Nemesis during the discussion of the new Government Bill concerning admission to priesthood for men without any theological examination, this law being a necessity for want of candidates, while some women already have passed their examinations.

**Marriage Law Bill.**

The Marriage Law Bill had recently its second reading in the Folketing, where the spokesman of the committee, Mrs. Elna Munch, with her usual logic and energy, defended the Bill against the aggressive policy of the Conservatives and some members of the Left Party.

**Old Age Pensions Bill.**

The first reading of the Old Age Pensions Bill again called Mrs. Munch forth, trying in vain to make her own party, the Government, and the rest of the House understand the justice of giving men and women the same pensions. The *enfant terrible* of the Conservatives, a professor in National Economy, reproached Mrs. Munch for her reiterated defence of women's equality with men. He granted that men need an elevating influence in public life, but with the usual manly penetrating logic he could not even conceive that only a heavy weight in the other scale for the present will be able to introduce the real balance in society that for centuries has felt the preponderance of a one-sided masculine view of life.

Mrs. Munch maintained with striking examples the justice of her principle, that laws ought to deal with men and women as equal members of the same society.

And I think that every woman in the House felt it as the best of compliments to herself when Professor Birch lamented that all women members, but especially the honoured thirteenth member for Copenhagen put this question in every case: What do women get?

SARAH ORTH, Secretary.

Danske Landsforbund for Kvinders Valgret. February 19th, 1920.

**A WOMAN MEMBER OF THE NEWLY FORMED SOCIAL COUNCIL.**

The newspapers announced lately that it was intended to form a Social Council "for the consideration of social problems as they arise," and that the places of President and Vice-President should be filled by the chief and departmental chief of the Social Department of the Ministry of the Interior, the other members to be representatives of the Ministry of Commerce, leaders of the social institutions which are under the Ministry of the Interior, together with a large number of representatives of employers and labour in the different trades, chosen by the Danish Employers' Association, the Trade Unions, the Danish Commercial Union, the Workers' Friendly Societies, the Council of Industry, and so on.

A long list of well-known and capable people are given places on the Social Council, and among them one woman, Clara Bloch, Inspector of Unemployment.

Tidens Kvinder.

January 17th.

**NEW MARRIAGE LAW.**

The new Marriage Law is to be read for the third time in the Folketing (Lower House), and afterwards it will go to the Landsting (Upper House).

Of the deliberations of the Special Committee we learn:— That the Committee, with the exception of Harboe, has on the whole agreed to the previous Bill. On certain points it has differed; on these points the Committee is sometimes unanimous, and in other cases divided.

**Venerable Disease a Ban in Marriage Law.**

As to the conditions on which marriage is allowed, there is, besides some smaller changes, one very important amendment on which the whole Committee is unanimous. This is the amendment dealing with the conditions on which persons suffering from venereal disease are allowed to marry. In the Committee there was some doubt as to the advisability of such a paragraph, partly because it could so easily be evaded, and partly because it might be regarded as an attack on the liberty of the subject. The Committee therefore, in order to be at one with medical opinion, held several meetings with dermatologists. From these it appeared that here also opinion was divided as to the use of such legislation, but the wish to stamp out this disease was so strong that the majority of the dermatologists were in favour of inserting a paragraph in the law which might have some effect in limiting the propagation of the plague.

Also, the opinion prevailed that, contrary to Paragraph 11 of the draft Bill, no distinction should be made between the various kinds of venereal disease, on the ground that not syphilis alone, but the other forms of venereal disease were the cause of so great danger that the same conditions should apply to all. The Committee therefore, having special regard to the wishes of the most eminent dermatologists, are at one in desiring a provision in the Bill.

With regard to notification, the Committee are unanimous for the following proposal. Distinction has been made between three classes of cases:—

- (1) If the person who wishes to contract a marriage does not suffer, and has never suffered from venereal disease, he shall give a written declaration on his honour to that effect.
  - (2) In the opposite case, he must either put in a doctor's certificate, made within the previous fortnight, that the danger of infection or its transmission to the children is most improbable; or (3) if such a declaration cannot be made to prove that the other party to the marriage has been informed as to the disease, and that both parties have had oral instruction from a doctor as to the dangers consequent thereon.
- It therefore appears that only in the case where there is probability of infection is it the duty of the party in question to give information to the other. This duty of telling the other party has been specially stressed by the doctors, because they think that the possibility of treatment is almost excluded where the other party to the marriage is in ignorance, and that the other party must be informed as to what risks he or she and their possible offspring incur.

**Civil Marriage Rite only to be Binding in Law.**

As to the manner of contracting marriage, the Committee did not arrive at unanimity. There are three sets of amendments touching the marriage, the one proposed by the majority, and two by the different minorities.

The majority (Messrs. Christensen, Tog-Petersen, Friis Skotte, Hansen, Jensen, Kammergaard, Helga Larsen, and Elna Munch) have noted with pleasure that the draft Bill introduces universal civil marriage, and is of opinion—in full agreement with the standpoint of the majority of the Folketing in the previous debates—that the best solution is in a clear and definite abolition of the present blend of civil and ecclesiastical, whereby the demand that civil society makes on all intending to contract matrimony must be obeyed by all, while the ecclesiastical ceremony is voluntary.

The majority must, for the sake both of the Church and the State, definitely advise against the introduction of the so-called facultative arrangement. If this is introduced, the present kind of Church and civil marriage is kept up, and the desired freedom in regard to the Church ceremony will not be attained. Neither the people nor the Church will get freedom. Only the introduction of universal civil marriage, the complete separation of the civil and the ecclesiastical, gets over the difficulties and gives the State and the Church what is

due to each severally, and complete freedom, both to the people and the clergy. In South Jutland this has been the rule for many years, and the Committee sees in this another reason for recommending universal civil marriage.

Tidens Kvinder.

February 14th.

**FRANCE.****Women's Rights Parliamentary Group.**

A Women's Rights Parliamentary Group has been formed, consisting of a hundred and six deputies. M. Jules Siegfried has been elected Hon. President, M. Jules Godard President, and M. M. Viviani and Pinard Vice-Presidents. The group has taken for its immediate programme the question of Woman Suffrage actually before the Senate, and later it will deal with the civil rights of women in general.

**Socialist Deputies Claim Equality for the Women before the Law.**

On January 22 M. Jules Guesde deposited a Bill in the office of the French Chamber, a Bill backed by himself and sixty-six of his colleagues, of which the main provisions are: That all legal provisions establishing the inferiority of women to men be and remain suppressed, and that in the future all laws shall recognise only the human being, without distinction of sex.

**National Council of French Women.**

Among the many important matters dealt with on the occasion of the assembly of the N.C.F.W. on February 7 was the nationality of married women, the equal eligibility of women with men for public offices, and the suffrage. In the absence of Mme. Verone, Mme. Rasperil reported the formation of the parliamentary suffrage group, and appealed to her hearers to distribute in the trains and trams of Paris propaganda literature, which she said, was eagerly received.

In this connection it is noteworthy that on the recently formed Government Council to consider means of encouraging the birth-rate, there are some twenty-five men and one woman—Mme. Witt Schlumberger.

**GERMANY.**

The February number of *Die Frauen im Staat* (Munich) has a vigorous article dealing with the inconsistencies of politicians in the practical application of the principles of the German constitution, which, it declares, is in theory, the freest in the world. The article deals specially with proposals to exclude women from the full course of examination necessary to fit them for the office of a Justice.

The same journal also enters at some length upon the question of the degree of influence at present exercised by the newly enfranchised women. It maintains that they have done much, but urges that they should insist on more women in Parliament, and continues: "Do you think it possible that when the war has brought about an unexampled chaos, working with the obsolete party machine, 9 per cent. of women in one year would have been able to bring order and reason out of the violence that men have been piling up for centuries? . . . We are still far from the ideal state of politically developed people, . . . but working for it is the first and most sacred test of women in politics."

We have received through Mrs. Fawcett the following interesting note from a lady who has recently visited Berlin: "When I was in the German Parliament I saw a good many of the thirty-six lady deputies. One or two are something like under secretaries in the Ministries, they looked so nice and unassuming. I did not hear them speak. In the municipalities there are about 905 in Prussia.—E pur si muove!"

**GREAT BRITAIN.****LADY ASTOR, M.P., THE FIRST WOMAN TO MAKE A SPEECH IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS.**

Acclaimed by all Parties, by the Press and by the Public.

Viscountess Astor made her maiden speech in the Commons on February 24, opposing a motion by Sir J. D. Rees that, in brief, "all vexatious and unnecessary restraints and restrictions upon the liberty of the subject in respect of the strength, supply, and consumption of alcoholic liquors should be abolished." Her speech has been generally recognised as a contribution to the debate of real value, somewhat uneven in constructive form, but of convincing sincerity, courageous, able, brilliant, witty—a speech of which all who respect women, of whatever party, are proud.

She opened with an allusion to her great venture: "After all, I suppose when Drake and Raleigh [adventurous heroes of Plymouth!—Ed.] wanted to set out on their venturesome careers some cautious person said: 'Do not do it; it has never been tried before. You stay at home, my sons, cruising around in home waters!'" and continued, "I am quite certain that the women of the whole world will not forget that it was the fighting men of Devon who dared to send the first woman to represent women in the Mother of Parliaments." But she treated her subject with the gravity it deserved. "I have as good a sense of humour as any other hon. member, but when I think of the ruin and the desolation, and the misery which drink brings into the homes of the working men and women as well as of the well-to-do, I find it a little difficult to be humorous." . . . "I will admit that the country is not ripe for, and does not want, Prohibition. I am not pressing for Prohibition. . . . I hope very much, from the bottom of my heart, that some time the people of England will come to Prohibition. I myself believe it will come. . . . The real lesson for the country, so far as the drink is concerned, is that State Purchase gets the largest amount of progress with the least amount of unrest. . . . You must remember that women have got a vote now, and we mean to use it, and use it wisely, not for the benefit of any section of society, but for the benefit of the whole. . . . I do not really want to take the joy out of the world, or happiness, or anything that really makes for the betterment of the world; but you know, and I know, that drink really promises everything and gives you nothing. . . ."

Now and again the sparkle of her wit flashed out: "I think the hon. member is not moving with the times. He speaks of vexatious laws and restrictions. I quite agree with him that most laws are vexatious. When we want to go fifty or sixty miles an hour down the Bath Road it is very tiresome, when we come to a village, to have to go twelve miles an hour. Why do we do it? It is for the good of the community. We might kill children." Then came her peroration, "I want to tell you that I do know the working man, and I know that if you do not try to fool him, if you tell him the truth about drink, he would be as willing as anybody else to put up with these vexatious restrictions." Women members of Parliament in Great Britain have become a force to be reckoned with.

**EQUAL SUFFRAGE FOR MEN AND WOMEN.****Bill Passes Second Reading in the House of Commons Without Division.**

February 27, 1920, is another great day in the history of the enfranchisement of British women, for on that day Mr. Grundy moved in the House of Commons the Labour Party's Representation of the People Bill. The Bill has for its object the conferring of the franchise on women at the age of 21. It assimilates the Parliamentary and local government franchises by abolishing the occupational qualification and the qualification of women as the wives of local government electors, and places the whole franchise for both sexes (other than university electors) on a similar basis of residence.

It passed its second reading without a division, and was referred to a Standing Committee. The Government refrained from opposition, and Dr. Addison, who spoke for it, gave his personal support to the women's clauses, reserving the right of the Government to propose certain amendments in Committee, this reservation being understood to refer mainly to certain other proposals of electoral reform contained in the Bill. Dr. Addison's estimate of the effect of the new law was that "the resulting electorates, after making certain deductions, would consist of a little less than 13,000,000 men and rather more than 13,000,000 women, perhaps about 500,000 more women than men."

Much interest has been aroused among British Suffragists in the prospects of this attempt to remove the existing disabilities of women with regard to the franchise.

On the opening of Parliament the following letter was sent to the Prime Minister from the officers of the National Union:—

"Since the Manifesto addressed to the Electors of Great Britain and Ireland by yourself, on November 22, 1918, outlining the programme on which the Coalition Party has been returned to power, included the undertaking that 'it will be the duty of the new Government to remove all existing inequalities in the law as between men and women,' and that the Sex Disqualification (Removal)

B'll has only dealt with certain of these inequalities, the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship—

"(1) Urges the Government immediately to give effect to this pledge by announcing in the King's Speech, and forthwith carrying through Parliament legislation to remove the remaining political, civil, and economic inequalities in the law as between men and women.

"(2) Emphasises the need of framing such legislation as to ensure among other things—

"i. That the franchise is extended to women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.

"ii. That all civil and judicial offices and posts shall be opened to women on the same terms as to men, including those of members of the House of Lords and of the higher grades of the Civil Service.

"iii. That the status of married women shall be raised :—

"(a) So that parents shall be equal joint guardians over their children, each with power to name a guardian to act jointly with the survivor, and that parents shall be called upon to maintain their children according to their financial position whether the parents are living together or are separated.

"(b) So that civilian widows with dependent children shall be granted adequate pensions, free from the taint of the Poor Law.

"(c) So that a British woman shall be given the right to retain her nationality on marriage with an alien—a right enjoyed by her until 1870,—and that a woman shall be given the same right to choose her nationality as a man, including the right to naturalise independently of her husband.

"(d) So that the income of a married woman shall be reckoned as separate from that of her husband for the purpose of the rate of income tax levied.

NOTE.—The N.U.S.E.C. has Bills prepared for (a) and (b).

"iv. That the law dealing with moral offences be based on the equal moral standard, and the law dealing with solicitation and common prostitutes be abolished.

"v. That the Divorce Law shall be made equal between men and women.

"We wish to point out that the extension of the franchise to women, and the opening of all civil and judicial functions and posts to women on equal terms as to men has already been passed three times by the House of Commons in the Women's Emancipation Bill.

"We, therefore, wish especially to urge that the desire of the House on these matters should, without fail, be given effect to, and legislation thereon announced in the King's Speech."

#### Presentation to Mrs. Fawcett.

Many of our friends in other lands will be interested to hear of the presentation to Mrs. Fawcett, which took place early in the year, when her friends gave her a cheque with the very necessary stipulation that it was to be expended on some personal pleasure only. It is characteristic of Mrs. Fawcett that, in thanking the donors, she attributes the success of the Suffrage cause to the strong backing always given her rather than to her own efforts.

#### "The Woman's Leader."

*The Common Cause*, which has played such an important part in the woman's movement during the last ten critical years, appeared on February 6 in a new dress and with a new name—*The Woman's Leader*. The paper will in future cease to be exclusively the organ of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, but it has been agreed that its political policy shall continue to be on the lines laid down at our annual Council meeting, and that two of our officers shall serve on the Board of Directors. *The Woman's Leader* will publish contributions from distinguished men and women, and the contents of each number will include political and economic articles, and the discussion of subjects which are of special moment to women voters, a parliamentary sketch and practical information about the occupations of women. Short stories, poems, and an occasional serial will supply the purely literary side of the paper. It is believed that the paper will be of great use to women who desire to educate themselves for the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, and especially those younger women who have been doing war work, and are now returning to civil life with an eager desire to make use of existing opportunities and to gain fresh ones.

There is a real need for an organ which stands for no one political party, which will provide in an easily accessible form reliable and up-to-date information on those social, economic, and industrial matters which specially concern women of all classes, and we are convinced that *The Woman's Leader* will supply this.

#### London Society for Women's Service.

We wish to congratulate the London Society for Women's Service on its fine gift of £5,000 from the Prince of Wales' Fund, as a recognition of the valuable work it has done during the war.

It has brought pressure to bear in Parliament whenever questions relating to the employment of women have been

raised, and in addition has kept going the whole time the Women's Service Bureau, at which advice is given to all kinds of women with regard to training for every sort of occupation, and at which a large number of women are found employment.

#### MEETING TO URGE NEED OF WOMEN M.P.S.

A meeting organised by the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland and the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship took place at the Queen's Hall on February 12. Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon was in the chair, and was supported by representatives of leading women's societies.

Unfortunately, the Prime Minister, who had been expected, was unable to attend, but Mrs. Lloyd George read the following message from him :—

"I had fully expected to be able to fulfil my conditional promise to speak at the Queen's Hall to-night, but the urgent call of public business in the House of Commons and at the Peace Conference renders this impossible. Women have at last come into their own, after long weary years of waiting and resolute fighting, and their duty to the State demands that they shall not only exert the franchise on all occasions, but shall also actively engage in imperial and local government, in which many and great questions of public policy are their peculiar and special concern. Your meeting is called specially to advocate the need for women in Parliament. The movement has my utmost good wishes, for so far the only woman member who sits in the House of Commons is one of my supporters. I hope and believe that Lady Astor is the first of a noble band of women representing every grade and class who will adorn the House with their presence and their service to the State with the great qualities of sympathy and enthusiasm."

The speakers included Sir Hamar Greenwood, who came as deputy for the Prime Minister, and Sir Donald Maclean, who gave the meeting the first announcement of the interesting news that a private member, who intended to introduce a Bill which would give the franchise to women on equal terms with men, had been successful in the ballot that night.

#### Lady Astor's Speech.

Lady Astor had a rousing reception when she rose to speak for the first time as M.P. at a gathering mainly composed of those of her own sex. There can be no doubt that the first woman to enter the British Parliament has qualities of personal charm, sincerity of purpose, and breadth of outlook which make her exceptionally fitted to break down any lingering prejudices which may exist in what has been called "the most exclusive club in the world," with regard to the entrance of women. Lady Astor pleaded for other women in the House, and painted a vivid picture of the multiplicity of the duties of one isolated woman, who was supposed to deal with every conceivable subject relating directly or indirectly to the interests of women and children.

#### Women and the Party Caucus.

To our President, Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone, fell the duty of moving a vote of thanks to the speakers. Miss Rathbone has not often been heard at great London meetings, and many of those present heard her speak for the first time. The frequent applause with which her speech was greeted showed that women, and men, too, realise that the pathway to Parliament is not so easy for women as had been suggested. Miss Rathbone pointed out that it was hopeless to try to get a footing in the constituencies without the help of the Party caucuses. Women must have a chance to fight for seats, not only for forlorn hopes. Miss Rathbone pointed out that the King's Speech did not mention one single specifically woman's reform, and that no allusion was made to long overdue legislation for the provision of pensions for civilian widows. Miss Rathbone paid a warm tribute of gratitude to the services of the Prime Minister and Mr. Arthur Henderson with respect to the position of women in the past, and hoped that these might prove a portent of favours to come.

(Signed) ELIZABETH MACADAM,  
Acting Hon. Secretary.

#### More Women for Parliament.

Miss Margaret Bondfield has been invited to stand as Labour candidate for Northampton, and it is reported that Lady Bonham Carter, who worked for her father, Mr. Asquith, in the Paisley by-election, has received invitations from at least ten constituencies to contest a seat.

#### Training of Women.

The Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment, of which Miss May McArthur is hon. secretary, and

Lady Crewe chairman, has received a grant of £500,000 from the National Relief Fund for the training of women.

#### Law Students.

Five women have entered as students at the Inner and Middle Temple to prepare for their examinations as barristers.

#### Mr. Asquith: Convert to Woman's Suffrage.

Some amusement has been caused by the earnestness and explicitness with which Mr. Asquith explained his present position in regard to Woman Suffrage to the women electors of Paisley, upon whose votes he was in large part dependent to secure the seat he has just won. These are some of his Paisley utterances: "I have all my political life been an opponent of Woman's Suffrage. In a sense I can appear before you metaphorically in the white sheet, not of a penitent, but of a convert. What converted me was the experience of the war—the splendid and indispensable part which women have played. There was also the realisation of the fact that in the problems of reconstruction it was impossible to deny to women a voice in the settlement of their future . . . I strongly maintain to-day, as I did before, that once you recognise that women ought to have the vote they ought to have it at the same time and precisely the same age as men."

#### Recognition for Miss Walsh.

The King of the Belgians has awarded to Miss Ellen Walsh the Order of Queen Elizabeth, in recognition of her services in relieving the acute distress of Belgian refugees flying from Antwerp in October, 1914. It will be remembered that at the outbreak of the war the International Women Suffrage Alliance, seeing that its ordinary work must be suspended, constituted itself into an International Women's Relief Committee, and Miss Walsh was one of its active workers, escorting parties of foreign girls from this country to their families on the Continent, and bringing parties of British girls back to London. On one of these journeys she was a deeply-moved eye witness at Flushing of the almost unspeakable miseries of tens of thousands of Belgian refugees who had fled from Antwerp. Flushing, with an ordinary population of 20,000, had 80,000 refugees. The need for immediate help was urgent. Miss Walsh hurried back to the I.W.S.A. office and got it. Reaching the office at mid-day on October 13, 1914, she told what she had seen. That very evening by means of a grant of £500 from the Belgian Relief Fund of the Belgian Embassy in London, and the very efficient backing of Miss Chrystal Macmillan, four large railway trucks laden with food fit for immediate consumption, were dispatched, and their contents shipped to Flushing. Within a fortnight £2,000 worth of food and £1,200 in cash, besides an immense quantity of clothing were sent.

#### THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

We have held a Women's Right to Live mass meeting in London, at which resolutions were passed unanimously, protesting against the wholesale dismissal from Government offices of qualified and experienced women, and their replacement by untrained men, urging that all posts in all industries and professions shall be given to the most competent worker, irrespective of sex, and with the same standard of remuneration, and calling upon the Government to provide training courses of equal value to those provided for unemployed men, and to arrange for the payment of adequate maintenance allowances during the period of training. This meeting also called upon the Trade Unionists of the country to remove restrictions on women entering any employment simply on grounds of sex, and demanded that free entry to employment and membership of craft unions should be granted to men and women workers on the same conditions of payment and training.

Members of the Women's Freedom League took an active part in the Housing Conference at the Ideal Homes Exhibition at Earl's Court, and emphasised the necessity of utilising women's knowledge and women's experiences in the construction of houses.

Before the reassembling of Parliament we urged the Prime Minister and the Leader of the House of Commons to see that legislation for the complete removal of women's political, legal, and economic disabilities should be foreshadowed in the King's Speech.

Since the passing of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill we have sent up recommendations of public-spirited women in various parts of the country as suitable to act as women Justices of the Peace.

In order to popularise the system of Proportional Representation and to get the electorate accustomed to seeing women as parliamentary candidates, we have recently organised several model parliamentary elections in London and in various parts of the country, the count being taken in each case by a representative of the Proportional Representation Society, who explained the system to the electors.

Our members supported and attended in large numbers the mass meeting at Albert Hall in support of the League of Nations. We are sending delegates to the Conference called by the Women's League of Nations' Provisional Committee, and hope to send fraternal delegates to the Women's International Suffrage Alliance Congress to be held in Geneva.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

#### IRELAND.

##### The Women's Political League.

The annual meeting of this League was held in Belfast, on Thursday, February 12. The annual report recorded activities in all directions, municipal and parliamentary. The first year of the enfranchisement of Irish women shows a marked advance in legislation for fundamental social reform. Under pressure from women's organisations the Ministry of Health Bill was made applicable to Ireland, and the Medical Inspection of School Children Act was rendered compulsory. Women also warmly supported the Act establishing Proportional Representation as the method for conducting local Government elections in Ireland as the best means for affording representation of minorities, a result which was attained to a marked extent in the recent elections.

Women in Ireland, as in Great Britain, worked for the Women's Emancipation Bill, and when this failed, for the less satisfactory measure, the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill, which is now on the statute book. As a result, five women magistrates have already been appointed, and efforts are being made to secure the appointment of others.

Work during the last six months of 1919 was mainly concentrated on preparation for the municipal elections of January. Special propaganda was carried on in connection with the health legislation, in order to obtain the fullest possible value from this in administration. A leaflet was prepared at a conference of women's organisations, and used all over Ireland, while a series of most interesting meetings, held under the auspices of women's societies in town and country, was addressed by Dr. Alice Barry, medical woman member of the new Public Health Council. Another leaflet contained a series of questions for municipal candidates, and this was very largely used by various organisations in Dublin and in Belfast.

Owing to the failure of all efforts to secure representation of women on the Housing Committee of the Belfast Corporation, an Advisory Council on Housing was formed, on the initiative of the League, representing all women's organisations in the city. This body has carried on an agitation for safeguarding the Local Government minimum standard of housing, and for safeguarding open spaces in the centre of the city for playgrounds. Women are just beginning to realise the value of joint action, and in this direction the co-operative movement is of immense value as providing a common ground on which all classes of working women can meet.

The same method is adopted in the case of the Joint Committee for Mothers' Pensions, also initiated by the League, which has been very active in connection with the recent proposals in Parliament.

The year's work affords a gratifying example of the way in which Irish women can work together for common ends, even in the present difficult political conditions.

DORA MELLONE, Hon. Press Secretary, W.P.L.

#### GREECE.

##### New League of Greek Women's Rights.

"I have the pleasure to announce to you that I have formed in Athens a League of Greek Women's Rights. The Greek League wish to affiliate themselves to the International Woman Suffrage Alliance." Such are the terms of a telegram received from Madame Marie Negroportes, President of the Greek Women's Suffrage Alliance, as we go to press. We extend a cordial welcome to the women of Greece, for we believe that this important affiliation on the eve of the holding of the International Congress is of good augury for the rapid growth of the woman's movement in the East.

The following communication from the *Times* correspondent in Athens is also of great interest:—

"Athens, February 11.  
"Woman suffrage was raised in the Chamber to-day by the presentation of a petition from the Lyceum (Women's) Club for Equality of Civil Rights.

"M. Venizelos said that no doubt the civil law in some respects bore heavily upon women, and should be altered, but he would not go as far as to give full equality now. He would be prepared to grant rights to Greek women when the majority asked for it and proved that they wanted it. He advised that propaganda should continue, and when the time was ripe the Government would not oppose the demand. A start might be made in municipal affairs."

Many of our readers will recall that on the occasion of the Peace Conference at Paris in February, 1919, a meeting of Suffragists of Allied and Associated Countries took place, and that the Suffrage representatives were received by certain distinguished members of the Peace Conference. Among those who thus received the Suffragists was M. Venizelos. He gave to Mrs. Fawcett a list of the names of leading women in Greece, and the Headquarters of the Alliance has since been in correspondence with several of these ladies. The announcement recorded above will make the links of sympathy between us stronger still.

It may be of interest to compare the statement of M. Venizelos, as quoted by the *Times* correspondent, with that made to the Suffragists in Paris a year ago. We quote from the report of one present at the reception, given in *The Common Cause* of February 21, 1919: "His Excellency M. Venizelos, who was the first to be seen, expressed himself absolutely in favour of the proposal [that a special commission of women should be officially appointed by the Peace Congress, etc.], which he was prepared to support. He said that he was a convinced suffragist, and that in his own country the moment there was the least sign of a demand for the vote from the women themselves they would find him ready to be a father to their cause. He said he thought it would be unwise to give woman's suffrage before there was any demand at all from women, but that now that England had shown the way he thought it could not be long before the demand would begin to be manifest."

We feel confident that the newly formed League of Greek Women's Rights, in close co-operation with such enlightened statesmen as M. Tupaldo-Bassia, will make it demonstrable, beyond all fear of misunderstanding, that there is indeed a demand for enfranchisement "from the women themselves."

### GUERNSEY.

Universal suffrage to men of twenty, and women of thirty, has been granted in Guernsey. This adds 20,000 voters to the register.

### ITALY.

#### Socialists and Catholics in Favour of Woman Suffrage.

Once more our hopes have been falsified. The Government has not yet placed before the Chamber the Woman Suffrage Bill, which was approved in September, and M. Nitti seems to have forgotten his former enthusiasm for our cause. The Chamber has done but little work, and has been adjourned on several occasions during the absence of M. Nitti. We are sure, however, that whenever the Chamber re-opens, probably on February 20, the electoral question will be discussed. We hope that at the same time there will be a discussion on Woman Suffrage, as three new Bills are being brought forward by various Deputies. The first is sponsored by M. Modigliani (Official Socialist), the second by M. Micheli (Catholic), the third by M. Gasparotto (Combatant). These three Bills are absolutely the same, and practically similar also to the one which was passed in September—*i.e.*, giving political equality to men and women of twenty-one years of age. The only difference between these and the former Government Bill is that the Government Bill debarred prostitutes from voting.

Party reasons alone are responsible for our having three Bills instead of one, but as they are almost word for word the same, once discussion takes place there is no doubt that the three will be merged in one Bill, which will have a majority of votes in the House, since Catholics, Socialists, and M. Gasparotto's party represent altogether about 300 votes out of 508 votes in the Chamber of Deputies.

Suffragists will understand with what impatience we await the re-opening of the Chamber!

It is rumoured in some political quarters that on M. Nitti's return from London there will be some changes in the Ministry, and that a stronger Catholic element will be introduced. In that case our problem will reach a speedy and satisfactory solution, since the Catholics are even more urgent than the Socialists in their desire to see women voting in the Municipal elections of 1920.

#### Preparation of Women Voters' Lists.

Everyone in Italy seems certain that women will have the vote in May, 1920. In big towns the municipalities have already begun to prepare a register of women voters, and what is still more extraordinary, the clerks of the Municipality raise no objection to supplying birth certificates to women who desire them for the purpose of entering their names on electoral lists.

In Milan the Suffrage Committee and some other feminist societies have opened offices to deal with requests from women for the inscription of their names on the electoral lists. Hundreds of these requests have been received, and though by law the actual inscription of the electors' names has to be done by the Municipality without any direct demand from the individual elector, we believe these offices are extremely useful, above all as a means for doing Suffrage propaganda. All this has given us the opportunity of discovering the practical difficulties of applying the electoral law, as it affects men, to women. It is obvious to us that if our Bill is passed the Government will have to make some special regulations in connection with its application, and the Milan Suffrage Society has held a meeting of Suffragists and lawyers in order to go into the details of this very interesting and novel problem. The facts are these. The law applying to municipal and local elections is much older than the law which governs political elections. When the former was passed Italy did not have adult suffrage, and in order to be an elector it was necessary to have either a property qualification or to pay a certain amount in taxes. When the political electoral law was passed a clause was added to the effect that such men as were political electors should also have their names inserted in the register of municipal electors. If, therefore, the letter of the law were observed in connection with women, and if the municipal register were made up before the political register, many women would be deprived of their vote, as they would neither be political electors nor taxpayers. We are, therefore, determined that the political register shall be made up at the same time as the municipal one.

The question of taxation is also interesting for another reason. Every man who has the Parliamentary vote has also the municipal vote in the same place where he is a political elector, but each citizen in the Kingdom can also vote for municipal and local councils in every commune, town, etc., where he has interests, provided that he also pays a certain amount, for instance, as a resident.

Generally, these taxes are paid by the head of the family, father or husband, and the wife or the daughter who lives with him is not taken into consideration by the tax collector. We ask, therefore, that when these taxes, paid by the head of the family, are contributed to by the woman's money, she shall be looked upon as a taxpayer, and have the same right to the communal vote even if her name does not appear in the list of direct taxpayers.

We have sent these requests, and some other ones of less importance, to M. Gasparotto, and we hope that he will be able to get them accepted by whoever compiles the electoral bye-laws.

(Signed) DR. MARGHARITA ANCONA.

Milan, February 16, 1920.

### NEW ZEALAND.

The old year ended with a double disappointment. The very brief time between the passing of the Bill to enable women to sit in Parliament, and the election, left practically no opportunity for working up a candidature so novel. Only three women stood, all in the North Island. Miss Ellen Melville, a lawyer and city councillor of Auckland, and President of the National Council of Women, polled well, and came in a good second to the winning candidate, but not one of the three was elected.

The electoral results were largely overshadowed by the second National Prohibition poll, taken the same

day. Three issues were this time submitted: Continuance, State Control, and Prohibition, either of the new proposals having to obtain a clear majority over the other two combined. As in April, the immediate returns gave Prohibition first place, but soldiers' votes from abroad, and absent voters' permits, altered the situation. Though the returns are still incomplete, it is now certain that Prohibition, though at present twenty-nine thousand votes ahead of Continuance, cannot be carried, owing to the nearly thirty-two thousand votes cast for State Control. At the moment of writing Continuance stands at 240,208, Prohibition at 269,245. Very fine educative work was done last year, with quiet force and dignity, by the Prohibition Party, and success cannot be very long delayed. Two gratifying features soften the pangs of disappointment: The remarkable change in the views of soldiers returned and domiciled once more under normal New Zealand conditions, and the contemptuous dismissal of State Control as a possible solution of the liquor problem.

Dr. Truby King has returned from Europe to take up his great work at the head of the Plunket Society for the preservation of infant life.

JESSIE MACKAY.

January 8.

### ROUMANIA.

#### REPORT FOR 1919.

After these long years of silence I am indeed happy to be able once more to be in regular communication with headquarters.

During the war all the members of the Liga Drepturile si Datorile Femeiei did splendid work in the hospitals. In my own house a canteen was started, through which we were able to feed thirty poor children belonging to families where the fathers had been called up.

All direct Suffrage work really came to an end, though I was able at Bucharest to hold one or two small meetings. But the moment the occupation was over in February, 1919, we recommenced our meetings and debates. Every Wednesday at my house, and every Saturday at the University and in the big hall of the Senate House, we have had Woman Suffrage meetings, and in addition to these, we have made a special point of replying to the many attacks made on us in the public Press.

One of our best pieces of propaganda has been to have debates on the Suffrage question. The members of our Society have themselves also pasted on the town walls large posters announcing: "We women demand the right to vote. A right which has been given even to illiterate men."

The members of our Society have also sold our paper, *Drepturile Femeii*. This has led, of course, to any number of discussions in tea rooms, restaurants, public gardens, etc., and has done excellent propaganda for our cause. A great deal of literature has also been distributed at political meetings, congresses, etc. We also issued a circular letter to the presidents of all the political clubs, inviting their men members to take part in our meetings, and, in fact, we have attended men's political meetings at their various clubs, and have taken an active part in their discussions.

At the moment of writing we have commenced a series of afternoon teas, at which a good Suffrage speech is given, and afterwards there is some music or a short play.

In the near future our League is organising a mass meeting to be held in the hall of the Senate, at which we trust every one of the political parties will be represented on our platform.

The Feminist question in general is well received in Roumania. All the political parties have put Woman Suffrage eligibility in their programmes, and the National Democratic Party has put in its programme the full equality of women.

#### Queen of Roumania a Friend.

The Queen is warmly interested in the question, and attended a meeting organised by M. Nicolas Torga, our noted historian.

The Liberal Party, of which M. Jean Bratianu is the leader, have given women the right to be nominated to Municipal Councils, and at Bucharest we have the following women councillors:—

Mme. Ramniceanu (late lady-in-waiting to the Queen), Mme. Tassy, Dr. Garrilescu, at Roman; Dr. Turcanovici, at Targu-Oena; Mme. Garrilescu, at Targovistea; Mme. Marreas, at Vaslui, Mme. Gorgos.

In a short time we hope to lay a Bill before the Chamber

demanding full civic and political rights. Over two hundred deputies and several senators support our claims, and will form a Suffrage group.

EUGENIE DE REUSS JANCOULESCO.

### RUSSIA.

The *Daily Herald*, of February 25, publishes a Moscow wireless stating that seventy-eight working women have been elected to the Moscow Soviet.

### SWEDEN.

#### The New Marriage Law.

The Law Committee's Bill for new legislation on the subject of marriage, which, together with a noteworthy report, was published on August 31, 1918, was the subject of an investigation by the Law Council at the end of 1919, so that, with certain small alterations, it should be brought before the Riksdag in His Majesty's proposal No. 15, of December 19, 1919.

The Law Council has, on the whole, found the Law Committee's Bill to present a good solution of the question before them: the regulation of the legal aspects of marriage, and the alterations proposed have been in the main of a formal nature. The abolition of guardianship is explained as implying nothing more than the legalising of a step which has already been taken in fact, owing to the change which has come over our social and moral point of view.

As to the innovations, they seem to be well warranted. As is well known, the Law Committee proposed an altered form of the old conception of the wife's share in the estate of her husband. The Law Council says that the Bill seems satisfactorily to have solved the problem of keeping what is valuable in the community of goods, while yet satisfying the married woman's rightful claim to greater economic freedom of movement.

In the Riksdag there have been different motions in opposite directions, some against the proposal, some proposing different amendments. The editor, Mauritz Hellberg, has moved an alteration in the conditions as to a wife's name, his proposal being that a married woman can, without advertisement, have the right to bear her maiden name after marriage.

EVA HODEN.  
February, 1920.

Hertha.

#### The Position of Wives.

Leading article in *Hertha* (February) by Agoa Montelius.

The Bill for new legislation on the subject of marriage has been greeted by women with immense satisfaction, for it grants all the wishes for which women have been working for the last fifty years. While the unmarried woman had the same rights granted her as man, at a certain age, to have the free disposal of herself and all that she might inherit or earn, the injustice in the wife's position has been very striking. She was under the guardianship of her husband, and the right of control over all her property lay with him, she herself having no right to dispose of any of it, nor to claim any of it from him. In order to improve the position for wives, in 1873, different well-known people in Stockholm, both men and women, formed a society for the Property Rights of Married Women. L. T. Hierta had already, in 1871, made himself the mouthpiece for women's rights by introducing a motion in the Riksdag for limiting the husband's powers of administering his wife's property. The motion had no result, but in the following years there were other similar motions at the instance of the Society, and in 1874 the King's sanction was obtained for a resolution passed in that year's Riksdag, limiting the husband's right of administration over the wife's private property under her settlement, and granting the wife's right to dispose of her own earnings. So here we have both at once the two measures which proved to the advantage of women in the course of more than four decades.

Owing to legal interpretation, the advantage for a woman of herself being able to dispose of her own earnings has been very considerably curtailed, for everything that she buys with her earnings passes under her husband's control, so that it is only what she can save out of ready money that remains her own.

As to the settlement, as an effectual measure this came into comparatively small use. The cause of this is undoubtedly the man's unwillingness, and, moreover, the notion spread itself among women that such a measure shows a lack of

confidence in the future husband which the young fiancée cannot countenance, and after the wedding it is too late, as the wife is no longer a personality to be reckoned with.

(According to the new Bill, a settlement can be drawn up even after the wedding.)

As to the wife's position in regard to her property after 1874, there have been some minor adjustments to her advantage, as, for example, the question of the separation of the common property, but no far-reaching change has taken place. It has only been a new piece on an old cloth, making the whole thing into a patchwork.

Now a definite break has been made with those primitive conceptions—true under very early social conditions—that woman is unable to protect herself and make her own way in the world, and that therefore it is best that she, as a wife, should be wholly submissive to her husband, allowing him to dispose, as seems to him best, of everything concerning both herself and her children.

#### Husband and Wife Made Equal in Everything.

The Bill gives expression to the modern view of the matter. The husband and wife are made equal in everything, have the same duties and rights, and the same responsibility. This is carried out consistently and fearlessly. It is likely that many will draw back in astonishment at so radical a change, but it has undoubtedly been constructed to do the business once and for all. Compromises only lead to fresh disputes and changes, which in their turn are changed, and so the patching goes on, till no one would approve the garment.

#### Opposition to Women's Improved Status Dying Away.

Our earlier progress in the direction of an improvement of woman's standing has always aroused the same opposition. Even the first timid request that an unmarried woman should have the right to ask that under certain conditions she should become free from guardianship at twenty-five years of age aroused illwill. It was just the same when the proposal followed that freedom from guardianship should come about at a certain age, without any special appeal; that she, as of full age, should become her own guardian; that she should have access to different learned institutions; that she should have the right to enter different professions hitherto reserved for men. All these steps have aroused at first violent opposition, and then, when this was no longer possible, a sorrowful head-shaking, the most doleful presages as to the ruin to which such legal changes would bring the home, the family, the country, and woman herself. As soon as the law was passed, these dismal views disappeared, and everything went forward in peace till the next storm broke out.

#### SWITZERLAND.

A friendly reproach from Mrs. Abbott: "It is a long time since Switzerland has sent any news to *Jus Suffragii* . . ." sets me writing at once. It is quite true that for some months past we have sent no news—first, because during the latter months of 1919 our suffrage activities were of the usual quiet propaganda kind; secondly, because in January and February of 1920, quite suddenly, we have been thrown into a vortex of work, and it is about these happenings that I should like to say a few words to our international friends.

#### A Double Defeat in Bâle and Zurich.

Alas, it is a fresh set-back that I have to report in the pages of our paper, which has published so many victories for Woman Suffrage in other countries. In short, in one day, February 8, we were defeated in a referendum both in Bâle and Zurich.

In both these Cantons resolutions favourable to Woman Suffrage had been passed by the Grands Conseils. That of Zurich had even gone further than the Government proposal—which wished, as a beginning, to give the municipal vote only to women—and by a big majority had passed a resolution, emanating from the Socialist Party, giving throughout the Canton full political rights, suffrage and eligibility, to women. In Bâle the Government brought forward a proposal to modify the constitution in such a manner as to make the introduction of Woman Suffrage possible, and the Grand Conseil passed this proposal by 63 votes to 24. If, therefore, our political usage were such as it is in most other countries, women would have the vote in these two northern Cantons.

But—shall I say unfortunately?—we are a democracy. It certainly seems to us women that the best way to make that word a reality would be to remove the political bondage of the female half of the population, since the result of our type of political organisation is the necessity for submitting to the whole mass of the political electorate any change in the suffrage laws. That is why, last Sunday, after emerging victoriously from the debates of the two Grands Conseils, the Woman Suffrage proposal was crushed by the hostility or indifference of the men voters in Bâle by 12,455 votes against 6,711, and in Zurich by 88,249 against 21,608, both huge adverse majorities.

I need not, however, pretend that for the majority of Suffragists this defeat was any surprise. We were prepared for failure: in Zurich because the whole of the peasant population is bitterly opposed to Woman Suffrage, and also because in both Cantons the Radical Party had made up their minds to oppose the reform. The Liberal Parties had left their members free to vote according to their individual conviction, and the Socialists were in our favour. The latter are in favour of the principle, for we must confess that we have in this respect had a repetition of what happened when the referendum was taken in Neuchâtel—namely, that though the chiefs of a party are favourable to us, and even have a suffrage campaign, the working men themselves vote against us, as they are either afraid of the competition of women in their trades, or are still full of masculine prejudice about the "inferiority" of women. We had a very good proof of this in one of the industrial quarters of Zurich, which, in spite of being a Socialist stronghold, gave a majority against the Suffrage proposal.

However, we are not in the least discouraged. Nothing can compare with a referendum campaign from the point of view of publicity and first-rate propaganda work. Committees, public meetings, debates are the order of the day; posters are up on every wall; the Press is full of Suffrage news, and not even the most indifferent can ignore the existence of the Suffrage question, the fact that it is a living political problem, and not some vague, far-off theory.

#### Popular Initiative in Geneva.

That is why, in spite of the double failure in Bâle and Zurich, we have just organised a popular initiative in Geneva in favour of Woman Suffrage. The right of initiative, which exists in most of our Cantons, as in the Federal department, is that which makes it imperative that any change in the constitution demanded by 2,500 electors (this figure is for Geneva only, in other cantons it is larger) must be considered not only by the Grand Conseil, but must also, whatever the decision of the Grand Conseil, be submitted to the referendum. This plan seems to us a much more advantageous one than that of getting a friendly deputy to introduce a Woman Suffrage Bill. In the first case, it gives us the advantage of doing excellent propaganda, since, in order to obtain the necessary 2,500 signatures (which are very strictly scrutinised by the authorities) we have to organise a big Press campaign, innumerable meetings, etc. In the second place, there is the immense advantage of escaping all the intrigues of the party politicians. They cannot bury or shelve a demand by popular initiative as they can a parliamentary Bill. Lastly, we have the advantage of being entirely independent of any of the political parties, which at this moment, when there is so much tension, is all to the good. We have, of course, asked for the support and help of some of the politicians who are tried friends of Woman Suffrage, and they are on our Initiative Committee; but we have been careful to hold the balance, so that our political neutrality may be amply clear to the public, a very important point.

We have no illusions as to the final result of this enterprise. We shall secure, without overmuch difficulty, the 2,500 signatures of electors; we shall perhaps get a favourable vote in the Grand Conseil, and then—we shall be badly beaten in the referendum. But as it will be the first referendum in Geneva, it will also be the first step of the ladder which we have to climb, rung by rung.

#### Interview with the President of the Republic.

In the midst of our work in the Cantons we have by no means forgotten the necessity for propaganda in connection with the Federal Government, since—as in America—we have to obtain two forms of Suffrage before we are fully

enfranchised—namely, Cantonal Suffrage and Federal Suffrage.

As the Federal Government had, in June, 1919, accepted two Suffrage resolutions, placed before the Chamber by two deputies, M. Greulich and M. Gottisheim, in order to "study" them, we felt that the appropriate moment had come for us to demand what was the outcome of this "study." On January 17, M. Motta, the President of the Republic, received a deputation from the Central Committee of our association, the members of which were the President, Mlle. Gour, Madame Girardet-Vielle (Lausanne), and Mlle. Gerhard (Bâle). But though the President received us very kindly, and declared himself a convinced Suffragist, he made no secret of the fact that he considered that it is through the Cantonal vote that we shall gain our ends, and that Federal legislation would be guided in dealing with our claims by the results we obtained in the Cantons. We, however, see no reason why the two things should not run parallel, and that is why we are having not only a vigorous campaign, and building up Suffrage societies, even in the smaller places such as Davos and Interlaken, but are also sending a letter to every member of the National Council (Chambre Basse) laying our case before them, and pressing on them our claims on every possible opportunity.

The readers of *Jus Suffragii* will realise what arduous work lies before the Suffragists of Switzerland, and under what difficult conditions that work has to be done. But I need scarcely assure them that in spite of any and every difficulty, the women of Switzerland are certain that they will be victorious.

EMILIE GOUR,  
President de l'Association Suisse pour  
le Suffrage Feminin.

Geneva.

February 12, 1920.

#### UKRANIA.

In the course of an interview with the *Westminster Gazette* representative, Mme. Serge Zarchi, now on a visit to England, made the following encouraging statement about her country: "The position of women in Ukrania," she said, "in itself proves the feeling of equality and liberty that pervades my country to-day. Why, even the word 'drujiena,' used by the peasants as a term for 'wife,' means literally 'comrade' or 'partner,' for socially there is no sense of the inferiority of women amongst any class. The Ukranian women of to-day are interested in politics, as well as in art and education, and in 1917, when the independence of Ukrania was proclaimed, there was no thought amongst the authorities of debarring them from political freedom. And we women were ready! We put forward women candidates at the elections, and four of these were chosen as members of the Central Rada. But, alas! our Parliament has been swept away. . . . The spirit of our women is, however, unaltered and unalterable, at least that is my opinion."

#### THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

##### Mrs. Chapman Catt's Triumphant Campaign.

##### "Ratification Unbelievably Rapid."

When the League of Women Voters was promulgated last year at the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, Mrs. Harper asked me to tell about it in the *International News*. Now that the older Association is still closer to the conclusion of its work, Mrs. Harper, busy with the last volume of "The History of Woman Suffrage," has again asked me to write of the outlook for the new League, in which the women of the United States are trying to express their ideals of citizenship.

From February 12 to 18 the National Association and the League, which is still a component part of the older Association, will meet in convention in Chicago. It is now certain that they will celebrate the ratifications of more than thirty of the required thirty-six States. Oregon unanimously ratified the Federal Suffrage Amendment on January 12 and 13. Indiana ratified on January 16, the House unanimously, the Senate by a vote of forty-three to three. More than the usual interest attached to the ratification in Wyoming, the pioneer Woman Suffrage State of the world, the State which had enfranchised its own women in 1869, and to whom the Suffragists had looked to lead the way in national ratification. But Wyoming had never in all its history called a special

session of its Legislature, and it was not until after Mrs. Chapman Catt's personal visit to the State, and the assurance that the action of Wyoming would secure final ratification of the amendment this year, that the session was called. Both Houses voted unanimously for ratification on January 26 and 27. The New Jersey Senate ratified by a vote of eighteen to two on February 2, and the House should follow within a few days. In Idaho, another long-time Woman Suffrage State, a special session has been called for February 11. Nevada will have a special session on February 7. A session has been called in Arizona for February 12, and New Mexico is expected to have a special session before the time of the convention, making thirty-two ratifications. It is quite likely that other special sessions will be called before that time.

At present there are but two equal Suffrage States where sessions have not been called—Washington on the Pacific coast, and Oklahoma, the only Southern full Suffrage State.

The ratification campaign has been entirely under the direction of Mrs. Catt, and the strategy outlined by her has brought ratification in unbelievably rapid fashion.

With hearts full of joy and gratitude the women of the United States are planning for their biggest, best convention. There will be recognition for those who have brought about the successes of the past, and tasks of like magnitude will be set for the new woman voters.

Miss Anthony's prediction that the women of the world would be voting by her one-hundredth birthday, will be close to realisation, and it is with great reverence that that date, February 15, and the birthday as well of Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, February 14, have been included in the convention period. A victory banquet will be given on the evening of the fourteenth, with Mrs. Catt presiding. Features of the hard-fought last year will be recalled in humorous fashion by the speakers, and there will be a living ratification valentine, a silver and paper lace setting, in which will appear, for a brief speech, a woman from each of the ratified States.

#### Celebration of Miss Anthony's Birthday.

An interesting celebration has been arranged for Miss Anthony's birthday. Speakers will review the ten decades under the following titles: 1820-1830, The Age of Mobs and Eggs; 1830-1840, The First School Suffrage; 1840-1850, The Dawn of Property Rights; 1850-1860, The First High School for Girls; 1860-1870, The World's First Full Suffrage; 1870-1880, Miss Anthony's Trial; 1880-1890, The First Municipal Suffrage; 1890-1900, Suffrage Spreads; 1900-1910, Ridicule Gives Way to Argument, Indifference to Organisation; 1910-1920, The Portent of Victory. There will be read the Suffrage Honour Roll, the names of Suffrage pioneers who will be gratefully remembered, and Suffrage veterans and those who have rendered signal service in more recent years, to whom will be presented decorations and certificates. Then and Now will be reviewed, first in pageantry, women of to-day in the bygone dress recalling those of yesterday; then in speech by six women distinguished in the various lines, who will relate the progress in Education, Medicine, Law, Theology, Journalism, Politics; finally, in moving pictures of some of the stirring events of the past, the pictures having been compiled by Miss Rose Young, Publicity Director of the National Association.

The last of the celebrations of past days will come on February 17, when there will be a Pioneer Suffrage Luncheon, and some of those who participated in early suffrage campaigns will speak.

Certain it is that the name of Dr. Anna Howard Shaw will figure largely in this historical review, and on the Sunday of convention week there will be a memorial service for her in charge of Miss Caroline Rutz-Rees, at which letters will be read from Government officials and long-time Suffrage workers, and there will be speeches by some of those who were most closely associated with Dr. Shaw.

#### Programme of the League of Women Voters.

The National Suffrage Association will have the reports of its year's work during the week, and will arrive at some decision as to terminating its existence, and merging into the League of Women Voters.

The women from the fully enfranchised States, who compose the League membership, will put in a solid week of work, going over the year's survey made by the Chairman of the

League's eight national departments, and determining what legislative reforms shall be attempted during the coming year.

The findings of the Chairman, and the forty-eight members of each Committee, representing the forty-eight States, will first be presented on February 12, each Committee having an all-day conference, ending with a public dinner, at which speeches will be made by experts in the lines covered by the Committees: American Citizenship, Unification of Laws Concerning Women and Children, Improvement of Election Laws and Methods, Food, Social Hygiene, Child Welfare, Protection of Women in Industry, and Research.

The League of Women Voters intends to assume seriously its obligations toward the political parties, as well as seeing to it that the parties fulfil their obligations toward the women. As a step toward fitting the new voters to take an intelligent, informed, uncontrolled point of view into the parties, which they must join as a responsibility of Suffrage, there will be a national school of citizenship during the week

following the convention. Many States have been holding such schools, but in offering a model school the National Association hopes to encourage all States to undertake this work, and to that end offers free training in the school to all women interested in teaching citizenship.

Mrs. Catt is the director of the school, and will sound the call to duty from an international and a national viewpoint. There will be classes in government operation, national issues, elections, self-government and legislation, and prominent speakers will make addresses on these topics, all tending to arouse an interest in American politics, their necessity, their abuse, and how the new woman voter may restore ideals to them.

Prohibition.

Aside from Suffrage, the matters of chief national interest are the Prohibition Amendment, which went into effect on January 16, prohibiting the making, selling, giving, importation, or exportation of liquor, although some cases are still pending before the United States Supreme Court which may affect the operation of the amendment, and the approaching political party conventions in which the women voters must make felt their standards of citizenship.

MARJORIE SHULER,

Chairman News Department, Leslie Suffrage Bureau, New York, February 3, 1920.

Miss Marjorie Shuler is in attendance at the National Suffrage Convention in Chicago, and I promised her that I would add a postscript to her letter to the News, giving the result of the votes on the ratification of the Federal Suffrage Amendment thus far in February. They are as follows:—

- Nevada .....Senate, unanimous; House, 1 No.
New Jersey .....Senate, 18 to 2; House, 34 to 24.
Idaho .....Senate, 29 to 6; House, unanimous.
Arizona .....Votes unanimous in both Houses.

The victory in New Jersey was the greatest that has been achieved, as the opposition centred on that State, and not a stone was left unturned by the opponents to defeat the Amendment.

Next week New Mexico and Oklahoma will ratify, making thirty-three, and leaving it necessary to secure only three more States, which we expect to be able to do not later than March.

IDA HUSTED HARPER.

INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.—Cash Statement for Twelve Months Ended December 31st, 1919.

Table with columns RECEIPTS, PAYMENTS, £ s. d. containing financial data for the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

U.S.A. SPECIAL FUND.

Table with columns RECEIPTS, PAYMENTS, £ s. d. containing financial data for the U.S.A. Special Fund.

GERMAN MEMBERS.

Table with columns RECEIPTS, PAYMENTS, Marks containing financial data for German members.

The foregoing accounts have been compiled by me from the books and vouchers of the Alliance, and I certify that they are correct and in accordance therewith.

5, 6, and 7, Hampden House, Kingsway, W.C., March 1, 1920.

E. AYRES PURDIE (Certified Accountant), Auditor.

TREASURER'S RECEIPTS.

Table listing Treasurer's Receipts with columns Name, Country, Date, £ s. d.

DONATIONS FOR CONGRESS.

Table listing Donations for Congress with columns Name, Country, Date, £ s. d.

\*New Members.

ADELA COIT, Hon. Treasurer.

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR GENEVA CONGRESS, JUNE 6th to 12th, 1920.

Messrs. Thomas Cook and Sons are anxious to give every assistance in their power to delegates and visitors in connection with travel and accommodation arrangements for the Congress.

Headquarters offers the following suggestions:—

To Affiliated Societies.

1.—TRAVEL.

All affiliated societies should at once communicate with the local branch of Messrs. Thomas Cook and Sons, informing their agent how many delegates are expected to travel to Geneva, how many will travel together, and what train or steamer reservations are necessary.

In Great Britain all communications on the subject of travel should be addressed to the Head Office of Messrs. Thomas Cook and Sons, Ludgate Circus, E.C.

To Individual Delegates and Visitors.

Headquarters strongly recommends that any individuals willing to act as delegates or fraternal delegates, or those who wish to go as visitors to the Congress, should communicate immediately with the National Affiliated Auxiliary of the country to which the delegate or visitor belongs, so that arrangements can be made for as large a number as possible to travel together.

Routes to Geneva.

We give below particulars of routes and times for the direct journey to Geneva from the principal centres:—

Table with columns From, Via, Approximate Journey, listing travel routes to Geneva.

Hotel Arrangements in Geneva.

We are in communication with Cook's Geneva Office with a view to obtaining full particulars of the rates which will be in operation at the principal hotels at the time of the Congress, but meanwhile for preliminary information we publish a list of approximate minimum rates obtaining at the present time at establishments of various grades.

Hotel Reservations.

When the rates have been definitely ascertained the best method of securing hotel accommodation would be for the local committees or individuals to arrange for their rooms, through Thomas Cook's Office in their own country, at which their travel arrangements are being made.

HOTEL LIST.

Table with columns Hotel, No. of Beds, Approximate Minimum Pension Rates, listing various hotels and their rates.



**CORRESPONDENCE.****Position of Married Women in Spain.**To the Editor of *Jus Suffragii*.

Dear Madam,—Madame Carmen Karr, the well-known journalist, who has done so much for the feminist cause in Barcelona, writes to ask me to correct a statement concerning the legal position of women in Spain, which occurred in your January issue. I shall be very much obliged if you can find room for the following note:—

- (1) If the husband wishes to incarcerate his wife in a convent, he can only do so after proving her misconduct in the Law Courts.

- (2) The Spanish woman who is a major and is unmarried is the absolute mistress of herself and her possessions.  
 (3) Although Spanish husbands have a legal right over the property of their wives, they almost invariably respect the wishes of their wives, and their authorisation only appears in contracts concerning buying and selling of property.  
 (4) La Condesa de Guira is a name unknown in Spain.  
 (5) The Government in which Senor Burgos Mayo occupied the post of Minister of the Interior has changed twice since the promise referring to the vote was made.—

Yours truly,  
 BEATRICE ERSKINE.  
 16, Egerton Terrace, S.W. 1, Feb. 27, 1920.

INTERNATIONAL  
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**WEEKLY LECTURES.**

Wednesday, March 3, 8.15 p.m.—"The Russian Problem." Mr. Aylmer Maude. Chairman: Mrs. Percy Bigland.

Wednesday, March 10, 8.15 p.m.—"Physical Strength as a Basis of Freedom." Dr. Christine Murrell. Chairman: Mr. J. Y. Kennedy.

Wednesday, March 17, 8.15 p.m.—"Nationalism versus Internationalism." General Stone. Chairman: Miss Rentill.

Wednesday, March 24, 8.15 p.m.—"The Loves of the Roman Classical Poets." Mr. J. Wells Thatcher (Barrister-at-Law). Chairman: Mrs. Woodward.

Saturday, March 27, 5.30 p.m.—Musical Evening. (Details announced later.)

Wednesday before Easter.—No Lecture.

(Syllabus and Invitations to Lectures given to non-members on application to Secretary.)

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Address

(\*) Please cross out the entry not wanted.

**THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE****MEETINGS**

in the

Minerva Cafe 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Wednesday, March 17, 3 p.m.—Speaker: Mrs. Earengay. Subject: "Housing: Woman's Point of View."

Friday, March 19, 7 p.m.—Speaker: Miss Rebecca West. Subject: "Women and Crime." Chairman: Miss Anna Munro.

Wednesday, March 24, 3 p.m.—Speaker: Miss Haslett (Sec. Women's Engineering Society). Subject: "Women and Engineering."

Tea can be obtained in the Café at close of afternoon meetings at 6d. each.

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